

Takahashi Village, for a helping hand, Ieyoshi complied. It was on October 26 (November 23).

²He came home on January 30 (February 24).

- 23 On November 24, October 27 of the lunar calendar, Kami-Sama gave me the following revelation concerning the health of my wife and Kura. "On the night of the twenty-eighth, bury Kura's baby in the bamboo grove.

²Without fail, I shall have your five children's welfare be good."

- 24 Early on the morning of November 22 (December 19), Kami-Sama revealed, "Kura will have a safe childbirth in the early morning of January 2 (January 27). Raise the baby."

²In the early morning of November 23 (December 20), Kura said, "Belly pains have begun from last night. It is the same pain as last year."

³I prayed to Kami-Sama about this. Kami-Sama revealed, "The birth is premature. There is nothing we can do for the baby if it is born now. You cannot raise this baby."

⁴Before eight o'clock in the morning, Kura had a

miscarriage, but it was an easy labor.

⁵I gave thanks to Kami-Sama. Kami-Sama said, "If the baby was alive, there would be no problem informing the Fujii family a little later. But since the baby died, tell the Fujii family about it immediately. Bury the deceased baby behind your house."

⁶Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) came to the Hiromae and returned home later that afternoon.

⁷In the evening, Konshi (Fujii Komajirō) came and said, "Instead of burying the baby behind your house, I will bury the baby by the edge of the river," and he took the baby to bury it. This was the night of the twenty-third.

⁸From the next day, the twenty-fourth (December 21), Kura received blessings and began to work in the house.

25 At dusk on December 29 (January 25), Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) came to the Hiromae. He asked me for more money.

Chapter 20

- 1 In the early morning on January 1, 1876 (January 26), Shōjin (Asakichi) went back to Asao Village.

²Kami-Sama revealed, "Konko Shōjin, who has become thirty-two, is to look forward to the next year when he becomes thirty-three."

- 2 On January 21 (February 15), Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) came to give thanks and said he would reform his heart.

²On the early morning of January 24 (February 18), Kami-Sama imparted to Konko Shōjin (Asakichi), "Think of the money you have spent as loans from others. As for the interest, I will pay it.

³Even though you live in a small, three-tatami-mat room, be patient for three years, pray to Kami, and help others. Think that you are in prison and study anew.

⁴Come here on the twentieth of every month. Repay your debts gradually, and apologize to your creditors. Tell them that you will repay them as much as you can."

⁵Konko Shōjin returned to Asao Village on January 28 (February 22).

- 3 On February 26 (March 21), the fourteenth of the sue calendar, a Fujii family member came to pray for (Fujii) Taijirō. I prayed to Kami-Sama for his safe return from Banshū Province (west Hyōgo Prefecture).

²Kami-Sama said, "Disturbances in society will end this year or next. Be at ease for everything.

³If the thirty-day sue calendar is officially recognized by May 15, society will become peaceful within ten years or so because of Konko's virtue. Your original family, the Kawates, has been dying out for a long time. You are to follow my teachings, reform your heart, and receive divine favor."

- 4 Kami-Sama revealed, "The Meiji Restoration took place in 1868. All Shinto priests were dismissed in 1872. This is the fourth year since the dismissal. Look forward to four years from now, when one cycle of the *jūnishi* Oriental zodiac will have been completed since the Restoration."

This revelation was on February 26, 1876 (March 21).

5 On the early morning of March 7 (April 1), Shōjin (Asakichi) requested about his marriage. I asked Kami-Sama about this, and He revealed, "It is useless to tell him anything about his marriage since he is a person who does not listen to Kami's teachings. Don't give him any advice. Let him be."

²Shōjin explained about the kimonos he had pawned. "If I pay slightly more than 6 yen now as the principal and interest to the pawnbroker, it will be very convenient for me because I will get my kimonos back."

I asked Kami-Sama about this. Kami-Sama revealed, "Have Isshi Daijin (Tose) give him the money."

³If he is patient enough and feels regretful about spending even one *sen*¹ of money, he will gradually be able to repay his debts and Kami will let him save his honor."

I felt grateful.

⁴I also gave him one *sen* as a gift. I told him, "You cannot do anything without any money. You can use this to pay for the ferry if you like."

⁵He returned home after having lunch.

6 On March 18 (April 12), March 6 of the *sue* calendar,

Kami-Sama revealed, "There will be an earthquake during the rice planting in May."

- 7 On March 20 (April 14), Kami-Sama revealed, "On the twenty-third or twenty-fourth, there will be a happy event."

²On March 23 (April 17), I heard a rumor about me being a burglar. It was sheer nonsense.

³On March 24 (April 18), Furukawa Mume, my mother-in-law, became angry at Kura. She came to tell me what happened.

⁴Kami-Sama said, "Good things become difficult, and difficult things become good. On March 4 of the *sue* calendar (May 10), your difficulties will become good."

- 8 On April 17, 1876 (May 10), Kami-Sama instructed, "Don't use a mosquito net. Even if you are bitten a lot, don't mind it."

²Kami-Sama instructed, "Don't wear a hakama or haori. Just wear a white kimono."

- 9 On April 17, 1876, Kami-Sama revealed, "Don't use a mosquito net."

²I endured sleeping without a net from 1876 to April 1879 when I used the net for the first time in four years.

³I was allowed to use a mosquito net in 1879. That year I was not bitten by mosquitoes.

⁴Kami-Sama revealed, "Have Hagio, whose room is on the east side of the house, switch rooms with Ieyoshi whose room is on the west side."

