

KYOTEN
GORIKAI

Teachings of Konko Daijin

II

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Aizawa Shinzō

1 In the beginning, I (Konko Daijin) went to my younger brother Kandori Shige'emon's hiromae to practice faith.

²Due to punishment by the Seven-Curse Konjin, I had to make seven graves. Two of my oxen died, while the third one received divine blessings. When the third ox finally got sick, everyone told me to have shamanistic prayers done or to take the ox to a veterinarian. I told them that I would decide what to do after going to Shige'emon's hiromae once more. I went to his hiromae and was told, "Disregard what they tell you, and trust Kami."

About an hour after I got home, I prayed to Kami-Sama. I later went to see my ox in the barn, but he wasn't there. When I looked around, I found him grazing on some grass outside.

³When I went to worship to give thanks for this blessing, Shige'emon told me, "You gave prayers an hour late, so your divine blessings were also an hour late. If you had prayed an hour earlier, you would have received blessings an hour earlier." From then on, I received divine blessings little by little.

⁴The Kandori family had also made seven graves. Shige'emon told me, "If you and your wife are healthy, you both can have children." Later, we were blessed with children.

⁵I practiced faith more and more fervently, and my wife once told me that doing so would have people say that I'm crazy. But three years later, my sincerity was proven, and I gave away my fields to the poor.

⁶There are times when I sit here from morning to midnight talking to those who come to worship. I feel no need to

get up to use the toilet or to eat. This is a divine blessing. I've already received so much.

2 When practicing faith, do not abandon everything else and immerse yourself in faith obsessively. Practice faith effortlessly, like when you eat a bowl of barley gruel. If you saw off a tree branch at its joint hastily, the saw teeth will break.

3 When you suffer from sickness, you go here and there in confusion, seeing the doctor or asking for shamanistic prayers. You may get cured, but you still suffer because you have spent much money. Without any confusion, practice faith more and more firmly. You can receive divine blessings.

4 In Konko Daijin's faith, perhaps you won't receive divine blessings quickly, but neither will you receive divine punishment quickly. If you want blessings quickly, make a pilgrimage to the *Eighty-eight Temples of Shikoku*. You will receive blessings quickly, but you will also receive punishment quickly.

Akiyama Jinkichi

1 Before the Restoration, while still wearing my two swords, I went to worship and Konko-Sama said, "Soon Heaven and Earth shall be turned upside-down." While wondering what he meant, the Meiji Restoration came about soon thereafter.

2 In Shimoizushi,[†] Okayama, there was a man named Haji Ichizō, who revered Konjin-Sama. My second son Yonezō initially followed this man and practiced faith. Though Yonezō began to worship at Konko-Sama's Hiromae, he continued to visit Haji. Konko-Sama once admonished, "I pray day and night for young Yonezō not to change his heart. Practice faith well. He is already an adult, so don't let him out of the hiromae. Have him stay inside to practice faith. With Kami's blessings, people will come to worship."

3 I told Konko-Sama, "You can probably live till you are one-hundred or twohundred years old, can't you?" He then answered, "Well, since my life is given to me by KamiSama, I have no control over it. Like serving your feudal lord and not knowing when you will be told to commit harakiri, I don't know when Kami-Sama will tell me to rest." I was impressed by his virtuous attitude toward death.

Akiyama Kinoe

1 I went to worship for the first time when my mother, Hirano Tomi, was forty-five, and I was fifteen. It was September 21 of the lunar calendar, a service day. There were square votive lanterns hanging, and four or five vendors were selling sugar cane and tangerines. I went to pray for my mother's sickness which plagued her for over ten years. I went to worship with Shiwaku Kiyo, an elderly woman who explained the meaning of the revelations to

me.

²She inquired, “Her mother has been sick for a long time. Will she ever be cured?” Konko-Sama, addressing me, asked, “Do you want your mother to be cured or not?”

³Not knowing what to answer, I stayed silent. Konko-Sama added, “Isn’t it better for her to be cured? You came here to have her cured, so you must not have any doubts about her recovery. From today, believe that she will gradually recover. Kami will cure her gradually. As her body regains its strength, she will be cured however old she may be. Practice faith while believing that she will gradually recover.”

On the way home, Kiyō-san explained to me, “Konko-Sama was trying to tell you that practicing faith for the sake of your parents is being filial. If you practice faith while being filial to your parents, you will receive divine blessings.”

⁴My mother then got well, but only temporarily. A month or two later, she showed symptoms of the sickness again. When I went to worship thinking that she should have recovered, Konko-Sama said, “You must be distressed because your mother is sick again. However, Kami will slowly take away her sickness, gradually relieving her burden.” She later recovered.

⁵But about six months later, while doing the laundry, her nose started to bleed. Two or three cups of blood emptied into the washtub. That night, we all gathered around her bed. While I dozed off, I was surprised to dream about Konko-Sama coming to our house.

The next morning, when Kiyō-san went to worship for me,

Konko-Sama told her, "This is Kami relieving her load again. Being a prolonged illness, she will steadily get better. There is no need for worry." My mother gradually recovered.

- 2 On the way from Tomioka[†] to Konko-Sama's Hiromae, I met a farming family that I knew. They were quite wealthy. One of them was sick, so I was asked to pray for him. The family was stingy and always thought about work while hardly ever giving money or gifts to others. When I asked Konko-Sama about this, he said, "Work is necessary, but giving is also necessary. No matter how hard you work to make fine clothes, if you are sick, you cannot go out and wear them. You also cannot eat, no matter how good the food is."

Akiyama Ko'ume

- 1 Since my husband could no longer receive his samurai stipend because of the Meiji Restoration, I went to worship worrying about our imminent future. Konko-Sama said in empathy, "You must be worried about many things. Leave everything to Kami without complaints. Don't worry and let time take its course."
- 2 When I went to worship after recovering from a serious illness, I was four months pregnant with my daughter Umeno. I had thought that I couldn't have a child after such a serious illness. Konko-Sama told me, "You are four months pregnant. Since it will be a girl, teach her how

to sew.” I gradually got bigger, and gave birth in the Year of the Ram.* This worried me.

