



## Konko-Sama' Speech

*“A Mother and a Father were born with their newborn baby. They should all grow up together.”*

*The fourth Konko-sama made this poem when he had his first grandson. As he prayed to be a good grandfather, his first grandson succeeded his position as the sixth Konko-sama. Thus, the Founder's faith continued in Konko-sama's family.*

*Referring to this poem, the present Konko-sama shared his thoughts – the importance of being aware of the favor that we received and responding to the favor.*

**M**y grandfather, who had served for Kyoshu (patriarch) of Konkokyo, was a poet. Studying under his mentor, Kubota Utsubo, he enjoyed composing waka poems. Over forty thousand of his waka poems were compiled in a book of 19 volumes. He created a poem when I was born in 1966.

My grandfather wrote: “I was happy when my grandson was born. I became much happier when I thought that a mother, a father, a grandmother, and a grandfather were born simultaneously. Thus, I made a poem: ‘A Mother and a Father were born with their newborn baby. They should all grow up together.’ It would be nice if all parents thought in this way. However, many parents want a good, studious child. This is the parents’ desire which hinders their child. When



**THE FOURTH KONKO-SAMA AND  
THE PRESENT KONKO-SAMA (1968)**

their child becomes one year old, they also become one year old parents. Thus, the parents must be willing to grow as their child grows.

When their child turns one year older, the parents get one year older. They try to understand the child well and strive to be a suitable parent for the child. The parents should work hard with their child. Someday, the child will realize the parents' behavior, and the child will grow by learning from the parents."

My grandfather prayed for my parents to learn and grow together as parents and son.

I have three children right now. With their birth, we were able to be their parents. When our first child was born, we felt that we entered a "School for both parents and child". They say, "Only after becoming a parent yourself you realize how indebted you are to your own parents." I truly feel this every day. To my grandfather's prayer and to my parents' favor, if I could repay their favor, I would like to learn and grow with my child.

As my child got older, I once served as the PTA officer for the kindergarten. While I was helping with the activities, I thought about the PTA officers who took care of me in my kindergarten, elementary school, and junior high school. I then realized that I had an opportunity to return the favor by serving as the PTA officer.



Favors and kindness that you received may have happened a long time ago, and you tend to forget them. However, so many people have taken care of me in so many ways. I realized that I had forgotten many of them. This was a great opportunity to be aware of the favor that I received in the past.

For example, society would fail if I did not want to or did not get involved in raising a child or partake in the PTA activities. We should remember the favor that we received. I think identifying and acting upon the favor are important. I will have more opportunities to realize the favor that I received. I wish that I could realize more favors, and I pray that I could act on those favors.

We are living in a world that cannot be defined as peaceful. Now, I have a family, and I feel as if Kami-sama said, "The peace of the world starts with peace in our family." As we are all allowed to live in the Tenchi Universe, let us value each other, live together, and be saved together. While thinking of those who are suffering from war, hunger, poverty, and disease, let us, all the people in the world, live together and be saved together as Kami's children transcending differences in nationality, race, language, and religion. Let us pray for the peace and prosperity of the world.



## Happy Birthday Konko-Sama!

Reverend Konko Hiromichi turned 58 on June 28. At 8 a.m., the Konkokyo Headquarter ministers, and their families, seminary students, and believers gathered at the Main Mediation Hall.

On behalf of Konkokyo, Reverend Hashimoto Michio, Chief Administrative Director, wished Konko-sama a happy birthday and expressed his appreciation at the mediation

place.

Konko-sama replied with great resolve: "I am honored and humbled. I am thankful for being allowed to serve Kami. At the same time, I apologize for the irreverence and shortcomings. Thus, I strongly pray to renew my heart, so I am allowed to be of help to Kami. Thank you very much."



# Kami is born in Hiromae

by Reverend Oya Yomisu

Not long after I came to Sacramento, a woman, who visited the church for the first time, came straight to the Mediation. While holding back her tears, she said, “I heard that my brother came here yesterday requesting for my mother’s recovery. My mother is currently unconscious. Her doctor told us that she will not get better. However, if my mother passes away now, I will never be able to exhibit my love and respect to her.” Motivated by her earnest, I faced the altar. I felt death lingering closely to the mother. I thought, “What should I do? I cannot offer any teachings to her unconscious mother. There is nothing that I can do.” Right at that moment, I subconsciously stated, “I, Konko Daijin of Sacramento, pray to you, Tenchi Kane no Kami.” Then, I felt in my heart the words, “Three days.”



believes that his task is to “currently practice faith” in the vast universe. From his expression, he shows his determination to follow our Founder’s words, “Kami will act in your stead.”

