

260725 - Video Prayer Gathering – Yuka-sensei and Maki-sensei

【Yuka-sensei】

Good morning, everyone. Thank you so very much for joining us for the "Video Prayer Gathering" of Saturday, July 25. It has been so terribly hot these days—Maki-sensei, how have you been?

【Maki-sensei】

Truly—at the very beginning of this July, the mornings and evenings were rather cool, and I was thinking what a pleasant summer this was, one we could pass even without air conditioning; but over this past week the temperature has risen sharply. On television I often see the word "fierce heat," and I hear them say, "Please keep the air conditioning on while you sleep at night." So I really do feel, as an actual sensation, that the Earth is certainly changing—that the temperature, the weather, the climate are changing. Everyone, how have you been spending these days?

【Yuka-sensei】

Nights when it is hard to sleep are unpleasant, aren't they. Lately I often hear people say that it is hard to sleep at night, so I do hope each of you will find your own ways to manage. Sleep is important, too. With that, thank you for being with us today as well.

Maki-sensei, is there anything you would like to say about today's program? It really has been a while, hasn't it—this is our first video prayer in two weeks. And last time, Maki-sensei, you were not able to take part, were you?

【Maki-sensei】

That's right. With the "Video Prayer Gathering," we create each program holding firmly within ourselves an axis: within this flow that quietly builds up month by month, where is it heading?

Precisely because all of you take part like this once every two weeks, we keep asking ourselves how we should build things up so that every person can live moving toward divinity.

The prayers we know, the various mudras, mandalas, breathing methods—by combining which of these, and in what way, can each one of us truly awaken to the fact that we are divine?

And how can we come to feel with our whole being that the phenomena that appear and fade away are happening so that our divinity may be drawn out all the more—that they are phenomena supporting that drawing-out—and that everything that happens in the world, everything that happens in our own lives, exists so that the world of God written of in "God and Man" may be manifested in this human world?

We understand well, with our heads, the wonderful truth of Goi-sensei and the wonderful truth of Masami-sensei. How, then, do we come to feel it bodily in the everyday places where we each stand—and how can you come to feel it within this program as well? That is what we are always thinking about.

What gives us these opportunities to think is the presence of all of you who take part, and of all of you who watch afterward even when you cannot join on the day—how greatly you support us. I feel every day that, through this accumulation, something is being built up that will allow more and more people to understand this Byakko teaching.

So it is a great joy to be able to consider which writings we might read together, and I always feel deeply thankful for being given such opportunities as I prepare these programs.

Goi-sensei speaks of the "Simultaneous Salvation of the Individual and Humanity," and truly, there

is nothing there that divides us: with all of you praying together with us, I feel so strongly that we are being allowed to climb the stairway of divinity together.

So I hope that those of you who take part will also feel that this video prayer is a program for climbing that stairway—"Shinsei Fukkatsu, Dai-Jouju (Divine Resurrection, Great Accomplishment)"—a program for building up, step by step, the way our divinity, the very figure of God written of in "God and Man," is to be manifested through our physical bodies and through our daily lives.

And as we climb the stairway together, we create a time of praying together with all of you who are climbing. Through that, the prayer truly resounds throughout many worlds as energy, as love. And those who are touched by it awaken, in turn, to the divinity within themselves.

It would make me so happy if you could take part while feeling that this is a place where, once every two weeks, we sense that great circulation and create it together. Thank you very much. Now then, Yuka-sensei, please lead us in the Prayer for World Peace.

【Yuka-sensei】

Yes, let us pray.

<Prayer for World Peace>

Thank you very much.

【Maki-sensei】

Now then, here is today's theme. It is the piece called "A World Where Borders Disappear," on page 20 of the special feature in the June 10, 2026 issue of the Byakko magazine. Masami-sensei always teaches us about "a world without border lines," and today, in this special program, I would like to spend time with all of you turning our awareness there.

First of all, there is a teaching by Goi-sensei titled "Live Out Your Mission in the Place Where You Stand." It is from this June 10, 2026 issue, and I will read it to you. After that, I will add a few brief comments, and then we will enter into prayer again. That is how we will proceed today, so thank you very much.

【Yuka-sensei's Explanation in English】

(Continuing in English, Yuka-sensei explained that the slides for today's program can be viewed on the Byakko Shinko Kai website by clicking "Today's Program" under "News & Topics.")

