

The path towards love, harmony and peace

Beloved person,

A beautiful introduction that starts me thinking: in essence, isn't everyone searching for love and harmony, in other words: peace? When I look at events in the world and read the reports about them, I can see that in many cases there is no peace. Yet, the longing for this among people is strong and that is why we will pause for a moment during the coming Peace Week.

Looking at the world we live in, we see there are those who have become active in their longing for peace. How beautiful would it be if we could actually celebrate peace in the world during this Peace Week? Reality is more complex. Despite that, we have the choice to find each other in our longing for peace and share our feelings, thoughts and actions. How do we want to contribute to peace? Sharing in this longing strengthens connectivity, the relationship between you and me and with each other. It is a wonderful talent that we humans have.

We can strengthen the relationship if we are prepared to become active and take steps for this. If it succeeds and this leads us to start moving, then connection can be established. Feeling connected gives an impulse to know you are worthy as a human being and to know you are part of a greater totality. As valuable, beloved people we can contribute to a world that continues to become a little more beautiful.

Anaïs Nin, a French-Cuban writer made the statement: 'The world is not the way it is, but as you see it'. We don't see things as they are, but they are coloured by our personal experiences, convictions and our personality. New insights, a new look, help us to see the other and everything that moves around us differently. But that does require us to be open to this.

It helps to look at the same things in a new way. That does not have to happen all at once, it can also happen step-by-step. It brings to mind the song *One small step*¹:

I can see the world as one great family
Living in peace and brotherhood
Living in harmony.
The world which we live in is a very different place
Fear and hate affect us all
Every colour, religion and race.
So we must climb the walls and cross the raging rivers.
And we must make a world of peace our common goal.
For we can make a difference.
We can build a bridge and open up the pathways to our soul.
One small step bringing us all a little bit closer.
One small step beginning today.
If we all join hand in hand,
Every nation, every land,
We can take one small step and lead the way.
We must plant a seed of freedom everywhere.

Nurture it and help it grow in unpolluted air.
But a dream is still a dream unless we do our part.
Feed the hungry, help the poor, giving of our hearts.
So we must climb the walls and cross the raging rivers.
And we must make a world of peace our common goal.

So many colours, so many names.
We are many. We are one. We are all the same.
I see a world, let me lead the way.

The song expresses the core of the meaning and the power of our existence and also a deep feeling of connection with many who want to work on the same thing. In this way, Peace Week can be given an extra dimension based on the theme: 'Doing nothing is not an option'. Let us inspire each other to work on peace and to be there in connection to ourselves, with the other and the world around us.

With a loving greeting, your brother,
John van den Borg



¹ From '*One small step*', J. Althouse and S.K. Albrecht.