It was April 10, 1879 of the lunar calendar. There was a leap month of March.

⁵They switched rooms immediately.

⁶I used a mosquito net for the first time in four years.

10 On April 26 (May 19), Furukawa Sansaku came to the Hiromae and told me, "I've come because my elder sister (Tose) has asked me to convince Saikichi to divorce Kono."

²I told him, "When a child does not listen to his or her parents, it can't be helped. There are couples who tire of each other and get a divorce, and couples who love each other and get a divorce. Society is inconsistent. There are even couples who remarry each other after

divorcing."

³That night, Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) came for Kura (who had been staying with us). On April 27 (May 20), Tsunejirō (Kura's husband) came and took Kura back to his house (the Fujiis).

- 11 Kami-Sama gave revelations concerning rain. Although Kami-Sama said it would rain on May 21 (June 13), it actually rained from four o'clock in the afternoon on the twenty-second (June 14) and throughout the night.

²It rained again from the evening of the twenty-fifth (June 17) until the next morning. It also rained from the afternoon of the twenty-sixth (June 18) until the afternoon of the twenty-seventh (June 19). It rained often until the first of the leap month of May (June 22). The rice planting went well.

³It rained from the twenty-ninth (June 21) to May 1 (June 22).

- 12 On June 24, which was the third of the leap month of May of the lunar calendar, May 19 of the sue calendar, and a service day for Daishōgun-Sama, Kami-Sama advised, "The rice seedlings may be

transplanted at three different times to see which batch gives the best harvest.

²After the rice plants firmly take root, a hoe may be used for cutting the weeds and other work."

- 13 On May 28 (June 20), Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) came to give a request. I prayed to Kami-Sama about the request and Kami-Sama answered, "Do as he asks."

²Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) explained, "My wife (Kane), who had an outside job, has fallen ill and we need much money."

³Kami-Sama revealed, "He should not ask someone else to take care of his wife. He should bring her to this house and introduce her to the family. If he agrees to this, he need not waste any money."

⁴He left on the fourth of the leap month of May (June 25).

- 14 Early in the morning on May 8 (June 29), May 24 of the *sue* calendar, Kami-Sama revealed, "It will rain from eight o'clock in the morning tomorrow, which is the ninth (June 30)."

²I misheard the revelation and apologized to Kami-Sama.

15 Early in the morning on the ninth (June 30), May 25 of the *sue* calendar, Kami-Sama revealed, "The villagers should plant the rice during May of the *sue* calendar. They need not use pond water in the paddies."

²"During May of the *sue* calendar," meant until May 14 (July 5) of the lunar calendar. All the rice paddies in the village were planted by May 15 (July 6).

16 Early in the morning on June 24 (August 13), Kami-Sama revealed, "Konko Daijin, endure even if other people urinate on you. I shall clean you up. Be patient no matter what people say.

²The Way of the Universe is collapsing. Broaden the Way. Teach the Way which can help people in trouble.

³You may tell others that I, Nittenshi-Gattenshi-Konjin, do not care how people treat me."

17 On the same day, the twenty-fourth (August 13), Tomoya Chōzaemon from Kasaoka Village came to the Hiromae to give thanks to Kami-Sama. I gave teachings to him. He went home feeling grateful.

²After this, I prayed to Kami-Sama who then

responded, "When he purchases *tatami* mat covers, he should check their quality well. When selling them, he should not include medium-quality covers in a bundle of high-quality ones. But he may put high-quality covers into a bundle of medium-quality ones.

³In any case, he should conduct business honestly. In the future, I will help him become a successful and respected person in Kasaoka Village.

⁴When Chōzaemon's son comes to the Hiromae, give him this teaching."

⁵Later, Chōzaemon's son Kisaburō came to the Hiromae. I told him about Kami-Sama's teachings. He thanked me.

- 18 Early in the morning on August 9 (September 26), Kami-Sama instructed, "Teach your children and wife about faith as you show them the condition of the bamboo in the parched bamboo grove."

²The tenth of the leap month of May (July 1) was the final day of the seed sowing season. It rained three days after this. A bamboo stalk which sprouted ten days after the final day of the seed sowing season grew to be four *shaku*² tall, then it stopped growing.

³I thought the bamboo died, but it started to grow

again day by day. It rained on July 10 (August 28), and from that day the bamboo began to grow very fast.

⁴After this, the weather improved and the bamboo stalk stopped growing.

⁵It rained again from July 26 (September 13) to the twenty-ninth (September 16). The bamboo stalk started to grow again because of the rain and the branches grew thick.

⁶On August 9 (September 26), I looked at the bamboo again and cut off the top of the stalk. It soon became thick with leaves.

⁷I told my wife and children, "Trees, bamboo, grass, grains, and other plants grow because of the rain and soil ("*ame-tsuchi*") of the Universe (also "*ame-tsuchi*," but written as *Tenchi*). Without the rain and soil of the Universe, they would not grow and there would be no harvest. If people practice faith, plants will grow and harvests will improve."

19 On August 25 (October 12), September 9 of the *sue* calendar, Kami-Sama instructed, "Change your clothes and wear a lined kimono. You need not wear a *haori* every day. Wear work clothes made of high-

quality cotton, with or without sleeves. During winter, you may wear a padded vest over your lined kimono."

²During the summer I did not use a mosquito net and had no problem. I was grateful for not having problems after following Kami-Sama's instructions.

20 On August 29 (October 16), two policemen from Kamogata Village came with night sticks and asked me about Kami-Sama. They said, "It is okay to help people."