【Maki-sensei】

Thank you very much. Truly, people from overseas have now come to watch as well, which makes us so happy; and since we would like as many people as possible to take part, we will also proceed in English, in a way that will not be a burden for those in Japan.

Today, for reasons of time, I will read "Live Out Your Mission in the Place Where You Stand" on page 20 in excerpted form—though really I would love to read all of it. If you have time, please do read page 20 of the June 10, 2026 issue of the Byakko magazine slowly for yourself. Now, I will read it, so I hope you will quiet your heart and listen. (Note: the teaching below is presented in full, not in excerpts.)

<Reading of Goi-sensei's Teaching>

From the special feature "A World Without Border Lines," in the June 10, 2026 issue of the Byakko

"Live Out Your Mission in the Place Where You Stand" (full text)

Masahisa Goi

Where Do Human Beings Stand?

Every person and every being in this world necessarily has their own position; but if we become too caught up in this position, we cannot interact with people in other positions, and we can no longer bring out the best in one another's positions.

And yet, if we deviate from our own position, our own existence is endangered, and we endanger the positions of others as well. What is important is to keep to our own part (bun), while placing ourselves in a larger position that is not caught up in that part.

However, whether as individuals or as nations and peoples, keeping to our part without being caught by it, riding the current of the great life, and bringing both self and others fully to life—this is something that has hardly been put into practice.

The most fundamental of all human positions is that each individual human being is given life standing in the position of humanity.

Human beings today are neither apes nor birds. Every single one of us is living as a member of humanity.

We must know clearly, then: in what way does humanity actually differ from apes, birds, and fish, and what kind of life is a life truly worthy of humanity?

Some of you may say, "What are you talking about? Nobody needs to tell us such things now; everyone knows that." But far from it—there is no telling how many people in this world are living without clearly knowing how humanity is meant to live.

Everyone knows that humankind possesses wisdom and talents beyond comparison with the other animals.

And yet, those who know the mission entrusted to humankind by the great life (God) are rare.

If humankind lives only by the instinct to preserve its own kind, just as the other animals do, nothing can come of it. In that case, there would be no reason for humankind to have been granted by God wisdom and talents so far beyond the other animals—above all, the power to create things.

The human physical body has the animal element of a mammal, but in its content it is entirely different from the other animals. If this content that transcends the other animals were expressed only as a power for self-preservation, just like the other animals, the meaning of humankind's existence as humankind would be completely lost.

Both humankind and the other animals, seen physically, are alike created by God. But humankind holds God's creativity, wisdom, and abilities, just as they are, in the depths of its physical vibrations. The depths of the physical vibrations are the depths connected directly to the center of God's heart—that is, to the greatly harmonious creative power that gives birth to all things.

*To put it another way, humankind is a being that holds God's very heart in its own depths. This is what I explain with the words *chokurei* (direct spirit) and *bunrei konpaku* (divided spirit, soul, and physical soul).*

A human being has the power to change their own physical vibrations in any way, according to how they

operate their own mind. But because human beings do not yet clearly know their own true nature, they cannot freely manifest the power of their true heart upon their physical vibrations; and while resting on the energy of the true heart, the power of thoughts that have strayed from the orbit of the true heart ignores the way of the true heart and goes on creating our destinies in all sorts of ways. This is what I call karmic thought (karma), born of ignorance.

As long as humankind is made to dance by this karmic thought, the power of the true heart, which is God's heart, does not appear as it is in the way of this world; the instinctive, self-preserving way of living, the same as the animals', continues on, and conflicts and disharmonious events go on and on.

The Mission of Humankind

This is because humankind has utterly forgotten humanity's original way of living, humanity's mission, and has let its way of living fall to the same way of living as the animals.

Humankind, as a divided life of God (wake-inochi), has the mission of leading all things and of manifesting God's heart clearly in this world. Since humankind lives in this world holding such a position, if we place ourselves in the position of animals and keep repeating conflicts to protect ourselves and our surroundings, we cannot possibly uphold humanity's original position.

Whatever reasons may be given, fighting is an animal way of living; it is not humanity's original way of living. It is, to the end, a fading-away appearance of disharmonious vibrations, lasting until humankind achieves complete harmony with the physical body that has an animal structure; it is not the true nature of humankind.

In order for humankind to fulfill its mission as humankind, it must clearly recognize the position in which humankind has been placed, and must shed the animal realm. This world is said to be a world where the strong prey upon the weak; but it is not so as a manifestation of God's heart—it has become such a state because God's heart has not yet manifested itself clearly and fully.

