

7 Kami-Sama knows boundaries very well. Chinese cabbage and buckwheat are grown in this field. And there are many insects in the fields above and below it. But in the field in between, where prayers were given to Kami-Sama and sacred water was sprinkled, there are none. In a field with a furrow as the boundary, there will be no insects on the side that you prayed to Kami-Sama. Don't you think Kami-Sama knows boundaries well?

<sup>2</sup>A nearby cotton grower asked Kami-Sama, "Is this year good for early-season cotton, or for late-season cotton?" With Kami-Sama's advice, the grower grew early-season cotton and was blessed with a good harvest. Those who grew the late-season type experienced heavy rains which rendered the crops useless. The person who grew the early-season cotton brought some of the cotton to worship.

<sup>3</sup>There are about eight people practicing faith in Hagi, Nagato Province. And in your area as well, there seems to be quite a few people practicing faith.

8 A man named Isobe Tōtarō of Hirao Village in the same county was also at the Hiromae. He asked, "For the past four generations, my family has been revering a kami called Sakura Kōjin. What kind of kami are we revering?"

Founder: "It doesn't matter. If it's Sakura Kōjin, then let it be Sakura Kōjin."

<sup>2</sup>Isobe: "Would it be all right to revere Tenchi Kane No Kami and three other kamis at the altar for Sakura Kōjin?"

Founder: "Tenchi Kane No Kami is the emperor of all kamis. So if you revere Tenchi Kane No Kami at the same

altar, the previously-revered Sakura Kōjin will have to leave.

Likewise, if the Emperor came to your house, you wouldn't be able to stay there. You would have to go somewhere else. You should set up a separate altar for Tenchi Kane No Kami."

- 9 A neighbor was also at the Hiromae and said, "I have been operating a copper mine for about four years now. It is sustaining major losses. If I continue operating it for another year, will it be profitable? If so, I will continue operating it for another year."

Founder: "If you don't try, you'll never know, will you?"

<sup>2</sup>Kenji, how about if you return home now? I can speak forever and my stories will never end. If I were telling a story from a book, it would end after I reach the end of the book. However, when I tell my stories, there is no end."

Tokunaga: "I can't go home now because the winds are too strong."

Founder: "Then how about returning home on land?"

Tokunaga: "I have already rented a boat to come here."

Founder: "Then there's nothing we can do, is there?"

- 10 When I was going to go home on November 12, 1882:

Tokunaga: "I am returning home today. I would respectfully like to become a member of this Hiromae."

Founder: "There is no membership here. You should return home to start your own membership and practice faith."

Tokunaga: "If you say so, I will do so." I then left the Hiromae.

Tsugawa Haruo

- 1 Those practicing faith should use a cane of patience to support their faith and to prevent it from tottering.
- 2 If you will practice faith, do it with the whole family.
- 3 You can practice faith in Kami, but some things are beyond His power. Even ardent praying to Kami won't help you escape the consequences of breaking the law. Obey the laws of the government.
- 4 You needn't pay any taxes to receive Kami's divine blessings. Practice faith, and that will be your taxes. Practice faith while believing that there are blessings by practicing faith.
- 5 He who practices faith should pray for others before praying for himself. Then those he prays for will be saved, and he'll receive many divine blessings.
- 6 In government, the wise will get closer to the top. In the village, the wise become village leaders and headmen. Similarly, if you practice faith with devotion, you will get closer to being like Kami-Sama. Always practice faith well,

save people, and receive divine blessings. You'll get closer to being like Kami-Sama.

- 7 Forgetting your desires is not practicing faith. Look at those who practice true faith. Their deep compassion allows them to enjoy good health and other things which will continue on to their descendants. Those who practice faith should have deep compassion and a true faith.

Wada Yasube'e

- 1 I believe it was around October 1879, when I worshipped at the Hiromae for the first time. When I went almost two meters in front of Konko-Sama in the Hiromae, he turned toward me and suddenly remarked, "You've come from quite a distance. Sumiyoshi<sup>†</sup> is quite far from here." I was startled by these kind words since I hadn't given any greeting.

<sup>2</sup>When I expressed thanks for my complete recovery from an illness, he said, "You were to lose your life, but Kami saved you. If you were taken, there would be no one to receive divine blessings after you. You committed irreverence toward the *Ushitora* Northeast and *Hitsujisaru* Southwest when you built your house. Return home quickly, and apologize with your family for the irreverence.

<sup>3</sup>Pray to Kami-Sama, then He will allow you to do anything and protect you. Doing wrong and trying to avoid Kami will result in admonishment." Then he gave me two Tenchi Kakitsuke.

<sup>4</sup>They read:

Ikigami Konko Daijin  
Tenchi Kane No Kami      Pray with a single heart  
The divine favor depends upon one's own heart  
On this very day pray

<sup>5</sup>Konko-Sama was sitting solemnly in front of his mediation desk with both hands on his lap. He said these things while looking at me with a smile.

Yamamoto Sadajirō

1 After giving birth to my younger brother Ihei in the spring of 1864, my mother Shima couldn't walk due to woman's sickness. My father Tokujirō went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae in Otani and prayed.

<sup>2</sup>Konko-Sama told him, "Your family is being irreverent. Your house faces the south, a warehouse is in the northwest, and a longhouse is in the west. Toward the east, there's a cliff which curves after passing the house. At the curve of the cliff, there's an outhouse. Impure articles are being washed in the shade of this outhouse. This time, you have buried and reburied the afterbirth three times in different directions.

<sup>3</sup>You checked the lunar calendar and waited for Konjin's absence from a certain direction. They say that in an emergency, your next-door neighbor is more important than your child living in Kyoto. Waiting for your neighbor's absence to do something will cause disharmony. From now on, reform your heart so it will pray to Konjin.

Start practicing faith, then your mother will recover.”

My mother recovered completely just as Konko-Sama had said. But after that, my father stopped practicing faith. He stopped going to worship fearing rumors of Konko-Sama being an evil badger.

2 On February 9, 1876, I went to the Hiromae for the first time. I continued going to worship, received teachings, and every day deepened my faith.

Konko-Sama noticed my frequent attendance. He imparted, “It’s all right to come to worship often, but your faith mustn’t trouble your parents. Before coming to worship, take care of the work to be done and don’t trouble your parents to make a box lunch for you.” I then started going to worship without taking a box lunch.

<sup>2</sup>From 1878, Konko-Sama began to call me the Follower of Inagi.<sup>†</sup> I queried, “Konko-Sama, when my father first came to worship in 1864 to pray for my mother’s illness, you told him about our house, the road, and the directions they were in. Everything you said was true. I was a child when my father told me this, but I was amazed. You knew everything so well, even from nineteen kilometers away. Can you hear my requests from afar?”

<sup>3</sup>Konko-Sama answered, “Tenchi No Kami-Sama protects the entire world by watching through Heaven and Earth. We live in between two mirrors. When I close my eyes and pray, I become able to see the surroundings of the person’s home. When I reveal what I see, I am told that I’m not the least bit wrong. Cast aside your physical eyes, and open and see through your mind’s eye.

<sup>4</sup>You are a human, and I am a human. We have both received the same *mitama* soul from the same Tenchi No Kami. So let us practice faith and receive divine virtue. Even though you don't come to worship, Inagi† and Otani belong to the same Universe. If you don't pray by yourself and receive divine blessings, it will be too late.

