

Observance of Two 50th Anniversaries Related to the United Nations

- 50th Anniversary of Sri Chinmoy's First Talk to the UN community in 1968
- 50-Concert Tour offered by Sri Chinmoy to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the UN in 1995
- And 700 "Peace Blossom-Fragrance" Poems, Nov 1994 in honour of UN 50th



UN Photo

1

It's always wonderful to **celebrate Sri Chinmoy's example of love and dedication to the highest goals of the United Nations.** On this occasion we are celebrating:

- the **50th Anniversary** of Sri Chinmoy's **first talk** to the UN community, **November 1968.**
- **Dec. 2018** is also the anniversary of the **final** concert in the **50-Concert** series Sri Chinmoy offered to **commemorate the UN 50th** anniversary in **1995.**
- Between **11th and 12th November 1994** he had also composed **700 "Peace Blossom-Fragrance" poems** to honour the upcoming 50th anniversary.

2

Sri Chinmoy's first talk at the United Nations, "**The Song Universal**," was offered the evening of 26 November 1968

The event was arranged by a husband and wife who felt Sri Chinmoy's message would be welcomed by the UN Community.

THE SONG UNIVERSAL
by
SRI CHINMOY

Tuesday, November 26, 1968
Time: 7:15 P.M.

Admission Free

Church Centre for the United Nations
1st Avenue, corner 44th Street
(Entrance on 44th Street)
New York City
Second Floor, Room 21-22

☆ ☆

After the talk, sacred songs will be sung by Sri Chinmoy

3

The invitation that went out had a beautiful photo of Sri Chinmoy with folded hands, with some biographical information as well.



4

In a moment (and as time allows) we will share some excerpts:

- from that special talk in 1968,
- followed by quotes related to the 1995 Concerts and
- some Nov 1994 “Peace-Blossom-Fragrance” poems.

5

Sri Chinmoy's First Talk to the UN community
in 1968:

This first talk

(copy available)

**is very significant
for several
reasons.**

The Song Universal [excerpts]

The following excerpts are offered to mark the 50th anniversary of Sri Chinmoy's first talk to members of the UN community, "The Song Universal," given on 26 November 1968 at the Church Center for the United Nations.

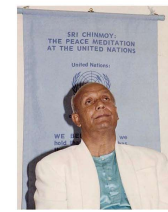
The Song Universal is freedom.
Freedom from what? Freedom from
limitations, freedom from imperfections
and freedom from ignorance...

Freedom does not mean being away
from home. Freedom means accepting
and feeling the entire world as one's
real home, as one's very own...

Our inner realisation and outer action
must run abreast. Our outer achieve-
ments should be the conscious and
spontaneous revelation of our inner
divinity.

Love, harmony, peace and oneness.
These are man's divine ideals. On the
strength of his inner mounting flame,
aspiration, man can easily, unerringly
and spontaneously manifest these ideals
of his in his human life, in every sphere
of his life.

It is quite natural and proper that we
should discover our God in and through
our own religion. When we go deep
within, we come to realise that there is
only one religion, and that religion is
man's inmost cry for God-realisation. In
the hoary past, Asoka, the great



Sri Chinmoy meditates at the UN during a meeting of Sri Chinmoy "The Peace Meditation at the United Nations."

Emperor of India, sent missionaries to the
corners of the globe with a profound
message: "The basis of all religions is the
same, wherever they are. Try to help them
all you can, teach them all you can, and do
not try to injure them."

Let each religion play the role of a flower.
Let us make a garland of these divine
flowers and offer them at the Feet of God.
God will be pleased. We shall be fulfilled.

[Please see other side for complete talk.]

About Sri Chinmoy: Born in Bengal, India (now Bangladesh) in 1931, Sri Chinmoy came to New York in 1964 to dedicate himself to the cause of world peace. At the invitation of UN Secretary-General U Thant, in 1970, he began leading twice-weekly peace meditations for delegates and staff at UN Headquarters in New York. Until his passing in 2007, Sri Chinmoy offered his multifaceted inspirations to the UN community through meditations, concerts, lectures, art exhibits and programmes for peace, and members of Sri Chinmoy's The Peace Meditation at the United Nations endeavour to continue these activities to this day.

