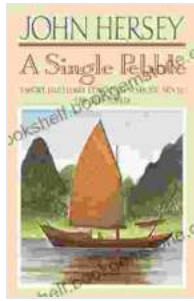


Single Pebble: John Hersey's Haunting Account of Nuclear Devastation in Hiroshima



John Hersey's "Single Pebble" is a gripping and heart-wrenching account of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, told through the eyes of six survivors. Published in 1946, just one year after the fateful day, the article was a groundbreaking work of journalism that brought the horrors of nuclear warfare into sharp focus for readers around the world. Through vivid descriptions and deeply personal narratives, Hersey paints a harrowing picture of the unimaginable suffering and devastation that the bomb inflicted upon the city and its inhabitants.

A Single Pebble by John Hersey



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.4 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 6148 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 190 pages



The Six Survivors

Hersey focuses on six individuals who survived the bombing:

* **Dr. Masakazu Fujii**, a surgeon who witnessed the immediate aftermath of the blast from his hospital. * **Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge**, a German priest who worked at a Catholic mission in Hiroshima. * **Miss Toshiko Sasaki**, a young office worker who was severely burned by the bomb. * **Mrs. Hatsuyo Nakamura**, a widowed seamstress who lost her children in the blast. * **Reverend Mr. Kiyoshi Tanimoto**, a Methodist minister who helped organize relief efforts. * **Mr. Yoshitaka Kawamoto**, a building contractor who was knocked unconscious by the bomb.

Through their eyes, we experience the full extent of the physical, emotional, and spiritual trauma that the atomic bomb caused.

The Day of the Bomb

Hersey vividly recounts the events of August 6, 1945, when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. He describes the blinding flash, the deafening roar, and the towering mushroom cloud that consumed the city.

The survivors' reactions range from disbelief to terror to a sense of resignation.

"It was like a gigantic, blue-white lightning bolt that cut across the sky," said Father Kleinsorge. "The whole city seemed to be bathed in a blinding light."

"I felt a terrible pressure around my head," recalled Mr. Kawamoto. "It felt like my skull was being crushed."

The Aftermath

In the aftermath of the bombing, Hiroshima was a scene of utter chaos and devastation. Buildings were reduced to rubble, roads were impassable, and the city was consumed by raging fires. The survivors faced unimaginable horrors: burns, radiation sickness, and the loss of loved ones.

Hersey describes the desperate search for medical care and the heartbreaking scenes of families torn apart. He also highlights the indomitable spirit of the survivors, who refused to give up hope even in the face of such overwhelming suffering.

"There was no moaning, no screaming, just a dead silence everywhere," said Mrs. Nakamura. "It was like being in a world of the dead."

"I thought I was going to die," said Miss Sasaki. "But then I remembered my family and I decided to live."

The Impact on Japan and the World

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima had a profound impact on Japan and the world. It brought an end to World War II, but it also marked the beginning of

the nuclear age. Hersey's article helped to shape public opinion about the use of nuclear weapons and became a powerful force in the movement for nuclear disarmament.

"Single Pebble" was one of the first works to document the horrors of nuclear warfare. It is a testament to the power of journalism and the importance of bearing witness to human suffering.

Legacy and Significance

"Single Pebble" remains a classic of journalism and a powerful indictment of nuclear weapons. It has been translated into more than 20 languages and is widely taught in schools and universities around the world. Hersey's work has inspired countless people to work towards a more peaceful and nuclear-free world.

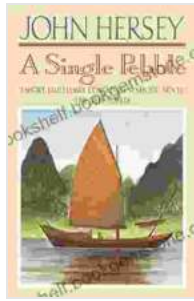
The single pebble that gives the article its title is a symbol of the fragility of human life and the devastating consequences of nuclear war. It is a reminder that even the smallest act of violence can have far-reaching and catastrophic results.

John Hersey's "Single Pebble" is an unforgettable account of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Through the eyes of six survivors, Hersey paints a vivid and deeply personal picture of the horrors of nuclear warfare. His article is a powerful reminder of the importance of peace and the dangers of nuclear weapons. It is a work that continues to resonate today, more than 75 years after the atomic bomb was dropped.

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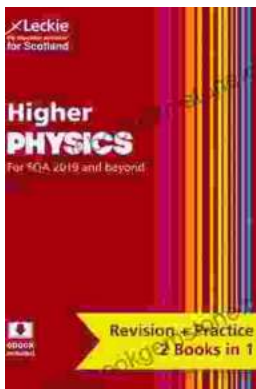
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