

KYOTEN GORIKAI

Teachings of Konko Daijin

III

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A Guide to the Faith **OMICHI ANNAI**

By Shirakami Shin'ichirō

¹ Shintoism, Confucianism and Buddhism each offer teachings which are good. However, I have now learned about the great blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

² Over a year ago, I started to practice faith in Tenchi Kane No Kami and while I practiced my faith day and night, I was grateful for the blessings which increased day by day.

³ I am still a novice in faith, and there are more devoted followers of this faith. However, because I am so grateful and want to guide others who do not know about the boundless blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami, I have written this and have titled it "A Guide to the Faith" (*Omichi Annai*). If you find my writing style to be simplistic and disorganized, please forgive me for I am not a professional writer. I have written down what I recall seeing and hearing about this faith.

1871, late spring.

Okayama, Japan

Shirakami Shin'ichirō

² This faith is faith in Kami, and is based on honesty. Its teachings about rewarding good and punishing evil are the same as those of other religions.

² Since people are born in the world that is called Kami's

land, people should practice faith in Kami.

³ When they encounter difficulties, some may say that what ties them to Kami has been severed.

⁴ However, if they understand and practice this boundless faith, they, as well as their ancestors and descendants, will undoubtedly receive divine favor.

⁵ Those who have doubts about this faith or ignore it like the blowing wind cannot be saved even though they hear valuable teachings.

⁶ At the Hiromae of Otani Village, which is about four kilometers west of Tamashima Port in Asakuchi County, Bitchū Province, there is a person called Ikigami Konko Daijin. He was a successful farmer in the prime of his life when he, for some reason, started to practice faith in Konjin. The more he received divine blessings, the harder he disciplined himself. I cannot find the words which adequately describe his discipline in practicing faith.

⁷ He is presently associated with the Shirakawa sect of Shintoism. His divine name, "Ikigami Konko Daijin", was given directly by Konjin. He revealed this faith to us, and is the founder or great teacher of this faith. I cannot fully describe the extent of his divine virtue which was revealed every day and night.

⁸ Konko Daijin was born in 1814 and is now in his fifty-eighth calendar year.

⁹ He is in good health, and he is gentle by nature. He has great dignity but is not overbearing. He is modest, candid and broad-minded. He sits at the Hiromae every day from

early morning until night. It is unprecedented for a person who was born a farmer to receive the divine name “Daijin” and become a living kami.

¹⁰Those who want to begin practicing this faith and have spare time, should attend the Hiromae, respectfully pray, and meet Konko Daijin in order to learn about divine blessings.

¹¹Receive the deep blessings flowing from Otani. How sad is the person who hears but ignores this!

3 Everyone knows about the blessings of Nittenshi (the sun deity) and Gattenshi (the moon deity), but no one realizes the blessings of Konjin, the kami of the earth.

² The plains, the mountains, the rivers and the seas that the sun and moon shine over throughout the world are Konjin’s land. Together, these three deities are called Sanbō.

³ Konjin protects the whole world day and night. Konjin is strict, as everyone knows, but those who practice faith with a sincere heart will come to understand Konjin’s gentleness, great mercy, benevolence and offer of good fortune.

⁴ Daishōgun, a deity who is greatly feared and whose service day is the third of every month, is also part of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

⁵ When Konjin lets people know of their irreverent or disrespectful actions, they become fearful. They say Konjin is an evil kami instead of acknowledging their own irreverences. When talking about an ill-natured person, they say “He is the konjin of our village,” or “He is the konjin of our town.” People should abstain from saying these things.

4 All people are born through the blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami. Grain and all other crops grow through these blessings. When people die, they are buried in the ground which belongs to Konjin. Thus, everybody receives divine blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami day and night. However, I have never heard of any shrine for Tenchi Kane No Kami anywhere in Japan.

2 Konko Daijin said that the ground is lent to various kamis and buddhas by Konjin.

3 There are some people who worship Konjin, but they make only a small, crude shelf for an altar, and only pray to avoid being scolded or punished. They never think of receiving divine blessings. They only worship out of fear. How can this be called sincere faith? Kami does not hate people.

4 Think about it carefully. You cannot do anything about what you have done in the past, but you can change the present without hesitation. You should free your heart and become determined to practice your faith so that you may understand the blessings.

5 Tenchi Kane No Kami promises, "I will give divine blessings so that all people will be free of problems in whatever they do.

2 "It is hard for people to keep working when they are ill. I will cure them of their illnesses and make their bodies healthy.

3 "When people reach the end of their lives, there is nothing they can do to change that fact. I can protect people and al-

low them to have a long and successful life with good fortune. I can also help their families prosper and avoid all problems in their daily lives. I will help individuals who practice faith to prosper, and all of their descendants as well, and I will help their ancestors and other spirits rest in peace. In addition, I will help people who practice faith to become a living kami.”

⁴ You can receive these divine blessings but if your faith strays, you will receive less divine blessings. Practice faith with a single heart.

⁵ It is not difficult to start practicing this faith. You do not need to write pledges or donate anything to Kami. You can decide whether or not to chant a harai prayer or sutra.

⁶ This faith does not believe in the traditional impurities concerning birth, death, and menstruation. It is good for people to have an altar in their home for worship but even if they do not, Konjin is in every home at all times.

⁷ It is acceptable to pray even when facing a wall, a post, or a piece of furniture. Pray wholeheartedly calling the divine names:

Konko Daijin
Nittenshi, Gattenshi
Ushi Tora, Hitsuji Saru
Kimon Kane No Kami
Nokorazu Konjin

And when you fully understand this is the faith you should believe in, you will then be a believer of this faith. It is truly easy to become a believer.

6 In this faith, the important things you should keep in mind throughout your daily life are as follows:

² You should show loyalty to the government, observe the laws, work hard in your occupation and be thrifty in order to pay your taxes. Being thrifty is important in this faith.