6

It was **after this lecture on 26 November 1968** that Sri Chinmoy's relationship with **UN Secretary-General U Thant** started blossoming



7

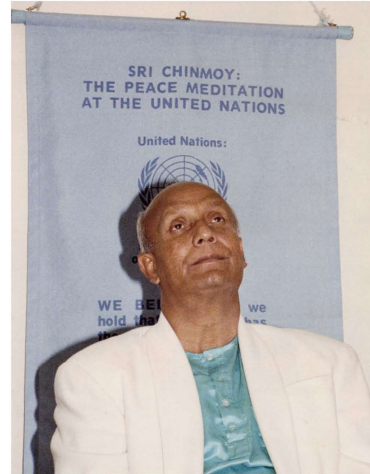
At U Thant's request, his Chef de Cabinet **C.V. Narasimhan** interviewed Sri Chinmoy and **spoke very highly of him** to the Secretary-General.



UN Photo Secretary-General U Thant and C.V. Narasimhan

8

Narasimhan later conveyed **messages between the two men, including U Thant's encouraging invitation, for the establishment of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN on 14 April 1970.**



Sri Chinmoy meditates for peace at the United Nations during a meeting of the Peace Meditation Group.

9

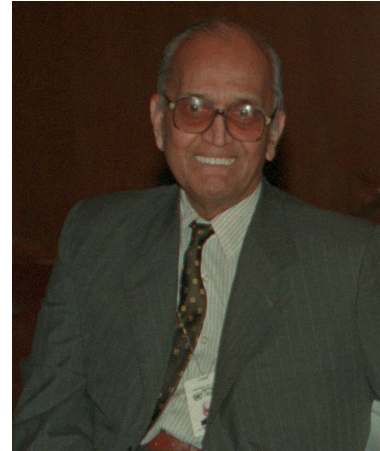
Many years later, C.V. Narasimhan was a **special guest at Sri Chinmoy's Peace Concert in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium on 6 Dec 1993 [coincidentally 25 years ago].**



Sri Chinmoy and C.V. Narasimhan

10

Under-Secretary-General Narasimhan was very proud of his role, remarking that *“In the early days when U Thant was Secretary-General, I had a little role to play in having this Meditation Centre led by Sri Chinmoy in the United Nations as part of our ongoing activities.”*



Under-Secretary
General C.V.
Narasimhan

11

Sri Chinmoy called **Narasimhan** *“U Thant’s dearest colleague, his most valued friend, his confidant.”*



UN Photo Secretary-General U Thant and C.V. Narasimhan

12

As a **Buddhist and a Hindu**, respectively, U Thant and Narasimhan both **valued a spiritual approach** to world affairs.



UN Photo Secretary-General U Thant and C.V. Narasimhan

13

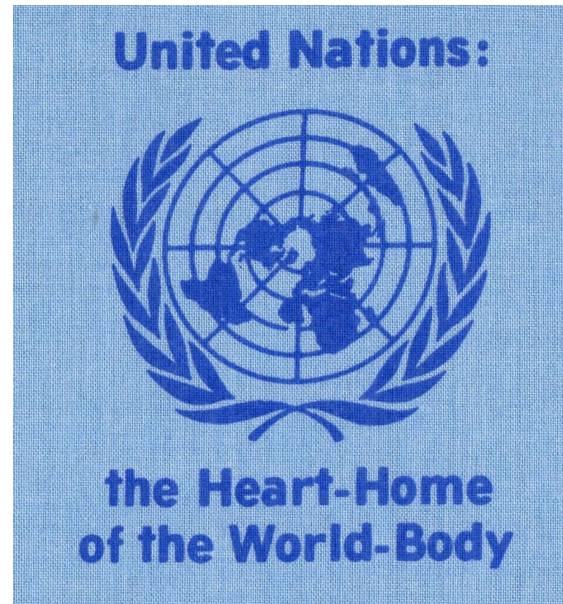
And it seems that **from Sri Chinmoy's first talk** at the UN, together **with subsequent interchanges**, they both felt that Sri Chinmoy would further and support their **own spiritual views and visions** of the United Nations



UN Photo Secretary-General U Thant and C.V. Narasimhan

14

which Sri
Chinmoy
poetically
referred to as
the
**“Heart-Home of
the World
Body.”**



15

The Song Universal *[excerpts]*

The following excerpts are offered to mark the 50th anniversary of Sri Chinmoy's first talk to members of the UN community, "The Song Universal," given on 26 November 1968 at the Church Center for the United Nations.

