

Words to the Wise: JUSTICE

[Chang-an says:] “One who destroys or brings confusion to the Buddha’s teachings is betraying them. If one befriends another person but lacks the mercy to correct him, one is in fact his enemy. But one who reprimands and corrects an offender is a voice-hearer who defends the Buddha’s teachings.”
(The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 2 [2nd ed.], p. 186)

From SGI President Ikeda:

* The Austrian writer Stefan Zweig (1881– 1942), who struggled against the totalitarianism of the Nazi regime, once wrote that for any school of thought to have a lasting impact on the world, it would have to produce people of conviction, what he called “witnesses” willing to give their lives for what they believed. Individuals of selfless dedication are the pride and honor of a religion. They are the foundation of any religious body. The death of religion begins when such a spirit is lost. (August 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p. 50)

* [Ralph Waldo Emerson] says, “Good nature is plentiful, but we want justice, with heart of steel, to fight down the proud.” If people are merely good-natured, then those who are arrogant and high-handed will have free rein to carry on as they please. Only those who fight with “hearts of steel” are people of justice. All of us who are now striving for kosen-rufu with “conviction of steel” are in reality creating the 21st century, as well as the 22nd and 23rd centuries. Moreover, we are engraving in our lives the causes to continue working for kosen-rufu then as well. (July 4, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 7)

* We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the pronouncements of so-called experts. We must follow the dictates of what our solid common sense as ordinary people tells us is right. The courage to do so is what will ultimately protect the people. (August 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p. 55)

* Unless we speak out, nothing will happen. When we proclaim the truth, actual proof will appear clarifying what is right and wrong. (Sept. 19, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 14)

* Unless we speak out to set the record straight and ensure that truth prevails, we will not achieve kosen-rufu. . . . Cowardice is harmful. It delights the enemies of Buddhism and obstructs the advance of kosen-rufu. The fainthearted cannot savor the true benefit of faith — their ability to tap the power of the Buddha and the power of the Law is enfeebled. (Oct. 10, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 14)

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