7 You should respect and obey your parents, and have them feel at ease by not causing them to worry about anything. Your family members, relatives, co-workers, and you should all get along well. You should be truthful with people.

² Believing leads to Kami. Kami exists in the hearts of those who believe.

³ You should respect your superiors, and have sympathy for your subordinates. Save those who suffer. If you meet an ill-natured person who starts to fight or quarrel with you, you should lose to him. To win by losing is the way of this faith.

8 Konko Daijin said, "When a person who is jealous and perverse towards you does something bad behind your back, you should not get upset or bear a grudge against him. You should forgive him for his wrong doings. Forgiveness is essential to develop faith.

² Do not get upset when a thief steals something from you. Believe that you escaped a larger misfortune by having a small one. Think that if the thief had stolen from other people's houses instead of yours, the other people might have suffered much more. You should be concerned about the thief's future and pray wholeheartedly for him to mend his

ways. Everything you do should be virtuous without calling attention to yourself.”

³ Kami will not receive your prayers if you pray in anger to make the thief unable to escape or pray to make him suffer for his crime.

⁴ All people are Kami’s children, no matter how bad they may be. Because of this, Kami mourns for and hates their wrong doings, but never hates the people themselves.

⁵ You should not ask Kami about where to find the things that you have lost. If they are absolute necessities, pray to Kami with a heart of love as mentioned before. You will then receive Kami’s assistance. Whether everything is returned or partially returned depends on your faith.

9 When you pass in front of a shrine or temple, you should bow your head with reverence.

10 You should be aware that your child is an extension of and a gift from Kami. A parent who has a hot temper sometimes hits his child, but you should never do this. When you scold your children, you must not say “Go away!”

² Kami does not like us to spend our pocket money wastefully and gamble. You should be prudent.

³ You should not think, say, or do anything bad; these are the only impurities in this faith.

11 Konko Daijin says, “People who do not know about this faith have trouble in whatever they do, including the con-

struction of their house, travelling, getting married or giving birth. They are troubled because they follow the Days and Directions to check whether the year is lucky or not, whether or not the direction is ominous, and if Kumaōji Konjin or other fearful deities are dwelling in a certain direction at a particular time.

² People often go to a specialist who checks the Days and Directions to gain permission to do something at a certain time of day when a fearful kami is absent. They try to deceive Konjin by changing directions and avoiding the ominous direction when they bring a bride to a family or when they travel. People try to deceive Konjin, but Konjin can never be deceived.

³ Although people may put a sacred rope up to repel Konjin, Konjin does not fear it.

⁴ People do not check the Days and Directions when they dig a grave for a person who has died, they just bury him at their convenience.

12 Those who practice this faith act quite differently from those who do not. People who follow this faith are not concerned about whether the year is right or not, or whether the direction is ominous or not, but do everything more openly. They can travel or do other things freely. They can do anything they like without checking the instructions and taboos written in the calendar, if they ask Kami beforehand and receive permission.

² Those who do not understand this faith avoid certain directions even if it is the direction in which they must go. They say, “Today, I would meet Kumaōji Konjin in this direction. I should avoid this direction.”

³ People who adhere to this faith and rely on Konjin are just like children who adore their parents. They say respectfully, “Today, I’m grateful because Konjin is dwelling in this direction.” Kami calls us “the children of Kami.” So Kami will neither scold nor punish us. Practicing faith in every day life is important.

⁴ There is no other faith in the world that allows you to do things freely without checking the Days and Directions or allows you to build a home in any direction, as mentioned above.

13 There are many examples of those who have receiving blessings, but I will write briefly about some that I have heard.

² A samurai who practiced this faith went into the Battle of Bōshū Province. A bullet went through his sleeve and hit the sheath of his sword. The sheath was broken but he was not hurt. He was able to escape danger.

³ Another samurai who went into battle was shot. The bullet reached the bone. It could not be taken out despite numerous attempts. Then he practiced faith, and the bullet was removed.

14 A farmer who follows this faith compared his unfertilized field to other people's fertilized fields. He found that he harvested more than the others.

² When insects bred in his field, he scattered sacred sake in his field using bamboo leaves and was able to get rid of the insects.

15 There was a blacksmith who could not work because his anvil was damaged. Before he got a new anvil, he prayed to Kami every morning and put sacred sake on the old anvil. Soon he was able to make good knives again, a fact which deeply impressed his co-workers.

² There are too many grateful things to write about, so I must omit many of them. No matter what you may do, if you pray to Kami before doing the work, you can complete your work successfully.

16 There are many merchants who have received divine blessings. A sake brewer's ingredients for the brewing process were about to spoil, and he was on the verge of bankruptcy. Then he practiced faith and poured a little bit of sacred sake into each container of ingredients. The ingredients became edible again.

² Miso soy bean paste, pickles, and other foods can become good again by pouring in sacred sake if they start to spoil. If you use sacred sake from the beginning, you will always be successful.

17 A pregnant woman does not have to follow the traditional taboos and wear a maternity belt, or make a special shed for the delivery. She may rest as usual in front of the household altar, facing any convenient direction, and give birth lying down. Kami promises to protect and allow her to have a safe childbirth. Believe in this faith so that you can better understand such experiences.

18 People fear smallpox and measles as a misfortune for children and vaccinate them against smallpox.

² People talk about impurities and abstain from eating certain foods when their children contract smallpox or measles. The person who nurses the sick child is prevented from taking a bath or dressing her hair. But in this faith, one does not have to worry about such matters.

³ You should do everything as usual. If the sick child likes shrimp, octopus, beans, persimmons, or alcoholic beverages, let him drink and eat them to make his body strong. If he does this, he will soon become healthy.

