

**EDITORIAL: SPLITTING BAMBOO**  
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*How does Nichiren Daishonin say we can best live with no regrets? By splitting bamboo....*

One of the greatest things about the SGI organization is how it encourages us—often—to look at ourselves, to question ourselves and to improve ourselves. Plato says that “the life which is unexamined is not worth living,” and I think that this could be a motto for the whole SGI.

As Nichiren Daishonin warns us, we should not “spend this life in vain and regret it for ten thousand years to come” (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 5, p. 173). It’s through pursuing the *examined life*—through accomplishing our human revolution—that we spend this life in the very best way.

Living with no regrets simply equals challenging ourselves always more in our Buddhist practice.

When you look around the world today, you sadly see that many people are making the causes for lives of regret. They seem to feel that the meaning of life is just to entertain themselves. In America, there’s a religion called Cheap Thrills. So many people are missing out on the great opportunity to find real, eternal happiness in their own hearts. And it hurts to watch them miss out.

This is the deluded reality— what Buddhism calls the *saha* world, the realm of human suffering—in which we must pursue our human revolution. We have to jump into society, as bad as it can be, and try to awaken people here to a new way of life, a more fulfilling existence. The only way is through our human revolution in the *saha* world, human revolution that all our friends can witness.

Throughout human history, there have always been escapist religions (like the Pure Land sect the Daishonin criticizes so much) that have sought to ignore reality, to divert believers’ attention away from how troubled the human world is and to some other, invented, supposedly much nicer world. Everything is promised to be OK, when we arrive there....

This Buddhism, though, teaches us to make everything OK *here*. We attain enlightenment where we are, now, together with suffering friends.

One of my favorite passages from the Daishonin’s writings speaks to this: “The Lotus Sutra offers a secret means for leading all living beings to Buddhahood. It leads one person in the realm of hell, one person in the realm of hungry spirits, and thus one person in each of the nine realms of existence to Buddhahood, and thereby the way is opened for all living beings to attain Buddhahood. The situation is like the joints in a piece of bamboo: if one joint is ruptured, then all the joints will split” (MW-7, 103). These words make me want to do more human revolution. They make me want to split the whole piece of bamboo, our unhappy society today—to make it happy. And these words teach me this is the way to say no to wasting my life.

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