

## Foreword

### Original Smile

~Hoping that People of the Whole  
World Will Become Happy~

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A hot summer has arrived this year...again. Last summer, we held the 77th Konkoko Nationwide Convention for the Youth. During its "Wakaba Sai" or Ceremony for the Youth," Konko-sama said as follows: "Kami has a sincere wish that all people of the world will become happy. When you are happy, you put a smile on your face. Please give yourself a chance to think about what to do... how people of the whole world will be able to have big smiles on their faces."

I was one of those who heard Konko-sama say so. Since then, I have been trying to "answer" Konko-sama's question. For example, I tried to "say hello to someone with a smile before he/she does so to me." I also tried to literally say "Thank you!" to

somebody in my daily life. Whenever I thought "This might work," I put it into practice right away.

One day, one of my acquaintances jokingly said to me, "You are smiling, but your eyes are not." I was shocked to hear that. His words helped me realize that if I behave myself only on the surface, my smile will not reach someone's heart. I was also made to see that people will see through that I am not smiling from the bottom of my heart and that it will make me an insincere person. I was embarrassed with myself and I learned a lot from this person's remarks.

I was looking through past documents in my preparations for the Memorial Service of the First Anniversary of the Fifth Konko-sama's Passing. At that time, I came across the following words of the late Reverend Heiki Konko.

"Those who practice faith must be careful of their facial expressions. One facial expression can change his/her faith unlimitedly. For example, we can think of

the smile of the globally famous painting, Mona Lisa.' Mona Lisa smiles to all of us unconditionally. No matter from which angle you may see Mona Lisa, no matter when you see her, no matter who we are, she smiles to all of us. Hopefully, we can meet and communicate with someone with such a smile."

Then, the Fifth Konko-sama added, "A famous Japanese cartoonist, Sampei Sato, says 'I love all (people and things).' And the Fourth Konko-sama teaches us, 'Let us deal with all people and things with respect and sincerity.' I cherish these two messages in my heart all the time. It doesn't matter who you are...if you have a kami-like heart that allows you to love and treat all people and things with utmost care from the bottom of your heart, you can naturally have a big and bright smile on your face anytime."

Mona Lisa always gives us a kind, mild smile. Yes, it may be true that it is just the world of painting after all, but Mona Lisa

still calms and relaxes us with her smile. Because we are alive, we encounter sad events from time to time. Sometimes, we just can't smile. I, however, would like to believe that Konko-sama already shows us a way for us to have smiles on our faces even when we are deeply sad.

Loving all people and things seems to be such a grand and ambitious endeavor. But we can start with cherishing the very person and/or thing right in front of us with a kami-like heart, believing that such a tiny one step forward is in fact the tremendously important First Step for all people of the world to get to have big smiles on their faces.



## Birthday of Konko-sama

On June 28th, 2025, Kono-sama had his birthday and he became 59 years old.

At 8:00 in the morning, the staff of the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administration, the students of the Gakuin Seminary and lay believers living in the Sacred Grounds of the Konko Faith (meaning Konko Town) got together in the Central Worship and Mediation Hall. The Reverend Michio Hashimoto, the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo, conveyed our heartfelt words of celebration to Konko-sama on behalf of the entire Konko congregation.

The Sixth Konko-sama gave us the following words in his reply.



### Words of Konko-sama

I am in deep awe and gratitude, receiving warm and sincere words from you.

Upon my birthday today, I would like to dedicate my utmost gratitude to my parents, ancestors and our Parent Kami, because they are all the source of life that I am given every single day. I also would like to present sincere apologies to them for my irreverence and lack of competence. I would like to renew my heart and aspire to become a more useful person for Kami and all of you. Thank you very much.

### Words of the Chief Admin. Director

Happy birthday on your 59th birthday, Konko-sama!

Please accept our heartfelt feelings of celebration.

On behalf of the entire Konko congregation,

I would like to thank you very much for your selfless service/goyo as the Principal Mediator/Spiritual Leader every single day. You do this sacred, important goyo by inheriting our Founder, Konko Daijin and the successive Konko-samas. Through your position and sincere dedication, you manage and unify the whole congregation of the Konko Faith, and it allows all of Head Ministers of local Konko churches, ministers, ministers' assistants (hokyo) and lay believers to receive blessings from Kami. We receive blessings upon our personal faith and goyo, and each administrative body of Konkokyo also gets to receive Kami's blessings.

The Konkokyo Organization implements various activities with the Basic Policy, "Let us keep the content of the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so, let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people." We do this via receiving Konko-sama's prayers and Sacred Mediation. We have been carrying out each of our activities, receiving divine arrangements of Kami-sama. And we are deeply thankful for this.

We, the entire congregation of the Konko Faith, would like to continue to be united as one, so that we can contribute to the realization of Kami's wish, "true peace of the world." In our endeavor toward this goal, we would like to put our sincerity into everything we engage ourselves in and we

also would like to make sure that our goyo is based upon a heart to thank everyone and everything that takes care of us. Please pray to our Parent Kami for us all.

Konko-sama, please do take care of yourself, and please do your goyo. Please continue to pray for us and perform Sacred Mediation for each one of us.

Since today is your birthday, I humbly would like to convey our utmost sincerity to celebrate your birthday on behalf of the entire Konkokyo congregation.

## Konko-sama Visits Tokyo

Konko-sama officially visited Tokyo from June 3rd to 5th, 2025. He went to Tokyo in order to give words of his sincere gratitude to each representative of the Association of Sect Shinto, who were kind enough to attend the funeral of the former Konko-sama, the late Reverend Heiki Konko.

During his brief stay in the capital of Japan, Konko-sama attended a ceremony to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the formation of the Association of Sect Shinto.

Because this year marks the 80th anniversary of the end

of World War II, Konko-sama paid a visit to the Chidorigafuchi War Memorial Cemetery and he dedicated some flowers.

