

or wooden cane will easily break or bend. Therefore, the most dependable way is to use Kami as your cane.”

<sup>2</sup> Indeed, the most reliable way is to ask Kami to be your cane. Since that time, I have stopped using the iron cane and instead rely on Kami like a cane. This is the cane which I depend on and use in my heart. This is just like winning a battle without having a weapon.

81 Do not speak idly on your way to visit the hiromae. After you pass through the gate of the hiromae, be discreet with words. What you say or think on your way to the hiromae becomes a request to Kami, so do not say anything idle.

82 Children are honest. When your child suffers from sickness, it is evidence that your faith has weakened. Children have nothing in their mind. They merely reflect their parent's heart.

83 The following was a conversation between a believer and myself: “Konko-Sama (Kataoka Jiroshirō), some people have been doing bad things to me. I did not keep watch over my mountain property and field for a while, so someone cut down the young pine trees along the boundary of my mountain property and also moved the boundary marker in my field. If they keep doing this, my mountain property and field will become smaller and smaller.”

<sup>2</sup> “The same thing happened to me and I talked to Konko Daijin about it. Konko Daijin said ‘If someone wants your property that much, let him have it. He cannot take the

whole thing. Your field may become smaller, but if you can receive the divine blessings of a good harvest, there will be no difference.'

<sup>3</sup> "The yield of your harvest will not differ even if your field gets smaller. Although it may not look like much, you will have a good harvest. You should keep practicing this faith. Kami sees all. You will receive the blessings of a good harvest.

<sup>4</sup> "You will surely receive divine blessings, but the people who took part of your field will never become prosperous. In the near future they will become so poor they will have to sell you their field. They will not be able to live at peace because of their bad deeds and selfish desires."

<sup>5</sup> Another believer who was listening to this conversation said, "That may be true, but the person whose property was taken will feel awful. Other people will belittle him for not saying anything about it."

<sup>6</sup> "You may think that way. However, you will have endless worries if you are concerned about what others say or think. You will become upset if you take on others as opponents. Therefore, those who practice faith should find protection from Kami and not take on any opponents. We should have a broad mind."

**84** The following was a conversation between a believer and myself: "It has been a long time since I've seen you. How have you been? Fine? That's good. Welcome."

<sup>2</sup> “Well, Konko-Sama (Kataoka Jiroshirō), I am too old to do anything, having seen many New Years pass by. I have become useless no matter how hard I try. I cannot come more frequently to worship.”

<sup>3</sup> “Be strong and practice faith. You need not worry about how old you are. Faith is the only thing that any person – even if one is old – can do as well as any other person. If you keep practicing faith, you will gain virtue year after year, and you will be favored by Kami and will be treated with great care by young people.”

85 A person who is desperate to receive divine blessings will have a hard time doing so if he wonders about or doubts that he will receive divine blessings. One must devote himself to being single-hearted and think, “Please bestow on me divine blessings. I know I will definitely receive divine blessings without fail.”

<sup>2</sup> The worst thing a person can do is doubt Kami’s teachings or blessings. You can confirm this by looking at the fact that those who practice faith are receiving divine blessings. Konko Daijin does not tell lies.

86 Nobody can do anything for a fool. A fool is pitiful. There is no one more pitiful than a person who does not listen to what he has been told time and time again.

<sup>2</sup> The more people understand faith and practice it with devotion, the more divine blessings they will receive. Some, however, do not practice faith even though they know about

it. They are obstinate. This is the reason their misfortunes are great. Even though I feel pity, I can do nothing for those who are obstinate and do not listen to what I say. All I can do is just wait for the right time.

<sup>3</sup> The less people practice faith, the less they are aware of the divine blessings they receive. Those who think that practicing faith is a matter for someone else are fools.

87 Practice faith. Receive divine blessings by practicing faith. Then, not only you, but also your grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even further generations can receive divine blessings. Even the spirits of your ancestors will be able to rest in peace because you receive divine blessings through your practice of faith.

<sup>2</sup> The blessings you have received stay with you forever. Therefore, you should build as large a foundation of blessings as possible during your life.

88 Some people boast, “How can I forget the favors of Kami? Kami saved my life. I will be punished if I ever forget this. I will never forget it for the rest of my life.” It is true that people should remember the blessings they have received, or they will forget them one by one.

<sup>2</sup> There are also people who say that if Kami makes their request come true, they will build a gold shrine arch or offer a silk banner. Usually, however, after they receive divine blessings, the gold shrine arch becomes a small, tin-plated arch and the silk banner becomes a paper flag. Kami does

not desire these objects and such actions are nothing but sheer irreverence to Kami.

<sup>3</sup> It is foolish for one to forget receiving such extraordinary divine blessings. It is the same as forgetting oneself. Something awful might occur again and things could go wrong.

89 When people are caught in a rain shower, they will ask the owner of a nearby house if they may wait under the eaves. They then just look at the sky waiting for it to stop raining. When the storm passes, they are happy the rain has let up and just leave, without expressing appreciation sufficiently.

<sup>2</sup> You won't receive divine blessings by practicing a faith that is unappreciative like the people who stay under the eaves on rainy days.

90 After being saved from a desperate situation or misfortune, everyone says that they will never forget the favors and blessings they received. However people tend to be unaware of the divine blessings that they receive daily.

<sup>2</sup> Kami's blessings do not depend upon whether people are alive or have died. They are always receiving them.

91 The following was a conversation between a believer and myself: "We will all die sooner or later. But, Konko-Sama (Kataoka Jiroshirō), what happens to us after death?"

<sup>2</sup> I responded, "It must be like being in a deep sleep since Konko Daijin said, 'Death is similar to a deep sleep.'"

<sup>3</sup> “When people do something wrong during the day or if something unusual happens, they cannot sleep at night because of worries. And then, even if they are able to fall asleep, they will be only half asleep because of dreams. If you do not practice faith well and do not receive divine blessings, you will not be able to sleep when you want to or you will have a lot of dreams after falling asleep. If that happens, not only you but all the people around you will have a difficult time.

<sup>4</sup> “However, it will be better for you to receive divine blessings for life instead of for death.

<sup>5</sup> “Konko Daijin said, ‘Even if my physical form disappears, I will live forever.’ Therefore, practice faith and receive the same blessing.’”

92 It would be nice if people could appreciate Kami’s blessings with the same intensity they have when making requests in desperate situations. People can readily make requests, but why can’t they express their appreciation?

<sup>2</sup> The people who express their deep appreciation by giving thanks ten times for each request, for example, are the people who sincerely practice faith. The more sincerely they practice faith, the more divine blessings they will receive.

93 Those who are argumentative and hard to convince, ask to be shown Kami’s existence or to hear the voice of Kami.

<sup>2</sup> They think they can embarrass us by asking for such things. Even if I try to let them see or hear Kami, how can

they see or hear without having the eyes or ears to do so? They are pitiful because they are unable to see or hear.

<sup>3</sup> Surprised at the bumps they get on their heads after being “hit” by heaven, they gain their sight and open their ears so that they are gradually able to see and hear.

<sup>4</sup> Those who have already opened their eyes and ears to faith should teach those who are to be pitied with kindness and warmth.

