

KYOTEN

**OSHIRASE-GOTO
OBOE-CHŌ**

Record of Revelations

Published by
Konkokyo Honbu
Konko, Okayama, Japan
March 1, 1996

CONTENTS

Introduction	v
Original Title	1
Chapter 1 (1857)	2
Chapter 2 (1858)	4
Chapter 3 (1859)	8
Chapter 4 (1860)	15
Chapter 5 (1861)	16
Chapter 6 (1862)	17
Chapter 7 (1863)	19
Chapter 8 (1864)	21
Chapter 9 (1865)	23
Chapter 10 (1866)	24
Chapter 11 (1867)	26
Chapter 12 (1868)	29
Chapter 13 (1869)	35
Chapter 14 (1870)	38
Chapter 15 (1871)	40
Chapter 16 (1872)	46
Chapter 17 (1873)	59
Chapter 18 (1874)	75
Chapter 19 (1875)	88
Chapter 20 (1876)	97
Chapter 21 (1877)	114
Chapter 22 (1878)	133
Chapter 23 (1879)	150
Chapter 24 (1880)	163

Chapter 25 (1881) 179

Chapter 26 (1882) 198

Chapter 27 (1883) 212

People Profiles 223

Notes 236

Introduction

This Record of Revelations is an English translation of the *Oshirase-goto Oboe-chō* section of the *Konkokyo Kyōten* (Sacred Scriptures of Konkokyo) published by Konkokyo Honbu Headquarters in 1983. The *Oshirase-goto Oboe-chō* (also called *Oboe-chō*) is a record of revelations received by Konko Daijin from Tenchi Kane No Kami from October 1857 to nineteen days before Konko Daijin's death on October 10, 1883.

The original *Oboe-chō* was written vertically with a calligraphy brush on lengthwise pages of paper. The *Oboe-chō* is divided into chapters, each containing a record of revelations for a single year. Each chapter is divided into numbered paragraphs containing numbered passages.

For the most part, the *Oboe-chō* was written in chronological order. However, some passages do not read in chronological order. These have been indented. Also, some passages were written on a piece of paper at a later date and then pasted onto the original document. These pasted passages are indicated by the respective paragraph or passage number enclosed by a square.

In this Record of Revelations, note the following conventions:

Personal names follow the Japanese practice of the family name coming before the given name.

Many of the places mentioned can be located on the

map provided in the Appendix (Map of the Bitchū Area) of the *Konko Daijin Oboegaki* English translation (published on August 1, 1989). Places not on the map are followed by the present-day municipal jurisdiction in parentheses.

Macrons have been used to indicate long Japanese vowels in proper nouns. Exceptions are Konko, Otani, and common Japanese proper nouns.

Lunar calendar dates are followed by their Gregorian calendar equivalent either in parentheses or as written by Konko Daijin.

Supplemental text has been inserted where it was deemed necessary to facilitate easier understanding. Such text, whose Japanese equivalent is not found in the original Oboe-chō, is enclosed in parentheses.

The superscript note numbers at the end of a word or sentence correspond to the Notes compiled according to chapter at the end of the book.

Definitions of unfamiliar terms may also be found in the Gorikai Glossary supplement provided with the Kyoten Gorikai (I, II, and III) English translation.

Headers have been provided for easier referencing. The header on the left page indicates the chapter (in boldface), paragraph, passage, and Gregorian calendar year (in parentheses) at which that page begins. The header on the right page indicates the chapter (in boldface), paragraph, passage, and Gregorian calendar year (in parentheses) at which that page ends.

Original Title

October 13, 1857
Nittenshi Gattenshi
Ushitora

KIMON KANE NO KAMI DAIMYŌJIN-SAMA

Nijō Hasshō Happyakuya Konjin
Nokorazu Konjin
Okageuke Oshirase-goto Oboe-chō

Chapter 1

1 On October 13, 1857 (November 29), someone came and said, "Your younger brother, Kandori Shige'emon of Kameyama Village, has become demented. He claimed that Konjin had possessed him. Please hurry and see him."

²I left immediately. Our relatives were waiting for me.

³They told me, "Shige'emon told us that he would calm down if his older brother Bunji (Konko Daijin) from Otani Village (Konko Town) came. He said that he would not listen to anyone else. We don't know what to do. We're so glad you came. Please do whatever you can to return him to normal."

Then they led me to Shige'emon's room.

⁴Worried relatives and even neighbors were present, and I went in to greet Shige'emon.

