

Special Article:

Preface to Three Dialogue Books with Daisaku Ikeda published in Bulgarian

In November 2008, a set of three dialogue books with Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, president of Soka Gakkai International, were published in Bulgarian. To commemorate the publication, a special reception was held at the University of Sofia on November 25, 2008, on the auspicious occasion of the 120th anniversary of the university's founding, and over one hundred distinguished guests from various fields in Bulgaria were present to celebrate.

The first of the three books is a dialogue with the renowned 20th century historian Arnold Toynbee entitled Choose Life. The second is entitled Before It Is Too Late, a conversation with Aurelio Peccei, one of the founders and the first president of the Club of Rome. The third is The Beauty of a Lion's Heart, a discourse with Professor Axinia D. Djourova (Aksinia Djurova) at the University of Sofia. This book won the award of Book of the Year in Bulgaria when it was published in 2000.

The preface to this three-volume set, entitled "On the Power of Mind, Wisdom and Experience," is written by Vassja Velinova, associate professor and scholar of Slavo-Byzantine Studies at the University of Sofia. Dr. Velinova explains that these books, addressing the issue of conflict and confrontation between different cultures, will serve to promote intercultural exchange and help us recognize the rich cultural diversity we share. She concludes her preface with the following words:

"Probably we are in a process of giving new meaning to the impulse for a united world from the end of the last century. ...Whether this will happen through neutralizing the negative sides of globalization, or by going back to traditional cultures, or with the creation of a worldwide religion is impossible to prognosticate, exactly because the world is so diverse and often contradictory. One thing is sure—in order to choose the right direction, to uphold the humane principles, to 'choose life', not only courage but also a sense of duty and responsibility is required. I think in this aspect that the three dialogues have a lot to tell their readers."