Democratization of Existence Verification

The Philosophy and Ideological Background of SoulCarrier

Executive Summary (3 Minutes)

[Problem] Throughout human history, the "right to be remembered" has always been unequal. Royalty, religious leaders, and the wealthy are remembered forever, while the vast majority are forgotten as "unknown persons."

[Discovery] At a Japanese cemetery in Maui, I saw gravestones inscribed with "Mumei-shi" (unknown person). People whose names and stories were completely lost. This is not just a problem of the past--people continue to become "unknown persons" today.

[Solution] "Democratization of Existence Verification"--creating a world where everyone has an equal right to record and pass on their existence. With modern technology (quartz glass, blockchain, AI, etc.), this has become possible.

[Activities] SoulCarrier began by delivering the remains of those being forgotten. In the "Martin Case," we are investigating to deliver a Japanese-American mother's ashes to relatives in Gunma Prefecture.

[Participation] Regular Member ($20/year), Lifetime Member ($600), Supporting Member ($100/unit). You yourself could become an unknown person someday. Please take this first step with us.

[Origin] Pearl (2007-2025)--Our family's toy poodle for 18 years lost his voice in his final years. We encased his Adam's apple with four-leaf clovers in a clam shell, creating a 'portable grave.' This led to voice QR technology and 'Pearl Memorial' R&D; division. Surveying 'unknown persons' graves in Maui with Pearl sparked SoulCarrier's founding. Pearl's portable grave now remains in Maui, marking time with wishes for peace.

Introduction

This document systematically organizes the philosophy underlying SoulCarrier's activities.

We conduct the concrete activity of 'delivering remains,' but behind this lies a fundamental question:

> **"Why are only some people remembered forever while the vast majority are forgotten?"**

Our answer to this question is the 'Democratization of Existence Verification.'

Chapter 1: Discovery--The Reality of Unknown Persons

1-1. The Formative Experience in Maui

SoulCarrier began when I saw gravestones inscribed with "Mumei-shi" (unknown person) at a Japanese cemetery in Maui. People who crossed the ocean from Japan, worked hard in a foreign land, and ended their lives there--yet many have not even their names remaining. Only the characters meaning "unknown person" are carved on their gravestones.

This person must have had a name. They must have had a family. They must have had a homeland. They must have had joys and sorrows, a life. However, as time passed, those records were lost, and ultimately they were reduced to anonymous existence.

1-2. "Unknown Persons" Did Not Choose This

These people did not choose to become unknown. They:

* Had no means to leave records (surviving as immigrant laborers took everything)
* Left records, but there was no one to inherit them
* Lived in a society not designed to preserve ordinary people's records

The very idea of 'leaving one's existence behind' was once a luxury permitted only to the privileged class.

1-3. Not Just a Problem of the Past

This is not just a problem of immigrants from the past. Even today:

* Who preserves records of those who die alone?
* Who remembers the lives of those with no relatives?
* Are the names of countless war and disaster victims preserved?

Around the world, every day, people continue to become unknown persons.

Chapter 2: Structural Problem--Inequality of Memory

2-1. Who Has the "Right to Be Remembered"?

Looking back at human history, the 'right to be remembered' has always been unequally distributed.

[Remembered] Royalty, nobility, emperors, religious leaders, politicians, the wealthy, "great figures" in history.

[Forgotten] Farmers, laborers, craftspeople, immigrants, refugees, women (historically excluded), those without descendants, the poor.

This inequality has been accepted as "natural" for thousands of years.

2-2. Those Who Carried Memory--Structural Limitations

This is structural analysis, not criticism. Each entity did what it could within the constraints of its time.

[Religion] Carried salvation and memory inheritance for centuries, but couldn't record everyone due to technical/economic limits.

[State] Family registries exist for administration purposes, not for existence verification.

[Capital] Provided means through gravestones and funerals, but created economic disparity in memory.

Key point: This isn't about 'someone being bad.' It's structural. Modern technology now makes change possible for the first time.

2-3. Why Was This Problem Never Questioned?

Surprisingly, inequality in the right to be remembered has hardly been recognized as a social problem.

[Philosophy] Discussed death, memory, existence deeply, but never directly questioned this inequality.

[Human Rights] Living people's rights are defined in detail, but the 'right to be remembered' is not defined as a human right.

[Technology] Data perpetuation tech advanced, but primarily for advertising, not individual existence verification.

2-4. The Necessity of Starting from the Grassroots

SoulCarrier started from the "unknown persons" side--seeing "Mumei-shi" gravestones in Maui. We stand on the side excluded from memory, not the side carrying memory. Therefore, we can boldly claim democratization.

[Grassroots Strategy] (1) Save one person at a time (2) Chain of empathy (3) Concept penetration (4) Reach critical mass (5) Transform structure. This path takes time, but it's the only way.

