



EDITORIAL

By Kyoko Morgan, SGI-SA Women's leader

Becoming Happy Without Fail

We have been hit by a few curveballs from the universe in the last few years to wake us up: the corona virus, subsequent lockdown all over the world, and now, the looming possibility of a nuclear war. All this while we face natural calamities all over the world caused by global warming, which is steadily accelerating, whether we pay attention or not.

Now we really know that we live in what Buddhism calls the age of Mappo, the Latter Day of the Law. This is a time when conflicts and natural disasters occur one after another as a result of the “three poisons” of anger, greed and foolishness within us being out of control. Many people have lost the desire for enlightenment, or not even heard of such a concept.

ASSUMING THE APPROPRIATE KARMA

We might think, “I have been born at such a terrible time. What bad karma!” In Buddhism, however, we have a concept of “Voluntarily Assuming the Appropriate Karma.” According to this concept, although we may not remember it, as bodhisattvas, we chose to be born with a particular set of challenges, so that as we overcome them we can encourage other people facing the same challenges.

This passage from the recent message we received from Mama Kaneko Ikeda, reiterates this point: “One of the five eternal guidelines of the Soka Gakkai is ‘Faith for overcoming obstacles.’ Discussing this guideline in a lecture, my husband shared these words of President

Toda: ‘Nichiren Buddhism is a teaching that enables those facing adversity to become happy without fail. Those who overcome hardship through faith can bring forth incredible strength. They can truly become an ally to others who are suffering.’”

Our General Director Loren’s continuous challenge with her daunting illness and how she has inspired so many people, including me, through her human revolution attests to this.

ALL EQUALLY ENDOWED

Individually we might feel we are small and can’t do anything to change the world. On the contrary, the Lotus Sutra says we are all equally endowed with the Buddha nature.

Anne Frank was a child during the Second World War when she wrote, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” She was not a Buddhist, but her message really conveys the spirit of the Lotus Sutra.

I would like to conclude with this passage from Mama Kaneko’s message:

“My husband said that our efforts to transform this global adversity will surely bring to the 21st century an even more brilliant flowering of

capable individuals, each shining in their own unique way. These beautiful ‘human flowers’ [a phrase from the Lotus Sutra] will carry on the vow to establish the correct teaching for the peace of the land and ensure the eternal transmission of the Law.”

Let’s all of us remember that we are such human flowers (whatever our gender) and let’s bloom in our own unique way. ■

‘...NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.’