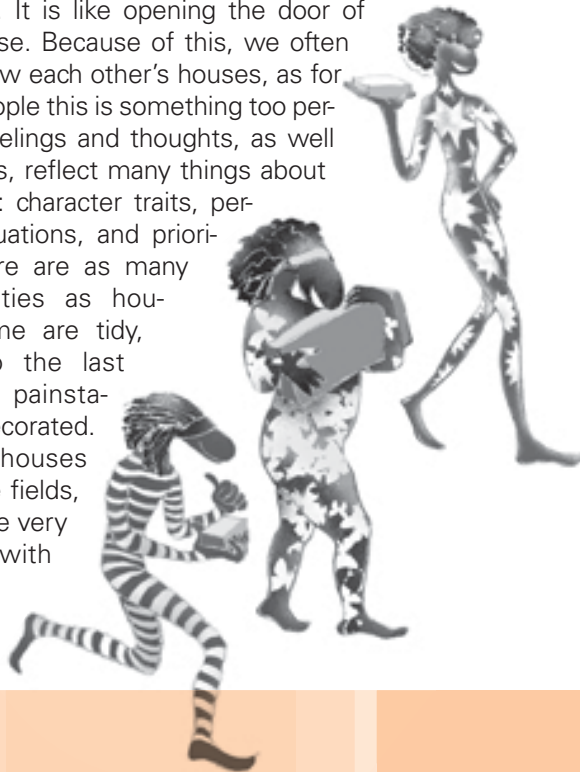


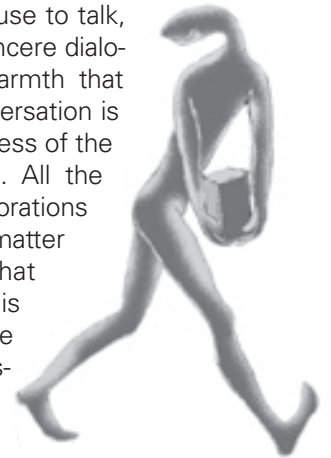
The spirit is something invisible, but it manifests at the crucial times.

Opening the door of your house, or of your self.

It's not always easy to open the doors of one's own self. It is like opening the door of your house. Because of this, we often don't know each other's houses, as for many people this is something too personal. Feelings and thoughts, as well as homes, reflect many things about a person: character traits, personal situations, and priorities. There are as many personalities as houses: Some are tidy, down to the last detail, painstakingly decorated. Other houses are battle fields, others are very simple with



just the basics; Some are big, some are small, some have white walls, other have coloured walls, a modern house, a period house...there are as many ways of decorating as there are people. However, one thing that doesn't change, that is always the same, is when a host and a guest sit down in a house to talk, as friend to friend. If a sincere dialogue takes place, the warmth that emanates from this conversation is always the same, regardless of the decoration around them. All the ornaments and the decorations surrounding us do not matter any more, because what truly matters, and what is most important, are the people in their relationship with one another.



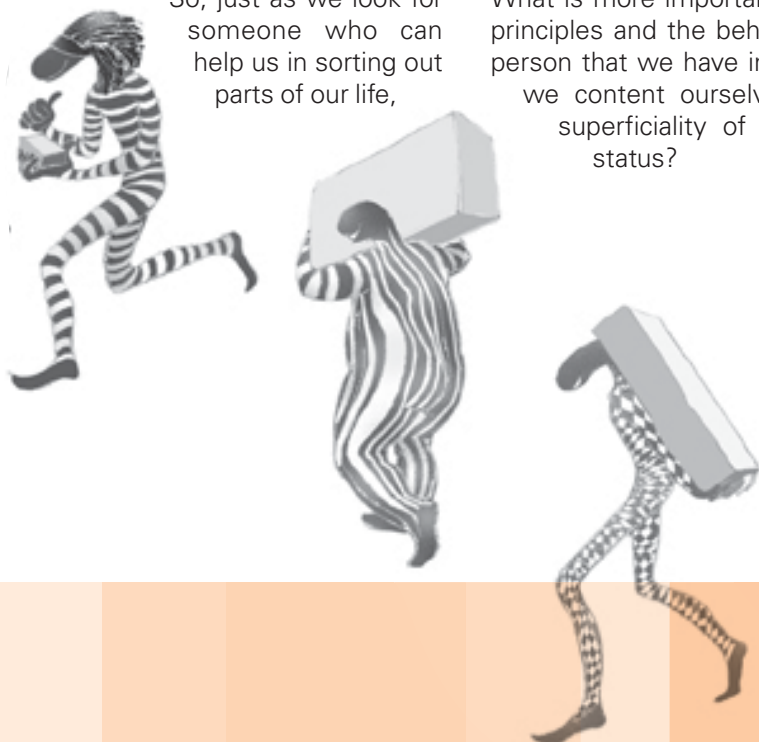
Re-discovering an essential relationship.

