

**The New Human Revolution, Volume 6, Chapter 2**  
**Long Journey**  
**BY HO GOKU – ILLUSTRATED BY KENICHIRO UCHIDA**

Translation of parts 1–6 of the ‘Long Journey’ 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.

**A** poet once wrote, “Through man the human world will be conjoined.”<sup>1</sup> Friendship brings people together; it links the world, building a golden bridge to peace.

The purpose of Shin’ichi Yamamoto’s journey was to engage people of different countries in heart-to-heart dialogue so as to foster friendship and open the way for mutual understanding.

On the morning of Feb. 2, 1962, Shin’ichi and his party left Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, and flew to Istanbul, Turkey. They were met at the airport by Haruko Halil, a Japanese woman who lived in Turkey’s capital city, Ankara, and her Turkish husband. She was the daughter of a once aristocratic family, but after her father’s death in the war she had experienced many hardships. Shin’ichi had met her before in Japan through the introduction of a Soka Gakkai member. Her husband was a Turkish diplomat who had been stationed in Japan for five years during which time he had learned to speak Japanese.

With a warm smile, he now greeted them enthusiastically: “Welcome to Turkey! I have always felt that there is a mysterious connection between Japan and Turkey. For example, the Turkish national flag is a white crescent moon and stars against a red background while Japan’s is a red circle — in other words, the sun — against a white background. Our flags seem to be siblings, as it were.

“Turkey borders Europe and Asia, while Japan borders Asia and the Americas. Japan lies at the easternmost extremity of the ancient Silk Road, while Turkey is at its westernmost extremity. Lying at opposite ends of the Silk Road, our two nations may seem far apart — but I think they are in fact very close and have much in common.”

“I agree,” Shin’ichi responded. “The two poles of a magnet are strongly attracted to each other. I think the warm relationship shared by you, a Turk, and your wife, a Japanese, is a wonderful symbol of that mutual attraction.” Everyone laughed. Good-natured humor is always so refreshing.

After they had lunch together, the Halils gave Shin’ichi and his group a guided tour of the city.

Istanbul is Turkey’s largest city, in ancient times known as Byzantium. When Emperor Constantine of Rome moved the capital of his empire there in 330, it was renamed Constantinople. After the Roman Empire was divided into East and West, Constantinople flourished as the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, known also as the Byzantine Empire. After the Ottoman Turks conquered the Byzantine Empire in 1453, the city came to be known as Istanbul. Its long history as a major trading center at the crossroads of East and West gave rise to a unique, cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Istanbul is the only city in the world situated on two continents. It is located on both sides of the Bosphorus Strait, which connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, and thus straddles both Asia and Europe. On the western side of the strait, there is a narrow inlet known as the Golden Horn. To the south of this inlet lies the old city of Istanbul, rich with ancient ruins from the Ottoman Empire and soaring mosques and minarets. To the north lies the “new” city with its many modern office buildings.

Title: Volume 6: Chapter 2 Long Journey (1-6)

Subject: World Tribune 06/06/97 n.3142 p.5 WT970606p05

Author: Daisaku Ikeda

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

The group visited Aya Sofya (also known as Hagia Sophia), which originally was built as a Christian church but later became an Islamic mosque under the Ottoman Empire. After the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, the country's first president, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, converted it into a museum without religious affiliation.

Next, they visited Topkapi Palace, where the successive sultans of the Ottoman Empire made their residence, and then went on to the Grand Bazaar (Kapali Çarşı) where they shopped for Oriental carpets and other items. The bazaar was bustling with activity.

Mr. and Mrs. Halil helped with the negotiation of prices. It was the custom of the shop owners in the bazaar to cordially offer tea and entertain their customers as they patiently negotiated purchases. At one shop, when the owner learned that Shin'ichi and his party were Japanese, he smiled and became quite friendly. He immediately lowered the prices considerably and sold them what they wanted with hardly any haggling.

On a small hill overlooking the ocean, where the Halils had taken the group after they finished shopping, Shin'ichi asked Mr. Halil about the sudden change in the shop owner's attitude.

"At that last shop, the owner suddenly lowered his prices when he learned we were Japanese," Shin'ichi said. "How do the Turkish people feel about the Japanese?"

"They have extremely friendly feelings toward the Japanese," replied Mr. Halil. "But that doesn't mean they will always lower their prices like that shop owner did! You see, Turkey had troubled relations with Russia for many years. When the Japanese defeated the Russians in the Russo-Japanese War, many Turks named their children after the victorious Japanese admiral Togo.<sup>2</sup>

"There is something else, too. Did you know that the first official diplomatic mission from Turkey to Japan was shipwrecked on its return to Turkey and almost 600 people drowned?"

"You're speaking of the sinking of the *Ertugrul* in Wakayama Bay in September 1890, aren't you?" asked Shin'ichi. "I have heard the story of how the Japanese living on the coast nearby did their best to save survivors of the wreck."