The surest proof that humankind is not in a world of the strong preying upon the weak, as the animals are, is the religious view that humankind is brothers and sisters in life, and the birth of science.

It was the deep heart of love—wishing to build a world in which humankind could live free of suffering and anguish, in this world and in the next, dwelling in peace of mind—that gave birth to true religious people and to great scientists. This is precisely the confirmation that humankind is, in its essence, an existence entirely different from the animals of the strong preying upon the weak.

Even if humankind possessed creative abilities and powers of planning that no animal has, if it lacked the heart of love that wishes to erase all suffering and anguish from every human being, it would be, in essence, an existence no different from the animal herds where the strong prey upon the weak. It is by this deep heart of love that humankind makes clear that it is the crown of all creation, the very divided life of God (wake-inochi).

Therefore, if each member of humankind thinks only of the security of themselves and those around them, and cannot raise a heart of love toward the lives of other people and other groups, that heart is nothing other than animal ego; the essence of humanity is not appearing there.

When we consider this truth very carefully, we must say that the greater part of present humankind is an existence intermediate between God and the animals—beings of low worth as children of God.

The Line That Peace Movements Must Cross

If humankind's steps continue on in this state, in the end the animal way of the strong preying upon the weak will appear clearly on the surface, and the tragedy of the annihilation of Earth humanity will have

to come about. The power struggles of the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and the groups of smaller nations are all manifestations of the strong preying upon the weak—of "might makes right."

Whatever reasons may be attached, so long as nations regard other nations as enemies, the peaceful realm of humankind, children of God, can never appear in this world. Any peace movement that cannot make this point clear is a half-finished thing that cannot transcend the animal ego. This is not mere idealism; it is a line that those who long for the achievement of true peace absolutely must cross. Any theory of peace that cannot cross this line is a stopgap theory of peace, not the theory of peace of God's own heart.

The way of thinking that says, "We and our country are in the right, so we cannot lose to the other side; we must fight them thoroughly and defeat them," is a way of thinking that has continued from long ago; and just as we consider our side to be justice, so the other side, too, must be trying to consider themselves to be justice.

Since each side is trying to justify itself, even if our side were truly just, the other side would never acknowledge it. Each side reasons this way and that, trying to increase its own country's allies, so the fighting power of both is bound to keep increasing.

That true peace can absolutely never be born from such relative ways of thinking is something humankind knows to the point of bitterness from experience since ancient times; yet when the actual moment comes, we can only act in the same old ways. That fundamental way of being is the same now as in the past—and that is the trouble.

And yet, whoever may now become President of the United States or leader of the Soviet Union, no one can carry out a politics of great harmony that would completely transform present-day politics. In the movement of the Prayer for World Peace that I am now advocating, I intend, first of all, to work patiently at purifying away the vibrations of karmic thought (the animal ego, the thought of the strong preying upon the weak) that cover and hide the light vibrations of humankind as children of God.

Unless these karmic thought vibrations are first purified away, no matter what great figure takes charge of politics, only the same old politics can be carried out. The waves of conflict born from humankind's animal instincts, from the instinct of self-preservation, become black clouds that cover and hide people's true hearts, making them anxious only to protect themselves and their own countries, and causing them to lose the heart of love for humanity.

And so I am convinced that, whatever peace movements some people may raise, the politics of the world will not be able to adopt far-sighted peace policies that set aside each country's own interests.

First, Fulfill Your Own Mission

Then how, in fact, is true world peace to be realized? It is something that can only begin from the foundation of each single person putting into practice the fulfillment of their own mission.

To fulfill one's own mission is to practice a way of living as a divided life of God (wake-inochi). The religious person fulfills the calling of the religious person, the scientist that of the scientist, the engineer that of the engineer. And those who have no such clear calling, if they live riding on a path that gives them the awareness that they are a divided life of God, will naturally find that the meaning of their life becomes clear through the position in which they are placed.

This path is the path of God—that is, the path of prayer.

Prayer is the method of entrusting everything to God and developing one's true heart. When we do so, the path opens naturally through prayer. Living in that way, each moment of each place and each time becomes, for that person, the fulfilling of their mission.

It is unthinkable for individual human beings to change the policies of nations from their foundation. Still less could we change the foundations of the political policies of great powers like the United States or the Soviet Union by putting in a word or two.

