

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION  
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'  
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*'Senior leaders who sit back and do nothing while members struggle – commenting on which chapters are strong and which are weak as if watching a baseball game – are no more than cheap critics,' Shin'ichi Yamamoto says. 'Those who make no effort themselves but look down on others from on high while making irresponsible comments have been poisoned by bureaucracy.'*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto ended his speech at the May 3 Headquarters General Meeting speaking about human brilliance.

"What makes our lives truly shine?" he asked. "It is not wealth or power. It is when we, as disciples of Nichiren Daishonin, as emissaries of the Buddha, become allies to those who are suffering.

"When we devote ourselves to that mission, we can savor a life of ultimate radiance and joy. It is the internal flame of our passion toward this mission that causes our lives to shine eternally with the unfading light of humanity.

"Let us therefore continue to carry out faith that flows like water and advance together along the great path of mission and honor, striving to grow as individuals and to build happy, harmonious families."

On this, the third anniversary of his inauguration as Soka Gakkai president, Shin'ichi's words signaled a new beginning.

Determined applause echoed through the auditorium.

Next, Vice General Director Takeo Konishi led the members in "Song of the New Century," a Soka Gakkai song.

When it finished, Shin'ichi removed his jacket, took a folding fan in his hand and stood up. "Now I'll lead a song," he announced. "What shall we sing?"

"Song of Progress," a voice immediately called out.

"That's a good choice," said Shin'ichi, "since the Soka Gakkai is progressive in the truest sense."

The brass band and fife and drum corps played the melody while the members clapped to the music.

Shin'ichi began to move with all the power and dignity of a mighty eagle soaring in the sky. The 20,000 leaders present sang enthusiastically in time with Shin'ichi's lead. Their voices rang with their resolve to advance with renewed spirit toward the seventh memorial (sixth anniversary) of their mentor Josei Toda's death, which would be on April 2 the following year.

Shin'ichi's movements expressed the strong determination he had spoken of that day to take the lead in the next step of the kosen-rufu movement. They signified the rhythm of fresh advancement, an introduction to a new period of development.

With this day as the starting point, Shin'ichi stood in the vanguard of the Soka Gakkai's activities once again.

The next day, May 4, he visited the head temple, and on May 5 he participated in the completion ceremony for the new Fuji Community Center in Fuji City, Shizuoka Prefecture. On May 6, he attended the May Young Men's Leaders Meeting at the Taito

Gymnasium in Tokyo. On May 9, he delivered a lecture on The Threefold Secret Teachings [one of the six treatises that comprise 26th high priest Nichikan's *Six-volume Writings*] to young women's leaders, and the following day he attended another young women's leaders meeting commemorating the division's fresh start with its new leadership, at the Hibiya Civic Hall in Tokyo.

Shin'ichi was determined to set an example through his actions of the true Soka Gakkai spirit and the way leaders should behave.

After the Headquarters General Meeting, Shin'ichi met with some of the Soka Gakkai directors to discuss activities leading up to the seventh memorial service for Josei Toda.

Hiroshi Yamagiwa, head of the organizational statistics department, handed out charts showing the rate of membership growth broken down by chapter and general chapter, giving a clear picture of the real condition of the organization.

Using these charts as reference, the leaders began to discuss the situation of each chapter. One vice general director commented under his breath: "According to this, the gap is widening between the areas experiencing growth and those that are stagnating. Overall, it seems that the urban areas are growing while the outlying areas are lagging behind."

Another vice general director added: "That's partly because old customs have a stronger hold in the countryside, making introducing people to the Daishonin's Buddhism more difficult. But the real problem lies with the chapter leaders. When the chapter leader is slack, the organization simply will not grow."

Hearing this input, Shin'ichi looked at the two vice general directors and asked sharply, "And what have you, in your capacities, done to help those chapters?"

Surprised by his strict tone, they sat in silence, looking embarrassed.

Shin'ichi continued: "Even in his advanced years, Mr. Makiguchi would go anywhere in Japan to visit even one member. And wherever he went, he would introduce people to Buddhism.

"This is the true spirit and behavior of a Soka Gakkai leader. All across Japan, the men's and women's leaders on both the chapter and district levels are doing their very best. They are constantly racking their brains and exerting themselves wholeheartedly in their Soka Gakkai activities.

"Senior leaders who sit back and do nothing while members struggle—commentating on which chapters are strong and which are weak as if watching a baseball game—are no more than cheap critics. Those who make no effort themselves but look down on others from on high while making irresponsible comments have been poisoned by bureaucracy. They have started toward their own downfall, though they do not realize it.

"I will resolutely challenge any such leader. If I do not, the members will suffer. As we enter the final phase of completing our goals toward the seventh memorial of Mr. Toda's death, we must first revive within each of our hearts the true Soka Gakkai spirit, the spirit of the early days of our organization.

"On Feb. 11 the year he died, Mr. Toda held a banquet to celebrate his recovery from illness, as well as his birthday. Do you remember what he said then?" Shin'ichi's eyes swept the faces of everyone in the room, but no one answered.

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the  
novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto.  
The events take place in 1963.