

Some Teachings of Konkokyo (the Konko Faith)

- 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.
- Offerings made from people's sincerity are accepted by Kami with pleasure, but Kami is not pleased by burdening people with compulsory donations and contributions.
- 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.
- There are people between Heaven and Earth. Heaven is father and Earth is mother. Humans, plants, and other living things live on Earth through the blessings they receive from Heaven.

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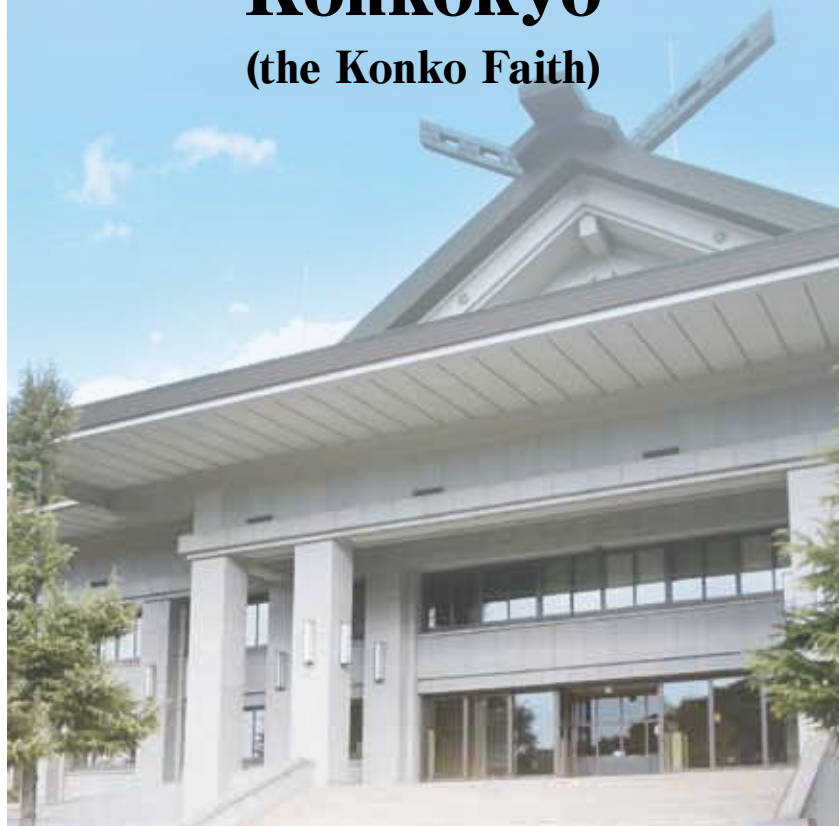
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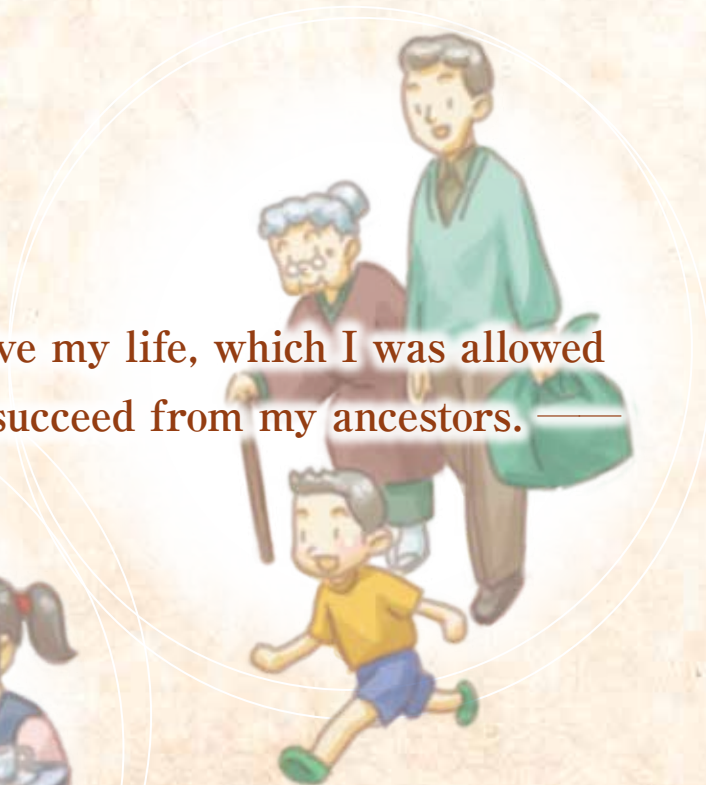
Introduction to Konkokyo (the Konko Faith)



