

March Discussion Topic - The Power of the Youth and Youthfulness

Ikeda Sensei en Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel expressed in a joint appeal to the youth of the world their full confidence that they can overcome the challenges confronting humankind and to be the authors of their own lives and the new century: “The future of humankind depends on the present, on young people who have the courage to confront reality, never submitting before adversity. (...) We consider it to be of the greatest importance to human society today and in the future that young people commit themselves to international co-operation to usher in a new century of hope; that they unite in solidarity to protect the dignity of life, fight injustice and make equally accessible those things that are necessary for people to live in freedom. (...) Our hope is infinite because we believe that youth will know how to resolve the many diverse worldwide challenges in solidarity.”¹

“When young people who embrace the Mystic Law awaken deeply to their mission, they can bring forth far greater strength and ability than they ever thought they possessed. They can strive freely, in a way that is true to themselves. There’s no need to hold back or put yourself down, thinking that you’re not capable or good enough. Nichiren Buddhism teaches the principle of “illuminating and manifesting one’s true nature” (cf. WND-1, 746). Through the power of the Mystic Law, you can give fullest expression to your individuality and special qualities. We each have a mission that only we can fulfill.”²

Dedicating ourselves to worldpeace (kosenrufu) , breaking our limits together with the youth and staying young at heart is the eternal tradition of the always youthful Soka Gakkai. What does youthful mean? It is the inner strength not to stagnate and be open to change and new possibilities. Youthful means to be full of determination. It has nothing to do with age. No matter how your situation was last year or yesterday, is not important. It is important how you challenge yourself, and from today on go forward and win. This is the spirit of Nichiren Buddhism.

* How can we best support the youth to fulfill their mission and bring out their potential? Do you have an experience with that?

* How do you challenge yourself to keep your youthfulness? Do you have an experience with that?

¹ From ‘An Appeal for Resilience and Hope—by Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and Daisaku Ikeda’, Rome, June 5, 2018

² SGI Nieuwsbrief 9747.