94 No one can see the wind when it blows. Yet everyone knows the existence of the wind. Everybody can tell of the wind’s existence by seeing the clouds in the sky move, and from the noise of grass and trees moving. People will recognize the existence of Kami, when those who practice faith receive divine blessings.

95 The following was a conversation between a believer and myself: “Konko-Sama (Kataoka Jiroshirō), if I use this small shrine to pray, will I be praying to the same Kami as at your hiromae?” I responded, “There is only one Kami for Konko Daijin, so the Kami you will be praying to at your shrine is the same Tenchi Kane No Kami.”

<sup>2</sup> “Then, I don’t need to come to worship so often, do I?” I responded, “No, that isn’t true. At times, something unexpected will happen that will prevent you from coming. However, when you are able to come, you should do so without making excuses. Your coming here is just like children going to school to learn. You should come to the hiromae often and listen well to learn this faith.”

- 96 It is too late to try and make a rope after you have caught a robber. Practicing faith is the same. You should come to worship when you can, because you will not be able to come when you are sick and feel the need to attend. Come to worship and receive divine blessings before you get sick.
- 97 There is only one Tenchi Kane No Kami. However, Kami's blessings differ depending on the virtue of the person serving Kami. Those who serve the Parent Kami should be prudent in their actions. Otherwise, they may do something that will bring disgrace to Kami.
- 98 The same fish can taste different depending on the chef. How well a knife cuts or how it is used depends on the person using it. It can kill people, or save them. It also can be a knife used for self-defense. After you receive divine blessings by practicing faith, you should not misuse the blessings. Otherwise, they will be of no value.
- 99 Although you say you are practicing faith, you are not if you only make requests to Kami. You also need to apologize for the irreverences that you have made unknowingly, and give thanks for the blessings that you receive in your daily life. Of course you have to make requests, but lacking appreciation becomes an irreverence. How can you receive divine blessings while accumulating irreverences?
- <sup>2</sup> It is alright if others say you are a fool. Be sincere. Kami loves you and thinks you are good. It is better to be loved by Kami.



100 There is nothing more irreverent than to waste food. It takes a long time to prepare the food before it can be eaten. Why is it that people work hard? They work hard so that they will be able to feed themselves without anxiety.

<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, they waste or throw away food. That means they are wasting Kami's blessings and people's hard work.

<sup>3</sup> You should look around. Are there any healthy people who waste food? No one who wastes food succeeds in society. They all have to leave their occupations because of their wastefulness.

101 Those who practice faith should not complain no matter how small or large their harvest is. You will not have to complain if you always remember the feelings you have about an average harvest.

102 There is a story about someone who pointed to his parent when asked to find a fool. Parents are fools to their children because they love them so much. They don't even notice when other people are laughing at them.

<sup>2</sup> People may sometimes wonder why Kami gives blessings to a wicked person. And they may think that there is no way such a person can receive blessings even though he practices faith. However, Kami gives blessings to him because Kami is the Parent Kami and loves people so much. People should think of this and understand Kami's blessings well.

103 Konko Daijin said, “When your son (Kataoka Kōnoshin) becomes fifteen years old, have him take your place as head of the family.”

<sup>2</sup> A parent thinks his child is like a baby no matter how old he is, but a three-year-old child won’t remain that age forever. He will grow older each year just as his parents do.

<sup>3</sup> Confucius said, “I started to learn at the age of fifteen.” We have a custom that fifteen-year-old boys should assume certain social obligations. So you should have your child pray on his own to receive divine blessings when he becomes fifteen.

<sup>4</sup> You should not, however, leave him alone. A parent is a parent, and a child is a child forever. It is a parental duty to pray hard for one’s children.

104 Heaven and Earth shall exist forever. All people are able to live because Heaven and Earth live. A person shall live forever if he or she receives the blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami. If you want to receive this blessing, become one with Tenchi Kane No Kami.

105 Konko Daijin said, “People have often wondered why a man who is honest, doesn’t do anything bad to others and is like a kami or buddha, is often afflicted with many misfortunes. This is because he has somehow shown irreverence to Kami.

<sup>2</sup> “No matter how honest and good he is, he is apt to commit irreverences to Kami if he does not practice faith. There

is a difference between having a good personality and showing reverence to Kami.’’

<sup>3</sup> No matter how good he is, if he doesn’t practice faith, he will not receive divine blessings.

106 Everything, from food to whatever, is provided by the Parent Kami to sustain people’s lives. Therefore, it is disrespectful to complain about or waste it.

107 When I was forty-two years old, I made a visit to the Hiro-mae on New Year’s Day and Konko Daijin said, ‘‘Since you practice faith, Kami will protect you day and night. Therefore, think that night is the same as day. Even if you hear a strange noise, you do not have to worry. You should have a calm and relaxed mind.

<sup>2</sup> ‘‘Jiroshirō, since you are forty-two years old, which is conventionally regarded as an unlucky age, why don’t you leave the door of your house unlocked while you sleep to get rid of your bad luck. You and I will be the only ones in all of Japan who sleep without locking our doors even though we have locks.’’ Since then, I have slept leaving the door unlocked, but there are no problems because I am receiving divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup> When a baby is asleep, the baby-sitter will keep flies away. Then the baby can sleep well.

<sup>4</sup> People sleep in peace at night, while the Parent Kami protects people day and night. If you practice faith, you will feel grateful because you will be receiving Kami’s protection.

108 The following was a conversation between a believer and myself: “Konko-Sama (referring to Kataoka Jiroshirō), I want to receive divine blessings for my business since it is slow.”

<sup>2</sup> “Konko Daijin said, ‘The Chinese character for *selling* is made up of the character for *eleven* above the character for *buying*. So a ten percent commission on sales is proper.’ You shouldn’t adjust your scale or cheat in your measurements to gain more profit. You should buy and sell with honesty. Be appreciative when a customer comes. Your business will run by receiving divine blessings. However, remember that your faith is its foundation. Practice faith.”

109 While people are healthy, they pay no attention to Kami and believe they should “let sleeping dogs lie.” But things change once they get sick and cannot be cured by the ability of others, such as doctors, and all their prayers have been in vain. They then come to Konko Daijin with a single heart and ask him to please help.

<sup>2</sup> When they are single-hearted, they receive divine blessings, but after they become healthy, they soon forget the blessings. People who have a good memory and are considered smart are apt to forget them even sooner.

<sup>3</sup> Konko Daijin said, “Above all, you should enrich your faith. Rich soil will be productive without fertilization. If you carefully prepare the soil instead of just thinking about growing a good crop, you will have a good harvest. If you practice faith daily, you will develop a sound mind and body.” Therefore, it is important to enrich your faith in your

daily life by always remembering the blessings that you received when you were in pain.

110 Until now, people strongly believed that Konjin was a fearful kami who punished people when they did something wrong. However, if they practice faith in Tenchi Kane No Kami as Konko Daijin does, they will have nothing to fear. Konjin will never punish.

<sup>2</sup> Konko Daijin said, “Kami will bestow blessings upon people who make even the smallest requests, even requests for their horses and cows, if the requests are beneficial to those people. Practice faith.” Isn’t this something to be thankful for?

