

In this section we offer some resources for the preparation of the discussion meeting, as well as for a brief, inspiring introduction to the experiential dialogues that the discussion meetings themselves are; namely: a quote that sheds light on the relevance of all of these efforts («Globally»), a presentation of one of the groups or districts that sustain them («Locally»), a passage from the writings of Nichiren Daishonin commented by Daisaku Ikeda («Advancing with the Goshō»), a «Perspective» and some «Key Topics».

GLOBALLY

«Now, by citing passages from a wide variety of scriptures, you have clearly demonstrated the rights and wrongs of the matter. Therefore, I have completely forsaken my earlier mistaken convictions, and my ears and eyes have been opened on point after point . . .

- How gratifying! You have associated with a friend in the orchid room and have become as straight as mugwort growing among hemp! . . .
- But it is not enough that I alone should accept and have faith in your words—we must see to it that others as well are warned of their errors».

Excerpt from «On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land», WND, pp. 24-27.



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LOCALLY

Diamante Group

Daisaku Ikeda writes: “Just as a diamond can only be polished by another diamond, it is only through genuine, all-out engagement with others that people can polish their character, and help each other to reach greater heights”. The members of this discussion group from Lanzarote have deeply understood this concept by illuminating more and more their lives and environment based on a mutual support. In June, through their “brilliant alliance”, they have increasing its radiance even further.

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ADVANCING WITH THE GOSHŌ

Striving with the same heart

No matter how earnestly Nichiren prays for you, if you lack faith, it will be like trying to set fire to wet tinder. Spur yourself to muster the power of faith.

Passage from «The Strategy of the Lotus Sutra», WND I, p. 1001.

«IMMEDIATELY BEFORE the words, “No matter how earnestly Nichiren prays for you,” the Daishonin writes: “It is the heart that is important” (WND-1, 1000). The “heart” he is talking about in this passage, which members around the world have engraved in the depths of their lives, is “the heart of the oneness of mentor and disciple.” . . . Let us consider more deeply what it means for mentor and disciple to take action with the same spirit and prayer.

What lies at the heart of the mentor’s spirit and prayer? It is the mentor’s vow—the great vow for kosen-rufu made by the Daishonin in order to lead all people in the Latter Day of the Law to enlightenment.

The Daishonin writes: “If you are of the same mind as Nichiren, you must be a Bodhisattva of the Earth.” . . . Because we all share the mission of Bodhisattvas of the Earth, we are able to chant Nam-myoho-enge-kyo, the essence of the Lotus Sutra. Because we chant with our vow for kosen-rufu, we can realize happiness for both ourselves and others. Because we practice Nichiren Buddhism ourselves and teach others to do the same, we can carry out our human revolution, becoming individuals who take action for the benefit of others. Our prayers, which were originally focused on ourselves alone, naturally evolve into prayers infused with the same vow as our mentor.

This is a dramatic transformation from disciples who depend on their mentor for support to disciples who actively strive with their mentor.

This is quite distinct from a religion that seeks salvation from a transcendent absolute being. The fundamental principle of Buddhism is to become a compassionate person of action committed to helping all people become happy.

The path of mentor and disciple means the disciple inheriting and carrying on the mentor’s spirit and efforts to build a network of awakened individuals. »

Excerpt from «For Our Wonderful New Members», part 1.²

PERSPECTIVE

In the last instalment of the New Human Revolution, nº 139 from the chapter “Vow”, Shin’ichi Yamamoto reminds some words from his mentor: “As long as there is a core of youth—no, even a single true disciple—we will achieve kosen-rufu”; and he exposes his conviction that those who “staunchly carry on the solemn spirit of the three Soka Gakkai Presidents . . . will be the ultimate victors” and that “this is also the fundamental path for the Soka Gakkai’s ongoing success in the 21st century.”³ |

KEYWORDS Heart of the oneness of mentor and disciple · Compassion and action

1. WND-1, p. 385.

2. See this issue, pp. 32-33.

3. Ib., p. 35.