

Creativity

The following is an excerpt from an address titled "The Flowering of Creative Life Force," by SGI President Ikeda. It was reprinted in The Tide Toward the 21st Century, Soka University Addresses by founder Daisaku Ikeda, pp. 71–73.

THE times when I feel most deeply that I have done something creative are the times when I have thrown myself wholeheartedly into a task and fought it through unstintingly to its conclusion. At such times, I feel that I have won out in the struggle to enlarge myself.

It is a matter of sweat and tears. The creative life, in short, is achieved by a constant effort to improve one's thoughts and actions, or perhaps we could say it is the dynamism involved in this effort. You will pass through storms and heavy rains, and at times you may suffer defeat. The essence of the creative life, however, is not to give up in the face of defeat, but to follow the rainbow that exists within your heart. Indulgence and indolence are not creative. Complaints and evasions are cowardly, and they corrupt life's natural tendency toward creation. The person who gives up the fight for creativeness is headed ultimately for the hell that destroys all life.

You must not for one instant give up your effort to build for yourselves new lives. Creativeness means to push open the heavy, groaning doorway to life. This is not an easy struggle. Indeed, it may be the most difficult task in the world. For opening the door to your own life is in the end more difficult than opening the door to the mysteries of the universe.

To be human in the full sense of the word is to lead a creative life. The fight to create a new life is a truly wonderful thing. In it you find for the first time a wisdom that causes your intelligence to shine, the light of intuition that leads to an understanding of the universe, the strong will and determination that challenge all attacking evils, the compassion that enables you to take upon yourself the sorrows of others, the sense of fusion with that energy of compassion that gushes forth from the cosmic source of life and creates an ecstatic rhythm in the lives of all people.

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