

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**'JEWELLED SWORD'**  
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*'It may be difficult for those with experience to delegate responsibility to the younger generation. Nevertheless, it is only by learning from our mistakes and gaining experience over time that we acquire substantial strength.'*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto recalled his mentor, Josei Toda, for the Suiko-kai members: "When Mr. Toda's business fell into crisis, I was suffering from tuberculosis. I had a persistent fever and sometimes coughed up blood. Our salaries were still suspended, and my coworkers were leaving one after another. Though they were indebted to him in many ways, some criticized Mr. Toda harshly behind his back.

"But I kept working. I had inwardly determined to give my life to Mr. Toda, to fight alongside him, and to die spreading Nichiren Daishonin's teachings while he was still alive. I believed that was the only way to leave behind an example of what it is to be a true disciple of Mr. Toda and of the Daishonin in the present day.

"Mr. Toda understood everything. He knew me completely, inside and out. He said to me: 'You're trying to kill yourself, aren't you? You've decided to give me your life. But I won't have it! You must live—live out your life to the fullest. I will give you my life so that you may do so.' It was a mentor's passionate cry of concern for his disciple and for the future of our movement. At those words, I strongly resolved to live out my life, dedicated to the advancement of kosen-rufu.

"To give one's life to kosen-rufu and to live one's life for kosen-rufu are two sides of the same coin. One is not different from the other. Both include the spirit to devote one's life to propagating the Mystic Law.

"Why am I telling you, the Suiko-kai members, these things? It is because you represent the youth who have been entrusted with the mission of accomplishing the worldwide spread of Buddhism."

This guidance carried profound significance for the youthful leaders. Eisuke Akizuki and the others acutely sensed that Shin'ichi was pouring all of his energy into the Suiko-kai.

That evening, the youth gathered for a guidance session in a hall of the inn where they were staying. This gave Shin'ichi an opportunity to hear their opinions, reports and questions. He knew that dialogue that promotes life-to-life exchange was extremely important, for it embodies the principle of oneness of mentor and disciple.

Kenshiro Ishikawa, head of the young men's division, acted as moderator. No sooner did he invite those with questions to raise their hands than did the hands of everyone in the room shoot up. All were eager for the opportunity to ask a question or share their thoughts with President Yamamoto.

Shin'ichi felt that all the guidance and encouragement he had been giving to youth was steadily bearing fruit.

Shin'ichi had consistently appealed to his precious successors in the youth division: "Above all, I want you to decide that the responsibility for our movement's progress lies with you. I hope you will always deeply consider the many social problems that are sure to arise as we proceed with our great task and think of the wisest possible solutions."

He had also said to them: "Whether you are a politician, a company president or in

charge of an organization, you cannot fulfill the heavy responsibilities that come with the job if you are passive and inactive. The Daishonin writes: 'The generals in a tumultuous age develop strategy behind drawn curtains, and victory is decided thousands of miles away from the field of battle' (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 183). When generals gather, they bring to the table information they possess and the various issues that need addressing. They examine in minute detail every conceivable approach and consider every solution, creatively working out a plan that will lead to victory.

"I myself am constantly thinking about how to spread the Daishonin's teachings and devising different ways to reach our goal. Based on your ideas and reports, I draw up plans of action. But without any input, I have nothing to work with. Zero multiplied by any number will always be zero.

"I therefore ask that whenever you come to see me, you bring with you any questions, thoughts, opinions or reports you may have."

These youth, who were in the prime of their development, had put Shin'ichi's guidance into practice. Their questions and ideas ranged widely, from doctrinal issues to the relationship between social reform and human revolution. Many expressed the opinion that if the Komei-kai was really aiming to change Japanese government for the better, it would have to send representatives not only to the Upper House of the Diet but to the Lower House as well.

Opinions were exchanged openly, and various issues were raised. Shin'ichi addressed them all, sometimes going into great detail, and sometimes saying only, "I'll leave it up to you!"

When people are given real responsibility, they become aware of their mission and demonstrate surprising ability. It may be difficult for those with experience to delegate responsibility to the younger generation. There is certainly the risk of mistakes. Nevertheless, it is only by learning from our mistakes and gaining experience over time that we acquire substantial strength.

Youth must be given a stage upon which they can act freely, while being watched over from a distance. It is up to those who are older and have more experience to have the generosity of heart to take full responsibility if they fail.

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