



The Divine Intervention in the Revelation of the Tenchi Kakitsuke (The Divine Reminder)



By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano

This morning (October 13, 2020), my attention was drawn to a remark made by my wife, Reiko-sensei while she was talking with our daughter, Edna. They were talking about who would be attending today's grand service. She said, "何とかという思いを 神様がお受け取りくださるのじゃ" in English, "If we forward our utmost sincerity toward Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama would respond accordingly."

Her remark reminded me of an episode I experienced while I was staying at the Konko Church of Amagi for spiritual training. I was doing some goyo at the room next to the Toritsugi Mediation Desk a few months after I went into the Amagi Church as a trainee. Oyasensei, the late Rev. Fumio Yasutake brought some items to be delivered to the believers who made a visit to the Konko Church of Kokura for a church service. The items were believed to be *osagari* or gift items given to the people who attended the service. He showed a list of names who attended the function. He instructed me to sort out items to be handed to the believers who would show up to a church function scheduled in a few days. Since I spent a few months at the church, I became a bit familiar with the regularly attending church members. Based on my assumption, I prepared the items for them. I had a certain idea who would respond to the church functions based on my observances. The church members that I believed would be there were present.

I do not know the reason why I have recalled this episode from time to time since I came to Hawaii.

The concept of "*Kami-Sama ga ouketori kudasaru*" can be one of the key terms in pursuit of the Konko faith. The Rev. Fumio Yasutake used to say, 神様にお受け取り頂く程安心で確かな生活は無い or "There could be no happier and secure life than being accepted by Kami-Sama."

Whenever I extend my thought for the concept of "神様にお受け取り頂く" or being accepted by Kami-Sama. I always remember an episode that took place while the 4th Konko-Sama, the late Rev. Kagamitaro Konko was serving at the Toritsugi-Mediation Desk. I would like to share the story just for your reference to the practice of faith.

A very poor elderly woman who lived day to day with a meager income saved travel funds in hope of making a pilgrimage to see Konko-Sama at the Headquarters Church in Konko Town. One day she was able to make a pilgrimage. Upon her arrival to see Konko-Sama, Konko-Sama spoke even before she uttered a word by saying, "Kami-Sama has accepted all of your expenses for your pilgrimage today. You had purchased a pair of new shoes and new clothes, paid for your travel expenses. You also dined at the Tsuchiya restaurant. Kami-Sama has accepted all of your spending as your extended offerings."

I learned this episode in a booklet published by the Headquarters Office soon after both my wife and I started our missionary work. What I appreciate the most in this episode is the profound meaning of acceptance of what we have forwarded towards Kami in appreciation of the blessings received.

Both my wife and I have spent 43 years in Hawaii for our missionary work. But I am not sure if our missionary task has been accepted by Kami-Sama or not. But we have tried to extend our gratitude and thanks for the blessings received till this day in exercise of the spirituality of "Konnichi made no Orei" or saying thanks for the blessings received till this day.

Today is the day of celebration for the Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin for his perpetual presence and work of Toritsugi-Mediation.

I noticed something interesting about the 27 years of service the Founder lived from the initial point of serving Kami-Sama. In 1857, Kami asked the Founder Konko Daijin to make some financial arrangements for the construction of a shrine by Shigeemon Kandori, the younger brother of the Founder. The Founder received the Rikkyo Shinden in two years after the initial request from Kami, in 1859. The nature of the Rikkyo Shinden is a fulfillment of a Divine endeavor of helping people through the function of Toritsugi-Mediation. Kami-Sama found the Founder as a trustworthy believer who could render Kami's task of helping people. In a sense, Kami-Sama accepted the Founder to be the absolute agent who would be able to fulfill Kami's wish of helping people in need. In Japanese, Kami-Sama might be convinced of the Founder in such a manner as "*Kono mono naraba*" or this individual can be trustworthy through divine perspective. This stage of trust of the Founder was considered the greatest trust relationship between Kami and Humankind.

