

is no need for worry.

49 New Year's Day is the beginning of a fresh new year. You should strengthen your body.

50 When you are invited for a drink at someone's house, don't overdrink. Returning home with drunken words will disturb your family.

51 In life, as long as you have food and clothing, you should be content.

52 Request for blessed water. Then Kami will give you blessed water.

53 "Nothing is more blessed than having an illness cured. Up to now, people have practiced faith in Kami only during sickness, and not during wellness," said Konko-Sama.

²"You must also pray while in good health. Practicing faith is evermore important while not in pain. Request wholeheartedly for divine arrangement that will have your family and farm animals safe and healthy."

54 When you go to have shamanistic prayers done for your child's sudden convulsions, you will be told that it is the curse of *Atago-Sama* or *Gion-Sama*. These curses are invisible. Kami will eliminate these invisible curses.

²Kami teaches that good and bad come from the heart.

Atago Misaki and *Gion Misaki* are like the policemen of today. If you have done wrong, you will have to evade the police when they approach. But if you have done no wrong, you needn't fear, even if a policeman passes right by.

55 "If you have a pain somewhere, think of applying sacred sake, then you will receive divine blessings," Konko-Sama told me.

56 If your rice spoils, wash it two or three times and say grace to Kami before eating it. Then you won't be poisoned. If you aren't poisoned by the rice, there will be no pain. And if there's no pain, there will be no death.

57 There are no amulets from Kami. But if you request wholeheartedly, I will bestow a Tenchi Kakitsuke. Treat it with respect.

²Ikigami 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

³On the amulet there was:
Susano-O Shrine

⁴Even if Kami gives you this Kakitsuke, praying to it without a true purpose won't be faith. But if you pray to it single-heartedly, you can receive divine blessings. If you

don't, then the Kakitsuke will be like waste paper. Respect Kami, and His dignity will increase. Your own virtue will also increase.

58 Konko-Sama imparted to me, “A person from Shinogozē[†] received blessings from me. The person then came to the Hiromae to give thanks. A carpenter was also at the Hiromae at that time. The person from Shinogozē asked the carpenter about the Hiromae construction. The carpenter answered, ‘Well, it seems the Hiromae’s name has been changed.’ After returning home, the person from Shinogozē made many copies of the amulet he had received, paid visits to believers, and collected money.

²He told them, ‘This money is not for me. I will take all of it to the Hiromae.’ However, he gave none of it to the Hiromae. He used all the money to build his house.

³His self-indulgence made his parents die early. Since he insulted Kami, he received punishment. Now he is suffering.” I have to remember this teaching.

59 “If Kami wanted to make money, He would be able to make an unlimited amount. But Kami won’t take money. If a woman’s breasts are hurt and cannot produce milk, she should offer a breast-shaped offering. Then she will receive divine blessings. Kami-Sama’s heart wants nothing. Mitsugorō, if you don’t learn from such a heart, you won’t receive divine blessings,” said Konko-Sama.

60 Konko-Sama said, “There are many people who act like

a priest. Don't act like a priest. They are all greedy merchants at heart."

61 You need no amulet, charm, or rank. Pray single-heartedly and receive divine blessings.

62 "They say that even praying to a sardine's head can bring divine blessings. When belief in *Kannon-Sama* was widespread, there was a woman who practiced faith and received many blessings. Hearing that a young man in the village was going to go and worship Kannon-Sama, she gave him an amulet case and asked him to get an amulet. He found a sardine head on the ground in front of Kannon-Sama and sealed it in the amulet case. After returning, he gave it to the grateful woman. She prayed to it single-heartedly and received divine blessings.

²The young man, amazed by this, decided to mock her. He told her that if she opened her amulet case, she would find a sardine's head.

³When the woman did so, indeed, there was a sardine's head. She was shocked by this, and from then on, she didn't receive any blessings even when praying to Kannon-Sama," Konko-Sama told me.

63 "*Munetada No Kami*, the Founder of the *Kurozumi* religion, takes written pledges. Kami does not take written pledges," said Konko-Sama.

64 Don't leave the hiromae. Performing toritsugi is important.

65 Mitsugorō, if you practice faith at home, people will say you are practicing faith and will come to see you.

66 Konko-Sama said, “I won’t communicate your requests. I will teach how each of you can request and receive divine blessings by yourselves. Then when you receive divine blessings, you needn’t come here to give thanks.” I was deeply moved by these words.

67 “While you are young, you are asked to do work which pays wages. But when you get older, you won’t be asked to do such work. In practicing faith, the older you get, the more virtuous you become,” Konko-Sama imparted.

68 Konko-Sama told me, “I will bestow Heaven and Earth as your father and mother. Heaven is your father, and Earth is your mother. Pray single-heartedly.”

69 Everyone is saying that the Kami-Sama of Otani has come to the Saizaki[†] hiromae. But no one can move Kami-Sama out of Otani. Kami-Sama cannot be seen nor touched. We become aware of Him only by praying single-heartedly.
²Mitsugorō of Bizen,[†] receive divine blessings. If you don’t receive blessings, you won’t realize Kami’s blessedness. Once you begin to receive blessings, you mustn’t forget your indebtedness to Kami.

70 I’m telling you how I receive divine blessings. Mitsugorō,

you should also practice faith and receive divine blessings. Don't have others pray for you. Everyone should pray and receive divine blessings by themselves.

71 "When you perform toritsugi, people offer crops from their first harvest or a part of their first profits," according to Konko-Sama.

72 "Kami-Sama revealed to me that I needn't give prayers for now. I should just talk to people," Konko-Sama told me.

²"That's why I am talking to you now. But I'll keep praying for people because I don't know what they will think if I don't."

³"When praying for the sick, state their names and request single-heartedly for their recovery. Also pray for divine arrangement which will keep their families and farm animals safe and healthy. Pray for the world to be safe, the country to be secure, and for the grains to grow well."

73 After having practiced faith and received divine blessings, if you think of buying rice paddies or lending money to gain interest, it will disagree with Konko-Sama and Kami's hearts. Konko-Sama always said, "Nittenshi always gives, yet He never takes."

²Konko-Sama proclaimed, "I am here to save the world." I received these heartfelt words.

74 Konko-Sama told me, "Abandon your fears. There will

be divine blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami. Regardless of how much you pray or how many oharai prayers you chant, it will only be for the sake of praying, not faith. It won't bring any divine blessings. You needn't give prayers at this time." Kami-Sama had advised Konko-Sama to just give teachings.

²"You too should remember this. You should stop giving prayers to Kami-Sama. Regardless of what government officials or policemen ask you, tell them that you were just talking to someone. Then you won't get into trouble. Only priests can chant prayers. Those who aren't priests are prohibited from chanting prayers. Obey the laws of the times."

75 Konko-Sama recounted, "I used to pray wholeheartedly to Kami-Sama, received divine blessings, and served day and night.

