**Peace - Stories & Illustrations**

**Peace at last: Indonesian separatists in Aceh agreed to a peace accord this week, ending a 30-year conflict that has claimed more than 15,000 lives. Under a deal brokered by former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari, the rebels will lay down their arms and receive full amnesty, while the Indonesian military will withdraw two-thirds of the troops it has stationed in the region. Both sides said the breakthrough was partly due to last December’s tsunami, which killed 130,000 people in the province. Thousands of U.N. and other aid workers descended on the province and worked with both the rebels and the military to rescue survivors. A formal peace accord is scheduled to be signed in Finland next month. *(The Week magazine, July 29, 2005)***

**A peace accord ending Africa’s longest-running civil war requires Sudan’s government to withdraw at least 91,000 troops from the rebel-controlled south, a rebel official said Sunday, revealing new details of the deal signed Friday. The forces must pull out within 2 1/2 years, while a proposed government for the autonomous southern Sudan will field a separate army. The conflict has contributed to the deaths of 2 million people in the past two decades. *(Rocky Mountain News, January 3, 2005)***

**Two very famous artists were asked to paint pictures that would express their idea of peace. One painted a beautiful lake surrounded with colorful flowers and shrubs, behind which on gently rolling pastures lands grazed contented cattle. The other artist painted a waterfall plunging to the rocks below making a fine spray as it hit the bottom where it roared and tumbled tumultuously. On a ledge of rock behind the seething cataracts the artist painted a little mother bird quietly sitting on her nest. *(Uplift magazine)***

**The tomahawk was the war axe of various North American Indians. The word comes from some form or other of Algonkin “otomahuk,” meaning “to chop down.” When warring tribes tired of hostilities, they would, with great ceremony, bury the war axes. Thus, “to bury the hatchet.” Of course when they got bored with peace, as they always did, they would, with equal ceremony, dig up the hatchet and go at it again, hammer and tongs. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 257)***

**It looks as though 1988 could go down in the history books as an annus microbilis, a year when peace broke out around the world. *(Nicholas Ashford)***

**Upon the plains of Waterloo there stands a great bronze lion, forged from the captured guns of Britain's foes in 1815. The beast's mouth is open and snarls through his teeth over the battlefield. When I saw it last, one spring  noonday, a bird had built its nest right in the lion's mouth, twining the twigs  of the downy bed where the fledgings nestled around the very teeth of the metal  monster, and from the very jaws of the bronze beast the chirp of the swallows seemed to twitter forth timidly the tocsin of peace. *(Walter Baxendale)***

**When Admiral Richard Byrd believed himself to be dying in the ice of the Ross Barrier, he wrote some thoughts of happiness. “I realized I had failed to see that the simple, homely, unpretentious things of life are the most important. When a man achieves a fair measure of harmony within himself and his family circle, he achieves peace. At the end only two things really matter to a man, regardless of who he is: the affection and understanding of his family.” *(June Callwood, in Reader's Digest)***

**Celebrating not war, but peace: The Canadian government keeps trying to get us all worked up about the War of 1812, said Peter Jones. During this bicentennial year, we’re supposed to re-enact battles and glory in our great victory over the United States. In truth, there was no Canada at the time. The war was fought by British soldiers and natives, and “rather than a stirring Canadian victory, it ended when the Americans largely lost interest.” What we ought to celebrate is not battlefield prowess, but peace. The real legacy of the war “is simply that there never was a repeat.” It produced a tacit agreement that the U.S. and Canada would benefit far more by trading with each other than by trying to conquer each other. If that sounds obvious, think again: “It took those sophisticated Europeans another 150 years and two of the bloodiest wars in history to figure it out.” The alliance between the two neighbors has allowed both to thrive, and at this point the idea of going to war is so ridiculous that it’s fodder for comedy. If you look around the world today, you will quickly realize “just how rare a thing” our natural peace is. “And it is a thing very much worth celebrating.” *(The Week magazine, August 24-31, 2012)***

**David Fabbro provides a sensible list of characteristics of peaceful cultures: they do not engage in warfare; there is no standing military organization; there is relatively little interpersonal violence; and there is an ethic of interpersonal harmony. These cultures have a number of common characteristics: they are small in size, simple in technology, and socially nonhierarchical. In contrast, war and organized aggression are associated with community size and cultural development. *(Thomas Gregor, in A Natural History of Peace, p. xvii)***

