



GASSHO

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"Hands together in reverence & gratitude"



THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ATOM BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

by rev. roland k. tatsuguchi

[NOTE: This article is basically based on ***THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE ATOMIC BOMB: WHY HIROSHIMA WAS DESTROYED: The Untold Story*** by Eustace C. Mullins. June 1998.]

I remember watching a PBS documentary last year about Hiroshima's amazing recovery after a parachuted atom bomb was detonated above it for maximum effects. The midday explosion instantly vaporized all that was directly below on ground zero. The surrounding structures and homes were also flattened in an instant flash of light followed by the ominous roar of rolling puffs of radioactive dust that arose to form a giant mushroom cloud over Hiroshima City. In its wake, fires began breaking out. The distant mountains around "ground zero" became visible.

Individuals who survived were bodily, mentally and emotionally scarred for the rest of their lives. Many to this day suffer the after-effects of radiation. The atom bomb detonated over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 was the first ever atom bomb ever detonated (a second was detonated over Nagasaki on August 9, 1945). Though the estimates vary, it is said that the bombs "killed 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 80,000 in Nagasaki." It was reported that "95 percent of the casualties were civilians," mostly mothers, children and the elderly.

Ever since the decisive Battle of Midway

MONTH'S THOUGHT



Because our hearts are so cold, science has become a tool for killing people.

Because our hearts are so cold, economic studies create economic animals.

Because our hearts are so cold, our government no longer responds to the people.

People no longer trust the government. —Yoshitaka Tamai. *Ichinyo*, p. 91.



in June of 1942, top U.S. military brass and government officials already knew that Japan was well on its way in being defeated. And yet secretive plans to make and detonate atom bombs to test their effectiveness on a heavily populated Japanese cities were being pursued. The project was kept TOP SECRET.

The following comments now are public knowledge. The American admiral, William A. Leahy in his book, *I Was There*, wrote: "In my opinion, the use of the barbaric weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not much use in the war against Japan." Then he said: "By being the first to use the atomic bomb, we stooped to the moral level of the barbarism of the Middle Ages. ... This new and terrible weapon, which was used for an uncivilized war, is a modern barbarity unworthy of Christians." This assessment is quite the opposite of President Truman's who said the atom bombing

REMINDERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2015

1ST SUN Aug 2nd:

9 A.M. English Service
Dharma Talk
for Children & Adults
Rev. Tatsuguchi

2ND SUN Aug 9th:

9 A.M. Eng. Service
Dharma Talk for Children & Adults
Rev. Tatsuguchi

3RD SUN Aug 16th:

9 A.M. Eng. Service
Dharma Talk for Children & Adults
Rev. Tatsuguchi

4TH SUN Aug 23rd:

9 A.M. Eng. Service
Dharma Talk for Children & Adults
Rev. Tatsuguchi

5TH SUN Aug 30th:

MONTHLY
FAMILY WORSHIP
9 A.M. Eng. Service
"Dharma Talk"
Rev. Tatsuguchi

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

KARAOKE SINGERS CLUB Mon 7 – 9 p.m.
Mr. Nelson Yoshioka

KARATE CLASSES Tues & Fri 6 – 8 p.m.
Int'l Karate League – Walter Nishioka

KARATE CLASSES Thurs 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Hawaii Shotokan Karate – Alan Sekiguchi

FUJINKAI LADIES' FELLOWSHIP GROUP
Tues 9 a.m. – noon

With Deepest Sympathy

Mr. Paul I. Murakami 72 yrs. June 1, 2015

Mrs. Agnes S. Nakasu 98 yrs. June 5, 2015

Mr. James Y. Saiki 91 yrs. June 28, 2015

2015 Memorial Service Schedule

2014	1 Year	2013	3 Year	2009	7 Year
2003	13 Year	1999	17 Year	1991	25 Year
1983	33 Year	1966	50 Year	1914	100 Year

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"was an overwhelming success."

General Eisenhower, who later became President, also knew well in advance that "Japan was already defeated. ... dropping the bomb," he said, "was completely unnecessary." For it was already known in the upper levels of the military that the emperor of Japan, Hirohito, had already engaged in negotiating for a surrender as early as May 21, 1945. This was some two and a half months before August 6. The U.S. already had established its air supremacy over Japan as demonstrated by its daily firebombings of Japan's 64 major cities. Furthermore, the facts show that the U.S. Even before had successfully blockaded and mined its ports and that Japan was ready to surrender.

