

## 260411-Video Prayer Gathering\_Yuka-sensei, Maki-sensei, Rika-sensei, Masami-sensei

[Yuka-sensei]

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for joining the Video Prayer Gathering on April 11th.

We are now in April and the new fiscal year and new school term have begun. Watching the introduction video once again, I was struck by how the current scenery of the Fuji Sanctuary was overflowing in it. Even though I go to the Fuji Sanctuary, there are animals and plants I have never noticed on my own, and I was watching while feeling how truly healing this time is.

Today, when I saw the photo of purple crocus flowers blooming, I suddenly remembered when I went to the Fuji Sanctuary with Masami-sensei recently. Masami-sensei loves crocus flowers so much, and I recalled the sight of her going right into the crocuses saying, "How cute, how cute! Take a photo!"

The other day, a photo arrived saying, "Beautiful weeping cherry blossoms have bloomed at the Fuji Sanctuary." I haven't gotten permission from the person who took it, but I wanted to convey that "the Fuji Sanctuary is filled with the quiet changing of seasons," so I introduced it.

Opportunities for large events to be held at the Fuji Sanctuary have decreased, but as Maki-sensei often says, rather than coming for large events, we have been talking about how we hope the Fuji Sanctuary can become a place where one can casually visit alone and offer various prayers, truly supported in doing so.

With the hope that we can welcome more and more people to enjoy and explore these quiet, seasonal sights of the Fuji Sanctuary — the animals and plants that can only be seen at this time of year — I introduced a little bit of spring at the Fuji Sanctuary.

That is all. Thank you.

[Maki-sensei]

For me, SOPP is approaching, and it will truly be held in person for the first time in seven years this May. Yet in the current state of the world, my heart aches every time I watch the news.

In this unstable world we live in now, what is it that each one of us must face?

It is not about Israel, Iraq, America, or those kinds of issues. Rather, it is about what we — who see these events — feel, and what kind of thoughts arise within us.

Criticism of Israel or America, despair — these are spreading throughout the world. But we need to look closely at the fact that the thoughts, emotions, and actions born from these events are creating the next future.

Until now, every time we encountered various news, we have been forming the IN and praying. But when anxiety-provoking news was broadcast, how did we receive it?

We need to firmly recognize that the thoughts, words, and actions generated from each and every event become the energy that creates the next future. The thoughts of each individual human being are that powerful a force. Especially now that the world is instantly connected through the internet, I believe that impact is immense.

In today's world, various kinds of research are advancing — research on consciousness, research on prayer, research on the influence of the invisible upon the visible. These are things that Byakko Shinkou Kai (Goi-sensei and Masami-sensei) have been conveying all along. Such things are finally beginning to be studied by science.

At such a time, we who have continued to act while valuing the way we use our consciousness, use moments like watching the news as a time for reflection. When we see news of war — though such tragic situations are not limited to war — at the moment when various things unfold before our eyes, we carefully face each emotion that arises from within, and transform them into something born of love, light, and divinity. And then we spend the day as that transformed self.

Each and every one of you, through your slightly different way of seeing and slightly different actions, is giving a great yet invisible influence to the world and promoting transformation. And in the visible world as well, your words reach the families and friends around you, spreading widely — becoming a spreading of light, a spreading of thoughts.

Just as ripples spread when a small pebble falls into a lake, what I alone have thought, considered, and acted upon right now spreads as ripples. We turn our thoughts to those ripples and direct our awareness with sensitivity to the question: "What kind of ripples will they become, and where will they spread?"

When we do this, and when we turn our awareness to what kind of thoughts we ourselves will carry throughout the day, we come to understand that those of us who can do this need to start first. And that truly becomes a great force for change.

I believe preparations for SOPP have already begun. I believe they began more than a month ago. When each one of us gathers toward the May SOPP, what kind of thoughts will each one of us be carrying?

Have we accumulated loving actions and accumulated thoughts of peace before going to that place, or even if we cannot be there, have we sent forth thoughts that create that space for everyone? Through this, the new connections born at the May SOPP — the connections between various religions and the prayers for peace — will be broadly disseminated.

