

SIGN POSTS: Of the Same Mind
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If master and disciple are not of the same mind, they cannot accomplish anything.
(The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 1, pp. 217–18)

I participated in the SGI World Youth Training Course in Japan last month with other U.S. youth representatives. If I had to sum up the experience, I would have to say I deepened my understanding in three areas: the temple issue, treasuring the members and the mentor and disciple relationship.

In almost all the training sessions, the emphasis was on the importance of speaking out and fighting against injustice and evil. Also, we focused on how to become an exemplary human being, one who treasures others.

And I realized that the mentor and disciple relationship actually encompasses the temple issue and treasuring the members. In other words, this relationship should be the basis for my efforts in the other two areas.

I was thinking a lot about the mentor and disciple relationship and what it means to me before I went. I have always known who my mentor is, SGI President Ikeda. But I realized in Japan that it is one thing to understand that with my mind and another to actually take action based on that, from the heart.

What clicked for me this time was realizing just what this Gosho states: “If master and disciple are not of the same mind, they cannot accomplish anything.” If this sounds like a bold statement, well, it is. If mentor and disciple are not of the same mind about taking action on the temple issue and to treasure the members, they can’t accomplish anything. Until we can understand for ourselves this profound passage, we will only be analyzing what our mentor is saying, not taking action based on it.

I need to have a better understanding about the temple issue by reeducating myself and others. And I want to exert myself for others and learn from them, side by side with my mentor. I don’t want to look back later in life and say, “I should have done this or I should have done that.”

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