So, in the light of these facts, why were the atom bombs detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki? We are now given the real reason by a General Leslie Groves of the Manhattan Project. He testified that: "There was never any illusion on my part that Russia was our enemy, and the project was conducted on that Basis." The proof of the pudding is found in the article *Terror: The Real Reason for Hiroshima and Nagasaki* which states that the reason for atom bombing Japan was "to set the stage for the Cold War which froze the world in fear of communism and Stalin's Russia for the next four decades." This Cold War alone cost Americans five trillion dollars. This war on communism, the article said, "distracted Americans from the real enemy, the Illuminati central banks." Have you not noticed how the upper 1 percent within the upper 4 percent in the U.S. get richer and richer while the rest of the people become poorer and poorer?

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WORDS OF SHINRAN

"in explaining the mind of sincerity it (Buddha dharma) teaches that one should keep a respectful distance and not become familiar with those who give themselves to such wrong doing. It teaches us rather to draw close to and become friends with our teachers and fellow-practicers. ..." SBT-Series. *Letters of Shinran*. No. 21. p. 62.

According to Eustace C. Mullins, this is much like what we as Americans are facing today. We are yet being kept ignorant as to why Building 7, a Federal building, was imploded demolition style at 5:49 p.m., well after the Twin Towers' freefalling vertical implosion at 9:45 A.M. on Sept. 11, 2001. Furthermore, why the Twin Towers' debris was cleared and the streets hosed down, the steel girders stripped, cut into pieces, and shipped quietly to China and sold as scrap metal, and how and why this was done so surreptitiously and so quickly within three days, the real reasons have as yet not been disclosed.

According to Mullins, laws were broken when such forensic evidence were disposed of so quickly even before they could be analyzed and assessed. Nor has the fact been divulged that there was a Building 6 right below at the base next to the Twin Towers that also were destroyed. Just these facts alone attest to the verity of Rev. Tamai's words quoted in this MONTH'S THOUGHT section.

The military's TOP SECRETS concerning Hiroshima now are public information. They show that cities like Kobe, Osaka and Tokyo were repeatedly firebombed by B-29 Super-fortress bombers day after day after day. However, cities like Kyoto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were spared to later test the effects of two atom bombs secretly and hurriedly being developed. People in Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and three other cities were wondering as to why their cities were not being

firebombed like the other cities. It was a mystery to their residents. When I found out that Kyoto was the first choice to be atom bombed, I was totally taken aback, for Ryukoku University where I studied is in Kyoto. Furthermore, I found it strange that while Kyoto was spared, Nara was being firebombed.

The cities that were not to be fire-bombed were euphemistically coded and called "target cities," meaning cities later to be atom bombed to test the effects of the atom bombs that were being secretly developed. Since the atom bomb was still in the making, it was kept secret and called the "Trinity Project," which connotes America's Judeo-Christian roots, as though the project was authorized by the Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

A person from Hiroshima and Kyoto were interviewed. Each recalled wondering why the B-29 bombers did not bomb their cities while others like Kobe, Osaka and Tokyo were being firebombed on a regular basis. The bombing and resulting infernos left the cities in utter desolation and ruins. The survivors were living in dire conditions, suffering malnutrition and illnesses. Since the young men were sent off to war, the vast majority of the casualties were women, children and the elderly.

The atom bomb detonated over Hiroshima was code named "Little Boy." The one detonated three days later over Nagasaki was called "Fat Boy." Both cities being "target cities" were spared so that these two atom bombs could be detonated to test their effectiveness on their populaces, mainly of innocent, impoverished, defenseless citizens.

Though estimates vary widely, the fire-bombings had already killed some 500,000 Japanese while 5,000,000 had been made homeless and destitute. The general populace were already starving and lacking necessary medicines and necessities because of the prior submarine blockade and mining of Japan's major harbors. Some 40 percent of Japan's infrastructure and much of the war industry were already destroyed. As mentioned, with the U.S. victory in the Battle of Midway in June of

1942, it was already known in the upper echelons of military brass that Japan was well on its way in being defeated.

In the documentary movie *The Fog of War*, Robert S. McNamara is quoted as having ordered the inclusion of napalm and gasoline in the incendiary bombs that were being dropped by B-29s under the command of General Curtis LeMay. McNamara in this documentary film described him as being "extraordinarily belligerent" as well as "brutal." The question then arises as to why the Imperial Palace in metropolitan Tokyo was not fire-bombed while 51 percent of it, mainly the lower districts, were being regularly firebombed.

TOP SECRET documents now public reveal that major cities all the way from Kyushu up to Hokkaido were being bombed with cluster incendiary bombs that had left them in utter desolate ruins by March 10, 1945. This was some five and a half months before August 19, when Japan finally surrendered. Furthermore, as mentioned, entry to Japanese harbors had already been blockaded by mines, and predator submarines that had decimated its merchant ships well before this time.

So the fact that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not firebombed confirms that they were two of the six designated "target cities" chosen to test the effects of the two atom bombs that were secretly and hurriedly developed. The question then arises, "Would the other four cities have also been atom bombed if the U.S. had developed the bombs to do so?"