111 As the number of people who received divine blessings increased, mountain ascetic priests came to my hiromae in Saizaki Village. Claiming that I was possessed, they then vandalized the altar. Some of them complained to the police. I thought to myself, “Since Konko Daijin says, ‘This faith is the Way of Kami and the country,’ I shouldn’t oppose decisions made by the government. I should ask Konko Daijin if I can practice faith for my own sake for a while.”

I then went to the Hiromae.

<sup>2</sup> Konko Daijin told me, “I have also been faced with various difficulties in this faith and have tried doing various things, but nothing seemed to work. So just be agreeable no matter who comes and what they may say to you. Kami has something in mind.

<sup>3</sup> “Even though someone soils your face, be patient. Kami will wash your face.

<sup>4</sup> “We will not receive Kami’s blessings if we become a subordinate of others.

<sup>5</sup> “Think of me as the head of the family, and I will think of you as my younger brother; or think of me as your parent, and I will think of you as my son. Will you stand or fall with me in this faith?” I was both terribly grateful and yet overwhelmed by these words. I couldn’t even lift up my head to look at Konko Daijin.

<sup>6</sup> I will never forget how glad Konko Daijin was when I made up my mind that no matter what happened to me, I would live or die with him.

112 Receiving blessings by practicing faith through Konko Daijin, we had a baby boy, whom we thought we would never have. When I went to the Hiromae to give thanks, I received from Konko Daijin the name “Kōnoshin” for my baby. I asked Konko Daijin if I could change the Chinese characters of Kōnoshin’s name since the name was written with the Chinese character “kami” which I could not report to the government. After receiving Konko Daijin’s allowance, I changed his given name to “Kōnoshin” using different Chinese characters. Since we are descendants of Kataoka Hachirō, all of the successors of this family have “rō” in their name, but Kōnoshin doesn’t because of this.

113 The following conversation took place between a believer and myself: “Konko-Sama (referring to Kataoka Jiroshirō), while I was trying to come here, I suddenly had a pain and felt dizzy, so I lay down on the side of a footpath between the rice fields. I was worried about what was going to happen. I then prayed single-heartedly, received the divine blessing, and got better. I considered continuing on to this hiromae since I was on my way already, but I decided to go home, worrying that the same thing might happen again. Why did I have pain and get dizzy while I was on my way to the hiromae to receive divine blessings? Did I do something irreverent?”

<sup>2</sup> I responded, “Well, you might have done something irreverent since you are just a human being. But that was not the cause of your sickness that day. If your irreverence had been the cause, you would not have been cured without coming to the hiromae.

<sup>3</sup> “I once had a severe stomachache while on the way for my monthly visit to the Hiromae of Otani Village. I finally arrived there towards evening.

<sup>4</sup> “Konko Daijin said at that time ‘People stray even if they have practiced faith for three or five years. If they continue to practice their faith for ten years, they can be called religious people.

<sup>5</sup> “You might wonder why you had a stomachache on your way to the Hiromae in spite of your practicing faith and following Kami’s words. But if you had had that much pain while at home, your whole family would have worried about

you. Only you were troubled with the pain you experienced while traveling. This is the blessing that you received by practicing faith in Kami. I will have you receive divine blessings so that tomorrow you may walk home as usual.” Just as he told me, I was able to return home in good health.

<sup>6</sup> “If you have practiced your faith for a long time, you will not be surprised or be concerned about why difficulties happen in spite of your faith. Think of it as a blessing and be single-hearted and full of appreciation, then Kami will make everything become divine blessings.”

114 When I had a serious illness in 1881, other people thought there was absolutely no hope. I offered incense to the altar and lay down, placing my head towards the altar. While I prayed single-heartedly with Konko Daijin’s words, “Depend on Kami,” in my heart, the incense smoke entered my bed from the bottom of the bed quilt. I continued to pray single-heartedly thinking a mysterious thing was happening. That day was the peak of my illness, and I was cured by receiving divine blessings.

<sup>2</sup> When I attended the Hiromae to give thanks, Konko Daijin said, “Jiroshirō, you were about to die at that time. However, since you depended solely on Kami with a single heart, Kami saved you.

<sup>3</sup> “Kōbōdaishi (the founder of the Shingon sect of Japanese Buddhism) said that death has no aversion to time. But Konko Daijin will make death turn away at a certain time if one practices faith by depending on Kami single-heartedly. I won’t let someone who is under sixty die young.” I would



not have received divine blessings to this extent if I had died at that time.

<sup>4</sup> Those who practice faith should be single-hearted no matter what. It is said that a strong will moves mountains. Single-heartedness in the faith of Konko Daijin moves Kami.

115 People have believed in unlucky days for a long time. They fear the 210th and 220th day from the first day of spring because it is the time when there are strong winds. They also say that certain ages of a person are unlucky. During any of them you should practice faith more carefully than usual.

<sup>2</sup> Even though there are strong winds on an “unlucky” day, it will be like any other day as long as there is no damage from the wind. Konko Daijin can avert any wind no matter where it blows or what kind of wind it may be. Even if the wind drives against people, Kami will make it a wind of blessings. If you keep practicing faith, you do not have to fear unlucky years or disasters. An unlucky year will turn into a lucky one.

116 Konko Daijin taught me, “People avoid marrying someone who is four (pronounced “shi”) or ten (pronounced “jū”) years different in age because they believe it is unlucky. However, you need not follow these practices if you practice faith in Kami.

<sup>2</sup> “People visit shrines and draw sacred lots wishing for good luck. The lucky fortune *shiju shiawase* (constant happiness) is an example where both words start with the sound ‘shi’. The character ‘shi’ (which means ‘four’ in Japanese) is

not ominous. From now on, put four sacred paper hangings on the sacred rope that hangs in front of the altar.” This is why there are four sacred paper hangings on Konko Daijin’s sacred rope, and everyone is still able to receive divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup> If you depend on Kami by practicing your faith, you need not worry about superstitions. People don’t like four year differences because the Chinese character for ‘four’ can be read as ‘shi’, which means death, just because they think only it’s bad. Think of it as the ‘shi’ of ‘shiwase’ (which means happiness) or as the ‘yo’ (which also means four) of ‘yokare’ (which means good). People associate ten wicked acts with the number ten (pronounced “jū”), but why is the number ten bad? Everything prospers upon reaching ten. If people practice faith thinking positively about all things, Kami will turn everything into divine blessings.

117 People say that they are punished or scolded by Kami, but Kami does not punish. Aren’t people the beloved children of Kami? The punishment or scolding that people talk about is Kami’s way of showing care and trying to teach the beloved children. You will not receive divine blessings unless you understand this.

118 Konko Daijin told me, “As I have always told you, have your son take your place as head of the family when he becomes fifteen. Jiroshirō, serve Kami at the hiromae at all times.

<sup>2</sup> “It is better if you do not buy many fields. You would have to find more tenant farmers to cultivate them, which would cause many problems.

<sup>3</sup> “Even if your present tenant farmers cultivate your field shallowly, like peeling the skin off a cucumber, you should not worry about your crops. If you practice faith in Kami, Kami will bestow the blessings so that you will have the same amount of crops as usual.” Surprisingly, just as Konko Daijin said, I have always received the blessings of a good harvest, for which I am very thankful.