19 A blind lady who is called Mukai Myōjin lives one hundred meters south of the Hiromae. She is forty three years old now, born in the year of the Cow.

² When she was young, she suffered from an eye disease and did not get well in spite of various treatments. Her disease got worse and worse, and finally reached the critical stage. She then went to the Hiromae, and Konko Daijin said, "It is too late. If you had come here earlier, the disease would not have become so bad. However, if you practice

faith, you will not suffer any further inconvenience.”

Now she is blind, but can thread a needle either day or night. She can also weave, separate grain from the chaff, and knows the colors of cloth. She can do anything that other women do.

³ If you want to practice faith, you should drop by Mukai Myōjin’s house. I want you to know her precious virtues that help many people.

20 It is not rare for a blind person to regain sight or for a crippled person to stand again by practicing this faith. Any kind of incurable disease can be cured within a set time.

² When you get hurt on the road, put the sacred rice wrapping on your cut, if you have some. If you do not have any, you may put grass or soil on the wound after praying to Kami. The bleeding will stop soon.

³ There are too many stories of people receiving divine blessings to describe them all. For example, many people avoided disasters at sea or robberies.

⁴ Any request will come true.

21 Konko Daijin said, “In this faith, even when you get sick, you need not abstain from food or follow food taboos. You should drink and eat anything you like and strengthen your body. Kami said that there are no poisonous things which grow from the ground.”

22 A person who thinks he has reached the end of his life may actually have a longer life.

² Nowadays, however, when people near the age of sixty, they decide to retire from the active handling of family and social affairs on their own. Some of them say, "I can finally have peace of mind when I die, but no messenger has come to take me to the other world yet." They decide by themselves when their lives should end and speak as if they want to shorten their lives. It is silly to do such things. Those who think that they can receive peace of mind only after they die cannot receive it even after death.

³ They should reconsider their opinions by thinking about the people who have committed suicide for peace of mind. Those people suffer after death as a spirit and curse others.

⁴ People should be determined to live as long as possible and should have the enthusiasm to live until sixty or seventy, or even until eighty or ninety. Instead of being gloomy, have a lively heart. In the morning, you should get up earlier than the sun. You should also defeat colds or any other illness.

⁵ If you do good things based on the practice of this faith, you will receive divine blessings daily and have peace of mind. You will save not only yourself but also your descendants.

23 Kami calls all people throughout the world the "children of Kami." Kami wants to save us by bestowing an abundance of divine blessings like the light that the sun and moon provide.

² The more you practice faith, the more you will benefit. The more divine blessings you receive, the more you will benefit. However, people often complain that they never receive blessings or that practicing faith is useless, and finally they give up their faith. This is a big mistake. They receive no blessings because they have doubting hearts.

³ For example, people think it is irreverent to construct buildings or do other things in certain directions, or that if they eat certain foods they will be poisoned. Actually, if something bad happens or one becomes poisoned, it is because their hearts are impure. They should throw away their doubts.

⁴ When a believer started to construct a building after asking permission from Kami, his friends came to him and said, "You shouldn't do that." Having doubts, he again went to speak to Konko Daijin, who said, "You believe what other people say and doubt what Kami says. Kami never tells lies. Do whatever you want. From now on, I won't give you any advice." The believer was startled upon hearing this, reflected upon his doubts, and finally apologized to Konko Daijin from the bottom of his heart. He then constructed his building as he initially intended and is now very prosperous.

⁵ Whatever people might say, Kami doesn't tell lies.

⁶ Kami does not talk about impurities. You can construct a building or do other things in any direction on any day that you want. You do not have to abstain from certain foods during any illness.

⁷ It is wonderful. You are free from restrictions. So do not

fail to receive the divine blessings of this faith. Practice your faith and remember that if you do not receive countless blessings, you may be shamed because people will say that you lack sincerity. Disregard yourself, rely on Kami and believe wholeheartedly in Tenchi Kane No Kami, then you will soon receive divine blessings. You should practice your faith firmly.

⁸ There is a saying, "Valuable advice will be rejected by one's ears." There are people who do not know the true blessings of this faith. Some of them even sneer at this belief, doubting this faith and thinking it is untrue. That is a foolish and irreverent attitude.

⁹ The words of Tenchi Kane No Kami have only truth. If you doubt this, then what is the truth?

¹⁰ Although Konjin is the Parent Kami or Tenchi Kane No Kami, the greatest Kami of good fortune, people foolishly sneer at Konjin. When they do this, they might make this kami upset, their luck may turn bad, and they might suffer from an illness. As everyone knows, people have to make seven graves when Konjin punishes them. They will lose all their possessions and their houses will be overgrown with weeds.

¹¹ A person who is sick and bedridden will not get well despite the treatments of a skillful doctor or good medicine. He will not be able to receive divine blessings from any kami or buddha, or from shamanistic prayers, as long as he offends Konjin. He cannot be saved unless he receives blessings from Konjin.

¹²There are few who have not experienced suffering. People should keep this in mind.

¹³No matter how strongly a new house is built, Kami can smash it to pieces with one blow. The anger of Nittenshi results in a drought or storm. The anger of Gattenshi results in heavy rains or floods. The anger of Konjin results in an earthquake. These disasters cannot be prevented by people. An earthquake can shake the whole world and destroy it in a moment. The greatness of divine blessings shares the same magnitude.

24 In this faith, there are no shamanistic prayers to cure sickness or anything else. Therefore you need not offer anything, such as clothes, cotton material, or polished rice.

² When you go to the Hiromae with your request, Konko Daijin will pray for you regardless of the amount of offering you may give. He will give you dates for blessings in his revelations and teachings. Thus, you should listen carefully and gratefully.

³ There are no amulets or charms.

