

Stirring a Whirlwind of Dialogue to



Ikeda Sensei (front row, third from left) and Mrs. Ikeda (seated fourth from left) with members from Germany in Frankfurt in 1992

In October 1961, when I saw with my very own eyes the Berlin Wall that had been built just two months earlier, I was outraged by the forces of evil that divide and separate people.

It was the same evil, the devilish nature, that my mentor, Josei Toda, decried in his Declaration Calling for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons as the fundamental threat to the right of all people to exist. He left this declaration as his foremost injunction to his successors [on September 8, 1957]. The ultimate power for defeating the devilish nature is nothing other than the Buddha nature inherent in all human beings.

I prayed deeply that in 30 years' time the wall would no longer be standing and vowed to stir a whirlwind of dialogue to awaken people's Buddha nature.

Nichiren Daishonin asserts that the Buddha nature that all living beings possess—all the Buddhas and bodhisattvas of the universe, as well as the gods of the sun, moon, and morning star, and even the dwellers of the lowest depths of hell—"is called by the name Myoho-enge-kyo" (cf. WND-1, 131). Therefore, if you chant Nam-myoho-enge-kyo even once, he says, "the Buddha nature of all living beings will be summoned and gather around you," and your own Buddha nature will also "be drawn forth and become manifest" (cf. WND-1, 131).

Nothing is as vast and powerful as the lives of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth who chant Nam-myoho-enge-kyo and teach others to do the same. Our movement for kosen-rufu is a grand endeavour—encompassing heaven, earth, and all living things—to unlock and unite the

Awaken People's Buddha Nature

Buddha nature, the innate positive power, of people who have been racked by despair and misery, divided by mistrust and conflict.

Our noble members, while challenging their own human revolution and bravely tackling the walls of karma that confront them, also pray for the happiness of all people and peace in the lands where they live. Breaking down barriers dividing hearts and minds, they have built a global network dedicated to realizing the Daishonin's ideal of "establishing the correct teaching for the peace of the land."

The Berlin Wall, a symbol of division, was torn down 28 years after I stood before it. Today, 60 years after I took that first step from Berlin, dedicated global citizens of Soka in the now united Germany and throughout Europe are working together in solid unity, undaunted by the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, and creating a shining network for peace and human harmony.

I am reminded of a conversation I had (in 2009) with Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president who played a crucial role in ending the Cold War, and affirming together with him that it was time once more to tear down the walls of apathy and inertia with youthful courage.



Ikeda Sensei shakes hands with former Soviet leader and Nobel Peace laureate Mikhail S. Gorbachev at Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Tokyo, on June 11, 2007. This was their ninth meeting.



During Ikeda Sensei's first overseas trip to Europe in October 1961, one of his deepest concerns was the Berlin Wall. From 1961–89, the wall separated people from East and West Berlin, dividing families and loved ones. He visited the Berlin Wall just two months after it was erected. At that time, he said, "I am sure that in thirty years this Berlin Wall will no longer stand."¹ He expressed these words not merely to make a prediction but "based on his unwavering confidence that the conscience, wisdom and courage of people dedicated to realizing peace would triumph."² Above: Ikeda Sensei (centre) visits the Brandenburg Gate.

No matter how huge and seemingly immovable the barriers may be, let's continue confidently engaging in dialogue with far-reaching voices, like the roar of the "lion king, the monarch of all the creatures that run on the ground" (WND-1, 929). Let us serenely rise above all obstacles, "like the eagle, the king of all the creatures that fly in the sky" (WND-1, 929–30), to build a rainbow bridge to the triumph of human dignity.

There is no wall of fundamental ignorance the Mystic Law cannot demolish— with this conviction as champions of Soka, let's keep speaking out for peace, our voices a powerful lion's roar. ■

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1 The New Human Revolution, vol. 4., revised edition, p. 319
2 Ibid.