

## WORDS to the Wise: DETERMINATION

**“Because the Han emperor believed without doubt in his retainer’s words, the river froze over. And Li Kuang was able to pierce a rock with his arrow because he fully believed it to be the tiger which had killed his father. Faith is still more powerful in the world of Buddhism.” (“The Real Aspect of the Gohonzon,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 214)**

*From SGI President Ikeda:*

\* To really inspire others, a leader must first make his or her life burn with passion and conviction. To inspire others to take action, one has to first thoroughly engage oneself. The Daishonin writes, “If the general loses heart, his soldiers will become cowards” (MW-3, 196). The organization, ultimately, is a reflection of its leaders’ determination.

\* Leaders have to constantly ask themselves: “Am I really determined to win?” “Am I praying strongly enough?” “Am I brimming with joy?” “Am I satisfied with everything I did today?” This was the art of leadership that Shin’ichi had learned from President Toda. (Sept. 19, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 5)

\* When your determination changes, everything else begins to move in the direction you desire. The moment you resolve to be victorious, every nerve and fiber in your being immediately orient themselves toward your success. On the other hand, if you think, “This is never going to work out,” at that instant, every cell in your being will be deflated, giving up the fight. Everything then will move in the direction of failure.

\* I want you to understand the subtle workings of the mind. How you orient your mind, the kind of attitude you have, greatly influences both yourself and your environment. The Buddhist principle of a single life-moment possessing 3,000 realms completely elucidates the true aspect of life’s inner workings. Through the power of strong inner resolve, we can transform ourselves, those around us and the land where we live. Each of us has this tool, this “secret weapon.” There is no greater treasure. (July 11, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 14)

\* The moment we decide “It’s no good, I can’t do it,” this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. From that instant, we negate any chance of succeeding. (Oct. 10, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 15)

\* The moment you assume the attitude “There’s no need to continue making effort. I can just take it easy and relax. I don’t need to expand my activities or challenge myself any further” — from that instant, your downhill decline starts. (Dec. 19, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 13)

**WT**