⁴ Konko Daijin said, "As we all know, the calendar describes the movements of Nittenshi, Gattenshi and Konjin for the entire year. Therefore, people might enshrine the calendar as an object of worship and only consult it instead of practicing faith. People obstinately differentiate Shintoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, etc., but the movement of the universe that is described in the calendar is the same all over the world."

⁵ Since this faith has no boundaries and all people are children of Tenchi Kane No Kami, they should practice faith within the religion to which they belong.

⁶ Though there is a broad, straight way in this faith, many often wander astray.

25 Some Shinto priests, mountain ascetic priests, doctors and fortune tellers may think that this faith will interfere with their work. This is not true. This faith is broad and it teaches that "All people are the children of Kami." Thus, Kami will never interfere with people's lives.

² If people practice faith, Kami will pledge to give them protection and prosperity in their occupation.

26 Konko Daijin's Hiromae is under construction, but he does not ask people for donations. He has never been greedy and asked people for anything, including money or other offerings. Many believers donate to the new construction, but Konko Daijin never posts a placard to recognize their donation.

² Some people might want to have a donation placard put up with their name and the amount of the donation on it. Doing so, however, will make other people think that they should donate more. These people may then donate more than they can afford, based on how much other people have donated, and suffer afterward. This is not whole-hearted faith.

³ Konko Daijin says, "Those who want to give donations should give as much as they feel like giving. Kami knows

everything in your heart.” The construction will proceed according to Kami’s will. You should not hurry, let time take its course. We should feel grateful for Konko Daijin’s deep concern.

27 The teachings in this faith say, “Do not hurt, worry or upset people. Save people and make them happy.”

² Konko Daijin tells everyone who comes to his Hiromae from places where there is a hiromae, “You don’t need to come all the way here. There is a hiromae near you. You can go there to receive divine blessings.”

³ All the hiromae are the same as this one. You can be at ease and free of any worries even during your first visit to any hiromae.

28 Konko Daijin said, “People have been going to shrines and temples for many generations. However, they only make requests for their wishes and do not give thanks to the kamis and buddhas. This is like constantly borrowing money from the kamis and buddhas without repaying it. This is being irreverent and committing offenses.”

² When you pray to Kami, the first thing you should do is apologize for your irreverences. Then, you should give thanks every morning for being able to spend the previous night safely, and you should give thanks every evening for that day.

³ When their child is ill, a parent will often say that he or she will do anything to cure the child, even give up their

property. However, most people quickly forget these feelings when the child recovers. They say negative things, like how they spent so much money on the lingering illness, without giving thanks. How rude it is to do such a thing. This is unforgivable. We should not forget the favors of Kami, otherwise the illness may recur.

⁴ The next time these people pray, they might be admonished for their lack of thanks. Expressing thanks is more important than making requests.

⁵ Whether you chant a harai prayer or a sutra, or make an offering is up to you. If you would like to make an offering, you may offer anything that people use except animals.

⁶ The best way to show your appreciation to Kami is to broaden this faith by helping those who suffer.

⁷ One teaching states, "If people who have nothing to offer could not practice faith, then no poor person could be saved from sickness or other troubles." We should be grateful to have such a Kami. Everyone should respect Kami and believe in Kami.

29 When you give daily prayers in the morning and at night, you need not pray for your own sake as the following verse states:

"When your heart reaches true faith, Kami will protect you even when you do not pray."

You should pray for world peace, the successful work of the government, a good harvest and the happiness of all people.

² Though it seems that your prayers are only for others, you will naturally receive divine blessings even though you do not pray for yourself. Practice faith whole-heartedly.

³ If you develop deep faith, you will naturally begin to know what is happening all over the world. People will respect you and ask for your prayers and mediation. If you are able to save them from sickness or other difficulties, you will become a living kami to them. People will think of you as their guardian.

⁴ Those who have just begun to practice faith probably do not realize that there are many living kamis in this faith. Living kamis are those people with devout faith.

⁵ Anyone can easily become conceited. Konko Daijin admonishes this type of behavior. We should be humble.

⁶ Many who practice this faith regret that they were late in entering it because they did not realize its blessings.

⁷ There is more for people to learn, but an uneducated person like myself is unable to explain more than this. I want all of you to learn more through your own practice of this faith.

Written at Niō-chō (Okayama City), by Bitchū-ya (Shirakami Shin'ichirō)

Admonitions SHINKAI

Edited by Shinto Konko Kyōkai

Toward True Faith

- 1 Being born into Kami's world, you should realize the blessings of Kami and the world.
- 2 Even though you realize the blessings of heaven, you should also realize the favors of earth.
- 3 Do not be disrespectful to your parents by forgetting all they did for you when you were a child.
- 4 Follow true faith while knowing the true faith.
- 5 Do not say something nice if you do not sincerely believe it.
- 6 Do not ignore the difficulties of another person after having experienced similar difficulties.
- 7 Anger casts a cloud over one's heart.
- 8 Do not hurt yourself through intolerance or aggression.
- 9 Do not behave improperly upon seeing other's misconduct.
- 10 Do not strain yourself by rushing things, but wait for the right time.
- 11 Do not be lazy in your work or live extravagantly when you are healthy.
- 12 Those who practice faith should have a sincere faith.

The Founder's Teachings KYŌSO GORIKAI

Edited by Shirakami Shin'ichirō II

¹ Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Parent Kami. All people are Kami's children. People should get along with Kami just as they do with their parents. It is unnecessary to fear Kami.

² Kami calls people "the children of Kami" because the relationship between Kami and people is that of parent and child. To practice faith is the same as to be in harmony with one's parents. Therefore, people should ask anything of Kami without hesitation.

² Because many believe that the twelve signs of the zodiac in Taoism control all people, many inconveniences are incurred and much suffering too. You will be free from restrictions from now on if you make requests of Konjin.

² The twelve signs are the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Hare, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Boar. These signs have controlled every aspect of people's lives.

