

- 21 When I went to the Hiromae in the fall of 1876, Konko-Sama gave various revelations. Then in a small voice, he said, “There’s the lunar calendar and the solar calendar. There will be a time when the 9th and 10th day of both calendars will fall on the same day. On that day, I will leave this world.”

Happō Matakichi

- 1 One day, I went to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae. Worried about handing down the Faith, I requested toritsugi mediation. Konko-Sama imparted, “Despite the present conditions, I will make it so that the fields and mountains of Otani will be full of people. Then your whole family will have to come here to work. Explain this well to the young ones, as they are too young to understand.”

Hatoya Koichi

- 1 They say this is a world of greed, and that without greed, living would not be possible. However, don’t be greedy.  
2 Borrowing and lending might be the way of the world, however, try to return what you have borrowed three days earlier than you had promised. Then you won’t fail to fulfill your obligation and you’ll be able to borrow again.
- 2 Instead of purifying your body with water, purify your heart and practice faith.

- 3 When I went to the Hiromae from Okayama, Konko-Sama said, “Here, it is far from where you are. Go to worship at Akiyama’s (Akiyama Yonezō) hiromae in Nishigawa.†”

Higuchi Shikatarō

- 1 When I went to the Hiromae for the first time, my father had been a heavy drinker who became ill-tempered whenever drinking. I inquired Konko-Sama about this and he said, “It is all right to go and buy your father his favorite drink. You shouldn’t tell him to stop what he likes to do. Just practice faith. You will receive divine blessings. I’m glad you came. Kami will put you at ease during the two service days this year.”

<sup>2</sup>On the service day of August fourteen, my father stopped drinking completely. Even during the days following, he wouldn’t drink a drop, despite the urging of others. He said that just hearing the word “alcohol” made him feel nauseous. He drank only sweet sake. Even on the service days of September fourteen and fifteen, he never drank.

- 2 In the spring of 1880, the whole family came down with a fever. Konko-Sama said, “Since Kami has no voice to speak directly to people, He will borrow Konko Daijin’s voice to inform them. He will save you.” We were all cured.
- 3 Since Kami-Sama says that He will look after the sick, you need not be at the sick person’s bedside.

4 Even if you have many, do not abort or discard your children by your own discretion. Abortion is the same as cotton growing, where you take the good plants and discard the bad. Kami knows how long or short the life of a person will be, but people don't.

<sup>2</sup>You often hear, "I raised four children, but they have all died. Now there is no one to take care of me." There are also those who had only four children, while others had as many as eight or ten, but raised only four. Kami will be the one to thin out your children, provided that they have a short life span. He will leave you with healthy children.

5 Your children may not all have a long life. This doesn't mean that they will die within seven days after birth. If a daughter dies before marriage, think of it as a divine blessing. If a son dies before taking a wife, also think of it as a divine blessing.

<sup>2</sup>If a daughter gets married and dies after having children, the rest of the family will be troubled. If one has a wife or children, he should pray to live until fifty. Then even after one dies, the rest of his family will prosper.

6 The Rokkon Prayer contains, 'Have control (*tsukasa*) to keep things calm.' This is not just a prayer for Kami-Sama. The head (*tsukasa*) of the family is the one who controls. He mustn't get flustered. Even when a family member is ill, the family head must stay calm. If he does not, then the family will confusedly turn to a shamanistic practitioner or a doctor.

Himeji Maki

1 There were many votive paintings in the Hiromae. Konko-Sama explained, “I had told a sailor that if he prayed really hard, he could receive divine blessings. Later, when his boat was about to be shipwrecked, he gave the Rokkon Prayer and the boat corrected itself. This was the divine blessing that he received.”

<sup>2</sup>He pointed to the sailor’s votive painting which depicted a boat about to be shipwrecked and something that looked like a *goshinmai* appearing out of the sky. Konko-Sama said, “Receive divine blessings like these.”

Hirano Goroshirō

1 When I went to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae on the way home from Kibitsu Shrine, Konko-Sama said, “I have recently been prohibited to pray, so pray by yourself, then go home. Just remember that sincerity is most important. Be sincere and conscientious, then you will receive divine blessings.

<sup>2</sup>Practice faith, and you will meet success in the future. Like having many branches with lush leaves, if you have many children and grandchildren, many people will attend your funeral.”

2 Once, when I was going somewhere, I went to the Hiromae and said, “Konko-Sama, you practice faith really well. In my case, since I am not a faithful person, I can’t practice faith at all.” Konko-Sama replied, “My sons also say that they cannot sit like this even for half a day.”

<sup>2</sup>“How can I practice faith?” I asked. Konko-Sama

imparted, “Practicing faith is not especially difficult. When you get up in the morning, give thanks and pray for a good day, as if you are talking to your parents. When you go out, inform Kami that you are leaving. And when you return home, give thanks for returning home safely. Also, before going to sleep, give thanks for that day. This is practicing faith.”

Hirano Tomi

1 When I was thirty-two, I had a head ailment which made my head cold. It later became so cold that I had to put on a heated stone which was so hot that it could burn your hands. When I was forty-five, I began to practice faith after being encouraged by Shiwaku Kiyō-san.

<sup>2</sup>In the following year, on the eighth of March, a leap month according to the lunar calendar, Kiyō-san came to my house and told me Konko-Sama’s teachings concerning childbirth. She also told me true stories about people receiving divine blessings. While listening to her, my head gradually got warm. It became so warm that I could take off the cloth and cushions on my head and some clothing. Up to then, since my hands and feet were cold, I had cautery treatments and the like. But from that day on, I stopped all treatments and even stopped taking medicine.

<sup>3</sup>In July of that year, my nose bled a lot, making me feel better. But there were still mornings and evenings when I would feel a little cold and not so good.

When I gave a request for this, Konko-Sama said, “They are the symptoms after a major illness. Look at the large

weeds growing in the field. You can pull them out once, but they will grow back again. You should always make diligent efforts when practicing faith and think as if you are pulling out weeds. Then the roots of the sickness will be eventually taken away." I later fully recovered.

Hitomi Mine

- 1 Don't wear a maternity belt during pregnancy. Also, gratefully partake any food without thinking that it will make you ill.

Hōgetsu Kensuke

- 1 Kami-Sama can tolerate the dirt on the altar, but not the dirt on your heart. Clean your heart and practice faith, then you can receive divine blessings as you wish.

Horimoto Rikichi

- 1 I worked as a ferryman from 1880 to 1882. This enabled me to go to the Hiromae three or four times a year, together with many believers. I would receive teachings each time. Konko-Sama often imparted, "Though you come to worship often, I have nothing to give you. My teachings are divine blessings, so after returning, convey them to others. Have people receive divine blessings. In this world, there is no one that doesn't belong."

Ichimura Mitsugorō

1 Nittenshi takes not even one coin, yet he is saving the world.

2 After praying to Tenchi Kane No Kami, you must pray to all kamis.

<sup>2</sup>*Izanagi* and *Izanami No Mikoto*, and *Tenshō Kōtaijin* and her emperor descendants, are all mortal humans. *Munetada No Kami* (founder of the *Kurozumi* religion) is also a mortal. They are called kami, but they all got their bodies from Tenchi No Kami. If they don't eat the grains provided by Tenchi No Kami, their lives will not continue.

