



SGI-USA Men's Division Suggested Study Material for January 2021

In January 2021, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from "*The New Human Revolution*" Volumes 24 found in January "Living Buddhism" published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for leaders. The NHR Vol 24 chapter and/or LB pg # is indicated as available. All quotes from 34-51 LB.

"Understanding something in theory doesn't necessarily mean one will actually be able to do it. During a disaster or accident, often people know what they do but are unable to act. Hands-on training, repeated until fully mastered, best prepares one for action in a crisis. Training instills the lesson in one's body and in one's life."
(January LB, pg 42)

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"Shin'ichi carried out a detailed inspection including making sure that the stove burners in kitchen facilities, and the lights and electrical appliances in rooms not in use were all shut off. Outside, he directed the light of a flashlight toward the base of the plants and flowers in front of the buildings to make sure no dangerous materials had been placed there... Eyes that notice the little things can prevent the biggest accidents. To prevent accidents, everyone should consider the matter carefully, decide on a basic roster of things that need to be checked, and then follow it assiduously... Once a routine is set, it needs to be carried out faithfully, without skipping or ignoring any part of it. If you allow it to become a mere formality and lose your focus, carelessness will follow. That's the most dangerous thing"...

"Though we remind members at meetings to be careful not to have traffic accidents, there are plenty of cases when people say to themselves, 'I know that', and don't really pay attention. What you should do at that time is remind yourselves to be extra careful, and say the same to those around you... I can't go along with you on your rounds each time, but in my heart I'm always with you. We share the same mission. Please protect our headquarters in my stead. Protect our culture and community centers. Protect our members. Let's meet again."
(January LB, pg 43)

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"Founding Soka Gakkai President Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, who established the theory of value, emphasized the importance of warning about the negative consequences of loss or retribution that arises from failing to create value. Second President Josei Toda, in order to make the general public aware of the greatness of Buddhism in the aftermath of World War II, emphasized that Buddhism is the way to overcome suffering due to poverty, illness and family problems, and stressed the power of the Gohonzon. For us the question is: What do people seek from Buddhism now, and what aspect of Buddhism should we emphasize when we share it with others?"

"Having engaged in open and frank conversations with young people, Shin'ichi felt that individuals, society and the world were seeking human revolution – the process of becoming a person who is strong at heart and take on life's hardships in a positive way – and regarding Nichiren Buddhism and the Soka Gakkai with expectation. While it was apparent that people were still looking to Buddhism as a means of resolving such things as economic difficulties and illness, he noticed that young people in particular were focused on transforming themselves and their ways of living. He sense the approach of an era of human revolution."
(January LB, pg 45)

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. SGI districts provide hands-on training in human care. Please discuss
2. How can we protect our members during the zoom era?
3. What does "era of human revolution" mean to you? How can you contribute today?