

DEVELOPING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF SPIRITUAL SOLIDARITY

The following are excerpted from the book A New Humanism, a collection of SGI President Ikeda's speeches and lectures given at universities, research institutes and academies around the world.

The founder and first president of the Soka Gakkai, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, battled Japanese militarism and died in prison at the age of 73. Beginning very early in this century, he insisted that the human race can no longer engage in military, political or economic competition, but instead must try to foster a climate in which societies compete on humanistic grounds. I hope that the students of Moscow State University will be front-runners in such a humanistic competition of the 21st century.

In this discussion, I have referred to Buddhist wisdom and the works of Tolstoy as I sketched the manner in which we can seek to achieve self-mastery. It is up to us to transform chaos into harmony in the coming century, and religion and philosophy, culture and government, all must concentrate on that attempt. I hope all people of similar convictions will join forces with me in our journey down this road to revival. ("The Magnificent Cosmos," p. 55, speech given at Moscow M.V. Lomonosov State University, May 17, 1994)



My personal mentor was Josei Toda, second president of the Soka Gakkai. Born in 1900, Toda was 30 years younger than Mahatma Gandhi. During the second world war, when Gandhi was engaged in his final struggles in prison, Toda was also imprisoned for his opposition to the Japanese military authorities. Like Gandhi, Toda was a pacifist of profound conviction. It was he who taught me the exalted way of peace when I was 19, just after the war. President Toda was also a leader of the people, inspired by a deep sense of compassion. Finally, like Gandhi, he was a creative social reformer. All of the Soka Gakkai International's activities for peace, culture and education stem from Toda's efforts and from the spirit he bequeathed us.

For 45 years, I have devoted myself to Toda's legacy. It is my desire and determination to continue to develop a global network of spiritual solidarity directed toward a world without war. In this endeavor, I trust that I will have the company of my esteemed Indian friends. I know that, in these efforts, the image of Gandhi will always be in my heart. ("Gandhism and the Modern World," p. 138, speech given at the National Museum of India, New Delhi, Feb. 11, 1992)



"Live true to your own life!" was the rallying cry of my mentor Josei Toda, the second president of the Soka Gakkai. He survived two years in prison during the second world war, and he emerged even more firmly undeterred from his dedication to peace. After Japan's defeat, the established values seemed to have been wiped out or turned upside down. In that time of spiritual desolation, Toda preached that the people must return to the very beginning and recreate their own inner human revolution. His teaching brought alive Shakyamuni's observation that we are our own masters, as no one else can ever be; if we discipline ourselves well, we will obtain a master like no other, which in our time can be

called human revolution. (“The Magnificent Cosmos,” p. 47, speech given at Moscow M.V. Lomonosov State University, May 17, 1994)

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