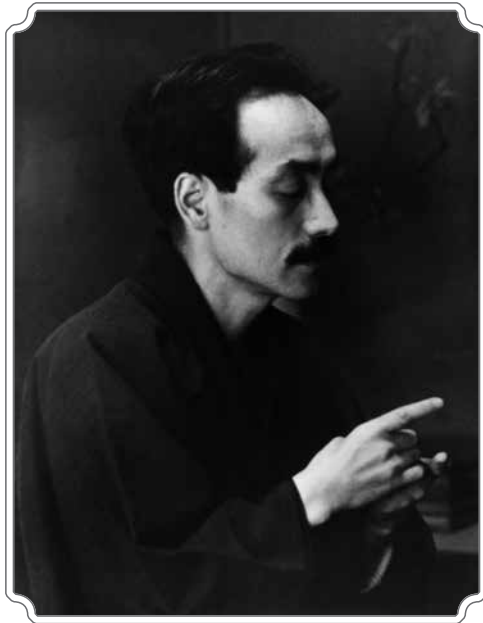


Memories
— of —
Gai Sensei
1916 ~ 1980



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Remembering a man of love

Memories of Goi Sensei commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the birth of Masahisa Goi (1916-1980), a spiritual philosopher who introduced and advocated the universal peace message and prayer, *May Peace Prevail on Earth*.

The stories and memories in this booklet come from people whose lives were inspired and forever changed by their encounters with Goi Sensei. As their words attest, he was a man of deep love, immense humanity, and true selflessness. He touched and enlivened the hearts of all those who met him.

In their simplicity, the memories recounted here capture the depth of Goi Sensei's teachings, which he dispensed at all hours of the day and in all situations, including even the most lighthearted ones. Each moment of each day was a chance to share his all-embracing love, and through his way of living, all those who were close to him agreed that he was the image of divinity itself.



He is remembered by many not only as a great divine being, but also as a gifted poet and calligrapher, and even as a comedian. Those who heard him speak were often overcome with laughter, uplifting their spirits and dissipating their worries.

When Masahisa Goi passed away in 1980, he was succeeded by his adoptive daughter, Masami Saionji, who continues his work for peace and spiritual awakening through the activities of three organizations that were founded upon his peace vision: Byakko Shinko Kai, the World Peace Prayer Society, and the Goi Peace Foundation.

Our infinite gratitude goes out to those who contributed to this booklet by sharing their stories, and to the embodiment of love that was Masahisa Goi. His teachings resonate as powerfully today as they did 60 years ago, and perhaps are needed even more.

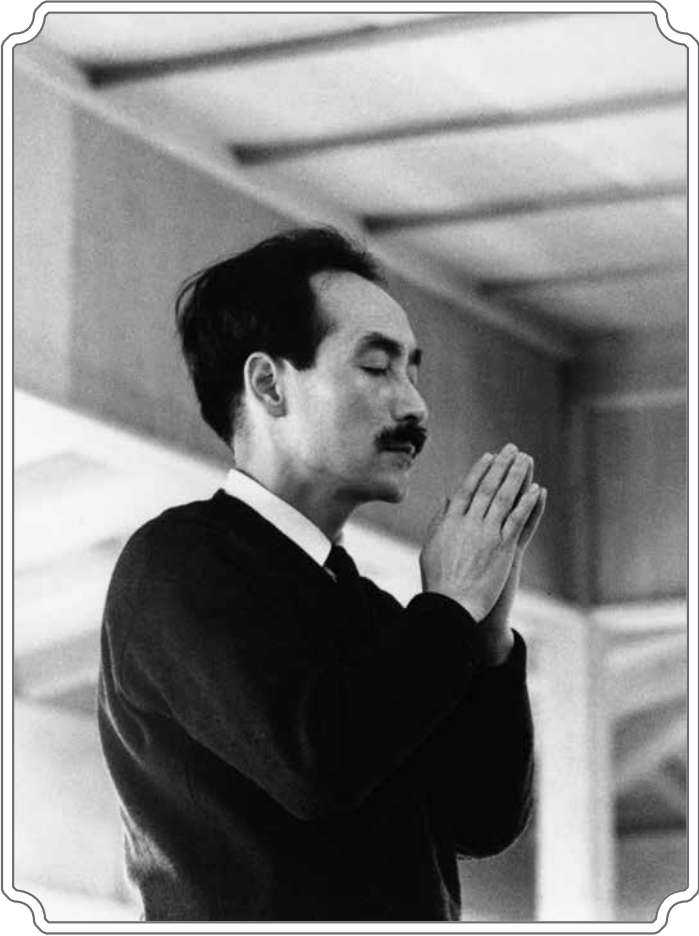
May Peace Prevail on Earth
November 2016