119 I went to Konko Daijin’s Hiromae shortly before my mother (Kataoka Ritsu) passed away. This was in addition to my regular monthly visit. At that time, Konko Daijin said, “People are born with the destiny to die which often is realized about the time of their unlucky ages. Sometimes it is unavoidable even though people practice faith in Kami. This time, you should pray that your mother will have little pain.

<sup>2</sup> “Mr. and Mrs. Kataoka, both of you have received divine virtue by practicing faith single-heartedly. You may soon have to place a coffin in the room of your house for a funeral, but do not let it become a concern to worshippers.

<sup>3</sup> “People need not stay away from Tenchi Kane No Kami’s altar when someone in their family has died, as long as they ask permission of Kami in advance. Even the hole for a grave is dug in the ground protected by Tenchi Kane No Kami, so pray before digging the hole.”

<sup>4</sup> Misfortunes, that no one can escape, are like boils that are formed by poisons discharged from one's body. If poisons fill one's body, they will cause problems. Even though one may have pain at the time the poisons come out, the inside of the body is cleansed.

<sup>5</sup> If one practices faith, irreverences and offenses will decrease. It is like having less poisons in one's body, which is something to be thankful for.

120 Some who come to this hiromae scornfully say, "Konko-Sama (referring to Kataoka Jiroshirō), why has a person like that started to practice faith now?" However, their way of thinking is wrong.

<sup>2</sup> Kami said, "Once a person begins to depend on Kami single-heartedly by renewing his heart, Kami will not point out his past wrong-doings." If a person practices faith carefully so as to do nothing wrong from that moment on, he will receive blessings.

<sup>3</sup> A good person has to practice faith, but a bad person needs to practice faith even more in order to receive divine blessings. It is troublesome to have too many bad people. The Parent Kami will be unable to have peace of mind if bad people do not become good.

121 Konko Daijin said, "People sometimes wonder why a person who seems to have done nothing wrong experiences misfortunes, such as becoming a widow. However, in truth, the misfortunes are a result of irreverences and offenses

which have been accumulating over a long period. If you depend on Kami single-heartedly from now on, Kami will not let you die before your time.

<sup>2</sup> “It is said that some people have eye and back problems after succeeding their grandmother, grandfather, or mother-in-law. However, Kami will prevent the problems from continuing in future generations if they continue to practice faith.”

<sup>3</sup> It would be awful to have unhealthy descendants. You should ask Kami to protect them.

122 Konko Daijin said, “You should practice faith wholeheartedly while you are in good health and enjoying a tranquil life rather than starting after you are in trouble with illnesses or misfortunes. Kami will take care of you if you are an earnest believer. Kami will help you to overcome your critical illness and recover completely no matter how serious the condition may be. Enrich your faith.”

123 Konko Daijin said, “When an incorrigible person is about to be sentenced, punishment is sometimes reconsidered because of a request made by a man of influence, and the person is released. Even a person who has to make seven graves because of his accumulated offenses towards Kami can be forgiven if he says he will reform himself and depend on Konko Daijin with a single heart.” Konko Daijin is a man of influence to Kami.

124 I have received limitless divine blessings, but my father (Kataoka Kamesaburō) did not practice faith in the past. He did not oppose it. He thought he didn't need to since his son practiced faith.

<sup>2</sup> I was receiving divine blessings, so many people came to visit here even when I was busy. My father would get upset thinking that they were rude to come during such busy times. I thought, "I have been receiving great divine blessings and other people are also receiving them by following this faith, yet a member of my own family does not. I do not know how to apologize to Kami for this. It is to err from the path of righteousness when a parent ignores those who are taking care of his son. I would like my father to go to Konko Daijin's Hiromae to express his appreciation."

I asked him to go, but he wouldn't. I prayed to Kami single-heartedly hoping that he would change his mind about going to the Hiromae, even if it was just one time. Then, suddenly, he felt inclined to go to the Hiromae.

<sup>3</sup> The worries my father had about the continuous family misfortunes resulted in his loss of hearing. When he went to the Hiromae, Konko Daijin said, "Tenchi Kane No Kami is not a kami who fulfills one's request because of ceremonies or donations. It is said that a parent can cross a river by following the instructions given by the child whom he carries on his back. You are fortunate. You entered Kami's faith through the teachings of your child. Practice faith. Kami will give you a cane." My father could hear clearly what Konko Daijin said in spite of being hard of hearing. He felt Konko

Daijin's virtue deeply, and has practiced faith enthusiastically since then.

<sup>4</sup> You also have come to worship here after being taught by your child whom you once carried on your back. You should practice faith and, as the saying goes, "Be guided by your child when you are old, without grumbling that the old way was like this or that." You will be able to prosper by receiving divine blessings. You have a nice, pious child. He practices faith well.

125 Konko Daijin said, "It is said that Bodhisattva lost the use of his legs after having sat for nine years facing a wall in contemplation. I have sat in front of Kami's altar for twenty years with no problems." The training that Konko Daijin went through, however, was really hard.

<sup>2</sup> Because of this, all people are able to receive divine blessings easily now. Isn't this something to be thankful for?

126 When you pray to the Parent Kami in the morning or at night, you should first apologize for your irreverences and then give thanks. Then, you should make a sincere request about any personal problems which exist in your daily life. You will receive divine blessings.

127 Konko Daijin said, "If you practice your faith, Kami will make merchants come to your hiromae when the farmers are busy."

128 Someone suggested that in the future, Konko Daijin should make people worship after receiving their request. At that time Konko Daijin said, “Is that what you think!” Since Konko Daijin’s voice was so frightening, the man couldn’t say anything further.

<sup>2</sup> Konko Daijin was usually gentle, but could be frightening to those who said or did irreverent things. Konko Daijin is a man of virtue. He can look right through a person.

129 I was suddenly overcome by a strange feeling of hopelessness and fear and I asked Kami what it was about. I received a revelation that I would be robbed sometime in the future. I prayed single-heartedly and was not robbed.

<sup>2</sup> Later someone started a rumor saying, “A thief tried to break into the home of Kataoka Jiroshirō. But when he started to pray, the thief lost his strength and could not stand up. When his father (Kataoka Kamesaburō) offered Kami an apology, the thief gained strength and was able to move at last. He then mended his ways and became an honest man. Having faith is a great thing, isn’t it?” This rumor was started among the neighbors and spread as far as the Otani Village area. I also had visitors who came to express their sympathy.

<sup>3</sup> The reasons for these rumors were very unclear to me, so I again questioned Kami, who revealed, “Kami speaks through people because Kami has no voice. Kami borrows people’s mouths and makes them talk and spread rumors. Kami bestowed the blessing and arranged to protect your home from the robbery that I told you about by spreading



this rumor. This is the virtue of practicing faith in Kami. It is one of the ways of Kami.” When you practice faith, don’t such grateful things happen?

130 Konko Daijin said, “The Chinese character for ‘No’ in Tenchi Kane No Kami should not be confused with the other characters for ‘No.’”

