

**The New Human Revolution, Volume 5, Chapter 6**  
**Lion**  
**By HO GOKU – Illustrated by KENICHIRO UCHIDA**

Translation of parts 1–3 of the ‘Lion’ 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 1962.

The new year dawned. A new curtain had risen. On Jan. 1, 1962, the start of the Year of Victory, Tokyo was blessed with pleasant weather.

At 9:00 a.m., President Shin’ichi Yamamoto led the first gongyo of the year at the Soka Gakkai Headquarters in Shinanomachi.

Anticipating another year of tumultuous struggle, Shin’ichi prayed deeply, pledging to achieve total victory on all fronts.

The final verdict in the Osaka Incident trial would be handed down on Jan. 25, while on the 29th Shin’ichi was scheduled to depart on his first trip to the Middle East. His main destinations would be Iran, Iraq and Turkey. In addition, Upper House elections were slated for that summer and it had been unofficially decided that the Gakkai would endorse nine candidates.

After gongyo and greetings by General Director Koichi Harayama, Shin’ichi spoke:

“Just before Mr. Toda’s death, he announced the following guidelines: (1) faith for a harmonious family, (2) faith to enable each person to become happy, and (3) faith to surmount obstacles. We can surely consider these the three eternal principles of the Soka Gakkai.”

The leaders present were a little surprised — they clearly remembered Shin’ichi speaking about the same three points at the New Year’s gongyo the year before. Shin’ichi’s guidance was always fresh and original, its content rich and diverse. Many wondered why President Yamamoto would choose to speak on the same topic two years in a row.

Seeming to sense their thoughts, Shin’ichi said: “I spoke about these three principles at last year’s New Year’s gongyo. The reason I mention them again is that they represent the fundamental purpose of our practice. The Soka Gakkai now has a membership of over 2.3 million households and has in actuality become the pillar of Japan. We will continue henceforth to work all the more dynamically to propagate the Daishonin’s Buddhism. What is our purpose in doing so? It is not to increase the power and influence of the Soka Gakkai as a religious organization, nor to increase the number of members in public office.

“Our aim is solely for each individual to actualize the three principles Mr. Toda left us by achieving a harmonious family life, personal happiness and an indomitable self.

“I ask all the leaders here today to always bear in mind why we practice the Daishonin’s Buddhism. I call on you to work hard to ensure that everyone receives great benefit through faith, that not a single person falls by the wayside. That is my greatest wish.”

In the course of the Soka Gakkai’s lightning-speed development, many of the leaders had nearly forgotten the organization’s original aim.

Any organization will end up spinning its wheels when its core leaders forget their purpose. If results become the only focus, then even if something great is achieved in

the short run things will definitely fall apart sooner or later. If leaders, in particular, conduct activities solely for personal recognition or gain, they will end up throwing their entire organization into chaos.

By starting off the year reconfirming the three eternal principles set forth by Josei Toda, Shin'ichi wanted to drive home the fundamental purpose of faith.

He had recently been devoting a great deal of energy and time to fostering leaders.

At the end of the previous year, chapter-level and above leaders had gathered at the head temple to prepare for the start of the Year of Victory. At meetings there on Dec. 23 and 24, Shin'ichi had spoken of the qualities demanded of leaders.

“Soka Gakkai leaders,” he said, “must have no interest in personal fame or glory. And it is a grave mistake to presume that just because you have been a leader for five or 10 years, you will always remain in such a position. If this attitude takes root, then the Gakkai will be no different from any other organization or company. There is no room in the Gakkai for leaders who rest on the laurels of past achievements and do nothing now, or for those interested only in the status or recognition that position can bring.

“That said, I think it’s important for leaders to have the spirit that, when the time comes to hand their chapter position or other position over to a younger person, they willingly go back to the organization’s front lines — without any position for a while if need be — and work there for the members and for kosen-rufu. The reason I say this is because even the highest leaders in the Soka Gakkai will have to hand the baton on to the younger generation eventually.

“If, after you have handed over your position, you go around declaring that you were once senior or in a higher leadership position than the present leaders, you will be unable to keep up with the Gakkai’s newest direction and focus. You will only sow confusion, eradicating your good fortune. In that case, you will be the one who ends up the loser. I have brought this matter up because I don’t want to see any of you become losers in the realm of faith.

“There may also be some among you who seem the model of humility while here, yet upon returning to your areas or chapters adopt an arrogant and disrespectful attitude toward the members, causing them to wonder how such a person could be a leader.”

Shin'ichi Yamamoto’s guidance at the head temple was unusually strict. He continued with even greater emphasis:

“If leaders arrogantly strut around like lords, it is a sign that they are already off track. A Gakkai leader’s fundamental purpose is to serve the members, to work for kosen-rufu. It is important to give guidance with conviction, but that is entirely different from being haughty. When you care for people, praying for their happiness while always treating them politely, with courtesy, conviction in faith will naturally emerge from your life.

“When you are appointed to a leadership position in the organization, members will always accord you a certain degree of respect. But President Toda declared that any leaders who let this go to their heads and begin to use the members for their own gain should be instantly dismissed. We must do our utmost to ensure that base, selfish individuals never become leaders in our organization.

“On the other hand, there are people who try to take advantage of the Gakkai and its members by currying favor with the leaders. If leaders are taken in by these people, it is due to their laxness and conceit. I want all of us to strictly keep one another in line on this point.

“Furthermore, it’s up to leaders to take full responsibility for the organization. Earlier, I asked some of the directors how many members from each general chapter are here today. But no one knew. So I sternly took them to task.

“As directors, they’re responsible for the entire Soka Gakkai. If they leave everything to others while remaining unaware themselves of what’s happening, then they’re being utterly irresponsible and derelict in their duties. There’s nothing wrong with stepping back and delegating responsibility when one has a clear picture of what’s going on. Even then, however, you shouldn’t be complacent. You should be determined to take full responsibility for everything that happens.

“This also applies to chapter chiefs and vice chiefs. It is your job as leaders to be aware of the number of groups and units in your chapters and the condition of each. If, as a leader — as a central figure of the organization — you have a strong determination to help each member become happy, then there is no way you will ever allow yourself to neglect your responsibilities.

“Nichiren Daishonin sternly warns in the Goshō that some who profess to embrace the Lotus Sutra have actually lost their faith although they give the outward appearance that they maintain it (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 3, p. 287). I want to emphasize that those who accept the honored responsibility of being a Soka Gakkai leader must never become base and self-serving, allowing their faith to decay.”

*(To be continued)*