

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S OCT. 16 ENCOURAGEMENT 'REGARD OBSTACLES AS PEACE AND COMFORT'

The evening of Oct. 16, SGI President Ikeda attended a representatives conference commemorating Nov. 18, Day of the Soka Gakkai's Founding, in Shinanomachi, Tokyo. The following is a summary of his remarks.

Nichiren Daishonin's goal was kosen-rufu. Consequently, only faith that strives earnestly for the sake of kosen-rufu constitutes the correct practice of the Daishonin's Buddhism. In the present day, the SGI is the sole organization carrying out this correct practice.

When we dedicate ourselves to advancing kosen-rufu in accord with the Daishonin's teachings, the three obstacles and four devils, as well as the three powerful enemies, will appear without fail. The Daishonin tells us, however, to "regard obstacles as peace and comfort" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 750).

It is by fighting and triumphing over the enemies of the Buddha that we ourselves become Buddhas. In sumo wrestling, for instance, one cannot become a Yokozuna, or grand champion, without fighting strong opponents.

Once we have firmly established the life-state of Buddhahood, we can be reborn wherever and in whatever form we desire—in lifetime after lifetime throughout eternity. And every time we are reborn, we will enjoy a state of utter freedom and happiness.

Buddhahood is the state of life of one who is never defeated, one who wins in the end, no matter what happens. All who are striving together earnestly, united in purpose at this crucial time to vanquish the enemies of the Buddha, can establish the state of Buddhahood within their lives in this existence. No effort for the sake of Buddhism is wasted.