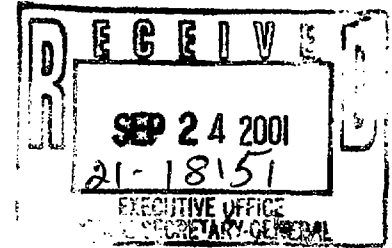


No Action

GMS f.c.

24 September 2001



H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General  
United Nations

UNITED NATIONS:



the Heart-Home  
of the World-Body

We believe and we hold that each man has the potentiality of reaching the Ultimate Truth. We also believe that man cannot and will not remain imperfect forever. Each man is an instrument of God. When the hour strikes, each individual soul listens to the inner dictates of God. When man listens to God, his imperfections are turned into perfections, his ignorance into knowledge, his searching mind into revealing light and his uncertain reality into all-fulfilling Divinity.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

As you may be aware, members of the Peace Meditation have been attending the Interfaith Prayer Services of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations that are held each year at St. Bartholomew's Church. This time we were especially moved by your profound words, and also by the many messages of comfort and concern that you have offered to your staff in these difficult times.

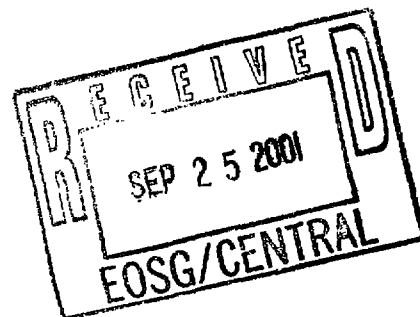
In the wake of this great tragedy, we wanted to share with you a prayerful message by Sri Chinmoy, as well as a beautiful song that he composed, dedicated to the victims and their families. The words of the song appear in the enclosed article from yesterday's *Newsday*.

With great admiration and respect,

Sincerely,

Nilima Silver  
Room S-3001B. Ext. 3-2348

Enclosures



## **Sri Chinmoy's Prayerful Message**

**At this juncture our only bounden Duty is to identify our prayerful hearts with the innocent, harmless and helpless victims and their beloved ones.**

**Our tearful eyes and the bleeding hearts of the relatives and friends have already touched the Compassion-Feet of our Absolute Lord Beloved Supreme. He is with His Infinity's Compassion-Affection-Love-Sweetness-Fondness taking care of His supremely chosen children who have recently arrived at His Heaven-Home.**

**May America the Beautiful forever shine bright-brighter-brightest in the Heart of God the Creator and God the creation.**

**– Sri Chinmoy  
15 September 2001**

# Words That Can Heal the World

Persons of faith and spirit fill the World Trade Center void with counseling and consolation

BY MERLE ENGLISH  
STAFF WRITER

**A**S THE CITY struggles back to its feet in the wake of the World Trade Center debacle, some residents are grappling with how to erase from their memory the horrific images of a fallen icon of freedom and accomplishment, and have good triumph over evil.

Some were inspired to express their feelings in poetry.

Florence Salgado, an aide to the Rev. Timothy Mitchell, pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Flushing, wrote:

"Try as I may  
I will never forget that day  
September eleventh, two thousand and one  
New York was destroyed  
Satan's work was done.  
But try as we will to understand it all  
How could 2 buildings take a fall  
A fall that left so many dead  
How do I get this out of my head  
People missing, people not found  
People buried somewhere underground  
Rescue crews doing a job so well  
A job not of pleasure, but a job of hell  
Though try, try as we may  
Sept. 11th, a hell of a day . . ."

Gerald Deas, a Hollis physician and director of health education communication at the SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn, wrote from a doctor's perspective, referring to the twin

QUEENS  
Dias

towers as "The Arms of the City."

Some excerpts from his nine-stanza piece:

"Like two arms stretching to the heavens  
The towers at the edge of the city  
Greeted the rising and setting of the sun  
each new day . . .

These outstretched arms welcomed and  
embraced thousands of beating hearts  
each day

which kept hopes and dreams  
circulating throughout the world . . .

"Suddenly, one day without warning  
as these arms were preparing to greet  
the sun

They were struck with a devastating pain  
that they could not withstand . . .

