

Fore
word**Upon the One-Year Memorial Service of the Former
Konko-sama, the late Reverend Heiki Konko**

by the Reverend Kiyoji Konko Director of Worship Hall Department

On March 27th, 1991, the Reverend Heiki Konko became the Fifth Konko-sama after his father, the Reverend Kagamitaro Konko (the Fourth Konko-sama) passed away. On March 26th, 2021, Heiki sensei retired from the position of the Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith. About 3 years and 3 months passed since then, and on July 21st, 2024, the Fifth Konko-sama passed away. This month, we would like to hold the one-year memorial service for the Rev. Heiki Konko.

One day, the Fifth Konko-sama wrote four Chinese characters, "山中曆日 Sanchu Rekijitsu" on a piece of square fancy cardboard and gave it to me. This is a poem found in "Tang Poetry Selection," which a famous person during the Ming Dynasty of China compiled. The Fifth Konko-sama wrote these four kanji letters, referring to "There are no such things as 'dates' and 'months' in a mountain." This means that when you live in a deep mountain for a long time, you will no longer worry/care how fast time flies. I, however, cannot but feel that there must be something more, something deeper, whenever I look at these four letters

successive Konko-samas has done this on a constant basis without fail, as if they were the Sun. Just like the sun never takes a day off, let alone a vacation, none of the (successive) Konko-samas takes "les vacances," even if they may want to. To me, Konko-samas seem to create a mountain in their heart and train/discipline themselves "there." The Fifth Konko-sama is no exception. How he created a "mountain" in his heart and how he prayed to our Parent Kami for us all in the "mountain" he had created... these things are way beyond my imagination and/or understanding. Some people may think/feel that Konko-sama's life is inconvenient, but (the Fifth) Konko-sama always had an atmosphere, where he was totally free, not being bound by anything. The Founder's (daily) prayers (to our Parent Kami) created a deep pothole for human salvation. Now the pothole is expressed in the form of the Konkokyo HQ's Central Worship and Mediation Hall. For the Fifth Konko-sama, it was the irreplaceable place. He often said, "This place is important (for me)," and he treasured his (selfless) service at the Mediation Seat better than anything else. This sacred duty was his

written by Fifth Konko-sama.

One direct disciple of Konko Daijin, the Founder of the Konko Faith, spoke to Konko Daijin about his plan to train himself spiritually. It was when the disciple's missionary work was just underway. The follower asked, "I would very much like to go to a mountain and undergo ascetic training for some time. What do you think of this?" Then the Founder asked the young man, "If you go to a mountain, how will you do ascetic training?" "What kind of mountain will you go to?" The young man replied, "I will go as deep into the mountains as I can, to separate myself from the world." Konko Daijin taught him, "That is fine. However Kondo-san, you need not trouble yourself by going to a mountain. Create a mountain in your heart, and do religious training there."

All the Konko-samas (from the Founder to the present Sixth) have come out of their residence, entered the Konko Faith HQ's Worship (and Mediation) Hall and sat at the Mediation Seat and prayed for the salvation of all humanity and world peace. Each of the

reason for living. And I still remember Fifth Konko-sama at the HQ's Mediation Seat fondly. The Fifth Konko-sama's prayers were quiet and strong. The Founder of the Konko Faith imparted, "The universe is not a passing fad. Something which is not a fad will not end. It is essential to have a heart like that of the Universe." In his prayers, the Fifth Konko-sama must have always let himself go with the eternal flow of time.

Now that the physical body of the Fifth Konko-sama is gone. He is now a mitama spirit with divine virtue. His prayer is even more powerful now and it seems to me that the Fifth Konko-sama's prayer gives each of us a push on the back. I also believe that his prayer gently fills in what is missing from us. The Fifth Konko-sama was so much kind to all of us during his lifetime, and I have little idea how I can ever repay his kindness and affection for us. I, however, would like to repay his kindness even if a little, and I would like to follow the Fifth Konko-sama's footsteps of "There are no such things as 'dates' and 'months' in a mountain." And I would like to make sure that I will receive Kami's blessings from now on in my goyo.

Ceremony to Appreciate the Mitama Spirits of Konko Ministers and Believers with Outstanding Contributions to the Spread of the Konko Faith, along with the 1st Year Memorial Service for the late Reverend Heiki Konko

Let us Express our Gratitude to Kami for our Connection to the Konko Faith

We will hold the Ceremony to Appreciate the Mitama Spirits of Konko Ministers and Believers with Outstanding Contributions to the Spread of the Konko Faith at the Grand Ceremony Hall of the Konkokyo Headquarters at 13:30 on December 14th, 2025. This time, we will also solemnly hold the 1st Year Memorial Service for the late Reverend Heiki Konko.

In this article, we would like to publish the aim of this Ceremony.



a position installed by the then Japanese government. The government in those days aimed to supervise religious organizations in Japan through Kancho set onto each of those religions bodies.)

In 1933, the Konko Headquarters decided to admire and give thanks to the mitama spirits of senior (Konko) ministers and believers with outstanding contributions to the spread of the Konko Faith in addition to doing so to the Founder's direct family members (1933, by the way, marked the 50th anniversary of the Founder's passing). Because of these revisions, Hombu officially named this service "Ceremony to Appreciate the Mitama Spirits of Konko Ministers and Believers with Outstanding Contributions to the Spread of the Konko Faith" in 1941.