21 On September 7 (October 23), two other policemen from Kamogata Village came to the Hiromae. They also asked the same questions. I explained to them about the negotiations I had held with the Oda Prefectural Office.

²They said, "The prefectural system has changed and the Oda Prefectural Office is no more. Those who pray to a kami shouldn't wear white clothes like doctors."

They told me about the regulation against acting like a doctor or pharmacist. They investigated the way I performed toritsugi mediation.

³They took the lanterns, offerings, and offertory box away.³

22 On September 10 (October 26), Kami-Sama said, "Be at ease."

23 On the twelfth (October 28), the Okayama Prefectural Office gave us the certification which the followers had requested.

²Kami-Sama revealed, "The followers thought that requesting the certification would please Me, but I am not pleased."

³They issued the certification because the followers said we worshipped the Ise Grand Shrines.

24 On September 12 (October 28), again two policemen came to the Hiromae. They ordered me, "Don't accept any money or other offerings. Just pray for people without accepting such things. If you accept offerings, we will tie you up and take you to the police station."

²I promised not to do such things.

25 On September 13 or 14 (October 29 or 30), my family

became worried and said, "You should make preparations to go to the police station in Kamogata Village."

²I then changed from a padded kimono into a *haori*.

- 26 From the fifteenth (October 31), I prayed to Kami-Sama by chanting the *Rokkon Harai* prayer.

²On the same day, Kami-Sama revealed, "You can be at ease on the eighteenth (November 3). You will be able to hold the service on the twenty-second. You will have no problems during September. You will be able to feel at ease in October."

- 27 Early in the morning on October 21 (December 6), Kami-Sama instructed, "You may offer the things that followers bring, but do not accept any money."

- 28 Early in the morning on November 9 (December 24), Kura Isshi Shōsaijin came to my house and had a safe childbirth.

²She came to my house early in the morning saying she had an amniotic fluid discharge. She came to the Hiromae and asked me for some sacred sake. She soon gave birth in my bedroom.

³We immediately boiled some water, washed the baby, and cleaned up. Then we brought her to the east outbuilding. It was a baby girl. We felt very grateful.

⁴Kami-Sama had revealed that the baby would be born at about nine o'clock in the morning.

[29] Kura Shōsaijin came on the morning of the ninth (December 24), saying she was in labor.

²My wife said to me, "We would like to receive a divine blessing today, which is Konko-Sama's service day."

³I prayed to Kami-Sama about this. Kami-Sama revealed, "Kura will be at ease at nine o'clock in the morning as requested."

⁴Kami-Sama revealed various dates for the birth in case of a prolonged labor, such as January 9 or 10, which is November 25 or 26 of the lunar calendar, or January 2 of the lunar calendar (February 14)."

⁵I said to my wife, "If the date of childbirth is different from what Kami-Sama said, it is because the hearts of our family members are bad. Our family won't be prosperous."

⁶When I went to the Hiromae after breakfast, my wife and Kura came to the next room to ask for sacred

sake. Kura drank some sacred sake and immediately set up the delivery place. A girl was born. It was at nine o'clock, just as Kami-Sama had revealed.

⁷I prayed to Kami-Sama for the afterbirth to be expelled, then it was expelled immediately. We washed the baby in warm water, and I expressed our appreciation to Kami-Sama. Kami-Sama revealed, "It is a wonderful thing. Have Kura bury the afterbirth at the riverbank. Dispose the water you used to wash the baby at the usual place for discarding waste water."

⁸November 15 (December 30) was the seventh-night celebration⁴ for the newborn baby. I also checked the dates for the other celebrations. The twenty-second (January 6) would be the second seventh-night celebration. The twenty-ninth (January 13) would be the third seventh-night celebration. December 7 (January 20) would be the fourth seventh-night celebration. The fourteenth (January 27) would be the fifth seventh-night celebration. The twenty-first (February 3) would be the sixth seventh-night celebration. The twenty-eighth (February 10) would be the seventh seventh-night celebration. January 5 (February 17), 1877 would be the eighth seventh-

night celebration. The twelfth (February 24) would be the ninth seventh-night celebration. The nineteenth (March 3) would be the tenth seventh-night celebration.

⁹We received blessings on November 9, 1876 (December 24) and felt grateful.

- 30 Early in the morning on November 11 (December 26), Kami-Sama instructed, "Ask the village head for permission to retire as head of your household. Make Hagio the head of the household. Show the divine reminder of Tenchi No Kami to Araki Kōshirō (Otani Village head) of Sagata Village and Kawate Naozō (village elder) of Otani Village."

²Hagio did not agree to this, and we did not change the head of the household.

- 31 Early in the morning of the twenty-fourth (January 8), Kami-Sama revealed, "You will be at ease on the twenty-sixth (January 10)."

²This was to be January 10 of the Gregorian calendar.

- 32 On December 30 (February 12), the last day of the year or January 12 of the sue calendar, a cold wind

blew.

Kami-Sama revealed, "Wait until 1880 to feel at ease."

Chapter 21

- 1 On February 13 of the Gregorian calendar or January 1, 1877 of the lunar calendar and January 13 of the *sue* calendar, the wind became stronger and colder. The cold was severe.
- 2 On February 15 or January 3 of the lunar calendar, some policemen from Kamogata and Tamashima came and said, "We've come often, three or four times already and have told you to stop your religious activities. But you haven't stopped, so we are taking you to the police station today. Get ready to go." They added, "Don't pray anymore."
²I told the policemen, "I asked for and got permission from the Okayama Prefectural government. I am loyal to the government. I have not opposed the government."
³"Show us your papers from the Okayama Prefectural government," they said. I immediately presented them as proof.
⁴The policemen then said, "These papers should be taken and shown to the village head. Let him tell you

what they mean," and they left.

