

May Peace Prevail on Earth

PHILOSOPHY OF MASAHISA GOI



**Goi Peace
Foundation**

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INTRODUCTION

May Peace Prevail on Earth, Möge Friede auf Erden sein—Some of you may have come across this message of peace somewhere. You may have seen it on a monument known as a Peace Pole, on a poster or the internet; or you may have heard it in speeches or prayer ceremonies.

The movement dedicated to bringing world peace through this message and prayer was started half a century ago by Masahisa Goi (1916-1980), a Japanese teacher and philosopher. Masahisa Goi grew up with a great fondness for the arts, and was a gifted poet, writer and singer. Above all, however, he dedicated his life to humanity.

The devastation caused by the Second World War affected Masahisa Goi in a profound way. He searched for ways to respond to the desperate cry for peace, not only in Japan but around the world. With steadfast commitment and faith, he sought guidance from God, so that he might be of service for the betterment of humanity. Eventually, through his own experience, he attained much insight into the divine nature of humankind.

Masahisa Goi came to understand that words, thoughts and actions are alive: that they radiate vibration and energy. He realized that the thoughts and actions of each and every individual influence the destiny of humanity as well as that of plants, animals, and all creation on Earth. He discovered the universality of the prayer, *May Peace Prevail on Earth*, and believed that as more and more people began to embrace this prayer and to live and act in the spirit of this message, a great transformation would take place in global consciousness, bringing about peace and harmony in our personal lives as well as in the world at large.

In Japan, where he is respected as a great master in his field, he provided many people with spiritual guidance for the development of mind, body and spirit, and for the attainment of inner and global peace. Many leaders in various fields, including politicians, academics and business people, have also been greatly influenced by his teachings. Masahisa Goi is the author of more than fifty books including *God and Man*, *The Future of Mankind*, *Lectures on Lao Tzu*, to name a few.

This compilation is a selection of four essays by Masahisa Goi written between 1961-1970. Even after many years, the message conveyed in his writings is relevant. His words ring true today more than ever, as they come from deep wisdom and spiritual insight and therefore, carry a timeless truth.

At this crucial juncture in history, as human society faces various challenges on a global level, it is becoming apparent that the old systems are no longer working. What we need is a new paradigm, and it must begin with a new paradigm in thinking. Masahisa Goi presents us with a transformational and yet fundamental view of humanity, of the world, and of the universe. He explains that humanity has one collective responsibility to create peace on Earth, and to fulfill that, each and every one of us must develop our spirituality to attain inner peace and harmony. Moreover, he suggests simple and practical ways for individuals to attain this state and become agents of world peace.

May this reading open your heart to the new reality, and inspire you to look deep into your being and far into our common future.

◇ *About The Goi Peace Foundation*

The Goi Peace Foundation based in Tokyo is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a peaceful and harmonious world, transcending all boundaries of race, religion, or politics. Based on the philosophy of Masahisa Goi, the Goi Peace Foundation aims to bring together people in wisdom, united in their hearts toward the common goal of peace on Earth. By encouraging public awareness of peace through educational programs, and by building cooperation among individuals and organizations in all fields, including education, science, culture and the arts, the Foundation aims to build an international peace network and to stimulate the global trend toward a culture of peace.

The Foundation shares projects and cooperates with its New York based sister organization, The World Peace Prayer Society, which promotes activities to spread the message and prayer *May Peace Prevail on Earth*.

◇ *About the Declaration for All Life on Earth*

The Declaration for All Life on Earth, launched by the Goi Peace Foundation, promotes a shared vision of a truly peaceful and harmonious world for all life in the 21st century. It sets forth guiding principles to realize this vision and encourages all people to apply them in their individual lives and in their specialized fields of activities. Our collective wisdom and joint efforts are vital to ensure a bright and sustainable future. The Declaration for All Life on Earth is intended to serve as an instrument in bringing together individuals and organizations committed to this common aim.

Declaration for All Life on Earth

PREAMBLE

The earth is an evolving living entity. Every form of life on earth is an important part of this living entity. Accordingly, we, as individual human beings, must cultivate the awareness that we are all members of a global community of life and that we share a common mission and responsibility for the future of our planet.

Every one of us has a role to play in the evolution of our planet, and to achieve world peace each of us must live up to our responsibilities and obligations. Up to the present time, few people on earth have been fully satisfied with life. We have faced conflicts all over the world in competition for limited resources and land. This has had a devastating effect on the global environment.

As we enter the new millennium, more than anything else, the realization of world peace depends on an awakening of consciousness on the part of each individual member of the human race. Today, it is imperative that every human being bears the responsibility of building peace and harmony in his or her heart. We all have this common mission that we must fulfill. World peace will be achieved when every member of humanity becomes aware of this common mission – when we all join together for our common purpose.

Until now, in terms of power, wealth, fame, knowledge, technology and education, humanity has been divided between individuals, nations and organizations that have possession and those that do not. There have also been distinctions between the givers and the receivers, the helpers and the helped.

We hereby declare our commitment to transcend all these dualities and distinctions with a totally new concept, which will serve as our foundation as we set out to build a peaceful world.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

In the new era, humanity shall advance toward a world of harmony, that is, a world in which every individual and every nation can freely express their individual qualities, while living in harmony with one another and with all life on earth. To realize this vision, we set forth the following guiding principles:

1. Reverence for life

We shall create a world based on love and harmony in which all forms of life are respected.

2. Respect for all differences

We shall create a world in which all different races, ethnic groups, religions, cultures, traditions and customs are respected. The world must be a place free from discrimination or confrontation, socially, physically and spiritually– a place where diversity is appreciated and enjoyed.

3. Gratitude for and coexistence with all of nature

We shall create a world in which each person is aware that we are enabled to live through the blessings of nature, and lives in harmony with nature, showing gratitude for all animal, plant and other forms of life.

4. Harmony between the spiritual and material

We shall create a world based on the harmonious balance of material and spiritual civilization. We must break away from our overemphasis on the material to allow a healthy spirituality to blossom among humanity. We must build a world where not only material abundance but also spiritual riches are valued.

PRACTICE

We shall put these principles into practice guided by the following:

As individuals:

We must move beyond an era in which authority and responsibility rest in nation states, ethnic groups and religions to one in which the individual is paramount. We envision an "Age of the Individual" –not in the sense of egoism, but an age in which every individual is ready to accept responsibility and to carry out his or her mission as an independent member of the human race.

Each of us shall carry out our greatest mission to bring love, harmony and gratitude into our own heart, and in so doing, bring harmony to the world at large.

In our specialized fields:

We shall build a system of cooperation in which wisdom is gathered together to derive the most from technical knowledge, skills and ability in various fields, such as education, science, culture and the arts, as well as religion, philosophy, politics and economics.

As the young generation:

In the 20th century, parents, teachers and society were the educators of children, and the children were always in the position of being taught. In the 21st century, adults shall learn from the wonderful qualities of children, such as their purity, innocence, radiance, wisdom and intuition, to inspire and uplift one another. The young generation shall play a leading role in the creation of peace for a bright future.