Chapter 3: Technological Possibility

3-1. Development of Perpetuation Technology

In the modern age, technology for perpetuating records has advanced dramatically:

* Quartz Glass (5D Optical): Durability of hundreds of millions of years, resistant to heat/radiation/impact

* Laser Engraving x Metal Deposition: More accessible than 5D, achievable with existing technology, no special reading device required

* Digital Archives: Cloud storage, AI backup, distributed networks

* Blockchain: Tamper-proof, decentralized, permanent timestamps

* DNA Storage: Extremely high-density, preservation for tens of thousands of years

3-2. Technology Exists But Is Not Being Used

These technologies exist but aren't used for "preserving everyone's existence." Technology exists, but the will does not. Unless people with the will emerge, technology will continue to be used for other purposes.

3-3. Relationship with AI--Existence Verification as Antithesis

[AI's nature] Extracts averages and patterns from data; treats humans as data points; prioritizes 'what was said' over 'who said it.'

[Democratization's nature] Preserves each person's name and story; reclaims 'who they were'; treats every human as unique.

Using AI's power for 'individual records' rather than 'averaging.' Using AI to save unknown persons, not create them. This is SoulCarrier's technological vision.

3-4. Democratizable Technology--Laser x QR x AI

The most important thing is technology anyone can use. If it requires specialized equipment or enormous costs, it becomes a privileged means. Here, the combination of laser engraver x quartz glass x QR x AI deserves attention.

[Technology Combination]

* Quartz Glass x Metal Deposition: Achievable without special research facilities, lower cost than 5D optical

* QR Technology: Compress text/images/audio/video; cloud-independent physical media; voice support verified

* AI Upscaling: Low-resolution records restored by AI (verified); record with today's tech, play with future's tech

[Demo 1] Left: Low-resolution image converted to QR Center: Restored from QR Right: AI upscaled restoration

[Demo 2] Quartz glass x voice QR

[Demo 3] Engraving on dried leaf

[Why "democratization"?] Laser engravers are widely available. Quartz glass is obtainable. Anyone can generate QR codes. Many free AI upscaling tools exist. Permanent existence verification without special power or wealth--this is the essence of democratization.

[Published Resources]

* GitHub: github.com/timeless-residents -- Tech repositories published

* Zenn.dev: zenn.dev/idev -- 60+ technical books published

* Demo: voice-memorial-qr.onrender.com -- Voice QR generation experience

[Social Response] X (Twitter) posts about this technology garnered 310,000 impressions. QR engraving on natural materials like fallen leaves has also been verified--a new data storage solution that is cloud-independent, maintenance-free, and disaster-resistant.

[R&D; Investment] Representative Takuya Sato invested over $130,000 personally in Pearl Memorial R&D; before SoulCarrier's founding. That's why members can participate from $2/month. Not burdening individuals with development costs--this is also part of 'democratization.'

[Material Verification Examples]

Shell

Stone

Brass

Wood

The technology already exists. All that remains is the will to use it for democratization of existence verification.

Chapter 4: Definition of the Concept

4-1. What is "Existence Verification"?

Proof of Existence: A record proving "this person existed" across time.

Specifically: Name, birth/death dates, birthplace/death place, family relationships, life story (occupation, events, thoughts), photos/audio/video, DNA information--recorded on permanent media and accessible to someone in the future.

4-2. What is "Democratization"?

Democratization: Opening what only the privileged enjoyed to everyone.

In the context of existence verification: Not only the wealthy but the poor; not only celebrities but the unknown; not only those with descendants but those without; not only those in power but ordinary citizens--everyone has an equal right to record and pass on their existence.

4-3. SoulCarrier's Position

[Current Activities] Saving past "unknown persons" (repatriation of remains, restoration of names and stories). Collecting/preserving individual existence records. Collaborating with temples, religious facilities, and related organizations.

[Future Vision] A system where everyone can have their own proof of existence. Democratic use of permanent recording media (quartz glass, etc.). A world where the concept of 'unknown persons' no longer exists.

Chapter 5: Transformation of Worldview

5-1. The Current World (Before)

[While alive] Competing to prove "who I am." Anxiety that one has no value unless successful. Fear of being forgotten underlies the desire to become famous.

[Toward death] Death is "the end" and "extinction." Anxiety about traces disappearing without descendants. Without money, no grave or record can be left.

[Society] Structure that venerates "great figures" and forgets ordinary people. History is the story of victors. Dependent on entities (religion, state, capital) that carry memory.

5-2. A Democratized World (After)

[At birth] Everyone gains the right to proof of existence. Equal regardless of nationality, background, or wealth.

[While alive] Security from knowing "existence is recorded." Focus on living one's own story rather than competing. No longer dependent on others' evaluation.

[Toward death] Death is not "the end" but "succession." Existence remains even without descendants. Everyone is recorded regardless of economic power.