Precisely because so many things in today's world are crumbling away, I believe the new buds born from that will become the light of hope, standing out prominently and blooming.

That is precisely why, please — at each and every time we can gather and pray, and even when we cannot gather or pray — let us turn our awareness while thinking about what we will create next from what we see in this very moment, cherishing each instant, and I deeply wish to connect our hearts as one with all of you toward May.

In this context, today's special program focuses on Jinrui Soku Kami Nari — directing awareness to the question "What is each one of us?" — pouring energy into it, and becoming one.

Just as we are divine, so too is all of humanity. Every person — whether the peaceful person before our eyes or someone who seems far from being divine — everyone is divine. How firmly can we hold this conviction? How much can we see the divinity within people? How much can we pour light into them?

When you pour light, it opens up. When you pour darkness, conflict opens up. The power to pour light truly exists within that person and within each and every one of us. With such thoughts, I hope we can become one today.

Thank you very much for joining us today. We look forward to your participation.

[Rika-sensei]

As Maki-sensei just said, when we turn on the news, there are the difficult situations of various countries — America, Iraq, Lebanon — the violence, and anger wells up and anxiety arises. Our own country is also affected, and thoughts like "What will happen to our lives from now on?" — such consciousness of anxiety, fear, and division instantly surges forth.

From there, will we be swallowed by negative energy, holding anxiety and fear, viewing the world through a consciousness of division? Or will we explore what we ourselves truly are, what kind of existence others are, and how the self and others can co-create and evolve toward heaven? Today, I hope we can deepen this with all of you under the theme of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari.

Today we will read a poem by Masami-sensei called "For Others" — a poem written quite some time ago. When I read it, it says that "the self and others are not originally separate things," and it shows us how we can bring our awareness closer to that understanding. So let us first read it, and while thinking about it together, deepen the Otodama — the sound spirit — of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari. Thank you for being here today.

[Yuka-sensei]

Let us now begin the Prayer for World Peace.

## 《Prayer for World Peace》

Thank you.

[Rika-sensei]

As I mentioned earlier, today we would like to deepen the theme of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari with all of you.

Last time, when we were deepening Ware Soku Kami Nari, we placed great importance on the Otodama — the sound spirit. This time as well, we will release the resonance of the Otodama of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari through vocalization, first feeling the resonance of the Otodama from within the very core of our being, then reading the declaration together, and forming the IN.

Before that, let us consider: "What kind of existence is humanity?" and "What kind of relationship do I have with humanity?" Humanity is made up of many others, and by deepening our understanding of the relationship between ourselves and others, Masami-sensei has written in this poem "For Others" that others are not separate beings, but are precious existences that reveal who we are and open our true selves.

I found this in the July 2016 issue of the Byakko magazine, and it is one of the poems in the Infinite Words poetry book series. (I could not find the title in volumes one through three.)

So let us first read this poem aloud, and from there, I hope we can delve a little deeper into the relationship between ourselves and humanity, and our relationship with the world. Let me read it now.

## 《Reading of Masami-sensei's poem》

### **"For Others"**

Masami Saionji

*Looking back upon my younger self, how many were the days I spent clinging to my own being*

*When giving gradually became more to others than to myself, my heart was set free*

*When my fate transformed into my mission, infinite love came gushing forth from within*

*One's selfish behavior and loveless words and deeds bring neither true happiness nor good fortune*

*Constant complaints and dissatisfaction only grow, never ceasing*

*If only one would earnestly restrain one's desires and turn one's heart toward others,*

*One's selfish greed would instantly be swept away, and a gentle happiness would surge up from the depths of one's heart*

*If one could share even a little of one's happiness for the sake of others, pour even a little of one's love for the sake of others, and let one's prayers resonate even a little for the sake of others,*

*This is truly what it means to uplift others and to live for the sake of others*

*If everyone could practice this way of living even a little in their daily lives,*

*And if through a life lived in Universal Truth, Goi-sensei's prayer words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" were to be prayed,*