- 3 On March 2 of the Gregorian calendar, January 18 of the lunar calendar, it snowed.

Konko Hagio went to the police station, police box, and the Provincial Office in Tamashima Village to submit the government release.

²Hagio returned home and told me about it. The government officials had said, "Do not pray for people's requests. You can just talk to people and instruct them."

³Hagio also said, "The village head asked me to visit these three places."

- 4 From March 3 or January 19 of the lunar calendar, I just gave teachings to the people who came to the Hiromae.

²Hagio said that Konjin's faith has been banned by the government. And we were not allowed to give people Divine Reminders (Tenchi Kakitsuke). I stopped writing Divine Reminders.

- 5 On January 24, 1877 (March 8), Kami-Sama instructed, "Have your two sons write Divine

Reminders (Tenchi Kakitsuke) and keep them on hand."

6 Early in the morning on February 25 (April 8), Kami-Sama revealed, "Steam ships and the telegraph are very fast. The entire world shall prosper, the land of Kami shall flourish, and peace and harmony shall prevail."

7 February 30 (April 13). Asakichi came home yesterday and asked me for money.

²Early in the morning I gave thanks and Kami-Sama said, "Divide your property between your five sons."

³Asakichi moved to Higashi Nakayashiki Town in Okayama City. He bought the house of a former samurai named Murakami. The price was 35 yen, and he asked for 20 yen. He said he moved into the house on February 22 (April 5).

⁴Kami-Sama said, "Give him only 2 yen as a deposit and have him come back on March 10 (April 23).

⁵He is to receive 20 yen in total. Give the other four children 10 percent of 20 yen, or 2 yen each."

⁶On the thirtieth (April 13), Asakichi left.

⁷Kami-Sama said, "Give 2 yen each to Hagio,

Kura, and Kono, a total of 6 yen." I gave the money over to Isshi Daijin (Tose). This instruction was on the last day of December 1877.

- 8 Asakichi came on May 7, 1877 (June 17) and asked for money on the thirteenth (June 23).

²Asakichi said he would give 10 yen to his daughter. Kami-Sama revealed, "There is no money for you, so you should bring your daughter to the Hiromae. If you bring her, I will take care of her. When she grows up, I will have her be adopted or let her do whatever suits her. She should stay here."

³Asakichi went home on the thirteenth (June 7).

- 9 On May 17 (June 27), the rice planting in Otani Village was completed. The eighteenth (June 28) was a day of rest for everyone.

- 10 It rained on May 27 and 28 (July 7 and 8) and on the thirtieth (July 10). It also rained on June 1 (July 11).

²It rained for the first time in thirty days during the nights of June 29 (August 8) and July 1 (August 9). Although it rained slightly on July 2 (August 10), 3, 4,

and 5 (August 13), people said there was a drought.

³I heard that they couldn't plant rice in Tsu, Yūzaki, and Shinden.

⁴Summer beans could not be harvested anywhere in the vicinity except the seeds for the next season. The other summer vegetables grew better than last year.

11 On July 4 (August 12), Nittenshi-Sama (the sun deity) revealed, "I will enable you to have night vision."

12 The Chōshū-Yamaguchi War broke out with clan uprisings and rebellions. The uprisings occurred because Saigō Takamori of Satsuma (Kagoshima Prefecture) and his soldiers rebelled against the government. The government army of Chōshū (Yamaguchi Prefecture) attacked them. The following occurred at that time.

²In the early morning on July 15 (August 23), when I hung my towel, it fell down.

³I asked Kami-Sama about the meaning of this, and He revealed, "Both the government and people shall be at ease by August or September. The Satsuma rebels shall be defeated."

⁴As Kami-Sama had forecast, the war ended and the

government army returned. In November (December), a soldier came to the Hiromae to give thanks for this.

- 13 July 18 (August 26). An east wind blew. Today is seven days before the 210th day after the first day of spring.¹ A southerly and westerly wind blew strongly from five o'clock in the afternoon. As Kami-Sama told me, the wind calmed down by about seven o'clock in the evening.

- 14 On July 29, 1877 (September 6), I gave prayers early in the morning.

²I received the following request from Tenshō Kōtaijin-Sama. "Like Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, I do not speak of impurities and taboos anymore. Convey this to the people."

³Tenshō Kōtaijin gave this request to me, Konko Daijin.

- 15 On the evening of December 7, 1882 (January 15), the service day for Nenohoshi (the North Star deity), I prayed and Kami-Sama instructed, "Hold a service for Tenshō Kōtaijin on January

11 and 21 and on the first of each month."

16 At about four o'clock in the morning on August 4, 1877 (September 9), I suddenly got diarrhea. After one bowel movement, all the poison was eliminated from my body and I was very thankful.

17 I gave thanks early in the morning on the fourth (September 10). Kami-Sama revealed, "I shall make it so that you won't have to go to the toilet every day. I will also see to it that your clothes don't get dirty because of the diarrhea. I will enable you to go to the toilet only every third or fourth day."

²As Kami-Sama had said, I went to the toilet only on the fourth (September 10) and the morning of the eighth (September 14).

³"I will enable you to gradually have night vision" was the revelation I received.