Looking for the best results

In the world of business, like in the world of sports, the “coach” has become an indispensable figure. This is a kind of trainer who directs and instructs a person, or a group of people, in order to help them obtain the maximum results in whichever field they are playing their roles.

Similarly, when we need to resolve an important problem, we seek the services of an expert professional, whether this is a tax advisor, a lawyer, or maybe a plumber or an electrician.

So, just as we look for someone who can help us in sorting out parts of our life,



why not take advantage of the experience of someone who can be, at any time, a referent, someone whom we can consider a mentor for life in its entirety?

Choosing a mentor

It's clear that when it comes to choosing a referent we will be looking for someone who brings together all the qualities that we consider are the most important and that we normally value in others. Therefore, it will be our values and our priorities in the relationships with other people that will determine whom we are going to take as a model for our life.

What is more important to us? The principles and the behaviour of the person that we have in front, or do we content ourselves with the superficiality of his looks or status?

Do I copy or do I take inspiration?

Although we may be sure of having made a good choice, there can be times when we feel that we cannot compare with the person we have chosen as an example. The achievements of our mentor can make us feel overwhelmed if we try to imitate his, or her, accomplishments.

However, it is not a question to imitate the life of other people, but to overcome our own limits in our own reality and to obtain our own results and achievements, with the conviction that we can do so if we act with the same attitude and spirit of the mentor. Then, this will become a source of inspiration for our life.

A shared desire

As we said, among the reasons that made us opt for one mentor rather than another, there will be the affinity of our objectives.

At times, we may find that, until now, we hadn't been aware that inside of us we held the same yearning as the mentor but, once we perceive his dream and his struggle to make it a reality, we may discover that we share the same desires.



A fundamental link to World peace

To make the aspiration for world peace a reality a global movement of people is needed. Those people need to take on the responsibility of this desire and act according to this sincerely and wisely.

The history of the Soka Gakkai movement has shown that this union of purpose amongst people requires an engine that constantly feeds it; the model, the commitment and the decision of the person who chooses his/her mentor and decides to take on as their own the same objective.

Daisaku Ikeda talks constantly about the relationship with his master, Josei Toda: “Mr. Toda, during his confinement for not giving way to the demands of the Japanese military government during Second World War, understood the seriousness of the arrogance of the authorities. He insisted that leaders should work at the service of the people, and that they are there to protect people. This was his vision of leadership, that coincides perfectly with the vision that Buddhism sustains. The challenge of the Youth Department is to establish this ideal. (...) I ask you, members of the Youth Department to carry out this spirit of justice, which is the heart of the master-disciple relationship [...] When I was young, I told him: ‘Master, please don’t worry. I will build an ideal Soka Gakkai’. And I embarked passionately on the fight for this great goal!”

Gosho:

The Sutra says, “Those persons who have heard the Law dwelled here and there in various Buddha lands, constantly reborn in company with their teachers.” It also says, “If one stays close to the teacher of the Law, one will speedily gain the bodhisattva way. By following and learning from these teachers one will see Buddhas as numerous as the Ganges sands.”

Reply to Sairen-bo. Page 309 Writings of Nichiren Daishonin

The Future is Now

“‘What kind of future do I imagine for myself? What kind of person do I want to become?’ The question is to paint this vision in our heart, as clearly as possible.” (Daisaku Ikeda) Daily life doesn’t usually match our desires, so every day we adjust the route to avoid losing sight of the goal. In Buddhism and especially in the Soka Gakkai movement, the mentor offers to the disciple the model of his own life so that he can fully express himself and move forward towards the fulfilment of his dreams. It is useless for the disciple to only admire his Master passively. Nichiren’s proposal has nothing to do with veneration. No matter if it’s a Buddha statue, a real person or a wrong attitude in front of the Gohonzon, the dilemma is whether we are looking for something “outside” or we assume as our own the desire of Buddha and we commit to the happiness of all people.

Weight or grounds?

Poses that weigh

Steps that don’t move

Free yourself from weight on the way, or no ground will be left.

make!...your steps move