**Jesus remarked to his disciples, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Jesus was trying to show his disciples in Mark 4 that other circumstances have no power over us. The citadel of peace within, which is the Christ Consciousness, cannot be hurt, diminished, or destroyed. *(Jack Addington, in New Thought magazine)***

**Takes conquerors longer to gain than to lose. In 15 years, Napoleon I overpowered everything between Moscow and Gibraltar, then lost it all in a year or so. Adolf Hitler needed nine years to dominate 1.37 million square miles, only three years to lose them. And you know about Saddam Hussein. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Peace Corps, which has long relied on idealistic 20-somethings to fill its ranks, has begun a major recruitment drive aimed at retiring baby boomers. “It’s a resource that if tapped could just bring tremendous value,” said Peace Corps Director, Ronald Tschetter. Currently, just 6 percent of volunteers are over 50. *(Minneapolis Star Tribune, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 27, 2006)***

**Once, an American television reporter was interviewing the Dalai Lama of Tibet. The reporter seemed frustrated with the religious leader. “The Communist Chinese have committed terrible atrocities against your people. They have taken over your whole country,” the reporter said. “All you have to do is speak the word, and your followers would rise up in armed rebellion. And yet, you remain passive. Do you truly believe that it is inappropriate to fight back against armed aggression, brutality, and murder?” The Dalai Lama responded, “You must understand that the people who have committed atrocities deserve our compassion. They are not bad people. They are simply people who have not yet grown in their hearts to a level where they can appreciate peace.” *(Robert L. Litchfield, Jr., in To Be a Graceful Giant, p. 10)***

**Mallet Eustache, governor of the province of Guise, France, was wounded in each of the 122 battles he fought -- but died peacefully in his sleep in 1349! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 243)***

**THE TRUTH ABOUT DOVES: Bird authorities claim that emblem of peace called the dove can be a vicious little monster. It’s merciless, they say, when pecking an opponent to death. *(L. M. Boyd, in Boyd’s Book of Odd Facts, p. 6)***

**One of the true masters of the art of serenity was Thomas Edison. It seems that when his factory burned down, he did not bemoan his fate. As newspaper editors went to interview him immediately following the disaster, they found him calmly at work on plans for a new building. *(Susan Smith Jones, in New Realities magazine)***

**Another master of this art was Emerson. As his library of precious books was burning in a fire, Louisa May Alcott attempted to console him. “Yes, yes, Louisa, they’re all gone,” the great philosopher said to her, “but let’s enjoy the blaze now.” *(Susan Smith Jones, in New Realities magazine)***

**Be aware of situations that generate the five great enemies of peace: avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride. Petrarch said, “If those enemies were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.” *(Dr. Ari Kiev, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Few things seem so peaceful as a summer garden, with its bright-colored flowers, the sweet perfume of growing plants, the hum of insects, the song of birds and the dancing wings of butterflies. Yet scientists are discovering that in the midst of this seeming serenity, the struggle for survival is intense -- with plants using specialized chemicals to defend against enemies or to attract needed allies. In fact, researchers in the emerging science of allelopathy, the study of how plants use chemicals against other plants, are finding that the battle is quite sophisticated. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Gorillas learn to keep the peace: Male gorillas have a reputation for taking a hard line on male outsiders who wander into their clan’s neighborhood. Field studies show that 9 out of 10 such meetings lead to displays of aggression, with 1 in 5 ending in fighting. Now scientists have found a notable exception in Central Africa, where lowland gorillas have developed an unusual peace pact. When head males from adjacent areas encounter each other, hostility is relatively rare, says Diane Doran Sheehy of the Mondika Research Center, located on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. “The males will tolerate other males feeding near them or even getting almost close enough to touch the females,” she says. This tolerant behavior started to make sense once Sheehy and geneticist Brenda Bradley of the Max Planck Institute in Germany analyzed DNA from 121 lowland gorillas groups. Head males from neighboring clans had a high probability of being first-degree relatives, implying that the animals have formed a giant male kinship network – a sort super-family. This network discourages violence. Sheehy speculates, because peaceable interactions may help related males set up their own territories and attract males, thereby increasing the likelihood that shared family genes get passed on. *(Jocelyn Selim, in Discover magazine, July, 2004)***

