



EDITORIAL
FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR
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Refill our Hearts with Hope

Dear Friends,
December. The last month of the first year of the decisive decade which will determine the destiny of humankind. 2021 has set our new trajectory.

I know that in this December period I will be spending a good part of the time mourning friends and family who died in this year for whom there wasn't time to properly mourn. Earlier this year it seemed as if we were waking up every day to learn of the passing of another friend, legend, (s)hero and community member. Just after the announcement of one death, came announcement of another. Without time to catch your breath. 2021 has been, and continues for many to be, an unprecedented time of deep sorrow, difficulties and suffering. In December I will give myself time to grieve, to pray for and write poetry about, to conduct ceremonies to honour the lives of fallen loved ones.

Living with death has taught us that the daily choices we make can either empower and save our lives or can enervate our lives, weakening our life state. As Sensei conveyed in a message received earlier this year, "Never surrender your wondrous life." Having experienced this time of death, let us choose hope, choose life, in every moment.

2021, themed the Year of Hope and Victory, is not over as yet. What might still be outstanding on your Victory list for 2021? Have you felt overwhelmed and felt anxious about the goals you had set for yourself?

There is no need to feel overwhelmed. Rather where you are now is the perfect moment. To begin again, to begin anew. We practice the Buddhism of True Cause (honnin-myō). And as

Sensei encourages us, "If you failed yesterday, strive to win today. If you were defeated today, strive to win tomorrow."

We should not compare ourselves with anyone. It is not healthy or value creative to do so. Today, we just have to determine to improve on our best self of yesterday, and do the same tomorrow.

The important thing is to continue to return to the wellspring of revitalisation. In this time of completion, let's enter into the vortex of the Mystic Law by chanting powerful daimoku. Connecting with the Law of life in the universe will enable us to strengthen our confidence and refill our hearts with hope. It is not too late. Devoting even one half an hour a day to a task is to break it down into doable pieces. One step at a time. An accumulation of one half an hour's effort every day can help clear the debris, helping the energy to freely flow in our lives, infused with our highest power.

December can be a gift providing an opportunity for connecting with family, friends and nature on a deeper level with a greater sense of space and time to honour the sacredness of our relationship. For others, December might be a time of great quiet when they go within, reflecting and pondering on the events of the year in preparation for the new year to come.

Next year is the Year of Youth and Dynamic Progress. We will be running with exuberance and youthful spirit. We are Bodhisattvas of the Earth. We were born to win over ourselves and over our circumstances in this time. Until the last minute, let's continue to write the story of 2021 with Hope and Victory.

Loren Braithwaite Kabosha