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by gathering cities where UNESCO World Heritage Sites are located.

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For All Gods of the World

“Which story do you prefer?”

The movie <Life of Pi> from Director Ang Lee posed a unique question about faith. The

beautiful story by protagonist Pi, its wonderful sceneries,
but yet, the reality is too terrible to face. We begin to deliberate over what is true,
but occasionally we choose a story ‘we would like to believe’;
what we want to believe instead of the real truth.

The smallest existence in nature started to believe in something
which could be the light of its life.

Even the smallest villages have their own place of worship for their God.

These religious spaces invite a very special environment
which cannot be explained with everyday language.
Moderate silence, pleasant fragrance, smell of old dust,
and the silent prayers whispered from a distance,
starting to form a harmony and then filling the entire space.

From the point that they are based on belief,
it is very natural for old religious sites to be a majority
in the list of world heritages.

Religious beliefs began to take root in wishing for a better life,
or by some specific experience, or more deeply from the question
of existence itself; thus religious spaces could only become naturally
more beautiful over time through the generous hearts of believers.

There are mountain temples in places where no one can reach,
and monks even built an abbey on the top of mountains
to reach closer to the sky. With thousands of tiles,
people built magnificent temples than any other building and even dedicated their
lives to sculpting the image of God. The spaces derived
from religious beliefs sometimes can be seen as solemn places,
but they are wonderful regardless of one’s religious beliefs.

A place for all Gods of this world. Regardless of any story you listen to,
we all rest and worship in this space under the same and common belief of ‘faith’.

Before freedom of worship, there was a time when religion bore an era in our long, before past. The ‘state religion’ itself was power and whenever new Dynasties were born, that power deeply penetrated from daily manners to cultural customs. If the Joseon Dynasty had Confucian ideals, the former era of the Three Kingdoms¹⁾ was that of Buddhism.

After the death of Lee Cha Don, Buddhism in the Silla Dynasty flourished a little late, but its impact was much deeper and more splendid. The Buddhism of the Silla Dynasty was a useful tool for strengthening the royal authority and at the same time, the only dream which could be dreamt by the peasants. For numerous reasons, Buddhism fit perfectly with the Silla Dynasty and its traces can still be seen in a City called Gyeongju.

Buddhism, Silla and Gyeongju



The Land of Buddha: Where We Yearn to Reach Bulguksa Temple

Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple | Inscribed in 1995

Bulguk (the Land of Buddha) was the dream of Silla people and they realized their firm belief into visible achievements. All details from the planning to the implementation of spaces were performed diligently and without error. From the stone platform, the upper part was designed to be the Land of Buddha and the lower part was to be the space of ordinary people who could not yet reach the Land of Buddha. One walks up the 33 stairs known as Baegungyo Bridge and Cheongungyo Bridge, on the way to the main temple which holds the statue of Buddha. Here, one's state of mind is completely renewed as heading toward the Land of Buddha. Considering that they called those stairs a 'bridge', it is evident just how much they desired to 'cross' up into that world. The Land of Buddha cannot be reached easily but it is open to everyone. The people of Silla should have crossed these bridges thousand times, following a utopia right in front of their eyes, so close that they could almost touch it.

Standing on the stone platform and passing Jahamun Gate, the Dabotap Tower and Sakyamuni Pagoda face each other in a straight line. The clear and simple Sakyamuni Pagoda and the complicated Dabotap tower protect the main temple, demonstrating completely different styles of beauty. They are so different that seeing them may bring about a question of "Why?" And yet, their beauty overwhelms the visitor. The Bulguksa Temple is a vessel containing many meanings in a harmonious way. The space of this paradise is similar to our lives but too far from us at the same time.

1) The three kingdoms of Baekje, Silla and Goguryeo. Goguryeo was later known as Goryeo, from which the modern name Korea is derived. The Three Kingdoms period was defined as being from 57 BC to 668 AD. Silla has achieved the unification of the three countries.



A Sympathy Called Religion; the Impression made by Space

Seokguram Grotto

Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple | Inscribed in 1995

Words cannot even explain the wonderful moment, that is, when one faces the Seokguram Grotto. The great statue of Buddha sitting with crossed legs under the round ceiling and the 10 surrounding delicate sculptures offers a short silence and lingering image. Regardless of one's reason to visit, whatever you believe, our old heritage Seokguram offers you an indiscriminate impression.

The Silla Dynasty, which ensured internal stability in all areas of politics, culture and economy after unifying the three Korean Kingdoms, was experiencing an unprecedented period of revival. Based on the stable societal conditions, the great achievements of Buddhist culture represented by Bulguksa Temple and Seokguram Grotto started to show. Someone once stated that the Seokguram Grotto was built by the filial love of Kim Dae Sang;²⁾ but even the blossoming of that love could be achieved thanks to historical timing. King Gyeongdeok who was also one of the 'people/believer' besides his position as the ruler of the country, used his power and religious ideas in a very clever manner. The atmosphere of the people which empathized with Buddhism, the filial love of Kim Dae Sang and the prominent support of King Gyeongdeok were gathered to build the first artificial stone cave in human history. Maybe the reason why Silla culture flourished so magnificently was the promise of that time: that having faith in God was the right way.

2) He initiated and supervised the construction of the Bulguksa Temple and the Seokguram grotto, The Temple built in memory of his parents of the present life and the Grotto in memory of his parents from a previous life. in memory of his parents from a previous life.



Every Friday: A Moment of Blue Lights, the Time We Meet God

Median Emam

Meidan Emam, Esfahan | Inscribed in 1979

A unique country, Iran. Our image of the country is quite dark. Maybe it is because of the endless war, terrorism and religious conflicts unfortunately associated with the place. Nonetheless, the historical and religious aspects of their long history are beautiful. Among all the aspects of the Islamic culture, Esfahan, the pearl of Iran, is a city which lives up to its name: 'the Half of the World' (Nesf-e-Jahan).

Muslims worship devotedly 5 times a day and perform their collective worship at the Mosque every Friday. The Mosque, the space for Allah, is the symbol of Islam and acts as a place of life in itself. The Imam Mosque of Esfahan, inscribed as World Cultural Heritage in 1979, is decorated with splendid and delicate tiles. As their color is blue, it is also called the 'Blue Mosque' or 'Royal Mosque'. The Mosque covered with delicate tiles changes its entire color according to the angle of the sunlight.

When entering the Mosque through the high arch entrance, there is a garden which is like a replica of Imam square. The praying site is partially covered by a minaret³⁾ and dome which can be reached across the garden; therein lays the true beauty of the Imam Mosque. The blue tiles which surround the entire space make the visitor feel as if they are in a completely different world. The sound produced in this space resonates 7 times around the entire dome. Thanks to this design, the chanting and praying of the Koran clearly reverberates in the space and to all the believers. The truth that we are all equal in front of God is reflected in this space in such a warm way.

3) Minaret is a distinctive architectural structure akin to a tower and typically found adjacent to mosques. Generally a tall spire with a conical or onion-shaped crown, usually either free-standing or taller than associated support structure. The basic form of a minaret includes a base, shaft, and gallery



Recalling the Beginning in the Oldest Space

Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem

Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem | Inscribed in 2012

Happy birthday! Every birth includes the fate of death by nature of life; nevertheless, we all celebrate one miraculous birth. This is one of the reasons why Christmas, which comes every year, is so warm and joyful. Carols are played throughout the streets and regardless of religion we all celebrate Christmas; the birth of baby Jesus. With birth withholding 'beginning' in meaning, Bethlehem obviously has a special religious value in Christianity. According to the New Testament, Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, stayed in a small village near Jerusalem called Bethlehem, and they gave birth to Baby Jesus in a stable due to a sudden birth. In this sacred space is the oldest church in the world.

Like the old castle of Jerusalem, it is under joint control of the Roman Catholic, Armenian Orthodox Church and the Greek Orthodox Church. In this space, priests with different robes serve their Gods according to their own methods. To enter the church, one must pass through a 1.2m-high door, and even the shortest person must incline to pass through. This door, which was designed to prevent external invasions, has now been converted into the 'symbol of humbleness' in order to meet God. Going down the altar, pilgrims wait in line to see the Silver Star which marks the birth place of Jesus Christ. This everlasting waiting would only be a blessing for visitors. The Church of the Nativity, which was registered as a World Cultural Heritage together with the Pilgrimage Route of Bethlehem, is also registered as 'World Heritage in Danger'. As they say that the main reason of the internal deterioration is the colossal number of visitors, it could be a bitter notice for those who traveled long distances to see it.

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The Primal Catholicism, In the Name of Saint Peter

Saint Peter's Cathedral

Vatican City | Inscribed in 1984

Every part of the Vatican Holy City invites the eye. The magnificent artwork fills us with emotion just hearing their names, and the magnificent pillars and obelisks become a great painting forming a harmony with the Roman sky. And in the center of this place, the Vatican, there is Saint Peter's Cathedral. This cathedral, established above Saint Peter's resting place, is composed with 500 pillars, 50 altars and 450 sculptures. The greatest artists of the time: Raphael, Sangaro, Michelangelo, Bernini, etc., invested their souls to decorate this space. The dignity of the Cathedral seen from the exterior is just the beginning. Entering the cathedral, the visitor is literally 'enchanted' by the overwhelming scale and splendor. The 137m space beneath the dome is sacredly filled with sunlight and underneath rests Saint Peter.

In the starting point of the dome, also where light starts its path, is a carved Bible verse. The story of Saint Peter's Cathedral is perfectly contained in this verse, explaining the reason of its existence. When entering the cupola at the end of winding stairs, the 'Key of Heaven' designed by Bernini can be seen at a glance. From the central plaza, two semicircular galleries form perfect bilateral symmetry and they seem to embrace pilgrims with their arms. While showing the common truth of humanity of 'love your neighbor as yourself', they completed 'their own world' which was completely separated within Rome. 🌍

Where Do We Come From?

What Are We?

Where Are We Going?



This is the title of a work from Gauguin's last days, also representing his last will. "Where are we from? What are we? Where are we going?" are the questions that Gauguin gave to those living his era, but they are still relevant to those of us living the present. These questions also invite following questions such as: "Who am I? How do we live and why do we die? What is the origin of this world? What is the reason and what is the purpose of our existence?" In this time of chaos and emptiness, where every standard and order are dissolved and restructured, the attempt to associate and explore these questions about identity with a religion known as the "old future," might turn out to be a conclusive explanation on life. Nevertheless, there remains hope that we could consider our past, present and future through the stories of religions as an old future which shares the origin and history of humanity.