May Peace Prevail on Earth

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A GREAT NATION

Some Frank Words for America

As I traveled around America recently, I could really sense that America was a vast country both in the breadth and wealth of its land. For instance, Lake Ontario and Lake Michigan, indeed all of the five Great Lakes are on a scale equivalent to the size of an ocean, and the whole of Japan can fit neatly into the single state of California. It is no wonder then that America, with its vast area and its vast wealth, holds the destiny of the world in its hands. Every word and every action of the United States has an impact on all the countries of the world. That is why it is important that whatever the United States does, it must not think only of itself and take actions with little thought of their consequences. It must always take into consideration the fate of all humanity on Earth.

However, the political policies of the United States today give us little impression that it is acting for the noble cause of world peace as they claim. It often appears to other countries that the United States is acting out of a concern for its own prestige or because of economic factors. In particular, it looks as if the United States is being controlled by people in certain sections of the arms industry putting their interests over that of the whole nation. For example, when the United States deployed troops to Cambodia, the New York Stock Market plunged. This demonstrates that business circles and the people of America in general were afraid of an escalation of the war and were not in favor of it. This was the reaction not only in the United States, but in the rest of the world as well.

The only people who are happy when the world is in a constant state of war are the so-called warmongers, who profit from a certain sector of the arms industry. Meanwhile, the great majority of the people of the world wish for an end to war more than anything else. This is the common sentiment of most of the people of the world.

Is Military Force the Answer?

The United States has not yet made a complete withdrawal from Vietnam, however, and has even sent further troops into Cambodia recently. The U.S. military authorities may explain that North Vietnam invaded Cambodia first and was setting up bases there to attack South Vietnam, and that is why the U.S. responded by attacking those bases. At the same time, the North Vietnamese side would probably defend their action on similar grounds. This is why in the eyes of the rest of the world, it is hard to see either country as being absolutely right.

What can be stated clearly, however, is that for North Vietnam, the actions and events taking place in the neighboring countries of Indochina—including South Vietnam—immediately become issues of crucial importance to them. This is why North Vietnam needs to tackle such issues affecting the region seriously. On the other hand, while the United States may have economic ties with countries in Indochina, what happens in that region is not crucial to its own survival.

America's justification for being there is that it must put an end to communism in Indochina to prevent its worldwide spread. Its theory is that if all of Indochina became part of the communist bloc, eventually all regions in Asia would follow and become communist, putting not only the United States but also the entire free world at risk.

We Japanese are fully aware of the threat of communism and know that it would be disastrous if Japan were to become a communist country. However, an ideology is something that does not die out or disappear easily, even if you try to suppress it with force and destroy countries and people embracing the ideology. On the contrary, the ideology will be passed on to the people and countries of the next generation and it will survive. This is easy to understand if we look at the history of Christianity as such an example. Although its believers suffered untold persecution and many were hung on the cross, Christianity still firmly established its roots in Europe and today, its teachings are spread throughout the world.

Likewise, even if the United States persists with the Vietnam War suffering substantial casualties in the process, and even if for a time, succeeds in holding back the forces of North Vietnam, its victory will be transient and North Vietnam will eventually rise up against the U.S. again with redoubled strength. This is the principle of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Unless the United States formulates political policies based on a more far-reaching perspective rather than getting caught up in the present, it will find the rest of the world becoming increasingly anti-American. It goes without saying that communist countries view the United States as an enemy, but even non-communists feel greatly threatened by a country that readily resorts to military action. They fear that ultimately America's actions will lead to a third world war.

Despite all efforts on the part of the United States, if there are factors supporting the spread of communism, then sooner or later communism will inevitably spread. The most important thing is to eradicate the causes that give rise to the spread of communist ideology. Unfortunately, the United States is not attaching much importance to this factor, and is depending too much on pointless military force.

The young people I met in America on my recent visit, spoke to me about the blunder of their country regarding the Vietnam War. One teenage girl lamented, "In America there is no true freedom. Where can we find freedom? President Nixon tells us that the war is a war for the sake of freedom, but why is it that war is necessary to make peace? It doesn't make sense. In America, nothing makes sense, so in search of the way of truth, I took drugs. But I couldn't find true freedom or peace of mind in drugs either."

This young woman prayed with us and, finally gaining her composure, gave a radiant smile. However, it seems that many young people, who recognize the error of their government's policies, are turning more and more to drugs. It is a curious situation in which young people are feeling deprived of freedom in a nation that professes an ideology of freedom.

Moving beyond Polarity

What I suggest is that the United States withdraw entirely from Vietnam. Even the majority of countries that do not sympathize with communism would receive U.S. withdrawal largely with joy. It would also bring a sense of great relief to the young people and the women of America, and I believe that alone would brighten the mood of

the country in general. If the United States had the courage to dismiss its concern about saving face and catering to a group of warmongers, and made a decisive move to withdraw from Vietnam, I believe that the people's support for President Nixon would immediately rise. The unflinching courage to carry out this action and a spirit of true sacrifice to save his country is what President Nixon needs right now.

Only a person with true faith can occupy the presidential chair in America today. Whether or not Nixon can demonstrate the true spirit of God will determine whether a bright or dark fate will befall America. The current world policies of the United States do not in any way reflect the spirit of Christianity, which has historically been espoused by many Americans and their leaders. If the true spirit of humanitarian love were at work, there would be no need to continue a bloody war in Vietnam in the name of peace. In a war, a nation's victory is determined by how many people of the opposing force it can kill or wound. This is why nuclear bombs came into being. Does such course of a nation reflect the spirit of God? It is clearly in violation of the universal law of harmony.

North Vietnam is a communist country based on a materialistic ideology. It is also a small country. To resort to the same methods as North Vietnam by taking up arms and engaging in a confrontation that destroys lives is a truly regrettable situation for a country like America which is a world power, and which has traditionally referred to itself as a "nation under God." As long as the United States intends to defeat the communists on the same footing, they have no choice but to resort to military force. A confrontational stance ultimately results in a "beat or be beaten" situation and consequently develops into a war.

There may be some anticommunist countries that support U.S. policies, but its current intimidating attitude based on the use of force is essentially an act that goes against the principles of harmony and good will. Even among Americans, young people cannot comprehend theoretically or emotionally the idea of sacrificing their lives in a war with a far off Asian country while their own country is not even under direct attack, and consequently, they are resorting to earnest anti-war actions.

If the United State is truly seeking world peace, it should pour all of its resources into finding ways to achieve it without resorting to force. I would like to see the United States take actions that are honorable in the eyes of any country. Such actions must be regarded as fair and just even by people in communist countries.

Take Actions out of Unconditional Love

I think that the greatest cause for the spread of communism throughout the world is the growing gap between the rich and the poor in every county. The greater the number of people living in poverty, the greater the feeling of rebellion against their government. Also there are some people in the middle class and certain intellectual circles who oppose capitalism and support social communism. The basic idea of equal wealth is a very attractive concept and social communism has an appeal that satisfies a humanistic sense of justice. However, when you look at the countries practicing social communism, it is apparent that the ideal inevitably becomes a political system where the freedom, feelings and desires of the people are drastically restricted. The government turns into a dictatorship controlled by a group of leaders ruling without public consensus.

