



SGI-USA Men's Division
Suggested Study Material for July 2017

In 2017, the Men's Division is studying "*The New Human Revolution*," Volume 27, Chapter 3. In July we are studying the continuation of "Fierce Struggle," installments 5-8, from the July 2017 *Living Buddhism*. The excerpts below are provided to support the Men's Division study. Everyone is encouraged to have his own copy of "The New Human Revolution," which is available at your local SGI-USA book store or through the website. To read online, log in to <http://sgiusapublications.newspaperdirect.com>. Click Select Title and choose SGI/Living Buddhism/The New Human Revolution. Click on the calendar to choose the issue date. The publication dates and page references appear at the end of each excerpt.

Fierce Struggle

(Page references below are from the July 2017 *Living Buddhism*)

"Empty resolutions and flowery rhetoric will not truly strike a chord in people's hearts. And even if people do take you at your word at first, if you don't mean what you say, they'll stop believing you. The important thing is to honestly share your convictions and follow through on the promises you make, no matter how small. These, I believe, are essential qualities for a leader." (p.51)

"Trying to improve ourselves and make the world a better place involves an unremitting struggle with problems and difficulties. But the lives of those who challenge themselves in this way are filled with satisfaction, exhilaration and the wonderful reward of personal growth. That's why Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) said "Joy lies in the fight, in the attempt, in the suffering involved, not in the victory itself." (p. 53)

"Rather than being absorbed only with our own problems, we empathize with and share the struggles of all kinds of people, dedicating our lives to kosen-rufu in order to show them the way to indestructible happiness. We listen to the problems and concerns of our friends, and do our best to encourage them. Out of a sincere wish for their happiness, we talk with them about Nichiren Buddhism and chant for them. It is through such heartfelt daily efforts that we connect our lives to Nichiren Daishonin. By living this way, we break out the confining shell of egoism and bring forth the expansive life states of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth and Nichiren Daishonin, thereby setting in motion a profound inner transformation." (p.53)

Questions:

1. What can you do to ensure you follow through on all your promises?
2. How have you used this practice to develop your empathy? Please share a recent experience of how SGI activities have helped you break out of the confining shell of your egoism.