*The world would naturally move toward peace*

*For within these prayer words dwells the infinite light of God's love,*

*And both those who pray and those who are prayed for would come to be sustained for the sake of true happiness and peace*

*Living is by no means a difficult thing, but a natural act itself, like breathing*

*Kierkegaard said, "Despair is the sickness unto death" — "The fuse leading to the sickness of death"*

*But the ultimate truth of the Universal God — "All is perfect and complete. Nothing is lacking. Perfectly accomplished. Dai-Jouju." — is the fuse leading to a shining future, hope, bliss, and light, transcending subjectivity, objectivity, and even good and evil*

*We pray again today, as naturally as breathing*

*May Peace Prevail on Earth.*

***Ware Soku Kami Nari***

***Jinrui Soku Kami Nari***

***All is perfect and complete. Nothing is lacking. Perfectly accomplished. Dai-Jouju.***

Having just read Masami-sensei's poem "For Others," the part that deeply resonated with me was: "When giving gradually became more to others than to myself, my heart was set free."

In the past, I used to act with a kind of hypocrisy — the intention of "I have to match others" or "I have to do this" or "I have to please them." When acting with such intentions, it was not truly for others but rather self-protection — I now think "that was ego." Such thought-actions do not lead to the liberation of being set free.

"For Others" — Masami-sensei writes here "when fate transformed into mission." When you truly offer from the heart, the ego breaks open, you connect with your True Self, and the thoughts you had been grasping are set free. When you offer to others, you experience a love for yourself and a connection to your True Self that you never imagined.

Beyond hypocrisy and such things, when I realized that through others I am being allowed to touch my True Self — that they serve as a means of returning to my true form — I felt through reading this that it is not hypocrisy, but rather that the existence of others, and dedicating oneself for others, is what brings you back to your original self.

Please tell me what you both thought. Which part resonated with you?

[Maki-sensei]

Right now, the theme for today's gathering of young people from the Goi Peace Foundation — an online youth gathering — is "The Power of Power: Four Types of Power." It says we have four kinds of power: "the power within oneself," "the power between oneself and others," "the power together with others," and "the power from outside (such as controlling power from above)."

Without being conscious of it, we live within these powers — in the relationship between others and ourselves, between events and ourselves — we are living within them and being sustained by them, and we ourselves are also emitting that power outward.

So when I read Masami-sensei's text "For Others," I took a bird's eye view of my own power, asking myself, "In what form am I using that power?"

"For Others" sounds like a very simple phrase that is easy to imagine, but even when using power for the sake of others, if you take away the other person's independence, that becomes controlling them. Even "advice" like "you should do it this way" can sometimes mean imposing your own way of living upon the other person.

What is good for oneself. Actions one believes are for the sake of others. Behind even a single action, various kinds of power enter and move. What kind of power will I activate between myself and the people or events before me? Depending on that, the way we connect differs, and where we connect differs.

Depending on how we emit our energy, what is produced can become a hierarchical relationship, or it can lead the other person to shine with light, become independent, gain confidence, and live anew.

It can also crush the other person, or it can give them life. Depending on how we create the power dynamic with others and how we act for the sake of others, that power comes back to us as well, and that same power can draw out our own authenticity.

What kind of power — even from the perspective of power — do the words and actions I emit create in terms of connection with others? What kind of world is trying to be born from that? What kind of world do I want to create, and how do I use my power and words for that? Words are also power, so how we emit them is important.

Ultimately, behind Masami-sensei's words written here, the world of Goi-sensei's Simultaneous Salvation of the Individual and Humanity is born. Not just the self, not just others. Living for others ultimately becomes living for oneself as well, and the divinity of both self and others rises up. I feel that such a way of being "For Others" is what is being referred to here.

I listened with great depth of feeling, thinking "this is very profound." How about you, Yuka-sensei?

[Yuka-sensei]

Yes, I was overlaying this very much with the learning I myself am currently experiencing on a personal level.

"How many were the days spent clinging to my own being. And when one's fate transformed into one's mission, infinite love came gushing forth from within. Ultimately, living is by no means a difficult thing, but a natural act itself, like breathing" — I felt this connects with the experience I am beginning to glimpse, so I would like to share a bit about it.

