

Cross-Country Rev. Moon is Innocent Peace Walk: Halfway There

Matsuo Machida
August 12, 2015



On August 3, Hiroshi Suzuki arrived in Denver, Colorado to support Mr. Machida in place of Luke Higuchi, who has been with Mr. Machida for the past two weeks, helping him to plan his route and find places to sleep at night.



August 3 was his 40th day of “Walk Across America for Peace” since he started on June 25 in Twin Peaks, San Francisco, California. He felt a sense of fulfillment after completing 40 days, but he said, “Today is a new beginning!”



He has walked across the desert of California, Nevada, Utah and the Rockie Mountains, and his journey continues. His goal on day 40 is to walk 40 miles. On August 4 he will reach Last Chance, Colorado where the temperature is expected to reach 95 degrees Fahrenheit!

A police car pulled him over on Rt. 36 near Byers, Colorado that day, and the officer asked Mr. Machida some questions. He showed his passport and explained that he is walking across America for peace. He shared that Rev. Moon passed away three years ago but he's innocent. The police offer shook hands with him and wished him luck. Mr. Machida said he has been stopped by police officers in the past, but this was his first time shaking hands with an American police offer.



Day 43 (August 6) of the peace walk was a very important day for Mr. Machida, because it's the halfway point of his journey to his final destination, the United Nations building in New York City, where he plans to arrive on September 18—the 86th day. He started near Idalia, Colorado on Rt. 36, 20 miles west of Kansas state border. He was determined to walk 43 miles that day, and he did!



Mr. Machida puts duct tape on the soles of his shoes so that they don't get worn out quickly.



On August 7, Mr. Machida walked across the Kansas state border. He walked all the way to the Empire Motel in St. Francis, KS where he stayed overnight.



There was a severe weather warning that night on the last stretch to the motel. There was lighting in the sky every few seconds; it was truly a sight to see! Mr. Machida made it safely to the motel and had a good and safe night's rest.

August 8 was yet another day along Route 36. Mr. Machida discovered that walking along the white paint line on the side of the road was easier on his feet. The surface is much smoother, which makes a big difference when you walk 40 miles a day! He also discovered that wearing his backpack on his front when walking uphill made it easier for him.



That night he made it to "It'll Do" Motel in Atwood, Kansas.



On Sunday, August 9, Mr. Machida got up at 2:30 am after about only 3.5 hours of sleep. Mr. Suzuki brought him some breakfast later in the morning, after he had already walked eight miles. He said he was so exhausted, he took his sleeping bag and goza mat out of his backpack and took a nap on the roadside for about 30 minutes. A car pulled over and asked him if he was all right. Mr. Machida replied, “Yeah, I’m okay. I’m just resting.” His goal that day was to walk 40 miles.



Along his trek, Mr. Machida noticed what he calls *hitsuji gumo*, or “Sheep Clouds.” These are good luck for him, and remind him of the spirit of True Father.



The next day was a bit of a struggle. Mr. Machida said his backpack felt heavier than usual for some reason. However he walked until 9:30 pm, covering 36 miles.

August 10 is the beginning of what Mr. Machida calls the 40-day course—the 40 remaining days until the end of his journey. He must walk 40 miles a day in order to reach United Nations in New York City on September 18.

The following is an excerpt from the August 10th entry on Mr. Machida’s personal blog, translated from Japanese to English:

“As the dawn lifted in the sky, I noticed that I was surrounded by deep mist. While I was not able to see, the melody of the surrounding nature was music to my ears. “How are you, vast land of America?” I asked.

Yesterday, since Mr. Suzuki, the supporter for this walk, went to a town 20 miles away looking for the motel where we would stay tonight, I resolved to endure not having lunch until late. He came back at 2:00 pm as I expected.

Meanwhile, somebody threw a Danish to me from his or her car, suddenly while I was walking. Then, at 1:00 pm, another person stopped to give me an apple and a peach.

“Thank you. God bless you!” I said. God knows everything.

It was cloudy all morning, which turned to be the best day to walk.

Splendid clouds filled the sky. They looked like a flock of sheep, or scale of fish. They reminded me of True Father’s clear nature.

The sunset is very late here in North America in the summer. At 8:30 pm, it is still bright. Around that time, I found a dead snake on the highway, its belly facing up. It was almost four feet long! I’ve been seeing quite a few snakes recently. Then I happened to notice something in the southern sky that shocked me again...

Looking backward at the horizon, I found the “dragon cloud,” a snake shaped cloud in the sky. When I stopped to gaze, I found that it was a rising dragon—the shape of a twisted double S climbing the horizon, with its eyes looking upward.

After a few steps, I looked back again. My heart was beating strong and I couldn’t hold back my excitement. A while later, stars began to twinkle. I caught glimpse of a flashing light crossing the

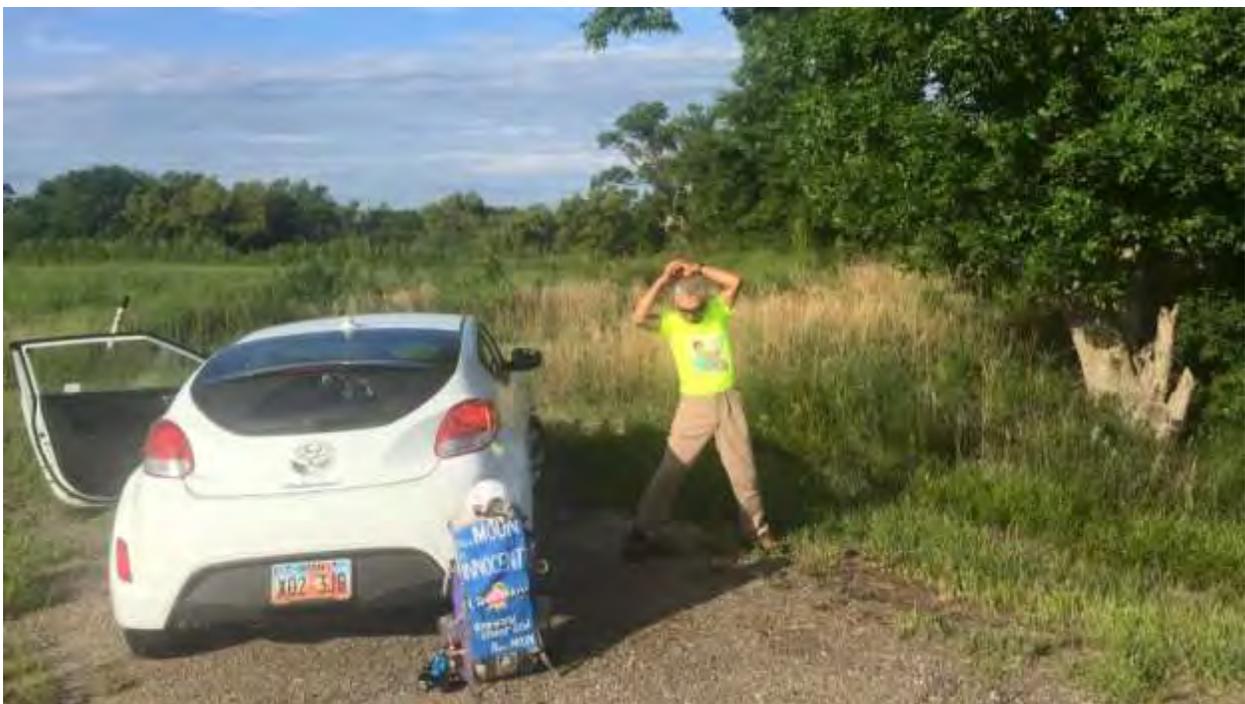
sky before me. I thought it was an airplane at first, but it was a long shooting star.

I was so excited by the natural scenes today. Today was the third day of my 3-day course starting the latter half of the entire course.

I walked 43 miles in total today, finishing at a town called Prairie View.”



The next day, August 11, Mr. Machida got up at 3:30 am. He felt a bit of pain in his hip in the afternoon, and said he's not feeling the strength of his left steps than he usually has. He's been pushing himself to the limit for a long time without much break, and at the age of 65 that's quite a feat. "He's a heavenly warrior!" said Hiroshi Suzuki.



On August 12, Mr. Machida got up at around 3:30 am and took a shower. He does not use an alarm clock. He usually begins walking after having a simple breakfast, but this morning, he went back to sleep. "He listens to Heaven's guidance," said Mr. Suzuki. Mr. Machida slept until 6:00 am and was so grateful for the extra hours of sleep, which he needed so much.



That afternoon, Mr. Machida walked across the geographic center of the lower 48 states of USA, near Lebanon, Kansas!