<sup>3</sup>When you think about it, you'll conclude that Heaven is the father, and Earth is the mother. And that Tenchi Kane No Kami is a rank above all other kamis; the kami of kamis.

3 I will bestow Tenchi Kane No Kami as your parent. Think of Kami as your parent, and Kami will think of you as His child. Practice faith thinking that Kami is your parent, then Kami will think of you as His child. You know that if a child is not with his parent, the child may be bullied. But with the parent, the child will not be bullied.

<sup>2</sup>Since you never know when misfortune or disaster will strike, you cannot avoid them even if you want to. But if you have faith while thinking that Tenchi No Kami is your parent, Kami will protect you from disasters you cannot foresee.

<sup>3</sup>Since Kami-Sama is the guardian of Heaven and Earth, you cannot live without Him. You must value Kami-

Sama's protection.

- 4 Unless your heart is like Konko's, you, Mitsugorō, will not receive divine blessings. To practice faith devotedly, get rid of worldly concerns. Eliminate cowardice. Follow what I say, and leave everything to Heaven.
- 5 "Kami-Sama is a true blessing, but some priests think only of making money by selling amulets and placards to people, who are being annoyed. I do not do such things. I have no placards or amulets," said Konko-Sama.  
<sup>2</sup>When I insisted on receiving an amulet, I was told, "There are amulets in the rice paddies. Only things that nourish your body are amulets. There are no other."
- 6 You should practice faith. It is like going up the rungs of a ladder. Work at it rung by rung, then your gratitude will increase day by day.
- 7 People who practice faith hereafter should not be afraid regardless of how bad things become.
- 8 Since the beginning of the world, Kami has never spoken words for people to hear. Wherever people worshipped, their prayers were only one-sided.
- 9 When I (Konko Daijin) was critically ill, my relatives gathered, but they could do nothing. There was a father

and son to whom I was close. Because they thought I was pious, they couldn't bear to see me ill and not do anything. While the son was possessed by Kami, the father responded to Kami.

<sup>2</sup>Through the son, there was a message from *Kibitsu-Sama*. "When Konko was building his house, he committed an irreverence." The father retorted that there was no irreverence. The father was not without reason. This was because when I built my house, I had carefully checked the lunar calendar for auspicious Days and Directions.

<sup>3</sup>I thought, "I wish he hadn't said that I didn't commit any irreverence. My life is in danger." This is how I felt, but I had lost my voice and couldn't say anything. I thought how frustrating it was not to be able to speak, and I apologized sincerely in my heart.

<sup>4</sup>Then my voice and body loosened up, enabling me to speak again. Thus, we need not ask Kami-Sama through spoken words; we can ask him through our hearts, and receive divine blessings.

<sup>5</sup>Kibitsu-Sama forgave me and said, "Practice faith in Kami, and I will give you rice offerings." I received rice and beans stuck on a sacred staff.

<sup>6</sup>Kibitsu-Sama added, "If you practice faith from now on, you shall be in good health and have enough rice to eat for the rest of your life." I built a small altar and practiced faith wholeheartedly at home. People then started to come and requested me to give prayers for them.

10 A man from Shinden† came to worship in the morning and just sat in the Hiromae till dark. After all the

worshippers had gone home, he went forth and said, “My wife told me to go to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae and receive divine blessings, so I have come.”

<sup>2</sup>I (Konko Daijin) asked him, “Was it your wife who told you to come and see me and receive divine blessings? And when you say divine blessings, do you mean money, or rice?” “Aye,” he answered.

<sup>3</sup>I told him, “Although your wife has told you to come and receive divine blessings, Kami has nothing to give you. However, you have heard the words of Kami-Sama given to worshippers who have been coming since morning. There is nothing more to give. Even if you receive money or rice, it will soon be exhausted. But those words you have listened to since morning are bountiful blessings which you cannot load even onto a carriage or boat.” He just answered aye, and went home.

<sup>4</sup>Even one word of Kami’s teachings is priceless.

11 Giving prayers is not necessary, but I give them to ease the hearts of my followers. They come and expect me to give prayers, but when I do not give prayers, they wonder why and feel uneasy. If you feel uneasy, you cannot receive divine blessings.

12 Illness comes from Earth. All illnesses originate from poor circulation. At times, these illnesses transform into cholera and dysentery.

<sup>2</sup>The four seasons come in cycles. Illnesses appear with the change of seasons. Seasonal festival days mark the

change of seasons. The government says it will abolish these festival days.

13 Planting seeds in a paddy is known as *tane oroshi*. Tane oroshi from Kami is when the child, yet unknown by its blessed parents, is given a soul. The body is given by Earth. And the mitama soul is given by Tenchi No Kami-Sama. All the while, the child dwells in the womb of the mother, who is unaware of all this. The child later develops a complete body, and is born.

14 Konko-Sama told me, "Once, a person came and asked, 'Konko-Sama, your service day is on the tenth of each month, but this is the same as *Konpira-Sama's* service day. How about changing it?' I answered, 'I am not the one who decided the date. It is Kami-Sama who decided it, so I cannot change it.' "

<sup>2</sup>When I asked, "Is the service day on the tenth according to the lunar calendar or to the new calendar?"

Konko-Sama replied, "Either one is fine. It is so you will not forget your divine blessings. It is like a Buddhist memorial service for your deceased parents. If you keep it in mind, you will not forget your divine blessings."

15 "Kami-Sama told me, 'All-night vigils are fine if they are only for teaching faith. But since this Hiromae is along the road, people will ask for lodging. That's why you should stop all-night vigils. If many people gather, they will end up drinking and eating instead.' " said Konko-Sama.

- 16 *Kōbō Daishi* was a clever person. He put forth sound wisdom. He established the *Eighty-eight Temples of Shikoku*.

<sup>2</sup>Practice faith well. Think about it, if you don't practice faith in Kami, you won't be able to do anything. By not practicing faith, you will get sick or things will go wrong.

<sup>3</sup>The Eighty-eight Temples are like the wastebaskets in your home.\* All the troubled people will leave their homes for the Eighty-eight Temples. It is not that Kōbō Daishi needed all those Eighty-eight Temples for himself only. He had sound wisdom. Practice faith and try not to leave your house.

\*People went to the *Eighty-eight Temples* to 'dump' their troubles and problems. The temples also served as a shelter for useless people.

- 17 Ikeda Mitsumasa, the Lord of Bizen,<sup>†</sup> favored Shintoism, so he persecuted Buddhism and destroyed some temples. He was then punished by Buddha. Konjin does not discriminate between kamis or buddhas. Kami protects Shintoists as well as Buddhists.

<sup>2</sup>Shintoism and Buddhism are both within Tenchi. Don't be so narrow by discriminating against other religions or by following one religion obsessively. Open your heart, have a broad mind, and be a person of the world.

- 18 *Munetada No Kami* (Founder of *Kurozumi religion*) was a wise person. His Seven Commandments (*Kurozumikyo Shinkun*) were well-written, but they are not enough. We can add more, but they will never be enough unless we receive blessings from Kami.

19 In this world, *Munetada No Kami* taught about Heaven. And I, Konko Daijin, teach about Earth. Due to Munetada No Kami's teachings and my teachings, the world can exist in peace.

20 Compare Heaven and Earth and think which gives more blessings. Don't say it's Heaven. All your complaints about Heaven are futile. Heaven is the father, and Earth, the mother. Without the father and mother, there can be no child. After a child is born, he can be raised by the mother alone.

Ikeda Tomisuke

1 When I went to the Hiromae for the first time in 1873 or 1874, I asked, "What should I do when I want to spit or urinate while on my way to the Hiromae?" Konko-Sama instructed, "Say, 'Kami-Sama, forgive me,' then do it."

2 Wanting to leave on March 9, 1879 to make a pilgrimage to the *Eighty-eight Temples* in Shikoku,<sup>†</sup> I went to the Hiromae to inform Konko-Sama. When Konko-Sama prayed to Kami-Sama, there was a revelation, "It is all right to make a pilgrimage to Shikoku. Crippled people have returned healed, and blind people have returned with sight, however, some have also returned dead."

<sup>2</sup>I then thought perhaps it was against divine will for me to go. But Konko-Sama instructed, "If you lose your way in Shikoku, just pray, 'Ikigami Konko Daijin, which way should I go?' " Following this instruction, I was able to

find my way.

3 Konko-Sama told me, "Once, while I was grinding the mortar, Kami told me to dance, so I danced. Then when Kami told me to sing, I sang. Also, while I dried the barley outside on a sunny day, Kami told me to bring it in because it would rain. After doing so, it began to rain heavily. In any case, practice faith without doubting Kami, and act like a fool if you must."

4 "Even while giving the Rokkon Prayer, worldly thoughts enter my mind, making me lose my concentration. Did this ever happen to you?" I asked Konko-Sama. He answered, "Yes, that also happened to me. When it stops, it means you are a kami."

### Ikegami Tami

1 Since my body was rather weak, I had toritsugi performed by a woman in Soja<sup>†</sup> and received blessings. She also went to Konko-Sama to have prayers given for me. I recovered completely, and in the spring of 1871 or so, I went to the Hiromae for the first time to offer thanks.

Konko-Sama told me, "Konjin is not a troublesome kami. If you are sincere, he will not be troublesome. When a direction is said to be ominous, first ask permission and explain that you must do it in that direction, then proceed."

Ishida Tomosuke

1 In 1877, I went to Fujii Kichibei's hiromae in Tsuchido,<sup>†</sup> and was blessed with a cure from an eye disease. I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae with Fujii Kichibei to offer my thanks, and while praying quietly, I heard a sound like an altar door being opened. I told Fujii Kichibei about this after we returned to Tsuchido. He said, "If you had told me this earlier, I could have told Konko-Sama."

<sup>2</sup>In the spring of the following year, when I went to worship by boat, I told Konko-Sama about it and gave thanks. He said, "Even while I sit here like this, the altar door opens when the kami of the Izumo Taisha Shrine or *Konpira-Sama* of Sanuki<sup>†</sup> arrives. When the kami of the Izumo Taisha Shrine arrives, a gust of wind blows. And when Konpira-Sama of Sanuki arrives, a bell tolls."

2 Knowing the favor of Heaven, but not knowing the favor of Earth, is the same as knowing that you have a father, but not knowing you have a mother.

<sup>2</sup>If you do not build a solid foundation, everything will fall under.

3 Carrying a heavy load on your shoulder or back is burdensome. But practicing faith is not. It is easy. Have your everyday work be the same as practicing faith.

<sup>2</sup>People sometimes reject Kami, but Kami never rejects people.

4 If you fill up a bag onehundred percent, you will not be

able to close its opening. The human body is the same, eat only eighty percent of your capacity.

5 A cow is a farmer's treasure. Yet, people kill their cows thoughtlessly, claiming that beef will give them strength. If eating beef really makes the body strong, the world would have no weak people. While deliciously feasting, people inadvertently get tapeworm. They pray to Kami-Sama, and when they are not cured, they say that even Kami-Sama cannot do everything. This will not please Kami.

6 If you're on the top of a mountain and your stomach begins to ache, think of the soil as *goshinmai*, then have some. People are born out of the soil.

<sup>2</sup>Think of the water you wash your face with as sacred sake and then drink it. You will receive divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup>Do not lose the amulet in your heart.

7 Have sincere faith, then when those doctors and medicines become of no use, you will receive divine blessings. But see a doctor to obey the law.

8 When your wife is pregnant, she need not wear a maternity belt. And when giving birth, she need not lean against anything. She should lean wholeheartedly on Kami-Sama instead, then she will have a safe childbirth. She will feel much better.

- 9 Konko-Sama often said, “When you have an argument over the Way of Faith, be patient and lose. Think that losing will result in blessings. If you have won, think that you have lost divine blessings.”
- 10 Leave everything to time. Haste causes mistakes. You will stain Kami’s way.
- 11 Those who practice faith should crawl between the legs of ten people rather than going over the shoulders of one.
- 12 Faith is like dried bonito. The more you chew, the more you will understand its flavor.
- 13 Faith will be easier for those born hereafter. I did not have anyone to teach me the Faith. There was no one to ask except Kami.
- 14 Even I, Konko Daijin, cannot live forever. So if you have things to ask, ask now.
- 15 Living a long and successful life is the ultimate blessing.

Ishihara Ginzō

- 1 My children died one after another soon after being born. While having prayers given by shamanistic practitioners diviners, I was told that it was the curse of Konjin. When I went to worship at an *inari* shrine in Bitchū Province, I was told, “Offer a roll of cotton material every year.”

When my wife got pregnant, I immediately went to the Inari shrine, and my child was given the name Iwa. When I went to worship that last time, I was told that Konjin would be confined for me. Konjin was put into a miniature shrine which I carried home. But Iwa died at the age of four, and I was perplexed. Having heard about Konko-Sama from Higashi Miki-san of Fukudomari,<sup>†</sup> I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae for the first time.

<sup>2</sup>When I told him about my situation, he said, "I also suffered from the deaths of my children and gave paradoxical funerals.\* I can understand your feelings well."

<sup>3</sup>When I told him how I had Konjin confined, he said, "For humans, that is like being imprisoned with the gate closed. Kami-Sama sees everything at a glance. Practice faith with the gate open, and Kami-Sama will protect for many generations."

\*Paradoxical in the sense that usually the child attends the funeral of his parent, and not the other way around.

2 All kami-samas are kamis. Thus, you should bow whenever passing in front of a temple or shrine. You can escape from the day's evils through the virtue of the kami you pass by. Do not look down on other kamis. Even minor kamis have divine dignity.

3 One day, the believers that had gathered at the Hiromae noticed a man about forty years old, carrying a child on his back, who for several times approached the gate and then left. They asked, "Konko-Sama, what's with that

man? He looks as if he is coming to worship, but he doesn't."

Konko-Sama answered, "That man, with the deaths of his parents, thinks that it is a period of taboo. Therefore he hesitates to come to worship. Tell him that since there are no taboos or impurities in this Faith, he is free to come and worship." After this was conveyed to the man, he went before Konko-Sama and gave his requests.

<sup>2</sup>The man had two to three acres of rice paddies, but things didn't go well and he had to resort to selling his farming tools to feed himself.

Konko-Sama told him, "You seem to have accumulated many offenses. But you can practice faith without money or property. Though you think that it is taboo or there are impurities after your parents' death, it is all right to practice faith. You don't need any money or property to practice faith. Since you are poor, buy six sticks of incense, and offer two to Tenchi No Oyagami, two to your ancestors, and two to the other kamis.

