



Which individual is more important, you or someone else? All are human beings

*By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano
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We have been holding our KMH Zoom Kyoten Study Session every other week. We began in the first week of May, this year. And we just held the 5th session on Wednesday, June 30. Eight people responded to this session. We take turns reading one passage of the "Voice of the Universe" Selected Teachings of Konkokyo and discuss the passages. Yesterday, June 30th, we read Section 4, which was about Man.

During the discussion, an interesting subject was raised in corresponding to teaching No. 41 of the book. The passage reads, "Which individual is more important, you or someone else? All are human beings" (III Shinkun 2-2).

During the discussion, people mentioned who they would save. My wife, Reiko-sensei mentioned that in a crisis, if she had to choose to save her husband or her children, she said she would choose her children without question. My wife's response may be an ideal response, coming from a loving and caring mother who gave birth to our children. While I was pondering about this question, I remembered an episode in which the late Rev. Shoichi Okuno, the founding minister of Konko Mission of Hanapepe in Kauai once asked me soon after we arrived in Hawaii some 44 years ago. We didn't have children yet, but he asked me, "Which is more important for you, your wife or your child?" I reflectively responded, "Of

course, my wife is more important for me." The Rev. Okuno seemed a little shocked with my response. He probably expected me to say "Of course, my child is much more important for me." Because of the situation, I still remember the conversation between us. He didn't ask me the reason for my response. And I didn't articulate about the reason I chose that answer either. The reason I preferred my wife was that she was a divinely arranged partner for me and she had received blessings through the workings of Kami-Sama till the age of 26 at that time. Comparing it to a child who is just a few years old, a child has received less years of Kami-Sama's blessings in a sense. And I also considered the fact that she was a beloved child of her loving parents and siblings and the network of people who have connections with her. I still keep this initial notion of the depth of her blessedness till this day. For 44 years of our married life, I have enjoyed in witnessing her contribution to my life, our family and the congregation of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa and many other communities in Hawaii.

Actually, I would not have held such a question that dictates to choose either my wife or my children. The question would instantly deny the blessed nature of the relationship between Kami-Sama and each beloved child. For example, No. 39 of the book read, "Since Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Parent Kami of this world, all people who live between Heaven and Earth are the children of Tenchi Kane No Kami regardless of whether they practice this faith or not" (III Jinkyuu Kyogoroku 32). And the next message, No. 40 reads, "All people are children of Kami. There is no one who does not belong" (II Sato Mitsujiro 12).

But we are all conditioned to go against these messages and take our actions for granted. Likes and dislikes in our daily interactions with people, segregations against color, race, economic disparities, educational disparities, sexual orientations and so forth. There would be no end that prevents us from practicing the faith advocated by the Founder Konko Daijin.

We have been in the midst of dealing with COVID-19, unprecedented global social upheavals prevail in the whole world. The Vaccination for COVID-19 alone represents the core issue of choice in the base. Look at the whole world, some developing countries have been tormented by the scarcity of vaccines. The initial people who have enjoyed the protection could be the rich. The message given by the Founder Konko Daijin, "Which individual is more important, you or someone else? All are human beings" can be applied even for the distribution of vaccinations in the nation and in the world.

But there may be no right or wrong answer in our personal preferences as has been mentioned, "Which would you choose to save, your spouse or your child?" But the implications can be universal and dictate our personal relationship with the family, in the community, in the work place and in the global perspectives. We have some personal liberty to exercise our preferences, but we have already been under the discreet powers we may not be much aware of.

Attending church services and community functions also been dictated in those given conditions.

Konko-Sama Says . . .

Everyone around the world is a child of Tenchi Kane No Kami. The world is full of Tenchi Kane No Kami's blessings. Not having these blessings is like not having any air. So without divine blessings, people cannot live, not even for a minute. (II Sato

Mitsujiro 14-3). "Konko" means "golden light shines." The "kon" comes from the "Kane No Kami." The "ko" comes from "hikari" meaning sunlight. Sunlight provides the world with light. Therefore, it means that the entire world is being blessed by Tenchi Kane No Kami's light shining throughout the world. (II Konko Hagio 21)

Some people have decided to serve the Faith by conveying truthful teachings. If there were such people in each town and village, this Faith would spread easily. (I Kondo Fujimori 80)

Those who are able to live due to Tenchi Kane No Kami's blessings are in between two mirrors. Kami sees all good and bad things that are reflected in the mirrors. You must practice faith and have a sincere heart. (Yamamoto Sadajiro 3)

Bulletin Board

Church Services for July 2021

- 1 Thur -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (Facebook Live 7:30 pm)
Shingyo Kikan (Intensive Faith Practice Period through 7/31)
- 4 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)
- 11 Sun -Monthly Svc for Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am)
- 17 Sat -KMH ZOOM Conference 2021 (1:30-3:30 pm)
- 18 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)
- 25 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service & Back-to-School Service (Facebook Live 9 am)

August 2021

- 1 Sun -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (Facebook Live 9 am)
KMH Rotary Hanashikai Mtg (ZOOM 10:30 am)

The Church Door is Open

We welcome you to make a visit to our church and church services. Restrictions will be ease after July 8, yet please wear your face mask for Covid-19 precautionary measures. You can also make an appointment for your personal visit to church anytime of the day.

Garage Sale

Thank you very much for helping to raise funds for the church Educational Fund! We have made a total of \$1065.25. We will be having another garage sale on **Saturday, July 24th** from 9am-2pm thanks to the many donations people have been bringing in, and our basement is now full. Proceeds will go towards the Church General Fund.

Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital

The monthly visit to provide a volunteer activity at the Long-Term Care Facility at Wahiawa General Hospital will be held on Friday, July 16 at 10:00 am.

