



SEICHO-NO-IE

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SEICHO-NO-IE

# TRUTH OF LIFE

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Seicho-No-Ie is nondenominational, an **INTERNATIONAL PEACE BY FAITH MOVEMENT** based on the Truth that all religions emanate from One Universal God.

**FOUNDER:** Dr. Masaharu Taniguchi (1893-1985)

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## COVER DESCRIPTION:

Peace can begin first in a person's heart, then radiate out to his family, community, and, like the white dove, soar on from there to embrace the entire country. In this way, each person plays an invaluable role in the realization of world peace.

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### DAWN IS NEAR

There are times in our life when the unexpected happens. If they are good things, we welcome them, but that isn't always the case; there are instances when there may be a terrible accident or disaster.

When this happens, there are two things we must think about. The first is to find the cause. All things are caused by our thoughts, so we must understand this and be sure not to repeat the same mistake again. The other thing we must remember is that the experience is teaching us something wonderful and elevating our soul. Life is like a school; if we have difficult problems, we need not worry—we *will* be able to solve them. We also need to keep in mind that solving these problems helps us polish our soul even more and become better.

Because life can be long, we must look at things in the long term when deciding whether they are good or bad. We must not complain of small, trifling problems. When we look at things in the long run, all things are, without doubt, medicine for the soul, so any adversity will eventually change for the better.

Being able to quickly change a negative into something positive depends on how much one has learned through reflecting on the aforementioned two things. That's why, no matter what happens, do not lose your bright outlook. Firmly believe, "Things are going to get much better," and do your best to live the will of God. Even things that look very bad will change into

something good. There's a saying, "Night is darkest when dawn is near."

When night is at its darkest, morning is just ahead. In the coldest of winter, before the snow begins to melt, spring is just around the corner. Throughout winter the fields and trees are preparing for spring.

Is it then right for us, the wisest of all living things, to forget this, stand idle and withdrawn, and not take action?

—From *Hikari no Izumi*,  
"Fountain of Light," September 1975, pp. 53-54

### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

People are apt to see God or Buddha as being very much like themselves. There is nothing wrong with this because it is then easier to understand the closeness they feel to God or Buddha.

At a Prayer Breakfast for politicians, President Reagan once related the following anecdote. Relations between the White House and Congress had become quite strained. A Senator came to see the President, and as he was about to leave, the Senator said to Reagan, "All we can do is pray." The President replied, "Well, you can pray, but the line's busy now." Reagan meant that he was frequently praying to God.

Of course, God doesn't talk to every single person on the phone. That's why, no matter how many people might talk to Him, God is not going to say, "The line is busy now; please hold." Since people are physically limited in different ways, they think that God might be as well. Such thoughts constrain them and reduce the effectiveness of their prayers. Whether or not prayers are answered lies not with God but with us, because we arbitrarily impose limitations on ourselves.

During World War II many people in Japan went to shrines and prayed fervently for Japan to win the war. Their prayers were not answered, and as a result, many Japanese lost their

faith. However, many Americans were also praying to God at the very same time, so after the war they believed that their prayers had been answered. Does it mean that God only answered the prayers of the Americans and ignored the prayers of the Japanese?

That is of course ridiculous. God is infinite wisdom, and as such, everything is already answered. However, if someone wants to kill or steal, will that be granted? That is impossible because there is no evil in God's world. There are no murderers, there is no pillage or coercion. What exists are freedom, justice, love, and harmony. That is why we must pray for *things that exist in God's world*. Since there are no wars in God's world, there are no victories or defeats, so these things do not come from having prayed to God but rather from the natural unfolding of the laws in the phenomenal world.

The world in which we live is not something that God created directly but is rather a place that manifests our thoughts. Therefore, the closer our minds are to the will of God, the more a wonderful world will be manifested. From this standpoint, there was nothing more marvelous to know than that President Reagan was praying to God. There should be more politicians who can readily pray at any time to God, practice meditation every day, and be able to talk about it as well.

—From *Ai to Kibo no Messeji*,  
"Messages of Love and Hope," pp. 193-195



A Commentary on  
**Seicho-No-Ie**  
and  
**World  
Peace**

*"International Peace by Faith Movement"*

LESLIE Y. IWATANI

**F**rom time immemorial, humanity has been searching for peace. And yet today when we read the papers and watch the news, we see tragedies occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan that have mired the United States in an endless cycle of killing and destruction. We have paid a staggering price for this war. Thousands of Americans, as well as Iraqi civilians, have lost their lives. Today, an increasing number of people are apprehensively asking, "When will this turmoil end? When will all wars end, bringing peace to the world?" With this as a backdrop, we will examine Seicho-No-Ie's views on world peace.

leslie y. iwatani

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.** Seicho-No-Ie has been advocating world peace ever since its founding 77 years ago by Dr. Masaharu Taniguchi, who began the Humanity Enlightenment Movement as the cornerstone of the Seicho-No-Ie teachings.

When Dr. Taniguchi set out on his first World Lecture Tour in March 1963, he wrote a message entitled, "The Purpose of My Round-the-World Humanity Enlightenment Lecture Tour." It appeared in the November 1962 issue of the English *Seicho-No-Ie* magazine.

I was inspired to embark on a world tour to various parts of the United States, Canada, South America, and Europe because many Seicho-No-Ie followers living all over the world had an earnest desire to listen to my lectures in person. . . .

(Partial omission)

I therefore felt the call to tour abroad for the promotion of world peace. I was inspired by the urgent necessity that we of the Truth Movement not stop at mere treatment of individual disease. We must mobilize the Truth Movement which exists as a world-wide organization, and strive harder to propagate more extensively to *purify the subconsciousness of humanity which is indispensable for world peace* . . . As stated in the preamble to the UNESCO Constitution, war first starts "in the minds of men" and is made manifest in the phenomenal world. In order to prevent war, it is essential to proclaim the thought of "One humanity born from one God—the brotherhood of man." Since war originates from self-punishment of human consciousness, it is of utmost importance to remove the false belief of "man, a child of sin" and proclaim that there is never a need for self-punishment through the realization that "man, a child of God," is "immaculate conception without original sin."

In order to realize this, I firmly believe that we who live in the same faith of one Truth should advance our movement by becoming a strong collective body due to the urgent necessity to change the thoughts and beliefs of all humanity to bring world peace to mankind. . . (text edited)

Accordingly, we may say that wars basically begin with individual minds of strife that accumulate to collective thoughts of strife. Mind power is like a form of energy; therefore, according to the fundamental law of the indestructibility of energy, negative thoughts never dissipate but linger. Once water vapor attains a certain altitude, it forms a cloud; likewise, negative thoughts will also form a cloud through the principle of “like attracts like.” Dr. Taniguchi cited the preamble to the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Constitution, which begins, “That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed;...”

**THE UNIVERSAL TRUTH—KEY TO WORLD PEACE.** Dr. Taniguchi emphasized the need to enlighten the subconscious mind of humanity: “In order to prevent war, it is essential to proclaim the thought of ‘One humanity born from one God.’”

One of the factors that hinders world peace is the confrontation between various religious sects. For instance, Hindus and Muslims seem to be in eternal conflict with each other. Even in Japan various religions oppose each other. Until now, it has been almost impossible for the world’s religions to be in accord and have cordial relationships with one another.

This is due to ignorance of the fact that all religions emanate from the one and only “Principle of Salvation,” like the rainbow of seven colors created from the colorless, transparent rays of the sun. Seicho-No-Ie appeared to elucidate the Truth of the unity of all religions. Unity of all religions does not mean that all religions should submit to the truth of a single religious sect. It means pointing out the quintessence of the holy doctrine of each religion and its commonality with other doctrines. It does not call for any religion to be diminished or destroyed.

By providing the rationale for being able to say to one another, “The religion you believe in and the religion I

believe in are essentially the same,” Seicho-No-Ie has enabled all the world’s religions to become one.

Hence, as the universal truth expounded by Seicho-No-Ie spreads, confrontations between Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam will naturally disappear. For this reason, Seicho-No-Ie has an important role in contributing to world peace. (*Chiho Koshi Katsudo Shishin*, “Regional Lecturers Activity Guide,” pp. 57-58)

The above was also written 44 years ago on Dr. Taniguchi’s first World Lecture Tour. The key to world peace is to enlighten humanity to the fact that there is only one universal Truth. Dr. Taniguchi also wrote about this in *365 Golden Keys to a Completely Free Life*:

Only one universe, the one and only universe created by God and governed by God, truly exists. The Milky Way galaxy is a part of the universe. The solar system is a part of it, and so is the earth. The whole thing is one immense universe created by the one and only God, and all of mankind is being sustained by the Universal Grand Life.

Such things as racial differences, national differences, and differences of the color of the skin are merely surface differences and about as important as the differences in the color of the walls of one house to the next or the differences in the color of the curtains from house to house. The important thing is that the internal physiological structure is exactly the same without exception for all races and all nationalities. The one and only God, the one and only life, has created everyone and governs everyone; therefore, all of mankind are brothers and sisters. It is only by becoming fully aware of the fact that the essence of this life is truly universal that true world peace may be established upon this earth. (pp. 52-53)

Seicho-No-Ie teaches that the self and others are one. Although we seem to be separate, we are all one under God.

