

Testimony of Hibakusha
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I am Tanno Kiyoshi. I suffered the atomic bombing shortly before I turned 3 years old.

When I was little, I did not know what happened to me, but as I grew older, other kids bullied me and turned me away, saying that my radiation or A-bomb disease would infect them. That's how I came to realize that my keloid scars were caused by the bomb and its radiation.

I was a gymnast in my high school days. Gymnastics often involve injuries. Back then, people used to say that red or purple spots appearing on the body were the proof of contracting deadly atomic bomb disease. I also believed this. I sometimes had a slip in gymnastics and hit some parts of my body, which turned purple. As soon as I got home, I took all my clothes off and frantically searched all parts of my body with a hand mirror to check if any more purple spots were developing. Purple spots were believed to be the sign of impending death. That's what people believed in those days. So I have spent the last 75 years of my life always worrying about possible onset of diseases induced by radiation from the bomb.

The mechanism of radiation disorders caused by nuclear weapons has not yet been fully elucidated. Nuclear weapons are unnecessary for humankind. We must create a world without nuclear arms. Dear friends, let us work together to make sure no more Hibakusha like me are created.