

Fore
word**Konko Kyouhou that Was Nullified**

by the Reverend Koji Obayashi Director of Konkoko Research Institute

The deadline for the Foreword of "Konko Kyouhou" was nearing and I was under pressure. A certain person, who didn't seem to notice the pressure I was feeling, came over to me one day and gave me the following words:

"Writing is no big deal, sensei. Just be yourself and express yourself honestly." I nodded, saying to myself, "Yeah, he is right." Yet I also thought, "Well, but being honest is in fact more difficult than people may think." There was a reason behind my thought... I was actually thinking about the August issue of "Konko Kyouhou" in the year, 1945.

At that time, the printing company for "Konko Kyouhou" was burnt down due to the air raids of the US bombers. We were already late for the July issue of that year, and the influence of the printing delay was casting a dark shadow on the next August issue as well. We were finally moving on to the printing process of the August issue, but that was when the edict of Japan's surrender to the Allies was issued (it happened on August

14th, 1945). And this made the August issue nullified.

We, however, did publish 20 copies for that month. The reason for this action was written down with a pencil, and it goes; "This issue should not be published. ...we've find the content of several articles on this issue inappropriate, and this is why we have decided not to publish it. For reference," they said they had made 20 copies as test prints.

The foreword of this nullified (August) issue said, "Decisive battles on our home islands may be unavoidable, and this means each one of us is now a soldier for our country." In an article, "Our Home, Our Town," I found the texts, "Our houses will be burn down in the end, we will eventually be killed. The war victims say so in unison and their listeners also think so. Oh, come on. Are you kidding me? Are we a bunch of wimps? An air defense posture as weak-kneed as that simply won't do! Is this good enough? Of course not. We are terribly wrong."

These statements must be a cry from the

heart of the writers. They must have meant it. This is why I am made to think about their words. I'm sure they were truly serious when they wrote those words. But the problem is, how much their true seriousness was 'honest' to their own hearts.

I wanted this nullified (August) issue of "Konko Kyouhou" to be truly honest. By finding such an article or two, I "honestly" wanted to be delighted. With this ardent hope, I searched the August (of 1945) issue thoroughly for such an article. And I found one!

It was a column whose headline went, "A Story that I Heard." A family used a house for wartime evacuation. Since it was quite old, it had to be demolished.

On the day of the house demolition, someone said, "We, the Japanese, usually hold a ground-breaking ceremony when we build a house. We worship the ground for the house before it is even constructed. Because of this, why don't we worship the ground and give thanks before we destroy this house?"

Everyone around that person agreed to his suggestion. They prayed silently for a while and began the demolition work.

I was totally satisfied and relived to find this article. Because of the severe circumstance of wartime against the Allies at that time, most articles were written in the name of "sincerity (for Japan, their mother land)" which stifled the "honesty (of someone)" from the bottom of his/her heart. This very article was just like a lone wolf standing in an isolated way yet with a scent of dignity and pride. An immaculate prayer for one to be good as a person was quietly expressed in that article.

Oh, by the way, I still remember that person's words: "Just be yourself and express yourself honestly." I, therefore, would like to conclude my foreword with my own "honest" feeling.

"Will there be a chance where someone says 'We find the content of this foreword inappropriate, and we therefore decide NOT to publish it' and really avoids publishing it? I hope not...!"

Konko-sama Becomes 60-Years-Old on His Birthday

We Thank Konko-sama for his Serving our Parent Kami on a Daily and Nightly Basis

On June 28th, 2026, (the Sixth) Konko-sama, the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of Konkokyo, had his birthday and became 60-years-old. At 8:00 AM of that day, the staff of the Konko HQ Admin. Office, Gakuin Seminary students and local lay believers got together at the Konko HQ's Central Worship and Mediation Hall. On behalf of the entire congregation of Konkokyo, the Rev. Michio Hashimoto, the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith, expressed words of congratulation and celebration to Konko-sama.

Then Konko-sama gave us the following statements.

Words from Konko-sama

I feel humbled to receive words of celebration from all of you on my birthday.

I now express my deep thankfulness because I am constantly taken care of by everybody and everything around me. I know and understand that this is the very foundation on which I am allowed to do my goyo day in, day out. As much as I am deeply grateful, I also would like to express my words of apology, because I know I am not perfect and that I therefore lack enough sincerity and politeness towards Kami-sama. Keeping all of these things in my mind, I would like to serve Kami and people in need with a refreshed motivation from now on.

Thank you very much.

◆ Humble, Respectful Words from the Chief Admin. Director to Konko-sama ◆

Happy birthday, Konko-sama, on your 60th birthday today!

I would like to express my words of celebration from the bottom of my heart.

Konko-sama, you succeeded the important and sacred goyo from the Founder, Konko Daijin and his successors. Since then, you have conducted Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin on a constant basis and you also have unified the entire community of the Konko Faith. Because of your sincere, tireless goyo as Konko-sama, all Head Ministers, ministers, ministers' assistants and lay believers have received divine blessings upon their faith and goyo up to now. Your goyo also allows the activities and events done by each sector of the Konko Administration to go well. For this, our heart is filled with deep, enormous gratitude.

Konko-sama, you entered your second 5-year term as the Spiritual Leader of Konkokyo on March 27th this year. I, together with other Konko members, am deeply thankful for you about this. The Konkokyo Organization would like to keep receiving your prayers and Toritsugi Mediation from now and we would like to engage ourselves in various activities/events with an invigorated heart.



Please pray for each of us from now on too, so that we can contribute to the realization of the divine wish, "true peace of the world." For this purpose, we would like to be united as one. And we also would like to be sincere towards anything and be thankful for everyone and everything that takes care of us.

Konko-sama, please take care of yourself AND do your goyo as our Konko-sama. Please continue to pray and perform Sacred Mediation for all of us.

Because today is your birthday, I humbly convey my words of celebration to you, representing the entire congregation of Konkokyo.

Thank you very much.