But fourteen years later, after serving as Toritsugi-Mediator, the Founder encountered an impasse because of the governmental restrictions. He had to close down the operation of the church. He had to confine himself in his own room without any religious activities. In the midst of turmoil, in a complete impasse, Kami-Sama revealed the Tenchi Kakitsuke, the Divine Reminder. The four lined message reads:

Ikigami Konko Daijin
Tenchi Kane No Kami isshin ni negae
Okage wa waga kokoro ni ari
Kongetsu Konnichi de tanomei

Soon after the revelation of the message, the authority allowed the Founder to resume his missionary work. It could be Kami-Sama who worried about the impasse in a sense. Termination of Toritsugi-Mediation by imposition of the governmental regulations means the failure of the divinely intended function of saving people through Toritsugi-Mediation. It could be assumed that Kami-Sama's worry could be more than the worry of the Founder in that given situation. Kami-Sama might develop conviction in such a manner, Konko Daijin shall be the one and only believer who would be able to fulfill His

endeavor of saving people. In that given situation, it could not be the Founder Konko Daijin who prayed to Tenchi Kane No Kami, but Tenchi Kane No Kami extended powers to dissolve the impasse. This is just my own personal interpretation over the revelation of Tenchi Kakitsuke or the Divine Reminder.

When a child in need cries out for help by calling "Okaachan" or mother, a caring mother would always pay attention for the safety of her child. It could be the nature of a loving mother who is always paying attention to her children. Parents who pay close attention to their children at all times would be able to respond to their call immediately.

When we call for help by saying Konko Daijin, Konko-Sama or Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, Kami has always cared for us and respond to our calling instantly. This could be one of the interpretations of the Divine Call.

Konko-Sama Says . . .

There are various faiths which profess certain punishments and curses. But in this Faith, we give requests to Tenchi No Kami-Sama to have our misfortunes dispelled. Kami-Sama is like a parent who chases away the bullies. When a parent approaches, the bullies turn pale with fear and run away. If people pray single-heartedly to Tenchi No Kami-Sama, their troubles will be purged. For all things, rely on Kami-Sama and practice faith. You ask someone to settle something and count on him. Then you think he probably won't succeed, so you ask another person to settle it for you. But in doing so, the matter to be settled may get worse and you may end up having problems. Don't stray in your faith. Straying in your faith to receive divine blessings quickly is like taking an unfamiliar road for a shortcut. In this Faith, you are to take the main road. Be single-hearted and practice faith. (*Gorikai I Yamamoto Sadajiro 57*)

Bulletin Board

Church Services for November 2020

- 1 Sun -Monthly Service, Tenchi Kane No Kami
(Facebook Live 9 am)
-Wailuku Church Grand Service 11 am
- 8 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)
-Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
- 13 Fri -Konkokyo International Zoom Gathering
(1:30 pm-2:30 pm)
- 15 Sun -Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin
(Facebook Live 9 am)
- 22 Sun -Monthly Mem. Svc (Facebook Live 9 am)
- 29 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)

December 2020

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service, Tenchi Kane No Kami
(Facebook Live 7:30 pm)

The Church Doors are Open

We welcome you to make a visit to our church and church services. Please wear your face mask for Covid-19 precautionary measures and wash your hands before entering the church. You can also make an appointment for your personal visit to church anytime of the days.

KMH

Board of Trustees' Meeting will be held on Sat., November 21, 2020 at Konko Mission of Honolulu from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Church Garage Sale

We will hold a garage sale on Sat. 11/7 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. All proceeds will go to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa Educational Fund. Preparations will be on Fri. 11/6 from 1 pm.



Honoring the Mitama Spirits

November

Katherine T. Kawaguchi	11/7/2016
David Suyeki Oka	11/8/2006
Ronald Minoru Miyatake	11/14/2000
Chieno Hirota	11/17/2009
Nobuko Yano	11/18/2016
Toshihiko Hosaka	11/20/2008
Crandal Ancog	11/21/2008
Cecilia Asako Soma	11/24/2003
Tei Yoshiiwa	11/24/1973
Yoshitoshi Uyehara	11/25/2000
Rev. Kikue Kodama	11/28/1997

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

Sharing of Faith

The following message was found in the pages of 54 to 56 of a book titled "Toritsugini ikiru" published by the Konkokyo Headquarters Office. The original article was titled "Shinjin no inochi" that was an excerpt of the speech made by the Rev. Fumio Yasutake at Konko Church of Dougo An English translation was provided by the Rev. Yasuhiro Yano