Within each one of us runs a very beautiful, straight, thick pipe of light, through which the overflowing resonance of the Universal God and the Deities is brought down directly. I believe that is our original form and role.

But we inevitably become attached to our physical selves. This connects very much with what Rika-sensei said — there was a bit of hypocrisy, like "I have to do this for others" or "I should do this" — and in reality, thinking about my own self was what was blocking that pipe.

I recently had the realization that my own consciousness and thinking — the obsession of "I should do this" (biased thoughts) — had been blocking the pipe of light, blocking the flow of the great resonance of light.

So how do we dissolve that blockage? What I am currently aware of is: "Love yourself more," "Forgive yourself more," and "Believe in yourself more."

When you do that, even the thoughts of "I should do this" or "I have to," and even the earnest desire to "share happiness for others, pour love for others, erase myself for others" — even those thoughts begin to dissolve.

When you continue doing this, you can naturally create within yourself an environment where the great resonance flows freely. Rather than "I have to" or "I should," when you naturally become the

pipe itself without blockages, you find yourself naturally overflowing with feelings of caring for others — it is a kind of reverse-thinking experience.

Rather than "I have to forgive others" or "I have to love them" or "I have to pour happiness into them," first dissolve your own blockages. Dissolve your obsessions. Accept yourself just as you are.

I have had the experience that this is what straightens the pipe. When that happens, acting for others is not something difficult — it is the form of Simultaneous Salvation of the Individual and Humanity, lived naturally like breathing, together with the Prayer for World Peace.

What I find amazing about the Prayer for World Peace is that in the most painful times, the most difficult times, when you do not know what to do with yourself, when you cannot see society, when you cannot see yourself — as is also written here — because there is infinite light and love of God, you can pray "May our missions be accomplished," and you can return to the True Self that knows "I am being watched over by my Guardian Deities."

It is in such troubled times that we feel the connection, but even in times when everything is gratefully in order, in ordinary days when nothing seems amiss, the Prayer for World Peace — with just the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" — in either situation, I deeply feel that we are emitting God's love.

Not only in difficult times, but the Prayer for World Peace in ordinary days when we thought nothing of them — it is performing the work of emitting light and love to all of humanity. In this way, I have been feeling lately that this one simple prayer word truly embodies Simultaneous Salvation of the Individual and Humanity in so many ways.

When I wonder how to keep my pipe free of blockages and how to harbor and resonate the light of God that everyone inherently possesses, what I always come back to is the Prayer for World Peace. That is what I felt while reading Masami-sensei's poem.

[Rika-sensei]

Wonderful. That is truly so. When the pipe can stand on its own, it is not at the level of hypocrisy or ego, but rather the inherent divinity and spirituality change the nature of the work that flows through. The transformation from fate to mission is not about what you do, but when you align with your true self and pray, you naturally reach out to others from a different dimension, and that naturally returns to yourself.

[Yuka-sensei]

That is exactly what I wanted to say. That is truly what I was thinking.

[Rika-sensei]

So that we can align ourselves in this way, today let us begin with the Otodama, then the breathing IN, and together release our blockages one by one, returning to ourselves as light itself. Thank you.

Last time, we practiced vocalizing the Otodama during Ware Soku Kami Nari. For those who did not see the last session, let me briefly explain the workings of the Otodama. On page 111 of "The Immovable Mind," Goi-sensei writes about Koto-dama (the spirit of words), Clapping hands, and the workings of light.

The Otodama consists of vowels: "A-O-U-E-I." These vowel sounds — this Otodama — are light itself. They carry the workings of God's light itself, from an extraordinarily high dimension before words are formed. Therefore, by vocalizing this Otodama, there is a function of channeling light through the physical body, which leads to purification and raises the vibration of the space. It has the power to change the frequency of the space. This is because the vowels "A-O-U-E-I" themselves are the very light of God.

The human being who emits these sounds serves the function of connecting heaven and earth, and through communion with others, aligning the frequency of the space — this is what is written in this book.

