

# **I Won't Forget "Gratitude"**

**Daisan Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Miyoshi Yuuka**

I have climbed Mt.Kanuki on our school excursion. The view of Numazu seen at the observation deck was so beautiful that I loved it. Grand Mt. Fuji looked as if it was holding green Mt. Ashitaka in its arms whilst the Kano River and Suruga Bay were sparkling in the sun.

During a summer holiday we learned about the war at Meiji Historical Museum. I knew Japan had a war against some foreign countries 74 years ago. I was very surprised to know Numazu had had many bombs and at that time the sky had become all dark. I can't believe that everything as well as the trees and the houses were gone. An old lady who told the story about the war had gotten injured on her leg in the 1st grade of elementary school while running away from the bombs. A piece of triangle-shaped iron inside of the bomb pierced her right little toe. Many people as well as her got injured and were taken to the hospital by truck. The old lady became unable to walk because of the poison-infected wound in the toe and so she had to get her right leg cut down from the thigh and live with one leg. Though she could live thanks to many people's help, despite having a sad feeling, unfortunately many people died. I imagine the old lady couldn't feel anything in her life at that time. I'm scared to know that only one bomb caused many people to lose their mind as well as body. I hate the bomb very much. I have not seen my great grandparents who lived in the war era and I think they also lived with a sad feeling. Thanks to their hard work, I can live here now. I would like to show them my gratitude.

Absolutely I don't want to get my favorite and beautiful Numazu destroyed. I will treasure mountains, rivers, the sea and people with gratitude.

# **I'm in Peace Now**

**Daisan Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Shimizu Sakuto**

I was born in 2007, when 62 years had passed since the end of the war. I, as well as my grandparents and parents, don't know anything about the war. I wonder why Japan had such a war. I think such a war which caused both sides to lose many people regardless of victory or defeat, is not necessary.

The war forced Japanese to live a poor life. They had to go to battle though they might die or kill someone. I wonder if that war which sacrificed many people's lives was beneficial to our country.

I can play volleyball which I like very much, play games with my friends, eat delicious

food and put on my favorite clothes, which is a really comfortable life. I thought it was a matter of course. During the war, they had “zosui” cooked by little rice in the soup as a meal. They put on the same clothes. They lived such a poor life.

We had a great earthquake and tsunami, “Higashi Nihon Daishinsai on March 11th of 2011. Many people died from a different cause than a war. Some of them lost their precious families and friends while others lost their houses or beloved things because of the tsunami. Some people had that earthquake disaster and very sad experiences, who were born in the same times as me. I can’t understand their feelings because I didn’t have either war or an earthquake disaster. But I thought I had to reflect on my daily life a lot after I watched the video on TV and listened to their real experiences. I would like to appreciate my commonplace daily life.

It is not so easy to live a peaceful life as I thought. We can’t tell when such a disaster as an earthquake will occur. I will treasure food as well as my things and appreciate my peaceful life.

## **When I Hear Peace**

**Daisan Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Shouji Asato**

“A war” came to mind when I heard “peace.” I wondered why “a war” came to mind first when I heard “peace,” though these words are opposites.

I don’t know what war is, because I haven’t experienced a war. But I know that it’s not good because war forces people to fight against each other and to kill many people. People who experienced the war have continued to tell us who were born after the war, and that enables us to realize war isn’t good. My great grandmother is a close person to me who experienced the war.

I visit a grave to pray for our ancestor during “obon” every year. There is a grave for the war dead as well as ordinary graves.

Some of my ancestors were killed in the war. When we visited the grave, my great grandmother told us the story about the war a little bit. She said that many people died and Numazu got destroyed in the air raids.

There are some pictures of our ancestors in her room, one of them is a picture of the person who was killed in the war. She said “this man is in the grave for people who were killed in the war.”

As unfortunately she died last fall, during “obon” this year my family visited the grave with my grandfather and grandmother to pray for her.

Every time I visit the cemetery, I feel sad and scared a little.

A war might deprive us, as well as others, of life or precious things.

I'm sure that those who survived the war must have had sad memories in their mind. I don't think people who experienced the war become happy at all. So, I would like to prevent a war.

The number of people who know about the war has been decreasing. So, I would like to learn the war more in order to become a wise enough adult not to have a war again. I won't forget this old sad history.