<sup>3</sup>Meanwhile, about half a year from now, there will be a battle in Oshu,<sup>†</sup>\* and the government will enlist war service laborers. People will be obligated to enlist depending on their wealth. But the rich will think it's dangerous and not go. So take their place and serve. Since the insurgents will flee, this battle will not be dangerous."

<sup>4</sup>Everything happened according to what Konko-Sama had said. The government sent for laborers, and the man took the place of another. He received a daily wage from the government as well as some money from the person he took the place of. With this income, he regained the

wealth that he had lost.

\*The northeastern (Tōhoku) region of Japan.

4 Konko-Sama said, “People don’t construct houses facing the northeast because they say it is the Demon’s Gate. But if they pray to Kami-Sama first, they can even build a hundred-unit longhouse in that direction.”

<sup>2</sup>He further imparted, “Lie down when giving birth.” I went to worship every month, and a few years later, I was blessed with two healthy boys, Kamematsu and then Kinzō.

5 Konko-Sama imparted, “Receive the divine blessings of a good harvest. If you take a quarter bushel from another person’s paddy, you will be called a thief. But if you harvest an extra two bushels from your own paddy, you won’t be called a thief. You will be admired with envy. Reap more divine blessings each year.” I then planted about half an acre of sugar cane which grew and sold well.

<sup>2</sup>For a rice paddy where the usual harvest was seven bales per quarter acre, I prayed and got a harvest of eight bales. The next year, I harvested nine bales, and the year after, ten bales. I harvested the same ten bales the following year, but that year the price of rice rose, so with each passing year, I received more divine blessings.

6 I told Konko-Sama, “Everyone says that if one goes to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae, one would be told the type of rice seed that should be planted this year.”

He answered, “Even if I say that the early-season rice seed

is good for this year, people will not plant only this type of seed. And if I say the mid-season rice seed is good for this year, they will still plant other types of rice seeds as well. So when you want to grow a certain type of rice, offer the seeds and pray for a good crop before sowing the seeds in March. When planting in May, pray for the plants' healthy growth. In fall, when the husks appear, pray for plentiful rice. You will be blessed with a good harvest."

- 7 When I took a young man on one of my monthly worships to the Hiromae, we jokingly rated the beauty of the women we passed by along the way, saying how this one was better or worse than the last one.

Konko-Sama told us, "You had a very lively conversation today, didn't you? On the way home, talk about divine blessings." I felt very ashamed.

### Ishihara Minekichi

- 1 Around 1877, when I was a Hokkaido<sup>†</sup> fertilizer dealer, I often came to Tamashima Port<sup>†</sup> in Bitchū Province on business. This gave me the opportunity to go to the Hiromae and receive teachings from Konko-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>Konko-Sama once asked me, "Mine-san, are you here today to make a request or to practice faith?" "I am here to practice faith," I answered. "Really, well in that case, let's relax and chat for a while," he kindly said.

<sup>3</sup>Another time, I went to Tamashima Port for business as usual, but fertilizer prices were very high then. I asked,

“Konko-Sama, fertilizer prices are very high. If I buy, will I make a profit?” “Mine-san, Kami does not know. If you think it will be profitable despite the high price, then buy. But if you think it will be a loss, don’t buy. Kami does not know about these things,” answered Konko-Sama.

<sup>4</sup>With this, I felt strongly that this teaching was quite sensible and that it had to be from Kami.

Ishii Kono

- 1 When my husband Yoshitarō was renovating the house in 1878, he went to the Hiromae after being told that if he prayed, Konko-Sama would bestow blessings. In the following year, when I was twenty-seven, I went to worship to give thanks to Konko-Sama for the blessed renovation. He said, “Practice faith. When I am told that nothing can be done in a helpless situation, I just keep my mind calm and relaxed. You too should also have such a mind. When you feel helpless, don’t clamor about. Have a calm and relaxed mind.”

Ishii Satoji

- 1 Having met misfortunes one after another, I had the fortune of my house checked. I was told that since the ground surrounding the toilet brought misfortune, all the soil would have to be dug out and replaced to eliminate impurities. I did just that, and informed Konko-Sama. He said, “You can replace the soil, but there is no place where

you can put the soil you dug out.” I was deeply moved.

Ishii Tomoshichi

1 One day, when I went to worship and gave an offering, Konko-Sama said, “A shed has been built in front of your house. There are trees in the southwest. Practice faith, then you won’t need to cut them down.”

<sup>2</sup>My family had been discussing whether or not to cut down the persimmon and pear trees in the garden.\* I said nothing of this to Konko-Sama, yet he gave me this teaching.

\*It was believed that if these trees were in the garden, they would bring bad luck.

Ishii Tora

1 In a marriage proposal, do not concern yourself with family lineage or status. However good its lineage may be, if a family does something bad, bad things will arise. Practice faith.

2 Regardless of how much you practice faith, you will still be prone to sickness. Remember that there are misfortunes during the critical age.

3 Don’t be selfish or greedy. A way of life based on these traits does not last long.

4 Pregnant girls or widows should pray for a miscarriage,

while those with husbands should not.

- 5 When I brought my congregation to worship, we were told, “You spend money to come to worship from afar. If you do not receive divine blessings, the money will be wasted. Receiving divine blessings at nearby places is better. There are many hiromaes all around.”

Kageyama Tsurukichi

- 1 I, Konko Daijin, continued farming for three years after Kami-Sama told me to stop. I continued because I thought if I had stopped, my family would have met hardship.

<sup>2</sup>Then I was told, “You will stop farming from today,” so I stopped immediately. Kami-Sama told me, “You continued to work worrying about what would happen to your livelihood if you had stopped. But it would not have made any difference.”

- 2 My relatives often told me to stop practicing faith, but I retorted, “No, I won’t stop. It is you who should practice faith.”

“We won’t practice your kind of faith,” they would reply. But when they got sick, they started to come and pray.

- 3 Practice faith with a heart that feels like it is wearing formal dress. You will receive formal divine blessings.

Kajitani Yasuzō

- 1 Have faith, and you will have virtue. Practice faith.

Kanemitsu Umejirō

- 1 A bush clover got stuck in my eye while I was in the mountains, so I went to see Konko-Sama. He told me, “I also had an eye disease, but I received divine blessings. I applied some ash on my eye and was cured. You should do the same and receive divine blessings.” I returned home and did so, and was cured.

- 2 Once Konko-Sama said, “If you use sacred sake, even a broken bowl can be put back together.”  
I asked, “Then shall I do so?” He answered, “If you do, those who repair broken bowls will lose their jobs and go hungry.”

Karahi Tsunezō

- 1 In the spring of 1869, when I went to the Hiromae for the first time, Konko-Sama imparted, “You will be granted the main hiromae of Suō Province. Save the many who suffer from diseases and hardships. Spread the Way of Faith and save them all.”
- 2 Even if you have a logical explanation, don’t reveal it

entirely. Logical explanations, like a wedge, should be driven in only eighty percent. An overstuffed paper bag will break. The world can be at peace through *aiyo kakeyo*.

3 In 1883, when I went to the Hiromae with Morishita Kaneta, Konko-Sama affably told Morishita, “Respect those above you, and show a compassionate heart to those below you.”

4 In August 1883, after docking my boat at Onomichi,<sup>†</sup> I went to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae. After kindly giving many teachings, he said, “Karahi Tsunezō of Suō Province, if I, Konko Daijin, complete a hundred days of faith training, I will become a kami after passing away. I am depending on you to spread the Faith in the thirty-three provinces in the west.”

