Soka Gakkai
Books and Publications
— Books on Buddhism and Humanity —
The Soka Gakkai is a community-based Buddhist organization that promotes peace, culture and education centered on respect for the dignity of life. Its organizational roots date back to 1930, when first president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and second president Josei Toda founded the forerunner of the Soka Gakkai. In 1960, Daisaku Ikeda became the third president at the time of the emergence of a growing membership around the world, and the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was formed in 1975 with Ikeda as its president.

Soka Gakkai members uphold the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism in 192 countries and territories around the world. Individual Soka Gakkai members strive to actualize their inherent potential while contributing as empowered global citizens to their local communities and responding to the shared issues facing humankind. The Soka Gakkai’s efforts to help build a lasting culture of peace are based on a commitment to dialogue and nonviolence, and the understanding that individual happiness and the realization of a peaceful world are inextricably linked.

As a nongovernmental organization with formal ties to the United Nations, the SGI also collaborates with other civil society organizations, intergovernmental agencies and faith groups in the fields of nuclear disarmament, human rights education, sustainable development and humanitarian relief.

The International Publications Department of the Soka Gakkai is responsible for procedures regarding the publication of works by Daisaku Ikeda and the sacred Buddhist texts on which the Soka Gakkai is based. With the aim of spreading the philosophy and ideas of SGI and SGI President Ikeda, the International Publications Department manages the planning, translation, contracts and copyright administration of all these titles. Please contact us at foreignrights@soka.jp for further information about the translation and publication of any of the titles listed in this catalogue. We would be delighted to hear from you.

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Websites
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https://www.daisakuikeda.org/
https://www.nichirenlibrary.org/

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Three Founding Presidents and the History of the Soka Gakkai

First President
Tsunesaburo Makiguchi
www.tmakiguchi.org

Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871–1944) was a geographer, educational theorist and religious reformer. As an educator, Makiguchi was devoted to the happiness of children and worked to ensure that economically disadvantaged children were given equal opportunities. In 1928, he was introduced to Nichiren Buddhism, finding in it a holistic philosophy that accorded with his own thinking. On November 18, 1930, he published *The System of Value-Creating Pedagogy*. This date marks the founding of the Soka Kyoiku Gakkai (Value-Creating Education Society), the forerunner of the Soka Gakkai.

The organization initially consisted of teachers promoting educational reform guided by Makiguchi’s ideas and his belief in happiness as the core objective of education. Over time, it developed into a broader-based movement focused on the practice of Nichiren Buddhism and its philosophy of empowerment. During World War II, Makiguchi and his protégé Josei Toda were imprisoned by the military government for resisting state control of religion. Makiguchi died in prison without ever having compromised his beliefs.

Second President
Josei Toda
www.joseitoda.org

Josei Toda (1900–58) was a school teacher and protégé of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi. In 1930, Makiguchi and Toda founded the Soka Kyoiku Gakkai (Value-Creating Education Society), whose original aim was to promote Makiguchi’s educational theories. Toda was imprisoned along with Makiguchi during World War II for opposing Japan’s militarist government.

Upon release from prison at the end of the war, Toda set out to rebuild the organization, renaming it the Soka Gakkai (Society for the Creation of Value), reflecting a commitment to realizing global peace and empowering individuals through Buddhist practice. As second president, he developed the organization into one of Japan’s most significant lay Buddhist associations.

Toda coined the term “human revolution” to express the central idea of Nichiren Buddhism—that an individual’s inner transformation positively transforms their circumstances and their environment. He advocated a vision of global citizenship and, in 1957, issued a historic declaration calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. By the time of his death at the age of 58, he had built an organization of nearly one million members.

Third President
Daisaku Ikeda
Current president of the Soka Gakkai International
www.daisakuikeda.org

Daisaku Ikeda was born in 1928. As a teenager, he experienced the horrors of World War II, which fueled his lifelong commitment to peace. At 19, he met Josei Toda, who became his mentor.

Ikeda became the third president of the Soka Gakkai in 1960, leading its international development. In 1975, he founded the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), now a worldwide association in 192 countries and territories. He has also founded cultural, educational and peace-related institutions including an educational system with universities in Japan and the USA. Ikeda is a prolific author. His works include discourses on Buddhism, essays, poetry and children’s literature. He has published dialogues with leaders, cultural figures and scholars from around the world discussing ways of resolving the common challenges facing humanity.

Since 1983, he has written annual peace proposals that examine the interrelation between core Buddhist concepts and key global issues. As leader of the SGI, he has inspired grassroots efforts for a nuclear-weapon-free world and continues to explore viable routes toward nuclear abolition.

The Human Revolution and The New Human Revolution series
in Japanese

The Human Revolution and The New Human Revolution series
in translation
Ikeda’s dialogues with renowned figures and scholars from around the world

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker (Germany)
Co-president of the Club of Rome
March, 2010 in Tokyo

Joseph Rotblat (Poland)
Cofounder of Pugwash Conferences of Science and World Affairs, Nobel Peace laureate
February, 2000 in Okinawa

Jutta Unkart-Seifert (Austria)
Former undersecretary of Austria’s Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts, and Sports
September, 2001 in Tokyo

Wangari Muta Maathai (Kenya)
Ecologist, Nobel Peace laureate
July, 1995 in Tokyo

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (South Africa)
Former President of South Africa, Nobel Peace laureate
April, 1999 in Tokyo

Abdurrahman Wahid (Indonesia)
Former President of Indonesia
April, 2002 in Tokyo

Stuart Rees (Australia)
Founder of the Sydney Peace Foundation
April, 2009 in Tokyo
Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia)
former President of the Soviet Union, Nobel Peace laureate

Chingiz Aitmatov (Kyrgyz Republic)
Kyrgyz writer

Linus Pauling (USA)
Nobel Chemistry and Peace laureate

Jin Yong (China)
Chinese novelist

Matsushita Konosuke (Japan)
founder of Panasonic Corporation

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Argentina)
Nobel Peace laureate

Zhou En-lai (China)
former prime minister of China

Wang Meng (China)
former Chinese Minister of Culture, Chinese writer

Austregésilo de Althayde (Brazil)
former president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters

Herbie Hancock / Wayne Shorter (USA)
Grammy Award-winning jazz musicians

Rosa “Lee” Louise McCauley Parks (USA)
Civil rights activist

December, 1974 in Beijing

February, 1990 in Moscow

September, 1992 in Tokyo

February, 1990 in California

January, 1993 in California

April, 2000 in Tokyo

December, 1995 in Tokyo

November, 1995 in Hong Kong

November, 1983 in Tokyo

February, 1993 in Rio de Janeiro

December, 1995 in Tokyo
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Choose Life: A Dialogue

with Arnold J. Toynbee, British historian

This is the record of a thought-provoking discussion between an eminent historian Arnold J. Toynbee (1889–1975), raised in the Judeo-Christian tradition and well-known for his work A Study of History, and Daisaku Ikeda, an influential Buddhist leader of Japan. At the invitation of Toynbee, who was deeply interested in Eastern philosophy and Buddhism, Ikeda visited his home in London in 1972 and 1973 and engaged in a series of dialogues to discuss an array of problems facing humanity. This book documents their discussions, which spanned a total of 40 hours over two years.

Despite the authors’ differences of cultural and religious backgrounds, they agree that religion is the mainspring of human life and civilization. In order to find answers and solutions to the acute problems facing mankind around the world, they say, it is imperative that human beings’ egoism—the innate tendency of humans to exploit the universe—has to be overcome. Expanding an individual self into the universal self or the ultimate reality is the only way to overcome egoism and the only means of social betterment.

This volume covers a number of issues ranging from specific to global and transcends generations—perennial problems of human nature and our relationship to other creatures, the environment and the universe.

Choose Life has been published in more than 30 languages.
The Lotus Sutra has spread beyond India into China, Korea, Japan and many other countries. It has been called “the king of sutras.” Why has the Lotus Sutra attracted so many people of different cultural backgrounds over so many generations? In this series, Ikeda discusses how the Lotus Sutra praises the dignity of life and how its teachings can contribute to promoting the humanism that the world requires today. Ikeda not only explains the meaning and significance of each chapter of the Lotus Sutra but also discusses the influence of the Lotus Sutra on humanity, education and society. The messages of peace and tolerance that come to us from the Lotus Sutra provide a key to solving the problems of the 21st century.

Unlocking the Mysteries of Birth and Death: A Buddhist View of Life

Buddhism started with Shakyamuni’s realization that birth, aging, sickness and death are universal sufferings that all human beings are destined to face. They are usually considered to be factors that lead to our unhappiness and tend to be resented. While many schools of Buddhism teach that there can be no true happiness or enlightenment without eliminating earthly desires, Nichiren Buddhism recognizes that some desires create value, and that desires based on truth rather than delusion can even lead to enlightenment. Ikeda delves into each of the four sufferings and offers insight on how these unavoidable sufferings can be transformed into sources of wisdom and personal fulfillment.
Ikeda has given speeches at more than 30 universities, research institutes and academies throughout the world. He has spoken on art, literature and education; the many aspects and dimensions of culture; religion and our time; and, perhaps dearest to his heart, the imperative of peace. These talks have been presented at a wide range of institutions: Harvard University, Moscow State University, the University of Bologna, Peking University, the University of California at Los Angeles, the Brazilian Academy of Letters and L’Institut de France, among others. In all of these speeches, Ikeda reaches out to build bridges of friendship, understanding and communication with people everywhere. He does this not by insisting on his own position, but by exploring the legacy that the great thinkers and doers of humanity have left to us, highlighting the beliefs and achievements of other great individuals, and introducing them to his listeners. In this way he has been able not only to connect to audiences across the globe but to expand their horizons and encourage them to seek further on their own.

America’s premier scientist and peace activist Linus Pauling (1901–94) and Daisaku Ikeda worked for decades in the cause of disarmament, international understanding and world peace. A timely publication at a critical juncture in world affairs, this book is the product of their discussions held at SULA (a branch of Soka University in Los Angeles) in 1987. While the dialogue spells out their efforts and prescriptions for dealing with current crises, it also recounts Pauling’s recollections of his childhood, his development as a scientist, and many episodes about his life and the people he has known—Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer among them. This volume gives a broad and personal glimpse of Pauling, recipient of two unshared Nobel Prizes (for chemistry in 1954 and for peace in 1962). The authors, active and vocal in their advocacy of responsible and humane progress in science, send their inspiring messages to young people, on whose shoulders the problems of the 21st century rest.
Mother awaits the revival of those healthful days when as children, eyes brimming with pristine tears, we rested in her embrace; the peaceful cradled nights when she performed her soul songs for us, as we dreamed with easy breath and ventured through fabled gardens…

—Daisaku Ikeda, "Mother," from Journey of Life

Since his youth, Ikeda has written countless poems covering a variety of subjects—sometimes encouraging friends who are struggling, sometimes thinking about world peace. This collection features 50 poems composed between 1945 and 2007 including: “Blossoms that scatter” (1947), written when Ikeda was seventeen; “Daybreak” (1966), one of a handful of poems published during the 1960s; and “August 15—The dawn of a new day” (2001), one of the more than 200 long-form poems composed between 2000 and 2006. Ikeda has dedicated himself to restoring the poetic heart and mind among individuals. In each poem, Ikeda demonstrates unwavering conviction and trust in humanity and offers inspiration for nurturing a humanistic global culture.

The Light of Learning: Selected Writings on Education

Originally published in 2001 under the title, Soka Education, and revised in 2010, The Light of Learning contains a new title, six new works, and revised translations to better reflect what Prof. Jason Goulah in the foreword calls Mr. Ikeda’s “uniquely Eastern and quintessentially universal” perspectives and practices in education. Ranging from educational proposals and university lectures to personal essays and poetry, the writings included in The Light of Learning provide a comprehensive introduction to Mr. Ikeda’s broad educational philosophy. Updated translations center on key terms and concepts that animate Mr. Ikeda’s singular contributions to the field.

