

Sadako A Young Girl's Death



▲ A Few of Sadako's Paper Cranes (May 20, 1997-Photo: Michio Ide)

Sadako Sasaki was two years old at the time of the bombing. She grew up strong and healthy, but ten years later (1955), when she was in the sixth grade in elementary school, she was hospitalized with leukemia.

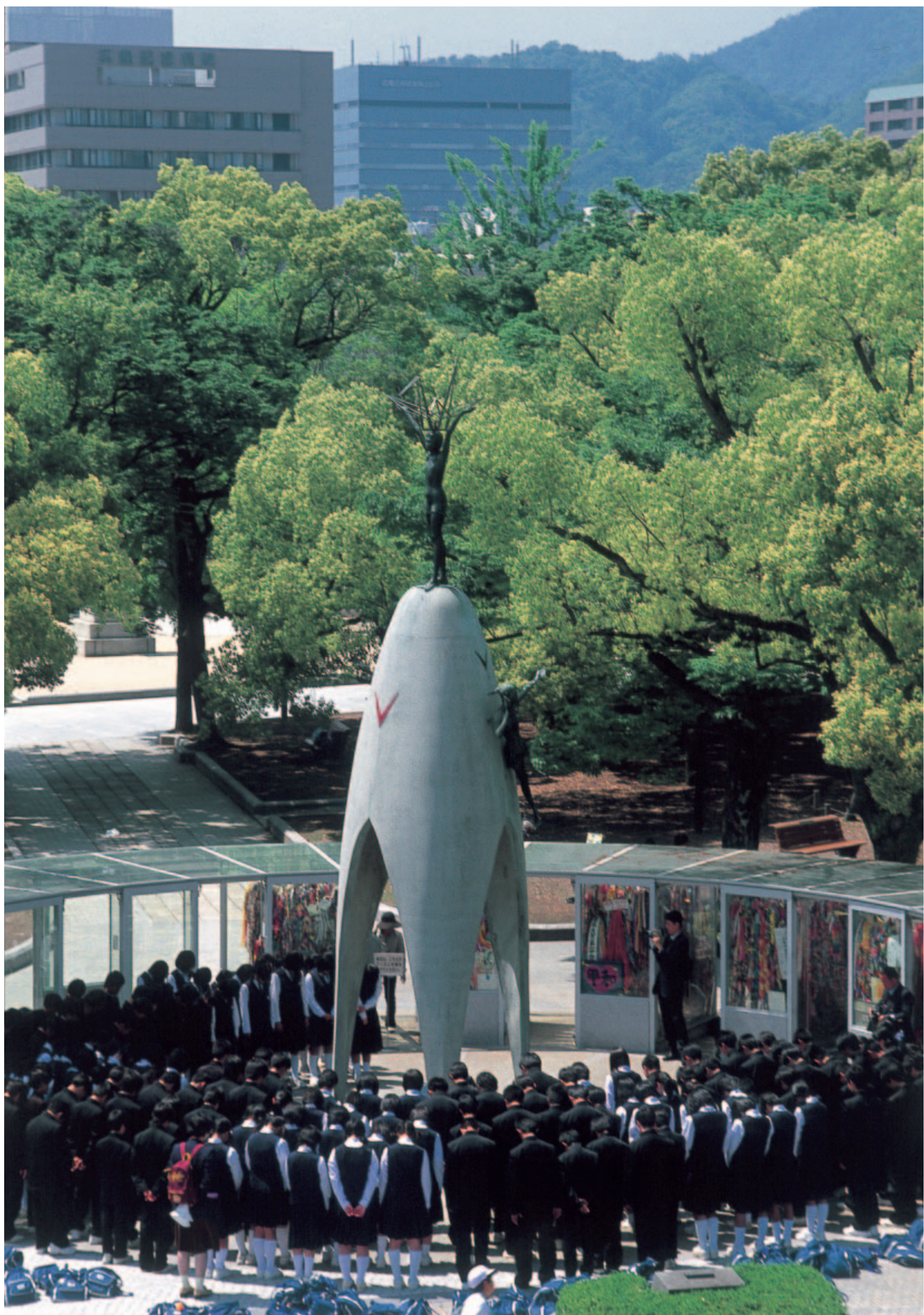
Sadako believed that folding 1,000 paper cranes would cure her illness. While in the hospital she folded cranes whenever she could, but her hope was in vain. She died after fighting the disease for eight months. Her death reveals the great horror of radiation –its ability to injure and kill many years after exposure.



▲ Sadako in the Sixth Grade
Courtesy: Chugoku Shimbun Company

Sadako's classmates were terribly shocked by her death and the story of her paper cranes, so they started collecting money to build a monument to comfort her soul and the souls of the many children killed by the A-bomb, and to express their hope that there would never be another war. This campaign spread to schools around the nation and around the world. In 1958, the Children's Peace Monument was erected in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, depicting a young girl lifting a paper crane high over her head.

Beneath the monument, carved in black granite, are the words, "This is our cry. This is our prayer. For peace in this world." The area around this statue is always full of paper cranes sent by peace-loving people throughout world.



▲ Children's Peace Monument (August 5, 2005-Photo: Michio Ide)



▲ Children Collecting Funds to Build the Children's Peace Monument (1956)
Courtesy: Chugoku Shimbun Company