²When my eldest son Kumakichi went to worship, he was told, “Your mother is worried because her daughter was born in the Year of the Ram. But there is nothing wrong with that. Tell her to practice faith without worrying.” After Kumakichi returned home, he asked, “Mother, I heard about your worries from Konko-Sama. Are you worrying that much?”

³I answered, “I haven’t told anyone this, but although she was born through the blessing of Kami, I worried that no one would want to marry her because she was born in the Year of the Ram.” My heart then felt relieved, and I understood the greatness of Kami-Sama.

*It was considered undesirable for a girl to be born in the Year of the Ram.

Akiyama Yonezō

1 When I was fourteen, I went to worship wearing a kimono. Though I was only a child, Konko-Sama told me, “Yonezō, you like practicing faith, don’t you? Practice faith that saves others.”

2 When I went to worship with my elder brother Kumakichi, Konko-Sama said in a revelation, “Yonezō, your hands are not very skillful, so obtain divine blessings to save others. Kumakichi, your hands are skillful, so Kami will let you succeed with them.” For a while, Kumakichi was famous for his sculpture.

3 To the Akiyama family, Konko-Sama said, “I will let anyone in this family, including children, perform tori-tsugi. Say whatever comes to your mind at the hiromae. Kami will bestow blessings to those requesting.”

4 With more people coming to extort me, I went to Konko-Sama. He told me, “Regardless of what they say to you, don’t be concerned. Don’t even serve them a cup of tea.”

5 Akiyama, in this world, there is a thing called misfortune. What might we call a misfortune? The worst misfortune of all is not having any children.

6 Getting rich quickly is too much for anyone to handle. One must bide one’s time.

7 “How should I pray?” I asked. Konko-Sama answered, “Any kind of prayers are all right, even Buddhist or Shintoist prayers. Pray as you like.”

²Some time later, Konko-Sama said, “You don’t have to pray that hard, just pray as if you were speaking to Kami-Sama.”

8 About the *Jōdo Shinshū* Buddhist sect, Konko-Sama often said, “Jōdo Shinshū adherents are very devout. You should follow this example and not let your faith go astray.”

9 “Which religion is best, is it *Tendai*, or perhaps *Shinshū*?”

I asked. “All religions are good,” Konko-Sama answered.

²I further inquired, “Alright then, who is the greatest, *Kōbō Daishi*, or perhaps *Kurozumi*?” “Both are great individuals,” he answered.

10 Once, when a worshipper was about to return home, Konko-Sama told her, “Go straight home without stopping anywhere along the way.” But the old woman, who had been blessed with recovery from her eye disease, forgot these words and stayed overnight in Tsurajima.[†] Thinking that her eyes must never go bad again, she received cautery treatments. Later, the old woman’s eyes got worse, and finally went blind. I talked with my father Jinkichi about how we cannot go against Konko-Sama’s words.

Amano Kihachi

1 My child was attending school, but he had a bad memory.

I inquired Konko-Sama about this and he asked, “Do you want him to become a teacher?” “No, I do not,” I answered. “Fine, then he will be what he will be.”

²He added, “Children do as their parents do. Keep this well in mind.”

Aoi Saki

1 I had two friends who belonged to this Faith. They received hand divinations, while I did not. When I asked

Konko-Sama about this, he answered, “Even without receiving hand divinations, if you receive divine blessings as you had requested, it will be the same as receiving hand divinations. If a tree is planted and its roots do not spread, there will only be flowers, no fruits. But if the tree’s roots spread firmly, it will bear fruits for a long time.”

2 When practicing faith, pray for all things. Konko Daijin will teach you everything from the basics. And when you learn everything, teach others.

3 People are too self-concerned. When they are born, they have no concern about lucky or unlucky days. It concerns them only after birth and before death. They die without concern for lucky or unlucky days.

4 Pray in advance for all things. Then ten years later, you will see how your requests are fulfilled. Pray three years in advance. When that prayer is fulfilled, you can say that it is what you had once prayed for.

²I, Konko Daijin, was once called the man possessed by evil spirits, but now people call me Konko-Sama, and I save many people.

5 When I told Konko-Sama about my divorce, he said, “To bore and be bored, or to love and be loved, depends on one’s heart. One who is disliked by others, is disliked by his parents, and is disliked by Kami as well. But one who

is liked by others, is liked by his parents, and is liked by Kami as well.”

6 My husband was unruly so I divorced him. He then became violent and threatened to cut and stab me. When I filed a lawsuit, Konko-Sama said, “Do not mind his words. If he says, ‘I’ll cut you’, or ‘I’ll stab you’, have a mind that says, ‘Go ahead’. You think you can control your life, therefore you run into many problems. Your life does not go as you wish.

²Can you keep living even if you do not want to die? Can you be free of illness even if you want to? Without Kami, you cannot live no matter how much you want to. With Kami, your former husband cannot cut you even if he wants to.”

7 When you put food by your dying parents’ bedside, and find that they cannot eat it, you will feel regret. But if you always treat your parents well, you will feel no regret. Treat them well and in three years you will come to understand this teaching of Kami. Most are devoted to their children, but you, Saki, are devoted to your parents.

8 There was a man who often said that if one did not have an education, one cannot perform toritsugi. When I asked Konko-Sama about this, he answered, “I am also uneducated and illiterate. Even a fool can perform toritsugi. As long as you have sincerity, you can save others. You may have an education, but without sincerity, you cannot save

others. Having an education can wear you out. Even educated people suffer. Though I am illiterate, people still call me, 'Konko Daijin, Konko Daijin', and receive divine blessings."