Reviews

The writings in this volume are compelling and encouraging, a necessary guide in the uncertainty of our turbulent times and the urgency of the moment. They will resonate with all readers, whether scholar or practitioner, initiated or new to Ikeda’s work. Embodying his characteristic commitment to penetrating dialogue, they are ultimately an invitation to all of us to imagine possibility in the given, create value in our rationality, and to know others and ourselves and become truly human.

— From the foreword by Jason Goulah, Professor and Director, Institute for Daisaku Ikeda Studies, DePaul University
How can we overcome hatred and violence? How can we transform conflict into coexistence? In this collection of essays, Ikeda gives his perspectives on fundamental causes of violence and how to create a world where non-violence prevails over violence. “War is caused by people. It is therefore up to people whether or not we will create a world of peace. This is the challenge, indeed, the mission, that has been entrusted to each individual—each young person, in particular—alive today.” Ikeda emphasizes that peace does not exist somewhere far away but must first be created in the hearts of people.

Discussions on Youth

While giving advice on the things that young people worry about, such as friendship, love and work, this book’s comments on history, literature and the arts encourage us to think about what it means to live as a person of the 21st century. American high schools have welcomed it for classroom use for the hints given by Ikeda—a man who has conducted dialogues on various topics with prominent writers, thinkers, artists and scholars around the world—to the question of “how we should live.”
“The true and overriding task of religion is to empower people to exercise control over the heart and mind, enabling us to find in differences the rich value of uniqueness and diversity—to transform differences into a source of value creation. I believe what is required of a world religion today is to help bring about a revival in human values by firmly focusing on the eternal and the universal. A religion that embraces diversity as a defining quality of life will hail difference for its ability to enrich society and will engender the wisdom to employ that diversity to create maximum value.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, Reflections on the Global Civilization
Despite the heavy reliance on science and technology in the contemporary world, religion still persists today. Religious extremism and intolerance, however, have caused conflicts and even led to terrorism in some cases. What role, then, can religion play in today’s world of unprecedented cultural diversity? Cox, Hollis Research Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, and Ikeda emphasize the importance of questioning, discussing and learning from each other with open-mindedness. Exchanging views on a wide range of topics including non-violence, the Internet society, nuclear abolition and university education, the authors provide insight into how religion can contribute to creating a world of respect for humanity and a peaceful society.

Reflections on the Global Civilization emerged from a series of conversations between global peace advocates Ikeda and Tehranian (1937–2012), respectively of Japanese and Iranian origin. It covers the encounters between Buddhist and Islamic civilizations from the 7th century to the present. Despite all their cultural differences, Buddhism and Islam share a surprising number of intrinsic similarities. Now more than ever, the search for common ground across civilizations is of vital importance. The topics discussed include the nature of religious faith today, global ideological terrorism, religious fanaticism and universal human rights. The authors propose dialogue as the most effective method of conflict resolution in interpersonal, intranational and international communication.

Despite the heavy reliance on science and technology in the contemporary world, religion still persists today. Religious extremism and intolerance, however, have caused conflicts and even led to terrorism in some cases. What role, then, can religion play in today’s world of unprecedented cultural diversity? Cox, Hollis Research Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, and Ikeda emphasize the importance of questioning, discussing and learning from each other with open-mindedness. Exchanging views on a wide range of topics including non-violence, the Internet society, nuclear abolition and university education, the authors provide insight into how religion can contribute to creating a world of respect for humanity and a peaceful society.

This is an engrossing interfaith dialogue between Islam and Buddhism by two great religious leaders. Wahid (1940–2009) served as President of Indonesia from 1999 to 2001 and assumed leadership of the Nahdlatul Ulama, one of the largest independent Islamic organizations in the world. Wahid and Ikeda, despite their different religious backgrounds, are both open to each other and set an inspiring example of how a dialogue for peace can be conducted. Their candid exchange shows it is possible for people to work together for peace while overcoming differences in culture and religious faith.
Human Values in a Changing World

with Bryan Wilson, University of Oxford

Professor Bryan Wilson (1926–2004), a sociologist at the University of Oxford and former president of ISSR (International Society for the Sociology of Religion), devoted his professional life to research into religion and its role in contemporary society. This series of conversations includes discussions on the origins of religious sentiment in people as well as how it takes form in society, and the spiritual, moral and political impact religion has on our personal lives. Their stimulating discourse on medicine and its relation to religion are of great interest in light of the recent discoveries of the close connection between mental and physical health.

Our World to Make: Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Rise of Global Civil Society

with Ved Prakash Nanda, University of Denver

Dr. Nanda, born in India, is a legal scholar based in the US. His distinction in the arena of international law is reflected in his service as honorary president of the World Jurist Association and counselor of the American Society of International Law. Nanda and Ikeda discuss how to awaken a vision in humanity that gets to the heart of issues surrounding contemporary society. They propose practical solutions from the viewpoint of Buddhist, Hindu and Gandhian philosophies.

New Horizons in Eastern Humanism: Buddhism, Confucianism and the Quest for Global Peace

with Tu Weiming, Harvard University

Confucian philosophy is thousands of years old. The principles of Buddhist humanism are also expansive enough to embrace the entire cosmos. In this book, the authors investigate common features shared by Confucianism and Buddhism to explore how Oriental humanism can help avert the crises facing humankind today. A world authority on Chinese philosophy, Tu expresses his earnest desire that established civilizations become not only teachers, but students as well. Ikeda, who has firmly advocated amity between China and Japan, insists that building a global society where different cultures with different value systems respect and listen to each other is crucial in bringing a culture of peace into full flower.

Reviews

Our World To Make: Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Rise of Global Civil Society

“Our World To Make is engaging and articulate, and it will help contemporary intellectuals hone their thought processes to advance global harmony and peace.”

—Bal Ram Singh, Founding Director, Center for Indic Studies, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and President, Institute of Advanced Sciences

The Inner Philosopher: Conversations on Philosophy’s Transformative Power

These sparkling and engaging conversations make a compelling case for the importance of philosophy in our lives and in our world. Daisaku Ikeda and Lou Marinoff are ideal guides to the nature and function of wisdom, from the times of the ancients through the challenges we all face now. This is a book that should be read by leaders, teachers, students, and adults of all ages.

—Tom Morris, author of Philosophy for Dummies, If Aristotle Ran General Motors, and If Harry Potter Ran General Electric
Offering readers encouragement and advice on how to lead positive and value-creating lives, this book contains Ikeda’s thoughtful words selected from his works. The various topics include human relations, philosophy, the mysteries of life, youth, optimism, friendship, women, happiness, reading, art and culture, and long-lived society. All his words are based on his conviction that those who are truly happy are the ones who can lead other people to happiness. The reader will surely feel encouraged and empowered by Ikeda’s words as they read this book.

The philosophy of non-violence is becoming increasingly important in today’s world, where violence and terrorism have become widespread. Radhakrishnan, director of the memorial center Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in India, is one of the leading figures in the study of Mahatma Gandhi. Radhakrishnan and Ikeda discuss how the non-violence philosophy can contribute to solving problems facing humanity today, examining Gandhi’s non-violence movement and how it affected the peace and human rights movement around the world and tracing the origin of the non-violence philosophy back to Shakyamuni and King Ashoka.
"The spirit of self-regulation begins to operate when we realize that we exist because others do and feel concern for our surroundings, including other people. Neglecting self-regulation and insisting on one’s own rights alone destroys the environment on which we depend, thus engendering our own continued existence. This is why cultivation of a total human being capable of self-regulation and caring for others is indispensable to creating a century of human rights.

“As I mentioned earlier, Nichiren wrote that ‘the varied sufferings that all living beings undergo—all these are Nichiren’s own sufferings.’ This spirit of compassion and sympathy is the wellspring of the SGI movement and should form the foundation of the human rights philosophy of the twenty-first century.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, The Humanist Principle: On Compassion and Tolerance
The Third Stage of Life: Aging In Contemporary Society

For many people, retirement now marks a new beginning, sometimes referred to as the “third stage of life.” As the elderly population increases, the question of how to live a truly happy, fulfilling life after retirement has become the foremost health question. It is also necessary to build a society where people show respect for their elders. In this dialogue, Ikeda discusses key issues for leading a fulfilling life during one’s later years and explores topics such as maintaining one’s health, caring for the elderly, and the secrets of living a long life from the point of view of Buddhist humanism.

Moral Lessons of the Twentieth Century

with Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union

Since their first encounter in 1990, Mikhail Gorbachev (1931–2022), the former president of the Soviet Union, and Ikeda have continued their exchange through meetings and correspondence. Through their experiences of life amidst the turmoil of the 20th century, they share the belief that wars and violence cannot be justified for any reason, and that peace, progress and social justice can only be achieved through sincere communication and cultural exchange. The reader will be fascinated to find out that the two authors—representatives of Marxism and Buddhism respectively—delve into a discussion of the human spirit from within, on the shared idea of and trust in human beings.

Before It Is Too Late

with Aurelio Peccei, founder of the Club of Rome

Aurelio Peccei (1908–84), founder of the Club of Rome, was a wartime resistance fighter, leading industrialist, and the founding president of one of the world’s first think tanks to sound a critical warning regarding humanity’s chances for survival. Daisaku Ikeda leads one of the largest nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) affiliated with the United Nations. During the last four decades of the 20th century, he has visited country after country, campaigning tirelessly for the total abolition of war. In this book, the authors’ perspectives, developed through years of thinking, study and reflection, are brought to bear on the complex web of problems threatening the habitability of our planet.
### Embracing the Future

This book contains essays by Daisaku Ikeda that first appeared in the English-language newspaper *The Japan Times* between September 2003 and January 2008. The wide range of topics covered include the aging society, empowerment of women, abolition of nuclear weapons, bullying and human rights. Although some of the themes may seem distant from the everyday life of the reader, each essay in this book emphasizes that the key to overcoming the problems that surround us lies within each individual. This book makes a timely and vital contribution to ethics, peace studies, international relations as well as our own lives.

### Human Rights in the Twenty-first Century

with **Austregésilo de Athayde**, Brazilian Academy of Letters

Austregésilo de Athayde (1898–1993) was president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters for 34 years until his death in September 1993. He was best known as a South American champion of human rights, and played a major role in drafting the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this book, Athayde recounts how the UN declaration came into being, and his role in the process. In this dialogue, Ikeda discusses the Buddhist ideas of compassion, freedom and equality, and their potential to enrich the human rights movement.

### On Living

This book, with **Konosuke Matsushita**, founder of Panasonic Corporation

Konosuke Matsushita (1894–1989), founder of Matsushita Electronics, is a 20th century industrial icon, fondly known in Japan as the “god of management.” The dialogue between this self-made entrepreneur and Ikeda cover a wide range of subjects: human beings and their existence, life and death, religion and morality, education and civilization, and world peace. Their keen observations on human society offer a comprehensive survey of the philosophy of life of ordinary people.

### On Many Treasures

What can we call a happy life in this age of unprecedented longevity? The essays included in this book reveal the importance of continuing to grow and stresses that our hearts can become ever stronger, deeper and more enriched as we age. The author likens those who keep growing and accumulating treasures of the heart in their later life to the Buddha Many Treasures that appears in the Lotus Sutra. He calls them “Many Treasures” friends with the utmost respect.
with Josef Derbolav, University of Bonn

Josef Derbolav (1912–87) was emeritus professor of the University of Bonn and an authority on pedagogy and Greek philosophy. He and Daisaku Ikeda take up such topics as the historical relations between Japan and Germany, modernization of traditional lifestyles, humanism of the East and West, the roles of ethics and religion, Buddhism and Christianity, educational reforms and how the present can benefit the future. They conclude that the radical alteration of our current way of thinking is necessary to conquer the daunting problems facing humanity.

The Humanist Principle: On Compassion and Tolerance

with Felix Unger, European Academy of Sciences and Arts

Unger, president of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, is concerned that violence and terrorism have become more widespread these days and maintains that materialistic values have expanded while humanistic values have diminished. Unger and Ikeda emphasize a humanistic perspective centered on the values of tolerance, compassion and dialogue, an approach that can overcome the negative consequences of materialism, nationalism and the market economy. Their discussion also includes the significance of intercultural and interfaith dialogue, the relationship between human beings and spirit, as well as society and non-human nature.

