

The New Human Revolution, Volume 5, Chapter 3
Victory
BY HO GOKU – ILLUSTRATED BY KENICHIRO UCHIDA

Translation of the final three parts, 45–47, of the ‘Victory’ chapter, as printed in the *Seikyo Shimbun*, the Soka Gakkai’s daily newspaper. Ho Goku is the pen name of Daisaku Ikeda, who appears in the novel as Shin’ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1961.

Expressing his appreciation for their great efforts, Shin’ichi Yamamoto warmly addressed the members: “Nothing makes me happier than to see you here in Japan, having fulfilled your promise to come visit. I know very well how difficult it has been for you to raise the money and take the time off from work to come here. But now that all of you are here safely, you have won a great victory!

“I am confident that, through your earnest endeavors, you have made a cause for developing a state of life in which you can freely and without hindrance carry out activities for kosen-rufu. During your stay here over the next couple weeks, please take good care of your health and meet with as many members as you can. Please thoroughly nourish and enrich yourselves with faith, so that you may return to the United States with the most wonderful memories of your lives. I, too, will do everything I can to support you. I’ll see you all again soon.”

When the American members heard Shin’ichi say “You have won a great victory,” it was as if a shaft of golden sunlight suddenly lit their hearts.

For the past year, these members had struggled tenaciously, solely intent upon traveling to Japan. When they had first arrived in America, most had been overwhelmed by their new lives, feeling buried and forgotten in a foreign land. But looking back, almost before they knew it, they had found themselves filled with hope, tirelessly traversing the vast American landscape for their friends’ happiness. Moreover, they had all gained a keen sense that making efforts based on faith would enable them to create whatever kind of wonderful life they desired and achieve a state of indestructible happiness. They had definitely won a great victory of the spirit, however inconspicuous it might still be.

So began the American members’ visit to Japan.

Around the same time, Soka Gakkai Study Department promotional exams were being held for those at the level of assistant professor. At Shin’ichi’s proposal, a special study exam would also be held for the members from America. He wanted to make their visit a more meaningful source of encouragement for their future growth and development.

In addition, the American members attended the November Headquarters Leaders Meeting held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Sports Arena on the 27th, where they were warmly welcomed by members from around Japan. Each of the American chapters that had been established that August — Washington, D.C., Chicago and San Francisco — were presented with a chapter flag. Announced also were the formation of 22 new chapters in Japan and the appointment of 24 new directors, along with the establishment of new Study Department positions — headquarters-level Study Department chiefs and Study Department administrative committee chiefs.

It was also announced at the November Headquarters Leaders Meeting that the Gakkai’s membership had grown by 61,670 households that month, bringing the total membership to nearly 2.3 million households.

Guidelines for activities in the following year, designated the Year of Victory, were also announced and a new membership target of 2.7 million households set.

The Gakkai's spectacular development continued unabated and the members present were brimming with energy and joy. Small group discussion meetings were also going very well. Shin'ichi Yamamoto was confident that the following year would see an outstanding victory in every sphere.

In his speech, Shin'ichi touched on the Osaka Incident trial that was currently under way:

"For several days, the newspapers and radio have been covering the alleged election law violations in Osaka. I deeply apologize for the worry and trouble this has caused all of you.

"However, when we refer to the golden words of Nichiren Daishonin, we see that the three powerful enemies will unfailingly descend upon us with fury as we try to achieve kosen-rufu. It is only to be expected that those in power who seek to control the people will do their utmost to suppress and weaken the Soka Gakkai before it gains even greater support. This is because it is an organization working to unite and empower the people to take the lead in society.

"No matter how much the authorities try to intimidate us, however, let's move ahead with courage and good cheer, confident that they can never destroy our noble ideals nor our faith. I believe there will be a verdict in the trial by the beginning of next year and I am confident of emerging triumphant, so please don't worry.

"It has long been the way of those in power to entrap innocent people by accusing them of some criminal act. Looking at our long struggle for kosen-rufu, this trial is no more than a minor obstacle. We will surely face much greater hardships than this again and again in the future. But there is nothing to fear.

