In the dialogue about The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra, the SGI President, Daisaku Ikeda, insists: “The Buddhist teachings were expounded for the happiness of all; there is absolutely no room for discrimination: neither between men and women, nor between clergy and lay people, not even within the wide spectrum of different ethnic and social origins, academic levels, social status, power or riches. Indeed, Buddhism was expounded precisely so that those who were oppressed, discriminated against or had had to endure the most bitter sufferings, could achieve happiness. Herein lies the true power of Buddhism.”

“Winter always turns to Spring” means that ordinary people, who overcome all the challenges they find throughout their Buddhist practice, will become Buddhas without doubt. The Daishonin’s words, a powerful lion’s roar, proclaim that his disciples have Buddhahood assured, insofar as we strive to awaken those around us to their own Buddhahood, so that they can manifest it from within their own lives.

Only by overcoming the rigors of a harsh Winter through the power of faith, can one enjoy the Spring of triumph.

Winter can be a function that activates our inner power and latent potential. This is a principle that can be applied equally to life as to Buddhist practice. All living beings possess the seed of Buddhahood, also known as the Buddha nature. This seed contains a potential as vast and boundless as the universe itself. It awakens from its dormant state and matures with a view to blooming through faith in the Lotus Sutra, a faith which allows us to overcome the challenges of Winter. In other words, this is achieved through our own struggle against the obstacles that arise in the course of our Buddhist practice.

When we resist and overcome our Winter difficulties and emerge victorious thanks to practicing the Mystic Law, we can make the radiant flowers of victory open in our lives.

However, if in the middle of the bitter cold we stop fighting and advancing in our faith, if we doubt the power of our faith and we start giving in, the outcome will be incomplete. The key to our victory lies in the intensity and passion of our Winter struggle, and how wisely we use this moment, how meaningfully we live each day, and how strong our conviction is that Spring will arrive, without fail.

Our constant effort to transform Winter into Spring is the essential path to achieving fulfillment and insurmountable growth in our lives.

2) The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, pg. 535. This quote is found in the 2nd chapter of the Lotus Sutra.