

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**‘PURE STREAM’**  
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*‘No one can avoid death. At the same time, life is eternal. It is good to live a long life, but even more important is what one has done in life, whether one has carried out one’s mission.’*

August, known in the Soka Gakkai as “the month of training,” began with the second nationwide meeting of the Education Department at the Taito Gymnasium in Tokyo on Aug. 1. At this meeting, Hisao Seki, a vice general director and culture bureau leader, was appointed the new department head, replacing Katsu Kiyohara.

The annual summer training course began on Aug. 3 at the head temple. This year it was expected that 20,000 members from all divisions throughout Japan would participate in the course, which was to be conducted in four sessions over nine days through Aug. 11. In addition to his responsibilities in overseeing the course, President Shin’ichi Yamamoto led Q-and-A sessions, wholeheartedly encouraging the members in each group.

On the evening of Aug. 11, the last day of the training course, Vice General Director Seiichiro Haruki and Director and South America General Chapter Leader Hiroshi Yamagiwa departed from Tokyo’s Haneda Airport for Argentina.

They were the first of the leaders to embark on overseas guidance trips that summer. After a layover in Vancouver, British Columbia, they were to fly to Argentina, after which they would visit Paraguay, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia. In all these countries, they would meet with members to offer guidance and encouragement. They were scheduled to return to Japan on Aug. 29.

Hisao Seki and others would leave for North America on Aug. 15 and return on the 27th. Vice General Director and Southeast Asia General Chapter Leader Kazumasa Mori-kawa and others would then depart on Aug. 17 and return on the 25th. The regional summer guidance tours that had been conducted around Japan since the early years of the Soka Gakkai were now taking place on a global scale.

Before departing for South America, Haruki and Yama-giwa, who had been in charge of some of the sessions during the summer training course, went to see Shin’ichi. After confirming that they were going to pass through Mexico, Shin’ichi said: “I will never forget that just before second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda died, he told me happily that he dreamt he had visited Mexico. He said that everyone there was waiting, that they were seeking the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin. He said he wanted to go there, to go everywhere for kosen-rufu.

“I want you two to go to South America with the strong awareness that you are going in President Toda’s stead. Wherever I go, I always act with that in mind. I ask myself, ‘What would President Toda do in my place? How would he approach this challenge?’ I also always ask myself if President Toda would be pleased with what I am doing. That has allowed me to give my best and to have courage. That, to me, is how to live the way of mentor and disciple.”

Shin’ichi continued: “If I could, I would like to go to Mexico, Argentina and Peru myself. I would like to visit every country in the world and encourage everyone I meet with all my might. But I just do not have the time right now. So you are going in my place, too. Since

you are making this trip, you must pour your all into encouraging and guiding the members. It would be a disservice to them to do anything less.” After this, Haruki and Yamagiwa left for South America with renewed determination.

During the summer training course, Shin’ichi met a number of times with the leaders who were being sent abroad to discuss in detail the development of Soka Gakkai organizations around the world. He wanted to firmly establish the organization in each country and prepare the way for future growth and development. These plans were officially announced after they had been discussed with the leaders in those countries during the summer guidance tours.

The most important new development was the creation of the first headquarters organization outside Japan, the Europe and All America Headquarters, with Nagayasu Masaki as its head. In the United States, America General Chapter was divided into two, forming the America West and America East general chapters. The new Europe and All America Headquarters thus consisted of four general chapters: two in the United States, one in South America, and one in Europe.

In the United States, chapters were established in San Diego, Colorado and Kentucky. A group was also formed in Canada.

In South America, Paraguay Chapter was created and Brazil Chapter was split into three, the two new chapters being São Paulo West and São Paulo North. Including the already existing Brazil, Peru and Bolivia chapters, South America now had six chapters. In addition, a district was formed in Argentina and a group in Mexico.

In Southeast Asia, Jakarta Chapter was established in Indonesia and Manila Chapter in the Philippines, and districts were set up in Singapore and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The foundation of kosen-rufu was being steadily built around the world.

On Aug. 14, after the summer training course, Shin’ichi visited Hokuriku to attend the funeral of Toyama Chapter Leader Toshiharu Takamatsu, which had been organized by Toyama Chapter. He had died on July 31 while returning home by overnight train from the Chubu No. 2 Headquarters Leaders Meeting in Nagano, which Shin’ichi had attended.

