



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

In May 2020, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from *The New Human Revolution*, Volumes 16 found in May "Living Buddhism" published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for all members. The NHR Vol 16 chapter and/or LB pg # is indicated as available. All quotes from 18-35 May LB.

"It's important to be optimistic and to look on the bright side, constantly moving forward. There are times when, even though you've been chanting for something, the situation doesn't go as you wish. But remember, there's always a reason. In the end, you will genuinely feel that things worked out for the best."
(May LB, pg 27)

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"The teachings we uphold are manifested through our character and our behavior. It is entirely due to the behavior and actions of its followers that Nichiren Buddhism has become a world religion and spread to nations around the globe.
(May LB, pg 29)

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"Shin'ichi replied promptly: 'Weather is a natural phenomenon. Sometimes there are heavy rains. No matter how strong our faith is, we will still experience things like typhoons or heavy snowfall, like you do here in Akita. There's no need, however, to blame such events on faith and worry about it from that perspective.

"Shin'ichi wanted to communicate the message that Buddhism is a philosophy of hope and source of courage. He then said: "Of course given that 'one's body and mind at a single moment pervade the entire realm of phenomenon ("The Object of Devotion for Observing the Mind" WND-1, 366) our chanting does affect the entire universe. But if you allow yourself to lose heart because heavy rains fall, there is no point in having faith. Nichiren Buddhism is concerned with the present and the future. The important thing is to rouse your courage and move powerfully ahead toward the future, determined to make your community into a 'Land of Eternally Tranquil Light'...

"Buddhism is the way to transform everything into hope and the energy to advance. For example, if your group photo session is canceled because of bad weather, you can take it as an opportunity to freshly resolve that the next session will be a tremendous success. Or, if you experience a natural disaster, you can say to yourself: "All right, this is a crucial moment! I will win! I'm going to change poison into medicine and demonstrate the greatness of my faith.' With such an undaunted spirit, you can boldly set forth anew. If you continue to move powerfully toward the future with brilliant hope no matter what happens, that itself will be your victory. That is the proof of your faith."

(May LB, pg 31)

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. We refer to the “hope-filled teachings” of Nichiren. Please discuss.
2. How can we pray to create value out of our fear, anxiety, doubt or worry?
3. Please share experiences where you have advanced in faith at a crucial moment.