Therefore, this time, when forming the IN of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari, we will make the vocalization "Uuu," and we would like to practice just that vocalization part together first. Let us relax a little and loosen our bodies together, bringing the center of our awareness to the area of our abdomen. When vocalizing vowels, rather than producing the sound from the throat, produce the "Uuu" from a much deeper place in the abdomen.

It is perfectly fine even if you cannot do it well — if you just do it naturally, that light will emerge. Due to time constraints, since we will also be forming the IN of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari, we will repeat it three times.

Thank you. Let us take a moment to regulate our breathing.

### **《Chanting of the Otodama of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari (three times)》**

Thank you very much. Maki-sensei, please.

[Maki-sensei]

Now, while cherishing the energy of everyone's Otodama, I would like us to recite the declaration of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari together, carefully word by word. Please show the slides.

Each word we utter becomes a sacred light that draws out the divinity within ourselves, and these words become energy, becoming ripples that are released into the world. Please imagine that your words, your Otodama, will awaken the divinity of the many human beings they touch, and please vocalize these words with care.

### **《Recitation of the Declaration of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari》**

Now let us form the IN of Jinrui Soku Kami Nari once together.

### **《Jinrui Soku Kami Nari IN once》**

### **《Jinrui Soku Kami Nari IN with breathing method once》**

[Maki-sensei]

Now, Yuka-sensei, please lead us in the Divine Spark IN.

[Yuka-sensei]

Everyone, let us form the Divine Spark IN once together as the final practice. Thank you.

## 《Divine Spark IN once》

Thank you very much.

## 《Masami-sensei's talk》

[Masami-sensei]

Everyone, good day. It has been a while. Your Prayer for World Peace and your Jinrui Soku Kami Nari IN are a wonderful work. All of you have gained much strength and have become leaders just like me.

Throughout the world, there exist billions of various human beings, and there exist (self-limited) human consciousnesses. But Japan, thanks to all of you members, is enveloped in light.

You are always praying before going to sleep. Those prayer words, that light, enter into me while I am sleeping. Wonderfully, light truly transcends everything and crosses all borders to reach me, so I am now in good health. My legs are strong, and I have begun walking hundreds of meters on my own.

However, the place where I fractured my left leg started hurting again, so I decided to take care of my leg and have been gradually reducing my walking while praying.

I believe that from now on, Japan will be respected by the world, and many people from countries around the world are living with the aspiration of "wanting to visit the country of Japan before I die."

Right now, I have prayer and the IN, and I have direct guidance from Goi-sensei, so I have no suffering, sadness, or pain. Every single day, I simply follow as directed — "Go there," and I go; "Come here," and I come; "Pray," and I pray. That is how I have been spending my days.

But behind all that, there are people like all of you — even those who are elderly, those who truly can no longer walk, those who can no longer go outside, those with various difficulties — who are praying together, participating together. That is my pride.

Praying with all of you and bringing down light — that is important. But at the same time, for the world to truly become one, when many people's IN connect as one, the energy of that IN truly transcends all borders, all races and ethnicities, all conflict, and reaches all people equally with that light.

All of you think "for Masami-sensei's sake" or "thanks to Goi-sensei," and I am grateful for those feelings. However, prayer transcends everything and connects to people all around the world.

Therefore, I say to all of you — whether it will happen in our lifetimes or not, I cannot yet say with complete certainty — but the time will come when all of humanity becomes one, transcending all borders.

Whether black, yellow, Japanese, American, or people of any developing nation — I believe the era will come when all are equal, loving one another, helping one another, rejoicing together, and living in mutual gratitude.

The one to bear that responsibility is the nation of Japan. And within Japan, it is thanks to the leaders who know Goi-sensei's teachings, who know the IN, and who come to the Fuji Sanctuary. Their IN and prayers — and even those who are elderly and can no longer come to the Fuji Sanctuary but are praying in hospitals, forming the IN — the IN of such people reaches me as well. It is also connected to Goi-sensei.

That is why Goi-sensei joyfully brings down light even to the places where those members who have become ill are hospitalized. Therefore, seeing this clearly — their forms and their states — I can say that Japan is at last becoming the sanctuary of the Prayer for World Peace, and people of every nation in the world — yellow, black, white, everyone — the desire to "visit Japan at least once" is growing ever stronger.

I cannot express how happy this makes me. To have such people come and see the Fuji Sanctuary. The Fuji Sanctuary is what all of you members have built. It could not have been accomplished by me alone, or by Goi-sensei alone. All of you members came to the Fuji Sanctuary when you were well, when you were young, and prayed.

On rainy days and snowy days, you sat on the ground and prayed. That image remains for eternity. Even now, it is the same. When it rains, each person brings a plastic sheet and sits there to pray. The organization does not prepare such things.

Because sitting on the ground is taken for granted, people of all ages sit there. Even in the heaviest snow, they sit on plastic sheets. Having watched this sight for many years, I am truly moved to tears with gratitude. Each and every one of those people may now be watching this video.

You have truly shown us such precious, precious figures, given us strength, and even now, you are saving all of humanity.

When the time comes for each of you to pass to the other side, Goi-sensei will come to greet each one of us, embrace us, and take us there, so there is no suffering, no sadness, and no fear.

I am so happy to see you all here again. Let us meet again at the Fuji Sanctuary.

I would like to see you as much as possible, so no matter how difficult it may be, if you say "I will come," I will send light to you, so please come. I await you.

And that is not all. For those of you who pray at home — the many people of the world, the people of Japan, the poor, the suffering, those who lie in hospitals with no healing power left — if light reaches them, truly miracles happen.

Therefore, the existence of each and every one of you is one of prayer, bringing down the light of Goi-sensei, and making the Earth clean and peaceful. This is a blessing, so please live with conviction, with confidence, and with dignity. I look forward to seeing you again.

Farewell. Thank you very much.

[Maki-sensei]

Now, everyone, I will translate into English what Masami-sensei has just shared with us. Please spend this time quietly feeling within yourself the Otodama that Masami-sensei has released.

**《English translation by Maki-sensei》**

It has run a bit long, but I would like to conclude today's Video Prayer Gathering. Yuka-sensei has some announcements at the end.

[Yuka-sensei]

Yes. First, as was mentioned earlier, SOPP will be held on Sunday, May 17th. It will be held at the Fuji Sanctuary for the first time in a long while. I am truly looking forward to it. Of course, I think there were many benefits to it being held online, but to be able to pray together with all of you at the Fuji Sanctuary — the staff are already making extensive preparations for this SOPP.

Let me share one thing. As Masami-sensei said, it is all of you members who have built the Fuji Sanctuary. And these twenty years of SOPP — in the invisible world, the prayers of all of you members have truly dissolved the insurmountable walls that existed between religions — those boundary lines.

I believe these twenty years of SOPP have been a great work of this magnitude. That is precisely why we can now move forward. Through this, the consciousness of humanity has taken one more step in its evolution, and I believe we can welcome a new SOPP at the Fuji Sanctuary.

Until now in religion, religious leaders connected with God as representatives of humanity and then conveyed that to people — that was the stage we were at. In the coming era of divinity, each individual will be united directly with the Divine — bound together one by one.

And that bond will continue to spread. Transcending religion, transcending nations, transcending race — each individual returns to divinity and is connected from divinity. I believe that SOPP will newly open up this worldview and become a place that nurtures the consciousness of humanity.

Though it has been a while since the last SOPP, from now on, each individual will become more and more the protagonist, each connecting with the Divine through prayer on their own. I believe the form of SOPP will gradually evolve and change toward such a place.

This year's SOPP will also evolve in the way we pray. Until now, there were religious prayers followed by prayers for countries, but the program will be one that dissolves and integrates those boundary lines.

So you may feel that something has changed, but that change is so that more people can participate in SOPP, transform their consciousness, and express a worldview of living in divinity. That is the kind of SOPP it will become, so please look forward to it.

Earlier there was mention that it would not be streamed online — I apologize. It will be streamed. However, it will not be the kind of carefully guided experience with navigators explaining things as before. In some cases, it may be as simple as a fixed camera showing the scene at the Fuji Sanctuary.

