

prefectural governor is the head. In the village, it is the village head, and in the home, it is the husband. Plants, also, have only one central core. If you practice faith with single-heartedness, you will immediately receive divine blessings.

<sup>10</sup>People have long passed on the belief that this kami called Konjin punishes those who commit irreverences during construction work. If people committed these irreverences unknowingly, they would have to make seven graves for their oxen and horses. And if they did it knowingly, they would have to make seven graves, including their own. If Konjin is that strict, then He must also be reliable. Wouldn't it be better to get along with this kami and receive divine blessings?

<sup>11</sup>I'm not saying that you should practice faith in this kami. You can practice any faith you like. Any kami or buddha can give you blessings.

<sup>12</sup>When people are asked with true sincerity to do a favor, they will do all they can to fulfill it. And if they cannot do so, they will ask someone to help.

<sup>13</sup>The same goes for a kami. If a kami alone cannot save you, he will ask other kamis to help. That's why a kami always has enough power. I'm telling you to practice faith. It doesn't matter in which kami or buddha. Toyomatsu, do you understand?"

- 4 Toyomatsu, moved by the words of the Ikigami-Sama, realized that the faith we were practicing was not faith at all. He told Konko-Sama, "From now on, we will be single-hearted in this Faith."

<sup>2</sup>“You shouldn’t decide on this Faith so quickly. Return home and discuss it with your family,” instructed Konko-Sama.

<sup>3</sup>He added, “There is one thing I must tell you. Sugi is a very spiteful person who is always complaining. Complaints won’t bring divine blessings.

<sup>4</sup>When Rikizō came here for the first time, and when he came yesterday and you came today, she said that going to the Hiromae was unnecessary. Hence, she probably complains day and night about everything.” He cited many of my complaints without error.

<sup>5</sup>“This is why she is ill and doesn’t get better. Go home and tell her this. If she comes to realize from the bottom of her heart how ill-natured she has been, decide with your family as to which faith to practice in. There will surely be divine blessings.

<sup>6</sup>If Sugi realizes her ill-nature, and decides to receive divine blessings from this Faith, come here again,” Konko-Sama directed.

5 Filled with gratitude, Toyomatsu hurried home and came to my bedside to tell me everything Konko-Sama had told him.

<sup>2</sup>I answered, “Yes, it’s all true. I have been wrong. I had an ill-natured character and a disrespectful heart. Yet, my suffering was really minimal. I was selfish and complained about everything. I have been a worthless person who should’ve been thoroughly punished. I must certainly reform my heart.”

<sup>3</sup>“If you do so, there can be nothing more thankful. It will

save our family. Where should we practice faith?" my husband asked.

<sup>4</sup>I answered, "Needless to say, we must practice faith in the Konko-Sama who gave us these teachings."

<sup>5</sup>Rikizō and Sato were listening nearby and shedding joyful tears. They said to us, "Since you feel that way, it would be best for you to practice faith in the Konko-Sama of Otani." We decided to receive divine blessings from Konko-Sama of Otani.

<sup>6</sup>The next day, Toyomatsu went to the Hiromae again and before uttering a word, Konko-Sama told him, "I'm glad you came. This time she will receive divine blessings. Look forward to receiving divine blessings in three weeks. Even without you coming here, Kami can see far and wide at a single glance. Practice faith at home and receive divine blessings. If you come here from afar, you won't be able to work a full day. It will cost money and you will also need to make a box lunch."

<sup>7</sup>Toyomatsu returned home filled with gratitude beyond words. From then on, while worshipping day and night, we faced Otani and then our altar. In sixteen days, I was able to raise my head. Five days after that, I became as healthy as I was two years before.

6 With Otani about fourteen kilometers away, my husband and I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae.

<sup>2</sup>I felt so thankful that I was speechless. I bowed my head down toward the tatami mat in front of Konko-Sama and showed my deepest thanks without saying a word.

<sup>3</sup>Konko-Sama noted, "Sugi, you seem very grateful

indeed.” Upon hearing these words, I could only utter, “Konko-Sama, I can’t say anything,” and I just kept crying.

<sup>4</sup>Konko-Sama said in a gentle voice, “I see, well, that’s truly wonderful. You have received divine blessings well. If you only had such a grateful heart earlier, you needn’t have suffered for as long as two years.

<sup>5</sup>Don’t ever forget the longtime pain you have suffered and the divine blessings you have received. As long as you don’t forget these two things, your illness won’t recur.

<sup>6</sup>Hereafter, when people come to you in pain, give prayers for them while recalling your own suffering and the divine blessings you have received. If you don’t care about others because you yourself are already cured, your illness will return.

<sup>7</sup>Keep receiving divine blessings with the heart you have now, then your illness won’t recur, and future generations of your family will also receive blessings.

<sup>8</sup>Sugi, I’ll let you be a living example for Nishiachi.<sup>†</sup> You may feel grateful for your recovery now, but humans cannot live forever. Since they die only after sixty or seventy years, I will immortalize your name.

<sup>9</sup>One lives for only a generation, but one’s name can live on for many. The good or bad that one has done will live on. Die and leave a good name.

<sup>10</sup>Sugi, you will receive divine blessings that no one in Nishiachi has ever received. I will let you build a hiromae.” Konko-Sama kept giving me such blessed teachings that I went home filled with gratitude.

<sup>11</sup>Thereafter, I gave thanks to the altar several times a day.

Whenever a sick person came, I would pray, "Please bestow divine blessings on this person and have him recover." Soon, the word began to spread. "Sugi-san will pray for those who are sick or in pain." People started to come and give requests. Since blessings were being realized, more and more people came to give their requests.

<sup>12</sup>I was already deeply touched by the divine blessings I had received. But the blessing of being able to bestow blessings to others was so overwhelming that I shed tears day and night thinking about it.

7 Still without a child in the following year of 1874, we thought, "By requesting Konko-Sama, we may be able to have a child. Let's go to worship together."

We went to the Hiromae on April fifteen of the lunar calendar and requested, "Konko-Sama, day and night, we receive more divine blessings than we deserve and cannot be more thankful. However, we still don't have a child. We sincerely request to be bestowed with a child."

<sup>2</sup>Konko-Sama said, "Yes, Kami already thinks that you will have one. Look forward to September of this year."

<sup>3</sup>As Konko-Sama had told us, I became pregnant with our son Genbe'e in September of that year. He is our eldest son who will be forty-nine this year (1923).

8 I practiced faith with ever-increasing gratitude. When I went to the Hiromae in September 1875, Konko-Sama said, "Sugi, your parents cannot be changed, so take good care of them. On April twenty-one next year, your father Rikizō

will be blessed with peace.”

<sup>2</sup>We all thought, “Father may live only until April twenty-one next year. Let’s take good care of him.” Keeping this in mind, we did our best to take care of him. That year passed, as well as the months of the following year until it was April. On the twenty-first, all was well.

<sup>3</sup>That morning, my husband and I remarked, “Though there hasn’t been a single mistake in the hundred things that Konko-Sama has told us, this time he seemed to have made a mistake.” My father was planting seeds in the vegetable garden in the back of the house while talking with Takahara Matsunosuke of the same village.