## Peace, Continued to Think about in Reiwa Era

### Daigo Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Matsugane Ikuhisa

I participated in the ceremony, "The Day to pray for peace in memory of the war dead." The reason why I participated in the ceremony is that one of my friends among the *shogi* circle was supposed to make a speech on the thought of peace. While I listened to the speech of the bereaved family, I fully realized war is cruel. "A War" this is not ordinary. I was so ashamed of being ignorant about the war, so I decided to check out about the war.

I found out many unfamiliar words, such as "kushu" air raid, "bokugo" air-raid shelter, "akagami" a letter telling to be enlisted in the army, "sokai" evacuation, "tokkotai" suicide attack units. Especially, I was very shocked and felt a tightening in my chest when I heard about "tokkotai", who were in their early twenties and attacked an enemy with fuel for only one way and died together.

They carried it out for their country. Everyone had such an idea in those days. Later, I heard I had the war dead among my relatives, who went to China and couldn't come back home. I couldn't listen to the story any more. I imagined my relative was too sad to tell all of the story.

Numazu, where I live, had huge damage by air raids. Much war destruction are left here and there. When I visit such places, I feel as if it were pleading that we absolutely mustn't have a war.

Though more people don't know about the war, I want them to know about the cruelty of war much more, that a war ends not in a good result but leaves sadness, suffering, and despair. Though we have had the era of Showa, Heisei and Reiwa after the war, Japan has promised to have no more war. I hope that such a thought will spread to more people.

We mustn't forget that the sacrifice of the war dead made the present peace.

# The Importance of Studying at School

**Kaihoku Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ooshima Akino**

While an ordinary girl got on her school bus was talking with her friends, some guys armed with a gun climbed aboard the bus. They shot the girl named Malala Yousafzai, shouting “where’s Malala?” She was able to manage to stay alive but the Taliban ordered girl not to go to school. She loved her school and always wanted to study.

After I read the book about her, I thought how happy I am to study. I go to school 5 days a week. I can study subjects like Japanese, math, social studies, and science. In Japanese class, we learn how to understand what the writers of poems or essays want to tell us, and to answer the questions. And also, when I listen to my friends’ opinions who think it’s different from mine, I write it down, which is helpful for next class.

What will happen if we can’t go to school? We can’t learn a new way and idea to calculate in math class, and think what a writer wants to convey at Japanese class, and how old incidents have related with the present day. At school, we can talk with friends, play together during recess, and practice together for sports day. If we can’t go to school, we can’t experience such affairs.

Malala has appealed to the world in order to study. Though she moved to another place for security, she was shot by the Taliban, and was hospitalized in England.

If I were shot several times, I might give up studying. But Malala kept wishing to study and didn’t give up studying at all.

This book made me realize that it’s much more important than I expected to study. School enables us to learn new things to get more knowledge, to have a deep relationship with friends, and experience things.

A certain TV program reported that the war destroyed the town completely, and people in the town were suffering from their houses to live as well as eat. I’m sure they can’t consider the school as necessary for a long period from now on. It is said that many children can’t go to school. Since I was born in Japan, where we can live a safe and peaceful life, I want to live with my friends while smiling, by trying to work hard even on a difficult problem.

# The Tragedy Caused by One Bomb

**Katahama Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Waki Akua**

After I read a book titled, “The Vital Affair of Nagasaki, An Atomic Bomb to be Conveyed,” I realized the importance of life again. I noticed that in two parts, I was most moved.

The first one is that a girl tried to get on with her life though her family had a lot of dam-

age by the atomic bomb. I'm afraid that people whose family died from the atomic bomb stopped moving on because of fear. But I had courage that I was able to move on even if I had a big problem. Because I thought I had to try hard like the girl who worked hard.

The second one is that the atomic bomb sacrificed many innocent civilians. Recently, I watched the TV program reporting Hiroshima far from Nagasaki, which got an atomic bomb 3 days earlier than Nagasaki. I wonder why the USA dropped an atomic bomb. People in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were very scared even when the American plane flew over the sky. And what is more, the atomic bomb deprived them of their happy life. Was it necessary? Suddenly dropping only one atomic bomb caused many people to howl "Ouch, scalding hot!" "Painful!" and "Give me water!" etc. I don't think it is fun. Soon after they could live a stable life at last, they got frightened by radiation. I felt a pang of sadness for them. I wondered why human need to fight each other. But I thought it can't be helped after all because we can't go back to the past. After I read this book, I wanted to make a world with no war, because we don't need to fight. It is strange that parents ask their kids to die for their country while they tell them not to kill insects and animals easily. Since humans aren't animals, we can communicate with words. If they disagree strongly with each other, they should not have relationships with others and fight.

