

**FROM SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S AUG. 24 POEM
THE GREAT CITADEL OF RESOUNDING VICTORY**

— Commemorating Aug. 24, SGI Men's Division Day

By Shin'ichi Yamamoto

[the name SGI President Ikeda uses for his character in the *Human Revolution* novels.]

A new century

Dawns.

A new age

Begins.

Champions of fresh construction

Rise to action.

We

Climb the mountain of peace

And supreme happiness.

Stirring trumpets

Sound a glorious paean

In praise of peace,

In praise of life's majesty.

My friends who have lost

a beloved wife!

My friends who have lost

a beloved child!

And also

My friends who have fallen ill

And are battling valiantly against

their illness!

My friends, noble emissaries of

the Buddha!

Knowing that patience

is compassion,

You continue to strive selflessly

for kosen-rufu

Amid your own hardships

and sufferings.

Each of you

Has a mission.

Each of you

Has a track record

of victory.

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*Please etch deep in your heart
The fact that I am always with you
As your true comrade in faith!*

*Transcending the age of hatred,
Let us together exercise our talent
For setting an example for the world
By presenting an actual framework
For a new culture
In the new century!*

*Dismantling the internal elements
Of the immature culture
That has led humanity to war,
Let us together build
A magnificent new culture
Based on lofty ideals
That spring from a life-affirming
philosophy!*

*In so doing,
We may face a series
Of tense struggles
Unprecedented in scale.*

*But
No matter how people
With base and malicious hearts
May try to crush us,
Our fair and just spirit
Will never waver.*

*The more
Our enemies
Attack us,
The more our lives are infused
With invincible spirit,
Burning stronger and higher;
The more certain it is
That our brilliant struggle
Will be adorned in resounding
victory.*

*My mentor, Josei Toda,
frequently said to me:
“Benefits come naturally
After waging a struggle*

*for the Law.
It is foolish and
unreasonable
To expect them
beforehand.”*

*And only after you
have triumphed
Through bitter
struggles,
Will the satisfaction
of victory shine
And enfold your life in its radiant light.*

*My friends,
You must not
Make this life
You were born into
Meaningless.*

*A crown alone
Does not make one a monarch.
Only when you yourself
Fight and win
Will you be accorded the crown
Of a champion in life.*

*My friends,
Never let yourselves be dragged away
To the gallows of defeat,
Think of the raging waves
of persecution
As but an instant on the way
To great and magnificent happiness!*

*My friends!
My friends!
Do not lead sad lives
Bereft of joy and vitality!*

*Do not be swayed
By the unfounded criticisms of society,
But know
That every accolade
Adorns your life with unsurpassed honor
As bright as the shining sun!*

*We are entities of the Mystic Law!
No matter how
Spiteful criticism
May swirl around us,
No matter how
Malodorous attacks
May try to rend our spirit,
Our commitment to justice and truth
Remains steadfast.*

*We shine brilliantly,
As we make our way undefeated
Through this human realm
Pervaded by immense darkness.
We will leave behind
A beautiful memory free of regret
For the eternal future.*

*My friends,
Let us win without fail!
We must win without fail!*

*Though your line of work
May be filled with difficult challenges,
Do not let them defeat you!
Though you may encounter
Deranged attacks,
Do not be afraid!*

*Mirthless and terrible,
The evil
Cannot survive
In a pure world of hopes and dreams
Under the serene light of
the full moon.*

*Illuminated by that moon,
Hearts open wide,
Giving voice to our souls,
And performing a great symphony
Of joy and hope,
We return
To our eternal great citadel,
Step by step,
Bright,
Brave and positive,
And filled with jubilation.*

*What were we born
Into this world
To accomplish?
What is the purpose
Of our appearance
In this world?*

*When we say farewell
To this world,
Our great lives of mission
Will close in brilliant splendor
Brighter than the brightest sun,
Bringing hope and inspiration to all.*

*No matter how the years may pass,
Do not forget to stay young at heart!
Never grow old in spirit!
Always remember
That herein lies
The secret to eternal youth
Free of regrets.
The rulings of cause and effect
Are fair and impartial above all.*

*Let us arise!
Indeed,
We must arise!
We must advance
And fight!
And
We must win!*

*My friends,
From your hearts
Cast out the word fear,
Erase the word cowardice,
Banish the word despair!*

*The Ukrainian poet
Lesya Ukrainka said:
“What is there to be gained
By crying over this
persecution-rife world?
We cannot afford to back down.
Therefore, we must fight!
We must realize a bright new age.”*

*Today, again,
The sun shines brightly
above your heads,
Protecting and illuminating you
As if you were precious gems.*

*My friends,
With firm determination
And deep prayer,
Live and fight
To the end,
Until you can behold
The gratifying banner of victory
That lies on the far side
Of a fierce struggle.*

*Our struggle
Is not one
Merely to enable us
To enjoy our lives today.
It is a struggle
To enable us
To enjoy our lives for many ages to come—
No,
For all eternity.*

*You have endured.
I have endured.
You have won.
I have won.
You have no regrets.
I have no regrets.*

*The lives
Of we who live out
This human existence together,
Sharing
Supreme fulfillment
And infinite value,
Are everlasting.
This is
The law of Buddhism,
An ironclad principle.*

*Therefore,
When it is time for us*

*to be reborn again,
Let us be reborn together.
Let us strive and
win together,
And again adorn
another act
In the drama of our eternal lives
In victory.
Let us win
And shake hands firmly,
Celebrating our triumph!*

*A new, glorious advance
Has once again
Begun!*

— With my prayers for your successful endeavors, happiness and longevity.
Praise to the men's division in each country!

Aug. 14, 2001