

FLAME OF HOPE

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Let me speak with a fire-tipped tongue

set alight from the ashes of an indelible memory
and kindled from the consciousness of all
of an incandescence of hope,
to signify a rebirth,
a blossoming on a new branch
a flickering flame to be carried from nation to nation
in the name of everyone.

Let this flame be the magnificent flower of courage.
Let this flame be the lotus of grace, forgiveness and mercy.
Let this flame be the light of virtue in the Great Void.
Let this flame be the awakening of an immense spiritual beauty.
Let this flame be an outstretched hand.
Let this flame be the burning down of all suffering.
Let this flame be ignited in the eyes of every new-born child.
Let this flame be magnified and multiplied.
Let this flame be the emblem of all national flags.
Let this flame be a golden seed sprouting in the desert of the mind.
Let this flame be the light that "The Book of Compassion" is read by.
Let this flame be the refugee's torch through the dark seas
Let this flame be an ascending sun never setting.
Let this flame be a brightness to illuminate injustice.
Let this flame be a signal across continents.
Let this flame be a lighthouse for lost sailors.
Let this flame be an astral messenger bringing auspicious tidings.
Let this flame be an experience learnt and not forgotten.
Let this flame be our birthright.
Let this flame be a rejoicing.
Let this flame be a sublime moment in each life lived.
Let this flame be an intense heat that melts the chains that bind us.
Let this flame be seen over a vast distance.
Let this flame be a mesmerizing force.
Let this flame be a fiery beacon on a mountaintop.

This Flame of Hope
magnolia-like--the first bloom on the Tree of Life,
a bright votive to illuminate the Way.

Let it be reflected in our eyes.

Let it enfold us.

For this is the Coming of Age of this flame!

We inhale its light.

We exhale the aspirations it nourishes.

Let it be the shelter we all seek

a bamboo grove in a vast earthquake,

a rock's resistance in a great ocean's swirl.

No wind, no storm, no pelting rain can extinguish it.

It is inextinguishable!

It is inextinguishable!

Let this flame be in our veins.

Let this flame be Truth's sentinel.

Let this flame be existence's mightiest weapon.

Let this flame be the assassin of grief.

Let this flame be the Great Catalyst of Change.

Let this flame be fuelled by each miraculous moment given to us.

Let it burn bright!

Let it burn bright!

Let it burn bright!

Let this flame,

kindled from the ashes,

from the consciousness of all,

be an incandescence of hope,

to signify a rebirth,

a blossoming on a new branch,

an unwavering light to illuminate the Way.

And let this flame be carried

from nation to nation in the name of everyone.

A flame to be called "Peace."

And let it burn always

within us all.