Now we will read out a few **excerpts from
the 1968 historic talk “The Song
Universal.”**

About Sri Chinmoy: Born in Bengal, India (now Bangladesh) in 1931, Sri Chinmoy came to New York in 1964 to dedicate himself to the cause of world peace. At the invitation of UN Secretary-General U Thant, in 1970, he began leading twice-weekly peace meditations for delegates and staff at UN Headquarters in New York. Until his passing in 2007, Sri Chinmoy offered his multifaceted inspiration to the UN community through meditations, concerts, lectures, art exhibits and programmes for peace; and members of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations endeavour to continue these activities to this day.

16

Freedom - Accepting World

*The **Song Universal** is freedom. Freedom from what? **Freedom from limitations**, freedom from imperfections and freedom **from ignorance....***

*Freedom does not mean being away from home. **Freedom means accepting** and feeling the **entire world** as one's real home, **as one's very own....***

17

Realization – Action ; Achievement

*Our **inner realisation** and **outer action** must run abreast.*

*Our outer **achievements** should be the **conscious** and spontaneous **revelation** of our **inner divinity**.*

18

Ideals – Aspiration – Manifest

Love, harmony, peace and oneness. These are man's divine ideals.

*On the strength of his inner mounting flame, **aspiration**, man can easily, unerringly and spontaneously **manifest these ideals** of his in his human life, **in every sphere** of his life.*

19

One religion – Inmost cry. Help, Teach All

*It is quite natural and proper that we should **discover our God in and through our own religion**. When we go deep within, we come to realise that there is **only one religion**, and that religion is **man's inmost cry** for God-realisation....*

*Asoka, the great Emperor of India, sent missionaries to the corners of the globe with a profound message: "The **basis of all religions is the same**, wherever they are. **Try to help them all you can, teach them all you can, and do not try to injure them.**"*

20

Religion – Flower Garden – Fulfilled

*Let **each religion** play the role of a **flower**.*

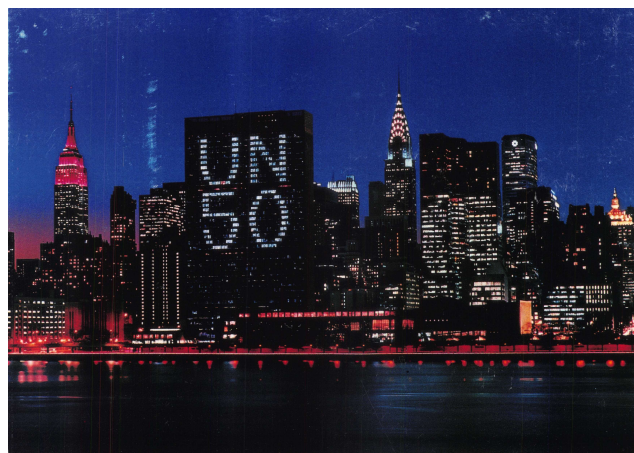
*Let us **make a garland** of these divine flowers and offer them at the Feet of God.*

God will be pleased. We shall be fulfilled.

21

Introduction to Sri Chinmoy's 50-Concert Tour offered to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the UN in 1995

As mentioned earlier, December was also the **anniversary of the final concert in the 50-Concert series** that Sri Chinmoy offered to commemorate the **50th Anniversary of the UN in 1995**.



22

That year also marked the 25th
anniversary of the Peace Meditation
Group at the UN.



23

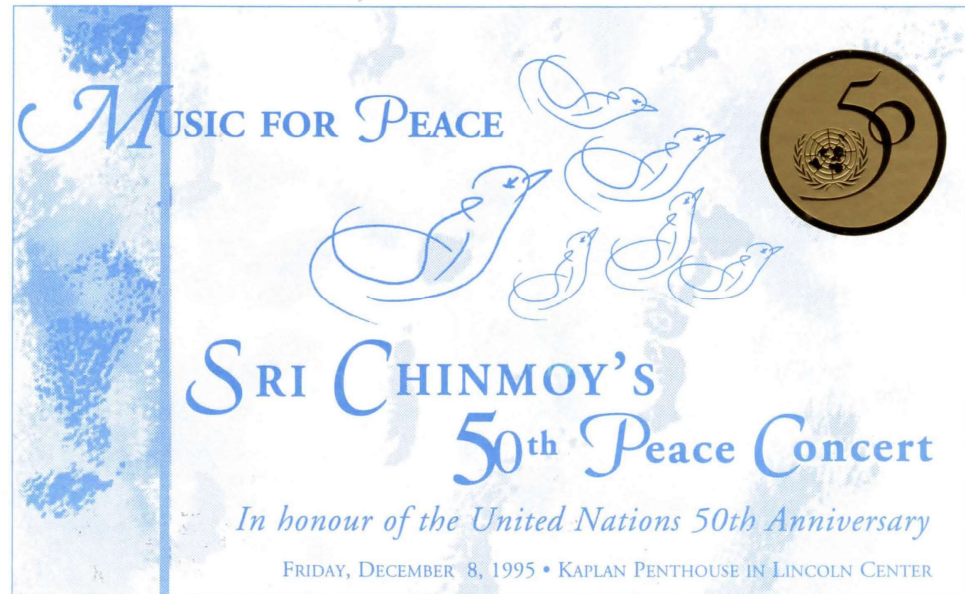
The first
concert
was held
in
Myanmar,
birthplace
of U
Thant,
and