<sup>5</sup>Come to worship while in good health, and receive divine blessings. When you suffer from sickness or misfortune, pray to Tenchi No Kami-Sama and Konko-Sama for help. Pray wherever you are—in the mountains, in rice paddies, on the ocean, on the river, or on the road. You have to receive blessings on the spot. Otherwise, it will be too late to relieve your suffering. This Hiromae is the only thing that is faraway. Tenchi Kane No Kami knows no distance. He is neither near nor far.

<sup>6</sup>People are a microcosm. Tenchi No Kami-Sama protects your head at all times, thus you can use your body at will. The results of practicing faith and working are the same. If you keep practicing faith, divine virtue and divine blessings will increase with each day.

<sup>7</sup>On the other hand, if your heart becomes lazy, and you become conceited, your divine blessings will decrease. For example, a person who can plow a two-tenth-acre paddy before dusk, can plow only seventy percent of it if his heart is lazy. I can go on talking like this for a long time. Do everything with a right mind and practice faith for all things.”

3 The easiest way to realize how Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama protects is by putting your hand on your belly while

working in the paddies during the hottest of summer. You'll find your belly to be cool. Through His protection, you are able to work in the heat. And during the coldest of winter, Tenchi Kane No Kami gives our bodies warmth, enabling us to keep living.

<sup>2</sup>Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama protects us day and night throughout the seasons, even while we breathe. You should pray wholeheartedly on this very day.

- 4 You're a farmer, so you must be raising oxen. Oxen are different from humans. They can withstand the cold without anything extra. However cold it may be, even newly-born calves don't catch cold. This is beyond the strength of humans raising them.

Chickens, wild birds, and other animals have the same protection as oxen. Only humans can realize that all this protection is from Tenchi No Kami-Sama.

- 5 Many kinds of plants grow in the mountains and many kinds of fish swim in the rivers and in the sea. Fishermen catch the fish, and merchants buy and sell them. People buy their favorite foods and eat them to strengthen their bodies. Tenchi No Kami-Sama looks after us so we can be well enough to work for the sake of the country. If you think empirically about all the things there are in this world, you will realize how blessed you are.

<sup>2</sup>We can look forward every year to eating different seasonal foods. We buy foods that are in season and eat them to nurture our bodies.



<sup>3</sup>The changing of the seasons is beyond human control. Say respectful words regarding eating and drinking, and be respectful toward Tenchi No Kami-Sama.

6 Every New Year's, people celebrate and show respect by placing New Year's offerings to Kami, eating traditional New Year's food, and wearing formal kimono. They prepare a lot of round *mochi* offerings, decorate the front gate with a pair of pine branches, and hang a sacred rope with zigzag paper hangings. The sacred rope is your promise to Kami-Sama to work with a firm heart during the year and keep track of money matters every day.

<sup>2</sup>The pine branches at the front gate mean that the husband and his wife have made a New Year's promise to Kami-Sama for family harmony.

People also offer sea bream and tangle to bring good luck. Beans are offered to have children grow well. For prosperity, dried herring roe, which expands when put in water, is offered along with salted fish. People eat salted fish to be able to work throughout the year and live healthily for another year. Thus, they gather these different foods and eat them to invigorate their bodies once a year.

<sup>3</sup>Tenchi Kane No Kami also has us celebrate every spring with sea bream and mackerel to invigorate our bodies. They say in autumn you should go to the mountains rather than to your aunt's home. Through Tenchi No Kami-Sama's blessings, you can enjoy picking *Matsutake* and other mushrooms. In spring, you can look forward to picking bamboo shoots. The mountains offer many good things.

<sup>4</sup>For humans, there are many good things which can grow without fertilizer. If I go on like this, you'll realize that everything is blessed. Try to have a heart of faith for everything.

7 Few are aware of how blessed trees are. A tree begins as a small sapling, and gradually grows into a towering timber. This is a blessing from Tenchi No Kami. Paddies and fields are fertilized, but mountains are not. Yet, mountain trees grow by day, month, and year. Those who use these trees for construction should be aware of Tenchi No Kami's blessings.

<sup>2</sup>Few are aware of how blessed firewood is. It prepares the food we eat. This is a blessing of Tenchi No Kami. The moisture in the ground throughout the seasons allows plants to sprout in spring. This is another blessing from Tenchi No Kami-Sama.

In autumn, be aware of Kami's blessings when you see the leaves fall. Keep these blessings in mind and practice faith.

8 Farmers plant cotton seeds at the end of spring. The cotton plants grow during the summer and are harvested in the fall. After the harvested cotton is separated from the seeds, it is used in various ways. In winter, it is used to make thick clothing to keep people warm.

<sup>2</sup>When using water, people use a bucket made by a bucket maker. When cooking food, they use pots and pans made by a metal-casting shop. They also use utensils and tableware for eating and drinking.

<sup>3</sup>In summer, people use mosquito nets at night so they can sleep well enough to work the next day.

<sup>4</sup>Think about the straw and rushes that your *tatami* mats are made of. Farmers can produce straw, rushes, and other things. But they know they cannot do so by human strength alone. You will understand that they need the help of Tenchi No Kami-Sama, who directs the four seasons.

9 Heaven and Earth are full of divine blessings. Working in good health obtained through faith is advantageous. For this, people will admire you.

<sup>2</sup>But for selfishness and wrongful deeds, people will admonish you. You may think your deeds are not seen by others, but they are reflected in Tenchi No Kami's mirror. Thus, you should reform your heart and practice faith.

10 You come to worship to practice faith, while others come in fear of Konjin's curses. On the cover of the lunar calendar, there's a round diagram showing the directions in which Konjin wanders and dwells. People use it to claim which direction is occupied or unoccupied by Konjin. Try following the instructions in the middle and lower columns—they indicate the auspicious days for wedding arrangements, construction, and traveling. You won't be able to.

<sup>2</sup>People long ago made up the Days and Directions for every day of the entire year, not just for the first three days. Isn't it arbitrary to claim that there are auspicious Days and Directions? If you were to truly follow the Days and Directions, you'd have to check your compass every

minute of the day. But no one does.

<sup>3</sup>If you want to follow the Days and Directions precisely, say it with your mouth and do it with your heart. Regardless of how careful you are, you cannot follow the calendar's instructions exactly. Instead of attempting such impossible things, people should practice faith by requesting the ever-present Tenchi No Kami-Sama for all things.

<sup>4</sup>Every morning, give prayers, apologize for the irreverences committed by your ancestors, and request to have that day go well. At night, give thanks and pray to have a peaceful sleep.

- 11 Getting water while following the Directions is difficult with only one well. Using one oven to cook and prepare food when the direction becomes ominous will give a disagreeable feeling. It is next to impossible to follow the Days exactly.

Instead of being arbitrary and seeking Konjin's absence in a certain direction, people should reform their hearts and pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. They should practice faith and think He is their parent.

- 12 Even those who believe in Days and Directions must go and help out in times of fire, flood, sickness, or death. They cannot refuse to do so just because the Days and Directions are ominous. People mustn't be concerned only about themselves, they must also help those in distress.

<sup>2</sup>When there's an emergency, pray in your heart to Tenchi Kane No Kami, then you'll be of much help without worrying about the Days and Directions.