[Society] Distinction between "great figures" and ordinary people fades. History becomes everyone's story. Anyone can leave memory without depending on specific entities.

5-3. Fundamental Change in Behavioral Principles

[Current] "Don't want to be forgotten" -> "Must prove myself" -> Competition, anxiety, comparison

[After] "Existence is recorded" -> "No need to prove" -> "Live my own story"

> **"Before: Living within "the gaze of others" | After: Living within "my own story""**

From living "so as not to be forgotten" to living "on the premise of not being forgotten." This single change fundamentally transforms human existence.

5-4. Transformation of the Concept of Love

The democratization of existence verification brings fundamental change to the concept of 'love.'

[Current distortions] Fear of being forgotten distorts love. Depending on others for existence verification. Manipulative behavior from fear of abandonment.

[After democratization] No need for others to verify your existence. Fear of being forgotten is no longer fuel. Love becomes pure empathy, sharing, respect.

[Parent-child relationships] "Become somebody" education is often parents projecting their own fear of being forgotten. When existence verification is democratized, a child's existence already has value. Education transforms from "means of proof" to "expansion of possibilities."

Chapter 6: Social Issues That Could Be Solved

When democratization is realized, many social issues could be solved or alleviated in a chain reaction.

6-1. Identity Issues

[Current] Runaway desire for recognition, SNS addiction, lack of self-esteem, suffering from comparison.

[Change] With security of being recorded, no need to depend excessively on others' recognition.

6-2. Views on Life and Death

[Current] Excessive fear of death, attachment to life-prolonging treatment, anxiety about not leaving descendants.

[Change] With the premise that existence remains, death becomes "succession" not "extinction."

6-3. Economic Disparity

[Current] Economic gap in gravestones/funerals, hierarchy of "those in history" vs. "those who disappear."

[Change] In a society where everyone is equally recorded, economic disparity in memory disappears.

6-4. Loneliness

[Current] Fear of dying alone, anxiety of "not being witnessed," fear of becoming an unattended grave.

[Change] Even dying alone, existence doesn't disappear. The meaning of loneliness changes.

6-5. Power Structures

[Current] Falsification of history, rule by "victors' records," monopoly of memory by religion/state.

[Change] If everyone's records remain distributed, falsification becomes difficult. More open society.

6-6. Competitive Society

[Current] Pressure that "one has no value unless successful," burnout, overwork, depression.

[Change] If "there is value in simply existing" permeates society, excessive competition is alleviated.

6-7. The Underlying Structure

Common to all these issues: "Fear of being forgotten" is the hidden fuel. Desire for recognition, fear of death, obsession with success, competition--all have "don't want to be forgotten" at the root. If this fuel disappears, human behavioral principles fundamentally change.

Chapter 7: SoulCarrier's Mission

7-1. Responsibility to Past, Present, and Future

[Past] Save those being forgotten as unknown persons. Restore names and stories. Deliver them to their homeland or a place of rest.

[Present] Communicate the concept of democratization to people living today. Make society recognize that this problem exists.

[Future] Create a world where everyone who will be born can equally have proof of existence. Realize a future where the concept of unknown persons no longer exists.

7-2. Why Start with Remains

Remains are physical proof of existence. Their state of being separated from homeland and forgotten is the most concrete manifestation of the problem of existence verification.

Nothing changes from abstract principles alone. Not letting the person in front of us become an unknown person. We start from there.

7-3. The Martin Case as the First Step

The 'Martin Case,' SoulCarrier's first case, is the first practice of the democratization of existence verification.

[Overview] Client: Martin (70s, Japanese-American, Maui resident). Subject: Teruko Iwashita (Martin's mother, passed away around age 90). Objective: Deliver mother's ashes to relatives in Gunma Prefecture.

[Investigation] Visited 8 temples in Maebashi, Gunma. Visually confirmed over 5,000 gravestones. Established methods for foreign nationals' family registry requests. Ongoing (completion expected 2026).

If successful, Teruko Iwashita won't become an unknown person. Her name and story will remain as a record. This is the first step of the democratization of existence verification.

Chapter 8: Call for Participation

8-1. Why Your Participation Is Needed

Democratization of existence verification cannot be achieved by one person or organization. This is a challenge to change humanity's structure. But all revolutions begin with the first person.

By participating: Support concrete cases like the Martin Case. Spread the concept. Contribute to future systems. Gain opportunity to think about your own roots and existence.

8-2. Overcoming Psychological Barriers

Why you might feel uneasy

Questioning existing power structures. Appearing to go against tradition. Being thought radical. Worrying about community relationships.

But consider

"Everyone has the right to be remembered"--is this really radical? "I want to reduce unknown persons"--does this hurt anyone? What we're saying is quite natural.

Why it's worth overcoming

You could become an unknown person someday. If left unaddressed, the structure never changes. Nothing begins without someone speaking up first.

