



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 the *August Living Buddhism*. This page is intended for general members. The name of the NHR chapter is indicated. All quotes from pp. 18-35 August LB.

"Everyone has the right to become happy. In fact, those who have suffered the most deserve to become the happiest. The Soka Gakkai has always worked for just that" ("Raging Rapids," pg. 298).

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"Emotion filled Shin'ichi Yamamoto's voice as he concluded his speech at the Seniors Gathering: 'There are young people who are old and older people who are young. The key to staying young is to possess a flexible mind that constantly strives for self-improvement. At the same time, how we live our final years determines our ultimate happiness in life. No matter how wonderful and happy our lives may have been in the past, nothing could be more tragic than ending up miserable, bitter and full of complaint'" ("Securing the Foundation," pp. 30-31).

"Happiness is not a matter of wealth, nor is it determined by social status or fame. Rather, our happiness is determined by whether we live always with a sense of purpose and mission, regardless of our age. That each of you, our seniors in life, practice faith wholeheartedly, and live each day in high spirits, with tremendous energy and hope, is the greatest proof of the validity of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. I close my remarks today with sincere prayers for your continued health and longevity" ("Securing the Foundation," pg. 31).

"If we want to transform the community in which we live, we must ask ourselves: Does my heart burn with a fighting spirit and are we truly committed to spreading the Daishonin's teachings?" ("Securing the Foundation," pg. 65).

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"In whatever struggle, coming out a winner makes you happy. When we succeed in our activities, we experience boundless vitality and joy, which becomes a great source of hope and energy. If we lose, however, that joy and energy does not well forth from our lives ... Whether in our efforts to share Buddhism with others or to increase the number of members attending meetings, if we want to win, we need to first set a goal, muster our determination and chant daimoku in earnest. We must then bring forth our wisdom and bravely face the challenge while taking resolute action.

"Each obstacle we overcome brings us wonderful benefit and good fortune. It is through our process that we learn the formula for triumphing in life. Moreover, the tremendous conviction in faith we gain by exerting ourselves in our activities endows us with the strength to surmount any difficulty or hardship we encounter in life" ("Securing the Foundation," pp. 39-40).

Questions:

1. How do SGI activities help us keep a youthful spirit?
2. What is the relationship between human revolution and transforming our community?
3. This may sound counter-intuitive but how do obstacles bring us benefit and fortune?