<sup>3</sup>On the other hand, thinking that you are in an ominous direction will cause worry and fear in you. This will prevent you from being of much help. By praying to Kami-Sama, you can be of help without worrisome feelings. You should feel thankful for this.

13 When people suffer from illness or misfortune, they come to this Hiromae. Of those who come for the first time, many ask if they have committed irreverences. When children are playing, if a parent finds and confronts those doing wrong, they will turn pale and get scared.

<sup>2</sup>Pray wholeheartedly to Tenchi Kane No Kami and practice faith. Kami-Sama, who sees all and protects the Universe, will save you. You needn't worry.

14 The government punishes thieves and other undesirable elements so law-abiding citizens can feel secure. Similarly, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama will clear away your prospective obstacles if you venerate Him and practice faith wholeheartedly.

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama would never forsake those who depend on Him. A parent would never forsake his troubled child who sincerely asks for help. Kami-Sama and parents are the same. Practice faith wholeheartedly.

15 Those who pray to many kamis and buddhas won't know which kami-sama gave them the blessings. If you instead pray wholeheartedly to Tenchi Kane No Kami and recover

completely, you will immediately realize Him to be blessed. There will be no trouble from Konjin. Practice a faith which won't let doubt come between you and Kami-Sama.

- 16 When people build a privy, which is regarded as impure, they check the Directions and build arbitrarily when Konjin is absent. When they are stricken with illness or misfortune, they say it's due to Konjin. Listen to what I say to have an honest heart. Pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami with sincerity, practice faith for all things, ask permission before doing irreverent things, and have a kind heart. Then, everyone will be kind to you.

<sup>2</sup>If you are always good to your doctor, he will attend to you right away when you are ill. And if you always practice faith in Kami-Sama, He will quickly save you when you are ill or in distress.

<sup>3</sup>Keeping a firm heart is very important. To keep water in a paddy, the drainage ditch must be closed. You can't accumulate much money and become rich if you don't have a firm and thrifty heart. The analogies are endless. Don't neglect practicing faith for anything.

- 17 Using land without permission or while the owner is away will bring complaints when the owner returns. He won't pardon you even if you stop using his land. You must apologize. But apologies alone won't help. You must always be on good terms with the owner, then he will promptly respond to your requests.

<sup>2</sup>Because you think a person is bad, being unkind and

doing selfish things during his absence will only bring complaints later on. Reform your heart and become honest. Pray for all things, and seek permission from others. You will feel at ease.

<sup>3</sup>The same goes for Kami-Sama. Instead of saying that Konjin is a bad kami, think that you must receive Kane No Kami-Sama's blessings. Have your heart pray each day, and practice faith. If you receive divine blessings, it means He is an auspicious kami.

<sup>4</sup>Those worried by the wrath of Konjin should respect Konjin-Sama and pray to be allowed to keep their house the way they have built it. Since it needn't be rebuilt, there's no need to spend extra money. This proves that He is an auspicious kami.

<sup>5</sup>People will think ill of a person who quarrels with someone he thinks is bad, and spends money. When you transport lumber for construction and have to use someone else's land, sincerely ask the landowner for permission. He will let you lay the lumber on his land. Practice faith for all things.

18 Why have parents, since long ago, bought two mirrors to give to their daughters upon marriage? The mirrors are not just for helping the daughter look pretty. The daughter marries into a family to make the family harmonious. When her heart is distressed or in pain, she can look into the mirror so the family members will never see her trying face. This is to keep family harmony.

<sup>2</sup>In mythological times, Tenshō Kōtaijin ruled Japan with a mirror. People, no matter how poor, took note and

started to give their daughters mirrors. After the daughter marries, her parents can no longer see her face every day and advise her on her appearance. Thus, she uses the mirror to see her face for herself in order to maintain harmony in her new family. This is why parents give their daughters mirrors.

19 A married couple is the joining of two strangers. With mutual amity, they can live a full life without anxiety. Even after a quarrel, by sincere conciliation and reflection, the reasons shall become clear. The couple can understand and reflect upon these matters by themselves due to the *mitama* soul, given by Tenchi No Kami-Sama, that governs their bodies.

<sup>2</sup>Don't neglect your faith even during good health. In other words, a troubled heart, even in a healthy body, will surely accumulate anxiety and worry. Before this happens, pray to Kami-Sama and practice faith to clear away your troubled heart.

20 Those practicing faith must be careful. They mustn't become carefree and conceited. Husbands sometimes feel carefree and drink till they get drunk. While drunk, he has intercourse with his wife, who also becomes carefree and careless. Then she ends up being pregnant. Though they are called honorable husband and wife, they spend their days foolishly in self-conceit. The wife may have a safe childbirth, but it would be without meaning if the child turns out to be an idiot.



<sup>2</sup>During the wife's pregnancy, the husband merrily spends his time drinking and listening to the samisen. This kind of behavior will be passed on to the unborn child, who may later trouble his parents through wasteful spending. Selfish desires, a want for other people's possessions, laziness, and other bad qualities will be passed on to the child. There will be problems when he grows up.

<sup>3</sup>On the other hand, a poor, pregnant mother's sincere wish to become a respectable and wealthy person can be passed on to her unborn child. The child will then grow up to be happy and will be praised as the parents' gem. He will put his parents at ease.

<sup>4</sup>The parents' wishes to overcome the hardship of not having an education will be transferred to the unborn child. It will please them to have a child who will advance in education.

<sup>5</sup>It is difficult to know about other people's situations. Always pay attention to your own family and situation.

21 Since there hasn't been anyone who taught about prenatal development, people get confused. You people who come to this Hiromae, how is man and all else created? A person dwells in the mother's womb first. Before that, when the mother conceives, Ten No Kami-Sama bestows a *mitama* soul.

<sup>2</sup>A doctor cannot open the womb and show the child's soul. Being given an invisible soul by an unseen Kami-Sama is a wondrous thing.

<sup>3</sup>The child's body develops through the mother who eats and drinks her favorite foods. This increases blood

production to produce another body. After about ten months, when there is a childbirth, it will be known if it's a boy or a girl. During pregnancy, the child develops through the grace of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

<sup>4</sup>Those who practice faith must understand the natural laws of all things and eliminate doubt. Since we have been created by Tenchi No Kami-Sama, isn't asking Him to cure our illnesses a natural way to practice faith? This Faith is based on the nature of all things.

<sup>5</sup>For example, a house which has been built by a carpenter will be repaired by a carpenter when necessary. Clothing is sewn by women, and washed and sewn by women when it becomes worn. This is common knowledge. Since man is the lord of all living things, he must understand all things and practice faith which follows their natural laws.

<sup>6</sup>When you go to a doctor, the doctor's medicine and practicing faith are important. Pray single-heartedly to Tenchi Kane No Kami and Konko Daijin-Sama to recover completely with only five of the ten prescribed doses of medicine. If you are blessed with complete recovery, Kami-Sama and the doctor will be happy. The doctor is also a child of Kami-Sama, so if you pay him the fee for eight doses, he will say that those who practice faith are really different.

22 Faith that stops after one generation won't please Kami. Practice a faith which will continue on to future generations.

