

Message from the Chairperson for SOPP 2011

Today, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the seventh annual Symphony of Peace Prayers.

The SOPP ceremony was initiated at Fuji Sanctuary as a way of fostering an upward transformation in the human consciousness. To me, it seems very fitting for this ceremony to have been born in Japan, for I believe that the role of Japan is to send peaceful vibrations throughout the world, and to serve as a model for creating a harmonious and sustainable future for the earth and all living things.

On March 11 of this year, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, the largest ever recorded in Japan, struck the Tohoku region, followed by a massive tsunami. No one could have imagined the unprecedented circumstances that unfolded in just a short span of time.

However, this disastrous scene was not all that met the eyes of people watching from around the world. They also witnessed the true harmonious spirit of the Japanese people—a spirit of compassion, consideration, and cooperation.

The media in countries around the world have been deeply impressed by the attitudes and conduct of the Japanese people. Some observers have commented that the Japanese were very moderate and courteous in their behavior, with no rioting or other disturbances. An officer in the U.S. military who was there to provide aid and assistance said that the victims of the disaster showed gratitude to the troops, and were even worried for their safety.

I believe that Japan also has a mission to sound an alarm to the world, alerting people to the dangers of unnatural disasters and calling their attention to the issues surrounding the use of nuclear energy. From here on, it is my hope that Japan will become a more spiritual society, working to conserve energy and water, and living more moderate lifestyles based on a sense of gratitude toward the world of nature and all living things. In this way, I feel that the example shown by Japan will set the trend for the dimensional elevation of this world.

Up to now, we have pursued material wealth and a finite, artificial mode of creation that goes against the laws of nature. As a result, we have seen endless conflict and strife. But now, in 2011, the time has come for us to shift from a material to a spiritual culture—a culture founded in a universal consciousness—an awareness that we do not live on our own but are connected with all things.

With today's ceremony, we are sending out prayers based in this universal awareness that *all is one*. With its theme of 'celebrating the oneness of humanity, its cultural and religious diversity,' the SOPP invites participants to pray with one voice the peace prayers of different faiths and spiritual traditions, sending a beautiful, harmonized energy throughout the world. This energy, born from our shared prayers, has a direct influence on people and countries across the globe, and on all life on Earth. This is because our glorious prayers of universal consciousness awaken the divinity inherent in every living being, causing them to co-resonate with one another in a high-dimensional exchange of energy.

Through the prayers we are offering at today's SOPP, the power and energy of our individual words and thoughts is concentrated, appealing to humanity's collective consciousness and creating great waves of peace in the world. These waves originate not only at Fuji Sanctuary, but also at the local SOPP ceremonies and prayer gatherings being held at

this very moment in many places around the world. As our prayers merge with theirs, the energy of love, healing, peace, and evolution is multiplied and enhanced.

In 2015, I believe that the accumulated energy of our prayers will bring about a turning point in human history. For the first time in recorded history, humanity will welcome a spiritual culture on Earth. As we move from a materialistic to a spiritual consciousness, and ultimately to a universal consciousness, human beings will at last attain an awareness of their own sanctity and divinity. At that time, all humanity will experience the truth that we are not separate from others, but are one with nature and all living beings. We will recover our intrinsic ability to heal ourselves and the earth.

The 2015 SOPP will bring far-sighted religious and spiritual leaders, scientists, and political leaders from around the world together at Fuji Sanctuary, with the aim of establishing a new charter for humanity. As we look forward to that day, let us unite our hearts and voices in prayer today.

May peace prevail on Earth.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Masami Saionji". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'M' at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail on the 'i'.

Masami Saionji
Chairperson, Byakko Shinko Kai