



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

In August 2020, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from *The New Human Revolution*, volumes 19 found in *August Living Buddhism* published by SGI-USA. This page is intended for all members. The NHR Vol 19 chapter and/or LB pg # is indicated as available. All quotes from 18–35 August LB.

"Politics and economics are always most clearly reflected in the daily lives of the people. The truth is to be found not in the remarks of intellectuals and critics but in the testimony of ordinary citizens. As an old Japanese saying goes "The voice of the people is the voice of the heavens."
(August LB, pg 25)

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"Wasting time is wasting life. Creating value starts with the effective use of one's time."

"To cherish people and light the flame of courage and a sense of mission in their hearts, to enable them to bring forth genuine happiness from within their lives – this is the great path of kosen-rufu."
(August LB, pg 27)

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"What we learn from each encounter and occurrence is very important. Our ability to empathize with others starts with having the capacity to imagine their sufferings. Consideration for other is the fruition of the ability to put ourselves in their shoes."
(August LB, pg 31)

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"The Buddha does not exist in some far distant place separated from our lives. And people are not servants of gods or deities. Our lives are originally endowed with the supremely noble state of Buddhahood; they are entities of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. It thus follows that our lives themselves are the object of fundamental respect. And the Gohonzon, the mandala inscribed by Nichiren, serves as a clear mirror to reflect and draw forth the Nam-myoho-renge-kyo within..."

"Nichiren Buddhism, which regards life as the object of fundamental respect, is the ultimate teaching of the sanctity of life. As such, it is the source of a new humanism."

"People often advocate peace and the sanctity of life. But human life is too easily trampled on and sacrificed in the name of country, ideology and racial or religious differences, or as the result of hatred, jealousy and discrimination. No matter how much people may assert that life is precious, if they do not base themselves on the fundamental belief that life deserves the highest respect, then it is likely that life will become but a means to an end..."

"The Buddhist teaching that the state of Buddhahood exists in our lives and that life is the object of fundamental respect is a solid foundation for establishing the principle of the sanctity of life and gives rise to a philosophy of peace and humanism."
(August LB, pg 34)

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. How do the snippets above from Ikeda Sensei relate to issues in your life and heart today?
2. How can you help establish the principle of the sanctity of life and give rise to a philosophy of humanism and peace?