I live my life in the blessings of the Universe. —



I live my life, which I was allowed to succeed from my ancestors. —



I live my life,
surrounded by many people and things,
such as water, air, and food
that take care of me. —



Without our ancestors, we wouldn't be here today. We are alive because our ancestors were alive. Our ancestors were allowed to live thanks to the abundant blessings of the Universe and the warm kindness and favor of many people around them. Our ancestors' lives have been handed down to us, and so we are also allowed to live today, being taken care of by the great Universe and by the favor of many people.

Konkokyo (the Konko Faith) places importance on a lifestyle, in which one's life is based upon a "heart expressing gratitude towards everything that takes care of them."

Tenchi Kane No Kami (Divine Parent of the Universe)

Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Divine Parent for all that live in the Universe. Kami gives birth to and nurtures all living things.

The Founder of Konkokyo taught us that this God is as follows:

Immortal Parent

Konko Daijin, the Founder of Konkokyo, compared the relationship between Kami (Japanese for “god”) and people to the relation of that between parents and their children. Parents never forsake their children even if they are disobedient to them. When children suffer, their parents pray to gods/deities for blessings and do their very best in order to help them out. The heart of Kami is just like this, like a parent’s unconditional love for their child(ren). Konko Daijin imparts, “The Parent Kami loves people wholeheartedly.” He also teaches, “Heaven is the father and Earth, the mother.” With this teaching, Konko Daijin pointed out that all of us, humans, are being allowed to live under the affectionate care of our immortal Parent.

This and That of Konkokyo

●No obligations about donation and/or austere physical training

Konkokyo does not force anyone to pay for membership or registration fees. We do not make anybody purchase Konkokyo-related items. We also do not take you far away from your home in order to give you any special training. We, Konkokyo believers, make monetary offerings to our Kami following our own free will, not through anyone’s order.

Kami is Kami Because of Man, Man is Man Because of Kami

We don’t become parents until we have children. And children never exist without their parents. Tenchi Kane No Kami gave a Divine Message to Konko Daijin, saying “Kami is Kami because of Man, and Man is Man because of Kami.” In other words, Kami doesn’t exist alone, and humans don’t exist alone. Konko Daijin also teaches us, “If people do not receive divine blessings, then Kami and Konko Daijin will not be happy. If they suffer and don’t receive divine blessings, Kami cannot fulfill Kami’s duty. When people cannot do well, Kami and Konko Daijin cannot do well.”

Kami Who Does Not Discriminate Other Religions

Konko Daijin teaches us that everything that happens takes place in the divine blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami and because of this, when there are various religions in this world, we must not speak ill of other religions. He implicated that having different religions is the same as having children in different occupations and/or personal preferences. Konko Daijin encourages us to worship and pray to our respective deities with “single-heartedness.”

●Go-shinmai (Sacred Rice)

It is often possible that you receive Sacred Rice when you ask for Sacred Mediation. Sacred Rice shows the blessings which Heaven and Earth bring us. With Go-shinmai, you are expected not to forget the favors with which the Universe constantly grants you. Some Konkokyo believers use Go-shinmai as an icon of worship. Others eat the Sacred Rice with deepest respect for and earnest prayer to Kami or keep it with them wherever they may go. ※Go-shinmai is Sacred Rice which is prepared through carefully washing rice, drying it up, sprinkling Sacred Rice Wine all over it and drying it up again. You can eat it.





