

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S NEW POEM FOR YOUTH O THE JOYOUS DANCE OF YOUTH!

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

*I will resolutely face
And triumph over
The billowing onslaughts
Of hardship
That may come my way!
I will fight to the end,
Concluding each challenge
With victory!*

*My struggle
Is unending,
Until I sleep,
Until I die,
Even in my dreams,
I will continue
To fight for justice.*

*Foolish insults
Do not concern me,
For we are champions
Of the spirit.*

*Nor do the repeated lashes of criticism
Inspired by jealousy
Have any significance for me,
One who lives true
To his own resolutions.*

*I have
A mission,
Conviction,
Wisdom,
And I shine
With a victorious spirit.
I know full well
That baseless slander
Is the work of cowards.*

*My young friends!
My beloved young friends!*

Title: O The Joyous Dance Of Youth!

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Author: Daisaku Ikeda

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*Rigorously denounce evil.
Live strongly,
Fight bravely,
Even amid betrayal and turmoil,
And emerge triumphant.*

*There is no need
To join the ranks
Of outspoken commentators
Grown arrogant with celebrity.
For the words that flow
From their pitiful mouths
Are bereft of deep convictions
Or long-term goals,
And lack a solid view of life
And the world.*

*My young friends!
Do not abandon
Your most powerful weapon
In the struggle for justice and truth —
The power of speech
Like a roaring lion!*

*My young friends!
To fear death
Casts a stain on one's eternal honor.
Never forsake
The undying honor
That is faith.*

*And
Day after passing day,
Compose without fail
A vital and immortal
Diary of your life.*

*Those who possess a towering spirit
Can live in rhythm
With all things
In the universe.
For be it the ocean,
The sky,
The open plains —
Therein
The true law,
Though intangible*

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*Like a dream,
Exists without question.*

*I am blessed
With countless allies;
I am armed
With a powerful law
For achieving eternal victory.*

*My young friends,
You possess
The sword known as conviction,
The sword known as truth,
The sword known as faith!*

*Those who seek
To sunder your unity
Will suffer the accursed fate
Of ultimate and inevitable ruin,
Targets of the anger
Of Buddhas and heavenly deities
Throughout the universe.*

*Have firm conviction!
Fight with confident voice!
The profound law governing our lives
Is always overflowing with energy,
Like pure spring water
Bubbling forth unceasingly.
At all times,
With an unflagging life-force
Like the immortal phoenix,
You are fully prepared
To take on any battle
On behalf of good-hearted, honest people.*

*Do not forget to avenge
The insults of those past persecutions!
Strive fearlessly
Until you have dispersed
Those antagonistic forces,
Those insane slanderers,
Who in those bitter days
Besieged
A champion of truth and justice!*

For through that struggle,

*Your lives will be adorned
With a brilliant crown
That will sparkle and shine
In both life and death
Throughout the three existences.*

*Your youthfulness in years
Makes you superior to any sovereign.
Monarchs across the ages
Have wept with envy
At the sight of unknown young men and women
In the bloom of youth.*

*With no more than
Your youth, your vigor, your vitality,
You possess
The most precious jeweled crown.*

*No one can hold a candle to you.
Not even the world's most powerful ruler
Can ever hope to compare.*

*The noblest people are often found
Among the most humble and unknown.
As for the renowned,
Whose achievements have brought them fame,
It is those who possess
A bright seeking spirit for the Way
Who are truly respectable.*

*Nichiren Daishonin tells us:
"At first only Nichiren
Chanted Nam-myoho-renge-kyo,
But then two, three, and
a hundred followed,
Chanting and teaching others.
Propagation will unfold this way
In the future as well.
Does this not signify
'Emerging from the earth'?"
(The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, p. 385)*

*Now, in this intense struggle
Of the new century,
The next generation
Of the young men's division
Has "emerged from the earth"*

*And begun to shine.
O the fresh energy
Of this great multitude!
O their joyous dance,
Which we have eagerly anticipated!*

*Around and after the time
Of the swirling tempest of 1979,
When the last of the first Seven Bells
Drew to a close,
This new generation of young men
Was born and raised.
Now, by mystic coincidence,
With bold and courageous strength,
They have begun to ring in
The second set of Seven Bells.*

*These young men are fearless
They are outgoing and open.
They are the bright morning sun
Signaling a new era of growth
And development in kosen-rufu,
As they boundlessly expand
Their network of friendship and trust
With energy and creativity.*

*The Daishonin, too,
Encouraged the young Nanjo Tokimitsu,
Telling him that in spreading the teaching
Of infinite hope and truth,
Youth must speak to youth,
Youth must inspire youth.*

*The alliance
Of this new generation of young men,
Who are advancing into the 21st century
Like a comet streaking across the sky,
Destined to achieve victory and glory,
Has been firmly established.*

*Despite being of an age
When they want to have a good time,
Despite living in an age
When juvenile crime is on the rise,
How sincere,
How positive,
How earnest,*

*Are these young men
Dedicated to living a meaningful youth!*

*The next generation
Of young women's division members, too,
Is making bright contributions
That are winning the applause of all.
Pure and lovely,
How energetically these young women
Exert themselves!
O their noble dedication!
O the speed of their communications!
O the vibrant, diamond-like strength
With which they care for others!*

