

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE FOR FEB. 27, SGI-USA WOMEN'S DAY THE CENTURY OF WOMEN IS HERE

To all SGI-USA women, for whom I hold the utmost respect:

Thank you very much for your devotion to your day-to-day activities for kosen-rufu. My sincere congratulations on your commemorative meetings to celebrate the 10th anniversary of SGI-USA Women's Day.

Once again I would like to express my desire that each of you become the happiest you can be based upon your profound and strong prayer. Prayer functions like the sun. It serves as the light that illuminates the darkness of suffering. Nichiren Daishonin states in "The One Essential Phrase" that one lantern can light up a place that has been dark for a hundred, a thousand, or ten thousand years (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 923). As indicated here by the Daishonin, the moment we sit in front of the Gohonzon and offer prayers, the sun of Buddhahood, the originally enlightened state inherent in our lives, arises, sending out brilliant light, and all our past negative causes disappear like dew drops in the sunshine. You may not immediately see this fundamental change in your destiny, but please believe that all your prayers have been answered in the deepest level of your lives.

Buddhism expounds the principle of earthly desires are enlightenment. The great principle of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo enables us to transform earthly desires into enlightenment, prayer into fulfillment. Therefore, having great conviction in the power of prayer is important. In other words, praying to the Gohonzon with this conviction is vital. In the final analysis, your strong and profound prayer cleanses your life and polishes your character.

The Century of Women has finally arrived. We see women with faith and conviction who are contributing to a new phase of kosen-rufu in their communities, in every corner of the world. American kosen-rufu will surely be a reality if you, my beloved mothers of American kosen-rufu and queens of happiness, continue to build a network of humanism brightly and cheerfully in harmonious unity based upon your strong prayer.

It is my hope that you will be victorious in all that you do and thus establish a truly fulfilled existence in which your good fortune blossoms, as you forge on with vigor and wisdom toward May 3, 2001. I will continue to pray for your happiness, victory, good health and longevity throughout my life. Please convey my best regards to all your families and friends.

February 2000

Daisaku Ikeda, SGI President