The people of the world can see clearly that the present policies of the United States and of the Soviet Union are policies of mutual expansion of power, not policies of true peace; but they can do nothing except watch. People of conscience join together and try to voice opinions, but there is no sign whatever that the two sides will withdraw their national egos and switch to a policy of true world peace. The domestic situations and the world situation are such that they could not do so even if they wished.

Find a Way of Living That Serves the Aim of Peace

And so it comes to this: unless each one of the world's people works, through their own position, to build up true world peace, the world will come to a dead end.

Before taking nations as our counterpart, we must first make our own way of living accord with the aim of peace. The peaceful way of living of each person naturally draws forth the peaceful ways of living of many people. And each person's peaceful way of living is born from each person walking the path of fulfilling their mission.

The mission of each person is one of the individual paths for fulfilling the mission of humankind. When one person is fulfilling their own mission, to that extent a cooperation is being made toward the fulfillment of humanity's mission.

The mission of humankind is to manifest completely in this earthly world the heart of God, the heart of great nature. The heart of God, the heart of great nature, is the heart of great harmony. Therefore, when this earthly world becomes a world of great harmony—that is, a peaceful world—that is when the mission of Earth humanity will have been fulfilled.

For each individual person, living in a way that contributes in some form to world peace is the figure of fulfilling one's mission.

For the Earth world to be in harmony means that there is no conflict, no illness, no poverty, no anger, no resentment, no envy—that all the seeds of unhappiness and calamity have disappeared.

Some may say there is no use in speaking such idealism; but without ideals there is no progress for humankind, and the spirit of inquiry into great nature would be lost as well.

The faith that affirms the existence of God and believes in God's love is founded on God being great harmony, and it arises from the conviction that the heart of God, which is great harmony, will one day surely appear in this earthly world. So world peace, heaven on earth, is not a mere dream, but an ideal that will in time become reality.

Is it not for this great ideal that we cannot help wishing to keep on working, even at the cost of our lives?

In Order to Fulfill the Mission

Now, in order to fulfill this mission, each person must live grounded in their own position. Japanese people, in the position of Japanese people, must work to fulfill the mission of Japan. The mission of Japan is the great harmony that is God's heart itself, and the movement for world peace is a mission such that Japan must, without fail, become its center. Before the war, this "becoming the center" was mistakenly understood to mean suppressing foreign countries by military force and extending power over the world. Hakko ichiu—all the world under one roof—did not mean such a trivial thing. The age of trying to build peace by military force has already passed. Now is the time when Japan must fulfill its mission as a nation of true peace.

Unless statesmen consider this principle very carefully in conducting the affairs of state, they will leave their folly to the generations to come. We should realize, from the bottom of our hearts, that Japan is the very center of world peace. (The remainder is omitted.)

Source: "Do Not Fear Destiny" (Unmei o Osoreru na)

【Maki-sensei】

That is the teaching. Goi-sensei speaks of the difference between animals and human beings: both are beings created by God, and yet there is a fundamental difference between them.

If the animal way of living is a way of living that protects one's own individual self—a way of living with the instinct to preserve one's self and one's species—then human beings are beings who go beyond that "protecting," beyond those differences, to connect at the original essence, at divinity, and truly, each one lives their mission. And as we live our mission, we awaken to the fact that we are originally divine existences.

And when we awaken to the fact that we are originally a divided life of God, we come to see that all the people before us, too, are divided lives of God.

Not just understanding with the head, but knowing, feeling with our whole being, the source of our own original existence. Through that, we can go beyond differences of opinion and differences of appearance, and connect as one.

To fulfill one's own mission means exactly that; and as each person fulfills their own mission, the mission of humanity—and what is that? It is that, transcending differences, we truly harmonize, become one, and can become a peaceful world.

Passing through this process and arriving at that vision of the world is precisely what leads to the fulfillment of the mission of Earth humanity. I feel he explains this in a way that is wonderfully easy to understand.

Masami-sensei always speaks about going beyond national borders and becoming one; so, through this teaching of Goi-sensei, let us consider anew what it means to become one, and what it means for border lines to disappear.

Then we see that a state without borders does not mean that countries disappear, that everything becomes one single country, that all the differences of peoples and histories are reduced to zero and made one. It is a world in which each difference is felt to be dear, each difference precious.

