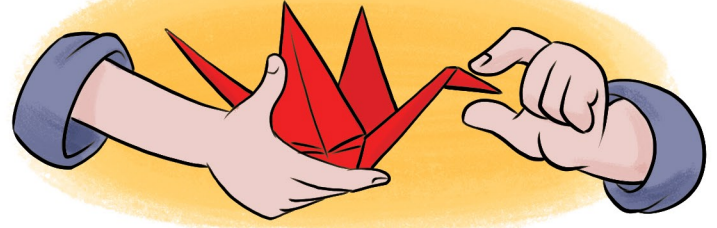


Masahiro Sasaki



I am folding cranes again. I know in doing so, I am teaching my heart forgiveness and peace.

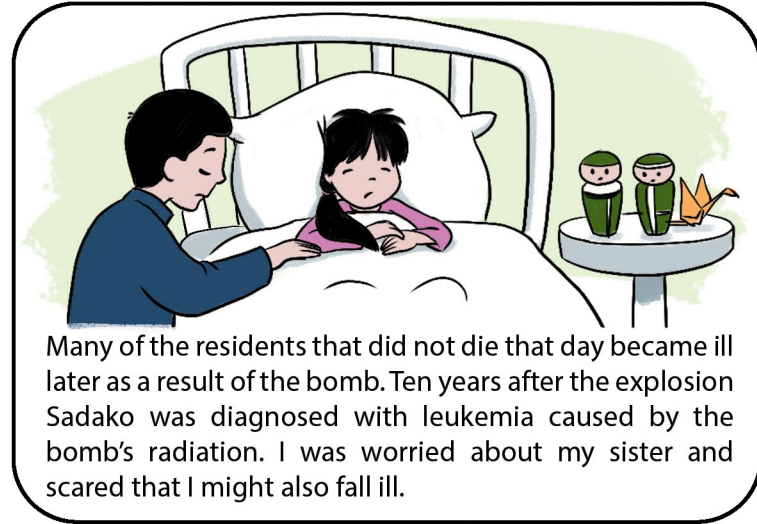
I believe that what our hands are doing can teach our hearts. Making paper cranes is a creative way to fold our experiences into our being. By delicately folding the paper, we can start to embed peace and forgiveness into our hearts.



However, for some time, I stopped making paper cranes.



I was four years old in the summer of 1945 when an atomic bomb exploded above Hiroshima. It demolished many structures, including our house. I suffered a cut to my head, but my mother, two-year-old sister Sadako, and I were able to run from the ensuing fires and survived.



Many of the residents that did not die that day became ill later as a result of the bomb. Ten years after the explosion Sadako was diagnosed with leukemia caused by the bomb's radiation. I was worried about my sister and scared that I might also fall ill.



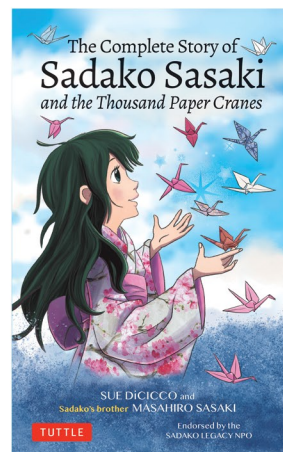
After Sadako's passing, she became a symbol of peace and forgiveness. But her popularity came at a high price for my family. We were accused of benefiting from Sadako's fate and were often treated poorly. To escape this, my family moved to my grandparents' house in Fukuoka.



Away from the spotlight, we were able to live normally. In Fukuoka, I was happy again. Eventually, I married and had three children. Meanwhile, Sadako's fame continued to grow. We saw Sadako's story be used and manipulated. But for years, we did not comment.



When I was 60 years old, I had a change of heart. I decided to speak up, share Sadako's story as I remember it, and honor her legacy, even working with Truman's grandson. Since then, I have spoken and written about her life, and donated Sadako's cranes to museums around the world.



Masahiro, Sadako's brother, was born in 1941, the year the war broke out between US and Japan after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. To read more about Masahiro and Sadako, you may look for his book:

"The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes"