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Peace and Harmony
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Foreword from the President of the Royal Institute of Thailand

In this second English issue of the Journal of the Royal Institute, I am particularly pleased that there are several papers promoting peace and harmony, of which our country now has great need, in order to ensure its continued survival and progress. Conflicts within the country and with our neighbour have been threatening peace and unity for some time, and if these conflicts cannot be amicably resolved, our country will be weakened. By uniting in our efforts to solve the serious political and economic problems facing the country and the whole world, we may succeed in bringing benefit to all. Practical strategies: academic, social, ethical and spiritual should be mapped out as a guideline. We need progress in every field of knowledge in order to contribute to the welfare of the people all over the world. The Journal of the Royal Institute aims to contribute towards this objective as much as possible.

Panya Borisutdhi

(Professor Dr. Panya Borisutdhi)
President of the Royal Institute
Editor’s Note

Peace and Harmony is the theme of the Journal of the Royal Institute of Thailand Volume II, 2010. As the present world is facing many conflicts and terrorist activities, we are looking for ways to attain peace and harmony. We cannot leave it to peace activists alone to find the solutions leading to peace and harmony. All of us must join forces to make the world a better place in which to live. The Journal Volume II is the forum.

All religions stress the importance of peace and harmony, yet religions themselves are often the cause of conflict and violence. However, to turn our back on religion is a worse course of action. To see or hear both sides of the story, to reason, to forgive and to seek the middle path or moderation are recommended for all.

If we can get to the root of the conflict which may be racial, political, religious, economic, psychological or moral, we can find the right solution to end the conflict peacefully and avoid violence in any form.

Speaking of peace and non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi’s words and deeds come to our mind. Many people have heeded his words and adopted his method of non-violence or Ahimsa very successfully. Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States of America, Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia (now Czech and Slovakia) can be cited as examples. Yet we must take note that to attain peace, truth and non-violence must join forces. Without truth, that is, if the cause is erroneous, non-violence will be an empty word that will not be achieved, and peace will not be possible. That is why Gandhi calls his method Satyagraha which in Sanskrit means “holding fast to truth”

Non-violence or Ahimsa for Gandhi does not simply mean “not using the violent means.” Non-violence, according to Gandhi, also means love, compassion and tolerance. Not using weapons may be easy, but it is very difficult to achieve true non-violence. Gandhi says, “We may never be strong enough to be entirely non-violent, in thought, word and deed. But we must keep non-violence as our goal and make steady progress towards it … The truth of a few will count. The untruth of millions will vanish even like chaff before a whiff of wind.”

This volume offers readers various views concerning peace and harmony. While Mahatma Gandhi offers the use of Satyagraha, this forum is open wide for all ideas and contributions within and outside the theme.

Srisurang Poolthupya

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When I hear the word “peace,” I think of a pigeon soaring joyously towards the sky without having to fight or quarrel any longer with fellow birds or other animals. It is all about Peace and Freedom at the same time.

The theme of this issue of the Journal of the Royal Institute of Thailand is “Peace”. Therefore, I began to design the cover for the journal by sketching the picture of “Peace” in my imagination. The preliminary sketch was drawn by pencil on paper. It was a small picture only 8 x 10 cm. in size, depicting a pigeon soaring up to the sky, with the pigeon placed at the upper part of the paper to illustrate the flying motion. The background of the picture was drawn so that the upper part was darker than the lower part to emphasize the wide perspective of the sky and to enhance the pigeon, so that it became more distinctive and buoyant. (Figure 1)

The picture of the pigeon according to my imagination still lacked a lot of factual details. It was therefore necessary for me to study real pigeons as well as their photographs and to make sketches of them flying. I needed to observe the way they spread their wings and the characteristics of their legs while soaring up to the sky, including other details such as their feathers and the colors of the feathers. (Figure 2)

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**Figure 1**
Preliminary sketch for “Peace”, 8 x 10 cm.

**Figure 2**
Study of flying pigeons, 23 x 23 cm.
From studying the pigeons and their photographs, I found that none of my study works fitted my specification. So I made a new sketch using those of my study works as my source of data. I chose to draw the pigeon at 45 degrees diagonally and made the wings spread to a certain width in a soaring position. If the spread of the wings was too wide it would result in a picture of a pigeon gliding in the sky, which was not my concept in painting the picture. Significantly, I cut out some unnecessary factual details and made the lines sweet and flowing like those of Thai paintings, making the pigeon more idealistic. (Figure 3)

When I obtained the sketch I desired, I used watercolor and color pencil to paint a 27 x 32 cm. painting on paper, starting with painting the whole area in blue first to show the vast sky, leaving a white space for the body of the pigeon. Then I used color pencil to draw over every part of the picture to emphasize the atmosphere and harmony within the picture. This served to suggest that the radiant white pigeon was soaring up to the sky with a happy frame of mind, with no need to fight or quarrel with fellow birds or other animals any longer, rendering a feeling of peace and freedom at the same time. (Figure 4)

The picture of a radiant white pigeon soaring up to the sky with a joyous mind contains soft and sweet flowing lines in the style of Thai painting. It is the picture of an ideal pigeon that conveys the concept of “Peace.”

Nevertheless, “Peace” is not an idealistic concept or belongs to any one nation. All of us can turn this idea into reality if we only cooperate to make it happen.

Figure 3
Sketch of flying pigeons for “Peace,” 12 x 12 cm.

Figure 4
“Peace”, 2010. Watercolor and color pencil on paper, 27 x 32 cm.