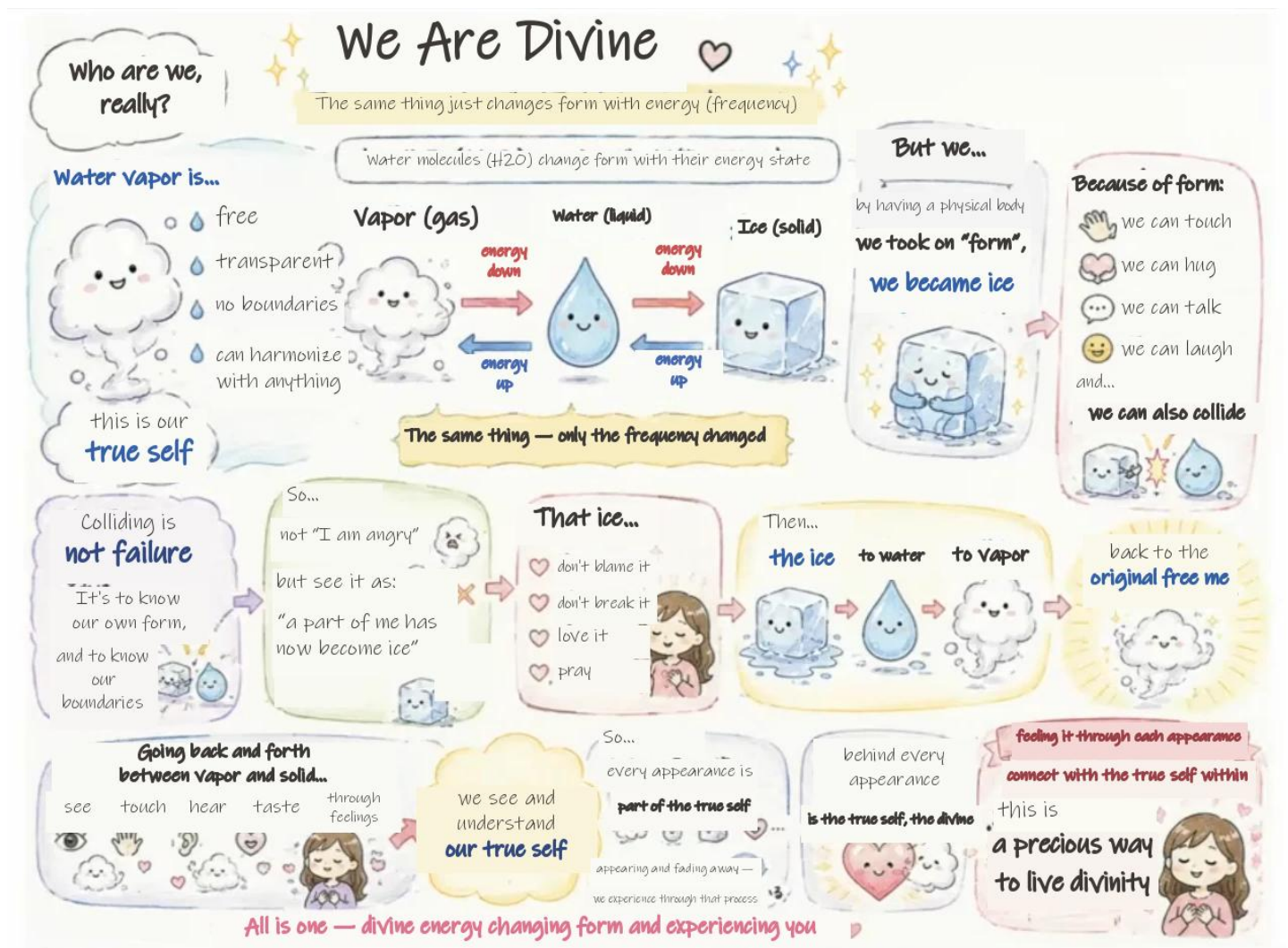
Each people, each humanity, each individual fully receives these wonderful differences born in the process of truly fulfilling their mission—and then comes to know and experience, deep beneath them, the very presence of God, the resonance of divinity.

By connecting there, we become one whether border lines exist or not. I believe that this is what it means for the vision of "May Peace Prevail on Earth" to appear in this world.

In fact, I wrote about this feeling in a piece titled "Transforming Self-Limitation," on page 27 of the December 2023 issue.

Ice, water, water vapor: the molecule H₂O, depending on the energy it holds, can become solid, liquid, or gas. Gas is invisible; solid is visible. Yet whether visible or invisible, the water molecule is the same—the same thing. The same thing merely changes its form according to its state of energy, according to how much energy it holds. That is what I wrote there.

Truly, what Goi-sensei says—that though the manifested forms differ, we connect with the essence that lies behind them—must mean just that, I feel. This time I turned it into illustrations using AI, so I would like to explain briefly while you look at them.



(Showing the slides) "What are we originally?" We are originally divine. In terms of water, we are H_2O . Please do not forget this—that we are divine. We are a droplet of divinity. When this droplet of divinity lowers its frequency, lets its energy come down, the movement of the molecules becomes slower; so they join together and become water, become solid.

Becoming solid means that the energy one holds goes down. As is written in "God and Man," by becoming coarser vibrations we take on a visible form, the form of the physical body. And when we become this visible form, what happens? Because we are visible, we can touch, we can speak, we can laugh; differences become visible, differences can be known.

Even though the original essence of H_2O —the gas, the water vapor—is the same, once it becomes visible and manifest, it appears in many shapes, just as ice appears in all sorts of shapes; the forms change. Having a form is something very precious: by having a form, through bodily experience, we can feel our own divinity. By experiencing, we can understand. And by experiencing, we can feel, savor, see, and hear.

As it says in "God and Man," in the world of God alone, divinity cannot be manifested. Only at this physical level can we first feel it, manifest it, experience it. Because there are boundary lines, through the preciousness of boundaries and the preciousness of differences, we awaken to our own original form. As the saying goes, "the outer world is your mirror": precisely because there are

differences, and difference meets difference, we come to know, "this is where I end," "this is who I am."

So when we collide, at such times, our own form, our way of being, our way of thinking is not something to blame, nor something that must be changed; rather, what matters is to love all of it. By loving it, we awaken to the original form that lies behind it.

It is not that living only as water vapor is what matters. What is so important is to know that we are originally water vapor—that we are a divided spirit of God—and then to live within the differences, to live the differences. As we draw closer to a world where borders disappear, I ask you, please, please remember this. And at any time, since our essence is divine, whether we become solid or liquid, we can always return to gas. This going back and forth is perfectly free.

How, then, do we do this going back and forth? Through prayer. The more we raise the vibration of our energy through prayer—for prayer is love, and love and prayer raise our energy vibration tremendously—the more we can change from something visible into something invisible. Take ice, for example: if you put ice in a pot and warm it over a fire, the ice melts, doesn't it. It melts, and in time it becomes water vapor. The essence of the water has not changed; but by warming it, by giving that energy to the molecules, it becomes water vapor, becomes an invisible existence. That movement is truly free.

That is why, when we pray the Prayer for World Peace, the various forms that appear are instantly transformed into light; and the "things that appear and fade away" are not bad things. They are truly forms in which the figure of God has appeared in a different shape. The various phenomena we experienced in the past were faced not from the viewpoint of God, of divinity, but from the viewpoint of this physical body, of the preservation of the species—and so they remain in the future as fading-away appearances.

What is there is itself divine; but because our way of seeing it—our way of seeing in our past lives—was not the way of seeing its essence, it has been left to the next world as a fading-away appearance. And when we experience it again, this time, not for the preservation of our species, but by awakening to the essence behind what is appearing, it instantly changes into water vapor.

We can change it by placing our viewpoint there; and then, truly, by prayer. By raising our own viewpoint to water vapor through prayer, and by sending prayer also to what is appearing, we connect with the divinity behind the visible phenomenon; connected with its original form, it fades away. Such is its nature—the phenomena that occur are truly colorless and transparent, and through them our way of seeing and our way of connecting are being evolved, created, and raised ever higher.

That is why, if we can truly embody—not only understand, but embody in the daily events of everyday life—that everything that happens is perfect, with nothing lacking, perfectly accomplished (Dai-Jouju), and to be met with gratitude, then, as Goi-sensei writes here, all differences will be embraced in the heart of great harmony, and the mission of Earth humanity will be fulfilled. That is what I believe.

So now we will offer the prayers for the countries of the world, and I will read the names of 194 countries. As in this teaching of Goi-sensei, please feel, behind the history, the culture, the differences, and the beauty of each country, the resonance of divinity; and with the awareness that we are one in that resonance of divinity, hold each country dear with love and gratitude, and receive each country name I read with the love-filled prayer for world peace. After every seven countries, let us pray together, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," with the feeling that, truly

transcending the differences of these countries, we bring them into great harmony as one, in world peace. Praying the Prayer for World Peace, with all 194 countries, transcending borders, connecting as one in divinity—I would like to take, together with all of you, one step in prayer toward that future.