³ It is not proper to try to avoid the punishment of Konjin when you build, make wedding arrangements, or move to another location. Instead, you should ask for Konjin's protection.

⁴ Without Konjin's protection, you would not be able to do anything. Even birds and fish could not live. Nothing will go well without Konjin's blessings.

3 When you build, everything will go well if you ask for permission to build a certain size building, in a particular place, in a certain direction, and ask to use the land.

4 There is no difference between those who practice faith and those who do not if they talk about lucky or unlucky days and directions. Everything will go well if you practice faith in Kami. It is like being protected by paying taxes. It is not good if tax payers and tax evaders are treated the same.

² It is people on their own who created the lucky and unlucky days and directions.

5 No one chooses the day they are born, the day they get a divorce, or the day they die. Yet they all talk about lucky or unlucky days when they find it convenient. If one practices faith, one can be free to do anything regardless of the day and direction.

6 Parents will never be satisfied if they cannot trust their child. They will be relieved only when they can trust their child.

7 The lunar calendar lists the ominous days and directions, but it does not say one should not build. People talk about fearful matters even though the lunar calendar provides information so that they can be careful not to be irreverent.

8 You need not worry about building on so-called “unlucky days” because Konjin exists in this universe to protect you.

- 9 The curse of Hi-Konjin is actually a scolding by the Kami of Heaven and Earth. “Hi” of Hi-Konjin refers to the Sun Deity. Therefore, when the Kami of Heaven and Earth gives you a scolding, it is very serious.
- ² If your mother is in a good mood, she will support you even when your father scolds you. However, if both of them scold you, no one will support you.
- ³ Tsuki-Konjin is the same. This is the konjin that goes along with the Moon Deity.
- ⁴ Most of the happenings in the world are related to Konjin.
- 10 The directions of the compass were divided into twenty-four sections and were occupied by twelve zodiac signs and ten fortunes. People have named the two remaining directions the open directions.
- 11 Before you dig a new well to replace an old one, you should hold a ceremony in front of the old well to pray to the Water Deity (Suijin). Then, you should ask permission to change the well’s location. If you only want to close an old well and fill it with dirt, you should make an altar to worship the Water Deity at another location. Or you may make a request and leave everything to Tenchi Kane No Kami. However, you should make a request to Kami about the direction of a new well.
- 12 You may worship the smallpox deity when someone in your family contracts smallpox.

13	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
	TREE	FIRE	SOIL	MINERL
				WATER

NORTHEAST Gate of Demon

SOUTHEAST Gate of Wind

SOUTHWEST Gate of Earth

NORTHWEST Gate of Heaven

The four Gates in Taoism mentioned above are also called the Gates of Kami.

- 14 People sometimes say that Konjin is in their house to upset their family. At other times they stay away from a house that is said to be cursed. However, those who practice faith should feel lucky when he is in their house, because they can expect Konjin to protect them and their family will become prosperous.

² There are people who say that they have been punished by Konjin, but Konjin does not punish. Those people interpret their experiences as punishment from Konjin.

- 15 There are people who construct buildings and make marriage arrangements as they please without asking permission from Kami. They think it is all right to do such things because they practice faith in Kami. Those people are scolded by Kami. Doing things as they please is all right, but they should also make requests.

² People ask specialists to check the Days and Directions when they plan to construct a new building. But these specialists check only the starting date. This is because they

know nothing about what will happen to people in the future.

- 16 If you rely on Kami for everything, you will have nothing to worry about in your life. If your children and grandchildren continue to practice faith, your family will prosper for generations to come.
- 17 Even though you ask shamanistic practitioners about your irreverences, they can only tell you what you have done in the past. You may be happy to know these things, but you will not know your future.
- 18 Kami teaches us to look forward to the future.
- 19 An almanac specialist can make a calendar for the coming year, but does not know about the blessings of Kami.
- 20 A well-educated person can look things up in books but still cannot do everything he or she wants to. A person who practices faith and depends on Kami can do everything he or she wants.
- 21 Kami does not make people do things with only their human power. People should depend on Kami for everything.
- 22 Society today is knowledge-oriented. People create logical explanations for events without recognizing the divine favors of Tenchi Kane No Kami. This is the reason why diffi-

culties increase. Logical explanations cannot solve problems.

23 Many people suffer from eye diseases because they are unaware that they are able to see due to the blessings of the sun.

24 People who do not have enough faith are people who do not listen to what Kami teaches nor to what their parents say. If they come just to worship without following the teachings, their faith is incomplete.

25 A scholar does not always understand faith. It takes practical knowledge to foresee the things in the future that no one else knows. This virtue exceeds that of a scholar.

26 We receive great blessings from the earth -- plants grow from seeds with rain and sunlight. In the same way, children are born after sowing seeds in the womb.

² After delivery, people will receive the sunlight and be washed with water. People should understand the favor of the earth. Therefore, depending on Tenchi Kane No Kami, a woman should lie down and rest gratefully after giving birth.

27 People say that some foods are harmful. However, they cannot live without food. Food is essential for life.

28 Kami will not be pleased if you arrogantly make offerings to build a new hiromae, or donate materials for a church, or of-

fer something to Kami. Kami will recognize your sincerity when you feel grateful for being allowed to make offerings.

² Kami will be upset if you say that you will build a hiromae for Kami. If you build a hiromae asking Kami to please allow you to build it, Kami will help you fulfill your request and help your family prosper.

29 You will receive blessings if you practice faith with an honest heart. You will be punished if you do wrong. It is the same for both Kami and the government. It depends upon the heart.

² Whether you will be awarded a medal for distinguished service or arrested for doing something bad, depends on your heart.

30 People with extraordinarily honest hearts and people with extremely evil intentions are able to receive divine blessings most of the time. Those in between receive hardly any blessings because of their lack of devoutness.