I believe that gradually alleviating poverty around the world would naturally prevent the spread of communism. It is important for the United States to give priority to this area and make use of its economic power toward this end. I would like to see the United States reduce its enormous military spending even just a little, and take the lead in initiatives to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. The U.S. government might dismiss such a proposal saying that they are already giving economic assistance to developing countries. However, it seems that their economic assistance to date has not been given in a spirit of genuine love for humanity. Factored into the provision of its aid is the underlying motive of using it as a means of drawing countries into its own camp.

If the United States resolved to eradicate poverty in developing countries, and offered assistance in economic, technological and other areas, motivated not by the aim of buying goodwill but only by thoughts of humanitarian love, this spirit of pure love would naturally dispel the strong anti-American feelings evident in many countries. Christ taught us to “love our enemies.” Only when America, the world’s most powerful country, practices this love of Christ, will the way to peace open up. We should never offer to help people for a price or demand something in return. We should continue to give our love unconditionally.

Only when a country is able to perform such acts of love will it become a great nation in the true sense of the word. Lao Tsu, a revered Chinese saint of ancient times, challenged powerful countries to put themselves in the lower position and serve small countries. According to him, small countries develop as a result of capable great countries serving them. Therefore, for these large countries to take the lower position and serve smaller countries is not in the least humiliating, because their acts are truly noble. The challenge for America at this very moment is to become one such noble, great nation. On the other hand, if it maintains the practices it has followed to date, the existence of America as well as the whole world will be at stake.

Test of True Leadership Courage

Out of fear for communism, the United States has, until now, continued to build up stockpiles of nuclear bombs and even went so far as to maintain stores of deadly poison gas in Okinawa, the southernmost prefecture of Japan. When a decision was made for America to take these stores back, every one of the American states refused to accept them, and this deadlock caused significant problems. It only stands to reason that something unacceptable to the U.S. people is also unacceptable to people in Japan. Any country, for that matter, would reject storing something so harmful as poison gas.

At this time, it is absolutely essential that the United States put an end to carrying out inhumane acts and take a stand as a world leader whose actions are based on humanitarian grounds. If The United States conducted all of its affairs from a humanitarian standpoint, the world would automatically become peaceful. On the other hand, if the United States remains in constant fear of communism, and gets anxious to the point that it resorts to inhumane acts in efforts to prevent it from spreading, it conversely provides communist countries with ample negative material to relay to the rest of the world about the United States.

The United States must overcome all difficulties and show enormous courage by

taking the path of truth, and never stray from it just for the sake of its own short-term advantages. Truth is the divine will, and the divine will is love. It is the spirit of universal love for humanity that America as a great nation must maintain.

The United States could argue, "Of course we do not want to engage in wars but, because communist countries are constantly invading other countries, we cannot assume such a complacent stance. For the sake of peace, we must take up arms against communism." This may sound plausible, but this way of thinking is indeed the very cause of war. The history of humanity, driven by this flawed concept, has been one continuous story of wars fought around the world and within countries.

What will happen if this way of thinking continues at a time like today, when we have nuclear weapons that could reduce the world to ashes in an instant? It is inevitable that conflicts will eventually develop into a nuclear war. It is all too obvious that continuation of a small-scale war will escalate as both sides try to prevail against each other. Even in the case of the Vietnam War, which is small in scale compared to a world war, the total number of casualties suffered by the United States there, is now greater than that during the Second World War. Unless this vicious circle of violence is put to an end, all of humanity on Earth will suffer the fate described in the apocalyptic revelations of Saint John the Divine.

Take the Initiative for World Peace

The greatest obstacle to achieving world peace is the egoism and self-centeredness not only of the powerful countries but of all countries. It is up to the major powers to take the initiative to change this conventional way of thinking and acting. It is important for the United States to direct its policies in the spirit of humanitarian love and respect for life, and make the first move ahead of its smaller opponents in putting down its weapons to bring wars to an end. In no way will the United States lose face by taking such an initiative. On the contrary, it will demonstrate the dignity befitting to a great power.

Some proponents of communism might conspire to drive smaller nations to war with each other, as part of their global strategy. Despite such provocation, if the United States exhibited humanitarian love by sincerely assisting these smaller nations and mediating between them, it will eventually open the hearts of those smaller nations. Every one of us is a child of God, and the fundamental spirit of love lives within all people, including those who are called "materialists." Therefore, I believe that all people must surely be capable of recognizing true love.

Nowadays, many people are praying for the peace of the world. The prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is constantly in our hearts, in the morning when we wake up, during our meals, when we go to bed at night, and throughout our daily activities. As a nation of people of faith, America should be a country where people begin and end their daily lives in prayer. No matter what we do, we must undertake our actions with a prayerful heart. Acts that start with a prayerful heart are acts that are met with the joy of God, and are acts that will bring about true peace in the world. This is a way of life that is not possible at present for either China or the Soviet Union, because their lives are based on a materialistic ideology, and generally, they do not believe in God. In the United States, however, a great many people hold God in their hearts. We must firmly

believe in God's love, which will eventually bear the fruit of true peace on Earth. This is the spirit in which many of us are continuing to pray for world peace.

With a sincere prayer for world peace, I hope that the United States will join hands with other countries and devote its efforts to the development and advancement of the various cultures of the world. I also hope that it will gradually reduce its arms and take the initiative to promote peace globally. Even if communist countries may attempt to thwart these efforts, the United States should maintain a spirit of absolute harmony in all circumstances, and serve in an advisory role to other countries. To do this, an enormous amount of perseverance is required. I am not saying that the United States must eliminate its military power in one fell swoop. However, I do hope that the United States will make an unflagging effort to bring true peace in the world without the use of force and dedicate itself to eradicating poverty from developing countries. If indeed America follows this path, the final victory will without doubt be theirs. This is because God is the Law of Harmony and God is love itself.

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PEACE AND SPIRITUALITY

Indifference to World Peace

Most people are likely to hold the opinion that any person, regardless of country or race, would aspire to attain a peaceful world. In reality, however, most human beings seem to be surprisingly indifferent to world peace.

The reason I say this is because world peace is not a state that can be achieved instantaneously or occur at one effort, but rather a result of the accumulated effect of the peaceful state of mind of individual human beings. Instead of trying to bring peace to their own minds, people tend to blame their governments or criticize the ways of other people and other countries. This mindset is, in fact, far from that which will bring about peace on Earth.

Additionally, there are also those people who do not even care about their country or the state of humanity. Their only concern is that their own daily lives are not disturbed.

This is why I say that many people in this world are surprisingly indifferent to world peace. If they did truly care about world peace, the deeper their concern, the deeper they would contemplate how humankind could achieve peace. They would examine and research various methods and policies that could be implemented to achieve a peaceful world, and decide their course of action accordingly. However, at present, very few people are seriously studying and researching ways to attain world peace.

Even among those who seem to be committed to pursuing world peace, there are many whose research and activities merely touch the surface of the issue. In many cases, their methods tend to be based on superficial theories and materialistic concepts, which ignore the state of the human mind. This, too, is an indication that their concern for world peace is not very deep.