⁵Through Shige'emon, Konjin-Sama spoke, "Bunji, I'm glad you came. I have a request of you. Shige'emon has a problem. He has no money to build his new house. He has no one to borrow any money from. I request that you help him build the house.

Will you accept my request?"

⁶I replied, "I understand and accept your request. I will do whatever I can."

⁷Konjin-Sama said, "Hearing this, Shige'emon is relieved. Now he can calm down," and with that Shige'emon fell asleep.

⁸At dawn, Shige'emon awoke. I asked him, "Do you remember anything that you said yesterday?"

⁹He answered, "I don't remember anything." He was back to normal.

¹⁰I returned home on October 14th (November 30).

2 On October 18 (December 4), I went back again. Shige'emon had already started the construction of his house. I helped him until it was completed.

²I gave Shige'emon sake and some money. I also took care of the construction expenses so he wouldn't worry about it.

³December 1857.

Chapter 2

1 On January 1, 1858 (February 14), I took some mochi rice cakes and went to Shige'emon's hiromae¹ in Kameyama Village. He conveyed my thanks and requests to Kane No Kami-Sama. Kane No Kami-Sama (Konjin) was pleased.

²Kane No Kami-Sama imparted, "Bunji, you have revered me as Kami. I, Konjin, shall allow you to clap your hands in prayer."

³Konjin-Sama revealed, "When you worship a kami,² don't discriminate between large and small shrines. Bow and clap your hands in prayer when you pass in front of a shrine.

⁴I will inform all the kamis throughout Japan that you are my follower. I will have the kamis respond henceforth to your requests."

⁵"Up to now, you have been experiencing various misfortunes and hardships. I shall make doctors and shamanistic practitioners unnecessary for you. In your own house, pray to Me for all things. I don't say such things to other people."

I felt grateful.

- 2 I clapped my hands in prayer in front of my household altar, and I received blessings.
- 3 On March 15, 1858 (April 28), I received a hand divination³ from Konjin-Sama. I consulted Konjin-Sama for everything. He gave me blessings.
- 4 On July 13, 1858 (August 21), Konjin-Sama spoke through my voice.
- 5 When the rice plants bore rice that year, rice insects abounded.
²Konjin-Sama advised, "Don't sprinkle any rapeseed oil on your rice paddies. Even if you sprinkle the oil, don't try to brush away the insects."
³Some people used rapeseed oil twice, but got no rice from some of those paddies.
⁴Without using any rapeseed oil, I yielded as many as seven to nine bales of quality rice from each paddy.
- 6 On August 13, 1858 (September 19), Konjin-Sama instructed, "Don't go to the festival in Yamori (in Kurashiki) today. The mortar maker will come."

7 On September 23, 1858 (October 29), Konjin-Sama revealed that He would make me His First Disciple.⁴ I informed my family.

8 I received instructions about the weather for harvesting my rice and sowing my barley.

9 On December 24, 1858 (January 27), I was given the divine name of "Bunji Daimyōjin."

10 Kami-Sama told me about my ancestors. "The Kawate Tarōzaemon family that lived south of your present house ended long ago.

²Originally, this family built and lived in a humble cottage by the sea. This was 431 or 432 years ago.

³Your adoptive family's ancestors did not prosper either. Both ancestral families had committed irreverences⁵ to Konjin."

⁴I couldn't help thinking about how my adoptive father and a younger brother-in law had died on successive months and how three of my children died in anniversary years.⁶ My cows also died on the same month and day in successive years. I had always wondered about these misfortunes.

⁵Each time, I had a doctor give treatment, gave prayers to various kamis, went to shamanistic practitioners, and did all I could. Even after I prayed to kamis and buddhas, the victims were not saved. I stood by helpless. I lived with this constant frustration and futility.

⁶Now Tenchi No Kami-Sama⁷ has helped me recognize the reasons for these sufferings.

⁷Kami-Sama said, "Think about what happened in the past. During the past seventeen years, you made seven graves."⁸

⁸In awe, I practiced faith and gave thanks for having my family freed of worry.

Chapter 3

- 1 On January 1, 1859 (February 3), Kami-Sama directed, "Since your son has reached fifteen, transfer the title of household head to him from this year.

²Also seek approval from the village office for your retirement on the pretext of illness."

³I requested the village headman to inform the provincial office about this, and he accepted my request.

⁴The village headman asked me to wait until March for transferring the household head title to my son. This was on January 18 (February 20).