18 Early in the morning on August 20 (September 26), Kami-Sama gave advice for Konko Shōjin (Asakichi). "When he works as a salt vendor, he should carry two or three *to* (about 36 to 54 liters) of salt on his shoulder each day and sell it. On days when he is

unable to sell it, he is to keep it at a wholesaler's shop.
If he is patient, he can become a salt wholesaler."

19 Early on April 19, 1877 (May 31), Kami-Sama revealed, "Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) will regain vision in her right eye. She is to look forward to July, August, and September."

²On April 27 (June 8), Fujii Kiyono came to give thanks for Fujii Taijirō's letter from Osaka.

³Kami-Sama revealed, "Renew your old heart. And pray for a good heart, so you will regain your eyesight and not become ill."

⁴Kami-Sama added, "Don't say negative things like, 'Will I soon regain my eyesight?'"

⁵Then Kiyono said, "I won't stop saying what I have been saying. I'll keep complaining." Because she did not listen to Kami-Sama's teachings, Kami-Sama severed His ties with Kiyono.

20 Early in the morning on November 15, 1878 (December 8) and again on the seventeenth (December 10), Kami-Sama revealed, "I will sever ties with Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono) who says

that the power of Kami is decreasing."

21 Early in the morning of August 25, 1879 (October 10), Kami-Sama revealed, "Mukai Myōjin (Fujii Kiyono), a fifty-one-year-old woman, tells lies to Konko Daijin and ousted Isshi Shōsaijin (Fujii Kura). She cheats followers and asks them to offer money. I am displeased and angered.

²Those who ask for Konko Daijin's toritsugi mediation but go against Kami's teachings, will have their ties to Me severed."

³The day before, Kiyono brought the first harvest of rice as an offering and told my wife, "My eyes hurt."

⁴It was on the morning of August 24 (October 9). She ate breakfast in the kitchen of my house. In the evening, she came to the Hiromae and then returned home. I heard this from my wife later.

⁵After that Kiyono's eyes looked deep-set. She looked unsightly.

22 On July 11, 1880 (August 16), someone from

Osaka came to accompany Kiyono back to Osaka. They left on the twelfth. I heard about this later.

- 23 On August 27, 1877 (October 3), Kami-Sama revealed, "On service days, you should do what you always do."

I asked Kami-Sama about this again on the thirtieth (October 6).

- 24 On September 1 (October 7), September 9 according to the *sue* calendar, Kami-Sama revealed, "Change to a lined kimono and wear your *haori*."

- 25 Everything related to the service was easily completed from September 22 to 24 (October 28 to 30).

²On the twenty-third, mochi was distributed to the Ono family (village leader), the two Kawate families (Iseki and Naozō), and the Araki family (village head). I also gave mochi to all the families living near the Hiromae.

- 26 On September 29 (November 4), village head Kawate Yojirō said to Hagio, "Have Kōda Yutaka inform the

government officials in Okayama City that you plan to build a shrine. Then it will be easy to proceed with the construction."

²Kami-Sama revealed, "It is all right if you can give teachings as you are doing now without being in debt. If the government prohibits you from giving teachings to followers, it cannot be helped.

³Then you, Konko Daijin, should rest by lying flat on your back with not a care on your mind."

27 In the evening on September 29 (December 4), Kawate Naozō came to the Hiromae to talk to me.

²He said, "The villagers are expecting you to build a Konjin Shrine in Otani Village. Ask for assistance from Kōda Yutaka, a Shinto priest. He is in charge of matters concerning Shinto shrines. If you build a shrine and the village people become believers of that village shrine, it would be great. Leave it to me for building the shrine."

³I said, "Since I have no intention to leave this Hiromae, I refuse your advice. If things go the way you say, I will leave it up to you."

⁴Kawate responded, "If that's the case, you should follow Hagio's suggestion."

⁵Later, Kami-Sama revealed, "The villagers are trying to build a Konjin Shrine in Otani Village.

⁶Through Ikigami Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami is gradually being revealed to Japan and the whole world. Convey this message to the villagers.

⁷If they say they will build a village shrine and they ask for construction materials, give the materials to them even the stones for the foundation."

This revelation was received in the evening of September 29 (November 4).

28 On October 3 (November 7), my children offered Kami-Sama thirty-eight persimmons which they picked in the front yard. It was Daishōgun's service day.

29 Early in the morning on the fifth (November 9), Kami-Sama revealed, "Konko Shijin's (Ieyoshi's) leg injury will improve on the tenth. His condition will become favorable on the twenty-eighth (December 2)."

²The dog days of winter ended on October 2 (November 6). On the sixth (November 10), Shijin was able to sow the barley seeds in the fields below the house.

30 Early in the morning on October 13 (November 17), Kami-Sama revealed, "There are many precious things that are black, such as black iron and charcoal. However, if everything in the world was black, you would not be able to see.

²How is Konko written? It is written with the kanji characters for 'golden light.' Any person is inclined to look toward light. Gradually, people will come toward the light.

³Never forget '*Tenchi*' (Heaven and Earth) or '*Ame-tsuchi*' (rain and soil).

⁴Don't say careless things.

⁵Water is necessary, but not a flood. Soil is necessary, but not an avalanche.

⁶Excessive eating or drinking is not good for people. Everything is good in the proper amount."

31 On October 18 (November 22), Kami-Sama told me to make a box for the old currency.

I asked my son to make it. He made it during the day.

²Kami-Sama revealed, "Keep the old currency in the box. These bills will be a treasure of the house."