<sup>2</sup>Wearing a maternity band has been customary for pregnant women. All the while, I have been advocating,

“During pregnancy, instead of wearing a maternity band, wear a band of sincerity around your heart.”

When wearing a maternity band, it's more important to wear a kimono sash over it so it won't look unsightly. In the same way, a band of sincerity around the heart is more important than a maternity band, especially during pregnancy. Wearing a band of sincerity to reform one's heart is practicing faith.

<sup>3</sup>It is believed that a pregnant woman shouldn't witness a funeral or even attend a relative's funeral. It's also feared that if a pregnant woman saw fire, the child within would develop a red scar. But a scar is only skin-deep. Practicing faith to prevent the child from developing scars on its pure heart is more important.

<sup>4</sup>Many families get along well with their new daughter-in-law. But when she gets pregnant and cannot work as much, often times the family becomes dissatisfied. They start complaining and think only about the work that she should be doing. The family should therefore have her wear a band of sincerity around her heart. Wearing this band of sincerity will compel her to think of giving birth to a good child. This is the same as sewing your clothes diligently while thinking of the special occasion when it will be worn.

<sup>5</sup>Like the way water conforms to the shape of its container, a person is shaped by his friends, good or bad. The child, also, is shaped by the mother's womb. Water held by a round container will appear to be round. In a square container, it will appear to be square.

The mother should have a sincere heart and work diligently thinking the child within her is Kami's. She should pay

kind attention to her family and continue practicing faith and her education. Then there won't be irreverence toward her ancestors, and the country will prosper. She should practice faith on this very day without losing her sincere heart and her will to work every day.

<sup>6</sup>When her childbirth is imminent, the family tries to keep her away from Kami-Sama without realizing that He will bestow blessings. They consult the lunar calendar for the direction in which she should give birth.

<sup>7</sup>While giving birth, it has been customary for the mother to lean on something without lying down or extending her legs. According to Kami's teachings, "Lean on Kami instead. Pray to Tenchi No Kami-Sama, and lie down comfortably with your legs extended."

<sup>8</sup>Only Konko Daijin advocates this now, but doctors also will soon start advising women to extend their legs and lie down. Since it was revealed by Kami, there can be no mistake. Women should receive the blessings of lying down with their legs extended.

23 People often say that if a wife and her mother-in-law get along well, everyone will rave about it. Regardless, the wife and her mother-in-law must get along well to avoid family disharmony.

<sup>2</sup>While the wife is pregnant, kindly tell her, "It must be difficult being pregnant. According to Konko-Sama's teaching, 'By reforming your heart during pregnancy, you can look forward to the future. Those practicing faith should always keep an amulet around their hearts.'

Unless a child with a strong character, healthy body, and righteous heart is born and grows up to take over the family

occupation, you won't feel at ease. If there's no one who will hold memorial services for me after I die, I'll have no joy. If the grandchild is not above average, the efforts of the grandparents and parents to raise the child would be in vain.

<sup>3</sup>Konko-Sama also gives the teaching, 'During pregnancy, be careful not to scar the child's heart. It is the mother-in-law's duty to ensure that her daughter-in-law's heart doesn't get tarnished. Giving birth with an untarnished heart is the daughter-in-law's duty.' So please do your best."

<sup>4</sup>You can't say these things while you are angry. If you say these things in anger, your daughter-in-law will think you are scolding her, and there will be no effect.

24 Whenever your wife gave birth, your family, not knowing about praying to Kami-Sama, buried and reburied the afterbirth several times in different places according to the auspices of the lunar calendar. But hereafter, decide on only one place for burying, or bury it in a cemetery.

<sup>2</sup>You only hope for Konjin's absence and nothing else. Henceforth, you should reform your heart to pray to Kami-Sama.

As for me, I had to make seven graves, two of which were for my oxen. Thinking that I shouldn't be suffering from such misfortunes, I prayed to Kami-Sama and started to practice faith. After a while, I began to receive teachings directly from Kami. I'm now passing on these teachings to the people who come to worship. You too should strive to have people call you a very pious person.

25 When a woman practices true faith, she can conceive without other people noticing it. She can also have a childbirth unnoticed by those living in the next room. If she is grateful to such blessings from Kami-Sama, Kami will be happy, as well as she. Women who follow my teachings and want to quickly become a good example for others, have true faith.

26 When a woman practices faith, her parents will tell her not to pray to kamis and buddhas during menstruation. People therefore don't realize the divine grace of Kami.

<sup>2</sup>Since more things need to be washed during menstruation and childbirth, people use the water which flows underground. They put the waste water in earthen bins and bury them in the ground. The washed clothing is dried by the warmth of the Sun. No one teaches the principle behind this profound grace. And no one knows about giving requests and thanks to Tenchi No Kami-Sama.

<sup>3</sup>Women cannot have their menstruation and childbirth when they wish. It depends on Kami-Sama's divine blessings. Henceforth, apologize for all your irreverences, give your requests, and ask permission to dry your clothes in a place convenient for you.

<sup>4</sup>People refrain from worshipping other kami-samas during a death, menstruation, or a childbirth. However, by not worshipping Tenchi No Kami-Sama in such emergencies and not receiving divine blessings, nothing can come to fruition.

27 Farmers select good seeds and look forward to the future. For parents, during pregnancy, they must especially reform their hearts for their child. They must practice faith and look forward to the future. Remember how your neighbors were while they were pregnant, and see how their children's hearts are now.

28 Women's practicing of faith is Kami-Sama's happiness and joy. During pregnancy, women should reform and polish their hearts. Then they should deliver a child which has a sincere heart, and raise the child. Sickness or wellness for the child depends on how well the child's food is prepared every day. A sincere heart is further nurtured into the child during childhood by the mother.

<sup>2</sup>Doing the laundry is good for the woman's health. When Kami sees a woman carefully fulfilling her duties without any negligence, He feels joy and happiness. Women have heavy responsibilities.

<sup>3</sup>Going to worship Kami only to give requests is not practicing faith. You can often times practice faith without worshipping Kami at a hiromae.

29 Humans first inhabit the mother's womb. The mother's favorite foods and drinks are provided by Earth through the divine grace of Heaven. They nourish the mother's body which becomes pregnant through Tenchi No Kami-Sama's blessings.

In ten months, when the child is born safely, the mother is blessed to produce milk. By drinking this milk, the child

grows by the day. And through parental care, the child reaches adulthood. He also receives an education and training.

<sup>2</sup>While knowing these natural principles, isn't praying to Tenchi No Kami-Sama a natural way of practicing faith during times of sickness or other troubles? Even things like furniture are repaired by the person who made them. This same principle should make you realize that your body, which was created by Kami-Sama, can be cured by praying to Kami-Sama for divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup>Telling you this makes it clear that those who eliminate their doubts and are pious will receive boundless divine blessings. Receiving divine blessings depends on one's individual heart.

- 30 Instead of giving your newborn child herb tea, give sacred sake or sacred water, with *goshinmai* put in. The child's anomalies will then be taken away.

When there is a childbirth, seek Kami's pardon to wash the soiled articles and to bury the impurities in His ground. Practicing faith and being allowed to do things according to your own convenience really puts you at ease.

- 31 Being prosperous means having many children who will become the strength of the nation.

<sup>2</sup>Being a parent brings many worries. But you shouldn't worry. Kami always provides adequate portions, therefore food for living things won't run out. How fortunate this is.