Participating doesn't mean denying existing religions or institutions. We collaborate with temples and religious facilities. Not destroying tradition, but shining light on those tradition couldn't reach.

8-3. What It Means to Become a Member

Becoming a member isn't just a donation. It's a declaration: "The right to be remembered should be equal." An expression of will: "I will act to reduce unknown persons by even one."

8-4. Specific Ways to Participate

   * Regular Member (Annual $20): Participate in activities. Voting rights at General Assembly.
   * Lifetime Member ($600): Permanent support. Contribute continuously with one participation.
   * Supporting Member ($100/unit): Individuals or organizations. Multiple units possible.

[Fee Design Intent] Regular $20/year = $2/month--coffee price to participate in democratization. Lifetime $600 = 30 years of Regular membership. Our commitment to continue 30+ years. A promise to connect with you for a lifetime.
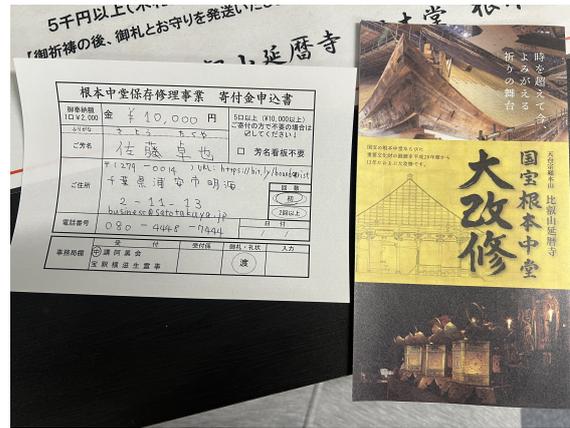
8-5. To Religious Professionals

SoulCarrier doesn't criticize religion. We consider you, who have carried salvation and memory inheritance throughout long history, as our most important partners.

[Request] Information on disconnected remains. Acceptance as destination temples/cemeteries. Support for the principle of democratization. Walk this journey together to reduce unknown persons.

[Actual Collaboration] The Representative has begun collaboration through donations to Ise Jingu and Enryaku-ji Temple.

Ise Jingu Y8,000

Enryaku-ji Temple Y10,000

8-6. To Researchers and Scholars

'Democratization of Existence Verification' is academically unexplored territory. We want to deepen this concept together with researchers.

[Related Fields] Thanatology, Memory Studies, Digital Humanities, Migration Studies, Religious Studies/Sociology, Philosophy/Ethics.

[Proposals] Fieldwork cooperation, joint research, academic refinement of the concept. We don't have 'the right answer.' Let's explore together.

8-7. To Those with Influence

Media, politicians, executives, influencers--your voice reaches many. Could you use that power for unknown persons?

[What You Can Do] Spread this problem's existence. Introduce SoulCarrier. Policy proposals and CSR collaborations.

[Anonymous Support Welcome] Anonymous donations and registration possible. Behind-the-scenes cooperation welcome. Collaborations without publication possible.

8-8. To Those Considering End-of-Life Planning

"After I die, who will remember me?"--Especially for those without children, who lost spouses, estranged from relatives, or lived single.

[Our Proposal] Your existence will definitely remain. We promise. Keep existing relationships with temples. Think of us as complementary 'insurance.'

[As End-of-Life Planning] Regular Member ($20/year) for existence record support. Lifetime Member ($600) for permanent relationship. Your existence won't disappear. We'll be witnesses.

8-9. To the Younger Generation

Talk of death and graves may feel far away. But are you affected by likes and followers? Feel pressure to 'become somebody'? At the root lies fear of being forgotten.

[What You Can Do Now] (1) Listen to and record grandparents' stories (2) Discuss with friends, share on SNS (3) Start recording your existence (diary, photos, videos) (4) Join SoulCarrier

Your existence already has value. Even without accomplishing something, without becoming famous, you are a 'unique existence.' Won't you create a world where this obvious truth becomes society's premise?

Conclusion

For the first time in human history, we have technology to permanently record everyone's existence. But it's not yet being used for democratization of existence verification.

Technology exists. What's lacking is the will.

SoulCarrier is the first organization with that will.

To reduce unknown persons by even one. For a world where everyone can record and pass on their existence.

This document was written from a Hiroshima A-bomb survivor building--still proving its existence 80+ years after August 6, 1945. Pearl marks time in Maui with wishes for peace, and this document is transmitted from Hiroshima. The democratization of existence verification is also a wish for peace.

"Recording and passing on existence--this is not a privilege, but a right for all."

Representative Takuya Sato and family

SoulCarrier

January 15, 2026 (Reiwa 8)

Written in Hiroshima

(A-bomb survivor building--proving existence 80+ years)

[About This Document] Supplementary to Membership Guide

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