32 On October 20 (November 24), Kami-Sama said,

"Have your children living at home come and pray at the Hiromae in the evening of the twenty-seventh (December 1) or the morning of the twenty-eighth (December 2). Kami will give them teachings.

²Your children should not regret putting money in the box. In place of the money, I will give them interest. They should not be greedy.

³Your children should be patient for three years and look forward to the future."

⁴I showed Konko Sanjin (Hagio) and Konko Shijin (Ieyoshi) the money and asked them to take it for safekeeping. I told them about Kami's revelation and blessings.

33 Early in the morning on October 21 (November 25), Kami-Sama revealed, "Shōsaijin Kura (Fujii Kura) will need to be patient for five years for the future."

34 On October 24 (November 28), Fujii Tsunejirō went to Sue Village and contracted an eye disease. He came to the Hiromae.

²Kami-Sama revealed, "His left eye must heal tomorrow. Otherwise, it will take a long time and he will have to request his bodily poisons to be

eliminated in the meantime. He should also request that his right eye, which has been closed, will open. I will heal both his eyes so that they will be in good health. Pray single-heartedly."

³On the evening of October 27 (December 1), Kura came to the Hiromae to tell me that Tsunejirō's eyes were in pain and to receive some sacred sake.

⁴On the night of the twenty-ninth (December 3), Tsunejirō came to the Hiromae to give thanks that his eyes healed. He said, "I finished sowing barley seeds in the Ōshinden field, used the grain mill, and also ate a night snack."

35 Early in the morning on October 26 (November 30), Kami-Sama revealed, "Today, have your sons remove the fence between the carpenter's shed and the new outbuilding. Then rearrange the lumber for the construction. Trim the trees, level the ground, repair the floor of the Hiromae, remove the bamboo roots, and clean the garden."

36 On October 27 (December 1), there was a teaching from Kami-Sama. "Ieyoshi went to the river to catch crab for fish bait. Scold him by showing him the

memos you have written about him. Teach him things that will benefit him."

37 On November 6 (December 10), Shōjin (Asakichi) came home.

²Early in the morning on the seventh (December 11), Kami-Sama revealed, "He should not buy rice on the market this year. Give 20 yen to Shōjin (Asakichi). He should undertake any business he wants. He should even borrow money with interest to buy the commodities he needs.

³When someone buys commodities by putting down a deposit and promising to pay the rest by a certain date, the contract will be broken unless the person pays the balance by the due date. Shōjin is to repay the money he borrows for his business by the end of December or January of the Gregorian calendar.

⁴If he has already bought some commodities on the market, he should sell everything within five to six days. He should not buy commodities on the market again. He should deal in commodities only for a while and not continuously.

⁵He should teach troubled and ill people about the faith and tell them, 'I will pray for you when I get

home."

⁶Also, to the Fujii family, Kami-Sama advised, "Let your broker observe the market and buy rice when the price goes down."

The market opened on December 11 of the Gregorian calendar or November 7 of the lunar calendar.

38 On December 28 of the Gregorian calendar, November 24 of the lunar calendar and December 1 according to the sue calendar, Kami-Sama revealed, "Konko Daijin, look forward to when you become ten years old and to when the sue calendar is used officially.

²Nakai Konshi Daimyōjin (Ōmori Ume) of Jōtō County, Okayama Prefecture and her husband are concerned about their two-*tan* rice field. If they always feel regretful about their two-*tan* rice field, they will not be able to make a living.

³The family who borrowed money from the Ōmori family after the Omoris had mortgaged their two-*tan* rice paddies told lies to people, then disappeared.

⁴Ume and her husband shouldn't hate that family. Instead, they should feel sorry for them. If they think of the two-*tan* rice paddy as a gift, they will feel at

ease.

⁵I don't want to force them to do so. They should talk it over with each other and decide on their own. They should not blame those whom they deal with, or they will lose out.

⁶Kami feels sorry for Ōmori Ume. If you, Konko Daijin, receive divine blessings, you should send her money. She should have a heart that helps suffering people."

⁷I, Konko Daijin, relayed this revelation to Ume, and she returned to Okayama feeling very grateful. This was early in the morning on the twenty-fourth of the lunar calendar (December 28).

⁸To give this revelation, I had her come to the Hiromae before they were to return home in the morning. She came to the Hiromae with (Kataoka) Jiroshirō of Saizaki Village (Okayama), a person from Takehara Village (Okayama), and two people from Momoezuki Village (Okayama).

39 On December 3 (January 5), Kami-Sama revealed, "Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) will come on December 6 (January 8)."

²As Kami-Sama's revelation indicated, a rice dealer

who did business with Shōjin came on the sixth to give thanks.

- 40 On December 10 (January 12), Kami-Sama revealed, "Shōjin (Asakichi) will come on December 13 (January 15). If he comes, he will become happy. If he receives divine blessings, give him a scroll of divine messages from the three biggest shrines in Japan, including the Ise Grand Shrines."

²Kami-Sama told me, "Do not place your hands in water nor pour water on your hands."

³Shōjin didn't come on the thirteenth (January 15) as the revelation indicated. I gave thanks in the evening.

⁴I received a revelation, "Your wife doesn't follow my teachings. When water is boiled for her, she pours cold water in it and does other unreasonable things. At any rate, she does many things that are not useful. She told Shōjin not to come to the Hiromae. I am angered."