<sup>4</sup>He finished planting at about two o’clock in the afternoon. Matsunosuke-san went home, and my father came home saying, “Sugi, I don’t feel very good. Could you bring me a cup of tea?” I immediately dashed to get him a cup of tea. But before he had time to drink it, he fell back with a groan and passed away.

<sup>5</sup>Even when Genbe’e was conceived, Konko-Sama was not mistaken about when I would be pregnant with Genbe’e. And this time also, he was not mistaken about the time of my father’s passing. Konko-Sama knows everything beforehand and can do more. We thought how Kami could do anything as He pleased, giving or taking life, and inflicting or curing sickness.

- 9 While pregnant, you needn’t wear a maternity belt. And while giving birth, you needn’t lean on a cushion or sack. You needn’t give the newborn any water or *goko* tea. Promptly have the child sip some sacred sake and give,

instead of throwing away, the mother's first milk.

- 10 Don't talk of impurities. Everyone has impurities in their skin. Instead of cleansing your hands, feet, and body, cleanse your heart.
- 11 During an emergency, you cannot afford the time and trouble to chant the harai prayers or *kyomon* sutras. If you get hurt in a rice paddy, put some paddy water on the wound. And since there is soil everywhere, apply some on the wound and pray for divine blessings. You will immediately receive divine blessings.
- 12 Sugi, being cured is not blessed. Having good health is.
- 13 If people prayed before taking medicine, there would be prompt divine blessings. But they instead take medicine before praying, so there are no divine blessings.
- 14 Kami bestows healthy bodies, yet people complain of being chronically ill. How pitiful.
- 15 Even eyes blind for decades will be able to see light if the person's wholeheartedness reaches Kami-Sama.
- 16 They say a sick person gets better and better. But this isn't the case. It's actually Kami's blessings becoming more and more.

17 It is said a strong will can pass even through a rock. Your single-heartedness can make any request come through.

18 Even while practicing faith, you won't come across only good fortune. There will be misfortune as well. When you meet misfortune, take it like your hand showing its back side. Receive divine blessings for it to turn to the front side.\*

\*According to a Japanese metaphor, the back of one's hand signifies misfortune, and the front side signifies good fortune.

19 People practice faith, and some say there were divine blessings, while others say there weren't. But after practicing faith for ten years, anyone can receive divine blessings.

20 Don't do anything you think is wrong.

21 Pray even at the moment of death.

22 Monetary offerings, however large, won't result in divine blessings.

23 Offerings won't bring divine blessings.

24 For whatever sickness, receive divine blessings by not following food restrictions.



- 25 Regardless of how wise or virtuous, a person is never able to decide when to be born and when to die. It is only after birth and before death when he concerns himself with such things. Any place, day, or direction convenient for people is auspicious. Kami doesn't use the Days and Directions to trouble people.
- 26 If there is a useless child among five, the parents will love that child even more. For Kami also, He loves those with less faith more. Practice faith and receive divine blessings.
- 27 Sugi, people won't help you right away if you aren't always on good terms with them. For Kami-Sama also, He won't help you in emergencies if you don't practice faith every day.
- 28 Sugi, come here only to give thanks.
- 29 Don't invite others to go to worship with you. They will complain that your invitation caused them to use up their money to go to worship. This won't bring divine blessings.
- 30 Instead of going through the trouble of setting your hair and taking a bath before coming to worship, you can worship right at home. It will be the same. Therefore you needn't come here so often.
- 31 When your children spill rice, you scold them and say that

spilling rice is being irreverent to *Sanbō-Sama*. Sanbō-Sama is the three kamis of the world—Hi No Kami, Tsuki No Kami, and Kane No Kami. When making rice gruel after getting up in the morning, you use Hi No Kami-Sama's fire, Tsuki No Kami-Sama's water, and Kane No Kami's earthen furnace.

32 Sugi, though you don't voice your thoughts, Kami receives them.

33 A believer told Konko-Sama, "I pray to Kami-Sama for people's problems, and as soon as the person receives divine blessings, I end up with the same problem."

Konko-Sama replied, "That's because you try to solve their problems yourself, though you have no power to do so. Have Kami take care of their problems. He will clear them away."

34 When Hori Kanekichi from Tomihisa Village, Kuboya County, went to the Hiromae, a man from Sōja Village, Kayō County, was there giving a request. Konko-Sama chided the man, "I won't mediate for those like you who keep straying here and there for prayers." Kanekichi acted as a go-between and the man was finally able to receive toritsugi mediation.

35 Standing posts can fall. Have your heart able to lean on a shop curtain, and receive divine blessings.

Ōkida Kisaburō

1 When I went to the Hiromae in April 1871, Konko-Sama said, “Of the many hiromaes and believers in Bizen Province, I will tell this to only three people in Bizen. The mediator (Kanemitsu Umejirō) in Hayashi Village, Kojima County; Shirakami of Okayama; and you. I will tell no one else.” He then told me everything about his religious training from the very beginning up till then. I was filled with so much awe that I could not write what he told me.

2 Then in a revelation, “There are government officials who are dismissed even though they are still useful. In this Way of Faith as well, there are those who don’t succeed in society even though they have strong faith. There are also those who prosper and make others wonder why.

<sup>2</sup>Kisaburō, you are not to stop practicing faith regardless of the situation. Look forward to the future. There will be a time when society will recognize you.” I went to worship every month that year, and each time, I received this same revelation.

<sup>3</sup>“Practice faith inconspicuously despite the situation,” Konko-Sama told me. I’ve now succeeded in society and haven’t forgotten what the Founder Ikigami-Sama imparted to me.

3 In 1874, Konko-Sama said, “In past years, I gave divine names to everyone. But now, your kami-sama can give you a divine name directly.” I was later blessed with a divine name.

4 I asked the Founder Ikigami-Sama to write Kami's name for me. He instructed, "Kisaburō, write Kami's name yourself."

<sup>2</sup>But I felt that it was beyond my ability, and humbly asked him to write it for me. But he said, "You have my permission, so you need not feel concerned."

<sup>3</sup>But I still felt that it was beyond me and asked him again. He reiterated, "Since I permit you to do so, it is all right."

5 When I went to the Hiromae again in 1874, I asked Konko-Sama to write Kami's name for me. "Follow what I told you when you came here last month."

<sup>2</sup>When I insisted again, he said, "Alright then, I'll write it when I can."

6 Konko-Sama said, "I asked Kami-Sama about what you had requested the other day. Kami told me to write the prayer words for you." He gave me the following written prayers:

<sup>2</sup>Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami, please deter unexpected disasters, robberies, fires, and other calamities. Please clear away any misfortunes for those entering or leaving their unlucky year.

<sup>3</sup>When we have illnesses due to seasonal changes, or exhaustion, convulsions, colds, and epidemics, please turn our agony into minor distress. Please clear away our many misfortunes. If we have been cursed by a kami for our unknowing irreverence and carelessness, please forgive us.

If there are any living or dead person's spirits holding grudges against us, please save them through divine arrangement and relieve our distress from them.

<sup>4</sup>Forgive us if we have committed any irreverence towards Your direction at a certain month, day, and time. Please forgive any irreverence and carelessness of those who check for auspicious Directions every day while practicing faith.

<sup>5</sup>If You have no objections, I humbly pray that people's requests will come true, and that their families will live long and healthy lives.

