

## Chapter 16

- 1 On January 6, 1868 (January 30), Kami-Sama told me, “You and Asakichi are to look forward to the leap month of April.”

<sup>2</sup>On February 5 (February 27), Kami-Sama informed me, “Your first son Asakichi is working in Edo (Tokyo) comfortably and in good health.”

<sup>3</sup>Accompanying Lord Maita Sagami-no-kami, Asakichi returned to his duties at the Asao Provincial Office on March 3 (March 26).

- 2 On the early morning of April 3 (April 25), Kami-Sama advised, “Since the head carpenter Kawasaki Motoemon disregards his indebtedness to Kami, I shall dismiss him. Inform the local government that the Hiromae construction will be postponed. Stop the construction for now.”

<sup>2</sup>Motoemon had already left for a nearby inn in March.

<sup>3</sup>On April 8 (April 30), I asked Asano Kijūrō from Gomaya<sup>†</sup> to pay the head carpenter one bale of rice and to tell him to take home his carpentry tools.

<sup>4</sup>On the tenth (May 2), Kami-Sama instructed, “Have him come and take home his belongings.”

<sup>5</sup>On the sixteenth (May 8), the head carpenter visited Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) and the two Hiromae assistants (Kawate Yasuhei and Morita Hachiemon) and asked them to have me apologize to Kami-Sama for him. The three came to the Hiromae and presented the carpenter's request.

<sup>6</sup>When I relayed the apology, Kami-Sama ordered, "Konko, don't apologize for him. It's useless. I am displeased with him. Have him leave with his belongings."

<sup>7</sup>On April 17 the next day (May 9), the head carpenter took all his belongings and went home.

<sup>8</sup>That day, Kami-Sama said, "Tell the two assistants to tell the head carpenter, 'You will be paid for the months until the Bon season in July. Mention any debts that you have. They will be repaid. Since you have been dismissed prematurely, I will let no problems befall you.'"

<sup>9</sup>I recorded the details of the construction in my (construction) logbook.

- 3 On the first of the leap month of April (May 22),<sup>1</sup> the Asao Provincial Office informed Asakichi and me of an auspicious event. Asakichi was promoted as a rank-and-file samurai. I was presented with ceremonial gar-

ments bearing Lord Maita's crest. As Kami-Sama had informed us, there was felicitation in the leap month of April.

4 On April 9 (May 30), Kami-Sama revealed, "Your family lineage will continue for many generations. I will arrange for your family to forever reap the good fortune of prosperity and success."

5 On April 24 (June 14), Kami-Sama explained, "Nittenshi and Gattenshi orbit around the earth. Longer or shorter nights and days are attributed to Nittenshi's northern and southern orbits.

<sup>2</sup>The year 1870 has a leap month."

6 On May 2 (June 21), when the Sun set, Kami-Sama declared, "Tenchi No Kami will slice away the evils. The government will also slice away the evils."

7 On July 2 (August 19), Kami-Sama told me, "Have your hair done three times a month: on the first, the eleventh, and the twenty-first."

8 "During the ten years from 1868 to 1877, look at yourself. It is for the future." I received this revelation on July 27 (September 13).

- 9 On September 24 (November 8), Kami-Sama ordered,  
“Change your divine name to Ikigami Konko Daijin.”

<sup>2</sup>IKIGAMI KONKO DAIJIN

Nittenshi Gattenshi

Ushitora Hitsujisaru KIMON KANE NO KAMI

Daishōgun Nokorazu Konjin

<sup>3</sup>Then He instructed, “Make and put up a banner saying,  
‘May there be peace throughout the world, prosperity in  
all countries, and safety for all people.’ And pray daily.

<sup>4</sup>Keep a record book for divine names and another one  
for *Ichino Deshi*. Henceforth, don’t bestow any divine  
names to believers.

<sup>5</sup>Have a pair of formal *hakama*<sup>2</sup> made. Stop wearing a  
*haori*.”<sup>3</sup>

- 10 At the end of September, I heard that the era name had  
changed. It was the first year of the Meiji Period (1868).

- 11 On November 1 (December 14), Kami-Sama permitted  
me to bestow divine names to my wife and even to my  
children.

<sup>2</sup>He added, “The country will be at peace in thirteen  
years. Pray for peace throughout the country and look  
forward to the future.”

## Chapter 17

1 In January 1869, Kami-Sama said, “Buy new paper for the *goshinmai* and the ‘Daily Record Book on Worshipers.’ ”

2 On March 15 (April 26), Kami-Sama directed, “From this year on, mark September 9 and 10 as the service days for your ancestors. Have your family and relatives attend the Hiromae (on these days).

<sup>2</sup>Other traditional celebrations and festivals shall be disallowed in your home.

<sup>3</sup>Have your children be your representatives when dealing with your relatives.

<sup>4</sup>As for the construction of the new Hiromae, wait for My instructions. If the believers offer to build the Hiromae, I won’t prevent it.”

3 On the early morning of March 17 (April 28), Kami-Sama said, “Tonight is the moon’s service day of the seventeenth. Give prayers.”

<sup>2</sup>That night, Kami-Sama told me another way to write His name:

Nittenshi Gattenshi      Ryōten Sōmi No Mikoto

Daishōgun Nokorazu Konjin    Tsuchida No Mikoto<sup>1</sup>

4    On March 23 (May 4), Kami-Sama instructed, “Stop giving your daily morning and evening prayers. Have your wife and children give prayers for the people. Have your daughter Kura cook the rice that is to be offered to Kami every day.”

5    Believers from the branch hiromae in Okayama City<sup>†</sup> came and gave thanks. “Since the Hiromae construction is at a standstill, we would like to help.” They urged me to start the construction again.

<sup>2</sup>Later in the day, they gathered at Fujii Kiyono’s house to discuss the matter. This was on May 25 (July 4).

6    Kasaoka Konko Daijin (Saitō Jūemon) and Tamashima Konko Daimyōjin (Kotani Seizō) urged me to resume the construction.

