

**SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S POEM  
THE 21ST CENTURY IS THE CENTURY OF WOMEN**

*— With Deep Appreciation for All the Noble Mothers of the World  
— Praying for the Happiness of All Women*

By Shin'ichi Yamamoto [the name President Ikeda uses for his character in the *Human Revolution* novels]

*I know  
And you know  
The secret  
To why we were born with  
    a shared destiny  
As human beings  
And became friends of  
    profound connection  
And comrades in faith.*

*In our own unique way,  
You and I  
Strive to fulfill  
The wondrous dream  
And the wondrous mission  
That pervade our lives  
Across eternity.*

*We decisively embrace hope,  
We feel no anxiety.  
Toiling with every ounce of our beings,  
Our hearts sing,  
We who have stood up  
For world peace,  
For a philosophy of happiness  
Based on the eternity of life.*

*Though nameless ordinary people,  
We will be remembered in history  
Under the noble name,  
Victory.*

*My home  
Is humble, but  
It is one of true humanity,  
Filled with many resolute dreams.  
This is*

*My greatest source of pride.*

*I have no need  
To look in a clouded mirror.  
With the power to change my karma,  
A bright future awaits me;  
Once colored by a bleak outlook  
on life,  
The past and all its attendant  
sufferings  
Have now vanished.*

*I am living my life.  
I am free of anguished dreams.  
With high spirits,  
I live in and gaze upon  
A beautiful earthly kingdom.*

*I have many  
Wonderful friends.  
I have many  
Wonderful books.*

*My life is removed  
From the pitiful self-conceited.  
Not for me  
A life of vanity  
That brings only darkness.  
I will not fall into those insidious  
Hidden traps.*

*We who gravitate toward happiness and good  
Are greeted by friends who sympathize with our ideals,  
Always respecting the beauty  
within us,  
And by a paradise tremulous  
with hope.*

*Our doubt and anxiety  
Toward a society rife with  
contradictions  
Have been replaced by  
an unshakable faith  
That we have always longed for.  
We have won!*

*Our unimaginably painful struggles*

*Have also given way  
To a state of life  
In which we gaze upon all  
from a lofty height.*

*Nichiren Daishonin writes,  
“A woman who embraces  
The lion king of the Lotus Sutra  
Never fears any of the beasts of hell  
Or of the realms of hungry spirits  
and animals.”  
(The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, p. 949).*

*We are saddened  
That many people  
Lead miserable existences,  
Allowing themselves  
To be dragged about  
In the pitch-black darkness  
of delusion,  
Slavishly following force of habit.*

*Our lives  
Are always a vibrant dawn.  
They are a realm  
Of mothers' youthful affection,  
Forever harkening to morning's song  
Drenched in golden sunlight  
And golden rain.*

*The eternal and unique power  
of mothers.  
Their great presence  
Is more powerfully attractive  
Than any adventurer.  
Women are truth incarnate.  
Mothers are victory personified.*

*No matter how they may be deceived  
Or attacked by devilish forces,  
They command the power to,  
In the end, adamantly indict  
the offender.  
With mental wheels of wisdom  
ever spinning,  
They possess the courage to  
see through deception.*

*This awe-inspiring beauty  
Is the strength of mothers, of women,  
That fills their lives with happiness.*

*Come!  
The century of women  
Has dawned,  
The sun rises on the horizon.  
Instead of the pallid,  
Dim light of old,  
Now the fiercely burning sun  
Has begun to light the way ahead  
For these extraordinary mothers.*

*These praiseworthy mothers  
Must never be imprisoned  
By the iron bars of misery.*

*Let us all live noble lives,  
Brimming with golden affection,  
Comforting these mothers in  
their loneliness  
And strongly supporting and  
protecting each other!  
Let us make mothers the queens  
Of this empire of supreme happiness.*

*And  
With a stylus,  
Let us inscribe an epitaph  
In tribute to these mothers  
As great immortal nameless actors.*

*O the century of women!  
Now we close the curtain  
On a long history of misfortune,  
Letting it sink  
Beneath the tides of time,  
And allowing a drama  
Of genuine human happiness  
To unfold without end.*

*Repeatedly  
Throughout past ages,  
An unjustifiable history  
Of sadness  
Has flowed continuously,*

*Like so much flotsam,  
In the beautiful hearts of mothers.*

*No matter what insult  
We suffer in society,  
Our vision is  
To vanquish without fail  
The shadowy knaves of hell  
And create everywhere  
A world abloom with the flowers  
Of love and laughter  
Of mothers, those heavenly beings.*

*There are people who grow jealous  
At the sight of others' wealth.  
Jealousy has the power  
Of a devil's sword  
To make people unhappy.*

*There are those who grow jealous  
At the sight of mothers  
enjoying success,  
And who resort to spreading  
false rumors,  
Inflicting pain and anguish  
On these golden-hearted ones.*

*But  
Mothers are made of  
greater substance.  
They possess a profound,  
abiding strength.  
That is why  
They pay no heed  
To petty rumors or malicious gossip.*