131 Konko Daijin said, “Whether living or dead, people cannot help but receive the virtue of the Parent Kami. When someone has an incurable illness, pray for him to have no pain.”

132 When someone takes your things, let him take them. Kami is watching. No one can take Kami away from you. You should not, however, let your blessings be taken away. Your divine blessings are taken away by something that exists in your own heart.

133 Konko Daijin said, “When you practice faith in Kami, you will not fully receive divine blessings unless you practice your faith with diligence in everything you do.” Therefore, those who practice faith should be very careful in all that they do.

134 People say that they pray. But the word “to pray” (*negau* in Japanese) can also mean “to buy at a price” (*Ne* means “price”, *gau* or *kau* means “to buy.”). We should receive Kami’s blessings by paying its true value with sincerity.

135 Konko Daijin taught me, “Those who practice faith should always pray with *miki* in their hearts. Then Kami will make any request come true.” Those who practice faith should not forget this.

<sup>2</sup> *Miki* means the three *ki*, which are *arigata-ki* (gratefulness), *osoreō-ki* (awe), and *mottaina-ki* (reverence). If those who practice faith forget these three things, they will not be able to receive divine blessings.

136 When told to clean, people immediately think of brushing away spider webs or sweeping and wiping floors. However, those who practice faith should remember to brush away the spider webs that exist in their own hearts rather than to clean the dust from the altars. After they clean the dust in their hearts, the cleaning of the altar will come naturally.

137 Konko Daijin said, “Even if people verbally express their appreciation with words of gratitude, you should not let them forget their blessings and should continue to teach them. You do not have to offer prayers to Kami for people when they come. Let people receive divine blessings through your teachings. If they do not listen or doubt what Kami says after all your efforts, you should tell them, ‘Who knows what will happen tomorrow?’ Even though they are children who have been given life by Kami, Kami will take it away if they neglect the favors of Kami.” You should remember this well.

- 138 Konko Daijin taught me, “Tenchi Kane No Kami is the kami who rules Heaven and Earth. People are born and die within heaven and earth. They cannot live outside of heaven and earth.”
- 139 Konko Daijin taught me, “Crops cannot grow with heaven, but no earth. In the same way, men cannot raise children without women. Everything needs the harmony of Yin and Yang to go well. Kami will not be pleased and satisfied unless one who practices faith gets along well with one’s spouse, brothers and sisters, family, and relatives.”
- 140 Konko Daijin said, “If people don’t respect Kami, Kami cannot be realized. Causing people to worry by forcing them to donate will not make Kami happy.” Therefore, to show thanks to Kami you should be joyous.
- 141 Konko Daijin said, “The government will not accept even completely understandable requests if the people making them do not follow proper procedures or if their way of requesting is wrong. Similarly, if a person’s way of praying is wrong, Kami will not listen to his requests.” People tend to do things their own way, but they should not be rude, self-centered, and constantly thinking only about their own convenience.
- 142 Konko Daijin said, “*Senmai* (sacred rice) can also mean one thousand (*sen*) sheets of paper (*mai*). If one takes one thousand pieces of sacred rice while practicing faith in Kami,

one can receive divine virtue. If an irreverence is made knowingly, seven graves will have to be made, starting with the head of the household. If an irreverence is made unknowingly, seven graves will still have to be made. However, if you depend on Kami single-heartedly, Kami will never turn his back on you. It is always people, who turn their back on Kami.” Since *senmai* is a measure for counting blessings, it should not be wasted.

- 143 Konko Daijin said, “Pride comes before destruction. Anything, no matter how small, is considered prosperous if it continues over time. Even a narrow road is prosperous if it gradually becomes wider by being used frequently. Do not let grass grow on the road that you have rushed to expand.” Although it is from one’s own heart, there are people who narrow the road by allowing the grass to grow so much that no one can pass, including themselves. It is disgraceful.

- 144 Konko Daijin admonished, “The deeper your faith becomes, the more Kami scolds you. Let me use people as an example. Parents will not scold little children who do not understand right from wrong, even when they do something bad. But if the child is old enough to understand and does something wrong, the parent will scold that child. It is the same with Kami.

<sup>2</sup> “If you continue to practice faith with such intensity that people call you their minister, everything you do must be done carefully so as not to commit any irreverence.”

145 My wife, Kataoka Shō, was suddenly overcome with a stomachache and high fever. Our son, Masamitsu, who was just two months old at the time, still needed to be breast-fed. Afraid that something might happen to my wife, I immediately washed my hands and prayed single-heartedly at my hiromae. Kami then had me compose the following poem, “In a world of wholehearted dependance on Kami, be saved by relinquishing yourself completely.” I told my wife about this. She received divine blessings and recovered completely the next morning.

<sup>2</sup> You should think about this for a while. You started to practice faith and entrusted everything to the Parent Kami. You have nothing to worry about. Since Kami is looking over you, you should place your trust in Kami and practice faith. You will surely receive divine blessings.

<sup>3</sup> Since I received this blessing, I went to Konko Daijin’s Hiromae to give thanks. Konko Daijin then said, “Kami instructed Kataoka Jirosirō to compose a poem. Therefore, tell him to practice faith remembering the spirit of that poem.”

146 A chronic illness is written “carried disease” in Chinese characters. People think that their bodies are the containers of all kinds of diseases, and that this world is a world of pain. However, if they practice faith, Kami will free them from all diseases, even chronic ones. Kami will not let them feel pain in this world. Practice faith and receive divine blessings.

147 You are receiving divine blessings through practicing faith in your daily life. Nevertheless, if you ignore or forget the virtue of practicing faith in Kami, you will be shown the powers of Kami.

148 Konko Daijin said, “Though it seems easy to practice faith, it is difficult; but it is difficult only because people do not follow what Kami tells them.”

<sup>2</sup> It is hard for people to follow even their own parents’ words. They feel that their parents are making unreasonable demands. You should realize, however, that a child who doesn’t follow what his parents say will get into trouble later. Similarly, if people who practice faith do not follow what Kami has told them thinking that it is an unreasonable demand, they will suffer later.

149 People think that practicing faith is hard, but they shouldn’t. All they need to do is follow what Konko Daijin teaches them. It is not difficult. It is easy.

150 Do not try to force things to go the way you want or act unreasonably. Forcing things is the worst action to take because it will cause things to break down even further. Trouble results when you try to do something by your own strength. If you have a heart that asks Kami to allow you to do things, then Kami will let you.

151 No matter how well-educated or how smart you are, merely having knowledge about the faith of Kami is not useful. You

cannot receive Kami's virtue unless the teachings of the faith are deeply absorbed into your heart and your faith is expressed in your life.

152 If one is too intellectual, he sometimes fails to retain the blessings he receives. This is because he thinks he knows everything and feels superior to Kami.

153 Konko Daijin said, "Kami bestows blessings equally, like rainfall. However the blessings will be lost if one's heart, like a leaky container, is defective."

<sup>2</sup> It is too late to take notice after everything has leaked out through the hole in the container. You have to check the container before anything happens. In addition, if you want to receive all the divine blessings, you should keep your container empty.

