

Sentinels of Peace

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CLOSING—AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATION

OPENING AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION

An Hour of Reflection

Dedicated to the celebration of World Peace Day
Honouring the spiritual oneness of all Great religions and traditions

World peace is not only possible but inevitable.

From the Bahá'í Peace Statement 1985

If there is light in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person.

If there is beauty in the person,
There will be harmony in the house.

If there is harmony in the house,
There will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation,
There will be peace in the world.

Chinese Proverb

The Bahá'í Community Promise of World Peace:

To the Peoples of the World:

The Great Peace towards which people of good will throughout the centuries have inclined their hearts, of which seers and poets for countless generations have expressed their vision, and for which from age to age the sacred scriptures of mankind have constantly held the promise, is now at long last within the reach of the nations. For the first time in history it is possible for everyone to view the entire planet, with all its myriad diversified peoples, in one perspective. World peace is not only possible but inevitable. It is the next stage in the evolution of this planet - - in the words of one great thinker, "the planetization of mankind".

Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behaviour, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth. At this critical juncture when the intractable problems confronting nations have been fused into one common concern for the whole world, failure to stem the tide of conflict and disorder would be unconscionably irresponsible.

Whatever suffering and turmoil the years immediately ahead may hold, however dark the immediate circumstances, the Bahá'í community believes that humanity can confront this supreme trial with confidence in its ultimate outcome. Far from signaling the end of civilization, the convulsive changes towards which humanity is being ever more rapidly impelled will serve to release the "potentialities inherent in the station of man" and reveal "the full measure of his destiny on earth, the innate excellence of his reality".

Thus we convey to you not only a vision in words: we summon the power of deeds of faith and sacrifice; we convey the anxious plea of our co-religionists everywhere for peace and unity. We join with all who are the victims of aggression, all who yearn for an end to conflict and contention, all whose devotion to principles of peace and world order promotes the ennobling purposes for which humanity was called into being by an all-loving Creator.

October 1985

MUSIC—IN UNITATE

Peace in the Heart

There is no way to peace; peace is the way

Gandhi

Tribal wisdom

At the dawn of this millennium tribal peoples of the world still echo the voices of their elders as they encourage us to respect each other. In their timeless wisdom lie the seed of hope, and the promise of tomorrow yet to come.

Black Elk the Lakota medicine man said:

Peace comes within the souls of men,
When they realize their oneness with the universe,
When they realize it is really everywhere,
It is within each of us.

Dealing with conflicting emotions

A Native American elder was talking to his grandson about how to deal with conflicting emotions.

The wrongs done to generations of their people have been most severe and many of them carry the burdens of anger, degradation and deep inner conflict that will take many more generations to heal. I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart, he said. One wolf is the vengeful, angry, violent one. The other wolf is loving, compassionate one.

The grandson asked him, 'which wolf will win the fight in your heart?'
The grandfather answered: 'the one I feed.'

—

Do not think the peace of the world an ideal impossible to attain!

I charge you all that each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity. When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love. Thoughts of war bring destruction to all harmony, well-being, restfulness and content.

Thoughts of love are constructive of brotherhood, peace, friendship, and happiness.

Abdul-Baha Paris Talks

MUSIC—IN UNITATE

Greater Thought of Peace

Peace can you imagine it?

Tokens from the Sacred Religions and Traditions:

I want to fashion a rainbow
That arcs through the sky
And iron out the dilemmas
Between you and I

Jack Davis, *'Let Go'* 1992

Look up, my people,
The dawn is breaking,
The world is waking
To a new bright day
Where none defame us,
No colour shame us,
Nor sneer dismay.

Oodgeroo of the tribe Noonuccal (formerly Kath Walker), *A Song of Hope*, 1981

Images & saying of Sri Mata Amirtanandamayi Devi

The world is like a flower.
Each nation is like a petal.
If one petal is infested,
Does not it affect all the other petals?
Does not the disease destroy
The life and beauty of the flower?
Is not the duty of each one of us
To protect and preserve
The beauty and fragrance
Of this one-world flower
From being destroyed?
This world of ours is a big, wonderful flower
With many petals
Only when this is understood
And becomes deeply ingrained within us,
Will there be any real peace and unity.