Poems



Goi Sensei loved the arts and was especially fond of literature and music, and he once thought about becoming a teacher or a musician. The following pages highlight some of his poetry.



In Praise of Life

*Divine is my life, my life is divine.
No stain or hindrance in my heart,
No grief or anger.
My body and my soul
Are bright and clear
In heaven, and on earth.
Shining like the stars, blossoming with the flowers,
Amidst the blue sky
And the light,
On the earth
And in the great beyond,
Eternal life, unwavering life,
Shining life,
Radiant with divinity.*



True Self

To make the future of earth shine brightly
There is something that people must know.
The truth of yourselves,
Your true mind,
Is covered by black wings—
The desires and fears surrounding your physical life,
Sadness and hate.
And there is something else you need to know
Even more deeply:
The root of your true self,
Your true mind,
Is in the great wisdom that moves the Universe,
The one and only source
Of absolute energy.

Your true self is always one with God.
Your true existence is light from God.
Once, you were your true self.
Desires, fears, sadness, hate—
Those karmic thoughts happened
When you confined yourself to the physical world,
The world of shapes,
Away from the world of God's bright light.
They are the drama of a night,
Played by phantoms.
Appearing only to disappear,
They are bubbles on the great sea.
Humankind is not struggling.



*Human beings are not lost.
Struggling thoughts, lost thoughts,
Are now passing in front of humankind,
About to disappear.*

*My dear ones,
Just be silent.
Know that your true self is in God.
Just look to the bright, shining light of God.
Compose your heart.
Quiet your thoughts.
Only feel the bright light of God.
This is the best time for the various karmic thoughts
To easily disappear.*

*My dear ones,
Do not stop the karma as it disappears.
Do not think back on the phantom pains.
If you do not stop them,
If you do not think of them,
They will not come back to you again.*

*My dear ones,
Now, you are your true self.
You are completely one with the great, bright light of God.
You are painting the future of humankind,
All in colors of light.*

To Love

*Even when it makes you feel sad to love someone,
My friend, you must continue loving that person.
Even if your love is like flames burning on the ground,
God knows it belongs to the heavenly world.
Love is the mind of God.
It is light on Earth.
To love is a deep joy,
To love is a deep sorrow.
Human ties blooming beautifully
In the flow of life of this world
Are the exchanges of loving hearts among people.
Even in the age of sadness,
When nations cannot love one another,
At least people must love one another.*



*All people are streams of God's life
Coming originally from One Life.
You and I belong to this One Life.
When our loving hearts
Turn into light and permeate our countries,
It will lead, in the end, to peace for the world.*

*My friend,
Even when it makes you feel sad to love someone,
You must continue loving that person.
Your love will certainly turn into a radiant joy,
And come back to you before long.
I am sure, just as God loves you,
Your love also softly envelops another.*

This Kind of Person

*One who rejoices in the happiness of others
As if it were one's own happiness,
One who feels the sorrow of others
As if it were one's own sorrow,
Yet does not cling eternally to that one moment of joy
Or sink mindlessly into that one moment of sorrow.*

*Whatever good thing one may have done,
Whatever bad thing others may have done,
One's thoughts do not linger there.
One simply trusts
That God will set all things right.*

*Never overlooking even the smallest bit of good,
Always seeking to dispel even the slightest bit of discord,*



*One's mind is open and clear,
Like the sky overhead.*

*With no thought of aggrandizing oneself,
With no thought of belittling others,
One simply makes life come alive,
With a prayer for world peace
Welling up from within.*

*As I pray for world peace,
My ardent wish is for more and more people
All over the world
To become like this.*

Prayer for World Peace

Goi Sensei wrote numerous *waka*, or Japanese-style poems. Some of them were set to music for people to sing together. The song on the next page is based on the Japanese text of Masahisa Goi's poem "Prayer for World Peace".