**D**iplomatic relations between Japan and Turkey (as the Ottoman Empire) were initiated in 1887. In July 1889, the Turkish emperor sent an imperial mission to Japan. The ship *Ertugrul*, carrying the mission, which bore letters of friendship and honor for Emperor Meiji, traveled by way of Southeast Asia, Nagasaki and Kobe, arriving in Yokohama in June 1890. The Japanese Imperial house and government warmly welcomed the Turkish mission.

But the day after the *Ertugrul* left on its return, on the afternoon of Sept. 16, it met with a terrible disaster. Off the coast of Wakayama, it ran into a typhoon. Fierce rains, heavy fog, high waves and gale-force winds buffeted the ship. The rudder broke, the engine failed and the *Ertugrul* was wrecked.

It was pushed by the waves to within about 50 yards of the shore where it hit a reef, suffered severe damage and sank. It met its end in the waters off the Kashinozaki Lighthouse of Oshima (present-day Kushimotocho) at the southernmost tip of Wakayama, an area dangerous to ships because of its many hidden reefs.

It all happened so suddenly that there was no time to deploy the lifeboats. And because the ship went down in the middle of a typhoon, all the villagers were indoors. No one witnessed the ship in distress, so there were no rescue efforts from the shore.

More than 650 passengers were on board and almost all of them drowned, including Admiral Osman Pasa. But some of them managed to reach shore, where they sought help from the lighthouse keeper. It was only then that the villagers learned the terrible accident

had taken place.

Immediately, the village chief and residents came running to the lighthouse to aid the survivors. Their efforts to assist these people from another land, who had met with unexpected tragedy, were swift and dedicated. Of course, they could not understand the survivors' language. In addition, it was a poor fishing village, so there were no hospitals or medical facilities.

In spite of these difficulties, they came to the rescue of the surviving Turks, using wooden doors to carry those seriously hurt to the local school and temple as well as private homes and supporting those who could walk. They spent the night tending their unfortunate visitors. When the storm ended, the village sent parties out to search for the victims' bodies and gave them decent burials. Sixty-nine passengers survived, but more than 580 died.

The news of the wreck of the *Ertugrul* was reported in detail in the Japanese press and donations poured in from across Japan. The Japanese government cared for the survivors, eventually providing their transportation back to Turkey on two Japanese frigates.

**The rescue of the survivors of the *Ertugrul* was the beginning of warm relations between Turkey and Japan,"** Shin'ichi Yamamoto said, "and the story has been remembered in Japan over the many long years since it happened. A stone memorial to those who lost their lives in the shipwreck has been built at Kashinozaki."

Mr. Halil nodded. "People in Turkey still remember it, too," he said. "It is one reason why they trust the Japanese as they do."

Shin'ichi smiled and said: "There are no national boundaries when it comes to extending a helping hand to someone in need, or when it comes to human suffering. Exchange on the international level — diplomatic exchange — is very important, of course, but I think we must never forget that the basis of all understanding is exchange on the level of ordinary people. People are like the sea. When the sea is calm and peaceful, many ships can sail on it. In the same way, when people of different countries make many individual friendships, mutual trust and peace are born. That sea of peace then allows the passage of many ships of friendship on all different levels.

"What we in the Soka Gakkai are trying to do is build a great sea of humanity, a sea of friendship that connects the entire world."

Mr. Halil replied, emotion in his voice: "That is wonderful. I am a Muslim, and our religions are different. But what you are trying to achieve is my ideal as well. If there is anything I can do to assist you, please let me know."

"I am deeply grateful for your offer of support," Shin'ichi said, "and in fact there is something I want to ask of you. In the future, increasing numbers of Japanese will be coming to Turkey for work and other reasons. Some of them will be Soka Gakkai members, I am sure. I would really appreciate it if you could offer them advice and assistance if they should run into any problems here."

"Certainly! I will do my best to assist in any small way I can to support friendly relations between Turkey and Japan."

Shin'ichi thanked Mr. Halil and shook his hand.

From their vantage point high on a hill overlooking the ocean, they commanded a magnificent view of a beautiful sunset spreading its light over the peaceful waters.

The next day, after completing the tasks they had set out to do, they visited the modern side of Istanbul to the north of the inlet. There were few mosques there, but there were many Christian churches of the Orthodox, Armenian and Catholic denominations. Dolmabahçe Palace, the home of Kemal Atatürk (1881–1938), "Father of the Turks" and the first president of the republic, was also located there.

**Shin'ichi** and his group visited the Dolmabahçe Palace. After it was completed in the mid-19th century, the sultan's residence was transferred here from the Topkapi Palace (home to the sultans since the 15th century). Later, with the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, it became the Istanbul residence of first president Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He died in this palace on Nov. 10, 1938, at age 57.

