



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

In June 2020, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from "*The New Human Revolution*" Volumes 17 found in June "Living Buddhism" published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for leaders. The NHR Vol 17 chapter and/or LB pg # is indicated as available. All quotes from 18-35 June LB.

"Shin'ichi answered unhesitatingly, "Following the path of mentor and disciple." Shin'ichi's reply was not the sort of answer Mr. Nomura had been expecting. The young man had thought that, since the Soka Gakkai's aim was to become a movement that touched all aspects of society, its first task was to foster talented individuals in various fields. Noticing the look of puzzlement that crossed Mr. Nomura's face, Shin'ichi said: "You're wondering what mentor and disciple has to do with it, aren't you? It's like the relationship between centrifugal and centripetal force."

"Shin'ichi's voice was gentle yet firm. He continued: "Developing a movement that widely spreads the ideals of Buddhism in society is like centrifugal force. The stronger that centrifugal force becomes, the more important it is to have a powerful centripetal force focused on Buddhism. And the core of this centripetal force is the mentor-disciple relationship." (June LB, pg 24-25)

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"Intense determination is the source of limitless vitality and wisdom. No adversity is a match for the firm resolve of those who are dedicated to giving their utmost for the sake of kosen-rufu." (June LB, pg 29)

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"Nichiren Daishonin calls on his followers to transcend "all differences among themselves"; in other words, to transcend the notion that their lives have nothing to do with the lives of others. This means, for example, overcoming the selfish egoistic tendency to think only about one's own interests without consideration for others or to view others with apathy or antagonism. When the hearts of people belonging to an organization are divided in this way, the true heritage of Buddhism cannot be transmitted. That's why Nichiren repeatedly warns against such behavior in his writings.

"As inseparable as fish and the water in which they swim" refers to the profound awareness that our lives are inextricably tied to those of our fellow members; that our lives are deeply interconnected. It is a metaphor for the mutual support and respect that members, with their shared mission of kosen-rufu, need to cultivate among themselves. "Many in body but one in mind," meanwhile, signifies individuals making the most of their unique talents and gifts while advancing in unity toward the noble goal of kosen-rufu. In sum, the Daishonin is clarifying that the heritage of the Mystic Law flowing in his own life is transmitted through the unity of "many in body but one in mind," and subsequently comes to pulse vibrantly within the life of each individual dedicated to the great wish of kosen-rufu...

"Unity is often thought of as a mere means to achieve some objective. However, the unity Nichiren speaks of – a unity that is based on realizing happiness for all people through the correct teaching – is itself the epitome of human harmony and the true picture of kosen-rufu." (June LB, pg 35)

### **Possible Questions for Discussion:**

1. Please discuss connections between and kosen-rufu, mentor disciple and unity.
2. During this challenging time how can we encourage others to look beyond personal needs?