Ikigami Konko Daijin

(the Founder of Konkokyo)

Konko Daijin, the Founder of Konkokyo, was born in Urami Village of Bicchu Province (now called Konko Town in Asakuchi City, Okayama Pref. Japan) in 1814. At the age of 12, the Founder was adopted into a farming family in Otani Village, a neighbor of Urami Village. In his early life, Konko Daijin encountered one misfortune after another such as the deaths of his dear children and his own critical illness. Amidst those serious hardships, Konko Daijin realized Tenchi Kane No Kami. Konko Daijin deepened his faith as Tenchi Kane No Kami gradually began to reveal the sincere and affectionate nature upon him and all the people in this world.

In 1859 when he was forty-six years old, Konko Daijin received a divine request from Tenchi Kane No Kami, “stop farming and help suffering people by performing Mediation.” Since then, Konko Daijin opened a room of his own residence as a worship hall and performed Mediation there for twenty-four years until he passed away in 1883. Konko Daijin prayed to Kami for the worshippers and spoke to each one of them about the relationship between Kami and people. The Founder encouraged people to learn to live a fulfilling life by practicing faith in Kami. Years later, Tenchi Kane No Kami bestowed him a divine title of “Ikigami Konko Daijin.” Worshippers gradually came to call him “Konko-Sama” affectionately.

This and That of Konkokyo

● You may find a Konkokyo church in your local community

There are about 1,500 Konkokyo churches in Japan and about thirty outside of it. Anyone can visit them regardless of his or her religious beliefs. Ceremonies such as wedding, funeral and prayer service to pray to Kami for traffic safety are available at all Konkokyo churches.

Toritsugi (Sacred Mediation)

Sacred Mediation or “Toritsugi,” in Japanese, is the essence of the faith and salvation of Konkokyo. As a Toritsugi Mediator, one is to relay worshippers’ wishes to Kami and let them know of Kami’s wishes upon them. As a believer, one is to learn to live a life to promote and realize the mutual fulfillment between Kami and People by asking for and receiving Sacred Mediation.

Those who were saved through Konko Daijin’s Sacred Mediation belonged to various social classes: Samurai warriors, farmers and merchants. Konko Daijin’s faith and teachings were spread to various regions in Japan as time went by. The faith of Konko Daijin has been handed down to us today.

Sacred Mediation (Toritsugi) is performed at the Konkokyo Headquarters and all Konkokyo churches on a daily basis. Any one can ask for Sacred Mediation and they can do so anytime they want.

We, humans, run into various problems as we live our respective lives. If you go to a Konkokyo church, the Mediator welcomes you and prays to Kami for you. Taking the problem and/or situation that is surrounding you into account, the Mediator usually also helps you see the way of life in which Kami hopes. The story you’ll hear at the Mediation Seat may be simple and concise but the words may provide you with blessings that will enable you to continue living positively and move forward in life with satisfaction.



