

To My Dear Young French Friends Who Embrace the Mystic Law

(Excerpt)

**You have now arisen
As pioneers of the noble and eternal movement of *kosen-rufu*
Lifting the banners of justice,
Of freedom,
And of life.**

.....

**We must know
That people will gather only around
The courageous heroes of justice
Who stand alone and advance resolutely,
Defying the slope of difficulties
And the range of steep mountains.**

.....

**The two hundred youths standing here today!
You will stand here on the summit of the second phase
In the *kosen-rufu* of France,
Signing the song of victory,
Sending forth resounding applause.
That very day of accomplishment
Is June 14 of the year 2001.
This is the day to aim for.**

**Paris, France
June 14, 1981**



「世界で一番仲の良い前進を」と友に呼びかけた
(アメリカ・ニューヨーク 1981年6月)

Glen Cove, New York, June 1981



President Ikeda with New York members, June 1981, on the day he wrote the poem 'To My Young American Friends.'

“To My Beloved Young American Friends-Youthful Bodhisattvas of the Earth”

(Excerpt)

*The world today is ailing.
This continental land, America,
is also faltering, about to succumb to the same illness.*

.....

*Never forget your vow,
made in the infinite past,
to love this homeland,
to stand alone against injustice
as vibrant youth of high ideals,
undertaking the adventure
and battle for human advancement.*

.....

*You who shoulder America's future!
Recalling, learning from the assaults borne by the Daishonin,
never fear the persecutions that will
inevitably arise as kosen-rufu unfolds.
Never become base or cowardly!
Never be taken in by the false
and cunning words
of those who have betrayed their faith.*

.....

*Youthful friends and comrades
swirling out onto the grand stage
of the twenty-first century!
Not a single one of you should fall behind.*

.....

*Confident that from yet narrow path
you will forge a grand passage into the future,
I am happy and filled with joy.*

New York
June 20, 1981

Refused to be intimidated by evil forces, which kept him in Tokyo most of time, President Ikeda determined to make guidance trips in areas such as Kansai, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Akita in late '81 and early '82.

Note: The theme of SGI for both years, '81 and '82, was *Year of Youth*.