<sup>2</sup>When I brought this question before Kami-Sama, He answered, “I won’t tell you what to do. It is up to all of you.” This was on July 11 (August 18).

7    Kasaoka Konko Daijin admonished head carpenter Kawasaki Motoemon and had him hold the initiation ceremony for the Hiromae construction. Kasaoka Konko

Daijin assigned his hiromae's head carpenter, Takai Tanigorō, as Kawasaki's co-worker. Saitō Tomoemon, who lived across from the Kasaoka hiromae, and Saitō Rin'emon, Jūemon's younger brother, came and offered a keg of sake and fish. It was September 10 (October 14).<sup>2</sup>Kasaoka Konko Daijin told the Hiromae assistants, "Keep a record of all the expenses. Make monthly disbursements for the construction (materials and wages). Hire assistant carpenters when necessary. Give the carpenters time off by December 20."

## Chapter 18

1 On the morning of July 3, 1870 (July 30), Daishōgun-Sama's service day, Kami-Sama said, "Tell Isshi Daijin that mending old clothing will be unnecessary from next year on."

2 Regarding the roof of the main house, Kami-Sama had once instructed, "When it rains and the roof leaks, thereby ruining the *tatami* mats, don't mind it." So since then, I have been placing containers in the *tatami* rooms where the roof leaked. But this time, Kami-Sama permitted, "When the Hiromae assistants come again to rethatch the roof, let them."

<sup>2</sup>After the service for Tenchi Kane No Kami on September 21 and 22 (October 15 and 16), the Hiromae assistants came up to me and offered to rethatch the roof. I told them to do as they saw fit.

<sup>3</sup>The workers included both assistants (Kawate Yasuhei and Morita Hachimon), Kudose Isegorō of Michigi,<sup>†</sup> and roofers Asano Kumigorō of Gomaya<sup>†</sup> and Yoshida Fudezō of Sagata Village.

<sup>4</sup>From September 27 to 29 (October 21 to 23), the whole

roof was rethatched. I was blessed with this divine arrangement.

- 3 On October 26 (November 19), Kami-Sama spoke, “You, Ikigami Konko Daijin, have been performing toritsugi for Nittenshi Gattenshi Ushitora Hitsujisaru Kimon Kane No Kami for thirteen years.

<sup>2</sup>Through much patience, you have accumulated divine virtue, and you have become one with the Tenchi Universe.”

<sup>3</sup>Kami-Sama instructed, “Recite the Rokkon Prayer and chant the Shingyo Sutra.”

<sup>4</sup>He added, “Through Konko Daijin’s voice, I, Tenchi Kane No Kami, give My thanks. I cannot be more grateful.

<sup>5</sup>For all things, pay ten percent more than the fixed price.”

## Chapter 19

- 1 On January 1 (February 19) and February 3, 1871 (March 23), Kami-Sama said, “Put away the hexagonal *tatami* prayer seat that is in the Hiromae.

<sup>2</sup>I requested you to stop farming in October 1859, thirteen years ago. You have been through many traumas and hardships. Hereafter, do not falter in the face of future traumas.”

- 2 On April 6 (May 24), Takahashi Tōkichi and his wife Tomie of Rokujōin Nishi Village came and spoke of disturbing rumors. “It is rumored that Konko Daijin committed burglaries in collusion with his followers.”

<sup>2</sup>I told him, “I know nothing about it.” No such thing had happened.

- 3 On April 10 (May 28), Kami-Sama said, “As of today, relieve Hiromae assistant Kawate Yasuhei from upkeeping the Hiromae’s ‘Record of Worshippers.’” (I conveyed this to Yasuhei and he returned home.)

<sup>2</sup>Later, Yasuhei came again and inquired Kami-Sama, who explained, “Yasuhei, since I am taking Konko Daijin off the hexagonal *tatami* prayer seat, think of this

and your dismissal as unavoidable. If your help is needed again, Konko Daijin will inform you. You need not upkeep the 'Record of Worshippers today.' ”

<sup>3</sup>After this, rumors about the alleged burglaries spread, and I kept hearing about them. The number of worshippers also declined.

<sup>4</sup>I also heard that the Asao Provincial Office investigated the rumors. Terao Tadaichi of the Asao Provincial Office later came to the Hiromae and reported, “Despite all the rumors, none are true. They all have been proven to be false.”

<sup>5</sup>He continued, “There’s absolutely no basis for the rumors. They are started by the jealous-minded who will suffer the consequences. Once before, in the Asao Office, there was a person who wanted to ensnare someone and therefore requested the government to investigate that person. It was found that the accused was innocent, while the accuser was found to be wrongful. The offender was expelled from the Office. This is how the jealous-minded bring trouble onto themselves. Since you are innocent, no matter how wide negative rumors spread, the government will investigate and find them to be untrue.”

- 4 On May 24 (July 11), Kami-Sama said, “Since the head carpenter’s character is bad, the construction will not be completed.”
- 5 On July 24 (September 8), Kami-Sama told me, “For those who come with requests for fate and fortune, building construction and renovation, Days and Directions, marriage arrangements, or house moving, just give them the teachings of this Faith.” This day was Nittenshi-Sama’s service day.
- 6 On August 4 (September 18), Kami-Sama ordered, “Don’t buy any barley. Eat the barley that you already have. You needn’t require the children to operate the tread polisher. I will have the whole family consume polished rice.  
<sup>2</sup>Your children who have already learned how to read, write, and use the abacus should teach their brothers and sisters who haven’t.”
- 7 On the occasion of Ikigami Konko Daijin’s service days on September 9 and 10 (October 22 and 23), Kami-Sama instructed, “Put up four large and small banners. Hang six paper lanterns south of the main house and two paper lanterns west of the new outbuilding. Place a pair of large, lit wax candles and *mochi* on the altar.”

- 8 Kami-Sama spoke (on September 16 [October 29]),  
 “There is the proverb, ‘A deep pool becomes a rapid current, and a rapid current becomes a deep pool.’ And also, ‘During a flood, part of the land resembles an ocean.’ These things do happen.”