Aoyama Kin'emon

- 1 I, Konko Daijin, also suffered from misfortunes. But I laid my complete trust in Kami-Sama, and through thick and thin, I wholeheartedly followed Kami's instructions. Kami-Sama told me, "Please spread this Way of Faith." Thus, I am to spread the Faith among the thirty-three provinces in the east, while Saitō Jūemon of Kasaoka[†] is to spread it among the thirty-three provinces in the west.
- 2 When my uncle went to worship, Konko-Sama said, "Konjin-Sama punishes. He punishes for offenses that have been committed since seven generations ago."
- 3 Whether or not you receive divine blessings depends on your heart. Reform your heart, then you can reap infinite divine blessings.
- 4 Taking medicine is unnecessary. Pray wholeheartedly and you need not worry.
- 5 No matter how hard one practices faith, he who reaches the end of his life cannot be helped by Kami. By depending

on Kami, one need not fear.

- 6 You needn't overexert yourself by practicing faith at those specified places,* when you can practice faith in your own home.

*It was common to practice faith through asceticism at specified places such as under a certain waterfall, on a certain mountain, or at a certain shrine.

- 7 "If there are grudges held by others and curses from evil spirits, let the spirits find their way and the troubles be taken away," prayed Konko-Sama. Then he told me, "If there are grudges or curses against you, trust Kami wholeheartedly. He will save you."

- 8 When an ascetic priest came and took all the offerings away, Konko-Sama declared, "It doesn't bother me at all. All those offerings were already received by Kami-Sama, so I don't mind if they are taken away."

Asano Kijūrō

- 1 A man in Bingo Province was blessed with recovery from some illness, and he invited his fellow villagers to celebrate his recovery. However, he did not give thanks to Kami-Sama. He fell ill again and came to worship. Without much concern, Konko-Sama told him, "This time, recover by yourself."

2 If my heart goes awry, even I, Konko Daijin, cannot foreknow what will happen to me.

3 A doctor named Yunoki Shunseki contracted typhoid fever and his neighbor went to see Konko-Sama for him. The neighbor was told that there was irreverence toward the northeast. After the doctor's family swept and cleaned the property facing the northeast, the doctor began to recover.
²The neighbor went to offer thanks and told Konko-Sama how the doctor was recovering. Konko-Sama said, "He must clean his heart. If he does not, he will not receive divine blessings later on."

The neighbor went back and told the doctor what Konko-Sama had said. The doctor later fully recovered, but was reinfected when he went to treat a patient with typhoid fever in Sagata.[†] The doctor later died.

4 "Konko-Sama, I cannot identify the lucky and unlucky days because the lunar calendar has been abolished," I asserted.

Konko-Sama imparted, "On this very day, pray wholeheartedly. Divine blessings are within your own heart."

5 Don't say that it is a lucky or unlucky day.

6 You can practice faith, but if your heart is wrong, you will not receive divine blessings.

- 7 Soil and water are the same everywhere. To heal his wound, apply soil. To have him regain his senses, give water.
- 8 Don't think about saving money and becoming rich. Pray for safety and good health, and value your work. Doing these things is most important.
- 9 On September 28 in the year of his passing, Konko-Sama retired from active service. Two or three years before, he used to say, "Even I, Konko Daijin, cannot predict the future. Not even a minute. My body must depart in order for me to become a kami."

Asano Torakichi's wife

- 1 When I had been going to the Hiromae at night, Konko-Sama said, "If you really want to come to worship, then there is nothing to fear, even at night."
- ²And when I told him about the time I rested on the beach, he said, "Kami-Sama says to have a broad faith. What a fine thing it is."
- 2 I found myself complaining because a person refused my kindness. Without telling Konko-Sama about the refusal, I often prayed at home.
- Once, when I went to worship, Konko-Sama said, "Those who practice faith every day should always use boiled water without letting cold water be mixed with it." This teaching penetrated my brain.

3 You need not come here to worship. You can just pray to a post in your house. As long as you pray wholeheartedly, Kami-Sama will listen to all your requests. So practice faith at home.

²You can receive divine blessings through your own wholeheartedness. So if you want to follow the true way, be wholehearted, regardless of what other people say.

4 "Today, the Matsushima[†] thoroughfare is being broadened. Many laborers teased me while I passed by them," I told Konko-Sama.

He replied, "So the road is being broadened. Kami-Sama also says that the Way of Faith should be broadened. It will be broadened so much that you can walk on it without limit."

Asuwa Tokuhei

1 "Tokuhei, you need not come to worship from afar. Practice faith and perform toritsugi at home. You will receive divine blessings," said Konko-Sama. Later, I helped cure an eye disease and other ailments.

Doi Rikizō's father

1 I often went to the Hiromae while on business. When I was still in my straw sandals and gave thanks without entering, Konko-Sama gave me a Tenchi Kakitsuke.

²I told him, "As you can see, I am poor and busy." Then he said, "That is good. It is best to be busy with your

business.”

Eura Hisakichi

1 When I was going to build my house, I was told that since the directions were ominous, I could not build. In 1881, a person took me to the Hiromae. Konko-Sama said, “Pray before you build, then there will be no difficulties.”

²And about giving requests, he imparted, “Pray for the prosperity of your family and for a long life.”

Fujii Hirotake

1 There are poets who compose poems as if they had seen the places which they have never seen, and as if non-existent things really exist. But as for me, I don't speak of places which I've never seen as if I've seen them, or about non-existent things as if they existed.

²I do not leave this small room. However, while sitting here, I convey to people the Great Way of the Universe.

2 A man named Nakanishi Kashichi, who lived in Kōraibashi 3-chome in Osaka, went to the Hiromae in the beginning of summer. I, Hirotake, went with him. He wanted to tell Konko-Sama that although he found *Omoi Kane No Kami* and *Kanayama Hiko No Mikoto* in the *Kojiki* and the *Nihon Shoki*, he did not find any kami called *Kane No Kami*.

²Konko-Sama said, “The term *ikigami* is used by people

who consider me a living kami. I do not call myself an *ikigami*. People do.”

³When Nakanishi added that it wasn’t proper to use the name Daijin, Konko-Sama replied that it was approved by the government.

⁴Regarding divine names, Konko-Sama said, “The name *Tenchi Kane No Kami* stands for Nittenshi, Gattenshi, and Kane No Kami.” Nakanishi returned home in awe, thinking that Konko-Sama had to be an *ikigami*.

3 Insects are also born between Heaven and Earth. Leave aside a tenth of your field for the insects, and use insecticide on the other areas.

4 Don’t detest a thief. Pity him and pray for him to mend his heart.

Fujii Kichi

1 At the end of May 1878, my three-year-old son died. Fourteen days later, my husband died. And about thirty days later, my father fell seriously ill. Believing in this Way of Faith, I prayed single-heartedly and was blessed with his complete recovery. If I had started practicing faith earlier, I could have saved my son and husband. How regretful I felt.

²In January the following year, I went to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae to offer thanks for my father’s recovery. “Don’t cry over the past. Be single-hearted and practice faith. You

will receive divine blessings,” he consoled. I only went to offer thanks for my father’s recovery, yet Konko-Sama spoke to me with such sympathy for my heart. How thankful I felt.

- 2 Later on, I also received divine blessings for my business. I was able to revive my father’s declining business after taking it over. I went to Konko-Sama to offer thanks. “Money can run out. Be single-hearted and practice faith with a true heart. You will be blessed with virtue,” he said.

Fujii Kiyono

- 1 Kane No Kami-Sama never lies. People lie. Fortune tellers and shamanistic practitioners lie by saying what day and time construction should start. They also pester the workers building the house. It would be better for people to follow Konko Daijin’s teachings, but they don’t. They instead follow the Directions and fortunes for house-building.

²They should give first-harvest offerings to Kane No Kami-Sama and request, “Please allow me to intrude in your direction and property.” Then they can start construction or arrange weddings and the like. Kane No Kami-Sama does not admonish indiscriminately. There are people who go around telling lies, and those who do construction while being deceived by them.

- 2 Some claim that I tell lies. But Konko Daijin’s teachings

don't advocate the Days and Directions and are never lies. Despite this, people have fortune tellers and shamanistic practitioners set due dates, and they wait for Kane No Kami's absence. Thus, they are admonished.

²Konko Daijin's teachings never aim for the absence of Kane No Kami-Sama. Those who want to uphold Konko Daijin's teachings should think about this and practice faith in Kane No Kami-Sama. Kane No Kami-Sama and Konko Daijin never tell lies.

3 If there is irreverence left by your ancestors, offer a part of your food, and apologize. Then the irreverence will be forgiven. Pray, and even the wandering spirit of the deceased will find its way. Pray to Kane No Kami-Sama for success at whatever you do.

²Give a request and offer thanks whenever you do something. To request, you need not go before the altar. You can give requests even while working with a hoe or sickle in your hand. Pray single-heartedly and offer thanks.

4 Don't follow any taboos during menstruation and childbirth, or after the death of your parent or child.

²Nittenshi-Sama and Gattenshi-Sama are the kami-samas of Heaven. There are no higher kami-samas. Kane No Kami-Sama is the kami-sama of Earth, and there is no lower kami-sama. The impurities of menstruation and childbirth, and the bodies of the deceased parent or child, are all buried into Tenchi Kane No Kami's ground.

³Kane No Kami-Sama does not tell tricky lies. Kane No

Kami-Sama never lies.

- 5 To get rid of epilepsy or warts, some people bind statues of *Jizo-Sama* and *Kannon-Sama*. You mustn't do such things. If you do, in three generations there will surely be a person that will be bound.
- 6 A man from Tsurajima[†] gathered a group together and went to Bungo Province to catch *uwami* cormorants. Before going, he held a memorial service for bird-catching. Regarding the bird-catching, Konko-Sama imparted, "*Uwami* cormorants are very thoughtful birds. Since they know that the net is for catching them, the male birds go in first. They lift the net with their beaks and let the female birds escape. The male birds bravely remain caught. If you trap them, your family will not prosper."
- 7 Konko-Sama imparted, "Kane No Kami-Sama does as He pleases throughout the world, from deep below the ground right up to the surface."

Fujii Kura

- 1 "Sixty years after I pass away, this Way of Faith will be established and will help the world," said Konko-Sama.
2 "Why don't you make it fifty years?" I asked. "Because it is not fifty years, it is sixty years," he answered.

Fujii Tsunejirō

1 When Konko-Sama retired from serving the Hiromae, he told me to take his place. I replied, “I am unqualified to answer believers’ requests, therefore I must refuse.”

Konko-Sama said, “Don’t worry about that. Just let the words come out of your mouth. Kami will turn whatever you say into divine blessings, so don’t worry.” I then took his place for about ten days.

2 While taking Konko-Sama’s place, he told me, “Tsunejirō, when presenting people’s requests to Kami-Sama, give people a due date of three days and say they will receive divine blessings. Kami will give blessings on that day without fail.”

Fujiwara Kazō

1 When I went to the Hiromae for the first time, Konko-Sama said, “People ask me to pray for them, but if prayers would make them well, the world would have no sick people. I will now tell you the teachings of Kami. Since you have come from afar and your legs hurt, you needn’t sit so uncomfortably while you listen. Extend your legs or lie down, and listen well. Return home with your heart filled with teachings.

²If you follow these teachings every day, daily or monthly worship will be unnecessary in this Way of Faith, even though you may be told otherwise.”

2 It was around 1871. Once, when I went to the Hiromae, a woman from Kawabe[†] was also there. She told Konko-Sama, “My husband bought a house. It is one of the nicest houses in Kawabe. But since five of the seven family members who previously lived in it died, my son and his wife dislike it, and we can’t get along with them.”

²Konko-Sama imparted, “Practice faith, then you need not fear. Such things occurred because the people were selfish and didn’t practice faith. People say that it will be safe to build a house if they worship Konjin-Sama in an unobtrusive place in the house. So they worship Konjin in a corner of one of the inferior rooms just for formality’s sake.

³Konjin has existed since the beginning of the world. While other kamis are worshipped at prominent places in the house, the kami that has existed since the beginning is given a back seat. This does not conform to the rules of Kami. If you practice faith devoutly, even a house that has been cursed by a kami can be bought and moved into as is. Or you can disassemble it and move it to your property. In either case, you can live in the house and prosper.”

