

EDITORIAL: Chairman of the World

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What is a capable person, a capable leader, anyhow?

I was recently reading E.B. White's *Stuart Little* to my daughter. There's a scene where the philosopher-mouse Stuart Little becomes a substitute teacher and tells his elementary school students that someday he plans to be Chairman of the World (a title that he's made up).

But one little girl tells him that he's too small to ever be Chairman of the World.

He shoots back: "Size has nothing to do with it. It's temperament and ability that count. The Chairman has to have ability and he must know what's important. How many of you know what's important?"

That's an important question, I thought — we should always be asking ourselves what's most important in life, and what's most important in our Buddhist practice. If Nichiren Daishonin were asked "What's most important?" he would probably answer, "Faith alone is what really matters" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 246). Or that "what matters is one's heart" (MW-5, 289).

So, if ability can be called knowing what's important, and if what's most important is our faith, our hearts, then all of us already have ability; we're already capable. We know that we have faith. And we definitely have hearts.

In *The New Human Revolution*, volume 1, when one of the leaders accompanying Shin'ichi Yamamoto to America says that there are no capable people in a new district just formed in San Francisco, Shin'ichi objects: "I completely disagree. They are all capable people. They will begin to shine from here on. If they persevere with pure-hearted faith, their names will all go down in the annals of kosen-rufu as pioneers. I'm looking to their future with high hopes."

It's important to remember that when we talk in the SGI of becoming capable people, capable leaders, etc., although developing our various talents may be part of this, what's most important is developing our faith. And since all of us can do this, since all of us *are* doing this, we're all capable.

If we "persevere with pure-hearted faith," we're sure always to keep becoming more capable, deepening our faith all the time. In this *World Tribune's* "Discussions on Youth," President Ikeda emphasizes the importance of persevering this way, saying that we should keep praying for our goals for as long as it takes for all of them to be achieved (see p. 6). As long as we continue like this, we need never consider ourselves incapable.

To continue is to be capable.

So why not have confidence in our determination to win and consider ourselves capable now? Not in an arrogant sense, of course — we all have a lot of growing still to do — but because we do know what's important: faith. We do know what's important: the heart. We just have to keep reminding ourselves of what we already know as we continue.

This qualifies each of us to be Chairman of the World.

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