

# Planning a dream

## This can be a good time

Let's think, each one of us, of our most intimate desire; it could be the house of our dreams, or a trip to an exotic country, a specific job, painting a picture... These wonderful and feasible desires acquire more enthusiasm, more power, when we make them an integral part of a large project, one with the environment, one with humankind.

### What is your great desire for Humanity?

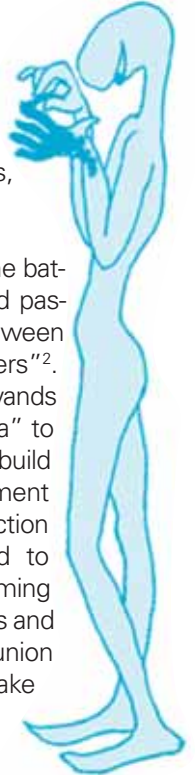
Let's imagine that your personal desire is that painting a picture, more specifically a landscape of the sea, with small houses on the coast and

women with sun hats in the wind, something like a Sorolla's<sup>1</sup> landscape.

It is a well known fact that no-one is born all knowledgeable, that one doesn't start building a house from the roof but from the foundations, from the ground. In the same way, one begins on a canvas with experience, learning, studying, and the example of great masters, working tenaciously, making many drafts before reaching the objective, the finished painting. All the things that happen, and all that we want to be is composed on the inside, to then be reflected on the outside. In the same way, peace begins, in everyday

things, in what's near us, in our routines.

"The main thing is not the battle between the ego and passions, but the battle between some passions and others"<sup>2</sup>. There are no magic wands that will do "abra cadabra" to show us the picture. We build the desire now, the moment when we start to take action in the environment and to move forward. In this coming and going of interchanges and of relationships, both union and a determination take shape.



## Looking for the appropriate time

In the course of our lives we often complain of how the good opportunities come at the most inconvenient moment, either because we don't have the time, or the money or the suitable personal or family disposition, or because we think that our boat has sailed a long time ago.

We resign ourselves, justifying this with sensible reasoning and often we tell ourselves that when the situation changes we will undertake this or that project. However, life, dynamic and unpredictable as it is, will make sure that a new obstacle

will replace the old ones. So, if we accept to simply wait for the ideal moment to come, it is possible that the moment will never materialize, or that we will never manage to perceive the appropriate time. Are we considering the question in a smart way, or are we getting the premise the wrong way round?

Let's try and change the order of our premise and let's start by asking ourselves honestly what is the great desire that we hold deep inside. We will see that the only thing that matters is up to which point we

are determined to make an effort, whatever the objective. Maybe we will surprise ourselves when we'll look back and it will seem almost impossible to see all that we managed to achieve and to win.

But then, we will discover that we ourselves have been the architects of that appropriate time. We have summoned it with our strong determination and our hard work.

1) Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (Valencia, 27 de febrero de 1863 – Cercedilla, 10 de agosto de 1923), pintor y artista gráfico español impresionista.

2) "El arte de escuchar" de Erich Fromm, (1900– 1980,) destacado psicólogo social, psicoanalista, filósofo y humanista alemán. Pág 26 Editorial Paidós Biblioteca

# Victory is the perseverance over the time

Historians agree that the inventor Thomas Edinson (1847- 1931) made more than 1000 vain attempts before he finally created the electric light bulb, a device that we all take for granted.

There is a close relationship between time and success. Victory in life is not the result of that coincidence of being at the precise place and time that many people keep mentioning. Victory is a consequence of opening the multiple ways or doors with a constant dedication to crystallize it on a specific moment or to sum up all our work undertaken.


The real use of the daily practice is forming a continued dedication and taking advantage of any circumstance. If we have following wind, let's make an effort then to move forward faster. If there are difficulties let's keep having our best determination, but definitely always on that moment.

This is the most favorable time to undertake that action that can transform things, as we know that the time we waste will never come back.

Well, we can't: we cannot sit still and wait forever for the ideal opportunity to present itself, if it ever will!



## Time to change



Devadatta, the Buddha's cousin, was one of his outstanding disciples, who became his enemy and even attempted on his life. However, when Shakyamuni preached the Lotus Sutra at Eagle Peak, he predicted that Devadatta would attain Buddha hood, just like the other disciples. In the course of the same ceremony the Dragon King's daughter was able to become a Buddha without changing her reptilian form.

Herein lies the most revolutionary and hope-filled message of the Lotus Sutra: each one of the ten worlds possesses Bud-

dha hood and that in turn possesses the nine worlds. To use everyday language, complete victory is achieved on a daily basis whenever we confront small and big challenges without letting resignation win over us.

In the Goshō The selection of the Time, Nichiren states: *"We may leave aside the question of whether Shakyamuni's listeners at that point possessed the capacity to understand such doctrines or not. The fact is that the time had come for him to preach them."*

If we transfer these words into the context of our daily reality, we can understand that a "favourable time" that will arrive "at some time" does not exist, but that it is our determination that creates this "favourable time".

### Goshō

"As the Sutra says: 'Now is the very time when I must decisively preach the great vehicle'."

*The Selection of the Time,  
The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin,  
page 539*

People manifest their capacities when they realize that there is no other time to win over their circumstances apart from the "now". There are millions of things that we can achieve. The question is whether we do it or not. Our circumstances, and the world around us, will change to the extent that we change ourselves.

## Secret strings

A while ago you asked me for advice and now I will attempt to offer you the best arguments I can give you. In any case, you know what the answers are. You know where the key is that would deactivate the image, but be honest you find it convenient, don't you? With it, it is easier to run away, to avoid the commitments and, incidentally, the possibility of being defeated. Well, it is a formula that can be useful, at times, however, if you use it as the norm, you will find that it will distort everything, including your life, and this really is a defeat.

You look for advice that will help you to go on, at times you even get it without asking, but, really, it is advice for the "image", which is what you show people, not for you. This way, your "victories" will never be yours, while all the failures will add up.

You know the strings that really move your life, and what you keep as a secret, even if you may run away at times, don't go too far in order to forget them; knowing that they exist is in itself a way of winning, and learning how to move them is the victory you must aspire to. The victory of your life depends on those strings.