"President Toda often said, 'I would love to have the chance to go to prison again for the sake of the Lotus Sutra and for Buddhism.' Our mentor's words demonstrate the immense faith and confidence he had in the Daishonin's teachings. This is the courageous spirit of those who fight for kosen-rufu. Those who possess such unwavering commitment and determination will in the end wear the glittering crown of ultimate victory."

It was a powerful speech. Thunderous applause erupted from the audience.

The song that had been composed by the Tohoku members, "Song of the New Century," was also introduced that day. A dynamic atmosphere of victory pervaded the arena.

Shin'ichi's schedule grew even more hectic in December. Among other activities, he attended the regular monthly young women's and young men's division leaders meetings on the 4th and 5th, respectively, the Fourth Student Division Speech Contest on the 8th, and a meeting to formally announce new members of the Educators Division for Tokyo and surrounding areas on the 9th. Then on Dec. 15 and 16, he had to appear in court for further sessions of the Osaka Incident trial.

On the 16th, Shin'ichi gave his final testimony, in which he attacked the unjust way prosecutors had carried out their criminal investigation. First, he pointed out that the prosecution's closing argument, which claimed that the Soka Gakkai had violated election law "under the guise of religious activity," was clearly biased in that it could be construed as denying the Soka Gakkai's constitutional right to engage in election activities.

Shin'ichi also remarked on the unusual severity of the sentence sought for him by the Osaka District Prosecutor's Office — a 10-month prison term. Past cases of door-to-door vote solicitation — the violation with which Shin'ichi was being charged — had been penalized only with a fine. He also described the manner of investigation as inhumane and condemned as unconscionable the prosecutors' arrogant abuse of authority in intimidating the weak and defenseless. It was a sharp rebuttal — a cry for justice denouncing the prosecution's unscrupulous attempt to frame innocent people.

All that remained now was to await the court's final session on Jan. 25, when the verdict

would be handed down.

The latter half of December saw Shin'ichi swept up in a whirlwind of meetings and activities where he exerted his utmost to guide and encourage the members. On Dec. 20 and 24, he attended meetings of the Writers Department Group No. 3.

This group, consisting of women's division members, had been formed in October. Women had for too long taken a backseat role in Japanese society. Unless they spoke out boldly and expressed their opinions, it would be impossible to create a true democracy. Shin'ichi devoted all his energy to enhancing this awareness among the women of the Soka Gakkai, hoping that they would become capable people whose voice would contribute to shaping a new society.

The Year of Dynamic Advancement — 1961 — was the second year of Shin'ichi's leadership as president. It had been a year of solidly securing the foundation for kosen-rufu's ongoing development. The youth division had grown stronger in this Year of Youth, accomplishing its gathering of "100,000 patriots." Seeds for kosen-rufu had also been sown in a number of Japan's Asian neighbors as well as in countries throughout Europe.

Having pledged to realize further great progress, Shin'ichi spent the busy year-end tirelessly traveling to encourage and inspire friends. His dedication was such that he had no leisure time to enjoy the cherry blossoms of spring or the crimson leaves of fall. In his heart, however, there soared a majestic and intrepid form — the great mountain of Soka, fragrant with the people's blossoming happiness.

(This concludes 'Victory' chapter.)

Per members' requests, at the conclusion of each chapter we will be providing sample discussion questions for those holding study meetings using The New Human Revolution.

'Victory' Chapter Discussion Questions:

1. In part 15 (Nov. 15, 1996, *World Tribune*), a passage from President Toda's "Precepts for Youth" is quoted. It states, "We sincerely desire, through the power of the highest religion, to achieve human revolution, to deliver people from suffering, to enable each individual to build a happy life and so create peace and prosperity in this country." In what ways have you experienced the inner reformation process known as "human revolution," and what implications has it had to your life?

2. In part 23 (Nov. 29, 1996, *World Tribune*), Michiyo Watari declares, "Rather than chasing after distant ideals, let us plant our feet firmly on the ground where we are, showing proof of faith at home and on the job, becoming beacons that will illuminate all of society." Share your various experiences of challenging to make things happen "where you are," and what they have taught you.

Title: Volume 5: Chapter 3 Victory (45-47)

Subject: World Tribune 01/24/97 n.3123 p.6 WT970124p06

Author: Daisaku Ikeda

Keywords: Chapter History Human Kosen-rufu Revolution Tribune Victory Volume World