Why did they involve other people? I thought they didn't need do anything with the atomic bomb.

I would like to make a world without war and the atomic bomb. It may be difficult to do so without a great person. But it is possible for even an ordinary person to do so. It is important to stand up for making such a world without giving up, even if it's difficult.

I want to talk about the tragedy in Nagasaki and Hiroshima to all people in the world from now on.

## **Peace, Nothing Special**

**Katahama Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Watanabe Shione**

What comes up to mind when you hear "Peace?"

Breakfast after I get up

Water I can get without difficulty

I have clothes and shoes

I can go to school

I have friends

I have a home

I have a person saying, "okaeri"

A warm dinner  
A clean bath  
I sleep safely

These are simple and nothing special  
But nothing special for us now

A meal made of 15 soy beans and water  
Schools burned down by bombs  
Night when they are frightened by air raid and can't sleep  
Over 70 years ago  
Nothing special when Japan had a war

Innocent classmates were killed  
The same race or other humans fight each other.  
Fighting is still now nothing special in some countries  
In order only for oneself to become happy  
Someone is killed  
I hate such things that are nothing special

I want anyone in the world to have an ordinary life that he or she wants.

## **Be Peaceful Forever**

**Kanaoka Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade   Kawahara Fuuwa**

Live peacefully forever  
Not like what it used to be

People who died by atomic-bombs  
People who got serious injured  
We can't count all the victims  
But that's commonplace  
The scariest wars have atomic-bomb  
We still have atomic-bombs in these peaceful days  
Don't use them, please  
What we can do is to wish for no atomic-bombs

We want to live peacefully forever  
Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow  
Next month, next year  
It's OK even though we may have a boring day  
We pray continually for a peaceful life now

Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow  
Next month, next year  
Be peaceful forever

## **A War**

**Kanaoka Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sano Yukina**

An incident happened  
It was a war.  
Many people's lives  
Disappeared like smoke  
Houses and buildings became black  
Burnt down completely  
Only burnt remains all around  
On the ground only burnt people  
Such people had holes in their bodies  
Who lost their legs or hands because of the burning  
A very sad scene  
Even people who could run away and live  
Had swollen mouths or eyes  
Through the river, they ran away  
They all cooperated with each other  
Some of them died  
Houses and towns were burnt down  
Only remains  
Some of them who survived that situation  
Lost their families  
Nothing as sad as that  
Nobody knows when a war will happen  
It's a sad incident which happens suddenly  
It deprives many people of life

A town was filled with fire and smoke  
A bright town was covered by dark smoke

## **A War**

**Kanaoka Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sugiyama Rin**

An atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima  
People kept escaping  
From huge fires  
The same sad scene occurred  
After another in Hiroshima  
An atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima  
Huge fire chased people  
It kept on chasing  
It looked as if the fire kept eating humans  
They kept suffering one after another  
The scene imprinted on our eye  
An atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima  
People cried and suffered  
They stumped down  
Some of them closed their eyes  
Others lost their family, or friends  
We can't understand their pain and condition  
But I feel and notice something  
That's a feeling  
A feeling when they lost their family  
A feeling when they lost their friends  
A feeling for people who fell down  
Such feelings are many  
We see a lot of situations  
When we try to feel through them  
More and more  
They make us feel something  
They tell us something



## About Fear of War, Peace

**Ashitaka Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sakata Asumi**

After I read “The Glass Rabbit”, I realized that we must not have a war because it is scary enough to destroy many people and important things.

I had a certain idea while reading the book. Young men had to go to war. Some of them couldn’t go to war because of their illnesses, and so they felt terrible. On the other hand, some wanted to go to war by themselves. I think they were brave.

Children in big cities had to live apart from their parents, in what is called “gakudo sokai”. If I had to live apart from my parents, I would feel uneasy because I would be anxious about my family.

After going to the army, they were supposed to offer their lives and die honorably. People seemed to be glad to die death in war. I felt very sad to know that. I thought it sad for them to be glad of anyone’s death to honor Japan.