²During that time, Kami-Sama told me, 'Since people are human, they cannot continue serving day and night. By nature, they are compelled to sleep at night. You should sleep. From now on, serve only during the day.' "

He followed this advice and served only during the day.

He also gave this teaching to me.

³I was moved. If I don't follow this teaching, my heart will disagree with Konko-Sama's. And a heart that disagrees with Konko-Sama's, also disagrees with Kami-Sama's.

Volume Three

1 Konko-Sama II told me about Konko-Sama.

²“When Konko-Sama was forty-two, his son was two years old. Since forty-two is an unlucky age, either the parent or the child may die. Worried about this, Konko-Sama went to Kibitsu Shrine, which was the head shrine of the province, and to the village shrine. He also prayed wholeheartedly to many other kamis.

³One time at Kibitsu Shrine, while he prayed wholeheartedly, the sacred kettle made a sound. In front of the altar, Konko-Sama lamented, ‘A person like me cannot guess whether or not You will help me through my critical forty-second year.’ When Konko-Sama bowed and was about to leave, the sacred kettle made another sound. While in front of the shrine, Konko-Sama pondered over the significance of this. Then he went home and practiced faith.

⁴In his forty-second year, he fell ill. His relatives gave prayers and also called in a doctor. The doctor treated him, but Konko-Sama got worse. Konko-Sama’s family and relatives gathered, but they could do nothing. There was a father and son among the relatives. The son declared, ‘Just watching you like this is useless. Since you always practice faith, I must pray to the kamis for you.’ The son was quite sincere, and this was the start of Kami’s revelation to Konko-Sama.

⁵The son made preparations in Konko-Sama’s home for a service to revere the kamis. He prayed wholeheartedly to the kamis. Then through him, there was a revelation from *Kibitsu-Sama*, ‘When Bunji built his house, there was

irreverence to Kami.’ Then the son’s father retorted sharply, ‘He did nothing irreverent.’

⁶Konko-Sama was unable to speak or move his body due to his illness. He could only lament in his mind, ‘If I could only speak, then I would apologize to Kibitsu-Sama. Not being able to speak is so frustrating. That man shouldn’t tell Kami-Sama that I didn’t commit any irreverence.’ Konko-Sama prayed in his heart, ‘When that man insists that I was not irreverent, he is jeopardizing my life. One cannot say that ordinary people never commit irreverence. If I could only speak, I would voice my apologies.’

⁷At that moment, there was a miracle. Konko-Sama was suddenly able to move and speak. How boundless Kami-Sama’s blessed virtue was. From his bed, Konko-Sama immediately apologized to Kibitsu-Sama. Konko-Sama’s sincere heart had reached Kibitsu-Sama’s heart, and the hearts of the village kamis and all the kamis in the world.

⁸Kibitsu-Sama told Konko-Sama that He would give him blessings. When the mediator son placed a sacred staff above the rice and bean offerings, the rice and beans stuck onto the staff.

⁹Kibitsu-Sama gave the rice and beans on the sacred staff to Konko-Sama and told him, ‘Keep practicing faith in Konjin wholeheartedly. I will grant you food and good health throughout your life.’

¹⁰Thereafter, Konko-Sama had good health and lived his life at ease.”

2 Kyoto has many people and many kamis. During the Heian Period, the upper-class people built the Enryakuji

Temple on Mount Hiei in the *Ushitora* Northeast, and the Yawata Hachiman Shrine in the *Hitsujisaru* Southwest. These were indications of their faith.

²Since the common people didn't understand why, the upper-class explained it to them.

³To avoid being irreverent, one must build a shrine in the Ushitora Northeast of one's property. This will prevent any curses. One must also build another shrine in the Hitsujisaru Southwest to avoid any punishment. There will be certain punishment if this is not followed.

⁴However, if you do these things, there won't be enough space for your house. This will cause inconvenience. But if you practice faith, you will be allowed to use the land. Never forget this grace each and every day.

3 *Eto* is the twelve zodiacal signs. These were later divided into twenty-four directions. People checked the lunar calendar to avoid certain directions when doing construction. But even when they tried to avoid a direction, they couldn't.

²The lunar calendar designates auspicious Days and Directions for construction. If you don't follow it exactly, even a minute mistake will result in punishment.

³The lunar calendar lists *Hi-konjin*, *Tsuki-konjin*, *Toki-konjin*, *Saiha*, *Saisetsu*, *Shichisetsu-konjin*, *Hyōbi*, *Konjin*, and *Yometorazu*. However, if you offer sacred sake in each direction and practice faith wholeheartedly, you will be given permission.

⁴Don't forget the grace of having permission, each and every day. Then you won't be punished.

4 Earth punishes. See disastrous earthquakes. The ground ripples from deep within. Only the ground moves not, but also the air. Thus, it has been said since long ago, that flying birds shall fall during earthquakes.

²Heaven shall not kill they say. This is not true. See torrential rains. It kills.

³The Sun is blessed they say. But it too punishes. See scorching droughts. It tries to take people's lives in one stroke.

5 Construction work which follows the lunar calendar will bring punishment. Even if a direction is auspicious, it will become ominous in the future and punishment will result. Discard the lunar calendar and pray to Kami-Sama for all things. Rely on Kami and practice faith.

6 "No matter how strong, any person can be confined to bed by Kami," Konko-Sama reproved.

7 Konko-Sama imparted, "You needn't make any distinctions between Shinto and Buddhism. By pointing out Buddhist and Shinto altar fittings, people are making distinctions.

²Kami-Sama says that kamis as well as buddhas all belong to the Universe."

8 "There is a person who makes people worship at his hiromae while claiming that he has received Kami's Way of Faith from Otani. He uses these people for personal gain

by telling them to donate a paper lantern or other items. As a result, they go to the hiromae for one or two years, and three years at the most.

²The things which Kami-Sama creates for you are limitless. It is essential to have a heart like that of the Universe,” Konko-Sama explained to me. It made me feel grateful and happy.

³He added, “The Universe is not a passing fad. Something which is not a fad will not end.” This teaching became my lifetime treasure.

9 “They say if you don’t complain about Heaven for three days, you’ll become a rich person,” imparted Konko-Sama.

10 Konko-Sama II told me about Konko-Sama and a doctor: When the doctor visited Konko-Sama’s house in Otani, Konko-Sama told him, “From now on, practice faith in Kami. When someone comes and requests you to treat a patient, inform Kami that you will go and treat the patient. Pray wholeheartedly for Kami to promptly bestow divine blessings to the patient.

²Dissolve some medicine in sacred sake, and give it to the person who will take it to the patient. After the patient drinks it, treat the patient. When the patient is cured, you as the doctor will be credited, and the patient will be relieved. You will then gain many patients.” I felt gratitude and happiness.

11 A man from Onomichi,[†] Bingo Province, came to worship.

Konko-Sama told him, “Spread this Faith in the thirty-three provinces in the west. I will spread it in the thirty-three provinces in the east.”

