

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**'PURE STREAM'**  
**VOLUME 8, CHAPTER 3, PARTS 9-12**

*Shin'ichi Yamamoto says that the secret to happiness is winning over oneself and practicing to the Gohonzon with doubt-free faith that flows like a pure stream, no matter what happens.*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto asked another question at the Chubu No. 2 Headquarters Leaders Meeting at the Nagano Civic Hall: "How many of you have experienced benefit since becoming a member? Please raise your hands." "I have!" came the thunderous reply as they all raised their hands.

"That's wonderful," Shin'ichi said. "You can lower your hands now. Since that's the case, I can end my speech here. The purpose of faith, after all, is to attain benefit." Laughter filled the auditorium.

Shin'ichi then announced the construction of the Chubu No. 2 Headquarters Building. The members expressed their joy with thunderous applause. Shin'ichi went on to say that the secret to happiness was winning over oneself and practicing to the Gohonzon with doubt-free faith that flows like a pure stream, no matter what happens.

"The Daishonin's Buddhism is made valid," he said, "by documentary, theoretical, and actual proof. But some people begin to have doubts as soon as their business suffers a little downturn, or say the Gohonzon has failed to protect them if, for instance, their child gets injured. And there are those who, when certain sectors of the mass media criticize the Soka Gakkai, begin to doubt the guidance of their seniors in the Gakkai, lose faith in the Gohonzon, and stop doing gongyo altogether.

"These are people who tend not to reflect on themselves or their faith. Instead, whenever the slightest problem or setback occurs, they start doubting the Gohonzon or the Soka Gakkai. However, this only erases the great benefit they would have otherwise accumulated.

"Babies thrive because they drink their mother's milk without question. If they stop drinking it too soon, however, their growth will be stunted and they'll become weak and susceptible to illness. In the same way, if we continue to have faith in the Gohonzon and chant daimoku throughout our lives, we will absolutely tap into the life force of the Buddha and the way we live will reflect a condition of absolute happiness.

"Please do not doubt the Gohonzon, but continue to chant daimoku and work together with the Soka Gakkai, the organization dedicated to kosen-rufu. This is the way to enjoy a truly meaningful and happy life." Shin'ichi's guidance expressed his earnest wish that each of his fellow members would enjoy a life of great fulfillment, abundant benefit, and good fortune.

The Chubu No. 2 Headquarters Leaders Meeting closed with Shin'ichi leading the members in singing "Song of the New Century." Afterwards, Shin'ichi went to offer encouragement to the overflow of members waiting outside. He then attended a chapter leaders guidance meeting, presenting each participant with a separately handwritten copy of a poem that had been composed by his mentor, Josei Toda. It had taken him until late the previous night to write down each of these poems in his own hand.

After the chapter leaders guidance meeting, he visited the construction site of the new Chubu No. 2 Headquarters Building. He then attended a district leaders meeting being

held at a local Nichiren Shoshu temple, where he spent nearly half an hour pouring his heart into offering guidance and encouragement to members.

In the evening, Shin'ichi had a meeting with leaders of the local general chapters. By the time all of his engagements were over, his neck and shoulders were stiff and his back was sore. He asked the inn where he was staying to send a masseur, and soon a blind man in late middle age came to his room. As he massaged Shin'ichi's shoulders, the masseur said, "I'm surprised how stiff you are for someone so young. I have massaged many people, but I have never encountered anyone so stiff before."

"Really?" said Shin'ichi. "You are very skillful. It feels good. And you have so much energy."

"I joined the Soka Gakkai about six months ago, that's why I'm so energetic. I was born blind, but since becoming a member I am convinced that I will be able to see in my next life." Then he asked Shin'ichi, "Do you know about the Soka Gakkai?"

"Yes, of course," Shin'ichi replied. "If you practice your faith even harder, you will be able to see clearly with your mind's eye, even if you don't regain your sight." Realizing it would now be awkward to tell the man he was president of the Soka Gakkai, Shin'ichi did not mention it.

"I think I can already see with my mind's eye," said the masseur. "Every day is just so wonderful."

"Is that so?" asked Shin'ichi. "Then I hope you'll keep up your practice, and receive even more benefits."

"You sound just like my district leader," said the masseur. "He is a very good man."

The masseur began to go on and on about the Soka Gakkai, but after a while Shin'ichi interrupted him. "I understand how happy you are to have found faith," he said, "but I am sure many of your clients want to rest quietly while you're massaging them. Maybe you should not talk about your faith and the Soka Gakkai while you're working."

"Yes, you are right," admitted the masseur. "My chapter leader says the same thing. You really sound like him, too."