<sup>6</sup>Please protect us when we are doing construction work, getting married, traveling, and relocating our homes or workplaces. Please deter any strong winds and heavy rains while we are traveling on land or on water. For those whose jobs require them to be separated from their homes for a temporary period, have them work without incident and return home safely.

<sup>7</sup>Please protect all households, and have all merchants, craftsmen, and practitioners of art perform well.

<sup>8</sup>For young people, have them become smart and able to remember things well.

<sup>9</sup>For merchants, please arrange it so they come across good buying and selling opportunities.

<sup>10</sup>For farmers, please bless them with good seeds whose roots will spread and grow well. Have the plants grow without harmful insects and diseases, bringing the farmers abundant crops. Have their oxen and horses live a long and healthy life. Please have their friends and relatives succeed.

<sup>11</sup>For fishermen, please have them catch a lot of fish.

<sup>12</sup>For pregnant women, please relieve the pain of pregnancy, and have them undergo an easy childbirth. For other women, have their menstruation and conception go smoothly.

<sup>13</sup>Before giving me these written prayers, Konko-Sama said, “I say these prayers every morning and evening. Kisaburō, pray by following what is written here, and teach it to others.”

Saitō Sōjirō

1 I went to the Hiromae for the first time on August 2, 1867. That was twenty-eight years ago, when I gave my first request to Konko-Sama. My first son Chikatarō was almost two months old at the time. He had been crying with his eyes closed day and night for three days. I requested for a cure.

<sup>2</sup>Konko-Sama imparted, “When giving birth, people are irreverent by facing an open direction. They turn their backs toward Kami-Sama while being ignorant of the grace of Tenchi, the Universe. Apologize for your past irreverences and practice faith from today. Give a request to receive divine blessings in fourteen days.”

<sup>3</sup>That night, I opened my son’s eyes and found seven white spots. I then sincerely practiced faith. On the seventh day, four white spots were gone. And on the fourteenth day, the remaining three were taken away. My son was blessed with normal eyes without delay. It all went according to what Konko-Sama had imparted.

2 I requested to Konko-Sama, “I have been troubled by spasms for a long time. I request your help.”

He imparted, “Suffering are you? Let your suffering be cut away by Kami-Sama’s sharp cutting edge. Your suffering could be passed on to future generations, but Kami-Sama’s cutting edge can cut it away. Have faith in Kami and depend on Earth. Kami won’t let your suffering be passed on to your descendants. Leave everything to Kami.”

3 I requested Konko-Sama, “My stomach hurts when I drink water. The food I eat feels as if it’s stuck in my chest. And my belly always feels like it’s as full as a crock. I have been suffering from these ailments day and night for over ten years. Please help me.”

<sup>2</sup>Konko-Sama imparted, “When drinking water, thank Kami. When eating, pray that the food will make your body healthy.

<sup>3</sup>If your stomach hurts while you are in the mountains, consume soil. When near a river, drink the river water. If your stomach hurts while you are pulling weeds in the paddies during the heat of summer, scoop some paddy water with your hand and drink it. Then sit on the footpath and pray to Kami-Sama. Keep this teaching in mind every day.

<sup>4</sup>Apply soil or water if you get hurt or break your arm or leg. Rely on Kami, and there will be divine blessings.”

4 In 1872, when I was twenty-six, I had a bad case of typhoid fever. My temperature was very high. I couldn’t eat for

nine days, and my body turned into skin and bones. Under the suspended *futon* blanket, I couldn't move my body at any time. My family stood by helplessly. This was when my wife Kō was twenty-two, and we had two children.

<sup>2</sup>My father Jitsutarō went to the Hiromae and gave a request. Konko-Sama imparted, “Since Sōjirō always practices faith, he can receive divine blessings. Go home and tell him, ‘Stop worrying, and practice faith. Blessings are found in your own heart.’ ”

5 Konko-Sama imparted in a teaching, “People follow unsuitable diets while sick and eat things they dislike. This only weakens their inner strength to live. Practice faith and take the best-suited medicines instead. Best-suited medicines are the foods you like. Unless your body regains its strength, you won't be cured.

<sup>2</sup>Also, the foods said to be taboo are actually delicious. Partake all foods with a heart filled with gratitude. When you are sick, partake food with a heart that requests to Kami-Sama.”

6 Before building the main house, I gave a request to Konko-Sama. He imparted, “Everyone tries to deceive Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. They wait for Konjin-Sama's absence in a certain direction. They avoid certain days and directions thinking them to be ominous. They also enclose plots of land with sacred ropes to keep them safe. They use the plot only when the ominous kami is absent. They commit these irreverences and say that



Konjin is surely a fearful kami. But Konjin is not a fearful kami. He is Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. He doesn't always punish.

<sup>2</sup>Konjin makes His rounds in the directions indicated on the lunar calendar to protect people every day. However, while not knowing this, people commit irreverences. Therefore they are punished. When they try to escape after being punished, they say and do irreverent things. Thus they are plagued with various illnesses. There's no such thing as a good illness. Think about this, and apologize for all your past irreverences. When doing construction anytime in the future, request wholeheartedly.

<sup>3</sup>After leveling the ground and building the foundation, offer sacred sake and salt in the four directions. Pray to avoid being irreverent toward those directions and to have no injuries. Think of the day when all the lumber, bamboo, rope, and other building materials are readied as the best day to start building. Pray on that day to be allowed to start construction. When lifting those heavy wooden beams, pray sincerely to Kami for His help. Before installing the roof on the house you built with divine blessings, let a little rain fall on the house within three days. Look forward to the future. Your family will prosper.

<sup>4</sup>Before moving into the new house, install a shelf in the middle of the main alcove. Then gather in front of it early in the morning with your family and set up an altar for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. Practice faith every day. Those who celebrate the completion of the framework on an unlucky day without knowing divine blessings will see their framework or completed house, however large,

collapse right before their eyes. But for those who practice faith and ask permission when it is an unlucky day, Kami-Sama will extend His help. Only a few people will then be needed to raise the heavy beams. Since He has the power to destroy, He also has the power to assist. You will be allowed to build your house safely and smoothly without injuries.”

7 Konko-Sama imparted in a teaching, “When people build a privy, they use a compass to decide which direction to build it in. They use the wastes from the privy to fertilize the paddies and fields, even the paddies and fields lying in an ominous direction. Having such inconsistent and selfish thinking is being irreverent.

<sup>2</sup>People are being irreverent when they say they can do construction between certain directions to avoid the ominous ones. Their clouded hearts prevent them from building as they wish. From now on, pray and request permission to build as you wish.

<sup>3</sup>If a corner of the house points toward the ominous *Ushitōra* direction, they will remove that corner of the house for fear of Konjin-Sama. Compare a disposition that seeks to avoid Konjin, with one that seeks His permission to build on His land. Do whichever you think is better.

<sup>4</sup>I was cursed by Konjin when I built my house. Due to my irreverence toward Konjin-Sama, I had to make seven graves. Since I didn’t have that many children, I also had to make graves for my oxen. Since Konjin-Sama had the power to take seven lives, I thought if I prayed to Him, He would prolong my life. So I practiced faith, and was

saved. Thus, you should also practice faith. Have Tenchi, the Universe, become your relative. You'll be able to construct as you wish, in any direction."

8 Konko Daijin-Sama imparted, "While a farmer, I always prayed to Kami-Sama before doing something. Before using an ox, I would pray to be allowed to use the ox. I prayed before doing any kind of work.