²The man performed toritsugi and received the favor of Kami-Sama. Through this man, the Faith gradually flourished. Once, he became perplexed and neglected to practice faith.

³He went to see Konko-Sama again. He told Konko-Sama, “Although I stopped, I should have continued performing toritsugi. Now I feel regret.” Konko-Sama answered, “Regret will not mend matters.”

⁴Konko-Sama II told me this story and added, “Sincerity and patience are most important. These qualities are what people need in most situations. Faith which starts in an emergency, and monthly and daily worships to a hiromae won’t continue for long.”

12 “Don’t think of becoming rich in one year. Become prosperous over two, three, or five years. The future is long. The small amounts you save will grow. But the money you gain in one stroke will soon disappear,” imparted Konko-Sama.

13 “Konko-Sama told us about becoming a kami by practicing faith. He also mentioned *shinkoku*, the Land of the Kami. Remember this from now on. When you become a kami, you should not become greater than Kami,” Konko-Sama II told me.

14 If your house is burglarized, check immediately what was

taken and inform the village office. If you don't report the burglary, you will be fined after the burglar is caught and he confesses to where he stole and from whom. It is important to inform in advance.

- 15 Konko-Sama mentioned that monetary offerings were stolen from his house. He remarked, "They took the money because they needed it, so let them have it. Such people are not to be despised, they are to be pitied." Konko-Sama forgave, and I was deeply moved.

²"Do good things, and your faith will grow. It all depends on your heart."

- 16 Though they were all saying that you needed someone to practice faith with, Konko-Sama asserted, "You don't need anyone to practice faith with."

"If you need someone to practice faith with, you'll need someone to die with."

²"There is no one who wants to die with you. A person is born alone and dies alone."

- 17 "You should be temperate for happiness. Also be temperate for receiving divine blessings. You should be temperate for all things," Konko-Sama advised me.

²"Ten people have ten different minds. Therefore, you cannot give the same teaching to all ten," he said.

³"Tell people that everyone should practice faith individually, then there can be no mistake."

18 When a dispute cannot be resolved due to a quarrelsome heart, there won't be divine blessings, even when praying to Kami. But if you pray wholeheartedly for quick resolve, divine blessings will be forthcoming.

19 People go to the Hiromae to worship and receive teachings, but no one follows what they are told. They return home and alter the teachings for themselves. And so there are no divine blessings.

²Some have said, "I went to the Hiromae and received teachings. I also practiced faith, but what Kami told me did not happen."

³They lose Kami's teachings on the way home by distorting them to suit themselves. For their resultant failures, they blame Kami. Reforming your heart is most important.

⁴Being wholehearted toward Kami means not to have doubt.

20 "Tell them that it depends on their hearts. Without wholeheartedness, they won't receive divine blessings. Without divine blessings, they will lose Kami's favor. Lose Kami's favor, and they will lose their virtue. Therefore, if you tell them that it depends on their hearts, they won't lose Kami's favor," said Konko-Sama.

21 Konko-Sama advised me, "The wind and rain exists within Tenchi, the Universe. So does Kami-Sama. Pray to Kami-Sama wholeheartedly, then you won't be swayed even by a gust of wind. Praying with determination while

practicing faith is most important.”

22 Konko-Sama told me, “There are those who can’t even read the basic *hiragana*, but are still receiving blessings from Kami. This is called human virtue.”

23 Konko-Sama said, “It is important to be loved by others.”

24 Society today is knowledge-oriented. People always try to outsmart others, thus they are losing the virtue within themselves.

25 Your household may be poor, but if you owe no debts, Kami-Sama will rejoice.

26 One’s soul is more important than one’s appearance.

27 “Prolonged pregnancy means that the child within is maturing further.”

²He added, “Well-matured seeds are good. They will grow well and not wither.

³Let me give you an example. In a village next to Otani, Bitchū Province, a woman practicing faith had a pregnancy of eleven months and ten days. She had a safe and easy delivery. She had good health and her child grew well.

⁴Because of this, she never forgot to practice faith. This is an example for people to follow.”

28 Konko-Sama explained to me, “Things that suit men differ from things that suit women.”

29 A man can be bestowed with a child until he is sixty. However, the woman’s womb must be young.

30 “If a sick person has already died, there is nothing Kami can do,” said Konko-Sama.

“But if the person hasn’t died, he can be cured by practicing faith.”

31 Your eyes are very important. When something gets in your eye, it will hurt. People spend much money to cure their eyes. They even sell their paddies, mountains, land, and houses.

²Spending this much will drain their assets. People must have strong health.

32 Even with the vermin in the world, there will be divine blessings if you practice faith. Despite the vermin, it will be all right if they do not wound you.

33 “It is irreverent to dump charms, amulets, and impure articles into the river. So people burn them to take away the sins and impurities. But in doing so, the articles are returned to no other place but Earth. People are accumulating offenses every day without knowing that Earth is Kami.

²On New Year's Day, pray for all the days in the year. On the first of the month, pray for all the days in that month. And in the morning, pray for that day. People practice faith during an illness only to be cured. It is also important to practice faith during good health.

³Pray single-heartedly for the safety and health of your family and farm animals," Konko-Sama advised me.

34 "Abstinence from meat and fish was started by *Kōbō Daishi*, who disliked flesh-smelling food. People have been following this abstinence."

²Konko-Sama said, "Everyone has likes and dislikes. Eat things that you like, and don't eat things you dislike. There are many who eat things they dislike, but are still dying."

35 "You can face the *Sansha no Takusen* sacred scroll, clap your hands, and chant oharai prayers, but there will be no divine blessings if your heart isn't true."

Konko-Sama said, "If your heart follows what's written on the sacred scroll every day, that will become your practice of faith."

36 Chanting long prayers to Kami will cause your wife to complain. Kami says that family harmony is more important than the clapping of your hands and the chanting of prayers.

37 You can't practice faith at home with your wife not joining you. While you offer prayers to Kami-Sama, your wife will

tell you to stop and ask you to make tea instead. Kami prefers a peaceful household.

38 “Which religion or sect you belong to doesn’t matter to Kami. As long as your heart does not go astray, He shall protect you,” said Konko-Sama.

39 Konko-Sama said, “Listen to prayers and learn, you can receive divine blessings.”

He added, “If you don’t listen to what I say, there won’t be divine blessings.”

40 “Nothing lasts forever. If you don’t practice faith individually, it won’t continue for long,” said Konko-Sama.

41 Konko-Sama confided to me, “When you perform toritsugi, happy or fortunate people won’t come.”

42 “When people come and ask me things such as the type of rice seed they should plant, I don’t tell them. Telling them won’t make any difference unless they practice faith to receive divine blessings. When they don’t receive divine blessings, they blame Kami. This is why I don’t tell them. By not telling them, you needn’t worry. Just tell them that it depends on the fortune of that particular year and time.² However, for those who are so single-hearted in Kami that they even want to receive a Tenchi Kakitsuke, I will tell them,” said Konko-Sama. It depends on person’s heart.

