

**WORDS TO LIVE BY  
THE MIGHTY RIVER OF KOSEN-RUFU  
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*From “The Selection of the Time,” The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, pp. 538–94.*

**Little streams come together to form the great ocean, and tiny particles of dust accumulate to form Mount Sumeru. When I, Nichiren, first took faith in the Lotus Sutra, I was like a single drop of water or a single particle of dust in all the country of Japan. But later, when two people, three people, ten people, and eventually a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand, and a million people come to recite the Lotus Sutra and transmit it to others, then they will form a Mount Sumeru of perfect enlightenment, an ocean of great nirvana. Seek no other path by which to attain Buddhahood! (WND, 579–80)**

The above passage serves as a model both for the advancement of kosen-rufu and our personal practice. In terms of kosen-rufu, regardless of the form of activities our movement may take, the SGI is always of, by and for people. This is because the impact of the emergence of the Buddha nature from within the life of an individual is not confined to that person alone, but moves outward like ripples on a pond to influence the whole world. Our movement thus focuses its energies on the individual rather than focusing the individual on the movement.

This feeling resonates with the passage from the foreword to SGI President Ikeda’s novel *The Human Revolution*, “A great human revolution in just a single person will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation, and further, will enable a change in the destiny of all humankind.” Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism, and the SGI movement based upon it, values the absolute dignity and importance of each person—our commitment to achieve peace is through an unwavering commitment to foster people.

From another perspective, every effort we make to further our human revolution and the achievement of kosen-rufu is like a drop of water. Rain showers in the mountains accumulate into gushing streams coursing down steep ridges, running through deep valleys, eventually joining other streams and rivulets, gathering into a mighty flowing river. But it all begins with individual drops of water.

In the Daishonin’s time, he and his disciples started out as just a drop in the bucket of the Japanese nation. Yet 700 years later, with the appearance of the Soka Gakkai, this drop has grown into a river of some 12 million individuals practicing Buddhism in 165 nations and territories.

The human revolution accomplished by a single individual is, all in all, extremely significant. Whether we can see it immediately or not, our efforts in faith make a profound difference in the lives of others and, in fact, the world. Whenever we face difficult times or see the need to seriously change our lives, we should remember that our victory is not only for ourselves but for the two people, three people, 10 people—eventually a hundred, a thousand, 10,000 or a million people—who will follow each of us. Individual victory opens the way for humanity’s victory. One small step for an individual becomes a giant step for humankind.