Ra, the Sun God of Ancient Egypt

As the form of religion is absolute in maintaining the unity of culture, belief and ideology are considered to be the basis for civilization development. The studies and wisdoms of Egyptian civilization and the Egyptian religion that fundamentally formed the civilization and also charming the ancient Greco-Romans, were basically Polytheist as other countries of the orient. The sun and the Earth, the sky and the sea, natural phenomenon, and several animals were considered to represent eternal Gods, leading Egyptians to personify animals and plants. There were immense numbers and types of worshiped Gods, but out of them, the most accurate symbol is the sun.

The permanent, one and only God who sits on top of the Egypt Pantheon (temple for the Gods) symbolizes the Sun. It is the essence of everything and where every person was born, the beginning of all forms of life, father of fathers, mother of mothers, the owner of the will to govern the entire world and the brilliant land of the sun in harmony. The greatest God, Ra, is the Sun of daytime, the King of the Gods and supporter of Pharaoh. Ra, the creator of everything and the central God who rules all worlds of sky, land and underground is a powerful and absolute God who was worshipped in all Egypt, and the center of worship was Heliopolis. Based on this fact, some state that Egyptian belief was Monotheist and not Polytheist.

Anyways, Ra wears the crown surrounded

by Uraeus, the sacred cobra and sails on the barge of Sun. Ra follows Goddess Nut from the eastern to western sky and creates the day. Sailing to the east towards Geb, the God of the earth, Ra creates night. Sunrise signifies the resurrection of Ra and sunset his death, therefore most of the tombs including the Pyramids were basically built at the west bank of the Nile River. Also, based on the firm belief on resurrection through the legend of Ra, Egyptians developed mummies to preserve the soon-to-be revived body. Moreover, a Sun God temple was built to commemorate Ra. Here, sunlight shined every spot of the temple, and a stone Obelisk which expressed the divine body of the Sun God, Ra, was located at the center of the altar. The trace of the Sun God, Ra, exists deeply starting from the Pyramids, mummies and Obelisks which represent ancient Egypt. The enormous and old step Pyramids built in Memphis and Necropolis were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage (1979).



Do we have any future story that is more certain than death?

The Belief Met at the End of Death's Fear

June 21st is summer solstice-when the day is longest in the north hemisphere. This day, British people visited Stonehenge located at Salisbury, Wiltshire state (inscribed as the World Heritage of UNESCO in 1986, modified in 2008) waiting for sunrise. Those visiting Stonehenge, which is assumed to be a Neolithic tomb, are not only Celtic polytheists or believers of ancient religion originating from England. There were many tourists who simply came to see the sunrise and wish for health and peace. Here at a tomb of an ancient one, a place full of death, people make resolutions for their lives. What else could be the surest future than death for you and for us? Every person would have thought at least once about death. Everyone dies. Human beings live thinking of death. The way to see death has been an important theme for humankind. One of the important matters which we meet at the end of death's fear is religion. Well, it may also be philosophy. The perspective of death varies by religion, philosopher and thinker, and even within a same religion, the cognition on death have changed through ages. In Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism, it is believed that one's existence is moved to heaven, hell or purgatory or, transmigrated. Meanwhile, Confucius proposed the agnosticism on death saying that "How would I know about death when I don't even know about life?" In Christianity death is the price of the original sin, but people do not fear any more of death as it was conquered by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. They believe that they will be invited to heaven

on the Day of Judgment, and they are only afraid of being excluded from the judgment. In the 17 ~ 18th centuries, heaven existed then as a wish instead of a reality, and many suffered from melancholy (depression). In the age of Romanticism, death was considered something irrelevant to sin and even as something beautiful with no pain. The consideration for pursuing something permanent in this meaningless world, 'something that would not rot' was similar in the oriental world. According to Confucianism, life and death are only natural processes and death is accepted as a comfortable rest. Taoism considered that both death and life were traces of natural change. Only after transcending the past and present we might enter to a level where there is no death or life. The death in Islam means the status when the soul and body are separated, and its unity is eliminated. Death is the moment when the soul ends its care on the body, and it means liberation from the agony of life: happiness. How is death nowadays? The death in a hospital room is judged by a doctor instead of a priest. According to a folk belief in Bretagne, France, people believe that our souls turn into small living things after death, for example something as a fly. The Slods of Philippines believed people become crickets, the Slavs thought we turned into birds and the Irish as butterflies. When we face the death, or more concretely, at this point when we are inevitably walking toward death, the faith that religion conclusively gave us might be the power of that religion.



“Your Holy War, Our Disaster”

From the Medieval Age Crusade to 9/11

‘The city occupied by Israel but not owned by any nation according to international law’. This is the dictionary definition of Jerusalem. This contradictory definition is comprehensible as Jerusalem is the sacred site for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These three religions are based on the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), worship Abraham as their common ancestor and believe in the one and only God. Yahweh (Jehova), God, Allah, the names are different, but all these names explain one same God. But they show remarkable difference in the perspective on Jesus. Judaism denies Jesus, Christianity worships Jesus as a holy being. Islam is the last of the three to develop as a religion, recognizing Jesus only as a normal individual without any holiness based on their strict monotheism. Jerusalem was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Israel since 1,000 B.C., and after the fall by the Roman legionary in 63 A.D., it became the sacred site of Christianity as it was designated as Rome’s state religion. In 638, the city was occupied by the Arabians for a long period.

The dark Middle Age which lasted around 1,000 years from the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 to 1492, when Columbus discovered America, was a history governed by religion and war. The Crusade thought by Europe is a series of wars organized by medieval Christians to protect the sacred land of Christianity. All who participated in this war believed that their sins will be forgiven. The armies were organized to fight against the enemies of Jesus, but they

considered themselves as pilgrims. On the other hand, for the Muslims who were invaded, the Crusade is understood as continuous European invasion on the Islamic world. They even consider that all European invasions to the Islamic world in the modern era are related with the Crusade. The tragedy related with the historical horrors of the Crusade is not individual but collective, and this nightmare usually leads people to intense emotion known as revenge.

This Crusade which was stained with blood and madness for 8 times in 200 years becomes the point of understanding on the conflict and disharmony of today’s Western and Islamic world. It is the vicious circle of terrorism and retaliation. The Gulf War of ‘Blood will have Blood’, the Bosnian War, the Afghanistan War, war between Iraq and the America-based allied forces, daily conflicts between Palestine and Israel, and to the horrible terrorisms occurring all around the world after 9/11. Why do they take firearms in the name of Allah? Jerusalem was inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage in 1981. It was Jordan, an Islamic state that applied for Jerusalem’s registration although the region is currently occupied by Israel. Jerusalem is also registered as World Heritage in Danger due to endless conflicts based on religious circumstances. This deep and strong grudge derived from Jerusalem, meaning the ‘city of peace’ in Hebrew, is continuously bringing controversial topics which must be considered by all of us even in this moment.



Are we not afraid of new religions of the future?

The Question Given to Us Living the 21st Century

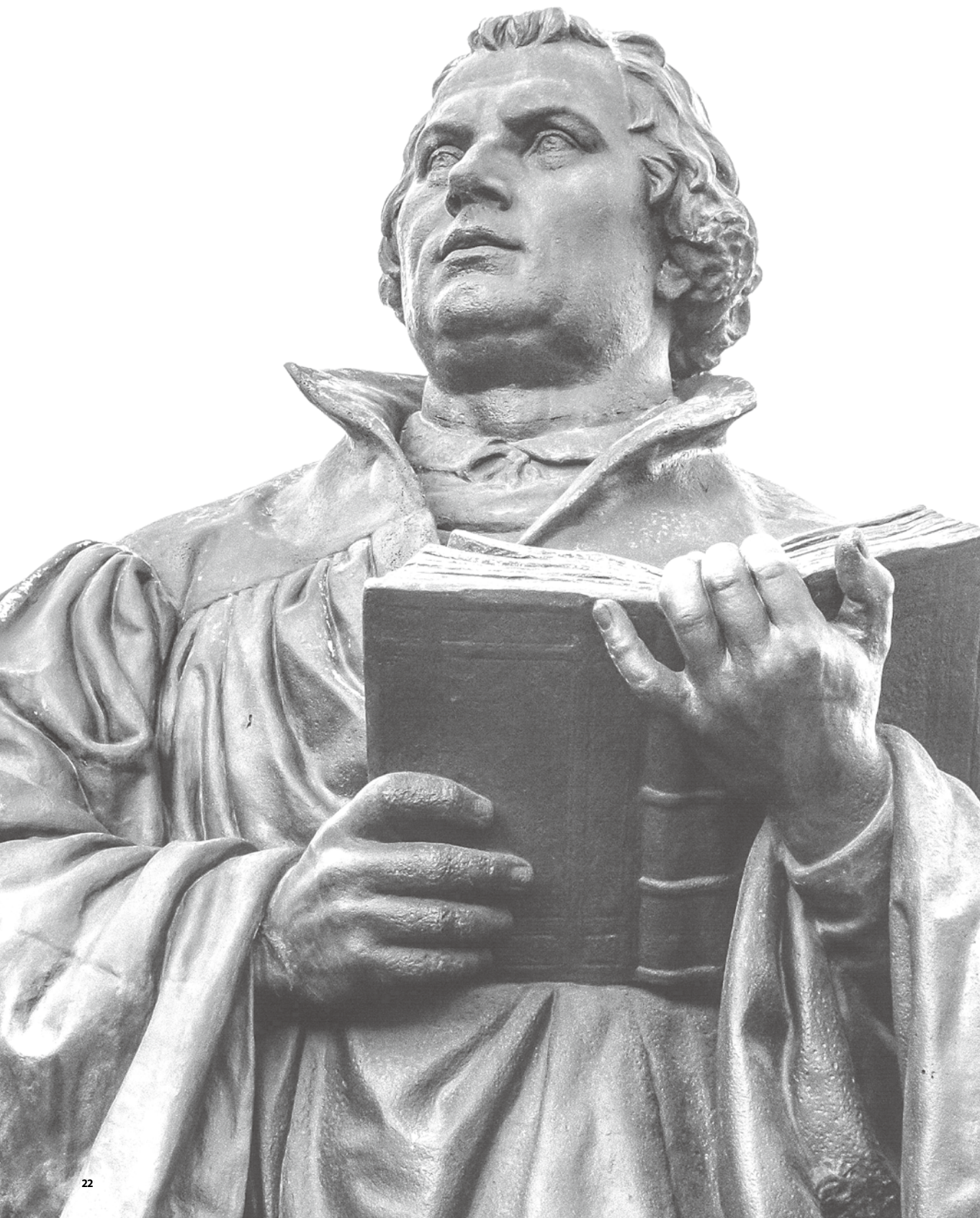
The meaningful question for us, relating to the discussion of 21st century religion must not be 'Do you believe in God, or not', but should be 'How am I living in this world as a believer of God?' Amongst many issues where various religions are related to, each religion must hold responsibility in agonizing over co-existence. Now, it is time to consider love for every life and humanity, and life of practicing hospitality in daily lives and not within a systematized religion.