<sup>3</sup>There are women who harbor wrongful ideas, commit irreverence, and think of having an abortion during their pregnancy which was granted by Kami-Sama. At any rate, they should give birth to and raise the children Kami-Sama grants them with.

<sup>4</sup>Money can be made through human efforts alone, but children cannot be had without Tenchi No Kami's blessings. If those who will give birth are patient and think that they are performing a duty for Kami-Sama, that will be faith.

32 There are people who scare their children into minding their manners by saying that demons will come after bad-mannered children. Don't scold your children by saying such things. From their childhood, you should teach them with joy so they will grow to have sound minds and bodies.

33 When your child is eating, don't say that he will be cursed by Kami-Sama or go blind if he spills food. And don't say that his stomach will hurt from eating too much. Rather than saying these and other negative things, being careful to not show bad behavior in front of children is very important in raising children.

<sup>2</sup>Parents should teach their children by speaking good words and doing good deeds in front of them. There are people who don't come to worship, but do these good things.

<sup>3</sup>Those practicing faith should do things better than average.

34 You, young man, should know that respecting the elderly is the same as respecting Kami-Sama. People aren't born before others because they had wished for it. As everyone knows, the earlier a person was born, the longer he has served the country and his family. Because of this principle, the elderly is respected.

<sup>2</sup>Even young people can gain respect if they contribute more than usual. On the other hand, those who are already respected can gradually lose their stature and people's respect if they do unreasonable and thoughtless deeds. These things are common knowledge, but those practicing faith should be even more aware of them.

35 When a chronically-ill person or a person suffering from the hardships of past generations receives Kami-Sama's divine blessings, it is like a dirty well being cleaned out. A dirty well is cleaned by taking out the dirty water. If you get tired and stop cleaning after taking out only eighty or ninety percent of the dirty water, the water will remain dirty. It's the same for practicing faith. If you quit midway, you won't be able to eliminate the roots of the sickness or suffering.

<sup>2</sup>Take out the dirty water until the well is completely clean. Pray single-heartedly to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama until the roots are completely cut away. Practice faith with a cheerful heart for good health and prosperity.

36 Just bringing a gift won't console a sick person. The sick person will get stronger or weaker depending on what you say. If you are kind enough to pay a consolation visit, you should convey words which will strengthen his heart. With a stronger heart, he'll be able to receive Kami-Sama's blessings.

<sup>2</sup>If you tell him and his family the words of Konko Daijin, they will never think depressing thoughts. And he will look forward to complete recovery. If he gets better even a little sooner, he will think it was because of your visit, and feel glad.

<sup>3</sup>When visiting a sick person, instead of making him feel worse by shedding tears and caressing him pitifully, express kindness to him and his family.

<sup>4</sup>Some people bewail the sick person after seeing how sick he is or how much weight he has lost. They tell his family depressing stories about other sick people. For him and his family, these depressing stories will leave no room for Kami's blessings. Making them worry won't make it a consolation visit.

<sup>5</sup>Say reassuring words to strengthen the sick person's heart, and tell his family not to worry or to be in pain. Encourage them as much as you can. There are many ways you can help. If they are poor, you can give money or grains. Be concerned for all things and practice faith.

<sup>6</sup>Even those who believe in other kami-samas or buddhas unknowingly receive Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama's blessings. Praying to this Parent Kami and then practicing faith in other kamis is true faith.

37 There are poor and troubled families as well as rich and prosperous ones. There are also people with different levels of wisdom. People should request whatever is on their minds to Kami-Sama. They'll receive divine blessings in one, two, or three years.

<sup>2</sup>All paddies and fields are not the same. Some are good, some are bad, and some are in-between. No matter how bad a paddy or field is, if you keep fertilizing it, it will get better with each passing year. The same goes for practicing faith. While working, you shouldn't neglect practicing faith.

<sup>3</sup>A paddy lying next to a river must be checked everytime the river water rises. If the river bank breaks, other people's help will be needed.

Families suffering from illness or other problems will surely need help from others. They must receive the blessings of Kami-Sama.

<sup>4</sup>There are also people who, while having received divine blessings, die suddenly. This is like a river bank breaking during a flood. Unless you concern yourself with all things, you'll stop practicing faith and not have anyone to depend on.

38 A person who is born, dies. People die differently. Farmers would understand this if I use rice and barley as examples. In spring, rice seeds are planted in the rice nursery. About fifty days later, the seedlings are transferred to the paddies for further growth. However, there will still be sick rice and barley plants that are unproductive. If your child becomes an adult, gets married, and dies without having

any children, he or she will be like those hopeless and sick rice and barley plants.

<sup>2</sup>Like the early-season, mid-season, and late-season rice plants, people have different lifespans. There are those who die prematurely. In this case, if the person already has a child who will take over, the person will be like an early-season rice plant. Nothing can be done about a short lifespan. Pray to Kami-Sama for divine arrangement to have everything go well, and have faith that looks forward to the future.

<sup>3</sup>People living in the mountains would understand if I use trees as an example. Trees of the same age in the mountains, whether thirty, forty, or fifty years of age, are all different. There are small ones and big ones.

For people also, those who are the same age at thirty or forty are not the same. They don't have the same wealth. Practice faith to receive divine blessings for all things. Practice faith with a pure heart, one that will make others respect you. Everyone praises trees and people that are straight.

39 I say to practice faith individually because having the same heart as Kami-Sama's will make you one with Kami-Sama. It is like what the Rokkon Prayer says, "Since we are one with the divine spirit, there is no request which cannot be fulfilled."

Have such a heart, and practice faith keeping this in mind. Requests given individually will bring divine blessings directly.

<sup>2</sup>As mentioned in the Rokkon Prayer, even if there are

impurities in your eyes, ears, nose, mouth, body, and mind, think that it's a blessing to have these six things function well.

40 Some healthy people say that *they* control their bodies. But their bodies do not function through their control at all times.

<sup>2</sup>While you sleep at night, who has you breathe unconsciously? Even when you have your child sleep alone, he can breathe by himself. Your body can function because of Tenchi No Kami's protection. We must feel truly grateful for this.

<sup>3</sup>Food makes people healthy, yet, when ill, they avoid eating certain foods thinking them to be bad or poison. If they practice faith regularly and receive divine virtue, Kami-Sama will reveal what foods can be eaten. With the blessing of being able to eat those certain foods every day and every time, even a little will make your body healthy. After putting the food in your mouth, your tongue will separate the good and bad.

<sup>4</sup>At any rate, when in good health, make time to go to worship to receive divine virtue. But when ill or troubled, pray on the spot to Tenchi Kane No Kami through Konko Daijin-Sama. Your prayers must be heard directly by Kami, or else it will be too late. Pray wholeheartedly, wherever you may be. Kami-Sama will give divine blessings directly.

41 Humans are made by what they eat, so if they don't eat,

they will soon get thin. When ill, they will be unable to eat their favorite foods. While having this disability, do religious training by not complaining and worrying about your predicament. Don't be dissatisfied. Pray wholeheartedly to Kami-Sama for all matters, and polish your heart for it to receive all matters gratefully. You will receive divine blessings sooner.