31 You should help people understand the teachings of this faith. You should not tell them what they must do. If they are told what to do, they will not put much effort into it. By trying hard on their own, they will receive blessings.

32 Just like first graders, new believers cannot recall detailed explanations. It is better to teach them step by step.

- 33 People sometimes experience misfortunes from offenses which have been accumulating for seven, eight, or nine years. These are called “misfortunes of seven disasters” and “eight sufferings”.
- 34 People sometimes have pains and itches. There would be no need to feel pity if they did not. However, illnesses that people say are chronic are caused by irreverences made towards the earth.
- 35 When you are sick, take medicine giving thanks to Kami, and then the medicine will work well.
- ² Good medicine taken two to three times will work even for those who do not have faith. If it does not work well after taking it for seven days, it is not a good medicine for your illness.
- ³ Taking medicine which is not good for your illness will cause your stomach to gradually weaken. You will not be able to eat and your health will deteriorate. Then, finally, you will die.
- 36 By eating what you want and strengthening your body, you will regain your health.
- ² There is the medicine of time. If you take good care of yourself by allowing time to be your medicine, you will regain your health.
- ³ It is said that there are other effective medicines, namely the foods that you like.

37 When you are weak from illness, offer hard-to-digest or oily foods to the altar, then eat them.

² If you wish, you may also take a bath during your illness. It is the same as taking a bath after delivery. However, if you think you should not, then do not. Even when you have swelling or a wound, you will be able to take a bath by praying sincerely.

38 When you are ill from old age, practice faith and pray for a divine arrangement. Then you will be able to die peacefully.

39 Some people say that they can gain strength by drinking cow's milk. They will not gain strength just from the milk of an animal who eats only grass and straw.

40 Before arranging a marriage, some people check the backgrounds of the women who nursed the bride and the groom. However, today there are people who were raised drinking cow's milk. Confusing, is it not?

41 There is a teaching that you should strengthen your body (tai) during the first three days of the New Year, but this teaching does not mean that you should eat sea bream (tai) on New Year's Day. It means that you should celebrate New Year's Day harmoniously and joyfully with your family and strengthen your body by eating your favorite foods, so that you will be healthy all year long.

- 42 People can receive blessings by praying wholeheartedly to any kami or buddha. However, if their request is beyond that kami or buddha's power, the kami or buddha will ask Tenchi Kane No Kami for help.
- 43 If you look down on a disciple of the Founder or a minister, that person will become unworthy of respect. However, if you treat him with respect, he will become a respectable person.
- 44 You should even teach this faith to priests and monks, so that they may practice it.
- 45 Blessings have no limit, just as the ability to become richer has no end.
- 46 There is a saying that plants only grow in fields where seeds are sown. If you sow good seeds, you will have a good crop. It is the same for bad seeds. And if you do not plant anything, nothing will grow.
- 47 If a farmer practices faith in his daily life, his field will not be damaged even in a big storm.
- 48 A believer will become prosperous if he practices his faith based on honesty and conscientious sincerity.
- 49 A minister can receive more of Kami's favor and attract more followers if he can practice his faith and eliminates his

feelings of wanting, regret, hate or attachment. Doing this establishes the sincerity of his faith.

- 50 Ascetic priests and shamanistic practitioners just give prayers when they receive requests. They never teach faith to others.

² Tenchi Kane No Kami taught Konko Daijin, “Let people pray for anything. If one practices faith of his own will, his life will be at ease. His faith will be succeeded by his children and grandchildren, and his whole family will become prosperous.”

- 51 A minister should be free from human ways of thinking and have the heart of Kami. Do not lose Kami’s heart.

Instructions of the Faith SHINKUN

Edited by Konkokyo Headquarters

I - General Principles

- 1 On this day, pray single heartedly. The divine favor depends upon one's own heart.
- 2 Practice the true way of faith and eliminate doubt. You are allowed to live in the midst of divine virtue.
- 3 Know that heaven and earth will be your eternal home while you are living and even after you die.
- 4 Trust in heaven and depend on earth.
- 5 Kami is the parent of us all. Faith is the same as showing respect to your parents.
- 6 There is neither day nor night, near nor far for Kami. Pray with a sincere heart anytime, anywhere.
- 7 Tenchi Kane No Kami protects both pure and impure places. Do not have impurities in your heart.
- 8 Do spiritual training rather than ascetic practices.
- 9 There is no place on earth which does not receive the virtue of Tenchi Kane No Kami.
- 10 Do not defile Kami's ground.
- 11 From now on, you need not be concerned with the Days and Directions. Follow the faith that Tenchi Kane No Kami has taught.
- 12 You cannot control your life the way you want. Know that your life is of Kami and the world.

- 13 Food is made and provided by Tenchi Kane No Kami to sustain one's life.
- 14 Do not say it is a miracle when you receive divine blessings by practicing faith.
- 15 It is strange not to receive divine blessings when practicing faith.
- 16 Do not despise other deities when revering the kami whom you believe in solely.
- 17 Those who practice faith should be aware of the true virtue of Kami.
- 18 Do not be tormented by succumbing to selfish desires.
- 19 Seasonal changes are beyond human control. Leave everything to time.
- 20 Man cannot completely comprehend the matters of the universe. You should be filled with awe.

II - How to Develop Faith

- 1 The foundation of faith is to be in harmony with one's family.
- 2 Upon practicing true faith, clear away all doubt from your heart.
- 3 A heart filled with gratitude is the beginning of divine blessings.
- 4 Receive divine virtue and acquire human virtue.
- 5 Practicing faith and gaining divine virtue will let you live a long life.
- 6 You should save yourself with your own heart.