As 18th century's humanism substituted the place of God by transferring the God-centered outlook of the world to a human-based view, the new religion of the 21st century may substitute humanity by converting the anthropocentric world into a data-oriented universe. Cosmopolitans, universal citizens, in other words, world citizens who transcended sex, race, nationality, class and further more- must love every human and life, and should pursue peace and justice. The common good: the happiness of humanity must be the identical objective pursued by every ideology and religion. Thus, the religion is providing the answer to this issue but also giving a 'question' at the same time. 🙏



The Perpetuation of Memories Shared Within a Religion

Historical memories are transmitted and reproduced through different methods, such as printed and visual media. The history of religions of all humanity is also left as these records. The influence in formatting a collective memory beyond the fundamental function of recording incidents and facts is remarkably grand. Among the information of international importance, with great presence in world history beyond the boundaries of communal culture as one single unit as nation, we will backtrack to the records related to religions. We might deem on the transcendental value of the diverse records which were prepared to perpetuate specific memories shared within the community.



In the Fullness of Time

Martin Luther: The start of Reformation, and the records of early development

Documents representing the beginning and the early development of the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther
Germany, Inscribed as Memory of the World of UNESCO in 2015

The medieval age was a time in which the classification of classes was very firm and clear. There were nobles and peasants, priests and laypersons. When nobles governed on peasants, holy priests reigned over the mundane. The Reformation denied this structure and claimed for equality among the religious classes. I shall free humanity from the restraint of religion.

“People talk in whispers that Your Holiness is spending money like the old Emperor though he is not the Roman emperor.”

“That is why I told you a while ago. I learned how to spend money in Rome. And religion is a more proper bank for storing one’s wealth But this will not continue for long.”

“So, I guess, Your Holiness heard about this German priest.”

“You talk of Luther? My only concern is that if my income will reduce. That is my worst concern for now.....”

This is the image of 16th century Rome, presented in Shiono Nanami’s <God’s Deputy>, well-known for <The Story of Romans>. Italy, it is the birthplace of Renaissance. The Pope led the splendid Renaissance art, and they covered its enormous expenses from the offerings and incomes of indulgence sales. ‘Indulgences’ originally started from the exemption of punishment. The exemption and exoneration of terrene sins by the Pope’s heavenly grace henceforth became indulgence for afterlife. The sales right of indulgence of northern Germany belonged to Albrecht of Mainz, and he accelerated the sales of indulgence through the passionate preach of the Dominican Priest Tetzel, a master of narrative. He announced that as the gold coin jingles when put into the offering box of indulgence, the suffering soul of the dead is immediately freed from purgatory and will head to heaven.

Then who will be responsible for the souls believing that even salvation could be bought with money, without repenting the sins? Luther considered that the indulgence only destroyed the souls instead of rescuing them and prepared the Ninety-Five Theses, attacking this problem in form of a letter to Albrecht of Mainz. The documents showing the progresses of Reformation which started from this incident and expanded through boundaries of the German Empire and different ages are inscribed as Memory of the World of UNESCO. It announced the beginning of the modern era beyond the threshold of the medieval age. Raising a question on the relationship between people and God, each and every factor which make up society and lives has changed with international correlation.



Since When Were They Here This Great Record

Maha Lawkamarazein or Kuthodaw Inscription Shrines
Myanmar, Inscribed as Memory of the World of UNESCO in 2013

It could be said that the life of Myanmar move along with Buddhism at their center. Their daily lives start and end by bowing three times to the Buddhist altar prepared in each household. Buddhist altars are everywhere, and in every village, there is at least one or more Buddhist temple. Every day at dawn the parade of monks is continued for religious mendicancy. Despite being designated as the poorest country by the UN since 1987, the steeples are decorated with expensive jewels as diamonds, rubies, and the pagodas and statues of Buddha are always covered with abundant gold. The temple offerings of food and flower, and worshipping are part of their daily lives. Buddhism in Myanmar is like the soul that dominates their lives beyond religion. Myanmar, it is where Theravada Buddhism¹⁾ flourished from the nation's establishment and holds one of the longest and proud histories of Buddhism, no less than countries as Thailand or Sri Lanka. Approximately 90% of the population believes in Buddhism. The Burmese men, making up the national majority, still experience Buddhist training in temples at least once in their lifetime, and the most important ceremony for Burmese children is the ceremony of Nirvana called 'Xingbiu'. The root of Buddhism in Myanmar is so deep, even possible to say that this is a cultural tradition in addition to religious tradition.

All Kings of Myanmar found their holiness from Buddhist origins and they were always the greatest protectors and supporters of Buddhism. Mandalay, the final capital for the last Kingdom of Burma, is still Myanmar's center of culture and religion. It is known for the legend that Buddha himself went over the hills of Mandalay with his disciple priest Anan approximately 2,500 years ago, and it is also the holiest Buddhist site of Myanmar, with many traces of King Mindon (1814~1878). King Mindon transferred to this place after losing the capital to Great Britain in war. He built temples and Mandalay Palace with all sincerity, and also built the Kuthodaw Pagoda. The 729 Buddhist scriptures carved on marble tablets by approximately 2,400 monks for 6 months are all safely protected within the 729 white stone pagodas. This scripture, which can produce 38 books of 400 pages when rubbed, is enough to deliver the solemn and ardent Buddhist spirit even to those who don't know its contents through its overwhelming scale. It is also known as the 'Largest Book of the World', and the narrow and the tightly aligned white stone pagodas are all neat and proper regardless of their great scale.

An important memorial heritage, the shrine of Kuthodaw Pagoda was planned by King Mindon. But it is also a commonly produced heritage by the people which reflects the aspect of religious morality of Buddhism, its relative community and how the old Buddhist tradition contributes to the world. Buddhism embraced the Nat belief (one sort of animist God) which existed before them and coexists in harmony. The rainy season in Myanmar begins in mid-July. Three months from this point is a period called Uangeo, and this is when Buddhist monks perform religious activities under training and even ordinary citizens observe the 10 commandments and happily perform the offerings to monks. The ceremony of Nirvana is also performed during this period. Buddhism, promoted and established by ancient kings of Myanmar to maintain the identity of the people and to strengthen solidarity, so naturally became the life of Myanmar people.

1) Theravada, the "Doctrine of the Elders," is the school of Buddhism that draws its scriptural inspiration from the Tipitaka, which contains the earliest surviving record of the Buddha's teachings. Theravada has been the predominant religion of continental Southeast Asia (Thailand, Myanmar/Burma, Cambodia, and Laos) and Sri Lanka.



Remembering Someone Is Remembering One's Name

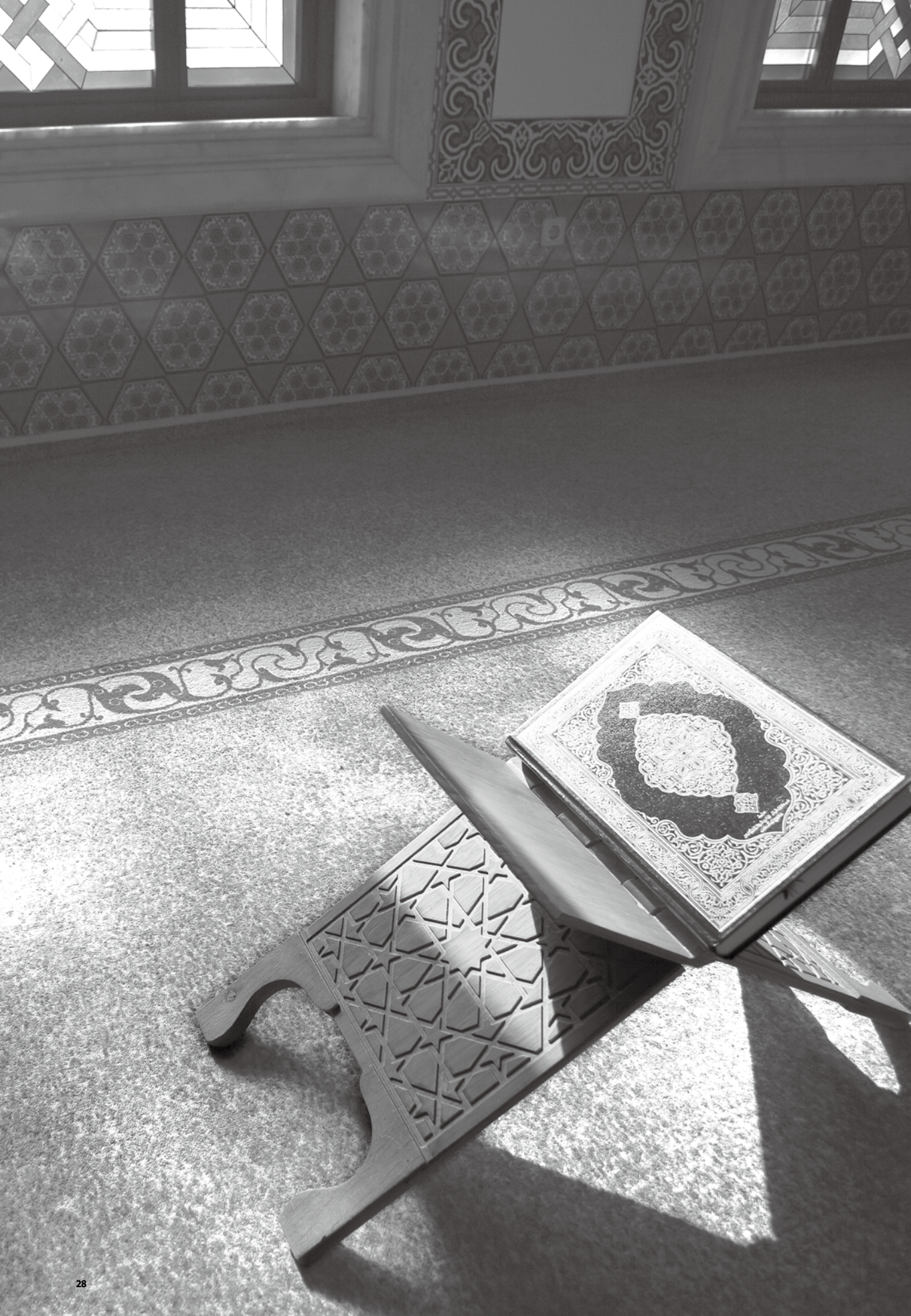
Pages of Testimony Collection, Yad Vashem Jerusalem
Israel, Inscribed as Memory of the World of UNESCO in 2013(1954~2004)

"For those who firmly hold my promise, I shall give better memorial in my house and in my castle,
and give them name to not let their line die"
_Book of Isaiah, 56:5.