<sup>2</sup>While I farmed, Kami would use my body invisibly. He would tell me when to take a rest. He spoke through my own mouth.

<sup>3</sup>After resting, I started to work again. Then Kami would tell me to hurry and He speeded up my work. When He told me to stop working, I stopped immediately. And as soon as I got home, heavy rains fell. Whatever your requests, give them to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama.

<sup>4</sup>When I used a grinder, I was able to turn it by myself with Kami's unseen help. When Kami told me to take a rest, the grinder would stop immediately. After I rested, Kami would tell me to start working again, and the grinder would start turning again. I never got tired. With Kami's unseen help from beginning to end, I was able to grind a lot of rice. I received divine arrangement for everything.

<sup>5</sup>Those who have practiced faith and followed Konko Daijin's ways all come here and claim they had received divine blessings. Sōjirō, practice faith. You can receive divine blessings like everyone else."

9 Konko-Sama imparted, "When raising crops, farmers

should leave it to Heaven and depend on Earth.

<sup>2</sup>In spring, when immersing rice seeds, pray to be allowed to immerse the seeds. When the seeds are sown into a nursery bed seven days later, pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama for permission to plant them in His ground. Pray for the seeds' healthy growth, free from insects and disease. During the rice-planting season in May, take out the seedlings from the nursery bed and take them home. Put them in bunches of three, offer them to Kane No Kami-Sama, and pray to be allowed to plant them in the paddies. Pray that the offered seedlings will take root and grow well without insects and disease. Also pray for a large harvest.

<sup>4</sup>Pray for all other crops in the same way. Always remember to do this, and receive the virtue of Heaven and Earth."

10 Konko-Sama imparted, "They say if you plant seeds on an unlucky day, the seeds will die. However, since it is Kami-Sama who makes seeds die, pray to Him for the seeds' growth in His ground. Then He will bestow a large harvest.

<sup>2</sup>A serious-minded person will fulfill your request if he accepts it. But he will be spiteful like a harmful insect if you dislike him. A good-natured person is harmless, but useless. Kami-Sama will give divine blessings if you ask Him. But if you dislike Him, He will be like poison. Thus, Kami is the same as humans."

11 Konko-Sama imparted, "While a farmer, I grew cotton

without fertilizer. The color of the cotton was dismal, and the plants were small. My children kept imploring, 'Our cotton looks bad. Let's use some fertilizer.' So I suggested, 'All right then, let's grow half of the plants with fertilizer, and the other half with divine blessings.'

<sup>2</sup>Later, the fertilized plants grew waist high and looked very good. The other plants were small and looked dreary. Their cotton fibers were small, but very well-shaped. When we picked the cotton, we found many of the fertilized plants without any cotton. The insects had gotten to them.

<sup>3</sup>But from the plants grown with divine blessings, we picked much cotton, more so than from the fertilized plants. The cotton grown with divine blessings wasn't eaten by the insects. It was really white and of high quality. You should do what I did and receive divine blessings for your crops. Whether it's cotton or rice, anything grown with divine blessings will yield different results at harvest time."

12 I was accused of wrongdoing which I didn't remember doing. I inquired Konko-Sama about this. He imparted, "Even if there's a sword raised above your head, look the other way. While I started to spread this Faith, the village headman often came and told me to stop giving prayers. I just answered aye, and continued to spread the Faith daily.

<sup>2</sup>Since I wouldn't obey, they decided that I had to be tied up in a cage and taken to Kasaoka.<sup>†</sup> Government officials were to come to take me to Kasaoka on November twenty-three.

<sup>3</sup>I took a bottle of sacred sake from the altar and gave a

farewell toast with my family and helpers. I announced that I would be leaving.

On November twenty-three, at ten in the morning, officials from Kasaoka came and inspected the Hiromae thoroughly. After the inspection, they told me that they would allow me to save people from that day.

<sup>4</sup>Since you're in a similar situation now, be single-hearted and depend on Kami. The doubts surrounding you will clear."

13 A relative had disowned himself from his family and started another family line. I inquired Konko-Sama about this. He imparted, "There is a poem from long ago. It says that each family generation is like a joyous young pine, with their branches and needles growing thick and luxuriant. Try cutting a large tree at its roots and hang it upside down. Do you think its branches and leaves will thrive? Let him go. Leave it to time, and pray to Kami-Sama for His divine arrangement for all things.

<sup>2</sup>See what will happen. Even if that self-disowned relative meets great difficulties, don't say that it serves him right. Say that you feel sorry for him."

14 Konko-Sama imparted in a teaching, "According to a saying, being forward is troublesome. For example, when you call on someone's home, you'll have to open the door, and upon entering, you must be the first to give congratulations or condolences. But if you follow after someone else, it'll be easier. You can always win by losing.

In any situation, don't be the first. Wait and go later."

15 Konko-Sama imparted, "You can win by losing. Keep this in mind for all things. Think that other people's faults (*waruki*) are your own."

<sup>2</sup>Near here, there was a very conscientious man. When he heard this teaching, he quickly went back and took all the firewood (*wariki*) that was piled at his neighbor's gate. The neighbor scolded him, "Why did you take my firewood!" "According to a teaching I heard from Konko-Sama of Otani, other people's firewood is my own. That's why I took the firewood," the man replied.

<sup>3</sup>The man who took the firewood quickly went to see Konko-Sama. "Konko-Sama, the other day you told me to think that other people's *wariki* is my own. So I promptly returned home and took all my neighbor's firewood that was outside his house. But then he objected vehemently. Why is this?" Konko-Sama said, "I was not talking about firewood. I was referring to what people should keep in mind."

16 One night in January 1875, my neighbor pulled out the stakes which marked the boundary between our two properties. I went to inquire Konko-Sama about this right away.

He imparted, "He did that because he needs the space on your property. Let him go. Look forward to the future. Give in to the people going against you and leave it to time. Don't say nice things while having hate in your heart.

Those who don't know Kami's teachings and the true Way of Faith are pitiable."

<sup>2</sup>Eight years later, that neighbor had to leave our village, and his family was scattered and lived in different places. Their land became a deserted field. I really feel sorry for them now."

- 17 "Konko-Sama, I ask for your advice. There is little harmony in my home. What should I do to make it harmonious?" I asked.

He imparted, "For that, you should practice faith. It is said that the foundation of faith begins with the home. Think that you can gain something from everything. To endure is most important. This is based on not quarreling. If you and your family keep this in mind and practice faith, you will all receive divine blessings for everything."

- 18 Konko-Sama imparted, "If you practice faith in Kane No Kami-Sama, pray to have major misfortunes turned into minor ones. Also pray to have the minor misfortunes cleared away.

<sup>2</sup>Try and slowly pour a tub of water from on top of the roof. This is like a minor misfortune. Pouring it all at once is an example of a major misfortune. Practice faith, and like the water being poured out slowly, have major misfortunes turn into minor ones. Then your irreverences will be cleared away and you'll be blessed with prosperity."