154 There are people who say, "Konko Daijin said, 'Kami sees everything in the universe at a glance. Kami will give you blessings even if you pray in your bed or pray to a post in your house as long as you have sincerity in your heart.' Therefore, we need not go to our hiromae to worship. If we just pray, we can receive divine blessings.'" However, those who say this and do not come here to worship cannot receive divine blessings like those people who do come. This is because those who come here to worship have more respect.

155 I have seen people worship at the entrance of the hiromae because they just want to pay a short visit here on their way

home. Since they consider coming here to worship as secondary, the divine blessings become secondary.

<sup>2</sup> Even if you come here on your way elsewhere, worship at the hiromae with a heart that believes you were able to come because Kami has arranged it. Kami will arrange for you to receive blessings.

156 Practicing patience for a thousand days is necessary to achieve any goal. If you continue to practice faith for a thousand days, you will become more appreciative. However, it is also the time when some people begin to lose their faith. Faith is not true unless you become more thankful year after year.

157 After your parents have passed away, you may realize that there are still many things that you should have done for them. You should respect and care for your parents while they are in good health. You should also start to practice faith early in your life, while you are still living, otherwise, it will be too late. It is never too early to start. The two most important things you need to do to make your family prosper are respecting and caring for your parents while they are healthy, and having faith while you are living.

158 In the past, people believed that they had to make promises of offerings or had to abstain from salted food. They should realize that they do not have to do such things if they practice faith in the Parent Kami. Food is provided through the dew drops of Kami's favor. People should partake of foods



gratefully without being choosy, and receive divine blessings. Otherwise, they are being disrespectful.

<sup>2</sup> Foods you favor are like medicine, while foods you dislike are like poison. However, eating too much will turn medicine into poison. Your favorite food might take your life, so you should partake with gratitude in your heart.

159 People hardly ever see their own faults. Therefore, Konko Daijin said, “Do not behave improperly upon seeing others’ misconduct.” You should reform yourself by looking at others’ behavior.

160 When you first begin to practice faith, others will belittle you in various ways. You should be grateful for their criticism because it is evidence that you have received Kami’s blessings. If you commit yourself to practicing faith more devotedly, they will stop saying anything bad about you. When you receive this kind of divine blessing, people who spoke ill of you will gradually start to practice faith by following you.

<sup>2</sup> Konko Daijin said, “Practice faith inconspicuously. This faith will become more widely accepted by the world.” What Konko Daijin said is true. When others speak ill of you, endure quietly and practice faith by yourself. Then people in society will change their minds and start practicing faith. Everyone wants to receive divine blessings.

161 Konko Daijin said, “Serve at the hiromae from sunrise to sunset.”

**162** It is said that if one has faith, one will have virtue. If you think you lose by being sincere, your sincerity is lacking. There is a saying that you should return goodness when treated badly. Those who practice faith should remember this.

**163** Konko Daijin once told me that he asked Kami why he suddenly became overcome with grief and cried. He said, “Kami told me, ‘People cannot receive divine blessings because of their lack of faith. They think that there are no divine blessings. This makes me sad.’”

<sup>2</sup> Kami worries and sorrowfully regrets that people cannot receive the divine blessings that are offered. You should be thankful. Do not practice faith without understanding the heart of the Parent Kami.

**164** If you practice faith, you should not say bad things even idly. What you say will come true.

<sup>2</sup> You should be careful when you scold your children. You should not scold them by telling them that they are fools or that they should not do such stupid things. You should tell them they are good and, because of this, should not do bad things. Children will be good and will not do bad things when they think on their own. However, if they have been told that they are fools, they will do bad things because they think they are fools. When they don’t listen to you after all your efforts, pinch their bottoms without verbally chastising them.

165 Konko Daijin said, “When practicing faith in Kami, let those who are sick eat what they want. You need not put restrictions on what they eat by saying that this food is like medicine and that one is like poison. You should remember that there are no poisons within Tenchi Kane No Kami’s ground.

<sup>2</sup> “It is good to follow a diet and take care of your health. However, if it were true that people could only be healthy by following a doctor or a special diet, there would be no healthy beggars. There are many who are rich or powerful and yet suffer from poor health. Needless worry about the future is the strongest poison of all and with it you cannot receive Kami’s blessings.”

166 I worried a lot about the health of my wife because she always had difficulties giving birth. As the birth of my son, Kōnoshin, drew near, I went to Konko Daijin’s Hiromae hoping to receive divine blessings. Konko Daijin then said, “This faith is the way of happiness. Since Kami is the Parent Kami, Kami will bestow blessings on everything and will not allow the delivery of a child or the contraction of smallpox to result in death.

<sup>2</sup> “People compare an unsuccessful birth to an incorrect result of an abacus. The incorrect result is caused by not following the rules of the abacus. Giving birth is the same. Until now, people thought they must give birth facing the direction in which Konjin was said to be absent. They followed the rules of the Directions without knowing how to

follow the rules of Kami. Because of this misunderstanding of the rules, they have had failures when giving birth.

<sup>3</sup> “In order to have a safe childbirth, give birth facing Kami’s altar. By following the rules of the Parent Kami you will see a difference. Kami will give your wife such an easy childbirth that those living in the next room won’t even notice. Do not worry.

<sup>4</sup> “It is the role of a woman to menstruate and conceive until the age of forty-nine. While pregnant, your wife should wear a belt of faith instead of the traditional maternity belt. If your wife follows what I teach, she will receive the blessing of an easy and safe childbirth. My wife’s case was a good example of this.

<sup>5</sup> “After the birth, your wife will not need to lean against anything, as it was traditionally done. Instead depend on Kami wholeheartedly. You need not give the newborn any traditional herb tea. You can give the newborn the mother’s first milk right away. You can lead normal lives. Traditional taboos on impurities and food restrictions need not be followed.”

<sup>6</sup> I practiced faith with gratitude in my heart. My wife received the blessings of an easy and safe childbirth, which was exactly as I had been told. I was truly grateful. You should practice faith. There is nothing to worry about.

167 You should not think that you must make a request for an important matter, or that you do not need to make a request for a trivial matter.

<sup>2</sup> Kami makes no distinction between important and trivial matters. Even if you steal one cent instead of ten cents, your heart to steal is the same. You should know that you have to receive Kami's blessings for everything.

168 One cold day, I met a pitiful old man on my way to the Hiro-mae. I felt so sorry for him that I gave him the clothes I was wearing. When I arrived at the Hiromae, Konko Daijin said, "Jiroshirō, you received a splendid blessing today. When you met an unfortunate person, you felt pity for him and helped him wholeheartedly, putting your needs aside. The heart that feels pity is the heart of Kami. You are able to receive divine blessings through that heart of Kami. That is faith." Those who have received divine blessings understand their gratitude to Kami. Therefore, they should help unfortunate people with a heart of Kami.

169 Konko Daijin said, "Some believers who attend your hiro-mae have been coming here also. They tell me that whenever they visit you, your family is always getting along well together.

<sup>2</sup> "When I hear people talking about such things, I feel very proud and happy. Recently, however, some of the followers who have received divine virtue cannot hold onto the blessings. The cause of this is their selfish desires. Although they are not all greedy, they will lose blessings if they become cheeky and conceited, and begin to act as if they were important.