43 Konko-Sama told me, “Practice this Faith inconspicuously. As time goes by, this Faith will become more widely accepted by the world.”

²He further prescribed, “To whoever asks you for money, say that you don’t have any.”

44 Konko-Sama also said, “Some followers tell me, ‘When a government officer tells me to stop serving the hiromae, I keep a low profile by weaving some straw or by working in the paddies. People then come to where I am, and I speak to them. I also give prayers at night.’ ”

²“Kami-Sama said, ‘Even while you are being inconspicuous, as long as your heart is true, I will bestow blessings.’ It is important that there is no disagreement between Kami-Sama and your heart.”

45 Konko-Sama told me, “You can’t receive divine blessings if you come just to observe my toritsugi mediation or to listen to my teachings out of curiosity. While practicing faith, coming here when it’s raining is most important. You’ll have no time to come on sunny days when you have to work.”

Ishihara Ginzō

1 This is a teaching about Heaven and Earth. There are people in-between Heaven and Earth. In other words, Heaven is the father, and Earth is the mother. Humans, plants, and other living things live on Earth through the blessings they receive from Heaven. Thus, Heaven is the

father, and Earth, the mother.

2 This is about the Days and Directions. In this Faith, there are no restrictions related to the Days and Directions. This is because there will be things you must do regardless of the Days and Directions.

²No woman checks the Days when giving birth. When building a house, what do you do if the direction is ominous? If it's ominous, pray to Kami before building, saying that you must build on that very day.

³There will also be days when you must go to worship Kami, even when they are ominous. When you must go and fetch water from the well, will you not go because it is an ominous day?

⁴People also check the Days and Directions when they dig a well, but not when they bury someone. They are being inconsistent. What's the difference between a deceased person and a well? They should not be checking the Days and Directions at all.

⁵Also, when passing in front of a shrine, bow your head regardless of what kami the shrine reveres. Then you can avoid the bad luck of that day.

⁶Those with evil intentions will no doubt meet divine punishment in the future. This is similar to the punishment given by the courts.

3 Being filial to your parents is foremost. Be filial, and you will find happiness in the future. If you aren't filial, the same thing will happen to you.

Kanbara Yaematsu

- 1 Let go of your immediate wants and grasp the virtue of the future.
- 2 Take a tree for example. If you care for its leaves and branches only, and neglect the roots, insects will soon attack the roots and the tree will fall. Take care of the roots as well.

Katsuta Tōzaemon

- 1 On March 21, 1881, I went to the Hiromae with Karahi Tsunezō sensei. Konko Daijin-Sama, in a soft voice, said, “Practice faith and receive divine blessings.” I took this with deep gratitude and wholeheartedness, and received divine blessings.

Kondō Fujimori

- 1 Konjin. Neglect him, and the land will become barren.
- 2 People say Konjin is a kami of misfortune and malice. But Konjin is actually a kami of good fortune and happiness.
- 3 Tenchi Kane No Kami does not use animals as His mediators. His family actually consists of people, His mediators. A normal family also consists of a husband, wife, and other people. Tenchi Kane No Kami’s family are people.

- 4 A metal cane will get bent, and a bamboo or wooden cane will break. Therefore, use Kami as your cane. Kami can never be bent, can never break, and can never die.
- 5 The character for *No* in *Kane No Kami*, is not to be confused with another character for *No*. If the correct character for *No* isn't used, then Kami-Sama's name won't be correct.
- 6 When giving requests, people often say they are afraid. If so, they should not request at all. Don't say that you are afraid. Saying words like incredible and unbelievable is doubting Kami. Avoid saying these words.
- 7 "Konko-Sama, are *Susano-O No Kami* and Kane No Kami-Sama the same?"
"Yes, they are the same."
The person acknowledged, "Now I understand. Thank you," and went home.
²Listening to this was Shirakami Shin'ichirō II, who asked me, "Is that true?" "No it's not," I answered. "But Konko-Sama wouldn't tell a lie," Shirakami-sama asserted.
³I reiterated, "But it's not true. He said that because that's what the person thought. If you have any doubts, ask Konko-Sama."
Shirakami-sama promptly went up to Konko-Sama and asked, "Regarding what you said, are *Susano-O No Mikoto* and *Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama* the same?"

⁴The Founder replied, “Well actually, Tenchi Kane No Kami goes as far as using Susano-O No Kami.”

- 8 Some practice faith and later decide to leave the Faith. If they come to apologize three times, Kami shall forgive. But Kami doesn't dismiss in the first place, so you shouldn't dismiss yourself. If Kami does dismiss you, you won't be reinstated regardless of how many times you apologize.
- 9 There are people who claim that the Universe works this way and that, but they really don't understand it. If they did, they would be able to stop the rise and fall of tides.
- 10 People say that Kami-Sama has deserted them. But Kami never deserts people. People desert Kami.
- 11 Believe that you are being cared for by immortal parents. Then depend on Tenchi No Kami for all things and think that nothing is impossible.
- 12 Kami doesn't punish. People should be careful not to punish themselves.
- 13 Since my wife had been going to bed late and rising very early, her body got weak. I inquired Konko-Sama about this.
He answered, “Kami is able to continue working day and night, but mortal humans cannot. Your wife should rise

when the stars disappear, and retire when the stars reappear.”

14 You mustn't look directly at the Sun or the Moon when giving thanks. Give thanks by bowing your head instead.

15 “How can I practice faith that agrees with the heart of Kami-Sama?” I asked.

“I too don't understand the heart of Kami-Sama. Only when I fall silent, will I understand. Kondō-san, it has long been said that it is never too late to learn, even at the age of eighty. Learning is a lifelong process,” answered Konko-Sama.

16 The money you offer to Kami won't be without any return. An old adage says that one rice seed becomes ten thousand. Try and plant a rice seed into the earth. It will multiply into a handful of seeds. Plant that handful in the following year, and you will have a sackful of seeds.

²Giving offerings to Tenchi No Kami will yield similar results. Kami does not only take, He also gives. He gives ten thousand times as much as He takes.

17 Lies can fool people, but not Kami.

18 About the Tenchi Kakitsuke, Konko-Sama explained, “It is definitely not a charm. Place it where it can be easily seen in the morning and evening. Remember to follow what

is written on it. It is like the rules of an abacus. The result will be correct or incorrect depending on how you follow the rules. In the same way, if you don't forget to follow what is written on this Kakitsuke, there can be no mistake. You will receive divine blessings."

19 You go beyond your means to buy a household altar for worshipping Kami. Then when you have to pay off your debts at the year-end, you'll think that if you hadn't bought that altar, you'd be able to pay them off. This won't reflect Kami-Sama's heart. First, pay off your debts and take care of your living expenses. Then if you have any money leftover, use it to buy an altar. Worshipping Kami with a nice altar bought with leftover money reflects the heart of Kami. But worshipping Kami with an altar bought beyond your means does not.