3 When people do construction work, they tend to be narrow-minded and think only about the Days and Directions. When you get rich, you might build front and back drawing rooms, and need to have a water closet in both rooms. You cannot keep building additions in only one direction because you believe the other directions are ominous. Build additions in any direction. It will make

Kami happy.

²Pray to Kami before building, then you needn't worry about ominous directions. When your son takes over the house, tell him how you had it built. Your family will prosper.

4 Heaven and Earth are like a couple. They cannot be a couple if one is without the other. Heaven is the husband, and Earth is the wife. Though they are a couple, when Nittenshi-Sama gives sunshine, Gattenshi-Sama does not interfere. Also, when Gattenshi-Sama gives rain, it's like a mother giving milk, and Nittenshi-Sama does not interfere. He does not meddle in his wife's maternal activities.

²Similarly, when the husband is managing domestic affairs, his wife should not complain. At the same time, the husband should be considerate of his wife and not complain about her duties. This will make the family harmonious.

Fujiwara Zenpei

1 When I was poor, I lamented, "Konko-Sama, I work twice as hard as other people, yet I am still poor." He answered, "You are not poor."

²"But I have no money so I must be poor," I argued. "Then you must be doing something wasteful. When you're invited for a meal, don't eat rice gruel before you go. When partaking the food, serve yourself amply. And when serving food, give ample portions. Waste ten *sen* and

you will receive a ten-yen penalty. This is because the Way of Tenchi won't allow it.

³You may think wasting a hundred yen is nothing, but you will receive a thousand-yen penalty and become poor. If you don't waste, you will succeed," countered Konko-Sama.

Fukushima Gihe'e

1 On July 1, 1869, I went to the Hiromae with Sakai Sakichi-san. When we got there, Konko-Sama, already knowing about me, greeted, "Follower from Osaka, I'm glad that you made it from afar." I went near his mediation desk and told him about my relation with the Faith and about the divine blessings I had received since the year before. Then I gave thanks.

²Konko-Sama promptly went before the altar and informed Kami-Sama in prayer, "Fukushima Gihe'e has come to worship all the way from Osaka."

³Then he turned around and said, "Gihe'e, practice faith and become a kami."

⁴Back at his mediation desk, he imparted, "Though people say that I'm an ikigami, I am just as human as you. I have been receiving divine blessings just by practicing faith.

⁵In Osaka, there is the lively Tenjin Festival. *Tenjin-Sama*, the ascetic priest *En*, and *Kōbō Daishi* were all ordinary human beings. Through their own sincere hearts, they became 'a kami or a buddha.

⁶You should also follow what Kami says, and practice faith in Kami single-heartedly to receive divine blessings.

Save others and have yourself become a kami."

2 Konko-Sama also imparted, "Everyone always says that Konjin-Sama is a fearful kami-sama who curses and causes misfortune. But they are mistaken. He is a kami-sama that travels throughout Heaven and Earth, protecting and sustaining all life.

²I practice faith by praying to Nittenshi, Gattenshi, and Kane No Kami-Sama. From Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, people receive a body and a part of His *mitama* spirit. They are able to live by eating the grains bestowed by Heaven and Earth.

³Since long ago, it has been said that Heaven is the father, and Earth, the mother. Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama is the parent of all people. Those who practice my Faith will meet their immortal parents and will keep receiving divine blessings."

3 He further imparted, "Tenchi Kane No Kami watches over everything. People are Kami's children. Turn your body and heart toward Kami-Sama and practice faith to receive His many blessings.

²Rely on Kami wholeheartedly for everything, without worrying about possible irreverence to Kami. Then you can receive divine blessings. Flowers will bloom on withered trees, and life near death will be saved.

³Receive divine blessings and save those who are suffering."

4 He added, "I have no particular way to worship Kami-

Sama. Just be faithful, sincere, honest, and single-hearted.

²Give thanks for being able to live from day to day and apologize for the irreverence, impoliteness, and annoyance that you commit unknowingly. Then with sincerity, give any personal requests that you may have."

5 He also imparted, "A stone wall built in haste will easily crumble. But a stone wall built with care won't crumble. Those who practice faith must have sincerity for everything and act scrupulously with diligence."

6 "Because of Kami's blessings, you are able to come to worship. It's difficult to come so often from afar. So once you come here, return with so much divine virtue that you cannot load it on a boat or carriage," said Konko-Sama.

²When I started to leave for home, he gave me five Tenchi Kakitsuke and said, "Let these Kakitsuke remind you to practice faith. You mustn't sell them for money."

7 My wife Ai was sickly since birth and had difficulties when giving birth. When I went to the Hiromae for the first time, I gave requests from my worried heart regarding my pregnant wife. Konko-Sama said, "Children are gifts from Kami-Sama. The child within is Kami's. Since the child is born through the blessing of Kami-Sama, my Way of Faith won't allow the birth to be a failure."

²He added, "She need not wear a maternity belt. And she need not fast nor abstain from certain foods. Let her eat

whatever she wants to strengthen her body. She needn't be concerned about the impurities of childbirth. She can face any direction and give birth without difficulties. Kami-Sama will stand behind her, and assure her of a safe childbirth that even the neighbors won't notice. Trust Kane No Kami-Sama single-heartedly and receive divine blessings."

³On December 23 of that year, as Konko-Sama had said, my wife was blessed with a safe childbirth.

8 I became forty-one in 1871, the year before my unlucky year. I went to the Hiromae and expressed my anxiety. Konko-Sama said, "Tenchi No Kami-Sama is the parent kami of all people. Why would He let His precious children suffer? Think of yourself as a parent of your own children, then try to understand. Relying on Kami-Sama regularly is the same as being friends with Kami-Sama. He will even listen to your unacceptable requests. He will turn major misfortunes into minor ones and sweep them away."

²Since there are austerities in any faith, I asked what kind of austerities I should undergo to agree with the heart of Kami. He imparted, "In this world, there are austerities of fire and water, and people who practice various taboos. But in my Faith, you need not practice such austerities. Instead of donning a white robe and going on a pilgrimage, think of your everyday work as practicing religious austerities. Then receive divine blessings.