⁵In March, I asked the village headman again. The title was duly transferred.

- 2 Kami-Sama said to me, "Three of your children will contract smallpox during this spring."

²Kami-Sama revealed in March, "Your children's smallpox will be postponed."

³Regarding the sowing of rice seeds, Kami-Sama told me to grow three *tan*¹ of early-season rice, and He specified which paddies to grow the mid-season and

late-season rice.

⁴Kami-Sama instructed me on all the details, including planting and fertilizing. He also taught me how to cultivate and hoe the roots of the barley.

⁵Kami-Sama advised, "It will rain heavily this year. For the barley growing in the fields, pile dirt on the inner side of each pair of rows.² It is said that, 'Rain is often accompanied by wind, making the harvest difficult.' So let the barley fall like dominos to make harvesting easier."

It was March.

- 3 Kami-Sama instructed, "Finish the spring farming before the Boys' Festival Day on May 5 (June 5). On the 5th, you may celebrate by taking off from work. Then on the sixth, start harvesting the barley."

²On April 28 (May 30) Suzuki Kyūzō came and told me that my barley was ready for harvest.

- 4 Kami-Sama instructed, "Take each day's harvest into the storehouse by evening. It will rain heavily. While it rains, thresh the barley. Store the barley in straw bags without putting it out to dry. When the weather clears, plow the paddies."

²The other villagers had to plow their paddies in the rain.

- 5 No grain weevils infested my barley. Grain weevils infested Suzuki Kyūzō's barley and many weevils crawled into his brother Imazō's house. They quarreled about this.

- 6 I sowed the cotton seeds without any fertilizer, and I didn't water them during the growing season.

²In autumn, the cotton was of high quality and sorting³ was unnecessary.

- 7 In late May, my nine-year-old daughter Kura fell ill and was bedridden for five or six days. We left her alone and went out farming.

²On May 27 (June 27), we returned home from the paddies and checked on Kura. Kura was close to death and gasping for breath. My wife said Kura was dead.

³I prayed to Konjin-Sama. Konjin-Sama said, "Don't worry about her."

⁴I brought some sacred sake to Kura. Her teeth were grinding. I opened her mouth with my finger and put

in some sacred sake. It trickled down her throat.

⁵Kami-Sama said, "It got to her stomach, so there is no need to worry. By around six in the evening, I will give a divine sign."

⁶I ate my afternoon snack and lay down.

⁷When I prayed to Kami-Sama at about four in the afternoon, Kami-Sama gave me a divine sign. I prayed by chanting the *Rokkon Shōjō Harai* Prayer and *Hannya Shingyō* Sutra.⁴

⁸The divine sign became apparent when Kura regained consciousness. I felt grateful.

8 The next morning on May 28 (June 28), my wife reported, "Kura has smallpox."

²Kami-Sama insisted, "It is not smallpox. Have breakfast, then go and work in the paddies."

³When I gave thanks that evening, Kami-Sama revealed, "Tomorrow is an auspicious day and the last day of this short twenty-nine-day month. Put up the sacred ropes."⁵

⁴Whether Kura's smallpox is cured or not, take down the sacred ropes on June 13 (July 12) which is the Gion Shrine's service day.⁶ You must allow the Gion deity to return to the shrine.

⁵Sometime after the Gion Shrine's service day, the smallpox deity from the Gion Shrine shall return again and inflict smallpox onto your other children."

9 On June 10, 1859 (July 9), I received the divine name of "Konshi Daimyōjin."

10 On June 16, my son Unojō (Ieyoshi), whose birthday had been changed to the Year of the Hare⁷ (1854), fell ill. He worsened gradually and became seriously ill.

²When I prayed to Konjin-Sama, He explained, "Unojō's illness is serious. You should change his year of birth back to the original year. If you don't, he cannot be saved. What will you do?"

³I answered, "I will change it back to the original year of birth."

⁴Kami-Sama instructed, "In that case, register him as a six-year-old, born in the Year of the Tiger (1853) and change his name to 'Torayoshi.'"

He later recovered completely.

11 Kami-Sama said, "Next, I shall inflict smallpox on your other children. This time however, you don't need the sacred ropes since you put them up and took

them down the last time.⁸

²Two-year-old Kono's smallpox will be light, and she will develop at most fifteen or sixteen red spots without any of the initial symptoms."