<sup>2</sup>Practicing faith isn't difficult. The whole family should have kind hearts in unison. To have their hearts in unison, each family member is to receive divine blessings through his or her heart. If the parents' and children's hearts are not the same, the family won't be in unison.

42 People eat food every day to produce the blood that keeps their bodies healthy. The blood circulates at night and enriches the body.

Even when healthy, if you go without sleep for two or three nights to take care of a sick person, the fatigue will show on your face. Take good care of yourself.

<sup>2</sup>A consolation visit shouldn't be just for the sick person. Give heartfelt words also to the person taking care of the sick. Then if you get sick, other people will visit you and do the same.

<sup>3</sup>Don't have others always helping you on account of your illness or misfortune. You should instead receive the divine virtue to be the one who always helps others. This is the best way to practice faith.

43 A family which often prays to Kami-Sama for their

sickness and misfortune is like a farmer who plants his crops late. The farmer receives help to complete the first step for cultivation. The helpers in turn will feel relieved because they can then start the second step the next day in their own paddies. The farmer who plants late must often receive help from others.

Families who often suffer from sickness or other misfortunes must pray to Kami-Sama more so than others. They must receive His special protection for things to go well.

<sup>2</sup>They give various requests for problems such as blindness for three generations, or eye diseases for generations, or women's sickness for generations, or the curse of Konjin. However, the fewer doubts they have after listening to my teachings, the faster they will receive divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup>They might have doubts in the beginning. But even so, while they worship and come to understand the true way, with the virtue of practicing faith, the ailments that have been plaguing them for generations will stop. More families will then be able to save others.

<sup>4</sup>Those who neglect practicing faith and don't receive divine blessings are similar to those who don't prepare for the next meal. If you start preparing the meal after meal time, you will rush and preparations won't go well.

<sup>5</sup>Practice faith even without sickness or misfortune. Care about all things and practice faith to have major misfortunes turn into minor mishaps, and minor mishaps turn into nothing at all.

44 People have long prepared and decocted herbs to make medicine. Kami-Sama told me, "In the future, people will



drink liquiform medicine.” So I told a doctor from Ashimori,<sup>†</sup> “Put medicine in some water and have the patient drink it when you are unable to attend to him. He will receive divine blessings from Kami-Sama before you get to him.” The doctor now tells me, “I did what you told me, and it saved many people.”

<sup>2</sup>As Kami-Sama revealed, people are now taking convenient liquiform medicine to relieve their pain and sickness.

- 45 Giving requests before Kami can be analogous to what a farmer experiences. When a farmer finds his paddy with a low water level, he asks the villager in charge of irrigation to irrigate the paddy. But even after irrigation, the paddy’s water level is still inadequate. When the farmer takes a closer look, he finds leaks in the paddy bank.

In the same way, you can hardly receive Kami-Sama’s blessings without mending the leaks in your heart. If you come to give requests, pray wholeheartedly. I write down people’s requests and pray for those people every day.

<sup>2</sup>Take children for example. When four or five follow me home, I tell them I’ll give them some beans. I fetch the beans from my house and want to give them right away. The shy children move to the back, while the outgoing ones come up front and receive the beans first.

<sup>3</sup>Fill yourself with my teachings, and on the way home, don’t let other people’s stories dissuade you, causing you to forget the teachings you received.

<sup>4</sup>Illnesses aren’t cured in the same way. The carpenter doesn’t repair houses all in the same way. Depending on the illness, some receive blessings immediately after pray-

ing, and others receive blessings only after going to worship every day for weeks. People won't understand the reasons for this unless they listen to my teachings.

- 46 Being a farmer, if you cut your hand while pulling weeds in a mountain, field, or pathway, you would put mugwort on the wound. Before applying the mugwort, pray to Kami-Sama. Weeds and all other plants grow during spring and summer through the grace of Tenchi No Kami-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>If you don't have anything to stop the bleeding, apply soil and pray wholeheartedly for the bleeding to stop. Then receive the blessings of Tenchi No Kami-Sama directly.

- 47 Having too much familiarity with you, it's difficult for your family members to respect you. And they don't offer money or give thanks. The family of a doctor complains that his medicines don't help. This is because the family doesn't recognize the medicine as being prescribed by a respectable doctor.

<sup>2</sup>Kami is just as effective in your home as He is at the Hiromae. Medicine prescribed by your father is also just as effective as those prescribed by another doctor. Pay due respect and practice faith duly.

- 48 Though everyone comes here to worship Konjin, my Hiromae isn't only for Konjin-Sama. It's also for praying to Tenchi Kane No Kami and for receiving people's requests.

<sup>2</sup>All living things, including humans, are able to live by

breathing the air between Heaven and Earth. Farmers plant and grow various crops in the ground. They are dependent on Heaven and Earth.

<sup>3</sup>I'm telling you these things because Kami told me, "Konko Daijin, tell worshippers about the relationship between Tenchi Kane No Kami and people."

Without listening to my teachings, many try desperately to follow the Days and Directions. If they just stop hoping for Konjin's absence and reform and pray wholeheartedly with total sincerity, they will lead trouble-free lives. Isn't this a better way of living?

<sup>4</sup>Many people have their weddings arranged by their relatives. But if the Days or Directions are ominous, the groom or bride will go to some other house first to avoid the ominous direction, and then go to get married from there. Many have checked the Days and Directions and rearranged their plans accordingly, but are still besieged by sickness and misfortune.

<sup>5</sup>Of those who have come to this Hiromae, listened to my teachings, and practiced faith wholeheartedly in Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, many are able to depend on Kami-Sama, disregard the Days and Directions, and work without worry. Their relatives are also able to arrange auspicious weddings.

<sup>6</sup>No matter how auspicious a day is said to be, the chance of heavy rains or snow on that day will never be eliminated. How blessed it is to pray to Kami-Sama for all things and receive assuring divine blessings.

49 Those who practice faith don't just worship Kami-Sama.

They also sincerely help people in emergencies or in sudden adversity without expecting any money or thanks in return. If there's a fire, they quickly go and help extinguish it. Such is true faith and kindness. Bear this in mind in whatever you do.

50 Man is the lord of all living things. He can speak and make conversation. He can also listen. This is all due to Kami-Sama's blessings.

People raise roosters and say roosters tell time. Roosters may tell time, but they cannot speak. Man is profoundly blessed by Tenchi Kane No Kami.

<sup>2</sup>Sometimes, there are people who cannot speak. This must be a handicap. Those feeling relieved after coming to this Hiromae and receiving divine blessings are increasing. One should pray to receive divine blessings for all of one's problems.

<sup>3</sup>Man is to save those in distress.

51 People who can weave a roll of cotton in one day can weave one and a half rolls if they start from early morning with the firm determination as mentioned in the Rokkon Prayer. Those who can walk forty kilometers in one day can walk sixty kilometers.

<sup>2</sup>Prayers to Kami-Sama for receiving divine blessings differ according to the individual. By receiving more divine blessings and doing better work than others, strive to be praised.

<sup>3</sup>There are farmers who can grow ten bushels of rice on

a two-tenth-acre plot, and those who can grow fifteen bushels. If you grow more rice than other people, you'll be praised. You'll make profits and the country will be strengthened. When practicing faith, pray for yourself and others, and for the country.

52 So you have come to develop your faith. How fine it is.

<sup>2</sup>Faith is for looking forward to a secure future.