**“Peace of mind” is our idiom. To mean the same, the Gbeapo people of  Liberia say, “My heart sits down.” Natives along the Ivory Coast call it “A body song.” Elsewhere in Africa, locals say, “Where the cool water runs.” Or some variation. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Jesus was very emphatic in declaring the people should not expect his mission to bring immediate peace. He did not make false promises. He wanted his followers to be aware of the future dangers which would confront them. In this way he eliminated from his ranks all who would have followed him for the sake of worldly gains and he enlisted only those who were ready to renounce everything in favor of the gospel and, if necessary, to give even their lives for it. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 82)***

**Jesus had found his inner peace to the point that nothing anyone did to him could ever take it from him. He had found the Kingdom of God within himself. We think we live in a difficult time, but Jesus lived in a very troubled time. The pressure of living under Roman domination is something most of us have not had to experience. There were few rights and little civil liberty for the Jews of his time. But he had found the peace that passeth understanding. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**Jesus did not mean his mission was to start agitation, strife and war but his ideas were so revolutionary and contrary to the social and religious order of his day, they could not be carried out without revolution and war. His teaching upset dogmas and traditions and challenged the priestly authority. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 82)***

**A remarkable, inspiring woman who lived her life in deafness and blindness, Helen Keller, also knew the joy of serenity. She said, “I learned that it is possible for us to create light and sound and order within us no matter what calamity may befall us in the outer world.” *(Susan Smith Jones, in New Realities magazine)***

**In The Empire Strikes Back, Luke Skywalker asks the Jedi master, “Yoda, how will I know the good from the bad?” Yoda replies, “You will know through calm and peace.” This is the way of the Force; a Jedi does not need to attack; the Force will work for him. *(Mary Manin Morrissey)***

**Ramsay MacDonald, one-time prime minister of England, was discussing with another government official the possibility of lasting peace. The latter, an expert on foreign affairs, was unimpressed by the prime minister's idealistic viewpoint. “The desire for peace does not necessarily ensure it,” he remarked cynically. “Quite true,” admitted MacDonald. “Neither does the desire for food satisfy your hunger, but at least it gets you started toward a restaurant.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**While there are extremists on all sides, the majority of Israelis, Palestinians and Lebanese want to live in peace with one another. *(Illana Karman, in Time)***

**Peace in the Middle East will come only when each side develops the ability to empathize with its leaders as well as its hated enemies. *(Hwun-Yee Chen, in Time magazine, September 25, 2006)***

**The motto of the Apollo 11 flight was “We come in peace for all mankind.” This motto was on the plaque which was deposited on the face of the moon. The landing was on the Sea of Tranquility. Armstrong and Aldrin found a tranquil and peaceful scene on the moon. There never had been any humans there to disturb the peace. *(Christian Victory)***

**Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens stand only fifty miles apart in the state of Washington. In contrast to the volatile and explosive Mount St. Helens, Mount Rainier has had few explosive eruptions in its history. Seismologists say the reason for the more peaceful profile of Mount Rainier is that, unlike Mount St. Helens, lava in Mount Rainier somehow is gradually released and does not build up and become pressurized. *(Lester Seto, in Portals of Prayer)***

**The Peace Museum in Chicago, Illinois, opened in 1981, explores war and peace through 10,000 artifacts about individual peacemakers and artists. *(Marti Attoun, in American Profile magazine)***

**Friends of Oprah Winfrey are campaigning to have her awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Leading the effort is Rocky Twyman, 56, who feels that between her charity work, her “high fashion,” and her socially conscious TV show, Winfrey deserves to join the likes of Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela as a Peace Prize recipient. “This is something that's been inspired by God,” says Twyman, who is hoping to collect 100,000 signatures. “It's a grass-roots campaign in its very beginning stages.” *(The Week magazine, July 29, 2005)***

**On August 27, 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for the peaceful settlement of disputes. *(Associated Press)***

**Natural Law Party member Jeff Peckman successfully put an item on Denver's ballot -- Proposition 101 -- that would, in part, promote peacefulness through music and yoga. Opponents have labeled it a crackpot idea. *(Rocky Mountain News, September 15, 2003)***