Members of Meditation Group joined with U Thant's family and friends as part of **103rd Birth Anniv. Myanmar 21 Jan 2012 ,Yangon. Seen above in front of U Thant's final resting place.**

24

The last one in the elegant Penthouse of Lincoln Center in New York.



25

As part of the series, Sri Chinmoy also performed in many **prestigious venues**, including the **UN General Assembly Hall Lobby**,

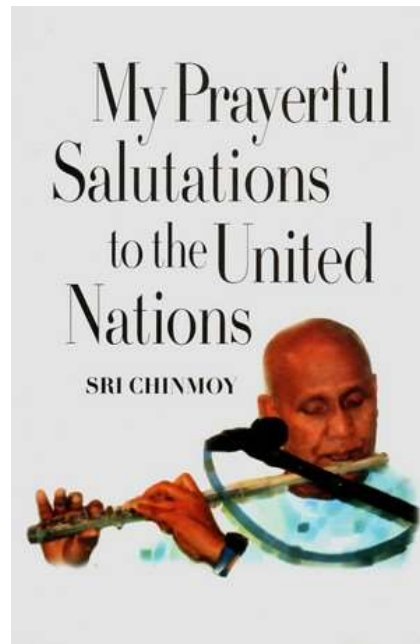


with audiences as large as **10,000 in Washington, DC**, **13,000 in Montreal** and **15,000 in Prague**.

26

We will now share a few excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's inspiring dedications and comments made at the Concerts.

Excerpts read by current UN workers and friends.



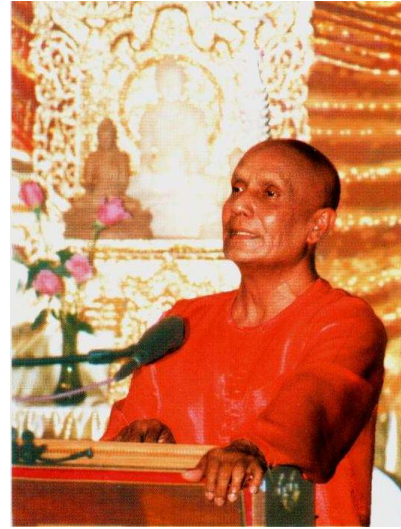
27



5 July 1995 O Supreme Pilot
of the United Nations,
do awaken the life,
illumine the mind
and bless the heart
of the United Nations.
Today's Peace Concert I am offering
to the **light-thirsty mind**
and **peace-hungry heart**
of the United Nations.

28

9 August 1995 As the **human** in us
wants **greatness-heights** and
the **Divine** in us wants
goodness-depths, even so,
the **earthly mind of the United
Nations** wants world-acceptance
and world-acclaim,
and the **Heavenly heart of
the United Nations** wants
self-sacrifice and world peace.



29

17 August 1995,
O United Nations,
the Absolute
Supreme
blessed you
With His most
precious **Dream:**
a world-oneness-
hunger.



30

19 August 1995 O soul of the United Nations,
**do bring to the fore your indomitable will-power to
 transform the earth-bound consciousness of humanity
 into a Heaven-free consciousness....**

the Absolute Lord Supreme has **entrusted** you with
 His **Vision Supreme** to **change the face
 and fate of mankind.**

His own Promise in and **through you**
 He will **without fail fulfil** at His own **choice Hour**

31



25 November 1995

One hundred fifty instruments
 I shall play today.
 I shall offer my **gratitude**
 in one hundred and fifty ways
 to the **Supreme for creating
 the United Nations,**
 which is the **main instrument
 to bring about world peace.**
 I am trying to be of **service
 to His main instrument,**

32

**We all have imperfections;
the United Nations also
has imperfections.**

**These imperfections must not ruin
our determination, eagerness
and enthusiasm.**

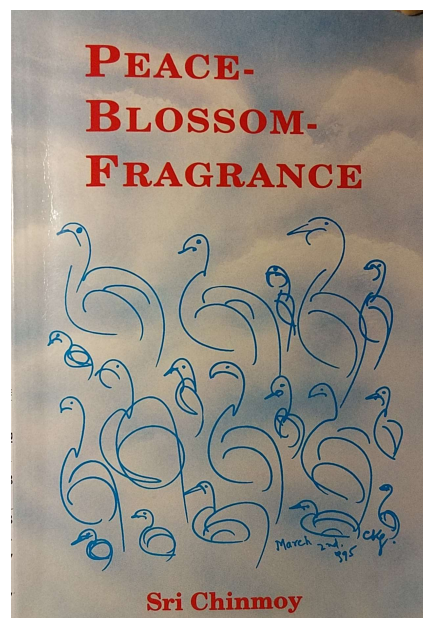
**Let us try to take these imperfections
as extra opportunities to make
ourselves absolutely perfect
by transforming them
into divine realities.....**



33

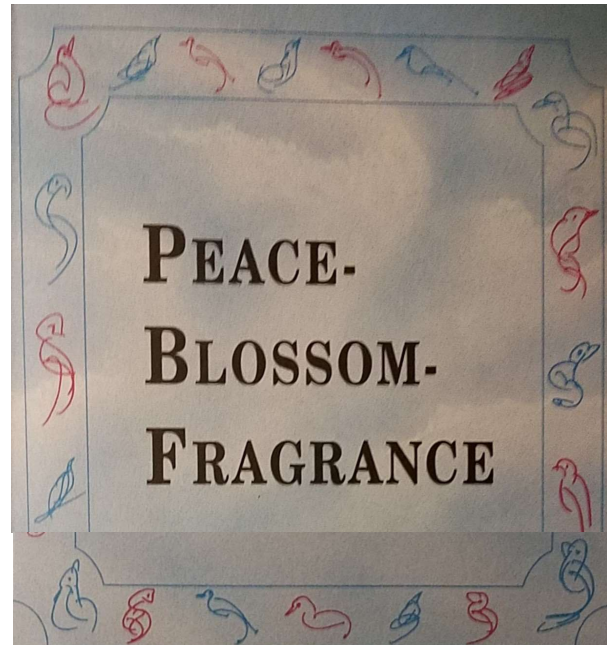
**Introduction to 700 “Peace-Blossom-Fragrance”
poems to honour UN’ 50th anniversary .**

**Between 11th and 12th
November 1994 Sri
Chinmoy composed 700
“Peace-Blossom-
Fragrance” poems to
honour the upcoming 50th
anniversary of the United
Nations.**



34

The page borders on the **“Peace-Blossom-Fragrance”** printed book were composed of birds selected from a series of **“Dream-Freedom-Peace Birds”** drawn by Sri Chinmoy beginning in 1992.



35

We hope the selections of Peace poems presented give a glimpse of the variety, depth and feeling for the concept of peace as experienced and shared by Sri Chinmoy

“Keep peace-dream Alive!”;

“Change stubborn mind”;

“Patience-preparation”;

“Not retire, Aspire”;

“Peace of Here, Now”

36

Some short phrases
invoke an inner
commitment also
reflected in
Sri Chinmoy's
Offering of
Peace Meditations
to the World Body
for decades.

“Peace not comfort”;

“Find sterling Qualities,

“responsibility for peace”;

Fruitful ideal:

accept imperfections

For transformation”

37

Through artistic and
poetic expressions
of Peace
he brought together
members of the
international community
in silent dedication to
the ideal of a global
oneness-family.



At the Poetry Reading Celebrating the United Nations Year of the Dialogue Among Civilizations, held at the United Nations on 29 March 2001, Sri Chinmoy is introduced by Master of Ceremonies Vijaya Claxton, Vice President of the United Nations SRC Society of Writers.