³As Kami-Sama had said, three of my children contracted smallpox, but we did not follow any of the impurity and food taboos.⁹ We didn't have to watch over the three children at night during their illness, and they recovered quickly.

12 On June 28 (July 27), I invited only our neighbors over and thanked them informally.

13 In August, I took out some barley from a new bag and I found no grain weevils. Suzuki Tonahachi came and saw this.

²The new bags, which I had never dried in the sun, were marked with red cloth.

14 Kami-Sama said on October 21 (November 15), "With the barley sown, I can rest assured. Go and buy five sheets of colored paper. Make a sacred staff with it and offer it to the altar."

²Kami-Sama told me that with the completion of the

sacred staff, I should retire from farming.

³Kami-Sama instructed, "You should gradually give up farming."

Chapter 4

1 On January 1, (January 23) 1860, Kami-Sama allowed disciples to clap their hands when praying. And He instructed me to keep a record book of worshippers with their names, year of birth, and locality.

²On May 1 (June 19), Kami-Sama said, "Call it the Daily Record Book of Worshippers" (Negai Nushi Toshi-gaki Oboe-chō).

Chapter 5

- 1 In 1861, I rebuilt the outbuilding on the east side of my property. I started this in June. We raised the ridge-pole on July 22 (August 27).
- 2 I sold some of my farm land to the Furukawas and paid for the rebuilding. It was December 1861.

²In December 1862, I sold another plot to Kameya (the Fujii family).

³After that I gradually sold my fields where different crops were grown alternately. I finished selling my farm land by December 1868.

⁴Kami-Sama ordered me to offer the money I received to the feudal lord.

Chapter 6

- 1 From January 3, 1862, my brother Obata Hikosuke of Kugui Village (in Kurashiki) suffered from a mental disorder. On the eighth, his neighbors came to inform me of this.

- 2 Kami-Sama advised, "This year will be a difficult one for your eighteen-year-old son Asakichi (Kaneyoshi). Have him worship at Gion Shrine (in Tomo Town)."
²He went to the shrine on June 13 (July 9). He returned at around four in the afternoon on the fourteenth (July 10).
³Kami-Sama told me that Asakichi would get the measles on the sixteenth (July 12).
⁴On the twenty-fifth (July 21) he recovered completely and regained sound physical health. Kami-Sama mentioned, "I will have your four other children contract the measles this month."
⁵By July 1 (July 27) all my children fully recovered. The five children did not require any care. We allowed them to eat tabooed foods. Kami-Sama had me put forth a good example for people to follow.

3 On November 23, 1862 (January 12, 1863), I was bestowed with the divine name¹ of Konko Daimyōjin.

4 Kami-Sama said that I should set up altars for kamis and ancestors in the new outbuilding.

²We also moved our *kotatsu* fireplace to the new building. All family members, except my wife and me, moved into the new east building.

Chapter 7

- 1 Kami-Sama revealed, "Your wife, who is forty-five years old, will give birth on February 9, 1863 (March 27)."

However on the ninth (March 27), Kami-Sama revealed, "Your wife's childbirth shall be postponed to tomorrow night because worshippers will come today."

²In the evening of the tenth (March 28), she went into labor. I prepared the place for the birth and asked Kami-Sama what to do next.

³Kami-Sama answered, "It will still be a while before she gives birth. The child won't be born until the moon sets (1:50 a.m.) tonight. She should sleep without worrying."

⁴Kami-Sama said to me, "Take a rest. You need not get up."

⁵He continued, "Don't raise this child. This child cannot be raised. There will only be a birth cry. After the child is born, have your wife lay the child aside. Then she is to sleep as usual."

⁶My wife had a safe childbirth when the moon set.

We felt grateful, cleaned up, and went back to sleep.

- 2 At dawn on the eleventh (March 29), I gave thanks to Kami-Sama.

²Kami-Sama imparted through me, "Tose, it is dawn. Rise and open the gate doors. You are permitted to go to the well and handle water. Draw water to cook rice. Then offer the cooked rice to *Dokūjin*'s (deity of the kitchen stove) altar and to the Hiromae's¹ altar."

³My wife got up and did as instructed without her health being affected.

- 3 Kami-Sama revealed, "Through divine blessings,² women undergo physical changes such as pregnancy and morning sickness without pain. Even without a maternity belt,³ they will have excellent physical condition prior to giving birth. After the childbirth, the mother need not lean against anything.⁴ Before and after giving birth, women may lead normal lives."