It was March 9th, 1945, when a B-29 bomber appeared in the sky of Tokyo. People escaped into the air-raid shelters. They heard ear-deafening sounds, blasts from many bombs that were dropped from the sky and they felt frightened staying close to each other in the air-raid shelter. A bomb caused a fire to burn down buildings and destroy everything as well as humans. It resulted in a strong wind which caused a sea of fire to spread all over the town and the air-raid shelters, felt stuffy because of the hot-air and smoke. I felt frightened to imagine that situation.

Finally, I strongly hope this world will continue to be as peaceful as it is now and that we will be able to live a happy life.

## After Reading

### “One Thousand Paper Cranes of Sadako”

**Uchiura Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Kikuchi Yakumo**

“I haven’t been there. So, let’s go to Hiroshima!” said my father. During the summer holiday, all of my family went to Hiroshima for the first time. I went to the Atomic Bomb Museum and knew what happened when atomic bomb was dropped on the morning of August 6th, 1945. I bought a book of “One Thousand Paper Cranes of Sadako” in the museum. There is a statue of girl in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. We can know the reason why she holds paper cranes from the book.

The girl’s name is Sadako, who was radiation-exposed by the atomic bomb at the age of 2. But she had been fine since then, she was good at PE played outstanding in a relay at

sports day in the 6th grade of elementary school. She had A-bomb sickness in the winter of the 6th grade. I thought it was terrible for radiation from the A-bomb to cause skin cancer and leukemia even when as many as 10 years have passed. A doctor told her father that she had fewer than 1 year to live. Then she was hospitalized in February. The most impressive scene was when she folded a paper crane suffering from leukemia. She knew that a wish would come true if she folded one thousand paper cranes and started to folded them. At first, she folded them for herself and then next time for her father who had trouble with debt. I thought she was very thoughtful and gave lots attention to her family. Even if she felt pain because of her sickness, she bought medicine for her father. She refused expensive pain-killers though she felt pain since. Blood infusions which keep down white blood cells cost 800 yen and cortisone to ease the pain cost 2100 yen. In those days “1 sho (1.5kg)”of rice cost 100yen. The value of the price was three or four times as that now. In their tough life, her father and mother got money for her medicine by selling their household goods and watch. I wanted her given medicine to cure her or beat A-bomb sickness.

The author of this book was her big brother who were there together. I think he had a scary and sad experience. Since he lost his precious family, this book tells us his wish that we won't have a war, that an atomic-bomb won't be dropped again and that no one will die like Sadako. I also hope such a thing won't happen again.

## **A Letter to People Who Went to Battle**

**Ukishima Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ochiai Shido**

To People who went to battle

I'm happy now. I sometimes quarrel and get angry, but I can eat a lot. During summer vacation at the Meiji Historical Museum we learned how to make a “suiton”, which was not bad but people were said to be happy only to eat. After cooking, we ate apple-pie as a snack. All of my family had “okonomiyaki” for dinner. I had a second helping of okonomiyaki until I became full.

Ms. Iwashita who told a story about how she lost her leg in a fire bomb. She was an innocent person. I imagine how painful and how hot it felt. It is strange that innocent people feel pain.

A fire bomb was made in order to burn houses. First, after dropping a fire bomb, the tip of it breaks through the roof. Then when it hits the floor, jellied gas catches fire and the fire burns the house down. To make matters worse, an American battle plane could fly up to 10,000 meters high, while a Japanese cannon could fire up to 7000 meters. The difference would have been obvious even on the battlefield, but they fought without fear.

A war benefits yourself nothing and you can hardly gain anything through a war. But have you gone to battle thinking that you had to do battle, and that you had to fight to honor your country. Or have you gone to war only because you were afraid of being called a traitor? You probably have a choice to part from your family and friends and go to battle for us and our future knowing that you might die.

I don't want Japan to have a war, because I would hate to eat "suito" every day and not sleep well if I'm worried about a fire bomb.

The war deprived Ms. Iwashita of her leg and killed many people. When we have a quarrel and trouble at school, we talk to each other. At home we are told not solve problems through fights. Even though we, kids know that it's not good to do so, adults have war. That doesn't serve as an example for us.

First, I would like to start by not using power. Then try to spread that attitude to Japan and the world.

