

November Discussion Topic – Changing the world through our human revolution

In this moment in time uncertainty and fear prevail. People are looking for hope and a philosophy to live a happy life. Precisely because the whole world is in a critical situation, we can make a difference. This is the moment to change ourselves and through that the world.

President Ikeda says: “The world appears increasingly troubled, with dark clouds looming on the horizon. (...) The problems confronting human society cannot be solved solely by external changes such as political and economic reforms or institutional and organizational innovation. Reform efforts that fail to take into account people’s well-being, or that lack respect for the dignity of life, will only create more problems and eventually run aground.

We must remember that the fundamental goal is people’s happiness. Stay connected to the people! Awaken to the dignity and preciousness of life! Change must start with people themselves! Now is the time for humanity to return to these basic points. Given all of this, what should be the central guiding principles of religion in the 21st century? I assert that they are humanism and human revolution.”¹

President Ikeda explains here that no external change can change the problems in the world, but that humanity and human revolution are the key. Change starts with ourselves. The awareness of our mission as Bodhisattvas of the Earth is the key to achieving our human revolution. Through chanting daimoku, we can strengthen our life force and give encouragement to those around us with the heart of compassion. As we deepen our practice for ourselves and others, we grow into Bodhisattvas of action. In other words, Soka Gakkai activities are the direct path towards achieving our human revolution.

President Ikeda also says: “Human beings are the builders and shapers of the societies, nations, and the world in which they live. Hatred and trust, disdain and respect, war and peace— all are the products of the human heart and mind. As a result, without human revolution, there can be no true personal happiness, social prosperity, or lasting world peace. Without this crucial element, any attempts to effect enduring change will be in vain.”² Through challenging ourselves to do our human revolution, society will transform and the life-condition of humanity as a whole will be elevated.

* How can your human revolution bring about a change in the world?

* Have you been able to bring about a change in your environment or society, through your human revolution?

* In this time, are you able to encourage others, and if so, how are you doing that?

¹ SGI Nieuwsbrief 9691.

² Afterword of *The New Human Revolution*, Vol. 30.