*Everyone praises these young women
Who are the hope of all.
Everyone is praying for their happiness
And wishing that their vibrant spirit
Might never fade.*

*They present a noble image
Of a journey of life
That can only be described as magnificent,
As they gaze at the future
With clear, luminous eyes.*

*My young friends!
Live on and through all trials!
Never throw away
The precious jewel
That is your own life!
Live on and through all adversity!*

*Whatever obstacles may confront you,
Live on undefeated!
Ever polishing your inner gem,
Leave a history of accomplishment
For the sake of society
And for yourself.*

*Alexander the Great
Was in his early 20s
When he embarked
On his historic expedition to the East
Carrying only the treasure of hope!*

*Activist writer Victor Hugo
At 20
Began his war of words for truth
With his first collection of poetry,
Saying we must roar louder
Than the rumble of thunder.*

*On the eve of the Meiji Restoration (1868),
The famous Japanese reformer
Takasugi Shinsaku,
Not yet 25,
Formed his famous
Volunteer militia unit.
The disciple could not rest
Until he had defeated his mentor's enemies.*

[Shinsaku was a disciple of Yoshida Shoin, the revolutionary scholar, teacher and writer.]

*The French thinker Simone Weil,
Burning with youthful passion,
At 20
Became a fierce fighter
For those who were oppressed
And threw herself into activities
For peace and the welfare of humanity.*

*America's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Was 26
When he assumed leadership
In the struggle for human rights,
Heading toward his glorious dream
Of freedom, equality and dignity.*

*Helen Keller, embodiment of hope,
Launched her efforts
For the welfare of others
In her mid-20s,
Urging individuals
To draw on the power
Within their own lives
To transform themselves
And their environment,
And to contribute to the society
In which they live!*

*Kosen-rufu
Could be described*

*As an all-encompassing revolution.
It constitutes a formula
That secures a great path
On which all things can advance
In the direction of the highest good
As we strive to carry out
Our individual human revolution.*

*It promotes health
And happiness;
It is dedicated
To others,
To society,
To peace,
To culture,
And
To unity,
To justice!*

*Those who wish to lead lives
As slaves to fads and fashions
Can do so.
Those who wish to advocate
Different values
Can do so.
Those who wish to live
Self-centered lives
Pursuing only their own interests
Can do so.*

*But
Without achieving happiness
For ourselves and others,
All pursuits are hollow and meaningless.
Both philosophy
And Buddhism
Go deeper,
Teaching us to open our eyes
To the world,
While at the same time
Showing us that great meaning exists
In our immediate circumstances.*

*Let us study history,
Philosophy,
Religion!
Isn't it crucial*

*That humankind turn its gaze
To the metaphysical realm of the spirit?*

*Climbing the towering peak
Of Mount Everest
Is an act of courage.
Crossing the Pacific
In a yacht
Is an act of courage.
Traveling around the globe
Is an act of courage.*

*But
The journey within our own lives
Is far more courageous
And profound.
How are we to explore, discover,
And understand the inner depths
Of our own precious life,
Our most priceless possession?
This spiritual quest
Is far more important.*

*Isn't this
The direction we should aim for
From the 21st century
Into the future?
Isn't this
The direction of the right path
Of human conduct
We have dreamed of?*

*This is truly
Important;
It leads to genuine
Human security and peace.
Otherwise,
I fear
That a reversal—
Back to the war and strife
That have plagued our past—
Will begin to occur
In people's hearts.*

*O the time of youth!
Therein lies
Infinite brilliance,*

*Sunlight
That shines and dances,
The future,
Challenge,
Advancement,
Growth,
Hardship,
Success,
Disappointment,
Tragedy,
Glory,
And also
Twists and turns,
Patience,
Friendship,
Adventure.*

*In your future,
The whole world
Is waiting;
The shining promise of peace
Is waiting.*

*If you allow yourself to be defeated,
All that will await you there
In your future
Is a world of Hell,
Harsh and unrelenting.
Therefore,
Whatever momentous difficulties
You may encounter in life,
Fill your heart with courage
And surmount all challenges.
In courage
You will find
Justice,
Victory,
A bright future,
And vibrant joy.*

*Those who are fooled by honeyed words,
Who are swept away by ephemeral fads,
Who break their vows,
And who leave no trace of progress,
Also see the great sun of hope
Disappear from their lives.*

*My young friends!
Become youthful philosophers of action
And, up until your very last breath,
Fight faithfully for your beliefs
And act to realize them.*

*My young friends!
Will you drown in foolish,
 intoxicating pleasures
Or will you challenge your situation head-on
And become great victors of
 supreme happiness
Who shine with eternal brilliance?*

*To win in that struggle,
It is crucial to denounce evil and injustice
And live strongly
For the cause of what is right and good
With the force of a tornado.*

*My young friends!
Do not let yourselves down
Or be defeated by your own weakness!
You yourselves
Are both the sovereign
And the people.*

*Live expansively!
Live far into the distant future!
Walk resolutely!
Strive confidently!*

*Extinguish
The darkness
With the brilliant sun
Of your spirit!
Sever
The chains of evil
That have long bound humanity
And stride boldly
Into a shining world of hope and dreams!*

—*In commemoration of the June 30 anniversary of the student division, the July 11 anniversary of the young men's division and the July 19 anniversary of the young women's division.*
—*And in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of our splendid Soka Gakkai youth division.*