

Holsberg

From: Holsberg <holsberg@...>
To: <Fahnman @...>
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2001 8:43 PM
Subject: Re: i think this is lovely. print it...take a moment & read it.

Hello Fahns,

I am crying after reading this poem, it is late at night. There seems to be no time to get things done, with children and work and memorials and all of us walking around subdued and unsafe now. A good friend of mine heard this poet/monk speak at Riverside Church a few days ago, she said he was inspiring and brilliant. I hear from my in-laws in Washington D.C. that the attacks are no longer front-page news - somewhere back in the metro section - and here in New York, it is front page, all page news - in the paper, on the radio, on the television, in the pictures that still are posted everywhere of people missing. It is in our face, on our minds, all the time.

I have spent the last weeks making no sense out of the obscenely insensible. I have joined my grieving sister in visiting the firehouse where her friend had been a proud and happy member of Ladder 12, and his south Bronx family. I have visited my producer from my ship days, whose wife worked on one of the top floors of the WTC. Her memorial service is Tuesday. I hear of other people, acquaintances and friends and loved ones of friends, who also lost their lives on September 11.

I was moved by the speeches of all the gathered clergy at the Yankee stadium memorial service. I saw the faces of my sister and her firefighter's family there. I feel we need the energies and wisdom of people who have spent their lives in pursuit of wisdom and understanding of God and humanity to guide us as we assure ourselves of what is of value in our lives, what we will be willing to die for.

I have been proud to be a citizen of New York, for we are a tough population here, with a lot of common sense and smarts about our city and our neighbors. We see a lot of crazy things here, and the rich and poor share the same pavement. I often feel we are an anomaly in our nation.

I have gone back to work, travelling to Long Island and experiencing the increased traffic on the roads, as we have mandatory car pooling rules now, with no access to Manhattan below 62nd street if you are a single passenger vehicle.

I worry for my brother-in-law, who expected to resign his commission in the Navy in March. Now who knows when he will be allowed to leave the services. He just found out that the job he had hoped for had indeed been his until September 11, when the commercial airlines laid off employees and pilots sought their former jobs after being laid off. Another ripple effect of these attacks.

I try to take care of my children, and wonder what kind of world they will live in. I too, pray for peace.

God bless everyone, pray for all of us affected by these events. We aren't sleeping very well, I hear from so many people that nightmares are frequent.

Love,

Lisa Holsberg

----- Original Message -----

From: <Fahnman.@>

To: <Fahn@>

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2001 9:22 PM

Subject: re: i think this is lovely. print it...take a moment & read it.

> REST IN PEACE (by Vietnamese Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh)

>

> I am a World Trade Center tower, standing tall in the clear blue sky,

> feeling a violent blow in my side, and I am a towering inferno of

> pain and suffering imploding upon myself and

> collapsing to the ground.

> May I rest in peace.

>

> I am a terrified passenger on a hijacked airplane not knowing where

> we are going or that I am riding on fuel tanks that will be

> instruments of death, and I am a worker arriving at my office not

> knowing that in just a moment my future will be obliterated.

> May I rest in peace.

>

> I am a pigeon in the plaza between the two towers eating crumbs from

> someone's breakfast when fire rains down on me from the skies, and I

> am a bed of flowers admired daily by thousands of tourists now buried

> under five stories of rubble.

> May I rest in peace.

>

> I am a firefighter sent into dark corridors of smoke and debris on a

> mission of mercy only to have it collapse around me, and I am a

> rescue worker risking my life to save lives who is very aware that I

> may not make it out alive.

> May I rest in peace.

>

> I am a survivor who has fled down the stairs and out of the building

> to safety who knows that nothing will ever be the same in my soul

> again, and I am a doctor in a hospital treating patients burned from

> head to toe who knows that these horrible images will remain in my

> mind forever.

> May I know peace.

>

> I am a tourist in Times Square looking up at the giant TV screens

- > thinking I'm seeing a disaster movie as I watch the Twin Towers crash
- > to the ground, and I am a New York woman sending e-mails to friends
- > and family letting them know that I am safe.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am a piece of paper that was on someone's desk this morning and now
- > I'm debris scattered by the wind across lower Manhattan, and I am a
- > stone in the graveyard at Trinity Church covered with soot from the
- > buildings that once stood proudly above me, death meeting death.
- > May I rest in peace.
- >
- > I am a dog sniffing in the rubble for signs of life, doing my best to
- > be of service, and I am a blood donor waiting in line to make a
- > simple but very needed contribution for the victims.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am a resident in an apartment in downtown New York who has been
- > forced to evacuate my home, and I am a resident in an apartment
- > uptown who has walked 100 blocks home in
- > a stream of other refugees.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am a family member who has just learned that someone I love has
- > died, and I am a pastor who must comfort someone who has suffered a
- > heartbreaking loss.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am a loyal American who feels violated and vows to stand behind any
- > military action it takes to wipe terrorists off the face of the
- > earth, and I am a loyal American who feels violated and worries that
- > people who look and sound like me are all going to be blamed for this
- > tragedy.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am a frightened city dweller who wonders whether I'll ever feel
- > safe in a skyscraper again, and I am a pilot who wonders whether
- > there will ever be a way to make the skies truly safe.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am the owner of a small store with five employees that has been put
- > out of business by this tragedy, and I am an executive in a
- > multinational corporation who is concerned about
- > the cost of doing business in a terrorized world.
- > May I know peace.
- >
- > I am a visitor to New York City who purchases postcards of the World
- > Trade Center Twin Towers that are no more, and I am a television
- > reporter trying to put into words the terrible things I have seen.
- > May I know peace.
- >

> I am a boy in New Jersey waiting for a father who will never come
> home, and I am a boy in a faraway country rejoicing in the streets of
> my village because someone has hurt the hated Americans.
> May I know peace.

>
> I am a general talking into the microphones about how we must stop
> the terrorist cowards who have perpetrated this heinous crime, and I
> am an intelligence officer trying to discern how such a thing could
> have happened on American soil, and I am a city official trying to
> find ways to alleviate the suffering of my people.
> May I know peace.

>
> I am a terrorist whose hatred for America knows no limit and I am
> willing to die to prove it, and I am a terrorist sympathizer standing
> with all the enemies of American capitalism and imperialism, and I am
> a master strategist for a terrorist group who planned this
> abomination. My heart is not yet capable of openness, tolerance, and
> loving.
> May I know peace.

>
> I am a citizen of the world glued to my television set, fighting back
> my rage and despair at these horrible events, and I am a person of
> faith struggling to forgive the unforgivable, praying for the
> consolation of those who have lost loved ones, calling upon the
> merciful beneficence of God/Yahweh/Allah/Spirit/Higher Power.
> May I know peace.

>
> I am a child of God who believes that we are all children of God and
> we are all part of each other.
> May we all know peace

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