In 2010, the men’s division members are studying “The New Human Revolution,” challenging ourselves to study one volume each month. The excerpts provided are the suggested study material for men’s division meetings. Every man is encouraged to have his own copy of “The New Human Revolution” which is available at your local SGI-USA bookstore or through the mail order service on the SGI-USA website. Page numbers may vary depending on the edition. Page numbers from different editions are included whenever possible.

Westward Transmission

The purpose of Shin’ichi’s upcoming visit to mainland Asia was to take the first step toward the westward transmission of Buddhism prophesied by Nichiren Daishonin, thereby opening the path to happiness and lasting peace throughout Asia.

In the Gosho “Remonstration with Bodhisattva Hachiman,” the Daishonin writes: “The moon rises in the west and moves eastward, a sign of how the Buddhist teachings of India spread in an easterly direction. The sun rises in the east, an auspicious sign of how the Buddhist teachings of Japan are destined to return to the land of India (Gosho Zenshu, p.588)

Had it not been for Soka Gakkai, the original Buddha’s foretelling of the westward transmission of Buddhism would have undoubtedly remained unfulfilled. Page 26

India

Shin’ichi discusses his determination for worldwide kosen-rufu with High Priest Nittatsu

High Priest Nittatsu said: “That’s wonderful. We can rest easy, knowing that you’re always thinking about kosen-rufu and peace. To be honest with you, although I have spoken about ‘kosen-rufu in Asia’ or ‘world kosen-rufu,’ I hadn’t given any serious, concrete thought to how we might accomplish it. Somewhere in my heart, I must have thought it was impossible. But you, Mr. Yamamoto, make practical efforts to realize that goal. Now I truly feel that as long as you are here, we can actually accomplish worldwide kosen-rufu.”

“Spreading the Daishonin’s Buddhism throughout the world was a task that President Toda bequeathed to me. It is also the decree of Nichiren Daishonin,” Shin’ichi replied. “There is a time for everything. Seven hundred years have passed since the Daishonin established the True Law for the happiness of all humanity, and the time to accomplish kosen-rufu has arrived at last. If we miss the time, this window of opportunity may be closed forever. That is why I am so serious. Failure, to me, is not an option.”
“The Daishonin’s prophecy of kosen-rufu would be mere idealism if no one were to try to achieve it. It is wrong, I feel, to think that kosen-rufu will come about on its own if we simply wait for it to happen. Realizing the Daishonin’s prophecy hinges on the determination, powerful conviction and earnest action of those who come after him. As the Daishonin’s disciples, instead of waiting for his prediction to happen, shouldn’t we be determined to make it happen? If not, we would have nothing to strive for. For those who toil with this conviction, the Daishonin’s prophecy will be a profound source of confidence, courage and strength.” *Page 85*

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### The Buddha

*Shakyamuni’s enlightenment*

“The entire universe is subject to the same constant rhythm of creation and change. This applies equally to human beings. Those now in infancy are destined to grow old and eventually die and then be reborn again. Nothing either in the world of nature or human society, knows even a moment of stillness or rest. All phenomena in the universe emerge and pass into extinction through the influence of some external cause. Nothing exists in isolation; all things are linked together over space and time, originating in response to shared causal relationships. Each phenomenon simultaneously functions as both cause and effect, exerting an influence on the whole. Moreover, a Law of life permeates the entire process.” *Pages 152-153*

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### Light of Peace

*Shinichi stands up to an arrogant businessman*

“A Lion is proud. Shin’ichi Yamamoto had deliberately challenged the branch manager’s views. His pride as President Toda’s disciple would not let him remain silent in the face of the man’s patronizing attitude toward the Soka Gakkai and its members. He also felt compelled to attack the arrogance the man displayed as a Japanese toward other Asian nations. Arriving back at their hotel after dining at the branch manager’s home, Shin’ichi said to the others: “We don’t have to rely on anyone’s charity for a meal. A person is free to think what they like about the Gakkai, but we have every right to speak out, too. Failing to correct misconceptions about the Gakkai just because someone is offering to treat us to a meal would be cowardly.” Shin’ichi was a lion – a fighter.” *Pages 229-230*

### Realizing the fatigue of his traveling companions, Shin’ichi offers encouragement*

“The Daishonin writes: ‘Carry through with your faith in the Lotus Sutra. You cannot strike fire from flint if you stop half way’ (WND, 319). If you don’t keep striking the pieces of flint together, you can’t hope to produce fire. In the same way, if you are negligent or allow yourselves to succumb to inertia, you will end up in defeat.” *Page 266*

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### Questions for Discussion:

1) The moon traveling from west to east symbolizes Shakyamuni's Buddhism, whereas the sun traveling from east to west symbolizes Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. How can we cultivate our confidence and pride in our ability to practice and be part of SGI, "the king of the religious world"? How can we share this spirit with the youth we are raising?

2) As Shin’ichi (President Ikeda) prepared for his Asia trip, members throughout Japan were united in prayer for his success. How can we create that same rhythm with our mentor, and support him in his endeavors?

3) If you only had one year left to live; could you think of one youth you would dedicate your remaining time to raising, ensuring that your lifetime's contributions to kosen-rufu will flow forward uninterrupted after you are gone? What specific actions would you take in that one year to ensure success?

4) It is clear from the reading that High Priest Nittatsu had not given concrete thoughts to global kosen-rufu, whereas Shin’ichi took it very seriously, seeing it as the will of his mentor. In what ways has your connection to your mentor supported your efforts to realize world peace? How can we deepen our connection to him, and take our own goals as seriously as he does?

5) In all his travels, Shin’ichi is able to share the joy of practicing correctly, and inspired a sense of mission among the youth he encountered. How can we emulate his behavior in raising our youth?