Thank you very much for your making a future for Japan by going to war. We all will stop fighting and protect peace.

## **May This Wish Reach to the Past and the Future**

### **Ukishima Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Noguchi Kokona**

"We don't want a war" said my great grandmother to me. She experienced a war. As soon as many fire bombs were dropped, fire spread all over the town. All things as well as the houses and people were burned down and so she said "it's a scene from hell." I got chills to hear her words. She ran and ran along the railroad on bare foot without money and managed to survive. After that, she started to work hard from the bottom and could have a happy family.

A war is not good. We don't get anything good from war. Even if we win, we will feel guilty a lot. If we lose, we will be worried about the loss of human lives. Is it more important to win or lose than many people's lives? I also hate war. People who fought for their country and citizens hated war. But we are here thanks to their full courage.

I would like to tell people who were killed in the war. It is the future of Japan. We will protect Japan in the future. We absolutely won't have a war. So please be peaceful in heaven.

I would like to tell to the people who take a role in the future of Japan as well. It is the best for more people to be aware of the importance of peace in their lives in order to brighten the future of Japan. So let's cooperate together without fighting because of little things.

I hope that this wish will reach many people and I would like to be aware of what I can do in my life and work hard toward the future of Japan on behalf of my great grandmother who died, people who were killed in the war, and the people who take a role in the future.

# A Road to Peace

## Kadoike Elementary School, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fujishima Hina

I thought I knew about war, but after I read “The Glass Rabbit”, I realized that a war was very scary and sad.

On the 8th of December, 1941, which is 78 years ago, Japan was full of joy because they misunderstood that they won. After the news that Japan’s army were fully destroyed in Guadalcanal Island a war started again. Many bombs were dropped every day and the towns in Japan were destroyed by fire. Especially in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, New-types of bombs were dropped and so many people died. I felt very sad that many unrelated people died. Many people went to war. Some children lost their houses and moved to other places for safety. The houses of their relatives also were burnt down or they couldn’t afford to have those children. I didn’t want them to move to other places for safety. The children couldn’t have a satisfactory meal. The common food were only beans and boiled sweet potatoes. They couldn’t have satisfactory amount of food because they all shared their meals. Now we can have enough meals. I was surprised to know they couldn’t do the present common things at war. At last the war finished in 1945.

I don’t like the fact that the war continued for 4 years and many people were victims of the war. I don’t want a war to occur again. I want Japan to have friendly relations with other countries lest a war should happen. I think it is the first step to making friends with each other. It is important to understand others and make oneself understood. I hope we will think of ways so a war won’t happen by understanding each other through much conversation.

# After a War Happened

## Imazawa Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Furuya Aika

That I can sleep well  
That I can have a meal leisurely  
The present day which I feel is common  
These things come become not common after a war happens  
I could have slept until yesterday at ease  
I could have had a pleasant meal until yesterday  
The peaceful days were abruptly deprived  
I didn’t expect that peaceful days would be gone

Suddenly I heard a big sound

Bang! Bang!  
My family and friends were spending time together before just now  
Lost their hands  
I found blood on my arm  
I didn't realize what happened for a moment  
I started to feel pain  
I felt scared and frightened

I won't forget it even after many years passed  
We mustn't forget  
We mustn't have a war  
I don't think other countries were wrong  
I think our country did something wrong  
A war gets people who live an ordinary life involved  
They can't come back into existence after they die  
We can't change the past  
But we can change the future  
We can create an ordinary life when a war does not happen  
And live a peaceful life  
Happy days, are the future  
When in the lush fertile land everyone can live a pleasant life with a smile  
Have enough meals  
And not have any more fights

## **The Day, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Oooka Minami Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Komagata Amane**

My birthday is August 6th. I have always hated my birthday, because the day is a special day for Japanese. Only memorial programs of war are on air since morning that day and so I feel heavy.

Though I haven't been to Hiroshima, I went to a junior high school's festival and saw exhibits showing their research about Hiroshima. Lots of the researches were shown by photos and pictures. I was very surprised to learn the fact that a man dropped an atomic bomb which caused only the frame of a great building to remain. A man got on the plane called "Enola Gay" and dropped an atomic bomb. How did he feel when a person who had family and friends created such a weapon? How did the person who got on the plane "Enola Gay"

feel when he saw the towns explode?

