

Dear Friends,

In March 2012 we planted, on behalf of my institute UNITAR, a 2nd generation Japanese (kaki) persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*), descendant of a Hibakujumoku mother tree at same site, by Hiroshima's Peace Ave. It was a truly beautiful ceremony — many friends of Green Legacy Hiroshima attended and a choir of children, probably now in college, sang and danced to mark the event.



March 2012



March 2021

Over the years though I wondered if the little sapling would survive — what with traffic and pollution on Peace Ave going from bad to worse, various festivals' electric cables, metal enclosures, plastic and other waste weighing in.....But maybe reassured by its mother's presence nearby, the little sapling did grow: year after year, season after season, every time I stopped by, it had become a bit more robust...

And as correctly predicted by the Japanese proverb about resilience 桃栗三年柿八年 (peach and chestnut three years to bear fruit, persimmon eight) from the 8th year, the little kaki started bearing fruit, at first a handful a year, then this autumn a mighty, mighty harvest! Infinite magic. Carlos Lopes came all the way from South Africa to marvel at it and our core GLH team gathered to witness the bounty.

In December, GLH master gardener Horiguchi-sensei reassured us of the kaki's readiness for harvest — and later gifted me with the dried fruits he had prepared in the traditional Japanese manner of drying bitter persimmon to turn it into sweet nectar.



November 2024



November 2024



December 2024



January 2025



I just cannot stop thinking of the beauty, generosity and magic of Nature, and in this spirit wish a happy, healthy new year for you and your loved ones, for all people suffering war and deprivation, and also for some of humanity's best friends -- this mighty little kaki and indeed all trees cross our planet.

(To be continued...)

Happy New Year!

Nassrine