

Seek for peace and go for it

From the beginning of humanity, the human being feels the need for peace. Where to find it? Many feel that believing in love, looking for it confidently, allows you to find peace. Therefore, some attitudes of the heart are required: for example to turn away from evil and always to do good instead. This includes not to defame the neighbor, since defamation can lead to war.

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Peace has many hues and meanings, including physical and spiritual well-being or agreement between individuals and between people. But peace is a gift, a source of happiness and, therefore, it is essential to look intensely and passionately for that gift in our life, in order to experience its fruits and share them with others. It is a committed search that requires us to do our part. One way to experience peace is to follow the voice of conscience, which always encourages us to choose the path of good and not of evil. That is to say, it impels us to love the people around us and therefore overcoming conflicts, avoiding, for example, unfounded accusations, superficial judgments and speaking badly of others, to open our hearts to welcome of our neighbor.

Perhaps we can not make all the weapons that stain the blood of many regions of the earth, but we can each act personally and heal wounded relationships in the family, in our neighborhood, in the work environment, in the citizen factory. The commitment of a small or large community determined to witness the power of love can rebuild bridges between social groups, churches or political parties.

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The convinced search for peace will also suggest suitable behaviors to protect the cosmos, entrusted to our responsibility to the new generations.

Chiara Lubich wrote in 1990 to Nikkio Niwano, founder of the Japanese Buddhist movement Risho Kosei Kai: *"If man is not at peace, the earth itself is not. People perceive the 'suffering' of the earth when man does not have a harmonious relationship with nature, but acts only by selfishness, by an insatiable desire for possession. This selfishness and this desire contaminate the environment even more than any other contamination, which is nothing more than a consequence of this attitude(...) And if it is discovered that the cosmos is for all the members of the human family, and not only for a few, we will pay more attention and respect to what belongs to the whole humanity, present and future".*