Rabbi Nachman ben Feiga of Breslov, 1773-1810, known as the Breslover Rebbe, lived in what is now the Ukrainian Republic. He wrote this prayer during the time of the Napoleonic Wars.

Lord of Peace, Divine Ruler, to whom peace belongs!
Master of Peace, Creator of all things!

May it be thy Will to put an end to war and bloodshed on earth,
And to spread a great and wonderful peace over the whole world,
So that nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

Help us and save us all, and let us cling tightly to the virtue of peace.
Let there be a truly great peace between every person and their fellow, and
let there be no discord between people even in their hearts.

Let us never shame any person on earth, great or small.
May it be granted unto us to fulfil Thy Commandment to 'Love thy
neighbour as thyself,' with all our hearts and souls and bodies and posses-
sions.

And let it come to pass in our time as it is written, 'And I will give peace in
the land, and you shall lie down and none shall make you afraid. I will drive
the wild beasts from the land, and neither shall the sword go through your
land.' 'But let justice roll on like rivers, and righteousness like a mighty
stream,' "for the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters
cover the sea.'

God who is peace, bless us with peace!!!

In safety and in bliss, may creatures all be of a peaceful heart. Whatever living things there are: whether weak or strong with none excepted. Great or small, seen or unseen, dwelling far or near, born or awaiting birth—may all be blessed with peace. Let no one work another one's undoing, or show contempt in any place. Let no one wish another harm, through provocation or resentful thought. Just as a mother with her life protects her child, her only child, let all embracing thought for all that lives be your. An all embracing love for all the universe, in all its height and depth and breath.

Buddhist Scripture *the Sutta Nipata*

MUSIC—IN UNITATE

Nipata

Blessed are the Peacemakers

For they shall be called God's sons

The Sermon on the Mount
Matt 5:9

LORD, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
Where there is discord, let me sow union;
Where there is error, let me sow truth;
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith;
Where there is despair, let me sow hope;
Where there is darkness, let me sow light;
Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

St Francis of Assisi

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
Shall I not tell you what is better than prayers and
fasting and giving alms to the poor?
It is making peace between one another:
enmity and malice destroy all virtues . . .

If your enemy should incline to peace,
Do thou incline to peace also and trust in God:
For He is the Hearing, the All-Knowing.

Muslim Scripture *the Qu'an*

○ God, Thou art peace.
From thee is peace and unto thee is peace.
Let us live, our Lord,
In peace and receive us in Thy Paradise,
The abode of peace.
Thine is the majesty and the praise.
We hear and we obey.
Grant us thy forgiveness, Lord
And unto thee be our becoming.

Prayer at the Close of Salat (daily Prayer)

From the Bahá'í Writings

Today there is no greater glory for man
than that of service in the cause of the "Most Great Peace."

Peace is light whereas war is darkness.

Peace is life; war is death.

Peace is guidance; war is error.

Peace is the foundation of God;
war is satanic institution.

Peace is the illumination of the world of humanity; war is the de-
stroyer of human foundations.

When we consider outcomes in the world of existence we find that peace
and fellowship are factors of upbuilding and betterment whereas war and
strife are the causes of destruction and disintegration.

In all cycles and ages war has been a factor of
derangement and discomfort whereas peace and
brotherhood have brought security and consideration of human interests.
This distinction is especially pronounced in the present world conditions,
for warfare in former
centuries had not attained the degree of savagery and
destructiveness which now characterizes it.

As the instruments and science of war have reached the degree of thorough-
ness and proficiency, it is hoped that the transformation of the human world
is at hand and that in the coming centuries all the energies and inventions of
man will be utilized in promoting the interests of peace and brotherhood.

**CLOSING: AUDIOVISUAL
PRESENTATION**

Please join us for refreshments