

The New Human Revolution, Volume 7, Chapter 2, Parts 3–4

'FRESH GROWTH'

By DAISAKU IKEDA, SGI President

On Shin'ichi Yamamoto's second visit to Hawaii, he finds things have changed — everyone is now high-spirited. 'Those aware of their mission have a certain radiance,' the author writes. 'Those who dedicate their lives to their mission know joy. In this awareness and dedication, they find the wings...to soar high into the expansive skies of happiness.'

Two years and three months had passed since Shin'ichi Yamamoto first visited Hawaii, in October 1960.

After his party cleared customs, they entered the airport lobby, where a throng of members waited to welcome them. There was a burst of applause, and a lei was placed around the neck of each arriving visitor.

"Thank you for coming to meet us," Shin'ichi said as he waved to the well-wishers.

The crowd then burst into a chorus of "Song of Indomitable Dignity."

On Shin'ichi's last visit to Hawaii, a mix-up about their arrival time had resulted in just one person, a youth named Tony Harada, being there to welcome his party at the airport.

There also had been only about 30 or 40 participants at the discussion meeting Shin'ichi attended then, and most of them had worn looks of gloom and despair. This time, the members who came to meet them numbered more than 50, and their faces glowed with joy. Their voices resounded with vigor as they sang.

Shin'ichi was concerned about the disturbance their late-night singing might cause others at the airport. Fortunately, hardly anyone else was there.

The members probably felt that singing a Gakkai song was a perfect way to express their sense of elation at welcoming President Yamamoto to Hawaii for a second time and their determination to redouble their efforts for kosen-rufu. Smiling warmly, Shin'ichi listened to their heartfelt chorus.

Among the members there were Nagayasu Masaki, vice leader of the America General Chapter, and Tony Harada.

Also present was Hiroto Hirata, who had been appointed the Hawaii District leader during Shin'ichi's last visit. It was Hirata's wife, Tatsuko, who presented Shin'ichi with a Hawaiian lei.

Shin'ichi also recognized Mitsuru Kawakami, whom he recalled asking a question at the previous discussion meeting, and Emiko Haruyama, who had moved to New York in July, the previous year. She was the younger sister of Dr. Eiji Kawasaki, the central contact person for the Soka Gakkai in Europe.

Haruyama had joined the Soka Gakkai in 1955. While in Japan, she had been active as a Planning Department staff of the young women's division and the leader of the YWD Chugoku No. 3 general corps.

Married in 1961, she had moved to New York when her husband, Tomio, was posted there by the trading company that he worked for.

Upon their leaving Japan for New York, Shin'ichi had congratulated the couple on the bright future that awaited them, presenting them with a poem:

*As husband and wife,
Cause the flowers of benefit
To blossom,
And implant deeply in your lives*

Title: Volume 7: Chapter 2 Fresh Growth (3-4)

Subject: World Tribune 11/06/98 n.3216 p.4 WT981106p04

Author: Daisaku Ikeda

Keywords: Chapter Fresh Growth History Human Kosen-rufu Revolution Tribune Volume World

The treasures of the Mystic Law.

At that time, Shin'ichi had appointed Emiko Haruyama to the dual positions of America General Chapter vice women's division leader and leader of the YWD America general corps. Shin'ichi had great hopes for this young woman who had long played a key role in the young women's division in Japan.

Shin'ichi waited for the song to end and then said: "Mrs. Haruyama, how kind of you to come all the way from New York to Hawaii to meet us! This is totally unexpected. Thank you very much."

He and his fellow travelers continued exchanging greetings with the members who had come to welcome them.

Katsu Kiyohara asked a woman who had been beaming since their arrival, "Weren't you the one who couldn't stop crying during the discussion meeting when Sensei was here before?"

"Yes, that's right," the woman replied.

"How wonderful you look!" Kiyohara said, and then added — in English — "How are you?" The woman smiled brightly as she clasped Kiyohara's hand.

In fact, people's expressions and the whole atmosphere had entirely changed from Shin'ichi's last visit. Everyone was now high-spirited and energetic; they seemed like totally different people.

Those aware of their mission have a certain radiance. Those who dedicate their lives to their mission know joy. In this awareness and dedication, they find the wings to escape from the prison of sorrowful, painful karma and to soar high into the expansive skies of happiness.

After sincerely thanking the members for their warm welcome, Shin'ichi and his party made their way by car to the hotel. The moon shone bright and countless stars glimmered in the sky. Beyond a row of coconut palms, the ocean, its waves bathed in golden moonlight, stretched endlessly.

Mitsuru Kawakami, who was at the wheel, said: "It rained really hard today. But just before your flight arrived, the storm suddenly broke, leaving the city fresh and clean."

As with their first visit, they stayed at the Kaimana Hotel just beyond Waikiki Beach.

After they checked in, Shin'ichi and his colleagues gathered with around 10 leaders of the Hawaiian organization in Shin'ichi's room, and an amiable discussion ensued.

Shin'ichi explained: "The Soka Gakkai has now reached a membership of 3 million households. We have entered an age where the leaders of Japan and the world are paying close attention to what we are doing.

"Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the entire Pacific Region into the tragedy of World War II," he said. "But now, as an emissary of happiness and peace, the Soka Gakkai is building a bridge of friendship between the United States and Japan. Tomorrow, toward that end, I want to form a Soka Gakkai chapter here in Hawaii. Is that OK?"

Shin'ichi's proposal was greeted with enthusiasm. But a few of those present simply looked bewildered — they didn't understand Japanese.

On his previous visit, Shin'ichi had been able to communicate with everyone in Japanese — all the Hawaii members had either been Japanese or of Japanese descent. But now, with an increasing number of Americans beginning to practice, the situation had changed dramatically.

This in itself said a lot about how much the organization in Hawaii had grown.

To be continued

Title: Volume 7: Chapter 2 Fresh Growth (3-4)

Subject: World Tribune 11/06/98 n.3216 p.4 WT981106p04

Author: Daisaku Ikeda

Keywords: Chapter Fresh Growth History Human Kosen-rufu Revolution Tribune Volume World