

I was scheduled to visit our members in Kyoto and Shiga, but I changed my plans and hurried to the head temple, taking President Akiya and other top leaders with me. That was March 25, 1982.

The high priest awaited us, as puffed up with anger as an *asura* (contentious demons of Indian mythology). He shouted imperiously about the youth division's vow to "elevate the Buddhism of the Daishonin to the spirit of our age, to the spirit of the entire world." He charged that it was disrespectful to suggest that something already as elevated as the Daishonin's Buddhism could be elevated further.

And he had complaints about the wording of my speech. In thanking him for attending, I had addressed him as "His Eminence Nikken Shonin," when I should have said "His Eminence, the High Priest."

This was all he had to say after witnessing that marvelous festival! How foolish and sad was his pathetic attempt to assert authority! With painful clarity, Nikken was revealing himself as a faithless priest, who was cloaking himself in the high priest's robes, who was ruled by devilish forces, who had lost his mind with jealousy. This incident made us indignant. Its sheer absurdity made us laugh — but without mirth.

One day white clouds covering
the ridgeline were blown up like
snow; perhaps the wind was fierce
there. The higher the mountain,
The stronger the wind.
I thought myself: Mt. Fuji is in
battle mode! The mountain is
fighting gallantly!

***Standing alone,
With no fear,
Mt. Fuji.***

April 2003
Daisaku Ikeda

Excerpt from **Mt. Fuji and the Poet**



Mt. Fuji is a third-generation volcano created upon two other volcanoes.
(Shizuoka, March 1982)

小御岳火山、古富士火山の上に形成され、富士山は第三代の火山（1982年3月 静岡）

A photo taken by President Ikeda on March, 1982

Let the Bells of the People's Victory Ring Out Far and Wide!

***Loudly and joyfully,
the second Seven Bells
ring in a new year,
reverberating through the skies
of the new century.***

***Bells of philosophy,
bells of happiness,
bells of peace
sound forth
from every corner of the globe,
echoing in clamorous waves
to announce to this century
the full-fledged start
of the age of Soka.***

.....

***Come, let us, too, set forth once more
with unwavering perseverance
on the great path of peace and humanism
leading to a new global civilization-
so that the throne of humanity
will shine with the jeweled crown
of lasting peace,
so that people of future generations
may wear the laurels
of humanistic values-
as we ring with all our might,
with gallant pride, joy and vigor,
the invincible bells of victory,
the golden bells of hope,
in our communities, in our societies,
and in our hearts.***

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Daisaku Ikeda

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