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama said (on September 17 [October 30]), “Like the Reverse-Direction River<sup>1</sup> from of old in Bitchū Province, things can go into reverse.”

- 9 On December 4 (January 13), Kami-Sama imparted,  
 “You will always be happy. Don’t fret over anything. Be sincere. There is nothing to fear or to be frightened of. Don’t run away from your problems, whatever they may be. There is no need to flee. Don’t depend on others.

<sup>2</sup>As for your daughter, don’t mind if she is still unmarried at thirty and is called a spinster. Don’t be perturbed by what people say. Think of you and your daughter’s own particular situation. Kami will have you enjoy your future. Pray for long life and prosperity.”

- 10 On the morning of December 10 (January 19), Kami-Sama spoke, “Since Konko Daijin’s way of toritsugi has been established, if people listen to and accept Kami’s teachings, they can find relief. Kamis as well as buddhas will rejoice. People should value their parents and get

along well with their spouse. The family should be harmonious.

<sup>2</sup>People keep consulting the Days and Directions and don't pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami. The Days and Directions do not matter. These people should apologize and pray to Kami instead. Kami will maintain their prosperity."

11 Early the next morning on the eleventh (January 20), Kami-Sama told me the following: "Head carpenter Kawasaki Motoemon's character has gone astray. He and Hashimoto Uhei were pressed by creditors because they owed money for the construction materials. Using Konko Daijin's name, they deceived the believers and embezzled hundreds of *ryo* from them.

<sup>2</sup>Though people address the carpenter with an honorific, he and his wife have no sincerity. His character will not allow Kami's virtue to shine.

<sup>3</sup>To me, he was precious. Hoping that he would uphold Kami, I appointed him to be the head carpenter. But he thinks he can work by his own power and walks arrogantly among others.

<sup>4</sup>He is not aware of his indebtedness to Konko Daijin. Although a year has already passed, he still hasn't given

any thanks.

<sup>5</sup>Kami knows of all the carpenter's misdeeds. But since you, Konko Daijin, are a living kami bound by human limitations, you won't know about the misdeeds unless I tell you.

<sup>6</sup>Kami depends on Konko Daijin. However, if you are not informed by Kami, you will not know of the carpenter's misdeeds. I want to tell you that I have been offended by the carpenter's misdeeds."

- 12 On December 24 (February 2), Kami-Sama said, "The villagers are considering Tsuji<sup>†</sup> as the Hiromae construction site. Have your assistants tell the villagers to await Kami's decision regarding the selection of the construction site."

## Chapter 20

1 On January 25, 1872 (March 4), Kami-Sama directed, “As for the marriage of your children, tell your family clearly today that I will not allow any of them to marry anyone who follows traditional marriage customs. They are to follow My instructions instead of traditional marriage customs.”

2 On the twenty-seventh (March 6), Kami-Sama said, “Because a thief is poor, both the thief and the victim suffer.

<sup>2</sup>Gambling is a serious offense. Taking people’s money through deception is an offense that will lead to one’s ruin.

<sup>3</sup>Falling victim to such deception is also an offense as serious as deceiving people.

<sup>4</sup>Those who commit robbery have bad hearts. Their future will crumble.”

3 There was an earthquake on February 6 (March 14) at around six in the evening. “Tenchi Kane No Kami is disturbed. The world is chaotic,” warned Kami-Sama.

- 4 A nationwide census of family registers was being taken. On February 7 (March 15) the next day, I wrote down the birth dates of everyone in the family and gave them to my son Hagio.

<sup>2</sup>(On February 23,) Harada Yakurō of Sue Village became the Kamo Village Shrine priest and began giving out acceptance slips upon receiving the families' birth date information for the census.<sup>1</sup>

- 5 On the morning of February 14 (March 22), Kami-Sama said, "Though the head carpenter has come to propose a marriage prospect for Hagio, don't rely on him. Hagio's marriage will be arranged by Kami. The government is reforming its ways. Kami is also reforming the traditional ways of society.

<sup>2</sup>Don't let head carpenter Kawasaki Motoemon do the construction. He has been using the construction project for his own gain, and not for Kami. He has gone completely astray from the Faith. The construction will be realized only if he reforms his heart."

- 6 On May 5 (June 10), Kami-Sama instructed, "Wear the white, unlined *Echigo* kimono."

- 7 On July 28 (August 31), Kami-Sama spoke, "Tell

disciples, 'Uphold the Ikigami Konko Daijin community which spreads the way of Tenchi No Kami.'

<sup>2</sup>Konko Daijin, instead of saying 'I will chant a prayer for you,' say, 'I will mediate your requests to Kami-Sama.' Tell all believers that they should give their requests through their own hearts. Blessings are found in one's heart.

<sup>3</sup>Wait till it's time. Then Kami will gradually allow believers to take the name 'Konko.' "

8 On August 18 (September 20), Kami-Sama said, "Oceans and rivers change, and even a deserted village can turn into a bustling town. The world is ever-changing. Society will shift from confusion to peace. I have decided that the new Hiromae should be built on the present site. Konko and the believers are not to rush the Hiromae construction."

9 Kami-Sama told me to wear unlined kimono until September 8 (October 10), and to wear white, lined kimono from September 9.

10 Recently, the government's laws on religious affairs were changed. Non-conforming shrines, including the new Hiromae, were not allowed to be built. On September 12

(October 14), Kami-Sama dismissed the head carpenter (again).

- 11 On December 1 (December 30), Kami-Sama said, “Give morning prayers twice a year on December 1 and January 1.

<sup>2</sup>The year 1872 will end on December 2. On the third, it will be January 1, 1873,<sup>2</sup> a holiday.”

- 12 On December 15 (January 13), Kami-Sama gave the following instructions.

“This family need not make *mochi*. And New Year’s sacred ropes need not be put up in the Hiromae because the Hiromae already has sacred ropes hung throughout the year. Take the banners from outside the Hiromae entrance into the earth-floored foyer. For celebrations and service days, you needn’t follow what other people do. Whatever offerings the believers bring will suffice.