Humanity as we know it is not a single physical mass. It is individuals that make up societies, countries and ethnic groups and in turn those countries and ethnic groups together shape humanity. The various thoughts and ideas of individuals, along with those of their respective countries and ethnic groups, form all sorts of thought waves, which intersect and interact with one another. Thus, in this way, thoughts of anger or bitterness in one single person are directly reflected onto that country and race, and in turn, the thoughts of that country and race spread throughout the world.

The True Nature of a Human Being

When we say “human being,” it somehow gives the impression that a human being is simply a physical entity. However, a human being is not purely a physical entity. A human being is life itself, and that life has two aspects: the physical body and the spirit. Furthermore, when we say “spirit,” there are two different aspects involved. There is the

spirit which refers to the person's spiritual nature beyond one's material existence, and there is the spirit, or soul, which belongs to the physical body and functions in conjunction with it.

The "spirit" that materialists speak of, is the spirit within the physical body. In this sense, even among those who reject the existence of God, there are people with a noble spirit. However, even these people of noble spirit are not able to walk the path of true peace for humanity, unless they attain a true spirituality beyond their physical being.

To achieve true peace on Earth, the development of spirituality is most essential. Unless we develop our spirituality beyond our physical existence, our material lives will continue to bear conflict and rivalry between individuals, nations and ethnic groups.

If people's thoughts are always caught up in the physical aspects of life, they will never be able to create a life of true peace and happiness for themselves and for humanity, no matter how much they desire it. This is because the true form of a human being is that of a free spirit and, in this slow-moving physical world, human beings are not able to satisfy the true free-flowing nature of their spirits. Thus, no matter how fulfilled people's material lives may appear to be, unless they develop their spirituality, they cannot reach that state of true peace and complete satisfaction.

For people who do not understand this truth, their efforts toward world peace will be for the most part futile. Their attempts will always be off the mark and consequently will serve no useful purpose.

Can We Have Enemies in a Peace Movement?

In recent years an increasing number of people are engaging in activities for peace. However, the majority of these peace activities do not take into account the spirituality of human beings. Such activities, no matter how earnest they may be, are incapable of bringing oneness to humanity. This is because the physical separation among individuals, groups and nations keeps them in conflict and divides them into factions.

In fact, many "peace movements" occurring in our world today are more struggle and conflict than peace movement. One example is the communist peace movement, which clearly expresses hostile feelings toward the United States and Western Europe. There are also religious movements like the Moral Re-Armament (MRA) Movement, which openly declares their anticommunist sentiments. Leaving aside the issue of whether communism is good or bad, I ask whether a peace movement which makes an enemy of so many can ultimately achieve its goal. There are even many non-communists who show major concern towards openly anticommunist movements. Thus, "peace movements" of this kind also end up serving to disunite the world.

Communist aggression could certainly be seen as a threat to many countries. Nevertheless, it is impossible to have a peace movement where communists—with their tremendous power and influence—are placed outside of the world framework. They will pay no heed to being excluded from this framework, and will enter it regardless of our attempt to shut them out. Under such circumstances, both sides would inevitably have to take actions as enemies with conflicting interests.

As another example, the United States is standing firm in its refusal to allow the People's Republic of China to join the United Nations. However, when it comes to the issue of arms reduction, the U.S. realizes that it is too dangerous to exclude China from

such discussions and agrees that China should be included in such talks. The bottom line is that, while the United States does not want to hear what China has to say, it wants to make China listen to what *it* has to say. This kind of relationship is simply not permissible today, even between employers and employees.

A Need for a Neutral Peace Movement

Whether you side with the right or the left, the world situation today looks extremely fragile. In view of this, it is clear that neither perspective will be able to produce an absolute way to world peace. The communist bloc will say things that will serve their purpose, while the Western bloc of the United States and Europe will declare that their side is right. It is simply the way of the world that you will always find some kind of opposition, even to something that absolutely holds true. Therefore, when we consider the fact that both sides each have their merits and demerits, advantages and disadvantages, and that they are in fundamentally conflicting positions, we realize the need for some superior force that transcends this conflict. Otherwise, this situation will deteriorate and gradually lead to world destruction.

While activities for true world peace should be dedicated to overcoming our conflicts and hostilities, many peace movements to date seem to have strayed from this principle.

One example of a positive step toward true peace occurred at a recent conference of the Japan Council against Hydrogen and Atomic Bombs. At this conference, the general mood was starting to become anti-American. In response to this, some council members proposed the creation of a second council, to promote peace activities free of any political bias.

There is no way that a peace movement, which leans to either the right or the left, could create a peaceful and harmonious world. A world at peace is a world in which everyone can live in true harmony with their hearts united. Therefore, eliminating conflict of any nature is the number one task. Peace movements that have strayed from this first priority, harboring feelings of enmity or conflict, on that basis alone, can no longer call themselves “peace movements.”

This then raises the question as to what sort of peace activities we should realistically engage in.

Remembering Our Roots

As I stated at the beginning of this essay, if people have a deep concern for world peace and fervently wish for it, they must delve deeply into the true nature of humankind. Unless you understand the true nature of human beings, you have no way to understand what true happiness for humanity really is.

The material elements of this world are constantly changing and perishing, and the physical bodies of human beings are among these material elements. No one wishes to perish or die, and therefore one can never find eternal happiness or true peace in things that change and perish. So, what on this Earth never changes or perishes? Unless we are able to find an answer to this question, peace and happiness for individuals and humanity as a whole will be unattainable.

The sight of physical human beings spending their lives busily chasing after things that will eventually perish is indeed inferior to the sight of animals living innocently according to their instincts. Human beings are called the “lords of all creation,” and this is true in that human beings are meant to govern all creation on behalf of the Universal God. Unfortunately, however, we have completely forgotten the divine spirit that was vested in us for this purpose.

The spirit I talk about here has nothing to do with the apparitions or ghosts that people often speak of. The spirit is life itself. We may also refer to it as the source from which all life springs.

Forgetting the roots of existence and wishing for the happiness of only the leaves and branches is useless. Even the tall pine that soars to the sky cannot grow unless its roots are firm. The branches at the very top of the tree receive their nourishment from the roots, enabling the tree to become grand and beautiful.

From this example, we can clearly see that it is foolish to completely forget our spiritual roots and seek only a physical happiness for ourselves. Nevertheless, even when this truth is explained in such simple terms, some people still cannot grasp the concept. Thoughts that do not allow understanding are known as *karma*.

If we wish to attain peace, we must first recognize our own spiritual nature and understand that it is because of our spirituality that we can have a physical form and live in this world. Furthermore, in order to achieve world peace, it is absolutely essential that we make this truth known to others.

Harmony between the Spiritual and Material

It is our mission as human beings to fully develop our spirituality. Only when we develop ourselves spiritually are we able to transcend materialistic thinking and experience the oneness of all life. If we truly want to achieve a world free of war and conflict, we must promote a world peace movement based on the development of spirituality.

