

260808 - Video Prayer Gathering – Yuka-sensei, Rika-sensei and Maki-sensei

【Yuka-sensei】

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for joining us for the "Video Prayer Gathering" on August 8th.

The earthquake in Kumamoto struck on July 28th, and about two weeks have now passed. I hear that more than 6,600 people are still living as evacuees. With daily life in evacuation and the recovery work going on in this heat, I imagine the people of Kumamoto are in a situation where their hearts truly cannot rest.

Of course, we too send our prayers to Kumamoto every day from the Fuji Sanctuary.

Our staff have also been in touch—centering on the leaders of the branch gatherings—with the members living in Yatsushiro City, which is near the epicenter. From what I have heard so far, the members' homes have been terribly scattered about, but everyone is safe. I also hear that those who had been hospitalized have been moved to other places within Kumamoto City, and that everyone has been safely evacuated.

Even in the midst of all this, our members continue to offer their prayers, and in that place, in that region, they carry on the work of radiating the light of divinity.

It also happened that, during the earthquake, I was in the middle of a Zoom meeting with a staff member who had gone home to Kumamoto. As we were on Zoom, the staff member's screen shook violently and she said, "There is a huge earthquake right now." Precisely because we were meeting the earthquake in real time, we all stopped right there and formed the Divine Spark IN Mudra together.

At that time, what the staff member who had gone home told us was that just two days earlier, on the Sunday, we had held a training session for the Prayer Counselors. The Prayer Counselors are people who have been praying continuously, and together with them we had offered the Divine Spark IN Mudra and prayers for the land, prefecture by prefecture, throughout all of Japan. In the very midst of the earthquake, the staff member in Kumamoto said, "Truly, I am so glad that the prayers had been sent in advance at the training session two days ago."

And of course, beyond that, every day, people throughout Japan and all over the world continue to send the Prayer for World Peace and the Divine Spark IN Mudra to the land, to the Earth, and to all of nature. It cannot be seen with the eyes, but I feel anew that this becomes a great, great work that holds back major disaster and turns it into minor disaster.

And right now a large typhoon is approaching the Amami region and Okinawa, so our prayers go out to the people of Okinawa as well; and with those strong winds, I think the hearts of those who have evacuated cannot rest, and all kinds of anxieties are arising.

So, before we begin the program, let us quiet our hearts for a moment and send our prayers now—first for the peace of the people of Kumamoto, and of course for those who lost their lives in Kumamoto, for their bereaved families, for those who are evacuated now, for all those engaged in the recovery work, and for all of Kyushu, for all the land, the energy, and the nature affected there. Everyone, thank you for joining me.

<Prayer for the disaster-stricken areas of Kumamoto and the regions affected by the typhoon>

Thank you, everyone. And so we began with prayer, with quiet hearts. From here we will proceed

with the program as usual. Maki-sensei, please lead us in the Prayer for World Peace.

【Rika-sensei】

Ah, may I say something before that? I am sorry. On August 6th, near the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, prayers were offered—as they are every year; this year was the 34th time.

To the volunteers, and to all of you who provided the live broadcast, thank you for always letting prayer resound there.

And tomorrow, August 9th, prayers will be offered from the land of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki. The prayer will take place at 11:02, so if you have the opportunity—there will also be a live broadcast on YouTube—I hope you will pray together with Nagasaki.

This week in August, I believe all kinds of prayers for peace are resounding throughout the world, across the whole Earth. Sensing these prayers all the while, I would like to pray together with all of you again today. Thank you very much.

【Maki-sensei】

Also, the time of tomorrow's prayer is 11:02, so please join us in prayer.

<Yuka-sensei's explanation in English>

【Maki-sensei】

Now then, today as well, I would like to begin with the Prayer for World Peace.

Truly, the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6th, and we have now come to the 81st year; and tomorrow is Nagasaki. Today, August 8th, lies between them. And this year is Reiwa 8, 2026, so for me personally there is meaning in the fact that three 8s are lined up.

When you turn an 8 on its side it also looks like the symbol of infinity, and so I feel that our being able to connect and pray here through this video prayer is no coincidence.

On this day, between August 6th and 9th—when so many people are thinking about peace, or are grieving the loss of someone dear to them—we offer this prayer for peace together with all of you, and it spreads throughout the world with truly infinite possibility. With that image in mind, I would like to pray this Prayer for World Peace together with all of you today.

