

It's Up to Us To Redream a World of Peace

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Toward the beginning of each year, we begin to see images and hear speeches about world peace. I wonder: What would it be like if we lived in a safe and harmonious world? What would it be like to live in a world where there was peace? With less than 1,500 days left before the beginning of the next millennium, what can be done to bring about such a change? What can we do to ensure that the next century — the next millenium — is a peaceful one?

“The only way to create peace is to prepare for peace,” SGI President Ikeda recently wrote. “The only way to establish the garden of peace is to plant the seeds of peace.”

Peace is a process of understanding ourselves, appreciating others and striving to create an environment where people can live in harmony. We must understand that the establishment of world peace is up to us. It is not up to the world's political officials and military advisors. It is not up to the world's stock markets, conglomerates and financial wizards. It is up to the common people and our everyday dreams.

Ben Okri, a Nigerian author, writes in *The Famished Road*: “We must look at the world with new eyes. We must look at ourselves differently. We are freer than we think. We haven't begun to live yet. The man whose light has come on in his head, in his dormant sun, can never be kept down or defeated. We can redream this world and make the dream real.”

If, toward the next century, those of us in the SGI, the body, move toward peace, the world we live in, the shadow, will have no choice but to do the same.

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