Monthly Booklet of Konkokyo

KONKO KYOUHOU

2026
11

Fore word

Justice Coming from Not Fighting

By the Reverend Michio Hashimoto Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo

It is well known that our Founder underwent persecutions of mountain priests or yamabushi shortly after he started to perform Sacred Mediation for his worshippers. We consider the acts of Konko Daijin no problem, for we are his followers. For those mountain priests, who had official license as religious leaders, however, our Founder's acts were unacceptable, for he was doing something similar to them while he had no such official license for his daily acts. In this very sense, the persecuting actions done by those mountain priests are understandable. In the written records of the episodes of our Founder, we can read the words of one of the mountain priests:

"When I was young, I often went to the Sonryuin Temple of Kojima Goryu School (of Buddhism) for my spiritual training. During my training period at that temple, I went to the Hiromae of Konko Daigongen quite often. I went there in order to ransack the whole place. My true purpose was NOT to rob Konko Daigongen of any of his belongings. My five or six 'friends' and I intended to make him stop what he was doing on a daily basis. We intended to harass him, trying to deprive him of motivation to do his daily acts for his followers. Every time we went to Konko Daigongen's Hiromae, we knew we would make him surrender and we did burst into the place, being raring for our 'mission.' As soon as we saw Konko Daigongen, we pressed on, as if we couldn't spare any seconds to catch our breath. We unleashed a torrent of oral abuse upon him. Konko Daigongen, however, didn't give us any words and he remained totally silent. He only had a gentle smile on his face, as if nothing had happened. Because Konko Daigongen remained completely unfazed, it was utterly anticlimactic.

(omitted)

With his calm attitude, we got irritated even worse. And we left his Hiromae in an even greater state of disarray than the last time. Konko Daigongen, however, still kept his composure perfectly. No matter how many times we tried to harass him, the result was the same. Even a (mountain) priest who could conquer Mount Ishizuchi in one go came to think that he had had enough. In the beginning, we all used to say, 'Let me be your lead man in this assault.' The more time passed, the fewer said this. When we realized, this project ceased to exist. It completely stopped and never happened again."

(quoted from No. 31 of "Konko Kiyo" published by the Konko Thelological Resarch Institute)

The Founder shared his feelings during this adversity with the Rev. Fujimori Kondo, the Founding Minister of Konko Church of Namba (Osaka, Japan):

"When those practicing faith are hit on the head, they should think, 'My head doesn't hurt, but how about your hand?' And if they are urinated on the head, they should think warm rain is falling."

Being covered in urine is unhygienic. However, even more seriously, when someone urinates on us, that person denies our human dignity. At times, we come into conflict with others in order to protect our own face or pride. Just as America has its own version of justice and Iran has its own, there are times when different conceptions of justice come into conflict. And when this happens, most people probably conceive an idea of "If someone attacks us, we will take revenge upon that person." However, this way of thinking only creates a cycle of emotional conflict—and, quite often, it will cause that conflict to intensify further.

Why was the Founder able to put up with this sort of extreme humiliation? It is, in my belief, because he had this full trust in Kami that "Kami knows all." Konko Daijin not only endured this unbearable treatment but also fully believed Kami's workings. The Founder's bottomless, unconditional trust in Kami gave birth to something called "justice coming from not fighting." And as a result, the Founder's dignity as a human being was protected. When we think this way, we can safely conclude that "the true peace of the world" will not come true until it is based on religious faith. If we are ever subjected to humiliation, let us follow the example of our founder, who would respond even to such moments with a cheerful smile.

The Autumn Grand Ceremony for Ikigami Konko Daijin Held At the Konko HQ

Keep on Praying that All People of the World Will Have A Big Smile on their Face



The Autumn Grand Ceremony for our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin, was held at the Konkokyo Headquarters' Grand Ceremony Hall on October 4th (10:00～), the 7th (13:30～) and the 10th (ditto). A lot of people came worshipping the ceremony.

At each occasion, there was a 20-minute (or so) sermon before the service. The Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith served the position of the Chief Officiant, and 12 ministers were officiants. Many other ministers worshipped the service, dressed in the ceremonial costumes. Kibi-Mai Dance was performed after the officiants left.

On the eve of Day 1, "The 27th Lecture on the Theological Research of Konkokyo" and "Evening of Kibi-Mai Dance" were held. On Day 1 (Oct. 4th), "Morning Assembly," "Let's Think about How to Help Boys and Girls Grow Up Spiritually" and "Gathering for Konko Believers" were held.