Chapter 22

- 1 On January 9, 1878 (February 10), Shōjin (Asakichi) came to the Hiromae. I gave thanks to Kami on the tenth. Kami was angry and revealed, "Do not give him the scroll of divine messages."
- 2 On January 12 (February 13), Kami-Sama revealed, "Shōjin is acting as a loan shark with his wife's brother at some province, and he lives the wrong way. I told him to be patient for three or four years, but he went against what I said. He is always thinking about dealing with large amounts of money."
²Shōjin returned home on the morning of January 13 (February 14).
- 3 Early in the morning on January 24 (February 25), Kami-Sama revealed, "Build the shrine on your property. The villagers may want to build it somewhere else, but without you that shrine will just be an empty building."
²Wait until the twenty-fifth year, starting from 1857 when I first requested your assistance. Things are

fine the way they are now."

- 4 Kami-Sama revealed, "Gladly give 10 yen to Shōjin (Asakichi).

²Pressed by the greed in his heart, he is suffering and worrying his parents. His desperation comes from his poverty. He will suffer in the future, causing difficulties for his wife and child.

³When he becomes ill, what will he do if he cannot move or even crawl? If he were to be caught by the police and sent back to his hometown, his parents and brothers would not be pleased. Think about this.

⁴Both parents and I, Kami, think of our children as precious and pitiable. Therefore, I teach everyone. It is inevitable that there will be those who do not listen. Konko Shōjin is one who does not listen."

⁵Shōjin went home on February 9 (March 12). He asked for 10 *sen* from his mother as allowance. My wife said she gave him the money.

- 5 On April 9, March 7 of the lunar calendar, there was a request from Konko Shōjin Kaneyoshi (Asakichi) to lend him 3 yen to help his business.

²I gave him the money as he requested. The person

who came on his behalf was Yōkichi, the brother of Urakami, from Nakayashiki Town in Okayama City.

³He brought a letter from Asakichi which requested we give the money to Yōkichi.

⁴I had Yōkichi stay with the Furukawas. He asked me for 5 *sen* as reimbursement for the errand, and I gave it to him.

⁵He left on March 8 (April 10). He said he was a former samurai in the Inagawa clan in Nakasange Town, Okayama City and had a fief of 1,000 *koku*.

⁶I had prayed to Kami, who advised, "Gladly give him the money. You need not write any response to Asakichi. Give him the 3 yen."

⁷Kami-Sama also said, "Don't worry. Pray for a bright future. Give him the 3 yen in Kono's name."

- 6 On March 20 (April 22), Hagio went on a pilgrimage to Kojima's (southern Kurashiki) eighty-eight Kompira temples.

²From the end of March, Hagio suffered from hemorrhoids.

³On April 3 (May 4), Ieyoshi also went on a pilgrimage to the Kompira temples in Kojima and returned on the night of the fourth (May 5).

7 On April 3, 1878 (May 4), Kami-Sama revealed, "There is a saying, '*Sho-go-ku*' (January, May, September).

²In January, pray for the safety of everyone in the coming year.

³In May, pray for the planting and for a good harvest.

⁴In September, pray for the harvesting and for the sowing of barley seeds for until October.

⁵Towards the end of the year, pray for the farming clean-up work and the preparation for New Year's celebrations.

⁶Teach people about Daishōgun Konjin-Sama. By the virtue of Tenchi Kane No Kami and all Konjins, all people are free from the Days and Directions. Teach people the way to have peace of mind.

⁷"I will allow your followers to hold the title of 'Ikigami Konko Daijin.'"

This was on the service day for Daishōgun.

8 Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) came on April 22 (May 23) and stayed overnight.

²He gave a request during the evening prayer service of the twenty-fourth (May 25).

Konko Shōjin asked for 30 yen. He has done this

very often. I prayed to Kami-Sama, and Kami-Sama was angry.

³Kami-Sama said, "He says he gambled the money away. Regardless of how much money is given to him, there is no end. It is like throwing money to the sea. Give him family belongings."

⁴There was another revelation in the morning of the twenty-fifth (May 26). Kami-Sama revealed, "If you give everything to only one child, there will be nothing else to give the others. You can't divide your property into five plots, so give all of your clothes to Shōjin and let him take them away."

- 9 Early in the morning on May 1 (June 1), Kami-Sama revealed, "Tell people not to follow the following three things: the Days and Directions, impurities and taboos, and food restrictions.¹

²Also tell people to follow and not resist the following three things: the central government, the local government, and their parents."

- 10 On May 2 (June 2), Konko Shōjin (Asakichi) came directly to the Hiromae and expressed his thanks to Kami-Sama. He left right away.

²He said that he would go to Asao Village by three o'clock in the afternoon on May 3 (June 3).

³Early in the morning on May 3, Kami-Sama revealed, "Your son Shōjin is thirty-four years old. Kami will decide when he will be freed from difficulties. You are to look forward to his critical age of forty-two.² Do not worry about money."

- 11 I gave thanks on the evening of May 6, 1878 (June 6), and received Kami-Sama's revelation. "When believers come to ask for something, just relay their requests to Me. Spend more time on teaching people about the Way of faith. You need not take too much time praying in the morning and at night."

²I began doing this on the seventh (June 7).

³Kami-Sama revealed, "You, Konko Daijin, are a kami. You need not clap your hands any more. That is a practice of mountain ascetic priests and shamanistic practitioners.³ It is like knocking on Kami's door."

- 12 Kawate Yojirō came and asked for Hagio. I told him that Hagio was ill, so he left.

²Yojirō then went to the Furukawas, but Sansaku was

not home.

