

SIGNIFICANT DATE: SOKA GAKKAI DAY — MAY 3
Disciples of Great Lions

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When May 3, Soka Gakkai Day, comes around, I read a passage from the *Daily Guidance*, vol. 4, which never fails to awe me. SGI President Ikeda writes: “My determination has always been to carry on, no matter what, the essence of second president Toda’s spirit and to transmit to future generations the way of kosen-rufu, which he created. I hope that you, as generals of kosen-rufu who are always filled with great, warm humanity, will exert your utmost toward May 3 of next year.”

President Ikeda’s determination to propagate this Buddhism, as reflected in this passage, boggles my mind. It almost makes me shake. I mean look at it — “To carry on, no matter what, the essence of second president Toda’s spirit.” That’s an amazing statement to me, when I think of how President Toda was such a great martyr for kosen-rufu.

How can we use May 3 — the day on which President Toda became president in 1951 and President Ikeda became president in 1960 — as a reminder to carry on this spirit? And once we grasp this spirit how can we transmit it to future generations? In the second sentence of his determination, President Ikeda gives us a suggestion: We can accomplish these things by becoming “generals of kosen-rufu.” And not just ordinary generals, he says — warm, humanistic ones, who exert our utmost every year toward the next May 3. Whew! Can we really do this? Are we tired yet?

Creating the framework to propagate this Buddhism — to carry on the Soka Gakkai spirit, to transmit it to future generations — doesn’t take place at just a special once-a-year event like a May 3rd meeting. It’s created instead through our day-to-day efforts. Those endless planning meetings, phone calls, home visits and chanting sessions all add up to slowly create a momentum toward propagation.

As we exert ourselves in the coming year toward May 3, 1998, we can be bolstered by what President Ikeda said in a recent speech: “Presidents Makiguchi and Toda staked their lives on building the Soka Gakkai. And I, too, have fought with the same spirit. For precisely this reason, the Soka Gakkai has become the great organization it is today — an organization that stands as fearless as the lion king in the face of all obstacles.”

These obstacles, of course, can appear at any time in our day-to-day efforts. They can make us not want to take action for kosen-rufu. So it is at times like these that we must summon our courage and not be swayed.

In exerting ourselves as successors of the three presidents, we don’t need to compare ourselves to others. We simply need to realize we’re all disciples of these great lions and walk our own paths based on that. In this week’s installments of *The New Human Revolution*, President Ikeda quotes the Daishonin that “the lion fears no other beast, nor do its cubs” (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 241). To fear no obstacles in our individual, day-to-day efforts for kosen-rufu — this is the spirit behind May 3.

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