

## Section 1 What Forms the Human Character

*Kami* has taught us that the source of happiness is a family that lives in harmony. The focal point of a family is the relationship of the couple.

All of us have great hopes of creating a happy family when we get married, but there is also uncertainty about a future we cannot see. To create a happy and stable family, the relationship of the couple is important, but how the ties are strengthened in the family and with relatives also play a major role. *Kami* has given us the following *Shinji*.

### *Shinji*

*All human beings walk their path of (life) together with many encounters. The human kokoro is fulfilled the more you make the best of them. If you live by Kami's teachings, you will perceive much and your encounters will grow.*

*The key to making the best of your encounters is the family.*

*Bring Kami's teachings into a family that seeks to create a home where the kokoro (soul) can be at peace. Love will blossom in the kokoro of each family member and harmony will bind them.*

*The human kokoro is self-centered and egotistical, and strives to attain love that is true. But, love that is true transforms into a love that is pure through many encounters.*

*When human beings sense true love, they meet the right life partner.*

*The more love deepens between the two who form a good match, that family will prosper and the kokoro (love) of Kami will dwell.*

*Marriage is not form; understand that it is a major milestone that enriches life.*

The ability to meet the right life partner, starts with our family. The *kokoro* of each family member must come together to foster love that is honest and genuine. When the ties within a family deepens, awareness about life and relationships is cultivated and the *kokoro* of each person matures.

If we live with this *kokoro*, we're able to deepen our ties to many people. This leads to many forms of support and cooperation that allows us to function at our best in society. Thus, the time eventually arrives when we meet the right life partner.

There are many encounters in life. Just looking back on the number of people and possessions that have come and gone underscores this truth. Thus, to live a good life, it's important to make the best of our encounters. It's important to show love for the people you've met and all that you've experienced—this *kokoro* of love is first fostered in the family. If the family is a place where the *kokoro* finds peace and comfort, love is gradually fostered. As family members develop a deep rapport, each person begins to gain an understanding about life that nurtures an honest and healthy *kokoro*.

Each individual in the family must live with a *kokoro* of love to create a home where the soul finds peace and rest. The focus is not to seek out love, but to become a person who draws out love through their words and attitude.

How do we go about fostering love within the *kokoro* of a family? First, the family must be a home where the soul finds peace and comfort. If someone is tired, the family should be a source of empathy and comfort. If someone's work is not going well, the family should provide encouragement. When thoughts and emotions are shared, the *kokoro* of that family member is soothed and comforted. The family should strive to speak