

**LET'S TALK ABOUT WINNING!**  
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The regular appearance in the *World Tribune* of “The Culture Department in Action,” I believe, heralds the beginning of something auspicious. What that “something” is, of course, will depend upon the ripples and waves each of us creates in our personal lives and professions. The reason I think it’s auspicious is its timing. First, the feature’s existence arose from the initiative and actions of individual members within the Culture Department for the express purpose of encouraging one another. Secondly, on May 3, 2001, SGI President Ikeda initiated the second set of Seven Bells, to end on May 3, 2050, destined to secure the foundation for peace in Asia and throughout the world. As you know, the “first bell” lasts for seven years and will lay the foundation for the others to come because its unique focus is for every SGI member to secure their personal happiness through breakthrough victories in every part of their lives. This is kosen-rufu itself.

Therefore, let’s talk about winning during these next seven years. These victories will be the source of our joy; people who are victorious cannot help but exude joy. This is the heart of President Ikeda’s expectations for the Culture Department. In 1990, President Ikeda expressed his desire that out of our human revolution and our flowering within our professions we would, without fail, lay the foundation, first in America and then throughout the world, for a new culture of humanism. This was not to be a polishing of the old or the reforming of something that had gone before. It was to be the creation of a completely new culture, eventually pervading all of society, that placed the happiness and well-being of each person front and center in the solution to every issue.

Our five divisions within the Culture Department—academic, arts, educators, healing arts, legal—were chosen because the thinking and behaviors of the professionals within them have historically directed the evolution of patterns and mores of the greater society. What a monumental role we play for the future! Now then, how do we do it?

First, let’s live a big life. We don’t need the Gohonzon to dream small dreams. Let’s pick seemingly impossible goals to be accomplished within the next seven years, our first bell. Then, on a daily basis, let’s chant daimoku to create just one victory a day in our personal life and in our professional life leading toward that big dream. It can be anything, no matter how small, but let’s pick it with daimoku in the morning and celebrate its conclusion at night in front of the Gohonzon. A life lived with a victory every day will be a life of profound joy and fulfillment. Such a person will fundamentally alter their profession like a boulder dropped into a pond. I congratulate every single member of the Culture Department for the fortune to be alive at this time with President Ikeda and for having each of us to encourage one another.