Japan, as its ancient name *Yamato* (“great harmony”) implies, has a mission to lead this kind of peace movement. Japanese people are recognized as having a given talent for harmonizing both physical objects and various ways of thinking. For example, when elements of foreign cultures have come to Japan, the Japanese have been able to harmonize them with existing elements in their own culture, often creating something even more beneficial. Japan should put its ability to create harmony between differing elements into efforts for the advancement of world peace.

Instead of placing importance solely on the physical aspects of life, it is important that we achieve harmony between the material and spiritual aspects of civilization. We must rid our minds of misguided ideas that do not recognize the spiritual nature of human beings, and must fully bring forth our innate spirituality in order to create a world of great harmony where body and spirit are one and heaven and Earth are united.

Emergence of a Spiritual Movement for Peace

Our peace movement must purely manifest the will of God. In other words, it should not be a protest or a narrow-minded opposition movement that takes sides

against a given enemy or excludes a certain group of people. This is because it goes against natural law to splinter the oneness of life. Our only path to peace is to promote a magnanimous movement that will include every single person on Earth, whatever ideas and principles he or she may hold.

There may be those who object to being so inclusive, saying that if we take such an approach, we will become the target of communist countries. To this, I would like to respond: Do you think that you can make a peaceful world by remaining in conflict with communist countries? If we possess feelings of conflict, aren't we giving the other party an excuse to start a dispute?

People may also say that they are only being confrontational in order to defend themselves from the invasive actions of the enemy. However, that is exactly the way of thinking that has repeatedly led human beings to war, and it is simply not acceptable in an age when we face the threat of nuclear warfare.

If we want to avoid war, we must work to dispel every danger that might lead us to it. If you do not put your weapons down, in fear that your enemy might be preparing to attack you, the danger of war will never disappear. Indeed, humanity may soon face the greatest tragedy ever.

It is time for us to summon our courage and dedicate ourselves to world peace, rejecting all thoughts of conflict. We must cry out for peace to be heard by all humanity, and if we do this in the spirit of true harmony, the divine love shall no doubt manifest itself on Earth.

What we need to create is a prayerful movement for world peace that is inclusive of all groups of people, regardless of their ideas and principles. If peace-loving people around the world converge their efforts, united in their fervent desire for world peace, they will surely make an enormous impact in every corner of the world. Such a peace movement would be entirely different from the peace movements of the past, which were divided into factions, and the voices of true world peace would begin to resound from every nation.

If we have truly achieved peace within ourselves, and yet still face destruction, we shall nonetheless willingly accept our fate, as we have acted in accordance with the divine will and have done all we could in our capacity as human beings. By constantly struggling in an effort to defend ourselves, we only disturb the peace of the world, and there is nothing to be gained. God is in everyone and everything. All beings originate in God, including human beings. Humanity on Earth is still in its infancy, and therefore the best path for us is to live in accordance with God's will and leave life, death, and all such matters to God.

The divine intention is clearly to establish peace on Earth for humanity. Everyone living in peace and harmony is, in itself, the manifestation of God's will. Therefore, no misfortune will befall people and countries that faithfully walk the path of that will.

For the world to become peaceful, you must first make peace in your own mind, and to achieve peace in your own mind, you must develop your own spirituality. To develop your spirituality, prayer is more important than anything else. I therefore advocate that all of us pray for the peace of the world in order to fulfill our missions as members of the human race.

October 1961

INDIVIDUALS AS AGENTS OF WORLD PEACE

The Relationship between the Individual and Humanity

Throughout history, saints and wise people have become guides for human society because they deeply wished to free this world from all illness, poverty, anguish and the infirmities of aging. Others, motivated by a deep spirit of love, have tried to help diminish human suffering by working in fields such as science and medicine, or by devoting themselves to various social endeavors.

Disease and poverty are personal experiences, but they are not merely personal matters, in that they can be caused by decisions and activities of the society as a whole. Therefore, the power to alleviate these problems can also be obtained by many people working together.

Historically, human beings did not understand the peoples of the Earth to be closely linked together. Modern developments such as television, jet airplanes and satellite communications have vastly condensed our sense of time and distance. As a result, the world has become much smaller.

Our present lives entail closely-knit relationships between the individual, the nation and humanity. We can now see that an individual is not merely a single human being, but rather a participant in a larger group. One of the positive effects of our shrunken planet is that a rapid exchange of cultures and civilizations can take place. The negative consequence, however, is that harmful activities in one part of the world directly and quickly affect other countries, such as radioactivity resulting from nuclear weapon tests and contagious diseases spreading across national boundaries, menacing all of us. Also, in this globalized world, domestic events in other countries more or less affect our own country's economic conditions.

How Thoughts Connect Humanity

The world is linked together not only by modern technological developments such as television and supersonic travel, but also through the medium of thought waves, in much the same manner as the waters of the oceans link countries together or the sky links all regions of our planet.

What is the meaning of thought waves being linked to each other, and why do we need to be concerned about them? The answer is that an understanding of thought waves is highly important to the development of world peace.

How do thought waves function? Many people have a sense of how sound waves, radio waves and light waves function through the medium of television, radio or telephone, enabling us to hear one another's voices and to see images of people in distant places. Thought waves travel according to the same scientific principles underlying the process of radio, light and sound waves. However, a thought vibration is finer or subtler wave than a sound or light wave.

These subtle waves are generated by all of humanity, covering the Earth and

forming infinite layers, just like waves of air. Among these waves, some are filled with strife, envy, the anguish of illness or poverty, or with resentment and anger—which are dark and impure waves. At the same time there are other waves which are filled with love and good intentions—waves of brightly shining light itself.

What effects can thought waves produce? Each swirl of thought vibrations has its own kind of energy. This energy works on the physical body, and causes the person to act in a way that corresponds with those thought waves. To use an analogy, when electric energy flows, it turns into a current of electricity, making it possible to start a motor. In the same manner, the energy of thought waves can activate a person's physical body. Therefore, if the thought vibration is filled with strife and envy, the person under its influence will act in a correspondingly negative way. On the other hand, if it is a bright light vibration of love and good will, it will result in an action of love.

Although a human being's physical body may seem solid and the inside of the body apparently impermeable except through the orifices, in fact, various invisible elements are continually entering from the outside. Images, letters, words and sounds enter through our eyes and ears, and radioactivity permeates the body everywhere. In addition, thought waves, which are finer than light waves, directly permeate the brain and every part of the nervous system.

Moreover, the various thought waves emitted by human beings from all levels of society are constantly merging with matching thought waves. For example, each person, or any given group of people, has its own swirl of thought waves. Similar types of thought waves from all other sectors of humanity are drawn to the matching swirl and merge with it. Thus, if a person or group has thoughts of anger, or is holding a grudge or thoughts of struggle or lust, the spinning motion of those thought waves is intensified by similar waves which join it from all over the planet. As a result, it is nearly impossible for the person or group to be free from that spinning whirlpool.