- 4 On March 21, 1863 (May 8), Kami-Sama ordered, "Always keep the sliding shutters at the Hiromae's entrance open. "

Chapter 8

- 1 On January 1, 1864 (February 8), Kami-Sama instructed, "There is no shrine nor place in Japan where Konjin can be worshipped. Build Me a shrine.
²Ask your assistants to apply at the village office and local government for approval of the construction. Ask your assistants Kawate Yasuhei and Morita Hachiemon to be responsible for the construction. Employ Kawasaki Motoemon of Akura Village (in Yorishima Town) as your carpenter. Hold the groundbreaking ceremony on January 4 (February 11)."

- 2 I applied to the Shirakawa Shinto Office¹ in Kyoto for official approval of the Konjin Shrine. I asked carpenters Kawasaki Motoemon and Hashimoto Uhei to submit the application.
²The application was received and heard by Shinto officials Hayashi Yamato-no-kami and Abeta Bizen-no-kami on April 9 (May 14).

- 3 On June 10 (July 13), Kami-Sama forbade me to take

a bath.

- 4 On September 22 (October 22), we held the construction initiation ceremony² at the Hiromae with the help of the assistants.
- 5 On October 24 (November 23), I received the divine name of "Konko Daigongen," and my wife received the divine name of "Isshi Myōjin."

Chapter 9

- 1 In January 1865, I asked Kawate Kyūnōjo to request the government to employ Asakichi.
- 2 On March 3, 1865 (March 29), Asakichi (Kaneyoshi) was assigned as a foot soldier.
- 2 On October 10, 1865 (November 27), Konko Asakichi was designated by Kami-Sama as his Disciple.
- 3 Kami-Sama told my seventeen-year-old second son Ishinojō (Hagio) to start practicing *kendō*. It was November 15 (January 1, 1866).

Chapter 10

1 On the night of August 7, 1866 (September 15), there were strong winds.

²Kami-Sama revealed, "It has been thirty-three years, give or take a day, since such winds have blown."

³Indeed, there were strong winds on the night of August 6, 1834.

2 Tomoya Chōzaemon of Kasaoka Village came to the Hiromae and requested Kami-Sama's blessing for his purchase of cotton.

3 On June 23 (August 3), Kami-Sama ordered me to stop giving prayers every morning.

4 On September 8 (October 16) at around six o'clock in the morning, my adoptive mother passed away due to illness. I prayed to Kami-Sama about this.

²He responded, "Do not stop performing toritsugi mediation."¹

5 On November 24 (December 30), Kami-Sama

revealed, "The honorific title for Kimon Kane No Kami Daimyōjin is 'Shinriki Myōga no Mikoto,' and the honorific title for Konko Daigongen is 'Jinriki Odoshi no Mikoto.'"²

Chapter 11

- 1 On February 10, 1867 (March 15), I received a letter of recommendation¹ from the Asao Provincial Office.
²On February 13 (March 18), Ishinojō (Hagio) went to Kyoto as my representative.
³At about four o'clock on February 28 (April 2), he returned.
- 2 On April 6 (May 9), the carpenters built a shed for the construction of the shrine. A believer from the Kasaoka Village hiromae came to help.
- 3 On April 15 (May 18), Kami-Sama revealed, "Asakichi (Kaneyoshi) shall rise to prominence."
²On April 18 (May 21), in another revelation, "Asakichi will be assigned to the Asao Provincial Office."
As Kami-Sama had foretold, Asakichi became an entrance guard at the Asao Provincial Office.
³On May 3 (June 5), Ichi No Deshi Asakichi was blessed with employment by the Provincial Office. It was a felicitous event.

- 4 On August 25 (September 22), Kami-Sama revealed, "Since the head carpenter is ill-hearted, he will not complete the construction of the shrine. Buy some kerosene and give a portion to the head carpenter as payment for his services."
- 5 On September 9 (October 6), Ishinojō (Hagio) went to the Asao Provincial Office. He was exhausted.
²On September 11 (October 8), he went to Kosaka Village.
³He fell ill from the twelfth (October 9). He was nineteen years old.
- 6 On October 5 (October 31), Kami-Sama instructed, "Open the gate's sliding door and put a plank on the door sill."²
- 7 In the early morning on November 24 (December 19), Kami-Sama stated, "Humans living under Nittenshi (the Sun) are Kami's children. If your body harbors pain or illness, working will be difficult.
²Pray for physical safety, diligence in your work, abundant grain harvests, and even for your horses and cattle. For everything, pray with sincerity.