<sup>3</sup> “Some followers who come to your hiromae are also performing toritsugi, so you should do a good job of teaching them.” Those of us who practice faith should keep these teachings in mind.

170 Konko Daijin said, “People say that you will become a kami if you abandon your desires. While people are alive they must pray for good health. Farmers should pray for abundant crops, and merchants should pray for successful business. Such desires are natural.

<sup>2</sup> “By believing that they must abandon their desires, however, merchants will lose money, farmers will not be able to harvest their crops, people would die early, and the country would be ruined.” People without basic desires are fools.

171 Konko Daijin said, “Even iron wears out when used. Similarly, it is natural for the human body to sometimes have pain or an itch. A hoe, for example, cuts better after it is sharpened. To have pain or an itch is like being sharpened.”

<sup>2</sup> Through these experiences, people are able to begin their practice of faith. It becomes part of their training, and their faith will develop. Since man is conceited by nature, he is encouraged to practice faith when he has a pain or an itch, but he relaxes his faith if he has no problems.

172 Konko Daijin said, “Practicing faith looks easy, but it is actually very difficult. Faith that is practiced for three or five years can still easily go astray. If you continue to practice faith for ten years, you will become a religious person.

<sup>2</sup> “Each day is the beginning of all days to come. Therefore, people should receive divine blessings each and every day so that everything will go well for tens and hundreds of years.

<sup>3</sup> “On this very day, pray. Divine favor depends upon one’s heart. Do not worry needlessly.”

173 Konko Daijin said, “There is a saying that extravagance is followed by destruction. People easily become extravagant. On the other hand, when trying to be thrifty, you should be careful not to be stingy. You should know your means.”

<sup>2</sup> We need to be careful. It may seem that we understand ourselves, but actually we do not; and though it may seem difficult to understand others, it is actually easy.

174 Konko Daijin said, “Although a person may come here to worship and ask me to give prayers of apology for his past irreverences, he will not receive divine blessings unless he depends on Kami with a single heart.

<sup>2</sup> “I can set a date for someone to receive blessings. However, when that person actually receives blessings, depends upon the heart of the individual. Therefore, do not doubt Kami when you fail to receive divine blessings.”

175 Konko Daijin asked me, “Do you drink sake?” “No, I don’t,” I replied. He then said, “That is good. It is better not to drink sake. It is fine for those who like sake to have a drink at supper, but they must not drink during the day. If a

toritsugi mediator drinks sake during the day, followers will say that he or she speaks under the influence of sake. It will disgrace Kami's dignity." Even though you may not get drunk, it is not good for followers to smell sake on your breath. Sake can devour you.

176 Konko Daijin said, "Recently, people have been hanging the sacred ropes as decorations instead of as sacred objects when the New Year comes. This is why they have various problems all year long. From now on, you should hang a sacred rope in your own heart instead of using it as a decoration on New Year's Day. Then you will have no problems."

177 Konko Daijin said, "Your attitude towards Kami and the country should be the same."

<sup>2</sup> If you are not loyal to your country, you will not be dutiful to your parents. If you do not have devotion for your parents, you will not have loyalty for your country. Those with devoted faith in Kami do much for their parents and country. Faith is to serve Kami. Loyalty is to serve the country. Devotion for your parents is to serve your parents. Your attitude towards all three should be the same.

178 Konko Daijin taught me, "People say that we shouldn't trample the grain because if we do, we will become blind. The grains bow lower as they grow. Those who practice faith should become humbler in their daily lives as they receive more virtue.



<sup>2</sup> “The nail that juts out is apt to be driven in. If you are conceited, divine blessings will surely leave you.” Those who practice faith should always remember this.

179 Look at the rice plant which is a source of human life. As it gains weight, its spike bows lower. People should want to bow their heads to others as they gain respect while serving them. Then the world can be at peace.

180 Konko Daijin said, “Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Parent Kami of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, Kami will protect and help people to achieve anything that they wish.

<sup>2</sup> “When building, people have the fortunes of their house and land checked, and set the construction schedule according to lucky days and directions. They deceive Kami by waiting for Kami’s absence and, therefore, cannot have peace of mind. Your attitude to Kami and the government should be the same. Suppose you reported and received permission to make a theater. When a police officer comes, he will make sure all is well in the theater.

<sup>3</sup> “When people make requests to do things, Kami will grant them permission and protect them even if their activities will take place in ominous directions. Ominous directions are where buildings are already standing, and auspicious directions are where there are no buildings.

<sup>4</sup> “A house of good fortune is the house that is built in a desired direction. People are afraid to construct a building on an unlucky day because they believe that it will collapse. It

will collapse because they cheat Kami. Depend on Kami. Since Kami is strong enough to destroy a building, Kami can also raise one. That is all for today.” This Kami is truly something to be grateful for.

181 Konko Daijin taught me, “People cannot be helped because they follow the Days and Directions and watch for Konjin’s absence. However, just as the government implemented various changes after opening up the country during the Meiji Restoration, Konjin will open the way of faith for people in the future.

<sup>2</sup> “Although people fear Konjin and talk about the ominous Deity of the Demon’s Gate (*Kimon*) or the Deity of the Rear Demon’s Gate (*Urakimon*), if they pray to Kami, Kami will not be a demon. Therefore, do not let your heart make Kami into a demon.

<sup>3</sup> “An auspicious day is considered a day that has no clouds in the sky, is warm, and suits your convenience. If it rains and is windy on the day which the calendar shows to be an auspicious day, it is not so actually. Kami does not designate days to be good or bad.”

<sup>4</sup> The most auspicious day for people is the one which suits their convenience, but they must not consider only their convenience.

182 Konko Daijin always said to me, “An old saying tells us not to do bad things because Tenchi sees all. Heaven (*ten*) is the father, and earth (*chi*) is the mother. Even if you respect your father, it is not true parental respect unless you show

respect towards your mother as well. Similarly, even if you are thankful to heaven, you are not truly practicing faith unless you also understand the favor of earth.

<sup>2</sup> “Children cannot be raised by men alone. They live and grow because of their mothers’ milk. Even though heaven exists, they cannot live without earth. Although people may depend on heaven, if they act irreverently towards the earth, they will have to dig seven graves to show heaven.”

183 Konko Daijin said, “When a child is delivered feet first, people fearfully say that the child was born abnormally. However, no one enters a house head first – we enter feet first. It is not abnormal for a child to be born feet first. It is arranged by Kami and there is no absolute rule about which should be first.”

184 Even a monkey sometimes falls from a tree, and great scholars make mistakes. If you think climbing a tree is dangerous, you will be very cautious when doing so and will not get hurt. However, when you become a little better at climbing, you may become careless and get seriously hurt or die. Conceit can lead to a serious disaster. You should practice faith carefully even when you are healthy.

185 The following conversation took place between a believer and myself: “Even a greedy and cruel person sometimes receives divine blessings. Why is this?”

<sup>2</sup> “No matter how bad a person’s character is, he will receive divine blessings for a short time if he temporarily

changes his heart and practices faith with sincerity. It is like getting one good harvest from a poor field because of applying fertilizers. It does not last long.

