

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S POEM
THE VICTORIOUS FUTURE OF MENTOR AND DISCIPLE**

*Commemorating the 70th
anniversary of the Soka Gakkai's founding.*

I have a mentor:
Josei Toda.

I have given my whole life
To my mentor!
To carrying out his
instructions!
To perpetuating the noble spirit
Of mentor and disciple!
To overcoming and crushing
Devious and base
persecutions!
To the oneness of mentor
and disciple!
To leaving behind a history of kosen-rufu
Of eternal glory and splendor!
To vanquishing arrogant
authorities
And the three powerful enemies
Who inflicted such suffering on my mentor!
To the correct teaching of Buddhism!
To my selfless, hard-working comrades in faith!
To those disciples who are striving to widen
The path to the eternal future still further!

We stood up resolutely.
We fought resolutely.
We were ready to die for
our cause
As we pushed onward in
our struggle.
What regrets could we have?
What hesitation?

This indeed
Is the pride of disciples
Who carry on the spirit
And the work
Of Nichiren Daishonin.

This is the solemn,
 trial-filled path
Of mentor and disciple
Who together
Energetically wage
An unrelenting struggle
 for good,
Following the Buddha's
 will and decree.

My mentor called out to us:
Do not become blank-eyed
Spiritual sleepwalkers!
Do not become people
Whose minds are closed
 and rigid,
Who are unable to dream!

Always look far into the future
And never lose your inner spark.
Treasure every day,
Bidding a solemn farewell
To each as it passes.

Do not give up!
Never let yourself
 be defeated!
Love the struggles and
 challenges of your life
So that you never tire!
Exhaustion
Is a sign of spiritual defeat,
And gives rise to sighs
Of weary old age.
With such a spirit,
You cannot hope to overcome
The manifold difficulties ahead.

You must live on,
With vitality and energy!
Do not walk through life
Pitifully stumbling over
 each setback!

My friends!
Though you may encounter
People who are derisive

And arrogant in attitude,
Each of you is a person
of mission
Whose life emanates
virtue and good.

Spreading your wings and soaring
To the world's loftiest heights,
You will most certainly
Develop into a person
Who is praised and lauded
By countless heavenly deities.

Your spirit,
Your faith,
Can never be broken,
Even by the heaviest of blows;
Can never be shaken,
Even by the most relentless
of lashings.

No matter how cruelly
your spirit
Is thrashed and beaten,
You remain undaunted.
Your eyes,
Lit by a passionate flame,
Will shine only brighter
And more beautifully.
You are a champion of life
Who fears nothing.

Let persecutions come!
Let trials befall me!
I have the means to generate
Powerful and lofty hope.

I can see
Those who are like demons
Milling around what,
Unbeknownst to them,
Is only an execution block.

They trample
The noble spirit
Of the Daishonin
And have become

Pitiful robbers of the Law.
Like a rapacious swarm
of locusts,
High Priest Nikken Abe and his cronies
Have exploited and
persecuted
And even plotted to destroy
The Soka Gakkai,
An organization of the
highest good
That has made unprecedented contributions
To spreading the Law
And worked so hard
To support and protect the priesthood.

Their evil deeds
Will go down forever in
history
And they will be severely judged
According to the law of
cause and effect.
This I believe
To be the unwavering position
Of the Daishonin.

It will be just as he states
In the writing “On Persecutions Befalling the Sage”:
They “seem to be free from punishment at first,
But eventually they are all doomed to fall”
(*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 997).

The plots and schemes of High Priest Nikken and his cohorts,
Spinning a web of the most base lies
And vicious slander,
Were designed to bring
us down.

Yet
We shone on brightly
Like the morning sun!
We rose boldly to the
challenge,
And began our battle!

The Daishonin, too,
Was slandered as an immoral priest,
And his struggles amid

persecution
Were beyond description.
Our first president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi
Used to strictly remind us
That in comparison
The persecution we encounter
Is truly small and trivial.

With silent forbearance,
The firm resolve demonstrated by the Buddha
Engraved in our hearts,
We waged an arduous struggle
To overcome
Every imaginable
Haughty and arrogant
utterance.

We will not be defeated.
We are fed up
With the clamoring and
abusive foolishness
Of these spiritual paupers.
In fact, our mighty,
passionate spirit
Only burns all the brighter.

They who are
At times frenzied,
At times coldly silent,
At times filled with excuses,
Will eventually depart this world,
Gasping and trembling in fear.

Backsliders in faith!
Are you satisfied
To lead a life
Trapped in a maze
Of hellish depths?

Slanderers of the Law!
Having corrupted the
Daishonin's teachings
And veered from the
eternal truth,
Are you prepared
To drift along forever in a state of life
Of agonized defeat?

Traitors!
Having turned your backs
On the Daishonin's
 golden words,
Are you ready
To be burned in the fires
Of the hell of incessant
 suffering?
To be imprisoned in a cavern
In the hell of extreme cold?
To be shut off in the darkness
Of misery and strife,
Forever deprived of the
 sun's light?

Our faith and conviction,
Blazing like a flame,
Like molten sunshine
Flowing down from the
 heavens,
Has opened the eyes
Of many who were ignorant
 of the truth,
Has brought light to their darkened homes
And melted away the
 slanderous words
Of publications that have
 defamed us.

Illuminated by the sun,
Illuminated by the moon,
Illuminated by the great spirit
Of humanity,
Illuminated by the uncompromising spirit
Of history,
Ignoring the pitiful sighs
Of those who act against
 the Law,
Eventually the dawn
Of the triumph of humanism
Will come.

We have won!
Without a doubt
The power of the sun
Rising over the new century

Is limitless.

We have triumphed!
Today
Our brave Soka alliance
Of champions of justice
and truth
Has spread to 163 nations!

My friends!
Once more today,
As strong and generous allies of the people,
Cheerfully, positively
Throw yourselves into the challenge
Of fighting against evil!
Break through all walls
of obstacles!

O storm,
Rage if you will!
O pounding waves,
Crash upon us with all
your might!

Our march forward,
Yours and mine,
A march of nameless heroes,
May seem quiet and sedate,
But our hearts are afire,
For the jeweled sword of
justice and truth
Shines in the depths of
our lives.

Our banner of glory
Flutters in celebration of
The 70th anniversary
Of the Soka Gakkai's
founding.
The crown of life
Each of us wears
Sparkles ever more brilliantly.

We will forever strive to achieve
Our most solemn
And noble undertaking.

Our struggle will resound
Throughout eternity —
An enterprise without
parallel,
That will spread far and wide,
Ever increasing in its
golden splendor.

The Daishonin declares:
Haven't we been bound by
a promise
To be mentor and disciple
From the beginningless past?

My friends!
Lead a life
Burning with a
magnificent mission!
My friends!
Shun a life
Headed toward the gallows
of suffering!
My friends!
Summon your courage!

I, too,
Regardless of the insults showered upon me,
Am determined
To build a glorious
Monument of achievement
In the depths of my life.

Ah! How incredibly bright
Are the skies of our future!

Daisaku Ikeda
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