*What a joy it is to pray
With the divine mind streaming through
our prayer for world peace*



Sekai heiwa o inoru uta

(Song of prayer for world peace)

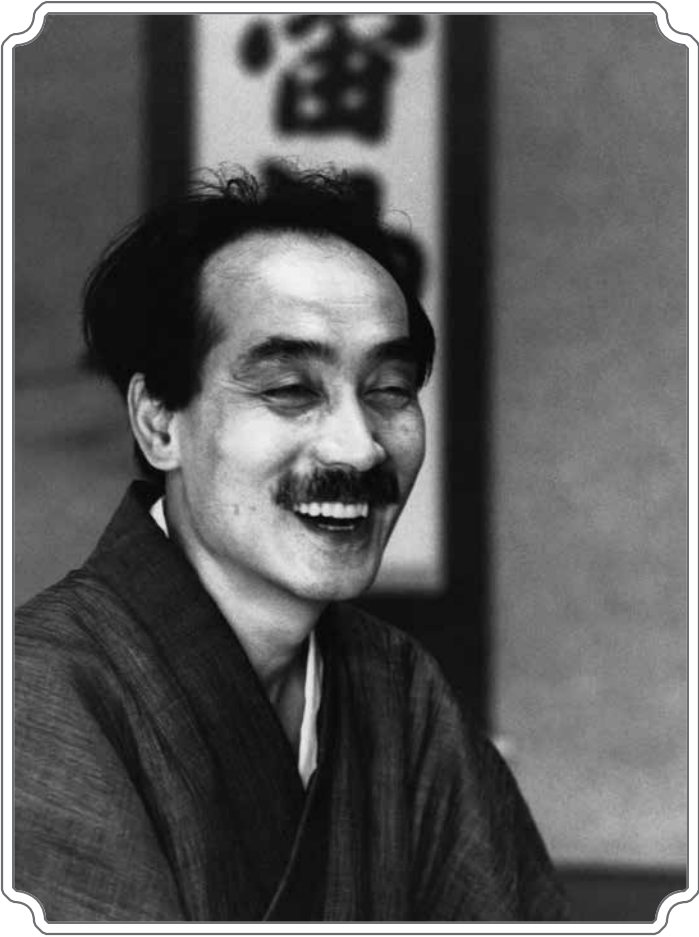
Lyrics: Masahisa Goi

Music: Shiro Nemori

$\text{♩} = 88$
mp *mf*

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 88 and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The second staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The third staff has a *rit.* marking. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating long notes.

se ka i he i wa i no ru wa ka — mi no mi
ko — ko ro no hi — bi ki ni a re — ba i
no — ru i no — ru ta no — shi sa



Memories of Goi Sensei



The stories presented here are excerpts from stories told by people who had closely associated with Masahisa Goi. They were originally published in Japanese in Byakko magazine during 1980 and 1981.

Love and kindness

Shinichi Takeuchi

During the early days, when I had first begun to attend the Holy Hill* meditation (*tôitsu*) gatherings, Goi Sensei would repeat the meditation sessions over and over again. After several sessions, I got up and went to the bathroom, and ran into Goi Sensei, who was just coming out.

When he saw me, Goi Sensei complimented me, saying, “Keep up the good work!” Then, he neatly rearranged the bathroom slippers he had been wearing so that I could use them, saying, “Here you are”. I was very surprised that someone who was looked up to by so many people would do this for me.

