

What is the peace

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"Nothing is more barbarous than war. Nothing is more cruel. And yet, the war dragged on. Nothing is more pitiful than a nation being swept along by fools. "This is a passage from the novel "Human Revolution" written by Daisaku Ikeda.

What do you think of when you hear the word "peace"? To be honest, I had never really thought about peace. That's because I was able to go to school, eat meals, talk with friends, and lead an ordinary life.

I took this lifestyle for granted. However, after visiting Hiroshima on a school trip in junior high, I realized this life was not normal but privileged, and I began to seriously consider the question "what is peace?" and "how can we abolish nuclear weapons?"

After my visit to Hiroshima, I think there are two things that are necessary to create a sustainable and peaceful world.

First is the importance of dialogue in order to create peace. I visited the "Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum" and saw the belongings of those who were exposed to the atomic bomb. I felt the cruelty and despair by looking at the belongings such as a clock that stopped at 8:15am, the time the bomb was dropped, and children's burned clothes. I felt the horror of the atomic bomb. However, what was really important was the explanations attached on each and every one of those belongings. What kind of wishes did the donors put into the exhibit? How much "ordinary" was taken away by the ultimate lethal weapon called the atomic bomb? I heard screams and suffering from the belongings, and I was overwhelmed by a sense of grief and the catastrophic threat of the atomic bomb.

I think there are various opinions in the world about atomic bombs. Some say that the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a necessary evil to prevent more US soldiers' deaths during WWII. Some also say that nuclear weapons are required, as they have the power to deter war. When I heard these opinions, I was stunned and had a sense of resentment. However, I remembered my mentor, Daisaku Ikeda's words, "Though we may have different opinions, each of us are all comrades who tackle the shared challenges of life such as birth, aging, sickness, and death."

That is why I believe that, as fellow human beings, we have an obligation to at least know about the tragedies that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945. The tragic past that atomic bombs were dropped in not only one but two cities in Japan can not be changed. However, the future can still be changed by our action to create peace. The question is: what kind of action leads to creating peace? A volunteer I met in Hiroshima said, "Dialogue is important. ,Even if we are from and live in different places, humans are humans.

First and foremost, it is important to listen and make the effort to understand one another. To have a patient and compassionate heart to understand them." Without dialogue, we will interact with others with negative preconceptions and prejudice. I am convinced that dialogue with an attitude of trying to know and respect others will be the foundation for building peace and create a world in which everyone aspires for peace.

The second point I want to emphasize is that humans have great power within. It was said that after the atomic bomb was dropped, "No grass would grow in Hiroshima for 75 years." Nevertheless, when I landed in Hiroshima, I was taken aback by how beautiful the city was. The mountainous scenery, the crisp air, beautifully developed cities, I was in awe. Mahatma Gandhi said, "The power of the soul is stronger than the atomic bomb." As he said, buildings have been built and nature has grown freely, so much so that it is hard to believe that the atomic bomb was dropped 80 years ago. I was told that this symbolizes the countless efforts of the people in Hiroshima who had a strong determination to rebuild their city. As it is said that a strong-minded person is kind, I truly felt the warmth and kindness shown to us by the people of Hiroshima is a reflection of their indomitable spirit.

This is not only true for Hiroshima, but also for us who aim for peace. If we join hands and cooperate beyond borders, races, and cultures, even if the influence of each individual is small, it can become a great force that will eventually change the course of the world. In fact, the continuous efforts made by each Hibakusha resulted in the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons to be established in 2017. However, we don't have much time left now. Wars are breaking out all over the world, and we are in danger of using nuclear weapons again. There is a concept called a "doomsday clock" in the world. This clock symbolically indicates the time remaining until the last day of humankind. It began in 1947 with "7 minutes left," but, earlier this year, it was announced that there are only "89 seconds left," the shortest time ever in history. That is why it is vital that we believe in our potential as human beings, act, and spread the spirit of peace to the world.

To summarize, I think that to build a sustainable peaceful society, two things are important: "dialogue" and "believing in the power of the human spirit." Through dialogue with people from all over the world, we can build friendships in which we can acknowledge and respect various differences and share our common understanding of striving for peace. And we will continue to believe in the infinite potential we possess for the sake of Hiroshima, which taught us the importance of "peace." I am currently working hard to learn English and Portuguese and share my thoughts on peace through dialogue with my classmates in my daily life. No matter what position I am in, I am determined to live my life by cherishing every person in front of me and pursuing "peace" in my daily life.

Finally, I will end my speech with a quote from Daisaku Ikeda, the founder of my high school, whom I respect.

"Nothing is more precious than peace. Nothing brings more happiness. Peace is the most basic starting point for the advancement of humankind."