Ikeda, an avid reader since childhood, grew up on the literary masterpieces of the world, absorbing the universal wisdom and principles contained in them. Arranged by theme into six chapters, this book is filled with stories about historical personalities such as John Milton, Napoleon and Florence Nightingale, and episodes from world history and literary classics such as War and Peace and Faust. Each of the essays imparts a gem of wisdom and a compass indicating the way to live in modern communities and how to strengthen our families and society.
“Buddhism, as it travelled west beyond the borders of India, exerted an influence upon Greek thought and the teachings of early Christianity. And moving east, it entered into a dialogue with the age-old culture of China, resulting in time in the formation of what we call Chinese Buddhism. Interacting in a sincere and responsible way with the earlier teachings of Confucianism and Taoism, it established a place in Chinese society, and in the principle known as ‘three thousand realms in a single moment of life,’ propounded by the T’ien-t’ai school of Buddhism, made a brilliant contribution to the history of world philosophy.

“Japan in the thirteenth century saw the appearance of one of the most commanding figures of human history, Nichiren, who, basing himself on the Lotus Sutra and the teachings of the T’ien-t’ai school, expounded a type of Buddhism that sought to promote the happiness of the populace and the advancement of world peace.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, *Buddhism: A Way of Values: A Dialogue on Valorisation Across Time and Space*
Buddhism, which originated and was developed in India, gradually spread to China, a country with a wholly different cultural background. Though the core teachings were preserved, it was not unchanged by the people of China. The process in which new elements and changes were adapted to Buddhism provides a key to understanding some of the characteristics that qualify Buddhism as a world religion. Focusing on the narrative of those Chinese scholars and figures that upheld the Lotus Sutra and established the foundation of Chinese Buddhism, and the Tiantai School in particular, Ikeda offers intriguing insights into how Chinese Buddhism came into full flower.

Buddhism, The First Millennium

After Shakyamuni’s death, his followers established the foundation of Buddhism and spread it beyond India. This happened during a period of uncertainty, in which dissent arose among Shakyamuni’s followers and discrepancies over the interpretation of his teachings surfaced. Despite these challenges, Shakyamuni’s disciples endeavored to seek the realm of enlightenment that he had attained. Ikeda describes how Buddhism was handed down from one disciple to another and spread from India to other areas, and how the scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism, the Lotus Sutra in particular, were formed. The book also sheds light on historical figures such as King Ashoka, King Milinda and Nagarjuna, who practiced and developed Buddhism.

The Living Buddha: An Interpretive Biography

Unlike other major world religions, Buddhism depends on neither divine revelation nor an incarnation of God. Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha, was a man who attained enlightenment through his own efforts. As a biography of Shakyamuni, The Living Buddha is a vivid historical narrative based on what is known or what can reasonably be surmised about his life and times. It leads the reader through the journey Shakyamuni Buddha, a human being, underwent to create a new spiritual history for humanity, while devoting his life to the pursuit of eternal principles of truth.
with **Lokesh Chandra**, International Academy of Indian Culture

Lokesh Chandra and Daisaku Ikeda explore the wisdom of Oriental philosophies that can transcend superficial differences and unite humanity. Chandra commends Ikeda for reintroducing the Lotus Sutra and its essential teachings to India, as well as the sutra’s modern applications. Chandra is a Buddhist scholar and the general director of the International Academy of Indian Culture in New Delhi, India. The academy was founded in 1935 by Raghunara, Chandra’s father, to promote understanding of diverse cultures from a Buddhist perspective.

**My View on Tiantai**

Buddhism, which originated in India, found its way to China and flourished, reflecting the cultural and philosophical features of Chinese society. At the core of Chinese Buddhism can be seen the theoretical system of the Buddhist philosophy of the Tiantai school. Living at the point of contact between ancient Chinese systems of thought and the Buddhist way of thinking, Tiantai successfully developed Chinese Buddhism as a dynamic, unique system of thought. In the stream of Buddhist history, Shakyaamuni Buddha set forth the fundamental principles and Tiantai perfected Buddhism as an integrated philosophical theory. Ikeda details the development and progress of Tiantai’s Buddhism by vividly describing Tiantai’s life and introducing episodes from it.

**Life: An Enigma, a Precious Jewel**

“What does life mean to us?” This fundamental question has been discussed throughout history with no definitive answer. Despite the rapid progress of science and technology, life remains an enigma to most people. In this book, Ikeda discusses how the mystery of life as interpreted by Buddhism is linked with empirical deduction, explaining spatial and temporal aspects of life, self-realization and the Buddhist interpretation of death. Science and Buddhism approach the same questions in different ways and offer distinct answers. Ikeda’s analysis of modern science and Buddhism offers an intriguing perspective and draws the reader’s attention to their similarities.

**Review**

“There is little doubt that this book is one of the best available on ‘life,’ ‘spirit,’ and ‘life after death.’”

—M. A. Suseelan, Marywood College
Women & Gender

Philosophy, Psychology and Religion

History & World Affairs

Culture

Art & Literature

Poetry

Ethics & Humanity

English edition

Philosophy, Psychology and Religion

Women & Gender

History & World Affairs

Culture

Art & Literature

Poetry

Ethics & Humanity

English edition

The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin

LANGUAGE
English edition

Nichiren (1222–82) was the founder of the Buddhist tradition based on the Lotus Sutra which advocates chanting the phrase Nam-myoho-renge-kyo as a daily practice. Nichiren taught that this phrase represents the essence of the Lotus’s teaching. He embodied it in a mandala called the Gohonzon and taught that chanting the phrase with faith in the Gohonzon enables people in the present age to attain Buddhahood. In order to propagate his teaching and also to encourage his disciples, he wrote many treatises and letters. The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin contains 172 writings by Nichiren, and 234 documents are included in Volume 2.

The Lotus Sutra and Its Opening and Closing Sutras

LANGUAGE
English edition

A new edition containing a slightly revised English translation of the Lotus Sutra by Burton Watson includes translations of the Immeasurable Meanings Sutra and the Sutra on How to Practice Meditation on Bodhiastha Universal Worthy, traditionally regarded as the opening and closing sutras for the Lotus Sutra, for the first time. Based on the latest studies of the Lotus Sutra, this book presents these three sutras together in the form of opening, main and closing sutras in a way that may be more familiar to the reader.

The Essential Lotus: Selections from the Lotus Sutra

LANGUAGE
English edition

This abridged edition of Burton Watson’s acclaimed translation contains the Lotus Sutra’s essential chapters. The Essential Lotus refines the focus from the sprawling magnitude of the original to the chapters that expound its core ideas and have been the most influential in the later development of Buddhist and East Asian thought. From the famous parable of the burning house to the assertion that women can attain the highest enlightenment, The Essential Lotus presents the riches and profundities of one of the most beautiful treasures of any religious heritage.

The Record of the Orally Transmitted Teachings

LANGUAGE
English edition

This book contains the notes on Nichiren’s lectures on The Lotus Sutra and its opening and closing sutras as recorded by Nichiren’s close disciple and successor, Nikko. The notes were handed down for posterity with Nichiren’s permission. Citing the interpretations of Tiantai and Miao-lo of the Lotus Sutra, Nichiren explicates his own interpretations, reviving the heart of the Lotus Sutra whose aim was to emancipate all living beings from the suffering of birth and death. Translated by Burton Watson, an eminent translator from Chinese and Japanese to English.

Dictionary of Buddhism

LANGUAGE
English edition

The Soka Gakkai Dictionary of Buddhism contains more than 2,700 entries, including cross-references. The entries contain not only ideas and concepts directly related to Nichiren and the Lotus Sutra, but also those that would be of interest to students of Buddhism in general. Most entries appear as the English translation of a term or concept. This dictionary should be especially useful for the readers of Nichiren’s works in The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin and The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, Vol. 2, published by the Soka Gakkai.
“Though Dr. King is frequently referred to as a leader of the civil rights movement, Professor Harding believes that the term ‘civil rights movement’ is an inadequate description of the cause to which he and Dr. King dedicated themselves; he suggests instead that it should be seen as a broader ‘expansion of democracy.’ Many individuals have devoted their blood, sweat, and tears to this movement to expand democracy. We must never forget these unidentified champions, nor the fact that this movement itself is never ending. It is an ongoing effort, to be passed from one generation to the next, from adults to youth, for all eternity.

“This expansion of democracy is not just a matter of changing government policies or something that can be achieved by a select group of political leaders. It can only be accomplished when every individual in society, awakening to their own dignity and worth as well as that of others, stands up to join hands with their fellow citizens to build a better world based on true humanism.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, America Will Be!: Conversations on Hope, Freedom, and Democracy
**A Passage to Peace: Global Solutions from East and West**

*with Vincent Harding, American historian*

Vincent Harding (1931–2014)—friend and advisor to Martin Luther King Jr.—and Ikeda engage in a thrilling cross-cultural dialogue illuminating the historic events of the American civil rights movement. The reader will discover that the book not only sheds light on major leaders such as King, Gandhi and Obama, but also calls attention to the roles played by women and “ordinary people” in social transformation. Published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech, the book won the 2014 Society of Professors of Education Book Award.

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**A Dialogue Between East and West: Looking to a Human Revolution**

*with Ricardo Díez-Hochleitner, Honorary President of the Club of Rome*

This is a dialogue between Ricardo Díez-Hochleitner (1928–2020), honorary president of the Club of Rome, and Daisaku Ikeda. Dr. Díez-Hochleitner, who is originally from Spain, has held many key positions such as Spain’s education minister and third president of the Club of Rome. In their dialogue, they discuss the steps that humanity should take to resolve today’s global issues, emphasizing that world leaders must advance globalization centered on humanity’s happiness and education that fosters global citizens.
José Martí, Cuban Apostle

with Zhang Kailuan, Huazhong Normal University

Zhang is the former President of Huazhong Normal University and a renowned Chinese historian, best known for his study of the 1911 Xinhai Revolution. Regarding historians as “the ones that connect the past, the present and the future,” Zhang emphasizes the importance of dialogue. Ikeda, in turn, expresses his idea that learning from history and envisioning the future based on an authentic sense of history is required now more than ever and that the foundation of peace can be built thereupon. Zhang and Ikeda also discuss their views on the education of youth, the power of culture to connect people, and the Sino-Japanese relationship.

Napoleon of the Twenty-first Century

with Charles Napoléon, French politician

Prince Charles Napoléon, the great-great-grandson of Jérôme Bonaparte (1784–1860), the younger brother of Napoleon, is the present head of the Napoleon family. While Napoleon Bonaparte is often considered a dictator and conqueror, Prince Charles and Ikeda shed light on Napoleon as a man of culture, revealing how Napoleon promoted culture and education, laying the foundation of the modern French nation out of the chaos of the Revolution. Through the authors’ discussion of the aspects of Napoleon that have often been overlooked, readers will come to see Napoleon through fresh eyes.
with **M. S. Swaminathan**, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

Dr. Swaminathan is well known for his leading role in the Green Revolution that brought greater food security and prosperity to India. As the president of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, he dedicated himself to the elimination of nuclear weapons and to the attainment of global peace. In 1999, the American magazine *Time* named Swaminathan one of the most influential Asians of the 20th century. Published in 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, this book captures Dr. Swaminathan’s contribution to the Green Revolution and the idea of human revolution that Ikeda has promoted throughout the world.

**Japanese and Ukrainian: Different Destinies, Common Hopes**

**with Michael Zgurovsky**, National Technical University of Ukraine “Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

Ukraine, once the third largest nuclear power in the world, succeeded in eliminating nuclear weapons after experiencing the Chernobyl disaster. On the other hand, while Japan was the first country ever to be attacked with nuclear weapons, it has now successfully recovered from the devastation of World War II. Ikeda and Zgurovsky, rector of the National Technical University of Ukraine-Kyiv Polytechnic Institute in Ukraine, discuss the role of education in an information society, the Chernobyl disaster and energy security, scientific technology in a globalized world, the social mission of religion, environmental problems and more. The reader will find in this book the authors’ earnest desire to establish a culture of peace that enhances humanistic values.