³For the sake of the world and its people, if you are able to live a happy and harmonious life and able to pursue your work with gratitude, these will be your blessings. This

is how to agree with the heart of Kami-Sama.”

9 Since 1872 was my unlucky year, I went to the Hiromae during New Year's and prayed to clear away any bad luck. Konko-Sama imparted, “In my Way of Faith, ‘*yaku*’ does not mean unlucky as people think. It is written with the ‘*yaku*’ character from the word ‘*yakunin*.’* So *yakudoshi* is not an unlucky age, it is the age when you will help others. Think of your extra-unlucky age (*taiyaku no toshi*) as when you will be of extra help to others. Then practice faith with a heart full of joy, courage, and strength.

²For plants, their buds sprout from the branch joints and grow thick and lush. But the joints are brittle and break easily. It is the same for people. Practice faith with patience, and it will be the start of growth and prosperity. You will be blessed with prosperity with each passing year and generation.”

**Yakunin* means government official, or a person who helps other people.

‘*Yaku*’ may mean unlucky or help, depending on the Japanese *kanji* character.

10 My first son, due to meningitis, had a bloated stomach and was just skin and bones. He lived through intense suffering each day. Even the doctor could do nothing for him. After half a year of this, he was blessed with full recovery by practicing faith. Meanwhile, I went through my unlucky year.

²During New Year's of 1873, I went to the Hiromae to give thanks. After Konko-Sama informed Kami-Sama through prayers before the altar, he imparted, “Tenchi Kane No Kami is Tenchi, the Universe. He is not in a

shrine. He dwells in a truly sincere heart and will be a blessing."

³Konko-Sama then brought a skewer from a back room, cut out a zigzag paper hanging from traditional *Mino* paper, and stuck it on the skewer. Giving it to me, he said, "Make this your object of worship. When people come to examine it, tell them that it is an object of worship. It is a guide for praying. It's not Kami, so don't misunderstand."

⁴He further imparted, "Kami has come forth through Konko Daijin. Tell people exactly what Konko Daijin says. Tell them about the divine blessings you have received. You needn't worry about anything. I, Konko Daijin, will be behind you."

11 Before leaving for home the next day, I went to worship at the Hiromae. Konko-Sama further imparted, "Have faith in Kami, receive divine blessings, and save the troubled. You can give thanks to Kami by becoming one with the heart of Kami. And also by spreading this true Way of Faith by telling others about the blessings you have received. This will make Kami happy.

²Though people practice faith, they only use Kami-Sama. They are not aware of how Kami-Sama uses them. Tenchi Kane No Kami will use people as His representatives. Practice faith and look forward to being put to use by Kami-Sama."

12 When I again went to the Hiromae that year, Konko-

sama said, "When people come to you and ask for help, don't say that you will pray for them. Just tell them about the divine blessings that you are receiving."

He added, "Be sincere for all things. Have patience based on faith. In the meantime, the Faith will spread throughout the world.

²Tenchi No Kami-Sama protects the Universe and people. He is the kami of kamis. There is nothing to worry about. Trust Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama single-heartedly.

³But in doing so, you mustn't neglect other kamis and buddhas. Pray to all konjin-samas or to all kamis."

13 When I went to the Hiromae in 1874, Konko-Sama gave me four Tenchi Kakitsuke. He imparted, "These are like the abacus that gives you the correct answers. Follow what is written here, and you will surely receive divine blessings."

²He added, "You may give a Kakitsuke to anyone with sincere faith who would like to have one."

14 When I went to the Hiromae in the spring of 1876, Konko-Sama gave me four Tenchi Kakitsuke. He imparted, "I gave this to a person named Nimura who came to worship from Osaka. But he was concerned about only himself and did not think about the plight of others. He had faith for only himself and could not receive divine blessings."

²He added, "If people do not receive divine blessings, then Kami-Sama and I will not be happy. If they suffer and don't receive divine blessings, Kami cannot fulfill His duty.

When people cannot do well, Kami and Konko Daijin cannot do well."

15 Konko-Sama also said, "Though plum trees grow quickly, there are no big plum trees. And though the camphor tree grows slowly, it becomes a very big tree. Practicing faith is the same. Just growing is not all-important. Growing slower than other people only to become like the towering camphor tree is a real blessing."

²He continued, "The Parent Kami of the Universe borrows the voice of humans to convey teachings. Those who practice faith should listen well, even to children's lullabies, as you might hear His teachings."

16 When it was almost autumn in 1877, I went to the Hiromae. Konko-Sama told me about his life. His story about the seven graves that he had to make was deeply moving.

²A person from Bizen[†] was also worshipping at the same time. He offered a folded envelope and requested toritsugi mediation. Without touching the envelope, Konko-Sama directed, "Take this home," and went before the altar to give prayers.

³Soon, his face turned red and he said, "What do you think offerings to Kami are? Kami does not take offerings with disregard. He returns ten thousand times as much. You must not give offerings to Kami thinking that it is wasteful."

⁴Then he turned around and said, "Gihe'e, don't you agree? Man is man because of kami, and kami is kami

because of man.” He returned to his mediation desk and continued with the story he was telling.

- 17 I celebrated New Year’s morning in 1879, the Year of the Hare, at Konko-Sama’s Hiromae. When I gave Konko-Sama New Year’s greetings and thanks, he gave me twenty Tenchi Kakitsuke.

He said, “There will be more people receiving divine blessings. Give these to those who have true faith. Needless to say, they are not amulets or charms. They are protectors of your heart. And they are not to be sold. You cannot sell them no matter how much they offer you.”

²Then in a teaching, he imparted, “Practice true faith, and you will receive more virtue. Don’t use human ways of thinking. They have their own human limitations. Caretakers for Kami must do everything according to Kami’s will. There are things which can be done only by following Kami’s will.”

- 18 Believers began talking about forming religious associations around 1878 and 1879. When I inquired Konko-Sama about this, he said, “If people don’t respect Kami, Kami cannot uphold His honor. Causing people to worry does not make Kami happy. If people happily do what Kami wants, then Kami will also be happy.”