'Yad Vashem' which means 'Remember the Name' originates from Isaiah 56:5, thus the Jewish tradition emphasizes the point of 'remembering someone is remembering their name.' The collection of Yad Vashem testimony writings strictly reflects the tradition of the written word by recording the sacrifice of 6 million people during the Holocaust. This is not only to lament the deceased, but to remember and commemorate that they did not lose courage and hope until the last despairing moment.

The Museum of the Holocaust was newly established in the Yad Vashem Commemoration Park in the spring of 2005. The museum has its center underground, built with a concrete structure and ceilings made from glass. The entirety of the structure and materials of the building were constructed in remembrance of the Holocaust tragedy. The atmosphere is uneasy, as if going into a concentration camp and visitors face an emotional situation where one can empathize with the devastating historical incident. In this place one's fears and the sensation of helplessness are maximized. If the visitor looks up from under the large cone, numerous portraits of victims are reflected on the surface of the dark water. At the circular border, the list of victims collected by Yad Vashem have been stored for decades and half of the bookshelf has been left empty for the victims who were never found. As it is, remembering someone is remembering their name.

At this moment of time, when the number of living survivors of the Holocaust is declining rapidly and when the weakening and severance of one's memory becomes a concern due to the birth of great-grand sons and daughters, the testimony collection becomes invaluable. They are unique and priceless records. They are to protect the names and identities of the victims from oblivion. To return the names and faces of the 6 million Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust without a tomb or gravestone, who were called by cold anonymous numbers instead of their names.



In the Name of the Merciful and Benevolent Allah, Read! Iqraa!

Holy Koran Mushaf of Othman

Uzbekistan, Inscribed as Memory of the World of UNESCO in 1997


Koran, the Islamic Bible means 'reading'. It is the compilation and record of the revelation which Mohammad, the prophet and founder of Islam, received from 610 to 632 until his death. However, Koran exists as the word of Allah Himself. The Koran, the compilation of words directly given by the only God Allah, has nothing to ornament. It is simple and direct without rambling. It is a complete being, holding the expression of "nothing is omitted from the Koran".

Most chapters of Koran start with the verse "In the name of the merciful and benevolent Allah." This verse, which can be interpreted as: Iqraa!: to sing or 'to read', is also one of the divine orders which can deliver the core point of Islam in the best and most straightforward way. The subject who performs the reading is not Mohammed, who received the revelations of Allah – it is the entire human race all together and not simply one single individual. The prophet Mohammed is the one who connects Allah with humanity. For Muslims, Koran is the language of their God. It can be interpreted in numerous ways, and its texts are alive with unfathomable depth. The Koran guides their lives, cures every problem, and thus, is an endless fountain full of mercy and sympathy. It is the beginning and end of Islam, an unchangeable core element which will never be used up or exhausted. The teaching of Sufi (an Islamic mystic) states that "The Koran is like a star, so when you are far from it you can barely see it but, if you get closer it is like a sun enlightening the entire sky" is not an exaggeration. The Koran is Muslim and Islam.


Koran was not edited as one single book from the beginning. The prophecies which Mohammed received during his lifetime were written on pieces of rock and sheepskins and after his death. Due to the necessity of integration to a greater whole, they were gathered and arranged. The oldest existing copy of the Koran is called 「Mushaf of Othman」, the final version of compilation made upon wood pieces and camel bones. This book compiled by Othman was completed in Medina, 651 and it is recognized as the official copy which substitutes all other scriptures. As Caliph Othman was assassinated when he was reading the Aya (verse) written "If they believe as you believe, they will be led to the correct way. But if they turn their back and split over, Allah will protect you from them", the copy is stained with blood. This copy of the Koran is preserved in the small Muyi Muborak Madrasah²⁾ located in front of the Hazrati Imam Mosque, situated in Tashkent of Uzbekistan. The copy from the Ottoman Empire provides a more real experience in seeing the great influence of this written heritage on world history. 🌙

2) Madrasah is an institution of higher education in Muslim countries,

Don't Disappear Don't Sink



Two cities with beautiful watery landscapes are on the brink of disappearing because of water. It matters not when they sink.



The only thing that matters now is doing what we can do. It is time to remember and act.

Venezia
Bangkok



The Glaciers Melt Once More

The sea level from 15,000 years ago, which was the end of the glacial epoch, was 120m lower than it is now. The sea level steeply increased as the glaciers began to melt, but stopped in 4,000 B.C. This marked the beginning of humankind's endeavors to create civilization, and these efforts continue to this day. With the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, the sea level is beginning to move again. The glaciers are melting due to global warming. The rise of the sea level in this century is expected to bring an entirely different result from the end of the glacial epoch. The number of people living at altitudes close to the sea level is incomparably larger than it was then. Many of them must move to other regions in the near future. The raised sea level will create a salt marsh environment by eroding the soil and increasing salinity. It may change the erosion and sedimentation condition of the coast and affect the main factors of climate changes, bringing about various disasters accordingly. Actions against climate changes are being taken by the UN, but global warming is accelerating further. According to the scenario of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) affiliated with UN, the sea level will be at least 1.8m higher than now in 2100. This is a catastrophe that can shallow up the earth, and the main cause of it is humanity. Civilizations built with fossil fuels led to global warming and the rise of the sea levels.

DISAPPEARING AND SINKING VENICE, BANGKOK, AND EARTH

A single beautiful photo of dreamy Venice is enough to make you think, 'I need to go to Venice right now!' This charming city entrances you and takes you in, boasting a beauty that simply can't be put into words.

A city in which Vivaldi was born and Wagner died. A city that Montaigne wished to be born from. Venice is flowing with art and romance. The lives of Venetians were fierce when they settled down by the Langua (lagoon), the eastern sea of the Italian Peninsula, to escape from the invasion of other nations including the Huns. The sea of Venice was the factor for destroying and developing the lives of Laguna, and this ironic perspective of the sea made the maintenance of balance as the best virtue of Venice.

The sea and the river are mixed up, and the East and the West exist in here. Venice had to fight wars with external forces but also flourished with free trades with them. It is vague to say whether this city belongs to the land or the water. Renaissance and downfall; formality and decadence; formativeness and confusion... The beauty of Venice, coming from ambivalent things, brings an open sense toward diversity. In his novel 'Death in Venice', Thomas Mann attempted to depict instinctive longing of humans through Venice where the absolute beauty and fatal death coexist. A city like a fairy tale and a trap; this two-faced city

is full of atmosphere to flourish art.

Cafés in Piazza San Marco where a number of artists gathered are giving off openness and hybridity of Venice. Caffè Florian (1720 -) that Napoleon praised as 'the most graceful and beautiful drawing room' and Caffè Quadri (1775 -) that is known for composing 'Tristan and Iseult' are well known. From Johann Wolfgang von Goethe to Jean Jacques Rousseau, George Gordon Byron, Stendhal, Igor Stravinsky and Schopenhauer... And the greatest artist and tourists that pass by... The luxury we enjoy in this space is Venice itself infused in Piazza San Marco.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche and Hermann Hesse were indulged in the dreamy beauty of a gondola, but Thomas Mann thought of the somber funeral of someone and the last procession of silence. This contrast is especially notable considering that Hesse and Thomas Mann were contemporaries. To someone, Venice can be remembered as a fatal wind called Sirocco, an odor from the sewer of the Lagoon, or the high prices. Nevertheless, Venice's beauty is addictive.

Flowing rivers and a flowing city. It is impossible to define Bangkok in one word. Contrasting characteristics are interlaced crowdedly like its nightmare-like traffic jams. Bangkok is the only capital that was never colonized by the imperialism of the Western Powers throughout



the Asian and African continents. Bangkok is an interesting place.

A charming spectacle of luxurious, golden Wat Phra Kaew is contrasting against Wat Arun that is bathed in sunset. Its meaning, mood, and presence have been faded but Khao San Road is still an amazing place as the mecca and spiritual homeland of backpackers. Various groups of people gather here and relax like Chaotic signboards. Local buses that run without air-conditioning in this hot weather and High-So (the upper class of Bangkok) that elegantly stroll the Langsuan Road intersect in Bangkok.

The disjunction between the large Chatuchak Weekend Market, with everything you want to find, and the show windows, with their luxurious high trends, create quite the strange gap.

The high quality spas provide massages with Buddha's smile and refined hand movements while a pleasant fragrance and calm music relax your mind. There are many 5-star hotels that have rooftop restaurants and bars with sophisticated and gorgeous night view of Bangkok, infinity pools, and jazz bars at a reasonable price.

Another scenery of Bangkok is the portrait of the king. In every restaurant and taxi, you can find the

decorated picture of the king. He can be compared to Buddha, or at least a superstar. The political role of the royal authority is still powerful in Thailand, and criticism on the king's family is prohibited by law (Article 112 of Thailand's criminal code). After the coup in 2006 which was represented by red shirts and yellow shirts, the cases of being punished for criticizing the royal family have rapidly increased since their current military authority took over the power in 2014. In 2016, Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX) deceased and his only son Maha Vajiralongkorn ascended the throne of King Rama X. Thailand's royal family is

still up and coming despite of disheveled political situations.