After about 20 minutes of silence, Shin'ichi expressed his appreciation to the masseur: "Though you are older than I, you have worked hard to give me a fine massage. I am very grateful. You must be tired. Let's take a little break and drink some juice."

"This is my job," added the masseur, "so I always do my very best."

Shin'ichi went to the refrigerator, took out some juice, and offered it to the masseur, who gulped it down with gusto.

The masseur resumed massaging Shin'ichi. He said: "Actually, Soka Gakkai President Yamamoto attended a meeting here in Nagano today. Recently, one of the directors of the Soka Gakkai came to Nagano. He told us that President Yamamoto is a great leader whose vision and actions are indispensable to both Japan and the world. I really wanted to go to today's activity and meet him.

"I kept praying that I would be able to, but then all of these jobs came in today that I could not refuse, and I could not go. I am so disappointed."

Hearing this, Shin'ichi began to feel awkward, and the tension seemed to return to his shoulders. "That is too bad," he said. "But haven't you been told that if you really chant in earnest, your prayers will be answered? Please do not worry. If that was your wish, I am sure it will come true."

Smiling, the masseur replied: “Thank you so much for your encouraging words. You are very considerate for someone so young. I almost feel as if I were meeting with the president of the Soka Gakkai right now.”

After about 30 or 40 minutes, Shin’ichi finally felt relaxed. He politely thanked the masseur.

“You are very thoughtful,” commented the masseur. “That must be why your shoulders are hard as rocks!”

“I guess that is it,” said Shin’ichi. “But it is not good to have such rock-solid shoulders. On the other hand, having solid faith is a good thing!” Their cheerful laughter rang through the room.

When the masseur later found out that he had been massaging President Yamamoto, he deepened his appreciation for the remarkable power of prayer.

In July, Soka Gakkai membership had reached an astonishing 3.6 million households. Shin’ichi was happy to see Bodhisattvas of the Earth springing up across the country. These people of noble mission were practicing Buddhism joyfully and gaining great benefit. Kosen-rufu is an effort to bring hope and happiness to blossom in people’s hearts.

Shin’ichi returned to Tokyo on July 31, and that evening the August young men’s division leaders meeting was held at Taito Ward Gymnasium. The new “Song of Worldwide Kosen-rufu” debuted at the meeting.

*Look! Grand and heroic  
The Himalayan peaks sparkle with snow  
The Yellow River flows  
Like the stream of human history  
We set out  
Our hearts ablaze with new ideals  
Resolved to achieve worldwide kosen-rufu!*

The lyrics to “Song of Worldwide Kosen-rufu” greatly inspired the audience. The music rose with each phrase, symbolizing a future of unfolding possibilities.

Kenshiro Ishikawa had been appointed head of the young men’s division at a general meeting of that division in December the previous year. Since then, there had been a growing demand for the creation of a new song. Beginning in January, members across Japan had been encouraged to submit ideas, but none of the submissions were quite what the leadership was looking for.

One, however, entitled “Song of Worldwide Kosen-rufu,” caught their attention. Though some revisions would be necessary, the grand scale it expressed was what they had sought. It sang of the Pacific Ocean, the Rocky Mountains, and the Gobi Desert, and closed with the line, “Ah! The bell of worldwide kosen-rufu rings.” A group of young men active in the chapter that included Ota City in Gumma Prefecture and Ashikaga City in Tochigi Prefecture had composed the lyrics. They would often gather at their chapter activity center after meetings and discuss ideas for the song.

Though preoccupied with the immediate demands of life, they were also aware of President Yamamoto’s determination to accomplish worldwide kosen-rufu. For this reason, they agreed to break through the shells of their limitations and write a song that would inspire members to work actively on the world stage for peace alongside President Yamamoto.

After several late nights, they finally came up with some lyrics. These were then edited by a staff of leaders of the young men's division, who refined and polished them over the next several months.

When the lyrics were ready, they were given to Takeshi Arimura, head of the brass band, who composed the music. The final product was new and original, unlike any Gakkai song until then. The song was ready, but when to introduce it was still undecided.

Then, to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the founding of the young men's division on July 11, President Yamamoto contributed an essay to the *Daibyakurenge* entitled "Youth, Become World Leaders!" This offered an excellent opportunity to introduce the new song. The young men's leaders decided to revise the song further to express their vow to respond to President Yamamoto's call, and they finally introduced it at the August Young Men's Division Leaders Meeting, held on July 31.

*Heroes of the Gakkai*

*Our voices resound across the seven seas*

*Young Bodhisattvas of the Earth soar skyward*

*Celebrating together the creation of peace*

*Ah! The bell of worldwide kosen-rufu rings.*

As pioneers of the essential phase of the Soka Gakkai's development, the young men pledged to achieve global kosen-rufu and began their journey afresh with this song on their lips.

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