

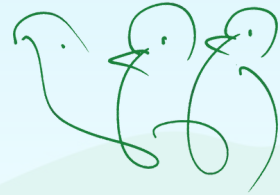
Kids to Kids Global in support of the United Nations ACT NOW initiative

Planting Trees for World Harmony

past and present

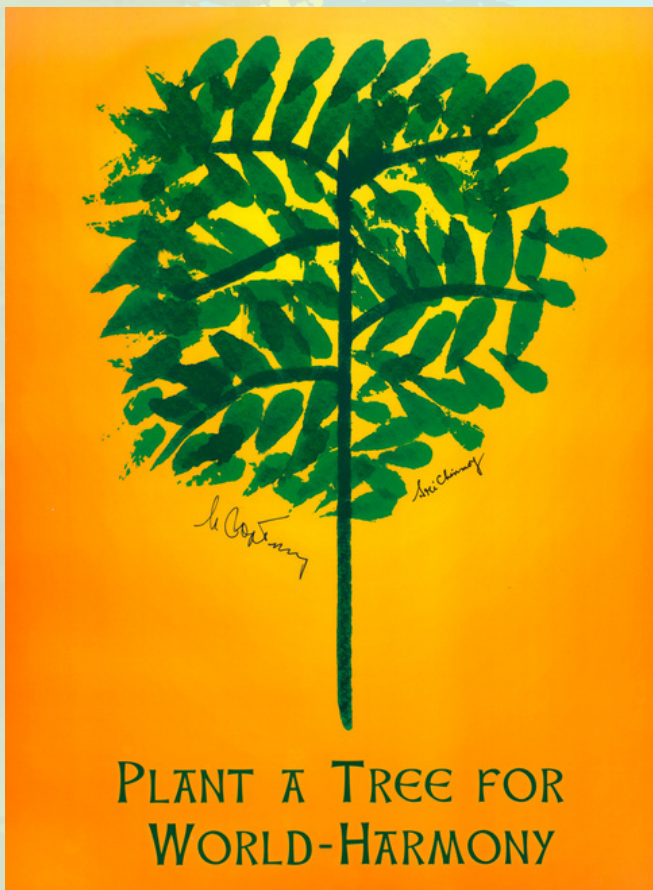
Kids to Kids, (kidstokids.global) is one of the major branches of The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles humanitarian organization founded by Sri Chinmoy in 1991.

Kids to Kids is a global programme dedicated to fostering happiness, goodwill and friendships between children of different cultures and nationalities. During the height of the pandemic, through our Happiness Friendship Art project, children exchanged encouraging messages and shared artwork on the theme of happiness.



“This program (Kids to Kids) is being introduced to schools to foster the ideals of the United Nations in the hearts and minds of children in various parts of the world.”

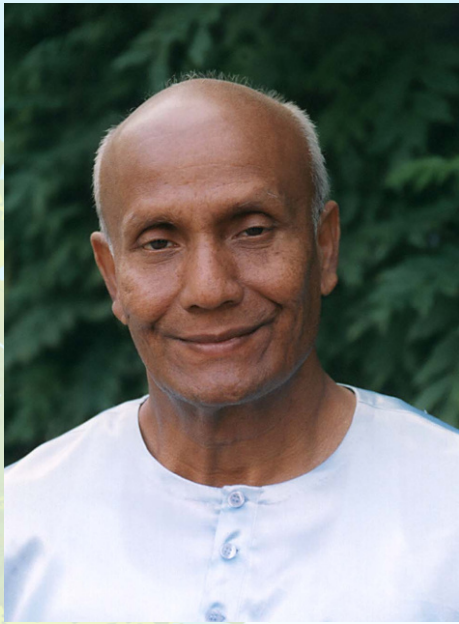
— former United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Anwarul Chowdhury



President Gorbachev, Founder of the Green Cross, signed Sri Chinmoy's artwork in support of planting trees.

“To me, nature is sacred. Trees are my temples and forests are my cathedrals.”

