

# *Our Beautiful Parcel from Hiroshima*













# Summer Cloud

A-bomb Experience  
of  
A Girls' School in Hiroshima



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# History of the Lantern Floating

At 8:15 a.m. 6th August, 1945, the first A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The A-bomb killed many people in a moment. Although survived, many were burned awfully. Due to the unbearable heat and pain, they threw themselves into the rivers one by one.

Around the year of 1948, the survivors and citizens floated lanterns praying that their parents and friends killed by A-bomb may rest in peace.

At that time, black market, especially in front of stations such as Hiroshima, Yokogawa, and Koi, was crowded and shopping street consisting of barracks was started to be built in the central city. It is the origin of the lantern floating.

Generally, we write the victim's name and the name of ourselves, and float lanterns.

But these days, we often see many travelers or those who come for praying write "prayer for peace" on lanterns and float them.

## **The origin of "the Lantern" unique in Hiroshima**

The lantern floating or lantern has been held nation wide in Japan as a kind of ceremony for paying our respect for our ancestors. Generally, we float small lanterns or ships made of wheat straw on river or sea. We call them "soul ship" or "soul floating".

The "soul floating" held in Nagasaki City in August is typical of them. It was derived from a ceremony of maritime people to send their ancestors' soul with these ships to heaven.

As they believed the soul comes back to home during the "the Bon festival". Lantern floating in Hiroshima on 6th August started as a Buddhists' ceremony, that has been succeeded for a long time. The correlation between "Bon lantern", that is unique to "Aki Monto" in Hiroshima, and "the lantern floating" is not closer compared with the correlation between the tragedy of A-bomb and "lantern floating". But it cannot be denied that "the lantern floating" came from the culture producing "Bon lantern". At night on 6th August, countless lanterns floating in front of the A-bomb Dome remind us of the Bon lanterns".

There, the pray for soul and respect for ancestors and atmosphere of festival unite in mysterious balance.

## **It used to be the festival celebrating "the Revival of Hiroshima"**

The second half of 1950's, Hiroshima grew into a city with highest proportion in Japan. "Peace Main Street" was the symbol of the new city planning and many inspectors from all over Japan visited there.

On 6th August, we prayed for victims in the daytime. And from evening, we held festival celebrating the revival of Hiroshima.

Since the year of 1964, in an attempt to resolve the traffic jam around the Peace Memorial Park, firework festival has been put together with the Hiroshima Port Festival, and only lantern floating has been held. Around the year of 1961, 20,000 to 30,000 lanterns in all were floated in 3days from night of 6th. Now, about 10,000 lanterns were floated from several points in 6 rivers.

These days, concerning about the environmental problem, floated lanterns were collected in the lower reaches. In the past, some lanterns reached to Shikoku area.





## 「とうろう流し」の歴史

昭和20年8月6日午前8時15分、世界初の原子爆弾が広島に投下されました。原爆は一瞬にして多くの命を奪いましたが、即死を免れてもひどいやけどを負った人たちが大勢いました。その人たちの多くは、その熱さと痛みに耐えかねて近くの川に次々に身を投げたと言われています。



広島、横川、己斐といった駅前を中心にヤミ市がにぎわい、中心部にやっとバラック建ての商店が建ち始めた昭和23～4年ごろ、両親や知人を原爆で失った遺族、市民たちが追善と供養のため、手作り灯ろうを川に流したのが「とうろう流し」の始まりと言われています。灯ろうには、亡くなられた方の名前（法名または俗名）と流した人の名前（施主名）を書き込むのが一般的ですが、最近では国内外から旅行で来られた方々が「平和への思い」を書かれる光景も目立つようになりました。長い歴史を持つ「とうろう流し」は、「慰霊」と「ピースメッセージ」の両方の意味を持つようになりました。

### 広島独特の「とうろう」の由来

日本各地には、昔からお盆の終わりの日に小さな灯ろうや、麦わらで作った舟を川や海に流す、「精霊舟」とか「精霊流し」と呼ばれる風習があります。長崎市内で8月に行われる精霊流しの行事は、その儀式的発展型でしょう。これらは、盆の期間中各家庭に戻ってきた祖先の霊を、精霊船に乗せて、死者の世界へ無事送り返すための海洋民族の儀式として始まったものようです。そして、広島には「安芸門徒」特有の、お盆にお墓に色とりどりの灯ろうを飾る「盆灯ろう」の風習があります。それと「精霊流し」の風習が合体したのが、現在の「とうろう流し」のルーツだと考えられています（いつ、誰が始めたかは定かではありません）。