- 19 Konko-Sama imparted, "Everyone celebrates auspicious



occasions such as when they are thirty-three, forty-two, sixty-one, or eighty-eight years old. They celebrate these occasions on New Year's and February first. They invite their daughters, uncles, cousins, second cousins, neighbors, and even people from nearby villages. They overindulge in lively celebration, and the birthday person asks each person to take some of his bad luck. They call this a celebration, but if they really could get rid of their bad luck, the rich would never have bad luck, and the poor would always have bad luck."

20 Konko Daijin-Sama gave a teaching, "When celebrating your thirty-third, forty-second, sixty-first, and eighty-eighth years, prepare as many pieces of *mochi* as your age. They are to be made separately from the customary, round *mochi* for New Year's. Offer them to Kane No Kami-Sama in the early morning of New Year's Day, together with sacred sake, large, round *mochi*, and other offerings. Leave the offerings for three days.

<sup>2</sup>Practice faith and pray with your wife to safely pass your climacteric age and to turn major misfortunes into minor ones that will be cleared away. The bad luck will be cast away immediately. If you're poor, just practice faith to eliminate the bad luck. Offerings are unnecessary. If you are middle class, you may make offerings to Kami and exchange New Year's gifts within your means with relatives and neighbors."

21 Konko-Sama imparted, "In the early morning of New

Year's Day, you should go and pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama for the entire new year. Attend the service on the last day of the month. Pray to have the irreverences committed in that month taken away. July thirteen is called 'Purification Day,' and December thirty-one is called the 'Grand Purification Day.'

On the last day of the year, finish the day's work earlier than usual to put your heart at ease. Give thanks for that entire year and pray to clear away all the irreverences you have committed thus far."

22 Konko-Sama imparted, "When people make wedding arrangements, they check the Days and Directions. But in the case of death, they bury everything in Kami's ground without asking permission."

<sup>2</sup>When a son or a daughter is to leave the house to get married, the parents would tell the son or daughter to stay overnight at an aunt's home and proceed from there. They try to deceive Kami by taking a different route since the direction from their house is unlucky. Unfortunately, they don't realize that regardless of which route they take, they will still tread on Kami-Sama's ground. Give wholehearted thanks for your son taking on a bride or for your daughter joining her new husband's family.

<sup>3</sup>The very day when both bride and groom can meet, is the most auspicious."

23 Konko-Sama imparted, "When women undergo menstruation, they claim to be impure and avoid Kami-Sama. For

seven days, without even offering rice, they eat alone and commit irreverence to Kami-Sama. Moreover, when they discard the water used to wash away the menstruation, they put it in a pot, or bury it in a hole in the ground, or dump it in a river. All the while, they commit irreverence toward Kami's ground. They think that by following taboos, they are being respectful toward Kami. But in reality, they are being just the opposite. Their irreverence accumulates by the month. They suffer from woman's sickness, spasms, profuse menstruation, and whites. They should know that these ailments have been brought about by their irreverences accumulated over many months.

<sup>2</sup>Henceforth, they are to stop believing in taboos, and when menstruating, they are to apologize to Kami for their impurities. When apologizing, the woman is to pray to have her body's poisons taken away. Then she should drink sacred sake and eat sacred rice. She must apologize to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama for the accumulated irreverences committed since her ancestors, and have all her body poisons washed away. There will be divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup>When discarding impure water, she should first ask Kami's permission to discard it into His ground. Women, when menstruating, should request permission to be impure for seven days. Permission will be granted."

- 24 Konko-Sama imparted, "When a woman conceives a child and her menstruation stops, she should pray to Kane No Kami-Sama for a healthy child and for her body to be strong. When a woman wears a maternity belt in the fifth

month of her pregnancy, the unborn child suffers. It also constricts the mother and disrupts her blood circulation, making her body weak. Henceforth, women needn't wear a maternity belt. The mother should pray for the health of her child and herself every day.

<sup>2</sup>A premature childbirth or a childbirth after nine months may make some people happy. However, a blessed child takes ten months to be born. The mother will have to bear the child thirty days longer, but the child will be born healthy. A child that is conceived through divine blessings takes ten months to be born. Even for the seeds of crops, don't you have to wait for them to mature before taking them? In the same way, if a child is born after ten months of pregnancy, the child will be healthier and easier to raise since it has had enough time to mature.

<sup>3</sup>When labor starts, the pregnant woman should face the altar and pray to Kami-Sama single-heartedly. She should have some sacred sake and *goshinmai*, then she can have a quick and safe childbirth. She should also pray for Kami to promptly expell her afterbirth. She is to then give immediate thanks to Kami-Sama and apologize for the irreverence of discarding the afterbirth. If it's a boy, request permission to bury the afterbirth at the foot of the front entrance inside the dirt-floored room of the house. If it's a girl, request permission to bury it outside in front of the entrance. Pray at the place where the afterbirth is to be buried. Also ask permission to bury the water and soiled articles used for the childbirth.

<sup>4</sup>Have the child sip sacred sake instead of water or herb tea. The mother's breast should be applied with sacred

sake, and massaged to make it soft. Then she is to promptly have the child drink the first milk.

<sup>5</sup>A pregnant woman in labor should lie down normally on a pillow. Women have been tormenting themselves by sitting upright for seven days and nights, thinking that it would prevent woman's sickness. But doing so actually caused their woman's sickness. They must stop following outdated beliefs, and start to have faith in Kami. They needn't follow food taboos. They should request for a strong and healthy body, and then eat whatever they want. Women who have no helpers can do the cooking from the very next day after giving birth.

<sup>6</sup>People have been irreverent to Kami by digging holes to bury the soiled articles used for childbirths. Or by disposing the articles in an open direction or washing them in a river. They say a parent's irreverence is passed on to the child. But if the parent doesn't have any seeds of irreverence, none can be planted on the child. All the irreverences the parents had committed when their child is born will be passed on to the child. Since the seeds of irreverence are planted when the child is born, there will be sprouts of irreverence as the child grows. The child will suffer from various illnesses. If the parents later apologize to Kami-Sama for their irreverences and receive divine blessings by practicing faith, the parents and their child will become healthy and strong and have a happy future.

<sup>7</sup>People often say that the mother's life is taken by her last childbirth. This is the same as gradually piling up firewood and having it collapse when you throw in the last piece. It is not the last child that takes away the mother's

life. While unaware of the accumulation of irreverence committed when previous children were born, people say the last child takes away the mother's life or causes the mother to suffer from woman's sickness or chronic diseases. If the mother practices faith, she will be cured.

<sup>8</sup>If you pray separately to cure each illness, Kami will cure them one by one. But since this will take time, pray to cure all your illnesses at one time. Then Kami will cure all of them at one time.

25 Konko-Sama imparted, "If people have to thin out their many children, they should have Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama do it. It's the same as thinning out cotton, where you take out the bad cotton and save the good. If you have Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama thin out your children, He will leave you with the best children.

<sup>2</sup>If people thin out their children, it will be like thinning out cotton blindly. Always leave everything to the Way of the Universe."

26 Konko-Sama gave a teaching, "When a family member dies, the family covers the altar with a sheet of paper for forty-nine days. Though they try to avoid Kami-Sama, they cannot avoid walking on His ground. They commit irreverences unknowingly.

<sup>2</sup>When a parent dies on New Year's Day, the family cries while taking down the New Year's decorations. Those decorations were to bring prosperity during the new year. But the family tearfully takes them down as of New Year's

Day and waits for the impure period to pass. What would you do if your whole family contracts an epidemic disease and one of them dies? Would you not pray to Kami-Sama due to the forty-nine-day impure period? Even if the other family members will die?

