



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

In January 2020, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from *The New Human Revolution*, Volume 12 found in the January "Living Buddhism" published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for leaders. The NHR, Vol 12 chapter name and LB page # is indicated as available. All quotes from January, LB pp 20-37.

"If you failed yesterday, then win today. If you were defeated today, then win tomorrow. And if you won yesterday and today, make sure you keep doing so." (January LB, pg 29)

**

Akaichi said to Shin'ichi Yamamoto: "You have so many different responsibilities and are far busier than I am. How is it that you are always so calm and collected?"

If I appear that way, it's because I am completely committed to what I'm doing. I'm in a position that requires me to be on my toes every moment. I need to ensure that Josei Toda can initiate an everlasting current of kosen-rufu while he is alive. To do that, the Soka Gakkai cannot afford any missteps or defeats. It is my responsibility to see that everything is successfully carried through.

If we were to suffer defeat, Mr. Toda's vision of kosen-rufu would collapse. I have firmly resolved not to be the kind of disciple who would allow his mentor's plans to fail. A disciple who would let that happen is ultimately nothing more than a 'parasite in the lion's bowels.'

That's why I mustn't fail. It's my destiny to win. If you are absolutely determined to win and pray wholeheartedly for that result, then courageous wisdom and strength will well forth from the depths of your being." Akaichi nodded thoughtfully as he listened to Shin'ichi speak.

"If you are passive and simply follow instructions, your life will be dull and stagnant. You will be no more than a slave to your circumstances. But if you take the initiative and courageously rise to every challenge you encounter, you are living the life of a champion. Your life condition will soar and you will experience boundless joy.

"Depending on whether you take an active or passive approach though your day-to-day activities remain the same, you will feel an enormous difference in your inner commitment and sense of personal fulfillment. And naturally you will see results. As long as you are going to participate in Soka Gakkai activities, I hope you will do so as a leading protagonist boldly taking action in a way that suits you."

After the bath, the two men returned to Shin'ichi's apartment. "Let's give our all to working for kosen-rufu. Let's struggle together. Let's devote ourselves full to our goal. It doesn't matter if no one else sees your efforts, the Gohonzon knows everything. (January LB, pp 28-29)

Questions:

1. What is your experience with taking responsibility as a leader in SGI and expanding your capacity to handle stress, or to remain poised when facing challenges?
2. What does the passage above suggest to you about member care, fostering successors and expanding the circle of Soka Friendship?
3. If you could have lunch with President Ikeda what question would you ask him?