Bangkok is famous for its hot weather in all year long. But April is the hottest month when the dry season is about to turn into the wet season. Songkran, the new year in the Buddhist calendar and the biggest holiday in Thailand, happened at this time. People enjoy this festive officially for 3-5 days and 2-3 weeks in general. It is the end of the dry season and a blessing of washing off evils by splashing water to each other. "Thank you for splashing water!" A river in Thai is Menam and it means Mother's water. Chaophraya is the word



for calling the king. Maybe one can say the river flows for the king in Thailand, but what flows along Chaophraya that looks yellow due to the red clay on the river bottom is the thoughts between every landscapes of Bangkok.

Oak from Montenegro, the western region of Slovenia, and Croatia are dug into the condensed red clay under the soft sand layer of the sea. The trees are solidified like fossils by receiving rich mineral inside the water without oxygen. Venezia was built over these wooden pillars. You can observe the south wind Sirroco striking the

Adriatic Sea and the lagoon, cold and dry northeast monsoon 'bora' and the Aqua Alta phenomenon that inundates Venezia during the wet season in winter. These are not temporary phenomena and Venezia is slowly sinking. Many buildings have lost the first floor to the sea. Since 2003, the Italian government promoted the 'Mose Project' for blocking the water of the Adriatic Sea from flowing into the city by installing the barrier under the sea. Nonetheless, Venezia is sinking. It is not important whether it disappears by 2030 or after 100 years later. This beautiful and romantic city comprised of

118 small islands and 400 bridges and buildings is vanishing.

There will be no Bangkok by year 2300. Even if the objective of Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property to control the temperature rise of the earth within 2 degrees Celsius compared to the Industrial Revolution is achieved, it is expected that the surface of the sea will rise. Bangkok, located by the delta of the Chao Phraya River, has the low altitude above sea level. The monsoon climate brings the localized heavy rain from May to September. Despite of such environment,

underground water is thoughtlessly abused and the buildings are rising competitively. There are 4,000 skyscrapers of 8 to 20 floors and there are 700 buildings with over 20 floors.

This is not just about Venezia and Bangkok. Small island countries such as the Maldives, Bangladesh, and the islands of the South Pacific, including Tuvalu and Kiribati, are under direct threat, and Hurricane Katrina and the flood in New Orleans are the earth's warning against intemperate greed of humans. That the earth may disappear one day. 🌊

A Thought, Rises and Remains

Hoi An

Hoi An is a pretty town you usually drop by on a trip to Da Nang. Yet, in my case, I stayed in Hoi An longer than Da Nang. Hoi An Old Town only has 5 alleys. About 1,000 narrow buildings with tilted roof are clustered in this small place. Moss is formed and grass is grown from the old roof and wall. Pink Bougainvillea is in full blossom over the yellow aged wall. Japanese and Chinese style buildings that boast the old days of gaining fame as an international trade port during the 17th century, and Colonial style buildings from the French colonization are make up the mood of Hoi An. But the noonday heat melted everything in this beautiful place. No café or restaurant has an air conditioner. Hoi An is famous for its heat but that heat makes Hoi An a great place to stay long. Hoi An suggests me to stay longer. I daydream at a café where I can feel a light breeze if I sit still, or I go down to the An Bang beach with one or two books to rest. This is my memory of Hoi An, where I wanted to enjoy a longer and more leisurely stay.



People from Different Countries Gathered Here since When It Was Called as Faifo

These port streets were filled with many different languages hundreds of years ago, and they still do. Hoi An prospered from the late 16th century to the early 17th century (largely, 15th – 19th centuries) as a trade port that passes the silk road of the sea. It was an international city with each villages of Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Arab and European. Now it is an international tourist city inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage (1999). Since the days when it was called as 'Faifo', people from different countries gathered here.

There is no worry for getting lost but the buildings all look alike in this small town, and Lai Vien Kieu, a Japanese style bridge, plays a role of a milestone. Japanese people who settled down in Hoi An build this stone bridge in 1539. Roof tiles are put over the wooden pillar and a small temple is put on the bridge to pray safety of boats.

The vestiges of this town that survived hundred years of contact points and wars made many things to go back. Some stores remind typical tourist sights, but you can still find neatness and peace.



Water and Land, Entrenched within the Boundary of Day and Night

Hoi An suffers from flood damage as much as the cruel noonday heat. Each house has a mark that indicates how much water came up during the rainy season, and the height is well beyond imagination.

A place that served the role of a trade port for sea routes that lead China, Middle East and Africa. A glass of sweet Cà phê sữa đá (a Vietnamese ice coffee with condensed milk) and a glass of Bia hơi (a draft beer) are a must at a local café by the Thu Bon River. The river viewed from the land is just tranquil. My heart calms down like a long afternoon shadow.

When the night comes, cyclo drivers who took a nap in their cyclos get ready to fuel up again like the noonday heat. Young girls who sell a candle to be floated on the Thu Bon River. The night of Hoi An with old merchants may have been more loud and crowded, but I like this countrified and pleasantly rocking night scene of Hoi An. It is the night of oblivion for promising tomorrow.



Hoi An, the Town Clad in Colors

'Yellow' is the color that dominates Hoi An. Yellow colors with different brightness and saturation are deepened with green leaves and pink Bougainvillea flowers, and their shadows. The landscape changed constantly over this yellow wall. The yellow color saturated with richness and superiority is overwhelmingly stunning. Hoi An is dazzling even on a cloudy day or a rainy day. The number 10 bus that shuttles between Da Nang and Hoi An is also yellow. Hoi An lost its position of a trade port to Da Nang due to the lowered level of the Thu Bon River and became a small port town. Maybe that is why Hoi An preserves its traces well. Every day, tourists from Da Nang visit Hoi An and leave like low tide.

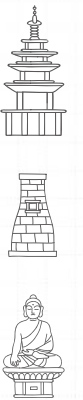
I find myself enraptured by the overwhelming yellow and react to every color keenly. I even enjoyed the burst of colors in Bánh mì (a rice baguette sandwich filled with various ingredients) that is sold on streets. Funnily, the fluttering white Ao Dai of girls on a bicycle catches my eyes. White is a fastidious color that reflects all light and aims for perfection without mixing any color.



Remember the Sound of Hoi An

Hearing may become dulled when you are sensitive to colors, but the sounds of Hoi An make my hearing react sensitively and leave me with a thrill. If I wake up at dawn after the exciting night of Hoi An, then my feet lead me straight to the Thu Bon River. The river is peaceful even with chattering of birds. The vivid splashing sound of fish jumping out of the water, the sound of oars stroking across the currents, and the sound of people throwing nets all greet my ears from time to time. The traditional market by the river is also busy. When the sizzling sound Nem (spring roll) being fried fills the air, breakfasts of Hoi An stimulate your nostrils and ears. When people on bicycles finish commuting to schools or work, the town is now the domain of visiting tourists. This, too, is one of the sounds of Hoi An. The creaking sound comes when you go up the wooden stairs to go to a rooftop café for a view. It is not an overstatement to say that you can hear the sound of sawing machines that create tailored clothes by the evening. Vietnamese words all sound so similar. With the exception of greetings or simple expressions used at restaurants to order, your vocabulary seems to remain relatively unchanged. That song you heard children sing might have been a sad and scary lullaby about the horrors of the Vietnam War, but you would be none the wiser. The Quang nam Province, where Hoi An is located, was the post of the Korean military during the Vietnam War, and bears a history to be remembered by Korea. The voice of sad history, now on its 50th anniversary, must also be remembered within this beautiful town. 27

People and Moments of World Heritage Cities



The photo exhibition for portraying the cities where the World Heritage and people live in harmony was held at the Gyeongju Historic Area [UNESCO World Heritage] from May 3rd to May 13th. OWHC-AP rented a container and decorated it for this exhibition. No more decorations are needed for this place, set against a backdrop of the green royal tombs of Silla kings and nobles. The adjacent Cheomseongdae Observatory stood there for over thousand years to observe the rise and fall of the stars. It is time to walk into one fine spring day.

What does it mean when we say the world heritage and people live in harmony? How is our today as we look toward the tomorrow of sustainable heritage cities? We sense the light and shadow of a city and the traces engraved over time, by time in one photograph. Such is the virtue that we seek in photographs. The OWHC-AP promoted an international photo contest from February to April under the theme of 'People and Moments of World Heritage Cities.' Thirty pieces were selected and awarded among a total of 1,000 entries. 'People and Moments of World Heritage Cities' is an exhibition prepared to show these beautiful photographs alongside our message.

The exhibition container is located right next to Cheomseongdae Observatory within the Gyeongju Historic Area [UNESCO World Heritage], which is believed to be used for observing astronomy during the Silla Dynasty. The Gyeongju Historic Area was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005 for 5 major remains of ancient Silla. This is the representative touristic site of Gyeongju with a village made up of traditional Korean-style houses and matching restaurants and souvenir shops where millions of tourists visit each year. Some came to this white container with a special interest and some ended up here by chance. How do they appreciate the daily lives of world heritages in photographs?



A welcome guest visited. It is the winner of grand prize, Lee Jun-seok. He observed the various scenes of the city as he stayed in Singapore for 4 years. The prize-winning work 'Children in the back streets of Sultan Mosque,' is the old scenery of Singapore taken from his unfamiliar perspective. He never expected to win this prize because it was his first participation in a photo contest.

He made a time to drop by Gyeongju for this exhibition on his trip with his family, and he expressed his joy with the biggest smile. "I've come to think of photography more serious through this opportunity. I am now more interested in the relationship between a city and its heritages."

Sarah Clark from Philadelphia thoroughly looked around each photograph of the exhibition. "This will be one of the impressive memories from my Gyeongju trip. This is a great exhibition. It is a good event to raise an interest in cultural heritages."

Claudio Saponara works as a Project Manager at Educational, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of EU. manager at the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the EU. He visited Korea for his holiday and was fascinated by the unique atmosphere of Gyeongju. "Opening a photo exhibition at the actual World Heritage Site is a great method in terms of 'how to deliver a message to the public using cultural contents'. The World Heritage Cities should take more responsibility as the managing body of cultural heritages."