*By the Rev. Fumio Yasutake
Konko Church of Amagi*

Your thoughts are mistaken

The birth place of the founding minister of Konko Church of Hita is Amozu. It is located about four kilometers away from Amagi, in the north. The Konko Church of Amagi has a camping site around the area. The Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake, the founding minister of Konko Church of Amagi conducted the 10th Year Memorial Service for the father of the Rev. Yasuji Horio of Konko Church of Hita. After the service, a food reception was served for the people attending the service. Yasuji Horio and his sister's husband, Zenjiro Inenaga sat together facing the Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake for the meal. They were happily talking about their episodes of blessings received through their engagement in the practice of faith. Zenjiro Inenaga was a stubborn man and showed rejection for the practice of faith at first. But when he suffered from a serious facial periostitis that even the doctor could find no remedies for, he reconsidered the invitations to the church by the many

people. He went to church and asked the minister for help for his grave condition. He received the blessing of healing and got initiated into Konkokyo thereafter. Yasuji Horio was also afflicted with an illness and got involved in the practice of the faith. Later he became a Konko minister. Yasuji Horio's father objected to get involved in the practice of faith at first because he had little knowledge about Konkokyo. He had many encounters in life, and then got initiated into the practice of the faith later on. Through his dedication in pursuit of faith, he developed a fulfilling appreciation of the grateful nature of the Konko faith and departed peacefully.

Both Yasuji Horio and Zenjiro Inenaga enjoyed blessings through their involvement in the practice of faith. In front of the Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake, they were sharing their happiness as believers of the Konko faith. While they were exchanging blessed episodes of blessings, they expressed they have enjoyed a fulfilling faith life together in gratitude. They also expressed that they had no regrets even if they would depart at any moment. They had no complaints at all for their blessed lives.

The Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake, who overheard their conversations without any intent of listening to them, suddenly spoke out loud, "Horio-san and Inenaga-san, what you said is mistaken!" The Rev. Yasutake continued to talk to them in explanation of his reaction to their conversations, "While I overheard your conversations, I was really impressed by the expressed fulfilling thought. I also had the same thought of gratefulness toward Kami-Sama in the same manner as you expressed in the past. But I learned my thoughts were mistaken. Your expressed thought could be relevantly likened to an episode that goes as follows: A person encountering a grave financial situation could find a trustworthy person who would lend him some money. The loaner happily helps him by lending money. The person is then able to overcome his grave problem and return back to a normal life thanks to the money he could borrow. He would feel happy and grateful for the restoration of the life. He could borrow the necessary amount of money. Then he does not pay back the loan. He also pays no interest and believes that the loan has been forgiven. There could be no better deal than that. What you were talking about sounded exactly the same in my ears. You as a borrower would be fulfilled in gratefulness. But what about the person who loaned you the money?" You sound like, "I received blessings from Kami-Sama to the fullest extent. I have no regrets for my

own life. I feel so grateful." You may feel self-satisfied. But try to extend your heart toward Kami-Sama who helped you from the state of impasse. I don't think you quite understand Kami-Sama's will for you. When I thought about all this, I felt overwhelmed in defeat of my wrongs and self-centeredness of not having understood Kami-Sama's extended deep loving thoughts toward me. From that moment on, I have tried to reform my heart to be in line with the heart of Kami-Sama and have tried to live as long as possible, so I can give back to Kami-Sama for my infinite indebtedness of divine blessings. Horio-san fully appreciated the truth expressed by the Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake.

Some twenty years later, I (Fumio Yasutake) had an opportunity to conduct the 30th Year Memorial Service for the father of the Rev. Yasuji Horio. At that occasion, the Rev. Yasuji Horio recalled the message from the late Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake and shared his thoughts with me in this manner. The Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake related, "I believe I have tried to fulfill my endeavor of giving thanks to Kami-Sama for the blessings I have enjoyed as much as possible. But when I look back at my life, I feel overwhelmed with the sense of receiving ever-expanding blessings. I found there would be no way to give back even a small portion of the indebtedness I owe to Kami-Sama. I feel overwhelmed in the sense of deep awe for this situation as I feel un-deserving." The Rev. Yasuji Horio felt overwhelmed with the sense of awe in witnessing the depth of the expressed thoughts of the Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake.

In general, we express our gratitude of blessings received in such a manner as "I feel so grateful for the enjoyment of blessings received." We may just express that thought only and there would be little actions to follow in actualization of our expressed thought of gratitude. I believe we need to take action, not just expressing our thoughts of gratitude alone, but in fulfillment of the thought expressed.