38

2 Goodness
Is
peace-drop.

3. Oneness
Is
peace-sea.



39

32. I enjoy *peace*
Only when I
am not afraid

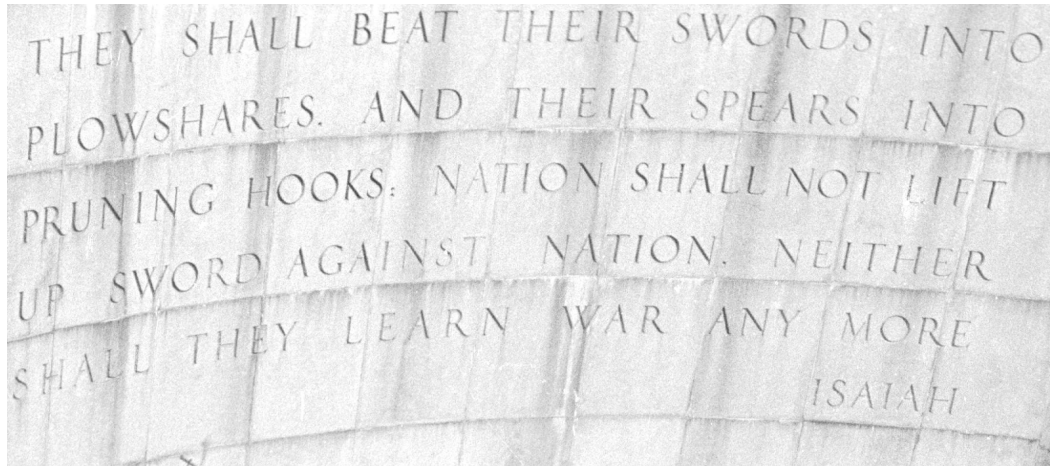
Of changing
my
**stubborn
mind.**



UN Garden, Peace walk for UN, 59th-st-bridge-in background - "Beat swords-to plowshares" -statue in front

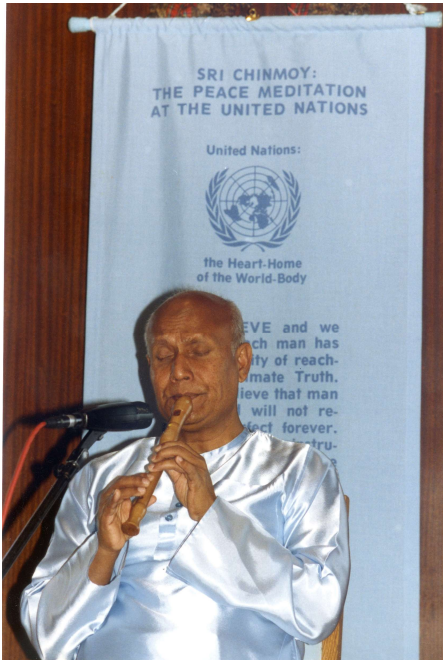
40

“Isiah wall” – across from UN Headquarters in NY



“They shall **beat their swords into plowshares** and their **spears into pruning hooks**.
 Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.
 Neither shall they learn war anymore.”

41



88. O truth-seeker
 and God-lover,
 You have only **one task**
 to perform:

You have to **keep**
 Humanity’s sacred
peace-dream
Alive.

42

157. When **humility** exits
From the **mind-gate**,

Peace is compelled to exit
From the **heart-gate**.

humility
Exit →
Mind Gate

Peace
MUST Exit →
Heart Gate

43

166. Love without
peace

Is a joint **Dance**
Of **stupidity**
and **absurdity**.

Love (-) Peace

(=)

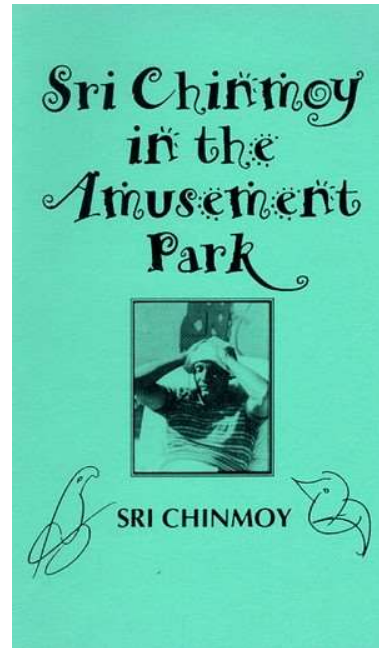
Stupidity (+) Absurdity
Dance

44

201.

Peace I get

When my **mind**
Laughs at me
Powerfully.



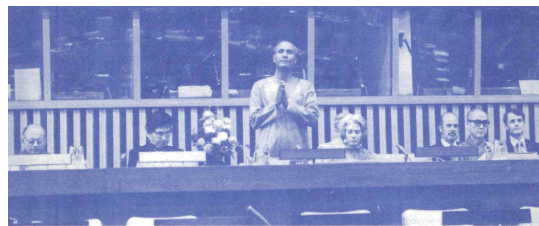
45

208. To feel *peace*,

I shall **not climb up to**
 The mountaintop.

I shall **not sit at the foot**
 Of the mountain.

I shall **just enter into**
My heart-nest.



THE GOLDEN FLUTE

A sea of peace and joy and light
 Beyond my reach I know.
 In me the storm-tossed weeping night
 Finds room to rage and flow.

I cry aloud, but all in vain—
 I helpless, the earth unkind!
 What soul of might can share my pain?
 Death-dart alone I find.

A raft am I on the sea of Time,
 My oars are washed away.
 How can I hope to reach the Clime
 Of God's eternal Day?

But hark! I hear Thy golden Flute,
 Its notes bring the Summit down.
 Now safe am I, O Absolute!
 Gone death! gone night's stark frown!

— Song by Sri Chinmoy

46



295.

**Peace
Becomes a reality**

**Only after endless
Patience-preparation.**

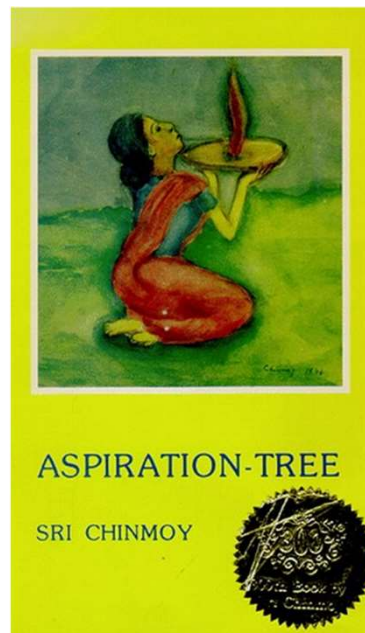
United Nations delegates and staff carry a ceremonial copy of UN Charter during a Peace Walk in the UN Garden , coordinated by the Peace Mediation at the UN.

47

388.

Peace I feel not
When I long to retire
From the world.


Peace I feel
When I long to *aspire*
For the world.



48

In conclusion...

Silent rededication to the highest goals of the United Nations



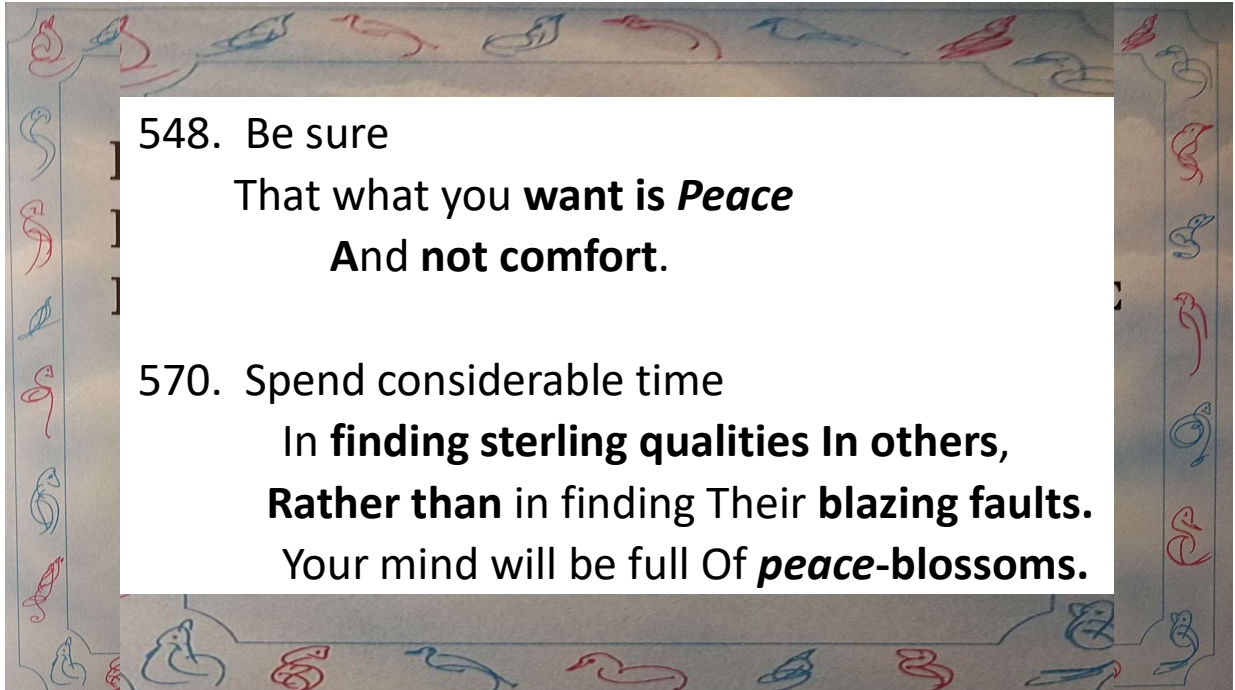
Religious representatives and guest speakers joining in silent rededication.

