

Masami Saionji Speaks at Vishva Shanti Yajna in France

From August 4-8 in 2011, Byakko Chairperson Masami Saionji and Deputy Chairperson Yuka Saionji visited Le Jardin de Safran, a spiritual center in Varaire, southeastern France, to take part in a special event called *Vishva Shanti Yajna*, or 'A Prayer for Universal Peace.'

The invitation was an outcome of the 2010 Symphony of Peace Prayers ceremony at Fuji Sanctuary, in which Maitreyi Amma participated as a guest speaker. Maitreyi Amma is the first Western disciple of Indian Sage Sri Tathata. She has undertaken the mission of spreading his work and teachings outside of India, and she founded Le Jardin de Safran (The Garden of Saffron) as a spiritual center where Sri Tathata could be received in Europe. Sri Tathata visited the center for the first time in 2007, and since then has visited nearly every year.

The *Vishva Shanti Yajna* was a five-day Vedic ritual for world peace conducted by Sri Tathata and attended by more than one thousand participants from Europe and various other countries. The event featured two special programs. On August 6, a conference of scientists and leaders in the field of ecology and sustainable development were invited to speak on the topic: "Towards a conscious and harmonious humanity." August 7 marked World Peace and Harmony Day, a first and much anticipated event at the center.



On August 6, a special talk was given by Sri Tathata, focusing on children. Many children were sitting on the floor in front of the stage, and listened quietly to his words, which were translated into English, French and Italian. The focus of the lecture was on the spiritual education of children, which starts with the education of the couple and the family.



To close the morning session, a peace pole was presented to Le Jardin de Safran. Masami Sensei spoke briefly about the significance of the words *May peace prevail on Earth*, and invited all participants to pray in the four languages shown on the peace pole—French, Japanese, English, and Sanskrit.

The next day, August 7, began with a specific Vedic ritual. To close the morning session, representatives of various religious and spiritual traditions were called on to offer their prayers for peace and harmony on Earth. Representatives of Christianity, Judaism, Islamic Sufism, Tibetan Buddhism, and Native American and other traditions took turns offering prayers for peace, unity, and respect for nature. Masami Sensei, Yuka Sensei, and Byakko staff member Nicole Cressiot performed the Divinity *IN* with Calm Breathing as a prayer for peace and an invocation of the divinity of all humanity.

The afternoon was devoted to talks by the various spiritual leaders. As guest of honor and keynote speaker, Masami Sensei spoke about the power of words, and also about the earthquake and tsunami that occurred on March 11. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sri Tathata and the people at Le Jardin de Safran, and concluded by saying that a responsible and conscious way of living on the part of each individual is the key to humanity's evolution.



After inspiring talks by other spiritual leaders, the peace pole was brought to a designated area to be planted near a newly built Vedic garden—a place for meditation, silence, and peace. Masami Sensei commented that Le Jardin de Safran would become a great energy center. Many participants commented that the dedication was a powerful moment, marked by a clear sense of oneness.

How grateful we are to the dedicated volunteers at Le Jardin de Safran, and to the cooperating members of Byakko Shinko Kai, for making this wonderful encounter possible. We hope to see these valued friends again at the conference to be held at Fuji Sanctuary in 2015.

Below is an excerpt from Mrs. Saionji's speech at *Vishva Shanti Yajna*.

In Japan, we have a traditional belief in the divine spirit of words, called 'kotodama.' We believe that when human beings first appeared in the universe, we were divine creators who used the sacred power of words to create all sorts of marvelous conditions around us.

Sacred words are vibrations issuing directly from the universal divine source—the concentrated energy of absolute love and harmony. Sacred words are the means through which our light-filled hopes and ideals are manifested in this world through the power of divine consciousness.

All human beings are capable of creating a splendid world—a world of perfect radiance and beauty—by using sacred, high-dimensional words. Nowadays, however, most of us have forgotten about the original purpose and power of words. This is because, over the centuries, we somehow fell into the habit of using words in a negative way. Gradually, layers of negative words covered the earth, and people went on creating more and more dark words that gave an unpleasant feeling to others. Without hesitation, they used words that deceived others, words that threatened and attacked, words that slandered, discriminated, and demeaned the value of each other's existence.

As everyone continued to repeat low-dimensional words again and again, they generated a dark power. In time, this dark power increased more and more, growing millions and billions of times stronger, and giving birth to the unharmonious conditions that appeared throughout the earth's history...

Now that we have reached the 21st century, we must return to our true human nature, and make correct use of the power of words... It is vitally important for each of us to consciously choose what kinds of energy fields we wish to create with the words we project each day. Praying for peace, thinking bright thoughts, speaking bright words, filling our minds with gratitude – words like these create wondrous energy fields that exert a powerful influence on humanity.

Someday, our short lifespan on Earth will end, and our consciousness will depart from our physical body. When that happens, what will we leave behind us? What traces will remain? Not one of the material possessions we have acquired will last forever. Property, houses, buildings, fame, titles, reputations, good looks, educational degrees – all these will certainly vanish someday. There is just one thing that will live on forever: the creative vibrations of our divine, light-filled words: words of encouragement, words of respect, words of gratitude, words of praise.

During the minutes, days, and years ahead, I hope that each of us will do our best to speak only bright words, overflowing with the power of creation, for the sake of ourselves, the earth, and the universe.

The following is one of the many comments received from participants regarding the Divinity IN with Calm Breathing:

I was in France at the gathering of Sri Tathata, where you presented an extraordinary, silent message of peace. The IN was truly remarkable! Is there a place where I can see and learn it? I would like to share in this moment of peace, and feel its power, and share it with others.

Thank you so much for your realistic actions for peace, and for uplifting the human consciousness.