<sup>2</sup>The whole family can cook and eat whatever they want.

<sup>3</sup>You need not beat the *taiko* drum. Dismantle and put away the torii at the gate.

<sup>4</sup>Don’t buy any newfangled items.

<sup>5</sup>When fish or other food is necessary, don’t mind buying a portion costing twenty *momme*<sup>3</sup> even if it’s worth ten *momme*. Don’t try to bargain.

<sup>6</sup>Don't keep many pets. Taking care of them will be trying.

<sup>7</sup>Don't buy clothes and other daily necessities rashly. Kami will indicate the items that should be purchased.

<sup>8</sup>Don't go to see entertainment shows impulsively during a holiday. Think if there's enough time first, then go. People go to such diversions saying that doing so will prolong their lives. However, since you have Kami, you needn't go to prolong your life.

13 The parents, Konko Daijin and Isshi Daijin, and their five children, Konko Shōjin (Asakichi), Sanjin (Hagio), Shijin (Ieyoshi), Shōsaijin (Kura), and Sue No Tamejin (Kono) have been given divine names.

<sup>2</sup>Although your wife has been given a divine name,<sup>4</sup> she always complains that she's got a cold. If she doesn't follow Kami's words hereafter, she will suffer from illness and even contagious diseases."

14 On December 17 of the lunar calendar, or January 15 according to the Gregorian calendar, Isshi Daijin remarked, "Taking down the torii and moving the banners will make the place look dismal." So with Kami-Sama's understanding, I didn't take down the torii nor move the banners from outside the Hiromae entrance.

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama said, “As a reminder for your family members, write, ‘How and what things will change are unknown. However, they can be for the better depending on one’s heart.’ Tell this to the whole family and give them the reminder.”

## Chapter 21

1 On February 17, 1873 according to the Gregorian calendar, having heard a bulletin from the Oda Prefectural government, a family member mentioned, “Shinto priests will not be allowed to continue their activities.” This worried my entire family.

<sup>2</sup>On the same day, Kami-Sama said, “Tenchi No Kami is Nittenshi, Gattenshi, and Ushitora Hitsujisaru Kimon Kane No Kami.

<sup>3</sup>Your family is not to forget about Kami. Whatever happens, don’t depend on others. For the good times as well as the bad, rely on Kami. Do not worry.

<sup>4</sup>The world keeps changing, so wait patiently for five years.

<sup>5</sup>At any rate, have the family get along well. Even in the manner of addressing each other, use polite words such as *‘anata’* and *‘konata.’* Don’t say things that lack sincerity.”

2 On January 20, 1873 (February 17), Kami-Sama told me, “You will have your own calendar with no leap month and short or long months. All months will have thirty days.”

3 Summoned by Kawate Iseki, the village chief magistrate,<sup>1</sup> Hagio quickly went to see him. Kawate ordered Hagio to put away the altar fixtures. Hagio returned home and informed me on what he was told.

<sup>2</sup>I promptly cleared away the altar fixtures. This made the Hiromae look dreary. It was February 18, according to the Gregorian calendar, at four in the afternoon.

<sup>3</sup>I then sent Ieyoshi to inform the village chief magistrate that the altar fixtures were put away. This was January 21 (February 18) according to the lunar calendar.

<sup>4</sup>From the twenty-second the next day (February 19), I, Konko Daijin, stopped serving the Hiromae. Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama told me, "Take a rest without feeling disappointed."

<sup>5</sup>That afternoon, I took down the torii at the front gate.

4 On February 15 (March 13), Kami-Sama said, "Konko, be reborn. Take your first bath in ten years." He made this day my new birthday.

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama said, "Tell the following to your children: 'Even if there is cotton material, do not sew. What's in fashion will change.

<sup>3</sup>Don't weave cotton material with any stripe patterns.

<sup>4</sup>Weave the white cotton with care, and save the cloth.

<sup>5</sup>Don't weave cotton for money.' ”

- 5 On the morning of the seventeenth (March 15), Kami-Sama said, “Look forward to the leap month of June.”

<sup>2</sup>He also told me, “Write a kakitsuke with the words,  
 ‘Tenchi Kane No Kami Ikigami Konko Daijin  
 Pray with a single heart  
 The divine favor depends upon one's own heart’ ”

- 6 On March 20 of the Gregorian calendar, Morita Hachimon, a Hiromae assistant, came by. He had been summoned by the village chief magistrate and was told, “Konko may put back the altar fixtures and practice toritsugi secretly.” My family was glad, but I declined.

<sup>2</sup>“I won't do it in secrecy. I mustn't cause the prefectural and village governments to worry,” I told Hachimon.

<sup>3</sup>He quickly went back to chief magistrate Kawate and informed him, “Konko says that he will not practice toritsugi in secrecy because it will cause worry.”

<sup>4</sup>Kawate admitted, “Konko is hopelessly too sincere. It was I who told him to stop and who told him to resume toritsugi mediation.

<sup>5</sup>At first, the order relayed by the prefectural authorities was so strict that we thought even small shrines would be abolished. However, it has become somewhat less strict.

<sup>6</sup>Even in Kasaoka,<sup>†</sup> where the prefectural office is located, the construction of the Daisen-in Temple and the Inari Shrine is not being disallowed. People are worshipping there.

<sup>7</sup>I hear that when people go to Konko-Sama and are refused prayers, they go home hopelessly disappointed. What he does is not bad—he saves people.

<sup>8</sup>If there is any restrictive order from the prefectural government, it will come here first. I will inform you beforehand so you can act accordingly. You needn't worry.

<sup>9</sup>Konko has been certified to give prayers all the while. If he doesn't resume now, it will be difficult for him to be recertified later on."

<sup>10</sup>Hachiemon returned and told me what Kawate had said. I replied, "In that case, I understand."

<sup>11</sup>Another Hiromae assistant, Kawate Yasuhei, also came and urged me to resume toritsugi. He offered, "If there's any problem, I will accept any penalties in lieu of yourself. So you needn't worry."

