

Foreword

Finding Ourselves in the 80th Anniversary of the End of World War II

by the Reverend Michio Hashimoto
Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo

In order to re-recognize Konkokyo's view of peace, I read some old materials of our Organization concerning this subject.

On March 1, 1991, the KPAC (Konkokyo Peace Activity Center) published "Our Appeal regarding the Gulf War," which states as follows:

"The Konko Faith (Konkokyo) conducts all of its activities, carefully and faithfully following a teaching of its Founder, 'All people who live under the Heaven are Kami's children. There is no one that does not belong.' Accepting and respecting this very wish of Kami, we, Konkokyo, value people's lives and work hard on a constant basis in order to help all people live peacefully and richly. In our efforts of doing

these, we always try to transcend the differences of political creeds, nationalities, races and religions among us. (partially omitted)

Every single day, we, the Konkokyo congregation, practice faith in our Parent Kami, praying to our Parent Kami about the 'safety of all people and true peace of the world' and sincerely hoping, 'Both people and I will become mutually fulfilled, not just them, not just me.'

The Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith (the Reverend Kagamitaro Konko) once made a poem, 'The life of a human being is heavier than the Earth. Such invaluable lives are being lost in warfare. Our Parent Kami, please make these wars cease to exist.' We, as his followers and worshippers, would like to share Konko-sama's earnest wish with him and intensify our prayers to Kami for peace."

Later on, namely in 1995, the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administrative Office published a booklet, "War and Peace ~ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the

End of World War II." In this booklet, the then Chief Administrative Director stated as follows:

"During the Second World War, Konkokyo cooperated to this war, believing that Japan was at the very crisis of its own survival as a country. (partially omitted) The Konko Faith (Organization) is still, to this day, responsible for having cooperated to the war, even though the 'then' Organization did this, not the Organization of 'today.' We just cannot regard this as a historical event in the past. All of us, who live and practice faith in Konkokyo today, must take responsibility for what our seniors did during the wartime. (partially omitted)

Today, peace does not only mean the absence of warfare but also the absence of infringement of human lives, destruction of the environment and repression of human rights. These elements also need to be eliminated in order for us not to cause new conflicts. Because of this, we, the Konkokyo Organization, must continue to strive for

realizing true peace of the world."

We are now in the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, and we would like to continue these efforts from now on too.

When you hear the phrase, "peace of the world," some of you may have an image of someone illuminating the darkness of the world with a powerful searchlight. However, we do not have a powerful searchlight in our hand. What we have in our hand is nothing but a candle. With this candle in our hand, we should illuminate ourselves first. We are then supposed to transmit the light to the people around us. By doing so, I believe that the light of peace will expand slowly and gradually BUT steadily. I find it important that we continue to repeat this effort. Just doing it one time is never enough.

An earnest endeavor for peace... we, the Konko Faith, have worked on this mission through generations. And I sincerely pray that we will continue to carry on this effort from now on too.

Seeking, Showing and Helping People Know about the Founder's Faith

- the Day of the Inauguration
as Kyoshu Konko sama -

At 8:00 in the morning of March 27, 2025, all staff members of each agency of the Konkokyo Headquarters and the Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary students got together at the Central Worship and Mediation Hall. The Reverend Michio Hashimoto, the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith, expressed his sincere gratitude and requests to Konko-sama, representing the entire congregation of Konkokyo. Then the (current 6th) Konko-sama gave us an address.

The following are the quotes of the Rev. Hashimoto's words and what Konko-sama spoke to us all.

The words of the Chief Administrative Director

Since today marks your inauguration day as Konko-sama, the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith, I would like to say the following things.

Since your inauguration, you have constantly been guiding us spiritually, praying for each one of us, the believers of the Konko Faith, and praying for world peace and all humanity's



salvation and fulfillment. In order for these important goals to be realized, you always pray to our Parent Kami and perform Sacred Mediation for those who want and need it. We are truly happy and thankful about this. I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your selfless goyo.

Last summer, we, as Konkokyo, had an event of solemn importance; the former Konko-sama passed away. We had an official funeral ceremony for the 5th Konko-sama, which the Konko Headquarters' Administration was fully responsible for. You kindly offered sincere



prayers to Kami so that everything would go well and smoothly. Largely thanks to your prayers, all members of the Konko Faith got united as one with you and

were able to conduct/attend the funeral ceremony. For this, I express my utmost gratitude in particular.

The Konkokyo Organization is implementing 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." Please pray to our Parent Kami for each one of us, Konko-sama, so that we will cherish a "heart to give thanks to everyone and everything that takes care of us" and practice faith in Kami in positive, invigorated spirits.

Konko-sama, please take care of yourself. Please give prayers to Kami and conduct Sacred Mediation for us. And please allow us to receive grand blessings from Kami in everything.

I am humbly expressing these requests to you, on behalf of the entire congregation of the Konko Faith.

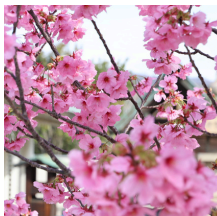
Thank you very much.

The words of the 6th Konko-sama

I am truly thankful for the fact that I have been allowed to serve our Parent Kami. I am anything but perfect, but I would like to continue to seek, showing and help people know about the Founder's faith, receive Kami's blessings together with all believers of the Konko Faith and contribute to the realization of Kami's wishes even if a little bit.

I appreciate your kind support and prayers for me.