³The power of Gattenshi (the Moon) is directed toward pregnancy and child rearing. During pregnancy, the parents' hearts and minds play a crucial role. With their menstruation terminated due to pregnancy, mothers who abort a child will encounter misfortune afterwards.

⁴Praying to Me with a sincere heart will dispel difficulties and bring relief.

⁵Through the virtue of Konko Daigongen's toritsugi mediation, Nittenshi Gattenshi Kimon Konjin can save.

⁶Konko Daigongen saves people from their troubles and teaches them the road to relief. This year marks the eleventh year since I first requested your assistance.

⁷Konko Daigongen, henceforth, you shall be upheld as a kami.

⁸You have revealed the virtue and influence of Tenchi No Kami to the world. I am grateful. Konko, I express My thanks. I am saying all these things for you to keep them in mind from now on."

This was on November 24 (December 19).

Chapter 12

- 1 On January 6, 1868 (January 30), Kami-Sama told me, "You and Asakichi are to look forward to the leap month of April."

²On the first of the leap month¹ of April (May 22), just as Kami-Sama had hinted, Asakichi was promoted to a rank-and-file samurai. As his father, I was presented with ceremonial garments bearing Lord Maita's family crest.

- 2 On February 5 (February 27), Kami-Sama informed me that my first son Asakichi was working in good health.

- 3 On the same day, Kami-Sama revealed, " Lord Hirotake Maita will become governor of Bitchū Province in the near future. Asakichi should pray for his good fortune, prosperity, and success."

²Kami-Sama said, "Asakichi will leave the Asao Provincial Office soon." That was in the early morning of February 8, 1872 (February 25).

- 4 In the early morning of April 3 (April 25), Kami-Sama said, "Since head carpenter Kawasaki Motoemon disregards his indebtedness to Me, I shall dismiss him. Inform the local government that the shrine construction will be postponed. Stop the construction for now."

²Motoemon had already left for an inn in March.

³On April 10 (May 2), Kami-Sama instructed, "Have him come and take home his belongings."

⁴On April 16 (May 8), the head carpenter visited Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) and the two Hiromae assistants. He asked them to have me apologize to Kami-Sama for him.

⁵When I relayed the apology, Kami-Sama said, "Konko, don't apologize for him. It is useless. I am displeased with him."

⁶On April 17 (May 9), I made him take all his belongings and he went home.

- 5 On April 4 (April 26), Kami-Sama divulged, "Your family will have the good fortune of prosperity and success forever."

- 6 On April 24 (May 16), Kami-Sama said, "Celebrate

cheerfully the coming September festival.² I feel sorry for the head carpenter."

²Kami-Sama ordered me to stop any Hiromae construction planning and work until the September festival of the next year.

7 On the first of the leap month of April (May 22), the Asao Provincial Office informed Asakichi and me of an auspicious event. (Asakichi's promotion to rank-and-file samurai.)

8 On April 9 (May 30), Kami-Sama revealed, "Your family lineage will continue for many generations. I will arrange for your family to forever reap prosperity and success."

9 On April 24 (June 14), Kami-Sama revealed, "Nittenshi and Gattenshi (the Sun and Moon) orbit around Earth. Longer or shorter nights and days are attributed to Nittenshi's northern and southern orbits.

²Three years from now, in the sixth year of Keiō (1870), the longer and shorter months of the calendar will be abolished."

³A new era started four years later, when the

Keiō era ended in September 1868. I heard of this at the end of September. The fourth year of Keiō became the first year of Meiji from the end of September 1868. So the sixth year of Keiō became the third year of Meiji.

- 10 On May 2 (June 21), when the sun set, Kami-Sama declared, "I, Tenchi No Kami, shall slice away evils. The government shall also slice away evils."
- 11 At noon on May 14 (July 3), Kami-Sama revealed, "Your concerns about the future will be settled on November 13 (December 26). Leave it to Kami."
- 12 On July 10 (August 27), Kami-Sama instructed, "Have your hair done three times a month: on the first, the eleventh, and the twenty-first."
- 13 "During the ten years from 1868 to 1877, look at yourself. It is for the future." This was the revelation on July 27 (September 13).
- 14 On September 24 (November 8), Kami-Sama ordered, "Change your divine name to Ikigami Konko Daijin."³

²IKIGAMI KONKO DAIJIN

Nittenshi Gattenshi

Ushitora Hitsujisaru KIMON KANE NO KAMI

Daishōgun Nokorazu Konjin

³Then Kami-Sama instructed, "Make and put up a banner saying, 'May there be peace throughout the world, prosperity in all countries, and safety for all people.' And pray daily.

