

Arnold Toynbee

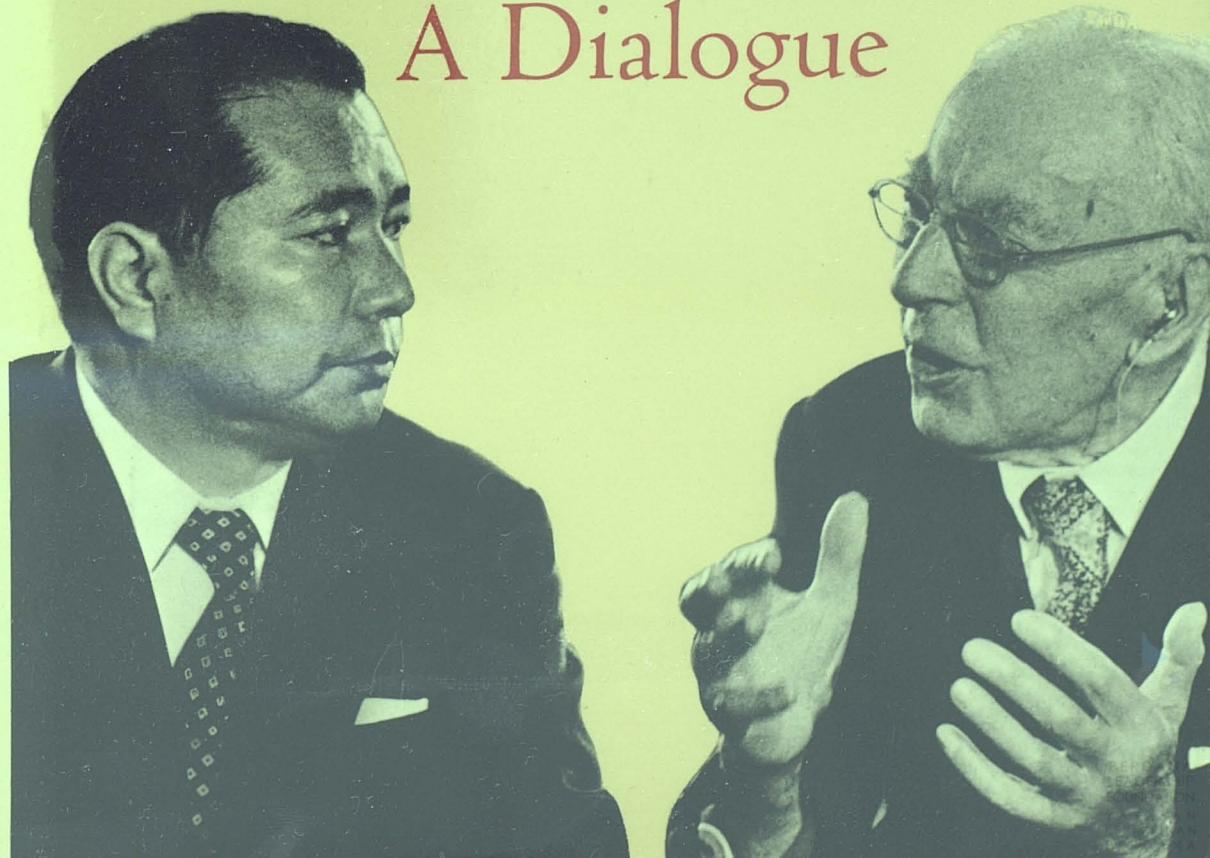
and

Daisaku Ikeda

CHOOSE

LIFE

A Dialogue



Arnold Toynbee, C.H., died in October 1975 at the age of 86, 'an international sage', as he was called in *Time* magazine, 'like Einstein, Schweitzer, or Bertrand Russell'. Daisaku Ikeda is President of Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist lay organization with ten and a half million members, based in Japan and devoted to the promotion of education, culture, and peace. Between 1971 and 1974 Toynbee and Ikeda discussed many of the vital issues which confront contemporary man, both in the West and in the East. They exchanged written questions and answers, and held conversations which were recorded and subsequently edited for publication by Richard L. Gage. Professor Toynbee revised and approved the text of the book before his last illness.

Man's predicament is considered by these two remarkable men in all its aspects: personal and social, political and international, philosophical and religious. Specific topics range from individual issues such as suicide and euthanasia to the global problems posed by population increase, pollution, and dwindling natural resources. Their search is less for abstract answers than for the meaning of developments to the individual human being. Thus they pose an underlying choice: will solutions lead to subjugation to totalitarian regimes, or can a human revolution in thinking and morals enhance mankind's destiny? And beyond the immediate problems, they examine other, perennial ones, regarding the nature of man, his relation to other creatures, to nature, and to the universe.

In this dialogue Toynbee and Ikeda accept the fact that human survival is threatened by man's capacity to destroy his natural environment and by the imbalance between his moral immaturity and his technological prowess; but they believe that man-made evils can have a man-made cure, and lay optimistic emphasis on the essential oneness of mankind and the universe.

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CHOOSE LIFE



ARNOLD TOYNBEE
and
DAISAKU IKEDA

**CHOOSE
LIFE**

A DIALOGUE

Edited by Richard L. Gage

**Choose life and then you and
your descendants shall live
Deuteronomy 30: 19**

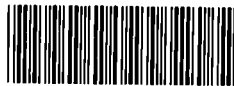
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