

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**'PURE STREAM'**  
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*'No leader of Japanese society at the time had ever charged young women with a lofty mission or encouraged them to change society and the nation. It was in this climate that Shin'ichi Yamamoto entrusted the Soka Gakkai young women with the responsibility of building a peaceful society based upon the humane ideals of Buddhism.'*

Many guests attended the reception that was held after the completion ceremony for the Soka Gakkai Headquarters building in Shinanomachi. Shin'ichi Yamamoto walked around the room greeting everyone and thanking them for coming. Some commented to him on the new Headquarters: "It combines grandeur and simplicity." "It exudes the strength of a great ship!"

Among the guests were people from the neighborhood. "Thank you for taking the time to join us today," Shin'ichi said to them. "I'm Soka Gakkai President Yamamoto. There will be a lot of traffic passing through this building, but we will do our best not to be too much of a nuisance. I sincerely hope we will enjoy your continued support.

"We want to do whatever we can for the community, so please let us know if there is anything you need from us," he said, bowing politely. The neighbors at the reception seemed surprised and grateful for Shin'ichi's remarks.

To gain understanding and support for Soka Gakkai activities and spread the teachings of Buddhism in the community, it is crucial to be considerate of those living near Soka Gakkai facilities. The organization will only develop as a movement firmly rooted in society if the communities where its centers are located thrive, and the people living there feel secure and undisturbed by their presence.

The reception ended amid high spirits.

The Soka Gakkai initiated a fresh wave of activities with the new Headquarters as its focal point. The members advanced joyfully toward the essential phase that would commence on the 7th memorial (6th anni-versary) of the death of second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda on April 2 the following year. The essential phase referred to a time when every area of human endeavor, including education, art, government and finance, would be brought to full bloom upon the foundation of kosen-rufu that had been laid up to that point. It was a move from theory to actuality; a time when the humane Buddhist philosophy and ideals of respect and compassion for life would be actively applied in society, and contribute substantially to social prosperity and peace.

It was also the age in which Shin'ichi, having fulfilled the vow he made to his mentor to achieve a membership of three million households, would create his own vision of kosen-rufu as the disciple and spread his wings and take flight toward its realization.

Around this time, a wave of excitement was sweeping the young women's division. Shin'ichi had published guidelines for them in the editorial of the September issue of the *Daibyakurenge*, the Soka Gakkai monthly study journal. This was the first time they had received concrete guidelines from Shin'ichi, and young women around the country were overjoyed.

The editorial began, "My mentor often said that the young women's division members

should be as bright and beautiful as the sun.” President Toda had continuously prayed for the happiness of the Soka Gakkai young women. After sharing his words, Shin’ichi discussed how in the course of history women had wept over their destiny while enduring the shackles of social oppression. He then explained the Lotus Sutra’s teaching of the enlightenment of women, stating, “In other words, by firmly maintaining a correct view of life, of daily living and of society, you can create value toward realizing happiness in your families, your workplace, and society.”

He encouraged them not to allow circumstance to control or sway them and thereby succumb to misery as had happened so often in the past. Emphasizing the importance of carrying out their mission in this life, he further urged them to act boldly in all fields of endeavor.

Shin’ichi asked that they not be subservient or ingratiating, but that they hold their heads high as truly modern women of wit, culture and passion taking the lead in building a new age. Their mission, he said, was to work for social prosperity and world peace while striving to become happy themselves. He suggested four practical guidelines for them to apply in their daily lives toward that end:

- 1) Devote yourself wholeheartedly to faith and practice, and study the teachings of Buddhism in earnest.
- 2) Ensure that Soka Gakkai meetings attended by young women’s division members are always warm and brimming with joy and compassion.
- 3) Enjoy each day by establishing a positive rhythm in daily activities at work and at home.
- 4) When choosing a marriage partner, seek the advice and counsel not only of your parents, but also of fellow members and seniors, and look to the graduates of the young women’s division as models for how to build a happy life.

Shin’ichi then cited a few passages from Nichiren Daishonin’s writings, including “There should be no discrimination among those who propagate the five characters of Myoho-rence-kyo in the Latter Day of the Law, be they men or women” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 385).

“As young women who uphold and protect the Mystic Law,” he declared, “you are all children and emissaries of the Great King of the Law.” He ended his article, saying: “At this time of the creation of a ‘third civilization,’ it is my great hope that the members of the young women’s division will surpass even Joan of Arc, who saved her homeland of France.”

