November Discussion Topic – Our mission

“The fact that we have been born into this world means that we each have a unique purpose to fulfill. If we didn’t, we would not have been born. Nothing in the universe is without value. Everything has meaning. (...) Each living thing has a unique identity, role and purpose”¹, says president Daisaku Ikeda.

In the SGI, our mission is not something given to us by an outside force but is developed from within. Simply put, it is our mission to awaken to our greatest potential and contribute to the place where we are right now by bringing forth our unique capabilities. Our capabilities shine the brightest when we take action for the happiness of others.

We have an important mission to also awaken others to their unlimited potential and empower them to become happy through telling them about the Mystic Law of Nam-myoho-rende-kyo. This is the mission of those of us who practice Nichiren Buddhism - the Bodhisattvas of the Earth.

President Ikeda also writes: “Awakening to your mission as a Bodhisattva of the Earth means coming face to face with the innermost essence of your own life. It is knowing the ultimate meaning of why you were born, why you are alive. There is no greater joy, fulfillment or pride than that which comes from awakening to your eternal mission.”²

The New Human Revolution states: “Shin’ichi [Yamamoto] delved deeper into the true nature of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth: ‘The essential characteristic of a bodhisattva is their vow. The vow of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth is to propagate the Lotus Sutra. That’s why wholeheartedly chanting to realize our vow of bringing happiness to all around us is important.’³

The best way to develop our sense of mission, then, is to wholeheartedly challenge the task in front of us. As President Ikeda puts it: “You won’t find [your mission] by doing nothing. You must challenge yourself in something, it doesn’t matter what. Then, by your making consistent effort, the direction you should take will open up before you quite naturally.”⁴ Through such efforts, we cultivate our abilities to contribute to kosen-rufu and establish lives of complete fulfillment and joy.

* Are you aware of your mission as Bodhisattva of the Earth and how does that manifest itself in your daily life?

* How do you link your personal goals to your mission as Bodhisattva of Earth?

¹ Daisaku Ikeda, Discussions on Youth, new edition, 284.
² Daisaku Ikeda, Discussions on Youth, 12.
⁴ Idem, 10.