**We hold doves in high esteem as symbols of peace and release them at some ceremonies. We hold pigeons in low esteem, yet they are actually doves, known as rock doves. Why the difference? – Patricia, Denver. Actually, it’s the other way around. Dove is a nonspecific term for the smaller species of pigeon. The common pigeon, also called rock dove, came with French settlers to Nova Scotia in 1606. Pigeons have a bad rap because these communal birds roost in groups on buildings, bringing them – and their droppings – closer than many people like, said Mary Taylor Young, News bird columnist and author of a number of wildlife books. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The peace poplar planted in Jena, Germany, in 1815, to celebrate the end of the Napoleonic War with France, toppled suddenly 99 years later on August 1, 1914 -- the start of World War I. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Strange Coincidences, p. 31)***

**Serenity Prayer: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen. *(Reinhold Niebuhr)***

**Prescription for peace:**

**1. Forgive our parents totally.**

**2. Forgive everyone who has ever been here, who is here now, or will be here, including ourselves totally.**

**3. Forgive the world totally.**

**4. Forgive God totally.**

**5. Take a leap in faith and trust in love, trust in God.**

**6. Choose to experience peace instead of conflict.**

**7. Choose to experience love rather than fear.**

**8. Choose to be a love finder rather than a fault finder.**

**9. Choose to be a love giver rather than a love seeker.**

**10. Teach only love. *(Gerald Jampolsky, M.D.)***

**British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and the leaders of France and Italy made a pact with Adolf Hitler in Munich, September 30, 1938, to let Germany annex a portion of Czechoslovakia in exchange for a promise of peace. When Hitler reneged and invaded Poland in 1939, the Munich agreement was decried as futile appeasement, and World War II \was on. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**A big year for peaceful pursuits was 1872. Yellowstone was established; Whistler painted his mother; universities of Oregon, Toledo, and Vanderbilt were founded; the great mule teams pulled borax out of Death Valley; and Congress passed an equal pay-for-equal-work law. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Men will always have war until a reshaping of his very nature comes about. Men, through their own efforts, cannot bring peace to this earth. The sheer magnitude of 16 million victims of the estimated 140 conflicts fought since 1945 is more testimony to this assertion. *(Ronald S. Toth, in Plain Truth magazine)***

**You once said a restaurant owner years ago found a way to keep his waitresses and cooks from fighting with each other. How? He narrowed the pass-through window horizontally. They could see each other's waistlines, but not each other's eyes. People don’t fight as much, he said, if they can't see the looks on the other's faces. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In a heavy sea, how deep would a diver have to go to get to calm water? About 60 feet. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**British scientists said they have uncovered a surprising way to calm agitated sheep -- by showing them photographs of other sheep. Professor Keith Kendrick of Cambridge wrote in a publication of the Royal Society that his team placed individual animals in a darkened barn and monitored them for things such as heart rate, blood count and frequency of bleating. Each displayed much lower levels of stress when shown photographs of other sheep. *(Steve Newman, in Rocky Mountain News, August 30, 2004)***

**Forty of Sri Lanka's top singers have pooled their talents to record a song that pleads for peace on this ethnically torn Indian Ocean Island. The song, “Give Peace A Chance,” was sung in the Tamil, Sinhalese and English languages. “Our song, the first sung jointly by 40 top vocalists, is to achieve peace in our country, where everybody cries for just that,” said composer Sunil Perera. *(Rocky Mountain News, 10-16-1989)***

**She stood there, in the midst of all those happy, noisy children, with a poise and calmness that defied understanding. Then as she said softly, “All right, children, now let’s form two straight lines and go into our classroom,” the children stopped playing and quietly formed two straight lines. How did they do that? I thought to myself. Moments before I had been able to make myself heard. Yet, all she did was whisper and the whole school yard listened. Later, when I had a chance to talk with her, I asked her secret. How was it that the children listened when she spoke so quietly? She smiled as she looked at me and answered, “The children always respond to the sound of peace*.” (Donna Miesbach, in Unity magazine)***

**The comparative study of peaceful societies is just beginning in the social sciences, and there are still no generally agreed upon standards as to how such cultures would be identified or how degrees of peacefulness would be measured. Indeed, for some, the whole enterprise of identifying societies as peaceful or otherwise is an illusion, since what constitutes an aggressive act in one culture may not be perceived that way in another. *(Thomas Gregor, in A Natural History of Peace, p. xvii)***