The spring weather is cozy yet unpredictable. When visitors were sparse due to a sudden rainstorm, a group of students knocked the door. They were students of the Korea OWHC-AP Students Association (KOSA) from Gyeongju High School. KOSA is operated in 13 schools of Korea to learn world heritages and raise civic awareness on World Heritage Cities About 200 students share their activities of the world heritage projects through a summer camp every year. The students actively participated in SNS sharing event we promoted along with the photo exhibition and filled the exhibition hall with vibrant energy.

The night has fallen in the container as well but it is still crowded with people who came out for a night picnic after the blazing sun set. The night in the Gyeongju Historic Area is quite different from the ay. 11 days of exhibition with traditional fusion performance is remained as a special picture mingled with world heritages, people, culture and nature. 🌙



Winners of 'OWHC-AP Photo Contest 2018'

Gold Prize

Kyaw Kyaw Moe
Simple people living view of
Sri Ksetra_Pyay



Silver Prize

Yu Gyeong-yeol
A Thousand Years of Breath
_Gyeongju



Bronze Prize

Vinh Huong
Air balloon festival in HUE_Hue



You can find the award-winning works of the 'OWHC-AP Photo Contest 2018' at www.owhc-ap.org

Now, Here Contemporary

Written by U Win Kyaing

Principle of the Field School of Archaeology in Pyay

LOOKING AT THE YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW OF PYAY, MYANMAR

Myanmar
Pyay

Sri Ksetra, located by the eastern bank of the Ayeyarwady River that runs through the central region of Myanmar, was the largest city among the Pyu Ancient Cities (BC2~AD9) and the cities of South East Asia that flourished based on the thousand years of history of Hinduism and Buddhism. In the Bargo region where the major port of early Sri Ksetra was located, a wall town with advanced ports and commerce was formed along the river. Pyay with a high population is the largest city in the western area of Bargo. Pyay inherited ancient city Sri Ksetra and it is more than a place that is preserved as an ancient dwelling area in the history of Myanmar. They achieved a thousand years of prosperity by sharing the same natural environment and cultural resources.

Sri Ksetra was the capital of 'Sanskrit', which is the unification dynasty of ancient Myanmar. In Myanmar, it is called Thayekhittaya, meaning the 'auspicious land' or 'field of honor'. Sri Ksetra often appears in historic documents. In sum, people who found Sri Ksetra are the decedents of the other river on the north of the Ayeyarwady River and the 25 kings expanded their territories by building Buddhist temples with the royal support. When the city fell into chaos due to the invasion of the foreign power from Nanqiao of China in A.D. 832, a conflict between the Kariang and the Bamar, which are the native tribes of the Pyu region, arose. As a result, Sri Ksetra fell in the 9th century and the royal authority was transferred to Bagan.

But that doesn't mean Sri Ksetra was completely neglected during the Bagan era. This old capital with temple buildings and natives had an effect on the Bagan society. However, because the political influences and economic infrastructures were based on the port area of Pyay, Sihattoo the Prince of Baran attempted to build this area as a fortress with high walls, parapet walls, moats and nautical almanac to protect against invasion of China and surrounding countries. After generations of dynasty, the city developed and expanded into the current city. Because of its long history and political influences, Pyu Ancient Cities of Sri Ksetra have the historicity with various social, economic and urban infrastructures. Today, we can meet the landscape that encompasses the history and culture remained with the ancient brick buildings and tombs within this ancient city.



City's Development Using Natural Conditions

Sri Ksetra is a city that reflected the conception of universe in Buddhism and Hinduism, and it was built based on direct environmental elements and geographical conditions. As the largest ancient city existing, Sri Ksetra has numbers of building remains as the result of the city plan and landscaping, buildings for religion and spiritual ceremonies, excavated and unexcavated tombs, reservoirs for ancient farming, canals, lakes, various types of remains and traditional lifestyles of residents. During this time, sarita stupa and temples were built on the top of the hill, urns were built on the slopes, and tombs and building were built on the flat ridges using the natural geographic features of mountains. Rains flowing from the highlands filled the lakes, canals and moats. The eastern, northern, and northwestern regions meet at the plain of the Nawin River valley. The castle wall of Sri Ksetra is connected in an oval or circular shape. This wall is composed of fortified brick walls, gate and moat according to the needs of the ancient city. Now the large fields and landscaping areas are surrounding the wall.

Halin and Beikthano, located along the Ayeyarwady River valley with Sri Ksetra, were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage in 2014 as the Pyu Ancient Cities. These three cities own integrated ancient landscapes and cultural heritage accumulated in the local community. Other areas besides from the wall and suburban areas are protected as the buffer area and cultural properties zone of the cultural heritage site through legal regulations. The wall area of Sri Ksetra is 14.38km², and it reaches total 33.78km² including the surrounding ancient district. If the buffer area of 17.13km² in which the legal regulations on the ancient buildings apply is included, the total area reaches 50.91km². The area that still has the first fortress area of Pyay from the Bagan era is 22km². The western area was lost due to flood. The relevant cultural landscapes can be observed in broader areas through the deep moats and lakes to the north, east and south. It is not clear if any walls or moats existed in the west of the city. Maybe the river worked as a natural protective stronghold. It is estimated that residential areas outside of the wall also existed in the southeast, south, and west of the Shuesandau tower. Examples include public places, traditional commercial product manufacturing areas, breakwaters, and monasteries of the western river bank. The map of Pyay made in 1852 is assumed as for the city plan of that time. The data for the modern city plan was discovered in the British ruling era.



The Light and Shadow of Urbanization

Pyay is surrounded by the Ayeyarwady River to the west, the Mingyeh hill to the south, the Nawin River to the north, and the narrow flat of the east. It is the only place to the east of ancient Sri Ksetra that can be expanded for new city development. Due to this geographical characteristic, new establishment in the buffer area between the new city and the old city was allowed when necessary. Expansion of the new city and construction of Buddhist temples are hindering the ancient landscapes of Sri Ksetra that surround most of the western regions, and excessive waste from Pyay, where urbanization is ongoing, are piled up here. A gravel pit was being developed slowly and agricultural infrastructures like farming lands and rice mills, plane landing fields, and railways stations were built. Other facilities like public offices, police stations, and schools were increasingly built as well. Illegal occupations also took place both inside and outside of the wall.

Pyay is the largest metropolis in the west of the Bago area. People gathered to this center of commerce and transportation, and which inevitably brought about the expansion of the new city area. According to the survey on Pyay's growth, at least 8 legal expansions occurred between 1961 and 2003. 4,281 new houses were built and additional amenities were added within the buffer area of Sri Ksetra and Pyay. Urban expansion is continuously happening within the ancient wall of Sri Ksetra.

New religious facilities are being built due to the rapidly growing number of residents in the western zone. Some ancient towers and temples were reconstructed

by the local people without historical investigation on their original forms or materials, and more religious buildings were newly established. As a result, the northwest of the ancient city is having difficulties in maintaining archaeological authenticity and integrity due to the increase of new city buildings.

Sri Ksetra's farming is being passed down in a traditional way. Plains are used as rice paddies and highlands are used for fruit growing. The vast slopes of the Myeenbuhahoo Hill play a very important role because of their city landscape, water supply, natural resources, afforestation, ancient shrines on the top of the mountain and some remaining archaeological relics. But serious damage was caused because there was no limit on using the land at the time. Huge gravel pits, large cashew nut tree farms and waste dumps were built. Until now, the presence of this ancient city was described based on the relevant issues viewed from an archaeological perspective. So it was difficult to cover major issues related to cultural heritages revealed through the past and the present of Sri Ksetra and Pyay. Pyay as a historical city and its development into a metropolitan city, and urban expansion caused by the geographical characteristics of Sri Ksetra will continue within the existing cities with historical values. Unfortunately, we learned that the expansion of the cities brings the result of depreciating the high values. Ancient city Sri Ksetra and its remains are existing across the entire city landscape, therefore their continuous perseverance must be considered. This should be the first and foremost practical obligation and objective. We need to prepare organizational and functional measures to solve a crisis of this place with old and new things coexist. Taking a sympathetic approach and moving them to a new area are worth considering to eradicate illegal and indiscreet expansions.



A scenario for the future of Pyay' can be design with the city development plan prepared based on the following criteria.

- Ⓐ Establishing a city development plan according to the natural environment of Pyay
- Ⓑ Preservation of the ancient legacy of Pyay and Sri Ksetra
- Ⓒ Establishing a development plan for dwellings, tourism, and commerce based on a traffic network

Due to their status as representative World Heritage cities, tourism in Sri Ksetra and Pyay is well developed, creating more jobs for local residents and invigorating commerce.

Pyay is placed in a strategic position as a capital of commerce with land routes and sea routes that major cities of Myanmar can access easily. The forests, teak wood farms and catchment area of Pyay are breathtakingly harmonizing with the beautiful sceneries of the Ayeyarwady River and the city that skirts the mountain to the west of the river. Buddhist buildings are scattered around the regions surrounding this city, so it has enough potential to become a place of pilgrimage. Under the vision of creating "a World Heritage site and an international tourist city that retains the region's unique specialties", Pyay's city development plan can lead the growth of the city in more practical and alternative direction if it can be shaped up based on the advantages and weakness of the city as mentioned earlier. 24

A Milestone for the Future of Pyay Urbanization

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Bell



A tool which is beaten,
knocked and shaken,
Creating the throbbing sound of
The tool of trust

Bell



The original title of the 「Evening Bell」 is 「L'Angelus」¹⁾, which means angelus. The people, even during their work in the fields, stopped and prayed for the poor souls when the bell chimed. The bell not only rung in Europe where historical cathedrals and churches stood. But there was a time when small churches of Korea sounded their bells from their bell towers. If the bell announced the sunrise service, households with young students turned on their kitchen lights as they had to have early breakfast and move early. When there were not so many clocks, the church bell played a critical role in announcing the start of a new day. Although the sound of church bells can become a reason for lawsuits today, still, many people find their town or village identity tied in with the sound of the church bell. Starting with Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims considered the ringing bell to be the voice of their Gods who announced the truth, and the echoes of universal harmony. This is the history of the bell, the tool of belief, which played a critical role in our lives and in human history.