<sup>12</sup>I answered, "Since I aim to save people, I cannot subject you to any trouble nor cause anyone to worry."

7 On the twenty-third (March 21) the following day, I put

back the altar fixtures and gave thanks to Kami-Sama. I also gave people's requests to Kami-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>I had taken a thirty-day rest.

<sup>3</sup>From the twenty-fourth (March 22), I wore my *hakama* like I did before, and served in the Hiromae.

<sup>4</sup>"You have shown sincerity even to the government."

8 Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama said this on the service day of February 24 (March 22) according to the lunar calendar. The above events occurred on March 20, 21, and 22 according to the Gregorian calendar.

9 On March 2 (March 29), Kami-Sama said, "Take your last bath. Thereafter, you are not to soak in a bath. This is for prolonging your life span."

10 On March 15 (April 11), Kami-Sama stipulated, "Write kakitsukes with the following words:

Ikigami Konko Daijin

Tenchi Kane No Kami    Pray with a single heart

The divine favor depends upon one's own heart

On this very day pray

Then keep the kakitsukes on hand."

11 On the twenty-fourth (April 20), Kami-Sama said,

“Konko Daijin, hitherto you have sat and faced the altar. From today, sit to the side of the altar while facing the garden.<sup>2</sup> Today is Nittenshi and Gattenshi’s service day. The divine virtue of Tenchi Kane No Kami will shine. Place the offertory box nearer to the front of the altar.”

- 12 On the thirtieth (April 26), Kami-Sama instructed, “Place votive pictures and paper lanterns in the Hiro-mae.”

<sup>2</sup>He also said, “Even if your three *mon* is worth only one *mon* and your paper currency is not exchangeable,<sup>3</sup> don’t complain.”

- 13 On April 4 (April 30), Kami-Sama told me, “Everything that happens is Tenchi Kane No Kami’s doing. This includes major upheavals.

<sup>2</sup>After the five children (Kaneyoshi, Hagio, Kura, Ieyoshi, and Kono) between you and your wife marry, you will have ten children. Therefore there will be twelve of you, the same number as the twelve signs of the *jūnishi* Oriental zodiac.<sup>4</sup> Look forward to the future.”

<sup>3</sup>Ieyoshi and Kono went on a pilgrimage to Ise Shrine, so I prayed to Kami-Sama. He said, “They will return after twenty-three days.”

<sup>4</sup>They had left on April 3 (April 29), and sure enough,

they returned on the afternoon of April 25 (May 21).

<sup>5</sup>“Let the government handle the currency changeover,” instructed Kami-Sama.

- 14 On the morning of April 21 (May 17), Kami-Sama instructed, “Don’t follow the custom of making new kimonos<sup>5</sup> and having a welcoming ceremony (at the village border) for Ieyoshi and Kono when they return from the pilgrimage. You may think that I am saying this because I detest Ieyoshi and Kono. However, I do not. They are to be treated in the same way their elder brother Asakichi was treated.<sup>6</sup> You need not even go to meet them upon their arrival in the village. They will at any rate come home.

<sup>2</sup>Your family also need not fret over giving gifts to people (who gave parting gifts for Ieyoshi and Kono’s pilgrimage) with the intent of having them think favorably of you. Kami will direct you as to when you should present gifts.”

- 15 (On May 7 [June 1]), Konshi Myōjin (Ōmori Ume), a believer from Nakai Village, Jōtō County, Bizen Province, came and informed me, “You should convert your Bizen Province currency into the new currency by May 26 (June 20).” When I prayed to Kane No Kami-Sama,

He instructed, "Gather all the Bizen currency you have."

<sup>2</sup>I collected my wife's money and later returned it to her.

<sup>3</sup>Being advised by the believer from Nakai† to exchange the currency, my wife exchanged our Bizen currency on May 29 (June 23).

16 On May 27 (June 21), Kami-Sama instructed, "Have the female family members sew cotton kimonos for the whole family. Don't even sell one roll of cotton material."

17 Kami-Sama told Hagio, "Buy two ladies' umbrellas with a bull's eye design and twenty ordinary umbrellas. Stamp them with the Hiromae's crest (金) and the name 'Ōmotoyashiro' (Main Shrine)." This was on the morning of June 12 (July 6).

18 On the tenth of the leap month of June (August 2), Kami-Sama spoke, "Though Konko Daijin is a common citizen, he has much virtue and he reveals the divine virtue of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

<sup>2</sup>The world will become orderly five years from now."

19 On the morning of August 17 (October 8), I felt troubled, so I consulted Kami-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>He then stated, “The Way of the Universe never changes. Like the regular motions of the moon, sun, and tides, human living shall stay the same.

<sup>3</sup>I will prevent fires, premature death, disasters, bad luck, and illnesses for you. There is no need for worry.”

20 That same day, Kami-Sama directed, “Have your daughters sew cotton kimonos. If they have time, have them weave cotton cloth both for sale and for the family. You are to buy the cotton cloth they make for sale.

<sup>2</sup>Your daughters are to use the money to buy their own necessities and to dye their new kimonos. You will give them the cotton for their kimonos.

<sup>3</sup>You need not buy barley and rice.”

21 On the morning of August 19 (October 10), Kami-Sama imparted the following. “The bestowing of divine names to priests has been prohibited since September 1870 in accordance with the government’s policies on religion.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore, abolish the divine names of all the toritsugi mediators. Have them be Konko Daijin’s *Ichī no Deshi* (Disciple).”

<sup>3</sup>Tenchi Kane No Kami wants to say the following: “Though they live between Heaven and Earth, people are unaware of Kami’s blessings.

<sup>4</sup>Shrines, temples, and homes stand on Kami's land. Unaware of this, people only examine the Days and Directions and commit irreverences to Kami and encounter hardships due to their accumulated offenses.

<sup>5</sup>They are to practice faith and receive divine blessings.

<sup>6</sup>Tenchi Kane No Kami has sent Ikigami Konko Daijin to the people to give blessings and teachings and to have them prosper forever.