原爆で親族を亡くされた人たちは、毎年8月6日に灯ろうを流すことが供養であると思われています。まさにお盆にお墓参りされるのと、まったく同じ思いなのです。

### かつては「広島の復興」を祝うお祭りだった

昭和30年代になり、広島は全国でも有数の成長率を誇る都市となり、平和大通り（百米道路）は新しい都市計画の象徴として全国から視察団が訪れていました。そんな中、8月6日は広島市民にとって、お昼までは死没者の霊を弔う日、夕方からは広島の復興を祝うお祭りの日となっていたようです。昭和39年、平和記念公園一帯の交通渋滞を理由に、花火大会が広島港祭りに吸収、合併され、流灯行事だけとなりました。36、7年ごろには6日夜から3日間、計2万個から3万個も流されていましたが、現在では六つの川の数カ所から約1万個が流されています。



なお、現在では環境問題に配慮して、流された灯ろうは下流にて引き上げられています。昔は四国の辺りまで流れ着いた灯ろうもあったそうです。

### 実際に行っているのは

広島の代表的な原爆ドーム前の「とうろう流し」は、昭和30年前後から地元商店街の店主達が、広島市の協力を得て自主的に開催しています。現在は広島市中央部商店街振興組合連合会（中振連）が、所属の商店街・大型店の役員の方々と市民ボランティアの方々の協力の下に実施しています。

また、とうろう流しの種火には、故・山本達雄さんが被爆から1ヶ月後に本通の金正堂から持ち帰って福岡県八女郡星野村に保存されている「原爆の残り火」を採火して使用しています。







広島市



The City of Hiroshima



### Message from the Mayor of Hiroshima

It is an honor and a pleasure to send this message on the occasion of Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative Candle Float 2021.

On August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb destroyed our city, claiming countless innocent civilian lives. Having experienced the tragedy of the bombing, Hiroshima continuously appeals for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons based on the *hibakusha*'s conviction: "No one else should suffer as we have."

However, we see self-centered nationalism in ascendance, promulgated by world leaders and in particular those of nuclear superpowers, and tensions heightened by international exclusivity and rivalry. These trends, which seem to trivialize our appeals for peace, are on the rise: the continued intensification of self-centered nationalism as humanity faces its newest threat, COVID-19, serves as case in point.

Despite this, the world is currently working together to tackle the novel coronavirus; proof that we are capable of responding to this threat. In much the same way, I believe that the people of the world will be able to overcome the threat posed to humankind by nuclear weapons through coming together under the principles common to us all and remaining steadfast in our opposition. As the number of people who can speak of the horrors of these weapons from experience declines, it becomes increasingly important to pass their earnest wish for peace on to the next generation, establish as a shared value in civil society the idea that nuclear weapons and war should not exist, and make every effort towards realizing lasting world peace.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which went into effect in 1970 and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force in January 2021 are both critical to eliminating nuclear weapons. They comprise a framework that we must pass on to future generations, yet their future is opaque. For world leaders to strengthen their determination to ensure this framework functions effectively, it is vital that we create an environment that steers them towards transforming policy: we must continue to raise awareness of peace in civil society to generate a groundswell towards peace and nurture international public opinion for nuclear abolition. I therefore find it truly significant that you have organized Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative Candle Float to call for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons and I extend to you my deepest respect.

Together with more than 8,000 Mayors for Peace member cities from 165 countries and regions, the City of Hiroshima intends to create an environment that encourages world leaders to take steps towards nuclear abolition. I would like to ask all of you to act in solidarity with us as we strive to eliminate the absolute evil that is nuclear weapons and realize lasting world peace.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the great success of this event as well as the good health and happiness of all in attendance.

August 6, 2021

MATSUI Kazumi  
Mayor  
The City of Hiroshima



*Thank you!*

*The links between us represent so much*



