

DR. N. RADHAKRISHNAN LECTURES ON 'FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE'
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On Aug. 8, Dr. N. Radhakrishnan, who heads the Gandhi Smitri (national memorial) and the International Centre of Gandhian Studies & Research in New Delhi, India, spoke about the newly published book *For the Sake of Peace: Seven Paths to Global Harmony, A Buddhist Perspective* at the SGI-USA's Los Angeles Friendship Center.

Published by Middleway Press, *For the Sake of Peace* is an edited compilation of SGI President Ikeda's annual Peace Proposals to the United Nations, which have been submitted for 18 consecutive years. In his lecture, Dr. Radhakrishnan shared his insights about the SGI president's continuous efforts toward peace. He stressed the importance of understanding the interconnectedness and interdependence of life as key to conquering the three enemies plaguing our present society: hatred, greed and ignorance.

Referring to the first path discussed in the book — “The Path of Self-Mastery” — Dr. Radhakrishnan stated: “We are all individually powerful instruments of self-mastery and we should be able to discover our very self, just as we are able to discover the potential of other human beings.... This book speaks of some of those very important aspects of our day-to-day life, our social life, our ethical life, our spiritual life and our life as responsible fellow human beings.”

He continually returned to the point of relating and applying these ideals to the practical aspects of life, praising the SGI as a religious organization that proactively pursues peace on a practical level, at the individual level. He also lauded President Ikeda as an individual who has shown the greatness of the Lotus Sutra through his diligent actions.

Referencing chapter 3, “The Path of Dialogue and Tolerance,” Dr. Radhakrishnan also spoke at length on dialogue, pointing to the fact that there is a lack of dialogue in our day-to-day transactions, especially within families. He emphasized that in order to achieve understanding on a large scale, there needs to be dialogue at the personal level. He said that it is through dialogue that compassion, interconnectedness and absolute respect for all human beings — all points brought into light in President Ikeda's peace proposals — are born.

Extending his emphasis on dialogue, he introduced President Ikeda's concept of a “Dialogue of Civilizations.” Dr. Radhakrishnan lauded the SGI president for his broad, long-range perspective on the significance of dialogue. He asserted: “This particular concept, this contribution is one of the greatest gifts Ikeda-Sensei has given to humanity at the beginning of the 21st century. Here is a philosopher, an educator, who believes that multilingual spectrum, inter-religious understanding, multi-religious situations, multicultural situations, diversity and coexistence have got to stay.”

He expressed his conviction in the SGI's role in establishing a solid and grounded peace movement, saying that “[the SGI] is the hope of the future. There is no doubt [of this], provided that the human revolution that Ikeda-Sensei talks about entails the life of each one of us.... It has to become the motivating force, guiding principle in our life rather than something that people [merely] talk about, write about.” Through individual change, and the relieving of individual suffering, he urged, there can be true peace.

Active in training youth in nonviolence, Dr. Radhakrishnan has lectured at universities throughout the world about Gandhi, peace movements and human rights. He has edited or authored more than 30 books, and is also editor of three journals.

For the Sake of Peace is available from your favorite neighborhood or online bookseller, or at www.middlewaypress.org. For more information on *For the Sake of Peace* or other Middleway Press books, please email middlewaypress@sgi-usa.org or call 310-260-8934.