20 When I, Konko Daijin, fall silent, there will be no more revelations and hand divinations. Therefore, chant prayers with a tranquil heart. Kami will inform you if your prayers will be answered or not.

21 There is a cattle trader named Sugita Mankichi from Tomioka, Bitchū Province. He received divine blessings for the first time through Kotani Seizō's hiromae in Tamashima.[†] Every month since then, he has been passing by Otani to worship at the Tamashima hiromae. Then he comes to this Hiromae. This is a sincere, true faith. He goes to worship through the person who introduced him

to the Faith. Not forgetting the Way of Faith is true faith.

22 Konko-Sama had a very stout body.

“During the first three years or so, Kami-Sama told me, ‘Sit comfortably when there is no one around. You should sit properly only when someone comes.’ That’s why I sit comfortably when no one is around. Have people with bad legs sit comfortably while they receive teachings.”

23 Kami-Sama admonishes those who do as they please when building a house. When Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples, or government offices are built, don’t they first pray to Kami in a ground-breaking ceremony? Other buildings as well, it will be easier to construct if people pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami.

24 Before starting construction, people wait for the absence of Konjin in a certain direction. But there’s no unoccupied direction. Even for people, it’s rude to wait for someone’s absence to do something. For a wife to wait for her husband’s absence to do something is improper. Waiting for the absence of a fearful kami is not necessary. An occupied direction means that Kami-Sama is present. Wouldn’t this make it easier to give requests?

25 A believer from Onomichi† saw his cesspool container rise out of the ground. When he inquired about this, he was told, “Request to be allowed to use the ground for as long as it exists. You will feel at ease.”

26 Apologize for the offenses committed by your ancestors. The accumulated offenses will be cleared away like a block of ice out in the sun.

27 Kami will clear your accumulated offenses until you are forty. If you get sick while aged, people might say, “Even if we take care of him and he fully recovers, he still won’t be able to work. Let’s not care for him.”

²But if you get sick while young, people will take care of you, thinking you’ll still be useful after recovery. Thus, Kami will clear away the offenses until you are forty. With your accumulated offenses, you’ll have a difficult time until forty. But after that, it’ll be easier.

28 People ask Kami to take away their accumulated offenses. But when Kami starts to do so, they run away because it’s too painful. Kami then has to withdraw His hands which were so kindly extended.

29 Don’t ever retire from active life. The word *inkyō* (retirement) literally means to be in hiding. Being in hiding is the same as being dead. Don’t go into retirement.

30 Though people retire after reaching fifty, they shouldn’t do so regardless of their age. Tenchi No Kami created man to work within the Universe. Thus, one should keep working as long as one can move his arms and legs.

- 31 Don't think of your child as your own before he turns five. If he gets hurt before age five, the fault lies with the parents. After that, the fault lies with the child. If the child dies before the age of five, you needn't be saddened as the child is not yours. However, you should apologize to Kami saying that it was your fault, and then request to have a healthy child.
- 32 If a child says he wants the offering that you are placing before Kami, give it to him. It will make the child happy. If the child is happy, Kami will be happy.
- 33 If the husband practices faith and receives virtue, his wife will also receive virtue.
- 34 A wife should pray to Kami-Sama in the morning, then pray respectfully to her husband from behind.
- 35 Practice faith wholeheartedly. Then your childbirth will be so easy that those living in the next room won't even notice.
- 36 You know Kondō-san, if you practice faith wholeheartedly, even your most distant cousins will receive divine blessings.
- 37 Kondō-san, I see you have given broad teachings by telling people to cure their illnesses using soil. Well let me give

you another broad teaching from Kami.

²If soil or water can cure illnesses, it means people are walking on medicine. Sea water is salty, but salty or fresh, water is water.

38 They say you can't defeat sickness and those above you. By praying to Kami single-heartedly, you cannot defeat those above you, but you can defeat your sickness. Lie in bed for a rest, not for a sickness.

39 Kami can quickly cure an illness caused externally, but not one caused by the heart. Don't get an illness due to a worried and distressed heart.

40 Don't think that because you practice faith, you will never fall ill. Even the Sun and Moon have abnormalities of eclipses. It's only natural. People may practice faith, but their bodies are only human. Accept the fact that you are subject to illness, and think that you won't die from it.

41 Foods you favor are like medicine, while foods you disfavor are like poison. When you fall ill, you take displeasing medicines and eat a little of your favorite food to eliminate the aftertaste. Since you eat only a little of your favorite food, the curing of your illness takes time.

42 There are people who complain about their chronic illnesses. However, Kami-Sama does not instill sickness

when He creates a person. People stay sick because they are fond of sickness.

43 Don't eat foods you dislike. Eat a lot of your favorite foods because they are like medicine for the body.

²However, eating too much will make you throw up. It is said that you should fill only eighty percent of your stomach. Try and fill a bowl eighty percent with water. The water won't spill even if you take the bowl and run a little. This is a natural law.

³After eating your favorite foods and becoming healthy, remember that eating more of your favorite foods after you are full is being irreverent to Kami.

44 It is said that a camphor tree (*kusunoki*) becomes as hard as a rock. But if it gets too hard, it can't be used as a post for an alcove. Therefore, if a person becomes too inflexible, people will call him bullheaded (*kusunahito*).

45 Even for the lowest-denomination coin, try to use only a part of it.

46 Those who practice faith shouldn't let themselves be despised, even by cats and dogs. They shouldn't even become enemies of cats and dogs.

47 Practice faith, then you won't die before it's time.

48 Don't make family rules and agreements.

49 Instead of saying that a person has died, say that he has fallen silent.

50 New Year's is an auspicious time. People say that January, May, and September are months to pray for the seasons. These times can be consolidated into three days during New Year's.

²Inquire Kami on January one, and He will tell you what will happen from January to April. Inquire on January two, and you will be told what will happen from May to August. Inquire on January three, and He will tell you about September to December.

³So Kondō-san, if you inquire Kami about the whole year on these three days, Kami will tell all. Acquire the virtue through which Kami will tell all.

51 What will happen during the year can be known during the first three days of the year. If you are in bed on the first, you will fall ill sometime between January and April. If you are in bed on the second, you will fall ill sometime between May and August. And if you are in bed on the third, you will fall ill sometime between September and December. Besides illness, any misfortune during these three days will also recur in the respective months of the year.

Kami-Sama is telling people who practice faith to be prudent.