Every single time we offer this Prayer for World Peace, I believe it is a most precious prayer—the prayer does not vanish; this energy remains and continues to nurture the seeds of peace. And by offering each and every prayer wholeheartedly with all of you, and by accumulating them one upon another, I believe we can build together a future of peace, a future in which the divinity of each and every person is truly brought forth and connected.

Now then, let us enter into the Prayer for World Peace. Thank you very much.

<Prayer for World Peace>

【Rika-sensei】

Now then, let us move into the main program.

Today, here in Japan we are in the Obon season, and I think many people—at least among the Japanese—visit their family graves to offer gratitude and prayers to the spirits of their ancestors. I am sure many of you are praying in that way as well, and today, in this video prayer gathering, we will deepen that even further.

In Byakko Shinkou Kai, we hold it as a very important matter always to give thanks to the Guardian Deities and Spirits, to our Guardian Spirits and Guardian Deities, and we always offer the prayer words of gratitude to them: "Guardian Spirits, thank you. Guardian Deities, thank you."

Goi-sensei wrote about this as a truly important part of Byakko Shinkou Kai: that while we are still immature, with our thoughts pulled so tightly toward the physical body, and while by our own power we cannot easily return to our own true self, in the midst of that the presence of these Guardian Deities and Spirits stays firmly with us and guides us twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year, from the moment we are born until the day we die.

Masami-sensei, too, in her youth suffered a severe spiritual illness, and when she became one with the light of the sun, her Guardian Deity appeared, and what she heard within that light was: "I will grant you life once again, but from now on your mission is to convey the truth that Guardian Deities and Spirits stand behind every person." To that very extent, turning our awareness to the presence of the Guardian Deities and Spirits becomes prayer words and an awareness that are truly important in our daily living and in fulfilling our mission.

So today, let us offer our gratitude fully to the Guardian Deities and Spirits, and then, together with all of you, let us offer the Prayer for World Peace—"May Peace Prevail on Earth"—which is our true calling and our mission.

Before that, allow me to read one passage. What I will read today is a question on page 36 of Goi-sensei's book "Religious Questions and Answers, Sequel." I will read the question that begins "An elderly woman asked me," and because Goi-sensei's answer is so wonderful, I will read that as well. Afterward we will take a quiet time and offer our gratitude to the Guardian Deities and Spirits. Thank you very much.

<Reading from Goi-sensei's "Religious Questions and Answers, Sequel">

Question 97: An elderly woman asked me, "I am so grateful, so very grateful, and so I pray the Prayer for World Peace; but sometimes I forget to pray. What should I do?" How should I answer her?

Answer: I have spoken again and again about what prayer is, but here, for the sake of this elderly woman, let me speak of it once more in an easily understandable way.

This elderly woman says that she prays the Prayer for World Peace but sometimes forgets. Yet with the Prayer for World Peace, so long as a person has the will to offer this prayer in their daily life, then even at times when they seem to have forgotten to pray, those prayer words are resounding within that person's heart.

As I have explained before, the words of the Prayer for World Peace are prayer words that connect one to the Great Light of Salvation wave-motion (the Divine Spirits Group of the Savior), which is working to save the human race of this Earth. Once you are connected, the resonance of the Great Light of Salvation is transmitted directly to that person, and so even if that person should now and then forget the prayer words, within that person's heart they are nonetheless resounding.

This human being of flesh, as I am always saying, is an existence that includes not only the Direct Spirit and the divine offshoot spirit but also the Guardian Spirits and Guardian Deities together; it is not merely a matter of a single individual human being existing there.

Every person, whoever they may be, lives in this world through a single connection of Guardian Deities, Guardian Spirits, and the divine offshoot soul; no one exists as a human being of flesh made of the divine offshoot soul alone. Ordinary people, however, do not know this truth, and so

they think of themselves as nothing more than a single, separate existence.

When a person's heart of prayer arises, it already tells us that—whether that person consciously knows it or not—their divine offshoot soul and their Guardian Deities and Spirits are clearly in communion. And so such a person comes to dwell in a somewhat different world from those in whom no heart of prayer arises at all.

Even in the case of a person with no heart of prayer, the Guardian Deities and Spirits continue their protection of that person; but in any case, because that person's thoughts do not turn toward the Guardian Deities and Spirits and turn only toward material wave-motion, that person cannot help but continue an unsettled life in which the peace and serenity of the world of the heart cannot be obtained. Even if, by some good cause from a past life, that person were blessed with position or material fortune, the path to peace and serenity would not open for them.