In those days, there were many jobs to do, such as cutting down some of the trees on the property. Goi Sensei would go around to each of the volunteers, thanking us for our work. To one young man, he said, “Thank you for taking time out from your studies to help us.” When talking with an elderly person, he spoke like an elderly person. When talking with a lady, he spoke from



the viewpoint of a lady. When talking with a child, he himself was just like a child. It was as if I were seeing an image of the *Kannon* deity (Buddhist deity of compassion and mercy) itself, and I could only bow my head.

The road at that time was not yet paved, and even a little rain turned it to mud. One day, I was driving Goi Sensei to Holy Hill, when the rear wheel became stuck in the mud. Goi Sensei said to me, “I will push the car, and you start the engine,” and taking off his jacket, he pushed the car, soaking in sweat. Unfortunately the car remained stuck, so Goi Sensei travelled the rest of the way to the dojo on foot. Since he was leading the gathering, Hhe could easily have said, “I will go ahead to the dojo,” without stopping to push the car, but he was a person of unceasing kindness.

* Holy Hill, or Hijirigaoka Dojo, in Ichikawa, Japan, was opened in 1958 as a gathering place for Masahisa Goi to give talks and lead prayer and meditation sessions. It was the headquarters of Byakko Shinko Kai until 1998.

Love for one's country and love for humanity

Akira Itoh

I recall Goi Sensei as a person of warmth and humanity who possessed a wondrous spiritual power. On top of that, he loved his country very deeply. I felt this more clearly every time I attended one of his talks.

I also care about my country, but Goi Sensei was patriotic on a completely different scale, and he had a passionate love for all humankind. At the same time, he didn't parade it as if to say, "I am a patriot." Rather, his love of country flowed out naturally in the way he conducted his daily life. Gradually, I became aware that we, too, ought to love our country and love humanity, and that this was the true teaching of Goi Sensei.

I remember that each time he gave a talk, he always closed it with "for the peace of humanity." He believed that we need to have not only a good understanding of international affairs, but also a correct international outlook. As I reread his books, I see this message conveyed in all of them.



Many people may have joined Goi Sensei's group believing that his teachings are for uplifting themselves as individuals, but I believe that, before they know it, they will come to understand what Goi Sensei was really like. Then, they will start to think, "Goi Sensei is indeed a good person. I would like to join him in praying for world peace."



Deep affection for his mother

Akira Itoh

I got the impression that Goi Sensei very much loved his mother and held a deep affection for her. Every time I read one of Goi Sensei's books or listen to his talks, I feel that even aside from his role as a spiritual leader, he always thought lovingly of his mother, and that we, too, ought to follow this path as much as possible.

Even in his poetry, he shows admiration for his mother: "When the chrysanthemum season arrives, I reminisce about my aged mother." He also wrote about his wife.

When his mother passed away, Goi Sensei said, "Up to now our physical selves were separate, but now she is right here, by my side." and I felt deeply that even as he was missing her, he remained completely devoted to her in seeing her off into the other world.

Later, I read his autobiography, *One Who Unites Heaven and Earth*, and at the beginning of the first chapter, he quotes his mother: "Never borrow money from anyone."



No matter how tough things get, you must get through it on your own.” At the end of the book, when heaven and earth finally become one and Goi Sensei becomes an awakened being, in the next scene, he abruptly turns back to his mother and writes about rubbing her stiff shoulders. I can feel Goi Sensei’s affection for his mother in the way that he wants to make her happy as soon as possible, to repay her for the trouble he gave her in his younger days.*

I firmly believe that there was no more devoted son than Goi Sensei, and that if we could live as he did, we would all be the kind of people who bring joy to our parents, to our spouses, and to our brothers and sisters. I feel that Goi Sensei is showing us how, even in our everyday life, we can exhibit a wonderful way of living.

* For more about Masahisa Goi’s early life, please refer to his autobiography, *One Who Unites Heaven and Earth*.