A child without a sincere heart will render the parents unable to look forward to a secure future. This also won't benefit the country.

The whole family should practice faith together. If there's a pregnant woman in the family, they should be careful not to have her think ill thoughts. Have her think good thoughts, and let her work diligently. Practice faith for all things, and be kind to your parents and to other people. Give kindness, then you will receive kindness.

<sup>3</sup>If a farmer checks the water in his neighbor's paddy while checking his own, that neighbor will do the same. Then there will be no loss in the rice harvest. People being kind to each other will make themselves and Kami happy.

53 According to an old saying, learning is like pushing a cart up a hill, where if you get careless, the cart will roll back down. Those practicing faith must always bear this in mind. Faith is also similar to pushing a cart up a hill. Get careless, and it will roll backwards.

<sup>2</sup>Also, it is said that an unpolished gem doesn't sparkle. A gem that doesn't sparkle is like an ordinary stone. Thus,

one must polish the gem in one's heart while practicing faith. Even ordinary steel can be polished to gleam like silver. Gold and silver as well, without polishing, won't shine.

<sup>3</sup>Man is the lord of all living things. Polish the gem in your heart and conduct yourself well in everything. Otherwise, people won't respect you, even if you think you're practicing faith in Kami-Sama. They won't respect you because of your self-centered faith.

54 The Rokkon Prayer mentions, "Have control to keep things calm." Those who settle important matters are managers. In a household, the husband, who manages the family, is the manager. In a village, it is the headman. In a province, it is the lord of the province. And in Japan, it is the Emperor. Take note of this and practice faith.

55 There are good and bad ways to use servants. When servants are employed, they become part of the family. It is essential for the head of the household to be kind to the servants. The servants will then work diligently.

When fish is bought, the best parts are to be given to the servants. The rest of the fish should be cut up and given to the head of the household and the rest of the family. This will bring praise to the family. If the servants work diligently, imagine the profits and good fortune the family can gain during a year.

56 A strand of cotton may be weak, but if three or four of

them are twisted together, it will be strong enough to be woven into cloth. The thread must also be straight. If it gets tangled, it will be difficult to straighten out.

This is similar to practicing faith. A person with a tangled heart will fight and argue, while a person with a straight heart will be respected.

<sup>2</sup>Your heart, as when you practice faith in Kami-Sama, should always be straight like a carpenter's guide string. With good thread and a true heart, women can weave cotton cloth which people will admire.

Greed accumulates in people's hearts like the dust that accumulates in the house. You must do the housecleaning of your heart and body to keep dirt from accumulating. Practice faith on this very day.

57 There are various faiths which profess certain punishments and curses. But in this Faith, we give requests to Tenchi No Kami-Sama to have our misfortunes dispelled.

<sup>2</sup>Kami-Sama is like a parent who chases away the bad children who pick on the weaker ones. When the parent approaches, the bad children turn pale with fear and run away.

If people pray single-heartedly to Tenchi No Kami-Sama, their troubles will be purged. For all things, rely on Kami-Sama and practice faith.

<sup>3</sup>You ask someone to settle something and count on him. Then you think he probably won't succeed, so you ask another person to settle it for you. But in doing so, the matter to be settled may get worse and you may end up having problems.

<sup>4</sup>Don't stray in your faith. Straying in your faith to receive divine blessings quickly is like taking an unfamiliar road for a shortcut. In this Faith, you are to take the main road. Be single-hearted and practice faith.

58 If you hold conceit for whatever you do, you will get seriously hurt. Prudence is like a cane that prevents you from falling. Greatness is only relative. Regardless of who or what people in Japan or in other countries say is great, a person with a true heart, one who is honest, sincere, and conscientious, is greater. Those who practice faith should be sincere.

<sup>2</sup>People will know only a few of your good deeds. However, they will know many of your bad ones. One should always bear this in mind while practicing faith.

59 It is his friends that make or mar a man. When you come here and think you are receiving blessed teachings, your heart becomes tranquil.

But when you are at home thinking about various things, you get angry. And your heart becomes disturbed. When you get angry, your face, even your lips, change color. This is because your blood stops circulating.

<sup>2</sup>Those with weak bodies will succumb immediately and may experience headaches. Convulsive people will suffer from stomach pains. These maladies occur because when they get angry, their bodies stiffen, constricting the flow of blood. After one begins to cool off, the constricted blood starts to circulate again. When you are angry, reform



yourself by praying to Kami-Sama to polish the mirror in your heart.

<sup>3</sup>Practicing faith to ward off sickness is having your heart save you.

60 When suffering from illness or misfortune, those who practice faith by praying, “Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, Konko Daijin-Sama,” can receive Kami-Sama’s divine blessings. They are like the people who are patient enough to clear away brush and reclaim land that will be blessed with crops that grow quickly.

<sup>2</sup>A person with a strong, patient faith and a person with ordinary faith reap different results. Although I mediate requests in the same way for everyone, the blessings they receive are different. It’s unfortunate for people unable to receive Kami-Sama’s blessings to suffer. People should receive many divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup>It is the same as a farmer reaping a large harvest. Practice faith, while looking forward to the future. This won’t cause anyone any trouble. Weeds will grow even in the best paddies or fields if you are neglectful.

61 There are people who come to the Hiromae from afar and leave happily with abundant divine blessings. There are also those who live nearby in Otani, but don’t come to worship. Some of them don’t even know my face.

<sup>2</sup>An excellent restaurant may be right next door, but you will never know how good it is unless you try it. Faith is the same. Since this is just an analogy, it’s not necessary

to eat at the restaurant. But it's essential that you receive blessings from Tenchi No Kami-Sama.

<sup>3</sup>Some say it's all right not to pray to Tenchi No Kami-Sama. They receive divine blessings while being ignorant of their indebtedness.

<sup>4</sup>Suppose you have five children. There will be willful ones and ordinary ones. But to the parents, all five are their children nonetheless.

<sup>5</sup>They say you will realize your indebtedness toward your parents when you raise children of your own. People should know the difference between good and bad. People aren't happy all the time. They say it's good for a person to be kind to his parents whenever possible. But what about those unfilial to their parents? When those unfilial meet misfortune, others claim that it was punishment for lacking filial piety. When not in distress, be aware of Tenchi No Kami and practice faith.

<sup>6</sup>As the saying goes, a person lives for only a generation, but his name can live on for many. During your lifetime, do things that will have your name live on after you die. Or buy things to pass on to future generations. When you die, your money will be exhausted on funeral services. So while living, work to have your name live on. Then when the elderly gather, they won't complain and say, "Young people don't express thanks to us. They don't appreciate us." Practice faith so that young people will come up to you and say, "Grandfather, grandmother, I want to talk with you."

62 Many people undergo physical asceticism. Some even walk

about in the cold and give prayers. They should instead undergo ascetism of the heart. This is done by not complaining about others, tolerating inconveniences, working diligently, and not spending beyond one's means. All the while, others are not to be told of these ascetic efforts. Many pray wholeheartedly for their sufferings. And many are not aware of the ways of practicing faith.

63 Coming to worship to practice faith is fine. Among those who come to worship, there are devoted people like yourself. And there are those who apologize saying that they are cursed by Konjin. It's useless to keep fearing Konjin's punishment and curses.