They had been wounded by  
unconcerned men with flying missiles  
Quickly the towering arms dropped down  
To the side of the city.

Lady Liberty turned her head and wept . . .

As days passed and the dust and flames settled . . .

The spirits of the men and women

Within those wounded arms

Refused to lose faith in God . . .

And like a starfish was determined

to grow new arms."

Sri Chinmoy, spiritual leader for thousands of followers he calls students at his Sri Chinmoy Centers International in Jamaica, swiftly penned and set to music words of consolation, writing that the victims had "arrived in Heaven."

"World Trade Center, World Trade Center

Our Lord whispers, 'Enter, enter

Into my Heaven-Heart-Home

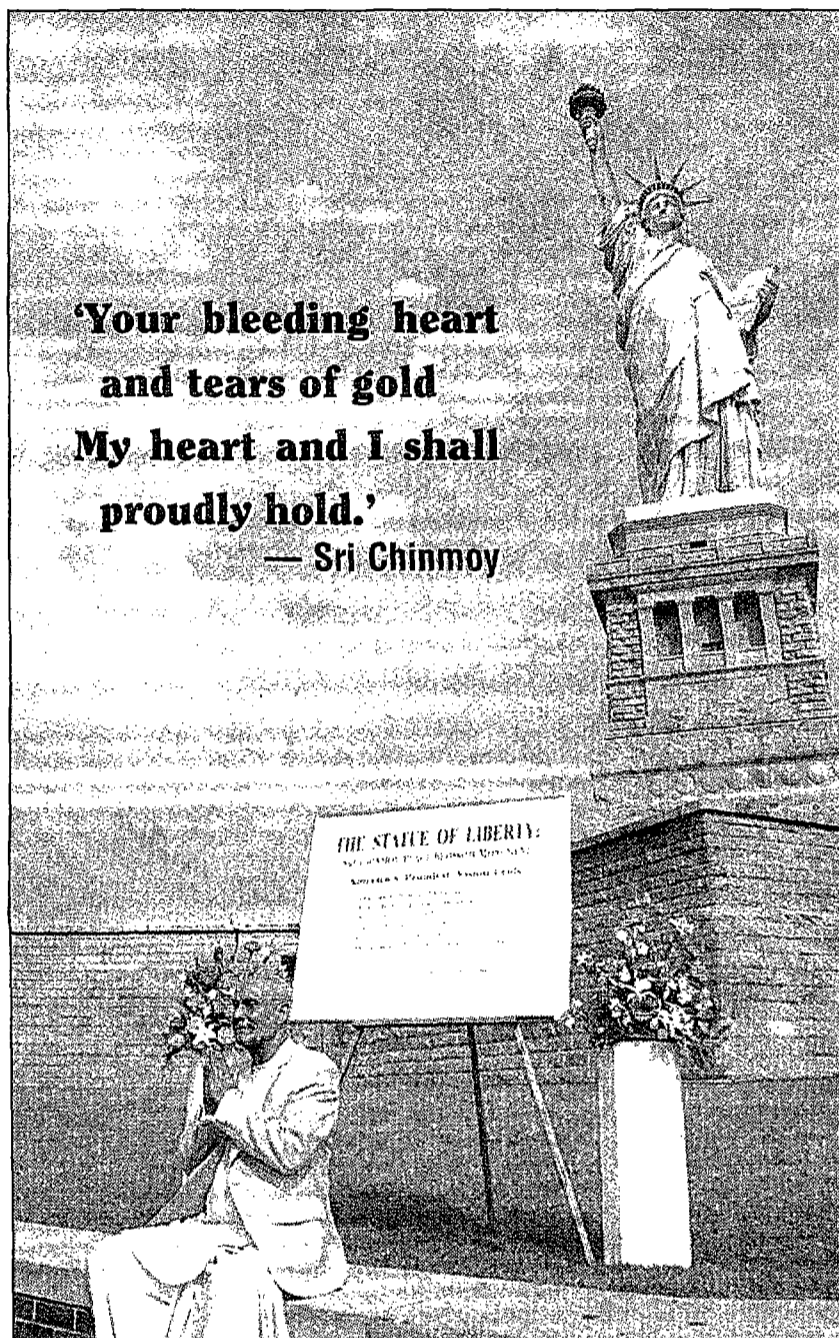
And sing and play and dance and roam

Your bleeding heart and tears of gold

My heart and I shall proudly hold.

