

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MAY 25 ENCOURAGEMENT WHERE IS OUR INNER FOCUS?

SGI President Ikeda gave the following encouragement at a Kansai representative leaders conference at the Soka Gakkai's Kyoto International Culture Center in Kyoto, Japan, May 25.

Most praiseworthy of all are those who strive for kosen-rufu. Most noble are those taking action in accord with the ideals of the SGI, an organization advancing kosen-rufu. This is clear when viewed through the eyes of Buddhism.

If we lose the commitment to work for kosen-rufu, then no matter what honors or position we may gain in society, from the Buddhist perspective, it will all amount to nothing. Especially if we have gained position through the support of the SGI organization and forget to have appreciation for that fact, then we are merely using faith for self-serving ends and, ultimately, will fall into a life-condition of profound suffering.

Though we may appear to have the same commitment to faith, the question is whether our inner focus is on kosen-rufu or on ourselves. That small difference will produce dramatically different results.

Those who earnestly devote themselves to SGI activities are Bodhisattvas of the Earth who are advancing toward kosen-rufu with a direct connection to Nichiren Daishonin. I assert this unequivocally, based on the Gosho.

The sun rises in the lives of those who ground themselves firmly in the organization dedicated to kosen-rufu and make steady, ongoing efforts. They lead the most noble, most happy, most vibrant and most fulfilled lives.

The leaders should be sincere in all things and live in such a way that they will be loved, appreciated and praised by everyone, causing people to exclaim, "How fortunate we are to have such a wonderful leader!"

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