

## **President Obama Visits Hiroshima**

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Why do we come to this place? To Hiroshima?

We come to ponder a terrible force unleashed in the not-so-distant past. We are most starkly reminded of humanity's core contradiction. How the very spark that marks us as a species, our thoughts, our imagination, our language, our toolmaking, our ability to set ourselves apart from nature, and bend it to our will.

Those very things also give us the capacity for unmatched destruction. The scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well.

Ordinary people understand this, I think. They do not want more war. They would rather that the wonders of science be focused on improving life, and not eliminating it. The world was forever changed here.

But today, the children of this city will go through their day in peace. What a precious thing that is. It is worth protecting, and then extending to every child.

That is the future we can choose -- a future in which Hiroshima and Nagasaki are known not as the dawn of atomic warfare, but as the start of our own moral awakening.