<sup>2</sup>These words struck my heart, and without realizing what I was saying, I asked, “Konko-Sama, what will happen to this Faith after you are gone?”

He answered, “You need not worry. Only my physical form will be gone. Having a physical body makes it difficult for me to see people’s suffering in the world. When my body is gone, I can go to where I am requested and save people.”

### Kashiwabara Toku

1 Regardless of how bad the person’s convulsions are, pray, “Konko-Sama, please save him,” then open the person’s mouth and have him drink sacred sake. You could go to

a doctor, but he may be out. However, Kami-Sama is never out.

- 2 When a disease like cholera is prevalent, people become afraid. But if you haven't done anything wrong, you need not be afraid. Even if you are approached by the police, you need not be afraid if you have done nothing wrong. If you have done wrong, you will become afraid and think that they are coming to arrest you. With the power of Tenchi No Kami-Sama, no net can ensnare you, and no rope can bind you.
- 3 Harmony in the family is like sacred music. Quarrels in the family are like storms. Storms, for sailors, are life takers.
- 4 Even in a big storm, ask Konko Daijin for help, and let the ship sail to where it's heading. If you sail to where it's not heading by trying to control it yourself, lives will be lost.
- 5 People think that they are under Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama's care only while they are alive. But they remain under His care even after they die. Since the soul is bestowed by Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, when one is dismissed by Heaven, one's soul will return to Tenchi No Kami and be in His eternal care. Since the body comes from Earth, it will also return to Earth and be under its care.

- 6 After lending money, do not demand it back and make the borrower go bankrupt. Practice faith and pray that things will go right. Have it so that he will be happy to repay, and that you will be happy to be repaid. If you sue and worry over the outcome, you will get ill and lose your life. Lose your life, and the money will be of no use.
- 7 Don't think that the future will be miserable and difficult. Instead, give thanks for this day. And give thanks to Kami-Sama for providing a roof over your head and not letting you go hungry or cold.
- 8 People concern themselves with minor things. When borrowing a paper lantern at night, and then returning it, they show their sincerest appreciation by giving little gifts. But their appreciation for the light of the Sun can never be sincere enough.
- 9 In 1878, I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae and brought five yen. "Konko-Sama, I heard that you will construct, for the first time, a new Hiromae. Though this is not much, I would like to offer it."  
With joy, Konko-Sama answered, "This money is from a sincere heart. Kami-Sama will promptly accept it."
- 10 Since I began performing toritsugi in 1878, the believers coming to worship have increased with each day. The head priest from the Kurihara Village Shrine then came and told me to stop praying. He took away the monetary and

harvest offerings. Mountain ascetic priests also came and took away the altar offerings, admonishing that unqualified persons should not pray to Kami.

<sup>2</sup>When I told Konko-Sama about this, he said, “Let them take whatever they want. Stop praying if they tell you to. Give teachings without praying while weaving or while sewing a kimono. You will save people by giving teachings. For everything, wait till it’s time.” I did as I was told, and received divine blessings.

- 11 Once, I brought some ripe Saijō persimmons to offer Konko-Sama. When I went to the Hiromae the following month, those persimmons were still at the altar. Konko-Sama revealed, “Toku, this is how it is when offerings are made with a true heart. Time will not change the color or taste of the offerings.”

### Kataoka Jiroshirō

- 1 My wife and I (Jiroshirō) kept losing our children one after another. The oldest child we had ever raised was only four. Thinking that this was the curse of Konjin, I had my house and land examined and rebuilt my house many times. I even filled the ditch behind the house and dug a new one. Our family had been well-educated for generations and never had financial problems. We were a high-class family in the district. We tried everything to avoid Konjin, and even had him confined, but to no avail. I then thought that since there must be someone serving Konjin, I should go and consult this person.

<sup>2</sup>One evening in 1866, a fellow villager named Ishimura happened to come by, and said, “Today, when I went to Ōmori Ume’s hiromae in Nakai† Village, I was told that there was a family in Saizaki† that must practice faith. She told me to tell this family to go to worship. Later, I couldn’t help thinking that she was referring to your family.” At that time, all the villagers were gossiping about how unfortunate it was for the Kataoka family to be ruined.

<sup>3</sup>I was very glad to hear Ishimura’s words and promptly went to consult Ōmori Konshi Daimyōjin. However, since she turned out to be an uneducated old lady, I felt a little disappointed. When I told her my situation, she told me, “You must go to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae for those things.” In February 1868, she took me to Otani for my first time.

<sup>4</sup>At Otani as well, I felt somewhat disappointed. However, Konko-Sama said, “You must be troubled by the deaths of your children. I have also suffered from deaths in my family, and made seven graves. Practice faith, and you will receive divine blessings. Why don’t we practice faith together?” He was full of warmth, like a benevolent parent embracing his child. I was deeply moved and began practicing faith in Konko-Sama.

2 When I went to the Hiromae for the first time, Konko-Sama said, “Konjin has been thought of as a fearful or curseful kami-sama, but if you practice faith in Kami, He will not punish. If people pray, Kami-Sama will listen to all their prayers and give blessings.

<sup>2</sup>Receive divine blessings that will be examples for people to follow. In Saizaki<sup>†</sup> as well, your prayers will be fulfilled. Consequently, people will receive divine blessings.”

3 Before practicing faith, I was honest, but I had a short and violent temper. When people did wrong, I would immediately retaliate. I believed this to be proper.

<sup>2</sup>But one day Konko-Sama imparted, “When people speak ill of you, you think that because you practice faith, you must endure it. Therefore you endure. However, this is not enough. You must also give prayers for them to reform their hearts.” These words touched me deeply.

4 The revelations I received in the beginning were very stringent. A man from Hirajima<sup>†</sup> came to my hiromae in Saizaki<sup>†</sup> and I gave him teachings. But he went home with doubts.

Later, when I went to Otani to worship, Konko-Sama spoke in a revelation, “Tell him that if he doesn’t do as Kami says, Kami will kill him as soon as tomorrow.” This was in 1872, when I had started performing toritsugi in Saizaki.

5 Konko-Sama gave different teachings to different people. He once asked me, “Do you like sake?” “No—I don’t drink,” I replied. Then he said, “You should at least drink a little.”

Later, my younger brother Jitsusa went to the Hiromae, and was asked the same question. “Do you like sake?” Jitsusa liked sake, and having heard my story, answered,

“Yes—I drink a little.” Then Konko-Sama said, “You shouldn’t drink sake. It will devour you.”

6 Konko-Sama said, “When I asked Kami-Sama, ‘What is death like?’ I was told, ‘Death is like a deep sleep, do not fear it.’ ”

7 Go along with the times.

Kataoka Umakichi

1 Konko-Sama often repeated, “You need not often come to worship from afar. Tenchi No Kami is everywhere, so pray with a sincere heart and receive divine blessings.”

2 When I asked for an amulet, Konko-Sama answered, “If you think this is an amulet, it will be an amulet. When going shopping in Okayama City, you take a memo to remind yourself what to buy. In the same way, take this home to remind yourself how to practice faith.” He gave me a Tenchi Kakitsuke.