— Mikhail Gorbachev



Sri Chinmoy led “Sri Chinmoy: the Peace Meditation at the United Nations,” in New York City for 37 years until his passing in 2007. He embraced the highest ideals of the United Nations, thus the universal goals of the UN have motivated all our projects. It is becoming clearer every day that we are one world, and humanity is one family.



Sri Chinmoy, internationally renowned peace leader, poet, athlete, artist and spiritual teacher, began planting Peace Trees in 1990.



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy

Educators sharing Sri Chinmoy's writings on environmental protection from "Listen to Nature" with students and student teachers in universities, secondary and primary schools in Portugal.

The students also planted olive trees in their schools and a community garden.

**In support of the UN Ocean Conference
An Exhibit from the artwork and writings of Sri Chinmoy**

25 June 2022, Matosinhos, Portugal

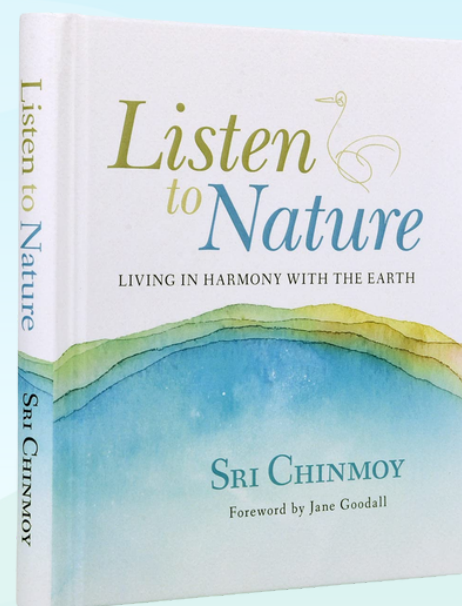
Leixões Cruise Terminal



Professor Simone Auf der Maur

University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (simtome03@gmail.com)

As explained in the recently published book of Sri Chinmoy's writings, *Listen to Nature – Living in Harmony with the Earth* (2021), Sri Chinmoy viewed respect for Nature as an inseparable part of his overarching vision of oneness and peace. The universal nature of his philosophy encouraged people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities to work together for global peace and a world where all beings live in harmony.



"Each individual has a special role to play in the protection of our small planet. It is the illumination of the individual mind and spirit that will precede the awakening of a new collective awareness. The change in individual attitudes will be the precursor of a change in institutional policies, and the result will be a greater respect and love for our planet Earth." – Sri Chinmoy

In northern Portugal, on the International Day of Mother Earth 2023, little seeds of hope were planted. This is a story of Professor Simone Auf der Maur, who is teaching her student teachers at Porto University, about the environment through inspiring quotes from the book "Listen to Nature" by Sri Chinmoy, and hands on projects such as planting an olive tree.

In April 2023, three public schools were contacted and the teachers in charge, Júlia Miranda, Rosa Lídia Sousa and Cláudia Pinto, responded promptly and embraced the inspiring mission to nurture not only the minds and hearts of their students but also the soil in their school gardens.

The tree planting project aimed at raising awareness of sustainability, global peace and the protection of nature – hand in hand with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António de Oliveira Guterres' aspiration to bring the noble ideals of the UN to the children and young people of the world, through multiple projects and initiatives.

In fact, the Secretary-General has a remarkable connection with olive trees, one that weaves together his personal history and his commitment to world harmony and diplomacy. What a wonderful idea Mr. Guterres' grandfather had, to plant an olive tree when he was born. This personal and inspiring story by the Secretary-General was shared with teachers, students and student teachers. Maybe new parents can start following his example in Portugal. It is a perfect way to celebrate both the birth of a new, precious life and to help the environment!

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' remarks at Mongolia's One Billion Tree campaign planting event

Thank you very much for allowing me to give a very, very small contribution to your wonderful program of planting one billion trees until 2030 in Mongolia. I'm very honoured to be part of your project.

I had here a speech to read, but I will not read it. I want to tell you my story with trees.

My grandfather, maternal grandfather's family name was Oliveira in Portuguese it means olive tree. I inherited that family name. I'm called Oliveira Guterres, my two family names. And one day my grandfather came with me to a small field and showed me a small olive tree. I was a boy - a small boy - and he told me "I planted this olive tree the day you were born, and I want you for all your life to respect trees and remember that you have a sister tree. This tree should be a symbol of your own life."