By contrast, a person who continues a life of prayer—even one living without blessings of position or material things—is, in the world of the heart, gradually walking the path of peace and serenity, the path of God.

For a human being, what must be done before anything else is to step onto the path of oneness with the Guardian Deities and Spirits. And for that, I believe the act of the practice of gratitude through prayer is the very best. Therefore, a person who has raised a heart of prayer even once or twice is surely closer to the Kingdom of God than a person with no heart of prayer at all. The prayer I speak of is different from the willpower practice of making requests, so please read it with that in mind.

The prayer I speak of is the act of letting the human heart, surrounded by karmic-thought wave-motion, shine forth honestly, just as the true self is, just as the resonance of life is. It is not the reciting of requests, which is no more than exchanging karmic thoughts (desires) here for karmic thoughts (desires) there.

When the true self shines forth as it is, and life becomes active without hindrance, then that person's negative side—unhappy living such as illness, poverty, and disharmony—naturally disappears from them. Why? Because the true self is the divine will itself, and is the perfect and complete working of life; so when the true self begins to work just as it is, without hindrance, it is only natural that unhappiness and disharmony should vanish.

Therefore, if a state of unhappiness or disharmony has arisen in you, rather than merely wishing for that unhappiness or disharmony to take a turn for the better, you will obtain far greater happiness by wishing for the unfolding of your own true self and for oneness with God.

And so I decided upon prayer words such as the Prayer for World Peace—the most natural prayer, one that becomes one with the divine will, and one that gently gathers into a single whole the completion of one's own mission and gratitude to God.

And these prayer words, by being recited even once, connect you to the Great Light of Salvation just as though you had switched on a television, and the Great Light of Salvation comes flowing in of itself. So rather than forcing yourself to pray, the prayer words come forth in your heart naturally.

It is only that, depending on the degree of the karmic-thought wave-motion surrounding the true self, there are some people for whom the prayer words do not readily come to mind; but even so, in time and on some occasion, they come to want to pray. Therefore, in a case like that of the elderly woman in the question—always intending to pray, yet now and then forgetting—that

forgetting is no loss whatsoever. Even at times when you have forgotten, your Guardian Spirit is praying on your behalf.

Every person has their own karmic thoughts (habitual thoughts), and when those karmic thoughts are trying to keep that person away from God and Buddha, it goes so far that, let alone prayer, they will not lend an ear even to another's teaching. And yet the Great Light of Salvation is seeking to save even such people; so surely it cannot help but save a person who has even a little heart of prayer. It is precisely when such divine light of great love shines that the peace of the world's humanity is achieved. And what is recited, as the words of the human beings of this Earth, is the words of the Prayer for World Peace. Know that the Prayer for World Peace is a prayer in which you and your Guardian Deities and Spirits have become one, and please pray whenever you remember it. Even so, the purpose will be fulfilled.

【Rika-sensei】

Such was the wonderful answer we received from Goi-sensei. If either of you felt anything on hearing this, please do share.

At the recent Pray & Connect, there was someone who, when she was absorbed in doing something, would forget to pray, and who carried a kind of guilt about it—"I am not praying; isn't that bad of me?" I think it was very much the same theme.

Truly, just as Goi-sensei answered today, even at times when you have forgotten, even when you are concentrating on something else, for a person who wants to pray, a person who has a heart of prayer, that prayer is always resounding, and the Guardian Deities and Spirits are always praying in my place. I felt this was such a solid answer from Goi-sensei. If that person is listening to this video, I think she may feel a little relieved. How about the two of you?

【Yuka-sensei】

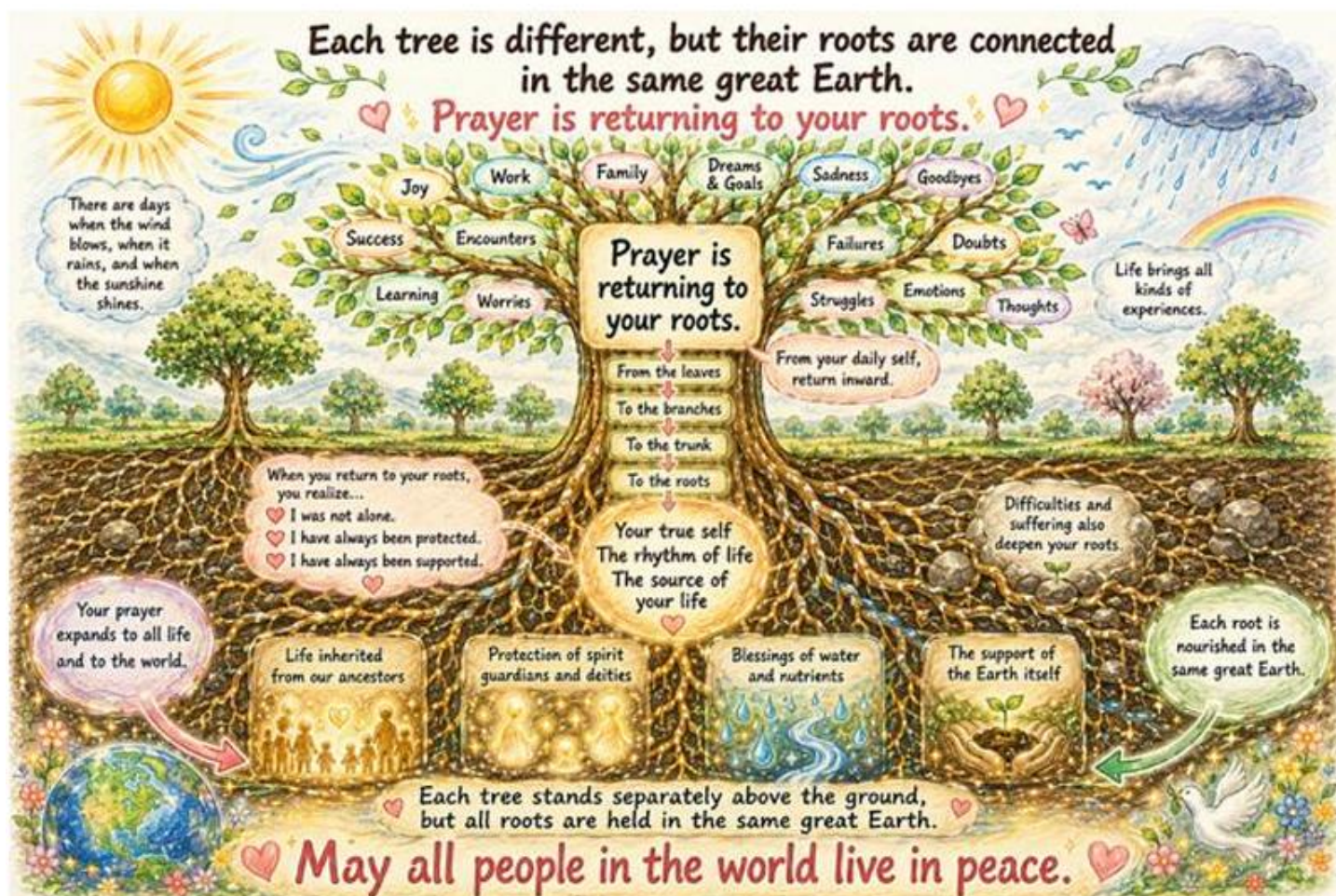
Yes. As is always the case, when I come into contact with Goi-sensei's words, I feel wrapped in a deep sense of security. As Rika-sensei mentioned, Pray & Connect is a place where people under the age of forty take part, and there were worries like this: because of their very straightforwardness—"I have to do my best," "I must do this"—they blame themselves for what they could not do; the wish is there, "I want to pray," "I want to let go of my self," and yet they still fall short, and they wonder what to do.

But prayer words, the Prayer for World Peace, do not work on that level. Truly, if you simply return your awareness there, to the heart of God, it goes on resounding. As Rika-sensei was just saying, the Guardian Deities and Spirits are praying in our place. It is a promise of that magnitude, connected with the Guardian Divine Spirits Group of the Great Light of Salvation.

Because it means entering into that, entering into the divine will, there is a connection with it—and receiving that greatness, and entrusting ourselves to it with peace of mind, that love that says "It is all right"—as you read it to us just now, I received it feeling how deep this love is, what a sense of security it gives.

【Maki-sensei】

Yes. I had received a message from Rika-sensei beforehand saying, "I am thinking of reading this today," and what came to me at that moment was this image of a tree. (Showing the slide)



As was just said, whether we are praying or not praying, within this great earth—truly, if this one tree were me, then as this tree I go on increasing, leaf by leaf, the encounters and the many experiences of my life. And those leaves touch the wind, come to know the warmth of the sun, come to know the rain, and at times come to know the harshness of a typhoon. But when they come to know harshness through a typhoon and the like, the roots—the strength that holds it in place—are nurtured all the more deeply and firmly.