The following is the address by the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith at the Grand Ceremony.

Address by the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith



Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Autumn Grand Ceremony at the Konkokyo Headquarters!

First of all, thank you very much for your sincere prayers and financial supports for the victims of the 2026 Kumamoto Earthquake that broke out this past July. I also appreciate the selfless dedications of various volunteer groups of Konkokyo, who work very hard to support the victimized people. This year has already seen heavy rain in many parts of Japan in addition to the aforementioned earthquake. Lots of people are suffering even now. I would like to give words of sincere condolence to those who are still in great difficulty. I also would like us to pray together for the mitama spirits of deceased people and the reconstruction of those victimized towns.

I am truly grateful that we are now worshipping the Grand Ceremony for our dear Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin 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 admire the Divine Virtue of our Founder and receive Ikigami Konko Daijin's Sacred Mediation that was, is and will be there for all of us forever. We are holding today's ceremony also in order to pray to our Parent Kami that we will get to let people around us know of the wondrous, powerful workings of Konko Daijin's Toritsugi Mediation.

The Founder is said to have always taught "We must spread this Way of Faith throughout the world."

Today, people from various parts of the world visit Japan. And we have many occasions where we come across people from abroad. My hometown is Kyoto and a great number of people visit Kyoto every single year. I often see foreign tourists being lost and trying to figure out where they are, using the map shown on the screen of their mobile phones.

One day, one of my church members shared an episode with me. The member was sweeping the ground in front of the entrance gate of our church. A foreign tourist came over to and asked the (Konko) believer to show him the way to his destination. The church member with a broom did his best to show the way to the foreign traveler, making various gestures. Then the



overseas tourist was delighted and gave thanks to the believer with the broom. When this member told me this story, a younger member was also listening to him. The elder member said, "I wonder how to say 'massugu iku' in English." Then the younger one replied, "You can say 'Please go straight.'" Then the elder one laughed merrily and said, "Oh, yeah, that's it. I already know that phrase. To know a phrase is one thing and to be able to use it is totally another!"

The gravesite of our church is located along the back path of the Kiyomizu-dera Temple, which is one of the most famous sightseeing spots in Kyoto. When I am there, praying, I often run into overseas travelers who obviously appear to be lost. One day, a foreign tourist asked me in broken Japanese, "Ah, where is Shimizu-ji?" I immediately saw that he meant the Kiyomizu-dera Temple. From where we stood at that time, all he needed to do was to go up the stairs right in front of us and go straight. For a few seconds, I wondered to how to explain this to the tourist. Then I remembered the aforementioned episode. I said to him, "Up and go straight," pointing at the stairs. I knew I spoke in broken English. The foreign tourist somehow seemed to have understood me. He had a big smile on his face and said to me, "Thank you!"

People may come from different lands and people may speak different languages. However, when we notice that someone is in trouble, most of us want to give him/her a hand and try to get connected to the person through oral communication. And our efforts to do so are often rewarded and we can smile at one another. This is what I learned from this precious experience.

This year, the North America Diocese and the Hawaii Diocese had a commemorative ceremony





to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Konkokyo's propagation in both areas. (The Sixth) Konko-sama made a speech in both North America and Hawaii and said the following things:

"It is my sincere prayer that we may help one another, live together in harmony, and contribute to bringing true peace and prosperity to the world, so that everyone may live with a smile on their face."

Today, each Konkokyo church is given shikishi or a square piece of thick paperboard as a token of your pilgrimage to the 2026 Autumn Grand Ceremony at the Konko Headquarters. On the paperboard, Konko-sama writes, "WORLD PEACE---Let All Over the World Be Full of Smiles"



Kami imparted, "Kami shall have people become aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth by having Konko Daijin be born throughout the world where the sun shines, in every country, without exception." Konko-sama's words and this divine messages of Kami, I believe, share something in common. And my heart is filled with deep gratitude.

7 years later from now, we will welcome the 150th Anniversary of Konko Daijin's Passing. It will be the year 2033. When our Founder said, "We must spread this Way of Faith throughout the world," he must have been passionate. I would like each one of us to share our Founder's hot passion and pray to our Parent Kami so that all people of the world will get to have a big smile on their face.

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.