The wonderful charm of Goi Sensei

Motomitsu Noma

What drew me to Goi Sensei was that he loved and treated everyone equally, no matter how rich or poor they were. I was also moved by how he offered rice to those who had nothing to eat on that day—that was his way of guiding people.

Yes, that was what appealed to me the most: he loved everyone equally, and he treated each person in the same way. I became a huge fan of Goi Sensei, and I was always following him around.

I think Goi Sensei had a lot of charm and really attracted people's hearts. Maybe it was because (at the time when I first met him) he was young and still single, but I found that he was a person who did not just talk about his ideals—what he said and what he did were exactly the same.



Greatness within the ordinary

Fudehachi Sakuma

Back in the days when I first became a member of Byakko, all people said about Goi Sensei was that he was a person with a remarkable mystical power, and therefore, this was the only side of him that I saw. At that time, a small dojo was built and we started the early morning prayer sessions. After the prayers, we used to sit around the *kotatsu* (heated table) and talk. One time, Goi Sensei mentioned a TV program called *Sore wa watashi desu* (*That's me*), and said it was an amusing show. I was surprised that a spiritually enlightened person like Goi Sensei, who understood so much, found this kind of TV program entertaining. That left a vivid impression on me.

Listening to Goi Sensei's talks, the realization came to me that what matters is not psychic perception, but simply being together with one's family members, relaxing and having a good time. Until that time, I had been aspiring to attain spiritual power, and I was practicing yoga and other disciplines, but gradually I learned that this was not the true essence of spiritual practice. I had been missing the point, and from then on, my way of looking at things fundamentally changed.

Generally, when people have the power of spiritual perception, they show off and put on airs, but Goi Sensei wasn't like that at all. When it was necessary, he spoke in a forthright manner, but otherwise he talked to people in a casual, approachable way, like a friend. As time went by, I came to understand the true greatness of Goi Sensei.



Overflowing with love and affection

Kazuo Suganuma

Goi Sensei never once displayed an attitude like “I am the founder of this group, so I am above you and you are below me”. Even without taking his spiritual perception into account, he was such a wonderful person, and yet, as a physical being he never separated himself from us. It was as though, when Goi Sensei spoke, stood up, or sat down, love itself spoke, stood up or sat down.

Goi Sensei's love and compassion

Korekiyo Ichikawa

I would regularly drop by Shinden Dojo* in the morning to receive Goi Sensei's special purification prayer.**

One rainy day, Goi Sensei was wearing rain boots and carrying an umbrella, so that his wife wouldn't worry about him. We came across a bad place in the road, and Goi Sensei casually took my hand and guided me to a better part of the road. In those days I was in my early forties—still young and healthy—but Goi Sensei had me walk on the better side of the road, while he splashed through the muddy water. When I look back on this, I can see that Goi Sensei's love was on a completely different scale to the way we usually think about love. I understand that more clearly now.

* Shinden Dojo in Ichikawa, Japan was the first regular gathering place where Masahisa Goi gave talks and held prayer and meditation sessions in the 1950s and 1960s. The gatherings later moved to the larger Hijirigaoka Dojo.

** For more about Masahisa Goi's prayer and purification methods, please refer to "My Method of Prayer" in his book *God and Man*.



The embodiment of kindness

Hiroaki Ikeuchi

When I think of kindness and compassion, I think of Goi Sensei. Even after he became ill, whenever he was walking in the garden people always came over to him. No matter how he was feeling and no matter who the person was, Goi Sensei was always kind and caring. One day, when I was feeling a little under the weather, he put his hand on my shoulder, saying, “You’re tired, aren’t you?” His own health mattered not in the least, and I felt deeply humbled.

You see, my own physical condition was not good, either, and therefore I didn’t speak much, but rather listened to what others had to say. When I had to talk to Goi Sensei I worried about using appropriate words, and then I didn’t know what to say anymore. But even in these moments, Goi Sensei understood me well and used to say, “It’s all right, don’t worry.”

Even when it came to flowers, Goi Sensei preferred little violets to big, gorgeous flowers.