<sup>7</sup>Kami is Kami because of man, and man is man because of Kami. Both continue to uphold each other."

<sup>8</sup>Kami-Sama continued, "Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) claims that she was one of the first believers of Konko Daijin. However, she should reform her heart and pray single-heartedly with all her strength together with her husband. Then she can become Konko Mukai Daimyōjin. She should pray for harmony in her family."

22 On August 19 (October 10) the same day, Kami-Sama spoke for the sake of all people. "There is no one in Japan who does not know Nittenshi, Gattenshi, and Ushitora Hitsujisaru Kimon Konjin. However, there hasn't been anyone who has received divine blessings.

<sup>2</sup>I have informed people of thankful blessings, yet, even while knowing about them, there are those who do not

try to receive blessings.”

<sup>3</sup>That day, Kami-Sama again spoke:

“Konko Daijin Jinriki Odoshi No Mikoto

Nittenshi Gattenshi Sōmi No Mikoto

Kane No Kami Shinriki Myōga No Mikoto

Daishōgun Nokorazu Konjin Tsuchida No Mikoto

<sup>4</sup>If anyone inquires about the meaning of Kami’s new name of ‘Tenchi Kane No Kami,’ you may say what I have told you.”

23 On September 19 (November 8), Kami-Sama said, “I will say this for your four children (Hagio, Kura, Ieyoshi, and Kono). They are debating whether or not they should make *mochi* offerings for Kami’s service day. They should not make the *mochi* if they want to get along well with each other and have future prosperity. But if they don’t mind having disharmonious relationships with each other and future hardships, they should make the *mochi*. The four of them are to talk it over and decide.

<sup>2</sup>Your Hiromae need not be swept and cleaned. Maintaining a harmonious heart is more important. Whether or not the Hiromae is clean is a superficial matter.”

24 On the morning of October 24 (December 13), Kami-Sama said, “It is not impossible for oceans, rivers, and

mountains to change and for great shrines to fall into ruin. Even for your Hiromae, it is not inconceivable for it to become a lively gathering place for people.

<sup>2</sup>When the world is in turmoil, it undergoes changes. Look forward to the future.”

25 On November 10 (December 29), Kami-Sama instructed, “Be at ease for all things.”

26 On the morning of November 22 (January 10), when I gave thanks to Kami-Sama, He imparted the following: “I will have your five children establish and serve at five hiromaes.

<sup>2</sup>You, your wife, and your five married children will add up to twelve, just like the *jūnishi* Oriental zodiac. You will all serve Kami and pray for the sake of the people.”

27 On December 10 of the lunar calendar, Konko Daijin’s service day, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama declared, “The Year of the Rooster (1873) is your new year of birth. You are now one year old.” Since the date was January 27, 1874 according to the Gregorian calendar, I was two years old then.

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama directed, “Starting with 1874, make a calendar with each month having thirty days. Make a

calendar conversion table starting with January 1, 1874 of the lunar calendar. Include the thirty-day month calendar, the Gregorian calendar, and the lunar calendar.”

<sup>3</sup>He added, “Write a reminder note of instructions concerning the learning of reading, writing, and other arts, and proper life attitudes. Explain and present them to your family.”

28 On December 24 (February 10), Kami-Sama said, “The marriage prospects for your four children (Hagio, Kura, Ieyoshi, and Kono) will come from the Furukawa, Mukai Konko (Fujii), and Abe families. But don’t tell this to your children until you receive My instruction.”

## Chapter 22

- 1 On January 1, 1874 of the lunar calendar, or February 17 of the Gregorian calendar, Kami-Sama instructed, “Isshi Daijin (Tose), have Konko Sanjin (Hagio) take over the family finances this year from today. If there is something he cannot handle due to his inexperience, discuss the matter with him to resolve it.”
- 2 On the eighth, or February 24 of the Gregorian calendar, Kami-Sama advised, “Konko Shōjin (Kaneyoshi) should bear the hardships of an ordinary citizen. He is to also leave Asao.<sup>†</sup> Doing so will be better for his future.”
- 3 On the morning of January 24 (March 12), Kami-Sama said, “Comply to believers’ requests for Konko Daijin’s handwritten words.”
 

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama instructed Hagio and Ieyoshi to write Tenchi Kakitsukes. “Start writing from today and keep the kakitsukes on hand.”

<sup>3</sup>That same day, Kami-Sama told me, “You and all your disciples are to be patient for the next three years.”
- 4 On June 26 and 27 (August 8 and 9), Kami-Sama

directed, “As I mentioned before, regarding the marriage prospects for your children, have your wife discuss the arrangements with the Furukawa family. Marry Kono into that family without using a go-between. Also have Yuki of the Furukawa family marry into this family if all parties concerned agree.”

5 “Wait three years before rethatching the roof of the temporary carpenter’s shed and other buildings. Even if people urge you to rethatch the roof, tell them, ‘I will ask Kami-Sama.’ Even if the roofs collapse or rot, don’t mind it. However people react, just tell them, ‘I will inquire Kami-Sama.’ ” This was on June 27 (August 9).

6 On July 10 (August 21), there was a morning glow, but it quickly disappeared. It started to rain and strong winds blew. The roof of the temporary shed was blown off.

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama said, “Leave it as is. Gather the thatch that was blown away and use it as firewood for the bath.

<sup>3</sup>Don’t ask anyone for even a single bundle of thatch. If someone offers you thatch, accept it and save it. Don’t go to people who invite you to go and take some thatch.

<sup>4</sup>Don’t mind if the roof and thatch starts to crumble or rot. Look forward to three years from now.” This was on the same day of the tenth, a service day.

7 On the evening of August 5 (September 15), Nakatsukasa Sakasuke of Gomaya<sup>†</sup> came and said, “Last night, Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) and her son Tsunejirō came to visit me. Regarding your daughter Kura, they requested me to make the arrangements for her to join their family through marriage.