But we are preparing so that those participating from home can also see the Fuji Sanctuary at the same time. Whether you are at home or at the Fuji Sanctuary, please do join us in prayer at this SOPP.

Including these kinds of new evolutions and transformations, we are now trying various approaches to create an atmosphere that makes it easier to invite newcomers, so that more people can come.

If you check the News and Topics section of the Byakko Shinkou Kai official website, this year's flyer is already available for download, so if you think "I'd like to invite this person" or "I'd like to try asking someone," please do use this flyer to share the information.

This year, Reverend Nohara, the head priest of Ryuunji Temple — he was also featured in a Byakko article — has previously represented Buddhism online for its religious prayer, but this year, for the first time, Reverend Nohara will lead the Buddhist prayer from the Fuji Sanctuary.

The reason I mention this now is that Ryuunji Temple wanted to properly present all the languages of every country on Peace Poles, so they erected four octahedral Peace Poles (two octahedra each) so that all national languages can be seen on the Peace Poles at their own temple.

I had the opportunity to participate in the ceremony to erect these Peace Poles on the vernal equinox, and at that time, a taiko drummer named Mr. Harada was there playing the taiko. It was the first time I shed tears listening to taiko. Because in that taiko, I felt the grand history of the Earth and the resonance of the Deities. I thought that if SOPP is to be held at the Fuji Sanctuary again after so long, I would love for Mr. Harada to play the taiko — and that wish was granted, so I think there will be many firsts this year.

There will be taiko, religious prayers, prayers of every nation of the world — all becoming one and emitting a sacred resonance. That is the kind of SOPP it will become, so please do participate in various ways.

This year — the deadline has already passed — but opportunities have expanded for volunteers, including having members serve as flag bearers. So please participate in this year's SOPP with the feeling that each one of you is the protagonist.

That concludes the SOPP report. Maki-sensei, could you please share the prayer card announcement?

[Maki-sensei]

Everyone, the prayer cards have finally been released. They arrived in my hands the other day as well. When we were creating them with the staff, we did so with truly sacred feelings, so these cards are filled with our thoughts of divinity, the thoughts of divinity through Masami-sensei's words — they are cards overflowing with divinity.

This is to report that they are now on sale. You can view them on the website, so please, through these prayer cards, connect with the ever-flowing presence of divinity within yourself.

And please continue to live with the constant conviction that you are originally divine, that we are originally a part of God's spirit — because such beings are the ones who, in the midst of spreading darkness, become the light that awakens many people and illuminates the path of divinity.

You can use them for conversations with people near you, or you can use them to cherish connecting with your own divinity within yourself. The cards serve as one tool for connecting with the divinity within you. Please do pick them up.

That concludes the prayer card announcement.

The next prayer card experience session will be on April 23rd at 8 PM. We have been holding them after the Video Prayer Gathering at various times, but I thought that some people might find it

difficult to participate during a holiday afternoon, so I decided to try holding this one during a weekday evening — a time when you might be able to relax after dinner.

Whether you have the cards or not, please do come. What a joyful and happy thing it is to connect with various members from all across the country as divine beings. I hope you can experience how, when we connect with each other's divinity, that space truly becomes filled with peace and harmony.

We look forward to your participation.

[Yuka-sensei]

Finally, the next Video Prayer Gathering will be on April 25th. There will be a one-month break in May, so it will be a while, but after SOPP, on June 7th, the "Ceremony for Opening the Door to Human Divinity" event will be held at the Fuji Sanctuary. That covers the upcoming schedule and announcements.

[Rika-sensei]

We ran a little over time today, but everyone, Jinrui Soku Kami Nari — though truly various things are happening in this world — behind it all, light is constantly, constantly descending, just like the Otodama we vocalized today.

It seeps out from even the deepest of wounds. With the conviction that in any situation, the light of God is always emanating — let us continue to form the Divine Spark IN and pray for the peace of the world. Thank you, and we look forward to being with you again.

[All three]

Thank you for joining us today.

That's all.