3 Regarding construction, he said, “Lay incense at the four corners and in the middle of the site, then pray.”

Katsura Matsuhei

1 When I lived in Yanai-cho, Yamaguchi Prefecture, I heard about Konko Daijin from a door-to-door salesman named Aketa Kakutarō. My mother had already been following the teachings of the Faith for some time. She always urged

me to practice faith. I once heard Kakutarō conveying one of Konko-Sama's teachings. "If young people practice faith, their accumulated offenses and those of their families will be cleared away by the age of forty." I was moved.<sup>2</sup> To inquire about this, I went and bowed before the altar of *Konpira-Sama*, a kami I had been revering. As my mind slowly quieted, I rubbed my crystal rosary beads between my clasped hands and said, "If the Konko Daijin which Aketa Kakutarō believes in is a true kami, show me an even number ten times out of ten. If an odd number comes up even once, I will take him to be a phony kami and forget about him from today." When I opened my hands, the number of beads was even. And out of the ten times, it was even each time. I tried it three more times, and it was an even number each time.

<sup>3</sup>I felt apologetic and thought, "Please forgive my irreverence of suspecting Kami-Sama to be a phony kami. Konko-Sama has sent Aketa Kakutarō to save my family." I vowed, "From this day on, I will practice faith firmly and wholeheartedly." From then on, I yearned to see the Ikigami-Sama of Bitchū Province, and always thought of Konko-Sama's Hiromae.

<sup>4</sup>In the spring of 1883, I went to the Hiromae for the elderly lady owner of a flower shop in Shinyashiki.<sup>†</sup> Before leaving for the Hiromae, I gave thanks. "Konko-Sama, thank you for letting me realize my long wish to meet you." I then went to the Hiromae so full of joy that I felt like dancing. At the Hiromae, Konko-Sama glanced at me while kindly giving teachings to more than ten worshippers. Being my first time and not knowing what to do,

I sat unobtrusively in the back and just stared at Konko-Sama.

<sup>5</sup>After he finished giving a teaching, he said, “To the person from Suō Province, I’m glad to see that you have come to worship from afar.”

<sup>6</sup>I was deeply impressed by Konko-Sama’s divine virtue. While I was in awe, Konko-Sama quietly went before the altar and clapped his hands in prayer. In a prompt revelation, “Though you think that water is bad, don’t think so. Think of water as medicine. Then you won’t have a stomach illness.”

He solemnly continued, “Don’t say that water is the cause of your stomach illness. Without water, you cannot live even for a day. What is the earth made from? It’s made from water. Don’t they say that a single ear of rice needs a liter of water to grow? Be aware of the benefit of water.”

<sup>7</sup>I felt so much gratitude that my body trembled while I bowed. When Konko-Sama returned to his *kekka*i seat, he turned to me with smiling eyes and kindly told me, “Person from Suō, your doubts of I being a phony kami have been dispelled. This is good. “I was so much in awe, and felt so ashamed by Konko-Sama’s divine virtue, which could span across the nation, that I felt like crawling into a hole.”

- 2 When I took some believers to the Hiromae, one of them described his difficulty in paying his taxes. Konko-Sama imparted, “The town and district government offices are like the hands and feet, the police is like the nose, the courthouse is like the eyes, the prefectural government office is like the ears, and the tax office is like the mouth.

If you don't feed that mouth with taxes, you won't be able to sleep peacefully even with sturdy shutters. There will be disorder and your identity will be unknown to the government."

Katsura Mitsu

1 In 1882, when I was thirteen years old, I sat myself in front of Konko-Sama and asked, "Konko-Sama, why is it that I cannot memorize the Rokkon Prayer?"

He answered, "You can't? But you can memorize anything if you really try. Memorize the Rokkon Prayer and have your heart follow it. There will be divine blessings."

<sup>2</sup>Thinking that memorizing the Rokkon Prayer would bring divine blessings to cure my childhood sickness, I kept reciting the Rokkon Prayer with all my efforts, even while walking five kilometers over hills to the Hiromae. After memorizing it, my sickness gradually went away.

Kitamura Shōzō

1 I went to the Hiromae for the first time on New Year's in 1878 according to the lunar calendar. I went to pray for the safe construction of my house. At that time, my wife was pregnant, so I also prayed for a safe childbirth.

I was told, "If there is a household altar dedicated to Kami-Sama, have her give birth while facing that altar. Then it will be a safe childbirth." On the fifteenth of that month, she had a safe childbirth.

Kobayashi Saisaburō

1 On New Year's 1875 of the lunar calendar, at the persuasion of Asano Torakichi, I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae and met Konko-Sama for the first time. Konko-Sama seemed so divine that I felt compelled to bow my head.

He said, "Torakichi, listen carefully. You say that you are lacking in material things, but that is just not true. If you practice faith in Kami, you won't feel that way. Say *Ushitora Kimon Kane No Kami* and pray."

<sup>2</sup>While giving us a Tenchi Kakitsuke, he also said, "Think of this as Kami, and it will be Kami. If you don't, you can use it once as paper."

2 Konko-Sama said, "A man from Kurosaki<sup>†</sup> had a severe fever, but he was later blessed with full recovery. After coming to the Hiromae and offering thanks, he expressed his relief for doing so. When he got home, he fell ill again. Then three people, without clothing to maintain their purity, came to the Hiromae for him.

<sup>2</sup>I told them, 'Please tell him that next time he should not say that he is relieved. Being under the care of Kami, he shouldn't say that he is relieved'. When they were on their way home, a messenger told them that the man had died."

3 While passing through Tamashima<sup>†</sup> on the way to worship, I did a little sightseeing. When I reached Konko-Sama's Hiromae, he already knew this and said, "If you want to go sightseeing, come to worship on another day. Also,

don't make any idle talk on your way to worship."

4 There were forty believers accompanying Ōmori Ume, Kataoka Jirōshirō, and Nanba Nami to worship. Among them was a thief. Konko-Sama turned towards this person and said, "Don't come again."

<sup>2</sup>He continued, "You keep saying that you are poor. But poverty stems from your own heart. Don't pray to Kami to be relieved from poverty while creating it in your own heart."

5 When they pray to Kami-Sama, people light candles, even during the day. But Kami needs no lit candles. He will never enter a shrine.

<sup>2</sup>I'll give you this *goshinmai*. You may place it on an offering tray and revere it. It is only a piece of white paper. Kami won't make it difficult for you to worship, so you need not trouble yourself by coming here.

6 Go to worship every day to pray for that day. Go to worship every month to pray for that month.

7 Rather than giving special sunrise prayers only in January, May, and September, people should give them every day. Giving these prayers on only five (seasonal festival days) of the three-hundred sixty-five days is not enough.

8 When a person comes to worship for another, that person

shall receive divine blessings if the person unable to come does not.

- 9 There are people who suffer hardship because they are obligated to two lords and have to pay twice as much. Using this as an excuse, they haggle with their debtors to have their debts reduced. It would be easier if they stopped this haggling.
- 10 When there is a drought, people pray to Heaven for rain. But how can they expect to receive rain when they had not asked Heaven to store rain? If you pray to Kami's ground instead and think that it is Kami's, then water from above won't be necessary when it can come from below the ground.  
<sup>2</sup>Also, people usually pray for good fortune, but in this Faith, you should pray for a better harvest and for more than enough food from the harvest.
- 11 If you realize that you were wrong, and apologize sincerely, Kami will only scold you and not punish you. He will forgive you immediately. Kami-Sama always thinks His children are precious.
- 12 An education is unnecessary to perform toritsugi. A sincere heart is all one needs. Kami speaks through those who perform toritsugi. Even if they say something mistaken, Kami will make it the way it was said. There's nothing to worry about.