Unshakable faith in uplifting the world

Akira Itoh

I can recall Goi Sensei through many stories of his deep love and kindness. I also remember that when it came to important issues, Goi Sensei was often forceful and straightforward with his advice.

I remember him once saying, “I’m not concerned about side issues, but on the fundamental issues, I won’t budge. Prayer will definitely bring about a peaceful world. No matter who says what, we have to develop this unshakable faith. Can’t you see I am staking my life on this?” When he spoke like this, it sent shivers through everyone.



Always in a good mood and thinking of others

Yasuhiko Ido

Goi Sensei had an amazing sense of humor, and even when he was in poor health, he was always telling jokes. Often, he was the one who cheered us up, rather than the other way around. Most people would never be able to do this. If I myself were ill, I definitely wouldn't be making jokes—I'd probably complain and get angry at my wife. But Goi Sensei was always cheerful and never failed to put a smile on the face of everyone who came to him.

He thought not only about the people closest to him, but about everyone in our group and all the people in the world. He would say things like, "That person is really having a tough time—I will pray as hard as I can for him."



Always on my side

Akiko Matsuura

Seeking a spiritual path wasn't my initial motivation for becoming connected with Goi Sensei. But when I first met him, I could sense what a kind person he was, and I felt assured that he would always be on my side, and that he would make me a worthy person by brightening the negative aspects of my personality. Having this trust in Goi Sensei, I began going to see him.

I thought, if God were to manifest its image in this world, it would be in the form of someone like Goi Sensei. I had a weak constitution and generally disliked people, including myself, but Goi Sensei's kindness and deep love permeated each cell of my body, and turned me into a brighter and more cheerful person.

I used to talk to Goi Sensei about anything and everything, and at one point, when I was in a tight spot due to my own selfishness, I sought his advice. He looked intently at my face for a moment and quietly said, "It's karma." He never once said, "It can't be helped," or, "You never change, do you?"



I was always self-indulgent and reliant on Goi Sensei, but he never admonished me. One day, I asked him why he never scolded me. He smiled at me and said, “Well, if I did, you might stop coming here, and that would never do.” I will never forget his face and the words he spoke. If, at that time he had said to me, “You never change, do you?” I believe that I would have been unable to go on living. Since then, I have stopped saying such self-centered things.



Wonderful beyond words

Yasueki Takeuchi

It is truly wonderful that a great person such as Goi Sensei, who transcended everything, was no different from an ordinary person, and yet had more humanity than the average person.

He never talked about religious or spiritual matters in everyday life, nor did he preach to us about how we should live. Instead, I think that he naturally made us aware of how to live our lives by demonstrating his own attitude towards life.

I never once heard Goi Sensei say, “You need to change that aspect of yourself.” Rather, he guided us in such a way that we perceived it for ourselves. From this alone, we can see the depth of Goi Sensei’s love. I often wonder why I feel things in a certain way, and then I realize that Goi Sensei naturally showed us how to become a caring, compassionate person. His guidance was truly invaluable.

Normal and ordinary

Goi Sensei

Midori Matsuura

When Goi Sensei was about 32 or 33 years old, he used to wear a black beret and walk with a big stride, swinging his baggy pants and saying things like, “What do I look like to you? Maybe a musician, or a painter, or some other kind of artist?” He always spoke in this cheerful manner.

When he gave guidance in those days, Goi Sensei would say, “Whenever you are in trouble, call out my name.” He seemed exceedingly normal, like an ordinary good-hearted person, and therefore I didn’t realize for a long time that he was actually a spiritual leader. I simply loved his kind and gentle nature, and whenever I met him, I felt the joy of living.