- 7 Those who practice faith must be sincere in whatever they do.
- 8 If you follow true faith, you should put aside your physical eyes and open your spiritual eyes.
- 9 People do not know Kami's heart in the same way that children do not know their parents' hearts.
- 10 People without faith in Kami are the same as those who do not respect their parents, or those who are immoral.
- 11 Eliminate selfish desires, and recognize true faith.
- 12 Whether you save or kill yourself depends upon your own heart.
- 13 Overeating and overdrinking are the causes for becoming unable to eat or drink.
- 14 Food becomes medicine or poison depending on your heart.
- 15 Always be grateful for whatever you eat or drink.
- 16 Pray for your good health.
- 17 Strengthen your body. Good health is the basis of everything.
- 18 Instead of worrying, practice faith.
- 19 Realize that people have limitations. You cannot see through closed doors.
- 20 Do not become lax in practicing your faith, even when healthy.
- 21 Faith is to polish the gem in your heart.
- 22 Young people should not allow evil ideas to invade their heart.
- 23 Conceit leads to major failure.
- 24 Be careful not to be tormented by yourself.

- 25 Give in to the people who go against you and leave it up to time.
- 26 Do not become upset and disturbed over the past.
- 27 Do not speak nicely with hate in your heart.
- 28 Those practicing faith always need to maintain Kami in their hearts.
- 29 The Kami you hold in your heart can never be tarnished.
- 30 You should be aware that Kami protects you in the same way as you love your child.
- 31 Have faith and do your work in good health. It serves the world.
- 32 If there is an impurity, you should apologize for the impurity before making a request of Kami.
- 33 Which individual is more important, you or someone else?
All are human beings.
- 34 There is no one in this world who does not belong.
- 35 Do not have a deceitful heart.
- 36 When selecting a spouse, do not be concerned about superficial qualities, but be sure of the sincerity of their heart.
- 37 In a marriage proposal, instead of inquiring into the social status or family lineage, ask about the personal character of the concerned.
- 38 Do not think that you give birth through your own strength. Everything is done through the blessings of the Parent Kami.
- 39 During pregnancy, instead of wearing the traditional maternity band, wear a band of sincerity around your heart.
- 40 While giving birth, lean on Kami instead of leaning on anything else.

- 41 Abandon doubts and have faith. Divine blessings are in one's heart.
- 42 You cannot control your life as you wish.
- 43 Having or not having impurities depends upon your heart.
- 44 Whether or not your prayers are answered by divine blessings depends upon your heart.
- 45 Being careful is the cane that prevents you from falling down.
- 46 Look forward to the future without saying negative things.
- 47 Instead of thinking about the pain you feel, be thankful and pray to receive blessings.
- 48 The poorest people are those who know neither Kami's teachings nor the true faith.
- 49 Because Kami can neither be heard nor seen, the room for doubt has no limits. Abandon all doubt.
- 50 Teach and pass on the true faith to future generations without losing or straying from it.

Selected Teachings of Konko Daijin **KONKO KYŌSO GORIKAI**

Edited by Konkokyo Headquarters

- 1 Now, hear the sound of the Universe opening and be awakened.
- 2 Divine virtue will be with you even after death and passed down to future generations. It can be received by anyone who practices faith. Divine virtue is never exhausted.
- 3 Although people live between heaven and earth, they are unaware of Kami's blessings. Shrines, temples, and houses all stand on Kami's land. Without realizing this, people consult the Days and Directions and are disrespectful to Kami. They suffer hardships due to these offenses.
 - ² Tenchi Kane No Kami has sent Ikigami Konko Daijin to provide blessings and teachings so that mankind may prosper. Kami is Kami because of man, and man is man because of Kami. Both are fulfilled through this mutual relationship.
- 4 Through Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami's blessings can now be received. Through Konko Daijin, Kami has been revealed to the world. Konko Daijin works for the benefit of Kami and people.
 - ² Follow the words of Konko Daijin carefully and practice faith. In an emergency, you need not say, "Tenchi Kane No

Kami!” Just say, “Konko Daijin, please help me,” and you will receive divine blessings.

5 Until now, Kami has never spoken words for people to hear. Wherever people worshipped, their prayers were only one-sided. People can receive divine blessings if they pray single-heartedly, because Kami lives in their hearts.

² Practice faith in a living kami. Since the beginning of time, neither heaven nor earth has ever stopped its constant activities. The kami that Konko Daijin prays to single-heartedly is Tenchi Kane No Kami.

6 Although Kami cannot be seen, you are constantly walking within and through the midst of Kami. Even while fertilizing a field or walking along a path, you are in Tenchi Kane No Kami’s hiromae. The whole world is Tenchi Kane No Kami’s hiromae.

7 Tenchi Kane No Kami is a kami that has existed since the beginning of time, not anytime inbetween. The universe is not a passing fad. Something which is not a fad will not end. It is essential to have a heart like that of the Universe.

² Even those without faith receive Kami’s blessings.

8 Parents have more concern for children who are disobedient. In the same way, Kami has more concern for those with less faith. Practice faith and receive divine blessings.

- 9 Tenchi Kane No Kami does not look down upon other religions. Those who practice faith should not be narrow-minded. Have an open heart. Be broad-minded about the world. The world is in your own heart.
- 10 Should Tenchi Kane No Kami enter a shrine, the world would turn dark.
- 11 Since Kami is one with heaven and earth, you cannot live without Kami.
- 12 If you want to meet Kami, just step out of your house and look around you. The sky above is Kami and the ground below is Kami.
- 13 Kami will give you the divine virtue to double your strength.
- 14 Kami dislikes fields or estates that have been deserted.
- 15 Offerings made sincerely are accepted by Kami with pleasure, but Kami is not pleased by burdening people with compulsory donations and contributions.
- 16 It is said that death occurs without respect to time. In this faith, death is a respecter of time.
- 17 You may think that the bond between yourself and Kami has been broken. However, Kami will never break the bond with you. Be sure that you do not break the bond.