⁴Have a pair of formal *hakama*⁴ made. Stop wearing *haori*."⁵

15 At the end of September, I heard that the era had changed. It was the first year of the Meiji Period (1868).

16 On November 1, 1868 (December 14), Kami-Sama permitted me to bestow divine names to my wife and children.

²My children's divine names are Konko Shōjin (Asakichi), Konko Sanjin (Hagio), Konko Shijin (Ieyoshi) for my third son, Isshi Shōsaijin for my daughter Kura, and Isshi Sue No Tamejin for my daughter Kono.

³Kami-Sama also revealed, "The nation will be at

peace in thirteen years. Pray for peace throughout the nation and look forward to the future."

Thirteen years after 1868 is 1880.

Chapter 13

1 In January 1869, Kami-Sama revealed, "Buy new paper for the *goshinmai*¹ and the Daily Record Book of Worshippers."

2 On March 15, 1869 (April 26), Kami-Sama directed, "From this year on, designate September 9 and 10 as the service days for your ancestors. Have your family and relatives attend the Hiromae on these days.

²Other traditional celebrations and festivals shall be disallowed in your home.

³Have your children represent you for dealing with your relatives.

⁴As for the construction of the new shrine, wait for my instructions. If the believers seek your permission to build the shrine, I won't prevent it."

This was on March 15 (April 26).

3 Early in the morning on March 17 (April 28), Kami-Sama said, "Tonight is the moon's service day of the seventeenth. Give prayers."

²That night, Kami-Sama told me another way to write

His name:

Nittenshi Gattenshi Ryōten Sōmi No Mikoto

Daishōgun Nokorazu Konjin Tsuchida No Mikoto²

- 4 On March 23 (May 4), Kami-Sama instructed, "Stop giving your daily morning prayers.

²Have your wife and children give daily morning and evening prayers.

³Have your daughter Kura cook the rice that is to be offered to Kami every day."

- 5 Some believers from the branch hiromae in Okayama City came and gave thanks. They said, "Since the shrine construction is at a standstill, we would like to help."

²Later in the day, they gathered at Fujii Kiyono's house to discuss the matter. This was on May 25 (July 4).

- 6 Kasaoka Konko Daijin (Saitō Jūemon) and Tamashima Konko Daimyōjin (Kotani Seizō) came to the Hiromae and urged me to resume the construction.

²When I brought this question before Kami-Sama, He answered, "I won't tell you what to do. It is up to all

of you."

It was July 11 (August 18).

- 7 Kasaoka Konko Daijin assigned his hiromae's head carpenter, Takai Tanigorō, to assist with the shrine construction. Saitō Tomoemon, who lived across from the Kasaoka Village hiromae, and Saitō Rin'emon, Jūemon's younger brother, came and we held the construction initiation ceremony³ for the shrine construction. It was September 10 (October 14).

- 8 On November 1 (December 3), Kami-Sama revealed, "Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) will receive divine blessings on the thirteenth of this month (December 15). By the fifteenth (December 17), you can feel at ease about his situation."

Chapter 14

- 1 Early in the morning on July 3, 1870 (July 30), Daishōgun-Sama's service day, Kami-Sama revealed, "Tell Isshi Daijin (Tose) that mending old clothing will be unnecessary from next year."
- 2 The whole roof of the main house was rethatched from September 27 to 29 (October 21 to 23). The workers included the two Hiromae assistants (Kawate Yasuhei and Morita Hachiemon), Kudose Isegorō from Michigi, roofer Asano Kumigorō from Gomaya, and Yoshida Fudezō of Sagata Village.
- 3 On October 26 (November 19), Kami-Sama spoke, "You, Ikigami Konko Daijin, have been performing toritsugi for Nittenshi Gattenshi Ushitora Hitsujisaru Kimon Kane No Kami (Principle Parent of the Universe) for thirteen years.
²With much patience, you have accumulated divine virtue,¹ and you have become one with the Universe.
³Recite the *Rokkon* Prayer and chant the *Shingyō* Sutra.

“Through Konko Daijin's voice, I, Tenchi Kane No Kami, give My thanks. I cannot be more grateful.”

- 4 On the twenty-sixth (November 19), Kami-Sama instructed, "For all things, pay ten percent more than the fixed price."