²He also advised, “Don’t force things. Forget your ego. Dismiss your own judgement and trust Kami. Have the sincere heart of Tenchi and receive divine blessings.”

19 On the service day of January 10, 1882, I went to the Hiromae with my first son Gisuke. I offered thanks for the formation of the Shoei-gumi religious association. Konko-Sama imparted to my son, "You are a dutiful son, working hard to help your family business. And you are also willing to help people in need. This is a wonderful thing, and Kami-Sama is happy. People are also happy, and I am happy. Follow your father's faith and practice true faith devotedly. This will coincide with Kami's heart and bring happiness to your family for generations."

²And then to me, "Gihe'e, you are now *Daifukujin*. Serve Kami forever." He then took a sacred mirror from the altar and gave it to me, "This is a keepsake for you." On the back of the sacred mirror, the name '*Daifukujin*' was inscribed.

³Konko-Sama then imparted, "Even though the Faith is still constrained, receive divine blessings to have it spread for generations. The people's way of thinking will also broaden, making it easier for you to spread the Way of Faith. You will see divine blessings increase from day to day, month to month, and generation to generation."

20 On May 14, 1882, Kondō Fujimori sensei was charged by the Minami Police Station with breaking the law and was jailed for ten days. But afterward, he still visited troubled families and went to believers homes to pray to Kami-Sama and give teachings.

²Regarding this, he had a heated argument with a minister named Tabata of the Osaka Shinto Branch Office. Kondō sensei retired from his hiromae in anger and insisted that

he would stop praying to Kami. Puzzled, Umeko-san (Kondō's wife), brought by Nakano Gitarō, came to my hiromae to discuss the matter. I took her to the Hiromae and requested toritsugi mediation.

³After giving prayers, Konko-Sama imparted, "Since the government prohibits it, he cannot pray to Kami. However, Kondō-san has already been blessed with various teachings so he need not pray. When people go to him, he should only talk to them. Since he does not pray to Kami, he doesn't need an altar."

⁴To Umeko-san, Konko-Sama firmly said, "I did tell him not to go to believers' homes to give prayers and not to go around selling teachings. If one does not agree with the heart of Kami, even a great hiromae can be turned to ashes overnight. We cannot neglect anything that Kami says."

⁵He then told me, "Stay at home. When people call on you, just talk to them. Divine blessings will be realized. I also want you to talk to Kondō-san about this."

21 In January 1883 of the lunar calendar, I went to the Hiromae with Gisuke and a few other believers. I gave thanks for the establishment of the Nanba hiromae (Kondō Fujimori's hiromae) and for propagation being officially sanctioned.

When I gave a request for toritsugi mediation to receive official government recognition of my hiromae, Konko-Sama imparted, "Wait till it's time, then receive divine blessings. Those who perform toritsugi mediation are representatives of Kami and caretakers of people. They

are to save others and keep them going. They should serve with such a heart day after day.”

22 Then in a soft voice, Konko-Sama said, “The moon may disappear behind clouds, but it is still there. My physical form will also disappear someday. But I will still be here. Konko Daijin shall live forever. Without flustering over whether my physical form exists or not, practice faith single-heartedly and sincerely. Your life will blossom like a beautiful flower and be filled with the fruits of divine virtue.”

²Hearing these unexpected words, I leaned forward and asked, “And when will your form disappear?” “I won’t tell anyone, but Kami-Sama will tell those with sincerity. Wherever the person with sincerity may be, Kami will inform him.” he answered.

Furukawa Kono

1 About giving offerings to the altar, Konko-Sama imparted, “Those suffering hardships need not give them.”

2 “There are people who place the amulets and charms they received from shrines and temples on their doors as protection against fire and theft. I do not give such amulets or charms.

After praying to Kami-Sama before going to bed, those practicing faith should check if all sources of fire are out, and if the doors are all locked. Then Kami will protect you throughout the night and you can sleep in peace,”

Konko-Sama often said.

3 “If you don’t sleep well, you won’t be able to work effectively the next day,” Konko-Sama always said. He advised us to sleep well.

4 “Don’t bargain when buying things,” Konko-Sama always said.

5 Konko-Sama often said, “Take care not to force things in whatever you do.”

6 A person with many children expressed his worry over their different personalities. Konko-Sama imparted, “If the five fingers on your hand were all the same length, you wouldn’t be able to grasp anything. Your hand has fingers of different lengths, thus you are able to grasp. Because of their different personalities, your children will be useful.”

Furukawa Sansaku

1 “Konko-Sama, though you always talk about Kami-Sama, having no rice during dire times will be distressing for you. You also have many children, so why don’t you buy a rice paddy? It just so happens that there’s a paddy up for sale. Why don’t you buy it?” I suggested.

²Konko-Sama answered, “Thank you very much for telling me. However, I do not prepare for the future. When

I serve Kami-Sama in this way, He takes care of my family and does the worrying. Thus, I am relieved of any worries. If there's no food, I just won't eat."

Furukawa Teru

1 "Even if the house is on fire, I will keep sitting here. No matter what happens, I won't move," Konko-Sama used to say.

Goka Keishun

1 On September 21, 1874, when I went to the Hiromae for the first time, Konko-Sama told me, "Keishun, I'm glad to see that you have come all the way from Bizen Province. Today is a service day, so practice faith firmly. I understand that you have come to worship for your wife. If you practice faith devotedly for a week, she will get well."

²The next day, while I was chanting oharai prayers at home, the folding fan that I was holding seemed to be dancing. Suddenly, my mouth spoke in a revelation, "Will you serve and spread Kami's faith? If you do so, your sick wife will be saved."

³After that, people started to come, claiming that Kami has arrived. Then the police came and halted everything. Later, the village office in Fujii† eight kilometers away called on me to appear. They exhorted, "We know that you are claiming to be possessed. Such activities have been prohibited ever since the Meiji Restoration."

⁴I stopped practicing faith, but my wife became sick again, so I practiced faith privately. I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae and said, "Konko-Sama, thank you very much. My wife has gotten better, but the village office called for me and admonished me sharply."

