

Shinji

All life is in Kami's hands, allowed to live at the mercy of an era's power (unmei).

This is a truth of the world.

But, the kokoro of human beings is insecure and suffers today because they live dependent on knowledge and experience, unable to perceive the changes in society.

To the Shinja

Life should be lived supported by the teachings.

The teachings show the state of society.

The teachings are a guide to how life should be.

The more human beings live by the teachings, they become aware and deepen their understanding about life.

You will make the best of your life when you do not go against the power (unmei) of the times and accept the changes in your day-to-day life.

This way of life is lived when you are one with your unmei.

The kokoro anchors and the principle to give back is perceived the more human beings live by the teachings.

When you see this, you are guided increasingly by your unmei; and a life without regrets is lived.

Summary of the *Shinji*

All living creatures in this world live within the hands of *Kami*. They are allowed to live at the mercy of an era's *unmei*. When you know that this is how the world works, live a way of life that abides by the teachings and go with the flow.

We exist and interact with the *kokoro* of many different kinds of people within the flow of an era together with not only other human beings, but with things such as goods, commodities, and personal belongings. The era is in the process of transitioning from the mindset of endless consumption and disposal to a mindset of using things with more care. Hence it is clear which *kokoro* is the healthier of the two.

The era is moving in the direction of harmony. If we continue to live and rely on knowledge and experience due to the inability to understand why society is changing, we'll be constantly troubled by insecurity, confusion, and suffering. We will never find our answers to life in knowledge where there are no principles. But if we learn *Kami's* teachings, we will begin to perceive the commonsensical, natural way of things and the answers will come to us easily.

Live your life based on *Kami's* teachings. That is this year's theme. The *Shinji* reveal the movement of society. When we learn the teachings, we begin to perceive many things; and they provide guidance on how we should be as human beings. The more we strive to live by the teachings, the more we become aware, our understanding deepens, and we're able to take a farsighted, long view of life.

Thus, live and move with the *unmei* of the times. The changes of an era are not about what is trendy in the human world. Since the era is changing as it moves toward harmony, we must also strive to harmonize. It's easy to move with the flow when we think about things simply.

Perceive the effort needed to hit the mark and move with the changes from *Kami's* teachings. When we do this, our individual *unmei* comes together naturally; and we make the best of our life. The strengths we were born with surface and we live merged with our *unmei*.

The *kokoro* to give back is essential to make the best of our *unmei's* strengths. We need to learn this *kokoro* from *Kami* because what we give back to society merges with the *unmei* that *Kami* gave us. When our endeavor abides by the principles, our *kokoro* anchors and it becomes natural to live and give back. We merge ever more strongly with our *unmei* and live a life without regrets.