Brigadier General Paul Warfield Tibbets Jr. was the pilot of the B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay that dropped the atom bomb that was parachuted and detonated above Hiroshima that instantly vaporized all below it on ground zero. The sudden flash followed by a deafening roaring explosion in its wake was called "*pika-don*" (flash and boom!). The vast majority of those vaporized were innocent civilians. The B-29 named after his grandmother from far away felt the after shock waves when "Little Boy" exploded above "point zero." Tibbets was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for

having detonated the first ever atom bomb over Hiroshima. It was an explosion, as he saw it from his vantage point, that "covered the city" with a "huge mushroom like cloud." He was invited to the White House by President Truman and declared a "national war hero."

Regarding his assignment, Tibbets said:

"I knew when I got the assignment it was going to be an emotional thing. We had feelings, but we had to put them in the background. We knew it was going to kill people right and left. But my one driving interest was to do the best job I could so that we could end the killing as quickly as possible." Mike Harden, "Still no regrets for frail Enola Gay pilot." *Columbus Dispatch*, August 6, 2005.

It is said that Tibbets denounced depictions of the bombing as being the destruction of innocent people.

He said to do so was a "dam big insult." Instead, said he, "the focus should be on the brutality of the Japanese government" ("Hiroshima bomb pilot dies aged 92." *BBC News Online*. November 1, 2007). And yet the facts show that the vast majority of persons who were "vaporized" and who soon thereafter died an agonizing death from the effects of burns, radiation sickness and other complications compounded by illness and malnutrition, were mainly women, children and the elderly.

The words of Tibbets typify the cavalier attitude of the military establishment that considers the loss of innocent civilian lives as "collateral damage." Innocent people indiscriminately killed in all wars become faceless statistics, mere numbers. As Tibbets said, "feelings have to be put in the background." In my view, today's faceless multinational corporations also see people as "faceless consumers" in terms of tabulating their monthly monetary profits and losses. The military establishment is also doing the same thing when they see the loss of innocent human lives as "collateral damage." Both viewpoints are exploiting and damaging our ecosystems as

SHINRAN'S WASAN

People unable to distinguish
what is right and wrong,
Act as though they know
what is "good" and "evil."

Such distinctions are all falsehoods!

Shozomatsu Wasan No. 115
rkt translation.

nature's raw materials, fossil fuels, minerals, chemicals and precious metals are yet being exploited and utilized, one in ways of excessive consumerism and the other in ways of "weapons of mass destruction."

In the documentary *The Fog of War*, the callous attitude of General LeMay is seen in his ordering that incendiary cluster bombs be further loaded with magnesium and white phosphorous in addition to McNamara's gasoline and napalm to make them even more devastating on the populace.

A similar insensitivity in destroying life and environment was demonstrated by sportsmen from the East during the 1800s who, in traveling to the West, shot down herds of buffalo for sport. Some 200,000 buffalo were being killed annually, just for the fun of it. But then there was even more of a sinister plan by the military to be rid of the native American Indians so their lands could be appropriated. It was to completely eliminate their main source of food, shelter and clothing. To do so would also get rid of their so-called heathen beliefs and pagan practices. As of consequence, the native buffalo herds were almost decimated to extinction.

Now, even more significantly, since it was McNamara himself who ordered LeMay to add napalm and gasoline to the fire bombs, to which LeMay added magnesium and phosphorous, LeMay in this documentary film confesses: "If we'd lost the war, we'd all have been prosecuted as war criminals." McNamara

then agreed and said: "I think he's right ... He and I, I'd say, were behaving as war criminals." LeMay himself recognized that what he was doing would be thought immoral if the U.S. had lost the war. "But what makes it immoral if you lose and not immoral if you win?" said McNamara. Such inimical reasoning in Shin Buddhism is called *hakarai*, or what is a "self working" to rationalize and justify whatever one has done or needs to do in order to get and justify what one wants or what one has done!

These words of General Curtis LeMay and Secretary of State Robert McNamara make Tamai-sensei's following words even more poignant, which are:

"A weak country is severely punished if it commits atrocities.

"The winning country boasts of its victory even if the most frightful weapons are used.

"Might is right.

"When a country that is victorious over another country judges the leaders of the losing country, that is not a trial. That is revenge.

"It is an object lesson to the enemies of the victorious country. ... If you don't want to be invaded, then become strong. Stronger than the United States." *Loc. cit.*, pp. 89, 90.

Ever since the bombing of Hiroshima, various nations have and continue to be secretly conniving and contriving to be the top nuclear power nation. Yesterday's enemies have become today's allies. Yesterday's allies have become today's enemies. What a scary world our world continues to keep becoming. Do not these words of LeMay and McNamara give credence to Shinran's words, "in this foolish being filled with blind passions living in this impermanent world of burning house, all things are empty and vain; therefore, untrue" (Tannisho. *Epilogue*).