<sup>2</sup>Though I don’t deserve the honor of being the go-between, I later went to the Fujiis to discuss the proposed marriage. Both parents requested my cooperation. I ask for your approval of the marriage.”

<sup>3</sup>When I turned to Kami-Sama, He stated, “Konko Daijin, I give My immediate approval.

<sup>4</sup>Similar to the reformation of the government, this family and Tenchi No Kami will also reform. Don’t spend money wastefully. Whatever happens hereafter, don’t rely on or call for Sakasuke. Don’t distress any go-betweens.

<sup>5</sup>The Furukawa, Fujii, and Abe families will become one. Regard the family as Kami’s branch family. Up to now, Kami’s relatives have never been heard of.

<sup>6</sup>Do not make marriage arrangements with families who only go to doctors or shamanistic practitioners during an illness. Without depending on doctors and shamanistic practitioners, the three families should pray to Kami for

prosperity and be patient. This is so they can look forward to the future.”

- 8 On September 9 (October 18), Kami-Sama ordered, “Though it is Konko Daijin’s service day, do not hang any paper lanterns. Call only those who come to the service annually.” He was referring to the morning of the tenth (October 19) and the night before.

- 9 On the morning of September 20 (October 29), Kami-Sama instructed, “Though it is Kami’s service day, be at ease as usual. Clean the Hiromae and place a lit candle on both sides of the offertory box. Hang two paper lanterns over the front entrance. Don’t place any banners.” I did as I was told.

<sup>2</sup>The Hiromae assistants did not attend. However, Morita Hachiemon came to worship on the night of the twenty-first (October 30) and left soon after.

<sup>3</sup>Outside on the roadside, the young people of Otani and believers from the Gomaya<sup>†</sup> hiromae were lighting and placing votive lanterns.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup>The believers from Gomaya lit the lanterns again on the night of the twenty-third. This has been practiced annually since several years before.

10 On the morning of October 15 (November 23), Kami-Sama instructed, “Write the memoirs of Konko Daijin (the *Oboegaki*), who has established a hiromae here. Write about the time you were born, what your parents told you, the events after you joined this family, and other recollections.

<sup>2</sup>Write about the fears you had regarding Konjin and the Directions, the apologies you made for your irreverences, and your practicing of faith in various kamis.”

11 On the morning of October 22 (November 30), Kami-Sama said, “Regarding the marriage arrangements for three of your children (Hagio, Kura, and Kono), if Kono joins the Furukawas and Yuki from that family joins this one, no engagement gifts need be exchanged. Hold the weddings at the same time on November 13 (December 21).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>By this time, Kura’s marriage into the Fujii family will be settled. Invite all the guests at the same time. Also request the help of Hiromae assistant Morita Hachie-mon. Treat Chūzaburō as the head of his independent household.

<sup>3</sup>Don’t be concerned about what society thinks. (In society,) people consult each other on how to follow

social customs. For this family, Kami shall give instructions regarding social matters.”

<sup>4</sup>On October 27 (December 5), I was told to postpone the double wedding for ten days.

12 On the morning of November 2 (December 10), Furukawa Teru came to worship.

<sup>2</sup>On November 5 (December 13), her mother (Furukawa Mume) came and said, “Teru is suffering from a carbuncle. Please help her.”

<sup>3</sup>On the fifteenth (December 23), she came and voiced her request again. Kami-Sama told her, “Wait until it’s time. However her condition becomes, don’t burst the wound with a needle. Doing so will cause splitting pain. Wait and let the carbuncle break open naturally.”

13 On November 17 (December 25), Furukawa Sansaku came to the Hiromae. Kami-Sama ordered us, “Hold mutual consultations for the marriage of your families’ daughters to each other’s family. Suppress the amount of money to be used.”

<sup>2</sup>Afterward, while the two of us were discussing the pending marriages, Kinu (Sansaku’s second daughter) came and informed us, “Mother’s carbuncle has burst.” Sansaku left immediately.

14 On the morning of November 25, January 2 according to the Gregorian calendar, Kami-Sama told me, "Propose to those concerned to have your wife take Kono to the Furukawas today with gifts of a bottle of Tomo medicinal liquor and a half bag of refined sugar. Also propose to leave Kono there and to hold a reception afterward.

<sup>2</sup>Ask Furukawa Chūzaburō to bring Yuki to this house. Hold her wedding ceremony today and receive the guests."

<sup>3</sup>Since both families were neighbors, both Kono and Yuki returned to their respective parents' homes and greeted each other's guests (and stayed for a few days).

<sup>4</sup>On November 30 (January 7), Yuki was brought over (to our family) by her mother, Furukawa Teru. However, Kono refused to leave (to return to the Furukawas).

15 On the morning of December 14 (January 21), Ieyoshi asked, "Since I was asked by a friend, I want to go and help at a sake brewery in Minaminoura.<sup>†</sup>" I replied, "Discuss it with your elder brother (Hagio), then go."

## Chapter 23

1 On February 16, 1875 (March 23), Ieyoshi returned home safely from the sake brewery.

2 I invited the young people of the village on February 29 (April 5) and held a party with a keg of sake. They left at around three in the morning. Such was a divine arrangement, as it rained heavily later on. It was a short month, with the twenty-ninth being the month's last day.

<sup>2</sup>On March 1 (April 6), we received people from the northern and southern parts of the village who came to celebrate Hagio's marriage. They returned home before four in the afternoon. During these two days, everyone drank merrily and went home in good spirits. With everything having gone well, I felt relieved. Two and a half *to*<sup>1</sup> of sake had been consumed.

3 Invited to the Furukawas, my wife took Hagio and Kono (who had been refusing to return). Hagio and my wife feasted and came home. This was on March 10 (April 15).

4 On May 9 (June 12), Kami-Sama instructed, "As I told

you before, shave your mustache and beard three times a month.”

- 5 On the morning of June 13 (July 15), the service day for the Tomo Gion Shrine, Kami-Sama gave a revelation.