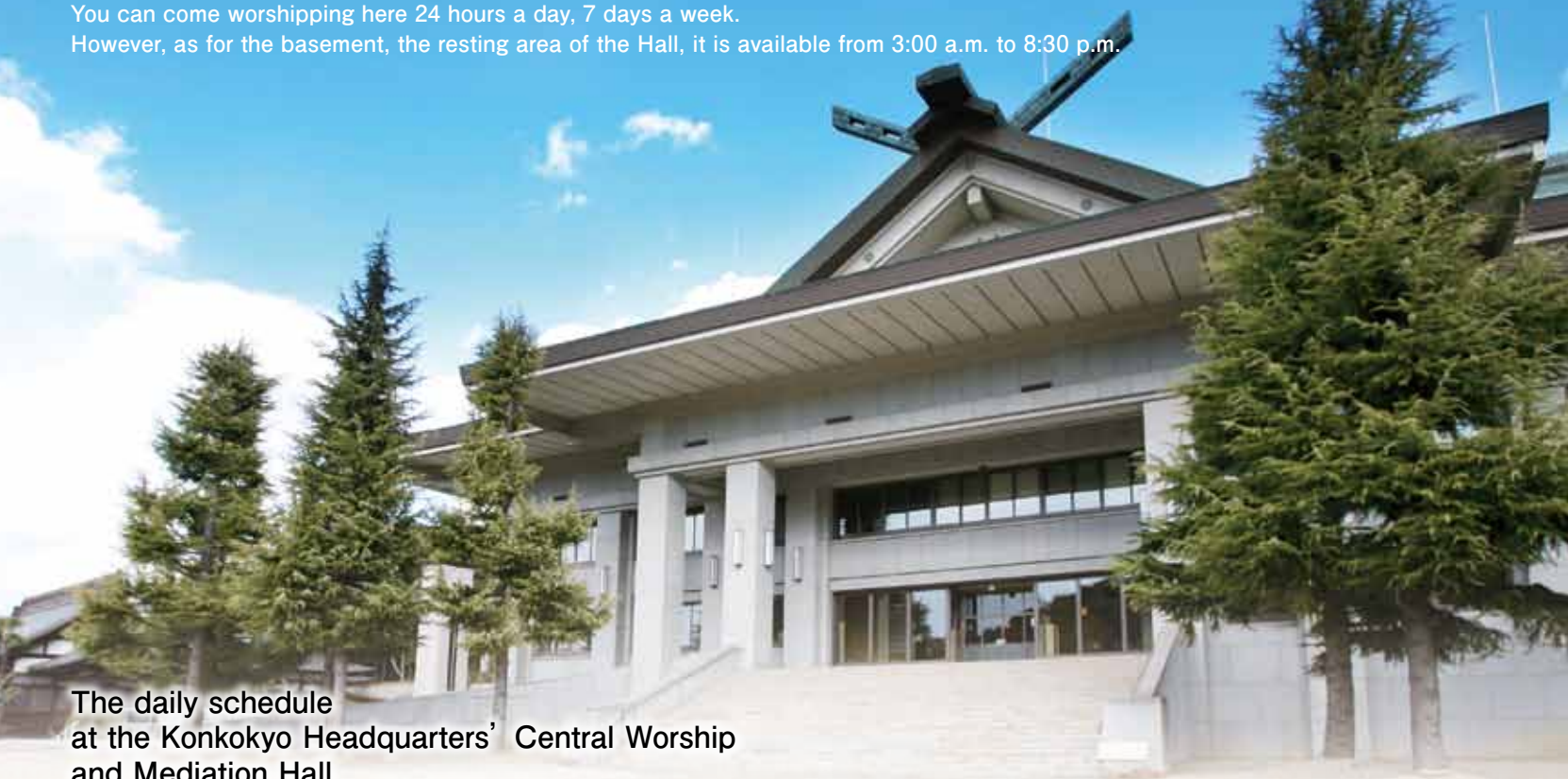
● Mediators keep your privacy

Mediators welcome your visit to their churches and listen to you so that they can pray to Kami. Then they guide you to find the way for you to be saved. Mediators do not talk to others about what they heard from you, it is confidential. Your privacy will be securely protected.

The Konkokyo Headquarters' Central Worship and Mediation Hall

You can come worshipping here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, as for the basement, the resting area of the Hall, it is available from 3:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.



The daily schedule at the Konkokyo Headquarters' Central Worship and Mediation Hall

3:40 a.m. Kyoshu (Konkokyo's Spiritual Leader) proceeds to
the Central Worship Hall for his service

4:00 a.m. Morning prayer service

5:00 a.m. Kyoshu starts to perform Sacred Mediation

3:20 p.m. Kyoshu finishes performing Sacred Mediation

3:40 p.m. Evening prayer service

4:40 p.m. Kyoshu leaves the Central Worship Hall

8:00 p.m. Night prayer service and a sermon

※ Night prayer service is led by a staff member of the Worship Hall Department (They take turns on a nightly basis.) The subsequent sermon is delivered by a staff member of the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administrative Office (They take turns on a nightly basis).

※ Night prayer service starts at 7:00 p.m. on the 9th and 21st of each month, the eves of the monthly services (the 10th and the 22nd of each month).



