

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
'SECURING THE FOUNDATION'
VOLUME 8, CHAPTER 1, PARTS 17–18**

The Soka Gakkai is officially recognized as a religious corporation in the United States, becoming the first Soka Gakkai organization overseas to gain such legal status.

Emotion filled Shin'ichi Yamamoto's voice as he concluded his speech at the Seniors Gathering: "There are young people who are old and older people who are young. The key to staying young is to possess a flexible mind that constantly strives for self-improvement. At the same time, how we live our final years determines our ultimate happiness in life. No matter how wonderful and happy our lives may have been in the past, nothing could be more tragic than ending up miserable, bitter and full of complaint.

"Happiness is not a matter of wealth, nor is it determined by social status or fame. Rather, our happiness is determined by whether we can live always with a sense of purpose and mission, regardless of our age.

"The fact that each of you, our seniors in life, has practiced faith wholeheartedly and is living each day in high spirits, with tremendous energy and hope, is the greatest proof of the validity of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. I close my remarks today with sincere prayers for your continued health and longevity."

The Seniors Gathering thus concluded.

Shin'ichi was scheduled next to meet with the Soka Gakkai directors at the Soka Gakkai Headquarters. Upon leaving the stage, however, he headed directly for the main entrance of the auditorium to greet and encourage the elderly members on their way out.

No one lives forever. Realizing that there were members present whom he might never have the chance to meet again, Shin'ichi seized the opportunity to speak with every person he could.

Grasping the hand of one elderly woman, he said: "Thank you for coming today. May I ask how old you are?"

"I'm 83," she replied.

"I can't believe it! You look so young. Please take good care of yourself!"

Beautiful smiles lit the members' faces as they reached out to squeeze Shin'ichi's hand. Some were so happy that their eyes filled with tears.

Words are light. A single kind word can shine a ray of hope into a person's heart. Shin'ichi put all his energy into speaking with the members, showering them with words of inspiration, praise and courage.

Later that month, on May 24, the Soka Gakkai was officially recognized as a religious corporation in the United States, becoming the first Soka Gakkai organization overseas to gain such legal status. In accord with Shin'ichi's vision of the worldwide propagation of the Daishonin's teachings, a pioneering step had been taken—a solid foundation for the future of the Soka Gakkai in America had been secured.

The May Headquarters Leaders Meeting was held on the 25th at the Nihon University Auditorium in Ryogoku, Tokyo. New organizational units were established on a large scale. Two new headquarters were formed—the second Chubu Headquarters and Hyogo Headquarters—along with 29 general chapters and 69 chapters nationwide. Thus, the

Soka Gakkai now consisted of 20 headquarters, 87 general chapters and 463 chapters.

All vice general directors, starting with General Director Koichi Harayama, were appointed as headquarters leaders. This meant that the top-ranking leaders would now stand at the forefront of the organization and take the lead in Soka Gakkai activities. Kazumasa Morikawa and Yukio Ishikawa were also appointed as new vice general directors.

Furthermore, an Institute of Asian Culture was established in Kansai to parallel the Institute of Oriental Studies in Tokyo, and Yoshihiko Ohya was made its head.

President Yamamoto's decision to carry out such a major expansion of the organization came from his determination to begin a full-fledged stage of advancement in the spread of the Daishonin's Buddhism toward the seventh memorial (sixth anniversary) of Josei Toda's death on April 2, the following year. Shin'ichi keenly sensed that he must build a strong foundation for worldwide kosen-rufu during his lifetime. If he did not, the wonderful opportunity to teach others of the Daishonin's philosophy that now presented itself some 700 years after the time of the Daishonin would be lost forever. That is why he was resolved to forge ahead valiantly, using every ounce of his strength.

No one, not even the top leaders, knew of Shin'ichi's profound determination. They were simply astonished at the remarkable progress that had been made since he became president; some were even satisfied in thinking that the Soka Gakkai had grown large enough. Shin'ichi had accepted the Daishonin's will for the widespread propagation of Buddhism as his personal mission and devoted his entire life to it, but a wide gap was starting to form between his attitude and that of the leaders who lacked such dedication.

As he surveyed the newly appointed leaders at the Headquarters Leaders Meeting, Shin'ichi vowed in his heart that he would raise them to become true comrades in faith who shared his commitment and awareness.

The success of kosen-rufu depends entirely on people. The Daishonin writes: "The Law does not spread by itself. Because the people spread it, both the people and the Law are worthy of respect" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 856).

Essential to the transmission of the Law are people of conviction who are selflessly dedicated to serving others while basing themselves entirely on that Law, not on self-centered desires. It requires people of integrity, justice, courage, sincerity, wisdom and firm resolve.

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