On my birthday this year, a program introducing a letter addressed to his friend killed in the war was on TV. The letter said that he was sorry to survive. His little sister became sick because of radiation-exposure and died with pain. He himself suffered a lot and finally survived from the hard life, but he felt guilty that he could survive. How sad it is. I realized that a war also killed people's minds. I felt terrible from the bottom of my heart, because the mind as well as the body had remained hurt for a long time since the war ended.

The survivor who got on the plane "Enola Gay" said, "Let's not repeat the same error." On the monument to the atomic-bomb victims in Hiroshima, we see the words, "Please sleep in peace. We won't repeat the same error again." I think it is the first step to peace to forever say that it was an error to make an atomic-bomb as an army weapon. We must make a world where we don't have any atomic bombs and make use of its technology for peace and not for developing army weapons for war. And I hope my birthday will become the day for peace, not the day for the atomic bomb memorial.

## Things a War Deprived Us of

**Oooka Minami Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Suzuki Yuuka**

I wonder if I can live a steady life if I lost my family.

I read a non-fiction book of war during summer vacation. Keiko, the main character lost her mother and little sister because of the Tokyo big air-raid and her father died in front of her. Keiko's will to try to live strong gave me a strong impression although she had such a sad experience. I thought it amazing that she managed to live in a positive way and do what she could do.

If I lost my family, I could not live strong or do anything and I would feel sad enough to kill myself because I would be crushed with sorrow and would not stay calm. My family is very important to me. When I think about why Keiko could live strong, I realized it's common that other families besides Keiko also lost their families. So, she could not express her sorrow and.

I have one more thing to think about. It is the scene of an American soldier who dropped his picture of his family. The scene reminded me that an American soldier had a family. An American soldier as well as a Japanese soldier has important things. Everybody went to war with them. They killed each other who they didn't know and they deprived each other of important people. When I think over that fact, I can't say anything, because not only Japanese not were victims and Japanese soldiers also were assailants who killed American soldiers. American soldiers were victims as well as assailants.

Today we are very peaceful and don't have war. A war deprived people of many things

such as their smiles for a long period. We had many victims who died for Japan. Thanks to them, we can have peace today. People at war hid their pain of parting with their families at the bottom of their hearts and lived strong in a positive way for the future to rebirth Japan. Today it is common for me to have important people and live a comfortable life. If I lost my family now, I couldn't live strong. Other people as well as me think so. I won't repeat such a sad thing again.

So, I would like to keep such peaceful present days.

## **Peace and a War I Learned in Hiroshima**

**Daiichi Junior High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Yabe Shuuma**

At the end of March 2018, my grandfather took me to Hiroshima in commemoration of my graduation from elementary school. When he was 2 years old, he suffered from the atomic bombing at the place apart from the center of atomic-bomb in Hiroshima prefecture. That's why as a first step to wish for peace, he gave me a chance to learn things about Hiroshima which had been destroyed by an atomic-bomb, and how important it is to make a peaceful world. It was just like the proverb; seeing is believing. Seeing Hiroshima with my own eyes is more than what I learned at school and so I will never forget the experience.

I first saw the Atomic Bomb Dome and as soon as I arrived there, I lost my smile. Though a part of the outer wall remained, most of the dome was destroyed and only its iron frame remained. I thought, what a decrepit building! When I imagined that the building was blown away in a moment and many people were killed instantly I got goosebumps on my whole body.

I also saw thousands of paper cranes sent from people who prayed for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. I wished for peace and hope while ringing the Peace Bell with a smile. However, when I looked at the Atomic Bomb Dome over the arch standing in front of the monument of the victims, I realized hundreds of thousands people were killed in an instant. My heart was filled with terror and sorrow, so I started shaking again. When I visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, I lost my smile and was lost for words for a while. When I saw the various remains, I felt cruel misery from the bottom of my heart. Vivid pictures of people who had their skin sloughed, people who suffered from permanent damage, burnt clothes, and a tricycle buckled by the blast, gave me a feeling as if I experienced radiation-exposure. I can't fully experience the depth of intolerable pain burn victims had, and sorrow they felt when they lost their families and friends. I felt very angry that young children had to go through such sorrow and I was also frozen by fear. I thought I must never forget the terrible reality of the dropping of an atomic bomb. I thought about my feelings for Hiroshima and the victims there, and also thought about what meant.