

A Memorable Symphony of Peace Prayers

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The Symphony of Peace Prayers is an inter-religious, inter-spiritual peace prayer event, first held in 2005 at Fuji Sanctuary in Japan. This unique ceremony brings together people from different faiths and spiritual traditions to pray with one voice for peace on earth. Since, 2007, the SOPP has been linked with the widespread Global Peace Meditation and Prayer Day event. This grassroots ceremony is held every year in a growing number of countries.

The fifth annual Symphony of Peace Prayers (held on May 17, 2009) was beautifully carried out amidst cold rain and strong winds that lasted throughout the day. For nearly four hours, participants sat motionless and unperturbed, focusing their consciousness on prayers for peace in all countries and regions of the world.

The faces of the participants shone joyfully, their hearts filled with an unshakable sense of purpose and their lives resonating in perfect harmony with the universal law.

The sight of the participants braving the elements to pray for peace was profoundly impressive. The prayer leaders and guests all remarked that they felt deeply moved by the experience, and some were even holding back their tears.

The Symphony of Peace Prayers began as a symbol of unity among the world's religions. Its prayers transcend all sorts of cultural and emotional barriers, bringing everyone together in perfect harmony, creating a real sense of sharing and mutual understanding. The SOPP enables people to cast aside the deep-seated grudges and hatred that have provoked an endless chain of strife and retaliation, and to transform them into light. It is an event that awakens compassion and respect for all living things. Indeed, the SOPP embodies our souls' highest hopes and deepest desires for peace.

Earthly humanity is currently in the midst of a great shift in consciousness, something that many peace-loving people aspire to. The Symphony of Peace Prayers has an important role to play in bringing about this wonderful, upward shift, because when people of different religions and cultural backgrounds come together and join in one another's peace prayers, the vibration of love contained in those prayers co-resonates with and uplifts each person's consciousness. At the same time, those vibrations resonate outward, sparking the peace-consciousness of people everywhere.

This year (2009), just four years after the ceremony was first held, local SOPP ceremonies and prayer gatherings took place at some 400 locations in 52 countries. All of us take great pride in this. For over half a century, we have devoted ourselves intently to prayer for world peace. Through rain, snow, wind, and scorching heat, we have

gathered again and again to pray at Fuji Sanctuary, the home of the SOPP and a central point for sending out waves of harmony through the world.

The SOPP never refuses or excludes any participant, whatever their faith or religious denomination might be. The ceremony is open to people of all backgrounds, enabling them to gather and join in peace prayers from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions. Because of this, people throughout the world can wholeheartedly acknowledge and praise this ceremony.

The experience, understanding, and learning that come through praying the prayers of many different faiths is not only important, it is essential. Prayer leaders from various faiths and traditions have already started bringing their fellow believers and congregants with them to the SOPP, and I believe this trend will continue to grow. Thanks to them, the stiff walls that still divide religions and spiritual groups from one another will eventually break down completely, and all misunderstandings among them will melt away, leaving nothing but deep mutual respect and understanding.

At Fuji Sanctuary people from across the globe are wholeheartedly welcomed. We always hope to create a loving, compassionate, sacred atmosphere, so that visitors can open their hearts and take part in the ceremony with a lighthearted feeling. The people who participate in the SOPP do so with a joyful sense of freedom. Their only aim is to foster peace throughout the world. As a result, their high-dimensional consciousness co-resonates with the consciousness of peace-loving people worldwide, creating a great, bright field of peaceful energy that assists all of humanity in turning away from conflict and discrimination and opening up wonderful new possibilities for the future.

The moment people begin to take part in the SOPP, they notice that their hearts are perfectly free from all the problems of their daily lives. Because they are not focusing on those matters, and are instead devoting their energy to creating a wonderful future for the world, the high-dimensional energy they create allows their various worries and troubles to naturally be resolved with the flow of time.

The critical conditions that are facing the world today are all reflections of what billions of people think, say, and do from day to day. Unharmonious words, thoughts, and actions cannot bring about happiness or peace. For as long as we human beings continue to harbor such thoughts, wars and other forms of suffering will not disappear. On the other hand, high-dimensional words, thoughts, and actions are filled with a prodigious power that cuts through all kinds of disharmony and opens up a future that is totally bright and new.

Thoughts and prayers of love create a future filled with love. Thoughts and prayers of respect create a future filled with respect. Thoughts and prayers of harmony create a

future filled with harmony. Thoughts and prayers of praise, trust, and admiration create a future resplendent with joyful diversity.

By nature, all human beings are creators. Each of us possesses infinite wisdom, infinite creativity, infinite ability, infinite potential, infinite intuition, and an endless array of other infinite qualities within us. All of us are perfectly free, brilliantly shining beings, bound by no one.

As creators, all our thoughts must take shape in one form or another. This is a universal law. Yet, a majority of human beings do not believe in their role as creators, but are instead filled with doubt and disbelief. In accordance with their own thoughts and expectations, people are attracting negative situations toward themselves. In this way, humanity's reality is shaped by its collective consciousness – the thoughts and emotions of each individual human being.

This, I think, points to the reason why ceremonies like the Symphony of Peace Prayers are so important and so necessary at this point in human history. As people with an elevated consciousness continue to gather at events like the Symphony of Peace Prayers and send their pure prayers coursing through the world, the shells of humanity's prejudices and fixed ideas will crumble and a harmonious world will naturally come about.

The energy and power of our peace prayers heal people, animals, plants, and all living things. A spirit of pure prayer makes people's hearts resonate as one, drawing forth the radiance of their life and awakening in them a sense of joy, happiness, and appreciation for living. At the same time, pure prayer elevates and polishes our consciousness, and allows that high-dimensional consciousness to manifest itself in the real world. In ways like these, the SOPP works through the collective power of pure prayer to assist in the evolution of each person, of humanity, and of the planet Earth.

I wholeheartedly celebrate and congratulate everyone on the great success of this year's Symphony of Peace Prayers. Thank you very much.

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