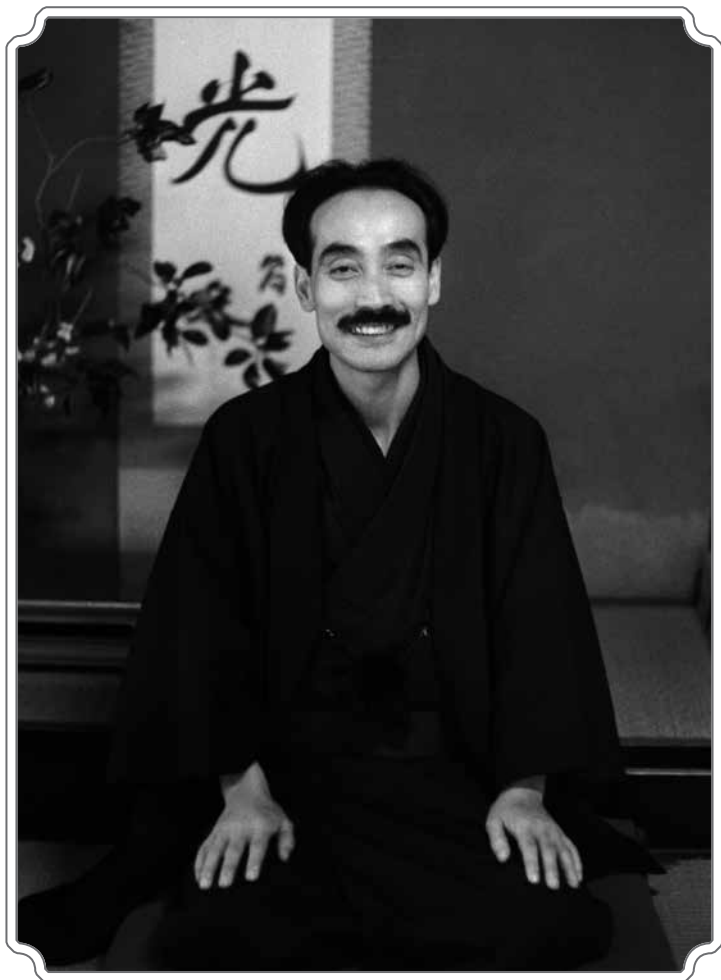


Lighting up the room

Pamela B. (USA)

A profound, warm love and light seemed to fill the room, reaching people instantly. He had a great ability to listen patiently and never admonish anyone. Masahisa Goi could instantly see a person's circumstances, and everyone who was counseled by him reported feeling light and refreshed afterward, as if a huge burden was lifted. His smile was very healing, and although his lectures could be poignant, everyone remembers Masahisa Goi as a person who loved to laugh, with a genuine sense of humor, and a passion for accomplishing his mission for world peace.

When Masahisa Goi arrived in New York, dressed in Western clothing, I remember that although he had a small frame, his presence engulfed the whole room and his smile was overwhelming. I really hardly knew what was actually happening then, but I felt this incredible energy fill the room and experienced an overwhelming feeling, as if I was home. Although I did not know about the peace prayer movement then, I knew this was an incredible being whose presence was gigantic. His warmth, light, harmony, encouragement and laughter were incredible, a power I had never experienced.



The life of Masahisa Goi

Born in Tokyo, Japan on November 22, 1916, Masahisa Goi was a poet, philosopher, writer, and singer. Though he loved the arts and was especially fond of literature and music, he found himself spontaneously drawn to the realms of philosophy and spiritual guidance. In 1949, at the age of 33, he attained oneness with his divine self. From that time on, he endeavored to reach out to people by holding informal talks, where anyone was invited to participate and ask questions. He provided many with spiritual guidance toward the attainment of inner peace.

Mr. Goi authored more than 60 books and volumes of poetry, including *God and Man* (his first and most fundamental work), *One Who Unites Heaven and Earth* (an autobiography of his early life), *The Spirit of Lao Tsu*, *Essays on the Bible*, *How to Develop Your Spirituality*, and *Catch the Light*, to name a few. Translations of many of his works are in progress.

Based on the universal prayer *May Peace Prevail on Earth* which he introduced, Masahisa Goi founded a worldwide movement of world peace through prayer, transcending religious, ethnic, and political boundaries. Before departing from this world in 1980, he named Mrs. Masami Saionji, his adopted daughter, as his successor and leader of the world peace prayer movement that he initiated.