No leader of Japanese society at the time had ever charged young women with a lofty mission or encouraged them to change society and the nation. It was in this climate that Shin’ichi entrusted the Soka Gakkai young women with the responsibility of building a peaceful society based upon the humane ideals of Buddhism.

Japan had entered a period of rapid economic growth and was becoming wealthier by the year. People had begun to spend more money and leisure activities were on the rise. At the same time, young women were becoming more self-centered; interested only in superficial glamour, and were starting to lose touch with their spiritual core. This concerned Shin’ichi. No real joy is to be found in a life that seeks only personal happiness, a life of self-interest. Furthermore, preoccupation with glamour or image and spiritual emptiness are two sides of the same coin.

The key to living a truly wonderful life is to build a strong spiritual center during one's youth. To do so, we need a sound philosophy. Shin'ichi dedicated his editorial in the *Daibyakurenge* to young women because he wanted them to exercise their full potential in benefiting others and society as a whole, to create real value and genuine happiness in their lives.

Shin'ichi's article gave these young women a clear direction in which to proceed. They were overjoyed and rose excitedly to the challenge of changing the course of history of women. With their motto "Be a Joan of Arc of the Mystic Law," they brightened their discussion meetings and places of work with fresh smiles that sparkled like a pure stream.

Shin'ichi spent the month of September devoting himself to the growth and development of young people. He attended a series of Soka Gakkai youth division sports events, including the Tohoku Sports Festival (Sept. 8), the East-West Swimming Competition in Osaka (Sept. 14), the Kansai Sports Festival (Sept. 15), the Tokyo Sports Festival (Sept. 21), the All-Japan Sports Festival (Sept. 22), and the All-Japan Judo and Kendo Meet (Sept. 30).

He also attended the first meeting of the editorial committee of the student division journal, where he and committee members considered names for the new publication. They finally decided on *Gakusei Journal* (Student Journal). This later became *Gakuen Journal* (School Journal), and then *Daigaku Shimpō* (University News). Years later the student division journal was dissolved to make way for the present journal of the youth division, *Soka Shimpō* (Soka News).

Helping youth develop means meeting them face-to-face, talking and working with them, and giving them inspiration. Shin'ichi gave himself wholeheartedly each day to raising the next generation, while at the same time leading the kosen-rufu movement.

In October, district leaders meetings for each local Headquarters in the Tokyo and Kanto regions were held in succession at the Soka Gakkai Headquarters in Shinanomachi. The new building was for use by all members. Shin'ichi was eager to make a fresh start from the Headquarters with these men's and women's division district leaders, who were the main support and center of chapter activities.

He attended all of the district leaders meetings, conducting question-and-answer sessions and pouring his life into encouraging the participants. Until now, he had met with men's and women's division chapter leaders on numerous occasions to offer guidance and encouragement, but he hadn't had many opportunities to meet with district-level leaders. Shin'ichi felt the time had come to spark a new surge of progress by focusing on district leaders.

During this time, while traveling to Kushiro and Muroran in Hokkaido, as well as the Tohoku and Chugoku regions and other parts of Japan to encourage the members and offer guidance, Shin'ichi was also steadily building a base for the Soka Gakkai's cultural movement.

On Sept. 15, the opening ceremony for the Asian Culture Research Center in Kansai was held, and on Oct. 18, a concert to celebrate the establishment of the Min-On Concert Association took place at Bunkyo Civic Hall in Tokyo.

Shin'ichi conceived the idea of the Min-On Concert Association during his first visit to India and Southeast Asia, in February 1961, as he was traveling back from India through Burma (now Myanmar) toward Thailand and Cambodia. Shin'ichi's elder brother died in Burma during World War II. Throughout that trip, Shin'ichi thought about what was

needed for humanity to break away from the tragedy of war and build lasting peace. He realized that some means of promoting mutual understanding among the peoples of the world was indispensable to this end, and that cultural exchange through music and the other arts was essential. Shin'ichi decided to found an organization with the Soka Gakkai as the parent body for the purpose of promoting exchange in music and the arts.

The Soka Gakkai leadership carefully considered the matter, and at the second national convention of the Education Department on Aug. 1 that year, Shin'ichi announced plans for forming a cultural association. A preparatory committee was set up and final steps taken toward the association's establishment. This included selecting its name, defining its guiding principles and goals, choosing its president and directors, and proposing a concrete program of events.

Now, on Oct. 18, a concert celebrating the association's establishment was being held. It began at 6:30 p.m. with a rousing performance of the march "Anchors Aweigh" by selected members of the Soka Gakkai Brass Band. The logo of the Min-On Concert Association, a stylized design of musical notes, hung at the back of the stage.

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