



## **SGI-USA Men's Division**

### **Suggested Study Material for August 2019**

In August 2019, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from "*The New Human Revolution*" Volume 8 found in *August Living Buddhism*. This page is intended for leaders. The name of the NHR chapter is indicated. All quotes from pp. 18-35, August, LB.

"Every river has a source. Nichiren writes, 'The farther the source, the longer the stream' (WND-1, 940). The Soka Gakkai, likewise, has a brilliant spiritual source: the oneness of mentor and disciple. This was set forth by the Soka Gakkai's first and second presidents, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda, and is the eternal way. As long as this spirit remains alive, the stream of kosen-rufu will continue to nourish the world" ("Securing the Foundation," pg. 1).

"Words are like light. A single word can shine a ray of hope into a person's heart. Shin'ichi put all his energy into speaking with the members, showering them with words of inspiration, praise and courage" ("Securing the Foundation," pg. 32).

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"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 will not 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. With 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" ("Jeweled Sword," pg. 96).

"Meetings are of course important, but in reality not everyone can attend them. There are usually twice as many members in a local organization as the number who regularly participate in any given discussion meeting. Only by personally visiting and encouraging each member in our area can we solidify our organization. This will lead to the Soka Gakkai's growth and development, and in turn, to the advancement of kosen-rufu" ("Jeweled Sword," pg. 90).

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Soka Gakkai activities are all aimed at helping members deepen their faith and at advancing the cause of kosen-rufu. If this basic purpose is forgotten by just trying to put on a good show, then such activities lose their meaning and purpose" ("Pure Stream," pg. 202).

### **Questions:**

1. Discuss the significance of "oneness" in the mentor-disciple relationship in Buddhism.
2. Did you struggle at first conducting home visits? How can you encourage newer members on the frontline to take on this indispensable function of leadership?
3. How do you make sure the focus always remains on the true heart and purpose of our frontline activities?