- 52 Kondō-san, as Kami-Sama has just said, since New Year's is to celebrate the whole year, it is truly auspicious. Angry people will be told not to be angry because it is New Year's.
²Live each day with the same happy heart you have on New Year's Day. When the sun sets, think that it's the last day of the year. It will make your life happy every day, and there will be no discord in your family. Live happily as if each day were New Year's Day.
- 53 Don't waste water. From the time of planting until harvest, each spike of barley needs a liter of water. Therefore, wasting a liter of water is like throwing away a spike of barley.
- 54 If you borrow money, you have to pay interest. You should borrow interest-free money.
- 55 There are people who are tempted by low interest and suffer big losses. They borrow money because they are poor. It's good if a lender lends money to really help the borrower. But if the lender sues when the borrower cannot repay, it will cause suffering. This doesn't help, it agonizes. If you lend money, you should give it in the first place.
- 56 Practice true faith, then you will be given enough strength to overcome your difficulties.
- 57 People say many things, but if you look with your eyes,

you'll see that Heaven is on the very top, and Earth is on the very bottom. It is best to pray to the very top and to the very bottom.

58 Practice faith conscientiously. Those who make excuses by saying that they practice faith at home are beginning to lose their faith.

²Those practicing faith conscientiously should not mock the dreams they have at night. Kami teaches good and bad even through dreams.

59 This was when Konko-Sama gave me a steel cane.

“It was during a winter when there was heavy snow. Kami-Sama instructed, ‘Konko, walk around the mountain once. Today, the world is white. That is a steel cane there. Since walking in the snow is dangerous, use it for support.’

²I said thank you, took the cane, and walked around Mount Yūzaki once. It was a very cold winter, and Kami had me walking around the mountains. This is that steel cane. Kondō-san, I'm giving it to you. It's not for your body, it's for your heart.”

60 Even if someone urinates on your head, think of it as fertilizer which will make you grow well. Feel grateful and be happy.

61 When those practicing faith are hit on the head, they should think, “My head doesn't hurt, but how about your

hand?”

And if they are urinated on the head, they should think warm rain is falling.

62 When I went to the Hiromae in 1882 in the midst of winter, Konko-Sama said, “Those who rely on Kami wholeheartedly and have improved their faith for three years are called full-fledged believers.

²A person who has served a hiromae for ten years, plus an extra year for the appreciation of Kami, and another year for personal gratitude, will become a qualified sensei. For carpenters also, when they have worked for ten years and served one year in appreciation to their teacher, they can become a full-fledged carpenter.

63 The head priest of Kamo Shrine went to Shirakami Shin'ichirō II's hiromae for Baron Iwakura Tomomi's critical illness. When Shin'ichirō inquired the Founder, he was told, “If he doesn't have faith, there will be no divine blessings. Blessings are in one's own heart. If each person does not practice faith individually, one cannot be saved.”

64 Kōbō Daishi said that death has no aversion to time. But I, Konko Daijin, say it does.

65 You don't need someone to practice faith with.

66 The word *shinjin* (faith) is not written with the kanji

characters for belief and heart. I write it with the kanji characters for kami and man. Therefore, do not say *bushinjin*.^{*} It will mean that both Kami and man are neglecting their duties. It's better to say that one's prayers don't reach Kami.

^{*}The kanji characters for kami and man can also be read as *shinjin*. *Bu* is a negating prefix.

67 This was when Miyanaga-san from Onomichi[†] and a kimono goods shop owner from Okayama came to the Hiromae. Miyanaga-san received divine virtue, but was always poor and short of money.

²“Konko-Sama, if divine virtue can be sold, I would like to sell divine virtue,” he said. Then the kimono goods shop owner came to worship. This shop owner, starting out with little money, received human virtue and was able to build several warehouses in a short time. He said, “Fortunately, I have much money to spend. If possible, I would like to buy divine virtue.”

³Konko-Sama suggested, “Miyanaga-san, since you always say that you don't have enough money, why don't you sell divine virtue to this person who wants to buy some?” Miyanaga-san shook his head and said it was impossible.

68 Here is the place where you show me how you have practiced faith. It is like bringing your best calligraphy to your calligraphy teacher. Practice at home, and come here at least two or three times a year to have your faith guided.

69 “Spending money to come to Otani from afar is unnecessary. Tenchi Kane No Kami is everywhere, thus you can receive divine blessings wherever you pray. Don’t spend money to come here, pray at home instead,” said Konko-Sama.

²Konko-Sama had told me this for the fourth or fifth time when his wife Tose instructed me, “Kondō-san, as Konko-Sama has often told you, worship at home instead of spending money and coming here monthly from afar. I don’t know if you like barley gruel, but like eating barley gruel and pickled vegetables, practice a faith that you won’t tire of. Come only three times a year; in January, May, and September.”

³I explained to her, “Since my wife and I have lost our parents, we have been coming here thinking that when we see Konko-Sama and you, we see our parents. Since we feel happy when we see our parents, we come here once or twice a month. Despite what you tell other people, please allow my wife and I to come to the Hiromae as often as we have.

With kind words, she complied, “In that case, you may do so. But be as thrifty as possible.” My wife and I cried in happiness.

⁴When we went to the Hiromae to give thanks to Konko-Sama, Kami spoke through Konko-Sama, “As Konko Daijin has often told you, Kami will give blessings to those who pray, wherever they pray, even at home. But since there is only one Ikigami Konko Daijin of Otani, he will be glad when you come to worship.”

70 Who do believers pray to? They don't pray to ministers. They pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami. This is very moving to Kami, so He saves them.

71 "I'm not an ikigami. I'm a manure carrier. You should pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. I only convey your requests to Kami-Sama," said Konko-Sama.

²Then he went before the altar and immediately revealed Kami's divine words. "Although Konko Daijin says that he is a manure carrier and that you should pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami, pray to Konko Daijin. Listening to and following his words are the same as listening to and following Kami's words.

³Kane No Kami has been thought of as a fearful kami for thousands of years. But Konko Daijin has discerned the true kami to the world. Thanks to Konko Daijin, people can receive Tenchi Kane No Kami's blessings. Konko Daijin benefits Kami and people."

⁴The Founder amended, "Though you heard what Kami-Sama has just said, I am only Kami's caretaker. Therefore, even if you pray to me, you won't receive divine blessings. Pray wholeheartedly to Tenchi Kane No Kami for everything."

72 Don't tell stories about people receiving divine blessings to those who will doubt you unless they hear the person's name and locality.

73 People from around here come and call me the manure-

carrying farmer of Otani. Thus, Kami gives them limited blessings. But people from afar come and call me *ikigami*, therefore Kami gives them bountiful blessings.

74 So Kondō-san, you are thinking of building a shrine for the late Shirakami-san. Leave it to Kami for building the shrine. You should concentrate on spreading this Faith rapidly.

75 After having performed toritsugi mediation three times for the same illness, don't mediate a fourth time. It has long been said that even the patience of an exalted one has its limits. Kami will listen to the same toritsugi mediation up to three times, then He will stop listening. Divine blessings will then depend upon the believer's heart.

76 After imparting this Way of Faith twice, you shouldn't make excessive efforts to continue teaching. Continue teaching only if the person willingly comes and asks you to.