I must say, I was very happy to know this because in my country we have olive trees with more than one thousand years so I don't intend to live a thousand years but I'm happy that I have a sister olive tree that will be there much longer after I die.



**“We can have
Harmony
If we have
A deep reverence
For Mother Nature.”**

Poem from the book *Listen to Nature*
by Sri Chinmoy

As a professor and teacher of student teachers Simone Auf der Maur explained how in many ways – from exhibits to teaching from Sri Chinmoy's writings – student teachers and young people have been impacted and inspired to bring about change in the world:

“Over the course of time, the students are going to grow alongside their trees, nourished by the shared experience of planting and caring for life. Lessons of patience, resilience, and responsibility have been nestled deep within their souls. They have become advocates for change, and guardians of a future where humanity and nature can thrive in harmony. This project was also an experience of the power of unity, education based on 21st-century skills, and the unwavering belief that even the smallest actions can yield the greatest transformations. And so, in the hearts of those who participated, the tree planting project will live on – a living testament to the profound impact that can be achieved when teachers and students come together as one.”

21 April 2023, Conservatory of Music, Porto, Portugal

PREPARING EXHIBIT AT THE SCHOOL LIBRARY



21 April 2023, Secondary School in Ermesinde, Portugal



**German teacher Julia Miranda (left) Prof Simone Auf der Maur
Head of School Ana Maria Cortez (right)**



**Librarian Julia (blue scarf) and 3 student teachers
Fatima, Andreia and Mariana with two students of the secondary school**

21 April 2023, visit to Escola da Ponte at Santo Tirso, Portugal



**Arriving at the Escola da Ponte
with the olive tree**



**Tree with inspirational texts
(students' art work)**



Students from the faculty Teacher Claudia and Prof Simone

27 April, Ceremony, Conservatory of Music, Porto, Portugal



Beginning of the planting of the tree



Head of School Jorge Moreira



German teacher Rosa Lidia



Plaque marking the olive tree

27 April, Ceremony, Conservatory of Music, Porto, Portugal

MUSIC STUDENTS



28 April, Ceremony, Secondary School in Ermesinde, Portugal



Earth Day Activities, 30 April, Escola da Ponte, Portugal

STUDENTS PLANTING THE OLIVE TREE



Planting the Olive Tree – the Tree of Peace – at the Community Garden of São Bernardo, Aveiro, Portugal by the students at the Centro de Estudos de São Bernardo



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy and posters with his poems were offered, in partnership with the Jharna-Kala Art Foundation, and have been exhibited in several points of national interest. This time, it is the Centro de Estudos de São Bernardo that receives exhibition of paintings, thus becoming an integral part of this movement of hope, which aims to contribute to the global dialogue on crucial issues involving the protection of Nature and raising planetary awareness about the urgency of action to protect the environment.

Speech by the President of the Parish Council of São Bernardo, Henrique Vieira, on the day of planting the Olive Tree at the Community Garden

“My thanks for this beautiful moment and for these sentences, which are short in words, but long in importance. Our goal here today is to bring about change in the world, a change which we sorely need. Here today, on Earth Day, we are planting this olive tree, which has long been recognized as a symbol of peace.

Unfortunately, we live in a very critical time and so we are making these gestures, these small gestures, which are in fact an impetus for our world community. We especially note the importance of the work of António Guterres, who is the Secretary-General of the UN, and is a spectacular person, who is striving to help peace return to the world as soon as possible.

We hope that you are very happy in your own life and that you bring this example of peace to your parents and your friends. In planting a peace tree, we proclaim the importance of Nature, and our recognition that the environment is our future and that we have to treat it well. In a few years you will be in my place, or in the place of the Prime Minister, or in the place of António Guterres, one of you could be there... You are our future and we have a lot of faith in these young people, these children, who actually are in a position to bring us a better world. Thank you very much to all the young people, and to the teachers too, and to the organisation [The Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles] which is honored today. It is indeed an example for us today, and we admire it greatly, and have the hope that we can, in fact, all live in peace one of these days.”



