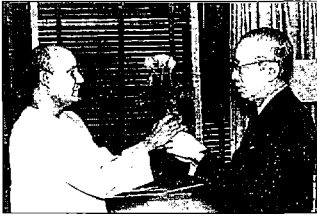


SRI CHINMOY: THE PEACE MEDITATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
85-45-149-Sri Chinmoy Street, Jamaica, New York 11435, U.S.A.

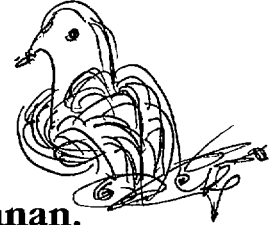
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

February 12th, 1999

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H.E. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY



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.

Highly esteemed Secretary-General Kofi Annan,

I wish to congratulate you from the very depths of my heart for receiving the prestigious Jesse Owens Global Award. I know that you were an excellent sprinter in college, and I am sure that this has offered you a unique and significant preparation for your current service as a supremely chosen sprinter for peace!

Your well-deserved honour gives me special joy, since I also was a great admirer of Jesse Owens and I also happen to be a sprinter. In fact, Jesse Owens was my idol right from my childhood and from my first sprinting days in India. When I had the blessingful opportunity to meet with him at his New York hotel, the Park Lane Hotel, in 1972, it was a lifelong dream come true! My joy and pride knew no bounds when he magnanimously expressed his appreciation for our humble efforts for world peace.

Esteemed Secretary-General, I was extremely moved by the profound and momentous utterances contained in your acceptance speech: "If there are any characteristics I try to summon up in the most important moments of my joy, it is those of concentration, inner calm, and respect for my adversaries." Truly this supremely significant trinity—which you so radiantly manifest—can be of inestimable benefit to all who aspire to be of dedicated service to their fellow human beings.

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Again, you most eloquently stated: "If the 100-metre dash is 10 seconds that last a lifetime, it is also 10 seconds that take a good part of a lifetime to prepare for." If I may also add, I am sure that our Lord Supreme was preparing you as well for your sleepless and breathless service to the entire world. Just as Jesse Owens has been a supreme inspiration for both of us and for countless other young people, your own divine leadership as humanity's peerless peace-server is now inspiring millions upon millions of citizens the world around.

I am praying to our Lord Beloved Supreme to continue to shower upon you His choicest Blessings of infinite Love, Joy, Peace and Satisfaction.

Yours in the Supreme,


Sri Chinmoy

Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations is an association of United Nations delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents holding twice-weekly peace meditations and other programmes at United Nations Headquarters.