**What did the swastika stand for before Hitler appropriated it? Before it became the Nazi symbol of Aryan superiority, the swastika had several meanings, all positive. In Sanskrit, the word swastika means “conducive to well-being.” The Aryans of India believe swastikas represented the sun’s motion across the sky, a symbol of its goodness and regenerative power. The Greeks and Persians believed it represented prosperity and happiness. Early Christians disguised the cross as a swastika to avoid persecution. North American Indian tribes used a similar symbol as a sign of peace. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 138)***

**There would be no wars in the world if every country were like Switzerland. Switzerland has not been involved in any foreign war since 1515. It is unconstitutional for the Swiss government to enter into political alliances or to make war, except in self-defense.  *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 114)***

**Everybody knows what the peace symbol looks like, but few people know where it comes from. The peace symbol, an inverted Y inside a circle, was devised by British pacifists during the Cold War by combining the semaphore signs for N and D, standing for nuclear disarmament. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a  Weird World, p. 29)***

**The peace symbol was designed by British artist Gerald Holtom for a 1958 English antinuclear protest march. The symbol is a stylized representation of the semaphore signals for “N” and “D,” short for “nuclear disarmament.” *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 223)***

**Christ of the Andes, the huge statue that stands on the mountain frontier between Chile and Argentina, is a symbol of peace between the two countries. To dramatize that point, it was cast in bronze obtained from a cannon used by Chilean and Argentinean soldiers. *(Arkady Leokum, in The Curious Book)***

**The Tasaday tribe recently discovered in the Philippine Islands has no known enemies, no weapons of war, no words in their language for hate, war or dislike. They neither hunt nor cultivate. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 95)***

**A speaker at a political convention, before beginning his speech, offered this toast: “Gentlemen, a toast to the Iron Curtain: May it rust in peace.” *(Harold E. Youngs)***

**On August 15, 1978, thirty-three years to the day after V-J Day, China and Japan signed a “peace and friendship” treaty, formally ending their part of World War II. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 257)***

**In 533 A. D., the Roman Empire and Persia signed a commitment known as “The Treaty of Endless Peace.” Quite an accomplishment. They didn’t go to war against each other again for seven years. *(Boyd's Curiosities, p. 244)***

**We need to pull these guys out and put some others troops in here who are trained for peacekeeping, because our first impulse is to kill. (Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wright, questioning the role of 3rd Infantry soldiers in Iraq. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, June 20, 2003)***

**Various gatherings of bishops in southern France in 990 A.D. tried to set up a “Truce of God,” a subjection of warfare to rules. The chief rule called for converting all ecclesiastical property and persons into a kind of neutral territory that was not to be touched. Eventually, this was extended to a total prohibition of warfare from Wednesday evening to Monday morning of each week, and on numerous fast and feast days as well. In the end, as much as three-fourths of the year was put off limits to fighting -- in theory. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 376)***

**How can we wage peace? I ran across some hopeful words from the diaries of Etty Hillesum, a Jewish woman who died at Auschwitz in 1943: “Ultimately,” she wrote, “we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, and to reflect it toward others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world.” Perhaps that's a step toward the day when there will truly be a post-war generation. *(Richard J. Reece, in Catholic Digest*)**

**Though the world is obviously a long way from being at peace, wars are in decline. The International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm reports that the number of active major armed conflicts last year was 17. That’s the lowest point in a slide that started from a high of 31 in 1991. Although the war between the Taliban and U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan was recently added to the list, three others were subtracted: the conflicts in Rwanda, southern Sudan, and Algeria. “Major conflicts” are defined as those that cause at least 1,000 battle-related deaths in a given year. *(The Week magazine, July 21, 2006)***

**Martha Washington was addressed by some as “Your Serenity.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The word “peace” is derived from the Latin “pacere,” meaning “to make an agreement.” To be centered in peace is to be in complete agreement with life. *(Jack E. Addington, in New Thought magazine)***

**The world has been at peace only 8 percent of the time over the last 3,500 years. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 187)***

**It has been calculated that in the last 3,500 years there have been only 230 years of peace throughout the civilized world. *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata, p. 70)***

**During the past four thousand years there have been less than three hundred years of peace. (*E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 6)***

**Throughout the civilized world, there have been only 233 years of peace since 1496 B.C. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 70)***

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