

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'
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As Volume 8 begins, the third anniversary of his presidency is approaching and Shinichi Yamamoto considers what his next move for kosen-rufu will be.

Every river has a source. Nichiren Daishonin writes, “The farther the source, the longer the stream” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 940). The Soka Gakkai, too, has a brilliant spiritual source. It is the eternal way of the oneness of mentor and disciple, set forth by the Soka Gakkai’s first and second presidents, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda. As long as this spirit remains alive, the stream of kosen-rufu will continue to nourish the world.

Makiguchi was arrested by the oppressive militarist government in Japan and died in prison during the cold of late autumn, on Nov. 18, 1944. He was 73. He gave his life in the struggle to achieve peace and happiness for all humankind, upholding the great philosophy of Buddhism as he fought against authoritarianism to the very end. His was a noble death.

Toda was arrested along with Makiguchi, and in his prison cell he steadfastly prayed for his elderly mentor: “Please allow me to take all the blame for both of us, and let Mr. Makiguchi go home as soon as possible.” But his beloved mentor was not to leave prison alive.

When Toda learned of Makiguchi’s death, he shook with rage. And when he was finally released from prison, this indomitable champion of the Mystic Law swore “revenge” against unjust authority.

This revenge was to prove the validity of his mentor’s cause: to inherit Makiguchi’s will and create a flow of kosen-rufu as broad and powerful as a great river. It was to eradicate misery from the world and usher in an age in which power would be restored to the people and the strength of the human spirit would triumph over authority, military might and violence, thereby establishing lasting global peace.

Embracing his mentor’s heart, Toda determined that he, too, would devote himself to spreading the Daishonin’s teachings. Both the mentor who died in prison and the disciple who emerged from prison alive were lions prepared to stake everything for the spread of the Mystic Law.

The way of the lion is the way of mentor and disciple — of dedicating one’s life to truth and justice. It is the way of the courageous, who stand alone, afraid of nothing. It is the path of victory, in which all evil and injustice are defeated. And it is the way of compassion, in which one gives oneself completely to championing the cause of the people.

The Soka Gakkai is a gathering of lions, an alliance of people who share Josei Toda’s spirit and have taken on the task of creating indestructible happiness and peace.

Many who joined the organization in the beginning were struggling with problems like

anniversary of Shin'ichi Yamamoto's presidency. With the occasion approaching, Shin'ichi had been giving much thought to what his next move should be. This May 3 would mark the final lead up to the first milestone he had set—the seventh memorial (sixth anniversary) of Josei Toda's death, on April 2, the following year.

Each goal he had made upon becoming president to achieve by that time was being realized. The membership goal of 3 million households had already been reached five months earlier, with the membership now standing at more than 3.3 million households.

Work on the Grand Reception Hall at the head temple, which the Soka Gakkai was building and donating to the priesthood, was moving smoothly toward its scheduled completion the following spring. In addition, the new Soka Gakkai Headquarters would be finished in August, and a ceremony to celebrate its completion was slated for early September.

The Komei Political Federation, with the Soka Gakkai as its main supporting body, was also making great progress. Its representation in local government assemblies now surpassed 1,000 officials. It was steadily developing into a substantial force for restoring government to the people and creating a society in which the people would play a leading role.

Since Shin'ichi's inauguration, the Soka Gakkai had clearly been growing and advancing by leaps and bounds. This made him all the more aware that to take the next big step forward, it would be necessary to reorganize and secure the foundations of the headquarters and general chapters in each area.

But Shin'ichi also keenly perceived an even more important task—to preserve for all eternity the spirit of his predecessors, Makiguchi and Toda, who, unafraid of even death, dedicated their lives to achieving peace and happiness for all humankind. Shin'ichi was concerned that this spirit was gradually weakening among the Soka Gakkai leadership as the organization continued to develop.

For example, he was beginning to notice leaders who were taking advantage of the Soka Gakkai now that it had become well established. Rather than considering what they could do for kosen-rufu and the Soka Gakkai, they were expecting the Soka Gakkai to do something for them.

Some leaders were also of the mistaken view that attaining a high position in the organization was a sign of success. Preoccupied with becoming “important,” they would be elated when appointed to a higher position and disheartened if they were not.

If people obsessed with fame and personal profit—people who seek only to exploit the Soka Gakkai for their own benefit—become leaders, the members will suffer. This will inevitably lead to the decay of the entire organization and its collapse from within.

For the future growth and advancement of the Soka Gakkai, Shin'ichi silently pledged to cut these tendencies off at the root. He would begin by causing the Soka Gakkai spirit to brim within each leader's heart.