<sup>3</sup>Think about what you do. You bury the deceased person and the impure articles into the ground. Isn't this being irreverent? The things you have done have all been great irreverences to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama.

<sup>4</sup>If one of your parents dies on New Year's Day, pray to be forgiven for all the irreverences committed by your ancestors and for being impure during the following forty-nine days. Also pray for future prosperity. You needn't take down the New Year's decorations. Pray from that day on, and carry on as usual. Ask Tenchi Kane No Kami to apologize to the other kami-samas for you."

- 27 "When serving as a toritsugi mediator, don't commercialize this wondrous Faith. To spread the Faith, I just sit here. Don't go around selling this Faith. When necessary, people will come to receive divine blessings," imparted Konko-Sama.

Satō Hikotarō

- 1 Having an eye disease, I prayed to various kamis and buddhas and tried various doctors and medicines, but to no avail. I eventually became blind. My relatives concluded that playing the samisen was the only thing left for me.

So I started to learn how to play the samisen, but I soon got fed up with life.

<sup>2</sup>One night, I left the house quietly and tried to jump into the well. But someone grabbed and held me from behind. Later that night, I dreamed that I was saved by Konko-Sama and could see again.

On March 8, 1861, I went to Takahashi Tomie's hiromae in Rokujōin Nishi Village for the first time. Following her advice, I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae in Otani. Two weeks later, I received miraculous divine blessings and regained my eyesight. I practiced faith even harder.

<sup>3</sup>The Founder always gave me the offerings that were offered to Kami. He also gave me a Kakitsuke and a small bowl. He said, "Hikotarō, never forget the blessing of a healthy life."

<sup>4</sup>"Save people," he added. I now perform toritsugi and receive divine blessings.

Satō Norio

1 The Founder had imparted, "Those practicing faith shouldn't consume beef."

<sup>2</sup>However, after Bitchū Province became Oda Prefecture and government officials started eating beef, he said, "I have been telling people not to eat beef. But since the government now permits it, this abstinence is no longer necessary."

2 When the Founder gave prayers one day in the summer



of 1882, he asked me, “If sometime in the future you think that you shouldn’t have entered this Faith, what would you do?” He asked me this after I had told him that I must devote my life to establish this Faith.

<sup>2</sup>“I will never think that,” I answered. Then he told me, “All right then, be like a brother to my son Hagio. I will treat you both equally.”

3 The Founder imparted, “You mustn’t mediate the believers’ promises to offer something when they already have received divine blessings.”

4 Admonitions concerning toritsugi:

<sup>1</sup>Reforming your heart is most important in practicing faith.

<sup>2</sup>Even I will be dismissed if I have the wrong attitude.

<sup>3</sup>You can easily pick up the food you dropped, but it is difficult to be picked up after being dismissed by Kami-Sama.

<sup>4</sup>Without thinking of social positions, without arguing, without holding conceit for being educated, and with pure sincerity, Kami’s door will open for you to receive divine blessings.

<sup>5</sup>During toritsugi mediation, treat your family members equally with others.

5 The Founder’s teachings on how to live life:

<sup>1</sup>When you experience earthquakes, you should understand that there are things which are beyond human

power and knowledge.

<sup>2</sup>Drink sacred sake and sacred water to wash away the poisons in your body.

<sup>3</sup>In an emergency, drink whatever water that is on hand, even from a nearby crock. Pray to Kami before drinking, then you will receive the same blessings you would receive after drinking sacred sake or sacred water.

<sup>4</sup>Eat in moderation.

<sup>5</sup>This Way of Faith allows an easy and painless childbirth.

<sup>6</sup>Abandon your doubts, and rely on the divine virtue of the Parent Kami for everything.

<sup>7</sup>Follow the times.

<sup>8</sup>Promptly have the newborn drink the mother's first milk.

6 The first son of Kurata Daijirō of Tode Village asserted, "Kami has a bad memory. Oharai prayers are the same even after chanting them many times. Kami should remember them after hearing them once."

The Founder answered, "If so, then after a father hears his infant son say good morning once, he should remember this until he dies, without ever hearing his son say good morning again."

7 In 1878, the Murasakiya shop owner, Torii Jiemon, from Takaya Village, went to the Hiromae to cure his abdominal dropsy. The Founder told him, "Although everyone comes here saying that this is the main Hiromae, you should become able to pray by yourself when the need arises. In my case, I don't have anyone request to have prayers given for me."

<sup>2</sup>At that time, I thought if I didn't sacrifice my life to save this sick person, the Faith would be disgraced in the eyes of society. I inquired the Founder about this.

<sup>3</sup>"Did you guarantee that a person's life will be saved? You shouldn't do so. The future is completely unknown. Doctors talk about patients in critical or hopeless conditions, and Kami also says that lifespans are limited. I cannot exchange your life for the life of only one believer. Even if one person dies, save many people through the strength of your single-heartedness."

8 The Way of Faith does not embody people. People embody the Way of Faith. The Founder said, "The Way of Faith depends on the hearts of those who perform toritsugi."

9 The Founder always imparted in a revelation, "Kami does not request people for anything. People should request Kami for everything. He will save."

10 Once, the Founder told a believer, "You have an altar set up in a corner of a dirt-floored room. You think this will bring divine blessings?"

11 In 1878 or 1879, when I was twenty-three or twenty-four, I thought that unless I was single, I wouldn't be able to dedicate myself to saving people. When I told the Founder this, he imparted, "This Faith dislikes families that die after one generation. My Way of Faith promotes and protects the prosperity of your family and descendants."

12 In a revelation, the Founder explained about the laws of the universe that was beyond Kami's control.

"Because Kami is the parent, He permits man to do things. But if what man does is not permitted by the laws of the universe, what can He do?"

<sup>2</sup>He also once explained, "When something isn't permitted by the laws of the universe, then there is nothing Kami can do."

13 I showed the Founder the printed amulets that I had been giving to believers since 1880. The Ikigami gave prayers and spoke in a revelation, "The Faith I am spreading doesn't give out amulets. Don't imitate the shrines and temples."

14 The Founder's wish was to have each believer's house be Kami's shrine or hiromae.

"The twenty-second of each month will be a service day all over Japan, when each house will come to put up a paper lantern."

15 When a believer builds a new house, he should first think about where to put Kami's altar, then decide the arrangement of the alcove and rooms. His household and descendants will prosper.

16 I don't push people to receive divine blessings.

17 In 1880 or 1881, the Founder said, “I began performing toritsugi at a mature age. But in your case, you are young, so you may run into many problems. If you overcome them, you can receive virtue and gain strength.”

18 Whenever there was an offering from a believer, the Founder wouldn’t say who offered it.

<sup>2</sup>In the fall of 1878, I saw an offering of three sacks of rice. I asked who the donor was. The Founder only said, “They were offered by a person from the west of here. Since he had thought his rice harvest would be less than usual due to insects, he prayed to Kami-Sama. He, of course, ended up with a bigger harvest than usual, and came to offer the extra rice.” Konko-Sama never mentioned who or how old the donor was.

<sup>3</sup>The Founder once imparted, “Giving offerings won’t result in divine blessings.”

