

STUDY

The following is from SGI President Ikeda's book *The New Human Revolution*, vol. 22, pp. 262–63. President Ikeda appears in the novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto.

Shin'ichi [Yamamoto] emphasized the importance of reading books in one's youth as a way that the members of the Seishun-kai could develop themselves into leaders of the twenty-first century: "It's important to read good books, but I'd suggest you start with *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, as the way to build a strong framework of a sound life philosophy. There may be passages that are hard to understand, but if you read all of Nichiren's writings, you'll acquire confidence. I strongly recommend that you set a goal for yourselves of, for example, consistently spending 30 minutes a day reading Nichiren's writings, or reading some five pages a day. When you come across parts you don't understand, you can get together and have a discussion about it and study together.

"I've also published many books of articles, essays, dialogues and lectures on Nichiren's writings. I've dedicated myself to this effort with the hope of illuminating the true path of faith and the way of humanity, while explaining Buddhism in contemporary terms and offering solutions for overcoming the problems our society faces. You have a mission to carry on this task and create a new path for the twenty-first century. In this sense, I'd like you to open a further

vista for the future by closely reading my writings and giving them earnest thought. I'll continue to write on a wide variety of subjects for both you and future generations."

When women gain conviction through Buddhist faith enabling them to live out their lives dedicated to kosen-rufu, the future of the country as well as the family—the foundation of society—is also reinforced. Traditionally, in Japanese society, women were regarded as playing a secondary role, but in actuality, they supported society. That's why the Daishonin writes, "Women support others and thereby cause others to support them" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 501).

Entrusting the twenty-first century to his listeners, Shin'ichi said: "In the future, you'll experience many of life's milestones, including perhaps marriage. Whatever happens, keep gathering as the Seishun-kai. Make your first reunion 10 years from now, in 1985, and keep doing so into the twenty-first century, meeting and encouraging one another."