The Reason for the Lack of Humanitarian Love

Understanding how thought waves function enables us to understand how and why our emotional life is influenced by them. We notice that although a person may periodically feel the spirit of love and compassion, these positive feelings will be swept away if the whirlpools of dark thought waves generated by conflict and hatred which surround that person are too violent. Then that individual or group will once again begin to emit dark thoughts. Once a vicious circle is set in motion, it is not so easy to put a stop to it or extract oneself from it, in much the same way as a boy who has joined a violent gang or terrorist organization finds himself unable to leave the group when faced with threats from the other members, even if he has realized that what the group is doing is wrong.

Another example is found in the military situation of many countries. The idea that peace can be maintained only through a balance of military power has been set in motion. In order to preserve military superiority, each side thinks it must keep expanding its military power, and thus makes military spending a number one priority. The result is a vicious circle in which people are constantly dreading the outbreak of war and cannot live even a single day in peace. Since human beings tend to want to use things once they have built them, at some point, by some chance, someone might press

a button activating nuclear war.

The world is thus in a most miserable situation, in which people are manipulated by their dark, distrustful thoughts. If all the world leaders were in this mental state, world peace would be totally out of reach. Where can we find the spirit of humanitarian love within the notion of suppressing others with increased military force? With this kind of negative mind-set, which discriminates between the "self" and "others," people can never put into practice the original human spirit of love which sees all life as one.

The reason for this lack of humanitarian love is that the thought vibrations covering humanity are filled with strife, grudges and hatred. Although human beings are originally lives that branch out from one divine source, and are free from any thought of evil or unhappiness, almost everyone on Earth has forgotten this. When they forgot it, they distanced themselves from the bright light vibration of their divine source. And because their consciousness had drifted to a place where bright light vibrations were sparse, people's thoughts gradually turned dark and gloomy, leading to the emergence of distrustful feelings, strife, jealousy and hatred. As a result, we have now come to face the Earth's greatest crisis.

Achieving Inner Peace and Global Peace Simultaneously

What can be done to overcome this crisis? Here I would like to ask all of you to carefully think over the importance of thought waves, which I have been talking about. Unless our thought waves are completely purified, there is absolutely no way for this world to achieve peace. And unless peace prevails on Earth, there can be no peace for the individual.

Let me explain this point a bit further. Referring again to the analogy of sound and light waves transmitted via radio or television, although these waves are constantly flowing through the air, unless you switch on the equipment to start the electric current and adjust the dials to receive the various sound or light waves, no sound will be heard and no images will be projected on the screen.

Human thought waves are very similar. The thought waves of all humanity are circulating all around us. However, we only tune into the layer of thought waves that match our own consciousness. When I say "consciousness" here, I am referring not only to the surface consciousness, which is our usual definition of the word, but also to the hidden consciousness known as the subconscious. While the thought waves we tune into are influencing the course of our lives, conversely, the thought waves each of us emit—whether they are dark waves of hatred and struggle or bright waves of love and good will—are influencing many people in the world who have similar thought waves.

If you pursue the logic of this principle, you will realize that even the smallest thought activity cannot be neglected. Its effects will surely come back to the individual, while at the same time influencing humanity in general. It is on the basis of this truth that I am saying that we will never have world peace until both humankind and the individual are simultaneously uplifted by being set free from negative thought waves.

It is useless to talk about world peace or elimination of war without addressing the subject of each individual's thought patterns. If we want to get rid of war, before undertaking any action we have to turn our own thoughts to peace and harmony.

There are some political and social groups which shout their opposition to war and clamor for world peace, calling their movement a "struggle" or a "fight." There are also some misdirected religious groups which are devoting all their energies to reinforce their own authority, while trampling on the fundamental principle of harmony. Such activities are actually the manifestations of negative thought waves. In order to attain peace for humanity and for the individual, dark thought waves, such as hatred, jealousy or thirst for power, must be purified by waves of bright light.

I have sought and asked for a method through which complete peace on Earth and individual serenity could be linked together and achieved at the same time. What emerged as a result was the prayer, "May Peace Prevail On Earth."

The Power of the Prayer for World Peace

In order to make a better future for oneself as an individual, one must practice letting go of disagreeable and unharmonious thoughts and attitudes, such as health and money worries, or feelings like resentment, envy and fear.

What can you do to free your mind from these unwanted thoughts and attitudes? The key is to turn your thoughts in a bright and positive direction. How can you do this? The method which I propose is to think of all the bad conditions and events taking place within us and around us as the vanishing reverberations of mistaken thoughts from a past consciousness. After that, the next step is to generate a new image of the situation you wish for and then continue creating bright new thoughts.

However, we do not have enough time to think of every little detail of each situation that we wish for. Therefore, I suggest that you select the most fundamental issue for yourself and for humanity as a whole, and focus all of your thoughts into promoting that end—namely, world peace. At the same time, I suggest that you keep wishing for your own divine missions to be accomplished. Then, any time your complaints about the present situation or your dissatisfaction with your own personality and habits come to mind, try to put all of them directly into the prayer for world peace. Keep reminding yourself that these old thoughts are being transformed through the bright waves of the prayer, "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

As you continue to practice in this way, before you know it your thought waves will turn into harmonious ones, and you will begin to have a peaceful feeling. Consequently, your daily life will gradually change into a bright and happy one. This is a natural consequence of the operation of the law of cause and effect. You have been unconsciously forming your own fate with the thought waves which you emitted; once you have changed them into the expansive waves of prayers for world peace, it is only natural for a proportionally expansive and peaceful situation to come about spontaneously.

The prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth" emerged from the light waves originating from the divine source. Therefore, whenever you attune your thoughts to this prayer, you connect with the tremendous power of the benevolent energies that are tirelessly working to guide our planet in a positive direction, and the immense light from these energies will radiate through all planes of your being and brighten your consciousness as well as your surroundings.

When a person's mind is brightened in this way, it will instantly produce an

influence upon all of humanity, and the negative thought waves of this world will be purified to that very same extent.

The Vision Behind the World Peace Prayer Movement

The main idea of the world peace prayer movement is to purify thought waves. A growing number of people are now putting this principle into practice. I believe that unless humanity's thought waves are purified, we will never be able to attain world peace.

Although each individual or country may have various ideas and customs of their own, I feel that we must focus the thoughts of as many individuals and countries as possible on the goal of world peace. After all, world peace is the major goal of humankind, as it is critical to avoid the downfall of the Earth.

The present world is full of conflicting ideas. When people keep on emitting the trivial desires of the small ego, the individual and the nation become enveloped in swirls of negative thought waves and in the end they cannot avoid collapse. If feelings of anger and hatred crop up during an exchange of views on justice, with each party insisting that it is in the right or that its own country has justice on its side, the sense of justice has already departed from the fundamental harmonious spirit of the universe.

World leaders need to give careful consideration to this point. What is the good of debating over justice if this world perishes? The interests of one's own country as well as the interests of humankind will become irrelevant.

Respect for human life needs to replace conflict. To respect human life does not simply mean to avoid hurting a person. Rather, it means to refresh and enliven other people's lives. We must become people and nations who can work together actively according to the directives of our true mind. In this way, each individual and each nation will be able to accomplish its own role in creating world peace.