As to the mitama spirits of those with remarkable contributions to the spread of Konkokyo, not all of them lived in the same era; they lived in different periods of time. No matter which era they lived in, they all dedicated their entire lives (all of their time and energy, in



◆ Aim of the Ceremony ◆

The Second Konko-sama, namely Konko Shijin Tsurayuki No Kimi (Ieyoshi, the fifth son of our dear Founder), passed away on December 20th, 1893. Most of the Konko churches on the Kyushu Island of Japan were established, largely thanks to the Konko(kyo)



Church of Kokura. Its Founding Minister, the late Rev. Matsuhei Katsura, revered the Second Konko-sama so much that Konko Shijin-sama was almost everything to the Rev. Katsura. All of his disciples knew this. Therefore, the entire Konko congregation of the Kyushu Island made a sincere petition to the Konkokyo Headquarters, asking Go-hombu to hold the one-year memorial service for the Second Konko-sama at the Konko Headquarters. Hombu accepted their sincere request and they held the memorial service at the Headquarters in December, 1894.

Later on, Hombu came to additionally hold the memorial service for Konko Sanjin Oji Tatewake No Mikoto (Hagio, the fourth son of the Founder) and Konko Tose Isshi Oakaru Hime (Tose, the wife of the Founder) on the same date. (Hagio, by the way, was the Konkokyo Kancho I. Kancho was

other words) to the fulfillment of both Kami and people, faithfully following Konko Daijin's teachings, "People should broaden the Way of Faith. Kami will grant blessings." and/or "Become a kami by saving people."

Especially this year, we will also conduct the 1st Year Memorial Service for the late Reverend Heiki Konko. The Reverend Heiki Konko was born in 1934 as the first son of the late Reverend Kagamitaro Konko (the Fourth Konko-sama) and was ordained as a Konkokyo minister in 1959, which marked the 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Konko Faith. After the ordainment, Heiki sensei did goyo (selfless service) as a staff member of the Propagation Department and the Administration Department





of the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administration Office. He later began his goyo in the Worship Hall Internal Affairs Department in 1972, working closely with his father and assisting him. In March of 1991, the Reverend Heiki Konko became the Fifth Konko-sama after his father passed away. Since then, Reverend Heiki was our Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator for 3 decades (6 straight terms), unifying the entire Konkokyo community and praying for world peace and the salvation of all humanity at the Konko HQ's Central Worship and Mediation Hall.



During his long, 3-decade tenure as Kyoshu Konko-sama, the Konkokyo Organization carried out several big/important projects such as the compilation of "Konko Daijin," a (new) biography of our Founder, the revision of the Konkokyo Organization's propagation system, the

mutual on the pathway towards realizing our mutual prosperities, that of Kami-sama and people, that of people and people, that of people and nature, and all of us transcending our differences in nationality, race, language, and culture.

Konko-sama's speech was indeed a proof that he constantly prayed for "world peace and the salvation of all humanity."

The Fifth Konko-sama's utmost sincerity towards our Parent Kami has been handed down to the present-day Sixth Konko-sama, who took over the late Reverend Heiki Konko in March, 2021. Since then, the Sixth Konko-sama has been performing Sacred Mediation at the HQ's Central Worship and Mediation Hall, constantly praying for the salvation of the world and all humanity as well as for the entire Konkokyo community.



At this occasion of the Ceremony to Appreciate the Mitama Spirits of Konko Ministers and Believers with Outstanding Contributions to the Spread of the Konko Faith, along with the 1st Year Memorial Service for the late Reverend Heiki Konko, we would like to reminisce the successive Konko-samas and our senior Konko ministers and

promotion of a couple of faith movements, the earthquake-resistant reinforcement construction for the HQ's Grand Service Hall and the construction of Konko North Wing. These significant projects came into fruition entirely thanks to the Sacred Mediation and prayers by the late Reverend Heiki Konko.

Especially at the Ikigami Konko Daijin (Autumn) Grand Ceremony Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Konkokyo's Foundation (in the year 2009), the Fifth Konko-sama gave us words, "I pray that we will all strive for helping ourselves and people around us express/show the 'Way of Kami and People' in the life of each of us, for the Way of Kami and People lets Kami and people be mutually fulfilled." Through these words, Konko-sama kindly showed us the way for the betterment of our faiths in Kami."

The late Reverend Heiki Konko was an excellent English speaker, by the way. Whenever necessary, he performed Sacred Mediation through the English language for overseas worshippers. The Fifth Konko-sama and his wife flew to Hilo, Hawaii in the summer of 2000 in order to participate in the KMH-KCNA Joint Conference Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Independence of the Konko Faith. Konko-sama delivered a speech in English as follows:

In this new era which values the spirit of mutual prosperity and tolerance, I would like to walk with you on the pathway towards realizing our



believers with outstanding achievements in the field of Konkokyo propagation. Let us also not forget that we will express our sincere gratitude for us to have had the opportunity to join this Faith. Konko Daijin (our dear Founder), his successive Konko-samas and other distinguished senior ministers and believers, they all sought what the mutual fulfillment between Kami and people was like and prayed to our Parent Kami for those in difficulty so that those people in distress would be saved. We would like to revere all of them and emulate their great examples.

During the Ceremony, we will have a period of "Appointment of Ministers' Assistants (Hokyō)." Hokyōs are expected to inherit the invaluable sincerity of these great mitamas and they will hopefully (continue to) make endeavors "for the sake of Konko Daijin's faith." As such treasured human resources, ministers' assistants are expected to take an active role in church activities and get involved in various activities/programs of the Konkokyo Organization.



From this Ceremony on, let us pray that each one of us, who is already connected to the faith of Konko Daijin, will work on developing his/her faith and try to become a useful individual for "world peace and the fulfillment of all humanity."