

**SGI President Calls for a 'New Humanism'**  
**Courtesy of SGIPR**  
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SGI President Ikeda, speaking today at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, called for a “holistic or even cosmological humanism” as the key toward creating a peaceful global civilization. His “new humanism,” founded on the principles of nonviolence and mutual respect, is defined as aware of humanity’s place in the global or universal environment as opposed to an individualistic humanism that places humanity in a dominant position over nature.

Mr. Ikeda describes new humanism as a cosmology because, whereas an “ideology tends to emphasize dualism and conflict, producing discrimination and rejection of others, cosmologies seek to include and embrace others. Tolerance is an inherent characteristic of cosmology.”

In elaborating on the first principle of nonviolence, Mr. Ikeda said that a new humanism must include an absolute injunction against the taking of human life. “Any form of justice that is accompanied by the violence of killing must be recognized as a false justice, in whatever logic or rationale it may clothe itself,” he said. “The fundamental failure of humanism in its various forms has been a failure fully to believe in and trust people.”

In regard to developing the second principle of mutual respect, Mr. Ikeda declared education to be humanity’s most important endeavor to nurture the dignity of life. “It is education that makes us free,” he said. “The world of knowledge and of the intellect is the universal stage on which all people can meet and converse. Education liberates people from prejudice. It frees the human heart from its violent passions. It is education that severs the fetters of ignorance regarding the laws that govern the universe.”

He moreover demonstrated that education liberates people from powerlessness and the inability to trust and believe in themselves. “The individual who has been liberated from self-doubt,” he stated, “is naturally able to believe in the latent capacities of others. One becomes able to look beyond the present appearance of another to perceive and believe in the wondrous jewel hidden within.”

Mr. Ikeda credited the Upanishads, Shakyamuni’s Lotus Sutra, and King Ashoka, as well as the modern examples of Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore, Rajiv Gandhi and first and second Soka Gakkai presidents Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda as inspirations to humankind.

The SGI president views India’s message of nonviolence as one of paramount significance to humanity, and he foresees India’s continuing development as undeniably valuable to the cause of world stability. “We can posit the emergence of three pivotal countries — China, the United States and India — that will play central roles in the 21st century,” he said. “This might be likened to the design of ancient, three-legged kettles, which cannot stand on two legs but attain stability on three.”

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