

Soka Gakkai Unveils Peace Monument
Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER
Hiroshima, Japan, June 1

A monument to victims of atomic bombs and nuclear accidents — consisting of six bronze statues by noted French sculptor Louis Derbré — was unveiled by the Soka Gakkai today on the grounds of Chugoku Peace Park here.

The statues, situated on a pedestal 50 feet high and 23 feet across, depict six figures who represent construction, tolerance, courage, hope, the future and joy. The calligraphy on the title stone was written by famous Chinese author Jin Yong.

The base of the pedestal includes a message of peace in five languages — Japanese, English, French, Chinese and Spanish — from SGI President Ikeda. The message in part reads, “Indestructible as a diamond, the precious vessel of life is mightier than the accursed power of nuclear weapons.” The Prayer for World Peace Monument was dedicated this year in recognition of the 40th anniversary of second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda’s call in September 1957 for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In a meeting with the SGI leader, Mr. Derbré shared that for the first time in his 50 years of sculpting, he discovered in himself a new ability through this latest project and felt he had made a fresh start toward the future. He resolved to advance with the same devotion to peace as the SGI leader, saying that though until now he had sculpted purely for the sake of creating art, from today on his work would be for the sake of peace.

The following is SGI President Ikeda’s dedication on the Prayer for World Peace Monument.

Prayer for World Peace

“We, the people of the world, have the right to live. Anyone who threatens that right is a devil, a Satan, a monster.”

Forty years have passed since our mentor, Josei Toda, bequeathed to us his final instruction, his Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

Friends in Hiroshima and Nagasaki who met with horrific suffering!

People of Asia and the Pacific who were subjected to appalling calamities!

The abolition of nuclear weapons is the earnest desire of all humanity!

In order to break the nuclear spell, in order to cut through the nuclear darkness, in order to create a century of human triumph, we erect here, at Chugoku Memorial Park in Hiroshima, the Prayer for World Peace Monument.

The title inscription is the calligraphy of Jin Yong, luminary of contemporary Chinese literature.

The clustered sculptures embody the sincerity of the world-renowned artist Louis Derbré.

Indestructible as a diamond, the precious vessel of life is mightier than the accursed power of nuclear weapons.

A great spirit upholding a sublime philosophy prevails over any form of atrocity.

With our eyes fixed on a rainbow-spanned era of harmonious coexistence — the dream of all humanity — we arise, we advance.

On this, the 40th anniversary of our mentor’s final instruction, we commit to this monument our profound prayer and renew our vow to progress without cease toward the attainment of lasting peace.

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