18 Though people call me (*Konko Daijin*) “kami,” I am not the only one. All people who come here are the children of Kami. To be an *ikigami* is to have Kami born within you. I was the first to receive such divine blessings. You can all receive divine blessings in the same way.

19 After Konko Daijin’s physical form is gone, Konko Daijin will go wherever asked.

20 Konko Daijin tells how he has received blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami. For those who doubt and do not listen to what Konko Daijin says, let them be. They will receive divine blessings when the time comes.

² You will understand this when you have children. Children who do not listen to their parents are most distressing. Parents can do nothing for children who do not listen to them.

21 Practice faith. Practicing faith means to direct your heart towards Kami. Though you are surrounded by divine virtue, you will not receive blessings unless you have faith.

² Even a lamp full of oil cannot give light without a wick. Without light, the night would be dark. Without faith, the world would be dark.

22 Tenchi Kane No Kami sees everything in heaven and earth in a single glance. Kami bestows blessings equally. However, the blessings will be lost if the receiver is not ready.

² If you want to receive divine virtue fully, you must have a heart that accepts everything. In other words, you must have a heart that accepts even death.

23 Faith is realized when the follower and Kami become close. Faith will fade if you stand in fear of Kami. Stay close to Kami.

24 Practicing a faith which is forced on you by others is a faith which is not genuine. A faith that is not your own is easily lost. Practice true faith with devotion.

² People speak of practicing faith together. A stone that cannot be lifted by one person can be lifted by the combined strength of many calling out in unison. Therefore, let all the members of a family join together in practicing faith.

25 It is good to have faith that is broad. Wavering faith is of no value. Do not let your faith go astray. Stand firm with single-hearted faith.

26 You do not need anyone else to practice faith. You should practice faith on your own. If you need someone else to practice faith, you will also need someone to die with you. However, no one is willing to die with you.

² To practice faith is to live day to day.

27 People have often wondered why a man who is honest and like a kami or buddha is often afflicted with many misfortunes.

² There is a difference between a good, honest person who does not do wrong and a person who has received divine blessings through faith.

28 When a sick person or a person suffering from hardships generation after generation receives Kami's blessings, it is like cleaning out a well. If you get tired and stop after taking out only eighty or ninety percent of the old water, it will not be clean. Then, of course, the water will still be dirty. It is the same in practicing faith. If you quit midway, you will not be able to eliminate the roots of the sickness or suffering.

² Take out the dirty water until the well is completely clean. Practice faith wholeheartedly with a cheerful heart for good health and prosperity until the roots of sickness and suffering are cut away completely.

29 Practice faith like a plum blossom rather than a cherry blossom. Cherry blossoms fall quickly. Plum blossoms endure the cold of winter and do not fall quickly.

30 Many place their trust in Kami, but Kami places trust in only a few.

31 Those who practice faith should feel grateful even upon rising from a tree stump on which they have sat and rested.

32 People will receive divine blessings if they pray to the earth while picking their vegetables.

² Also, if those vegetables are boiled and eaten with a grateful heart, there will be no illness.

33 Offerings are not what brings divine blessings.

34 Many people come to the Hiromae to worship, but only a few follow what they are told. After returning home most people just do what they want, and receive no divine blessings. On the way home, they lose Kami's teachings by distorting them to suit themselves. They then blame Kami.

² Even one word of Kami's teachings is priceless. Receive Kami's words in gratitude, then your gift will be divine virtue so great that it cannot be loaded onto even a boat or cart. Renewing your heart is important.

³ Believing wholeheartedly in Kami means there is no wavering.

35 For faith daily renewal is most important. Live each day with the same happy heart you have on New Year's Day. When the sun sets, think that it is the last day of the year. When the sun rises, think that it is New Year's Day. If you are happy every day, there will be no discord in the family.

36 Practicing faith in many deities is practicing faith in excess.

² When asking someone to do a favor, if you rely on one person, he will do all he can to fulfill it. If you ask many, they will discuss how to fulfill your request and things will

not go smoothly. When hiring carpenters, there must be a chief carpenter. Plants, also, have only one central core.

³ If you practice faith with such a single heart, you will immediately receive divine blessings.

37 Your lifetime is a training period of faith. It is like the scholar who growing old will wear glasses to pursue his studies.

38 People talk of purification, but instead of purifying your body, purify your heart and practice faith.

39 The religious training of this faith does not involve traditional physical austerities. Doing your everyday work is religious training.

40 Carrying a heavy load on your shoulders or back may be burdensome, but practicing faith is not. It is easy. Practice faith while you do your daily work.

41 Just listening to teachings is not enough. You should develop faith from within yourself.

42 If you wonder why you are having troubles despite your devout faith, your faith has stopped. Think that it is because you are lacking in faith, and practice faith single-heartedly. Then you can receive divine blessings.

- 43 You can not help but receive divine blessings even after death. Pray even at the moment of death.
- 44 Even a fox or badger would be happy to be revered as a kami. People, who are the masters of all living things, should practice faith looking forward to becoming a kami after death.
- 45 People say, “Do not trample the grain. If you stomp on it, you will become blind.” The grain bows lower as it grows.
² When people amass fortunes or are called “Reverend,” they tend to forget to bow their heads. Those who practice faith should become more humble as they receive more virtue.
³ The nail that juts out is apt to be driven in. So it is often said not to bang your head. Banging one’s head against heaven is the worst thing. You may think that heaven is high above and it is impossible to bang your head. But be careful. Kami may not scold with a raised voice or extended hand. However, if you are arrogant, divine blessings are surely withdrawn.
- 46 Being cured is not a blessing. Having good health is.
- 47 If people prayed before taking medicine, blessings would be quick. Instead, however, they take medicine before praying, so there are no divine blessings.