



Soka University of America

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Aliso Viejo Campus

Calabasas Campus

Remarks by Dean Carter

at

Soka University, Aliso Viejo on May 3, 2001

**as part of the
Dedication Ceremonies**

***Soka University of America
1 University Drive
Aliso Viejo, California 92656-4105
May 3, 2001***

IN HONOR OF THE FOUNDER OF SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., Ph.D., D.D., D.H.

Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr.

International Chapel at Morehouse College

Today as we mark the founding of the undergraduate campus of Soka University of America we celebrate the ideal learning community that is the result of one man's efforts to foster peace and equality for all through nonviolent means.

Soka University of America with its travertine stone and red clay tiled edifices is a monument to the cross-cultural and spiritual values of Buddhism. The 103 acre first phase of this grove of academe is designed to bring East and West

together and help students learn how to create value in their lives, communities, and the world by thinking outside the box.

Indeed Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, founder of this great institution is hurrying toward an existence filled with dignity, freedom, and happiness for all people.

Ikeda, like Mohandas Karamchand "Mahatma" Gandhi and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is recognized as a scholar; honored in more than 103 of the planet's leading universities and colleges; author of more than 200 books translated into twenty-six languages which are read in 165 countries.

Every year for thirty years his peace proposals have been read into the minutes of the General Assembly of the United Nations causing its members to confer their time honored Peace Award unanimously upon him.

Dr. Ikeda is a Renaissance man and mentor to more than thirteen million global citizens. Because of his ascension consciousness, his nonviolent activism, and his legacy as an international, interracial, interdisciplinary, and interreligious facilitator, his name should be recognized among quintessential teachers like Gandhi and King.

Gandhi, King, Ikeda -- Three men, from three different cultures and continents, whose lives, nonetheless, follow a common path of profound dedication and achievement in correcting the plight of the common people that catapulted them onto the world stage, surrounded by both enmity and adulation.

- Each was raised from humble beginnings.
- Each realized early the suffering wrought by destructive, authoritarian social structures.
- Each received hope through moving personal encounters with great mentors.

- Each was inspired by historic figures, both religious and secular; common to all, the Transcendentalists of the American Renaissance.
- Each was the driving impetus for widespread improvement of the human condition by implementing practical applications of the principles of peace and nonviolence among the masses.

Mohandas K. Gandhi was an Indian Hindu who came to live by nonviolent principles that led to India's independence from the British Empire.

Martin Luther King Jr. was an African American Christian who infused nonviolent principles with love and broke the iron-grip segregation held on American social systems.

Daisaku Ikeda is a Japanese Buddhist who espouses inner reformation by the individual as the basis for social action and peace.

Because of his belief in the Mystic Law, Dr. Ikeda has transcended to a higher level and must also be listed with the 20th Century's greatest pacifists and drum majors for peace.

And now as President of the Soka Gakkai International, which means Society for the Creation of Value, Daisaku Ikeda has created an unprecedented respect for and understanding of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism around the world. He is the living embodiment of the visions of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On this historic and never to be forgotten day the American Academy proudly welcomes Soka University of America into its ancient and universal community.

And on this day, Daisaku Ikeda takes his place in the company of the founders of other great universities--Leland Stanford, James Duke, and John D. Rockefeller, with the distinction of founding his institution on a pedagogy of peace.

Veritas has a friend in Daisaku Ikeda who said, "What our world most requires now is the kind of education that fosters love for humankind, that develops character—that provides an intellectual basis for the realization of peace and empowers learners to contribute to and improve society."