Then, one evening I saw a PBS documentary about an American journalist's visit to present-day Hiroshima city. It caught

my attention. For the city of Hiroshima at ground zero has been completely rebuilt and modernized in comparison to when it was utterly flattened and later overrun by U.S. military occupational forces. So too have recovered the major cities that were fire bombed throughout Japan like Kobe and Osaka. Today Hiroshima is a vibrant city with state of the art electronic and technological infrastructures.

What was emotionally moving was when the bilingual "haole" (*haku-jin*) interviewer-narrator visited the Atomic Bomb Museum in Hiroshima. He was brought to uncontrollable tears upon viewing photo after photo of real to life depictions of victims so horribly burned that they were beyond recognition. The scorched, blackened skin dangling and eyeballs peering out of skinless faces was too much for him to bear. Upon seeing such charred bodies and ghoulish faces, the narrator could not hold back his tears that were flowing uncontrollably.

What struck me more was the absence of bitterness or animosity in the survivors who were being interviewed by this *gai-jin* journalist. Although the bilingual journalist kept pressing each survivor to relate their painful experiences, each was reluctant and refused to do so.

Instead, with a smile on their faces, each expressed deep hopes that such horrific weapons of warfare would never ever be used again. They all seemed to say it's better to "forgive and forget" rather than to be "festering with resentments" and "thoughts of retaliation."

Their hopes for peace were expressed without rancor or condemnations of what had happened to them and to their loved ones, many of whom have passed on into the Great Unknown Beyond! This attitude free of resentments shows the influence of the Buddha's words: "Let a man overcome anger by love; let him overcome evil by good" (Dhammapada 2. *Praises of Buddha*. p. 153).

This attitude of non-violence in the majority of everyday Japanese citizens can

especially be noted in times of natural or man-made disasters, such as in the tsunami that triggered the nuclear plant disaster in Fukushima on March 10, 2011, some ten years after 9/11 in 2001. In general, Japanese refrain from acts of "mob violence" and "indiscriminate looting" that usually erupts in other countries when things suddenly go awry and get out of control. When a person reacts angrily and vengefully, he loses sight of the Buddha's words: "hatred is not overcome by hatred; hatred is overcome by love. ..."

So, as the season of O'Bon in Hawaii begins to wind down, I would like to quote a few more words of Reverend Yoshitaka Tamai from his chapter on "War on Trial" in his *Ichinyo*. Let us then reflect and ponder on his words as follows:

"The happiness of the Russians is our happiness!
The happiness of all Americans is our happiness!
The happiness of the Chinese communists is our happiness!

continued on p. 8

Donations

continued from p. 2

Due to limited space due to Postal restrictions, if your donation is not listed in this GASSHO, it will be listed in a following edition. For any inadvertent misspelling of names, please accept our apologies.

SACRED BUDDHIST PASSAGES

“When someone holds up a flower and shows it to you, he wants you to see it. If you keep thinking, you miss the flower. The person who was not thinking, who was just himself, was able to encounter the flower in depth and smiled.” Thich Nhat Hanh. *Peace Is Every Step*. p. 43.

The happiness of the Japanese is our happiness!
This is what we must teach our children.” p. 91.

Without a doubt these words were based on Shinran Shonin’s realization that:

“all beings have been fathers and mothers, brothers and sister in the timeless process of birth-and-death. ...”
T. Unno. *Tannisho*. V.

So let us follow Tamai-sensei’s advice “first to see deeply into ourselves by reflecting on our innermost selves as follows:

“Do I speak ill of others? Do I make things unpleasant for others, and cause their unhappiness? Am I jealous of others and dislike them for this reason? How much joy do I bring others?” *Ichinyo* p. 91.

May these words of Tamai sensei lead you to live a life of O-nembutsu gratitude and penitence based on the realization that: “Your happiness is my happiness; your suffering is my suffering!”

Indeed, such is the significance of uttering *Namoh-amida-butsu* in gratitude brimming over with a Great Joy permeated by the Truth and Reality that: “until all things and others are happy and safe, one’s own safety

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and happiness cannot become a reality.” Such is the underlying significance in each of Amida’s “Forty-eight Vows.”

To be continued

QUESTION & ANSWER KORNER

QUESTION: What is the Buddhist view of going to war?

ANSWER: The answer is unequivocally clear as stated in the first precept of the Five Precepts and especially in the fifth path of the Noble Eightfold Path. The first precept says: “refrain from killing.” The fifth path of Right Livelihood advises us not to pursue occupations or vocations that are hurtful and harmful, especially enterprises directly or indirectly connected to war and warfare. The basic reason being: “All fear punishment. To all men life is dear. Judging others by yourself, slay not, neither cause to slay.” Dhammapada No. 8 p. 164. Praises of Buddha.