Parish Council of São Bernardo
Henrique Vieira

Kids to Kids planting 200 trees in Bali, Indonesia

Kids to Kids volunteers, in support of the UN Act Now Campaign for Individual Action planted 200 trees in Sudaji, Bali, Indonesia in 2022-2023. Teaching the importance of planting trees to offset carbon emissions is one aspect of our educational initiatives. Every one of us can help take care of our planet. Children are more than eager to be part of the solution and influence change. Kindly see in the link below, the activities of the inspiring community of Sudaji which teaches and supports environmental protection.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1a7fqmf5koiwk3o/In%20support%20of%20ACTNOW%20final.mp4?dl=0>



**Minister of Tourism of Indonesia
Dr. H. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno, BBA, MBA
planted a tree in Sudaji in gratitude for
the inspiring community initiatives to
serve Mother Earth.**



Posters on the theme of World Harmony by Sri Chinmoy



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy

1

President Gorbachev, Founder of the Green Cross, signed on the left side, in support of our Plant a Tree project



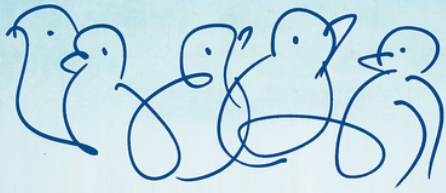
Artwork by Sri Chinmoy

2



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy

3



“A ciência está desesperadamente à procura
Da chave cósmica.
A natureza já a tem.”

“Science is desperately searching
For the cosmic key.
Nature already has it.”

– Sri Chinmoy

Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 4



“De manhã,
Medita nas ondas e vagas
Do oceano.
Irá encontrar vida-energia dinâmica.

Ao anoitecer,
Medita na vastidão profunda
Do oceano.
Irá sentir a paz do Infinito.”



“In the morning,
Meditate on the waves and surges
Of the ocean.
You will find dynamic life-energy.

In the evening,
Meditate on the deep vastness
Of the ocean.
You will feel Infinity’s peace.”

– Sri Chinmoy

Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 5



“Devemos criar
Um novo mundo de beleza
Aqui, neste mundo de espinhos.”

“We must create
A new world of beauty
Here in this world of thorns.”

– Sri Chinmoy



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 6

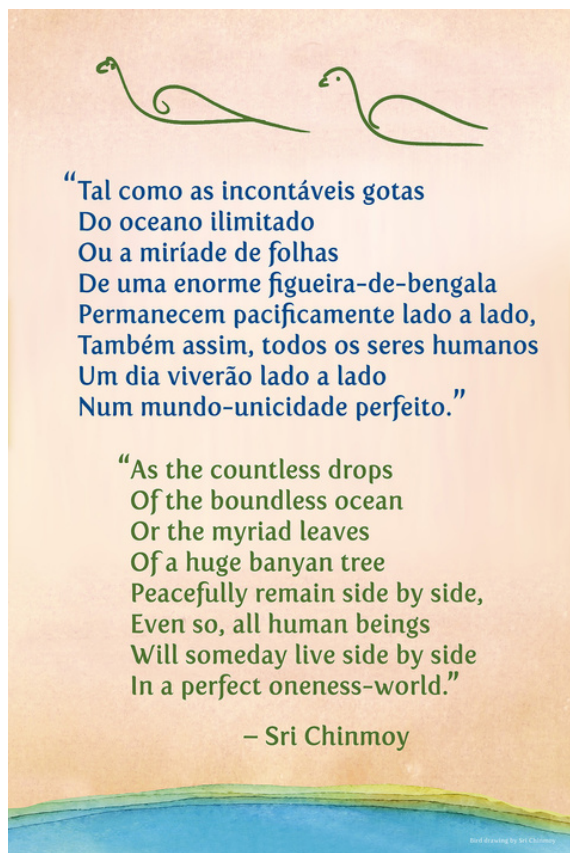


“Devemos regar
A Mãe Terra
Com a maior reverência
Do nosso coração.”