**Shaping a New Society: Conversations on Economics, Education, and Peace**

**with Lawrence J. Lau**, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Dr. Lawrence J. Lau is an influential economist who served as a professor of economics at Stanford University and as the Vice Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This dialogue between Ikeda and Lau opens with an exploration of the financial challenges facing our time, including the Asian financial crisis of 1997, which Dr. Lau forecast, while also examining the fundamental factors that brought about the 2008 financial crisis. Global issues such as environmental pollution and nuclear disarmament are also discussed. Through their exchange, Lau and Ikeda seek a kind of education that prepares individuals for such turbulent times.

**Review**

“*These conversations between two distinguished educators offer a host of interesting insights. Topics range widely, including prospects for Japan, China, and Hong Kong and reflections on the global economy and how it can more fully succeed for the world’s population. What shines through most vividly is a commitment to the value of humane education and an eagerness to explore what this entails amid the many challenges of the contemporary world.*”

—Peter Stearns, Provost Emeritus and University Professor, George Mason University

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"After World War II, the United Nations was established thanks to people’s remorse and awareness that another war would imperil human survival, and their determination to never again allow another such war to take place.

"Whether we can abolish war depends on our ability to create a system where all the human wisdom can be gathered, although the creation of such a system seems cumbersome. "

"If war is ever to be abolished, ultimately it will be done by nurturing a “fortress of peace” in people’s hearts, and by cultivating the will to live in peace through education, in the broadest sense of the word."

— Daisaku Ikeda, A Quest for Global Peace
Every year since 1983, Daisaku Ikeda has submitted a peace proposal to the United Nations sharing his insights into the most effective means to solve various global problems. This volume comprises excerpts from his most significant proposals, divided into topics such as human security, educational reform, the empowerment of women, and nuclear disarmament. Throughout his peace proposals, Ikeda expresses his firm belief in the potential and promise of the UN as well as the power of each individual as a global citizen. This book will foster one’s awareness and responsibility and inspire one to create a better, more peaceful world.

Peace Proposals

With his belief in the role and effectiveness of the UN in the betterment of the world, Ikeda has issued annual peace proposals since 1983 in which he presents solutions to a variety of global issues and promotes the relevance of the UN. The former Under-Secretary General and High Representatives of the UN, Anwarul K. Chowdhury once said, “the unique worth of President Ikeda’s proposals stands out when we find that they relate to humanity as a whole but, at the same time, are relevant for the welfare and well-being of every individual person.”

These proposals have been translated and published every year. For full texts of annual proposals, please go to the link below: https://www.daisakuikeda.org/sub/resources/works/props/


Creating the Culture of Peace: A Clarion Call for Individual and Collective Transformation

Based on his philosophy of global citizenship, Ikeda has consistently advocated the reforms and betterment of the United nations through his peace proposals. Chowdhury, the former UN Under-Secretary-General, has devoted himself to addressing security issues in developing countries, viewing them from the standpoint of the vulnerable. Chowdhury and Ikeda exchange their frank opinions on the culture of peace, children’s rights, the role of the United Nations, women’s resilience and the role of the family. Through their discussions, readers will find hope for women and youth—their voices having the power to create a new global society.

with Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former UN Under-Secretary-General
with **Stuart Rees**, Sydney Peace Foundation

The central theme of this book is "peace with justice," which Dr. Stuart Rees has pursued since his inauguration as the first director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney. Pursuing this goal, he has also served as the director of the Sydney Peace Foundation. Ikeda found that Dr. Rees's concept of peace deeply resonated with his mentor Josei Toda's wish to "eliminate human misery from the face of this earth." Based on their common dedication to peace, they discuss a wide range of topics including the path to a world without nuclear weapons, human rights, poverty, social justice and the poetic heart that is indispensable for awakening the goodness inherent in people.

**Choose Hope**

with **David Krieger**, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Ordinary people can and must guide their leaders to create a future free from nuclear threats. This compelling dialogue between two prominent peace philosophers and activists—one American, one Japanese—will raise readers' awareness of the very real threat to our world and offer new perspectives on what can be done. Choose Hope, a balance of Western and Eastern perspectives, shows that nuclear weapons need not be part of our future if we, the people, employ the power of human imagination and choose to eliminate them. Inspiring examples of individuals working for peace highlight the role that everyday people can play in this quest.

**Choose Peace**

with **Johan Galtung**, Peace Research Institute, Oslo

Johan Galtung, former director of the Peace Research Institute, and Daisaku Ikeda explore the interface between Buddhism and nonviolent solutions to global conflict. The two men share bitter memories of World War II. During the German occupation of Norway, Galtung's father was imprisoned in a concentration camp for his resistance activities. In Ikeda’s case, his older brother died in combat, adding to the terrible anguish of war. Their quest inspires concrete proposals that are directly relevant to today's political agendas, such as the death penalty, nationalism and regional unification, fundamentalism, arms reduction, the proliferation and supervision of nuclear technology, and the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping initiatives.

**A Quest for Global Peace: Rotblat and Ikeda on War, Ethics and the Nuclear Threat**

with **Joseph Rotblat**, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

One of the “inventors” of the nuclear bomb, Joseph Rotblat (1908–2005) soon turned away from weapons research to make a prolonged and principled stand against nuclear proliferation. A physicist of great brilliance, he also became a campaigner of admirable moral conviction and leadership. In this book, Rotblat and Ikeda reflect on fundamental issues of war and peace, the ethics of nuclear deterrence and the arc of Joseph Rotblat’s career, from the Manhattan Project to the Pugwash Conference and his Nobel Peace Prize. They emphasize that scientists have a moral responsibility to save lives, not destroy them.
**Global Citizenship: Toward a Civilization of Wisdom, Love and Peace**

*Language* English, Japanese

with José Veloso Abueva, Kalayaan College

How can we establish a nonkilling society? Abueva and Ikeda, who were both born in 1928 and have experienced the tragedy of war, begin their discussion in *Global Citizenship* by sharing their experiences of war. Abueva served as the 16th president of the University of the Philippines and is the founding president of Kalayaan College, Philippines. They exchange their ideas for building a peaceful and nonkilling society. The history and culture of the Philippines are also discussed. Through this dialogue, readers will understand the two men’s high expectations for youth to establish a peaceful world.

**Into Full Flower: Making Peace Cultures Happen**

*Language* English, French, Italian, Japanese

with Elise Boulding, Peace Activist and Sociologist

This is a dialogue between Dr. Elise Boulding (1920–2010), American peace activist and sociologist, and Daisaku Ikeda. In the book, Boulding and Ikeda discuss concrete efforts for transforming our society from a “culture of war” to a “culture of peace” focusing on the responsibility of family and community, women’s roles, children’s education, respect for diversity, harmonious coexistence with nature and dialogue.

**Toward a Century of Peace: A Dialogue on the Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding**

*Language* English, Italian, Japanese

with Kevin Clements, University of Otago

Dr. Kevin Clements is the foundation chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and director of the New Zealand Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago. Discussing wide-ranging topics including conflict resolution, the refugee crisis, nuclear disarmament, establishing a culture of human rights, and disaster recovery, the authors present their perspective for overcoming the challenges facing humanity today. The reader will find their messages firmly based on their religious beliefs and faith in each individual’s potential to make a difference in the world.

**Review**

"This book is a wonderful encapsulation of so much of what is important and necessary to transform our present global war culture into one of peace, sustainability, and hope."

— Mary Lee Morrison, Founding Director of Pax Educare, Inc., and author of *Elise Boulding: A Life in the Cause of Peace*
“In the world at present, where information and capital are rapidly being globalized in nature, there is a strong tendency for Western or European values to become the single standard. At the same time, the countries or local areas that are unable to keep with this tendency are becoming isolated and set apart from the rest of the world because of their differences.

“But any culture, whatever it is, will take on a new shape when it is combined with elements from other and difference cultures. Particularly in our modern age, it is sincere confrontation with the dilemma of whether to become Europeanized or to retain native ways, whether to opt for progress or for tradition, that provides the chief motive power for cultural creation. In this sense, therefore, we should not be unduly alarmed at the prospect of a ‘clash of civilizations.’ This is especially true for East Asia, which possesses a rich store of wisdom that will enable it to surmount any such clashes.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, Dialogues on Oriental Wisdom
**Dialogue on Oriental Wisdom**

**with Ji Xianlin, Peking University and Jiang Zhongxin, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies**

This dialogue with two eminent scholars, Ji (1911–2009) and Jiang, focuses on Oriental thought and the Lotus Sutra, offering insight into the true nature of Eastern and Western civilizations. The discussion begins with the topics “human nature and society” and “Eastern and Western cultures,” proceeds to the concept of “heaven and humankind as one”—the essence of Chinese philosophy—and on to “a criticism on opinions that Mahayana Buddhism was not preached by Buddha” and “a discussion on the Lotus Sutra.”

**The Unifying Power of Culture**

**with Gao Zhan Xiang, Chinese Culture Promotion Society**

Gao is a prominent writer and poet in China, who also served as Vice Minister of the National Culture Ministry. Now the chairman of the Chinese Culture Promotion Society, Gao is a leading figure in Chinese culture and strives to shed light on the power of culture. Gao and Ikeda agree that while militaristic and economic power are emphasized today, the influence of culture has been underestimated. Both maintain that culture needs to be reexamined. They also dig into the Sino-Japan relationship in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations.
with Axinia Djourova, Sofia University

Dr. Axinia Djourova is a leading art historian in Eastern Europe. In this book, Ikeda and Djourova discuss two diverse civilizations, one based upon Japanese Buddhism and the other upon the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. This dialogue provides a rare opportunity to listen as two learned people examine the world from a point of view liberated from western thinking; a way of thought that has become deadlocked by materialism.

with Cho Moon-Boo, Cheju National University

In 2005, designated as the Japan-Korea Friendship Year in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the normalization of Korea-Japan relations, there was a growing interest in Korean culture among Japanese citizens. Cho and Ikeda agree that it is high time for Korea and Japan to cultivate mutual understanding and trust in order to work together as true partners for the sake of world peace. They envision a future where the beautiful cultures shared by Japan, Korea and China build a culture of coexistence. Their discussion topics also include humanism, the noble path of humanism of Chinese culture, and differences and similarities between family relationships in Japan and Korea, Japanese and Korean foods, and education in both countries.

with Chang Jen-Hu, Chinese Culture University of Taiwan

Chang (1927–2019) was the Board of Regents Chairman of the Chinese Culture University of Taiwan and well known for his study of geography. Chang emphasizes that the noble path of humanism of Chinese culture, oriented toward elevating character and cultivating virtue in each human being, can be best described as the "soft power" Ikeda mentioned in his lecture at Harvard University. Ikeda stresses that humanity is now required to advance on the noble path based on humanism by creating the culture of peace. The topics of their discussion also include the culture and history of Taiwan, environmental problems and university education.

with Chang Shuhong, Dunhuang Research Academy

Chang Shuhong (1904-94) was an honorary director of the Dunhuang Research Academy and a leading Chinese artist. He made a lifelong commitment to protect, study and promote the Buddhist artworks of Dunhuang in Central Asia, an important crossroad between East and West on the ancient Silk Road. Through episodes surrounding the excavation of Dunhuang’s historic caves, the repositories of its art, the authors vividly convey the intense excitement of this endeavor. They go on to discuss the great influence that the art of Dunhuang had on early Japanese culture, as well as on artists in both countries and elsewhere.
Soka Gakkai
Books and
Publications
“All human beings have an essential desire to learn. The pleasure and fun of learning are great sources of fulfillment in life. Igniting and stimulating the desire to learn are the starting points of education. Outstanding educators are constantly pressing ahead, acquiring through their tireless efforts in the classroom the wisdom and experience needed to develop and bring to full flower children’s individuality and potential.

