



SGI-USA Men's Division

Suggested Study Material for September 2019

In September 2019, the Men's Division is studying excerpts from "The New Human Revolution" Volume 9 found in September Living Buddhism. This page is intended for general members. The NHR Vol 9 chapter is indicated where available. The page number from September LB is indicated for all quotes. These scenes are from April 1, 1964 to December 1964.

"The 20th century has been called the century of war and revolutions, but it is also the century that has seen the start of the human revolution. In fact, precisely because it has given birth to the human revolution, I am convinced that the twentieth century will go down in history as the prelude to the most glorious, brilliant century of life." (pg. 35, LB)

"Today, I have planted the seed of growth and development within your lives. But unless you have strong determination and are committed to fulfilling your great mission that seed will not sprout and bear fruit." (pg. 34, LB)

"All of our struggles to promote Buddhism become our great good fortune and benefit. Therefore, when we encounter a difficult situation, we should think, "I've acquired more good fortune," or "I've made a cause for more wonderful benefit." (pg. 34 LB, Brilliant Light)

"The basis of consideration is prayer. People always open up to and have good feelings toward those who pray for and care about their happiness." (pg. 34 LB, A New Era)

"The purpose of faith is to cultivate a rich spirit and build a framework for living our lives... That's why it's important to have faith from a young age." (pg. 34 LB, Young Phoenixes)

"Soka Gakkai members, however, were cultivating a view of work as not just a means of earning a living, but as a way to polish themselves as human beings. This was based on Nichiren Daishonin's teaching: "Regard your service to your lord as the practice of the Lotus Sutra" (WND-1, 905). "Service to your lord" here refers to one's occupation. In other words, the Daishonin is telling us to regard our work as our practice of Buddhism.

Second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda always that as Soka Gakkai members, in order to become indispensable people at work and win the trust our colleagues we need to have faith the faith of one, and work as hard as three." (pg. 30, LB)

Questions:

1. What do you make of President Ikeda's optimism?
2. The concept of perceiving obstacles as benefits: please discuss.
3. What does it mean to become indispensable?