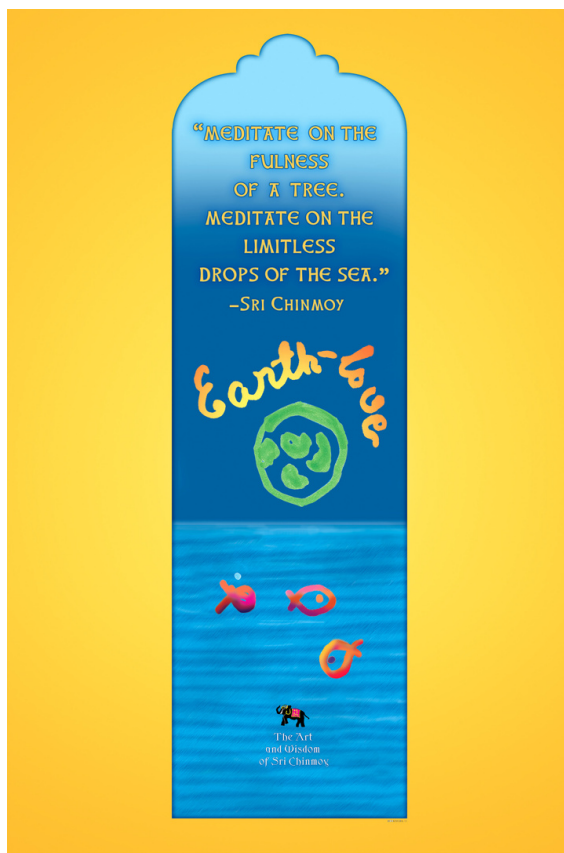
“We must water
Mother Earth
With our heart’s
Utmost reverence.”

– Sri Chinmoy

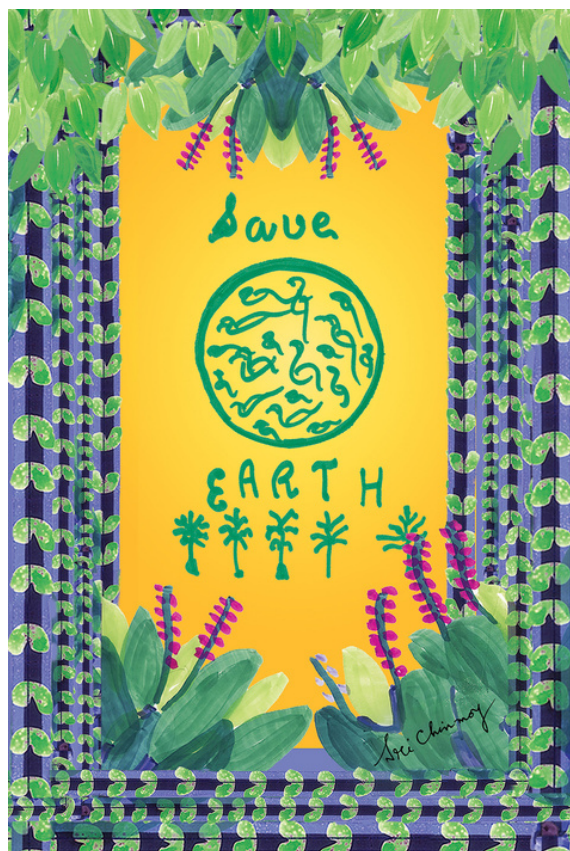
Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 7



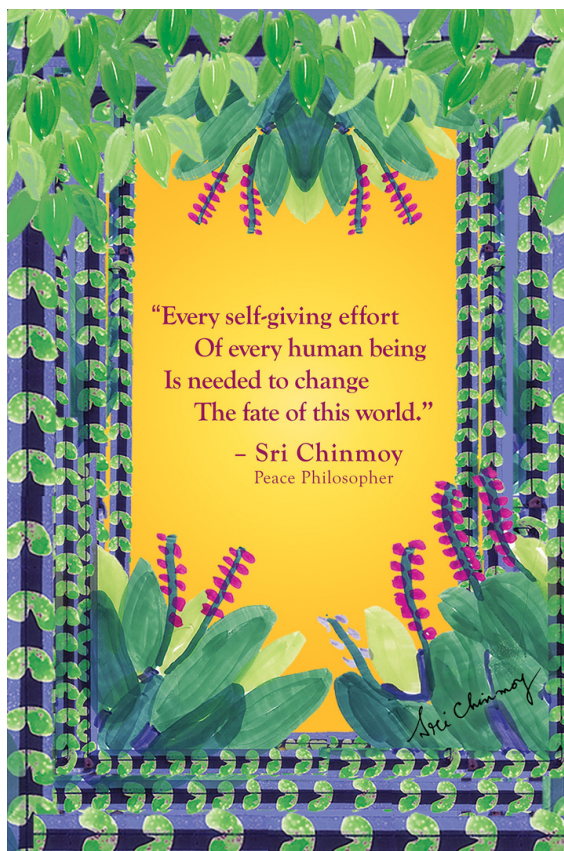
Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 8