“Education never reaches a stage of completion. The times change. Children’s environments and their temperaments are always in flux. Naturally, education must also continue to grow and develop. Buddhism teaches that wisdom functions in accord with changing circumstances; educational wisdom must always respond to our ever-changing reality.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, *Living As Learning: John Dewey in the 21st Century*
Happy Parents, Happy Kids: Parenting Advice for the Twenty-First Century

What is the key to raising happy and healthy children? First and foremost is the life force, wisdom, and love of parents. Happy Parents, Happy Kids will give all parents essential guidance to develop themselves as they face the challenges and worries of raising the next generation. Ikeda’s warm and broad-minded advice will serve as reliable guideposts as mothers and fathers seek to build happy families. Topics include respecting each child’s individuality, dealing with delinquency, the importance of parents changing themselves first, how best to discipline kids, school and study, and contributing to society.

Living As Learning: John Dewey in the 21st Century

with Jim Garrison and Larry Hickman, John Dewey Society

Jim Garrison and Larry Hickman, both past presidents of the John Dewey Society, and Ikeda shed light on eminent American educator and philosopher John Dewey (1859–1952) and his philosophy. Through a comparison of Dewey’s educational philosophy and Soka education, or value-creating education, established by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, Living As Learning reveals the aspects they shared, such as their emphasis on happiness as the purpose of education. The role of women, the balance between work and study, the relationship between childhood and education at school and home are also discussed.

Humanistic Education: A Bridge to Peace

with Gu Mingyuan, Chinese Society of Education

This dialogue between Gu Mingyuan, honorary president of the Chinese Society of Education, and Daisaku Ikeda explores the ideal education from a humanistic perspective that focuses on children’s happiness. The authors share their insights on a broad range of educational issues, from the pedagogical importance of caring and compassion, to the relationship between the local community and character formation, fostering global citizens, and lifelong learning. The book also illuminates the characteristics of Japanese and Chinese education, and through a discussion on education in China and Soka education (value-creating education) explores human nature and seeks ideas and action of humanistic education.
In 1903, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi wrote *A Geography of Human Life*. As early as the beginning of the 20th century, he had perceived clearly that the natural environment and human life are inseparable, and that neglecting nature would not only devastate human life but also mar the virtue necessary for character building. Through this book, Makiguchi explains the relationship of land to the people whose lives it supports. By observing the close relationship between human life and geography, Makiguchi succeeded in explicating the causal interrelation between the two.

with Victor A. Sadovnichy, Moscow State University

Victor A. Sadovnichy is the rector of Moscow State University and a leading scientist specializing in informatics and mathematics. The dialogue between Sadovnichy and Ikeda is premised on their shared value that education is the key to the 21st century. Along with confronting unresolved issues of the 20th century, they search for education’s role in the new century. Moscow State University Press published a Russian edition of this book in 2005 as one of the projects commemorating the 250th anniversary of Moscow State University.

Education for Creative Living is a translation of notes written over a 30-year period and published in the early 1930s by Japanese educator Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871–1944). Through his educational career as an elementary school principle, he presented in this book his innovative pedagogy, which asserted that the purpose of education was to enable students to lead happy lives by fostering a character capable of creating value in their own lives. For Makiguchi, the aim of education was not only to provide students with knowledge and information, but also to enable them to learn by themselves and lead creative lives.

with Victor A. Sadovnichy, Moscow State University

Education is not merely a means to benefit society but rather an end in itself—something that gives purpose to human life. This book discusses the meaning of education and how it should function in a globalized world. As the rector of Moscow State University and the founder of Soka University, respectively, Sadovnichy and Ikeda express their expectations for university-level cooperation beyond national boundaries as a mainstay for realizing international education. Touching upon challenges facing university education today and the negative aspects of science, they shed light on the power of culture and religion in building a society that is dedicated to education.

"Education for Creative Living is of both historical and contemporary interest. ...Makiguchi’s struggles for reform stand as important social and political commentary."

—From the foreword by Robert V. Bullough, Jr., Associate Professor of Educational Studies, University of Utah
The Mission of Education in Tomorrow's World: Thoughts on Humanity in the Twenty-first Century

**LANGUAGE** Japanese, Russian

This is the third volume of the dialogue between Ikeda and Sadovnichy. In this volume, the authors discuss the vital role of higher education in establishing the ethos of the 21st century by promoting philosophical principles that uphold the sanctity of life. Facing challenges in modern society and conflicts that arise as society develops, they stress the importance of education, especially the alignment between education and religion. Presenting their perspectives on global issues such as climate change, food crises, energy and resource crises, they exchange views on how human kind will advance in this century toward the 22nd century.

**With Victor A. Sadovnichy, Moscow State University**

The Land of Children

**LANGUAGE** Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Japanese, Russian

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia’s young people have fallen into spiritual devastation caused by the poverty and social unrest that economic chaos produced. This book explores 14 themes, including “Boyhood,” “Living in the Television Age,” “Oppression,” “Home Education” and “How Fatherhood Should Be.” It is an exchange of concrete ideas and proposals informed by Daisaku Ikeda’s wish for all children to be happy and Albert Likhanov’s (1935–2021) desire to create a “Lighthouse of Hope” for the adults of tomorrow.

**With Albert A. Likhanov, International Association of Children’s Funds**

To the Youthful Pioneers of Soka: Lectures, Essays and Poems on Value-Creating Education

**LANGUAGE** English

To the Youthful Pioneers of Soka is collection of Ikeda’s selected speeches and writings addressed to students of Soka University, but relevant for all students. Apart from discussing the Soka philosophy on education, the book provides insight into other areas: “Be Creative Individuals” discusses the essence of being creative; “Goethe the Man” highlights the greatness of this writer whom Ikeda read intensively in his youth; and “Standing Among the Ruins of Takiyama Castle,” a poem that aims to inspire students.

**With Daisaku Ikeda**

Toward a Century of Hope: The Light of Education

**LANGUAGE** Chinese (Traditional), Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese

Trunesaburo Makiguchi, the founder and first president of Soka Gakkai, claimed that education should serve the happiness and welfare of children. Based on this belief, Ikeda has made speeches at some of the world’s centers for higher learning for the development of education. He stressed that he considers education to be “the final and most crucially important undertaking of my life.” Light of Education is a collection of Ikeda’s proposals and speeches on education. Through these lectures and speeches, the paradigm shift that Ikeda has proposed—from looking at “education for society’s sake” to “society serving the essential needs of education”—comes to the surface.

**With Daisaku Ikeda**
“Each of you has a mission that only you can fulfill. If you did not have such a mission, you would not have been born.

“There are many kinds of mountains in this world. There are high mountains and low ones. And there are a great many different kinds of rivers. There are long and short rivers. Despite their differences, however, we cannot dispute that fact that all mountains are mountains and that all rivers are rivers.

“There are serene mountains like the ones in the ancient Japanese capital of Nara, and there are active volcanoes like Mount Aso. Then there are the grand snowcapped peaks of the Himalayas. All of these mountains are beautiful and impressive in their own way.

“The same is so with rivers. There is Japan’s Ishikari River, home to magnificent salmon, as well as our poetic Chikuma River. There is the Yellow River in China, and there is the Amazon in South America, rivers so wide that in some places, the opposite shore cannot be seen. Each of them has its own special beauty.

“The same is true of people. Each of you has a unique mission in life. You have a mission that is yours and yours alone. That is an indisputable fact, one in which I would like you to have conviction and pride.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, On Happiness
Philosophy, Psychology and Religion
History & World Affairs
Ethics & Humanity

This book is a collection of excerpts from essays Ikeda has written for women to encourage and motivate them to lead wise and hope-filled lives. Each excerpt demonstrates his unwavering conviction in the importance of women’s roles in society and their importance in the quest to achieve a peaceful world. Ikeda stresses that even a single woman, wherever she may be, can contribute to the creation of a better world with her unique strengths and smile. A smile is a flower of happiness that human beings can bring to bloom regardless of their social status.

With the firm conviction that women are by nature peace-loving and that the happiest and worthiest way of life is based on true love, Ikeda discusses women’s roles in the family, society and the world, and encourages them to challenge any adverse circumstances they may face. As Ikeda writes in the foreword, it is often hard for women to live lives true to themselves while developing what is within, which is most important. Ikeda offers guidelines for women to live not dependent on their husband or other persons but with open minds toward their local community, society and the world.

Throughout his life, Ikeda has advocated to make the 21st century the century of women. He writes in the prologue that the century of women is the century of peace, culture and life. On Women Vol.2 is a compilation of essays by Ikeda in which he draws on words and lives of outstanding women leaders in the world to describe how women can contribute to creating a prosperous and peaceful society. The essays are full of Ikeda’s thoughtful advice and guidelines for women to live positively with faith and philosophy, family relationships and friendships.

On Women

On Women volume 2

On Happiness

True happiness comes into full flower with perseverance. Happiness attained without persevering through hardships is ephemeral. With this belief, Ikeda has written many essays and poems to encourage those who are facing hardships and challenges. The six poems and 30 essays included in On Happiness are full of warmth and advice on how to attain true happiness. The book is divided into six parts: youth, husband and wife, parent and child, family, the way of life and society. Ikeda’s earnest desire to make the 21st century the century of women and peace is consistent throughout the book.

The essays in this book cover topics as varied as friendship, work and dreams, family, the compassion of mothers, the environment, the family budget, bereavement, parental care of adolescents, the husband and wife bond, aging and nursing, health, diet, and more. In each essay, Ikeda provides insights by introducing stories from the lives of individuals with whom he and his wife Kaneka have interacted over the years. He expresses appreciation and respect toward women who live full lives in society despite their difficult situations. Ikeda has an unwavering conviction that women living vigorously with the “treasure of the heart” can lead their family to be happier, society to become more enriched and the world to be more peaceful.
“Many of the threats we face today are actually the results of our science and technology. Environmental pollution, for example, is the result of our relentless pursuit of convenience and affluence, which has blinded us to the self-evident principle that we are part of nature and need to live in harmony with it…. The advancement of modern civilization based on science has exacerbated and amplified the greed for possessions and dominance inherent in human beings, until they are on the verge of destroying our natural environment and threatening life itself.

“In order to prevent further environmental destruction, it is important to have accurate information regarding the actual severity of the threat constantly presented to the public and to take the necessary legal and policy measures to deal with the problem. Not only experts in the field but the general public must constantly be on the alert and monitoring the actions taken by government and business.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, Knowing Our Worth: Conversations on Energy and Sustainability
On Health and Long Life: A Conversation

Always concerned about the most basic problems confronting humanity, Ikeda here once again explores the four universal sufferings of birth, aging, sickness and death. In conversation with doctors and nurses, Ikeda skillfully weaves Buddhist insights with the practical knowledge and personal experiences of his dialogue partners. What can we learn from our illnesses? How is the patient’s attitude crucial to healing? How do parents affect their children’s health? How much are our lives determined by our genes? What are constructive ways to approach aging? What are keys for effective health care? The answers to these and other questions in On Health and Long Life provide valuable perspectives to caring for the most valuable of treasures: our own lives.

Discussions on Health: Buddhism and the Art of Medicine

No treasure is more valuable than good health. According to the WHO definition, “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.” As people seek healthier lives, more attention is paid to the mental and social dimensions of health concerns. Buddhism, which originally sought solutions to the universal sufferings of birth, aging, sickness and death, elevates the life force and cultivates wisdom within to utilize medical knowledge to the fullest. In this book, Ikeda discusses with doctors and nurses some of the keys to living a truly fulfilling life—in both body and mind—and offers wisdom for health from both scientific and Buddhist perspectives.

Knowing Our Worth: Conversations on Energy and Sustainability

with Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, co-president of the Club of Rome

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker is a leading authority on global environmental policy and presently serves as co-president of the Club of Rome. Weizsäcker and Ikeda probe deeply into how to enable humanity to achieve a sustainable global society, shifting away from market fundamentalism and ideologies that exhort the unlimited expansion of market growth at the expense of people and the environment, and instead, toward sufficiency based on efficiency—agreeing not to use more energy, water or minerals while achieving a fivefold increase in productivity and human fulfillment in the process.
Astronomy and Buddhism

with Ronald de Freitas Mourão, Brazilian Institute of History and Geography

What is the universe? What is life? These are the questions that have not yet been answered even though science and technology have developed greatly. Mourão (1935–2014) was an astronomer at the Museum of Astronomy and Related Sciences in Brazil and served as an official member of the Brazilian Institute of History and Geography and as a board member of the Brazilian Academy of Philosophy. While examining the enigmas and mysteries of the universe and life, Mourão and Ikeda discuss the common principles that penetrate astronomy and Buddhism and elaborate on the interrelationship between the macrocosm and microcosm.

Buddhism and the Cosmos

with Masayoshi Kiguchi, International Astronomical Union and Eiichi Shimura, Ushio magazine

In this volume, a comprehensive discussion unfolds, not on a global but rather on a cosmic scale, as an encounter between the universe—the eternal enigma of physics—and Buddhism, a philosophy of human existence. Buddhism and the Cosmos, as its title suggests, challenges that task of clarifying the relationship between human beings’ inner world and the great cosmos, and also attempts to substantiate important Buddhist teachings in light of the remarkable advances of modern science.

On Being Human: Where Ethics, Medicine and Spirituality Converge

with René Simard and Guy Bourgeault, University of Montreal

Health is most important for a happy life. This dialogue is a discussion on health—a requirement for happiness for all human beings—between Dr. René Simard, the former rector of the University of Montreal, who is an authority on cancer studies, Dr. Guy Bourgeault, a specialist in ethics and a man of profound learning in the field of theology, and Ikeda. All three authors wish that the 21st century may be a century of life, from which a healthy and humane civilization will emerge, in which science and spirituality exist in harmony.

Reviews

On Being Human: Where Ethics, Medicine and Spirituality Converge

“From the very basic quest for the meaning of life to the consciousness of it; from how to live to how to be; from birth to eternity—the dialogue and discussions never ceased to enlighten. I finished the book assured and hopeful.”

—Lillian Chan, editor of WellnessOptions magazine, author of The Wellness Options Guide to Health, on On Being Human

Planetary Citizenship

“These conversations are the language of life—a language of hope, a language that illuminates the possibility of human existence compatible with the needs of our descendants. Reading this dialogue is like being guided along a path through greed and misconceptions to a decent and sustainable world.”

—Robert A. G. Monks, author of The New Global Investors
### Planetary Citizenship: Your Values, Beliefs and Actions Can Shape a Sustainable World

**Language**
Chinese (Traditional), English, French, Italian, Japanese, Malay, Portuguese, Vietnamese

with **Hazel Henderson**, American social activist and futurist

Henderson (1933–2022) and Ikeda, two world-renowned global activists, explore the rise of grassroots globalists-citizens all over the world who are taking responsibility to build a more peaceful, harmonious and sustainable future. They discuss their own backgrounds and what led them individually to activism on a worldwide scale. At the same time, they provide encouragement and concrete information for the millions of other concerned citizens who want to make a difference. A wide range of issues that are now gaining greater recognition at all levels of society are explored, including sustainable development, economic justice, respect for indigenous peoples and their traditional lands and resources, democratizing politics and international institutions, making corporations accountable, and conserving the Earth’s bio-diversity, water, air quality and climate.

### Science and Religion

**Language**
Japanese, Russian

with **Anatoli A. Logunov**, Moscow State University

A famous theoretical physicist at the USSR Academy of Sciences and Russian Academy of Sciences, Logunov (1926–2015) explains the latest science on the universe, molecular biophysics, cerebro-physiology and more. Admitting that science and religion have been considered contradictory, mainly because of the conflict between modern science and Christianity, especially concerning the authority of the church, Logunov and Ikeda agree that science and religions can play complementary roles. Ikeda, introducing Buddhist epistemology, shows that there is a remarkable similarity in modern science and the Buddhist philosophy on how to look at the universe and life. They expect a kind of world religion to make use of scientific knowledge for the happiness and prosperity of human kind.

### Space and Eternal Life

**Language**
English, French, Japanese, Portuguese

with **Chandra Wickramasinghe**, University of Wales

Chandra Wickramasinghe is the Sri Lankan astronomer known for his study of interstellar grains and the organic theory of cosmic dust. Wickramasinghe and Ikeda compare the Buddhist and scientific conceptions of the cosmos and discuss modern science and Christianity, as well as Chinese and Indian medicine. They take up topics such as nuclear weapons, ecology, AIDS and Buddhist pacifism.

### The Cosmos, Earth and Human Beings

**Language**
Chinese (Traditional), Japanese, Korean, Russian

with **Alexander Serebrov**, Russian cosmonaut

This is a dialogue between Russian cosmonaut Alexander Serebrov, president of Soyuz, the All-Russia Youth Aerospace Society, and Daisaku Ikeda. The space traveler, who spent a lifetime exploring the cosmos, and the Buddhist leader, who spent a lifetime cultivating and uplifting the spiritual, inner universe of human beings, share their mutual desire for a lasting peace and their common vision of the future.
“Each time I look at an outstanding painting, be it a landscape, portrait or still life, I am deeply impressed by the acute, extraordinary powers of observation possessed by artists. Fine paintings transcend what is visible to the eye. More than by their technical skill I am astounded by artists’ power to go beyond a subject’s exterior appearance to observe something deeper.…. Without being obsessed by the constantly changing phenomenal world, the true artist directs his gaze to the immutable world within and opens the way toward infinity. It is in this that I sense a deep bond between art and religion.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, Dawn After Dark
with **Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter**, Grammy Award-winning jazz musicians

How does jazz influence our lives? And what do jazz and Buddhism have in common? In this volume of free-spirited, improvisational conversations, two of the world’s leading jazz superstars, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter (1933–2023), and Daisaku Ikeda demonstrate the indomitable way of life that jazz and Buddhism demonstrate. They draw on the history of jazz and how, with its roots in the pain and suffering of the black experience, jazz not only expressed people’s sufferings but also transformed them, while bringing people joy and pleasure. The authors agree that Buddhism also gives people the hope and courage with which to overcome suffering and enjoy life. Though their own experiences, Hancock and Shorter share the idea that Buddhist principles such as “turning poison into medicine” have much in common with the creative process of jazz. This volume also looks back upon the authors’ first encounter in the 1970s and constitutes a compilation of their exchange that spans over four decades.

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**Song for a New Global Civilization: Conversations on Tagore and World Citizens**

with **Bharati Mukherjee**, former Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University

In this deeply insightful book, Ikeda and Dr. Bharati Mukherjee (1942–2013), former vice-chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, discuss topics such as the thoughts of preeminent Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941), politics and philosophy of ancient India, and how society can bring out the full potential of women. Tagore, a talented poet, playwright, artist and musician, was the first person in Asia to be awarded the Nobel prize. He is also known for having written and composed the national anthems of India and Bangladesh. The authors attempt to reveal the core thoughts and beliefs of this great Indian poet.

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**Compassionate Light in Asia**

with **Jin Yong**, Chinese novelist

“Life is a drama of encounters,” writes Ikeda in the preface. This particular encounter between the celebrated Chinese novelist Jin Yong (1924–2018) and Ikeda took place as a result of what they referred to as a “karmic bond.” The authors explore topics such as the nature of friendship, theories of civilization, works of literature that have inspired them, the importance of free speech, the Buddhist perspective on life, death and the spiritual search for truth. Both have experienced the horrors of war and fought battles for the sake of people, and their shared life experiences and beliefs resonate in this work.
A Philosophy of Life for Future Generations: Learning from Literature and People

with Wang Meng, former Chinese Minister of Culture

Wang and Ikeda have maintained a correspondence since their first meeting in 1987, and this book is based on these exchanges. Their discussion covers various topics, including Wang’s work, his life in Xinjiang during the Cultural Revolution, and the stories and literary figures of Chinese classics. The authors draw the reader’s attention to living life in a way that is true to oneself. The reader will be awakened to the vital power of literature in revitalizing the human spirit and how one’s inner world can expand through engaging with different cultures, people, and perspectives.

Creating Waldens: An East-West Conversation on the American Renaissance

with Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson, Thoreau Society

In the provocative discussions that make up Creating Waldens, Bosco, Myerson, and Ikeda explore the multifaceted, enduring legacy of Emerson, Thoreau, and Whitman. The authors challenge us to do as these great figures once did—to look deep inside ourselves to discover our potential for growth, to encounter the natural world with reverence and delight, and to express ourselves with poetry and imagination. With great appreciation for the timeless gifts of the American Renaissance, Bosco, Myerson, and Ikeda encourage each of us to create our own Walden.

Dawn After Dark

with René Huyghe, Académie Française

In this book, Huyghe (1906–97) and Ikeda offer intellectual and spiritual connections between art and religion. Their guiding theme is the rediscovery of a common humanity through the artistic and religious impulses shared by all peoples. The dialogue ranges widely, analyzing various contemporary challenges from the perspectives of beauty and the divine. The authors look at active solutions to global disunity and disorder, emphasizing the importance of finding the key to harmony in life, and thereby the means of reforming our inner lives. The authors conclude by evaluating the crucial role played by religion in helping humanity come to terms with the mysteries and challenges of the unknown.

Letters of Four Seasons

with Yasushi Inoue, Japanese writer

This book provides a rare opportunity to study the correspondence between two prominent personalities as they exchange letters over a one-year period. They write about their impressions and reflections on their travels and work, seasons and places, as well as close friends and public figures they have known. Both are men of wide cultural experience. Ikeda has visited China several times, contributing to the restoration of friendly relations between China and Japan. Yasushi Inoue (1907–91) is an award-winning author of historical short stories and novels, many of them set in China. Through their correspondence, they reveal not just something of themselves but of Japanese society as well.

Ode to the Grand Spirit

with Chingiz Aitmatov, Kyrgyz writer

In this dialogue, Aitmatov (1928–2008) and Ikeda both of the generation that witnessed the historic upheavals of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, objectively probe ways to restore dignity and freedom of the spirit to humanity. During this process, they articulate their intuition that the sources for restoration of these qualities are to be found in the mind—in the romanticism of poetry and the arts. This work examines Russian literature and the deep implications of perestroika, and explores themes that are relevant to civilization in the 21st century, such as nonviolence, the dignity of life, nihilism and the revitalization of religion.

Review

“A clarion call against authoritarianism, Creating Waldens inspires us to challenge social evil through courageous acts of nonviolent protest and find joy in harmony with nature and our fellow citizens around the globe.”

—Anita Patterson, Associate Professor of English, and Director, American and New England Studies Program, Boston University
with Makoto Nemoto, specialist in Oriental history

In this series of conversations between Daisaku Ikeda and Makoto Nemoto (1906–76), a specialist in Oriental history, the two discuss the great works of Japanese classical literature. Their talks center on Man’yoshu (A Collection of a Myriad Leaves, c. late 8th century), Kojiki (Record of Ancient Matters, 712), Genji Monogatari (The Tale of Genji, c. early 11th century) and Konjaku Monogatari (Tales of the Past and Present, c. 1120). The authors attempt to define the particular worth and appeal of each work, examining some of the ways in which it is related to the life and thought of the time. Finally, they suggest what significance each work may hold for our own age.

The Great Steppes of Friendship

with Dojoogiin Tsedev, former president of Mongolian University of Arts and Culture

In their first meeting, Ikeda said “Peace can only be constructed through a revival of poetry. Where there is poetry, there is peace, humanism and culture.” Ikeda, World Poet Laureate, and Tsedev, a well-known poet and author from Mongolia, the country of vast steppes, both of whom were awarded the Order of the Pole Star. The two exchange frank views on their own cultures and history filled with the poetic mind and the heart of friendship. Tsedev served as the chairman of the Mongolian Union of Writers from 1977 to 1990 and as the president of the Mongolian University of Arts and Culture from 1998 to 2010.

The Light of Life, Songs of Mother

with Jutta Unkari-Seifert, former undersecretary of Austria’s Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts, and Sports

This dialogue between Seifert and Ikeda attempts to find answers to the following questions: What do art and spirituality have in common? What positive guidelines can art and spirituality offer people as they live their lives? Through this wide-ranging dialogue, Seifert and Ikeda transform the reader’s understanding of life and death. As long as we live, we are bound to experience problems and suffering; such are proof that we are alive. We encounter obstacles because we are making progress. The authors explore what art and spirituality can give us in forging ahead and overcoming them, ultimately enriching our lives.

The Art of True Relations: Conversations on the Poetic Heart of Human Possibility

with Sarah Wider, former president of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

In this dialogue between Daisaku Ikeda and Sarah Wider, former president of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, the two authors share their deep insights into Emerson’s thoughts, his life and his works. A principle theme of their dialogue is reviving the poetic heart and the encouraging power of words. Shedding light on the poetic heart, Wider has promoted the concept of respect for the infinite potential of the human spirit as well as coexistence with nature in contemporary society. Throughout the dialogue, they frequently refer to the Emerson’s works, alongside other poets that enrich and nurture one’s intellect and character.

Review

“The Art of True Relations is a carefully crafted, beautifully organized, and deeply hospitable book. I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in living more humanely.”

—Megan Laverty, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University
“Friendship is not bound by questions of blood or ethnicity, or those of gain or loss. Its only considerations are those shared by all human beings alike. What the global era we now live in demands of us is that we recognize our common origin as human beings and seek to deepen our appreciation of it. The only way to do that is to approach the problem from the standpoint of an ideal that transcends all differences whatsoever, an ideal of the human being, of humanity, of human rights, and of life itself, and on that basis broaden our friendship. My journey of dialogues has been unending struggle to achieve that end.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, Unforgettable Friends: Recollections of Meetings with Unforgettable People from Around the World
Between April 1995 and June 2003, Daisaku Ikeda wrote a series of essays for the Japanese magazine Daisanbunmei that present some thoughts regarding his experiences as a leader of the Soka Gakkai International. In these essays, Ikeda shares behind-the-scenes stories in a conversational style. His memories of encountering prominent figures from around the world, interacting with SGI members both in Japan and abroad and striving to promote peace, culture and education as the founder of Soka schools, are highly unique, yet each story also reflects his passion and devotion to the cause of peace.

“I have based my whole life on the belief that we can form amicable solidarity if we converse on the level of our shared, fundamental humanity,” writes Ikeda, who has met and conversed with many world leaders, scholars and cultural figures around the globe. They include Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, famous American jazz musician Herbie Hancock, former premier of the Soviet Union Aleksey N. Kosygin and Italian soccer player Roberto Baggio. Wonderful Encounters is the collection of essays in which Ikeda describes his personal thoughts and reflections on his meetings and dialogues with these figures. Their ways of living give us some hints on how, as human beings, we can live lives that are truly meaningful.

“Unforgettable Friends is a milestone book about the triumph for peace. It reminds us of the inherent basic values that constitute human morals.”

—From the foreword by Anuwar Ali, President, Open University Malaysia for Unforgettable Friends
The Soka Gakkai is one of the most dynamic religious organizations in the world today, and *The Human Revolution* is one of its most important and fascinating documents. Based on Nichiren Buddhism, the Soka Gakkai has some 10 million members in Japan alone, which gives it a significant role to play in Japanese society. *The Human Revolution* is a novelized account of the phenomenal postwar growth of the Soka Gakkai and an informal biography of the man behind it, Josei Toda, who served as the organization’s second president. Ikeda, Toda’s successor and now the president of Soka Gakkai International, is also a prolific author. More than the story of a great religious teacher, this is the story of how a revolutionary change in a single man helped the lives of countless people by giving them hope, and how that change set forth a religious revolution that has been continuing ever since. The original Japanese series consists of twelve volumes. Together they cover the Soka Gakkai’s progress from its rebirth after the end of World War II in 1945 until 1960.
“Mahatma Gandhi proclaimed that the ‘power of the spirit’ is stronger than any atomic bomb. In order to make the 21st century one of peace, we must cultivate the limitless power inherent in human life. This is the ‘human revolution,’ and it will be the theme that flows consistently throughout the novel.” So writes Ikeda in *The New Human Revolution*, which chronicles the growth of the Soka Gakkai from the time he was inaugurated as its third president. Since the anniversary of the organization’s founding, the novel has appeared in serial form in the *Seikyo Shimbun*, the daily newspaper published by the Soka Gakkai. *The New Human Revolution* describes the struggles of Ikeda, who appears as Shin’ichi Yamamoto in the book, to spread Nichiren Buddhism throughout the world in order to realize the happiness of all humanity and world peace.
"The poetic spirit encourages people in all ranks and places to return to their naked humanity. Neither sentimental nor fantastic, it embraces and affirms the whole world and all its inhabitants; it imparts the will to remain optimistic and unbending in the face of all hardships.

“As believer in innate human goodness, I am certain that the concentrated power of good can overcome the greatest forces of evil. The poetic spirit helps us control the greed-dominated self. It helps us handle the actual while keeping our eyes turned toward the ideal.

“Without the poetic spirit, we cannot counter the mechanizing effects of the nation-state system and its authoritarian theories; we cannot achieve lasting peace.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, Choose Hope
Ikeda, a poet laureate, has produced a huge body of poetry. In his poems, readers will find genuine feelings and impressions of the real life of a man "who strives at all times to be an honest human being." Songs from My Heart is a compilation of Ikeda’s poems, in which he expresses reflections and ideas that sprang from his daily activities in such a straight-forward manner that it could be thought of as his personal diary. Poems here honor youth, nature and the common people. In one of his poems, he writes:

Young man!
this human shout of joy,
so eloquent, so strong, so beautiful—
in the end and always you must salute it gravely,
for in it alone are the principles, the sole human likeness
of the revolutionary expression which you would fashion.

Fighting for Peace
The five poems included here were written by Ikeda during the turbulent two-year period that includes the September 11 attacks and the subsequent US retaliation in Afghanistan. His passionate appeal for an end to violence, war and conflict pervade these poems. Based on his belief that ordinary people are the greatest beings of all, he urges those in power to listen to the voices of the people. He calls upon us:

Never believe
that the greatest,
most irresistible force
is the power of the state.
For the energy of the soul,
the might of the human spirit,
is an even greater force, the most magnificent
power of all.
Let us form in our hearts
the resolute will to realize peace,
summoning a force
sublime and unsurpassed.
This is the goal and conclusion
sought by all of
humanity’s wisdom and learning
over ages.
“It is my abiding hope that preschoolers and schoolchildren be afforded every opportunity to be exposed to reading at home as well as in school. While there is much children gain from reading on their own, the experience is further enriched when parents and teachers read aloud to them.

“Children sense the warmth of words in the voices of their parents and teachers, and their imagination is challenged to capture a story’s landscapes and dramatic scenes. The modulations of the reader’s voice help children experience and develop a range of emotions, from sadness to joy. As parents and teachers read aloud, they can watch the children’s facial expressions and choose to change their tone or pause to hear a child’s thoughts.

“Through these encounters, a relationship of mutual trust steadily begins to take shape.”

— Daisaku Ikeda, *The Light of Learning: Selected Writings on Education*
Making good friends, balancing studies and extracurricular activities, becoming more confident—these are universal challenges that confront high school students. In this book, Ikeda engages with youth through his dialogues, offering guidance and practical advice that easily resonates with young hearts. He also introduces eminent individuals including Nelson Mandela, Valentina Tereshkova, Wangari Maathai, Rosa Parks and Goethe for readers to draw inspiration from, discussing their struggles to teach readers how to dream big, set clear goals, challenge obstacles and win despite all odds. Ikeda assures them that maintaining the spirit of oneness—of both mentor and disciple—in all they do is the key to living a life of courage and wisdom.

Ikeda gently encourages the young readers of his book to develop values and habits that will make them grow into outstanding individuals. Recalling delightful anecdotes from his own childhood and drawing from the inspiring lives of great people, Ikeda converses easily about how having big dreams fuels the attitude of taking up challenges and winning. This is a book that will touch the hearts of readers, both young and old, who would no doubt want to read it over and over again.

In this book, Ikeda calls upon young readers to dream big and encourages them to do their best to achieve them. Recalling his own memories of childhood and the things he learned from his mentor Josei Toda, while also drawing from the lives of outstanding individuals, he shares tips for a happy life that can be applied to their daily lives.

The essays in this book are an account of Ikeda’s travels to 17 out of 54 countries. Addressing school-going children, the ‘future division’ of the Soka Gakkai, he talks about his compelling encounters with both ordinary and eminent figures around the world. Through his recollections of scenic wonders and the unique characteristics of each place, he shows young people the importance of appreciating our earth, of making and treasuring friends, of imbibing cultures for one’s own better understanding, of opening the mind to transcend all differences, and becoming ‘creators of peace.’ Each essay in this book is accompanied by a photograph taken by Ikeda of the various places he has visited.

This is a discussion between Ikeda, who understands well the hearts of young people, and the leaders of Soka Gakkai’s youth division on the problems of secondary school students: their studies, friends, bullying at school, personality, choosing courses and faith. The author inspires young people to overcome their troubles and live with the courage that will lead them along the correct path of life.

This is a collection of Ikeda’s heartfelt messages to young people. Comprising mostly proverbs, the book includes chapters in which Ikeda shares his perspectives on the privileges of the youth, the importance of living true to oneself, and how to advance toward dreams. His wide-ranging proposals on topics such as nuclear weapons, ethnicity and discrimination are also included. This book is full of words of encouragement for anyone who has faced difficulties with their studies, friendships, work, romantic relationships and so on.
Over the Deep Blue Sea

Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith

Akiko and Hiroshi come to live on an island due to their parents’ work. At first, they are lonely and look to make friends. Then Pablo comes. Proud of his home, he shows Akiko and Hiroshi all the island’s secrets as well as the mysteries of the sea. But one day, Pablo learns from his grandmother that the island was once attacked by Akiko and Hiroshi’s country, and he quarrels with his two new friends. In anger, Hiroshi sails out by himself into the deep blue sea, against the strong wind and powerful waves. When Hiroshi gets in trouble, it is Pablo who comes to save him. They are rescued by a passing ship and learn from its skipper that they are not enemies. “It’s only the sea in between that makes us different.”

The Cherry Tree

Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith

Taichi and Yumiko, two children who lost their home and father to the war, meet an old man who takes care of an ugly, knobby cherry tree. As the sickly tree hasn’t blossomed for years, they cannot believe it will blossom again, but the old man’s sincere attitude toward the tree changes their mind. The children also start caring for the tree in hopes that the tree will one day blossom. When spring arrives, the cherry tree beautifully blossoms and the village also comes to life. This story will teach young readers the importance of never giving up hope.

"We’re all just sailors come ashore off the same deep blue sea!"
"Maybe that’s why I rowed out when I saw Hiroshi was in trouble,” said Pablo. “How can brothers be enemies?”
“How can anyone be enemies,” said Hiroshi, “if it’s only the sea in between that makes us different?”

— Over the Deep Blue Sea

"As in The Snow Country Prince, their previous collaboration, Ikeda and Wildsmith present a tender story about the rewards of kindness. Ikeda’s quiet text is infused with the innocence and curiosity embodied in his child protagonists; his message is fundamental without being didactic.”

— Publishers Weekly on The Cherry Tree

November, 1988 in Tokyo
The Princess and the Moon

Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith

One night, Sophie experiences a mysterious adventure in which she is taken to the Country of the Moon riding on a beam of moonlight with the Moon Rabbit. The land is faintly familiar yet wonderfully strange. The boys and girls playing, dancing, singing and talking all look familiar, like Sophie’s classmates, but happier. The Rabbit tells Sophie that they are seeing each boy and girl as they really are. Among them is a girl whose face is the one Sophie always sees in the mirror, and she is treated like a princess by the king and queen. Is it really Sophie? Through this adventure, Sophie learns to cherish other people and look at them “as the Moon looks, with royal, bright, and caring eyes. And to see things that matter.”

Review

“This is a delightful book with an important message for all children. The illustrations contribute to a wonderfully warm and encouraging tale.”

— Vivian K. Friedman, Birmingham News, on The Princess and the Moon

Brian Wildsmith (1930–2016) was born in England. A renowned artist and illustrator for children’s books, he won the Kate Greenway Medal for his illustration and created more than 80 children’s book such as A Christmas Story. The four children’s books he created with Daisaku Ikeda have been published in 14 languages.

The Snow Country Prince

Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith

Little Mariko and her brother Kazuo live in a fishing village in Snow Country. One year, when the winter arrives colder than ever, Mariko and Kazuo feed swans struggling to find food and take care of an injured swan. As the bird regains its strength, the children draw pictures of it to encourage their sick father, who is being treated at a distant hospital. Under the gentle care of Mariko and Kazuo, the swan gets stronger, and so does their father. When the swan is finally able to fly and the winter is over, their father, too, recovers and the family is united again. With the help of the Snow Country Prince, Mariko and Kazuo learn not to give up, even during the hard winter. Illustrations painted by Brian Wildsmith add to the wonder of this story.

The children carried the injured swan and gently placed it in the water. It lifted its head hopefully towards the sky and flapped its wings.

“Yes, you can do it too! You can!” cried Mariko encouragingly. “Keep trying! Don’t give up!”

“No, whatever happens, don’t give up!” said Kazuo. The words seemed to have been waiting in his heart.

— The Snow Country Prince
The story centers around two junior high school students who, through playing soccer, cultivate their friendship and learn the meaning of fair play and strength of character. The author’s message is that to develop true strength as a human being, you must overcome your weaknesses and always be open and honest with others.

During his summer vacation, a boy visits his grandmother with his friend and learns the legend of a bamboo flower that blooms only once every century and a phoenix that eats nothing but the bamboo’s fruit. After hearing about this legendary bird, the two boys walk into a strange world. Through their struggles against the evil that endangers the water and plants there, the two boys become aware of the importance of the relationship between nature and humans.

Adolescence—the crucial period in one’s life during which one develops a stronger sense of self and lays the foundation for adulthood. This volume contains two works aimed at young people from junior to senior high school: Alexander’s Decision and Journey to Hiroshima. Alexander’s Decision draws from Plutarch’s Parallel Lives, one of the favorite books of the author’s youth. It describes the bond between the future king Alexander, born in conflict-ridden Macedonia during the 4th century, and his sworn friend Philip. In the other work, Journey to Hiroshima the attempted suicide of a friend motivates young Kazushiro to travel to Hiroshima and learn about the experiences of his aunt, a victim of the atomic bombing. Together with his friend, Kazushiro learns the importance of building spiritual strength to withstand hardship.

“Friendship is a flower coloring life; friendship is a rainbow spanning the future,” These are Daisaku Ikeda’s words. Writing about two secondary school runners, Ikeda expresses his clear view on life. Hiromi Nagai, a Japanese girl, and Sun Chunlan from China are rivals and best friends. Their story is about a friendship that extends beyond the boundaries of Japan and China.

As fireflies can live only where there is beautiful, clear water, the author considers fireflies “a symbol of peace.” After fireflies disappear from his town for many years, Takashi and his friends raise fireflies at school so that they can fly again. Hearing about her son’s project, his mother, Chisato, shares her wartime experiences in China and a strange event in which she was saved by fireflies, in the place she calls the “Forest of Life.” Hoping to see his mother’s smile, Takashi keeps taking care of fireflies with a gentle heart. The students’ efforts and perseverance bear fruit when the fireflies finally fly, glowing beautifully in the air.

“In front of my eyes, yellowish green lights spread all over the place. In the dark, countless lights were moving in gentle curves. I heard the rippling sound of the stream. The quiet waves of the lights glowed gently. I felt as if I were standing in the centre of the universe, gazing at the Milky Way.”

— Fireflies Glow
Kazuki, who was born and raised in Tokyo, is heading to Hiroshima by bullet train to spend the summer there. However, he is not fully enjoying his trip because of an incident that happened to his friend, Nakamura, from the baseball club. After arriving in Hiroshima, Kazuki is shown around by his aunt, Yaeko, and learns about the tragic history of the war and the cruelty of the atomic bombing. As he spends time with Yaeko and learns about her life and the struggles she has overcome, Kazuki comes to understand the importance of peace and the courage that enables individuals to endure.

The Ezo deer, native to the northern island of Hokkaido, have been hunted to the point of extinction. Into this wild land comes Kanta, a city boy who knows only the easy life. He encounters and takes care of an orphaned fawn, naming it Poyu. With its tail that sparkles with a golden color, Poyu becomes the target of hunters, but Poyu struggles to protect other deer from hunters. Through caring for Poyu, Kanta becomes stronger and more self-reliant. This story teaches us that one can be braver and stronger by loving another.

The mighty Mississippi, a river greatly loved and respected by the pioneers of the American frontier, has long been a wellspring of inspiration. Peace River tells the story of a young immigrant boy who comes to the Mississippi with his father and his older brother. Through his encounters with the river and the local people, the boy learns to overcome his insecurity. Drawing a parallel with the Mississippi, which begins as a single drop of water and grows into a great river that nourishes half a continent on its journey to the sea, the author expects young readers to expand their horizons and open their hearts to friendship.

In 1927, the United States sent blue-eyed dolls to kindergartens and elementary schools in Japan. In return, Japan presented Japanese dolls to American children. At a time when the clouds of war cast a dark gloom over the future, the dolls were a ray of hope. Twenty years after the war, many of the blue-eyed dolls, treated badly during the war and forgotten, were rediscovered. Finding inspiration in the history of the dolls, the author wrote a story that will join the hearts of people with a “bridge of peace” between generations and across national boundaries.
Star Park

A classroom quarrel over a paper toy threatens to break up a group of friends until one member finds herself in danger: she is swallowed by a “black hole” in Star Park—an amusement park with the galaxy’s wildest rides.

The Prince and the Coral Sea

Born in peace-loving Okinawa, Ryo loves its people as well as the beautiful coral sea. One day, he finds a spiral seashell that has the magical power to heal any wound. With the magic shell, Ryo meets a king who is ordering villagers to cut down wood for his opulent palace. He tries to persuade the king to stop cutting down trees to protect the island’s coral reef. One day, a big earthquake hits and a huge tsunami—so strong it could wash the people away—approaches the land. Ryo runs towards the sea, holding the seashell high, and a miracle happens.

The Princess of the Desert Country

People and animals live in harmony in the Desert Country, which has a beautiful spring where both people and animals gather to drink the water. But when they have a falling out, their precious spring runs dry. The princess of the country sets out on a journey with her friends—a camel, a monkey, a lion and a parrot—in order to find a new spring. The princess’s optimism and kind concern arouse hope and courage in her companions. Overcoming their hardships by helping one another, they finally find a spring that can save the people and animals of the Desert Country.

Treasure Castle in the Desert

Looking at a photograph from his teacher, Yuta begins to dream. He sees himself riding a golden camel, advancing toward Dunhuang, the desert city in China he has long wanted to see. Dunhuang’s painted murals are guarded by an elderly man named Zhou, who has something important to teach Yuta. Watching Zhou at work, Yuta learns that the beauty of the heart shines most brightly when things are done earnestly, with sincere motives. That is the treasure without equal. For coming generations, what could be more important than understanding that to be heroic means to persevere—to do your best with all your courage, no matter what?

Two Princes

Prince Rupia, who lives in a castle, and a boy called Subaruna, who is poor but kind, must both find out: What is a truly great man? They grow up when they learn that real kings have hearts that are always at the service of others.
The story takes place on the great plains of Mongolia. A boy called Bator goes to a timeless world on a white horse. His act of courage inspires disputing groups to find peace. Reading about Bator, children will find their hearts growing several sizes bigger, greater than Mongolia’s blue sky and broader than its grassy plains.

Lu Xun said, “Revolutions must let men live, not kill them off.” The young poet Andre Chenier dedicated his brief life to the French Revolution. The beautiful poems of his pure and exuberant youth struck the hearts of many people as did his honest approach to life. Through the life of Chenier, Young Heart of the Revolution gives the reader much food for thought on how young people should live.

A long time ago, when samurai ruled Japan... It is a period of great disaster. Society is in turmoil. Yet those in power turn their backs on the misery all around them. Buddhist priests enjoy great influence among the rulers, who use religion as a way to control people. Both care more about wealth and power than helping the suffering masses. But when a young priest named Nichiren challenges the authorities, showing the way to bring peace and happiness to society, they will stop at nothing to silence him....

Buddhist Tales

Becoming a Dragon

After hearing a traveler’s tale of a legendary waterfall called the Dragon Gate that enables any carp who climbs it to turn into a beautiful dragon, young Fanlin decides to risk it all. He sets forth on a daring adventure to find and climb the Dragon Gate, learning along the way not only how to be courageous but also to never give up.

Shijo Kingo

Shijo Kingo was a dedicated follower of Nichiren, a 13th century Buddhist teacher. Kingo was also a warrior and a physician. In this book, children are introduced to the life of this important disciple.

The Birds Who Suffer from the Cold

Two silly birds fritter away the warm sunshine hours and later pay the price when the night turns freezing cold. This humorous story contains valuable lessons, even though the two birds never learn theirs.
The Deer King

After the human king and his men go hunting in the forest, the beautiful deer king proposes a wiser, more compassionate way. The human king agrees, but the solution is not perfect. Soon the deer king must face a terrible choice. What will he do? How will the human king respond?

The King Who Saved the Dove

After kind King Shibi promises to help and protect the poor and the weak, two heavenly gods conspire to test the strength of his resolve. One turns into a sweet dove, the other a hungry hawk, and the two birds act out a scene that presents King Shibi with a difficult choice. Will he be able to keep his promise but still remain kind to all living beings?

The Tiger and the General

“Suddenly Li Kuang saw something move behind the shadow of the leaves. ‘What’s that?’ He peered closely and saw a dark shape. ‘It’s the tiger!’” Follow general Li Kuang as he hunts a wily tiger and learns a valuable lesson about determination.

The Turtle and the Warrior

Mao Pao rescues a little turtle and gives him a home in a small pond. Over time, the two come to love each other. But eventually the turtle grows too large for the pond, and they must part ways. Many years later, the two meet again under the most extraordinary circumstances. Will they remember each other?
## Dialogue Partners

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**List of Languages of Works by Daisaku Ikeda**

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- Bulgarian
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- Czech
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- Dutch
- English
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- Spanish
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Thai
- Turkish
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese

**Total: 52 languages**
Choose Hope with David Krieger

Choose Life: A Dialogue with Arnold J. Toynbee

Recommended Books

Arabic edition

Bengali edition


Bulgarian edition


Chinese edition (Simplified)

Chinese edition (Traditional)

English edition

English edition

French edition
L'Harmattan, ISBN 2-296-10250-7

German edition

Hindi edition

Hungarian edition

Italian edition

Japanese edition

Korean edition

Malay edition

Hungarian edition

Indonesian edition

Italian edition
Bompiani, Milan, 1988

Japanese edition
Bungeishunjyo Ltd., Tokyo, 1975


Korean edition
Eicho-ko, Seoul, 1986

Creative & Popular Light in Asia with Jin Yong

Creating the Culture of Peace: A Clarion Call for Individual and Collective Transformation with Amarnath K. Chaudhury

English edition

Japanese edition

Creating Walden: An East-West Conversation on the American Renaissance with Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myers

English edition

Japanese edition
The Mainichi Shimbun, Tokyo, 2006 ISBN 4-450-31772-2

Dawn After Dark with René Huyghe

English edition

English edition


French edition


Japanese edition
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo, 1981 ISBN 4-400-12388-8

Spanish edition

Thai edition

Dawn of the Pacific with Patricio Aylwin Azócar

English edition

Japanese edition

Peace

Peace

Peace

Peace

Peace

Peace
Soka Gakkai Books and Publications
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— Books on Buddhism and Humanity —