Being Enveloped in the Spring Breeze

The (Spring) Grand Ceremony
for the Divine Parent
of the Universe Is Held

The Konkokyo Headquarters held the (Spring) Grand Ceremony for the Divine Parent of the Universe (Tenchi Kane No Kami) on March 30 (at 10:00), April 3 (at 13:30) and 6 (ditto), 2025, and many Konko believers came worshipping.

On each occasion, a 20-minute-or-so sermon was given before the Ceremony. As for the Ceremony, it was conducted by Konko-sama (as the Chief Officiant), 12 officiants and many other ministers in ceremonial costumes. A Kibi-mai dance was offered to our Parent Kami on the stage following the service.

On the eve of "Day 1," we had an event, "Evening of Kibi-mai," and on Day 1, we had an event, "Gathering for the Morning." The following is the Address by the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo during the Grand Ceremony and the deliveries that were handed out to the representative of each Konko church that came worshipping the Grand Ceremony on Day 1, 2 or 3.



Address by the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith (Konkokyo)



Ladies and gentlemen,
welcome to the Spring
Grand Ceremony at the
Konkokyo Headquarters!
I am truly grateful that
we are now worshipping
the Grand Ceremony for
the Divine Parent of
the Universe (Tenchi
Kane No Kami) that is
being conducted with

Kyoshu Konko-sama (the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith) as the Chief Officiant.

We are holding this ceremony in order for us to appreciate our Parent Kami's vast blessings (upon us) and Kami's deep consideration to have sent the Founder to each one of us. During this ceremony, we are also supposed to pray to Kami so that Kami's wish will be fulfilled.

The Founder taught us, "He who believes in Kami receives pleasure in everything he does. Serving at the hiromae is a pleasure, merchandising and farming are also pleasures. Everyone between Heaven and Earth is delightfully and gratefully receiving pleasures."

I heard this story from a childcare worker in a nursery school. A little boy was standing by a window and trying really hard to grasp something.



Wondering, "What is this little boy trying to grasp?" the childcare worker had a good look at the boy. Then, the gentleman realized that the little boy was trying to grasp a ray of sunlight that was coming through the window. The ray of light was seen more clearly thanks to the small dust particles sparkling in the sunlight. To the



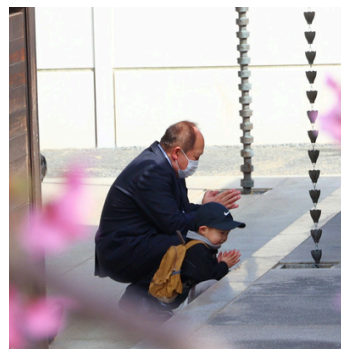
eyes of the childcare worker, the small kid appeared to be playing with the sunlight, and he found the sight heartwarming.

We all grow up to be adults. As adults, we are equipped with intelligence and we are wise accordingly. However, our intelligence and/or "wisdom" may be preventing us from seeing what we used to see in our childhood. Nevertheless, even we, as adults, are moved from time to time with the subtle beauty of moonlight, the sound of wind and the warmth of soil. We can perceive these sorts of subtle beauty of the Universe if or when we work hard in order to "see" them.

Our Parent Kami, by the way, always has His eyes on us. Our Founder teaches us, "Tenchi Kane No Kami sees everything in heaven and earth in a single glance." This teaching sometimes made me feel like someone was watching me all the time, and this notion used to scare me. I, however, came to deeply realize that a parent constantly watches over his/her children. I was able to feel this way after I became a parent and grew older.

This episode is a story that took place in the same nursery school. A little girl asked her teacher to watch over her, saying "Please watch

over me, OK?" So the teacher watched over the girl. She was playing all by herself quietly but joyfully. The teacher judged that she had watched over the little girl "enough" and began to take care of other children. Then the girl again asked the teacher to watch over her. She didn't ask her for anything else; she just continued to play all by herself. Several minutes passed, and the teacher began to do something else, which was noticed by that very girl, who, this time, said slowly and firmly, "Please watch over me. Watch, Over, Me, OK?" The little girl didn't make any other requests. She just wanted her teacher to watch over her. The girl was able to play by herself because she knew that her teacher was paying good attention to her. We all



remember our childhood... we felt totally secure when our parents were around. This simple thing made us safe and protected. Just like our parents, our Parent Kami of the Universe watches over every one of us. And because Kami does so for all of us,



we get to feel safe whatever we do.

The 4th Konko-sama read a poem one day, "I naturally want to have a heart like a spring breeze, as I am being blown gently by the spring breeze." In this poem, Konko-sama refers to "spring breeze," and I imagine that this "spring breeze" wraps us around warmly, since we have been almost frozen due to a cold weather during the winter time. Thanks to the warmth of the spring breeze, we naturally become excited and merry and we know our heart also gets invigorated. A spring breeze, which is invisible, is also a working of the Universe. A spring breeze, a working of the Universe, energizes our heart, and it helps us feel like ourselves being a spring breeze. This allows us to give fresh, healthy energy to people around us. By doing so,

we would like to help Kami.

The Konkokyo Organization is implementing 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." I sincerely hope and pray that we will work hard together, so that "true peace of the world," which Kami constantly wishes, will be fulfilled.

Lastly, I would like to pray that all of you who are here now will receive divine virtue of today's Grand Ceremony, go home safely and will receive even more blessings from Kami from now on. This is all for my address. Thank you very much.