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 9



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 10



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy 11

Inspirational Thoughts of the Day

**On the theme of Environmental Protection
in support of the United Nations ACT NOW campaign for
individual action on climate change (un.org/actnow)**

Poems drawn from the book: *Listen to Nature by Sri Chinmoy**

**Listen to Nature—
She speaks
Only for your good.**

**If peace is not
In Nature's beauty
Then where is it, where?**

**I am responsible
Not only for my own life,
But for the earth-planet as well.**

**Every self-giving effort
Of every human being
Is needed to change
The fate of this world.**

**God asks
Each and every one of us
To take good care of the world.**

**God does not want me
Just to feel sad
For the earth-planet.
He wants me to do something
To serve her
And make her smile and smile.**

**We must water
Mother Earth
With our heart's
Utmost reverence.**

**Mother Earth asks us
To follow her
And give everything
Cheerfully and unreservedly.**

**Do not underestimate
The blessing-gifts
Of Mother Earth.**

**Mother Earth
Has to be treated
With utmost humility.**

**Mother Earth,
Your beauty is unimaginable!
You are far beyond the appreciation
Of my heart and my life.**

**My heart adores
The simplicity-beauty
Of Mother Earth.**



**Mother Earth
My heart breaks into
Millions of pieces
The moment I think of
Your insufferable agonies.**

**Nature's beauty helps us
To be as vast as possible
As peaceful as possible
And as pure as possible.**

**Nature's beauty
Teaches optimism
To the aspiring heart.**

**Nature willingly
Wants to offer us
Its hidden ecstasy.**

**Nature's last message to mankind:
Do not mistreat me!
If you mistreat me,
You will be a deplorable loser
In the battlefield of life.**

**Nature embodies the cosmic energy
That leads us to the ultimate Source
While fulfilling us and satisfying us.**

**Nature, unlike human beings,
Obeys God implicitly.**

**Nature compassionately takes
Very little from us.
But we are always eager to devour
Not only everything from nature,
But also nature itself.**

**Silence embraces
Nature's beauty
Most powerfully.**

**Science is revolution.
Nature is evolution.**

**Science is desperately searching
For the cosmic key.
Nature already has it.**

**Science says:
"I can."
Nature says:
"I eternally am."**

**Science is always in a hurry.
Nature has Eternity
At her disposal.**

**The rising sun and the setting sun
Inspire my heart to become one
With Mother Nature.**

**The mysteries
Of Mother Nature
None can explain.**

**The sweet whispers
Of Mother Nature
Awaken and enlighten me.**

**Unity in multiplicity
Has always been the plan
Of Mother Nature.**



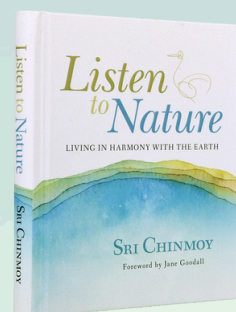
Artwork by Sri Chinmoy

**The best way to appreciate Nature's beauty
Is to sit and meditate with Nature.**

**We must create
A new world of beauty
Here in this world of thorns.**



Artwork by Sri Chinmoy



Listen to Nature: Living in Harmony with the Earth
is available from Amazon and Heart-Light
Publications in N. America, Blue Beyond Books in
the UK, and Golden Shore Verlag in the EU.