When I ask myself, "What is prayer?"—this prayer is the act of returning quietly to the roots, returning to the resonance of the true self, to the source of life; that is prayer. And when, as this prayer, we return into the earth, we are connected with the layers of this truly vast earth that reach from our past lives to the present—truly protected by our Guardian Spirits, our Guardian Deities, and all kinds of nourishment and energy.

So, because we return through this prayer, we become certain of it there. We can be certain that we are firmly connected with that, and that we are protected. But it is not that this connection disappears just because we are not praying; whether we pray or do not pray, we are all beings born out of this great source, and we are beings who live out and manifest the resonance of this great source, this earth, through our existence as a tree.

And so these many different trees grow while each holds its own individuality, and each returns to the earth the wonderful experiences it has received from the sun, the rain, and the light. This circulation is something we can bring about through prayer.

Between a person who knows prayer and a person who does not, this circulation arises when one knows prayer. The existence of one person alone, the prayer of one person alone, connects with many people, and the prayer energy brought forth through oneself is distributed to many people.

And the prayers that many people have prayed in each of their own places come back again into my circulation, into my tree. We can live while feeling this circulation.

And within those roots are our ancestors—truly, everything is there. Facing a typhoon while feeling that, and standing on through a storm without feeling it at all, are entirely different ways of standing, even if in both cases one keeps standing: standing with that certainty, that "It is all right," as against standing on amid "What shall I do, what shall I do—I am only a tree, and I have no roots," with no connection to those around us, no connection to our ancestors, and no support.

That is exactly why truly praying, and through prayer keeping a constant, unbroken connection with this great resonance, allows us—not in anxiety and fear, but within a great sense of security—to savor to the full the experience of this world given to us in this physical body. That is what I felt so strongly as I listened to Goi-sensei's writing being read, and as I listened to what Yuka-sensei and Rika-sensei had to say.

I am truly happy and grateful that I can build up my life while knowing this prayer, and I am grateful that I have been able to come to know this truth. That is precisely what has led to the activities I am engaged in now. I want many people to come to know this prayer. All sorts of things happen in life, all sorts of experiences arise. They do happen—but even so, I want to increase the number of people who can live with the certainty that we are beings who are protected. I felt anew that this is what I am hoping for. Thank you very much.

【Rika-sensei】

What a lovely picture. Somehow, with the image of "May Peace Prevail on Earth" always resounding in the roots. So rather than "Oh no, I forgot, what shall I do"—rather than "I am praying"—this prayer is already resounding all the time.

And when we decide to pray, we are resonating with that prayer. We pray with our mouths, through this physical body—but as for this prayer, for anyone who is connected with their Guardian Deities and Spirits and with their own true self, this prayer is resounding always and forever, and no matter what we are doing, no matter how much we may think we have forgotten, this true self, this part that is the roots, is always guiding us so that the prayer prays itself. That image comes across so vividly. How wonderful this is. Thank you very much.

Now then, having listened together to Goi-sensei's writing just now, let us take a time to turn our thoughts quietly to the Guardian Deities and Spirits—who always guide us and pray for us, and who are there for us at every moment—and to convey our feelings of gratitude to them.

Guardian Spirits, thank you. Guardian Deities, thank you. Guardian Spirits and Guardian Deities, who watch over us and guide us always—when I am asleep, when I am lost, and when I am sad—who guide us so that our true self may shine, and who support us in this.

And for the correction of course not only of an individual's destiny, but of all the many corrections of course taking place in this humanity of Earth and in the world—manifesting what is to be manifested and then making it disappear—for that work, for that great work, we offer our heartfelt gratitude. Guardian Spirits, Guardian Deities, Goi-sensei, thank you.

<Prayer of gratitude to the Guardian Deities and Spirits>

【Rika-sensei】

Thank you very much. Now then, Yuka-sensei, please lead us in the Prayer for World Peace.

【Yuka-sensei】

I will be repeating what has been said, but with Maki-sensei's wonderful expression in a picture, and Rika-sensei's explanation of it—the essence is that when we are praying the Prayer for World Peace, it is a moment when we resonate with our own true self; but even when we are not praying, if the true self has prayed even once, that prayer goes on resounding, it keeps on resounding. I feel truly grateful for that.

