

# Song of Human Revolution

## Background of the Song:

On the afternoon of July 1, 1976, President Ikeda and Vice Presidents Fukushima and Yanagihara went to the National Art Museum in Tokyo for the "Third Civilization Exhibition". In the car heading for the museum, President Ikeda said, "We need a new song. ... How about calling it the 'Song of Human Revolution'? Let's write it!" The two agreed but wondered who would do it. "The title of the song is very important. ..." They were thinking, "Probably no one but the author of The Human Revolution can write it". Then they felt reassured when the president added, "It'll have words and music by Shin'ichi Yamamoto, how about that?" Then, from his mouth came the following verses: "Stand up on your own. I'll be standing on my own. Let one man stand bravely on this field — for *kosen-rufu* ..." "What do you think about these words? Let's do our activities singing this song in our culture festivals and discussion meetings for the rest of the year."

About two weeks later, President Ikeda had finished the song himself and played it at the monthly leaders meeting on July 18. Up until the morning of July 17, he was hard at work on the lyrics and melody. When he was working on the tune, he would hum repeatedly and revise the melody, together with a pianist who played it back. On finishing the final version late that night, he called the vice presidents and other leaders to let them listen to the song over the phone. Even after he announced it at the leaders meeting, he continued retouching the music. On one occasion, as if speaking to himself, he said, "Who will be firmly determined to fight by hearing this song?" How many people will stand up?" Everyone who happened to be there suddenly realized President Ikeda's reason for making the song.

The human revolution is the basis of *kosen-rufu* and the Soka Gakkai's fundamental goal. A great revolution of one person, Josei Toda, awakened another, young Shin'ichi Yamamoto, and this expanded further into numberless waves of human revolution among the people of the world. Likewise, the human revolution each of us attains will without fail change the destinies of the people in our families, our places of work and our communities. This is what we call *kosen-rufu*. But without our own human revolution, what progress can be made towards *kosen-rufu*? Each has to stand firmly, himself resolved, to sing the song of a living revolution within our lives, and continue onward with our mentor.

*(adapted from Seikyo Times)*