<sup>4</sup>In the following year, he discoursed, “A believer who heard this teaching came and told me, ‘I practiced faith and prayed thinking that if I reaped a surplus harvest, I would offer all of it. But since my harvest was less than usual, I cannot offer anything this year.’ ”

19 Even a fox or badger would be happy to be revered as a kami. People, who are the master of all living things, should accumulate the virtue that will have them be revered as a kami.

20 When I die, you may wrap my body and throw it into the

river, or bury it into the ground, or do to it whatever you wish. A person's dead body is empty and impure. However, throwing your dead parent into the river will have people admonish you. It would be better to wrap my body with straw matting and bury it. Revere my *mitama* spirit.

21 I wrote down the following after hearing them from the Founder while he was still alive in 1883.

Don't think that Kami's blessings cannot be seen. Try to receive them, for they can be seen.

<sup>2</sup>Be doubtful, and there will be no end. Though people were born in Kami's land, they take Kami lightly. If you stray into a false faith, there will be no end. People think of true faith as false, and false faith as true.

<sup>3</sup>Don't make wedding arrangements while fearing ominous directions. Do you really think the Days and Directions influence people's lifespans and the prosperity of their descendants?

<sup>4</sup>When something happens, don't say it's the curse of Konjin.

<sup>5</sup>Other people's problems are your own. What happens to others today, will happen to you tomorrow.

<sup>6</sup>To practice faith, it doesn't matter if the believer is a fool, a wise person, a layman, or from high society.

<sup>7</sup>Practice faith and work hard at your occupation. It will be for the sake of your family, the government, and the country.

<sup>8</sup>Pray before taking any medicine. You will become healthy.

<sup>9</sup>Your health is the basis of your life.

<sup>10</sup>When going to worship Kami, take not only your body, but also a heart of faith.

<sup>11</sup>Win by losing.

<sup>12</sup>Don't do impure things arbitrarily according to your heart's desire.

<sup>13</sup>You should not arbitrarily do impure things by saying things at will.

<sup>14</sup>Don't strain yourself by rushing things and not waiting for the right time.

<sup>15</sup>Don't increase your own passions by seeing the passions of others.

<sup>16</sup>Try to find the right time when yin and yang work together.

<sup>17</sup>By being born in Kami's land, you should know the favor of Kami and the country.

<sup>18</sup>Know the teachings of the great Way of Faith revealed directly by Kami.

<sup>19</sup>Know the teachings of the true and great Way of Faith revealed by the greatest kami in the universe.

<sup>20</sup>Whether you are living or dead, Heaven and Earth will always be your home.

<sup>21</sup>Be enlightened that, whether you are living or dead, you are under the care of the Universe.

<sup>22</sup>Kami has no voice and cannot be seen. If you doubt Kami, there will be no end to your doubt. You should be in awe. Eliminate your doubts.

<sup>23</sup>Realize that without the Sun's light, you cannot live on Earth.

<sup>24</sup>When you acquire wholeheartedness, don't lose it. Otherwise you will fall ill and lose your life.

<sup>25</sup>Don't return your wholeheartedness. Otherwise you will fall ill and return your life.

<sup>26</sup>People can be seen, but not Kami. Doubt this, and there will be no end to your doubt.

<sup>27</sup>Being born in this world, you shouldn't forget nor doubt Kami's teachings of the great Way of Faith.

<sup>28</sup>Being born in this world, you should know Kami's teachings of the great Way of Faith.

<sup>29</sup>The soul is bestowed by Nittenshi, and the body comes from the soil. People become humans through the blessing of Tenchi No Kami.

<sup>30</sup>While knowing that this nation is Kami's, you must be aware of and not doubt Kami's teachings of the great and true Way of Faith.

<sup>31</sup>Know the true divine virtue since you are a person under Heaven.

<sup>32</sup>Know Kami's great and true Way of Faith under Heaven.

<sup>33</sup>Know and do not doubt the great, true Way of Kami.

### Sawada Chōzaburō

1 I was nine in the fall of 1881, when my grandfather Chōhachi took me to the Hiromae. We left our village in a small boat and got off at Yoshioka<sup>†</sup> in Kurashiki, Bitchū Province. We walked until Tamashima,<sup>†</sup> where we hired a rickshaw. We got to the Hiromae and greeted the Founder. I remember him having a nice complexion and a rather heavysset frame. He was kami-like.



<sup>2</sup>He said, “Since it costs money to come from afar, you needn’t come here so often. Pray with true wholeheartedness, then you can receive divine blessings wherever you are.” I also vaguely remember that the Hiromae had a thatched roof and nearby was a carpenter’s work shed.

Shimamura Hachitarō

- 1 Tenchi No Kami has endured, since the existence of Heaven and Earth, for millions of years. Other kamis come and go.
- 2 They say if you pray to kamis and buddhas, you’ll receive divine blessings. But all blessings originate from none other than Tenchi Kane No Kami.
- 3 Don’t think Kami dwells only in a shrine. If a husband only stayed at home, his family wouldn’t survive.
- 4 Many believe in Kami. But Kami believes in only a few.
- 5 People want to use Kami, while not knowing how to serve Kami.
- 6 As long as you don’t forget Kami, Kami won’t forget you.
- 7 It is said that horses take horses, and oxen take oxen. Toritsugi for Kami is performed by a kami. People with

true faith are kamis. Therefore, toritsugi for Kami can be performed.

<sup>2</sup>How can animals like foxes, snakes, and birds perform toritsugi for Kami? Though people say that one kami uses foxes and another uses snakes as messengers, Tenchi Kane No Kami uses people, Kami's children.

8 Tenchi No Kami is even in the privy. However, besides Konko Daijin, there is no kami that speaks.

9 Doesn't being a child of Kami make you a kami also?

10 Without becoming a kami while living, how can you become a kami after death?

11 Before passing away, Konko-Sama said, "Though I'm called Ikigami Konko Daijin, my physical body has subjected me to heat and cold. But since I will now leave my body to become a true kami, I will be able to protect people at a glance."

12 You think worshipping at temples and shrines will bring blessings? Temples and shrines are inanimate things. Receive blessings by having faith in a kami that gives blessings.

13 A mother can hold the hand of her beloved child, but this won't cure the child's illness. How can you be free of worry

regarding life and death by depending on a useless kami?

14 For as long as the Sun shines, you needn't worry.

15 If your lack of human virtue makes others endure annoying or disagreeable things, you won't receive divine virtue.

16 The three treasures are Heaven, Earth, and man. Kami would be useless if there were not man. There would be no worshippers. Barley and rice would also be useless if there were not man. There would be no one to grow them.

17 Prayers are not for worshipping Kami. They were written for self-admonishment. Keeping the prayers in mind after reading them once, is better than chanting them throughout the year and neglecting them.

<sup>2</sup>Even after chanting prayers hundreds of times, if they don't reach Kami, they will hopelessly vanish. Your prayers will then be wasted, and the time spent chanting will affect your working time, making your family poor. People will ridicule you and Kami-Sama's dignity will be tarnished.

18 An amulet contains only ink. Prayers vanish as they are chanted. Teach people the best you can, and have them receive divine blessings.

19 When people simply chant the oharai prayers without

faith, they really haven't requested to Tenchi No Kami, though they think they have. In this case, neither people nor Kami benefits.

