



A week after the headquarters general meeting, on Nov. 15 [1957], I received Instruction and guidance on various subjects from President Toda in the first-floor reception room. My mentor's eyes flashed keenly as he said to me: **“Once we have embarked on a struggle for kosen-rufu, we must win at all costs. To lose after having begun a battle is a huge disgrace.”**

These words still ring in my ears to this day.

Having begun a struggle, we must not lose. The only choice is to break through every obstacle and every intrigue that seeks to block our advance, and boldly and courageously win.

In the midst of that insidious plot by the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood in 1979, I stepped down as the Soka Gakkai president. But resigning my organizational Position didn't mean that my mission for kosen-rufu had come to an end. All alone, **recalling my mentor's words**, I made a firm, resolute vow deep in my heart that I would triumph. And **it was Tokyo that eventually offered me the opportunity to drastically change our oppressive situation**. This also took place during month of the Soka Gakkai's founding, the profoundly significant month of new determination and action.

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**On Nov. 2, 1981**, members from Tokyo's Tachikawa and Nishitama areas had assembled at the **Soka University Central Gymnasium** [the place where his resignation was announced on May 3, 1979]. Two days earlier, I had given a lecture to Soka University students titled "Thoughts on History and Historical Figures: Living Amid Persecution," and I burned with a fighting spirit for justice. I was undaunted by jealous attacks and malicious slanders, by persecution waged by villainous authorities. Look at what the ancient Chinese historian Ssu-ma Chien had undergone! Look at Mahatma Gandhi and Victor Hugo! Their lives had been a long series of such persecutions. How much more honorable it was to encounter persecution over the noble cause of propagating Buddhism! I was resolved. My heart blazed with the determination to usher in a brilliant new dawn that November.

At the joint general meeting for Tachikawa and Nishitama, I offered guidance on the theme that Buddhism is a win-or-lose endeavor. **Then I rose with fan in hand. Responding to the members' request, I led them in a song marking our new beginning, "Ah, the Dawn Approaches":**

*Ah, the dawn approaches,  
Ah, the dawn approaches,  
Arise, my friends, children of liberty . . .*

United, we sang with all our hearts, and a powerful wave of emotion swept through the gymnasium. Faces shone with determination—the determination to fight resolutely. I was happy, my heart filled with joy. **The members had been waiting for the day when I would once again boldly take the lead for kosen-rufu.**

## **President Ikeda's Schedule in November, 1981**

**11.8 Osaka, Kansai**

**11.9 Tokushima**

**11.10 Tokushima**

**11.11 Takamatsu**

**11.12 Kagawa**

**11.13 Kagawa**

**11.14 Kagawa**

**11.15 Osaka, Kansai**

**11.16 Osaka, Kansai**

**11.17 Wakayama, Kansai**

**11.18 Wakayama, Kansai**

**11.19 Nara, Kansai**

**11.20 Nara, Kansai**

**11.21 Osaka, Kansai**

**11.22 Osaka, Kansai**

**11.23 Shiga, Kansai**

**11.24 Fukui**

**11.26 Shiga, Kansai**

**11.27 Gifu**

**11.28 Gifu**

**11.29 Nagoya**

**11.30 Shizuoka**



Leading a song in appreciation for the members' efforts, Kansai, Japan, 1981.