



Jade Buddha for Universal Peace World Tour - Sydney, Australia.

**Jewish Prayer for Peace from the Prophet Isaiah,
On the Occasion of the Unveiling of the Jade Buddha,
At the Chinese Gardens, Darling Harbour Sydney,
10th July 2009**

It is such a great honour for me to be here, representing the Jewish Community, at the unveiling of the Jade Buddha. The Jade Buddha is a very important symbol of peace for the whole world and in the spirit of peace I offer this Jewish prayer written by the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah lived in Israel almost 3000 years ago and is the first of the major Jewish prophets. He prophesied during the reign of 4 Jewish kings, the last one being King Hezekiah. During Hezekiah's time there was a great deal of warfare and he built a tunnel under the old city of Jerusalem to bring the waters which run underneath Jerusalem from the Gihon Spring, outside the city walls, inside to the Pool of Siloam. The reason I tell this story is because the waters of the Gihon spring are considered very holy and about the same time as the amazing jade boulder from which the Jade Buddha is carved, the 'Polar Pride', was discovered in Canada, on the other side of the world Hezekiah's tunnel was being rediscovered by archaeologists. Today you can walk through the pitch black Hezekiah's tunnel, knee deep in the rushing healing waters of the Gihon Spring, and come out at the light at the end of the tunnel, at the Pool of Siloam. So all those years ago, as Hezekiah dug that tunnel at a time of war, Isaiah made this prophecy

'Come let us go up the mountain of the Lord,

that we may walk the paths of the Most High.

And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares,

and our spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation--

neither shall they learn war any more.

And none shall be afraid,

for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.'

Let us hope and pray that the prophecy of Isaiah and the prophecies for peace from all around the world will come into being as symbolised by the magnificent 'Jade Buddha'

(You may have noticed that in the last few days the skies over Sydney have been full of rainbows. This morning I was lucky enough to catch one. It shone brightly for a moment and then quickly faded. As I gazed at it I felt uplifted, full of hope, but when it was gone I felt desolate, even frightened. I think there is a lesson in this. In times of despair when we are surrounded by warfare and misery we must not forget our hope for peace and we must nurture deep inside us uplifting symbols like the healing waters of the Gihon Spring, the hope of the bright rainbows and this magnificent symbol of peace- the Jade Buddha)

Jennifer Symonds, representing the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies