

Where is Daisaku Ikeda Now?: Immortality in Philosophical Practice

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Abstract

Philosophical practice intimates immortality. This paper explores such immortality by reflecting on Daisaku Ikeda's practice and legacy, relying on the Buddhist notion of the enduring self as residing within the eternal web of cosmic life. The actions of the philosophical practitioner in the life phase will endure in the death phase as long as the universe endures. We may liken the philosophical practice found in the work of the Bodhisattvas of Mahayana Buddhism, which seeks to ameliorate suffering, to that of philosophical practitioners.

Keywords: *Buddhism, Ikeda, immortality, life, philosophical practice, death*

Music in Daisaku Ikeda's Philosophy and Practice of Peacebuilding

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Abstract

In this article a tripartite conceptual framework is used to bring together various insights about Daisaku Ikeda's praxis of peacebuilding through music. Beethoven was a powerful source of inspiration for his Inner Transformation. Art Blakey's advice to "play from the inside," explored in a dialogue with jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter, can lead to the sharing of inner joy, providing a basic ingredient to enhance Dialogue. Finally, one reason for the establishment of the Min-On Music Research Institute in 2014, was to multiply dialogues, in order to enhance Global Citizenship through collaborative research, practice and education. May these insights serve as an entry point into the vast world of Ikeda's praxis of peacebuilding through music.

Keywords: *Daisaku Ikeda, music, peacebuilding, music in peacebuilding, inner transformation, dialogue, global citizenship, Beethoven, jazz, Min-On Music Research Institute*

A Poetics of Brightness: In Conversation with Daisaku Ikeda's Poetry

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Abstract

Throughout his long life, Daisaku Ikeda called upon humanity to embrace light: the light of hope, the light of peace, of justice, of human potential and inner transformation. Nowhere is this more radiantly demonstrated than in his poetry where light is a guiding principle that illuminates what human beings—individually and collectively—might be in this world and for this world. A poetics of brightness emerges through his many and varied poetic writings: this essay considers the far-reaching range of such radiance, focusing on the natural world from which he drew his images. At the core is the sun itself and the powerful invitation it extends. Were humans to emulate the sun, they would abandon all forms of oppression, for as Ikeda reminds his readers, the sun abides only by inclusivity. It shines on all. The sun, however, is not Ikeda's sole focus, for he also highlights the moon and the light it brings to humanity as well as the companionship offered by the stars. Examining the presence of sun, moon and stars in Ikeda's poetry, this essay asks its reader to consider the light in which they perceive, think, feel and act as well as the light they bring to the world around them.

Keywords: *Daisaku Ikeda poetry; sun imagery; moon imagery; intention vs. impact; youth; mothers; social change agents*

Daisaku Ikeda and Philosophy: Rethinking Principles

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Abstract

Dr. Daisaku Ikeda has led a life of exceptional achievement but, at the same time, has taken a quite different approach to philosophical work than we normally understand. By analyzing various facets of his life and work, we will question three elements that constitute to some extent the place of philosophy today. These are logocentrism, solitary labor, and radical skepticism. Each of these will be countered with a different term, namely action as opposed to logocentrism, bonding with others as opposed to working in solitude, and commitment to an ideal as opposed to disbelief. By observing different facets and elements of Daisaku Ikeda's life, we will be able to view his philosophical mission and its objectives through alternative lenses.

Keywords: *Daisaku Ikeda, Buddhism, philosophy, philosophical practice, action, bonding, ideals, Soka Gakkai.*

**Ikeda Daisaku's Philosophical Practice:
The Wisdom of the *Lotus Sūtra* and the Oneness of Mentor and Disciple**

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... humanity is now searching beyond the present for a powerful new philosophy.
— Ikeda Daisaku (Ikeda *et al.*, 2000–2003, Vol. 1, p. 3)

The true greatness of the mentor is demonstrated by the lives and achievements of the disciples.
— Ikeda Daisaku (2021b, p. 832).

I hope that, at its close, my life will reveal no less intense a dedication to the well-being of posterity.
— Ikeda Daisaku (2010a, p. 137).

Abstract

This article considers two interlocking philosophies that typified Ikeda Daisaku's life and work. The first is the philosophical wisdom of the *Lotus Sūtra*, particularly as expounded by the 13th century Buddhist reformer Nichiren. The second, inherent in the first, is the philosophical practice of the oneness of mentor and disciple, manifest most concretely and substantively for Ikeda in his relationship with and lifelong response to his mentor and Buddhist war resister, Toda Jōsei. The former philosophy shaped Ikeda's worldview and uncompromising focus on actualizing the peace, agency, happiness, and full becoming of all humanity. The latter animated his more than seven decades of activities toward these ends. The article concludes with implications for readers' daily life and professional spheres of influence.

Keywords: *Ikeda Daisaku, Toda Jōsei, Lotus Sūtra, Mentor/Disciple, Wisdom, Buddhism*