*We must change this base, arrogant,  
Almost insane society in which we live,  
And  
With a new spirit,  
With a new philosophy,  
Create an age  
Which eternally honors mothers.  
This  
Is the century of women,  
A wise person said.*

*Even if they are poor,  
Even if they are sick,  
Even if they have lost their partners,  
In the dauntless hearts of mothers,  
Citadels of happiness and victory  
Are forged.*

*The Daishonin said,  
“The woman who upholds the  
Lotus Sutra  
Is like clear water,  
In which the moon of  
Shakyamuni Buddha  
Is reflected” (Gosho Zenshu, p. 1395)*

*Mothers!  
Clever mothers.  
Mothers!  
Gentle mothers.  
Mothers!  
Unlearned mothers.  
Mothers!  
Nagging mothers.  
Mothers!  
Wise mothers.  
Mothers!  
Mothers of strong faith.  
Mothers!  
Unaffected and talkative mothers.*

*But  
In the hearts of mothers  
Who have been buffeted by storms,  
There is always  
Fresh and passionate  
Determination and love  
Born of profound life experience.*

*Mothers unadorned  
By expensive jewels—  
Who instead wear only  
A simple brooch,  
Far from regal,  
Yet rich in sentimental value.*

*Even so,  
Stroking*

*Their children's heads,  
They possess the beauty of triumph,  
Ever shining,  
Towering over a life of misery,  
And even more a life of folly.*

*Mothers!  
You are great uncrowned queens of life  
Living with a firm purpose  
That nothing can destroy—  
A life which shines  
With awesome beauty.*

*The youthfulness of a mother  
Who turns up at a meeting  
In a hastily borrowed blouse  
Of her daughter's.*

*The endearing mother who,  
After borrowing her daughter's  
    high heels  
With a quick "I'm sorry,"  
Rushes to a meeting,  
Only to complain for a week after  
About how much her feet hurt!  
Yet she doesn't make  
    a single complaint  
About not being able to afford  
A new pair of shoes for herself,  
She lives so frugally  
That it is touching.*

*Late returning from a meeting,  
She is scolded unreasonably  
    by her partner,  
But she retains her dignity  
And defends herself ably, saying:  
"It's for the sake of justice and  
    our good fortune"—  
With a skill outrivaling  
Any politician on the House floor.*

*The confident spirit of a mother,  
Who is the embodiment of love itself.  
Like the Count of Monte Cristo,  
She finally draws an admission from her partner,  
"All right, all right, I was wrong."*

*A mother whom all praise  
As being more eloquent  
Than any prime minister.*

*Though her partner the scholar,  
Her son the student,  
And her daughter the genius,  
Start out thinking they can best  
Her in an argument,  
In the end  
They are no match  
For her intelligence and wisdom.*

*The proud mother retorts:  
“That is an argument  
You’ve learned somewhere,  
But it is not real life.  
It has no flesh or blood.  
Words you’ve read are just pouring  
From your heads.  
I am waging a real-life struggle  
For survival  
In daily life,  
In actual society.  
That’s why I am strong.”*

*As Goethe said:  
“Trust in life!  
It teaches us more  
Than any orator or book can!”  
How true!*

*Mothers  
Are fearless.  
They are invincible victors  
Who have won the quintessential  
triumph  
Of the human spirit.  
A famous poet asserted  
That this formula—  
In every time and place—  
Is the hidden essence of  
Human history.*

*Though a mother may  
Be bedridden, exhausted and feverish,  
She says to others,*

*“Please take care.”  
Though no one pampers her,  
She encourages  
Her partner and children,  
and her friends.  
How noble these actions of  
the Bodhisattva!*

*The infinite strength of mothers who,  
Even if they have lost their partners,  
Live courageously,  
Like the immortal phoenix,  
Working actively  
Amid the harsh realities of society.  
Children grow up  
Looking at the example of  
their mothers.  
That is without a doubt  
An eternal truth.*

*The century of women  
Is truly a period  
Of the ripening of democracy.  
Elections are the first step  
To the sovereignty of the people.  
Elections are the right of all citizens  
And their duty.*

*For the sake of kosen-rufu as well,  
For the unbounded expansion  
Of those who share our ideals,  
Let us carry out a cheerful struggle  
To redraw the face  
Of Japan.*

*Mothers, living in the real world,  
Work tirelessly to advocate our cause,  
Talking cheerfully about many issues.  
A learned scholar has praised  
their efforts  
As a movement to realize  
True sovereignty of the people.*

*Seemingly foolish yet wise mothers.  
Seemingly cranky yet pure-hearted mothers.  
Mothers who, though on occasion  
Incur people’s dislike,*

*Can be counted on in a crisis.  
Mothers who put on airs  
But privately reflect on their own folly.*

*Mothers whose lives are modest  
But whose hearts  
Are as rich as billionaires.  
Mothers who are like queens.  
Mothers who, deceived by seemingly valid arguments  
Despite glaring contradictions,  
Stubbornly set about proving  
The righteousness of their position.*