Let me explain the flow. I will read out seven country names. After each seven countries I will say "Hai," and then please recite together, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." And when the 194th, "All Other Regions," is finished, I will form the Divine Spark IN Mudra together with you all, and with that we will close this special program. (She then gave the same explanation in English.)

Well then, everyone, thank you. We will begin with the prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth," and then I will first read out seven countries. When I say "Hai," please recite "May Peace Prevail on Earth" once again. In this rhythm we will proceed.

<Prayers for the Peace of Each Country>

【Maki-sensei】

Thank you very much. Finally, we will form the Divine Spark IN Mudra. Truly, with the various countries you felt today—when we hear a country's name, so many images come to mind: stories we saw on the news, the country's flag, and for those who have visited, the people they met there, the buildings, the nature.

There is no single right answer, and there is no special color to "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Truly, just as the seven colors of the rainbow unite and become white light, when these countries each manifest their own divine way of being, a world embodying the same world as the energy of the prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth" appears on this Earth—and that world is the world where borders disappear.

A world where each beauty and each difference is treasured, where we can care for one another and find one another beautiful. That is why I feel a world of oneness will spread—a world where borders may exist, and yet it is as if they did not.

So that such a world may appear, truly, all humanity is undergoing Divine Resurrection—each of us is undergoing our own Divine Resurrection. Connecting as one with the energy of divinity within us, and in order to let it resound throughout the world, I would like to form the Divine Spark IN Mudra once together with you all. Thank you.

<The Divine Spark IN Mudra, once>

【Maki-sensei】

Yes, everyone, thank you very much. Now then, Yuka-sensei, please.

【Yuka-sensei】

Maki-sensei, thank you very much. I feel so strongly that this has become a Video Prayer Gathering overflowing with learning for me.

I had, of course, read Maki-sensei's manuscript before; but seeing it become slides, expressed as pictures, it sank in all the more deeply. And as I listened again to the explanation, I remembered how Masami-sensei once spoke, at some event, about the divine world and the heavenly world.

After all, when the physical body is gone and we return as souls, time and space disappear, and the existence called the physical body disappears too; so what we think appears instantly before us as reality, and there is no period of learning or growth. There is no colliding with one another. Because

all is one, what we think happens instantly as reality, so there is not even room to wonder how things will turn out—she said something like that, and I was remembering it.

And come to think of it, we often hear that after we die there is a life review, a time of looking back over our life; and at that time, it is not how we felt then—we also instantly sense what effect our actions at that time had on the other person. So we ourselves feel, in that instant, what influence our past actions had on others. And that too is because, being water vapor, everything is oneness, and we receive everything in that instant. Listening to the talk, I felt so strongly that in the world of oneness, the world without boundary lines, everyone truly is water vapor itself.

When we pray for the countries again, once more—with the ice and the water vapor—in the world of water vapor, a land without borders is, of course, nothing but oneness; it is the divine world, the heavenly world. But each country, while remaining in its state of ice, has no need to collide. The image of that world comes welling up so vividly through Maki-sensei's explanation and prayer. The way for the pieces of ice not to collide with one another is for each one of humanity to live by the heart of God and the creative power that dwell in the depths of the physical vibrations—in short, to live by divinity. That must be what it means, I realized—among many other realizations.

And then something else came back to me—I have spoken of it before. An Indigenous person once said, "Culture, language, dress—all of these are Mother Earth expressing herself through that region and its people." When I heard that, I thought: of course.

In the African land and climate, among the animals and plants that live in Africa, when human beings naturally express Mother Earth, it becomes that culture, that language. And on the other hand, Japan with its four seasons, together with great nature...

What I want to say is this: as Goi-sensei told us, if, in our living, language and culture are expressions of Mother Earth, then—if humankind could truly grasp the heart of God, the divinity, that dwells in the depths of it all: within the animals, within the plants, within the earth, and among human beings themselves—and could express it firmly with creative power, then it would no longer be a matter of border lines or of nations; and yet the cultures existing there would, of course, vividly remain: the expressions of Mother Earth.

Forgive me for talking so long. But there were so many realizations. If we can connect with the expression at the root of things and, living it with creative power, turn it into culture, then, with each one's diversity treasured, a world without borders came faintly into view—and I found myself getting excited. And still, what stays in my heart from Maki-sensei's slides is this: when you collide, there is no need to blame.

