

ADVANCING WITH THE GOSHO

Ensuring the Eternal Transmission

At the Ceremony in the Air, when the Buddhas and bodhisattvas of the ten directions gathered together, the two Buddhas, Shakyamuni and Many Treasures, nodded in agreement. What they decided on was nothing other than the perpetuation of the Law throughout the Latter Day.

Passage from The True Aspect of All Phenomena, WND-1, pág. 385-386.

◀◀ **THE LOTUS SUTRA** was expounded so that all may attain enlightenment.

The Daishonin, appearing in the Latter Day of the Law¹ to make this wish a reality, revealed Nam-myoho-renge-kyo as the essence of the Lotus Sutra and the fundamental Law for the attainment of Buddhahood by all people, and he dedicated his life to propagating it.

The crucial point here is who will inherit this great teaching for the enlightenment of humankind and spread it widely . . .

Now, having entered the new era of worldwide kosen-rufu, fostering future division and youth division members is more important than ever. These young Bodhisattvas of the Earth are a source of hope for the future, people who will illuminate the world with the Daishonin's Buddhism of the sun and create an age of peace and harmonious coexistence.

Excerpt from "Building Humanity's Future—The Noble Endeavor of Fostering the Next Generation."² ▶▶

PERSPECTIVE

As the episode known as "Brahma's exhortation" depicts,³ in the origin of Buddhism exists the determination to share. "A genuinely happy person is the one who brings happiness to those around him." The adverb "genuinely" here transcends contemporaneity; the Buddhist practice implies a commitment to the happiness, not only of those around us now, but also of those who have preceded us and—as emphasized above—of those who will succeed us. Josei Toda referred to children as "emissaries of tomorrow," and the tradition of the Soka Gakkai relies on paying them such respect. Using Aristotelian terms, Buddhist faith enables us to act in line with both the "act"—the current condition of the children—and the "potency"—what they can become: exemplary teachers, fully-committed humanitarian workers, great professionals, outstanding sportspeople, humanistic artists . . . aware of their mission as Bodhisattvas of the Earth. |

KEYWORDS Transmission of the Law · Fostering successors · True happiness · Hope

1. See this issue, p. 23, box.

2. See this issue, p. 8, footnote 1.

3. After his enlightenment, Shakyamuni discovered how difficult it was to share the Law. It is said that, exhausted as he was, he even considered giving up. The deity

Brahma, however, warned him: "If the Buddha does not preach the Law, the world will be destroyed," and urged him to persevere.

4. See <https://www.ikedaquotes.org/happiness/happiness_882.html>.

YOUNG PHOENIX · To the Members of the Future Division ·

ON OCTOBER 15TH, 1961 Daisaku Ikeda visited Spain for the first time. At that time there were no Soka Gakkai members in the country, but he had the fervent conviction that one day, one after another, Bodhisattvas of the Earth would emerge here—people with the same desire to build peace and prosperity. A passionate call sprang up from his heart:

Come, **Picassos and Casals** of the Mystic Law! Do everything possible! . . . Do not accept defeat! Open the doors that lead to the new century!⁵

These two great artists, Pablo Picasso and Pau Casals, who fought for peace, justice and the dignity of life through culture, give name to the groups that compose the Future Division in the SGEs: the Picasso group, formed by children who are in primary school, and the Casals group, that corresponds to the stage of junior high school education.

Although we are in May, not in October, we refer to this chapter because Ikeda Sensei describes it in the fifth volume of *The New Human Revolution*, to which several articles are dedicated in this issue of *Civilización Global*. As Nichiren Daishonin did, Ikeda Sensei has always given the greatest importance to people's hearts, upholding that the greatness of a human being does not lie in his material belongings or other external attributes, but in his attitude towards life and his behaviour.

In the abovementioned volume of *The New Human Revolution*, an anecdote involving the famous Swiss educator Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827) is quoted, giving a clear example of how **a great heart can be reflected in small but meaningful actions**.

One day, an old man walked down the street with the help of a stick; every so often, he stopped to lift something from the ground. A policeman, who had seen him doing the same thing the day before, asked him suspiciously:

POLICEMAN: What are you collecting?

OLD MAN: Nothing worth mentioning—he replied with a smile.

Even more suspiciously, the policeman decided to search him. Resignedly, the old man reached into his pocket and pulled out some fragments of glass.

POLICEMAN: What the hell do you put this together for?—he asked.

OLD MAN: If children walked on them, they could get hurt—he said, and went back to his work.⁶

This old man was Pestalozzi himself. His seemingly insignificant action shows his enormous heart. Small details are important . . . Being thoughtful to the needs of those around us is a feature of courageous people.

We can all do something, even something "small," for the good of other people, of humanity, and for the future. Like Pestalozzi. Like Sensei.

Can you think of something you could do to bring more happiness to the people around you? |

5. IKEDA, Daisaku: *The New Human Revolution*, Vol. 5 (tentative translation).

6. Ibid. (adapted).



J.H. Pestalozzi

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