77 This is a humorous story recounted by the Founder.

“In Tamashima,[†] there was a bathhouse owner who stole *wariki* (firewood) every day from the neighboring firewood shop. His worried wife told him to stop, but to no effect. So the wife came here and told me what her husband was doing. I told her, ‘Let him take it. It's all right. It is good to think other people's *waruki* (fault) is one's own. Ha, ha.’”

78 Those who serve Kami are called Kami's guardians. Kami-Sama is like a child on a guardian's back. If you make the guardian happy, the child will also be happy. If you hit the guardian on the head and make him cry, the child will also cry.

²If Kami's guardians are happy, then Kami will also be happy. And if the guardians are sad, Kami will also be sad. Practice faith to fulfill Kami's wish and to not lose divine blessings.

79 There are three thousand believers in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Each of them could donate one yen to build a hiromae. But if one of them stops practicing faith, he still could say that he donated one yen for that hiromae. Kami wouldn't like this.

²Kami will find a person who can build a hiromae by himself. Believers usually offer about ten percent of their incomes. If they make a hundred yen, they will offer ten yen, and if they make ten yen, they will offer one yen. When Kami gives one of these believers enough divine blessings, that person alone will offer enough to build the hiromae.

80 When retiring and handing down the family business or occupation, people may think it's a waste to just retire and relax. So they decide to serve the Faith by conveying truthful teachings. If there were such people in each town and village, this Faith would easily spread.

81 Kami-Sama's crest is being used on confectionaries for sale.

When I think that this Faith has spread that much, Kondō-san, I feel glad.

²Until now, everyone who came had requests. But now, there are few requests even when there are a hundred worshippers. The number of people who come just to worship has increased. When I think of this as an increase of the people who know Tenchi No Kami's blessedness, Kondō-san, I feel very, very happy.

Matsuoka Kinjirō

1 It was on New Year's Day 1882. I went to the Hiromae to give thanks for the curing of my illness. Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama said, "Kinjirō, you really adore this Hiromae like the way a child adores his parents. You have a sincere heart."

2 I went to the Hiromae this year on April nine and on August fourteen to give thanks. Konko-Sama imparted, "Kinjirō, Kami will double your strength."

Nakamura Yakichi

1 Leave your worries to Kami. You are to practice faith.

2 Parents should act like parents. And children should act like children. Everything should be what they are.

3 Endeavor to be honest, polite, and sincere.

Nanba Kō

1 I was born a feeble child and had chronic phlegm since childhood. My worried parents went on a pilgrimage to Kojima[†] seven or eight times. Besides Kojima, they visited every shrine and temple. Even after I got married and moved to where I now live, my ailment still wasn't completely cured.

In 1876, I heard about the Founder and went to the Hiromae to receive his teachings.

"Kō, this is the year when your life will end, so prepare yourself," the Founder advised.

²At that time, I had a daughter too young to know anything. If I had died then, it would have adversely affected my family. So I begged the Founder for my life to be spared. Konko-Sama imparted, "If your heart doesn't waver, and you pray single-heartedly for three years, the root of your ailment will be cut out."

³I then prayed with increasing single-heartedness. Two years and three months later, the root of my chronic ailment was cut clean. Till this day, I have never taken any medicines. It is now 1933, and at ninety-two, I am still living out my life.

Nishina Shika

1 I went to the Hiromae on October 3, 1861 and inquired,

“My mother is suffering from stomach pains. Though I have been a member of the *Kurozumi* Faith, I have come here for the first time because my mother’s ailment still hasn’t been cured completely. Please have her somehow receive divine blessings.”

²Konko-Sama said, “I will now offer prayers to receive divine revelations. Please be quiet.”

³Konko-Sama gave prayers and spoke, “In front of your house, there is an earthen wall about thirteen meters long. On the right of the wall, there is a large willow tree. Northwest of the willow tree, there’s a longhouse about ten meters long. There’s a road in the southeast. In the northeast, there’s a storage shed. North of the storage shed, there’s a lean-to. Next to the lean-to is a Chinese lemon tree. South of the storage shed is an oxen barn. Both the willow tree and storage shed don’t agree with Konjin. This is why your mother is ill.

⁴Though you have been a believer of the *Kurozumi* Faith, your mother’s illness will certainly be completely cured because you have started to practice this Faith. A believer like you, who can assist Konko Daijin, has never come here before. You’ll be a very reliable follower. If there were mistakes in what Kami has said, don’t come here again. But if there were none, come and practice faith here.

⁵Your mother’s stomach pains have subsided since the time your family supposed that you arrived in Otani. Go home and see. Are there any mistakes in what Kami has said?”

⁶“It is all true. Out in front, there is an earthen wall about thirteen meters long. On the right of the wall is a large

willow tree. Northwest of the willow tree is a longhouse about ten meters long. And in the northeast, there is a storage shed. South of it is an oxen barn. North of the storage shed, there is a lean-to. Next to it is a Chinese lemon tree. There is a road in the southeast. I am deeply impressed."

⁷"Kami will give you the divine virtue that He has mentioned," revealed Konko-Sama.

When I got home, I saw that my mother's stomach pains had subsided since the time my family thought I arrived at the Hiromae. She had just eaten and was resting.

⁸I went to worship right away the next day to give thanks. "How is she?" asked Konko-Sama.

"Thank you so much. We are receiving divine virtue as you have said."

"Well then, Kami will have your mother recover completely. Practice faith. Since I believe that you will assist me, I will help her recover," revealed Konko-Sama. My mother soon recovered completely.

⁹Konko-Sama said, "Henceforth, you should pray to Kami and save people."

I then began to perform toritsugi mediation. But the village troublemakers came, made accusations, and took away the offerings in my hiromae.

¹⁰I quickly went to the Hiromae and asked, "Konko-Sama, today, some troublemakers came and made false accusations and took away all the offerings. What should I do?" He answered, "Today, all the offerings in my Hiromae were also taken away. Even though everything has been taken away, don't think of it as a loss. If

everything has been taken, face a wall and give prayers. Kami will give ten thousand times as much. If you stop practicing faith now, Kami will stop giving.”

2 After that, I practiced faith and performed toritsugi every day. Then my husband Matsutarō had a sudden, sharp pain in his abdomen on the night of December 24, 1866. Though the pain went away temporarily that night, he became sick and bedridden.

²From January second the following year, I went to the Hiromae every day and prayed.

³Once, Konko-Sama imparted, “When the children of samurai warriors in Okayama were playing together, they noticed that one of them had a bamboo sword. They teased that child. ‘So you have a bamboo sword. What can you do with that?’ He answered, ‘Don’t say such a foolish thing. Why don’t we fight it out? But since no one should lose his life, let’s try to split that rock to see who wins.’

