



You are invited to attend the
**Autumn Grand Ceremony for
Ikigami Konko Daijin**
On Friday, October 13, 2023 @ 6 pm
Please join to celebrate this vital
service in person and on time.
Testimonial by Ms. Aimee Yasutake
Naorai dinner will follow the service

The following article is an English translation of a story found in the Konko Shinbun published on August 30, 2023. The title of the article is "An Impromptu of saying Konko-Sama in an emergency". A translation from the Japanese article is made by Rev. Yasuhiro Yano.

**The story is based on a true episode experienced by a believer. Only the name and locations are kept anonymous for privacy concerns.*

"Konko-Sama!"

"Konko-Sama" shouted out loud reflectively when we encountered an accident that could have been a fatal crash.

In 1883, Founder Konko Daijin transformed into an eternal Toritsugi-Mediator upon his physical departure. He stated, "In case of an emergency, you need not say Tenchi Kane No Kami, but say 'Konko Daijin, please help me,' and you will receive a blessing" (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 4-2).

While I was a novice Konko believer, I often wondered about the credibility of this divine promise. I used to have many requests that were fulfilled by praying on my own. But I still had some skepticism about the message of "Just say Konko Daijin, please help me, and you will receive a blessing." However, when I faced a life-and-death moment in an accident, my doubt was completely replaced with conviction. About 20 years ago, two of my friends and I from the faith community planned to join the annual Konkokyo Youth Gathering sponsored by the Konkokyo Headquarters Office. We were traveling by car that I

owned from the eastern part of Japan. However, the car developed some irregularities and could not be used for the trip. We asked one of our friends to lend us his car for the journey. The car we borrowed was a fancy foreign car.

We left our place at around 9 pm and took turns driving the car during the midnight. At first, we enjoyed it and were excited to drive a fancy car, but eventually, we became tired and fell asleep except for the driver. When the car reached a point, we were awakened by unusual blasting sounds, and the car jumped upward from the road. The driver shouted out in panic, "Oh! No! I think the car hit something on the road," and he could not control the car. The car was about to hit the guardrail along the road. We all panicked, anticipating the imminent crash onto the guardrail. Time seemed to pass incredibly slowly, as if we were watching a slow-motion movie.

I sensed my own instant death and reflexively had a flash of thought, "I could be dead at this very moment. I want to leave some messages for my loved ones." Then, a shout of "Konko-Sama!" came out of my mouth reflexively.

In those days, I had no knowledge of practicing reciting "Konko-Sama, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama" even for my urgent and serious requests to Kami-Sama. I had no idea how I could have shouted out loud, "Konko-Sama" at that crucial moment. But the fact was, the car seemed to respond to my flash of prayer by shouting out "Konko-Sama" and stopped at an incredibly short distance away from the guardrail. All of us got out of the car. We all experienced uncontrollable shaking of our whole bodies in shock and were relieved to have avoided the fatal accident. We paused in silence and peace of mind for a short period of time. Soon after, we got down to the business of assessing the damage sustained from the accident.

We requested road service for the situation, but we found out it would cost too much to tow the damaged car over the limited distance. While we were dealing with the situation, we found out about a car dealer and repair shop for that special foreign car near the site. The driver of the tow-truck said it would not cost that

much for the job. We were all relieved to hear that message.

It was midnight in a totally foreign place for us. In those days, smartphones were not available. We wondered how to pass the time until we could get our car repaired in the morning.

We left the scene and began to stroll along the road. Incidentally, we found a so-called "Spa, hot spring bath" that was open for business. We enjoyed the bath and relaxed.

In the morning, we visited the repair shop. They found only the wheels were damaged and no external bodily damages. After the car was repaired, we managed to reach Gohonbu (Konkokyo Headquarters).

Looking back at that moment of the accident, what could be attributed to the miraculous outcome were the sequential events of miracles. How could we have been spared our lives on that occasion?

I truly feel grateful for the power of saying out loud "Konko-Sama," which instantly connected us to Ikigami Konko Daijin and the work of Toritsugi-Mediation. My encounter with that miracle brought about a drastic change in my pursuit of faith. I became convinced that I would live in faith daily with Konko-Sama.

Konko-Sama said...

Konko-Sama always prayed, "Even if I were punished and my body was torn limb to limb, or if I were publicly exposed in villages and at street corners, or if my house was covered with grass, I wouldn't mind at all. When the people of the world pray to Ikigami Konko Daijin with a sincere and single heart, please fulfill whatever requests they have." (II Unknown 7)

2 No matter how honest and good he is, he is apt to commit irreverence to Kami if he does not practice faith. There is a difference between having a good personality and showing reverence to Kami." [GIII: Jinkyu Kyogoroku/ed. Kataoka, Jiro:105.2]

3 No matter how good he is, if he doesn't practice faith, he will not receive divine blessings. [GIII: Jinkyu Kyogoroku/ed. Kataoka, Jiro:105.3]

Bulletin Board

October 2023

- 1 Sun -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony in conjunction with Rev. Sugako Yoshino's 1-year Memorial Service (11 am)
- 8 Sun -No Sunday Service
-140th Memorial Service for Konko Daijin at the Konkokyo Headquarters in Japan
- 13 Fri -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (6:00 pm) Naorai dinner will follow.
- 15 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 22 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)

November 2023

- 1 Wed -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)

●Monthly Volunteer Activity at St. Francis

The next activity will be on Fri, October 27 @ 10:30 am

●Garage Sale

Thank you for helping with the Garage sale that was held on September 16th. Proceeds will go to the Konkokyo Headquarters and to Konko Mission of Wailuku who has been accommodating church related people who have lost their houses by the Lahaina Fire Disaster on August 8.

●KMH Kyōten Study Group via Zoom

The main reference book will be "Voice of the Universe." Join us: October 18 (Wed. 5 pm-6 pm)
ZOOM ID: 815 2952 9465 **PASS:** 914385

●HCRP Meeting on ZOOM

Monday, October 16 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

HCRP Peace Prayer

Please join the Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace annual Peace Prayer on **Sunday, October 22nd at 4:00 pm** at the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii. 6095 Summer Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96821.

●KMH CEOC Meeting

ZOOM on Friday, October 20th (3-4 pm).

Honoring the Mitama Spirits

October

Rev. Sugako Yoshino	10/3/2022
Janet Kimie Faggard	10/3/2012
Hiromi Ishii	10/4/2003
Shizue Yamamoto	10/6/2008
Richard Mankichi Hirota	10/8/1990
Sangwoo Shim	10/09/1982
Henry Yoshiichi Uyehara	10/10/2007
Saku Hasuo	10/12/1996
Francis Toshiji Suwa	10/12/1996
Isamu Tokumoto	10/14/1995
Kenneth Kenji Okimoto	10/20/2020
Pasqualine Webber	10/21/2010
Tahichi Higuchi	10/26/1945
Kazuyoshi Kidani	10/2006
Donald Takeshi Katsura	10/31/1953
Edith Hisayo Tamabayashi	10/31/2014



If you would like to have your deceased loved one memorialized by registering their names with the Konko Mission of Wahiawa, please contact the Rev. Yasuhiro Yano and we will be honored to add them.

The Life of the Founder

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. (Page 113-116) (continued from the previous issue)

(Continued)

In consideration of these aspects, the reasons and circumstances surrounding why Kane No Kami received Bunji from Tenshō Kōtaijin can be understood in various ways. It can be seen as a transformation of Bunji's life from ordinary social traditions to a faith-based way of life. It could also be viewed as a shift from family-based and village community-based faith to his personal pursuit of faith. Another perspective might see it as a transition from a localized belief to a universal belief or from an ordinary secular person to an individual committed to saving others, and so forth. It is challenging to pinpoint one of these elements. The reason why we persistently inquire about his transformation may be attributed to the following background.

At this juncture in Bunji's life, some external and internal factors compelled him to become more deeply involved in the pursuit of faith in Kane No Kami. On the other hand, Bunji encountered enticing forces and had to deal with unexpected events. Bunji had developed some assurance that he had achieved success as an adopted family member and as a farmer through the acknowledgment of the ancestors, who thanked Bunji. "The ancestral spirit spoke, Bunji, because you have come to this house, it has become prosperous. We are grateful and express our thanks" (Oboecho 5-5-7). However, Bunji had to confront issues related to his roles within his family and village community. He couldn't instantly secure approval for these matters from those involved. Kane No Kami enticed Bunji to deepen his belief in Kane No Kami



Join Us for a Special Broadcast!