To this end, I want to stress again the importance of praying for world peace. First and foremost, we must all unite our hearts in prayer, so that peace may prevail on Earth, and our missions may be accomplished. Countries and individuals can talk of profit or loss after that. Every person, no matter what nation or ethnic group they may belong to, must become aware that we are all members of a global community of life and that we share a common mission and responsibility for the future of our planet.

Fulfilling Our Responsibility as Members of Humanity

In order to fulfill this great responsibility, why don't we set aside our own self-oriented desires and ambitions for a later time? Where and how can we satisfy our ambitions if the Earth should perish?

And if you think that, as one person, whatever you might do will have no influence on humanity, you are making a serious mistake. There has never been a time when each person's thought activity has been as important as it is today. One human being's thoughts—depending on whether he or she is emitting bright waves of love and sincerity or dark waves of egoistic desires—can move humanity either toward complete peace or devastation.

Therefore, through our prayers for world peace, let the original blueprint for a

peaceful world be carried out to perfection as soon as possible, with the smallest amount of suffering. This is the desire of the divine spirit which lives deep within each human being. It was in the great design of the universe for this world peace prayer to come forth at this time in the history of planetary evolution. As more and more people begin to live in the spirit of this prayer, the dark waves surrounding humanity will gradually be purified and transformed into waves of bright light.

I would like to ask each one of you to contemplate this truth, and to join in the movement for world peace through the prayer, "May Peace Prevail On Earth."

July 1964

THE MISSION OF HUMANITY

Is Education What It Should Be?

People are born into the world, go from childhood to adolescence, and enter their twenties, thirties, forties and so on. They eat, get dressed, play, go to school and get a job. They marry, have children, become grandparents, and die. Their circumstances and surroundings in life may vary, but all people without exception enter this world at birth and leave it when they die.

For what purpose did humanity come into this world anyway? Did the form of life known as humankind just appear on this planet spontaneously and multiply without purpose or intention? Most individuals go about their daily lives as they choose, until their lives come to an end, generally before reaching the age of a hundred. What, then, is the significance of lives spent in this way?

In the course of their lives, people do good things and they do bad things. But when their lives come to an end, does everything they did during life, along with their regrets and joys, also come to an abrupt end at the moment of death? If this is the case, can people attain true satisfaction?

Looking at our society in Japan today, we see young people whose lives revolve entirely around school entrance exams, from kindergarten to university. They spend the most important time in their lives, from infancy to young adulthood, cultivating their skill of memorizing information that they need only for the sake of passing exams. When they finally make it into university, these young people at last feel liberated and try to make up for all the good times they missed. They take a break and thoroughly enjoy their lives, but again when it is time for senior exams, they must study and fill their heads with knowledge that will be useful for only a brief moment in their lives.

None of the most important issues affecting human beings are being taught at school. Questions such as how we should live our lives and why humanity came into this world in the first place are never brought up. Instead, what schools teach are limited technical skills to help students get on in life. This being the current situation, on the whole, students find their education boring and want to escape from its restrictions and drudgery as soon as they can. Of course, there are many exceptions, but this is a general picture of how students see their time at school.

For what purpose, then, do we human beings study? Is it to gain knowledge in order to get good grades, a good job, and a higher position in the world? Certainly, these aspects of life are important, but is that all there is to our lives? It is because people are not sure about the answer to this question that they cannot create peace in their lives. Rather than addressing the most important issues that face human beings, schools teach knowledge of secondary importance. Unless education places the fundamental issues of life at the core of the curriculum and then incorporates subjects and skills of secondary importance, schools will not be able to nurture the development of outstanding human beings, and people will not be able to live their lives according to their true purpose.

The Three Fundamental Questions

What, then, are the fundamental issues facing humanity at large? Essentially there are three major questions: (1) What is the true nature of the life that dwells within the human body—in other words, the life that takes the form of a human being? (2) Where does human life come from, and where is it going? (3) What is humanity's purpose in living here on this Earth?

Unless our education and our outlook on life are based on serious inquiry into these three fundamental questions, I believe that human beings on Earth will eventually stop evolving and will inevitably be driven to the brink of destruction.

In spite of our intentions to provide a good education and create peace among humanity, our endeavors will be in vain if we ignore these vital issues. This is because we will have no firm ideological foundation to guide us.

Today, juvenile delinquency is a problem in almost all countries around the world. Unless adults give serious consideration to the three fundamental issues mentioned above and make active efforts to understand them, there will be no hope of finding a solution to this troubling social problem.

On an individual basis, there are some people who are sincerely probing these three issues regarding life. The problem is that, at present, these areas are not being included in public education policies and as such, most educational institutions are not allowed to bring up these vital issues in any way.

In their own particular ways, private religious groups do touch upon these issues to some extent in an attempt to guide people on to the path to eternal life. However, such approaches are usually not at all scientific and rely mostly on intuitive thinking. Consequently, people who do not subscribe to any religion see these issues as having no relevance in their lives.

Teaching Reverence for Life

Exploring the above three issues will help us better understand the vertical connection between the human individual and eternal life, and the horizontal connection between the individual and humanity as a whole. If schools discussed these subjects on a regular basis, the contents would naturally be absorbed into the minds of the students, much like watching a TV program. This would be particularly true for kindergarten and primary school students, who have no preconceptions about the world and can readily absorb new ideas without any bias. Things that we learn as small children become deeply rooted in our minds and even have a decisive effect on our futures.

In this way, if we devote time in our school curriculums to these fundamental questions and encourage these subjects to be contemplated, we will begin to see fewer and fewer people wasting their lives in meaningless pursuits or causing mischief or harm to human beings and other living things.

What I am talking about here is much, much deeper than the ordinary Sunday school teachings offered at churches. Rather than merely explaining the sacredness of life in a religious sense, I believe it is important for us to provide an education based on scientific knowledge where, through the very exploration of life itself, students naturally develop a reverence for life. Furthermore, a wholly religious approach to education

would be opposed by the many people in the world who do not believe in God. Under such circumstances, it would be difficult to introduce these matters in a purely religious context. This is why the approach to life education must definitely be scientific.

In the world today, there are many scientists who are deeply spiritual people. When they talk about science, their spirituality is subtly reflected in what they have to say, and this is communicated to their students. While their lectures may be primarily about science, the students are inevitably filled with a sense of awe at the wonder of life.

Lessons such as this should begin from kindergarten and primary school as part of the compulsory curriculum. It is also essential that they be introduced through the standardized public education system. To leave the teaching of such subjects to private organizations or religious groups would be to greatly limit their impact.

How Much Do We Know about Life?

Even if I were to make such a proposal regarding education to our government, they would not be in a position to readily accept it. While these fundamental issues of life may be important for human beings, they are also very abstract in nature. Even today, we have little understanding of them, and scientific evidence is also lacking. As a result, there may be a general consensus that these issues have no place in education.

