

This month, in this section we offer resources for the Soka Victory Assemblies that the SGI Spain discussion groups will celebrate between November or December, namely: a text on “Soka Victory,” a passage from the writings of Nichiren Daishonin commented by Daisaku Ikeda (“Advancing with the Goshō”), a “Perspective” and some “Keywords.” **Best wishes for the assemblies!!**

## SOKA VICTORY

In the volume 10 of *The New Human Revolution*, referred to in several sections of this issue, the third chapter has an inviting title: “A new route.” Its final part tells about Shin’ichi Yamamoto’s first trip to Portugal, where he arrives on 27th October 1965. In Lisbon, he and his companions visit the recently inaugurated Monument to the Discoveries –of which a picture can be seen in page 5–. Shin’ichi then speaks about the achievements of those represented there, particularly about the initiative of the one who heads the sculpture: Henry the Navigator.

When a stage in the history of human exchanges closed with the emergence of the Timurid Empire and the obstruction of the Silk Road, in the fifteenth century Henry took the mission of starting a new stage by opening a new route to the East: a sea route. To realize it, “he gathered all the information, knowledge on the subject and brought together the top experts. Then, he formed a society that allowed them to collaborate and make the most effective use of their abilities with a view to achieving their goal. They improved the technology and built a [new] type of vessel.”<sup>1</sup> All this was surely necessary, but not enough. In order to progress towards his revolutionary goal, Henry needed to urge the explorers to “be brave and leave aside unsubstantiated superstitions.”<sup>2</sup> One of them, Gil Eanes, did it. By surpassing Cape Bojador in 1434, what he overcame above all was his “Cape of Fear.”<sup>3</sup> And the new story began to be written.

A few decades later, what Stefan Zweig called “the most daring adventure in the history of our species”<sup>4</sup> took place: the first round-the-world journey, led by Fernando of Magellan (born in Sabrosa, Portugal) and Juan Sebastián Elcano (Getaria). The departure happened exactly 500 years ago now. And the ship that realized the circumnavigation was called just as our assemblies: “Victory”. With the determination to open “a new route,” let’s embark with joy in our “most daring adventure” towards 18th November 2020!



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Nao Victoria, represented in a map by Ortelius (1590)

1) IKEDA, Daisaku: *La nueva revolución humana*, vols. 9 y 10, Rivas: Ediciones Civilización Global, 2015, pág. 345.  
2) Ibid.

3) Ibid., p. 346.

4) See CARLIN, John: “La primera vuelta al mundo”, *La Vanguardia*, 22/9/2019.

## ADVANCING WITH THE GOSHŌ

## An Eternal Formula for Victory

If the spirit of many in body but one in mind prevails among the people, they will achieve all their goals, whereas if one in body but different in mind, they can achieve nothing remarkable ... Although Nichiren and his followers are few, because they are different in body, but united in mind, they will definitely accomplish their great mission [...].

*Excerpt from Many in Body, One in Mind, WND 70, p. 618.*

“MANY IN BODY, ONE IN MIND” –which can also be expressed as unity in diversity—means uniting toward a shared purpose while fully respecting each person’s unique qualities and individuality ... This is articulated through the principle of “cherry, plum, peach, and damson” (cf. OTT, 200), which expounds the unique diversity and beauty of all living things. It is through our continuous efforts to respect each person’s individuality, foster mutual growth, and reveal our potential together that we achieve the kind of unity the Daishonin describes.

It can thus be said that an organization embodying the beautiful unity of “many in body, one in mind” actually enables our individuality and unique personalities to shine ever brighter. When we develop ourselves in faith toward a shared purpose, the value of our individuality or diversity shines with special brilliance.

The Soka Gakkai’s diverse members, awakened to their mission and empowered by the support and encouragement of their friends in faith. »

*Excerpt from “For Our Wonderful New Members”, Part 4.*<sup>5</sup>

## PERSPECTIVE

The installment of the “Monthly Study” included in this issue refers to a memorable exchange between Shakyamuni and his disciple Ananda. Ananda asked Shakyamuni: “It seems to me that by having good friends and advancing together with them, one has already halfway attained the Buddha way. Is this way of thinking correct?”. Shakyamuni responded: “Ananda, this way of thinking is not correct. Having good friends and advancing together with them is not half the Buddha way but all the Buddha way”<sup>6</sup> Nichiren Daishonin interpreted the meaning of the word “Joy” appearing in the title of the 18th chapter of the Lotus Sutra in accordance to it: “Joy’ means that oneself and others together experience joy.”<sup>7</sup>

**KEYWORDS** Victory · Unity in diversity · Shining individuality · Shared joy

5) See this issue, pp. 29-31.

6) Ibid., p. 26.

8) Ibid., p. 27.