

Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75th anniversary

From a faith perspective, it is neither uncanny nor coincidental that the Beirut Ammonium nitrate explosion (4th August 2020) occurred days before the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Beirut explosion is a Profound warning!

On 6th & 9th August 1945 respectively, nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The history books talk about the 5000°C radiation which spread over the two Japanese war-related industrial cities, vaporising bodies at the epicentres, exposing those further afield with extreme radiation, and crippling some of the next generation. However, since then, the world has largely forgotten what consequences a war-time nuclear explosion may inflict upon this planet Earth and the numerous species it provides with a livelihood opportunity. 75 years is a long time ago and most of today's world population (80-90%) were not alive in 1945 – they have no direct memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, only limited, often biased and dramatized re-constructions of what took place.

The Beirut explosion has demonstrated to any person on Earth with access to public media, the consequences emanating from a chemical explosion of a substance mildly volatile compared with uranium, let alone enriched uranium, under peace-time conditions. It also demonstrates the folly, naivety and gross irresponsibility of the perception that chemical reactions are controllable. There are always intrusions into ideal circumstances. The Beirut explosion echoes the prophets and saints who have castigated people of their time for their slowness to learn. In our own time, with the hindsight of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Chernobyl, Fukushima and now Beirut, let us neither be slow to learn nor to implement the production of safe energy. Let us break the fixation on nuclear and move more rigorously towards safer, cleaner renewable energy production. In faith, we hope to live and tell how we got there!

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