No death, no death, no death, no death!

You are my Summit-Treasure-Breath."



AP Photo, 1996

Local advocates of peace such as Sri Chinmoy of Jamaica, above, have turned their passions about the World Trade Center tragedy into poetry.

And, like Prime Minister Winston Churchill rallying the British during World War II, a Manhattan neuromuscular therapist, Sir Abdulla Smith-Ford, took poetic license in offering the Statue of Liberty's uplifting point of view.

"I, the Statue of Liberty, the cross-bearer of freedom,  
am deeply pleased to serve  
these United States of America

I, Lady Liberty, the most honored citizen  
of these parts

Am bereaved, pained and solemnly wounded

Over the unbearable unimaginable,

Tragic acts of inhumanity against America and

New York City

My spirit is strong, I live especially

in the hearts of the free

Continuing to uphold the Founding Fathers'

missions, ideas, values and traditions which

make this nation

The pre-eminent land for freedom, justice and

liberty

These chosen shores born of immigrants

Have always been a safe haven, refuge from despair,

anarchy, poverty and political instability

Even though the brave have gone

home to live in eternity

You the compassionate living who are grieving

for the lost and the missing, feeling  
disillusioned,  
dismayed and violated

Must go on being unbowed, vigilant,  
fearless,

Standing tall, manifesting dreams,  
Defiant with love and unbridled faith

Soaring like an eagle, never giving way  
to those

wishing to clip your wings.

I, Lady Liberty, visibly shaken, never

before

witnessed such a massive assault on

the innocent

Whose agony absorbed into the ethers

rendering every American breathless

Remember, darkness cannot overrule

light

Only love conquers hate

America the land of the free, the holder of

democracy will rise up against the

enemy

My beloved, I pledge to continue being

that beacon

of hope, that ever enduring presence

defending freedom and the American

way.

Yours truly, the Statue of Liberty."

\*\*\*

At traumatic times like these, what do grownups tell the children? The New York City Board of Education had suggestions for parents.

Guidelines that Schools Chancellor Harold Levy issued advised, "In the aftermath of a tragedy, children and teenagers need to understand the factual details about what has happened; to be reassured — truthfully — that they, their families and their friends are safe; and to realize that they are not alone in their confusion, grief and anxiety.

"Students need to discuss the event so that they can effectively cope with the situation," the guidelines state.

And taking the borough's diversity into account, the guidelines cautioned, "Remember that cultural differences exist and students may express emotions in different ways," and, "Be sensitive to conflicts that might arise between various ethnic groups."

Lenon Murray, assistant principal at IS 238 in Hollis, added his own suggestions in a letter to parents, recommending that they hug their child and reassure them that they are loved and will be protected.

"It's fine to let your child know you are upset and sad," Murray wrote, "but make it clear you are not upset with them . . . Make your child feel as far removed from these tragedies as possible."

Bangladeshi immigrant Mina Farah, a Richmond Hill dentist, author and mother of four children, ages 16, 13, 10, and 6, disagreed with that last bit of advice.

"I think there is too much counseling," she said. "You're taking out the courage from the children to deal with themselves, making them depend on you. I went through the freedom fight of my country. I was 15, and nobody counseled me. I saw people dying in front of me and we went out into the field and helped those people. Let them deal with it and be courageous. When you're from a Third World country, you're much stronger than the people here."

In the Rockaways, hit hard by the deaths of about 90 people — about 30 of them Cantor Fitzgerald financial employees at One World Trade Center — Liz Sulik, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Rockaways, is coordinating a daily lunch and dinner service to feed 226 police officers and firefighters on the peninsula. Many of their comrades who lived in the Rockaways lost their lives trying to rescue others.

"Our community has been devastated," Sulik said. "The chamber is raising funds for the victims' fami-

lies.