³Next, Yojirō went to the Fujiis, and one of the Fujiis went out to look for Sansaku. Sansaku returned to the Fujiis and met Yojirō.

⁴Sansaku came to my house and talked with my wife who later told me what Sansaku said.

⁵He said, "I have asked Kōda Yutaka, the priest of the village shrine, to help with the shrine construction. Yutaka has already submitted an application for the shrine construction to the Okayama Prefectural Office. If the permit is approved, we have to pay 26 yen."

⁶Kami-Sama instructed, "Tell Sansaku that you will take responsibility for the money."

⁷It was handled the way Kawate Naozō and his son Yojirō had planned a year earlier.

13 On May 22 (June 22), Yojirō and Sansaku came.

²They reported the above matter to me on the twenty-third (June 23). Later that day, Yojirō came again and told me, "An official letter from the Provincial Office in Tamashima Village arrived informing us that Hagio should come to the Office by nine o'clock on May 24 (June 24)."

³Hagio went to the Provincial Office on the twenty-fourth to receive his ordination as a priest of the Kamo Shrine in Otani Village.

[14] On May 23, 1878, June 23 of the Gregorian calendar, Sumida Sadakichi of Nakayashiki Town in Okayama City, who was a former samurai of the Asao clan, came to talk about Asakichi. He said he was trying to persuade Asakichi to return to his former wife Kane.

²I left this matter up to Sumida.

³He asked me to pay him 5 yen, then he left.

⁴Asakichi also told me the above on May 25 (June 25). I asked Kami-Sama about this, and Kami-Sama revealed, "If Shōjin (Asakichi) renews his heart, I will give him a scroll⁴ from the Ise Grand Shrines.

⁵He should become a person who wants to help others, reform his heart, and be patient. If he does so, I shall protect him. If he does not reform his heart this time, I will treat him like a cat or dog. He will be treated as a cat or dog no matter who brings him to the Hiromae.

⁶This time, I won't tell him to be patient for three years. He should try to improve his way of life year by year. He may work as a peddler, carrying

merchandise on his back. He should give anything unsold to the people renting his home or to his neighbors and ask them to eat it."

⁷I conveyed the revelation to Shōjin and said, "Although I am hard pressed for money, I am going to raise it for you. If you cannot reform your heart this time, I will terminate my relationship with you and treat you like a cat or dog even when you become ill."

⁸I wrote about this on May 25 (June 25).

15 I gave thanks early in the morning on June 15, 1878 (July 14), and Kami-Sama revealed, "You can be at ease on the twenty-first (June 20) and twenty-second (June 21)."

16 At five o'clock in the morning on July 7 (August 5), a baby boy was born.

²Kami-Sama had revealed, "Konko Hagio, age 30, and wife Yuki, age 23, will see a safe birth of a boy."

³Kami-Sama revealed, "Yuki should carry on as usual. Celebrate the birth on the thirteenth (August 11).

⁴Yuki should come to the Hiromae soon after giving birth.

⁵She should come to the Hiromae with the child to

give thanks on the seventh day after birth, the *shichiya*. They need not visit the village shrine on the day of *shichiya*."

17 On July 5, 1879 (August 22), Kami-Sama revealed, "You need not hold a special celebration⁵ for the child's first birthday since the child will be in good health. Just call your neighbors and have them enjoy the occasion. You need not make mochi on the seventh (August 24). You should just serve ceremonial red rice and share it with the neighbors."

18 I gave thanks to Kami-Sama early in the morning on August 4, 1878 (August 31). Kami-Sama revealed, "Your wife has become sixty years old. She has been extremely exhausted since July 18 (August 16) and she is bedridden with an illness. She will reach the critical age⁶ next year.

²She should be reborn and become one year old as of this year. As of today, she will recover from her illness."

19 Fujii Tsunejirō bought boards for talismans and had

Fujii Mitsutarō make the wooden talismans. Kawate Yojirō wrote the shrine's name on the talismans.

²On August 17 (September 13), Tsunejirō brought the wooden talismans to the Hiromae. On the eighteenth (September 14), they were prepared for delivery.

³The first person to receive a paper talisman was a follower of Kanemoto Village, Jōtō County, Bizen Province who came on the twenty-second (September 18).

⁴The first person to receive a wooden talisman was a follower from Saidaiji Village, Jōtō County, Bizen Province who came on the twenty-fourth (September 20).

20 When I gave thanks to Kami-Sama early in the morning on September 2 (September 27), He revealed, "Thirteen years have passed since 1866. Renew the various things in the Hiromae."

This was on the evening before Daishōgun's service day.

21 On June 27, 1879 (August 14), I read what I had written in this notebook and thought about it.

²In September 1866, my stepmother died of

illness.

³Then three mountain ascetic priests, including a senior and two junior officers from the Goryū Temple (the priests' local headquarters in Kurashiki) came to stop my toritsugi mediation work and took away the altar furnishings in the Hiromae. I later obtained a mountain ascetic priest propagation license and then returned it to the Goryū Temple. I had a lot to worry about.

22 Thirteen years have passed since these events in 1866. Hagio has now been ordained as a Shinto priest by the Okayama Prefectural government.

²A son was born to Hagio.

³Konko Ieyoshi married a daughter of Abe Suetarō of Yamori Village (in Kurashiki) and I gradually regained peace of mind.

⁴I am so thankful and happy for the blessings Kami-Sama gives us. We celebrated our threefold happiness.

23 On September 9, 1878 (October 4), Kami-Sama said, "Invite the women of the four related families for the celebration."