

Song of Indomitable Dignity

Background of the Song:

This song was born amid severe circumstances out of the Kyoto members' unwavering spirit to continue, and could be described as a wonderful part of the history of the *kosen-rufu* movement. This song was written in 1955, 1956 by a Kyoto Men Division (MD) member, Mr Ohashi.

At that time, Mr Ohashi operated an umbrella wholesale outlet, but the bankruptcy of a business associate resulted in his being saddled with enormous debt, making his daily life excruciatingly difficult. It was at that time that he heard about Buddhism.

After taking faith, Mr Ohashi joined his friend in sharing the Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism teaching with others. Before that period had elapsed, the business associate who had absconded came back and returned the 30,000 yen. Having gained confidence in faith through this experience, Mr Ohashi told more and more people about Buddhism.

There was a movement among districts in the organization to come up with their own songs. The Kyoto area had no song, and that made the members feel left out. When Mr Ohashi pointed this out to one of his leaders, the leader handed him a pencil and paper and suggested that he go ahead and write one.

Mr Ohashi hadn't an inkling of songwriting experience, but what he did possess was passion. Standing before a small desk in his shop, he thought the matter over. As soon as he had decided on "indomitable dignity" as the theme, it was as though his pencil began moving on its own and the words of the song just flowed out. "Though I may presently be beaten down, when I enter the ranks of *kosen-rufu*, I stand up with indomitable courage." He also worked out the melody by trial and error. The song changed slightly every time he sang it, and it took a month before it was completed.

Though it was a time when there were no tape recorders. People who heard the song took to it, and soon it was being passed by word of mouth from one person to the next. When the Kyoto Chapter was inaugurated, it was made the chapter song, and the members singing it proudly and vigorously, went on to make their new chapter the first in propagation in the nation. The sparkled the enthusiasm of members across Japan.

People widely recognized Mr Ohashi as a "master of dialogue" and an expert at giving individual guidance. It is said that those in whom no one else could stir any response would listen carefully to what he had to say. Not long before he died, Mr Ohashi remarked to someone who asked him what more he would like to do, he replied, "I would like to do activities again together with everyone." Mr Ohashi was a genuine "champion of the people", true to the words of "Song of Indomitable Dignity".