

Invincible Beauty
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SGI President

In July, which marks the founding of our young women's division (July 19, 1951), I want to share some of President Toda's guidance to young women and to record my thoughts as well.

President Toda often told the young women's division members: "All of you have embraced faith in Buddhism while you are still young. You are practicing now so that you may live happy lives. Your true victory in terms of happiness, however, will only really start to be apparent from your 40s on."

Even if you are happy and well-off in your teens and 20s, there's no telling what your life will be like later on. Be it marriage, children, work, the challenges of life in general — all are harsh realities.

In order to enjoy health and good fortune in your 40s and 50s, in order to feel a sense of purpose and success in your daily endeavors, it's vital that you build a firm foundation for your life through Buddhist practice while still young.

Anything that is built on a weak foundation will only crumble.



Happiness is not determined by outward appearance, beauty, wealth or possessions but by your ability to change your karma and by the amount of good fortune you have accumulated.

Mr. Toda used to say, with the tone of a compassionate father: "Youth itself is beauty. You must never forget that all young women are beautiful, just as they are."

Mr. Toda also taught the young women's division members that gaining a solid grounding in Buddhist study would make them philosophers. Essentially, philosophy is the wisdom that helps us lead better lives. When we acquire that philosophy, that knowledge, through Buddhist practice, it becomes a source of boundless strength. We can tap it freely to respond to life's diverse challenges. And we come to see that we are advancing on the road toward genuine happiness and fulfillment.

I hope you will always remember that.



Please be confident, therefore, that those who persevere in their faith always triumph in the end.

It is petty to feel embarrassed about people knowing that you're an SGI member or to be afraid of being ridiculed on that account. Undergoing hardships in youth enables you to forge a strong, invincible self, one that shines with eternal good fortune. It would be awful to end your life in disgrace or debilitated by illness and financial distress. That's why it's crucial that you don't squander this important time of your youth.



Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai once narrowly escaped an assassination attempt. When his wife, Madame Deng Yingchao, learned of this, she immediately wrote to him, stating to the effect: "As the situation stands, you must fight and vanquish your enemies. I am not the

kind of person to fall apart when danger threatens. When I think of the good of the people and that we are engaged in a great, glorious task unprecedented in history, I can face this threat with calm.”

We of the SGI, too, cherish a noble objective: our great dream of kosen-rufu — the widespread propagation of the principles and ideals of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism for the peace and happiness of all humanity.



Many young women mistakenly think that marriage is the only way they can become truly happy. Of course, marriage is a perfectly natural part of life, but many women have wept bitter tears of pain and regret over throwing themselves into disastrous relationships against the best advice of family and friends. Some have been so blinded by love that they unthinkingly discarded their faith. I want you to bear this in mind.

No one is an island unto herself. We can only uncover and reveal our wonderful potential when we have many good people around us — trusted friends supporting us and respected seniors to whom we can turn for sound advice!

For this reason, please cultivate wisdom. This is the purpose of faith.

I hope that you will always remember the importance of practicing with the SGI, an organization of harmonious unity.



President Makiguchi frequently offered encouragement and advice to young women’s division members on the train home after discussion meetings. He would say: “You can teach people at your workplace the greatness of Buddhism by the example you set. Be especially kind to employees younger than yourself.”

How overjoyed Mr. Makiguchi and Mr. Toda would surely be if they could see the beautiful achievements of our young women’s division members in Japan and throughout the world.



The Daishonin writes, “Only in the Lotus Sutra do we read that a woman who embraces this sutra not only excels all other women but also surpasses all men” (The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 5, pp. 156–57). I hope that our young women’s division members will make a conscious effort to live these years of their youth — and their entire lives — with wisdom and integrity, heading always toward true happiness.

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