- 20 Women are closer to Kami. Faith starts with a woman.
- 21 Divine blessings are like the water in a washtub. If you push the tub away, the water will come towards you. And if you pull it towards you, the water will go the other way.
- 22 If you hit your own head instead of your child's, there will be immediate divine blessings.
- 23 Be single-hearted. Receiving divine blessings will then be like drawing water from an inexhaustible well.
- 24 Practice faith without fanaticism (*kori*). There will be prompt divine blessings. Those who pray to Kami by standing under waterfalls are not showing their sincerity to Kami. They instead are accumulating mental and physical stiffness (*kori*). This brings no divine blessings. Mental and physical stiffness can be taken away when you are asleep.
- 25 You wash your hands and mouth with water, but how do you wash your disposition? It is with sincere and conscientious faith.

- 26 Since everyone is a child of Kami, try to improve yourself and your family to love yourself and your family. Apply this love toward others.
- 27 Complaints come from those who receive divine blessings, not from Kami, who gives divine blessings.
- 28 Don't ever regret losing. The person who is patient enough to lose first will win and receive divine virtue.
- 29 I never tell you to chant prayers or anything else. I only tell you to practice a sincere faith. Can't you even do that?
- 30 Don't forget the beginning of your faith.
- 31 Be prudent toward the things you like.
- 32 You don't need someone to practice faith with.
- 33 Show no reserve. Strike a temple bell as if to break it. Beat a *taiko* drum as if to tear it. They will neither break nor tear. It depends on how you strike or beat. Aim to resound far and wide throughout the Universe.
- 34 Practice faith. All lines of work will be made to prosper. Don't say which occupations are good or bad. This Faith is not that narrow.

- 35 You can ask someone to go to worship a hundred times for you or to pray for you. But it won't work the same way as when you have someone help you carry a heavy load.
- 36 For the sake of the nation, one person with faith is better than a hundred people without faith.
- 37 The faith you have during youth, will be the joy you have during old age.
- 38 Always let others go first. Things that are put in the warehouse last, can be taken out first. Enlighten yourself.
- 39 Practicing faith on your own, won't bring divine blessings. But practicing faith with the support of Kami will.
- 40 Since you say you will start a business, Kami will watch without helping. If you heartily hope to be allowed to start a business, Kami will support you.
- 41 Those practicing faith should visit a family who practices faith. If they visit a family that doesn't practice faith, their faith will be lost.
- 42 You can sleep in a house with the doors locked, but without faith, it's the same as sleeping in an open field.

- 43 When paying taxes, people think all the money is for the village office. But this isn't the case. The money is for the benefit of the nation.
- 44 Don't perturb yourself with the past. Value the present and look forward to the future.
- 45 Don't think about dying. Think about living. When you die, you only return to the ground.

Tokunaga Kenji

1 On November 8, 1882 of the lunar calendar, I went to the Hiromae and stayed in Otani for four days until the eleventh. I listened to the Founder's teachings day and night. These are a few of the words that I received.

<sup>2</sup>Founder: "From where have you come?"

Tokunaga: "I have come from the province of Suō."

Founder: "About how far away is that?"

Tokunaga: "It is almost two hundred kilometers away."

Founder: "Well, you came from quite a distance. What county and village of Suō are you from? And what is your name?"

Tokunaga: I am from Kumage County, Ohno Village. My name is Tokunaga Kenji."

Founder: "Is it Ohno or Ono?"

Tokunaga: "It is Ohno. I have come to cure my eye disease."

2 Practice faith in Kami-Sama single-heartedly. There will

be divine blessings. Don't hesitate to come closer. There are things I must tell you.

<sup>2</sup>Person from Suō, don't you think it's strange when people say I'm a kami? How could I be a kami? I am a farmer who tills the ground and knows nothing. Many government officials from around Tokyo have come and claimed, "People say man can become a kami. There's no doubt. Man can become a kami." Look at the name cards above the entrance, there are many.

<sup>3</sup>The people who come here are kami-samas. (He pointed to the worshippers and said "kami.") You are all children of Kami-Sama. To be an ikigami is to have Kami be born within you. I was the first to receive such divine blessings. You can all receive divine blessings in the same way.

3 People have now come to call the Sun a machine. Even so, isn't it a very good machine? Since we receive light and support from this machine, we must express our thanks. When we see a red object,\* we say it is scarlet. There are scarlet silk crepes and scarlet rugs, but they won't give light even if you wave them in the dark.

<sup>2</sup>Tenshō Kōtaijin is the kami of Japan. She is the ancestral deity of the Emperor. Tenchi Kane No Kami is not only a kami-sama of Japan, He is the kami-sama that rules the whole universe.

\*In Japan, the sun is considered to be red.

4 Person from Suō, now you can be anything, even the prime minister. This is if you have the will. Without a will, it's hopeless.



In the past, farmers didn't receive an education because there was no need. Today, however, farmers are required to receive an education. There's no reason for them to be unable to gain an education.

<sup>2</sup>Women, also, didn't receive an education because they had no need for one. But today, they are required to receive an education. And now, they study harder than men.

<sup>3</sup>You will see that practicing faith is the same. It's not impossible to do. You can't practice faith without the will. Being unable to practice faith means you don't have a determined heart. In life, there's only one thing which you can do nothing about. It is living out and reaching the end of your lifespan.

5 They say eating oily foods during an illness is unhealthy. But without such strength-giving foods, the body will get weak. Oily foods make the body strong. And when the body gets strong, the illness will be defeated. Without oily foods, the body will become weak. And when the body gets weak, the illness will triumph. Therefore, it is better to eat strength-giving oily foods.

<sup>2</sup>Even if oily foods were bad, no one would refuse to give some to a dying person in want of such food. Everyone, even a doctor, would tell you to give the dying person whatever food there was. If the dying person manages to eat a bite, it would relieve everyone. Thus, wouldn't it be better for him to eat oily food? We were born into this world to eat.

<sup>3</sup>When the body undergoes cautery treatments, there will be scars. Scars are defects of man. When people go

shopping in town, they ask to make defective products cheaper. If people have cautery scars, they will belong to the defective group.

For a tree also, if it's struck by a sickle or stick, there will be a scar. With strong winds, the tree will break at where it is scarred. A tree which has grown steadily will never break from the wind.

This can be applied to humans as well. They are given flawless bodies from Kami-Sama. If these flawless bodies are scarred by cautery or acupuncture treatments, they will break. Long lives won't be attained.

6 According to the lunar calendar, today is, "Good for planting barley," "Good for planting chinese cabbage," and "Good for planting buckwheat." I'm not speaking ill of the lunar calendar, but it's pointless to follow it, even when there are heavy rains. It is better for farmers to check the moisture of the soil to decide when to plant.

<sup>2</sup>The lunar calendar also states, "Don't use the privy while facing this direction on New Year's Day" or "Don't use the privy while facing this direction during the year." It's impractical to move and rebuild the privy every year. Therefore, it's best that you apologize for being unable to follow the lunar calendar. Though the fortunes are written on the lunar calendar, they are worthless.

<sup>3</sup>People say eating beef is bad, but since the government permits it, we are allowed to eat anything. Eating what you think is bad won't mean that there'll be no divine blessings from Kami-Sama. What you eat or don't eat doesn't matter. Divine blessings are found in your heart.