He answered, "Konko Daijin's Way of Faith is the teachings of Tenchi No Kami. This Faith will spread by itself. Till now, there was no one who opened the Way of practicing faith in Konjin. The name *Ushitora Kimon Kane No Kami* has been changed to *Tenchi Kane No Kami*. Practice faith privately for the time being. You did not establish this Faith, so you have nothing to fear, and you won't be arrested. This Way of Faith will gradually spread by itself, so you need not stop practicing faith."

⁵"Can I become your disciple?" I asked.

"I don't take any disciples. More and more people are performing toritsugi in Okayama and calling themselves hiromaes. Even while practicing faith privately, divine blessings shall be realized," he replied.

2 The name *Ushitora Kimon Konjin* was changed into *Tenchi Kane No Kami*. There is no one within Tenchi who is not receiving divine blessings. This Way of Faith will not decline even after millions of years.

3 People feared *Ushitora Kimon* because there was no one who gave teachings to establish the Way of Faith. Practice faith and depend on Kami, then you will be saved.

4 A samurai from Niwase[†] went to the Hiromae and asked,

“Isn’t the character for *’shi*, in the names *Nittenshi* and *Gattenshi*, incorrect?”

Konko-Sama said, “There is no one practicing Konko Daijin’s faith who pronounces it *Nittenyotts* and *Gat-tenyotts*.^{*} No one can forget *ichi-ni-san-shi*.^{**} *’Shi* is used so that people will not forget the pronunciation.”

^{*}*’Yotts*’ is another Japanese pronunciation for the character for ‘four’ (*shi*).

^{**}One-two-three-four.

5 A heart in prayer will reach Kami. Tenchi Kane No Kami has a web like a spider’s engulfing the world. If a dragonfly gets caught in a spiderweb, the web trembles and the spider is informed. Kami-Sama is like the spider. The Way of Kami is spun around the world. Even if you are hundreds of kilometers away from a *hiromae*, your prayers will reach Kami.

6 On my way to the *Hiromae*, I found that the Takahashi River was full due to heavy rains. While carrying an umbrella and a box lunch, I crossed the river by boat with two ferrymen and got soaking wet. When I told Konko-Sama this, he said, “Your wet body can be easily cured by drying. But a sick body cannot be cured that easily. Since the sky will clear up tomorrow, your clothes will dry.”

²Then in a revelation, “Heaven is the sky and Earth is the ground. People are born between Heaven and Earth, and when they walk, they tread on the ground. A large river flows with water. Heaven is above it, and Earth is below it. No matter how much you dig the ground, Earth

shall always be there. Water flows between Heaven and Earth. Kami is in Heaven, in Earth, and in water.

³Tenchi No Kami is like a parent. Depend on Kami, He will not let go of your hand. There is nothing to be afraid of. You will not die. If you think it's hopeless, instead of looking at the water, look up and pray to Kami-Sama."

7 There are rice paddies on the earth. A rice paddy is made from the soil of the land. And the land is ruled by Tenchi No Kami. Since the land will not change, even after millions of years, you are to keep it.

8 The present is the same as the past. The past is the same as the present. Regardless of how many millenniums pass, the world will not change. People and the grains they eat will not disappear. The seeds will keep growing.

9 Eating strange foods will cause worry. Eating normal foods will not.

10 Konko Daijin's faith has flourished. By practicing faith, sake can cure sickness.

²There was a person from near Ashimori,[†] Bitchū Province, who became an alcoholic. I, Konko Daijin, told him, "Offer Kami-Sama a cup of sake every day, and in the evening, drink that sake and receive divine blessings. You will be cured in thirty days."

He followed my instructions and received divine blessings. Alcoholism can be cured by alcohol. This is a teaching of Konko Daijin.

³Anyway, practice faith. In the future, sake will be taxed, but people won't stop drinking sake. Everyone will say that drinking sake has become restrictive because of the high taxes. But people still won't stop drinking sake. Therefore, receive divine blessings through sake.

11 When I was going to worship every month, Konko-Sama said, "People did not, and still do not, like to spend money. Do things without spending money.

²Since coming here to worship costs money, you need not come so often. It is all right to come here occasionally out of courtesy, but coming here every month is unnecessary."

12 Giving oharai prayers is practicing faith in the *Kurozumi* religion. In Konko Daijin's Faith, prayers need not be so difficult; simple prayers are enough. Even illiterates can practice faith and be cured. They can also receive divine blessings in their home without traveling faraway.

13 With its adherents always saying, '*Kurozumi, Kurozumi*,' the Kurozumi faith has flourished. However, while our Way of Faith gradually spreads, people practicing faith will increase, even after millions of years.

14 With time, the Way of Faith will spread. So practice faith by listening and understanding well.

15 Konko Daijin's Way of Faith will gradually spread, so instead of coming all the way here, perform toritsugi in your own home.

16 Speak about faith in a difficult way, and there will be no limit to what you can say. Speak about faith in a simple way, and there will also be no limit.

17 A man from Ikoshi,[†] Oku County, came to my hiromae. He inquired, “I would like to build a house.”

So I prayed for him and told him, “There is no objection, so you may build.”

But still, he went to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae. Konko-Sama scolded him, “Wasn’t your request already taken care of at Goka Keishun’s hiromae? You need not come all the way here when there is a place nearby.”

18 The more they practice faith, the more virtuous they will become.

19 There are many in this world who try to pass their lives easily by eating good food. But other people won’t let them.

20 To a man from Bitchū Province, Konko-Sama said, “Nine out of ten offshoot families* say that they do not have ancestors to worship. This is a major oversight. All people have ancestors who must be worshipped, even if the altar is in the closet.

²If they do not, their child will die, creating a newly-departed spirit. In your family as well, a newly-departed spirit has been created. Had you worshipped your ancestors, such a tragedy would not have happened.” The man was filled with awe.

*Offshoot families are those which break off from the main family lineage to form their own family line with the same family name. The first generation of this offshoot family line theoretically has no previous generation, making it ‘ancestorless.’