

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S APRIL 26 MESSAGE—PART 2 OUR LIVES TRANSMIT A FREQUENCY

‘When we chant the Mystic Law, our lives transmit a frequency that connects us with other people, with the community—with everything,’ SGI President Ikeda says. ‘While building our own happiness, contributing to the prosperity of our community and forming ties of harmony and friendship with everyone around us, we are forging a unity for peace that encompasses the entire world.’

The conclusion of SGI President Ikeda’s message to a nationwide conference for prefecture leaders in Japan, held at the Soka Culture Center in Shinanomachi, Tokyo, April 26.

A leader’s words should have fresh appeal, and this requires continuous learning. I want to present you with the words of several philosophers.

The Swiss thinker Carl Hilty says: “The truest help we can render one who is afflicted is not to take his burden from him, it is but to call out his best energy, that he may be able to bear it.” The ultimate strength to which Hilty refers is faith. I hope that all SGI leaders will become “masters of encouragement” who can help everyone energetically face and resolutely triumph over life’s struggles.

In one of his writings, the French thinker Jean-Jacques Rousseau says: “Gentleness, which is the most appealing of the virtues, is sometimes also a weakness of the soul. Virtue is not always gentle. It knows how to arm itself appropriately with severity against vice; it is inflamed with indignation against crime.”

Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the first Soka Gakkai president, declares, “Unless you have the courage to become the enemy of a person of evil, you cannot become the friend of a person of good.”

In his famous work *Civil Disobedience*, the American philosopher Henry David Thoreau appeals: “Why does it [government] not cherish its wise minority?...Why does it not encourage its citizens to be on the alert to point out its faults, and do better than it would have them?” This deeply resonates with President Toda’s strict admonition: “Young people should keep a close watch on politics.”

We can each create a momentous personal history in rhythm with the Seven Bells.

The other day, a young Indian woman named Namrata Sharma sent me a letter outlining her goals in life, a personal cycle of Seven Bells. With Ms. Sharma’s permission, and with deep gratitude to her for sharing this, I want to introduce some of her targets.

Ms. Sharma is from a prominent family in India, and both she and her sister studied at Soka University. After returning to her country, she published her research in a volume titled *Value Creators in Education: Japanese Educator Makiguchi and Mahatma Gandhi and their Relevance for the Indian Education*. Most touchingly, she dedicated it to me as the founder of Soka University and presented me with a copy.

Ms. Sharma, an outstanding student and scholar, is presently working on her doctorate in education in London. By 2008, completing the 1st bell of the second Seven Bells, she has two goals: the completion of her doctorate and the realization of a world free of

nuclear weapons.

By 2015, the 2nd bell, her goal is the construction of a strong foundation for the young women's student division in India and the establishment of a teachers college in India that focuses on training teachers in Soka education, or the pedagogy of value creation.

By 2043, the 6th bell, she aspires for the school system in India to become a model of value-creating education and to see schools and universities that practice the same pedagogy spread throughout the world.

By 2050, the 7th bell, as the summation of her life, she will draw up a new plan for the next Seven Bells, while watching over the growth and happiness of the students she has raised. That is what Ms. Sharma wrote in her letter.

It is marvelous to envision how this one youth who came from the birthplace of Buddhism to study at Soka University will ring the bell of humanistic education! Her spirit is most noble. My wife and I were profoundly moved by her determination. And we chanted daimoku with her letter on the altar.

I hope each of you will likewise strive to greatly expand your state of life, accumulate tremendous good fortune and benefit, and leave behind a momentous history, upholding specific goals and objectives for your place of mission in tandem with the Seven Bells.

When we chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, we have nothing to fear.

On April 25, 1273, Nichiren Daishonin completed the treatise "The True Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind" in his place of exile on Sado Island. In his exegesis on this writing, Nichikan, the 26th high priest, writes: "When one embraces and has faith in this Gohonzon and chants Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, one's life immediately becomes the object of devotion of three thousand realms in a single moment of life. It becomes the life of the Daishonin." He says in the same commentary: "Adoring and revering the power of the Buddha and the power of the Law, we must strive to develop our own power of faith and power of practice. Do not spend this life in vain and later regret it for all eternity."

When we chant the Mystic Law, Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, our very life becomes the object of devotion and that of the Daishonin. Therefore, we have nothing to fear whatsoever. We cannot possibly be defeated. Our life itself is the ultimate bell of hope.

When we chant the Mystic Law, our lives transmit a frequency, as it were, that connects us with other people, with the community—with everything. While building our own happiness, contributing to the prosperity of our community and forming ties of harmony and friendship with everyone around us, we are forging a unity for peace that encompasses the entire world.

Toward that end, let us crown this year, which marks the first ringing of the new cycle of Seven Bells, with resolute victory while striving each day with a sense of joy and exhilaration.

Shakyamuni always took concrete action for the Law and the people.

Shakyamuni and his disciples continuously traversed the vast Indian subcontinent to help the people. I once discussed their travels with the noted Indian philosopher Lokesh Chandra, director of the International Academy of Indian Culture.

Deer Park in Varanasi, where Shakyamuni first expounded the Law, is located approximately in the middle of the vast region that he covered in the course of his lifelong travels to lead people to enlightenment.

From there, Shakyamuni made frequent journeys by foot to the kingdom of Shravasti,

some 150 miles away, and to Rajagriha, the capital of the kingdom of Magadha, a distance of 190 miles. He also walked to the area known as Kammasadhamma, which was more than 430 miles away. In his courage and indefatigable spirit to travel to those in need, Shakyamuni was second to none.

A Buddhist text describes a scene in which a deity, wondering why Shakyamuni's disciples are not present in greater number, asks, "Where are those [eloquent, learned] Gotama-disciples gone?" To which another deity replies: "They've gone to Magadha, to Kosala, And some into the Vajjian land have gone" (*The Book of the Kindred Sayings*, part I, p. 253). I understand there are records that indicate that over the course of more than 50 years one female disciple of Shakyamuni traveled tirelessly to Anga, Magadha, Vajji, Kashi and other regions.

It was most gratifying to hear Dr. Chandra say that in his view, the Soka Gakkai, in carrying out activities on a global scale, is continuing the travels of Shakyamuni and his disciples in the modern age. And that the SGI is communicating the compassionate humanism of Buddhism to the world.

Unless people take concrete action for the Law and for the people, the religion and philosophy that they uphold is bound to perish.

Everywhere, the noble SGI members are welcoming the second Seven Bells while energetically taking action, speaking out and struggling for kosen-rufu. This is surely a sign that the SGI will realize towering development as a world religion in the 21st century.

Please convey my warmest regards to all the members in each region, prefecture and ward throughout the country. Every day, morning and evening, I am sending daimoku and earnestly praying for the speedy recovery and longevity of all those suffering from illness.

Let us cheerfully advance, and let us win. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon in high spirits!