Konko Founder's Biographical Movie

Divine Favor Depends Upon Your Own Heart
(Okage wa Wagakokoro ni Ari)

Experience the awe-inspiring life of Our Founder, Konko Daijin, in this captivating movie!

- Date & Time:

- **Saturday**, September 30, 2023
- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Re-airing on **Sunday**, October 1, 2023
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

- Where to Watch:

- KIKU TV

Discover Konko Daijin-Sama's way of life and his profound philosophy.

Help us share this wonderful opportunity with your friends and family in Hawaii.

Don't Miss It!

Note: The movie will be followed by the animated series "Tales of Toritsugi Meditation."



by receiving Bunji from Tenshō Kōtaijin and his family.

While it's natural for us to inquire about the reasons why Kane No Kami received Bunji from Tenshō Kōtaijin, it's more important that Kane No Kami identified him as a trusting individual who would carry out His Will as a savior. Kane No Kami clearly recognized Bunji's potential and endeavored to guide him in line with Kami's intentions. Bunji, in turn, responded to Kami's extended intent with gratitude. "Konko Daijin says that he is a manure carrier and that people should pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami. But through Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami's blessings can now be received. For thousands of years, Kane No Kami has been considered a fearful kami. But through Konko Daijin, Kami has been revealed to the world. Konko Daijin is Kami's savior. Even for people, through Konko Daijin, they can now receive Kane No Kami's blessings. He is the people's savior as well" (II Kondo Fujimori 3-2). This message highlights the indispensable greatness of Bunji.

The fact that Bunji was given the title of "First Disciple of Konjin" imposed a serious and inescapable situation on him. Departing from his belief in Tenshō Kōtaijin meant that Bunji would be compelled to abstain from participating in private and public functions in the village community where he was active. He would have to maintain some distance from his family members. Bunji's pursuit of faith would no longer be confined to seeking blessings for himself and his household alone. Bunji wondered if he could sustain such a life and how he would cope with life thereafter.

It may seem that the dialogue between Kane No Kami and Tenshō Kōtaijin, and the extended message from Konjin had nothing to do with Bunji. But is that truly the case? In the dialogue, there is a passage, "The parent Kami of Japan is Tenshō Kōtaijin. Ikigami Konko Daijin was a follower of Tenshō Kōtaijin. Tenchi Kane No Kami said, 'Please give me this person (Bunji)'" (II Kondo Fujimori 9-2). Bunji may have been in the process of transformation from being a believer in Tenshō Kōtaijin to becoming a believer

in Kane No Kami. He had to make decisions about which elements of his faith life to relinquish and which ones to preserve. The only way to address this situation was through his own self-questioning and determination for his life thereafter. During this decision-making process, he would find the path he would pursue. The situation Bunji had to contend with was so significant that it could have affected his social status and responsibilities in the village community. The dialogue between Kane No Kami and Tenshō Kōtaijin might reflect the deeply held thoughts and feelings of Bunji in his pursuit of his own faith.

What would Bunji's real life be like after he was designated as the "First Disciple of Konjin"? "To my mother and me, and the whole family, Kane No Kami-Sama said, 'Bunji shall become My First Disciple. I won't take him away from here. I will teach him right here. There is no need to be concerned'" (Oboegaki 6-1-8). Kami's intention for Bunji was to keep him in his current situation within the village and family while guiding him to pursue a faith separate from secular life. What did Kami intend for Bunji at this stage? Bunji was given to Kane No Kami as "My First Disciple." The status of a "deshi" or trainee under the supervision of the master is a traditional training system in which the trainee lives and works alongside the master, learning the trade by observing and following the master's instructions and way of life. Bunji had enjoyed the fulfillment of his requests in life so far, but this relationship was about to change. How would the relationship between Bunji and Kane No Kami evolve thereafter? *(To be continued)*



HCRP Community Clean-up Event at Kakaako 9.23.23