

## LEARNING FROM THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION LESSONS ABOUT LEADERSHIP:

### “A NEW WORLD”

*In the following excerpt from volume 1, page 113, Shin'ichi Yamamoto encourages two women's leaders from San Francisco on the value of unity.*

The group decided to stop for a short break at a small park near the bridge. Stepping out of their cars, they saw on display a section of the suspension cable used in the bridge. A sign explained that the cable was 37 inches in diameter and comprised 27,572 separate strands of wire. Shin'ichi and the others stood in a circle around the display.

“The cable is thick, but each wire is quite thin. How amazing that it can hold up the bridge!” exclaimed Katsu Kiyohara.

Nodding in agreement, Shin'ichi then spoke to Yukiko Gilmore and Chiyoko Taylor, who had been appointed respectively as the San Francisco District chief and women's division chief the day before.

“It's true that the individual wires are not very thick, but when bunched together in great numbers, they display incredible strength. This resembles the unity of *itai doshin* (many in body, one in mind). In the Soka Gakkai, too, though each person's strength may be small, when that strength is combined and the members are firmly united, they can display unimaginable power. Unity is strength.

“From now on, you must play a central role in unifying the members' efforts to support the kosen-rufu movement and the happiness of the people of San Francisco.”

“Yes!” the two women replied in unison.

The immensity of this lofty mission with which they were entrusted filled them with a sobering sense of responsibility.

### “WESTWARD TRANSMISSION”

*In this episode from volume 3, pages 19–20, Shin'ichi Yamamoto discusses what could be termed “sincere unintentional disunity.”*

One of the most important tasks in the Year of Dynamic Advancement was to strengthen the many new chapters around the country. Now, as the new year began, Shin'ichi Yamamoto wanted to discuss how to achieve this.

“The chapter chief might say, ‘Let's try hard in our Gakkai activities and reap the benefits of faith.’ If, on the other hand, the vice chapter chief sitting next to him then says, ‘Faith is not separate from daily life. Let's strive diligently in our jobs,’ the messages will conflict.

“Or, the chapter chief might say, ‘I'd really like to see our chapter concentrate on study.’ But if the women's division chief then says, ‘Study without practice is abstract. It's pointless if we don't try to introduce others to this Buddhism,’ the members will be left feeling bewildered.

“This is a prime example of disunity. Although each statement fits Soka Gakkai guidelines, the apparently conflicting guidance will only confuse the members.

Title: Lessons From The New Human Revolution

Subject: World Tribune 04/09/99 n.3237 p.10 WT990409p10

Author: Daisaku Ikeda

Keywords: Daisaku Encouragement Guidance Human Ikeda Lessons Organization Revolution Tribune World

This is because the leaders haven't tried to harmonize. If they were in sync with one another, they could naturally express the above points more constructively.

"If, for example, when the chapter chief says, 'Let's promote study,' the other leaders were to say, 'Yes, and because we study to support our practice, let's also chant daimoku and share Buddhism with others,' no one would be confused. The statements don't conflict; they complement each other.

"In baseball, the team with good teamwork is strong. When the first baseman fields a ball, a teammate will cover first base. This is acting in harmony. The team won't win the game if the teammate stands by and does nothing, saying, 'It's his job to cover first base.' And when a player comes to bat with a man on base, he might bunt or hit a fly ball to advance the runner, even if it means the batter himself will be called out.

"The important thing is to think not only about yourself but to work in harmony with those around you in order to win. This will contribute to your own growth as well.

"In any event, let's again create a record of unprecedented triumph this year through solid unity."

After the leaders meeting, Shin'ichi posed for a photograph with the others as a record of their pledge to achieve victory. The engines of new advancement now began to rev with a thunderous roar. The leaders returned to their respective areas with a passionate fighting spirit apparent in their expressions, the pulse of fresh progress beating strongly in their hearts.