

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

'Boldly Entrusting' — The Challenge Continues

I agree with Dixon Hamby (April 11 "Mailbox") in what he said at the end about the "great asset we have in those pioneers...." However, I do have experiences that run counter to what he stated at the beginning of his comment. And please, I'm not saying that he is wrong. All I want is for him to hear me, so he can understand our plight as young people.

First of all, I understand that we are told not to look down on the younger generation, but there are certain "base instincts" that in most cases make communication between generations almost impossible. The funny part is that in most cases the older person is simply trying to stop the younger one from committing the same mistakes he or she committed while young.

And there, in my opinion, lies the wisdom of "boldly entrusting."

We all tend to shut-out our elders. It is also a built-in function, a manifestation of a deeper thing, that we all try to say, "So, if it happened to you, it won't happen to me...." And the cycle never ends.

I feel that all of these valuable people can feel safer about these "bold steps" if they, instead of trying to transfer their experiences to those who just won't listen, sit down in front of the Gohonzon and pray for the success of whatever activity these young people are tackling:

This is more of a behind-the-scenes attitude;

This is more compassionate;

And this is more effective, if what concerns you is the value created through the activity, rather than the outcome of it.

— FRANCISCO PALACIO, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Understanding Other Religions

The *World Tribune* continues to convey, with great verve, the greatness of the SGI's philosophy and movement. I point out here a lapse of judgment in the April 11 "Editorial" in the hope that editorial content can be made even better.

The point being made was that religious teachings should not be the property of an elite, but should be available to all. This is well and good for the SGI, but other religions may not feel the same way about their teachings, for cultural or traditional reasons.

You sharply criticize the Hindu religion's priests, the Brahmans, for their traditional role as the exclusive possessors and interpreters of Brahma, the sacred Hindu teachings. Hindus are proud of their Brahmans. There are 500 million practicing Hindus in India alone. In my city there is quite a large Hindu population. You may think that no one will take offense if you refer to events that occurred thousands of years ago, but in religious matters it is precisely those ancient happenings that people are sensitive about.

In the same issue of the *World Tribune*, SGI President Ikeda, in one of his speeches, refers to "the renewed appreciation of India's cultural heritage" and to "the country's spiritual revitalization." India's cultural heritage derives, to a great extent, from Hinduism. And the Brahmans have been centrally important to it. On the one hand, I know that our SGI comrades in India and elsewhere are contributing wonderfully to a new "spiritual revitalization" of their countries. On the other hand, the SGI is making efforts to understand

Title: Mailbox: 05/09/97

Subject: World Tribune 05/09/97 n.3136 p.3 WT970509p03

Author:

Keywords: 05/09/97 January June Mailbox Opinion Tribune World

other religions in order to hold meaningful dialogues and to take cooperative, constructive actions with them. I hope that the *World Tribune* will assist in this endeavor.

— NICHOLAS BERGMAN, New York

Title: Mailbox: 05/09/97
Subject: World Tribune 05/09/97 n.3136 p.3 WT970509p03
Author:
Keywords: 05/09/97 January June Mailbox Opinion Tribune World