

# TO COMPOSE A SONG "A BURNING SACRIFICE"

By Fumio Kino

## 燔祭のうた

敬虔に

作詞 永井 隆  
作曲 木野普晃雄

はんさいのほのほのなかにう  
たいつつしらゆりおとめもえ  
にけるかもはんさいのほの  
ほのなかにうたいつつしら  
ゆりおとめもえにけるかも。

I received a letter from the late Dr. Nagai. When I opened it, it read as follows:

I want to tell you something. A lot of Junshin girls were killed by the A-bomb. They devoted their lives to Mary, singing hymns beautifully. This spring, I had a monument built and I want a ceremony to console their souls. I wrote a poem and I would like you to compose it.

In the flames of sacrifice,  
The girls of white lilies,  
Were sublimed to the Heavens  
Still singing the glory of peace.

Holocaust is a ceremony in the Old Testament; pure lambs were burnt at an altar and they were offered to God as a sacrifice. I regard the fire of the A-bomb as a Holocaust and those who died as pure lambs. White lilies are pure and a symbol of purity. I was deeply impressed by the purity of the girls who were killed.

I don't know how to express my feelings in four lines. My heart was so full of prayer that I was urged to compose the song naturally. It is a melody of sorrow and moreover a melody of praise.