We know this Prayer for World Peace. It is the strength, you might say, of knowing that we live within both the visible world and the invisible world. It is that we are divine offshoot souls, and that communion with the Guardian Deities and Spirits is always there.

Goi-sensei spoke of a "television," but to me it seems more like a radio. A radio station is always broadcasting and transmitting all kinds of things, but unless we switch it on at our end, we cannot hear it at all. Yet with the Prayer for World Peace, from the broadcasting station of the gods, of God, there is always a transmission to our side—"You are one with God," "You are at peace and serenity," "You are within the Great Light," "You are perfect and complete"—God's radio station keeps sending it out and letting it resound toward us.

Whether that radio is on or off—whether we can truly live in peace and serenity, whether, truly in the dark, we can feel secure even when typhoons and storms come as Maki-sensei says—whether or not we can receive the resonance of that radio station makes all the difference in the world.

The Prayer for World Peace is entering into the resonance of the divine will, "God and we are originally one"—it is precisely the switching on of that radio, the great master switch of the radio station. So today, once again, we feel our connection with the Guardian Deities and Spirits and enter into communion with them. And feeling the greatness of Goi-sensei, who packed everything vast into this single line—"May Peace Prevail on Earth"—this resonance, this communion, this oneness with the divine beings that is the master switch itself.

Simply, I would like us to recite "May Peace Prevail on Earth" fourteen times. At your own pace, in your own way—in your heart is fine, or you may speak the words aloud. I will take the lead on the timing, but if you like you may mute yourself and pray with your own resonance of "May Peace Prevail on Earth," or in your heart—whatever you wish is fine.

But slowly, at your own pace. In essence, so that the switch of that radio may come on. So that this very moment is the moment of resonating with the divine will itself, with the resonance of one's own true self. Within it, the resonance of the Guardian Spirits and Guardian Deities, the great love of Goi-sensei, and the working of the Guardian Divine Spirits Group of the Great Light of Salvation all become one. I would like to make this a time of letting this prayer resound fully.

Now then, fourteen times. The pace will be my own pace, but thank you very much.

<"May Peace Prevail on Earth," fourteen times>

【Maki-sensei】

Yes, thank you very much. Now, finally, I would like to form the Divine Spark IN Mudra seven times together with all of you. Thank you very much.

<The Divine Spark IN Mudra, seven times>

【Yuka-sensei】

Thank you very much. Now, before we close, let me once again move into the time for announcements about the events in August and September. Let me share a PowerPoint for a moment.

<Announcements>

【Yuka-sensei】

Yes. And so today's video prayer gathering is coming to a close. Does anyone have any final words? Rika-sensei, is there anything—any closing words?

【Rika-sensei】

Well, truly, today too was full of so much. I was so glad that we were able to pray deeply. And there was also that sense of new movement, of a radiant future coming toward us from the other side. Along with the announcements, the news, the joyful and happy news, I felt that the vertical line and the horizontal line are connected entirely as one and that we are being given life. So I thought that today, too, was a wonderful time. Thank you very much.

【Maki-sensei】

Truly, I was thinking the same thing. That we can carry out activities like this—as I showed you in that picture earlier, the more the resonance of the Prayer for World Peace is packed into this soil, the more the various trees born from it become trees that truly carry that resonance of peace and that prayer.

And as for these trees that are being born—this animation, the songs, all kinds of activities are now beginning to be born in the world. But for these to be born is, I believe, entirely thanks to those who pray this prayer in all sorts of places in the midst of everyday life, who pray in the hope of a peaceful future—it is because those who can pray do pray that these activities exist.

So I want to keep carrying out my activities while holding dear, by all means, the resonance called prayer that lies behind these activities; and I feel that the more the activities spread, the more we must truly treasure the time of praying the prayer that lies at their foundation—otherwise we will lose sight of what the activities are for. So I ask for your continued support. Thank you very much.

【Yuka-sensei】

Thank you very much. And, repeating myself once again, with the typhoon now approaching Okinawa and Kyushu, we send many prayers to all of you who live there.

Exactly as Maki-sensei said—even in a typhoon, even in a storm, may the resonance of the prayer of peace and serenity permeate the soil; and once again, holding divinity in our thoughts, we are all one and together with you. To all of you in Kyushu especially, whose hearts cannot rest, we are truly sending our heartfelt support in prayer.

Please take good care of yourselves in this heat, everyone. Thank you so very much again today. Then, next time, I look forward to seeing you again on August 22nd. We will take our leave now. Thank you very much.



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