Konkokyo Declaration

As humans, who are all allowed to live
by the Great Universe,
We accept and respect all lives as being precious,
And pledge to manifest an ideal world where
Kami and people, People and people,
and People and all things
Live together through
an Interdependent (Aiyo kakeyo) relationship.



Manners of Worship

When you enter the Central Worship and Mediation Hall of the Konkokyo Headquarters, you will see a large altar (Kami Altar) in the center far up in front. It is where we enshrine, revere and worship Tenchi Kane No Kami and Ikigami Konko Daijin. To the left, you will see a smaller altar (Mitama Altar), and it is where we enshrine the mitama spirits of the deceased (both ministers and members of Konkokyo).

Facing the Mitama Altar, we are supposed to make our prayers to them. On the right end, you will see the Mediation Seat, at which we, the worshippers, are supposed to ask for and receive Sacred Mediation.

Now please let us illustrate the basic manners at the Kami Altar and the Mitama Altar.

The Basic Manners at the Kami Altar and the Mitama Altar

- ① Take a polite bow. → ② Clap hands four times. →
- ③ Make silent prayers. → ④ Clap hands four times. → ⑤ Take a polite bow.

※ When we have (oral) prayer service at the Worship and Mediation Hall, a prayer book will be provided at the Hall.



① ⑤ Take a polite bow.



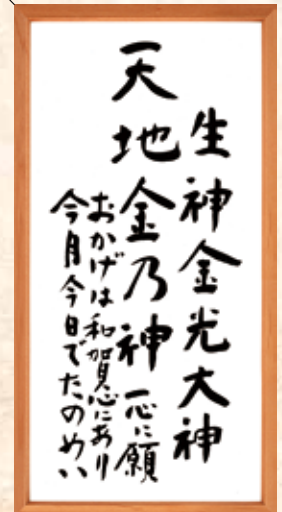
② ④ Clap hands four times.



③ Make silent prayers.

Tenchi Kakitsuke (the Divine Reminder)

It shows the essence of Konkokyo's faith concisely. Konko Daijin gave the worshippers Tenchi Kakitsuke, instructing to them, "Place it where it can be easily seen."



Introduction of the Facilities of the Konkokyo Headquarters



1 Saijo (the Grand Service Hall) This hall can accommodate more than 10,000 people.



2 Shutokuden (the Faith Training Center)
Spiritual education and training is administered here.



3 Rikkyo Seijo
(The Founder's Original Mediation Hall)
A replica of the residence of Konko Daijin, the Founder of Konkokyo. This is where Sacred Mediation started.



4 Kyoso Okutsuki
(the Founder's Gravesite)
Konko Daijin passed away on October 10, 1883 at the age of 70.



5 Rekidai Kyoshu Okutsuki (the Gravesite for the Previous Spiritual Leaders)
It is in the Yu'uzaki Mountain.



6 Konkokyo Gakuin
(Konkokyo Seminary)
The Seminary was established to train Konkokyo ministerial candidates.



7 Kyogaku Kenkyusho
(the Research Institute)
This institute conducts research on matters such as the Founder, doctrine and history.



8 KPAC
(the Konkokyo Peace Activity Center)
As an NPO, the KPAC mainly engages in educational supports for the children in Southeast Asia.



9 Konko Kyotosha
(Konkokyo's Publishing Department)
It publishes and sells the "Konko Shimbun" newspaper, audio-visuals and other Konkokyo-related books and pamphlets.



10 Konkokyo Hombu Sogo Chosha
(Konkokyo Headquarters' General Administration Office Bldg.)
This seven-story building is home to Konkokyo's administrative offices and the Konko Library.



11 Tenji-shitsu (Exhibition Area)
Located on the first floor lobby of the Administrative Building, this area is used to display items such as the Founder's legacies.



12 Konko Toshokan(Konko Library)
It is on the second floor of the Administrative Building. Both ordinary and Braille books are available in this library.



13 Konko North (Kita) Wing
This building is available for workshops, resting and staying. And it has a multipurpose hall as well.



14 Konko Gakuen Junior and Senior High Schools
Konkokyo-related private schools.
It was founded in 1894.



15 Konko Gakuen Kindergarten
It was established in 1913.