Many Purposes: Many Ingredients

Nowadays, most bells are made of metal, but originally, they were made of many different types of materials. The bells made from glass, wood, dirt, ivory, silver, porcelain, tin, brass, etc. had various purposes in history, religion, and literature. Bells announced the beginning and ending, held sincere wishes or even expressed sadness or happiness. Moreover, the ancient people rang bells to hear voices of their gods through their ancestors or supernatural phenomena. From ancient times, bell was intimately related with superstitions and religious activities. In ancient China and Inca civilizations, the bell was said to reject malicious forces. The bronze bells of the shamans played similar roles. The bell of Gutpan (a Korean traditional shamanistic ceremony) was to excite people and ghosts, to defeat the enemies, to cure diseases, to make it rain, even to make the weather clear and to calm the tides (Legend of Manpasikjeok-the magical pipe). Meanwhile, in Christianity, the sounds of bells symbolize the voice of God and heaven. Also, Christians considered bell rings to have an effect in purifying sins in religious ceremonies. In Buddhism, the bell was used to spread the mercy and truth of Buddha to the world, and also as a monument to record the achievements of great Kings in history for the protection of the country. The church bell connected heaven and people, the Buddhist temple bell of mountain shrines connected sacredness and mundane beings and bells hung on the neck of cows connected humans and animals. Maybe the essence of the bell is connecting between human and subject, thus, the communion and communication.



Yet, the Unchanging Sound of Bell Ringing

Cordoba of Andalucía, Spain, has orange trees in every corner of its narrow and white alleys, and that orange fragrance cloaks the city. This city, built by the ancient Romans, became the capital of the Moors when they started their conquest of Spain (711) and thus, became the starting point of the Moor expansion. Mezquita is the place where, thereafter, many major events in history took place. That is, until the flag of Reconquista (restoration of the national catholic territory) of Isabel and Fernando of Spain. In the place where the Roman temple and then Biz-gothic cathedral were, the Moors built Mezquita Mosque, which, after the Reconquista of Spain turned into a cathedral. Due to this historic background, this place has an exotic and rare atmosphere where the Catholic are placed among the numerous red arches and pillars of the mosque. Every time when the owner changed, the religion and language of the prayer changed, but only the sound of the bell was preserved in its original state. The sounds of Muslims singing Adhān²⁾ in the Minaret (steeple) and the ringing bell sounds and the bells announcing the time of prayer and service in churches and cathedrals are not so different. It is an eternal sound which delivers the voice of God and also acting as the tool of faith, with the desire to spread and hear their God.

The Sound of Trust That Embraces, Watches and Protects

Just gazing at the highly risen church and cathedral which stand in the town's central plaza brings a renewing sensation to one's mind. The rush of bell sounds leaves a lasting impression and the soul moves and seems to reach out to God following the narrow tower. People took charge of the town community's spiritual world in this way. Varanasi, India, is a common sacred place for Hindus, Buddhists and Jain, has the same meaning as the Ganges river. At the riverside, there is Ghat: the border stair connected to the river. The Indian people go down to the river following Ghat, to bathe and do laundry, to take water for food and drink, and to perform the Hindu ceremonies such as participating in the Aarti³⁾ and cremating dead bodies. In this moment, the ringing bells and prayers are presented simultaneously to awaken and praise the God Shiva with loud noises. The sound of bells awakens the silent Buddhist mountain temple and resounds with a deep echo, moving people's hearts. Regardless of religion, the sound of the bell covers the entire town like a wave, bringing about peace and harmony. The sounds of the people's beliefs calmly embrace, watch and protect. The sound of the bell is a sacred and beautiful sound. ㉞



1) Angelus is a Catholic devotion commemorating Incarnation. It is traditionally made three times daily: 6:00 am, noon, and 6:00 pm and is usually accompanied with the ringing of the Angelus bell

2) Adhān is an Islamic call for worshipping, called out five times a day.

3) Aarti is a Hindu religious ritual of worship, in which light from wicks soaked in ghee (purified butter) or camphor is offered to one or more deities.



It's Not Too Late: A Vacation in September

by Following the Mind Map

Find Your Own Destination



Everyone has already gone on a summer vacation , but with mounting workloads and empty wallets, you had to watch the summer days pass you by . Still, that's no reason to be sad. World Heritage Cities with summer charm, beautiful cultural heritages, and welcoming locals await you. Let's find your destination through a simple psychological test.

Situation 1

You are on a summer vacation. The flight was going smooth but the plane suddenly began to shake. The emergency announcement of the flight crew, a thundering noise that buzzes your ears... The chaotic situation in the plane passed quickly and the plane landed on a land with a great shock. Following the instructions of the flight crew, you leave the plane and step outside. What do you see before your eyes?

01

A dense rainforest with huge trees

02

A remote island with a vast ocean

03

An alpine region with an ancient temple

04

A plaza in the center of a busy city

Situation 2

The plane communication system is paralyzed due to an emergency landing. The mobile phones of passengers are not working either. It seems like no one is living here. The night is falling and you are in urgent need of rescue. Everyone is confused and what will you suggest?

01

Form a search team to find a nearby village

02

Start a fire and make a smoke

03

Save your energy in the plane

04

Secure the food and drinkable water.

Situation 3

Just then, a group of soldiers and rescue vehicles come to the accident site. Passengers in a life-or-death situation weep in relief. Relief food is provided to you once you are moved to shelter. You devour the food hurriedly. What are you eating?

01

Steak

02

Soup

03

Fruits

04

Noodles

Situation 4

When you arrive at the airport back home, many reporters await you. In a flood of flashlights, you find a familiar face. Who is this person?

01

A lover

02

A family member

03

No one

04

A friend

The city that corresponds to your choices is your destination

- More than 3 of item 1 → **Siem Reap**
- More than 3 of item 2 → **Denpasar**
- More than 3 of item 3 → **Luang Prabang**
- More than 3 of item 4 → **Singapore**
- Each one of items 1, 2, 3 and 4 → **Hoi An**
- Not applicable to the above → **Vigan**



Siem Reap with Angkor Wat

Adventurous spirit, patience and honesty are your charms. Grand Angkor Wat in Siem Reap will come to you as more than just the World Heritage you learned from a textbook. September in Cambodia is still a rainy season, but a sudden shower is more appealing to you. When the sun goes down, spend a passionate night in the Pub Street filled with youngsters of Siem Reap as well as foreigners.

Denpasar, a Paradise on Earth Come September

A blue sky and a bluer sea. You will whisper that this is heaven as you lie down under the beach parasol and watch the sunset dyed in a pumpkin color. If you wish to enjoy the luck of the dry season, which will be gone soon, book a ticket to Bali right now. You deserve to enjoy this heaven when you have a warm heart and you care for other. The terraced rice fields of Denpasar, which is the World Heritage, may come to you was the self-portrait of you who always attempt for the best result and understand how to mediate within your organization.



Luang Prabang, the Heaven for Solitary Travelers

The entire town of Luang Prabang is a World Heritage and the morning of this town with beautiful nature starts earlier than any place in the world. You want to keep aloof from the world by looking at mendacity of the monks in early morning, but you may realize that this world and the world of asceticism are not so different. You have a strong sense of justice but you never show it off. Maybe you are an idealist who dreams of Utopia because you hate to cause any trouble to others.



The Day and Night of Singapore

Singapore came into the spotlight for being a place for the US-North Korea Summit. A well-organized park city with high security. It is a perfect city to satisfy your desires as an early adaptor who cannot live away from civilization. A squall rain comes once or twice a day during September but you can always take shelter from the rain in indoors with air-conditioning. You are refined and charming. You can take the best photo at the the World Heritage during the day and enjoy the world's one and only night city race with a spectacular view during the night.



Hoi An, a Place You Can Visit Anytime

A city mingled with the old and new, and the stillness and chaos. Hoi An will boost up your mood with delicious street foods and beautiful scenery of the old town. A blazing night shimmering under the light of bright lanterns is an extra luxury you can enjoy. Hoi An is a perfect getaway for a positive and lazy person like you. A sunset viewed from the port of the World Heritage old town in the evening is the true gem.



Find Yourself on a Trip to Vigan

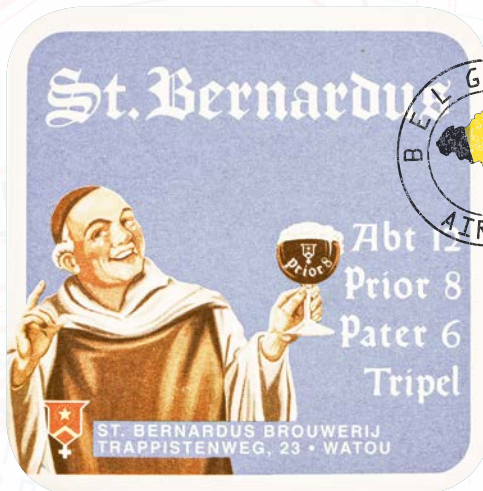
You have a lot on your mind. You are careful and thoughtful, but the reality is you are not moving anywhere. Sometimes you need to make a bold decision and it will lead you to an unexpected fate. Meet the people who embraced the past and live today vividly in the historical city, Vigan that you can meet after 7 hours of driving by bus from the Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Many things burdening you are painful rainbow that will make you a better person. The rain will stop and the sky will clear up soon.



Tasting the Outstanding,
Appetizing Community

Heritage: Belgium's Beer Culture

The history of beer almost threatens the history of bread. Beer, it is the oldest liquor of mankind. It was a beverage and source of nutrition at the same time, and even until the early 16th century, people drank more beer than water as a safe water supply. Brewing beer was a daily duty just as cooking was. There was even a time when there was low supply of wheat to make bread as it was used more for brewing. Even today, beer is the second most popular beverage right after tea. People drink more beer than coffee (3rd place). Through UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Beer culture in Belgium, we will see the communication of beer, more refreshing than its taste and consumption.



Beer Brewed by Monks and the First Beer of Human History

The beer which represents Belgium is abbey beer, in other words, Trappist Beer. This beer was brewed by monks in silence, training in abbeys under the Trappist order. How could a religious group which regards liquors as taboo brew beer? The answer to this unique and contradictory situation can only be found in history. The abbeys of Europe were religious institutions but production facilities, and monks considered the act of laboring the same to the act of praying. As abbeys served both roles as religious and production facilities, monks manufactured products from their farmlands, orchards and ranches, which they consumed or sold.

