

THE STORY OF MARCH 16

BY DORNEY BURGDOFF, SAN FRANCISCO

March 16 marks the culmination of our struggle for human rights through peace, culture, and education. In 1958 President Josei Toda designated this day as the “dress rehearsal for the future realization of kosen-rufu.” In celebrating this day, we commemorate the significance of fighting evil within our society and within ourselves.

On March 16, 1958, 6,000 Japanese youth responded to the call to attend a meeting with their mentor, Josei Toda. Many of these youth spent a good part of the previous night traveling for hours to the head temple. The message they had each been given was to bring a bowl and chop sticks. When they arrived, each one of them was treated to a helping of nice, warm pork soup.

President Toda entrusted his dreams and goals for the Soka Gakkai to his disciple, Daisaku Ikeda, who now has entrusted this vision to us, the youth. March 16 marks our chance to shine as we run with the torch of our predecessors and our organization. The meaning of this day is illuminated by our commitment to stand up for justice and by the action that we take in this regard. With creative energy we forge new territory for the SGI and humanity and thus show the greatness of our mentor.

“March 16 — which came to be called Kosen-Rufu Day — would thereafter serve as a day for the disciples to renew their pledge to build the eternal, indestructible foundation for kosen-rufu.” (All quotes taken from *The Human Revolution*, vol. 12).

Title: The Story Of March 16
Subject: World Tribune 02/26/99 n.3231 p.9 WT990226p09
Author: Dorney Burgdoff
Keywords: Burgdoff Dorney March Story Youth