As Masami-sensei also says, once we go to the heavenly world—once we become water vapor—we cannot even have that experience, cannot even feel it. But if, in the state of ice, we can live trusting our own water vapor and trusting the water vapor of others, then there is truly nothing to fear—it is, so to speak, as good as done. We have been given this place to experience it, to grow and to evolve. In the parable of the ice and the water vapor, each has its learning, each has what it can do; and it is not something to blame—we are originally the same H₂O. How fully we can live from that place—that is what it comes down to. That is how I received it. I have gone on too long. Maki-sensei, thank you very much.

【Maki-sensei】

Thank you. Truly, as Yuka-sensei says, the beings before us and the events that happen are neither good nor bad. Goi-sensei writes here that the "animal way of living" is the "way of living of preserving the species," and I found that so easy to understand.

The animal way of living—when an animal meets a being before it, it is probably a choice between two things: is this prey I want to capture, or an opponent I should flee from lest I be captured? Being near this existence, will I gain something, or is it dangerous to be near it, so I should flee? That is how they have preserved their life, their species. And human beings are different, he says. Rather than trying to gain from, or flee from, the given environment, human beings can create. But if we create on the basis of this physical, animal way of living, the creative power originally given to human beings is not being brought to life—that is what Goi-sensei says.

So, in the society we are making today, there really are so many people living by this animal, species-preserving way of living. Is the person before me someone who brings me gain, or someone who brings me harm? For a company, too, as it grows larger, protecting things is very important up to a certain point. But precisely now, in a society matured to a certain degree—a world where we need not meet enemies every day—we can bring to life the creative power given only to human beings, and build the world of God.

And when we ask what to use that creative power for, as Yuka-sensei said, it is not for fleeing from differences or for gaining something. It is to connect in the place where, behind the differences, every being is divine, every event is divine—and where our own being, too, with all its many selves, is originally divine. Not imagination, but creation: when we exercise the creative power that returns to that place, then truly, the peaceful future in which the mission of Earth humanity is fulfilled, as Goi-sensei says, will appear.

Today, together with all of you, with the energy of knowing that I am a droplet of God, and that the people around me and the countries around me are all droplets of God, I feel we were able to create a new step toward that world. I felt anew the happiness of having companions who, through prayer, create the divine future together. Thank you so much for joining today's video prayer as well. Now, before this prayer gathering ends, the announcements.

【Yuka-sensei】

Before the announcements—forgive me. Animals, precisely because they do not use the animal thinking of the physical vibrations, live all the more directly the resonance of God, the divinity that lives the principles of the universe; and humankind, I believe, can see the heart of God within them.

In short, it may have sounded like animals versus humans, with humans at the advantage; but what I wanted to say is that animals are amazing. A lion with a full belly does not eat the rabbit before its eyes. It knows what it needs, so to speak.

But we humans, with our thinking, once we go into protecting ourselves, can become greedy—more, more, more—and take more than we need. And when disasters come, there are the animals that flee in a flash by intuition, and there are we, dull and noticing nothing. When I think of such things, I simply couldn't help expressing how much we can learn from one another, and the gratitude I feel toward the divinity of each.

All things have their beauty—seeing with the eyes of water vapor, feeling the water vapor within each other's ice—I found myself wishing to be that way with the animals, too. Now, the announcements.

<Announcements from Byakko Shinko Kai>

That is all. The announcements became long. Thank you very much.

【Maki-sensei】

Everyone, thank you for joining us today as well. The next "Video Prayer Gathering" will be on Saturday, August 8. I am so looking forward to connecting with you all again in the video prayer.

As Yuka-sensei told us, events and ceremonies at Fuji Sanctuary have truly been increasing, so please, whenever your schedule allows, do come and visit Fuji Sanctuary as well.

Truly, at Fuji Sanctuary everyone's prayers have accumulated, and just by placing yourself there, I believe you can firmly connect with the divinity within you. So please connect with your own divinity, connect with the divinity of those who have come, and by praying together, send that out to the world—if you can deliver that energy to the world, I will be truly happy and grateful.

And so, though the days are hot, please take good care of yourselves. I pray from my heart that today, too, will be a divine day for each and every one of you. Thank you so very much for joining us today.

【Yuka-sensei】

Thank you very much.

That is all.