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The day that the atomic bomb was dropped, August 6, 1945, all seven rivers in the city of Hiroshima were rushed by hordes of people whose bodies were severely burned and seriously injured. They were washed away by the high tide at that time, and their bodies and blood filled those rivers. These bodies were carried by the current, repeatedly bumping into one another, before they completely sank, after which time their skulls were exposed. We heard that the pale glow of phosphorus released from the bodies, going up like smoke, was seen for many years after the war. The roof tile was collected from the bed of one of these rivers. It thus contains the souls of the people whose lives were very regretfully taken away by this tragedy.

We believe that the atomic-bombed roof tile will silently convey to people overseas, however little it may be, the devastation and cry of the deceased regarding this horrifying inferno.

Nuclear weapons bring nothing but blazing infernos. Atomic-bombed roof tiles have absorbed blood and body fluids of tens of thousands of people who were inhumanely burned dead. They were burned by the 5000°C heat rays, leaving their skin scorched black, and the functions of their organs was destroyed by the radiation. They were desperately seeking water while repeatedly vomiting, bleeding all over their bodies and throwing up blood. When they finally reached the river in their hour of death, at the end of their strength they collapsed, only to be washed away in the river. We believe that the tile will convey to its viewers the raging souls and mournful tears of those died that way.

In Hiroshima, to this date, there still remain tens of thousands of people who haven't found their missing family members, not to mention the entire families who were terminated without any survivors. Even though their presence is now forgotten, each and every human right of theirs is still present in this roof tile.

The lethal power of the atomic bomb can be roughly divided into three categories: the heat rays, the blast, and the radiation. This tile made it possible to demonstrate the lethal power of only the heat rays. Therefore, as we understand, this is one of few artifacts that can accurately convey a portion of its destructive

power.

The sight of the tile informs viewers of the high heat temperature of this atomic killer. If possible, the suffering, pain and hell-like misery of those who were burned to death can be imagined. If any sympathy and unjustness can be understood, please pray for the victims of the atomic bomb in accordance with the practices of your country and religion.

Your kind and heartfelt prayers will assure that the deceased rest in peace. Each individual prayer may eventually connect to the prayers of others, which will eventually produce a greater power of mercy. And, this is where we see the hope for a peaceful world for the future.

*Hiroshima University*      *Rebun Hayo*