The brewing technology developed in abbeys, where it also was a community of the best intellects of that time, led to the production of fine beer. Trappist beer, for which the certification procedure is very complicated and strict, come in 12 different types in total. Among them, 6 labels are expanded in Belgium (Such as: Orval, Chimay, Rochefort, Westmalle, Westvleteren, Achel). Leffe Beer was developed by a private brewing company which gained license from the abbey, so it could be categorized as Abbey beer. Thanks to this, we can experience a rare treat which is almost like a religious experience. Moreover, the origin of Sauer beer, being a great stir lately, is also Belgium. Well, it would be exact to find the true origin from the Sumerians who lived 5,000 years ago. Lambic beer of Belgium is its closest origin, which is a naturally fermented beer, made from floating natural yeasts. Sumerians were the first to make and drink beer in human history. And now, the pride of Belgians who follow their 3,500 years old recipe from the past is strongly intriguing worldwide beer lovers.



Different from One Another, but United with Beer

Historically, Belgium was occupied by many different countries such as Spain, Holland and France. From this background, they use 3 official languages: French, Dutch and German. Belgium, a nation built on this heterogeneous background presented beer culture as the nation's common identity of the nation and this played a crucial role in inscribing Belgian beer culture as the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2016). The fact that all Belgian cities and villages produce, enjoy and drink diverse type of beers imposes its value as a living communal heritage. Thus, Belgian beer is recognized with more value than its fundamental purpose as a drinking beverage. In such a small country of 11 million people, there are more than 200 breweries producing more than 3,000 beer products. Indeed it has the highest density of breweries in the world. The origin of Belgian beer, which is more surprising the more we know, might be found in the abbeys of the medieval age, or maybe even as the first beer in human history.

The Pleasure of Discovering the One Ultimate Drink Perfect for Your Taste and Situation

The main characteristic of Belgian beer, which can be demonstrated by Trappist or Sauer beer, is legitimacy. When creativity is added to this legitimacy and originality, the explanation of Belgian beer can finally be whole. At this point, we would like to discuss Craft Beer, which Trappist Beer is included within its scope. But the most important thing to focus on is the creativity and diversity. About 500 years ago in 1516, King Wilhelm IV of Germany prohibited adding any ingredient other than hop, yeast and water to beer through German Beer Purity Laws, but Belgium was not affected by this regulation. It is the beer of Flanders from Belgium that focuses more on innovation and an experimental spirit than being restrained in color, fragrance, degree and ingredients. As paint that is a mix of 2 colors cannot be equal to a paint mixed with 24 colors, diversity is the identity of Belgian beer. There are different beers, such as seasonal beers like Saison, the sour and sweet Red Beer, Strong Ale with more than 10 degrees of alcohol, White Beer made with wheat, and so on. Moreover, the fact that there are special ways of drinking and exclusive glasses for these numerous types of beer is very unique and interesting. The hexagonal glass for Hoegaarden, the Chalice for Stella, Goblit for Leffe; we can see that the diversity of Belgian beer is so deep and wide that it is not easy to taste them all by type. The world of beer, it is more enjoyable the more you know about it; if you do not like beer, maybe that is because you could not find the right beer for you just yet. 🍺



The Strength and Sorrow of Buyeo

The Poet of Peace and Love, Shin Dong Yeob,

All Art Is Love
Poem, it Is the Heart on
Flame,
of All Beloved Life

-Shin DongYeob

An impure, but unshelled poem

There was a poet who sang for peace in the Geumgang River, beautiful as spread silk. He was Shin Dong Yeob (1930~1969), who was born and raised in Buyeo, a World Heritage city. The long epic piece of <Geumgang river> tells the story of Jeon Bong Jun, the founder of the Donghak Peasant Revolution with a total of 4,800 lines, representing the poetic world of Shin Dong Yeob. His poem is humble but not shabby, splendid but not extravagant. He was a person who substituted the past with the present and the future among the history of incurable violence and fight. Thus, now, let's listen to his poem which created beauty and affection even in such conditions.

The Traces of River and Land, the Never to Forget Past, or Future

The name of Geumgang River which crosses through Buyeo, is Baekma (White Horse) River. While counting the river's still waves, the cruise ship stops at Busosan Mountain. Going up the mountain the pace stops at Nakhwaam rock where they tell that 3,000 court ladies jumped as falling flower petals. In history it is written that the court ladies drowned themselves, not to be killed by the enemies when the Baekje Dynasty fell. While sitting in Baekhwajeong Pavillion, built to commemorate the court ladies, it is easy to view the scenery of Geumgang River. The water color is the typical color of Korean rivers, not even that blue or that transparent. The color is so deep that it cannot be described with a single color. The river curve flowing in a harmony with the land offers peacefulness. Leaving Busosan Mountain, visitors arrive at the Jeongnimsa Temple Site, which is a historical place of the Baekje Dynasty and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The place capturing tourists in the longest pace is the Five-story Stone Pagoda at Jeongnimsa Temple. The grand and elegant beauty of this pagoda shows the skillfulness of Baekje people. In the body part of the first story is a carving that shows the Tang Dynasty's conquer of Baekje. It is interesting for Baekje's representative art to hold a recording of their own doorn. This is where the significant point of Baekje Historic Areas and current day Buyeo lies. The heritage is accomplishing all its responsibility of certification by embracing even the history of failure instead of just showing the external goodness. Standing in front of the pagoda, thinking about the brilliant prosperity of Baekje and the sadness of the people who lost their country, the space where the visitor puts one's feet provides a new feeling of oppression.

Who Claims to Have Seen the Sky?

Shin Dong Yeob is a poet reflecting Korean literature and history. Born and raised in Buyeo, Chungcheongnam-do Province, he was the one who cried out for Korea's freedom and democracy. He observed the nature of power and tried to depict a better world from the perspective of the people, even experiencing the horrible scene of battle when drafted for the Korean War. His representative poems have clear historical awareness. The turbulent history from the Japanese colonization to war and dictatorship penetrated the entire life of the poet. The man who lived that time says "Husk, be gone". His poems as "Husk, be gone" / "April, left only of substance" conclusively speaks of love and peace. In the conflictive composition between the city and homeland, civilization and nature, fastness and slowness, the poet praises the latter ones instead of the former. This was an attempt to restore the values of the latter which was recognized as negative by the discourse of growth ideology. Shin Dong Yeob criticized and recorded the era based on the warmth and scenery of his hometown. At least, he did not see literature as a non-political, unadulterated area. If there was not such fantasy, relation with literature is transparent. His relationship with the era was also intimate as he oriented to the value of 'accurate historical awareness'. He was straightforward in relationship with the world. Whether it was the spirit of the poem or era, he looked deep into it, and embraced himself within. That was his way of singing resistance, people, democracy and love. The poems and announcements of Shin Dong-yeob, the impure poet, still remain in the lands of Buyeo. How will the times named by Shin Dong-yeob, shine amongst the battles of mutually different memories? It is a wonder that should be witnessed. 🍷

OWHC

The OWHC is the Organization of World Heritage Cities.

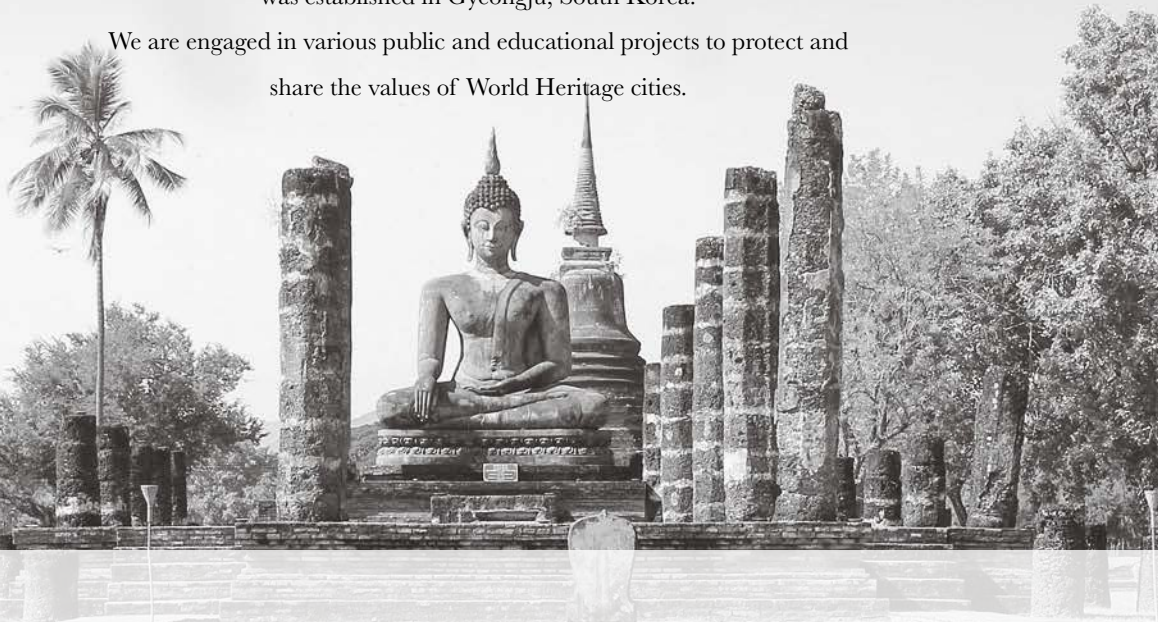
It was founded in 1993 and the general secretariat is located in Quebec City, Canada. As of 2018, 313 Cities are participating as members and eight Regional Secretariats are working worldwide. We are striving together for the sustainable development of World Heritage Cities and are holding the World Congress and Regional Conferences every two years to deal with the challenges and achieve the goals.

The member cities of the OWHC share the goals of encouraging co-operation and the exchange of information and expertise on matters of conservation and management of urban heritage

OWHC-AP

A Regional Secretariat of the OWHC, which manages the Asia-Pacific member cities, was established in Gyeongju, South Korea.

We are engaged in various public and educational projects to protect and share the values of World Heritage cities.



If you would like to become a member of the OWHC and share the same values, concerns and goals, please visit the site below : Always welcome!

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