*And mothers without children,  
They, too, are not lonely in the least, exclaiming,  
“I have so many friends;  
There are so many young people  
    in my life  
Who will carry on in the future.”*

*And, with cheerful laughter,  
They say serenely:  
“There are too many people in Japan,  
Too many people on our planet.  
We don’t need so many people!”*

*When mother is in a good mood,  
Everyone is bright and happy,  
Like the sun.  
When mother is irritated,  
It is like a sad and lonely night  
Lashed by cold winds and heavy rain.*

*Glad when her children’s  
    grades go up,  
Sad when her children’s  
    grades go down,  
But in the end, she gives up and,  
Turning the report card upside down,  
Smiles and says with humor,  
“Now these are good grades!”*

*Mothers who know  
The rules for living  
Honest and decent lives  
With a spirit of generosity, enthusiasm  
And diligence.*

*Mothers who treasure  
Boys and girls who have no hope  
or love  
As if they were her own.  
And life's quintessential mothers,  
Always strict yet compassionate,  
Who, when children are suffering  
Through disaster or disease,  
Search for the cause  
And fight against inhumanity.*

*The compassion of mothers  
Who can love  
Children who have lost hope  
And been abandoned by society  
As if they were their own.  
Idealistic mothers  
Filled with courage  
Who, like great liberators,  
Extend staunch protection to children  
Who have fallen into cruel,  
human hells.*

*These uncrowned mothers  
Are far, far greater  
Than those who stand  
In the vanguard of the revolutions  
Of the world's renowned thinkers.  
They are greater  
Than any eminent political leader,  
Yet nations do not bestow  
Upon these mothers  
Even a single medal.*

*O the courage of mothers  
Who carry out orderly humanitarian efforts  
In the cause of justice,  
Naturally and without pretension,  
On the world stage.*

*A certain distinguished educator noted  
That even the president of a country  
Has the highest respect for mothers.  
I agree.  
This is life.  
This is humanity.*

*Those whose hearts  
Are ruled by Animality  
Are pitiful wretches  
Who have strayed  
From the path of humanity.*

*Mothers who are natural pacifists,  
Opposed to war.  
Mothers who hate cruel deception.  
O the inner flame of love  
With which mothers make their way  
Through life's sorrows and  
disappointments,  
Hurt by their partners,  
Or weeping over the delinquency  
of their children!*

*The vast, expansive realm  
Of Buddhahood,  
That enables all mothers  
To lead truly happy lives  
Is a global, borderless nation  
Of genuine happiness.*

*There can be no discrimination  
Among mothers.  
Just because one has a luxurious house,  
Or money,  
Or social status,  
Or smart children,  
Or a partner with a prestigious job,  
Or a noble lineage —  
All such things  
Are completely irrelevant.*

*Being alive  
Is itself  
The greatest joy.  
This is true happiness.  
This is a mother's wish.*

*Not wealth.  
Not honors.  
Not vanity.  
Not fame.  
Not social status.*

*A true mother —  
No matter how humble her existence,  
Her love as a mother  
Shines.  
This is an eternal  
And indestructible treasure.*

*There are occasionally  
Mothers  
Who commit terrible acts,  
But this springs from immaturity;  
It is not the true reality of motherhood.*

*Children  
Respect their mothers  
When they see  
The beautiful way they exert  
themselves  
On behalf of others in society.*

*Mothers  
Are the primeval sun.  
And  
Our deceased mothers  
Are always alive in our hearts.  
We converse with them  
Throughout our lives.*

*Mothers desire  
A world of eternal harmony and peace.  
In Buddhism,  
This is called kosen-rufu.  
To achieve this  
The SGI women's division members  
Have launched a momentous struggle.*

*The history  
Of this strong and beautiful alliance  
Now marks its glorious 50th year,  
Now marks its proud 50th anniversary.*

*At times scolded by their seniors,  
At times teased by their juniors,  
At times criticized by people in  
their community,  
At times abused by their next-door neighbors,  
At times ridiculed by their*

*old school friends*  
As “religious fanatics” —  
Amidst all this,  
They have worked tirelessly  
To realize world peace,  
The dream of all humanity.  
This is the reality  
Of our noble and lofty women’s  
division members.

*If the Buddha’s teachings are true,  
How highly these hard-working women  
Must be praised  
By all Buddhas and bodhisattvas  
Throughout the three existences  
And ten directions.  
The citadel of life that brings  
Eternal prosperity, glory and victory  
To their families and relatives  
Is without a doubt  
Everlasting and indestructible.*

*I have won.  
You have won.  
We have definitely won!  
That is the declaration  
Of the Daishonin and Shakyamuni Buddha.*

*We do not need  
The praise of fools.  
We do not need  
The praise of the envious.  
The wonderful praise  
Of the Buddhas and heavenly deities  
Is shining brightly,  
Enfolding our mothers’ lives  
In its brilliant illumination.*

*Our mothers are strong,  
Our mothers are wise,  
Our mothers have won!*

May 8, 2001  
In commemoration of Mother’s Day  
And the 50th anniversary of the women’s division

SGI President Ikeda is recognized throughout the world as a poet laureate.