India China  
Japan

“Like the way water gathers into a depression, all the world’s problems gather in this Hiromae.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Leave your children’s problems to Me. Don’t follow social appearances. Those people, including your relatives, who follow social conventions will not receive blessings.”

- 6 On the morning of September 20 (October 18), Kami-Sama spoke, “Though it is Tenchi Kane No Kami’s service day, don’t do anything special. Proceed as you normally do every day. On the evening of the twenty-third, cook ceremonial red rice and invite your neighbors. Wear a *haori* bearing the (Konko) crest.”

<sup>2</sup>On the evening of the twenty-first, I placed a large candle near the offertory box.

<sup>3</sup>On the twenty-fourth (October 22), I had Ieyoshi distribute *mochi* to village chief magistrate Kawate, Mr. Ono of Tsu,<sup>†</sup> and to the people in the neighborhood.

7 On October 14 (November 11), Kami-Sama spoke, “I will save your family and even your relatives from sickness, misfortune, and disasters. Pray single-heartedly.”

8 On the morning of the eighteenth (November 15), Kami-Sama said, “From today, take pleasure in undergoing a hundred days of faith training.”

<sup>2</sup>On January 28, 1876 (February 22), having completed my faith training without any problem, I gave thanks.

9 Having been asked by Maruya, a sake brewery in Takahashi,<sup>†</sup> for a helping hand, Ieyoshi complied. This was on October 26 (November 23).

10 On October 27 the next day, Kami-Sama proclaimed, “Without fail, I shall have your five children’s welfare be good.”

11 On December 29 (January 25) at dusk, Konko Shōjin (Kaneyoshi) came to worship from Asao.<sup>†</sup>

## Chapter 24

- 1 On January 1, 1876 (January 26), Kami-Sama spoke, “Konko Shōjin, being thirty-two, you are to look forward to your unlucky year.”
- 2 On January 21 (February 15), Konko Shōjin came to give thanks and said he would reform his heart.  
<sup>2</sup>On the morning of January 24 (February 18), Kami-Sama imparted the following to Konko Shōjin. “Think of the money you have spent so far as loans from others. As for the interest, I will pay it.  
<sup>3</sup>In your small, three-tatami-mat room, be patient for three years, pray to Kami, and save people. Think that you are in prison and study anew.  
<sup>4</sup>Come back here on the twentieth of every month. Repay your debts gradually, and apologize to your creditors. Tell them, ‘I will repay you as much as I can.’”  
<sup>5</sup>Konko Shōjin returned to Asao<sup>†</sup> on January 28 (February 22).
- 3 Kami-Sama said, “In 1868, there was the Meiji Restoration. Then in 1872, all Shinto priests were dismissed. This is the fifth year since the dismissal. Look forward to

four years from now, when one cycle of the *jūnishi* Oriental zodiac will have been completed since the Meiji Restoration.” This was on February 26, 1876 (March 21).

- 4 On April 17 (May 10) of the same year, Kami-Sama instructed, “Don’t use a mosquito net. Even if you are bitten a lot, don’t mind it.”

<sup>2</sup>Then three years passed. March 1879 was a leap month. On April 10 (May 30), I was allowed to use a mosquito net. That year, I was not bitten by mosquitos. It was the first time that I used the net in four years.

<sup>3</sup>On the same day (April 17, 1876 according to the lunar calendar), Kami-Sama directed, “Don’t wear a *hakama* or *haori*. Just wear a white kimono.”

- 5 On the morning of April 26 (May 19), Furukawa Sansaku came to the Hiromae and told me, “I’ve come because my elder sister (Tose) has asked me to convince Saikichi to divorce Kono.”

<sup>2</sup>I told him, “When a child does not listen to his or her parents, it can’t be helped. There are couples who tire of each other and get a divorce, and couples who love each other but still get a divorce. Society is inconsistent. There are even couples who remarry each other after divorc-

ing.”

<sup>3</sup>That night, Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) came for Kura (who had been staying with us). On April 27 (May 20) the next day, Tsunejirō (Kura’s husband) came and took Kura back to his house (the Fujiis).

- 6 On May 21 (June 13), citing the drought, the villagers came to give requests. I inquired Kami-Sama. “Rain will fall on the fields from today,” disclosed Kami-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>The next day on the twenty-second (June 14) from about four in the afternoon, it began to rain. It continued throughout the night. The whole village was then able to transplant their rice.

<sup>3</sup>It rained again from the night of the twenty-fifth (June 17) until the next morning. Rain also fell until the afternoon of the twenty-seventh (June 19). It rained a lot until the first of the leap month of May (June 22). The rice transplantation went well.

- 7 On the third of the leap month of May (June 24), which was the monthly service day for Daishōgun-Sama, Kami-Sama said, “The rice seedlings may be transplanted at three different times to see which batch gives the best harvest.

<sup>2</sup>A hoe may be used for cutting the weeds and other

work. The crops that are planted the earliest will produce much rice in the fall.”

- 8 On May 28 (June 20), Konko Shōjin came to give a request.

<sup>2</sup>“My wife, who had an outside job, fell ill and we need much money,” explained Konko Shōjin. I mediated the request to Kami-Sama. He replied, “Do as he asks.”

## Chapter 25

(The following was written by Konko Ieyoshi.)

- 1 Konko Daijin was born in Urami Village as Kandori Genshichi, his original name.

He passed away on September 10, 1883 (October 10).

Born in the Year of the Dog, Konko Daijin was seventy years old.

Succeeding him is I, Shijin Ieyoshi, Konko Daijin II, who have started serving the Hiromae.

On December 24, 1884 (February 8), Konko Tose (born in the Year of the Hare), whose divine name was "Isshi Daijin," passed away at age sixty-six.

In 1885, the Hiromae was formally approved as Konko Kyōkai, an ordinary church attached to the Bitchū Shinto Affairs Bureau.

In 1887, the Konko Kyōkai came under the jurisdiction of Shinto Headquarters.

By Konko Ieyoshi, Konko Daijin II

This transcription (of the *Oboegaki*) was finished on August 4, 1888 (September 9).

