



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

In September 2020, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from *The New Human Revolution*, Volumes 20 found in September "Living Buddhism" published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for leaders. The NHR, Vol 20 chapter and/or LB pg # is indicated as available. All quotes from 24-41 September LB.

"Kosen-rufu is the realization of the happiness of humanity and peace in the world. As a Buddhist, I will continue to work wholeheartedly to achieve that."

(September LB, pg 29)

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"Mr. Kissinger inquired of Shin'ichi: 'Let me ask you frankly, where does your allegiance lie with regard to the world powers?' Clearly, Mr. Kissinger's question was motivated by the fact that Shin'ichi had visited and met with the leaders of China and the Soviet Union, and was now talking with him in the United States."

"Shin'ichi replied unhesitatingly: "We are not affiliated with the Western or the Eastern bloc. Nor are we the allies of China, the Soviet Union or the United States. We are a force for peace, and we ally ourselves with humankind."

"This was the humanism which Shin'ichi firmly based himself, and it was the fundamental position of the Soka Gakkai. Mr. Kissinger smiled. It seemed he understood Shin'ichi's convictions. For the rest of their discussion, they talked about such topics as the Arab-Israeli conflict, Sino-American and Soviet-American relations and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Their dialogue proceeded with the shared resonance of their wish to find pathways to peace."

(September LB, pg 37)

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"Mr. Sholokov nodded and said '...We are all the creators of our own happiness. Realizing happiness comes down to how much we have forged ourselves spiritually..."

"Leaning forward in his seat, Shin'ichi said: "I agree completely.. Buddhism teaches how to build the strongest and most elevated self in order to triumph over even fate's cruelest hand."

"Mr. Sholokhov listened intently as Shin'ichi spoke.. He was of the great writers of the Soviet Union, as communist nation, but he agreed completely with Shin'ichi on the importance of the human being and the vital need for inner transformation.

"The philosophies and lives of those who are masters of the art of living are always essentially in agreement with the teachings of Buddhism. In the depths of the their lives, such individuals are yearning for the Buddhist Law."

(September LB, pp 40-41)

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. How has your perspective on Kosen-Rufu changed throughout your practice?
2. How has your practice helped you build an elevated self?
3. What are some ingredients of Ikeda Sensei's ability to build bridges through dialogue?