- 13 People should broaden the Way of Faith. Kami will grant blessings.

Kobayashi Saisaburō  
Sunami Sanokichi  
Toshimori Chiyokichi

- 1 Though their talents and abilities are all due to Kami-Sama, people still boast about how smart or clever they are and do not obey Kami. So they are scolded. Kami-Sama is the same as the government. If you say or do something wrong, the government will scold you. They will come to arrest you.

<sup>2</sup>And Kami will also scold you. There is nothing wrong with Kami-Sama or the government. It is you who is wrong.

- 2 People until now have thought that they must do everything in auspicious directions, even when giving birth. However, women still experience difficult childbirths. If a woman faces Kami's altar while giving birth, Kami-Sama will bless her with a safe and easy childbirth.

<sup>2</sup>When building a house or making repairs, ask permission by explaining that this is the best direction for you. Pray to receive Kami's divine arrangement. Then there will be no problems, and you can receive divine blessings to rest assure your heart. You can find no easier faith than this.

<sup>3</sup>You need not trouble yourself to come here. You can practice faith every morning and evening right at home.

- 3 A worshipper mentioned, “Konko-Sama, it rained heavily yesterday, but today, the weather is fine.”

Konko-Sama then gave words which made the worshipper feel grateful. “When it rains, it may trouble some people, but other people who depend on ponds for irrigation become joyful. A filled pond means that they can look forward to being blessed with a good harvest.”

<sup>2</sup>The worshipper, inquiring about the river-crossing conditions, said, “The Takahashi River is quite full.”

Konko-Sama told him, “By the time you get there on your way home, the boat will be able to cross by virtue of divine blessings. Practice faith while receiving divine blessings for everything.”

- 4 Receive divine blessings from Konko Daijin. They will never run out.

- 5 Don’t abort your unwanted children. As with vegetables, you may be thinning out the good ones and keeping the bad.

- 6 Following diet taboos before and after childbirth is unnecessary. If a woman doesn’t eat green onions and other particular foods because she believes them to be bad for her, she will become too weak to even eat barley and rice.

- 7 Staying up at night to plan the work to be done the next day is useless. Even if you had decided to work on the east side of the paddy, you may have to work on the west side

instead. The plans you had made the previous night would all be for nothing. At the start of each day, pray for that day, then everything will go well.

8 When I sought toritsugi mediation for my travels, Konko-Sama said, “Regardless of where you go, no one will be waiting to welcome you.

<sup>2</sup>Do what your parents say, then you will have a blessed future. You may feel afraid and frightened that your life will be taken. However, since your life belongs to Kami, it cannot be taken.”

9 When a person requested Konko-Sama to cure a serious disease, Konko-Sama said, “Regardless of how serious one’s husband’s disease is, he can be cured if his wife practices faith wholeheartedly. When the husband is sick, the wife is burdened. As in Chiyokichi’s case, when the wife becomes wholehearted, she will be able to go to worship with her husband. There is no instance where a person was cured by a hospital or medicines.”

10 Giving you a divine name is good, but now, there are no feudal lords, and people have been allowed to enter the Emperor’s palace with their shoes on. Since the time is not right, I cannot give you a divine name.

<sup>2</sup>Even without my giving you a divine name, you can know everything in the world by clapping your hands in prayer. Even without a divine name, you will come to be regarded as a kami by others.

Kōmoto Toratarō

1 Through Kataoka Jiroshirō's hiromae, I was blessed with complete recovery from ringworm. To offer thanks, I went to the Hiromae for the first time. I went with Kataoka sensei and asked him, "Please ask Konko-Sama to let me pray and offer thanks all night at his Hiromae for my complete recovery."

When he did so, Konko-Sama said, "Since he recovered through divine blessings, he does not have to pray all night. If he does, he may get exhausted. Exhaustion is also an illness. He should go to the inn and rest."

2 Ask Kami-Sama for anything. Kami exists to receive requests.

3 When you don't receive any divine blessings even while practicing faith, don't wonder why and be regretful. For example, if you fertilize your barley, come January you may not notice any difference with the crops that weren't fertilized. But in spring, the crops you had fertilized will turn out well. It is the same for when you practice faith. Do it with an upright heart, without neglect.

4 When my wife gave birth, she suffered almost to the point of death. Konko-Sama imparted to her, "Practice faith, then there won't be any difficulties in giving birth. Your childbirth will be so quick and easy that those living in the next room won't even notice. Don't lean on anything. Think that you are risking your life, and lie down when

giving birth. You will be blessed with quick recovery after giving birth.” My wife later had safe childbirths.

- 5 During busy times, such as the fall harvest season, even the women work and get their feet dirty. During such times, don’t trouble yourself to offer rice to Kami-Sama. It won’t please Kami. Instead, put aside a little rice in the pot and pray to Kami-Sama. Then mix the rice well with the rest of the pot. This will please Kami.
- 6 Your whole family should get along well and practice faith. When making *mochi* during seasonal festivals like *Ohigan*, the children come up and nag for some mochi. But you refuse and hit them on the head, saying that it must be offered to Kami-Sama first. This won’t make Kami happy. Give some mochi to the children first, then offer what’s left to Kami. This will make Kami happy. At another person’s home, if there are children in the kitchen crying and being hit on the head, even a savory meal cannot be appreciated.
- 7 You needn’t chant long prayers. In the morning, pray for divine blessings and for your family’s safety for that day. At night, express thanks for the divine blessings and safety received by your family. Chanting long prayers three or four times at one sitting will only interfere with your work.
- 8 When a child goes on an errand, other children may approach and beat him. But if he is with a parent, they

will do no harm. It is like passing through the mountains at night. There may be bandits, but they will do no harm if you pray to Kami-Sama, your parent.

- 9 Lose, and endure it. You may think it is foolish to lose, but Kami will compensate for your losing. Others will speak well of you, and you will gain virtue.

<sup>2</sup>Imagine the future of those in the village who walk with their noses in the air doing selfish things. The other villagers will talk about how miserable those people will have become.

- 10 Okami\* is a kami, and Kami-Sama is also a kami. Breaking Okami's law is the same as breaking Kami's law. Therefore, if you break Okami's law, you won't receive Kami's blessings.

\*Means 'government' in this case.

- 11 You must worship at the village shrine every month. Remember that the village deity is like the village head.

### Kondō Fujimori

- 1 When I went to the Hiromae for the first time, Konko-Sama spoke to me while changing two candles. "Kondō-san, when children go to school and learn how to write, we say that their hand has been upraised. But if their hand drops down, it means they are lacking. While being in front

of Kami-Sama and praying wholeheartedly, there are times when your hands will rise. This is a good revelation. If your hands drop down or feel like doing so, it is a bad revelation. It is better to receive divine blessings.”

From the next day, I received hand divinations and was told about the weather forecast and other things.

2 I asked, “Konko-Sama, the Konko-Sama of Urami (Kandori Shigeemon), whom I hear is your brother, is very particular about ominous directions and impurities. Even if the name is the same, is his Kami-Sama different?”

Konko-Sama answered, “It is said that a kami reflects the heart of the priest. Shigeemon does not follow Kami-Sama’s wishes so he is admonished.