In fact, I fully agree with such views. That is why we need to have educators and scholars turn their attention in a direction that will enable clarification of these issues. Without considering where the life that sustains us as physical beings came from, where it is going, or what our purpose on Earth is, I wonder how anyone can even talk about “governing a nation” or “leading humanity.” Yet many people in positions of power hold the view that these issues are outside the realm of national or international politics, and should be left to private religious groups. One cannot help but question the character of such leaders. It is absurd that our leaders, to whom power and responsibility have been delegated, are leaving the most important issues to private institutions with limited authority, while busying themselves with incidental and fleeting political matters.

For human beings, there is nothing more important than life itself. Regarding this issue, there is no room for argument. Without life, there are no human beings. It is because there is life, that human beings can exist, and form nations and civilizations. Why is it, then, that humanity has little desire to seek a better understanding of its own existence?

I think we might all agree that the physical body did not exist before life began. First, there was the life energy of Great Nature, from which various forms of life originated, and it is from here that physical human beings also came into existence. Yet today, while we spend little money on attempts to learn more about the truth of our origins, we spend enormous amounts of money on weapons that can destroy life on Earth. This is sheer madness.

Is the life of a human being something that resides only within the physical body? Or does it live on after the body perishes? In what form did it exist before birth? If we could find answers to these questions about the true nature of our existence, nations would no longer need to regard each other as enemies and senselessly compete with each other in stockpiling weapons of destruction. We do not need to use words like God,

spirit and soul, to answer these questions. We can pursue the study of fundamental issues by exploring the various ways in which the flow of Great Nature manifests itself. Such an approach would be acceptable to anyone regardless of his or her belief system.

To undertake such a study would require research costs from national governments. Politicians who do not hesitate to spend money on arms but begrudge allocating money for research of this kind surely have their priorities in the wrong order. So long as the entrenched habits of the past control the minds of politicians, there will be no way to prevent the ultimate ruin of this world on Earth. This is because people and nations that live in this way are like trees without roots, destined to fall over when exposed to a strong gale.

Finding Unity between Science and Religion

Why don't we use the great advances we have made in science to create a truly sustainable world for humanity? While science has certainly been beneficial for humankind, we have limited its use to materialistic interests. Why haven't we applied our scientific wisdom to studying the true nature of life? Realistically, attempting such major research with a very limited budget and human resources would achieve little. Indeed, many scientists who would willingly undertake such research lament the restrictions they face.

The Great Universe is itself a large vibrant living entity. At the center of the universe is the source of life energy. Building spaceships to explore other planets like the moon, Venus and Mars is one way to explore the universe. At the same time, however, at closer range and far less cost, we can undertake the study of a more fundamental and vital issue that will also enable us to understand the mysteries of the universe. That is, we can explore the connection between the source of life at the center of the Great Universe and the lives of individual human beings. This can be done using scientific research methods whereby important knowledge about life and the universe is revealed to us through our own existence on Earth. The practices of yoga and Zen meditation are among the spiritually-oriented ways in which people attempt to achieve this.

However, if such studies are to be conducted on a nationwide scale, it is essential that they not be done in the name of religion, but undertaken as scientific research, with scientists being at the center of the research. Unless scientists are at the core of these activities, the majority of people will not accept the findings as valid. On all accounts, governments should be responsible for taking the initiative to explore the essence of life. The task of science and religion would be to support the governments' efforts by working from both ends to find the common truth.

Many people of religion believe that it is only natural for human life to have not only a physical body, but also various other forms within which it functions. I know this as well from my own personal experience. I know that humanity exists on this planet with the purpose of creating a harmonious world on this earthly plane as part of the Great Harmony of the universe. Expressed in religious terms, this means that we live on Earth as physical human beings in order to manifest the will of God here on Earth. I also know that each and every one of us has an essential purpose to fulfill on Earth and until we fulfill it, we are born into this world over and over again before moving on to

another world. What I am talking about here, though, is a spiritual experience that is yet to be explained in scientific terms.

Let Us Explore the Essence of Life

In the course of their lives, some people become devoutly dedicated to religion, and contemplate the truth about life through inner searching. Delving deeply inside themselves, they try to ascertain the will of God. On the other hand, people who take on the role of a scientist try to understand the external world of nature and matter through analysis and make discoveries that will be of use in the world. Both people of religion and science have one and the same goal, in that they are endeavoring to grasp the essence of life.

Both the religious person who reflects inwardly on the essence of life and the scientist who looks outwardly in the same search are fundamentally trying to penetrate deeply into the mind of the Great Universe, God. People who are not scientists or religious people also have these kinds of inquisitive mind, but because they tend to become absorbed in their busy everyday life, these thoughts do not readily come to the surface.

Fundamentally, all of us have a great interest in life. However, it is not enough if our interest is limited to our physical beings only. It is important that we perceive our lives as eternal lives and to see our individual physical lives as being connected to the life of the Great Universe and Great Nature.

The physical lives of individuals are in fact one single life at the very source. Just as the lives of parents and their children are seen as one, the lives of all people are united as brothers and sisters. This is a fact that can be comprehended in both scientific and religious terms. Therefore, if political leaders brought the issues of life to the top of their agenda and took the leadership in exploring this field, the world would quickly begin to move in a brighter direction.

There are other areas as well, in which scientific research should be undertaken. For example, the Law of Cause and Effect known in a religious sense, and the nature of human consciousness and thought waves, are some areas that should be studied so that they can be explained scientifically. Through research undertaken on human beings, we can learn in depth about the Law of Nature and the flow of Life, and such knowledge will no doubt change the way humanity thinks and acts.

The Mission of Humanity

Religion, science and politics all have a mission to manifest the will of the Universal God, or Universal Law, on Earth. With this in mind, we must make sure that all our endeavors conform to this law.

Nevertheless, there are some religious leaders, scientists and politicians who have strayed from their correct path, and it is important to be able to distinguish them from the others. The way to know if a person is on the correct path is to determine whether or not that path is harmonious, and whether they themselves are displaying a state of harmony or disharmony. Those who have strayed from the path of harmony, whatever their field of activities, are going against humanity's mission. This is because the will of

God is Great Harmony, and the entire universe is intrinsically heading in the direction of harmony.

Some may argue that the world is in a state of disharmony in many places and that the universe does not seem at all to be advancing in a harmonious direction. Certainly, the world appears to be full of disharmony, with killings, diseases and natural disasters. However, as living things evolve, these conditions will gradually fade and vanish. Humanity on Earth is still in a developmental stage. However, at the same time, there are quite a few people on Earth who have transcended this undeveloped state to become wholly harmonious beings; people we refer to as “saints” or “sages” are such examples. Thus, if all of us were able to evolve our consciousness to the same level as saints and sages, natural calamities, as well as the current principles governing the world, such as “survival of the fittest,” would vanish entirely.

To alleviate the present unrest and chaos on Earth as soon as possible, our mission as human beings is to work toward manifesting the Great Harmony of the universe. We must therefore devote all of our energy to moving forward in the direction of that harmony. This is indeed the most important task of all state and world leaders, and the main purpose of all endeavors including science, religion and education.

As for myself, I advocate the daily practice of prayer for world peace to bring harmony into our own hearts and to the world at large. This is a simple method that each and every one of us can easily undertake in order to accomplish our greatest mission on Earth.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

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