<sup>3</sup> “That is why you must continue to hold onto the feeling you have in your heart when you receive divine blessings, and practice faith by renewing your heart each and every day,” I responded.

186 People sometimes think ill of others who treat them with kindness. Kami wholeheartedly wants people to receive divine blessings, but they are unable due to their own carelessness and they blame Kami. This is a big mistake.

187 There is no particular religious training in this faith. Whatever faith training you choose is considered worthy.

188 People often say that they have gained nothing for all their efforts. However, those who practice faith can make a clear profit. The people for whom you pray single-heartedly will not always be able to receive divine blessings. When this happens, you may think that you gained nothing for all your efforts, but this is not true.

<sup>2</sup> You receive blessings for your prayers. You also receive divine blessings when you practice faith for others.

189 Konko Daijin said, “Those who practice faith should not be greedy and selfish. A camphor tree which grows slowly, centimeter by centimeter, can be used to make the mast of a large ship. By contrast, plum trees grow one to two meters a

year but never that large. People should grow slowly like a camphor tree.

<sup>2</sup> “If you practice faith, Kami will not let you sell your rice at the highest price. Try to become rich a year later than others. Do not make greedy and selfish requests to Kami about the market.”

<sup>3</sup> Sincerity is the foundation for our relationship with Kami. Kami does not like making money to be as easy as grasping grain with a wet hand.

190 Konko Daijin said, “Those who practice faith should not try to make money by collecting interest. Borrowing and lending is the beginning of discord. When you lend someone money, you should think that you have given it to that person. There is an old saying that you should look on all others as thieves and think that it will rain tomorrow.” If you always think that it will rain tomorrow, you will never fall behind schedule in your work.

191 Konko Daijin taught me, “Don’t worry about what other people say. Everyone talks. How can people foresee the future when they cannot even see behind closed doors?”

<sup>2</sup> “Win by losing. Wait for the right time with discretion.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Konko Daijin said, “Those who have just started practicing faith, immediately get upset when others speak ill of them. They are not able to repress their anger and some of them even retaliate.

<sup>4</sup> “However, when they deepen their faith a little, they will get angry but will be able to tolerate others speaking ill of them since they keep in mind that they are practicing faith in Kami.

<sup>5</sup> “As people deepen their faith more, they will not get angry even when others speak ill of them. On the contrary, they will feel sorry for those people, because Kami sees what is happening and might punish them. And this will cause those, who practice faith, to begin worrying about those who speak ill of them.” Hearing these words, I was in awe.

192 Konko Daijin said, “Do not hesitate to go and worship during rain or strong winds. To endure this hardship is training to receive virtue.

<sup>2</sup> “You should not concentrate on following formalities in the things you do. No matter how diligently you may recite the words of prayer, it is equal to telling lies to Kami unless you do it with a truly sincere heart.

<sup>3</sup> “When you worship, you need not clap your hands loudly. Kami can hear even a small sound.

<sup>4</sup> “When you pray, you do not have to do it loudly or in a peculiar intonation. Pray as you would talk to others.”

193 Tenchi Kane No Kami is the same in every hiromae. But if you forget the origin of the blessings you have received and worship somewhere only because it is nearby and convenient, you will not receive divine blessings. You will only gain convenience.

194 You should receive divine virtue since Konko Daijin said, “Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Parent Kami. If you have sincerity in your heart, you can receive divine blessings fully even by praying to a wall or a post in your house. Kami is the same in every hiromae, so Kami may be worshipped anywhere, as well as at this Hiromae.

<sup>2</sup> “Sometimes people receive divine blessings at one hiromae but not at another. This is because the divine virtue differs between toritsugi mediators at the different hiromaes.

<sup>3</sup> “When you are serving as a toritsugi mediator at the hiromae, you should not get up late. Rising late will affect the time that people come for prayer.”

195 Konko Daijin said, “People think of the toritsugi mediator as Kami. As proof of this, they will say that Konko Daijin is absent when the mediator is absent.

<sup>2</sup> “Those who serve at a hiromae and receive Kami’s virtue should be attentive to all details. Always keep your heart in good order.

<sup>3</sup> “When it comes to people, there is no such thing as ‘superior’ or ‘inferior’. All people are Kami’s children. You must not look down on or discriminate against others.”

<sup>4</sup> When those who don’t have virtue have authority, people become afraid. However, as they gain virtue, people start to respect them naturally.

196 There was an acquaintance of mine who had devout faith but hadn’t visited the hiromae for a long time. I thought he had

stopped practicing faith, but one day while thinking about this, his friend came to my hiromae and gave me a message from him. It said, “When I am able to talk about positive things so that Konko-Sama (referring to Kataoka Jirosirō) will be happy, I will come to worship.” Hearing this, I told his friend, “If he feels he has nothing positive to talk about, he should come to pray to receive divine blessings, become able to talk about positive things and give thanks sooner. There is nothing I can do for him unless he changes his mind about coming here.

<sup>2</sup> “Why is it that I sit here? I sit here so that I may hear all of your requests and convey the blessings of Kami. If you do not come to worship, there will be no blessings. If you act as a stranger to me, you will not receive blessings.”

197 Konko Daijin said, “The dog would not be beaten but for its going out. If you receive true divine virtue, people will naturally come to visit you even though you just sit still. Do not strain yourself. Wait for the right time.

<sup>2</sup> “Since each person has a different way of receiving divine virtue, just understanding what it is that you are receiving is fine.

<sup>3</sup> “However, if you are a teacher, you should not try to teach your disciples everything. If you teach everything, you will be the same as them.”

<sup>4</sup> The last lesson is one which each individual must make the effort to find within himself. There is a saying that one



should read a blank paper with one's own mind. This is what I mean.

198 Konko Daijin said, "People exist because of Kami, and Kami exists because of people. Therefore, you should pray to Kami about everything, including sickness and problems, whether it is an emergency or not. Practicing faith is to have a heart like Kami. Praying to Kami by clapping your hands is not the only way to practice faith.

<sup>2</sup> "A single heart means one heart. So be sure you do not go astray by having a double heart. Depending only on Tenchi Kane No Kami is having a single heart. You should be single-hearted and receive divine blessings fully."

199 Konko Daijin said, "Your heart is what measures your faith in Kami. Therefore, it should be calm especially when asking something of Kami. The Rokkon Prayer contains the words, 'Have control and keep calm.' Pray calmly."

200 Konko Daijin said, "Be patient. If you are patient, extraordinary things can happen. For example, a retail wine shop can become bigger than a winery. Practicing faith is the same.

<sup>2</sup> "Few people are more pitiful than those who do not know about the blessings of Kami. The teachings of this faith have spread, and people have been granted freedom from the restrictions during sickness, disasters, and construction. Some people, however, cannot enter this faith because they stubbornly continue to check the fate of their house or land. This

comes from the deep, accumulated irreverences of their ancestors. There is nothing more pitiful than this.”

201 Konko Daijin taught me, “Practicing a faith that is forced on you by others, is to believe in a faith which is not genuine. A faith that is not your own is easily lost. Practice true faith with devotion.

<sup>2</sup> “People speak of practicing faith together. This is like a stone too heavy for one person being lifted by the combined strength of many.” Therefore, have all your family members practice faith together.