<sup>2</sup>His grandchildren from Urami come to me to cure their stomach pains. Kami-Sama told me, ‘Disregard them. Their lives aren’t jeopardized. It is because Shigeemon does not reflect the heart of Kami.’ Even when I requested strongly, Kami said, ‘Have them be patient for a few hours. Disregard them.’ He doesn’t reflect the heart of Kami-Sama.”

<sup>3</sup>He further imparted, “Those who take care of Kami-Sama are called caretakers. And those who take care of children are called babysitters. Kami-Sama is like the child. Giving things to the babysitter will make the babysitter happy. This will also make the child happy.

<sup>4</sup>Hitting the babysitter on the head will make the babysitter cry. This will also make the child cry. If the caretaker cries, Kami will also cry. If the caretaker is happy, Kami will also be happy.

<sup>5</sup>Thus, the caretaker should reflect Kami's true heart."

3 "I am not an ikigami. I am a manure carrier. Pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. I just mediate requests to Kami-Sama," said Konko-Sama.

<sup>2</sup>When he went in front of the altar, Kami-Sama immediately gave a revelation, "Konko Daijin says that he is a manure carrier and that people should pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami. But through Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami's blessings can now be received. For thousands of years, Kane No Kami has been called a fearful kami. But through Konko Daijin, Kami has been revealed to the world. Konko Daijin is Kami's savior. Even for people, through Konko Daijin, they can now receive Kane No Kami's blessings. He is the people's savior as well.

<sup>3</sup>Konko Daijin is the savior for Kami and people. Give your requests to Konko Daijin. Listening to and obeying what he says is the same as obeying Kami. Follow the words of Konko Daijin well, and practice faith."

<sup>4</sup>Then Konko-Sama said, "Though you have just heard the words of Kami-Sama, I am only Kami's caretaker, so even if you give me your requests, you will not receive divine blessings. For everything, rely on Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama wholeheartedly."

<sup>5</sup>Then a country person came to the Hiromae. He prayed to have his high fever cured. In a revelation, "Trust Konko Daijin. You will receive divine blessings in a week. There is no cause for worry."

<sup>6</sup>It continued, "Kondō-san, despite what Konko Daijin

says, trust Konko Daijin. In an emergency, you need not say Tenchi Kane No Kami. Just say, 'Konko Daijin, please save me.' Then you will immediately receive divine blessings."

- 4 About the lazy carpenter, Konko-Sama said, "The carpenter has been here for a long time doing nothing. When people come, all he does is talk. Since Kami didn't say anything about this, I left the carpenter alone. But later, Kami-Sama told me to dismiss him. I told Kami-Sama, 'But he has been here for such a long time that he will have nowhere to go.' Kami replied, 'Give him a year's salary.' And that's what I did."

<sup>2</sup>I suggested, "I have heard that your Hiromae will cost three thousand yen to build. To raise this three thousand yen, I will have the followers in Osaka give donations." Then Konko-Sama said, "Kondō-san, you have not yet collected that three thousand yen. So you will still go back to Osaka and collect donations, won't you?"

A follower from Suō Province has also suggested that since there are three thousand families of this Faith in Suō, each of them should donate one yen. However, Kami-Sama told me not to allow it.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore, I told that follower from Suō, 'I am sorry to reject your kind suggestion, but if I were to allow it, you would force people to give donations after you return. Some would be glad to donate, but others would be distressed as they have no money to donate. And later on, there would be people boasting that the Hiromae was built by their donations.'

<sup>4</sup>Kami told me, “I do not want a Hiromae built by money that was taken from the needy. I want it to be built by money that was joyfully donated. I will find a believer who can do this alone.” ’ ”

5 In mid-spring of 1881, I went to the Hiromae for the fourth time. Konko-Sama said, “Kondō-san, this world has many irregularities. There are people who say that they will save others, but end up making them suffer instead. Some come and ask to borrow money. When they are lent the money, they say thank you and leave happily. But being too deep in debt, they are unable to return the money on time. The lender will then sue, and the borrower will suffer. This is not saving others, it is distressing others.”

6 Once, I went to worship with the Kinugawa Noodle Shop owner and brought offerings from many believers. While humbly presenting the offerings, I gave Konko-Sama a list of the donors. He said, “Since I cannot read well, I may misread the list. So if you would read it, I will write it.” I began to read it aloud, “Osaka, Higashi Ward, so-and-so street...” Konko-Sama then interrupted, “No, no, just read the city and the year of birth.”

<sup>2</sup>Kinugawa then said, “But Konko-Sama, Osaka is a big city. It has four wards and two counties.”

Konko-Sama replied, “Ha, ha, Osaka is big. But to Kami, it is no bigger than a poppy seed.”

7 A samurai from Okayama, who was a conscientious believer, went to battle in Ōshū.<sup>†</sup> His worried wife

frequently came to the Hiromae. I told her, “Kami-Sama will save him, so do not worry.” But she still came every single day.

<sup>2</sup>So one day I told her, “Since it is woeful of you to come every day, I will give you Kami-Sama’s revelation. First, your husband is taken captive. But Kami releases him. Since there is no place to escape, he goes through the floodgate and climbs up the embankment. He is seen and shot at. But the bullet hits the sheath of his sword, saving him. He escapes and boards a boat to carry him home.” Relieved and happy, she begged my pardon to go home and wait for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>A month later, her husband came home. While he told her about his lucky escape, she interrupted and told the rest of the story. He was amazed, and they both worshipped at the Hiromae.

<sup>4</sup>Kondō-san, pray wholeheartedly, and Kami will save you even when you are in a field of landmines.

8 Kami does not need a caretaker, followers need a caretaker.

9 In a revelation, “Follow what Ikigami Konko Daijin says. Then everything will be a divine blessing. Tenchi Kane No Kami does not have any relatives, however, Ikigami Konko Daijin is related to Tenchi Kane No Kami.

<sup>2</sup>The parent kami of Japan is *Tenshō Kōtaijin*\* Ikigami Konko Daijin was a follower of Tenshō Kōtaijin. Tenchi Kane No Kami told Tenshō Kōtaijin, ‘Please give me this person.’

Tenshō Kōtaijin answered, ‘He is my follower, and there

is no one like him. I will regret giving him to you, but since you found him, I shall give him to you.'

<sup>3</sup>'Thank you, I will take him.'

'But there is one condition, I request that he remembers to go to worship at Ise Shrine annually, so that he will not forget that he was my follower.'

Tenchi Kane No Kami answered, 'If he is unable to go to Ise Shrine, I will have someone go in his place.'

'Yes, that will be fine.'

Thus, Konko Daijin is a relative of Tenchi Kane No Kami. Do not forget this."

<sup>4</sup>Then Konko-Sama spoke, "Try not to tell others about this."

\*Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess.

10 When my wife and I went to the Hiromae in the summer of 1881, there were no other worshippers. We were the only ones receiving teachings. I noticed many ants crawling toward the altar. Afraid that the ants would get to the offerings, I noted, "Konko-Sama, there are many ants crawling."

He answered, "Yes, even the ants are coming to worship. They will receive divine blessings." Without even taking a look, he continued giving us teachings.

11 A man came to worship, clapped his hands twice, and said, "Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama, thank you very much. Good afternoon, Konko-Sama. Thank you very much for the divine blessings I