KMH

●The Community Engagement and Outreach Committee initiated the bi-monthly KMH Kyoten study group via Zoom. The main reference book will be "Voice of the Universe." Please join the study session and deepen your understanding about the messages of the Founder. Our next meeting will be on Monday, July 12 (5 pm)

●KMH Zoom conference 2021 ZOOM meeting will be held on Friday, July 9, 2021 at 5 pm. Final meeting.

●KMH Zoom Conference 2021

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021

Time: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Rev. Saijiro Matsuda (Konko Church of Minamimuro, Mie. Former KMH CAM)

Theme: Kokoro Kubari: Living with Mindfulness

●Community Engagement and Outreach Committee meeting will be held on Friday, June 23, 2021 (Zoom at 5:00 pm).

Honoring the Mitama Spirits of July

Shimeno Iwasa	7/1/1966
Wesly Katsumi Ooyama	7/4/1981
Yasuo Hayashida	7/5/1998
Masao Yoshihara	7/12/2002
Masae Baba	7/20/1987
Rev. Yoshie Yoshino	7/21/2005
Asa Miyamoto	7/23/1933
May Shimao	7/30/2004



If you wish to have a name added to the church Mitama listing or removed, please contact Rev. Yasuhiro Yano.

The Life of the Founder, Konko Daijin (Translation)

金光教祖の生涯 瀬戸三喜雄
金光教学研究所 紀要別冊教学叢書 2

The following is an English translation of a book titled, "Konko Kyoso no Shougai" or "The Life of the Founder Konko Daijin" authored by the Rev. Mikio Seto, and was published by Konkokyo Theological Research Center. The publication was made in 1980. There are many biographies about the life of the Founder Konko Daijin. I would like to introduce this article for your reference in your pursuit of faith. An English Translation was provided by Rev. Yasuhiro Yano.

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Death of the brother-in-law and the adoptive father

When the Founder turned 23 years old, in July of this year, his brother-in-law Tsurutato, who turned six years old, died of illness suddenly. He died of the complications of stomach ailments. It could be assumed that his poor health condition stemmed from being born from his mother of advanced maternal age (over 40), and she was not able to adequately feed her baby with her breast milk since birth.

In less than one month after the passing of Tsurutaro, the condition of Bunji's adoptive father turned for the worst in a very short period of time and he died of dysentery at the age of 66. It could be assumed that the encounter of the sudden death of his beloved child, Tsurutaro contributed to his death.

Prior to the death of Bunji's adoptive father, he could have anticipated his own death, so he instructed Bunji to change his family name "Kawate" to the original name "Akazawa." The relationship between Kawate and Akazawa households have not been clearly understood. Mentioned in the previous part of this writing, the Kawate household once became discontinued. Then the Akazawa household inherited the mortuary tablet of the discontinued Kawate household. But the Akazawa household also encountered discontinuation of the family lineage. Later on, a person named Hachibee acquired the "honkabu" which was ownership of the family estate and revived the Kawate household once again. Having such a historical background of the family lineage, why did the adoptive father instruct Bunji to give up the Kawate Family name? In general, as head of the Kawate household, his adoptive father might have wished Bunji to help expand the household after his death. Some unusual circumstance may have directed the adoptive father to respond to give up the Kawate family name in corresponding to his approaching death. According to a theory, some village people held a strong sense of hostility toward the adoptive father who adhered to the prestigious family name in the village. At one occasion, they celebrated the annual village festivity by displaying the family paper lanterns with their family crest printed outside of the house. The Kawate family's lantern was vandalized by another Kawate household in the village, according to a story by Kura Fujii. Being aware of the hostility of the people in the village against the Kawate household, and Bunji being an adoptee from a neighboring village who was in line to take over the inheritance, his adoptive father might have experienced great anxiety for the future of the household. His adoptive father

might have sensed that it could be extremely difficult to perpetuate the Kawate family lineage in considering the background of the once discontinued Kawate name and his son's sudden death and his own pending death. The reason why the adoptive father instructed Bunji to give up the Kawate surname could be attributed to these elements. In responding to the expressed will of the adoptive father, Bunji changed his family name to Akazawa. He continued to hold the Akazawa family name for 30 years, till 1866, when his name changed to Konko.

(4) Inheritance of the family estate

In 1836, in corresponding to the death of his adoptive father, Bunji took over the right to the family estate at the age of 23. He had to deal with heavy responsibilities for the entire household operations. His burden of responsibilities was not just limited to the financial management of the family. He also had to deal with undeniable burdens imposed by the complicated household relationships in the village as mentioned by the adoptive father.

Marriage

One of the eventualities of Bunji who became head of the household was his marriage. Everybody in the village showed great curiosity and concern for the marriage of Bunji who turned 23 years old. A few months had passed since the death of his adoptive father. And his adoptive mother made an arrangement for his marriage. She talked with Tose, the eldest daughter of Yaozo Furukawa, who lived just across the sloping road. Tose was 18 years old. She was one of the local girls who casually interacted with Bunji.

The wedding ceremony took place on December 13, 1836. The bride was escorted by the family members of the relative to the Kawate household. In corresponding to the situation dictated by the rules of the Days and Directions, it was believed that the direction to enter into the Kawate household was ominous. In an attempt to avoid the ominous direction, they took a roundabout way to reach the Kawate household. It was an age old social norm in those days to consult the Days and Directions for important occasions such as wedding, construction projects, traveling and so forth to avoid troubles. Naturally, the elders, who had much greater experiences in the family and community always had a say in the decision-making process for the consultations of the Days and the Directions.

This is the beautiful gladiolus in the church yard.