This is a recollection from Kunieda Sangoro. The Founder told Kunieda, who later became known as the Konjin of Otoshima, “Sangoro, while you concern yourself with only trivial things, I am aspiring for a blessing which will completely embrace the world with this Faith.” And “Practice faith in your own home. Receive blessings from Kami-Sama and save others.” The Founder instructed, “Practice faith. You will soon be called Konjin-Sama.” To this, Kunieda replied, “Of course I will practice faith. You aimed for and attained goals you could not see in the beginning. Since I hope to become like you, I will practice faith.” With these teachings, Kunieda received blessings.

Kunieda expressed the Founder’s faith as “aiming for and attained goals you could not see in the beginning.” Similar to how Kunieda hopes to become like the Founder, our goal is Konko-sama’s determination to “currently practice faith”.

As Konko-sama stated on his 58th birthday, let us express our appreciation for the blessings bestowed upon us, apologize irreverence and shortcoming, renew our heart, and pray for the world peace and salvation of humanity now and forever on this very day.

Three days later, the mother woke up from a coma and was able to leave the hospital. Perhaps the woman who came to pray and the toritsugi mediator were able to make a request together to Kami, and Konko Daijin appeared at the Hiromae, mediation hall.

When our current spiritual leader, Konko-sama, was serving as the Director of the Mediation Hall Department in Honbu, the Headquarter, he interpreted the phrase “Working locally while thinking globally” as “Do what you can in your immediate vicinity but look at the bigger picture.” In other words, he

## VOICE OF THE UNIVERSE

37 - Think of Kami as your parent and Kami will think of you as His child. You know that if a child is not with his parent, the child may be bullied. But with the parent, the child will not be bullied.

Since you never know when misfortune or disaster will strike, you cannot avoid them even if you want to. But if you have faith while thinking that Kami is your parent, Kami will protect you from disasters you cannot foresee.

(II Ichimura, Mitsugoro 3:1-2)

# The Launch of A New Konkokyo Administration

*A new Konkokyo Administrative Officers were appointed by our Spiritual Leader, Reverend Konko Hiromichi, on May 9, 2024.*

Reverend Hashimoto Michio, Chief Administrative Director, declared at his inauguration, "In the Konko Faith, the spirit of taking good care of everything with sincerity, has been passed down; this is similar to a relationship in which people say 'thank you' to each other. From this point forward, I hope we will continue to practice faith in our daily lives and further contribute to the fulfillment of Kami's wish for 'true peace of the world' together."



- **Finance Department Director**  
**Reverend Hashimoto Shin'ichi**
- **General Affairs Department Director**  
**Reverend Wada Kazuma**
- **Outreach Department Director**  
**Reverend Tsukamoto Kazumasa**
- **Mediation Hall Department Director**  
**Reverend Konko Kiyoji**

## The Passing of the Reverend Konko Heiki, Former Spiritual Leader, Konko-Sama



It is with great respect and deep sadness that we announce the passing of Reverend Konko Heiki, the Fifth Konko-sama. He passed away peacefully at 12:46 a.m. on July 21 at the age of 89 years and 8 months. We express our profound gratitude for his devoted service to Toritsugi Mediation and prayer over thirty years as the Spiritual Leader.

Details of the funeral service officiated by Rev. Hashimoto, Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo, are as follows:

- Date and Time: Thursday, August 29 from 13:30
- Place: Grand Service Hall, Konkokyo Headquarters

Memorial services will be held as follows:

- 10th Day Service: July 31, 13:30
- 20th Day Service: August 10, 13:30
- 30th Day Service: August 20, 13:30
- 40th Day Service: August 30, 13:30
- 50th Day Service and Enrichment Service: September 8, 13:30

## KIC Director Retires

Reverend Oya Yomisu retired as KIC Director as of May 8. He has been succeeded by Reverend Tsukamoto Kazumasa, who officially began in this position as of May 9, 2024.



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