At the Chubu No. 2 Headquarters Leaders Meeting, Toshiharu Takamatsu joined other chapter leaders in joyfully leading the singing of Soka Gakkai songs. His movements were especially vigorous that night. When the meeting finished, Takamatsu caught up with Shin’ichi as he entered a reception room, and said with a smile, “Sensei, it’s been a long time since we have met!”

“Yes! How good to see you! When are you returning to Toyama?”

“I am going back on the train tonight with the others,” Takamatsu replied.

“I see. Well, please have a safe journey back. By the way, in commemoration of today’s meeting, I would like to present you with one of President Toda’s poems that I have copied out by hand.” Shin’ichi handed the calligraphy to Takamatsu.

*Believe in the Buddha,  
The treasure of the universe,  
And as a Buddha’s child,  
Enjoy protection  
Without fail.*

Takamatsu’s eyes brightened as he read the poem. “Thank you!” he exclaimed. “I am

deeply encouraged!”

Takamatsu had joined the Soka Gakkai in 1955. He was a good-natured and simple man. At one point he managed a welding shop, but his trusting nature often led him to be taken advantage of, which did not fare well for business. Eventually he fell so deeply into debt that his house was confiscated. He and his wife and their six children moved into a small shack, and from there into one cramped row house after another. But all the while, he remained earnest in his faith.

The family was destitute and Takamatsu’s wife, Shizuko, was forced to make frequent visits to the local pawnshop just to make ends meet. But they both kept their spirits up and continued to work hard for kosen-rufu.

In September 1960, when Toya-ma Chapter was established, Takamatsu was appointed chapter leader and Shi-zuko, chapter wo-men’s division leader. Eventually their financial situation took a turn for the better. Then, in the spring of 1963, urged by his friends and neighbors, Takamatsu ran for the local city council and won.

On the train back from the leaders meeting, Takamatsu walked through the cars encouraging his fellow members. He continued giving personal guidance late into the night, and then he fell asleep in his seat.

As the morning dawned, he seemed to be sleeping soundly. But when the person in the seat in front tried to wake him, saying, “We will be in Toyama soon,” Takamatsu did not answer.

Shizuko also tried to wake him but in vain. He had stopped breathing. It was a peaceful death. He seemed to be smiling.

When Shin’ichi learned of Takamatsu’s death, he immediately telephoned the family. Shizuko answered, and from her description of Takamatsu’s appearance, Shin’ichi knew that Takamatsu had attained Buddhahood. Shizuko said with a steady voice: “I am fine. Please do not worry. I am more concerned about the other members....”

She had lost her loving husband, and she must have been wracked with grief, but she was concerned about her fellow members. Her strength and dignity moved Shin’ichi. He promised he would visit Toyama soon. On Aug. 14, he went to attend Mr. Takamatsu’s funeral ceremony.

Takamatsu was only 53 when he died, young compared to the average life expectancy in Japan. However, no one can avoid death. At the same time, life is eternal. It is good to live a long life, but even more important is what one has done in life, whether one has carried out one’s mission. That is why Nichiren Dai-shonin wrote: “Life is limited; we must not begrudge it. What we should ultimately aspire to is the Buddha land” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 214).

Takamatsu had made kosen-rufu his personal goal and taught numerous others the way to genuine happiness. At the same time, he had helped raise many capable people. He had fulfilled his mission as a Bodhisattva of the Earth in this life and departed for Eagle Peak. The many others he had nurtured would now inherit and carry on his dream.

Those who devote their lives to working for kosen-rufu will attain Buddhahood without fail, just as the Daishonin’s writings promise. Shin’ichi believed that Takamatsu would be reborn immediately and that by the arrival of the 21st century, he would be a courageous youthful leader in the Soka Gakkai.

At the funeral, Shin’ichi warmly encouraged all of the family members. He knew that by living happy lives from this point on, they would show proof of Takamatsu’s attainment

of Buddhahood.

When the services were over, Shin'ichi attended the Hokuriku General Chapter Leaders Meeting held in the Toyama Civic Hall. Hokuriku General Chapter had just been established in May of that year, and this was the first leaders meeting of the new general chapter to be attended by Shin'ichi. The meeting began with Shin'ichi's arrival shortly before 2:00 in the afternoon.

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1963.