Atatürk was born in 1881 in what is today the Greek city of Salonika. His given name was Mustafa and he was raised by his mother after his father died when he was still small. Mustafa was a bright and ambitious child, so much so that a teacher at school gave him the nickname Kemal, meaning "perfection."

Eventually, Mustafa entered the Military Academy in Istanbul, but was arrested for his involvement in political activities. Nevertheless, embarking on his military career, Atatürk proceeded to distinguish himself as a brilliant young officer.

When the Ottoman Empire allied itself with Germany and the other Central Powers in World War I, defeat seemed almost certain. Nevertheless, young Atatürk demonstrated his skill and leadership in battle, gaining wide renown for his crushing defeat of the British and French Allied forces when they entered the Dardanelles with the aim of capturing Istanbul, then Turkey's capital.

After Turkey fell to the Allies, Atatürk rose up to fight for the freedom and independence of the Turkish people from foreign control. He was convinced that now that the sultan had capitulated meekly to the demands of the Allies and betrayed the will of his subjects, only the united strength of the Turkish people could defend their land. Atatürk traveled from village to village rousing his fellow citizens to this call.

The people were exhausted from the long succession of wars that had assailed them. But Atatürk would not give up. He implored the people to stand up with him for their nation, that their help was needed to save it. Finally, his impassioned cry awakened the national pride of the Turkish people.

Conveying one's message with passion, conviction and tenacity moves people's hearts and spurs them to action. Atatürk united his people, organized a people's army, and convened the 1st Grand National Assembly of Turkey in Ankara, the present capital. It was the birth of an alternative government in direct opposition to the government of the sultan.

The Ottoman government sentenced Atatürk to death in absentia (for treason against the sultanate), but his new nationalist government had earned the people's overwhelming support. He executed brilliant diplomacy in negotiating the Allies' territorial demands and achieving peace. The Grand National Assembly abolished the sultanate and, on Oct. 29, 1923, installed Mustafa Kemal as the first president of the Republic of Turkey. A new nation was born.

**Shin'ichi Yamamoto** and his group left Dolmabahçe Palace and made their way to Taksim Square. There stood a monument to the Republic of Turkey, the centerpiece of which was a bronze sculpture of a dozen-or-so people standing together. The figure in center foreground was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The group got out of the car in front of the monument, and Mr. Halil related the story of the birth of the Republic of Turkey.

After listening to Mr. Halil's account, Yusuke Yoshikawa said with surprise, "Even with the sultan's government reduced to a puppet of the Allied powers, it is remarkable that the people's army defeated it."

"In my opinion," Shin'ichi replied, "it was the Turkish people's determination to achieve self-rule and the strength that resulted from that unity of purpose that brought them victory. They rallied around General Atatürk with a shared goal: to protect their nation and to make it their own.

“The sultan, in contrast, was only trying to protect himself. He had neither the will nor the power to resist the demands of the Allies, and he merely tried to force people to obey his orders based on an antiquated authority. It was only natural that he should fall eventually.”

Akira Kuroki voiced his opinion: “I think it’s amazing how Atatürk kept the Allied powers at bay and defended Turkish territorial integrity.”

“Yes, it is,” Shin’ichi agreed. “Some even call this ‘the Turkish miracle.’ The Allies, the victors in World War I, eventually accepted Atatürk’s position.

“The fact is that the interests of the various Allied powers in Turkey after the war conflicted. Atatürk saw that as far as Turkey was concerned, the Allies were not necessarily allied, and he exploited their rivalries to preserve his homeland.

“The Allied forces were incredibly powerful as long as they remained firmly united in a shared cause, but once their interests diverged, they lost that strength. Most feared the Allies for their name alone, without looking carefully at the real situation.

“People tend to nurture an exaggerated picture of their enemies, to fear that illusory image, and to bring about their own defeat in the process. But Atatürk was determined to win, and that made him aware of his enemies’ weak points. And he fought to the bitter end — that is the real cause of victory.

“There is nothing to be gained by fearing one’s enemies — this conviction surmounted all difficulties and led his successful negotiations. But what I think I admire most about Atatürk is his motto as president, ‘Make new friends, but treasure old ones.’ People tend to forget their old friends. Or, if they keep in touch with their old friends, they tend to hesitate to make new friends. But by both valuing our old relationships and making new ones, we constantly open ourselves to new possibilities.”

***(To be continued)***

1. Novalis, *Pollen and Fragments: Selected Poetry and Prose of Novalis*, trans. Arthur Versluis (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Phanes Press, 1989). Baron Friedrich Leopold von Hardenberg (1772–1801), a German Romantic poet, used the pseudonym Novalis.
2. Togo Heihachiro (1848–1934): fleet admiral in the Japanese Imperial Navy. Led naval operations during the Russo–Japanese War of 1904–05, destroying the Russian Baltic fleet in the Battle of Tsushima, May 1905.