



SGI-USA Men's Division Suggested Study Material for April 2020

In April 2020, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from *The New Human Revolution*, Volume 15 found in the April "Living Buddhism" published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for leaders. The LB page # is indicated and NHR Vol 15 chapter as available. All quotes from April LB pp 12–29.

"Real humanism must promote harmony between humanity and nature, or, more correctly, must be based on the principle that humanity and its environment are one and indivisible."

"It is the people who change the course of society and the times. History is transformed when the people become wise and stand up as the protagonists of change." (April LB, pg 19)

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"Shin'ichi peered out the window again and gasped. Through a break in the clouds he saw a majestic full moon shining brightly... It was a masterpiece created by the universe,

"This is the moment! Shin'ichi thought. He asked the driver to pull the car over and reached for the camera on the seat next to him...

"Opening the rear window of the car, Shin'ichi snapped the shutter, keenly aware of the importance of seizing the moment. Both in advancing kosen-rufu and in every other aspect of life, it was crucial to win at each juncture. Whether encouraging members or engaging in his work, Shin'ichi always strove to do his best, as if this moment was all he had.

"Life itself is just a series of moments. That is why a victory in the present is inextricably linked to total victory." (April LB, pg 25)

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"So how should we use our lives? Nichiren concludes that we should use them for the sake of the Lotus Sutra... Be devoting ourselves to the Lotus Sutra – to the correct teaching and no kosen-rufu – we establish the state of Buddhahood, of absolute happiness, in our lives. This is also the direct path to leading all people to happiness.

"To give one's life does not necessarily mean dying, it means struggling with all our might in the effort to achieve kosen-rufu. Some of us may die in that process, such as the three martyrs of Atsuhara or first Soka Gakkai President Tsunesaburo Makiguchi. At the same time, however, 'devoting one's life' means working to fulfill our mission for kosen-rufu throughout our lives, taking action, and telling others about Buddhism to the very end.

"The point is to strive to win each day, always asking ourselves if we did our best, if we compromised our beliefs, if we have any regrets, those who do so are 'devoting their life'..."

(April LB, pg 28)

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. Please share experiences where your personal transformation resulted in a change in your environment.
2. How can you help others live more fully each moment, now, today?