

Spread Circles of Friendship

The following is SGI President Ikeda's message upon the opening of the Los Angeles Friendship Center, Sept. 21.

My dear friends of Los Angeles, whom I love and respect and with whom I share so many precious memories — my heartfelt congratulations on opening this wonderful Los Angeles Friendship Center!

This center is a palace of victory, a precious manifestation of the faith of each of you. It is also a symbol of hope, the certainty that the kosen-rufu movement in Los Angeles will continue to advance and develop by further spreading circles of friendship.

I hope that you will love and care for this center, making it an ever more beautiful home of good fortune, a castle of friendship open to your community.

As you know, the day before yesterday, the exhibition “Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century” opened successfully in San Francisco. Some five years ago, Dr. Linus Pauling attended the lecture I gave at Claremont McKenna College. With numerous prominent scholars in attendance, he emphasized the importance of the actions of the bodhisattva, a person who sincerely extends assistance and relief to those who are suffering. He said that this kind of altruism is beautiful proof of our humanity, and he expressed his heartfelt expectations of the Soka Gakkai.

Fulfilling the hopes voiced by Dr. Pauling, you have lived up to your noble mission as Bodhisattvas of the Earth. You have exerted yourselves without cease in the practice of easing the pain and increasing the joy of others. You have spread strong and deep roots of service and trust into the soil of society. You have enabled our SGI movement to grow into a magnificent and towering tree that remains unshaken in the most violent storms. You who have shared the struggle for kosen-rufu with me have accumulated good fortune that is indeed infinite and beyond measure.

To quote the Goshō: “If *itai doshin* (many in body, one in mind) prevails among the people, they will achieve all their goals, whereas in *dotai ishin* (one in body, different in mind), they can achieve nothing remarkable” (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 153).

It is my sincere hope that you will continue to enjoy ideal unity as responsible citizens of your respective communities and that in bright spirits you will climb, powerfully, one step at a time, the towering peak of human revolution and kosen-rufu.

I would like to conclude by voicing my prayer that each of my dear precious friends, who protect the headquarters of kosen-rufu in America, will enjoy lives of unsurpassed happiness.

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