

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.*

*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