467.

I do not need the *peace* Of
the stars and planets
Of the ages.

I need the *peace*
Of the **flowing and glowing**
Here and now.

49



548. Be sure
That what you **want is *Peace***
And not comfort.

570. Spend considerable time
In **finding sterling qualities In others,**
Rather than in finding Their **blazing faults.**
Your mind will be full Of ***peace-blossoms.***

50

694.

If we do not have the feeling of
Collective responsibility
 for *peace*,

Then *peace* will never be
 a reality,

Either in the heart of today
 Or in the life of tomorrow.



Peace Mediation at the UN group members performing
 at programme Commemoration Opening of 30th Session
 UN General Assembly

51

696. What an **absurd** idea:
 The mind wants to achieve *peace*
 By **denouncing**
The world's imperfections.

What a **fruitful** ideal:
 The heart wants to achieve *peace*
 By **accepting**
The world's imperfections
 For their total **transformation.**



*UN Delegates carrying and signing
 copy of UN Charter during Peace walk
 in UN Garden.*

52

“To the end I will love the United Nations “ part 1

**Whoever leads the United Nations should
use only the heart,**

The world will feel that the UN has a sincere heart.

**That sincere heart will be able to gain
the confidence of the world.**

Now, because of unfortunate things
that are taking place in various countries,
the **world does not have** the same feeling,
the same **sympathetic heart.**

13 March 2005, Sri Chinmoy, His Compassion is everything to us, Agni Press, 2013

53

To the end I will love the United Nations part 2

**Two things the UN
can do.**

It can bravely
speak out and
say what it feels
is **the right thing**
to say, and

13 March 2005, Sri Chinmoy, His Compassion is
everything to us, Agni Press, 2013

• Dag Hammarskjöld



“ ... But common to us all, and above all other convictions stands the truth, once expressed by a Swedish poet when he said that the greatest prayer of man does not ask for victory but for peace.” – Dag Hammarskjöld

• U Thant



“ ... To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours is in conformity with the teachings of all great religions ... This is the language of the Charter ... ” – U Thant

54

at the same time it can
beg the world
to come to its rescue.
 It can also unreservedly
take advice
from the nations
 that are most
sincerely
ready and
eager to help....



UN-General Assembly during
 29th Session. UN photo-245849

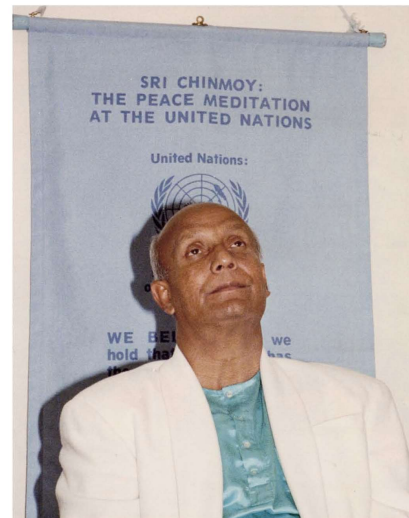
55

To the end I will love the United Nations part 3

To the end I will love and
love the United Nations.

One good word if I hear
 about the United Nations,

I literally
dance in the sky.



Sri Chinmoy meditates for peace at the United Nations during a meeting of the Peace Meditation Group.

13 March 2005, Sri Chinmoy, His Compassion is everything to us, Agni Press, 2013

56