Chapter 15

1 On January 1, 1871 (February 19), Kami-Sama said, "Put away the hexagonal *tatami* prayer mat that is in the Hiromae. Thirteen years have passed since you stopped farming. You have been through many traumas and hardship. Hereafter, do not falter in the face of any more traumas and hardship."

2 On February 3, 1871, Kami-Sama revealed, "You have been through many traumas and hardships during the past thirteen years. Hereafter, do not falter in the face of hardship and traumas."

²In October 1859, I was ordered to stop farming. This year is the thirteenth year since that time.

3 On April 6 (May 24), Takahashi Tōkichi and wife Tomie of Rokujōin Nishi Village came and spoke of disturbing rumors.

²I told them that no such things had happened.

³After that, I heard the same rumors.

4 On April 6 (May 24), Takahashi Tōkichi and wife

Tomie of Rokujōin Nishi Village came and spoke of disturbing rumors. I told them, "I know nothing about it."

²According to what they told me, the rumor was, "Konko Daijin committed burglaries in collusion with his disciples."

5 I was told by Tenchi Kane No Kami Sama, "Have the Hiromae assistant, Kawate Yasuhei, stop maintaining the Hiromae Record of Worshippers."

²After this, rumors about the alleged burglaries spread, and I often heard of them. The number of worshippers declined.

³The Asao Provincial Office investigated the rumors. An official told me, "None are true. They all have been proven to be false."

6 On May 24 (July 11), Kami-Sama revealed, "Since the head carpenter's character is bad, he will not complete the construction."

7 On July 24 (September 8), Nittenshi-Sama's service day, Kami-Sama said, "Just give teachings of this Faith to those who come with requests for fate and

fortune, building construction, building renovation, house moving, or marriage arrangement."

- 8 On August 4 (September 18), Kami-Sama advised, "Don't buy any barley. Eat the barley that you already have. You needn't require the children to operate the tread polisher. I will have the whole family consume polished rice.

²Your children who have already learned how to read and write and use the abacus should teach their brothers and sisters who haven't."

- 9 On the occasion of Ikigami Konko Daijin's service days on September 9 and 10 (October 22 and 23), Kami-Sama instructed, "Put four large and small banners outside. Hang six paper lanterns south of the main house and two paper lanterns west of the new outbuilding. Place a pair of large, lit, wax candles and mochi rice cakes on the altar."

- 10 On September 16 (October 29), Kami-Sama said, "A proverb says, 'A deep pool becomes a rapid current, and a rapid current becomes a deep pool.' And also, 'During a flood, part of the land resembles an ocean.'

These things do happen."

²On September 17 (October 30), Kami-Sama revealed, "Like the river in Bitchū Province which has been called Reverse-Direction River¹ from old times, things can go in reverse."

- 11 On December 4 (January 13), Kami-Sama revealed, "You will always be happy. Don't fret over anything. Be sincere. There is nothing to fear. Don't run away from your problems, whatever they may be. Don't depend on others.

²As for your daughter, don't mind if she is still unmarried at thirty and is called a spinster. Don't be perturbed by what people say. People have their own way of thinking. Kami will have you enjoy your future. Pray for long life and prosperity."

- 12 Early in the morning on December 10 (January 19), Kami-Sama spoke, "Since Konko Daijin's way of toritsugi mediation has been established, if people listen to and accept my teachings, they can find relief. Kamis as well as buddhas will rejoice. People are to value their parents and get along well with their spouse. The family should be harmonious.

²People keep consulting the Days and Directions² and don't pray to me, Tenchi Kane No Kami. The Days and Directions do not matter. They should pray to me and get my permission. I shall maintain their prosperity."

- 13 Early in the morning on December 11 (January 20), Kami-Sama revealed, "Head carpenter Kawasaki Motoemon's character has gone astray. Just like Hashimoto Uhei, he was pressed by creditors for money he owed.

²Though people address him with an honorific title, he and his wife have no sincerity. His character will not allow my virtue to shine. Using Konko Daijin's name, they deceived the believers and borrowed hundreds of *ryō* from them. Consequently, he deceived Kami as well as Konko Daijin.

³To Me, he was precious. Hoping that he would honor me, I appointed him to be the head carpenter. But he thinks he can work by his own power and behaves arrogantly among others.

⁴He is not aware of his indebtedness to Konko Daijin. Although a year has already passed, he still hasn't given any thanks.