

庭野平和財団 総裁

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庭野日敬

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第6回庭野平和賞が、天台座主・山田恵諦猊下に贈られることになりました。日本天台宗の総本山である比叡山は、日本の仏教の母山といわれております。ここで学ばれた先師たちによって多くの宗派が興され、その法燈が脈々と現在に伝えられています。その第253世天台座主を受け継がれた山田猊下は、「真の宗教は“この人をどうしても救わなければならない”という願いをもつがゆえに価値があり、そこに生命がある」という、ゆるぎない信念を貫かれておられます。「すべての宗教がその見地に立つならば、日本の宗教各派はもちろん、世界中の宗教が教理の違いを超えて手をにぎり合える。いや、手を携えずにいられないはずだ」と、自らの行動をもって示されておられるのです。

「一隅を照らす運動」に心血を注がれ、中国へ渡られて日中友好のきずなを深められ、ローマ教皇提唱のアッシジ世界平和祈願の集いに参加され、その祈りの集いを日本の宗教界の力を結集して比叡山開創1200年に継承し、さらに、第5回世界宗教者平和会議に参加して“祈り”を主唱し、その精神的支柱となっております。

猊下が満93歳というご高齢で一身を捧げて平和のために世界を行脚されるそのお姿に、伝教大師が「一人でも救われない人がいるかぎり、私はいくたびでも生まれ変わって人びとを導きたい」とご遺誡されたお姿をそのまま見る思いがいたします。世界の平和を築くための活動の先頭に自ら立たれる猊下の毅然としたそのお姿が、私ども同志に限りない勇気と励ましを与えて下さるのです。いつまでもお元氣な活躍を心からお祈りして御挨拶とさせていただきます。

His Eminence Etai Yamada, chief abbot of the Tendai sect of Buddhism, has been selected to receive the sixth Niwano Peace Prize.

Mount Hiei, the seat of Tendai Buddhism, has been called the “mother mountain” of Japanese Buddhism. Generations of priests trained there founded many new sects, ensuring the unbroken transmission of Buddhist teachings down to the present. As Etai Yamada, the two hundred fifty-third chief abbot of Tendai, has declared, “It is the wish to save every individual that gives true religion its value and makes it a living entity.” He himself has adhered firmly to this belief throughout his life. His actions testify to his conviction that “If all religions took this point of view, not only the various sects of Japanese Buddhism but all the religions of the world could overcome their doctrinal differences and join hands. Indeed, how could they refrain from doing so?”

Etai Yamada’s achievements are manifold. In Japan, he has devoted himself to promoting the “Light Up a Corner of the World Movement.” Through his travels to China he has deepened the ties of Sino-Japanese friendship. He took part in the World Day of Prayer for Peace convened in Assisi at the behest of Pope John Paul II in 1986. The following year, mobilizing the united efforts of Japanese religious circles, he organized a similar gathering on Mount Hiei timed to coincide with the twelve hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the religious complex there. He was also a spiritual mainstay of the fifth assembly of the World Conference on Religion and Peace in January this year, when once again he stressed the importance of prayer.

Etai Yamada is now ninety-three years old. The way in which he travels the world as a pilgrim for peace despite his advanced age reminds me of the dying words of the great Buddhist priest Saicho, who brought the teachings of Tendai from China to Japan early in the ninth century: “As long as even one person remains unsaved, I want to continue being reborn and guiding people to the truth.” The dauntless manner in which Etai Yamada has placed himself in the vanguard of activities on behalf of world peace encourages and emboldens us all. I sincerely pray that he will continue to be vigorously active for many years to come.