Only through love will we be able to achieve world peace. Dr. Taniguchi writes:

Where there is love, mass killings committed under the guise of peace and religions cannot exist. Love is the realization that we are all one with others. This is the empathy we feel when we see another person in pain and want to remove his suffering. If love truly exists between two groups, compromising on their differences can immediately put an end to conflict. We must deepen our love so that it always manifests, regardless of the conditions or reasons. (*Shinri*, "The Truth," Volume 2, pp. 204-205)

**LAWS OF THE MIND AND WORLD PEACE.** Seicho-No-Ie explains how pervasive the laws of the mind are. Rev. Masanobu Taniguchi, Vice President of Seicho-No-Ie, reminded us in his 1994 United States Lecture Tour: "In Seicho-No-Ie we do not believe that peace can be realized by recognizing evil in the physical world and then destroying it. Why?... *our environment is a reflection or shadow of our mind*. Even if we destroy the *shadow of our mind* but fail to correct the *erroneous mind* and the *false mind* which are the causes of the shadow, this evil mind will be projected into our environment time and time again." (*How We Bring About Peace by Faith*, p. 22) This is the law of the mind that "what is recognized will appear." We are reminded of this in the Divine Message of "The Law of the Mind" and "The Way to Peace": "Living in peace but not forgetting war" was the old virtuous way of mankind. However, the Seicho-No-Ie way of life is 'not to forget peace while at war.'"

Dr. Taniguchi illustrates the law of action and reaction that may provide us with insight in promoting world peace:

Shakamuni once asked his disciples: "When a person sends hatred and curses to someone and that person does not accept the spiteful thoughts, where do they go? When you go to someone bearing a gift, if the person does not accept the gift, where does it go?"

If he does not accept the gift, it will be returned to the giver," a disciple replied.

"That's exactly right. When a person sends hatred and curses to someone, and if that person refuses to accept them, they will go back to the sender and he himself will be harmed."

Shakamuni's profound words can be applied not only to individuals but to countries as well. Where hatred and curses are exchanged around the world, we see tragic scenes repeated over and over as such enmity hurts all parties. Isn't it time to reflect on the words of Shakamuni? (*Jinsei no Hiketsu 365 Sho*, "365 Golden Keys to the Secret of Life," pp. 114-115)

**SEICHO-NO-IE EMBARKS ON THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BY FAITH MOVEMENT.** In 1993, as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century loomed before us, under the direction of Rev. Masanobu Taniguchi, Seicho-No-Ie launched the International Peace by Faith Movement, not to replace but to enhance and enlarge the breadth of the Humanity Enlightenment Movement.

In his 1994 U.S. lecture, Rev. Taniguchi said the following in regards to bringing peace by faith:

To bring true peace to the world, we must learn from Jesus who forgave the adulteress, and we must recognize the *conscience* and *divine nature* which dwells within the minds of all people as their essence, and we must call forth this *true mind* with love. This is by no means a simple task. Even if *murders*, *assaults*, and *wars* appear before us as phenomena, we should say, like Jesus to the adulteress before him, to the person or to the group, "Neither do I condemn thee." To say such words, not simple theory but faith and conviction are necessary. Seicho-No-Ie has a wonderful method to enhance and deepen this belief. It is called Shinsokan meditation. Literally translated, it is meditation to envision God within ourselves. (*How We Bring About Peace by Faith*, p. 22)

**PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE.** Seicho-No-Ie promotes peace through the recitation of the Prayer for World Peace during Shinsokan meditation. Dr. Taniguchi explains:

No matter how pessimistic the state of affairs may become or how uncertain our future prospects may seem, we, together with an optimistic human race, must use loving and optimistic words with each other. The more the optimistic thoughts of a mutually optimistic humanity are disseminated, the more quickly a peaceful world of brotherhood and mutual love, which already exists in the kingdom of God, will appear on this earth. (*Shosetsu Shinsokan*, "Detailed Explanation of Shinsokan Meditation," p. 229)

I recently received an e-mail from Rev. Eleanor Celentani, minister at Christ Church Unity in Rochester, New York. She wrote:

Dear Rev. Iwatani,

Thank you for the *Truth of Life* magazine which I love and am grateful for. I always look forward to reading it. For a long time I have been wanting to send you an e-mail, but I unfortunately lost the issue which had your e-mail address. I am so glad you recently printed it. What I wanted to express is that I love Dr. Taniguchi's Prayer for World Peace, which you have printed in the past. Given the state of the planet, I think it would be great if you would print it every month, in every issue. Those words are so beautiful and so uplifting. Thank you for considering my request.

All blessings,

Eleanor Celentani  
Christ Church Unity  
55 Prince STS. Rochester, NY

Rev. Celentani's view on the Prayer for World Peace is shared by many of our readers. The Prayer is placed on the next page and we hope to include it more frequently in future issues.

Thank you, Rev. Celentani, for sharing your thoughts with us.

## PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

*God's infinite love flows into me (us)  
and shines forth from me (us)  
as a brilliant spiritual light of love.  
The spiritual light of love  
grows and grows in intensity,  
covering the entire world  
and filling the hearts of everyone  
with thoughts only of love, peace, order,  
and the Truth of oneness in God.*