They agreed and the children with superior swords tried to split the rock. But all of their swords snapped. Then the child with the bamboo sword exclaimed, ‘What’s the matter? Watch this.’ He struck his sword and split the rock in two. The rest of the children were struck with amazement.

⁴Being single-hearted is truly great, but in your case, it’s still lacking. Your husband’s life will reach a critical point on February eight, at two o’clock in the morning or afternoon. If you lack single-heartedness, you shall regret it later.”

3 I then practiced faith more earnestly. However, Konko-Sama imparted, “Your faith is still lacking. It will soon be February eight.”

²One time, Konko-Sama told me, “If you don’t practice faith to the utmost, it will be too late for your husband.” I asked, “What should I do to receive Kami-Sama’s divine blessings?” “Practicing faith by following someone’s advice won’t result in divine blessings. You must have a faith that was born out of your own will,” he answered.

³On February seven, Konko-Sama questioned, “Tomorrow will be a critical day for your husband. Can’t you practice faith single-heartedly enough to reach Kami-Sama?”

⁴On the way home, while thinking about how I could practice faith to convey my single-heartedness to Kami, I thought about going to worship without clothing.

When I told this idea to my mother, she opposed. But being so determined, I thought, “For this husband, whom I will stay with for life, I will do anything, even if people call me crazy.” My husband’s elder sister, Saitō Risu, who happened to be visiting, declared, “It’s for my younger brother.” And our maid also, “It’s for my employer.” The three of us decided to go together.

Then my nephew Hamazō, who was my neighbor, said, “There might be trouble if there are only women—so I will go too.” And so the four of us decided to go.

⁵While discussing how we should worship, I suggested, “Let’s take off our clothes, put on a loincloth, tie a sacred rope around our waists, and pour water over ourselves at a nearby shrine. Then let’s run to the Hiromae while

chanting oharai prayers.”

⁶When we arrived, Konko-Sama praised, “Shika, today, your single-heartedness has reached Kami. He will promptly cure your husband completely. You are a truly single-hearted woman.”

⁷He continued, “You have been calling each other husband and wife, but from today, I will allow your husband to have the divine name of *Konshi Daimyōjin*, and you to have the divine name of *Konshi Myōjin*. From today, both of you shall be kamis.”

⁸At that time, three samurais from Ashimori† were in the Hiromae. They moved aside and made room for us in front of the *kekkaï* mediation seat.

On the way home, the people of Kamogata Town scattered salt in front of their houses for purification and prayed for us. I thought, “It’s all right now. We have received divine blessings.”

⁹When we got to the slope below our house, my husband appeared on the veranda to greet us. He eventually recovered completely. We went to the Hiromae to give thanks together with over a hundred believers. I was twenty-five at the time, and my husband was thirty-eight.

Ogihara Sugi

¹ In September 1873 of the lunar calendar, I had been bedridden for two years due to woman’s sickness. My condition also anguished my father Rikizō, my mother Sato, and my husband Toyomatsu.

²During the two years, we tried every available doctor and medicine, and had many shamanistic prayers done. If we

heard of a good medicine or shamanistic prayer, we would immediately go to receive it, regardless of how faraway the place was or how busy we were. But it was all in vain. My sickness grew worse with each passing day, similar to how a plant's roots keep spreading in the ground.

³Then a cotton merchant named Hiko-san, from the same county, came and recommended that we receive divine blessings from Konko-Sama. At that time, Konko-Sama was called Konjin-Sama. Hiko-san kindly told my parents, "So your daughter is still sick in bed. How is she? I often receive divine blessings from the Konjin-Sama of Otani. Why don't you also go and receive the divine blessings of Konjin-Sama? I went to see Konjin-Sama in Otani when my wife was sick and when my children were seriously ill. They recovered just as Konjin-Sama had said they would.

⁴If you go to worship, you'll find that he's different from the other people who give prayers. He is really like a kami. Go and see for yourself. He's truly blessed. If the Konjin-Sama of Otani says that you will be cured, then it will certainly come true. I have no doubts because my own family received divine blessings. I wouldn't give you bad advice. Why don't you go there tomorrow?"

⁵The next day, my father Rikizō went to Otani and requested, "I have come from Nishiachi.[†] My daughter has been bedridden with woman's sickness for two years. Her sickness is also tormenting the rest of us. We would like to be saved by Konjin-Sama. Please give prayers for her."

⁶Konko-Sama kindly responded, "Very well. How old is your daughter?" "She has become twenty-one this year,"

my father answered.

⁷“So she was born in the Year of the Ox. She should practice faith. She can receive divine blessings. Even if I pray for her, she cannot receive divine blessings unless she also practices faith. She should practice faith because she will surely receive divine blessings.” Konko-Sama said only this, and didn’t give prayers at all.

⁸This gave my father a slightly empty feeling. But while returning home, he thought, “This must be the way of this Faith. Perhaps he will give prayers later.”

He told us, “Anyway, Konko-Sama said to practice faith because we can receive divine blessings. So let’s practice faith.” We then practiced faith in kamis and buddhas.

2 There were no signs of divine blessings even after a hundred days. Though the sickness didn’t get worse, it didn’t get better.

²“It seems hopeless after all. Hiko-san kindly advised us to see Konko-Sama, but perhaps even the power of Kami-Sama cannot cure her,” my father Rikizō thought. He was thinking about giving up the Faith. But deciding to go to worship once more, he went to the Hiromae again.

³Konko-Sama told him, “It’s good that you have come. But even if I give you teachings, your daughter and her husband won’t understand. Also, your daughter’s husband doesn’t want to practice faith at all. So tell him to come to worship just once.”

3 My husband Toyomatsu went to the Hiromae the

following day. Konko-Sama asked, “Toyomatsu, is your family practicing faith?”

²“Yes, we are practicing as much faith as we can,” my husband answered.

³“How are you practicing faith?”

“We are practicing faith in all the kamis and buddhas in Japan,” my husband replied.

⁴Then Konko-Sama said, “That is practicing excess faith. Practicing excess faith won’t result in divine blessings.

⁵Isn’t there a kami or buddha that you think is most blessed? Toyomatsu, it has long been said that one must practice faith single-heartedly to receive divine blessings. Practice faith single-heartedly, then you’ll receive divine blessings. You are not practicing faith single-heartedly.

⁶You say you are practicing faith in all the kamis and buddhas, but that is excessive faith.

⁷For example, a woman can fall in love deeply and single-heartedly with only one man. When she thinks of a man as the only one for her, it is true love only if she is single-hearted about him from the bottom of her heart. Though she won’t look down on or dislike other men, she must feel totally devoted to the man she truly loves.

⁸There are people who are kind, and people who are reliable. When you ask someone to do a favor, that person will do all he can to fulfill it. If you ask two or three people, they will discuss how to fulfill your favor and it won’t go smoothly.

⁹When hiring carpenters, there must be a chief carpenter. Everything must have a master or a director. For Japan, *Tenshi-Sama* is the central head. For the prefecture, the