

WORDS TO THE WISE: ON GOALS

“If you want to understand what results will be manifested in the future, look at the causes that exist in the present.” (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2 [2nd ed.], p. 172)

From SGI President Ikeda:

*There is no real joy or excitement in a life without concrete goals or direction. In the realm of faith, too, we grow when we have clear goals — whether it be for propagation or study.... I want you to advance not as if carrying a heavy burden but joyfully and confidently as you earnestly apply yourself to the challenges ahead. To do so, wisdom and conviction are important. (Feb. 21, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 12)

*Anyone who has ever made a resolution discovers that the strength of his or her determination fades with time. The moment you feel that is when you should make a fresh determination. Say to yourself: “OK! I will start again from now!” If you fall down seven times, get up eight. Don’t give up when you feel discouraged — just pick yourself up and renew your determination each time. The important thing is not that your resolve never waver, but that you don’t get down on yourself when it does and throw in the towel. (Aug. 8, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 11)

*The greater the struggle, the more enriching the experience is for your life. That said, if you immediately set out to climb a high peak without any preparation, the challenge could be beyond you. You may be forced to abandon your ascent, losing your way or suffering altitude sickness! It might be better to first attempt a goal suited to your level. (Nov. 14, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 13)

*President Toda declared: “It’s perfectly all right for youth to cherish dreams that may seem almost too big. What we can achieve in a single lifetime is always but a fraction of what we would like to achieve. So if you start out with expectations that are too low, you’ll end up not accomplishing anything at all.” (Nov. 1, 1996, *World Tribune*, p. 10)

*[Nobel Prize-winning author Mikhail A. Sholokhov] said to the effect: “You can’t accomplish anything worthwhile if you don’t have a definite goal. We are all ‘blacksmiths’ who have to hammer and shape our own happiness. People of conviction, people who are spiritually strong, can exert a definite influence on the direction their lives take, even when fate takes an unexpected twist.” In short, he believed that we each build our happiness. (Nov. 21, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 12)

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