<sup>2</sup>While you're here, you might as well listen to my teachings and find out how to receive divine blessings. Otherwise, you won't start to practice faith.

<sup>3</sup>I too was a farmer. When I stopped farming and started to pray to Kami-Sama, the village headman summoned me and twice told me, "You are praying to Kami-Sama and you have sold your paddies and fields. What will happen to your children? You should stop praying to Kami-Sama and start farming again."

I just replied, "Aye, I understand," and returned home. When I asked Kami-Sama, He revealed, "Don't worry about your children. Kami won't have your children starve. Even if you don't grow a single crop, I won't let you and your family suffer." Now, I tell those who come to worship what Kami-Sama told me.

<sup>4</sup>Kami-Sama also revealed, "Though you have sold your paddies and fields, don't sell your mountain forests. People

won't come to worship offering firewood.”

<sup>5</sup>When doing construction or traveling, you may feel safe as long as you check the Days and Directions stipulated by the lunar calendar. But you'll have to carry a compass at all times. You'll have problems when you go out on a moonless night without a lit lantern. The area of an auspicious direction gets wider the further away you go. If people urinate or defecate without knowing or checking the Directions, they might urinate or defecate in an ominous direction. Those who don't listen to my teachings won't know this.

<sup>6</sup>After listening to my teachings, request through my mediation by saying, “Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, today I will go in so-and-so direction for such and such a purpose. Please have me return home safely.” By having a heart full of gratitude, you'll receive divine blessings. Don't be neglectful in practicing faith.

64 This Hiromae gives no amulets, and this kami-sama is different from other kami-samas. Tenchi No Kami-Sama revealed, “People will be saved by receiving *goshinmai*. If people have to offer money to be saved, the poor will suffer. I will reassure the people in the world for receiving blessings.” To fulfill this, I serve Kami-Sama in the Hiromae.

<sup>2</sup>This teaching of Kami-Sama is really true. For a rich person, giving one *ryo* is like nothing. But for a poor person, who struggles to survive day to day, it will cause immediate hardship. Therefore, the amount or kind of offerings will depend on the individual's heart.

<sup>3</sup>I, Konko Daijin, do not pray to receive monetary offerings. Since I am to save those in distress, I tell them, “Don’t worry about offerings. Come when you happen to have enough pocket money.” Receiving divine blessings by practicing faith and by giving the offerings you want to give will make you happy.

65 To be human is to save others. When a child has fallen down, someone will promptly help the child up. A child who has fallen into the water will also be immediately pulled out by someone. Since man is the lord of all living things, he can move at will and save others. Isn’t this a real blessing?

<sup>2</sup>Oxen, horses, and other animals cannot pull out their offspring that has fallen into the water. But if someone sees this, the offspring will be saved. If an ox, horse, dog, or cat is wounded, any human would help nurse the wound.

<sup>3</sup>When people suffer from sickness or disaster, they are saved by Kami-Sama and other people. Practice faith and remember that saving people in distress is to be human.

66 When people eat and drink and think they’ve had enough, it is Tenchi No Kami-Sama informing them of their limits. Those who go beyond these limits by eating or drinking more, end up getting sick. This is being irreverent to Kami-Sama. And those who throw up after overeating or overdrinking are also unthinking.

<sup>2</sup>Those practicing faith should always respect Kami-Sama’s protection and not disregard it in everything they

do. Pushing others to overeat or overdrink is not being generous. For the sake of the country, and for other people and yourself, practice a sincere faith that is not wasteful.

<sup>3</sup>Farmers know that a single seed can result in bushels of rice. When one person receives divine blessings, a thousand people will be able to receive divine blessings. You should practice faith and become a good example for others.

67 There are people who come to this Hiromae, request to be cured, and come to give thanks after complete recovery. That's all. Rather, if you have been completely cured by Kami-Sama's blessings, tell those in distress about my teachings. Spread my teachings so more people will start to practice faith sincerely. This is giving true thanks to Kami-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>I don't tell people to come to worship. But those who do, end up receiving more divine virtue. For example, learning under a teacher or from a school for a long time brings much knowledge. In the same way, coming to worship often and listening to my teachings brings more wisdom.

<sup>3</sup>It is said that ten different people have ten different minds. Of those who come to worship often, there are people who just give their requests and then hurry home. These people have selfish faiths and don't understand the teachings that I give. But as for you, you take the time to listen quietly, and you believe that you will receive divine blessings. This is good.

<sup>4</sup>Worshippers pray in various, individual ways. Some put their hands together and pray intensely. Others rub their

hands together. Some pray in a loud voice, while others pray in a tearful, pleading voice, and bow deeply. How true that ten different people have ten different minds.

68 The descendants of those who listen to Konko Daijin's words and practice faith will live without worry. Teaching your children how to live without worry is practicing true faith.

69 Among those who often come to this Hiromae, hear my words, and practice faith, those who give their requests directly by saying "Tenchi No Kami" and "Konko Daijin" are increasing.

<sup>2</sup>Being close to Kami-Sama is similar to being close to a government official. Those on amiable terms with the village and higher government offices will receive prompt attention to their requests. This is due to the officials being well-acquainted with the person's situation. In the same way, you can promptly receive divine blessings if you have a hiromae or a person with conscientious faith to pray for you.

<sup>3</sup>Respecting a toritsugi mediator, regardless of the mediator's former farming or other occupation, will bring blessings sooner. This means that respecting others is a virtue for oneself.

<sup>4</sup>People with little respect have unreformed hearts which lose the blessings given by Kami-Sama. Money is unnecessary to receive divine blessings. It's better to receive quick divine blessings by reforming one's heart.

<sup>5</sup>It seems that the farther away one comes to worship, the

more blessings there are. But to Kami-Sama, it makes no difference. The less one respects a toritsugi mediator, the more blessings one loses.

### Yoshimoto Kichihyōe

1 When Ikigami Konko-Sama was still alive, I went to his Hiromae and received the following teachings which I wrote down.

“People have been using the lunar calendar to check for and select auspicious days or directions. But the Meiji government has now abolished the lunar calendar, putting the solar calendar into effect. The country’s political system has also been changed. The country was formerly composed of fiefs which were governed by *daimyo*. These daimyo possessed honorable names. The Lord of Geishū,<sup>†</sup> for example, was named *Matsudaira Akinokami*. Since the government has abolished these honorable names, Kami also has abolished the divine names that were allowed in the past.

<sup>2</sup>Many people, after practicing faith and receiving divine blessings, have been bestowed with divine names such as *Ichinodeshi*, *Myōjin*, *Konshigū*, and *Daimyōjin*. But Kami has told me that He will now abolish these divine names,” imparted Ikigami Konko-Sama.

<sup>3</sup>“However, this shouldn’t disappoint you. Since Kami says He will use us as He always has, continue practicing faith without feeling disappointed.

<sup>4</sup>Practice faith and accumulate virtue. Prudence is most important for those who have received virtue from Kami-



Sama. Even when you are always prudent, you will lose that virtue if you have a complaining heart at the time of your death.

<sup>5</sup>A complaining heart complains about one's family and relatives not coming to visit one's deathbed. It is a heart that calls out in want to see and meet with family and relatives. Therefore, those who have practiced faith and received virtue must be prudent in their everyday lives. This is especially important at the time of death. Be sure not to lose your virtue at the time of death."



