

May 1, 2020 *Kōeisaï*

### *Shinji*

*Life: Each person is allowed to live a finite period of time (an era) in Kami's hands.*

*When human beings spend their finite life in giving back to the world, the best is made of their life (unmei) and they will live on in their family's Kokoro no Michi.*

*Peace in society is protected and achieved when the best is made of each person's life.*

### *A Question to the Shinja*

*How is the state of your kokoro?*

*If life is lived supported by the teachings, all human beings will not go against the flow of the times, they will make the best of their encounters with people and things, and live out their natural span of life.*

### *To the Shinja*

*Do not neglect the effort to learn the teachings as a family and to create a family that lives by the principles.*

*This kokoro fosters the person (human being) who merges with their unmei, and it becomes the strength (effort) that protects you and your children's life.*

*Life is not made complete through knowledge, scholastic ability, wealth, financial power, experience, authority.*

*Human beings hone their character, personality by learning the teachings, gaining understanding of the principles, making the best of their encounters each day, and they become complete as the kokoro draws closer to the human kokoro as it should be.*

*It is now the time (era) when the life of the shinja should be supported by the teachings because society today is undergoing great changes driven by the power (unmei) of an era.*

*The teachings give the kokoro of the shinja awareness and protect and guide them on the right path.*

*When human beings live a life guided by their unmei, they are in Kami's hands and live out an era (life) where there are no regrets.*

### **Summary of the *Shinji***

- **When we live by the teachings, the consequences are significantly positive and for the better.**

*Kami* informed us earlier about what kind of year 2020 would be through the *Shinji*, and foretold that the changes facing society would be violent and fierce. Humanity's cumulative knowledge and experience would not help society to overcome these great changes. Believing in mankind's ability to resolve myriad problems, humanity has been forced to confront a reality that it has never experienced and which has shaken the world.

However, *Kami* teaches us that if the family learns the teachings and lives in harmony, there will be mutual support between family members; and each day will be lived in peace, unaffected by these changes. *Kami's* word and the *Shinji* are invaluable because they show us how to live based on the movements of society.

No matter what occurs, if we live by the teachings, there will always be something that is gained; and the outcome will turn out for the better. Therefore, keep the *Shinji* close to you and read them repeatedly. The more they become a part of you, the movement of your *kokoro* will anchor and you'll be able to make the right decisions.

- **The *Shinji* provides guidance for each of us.**

The *Shinji* is the word of *Kami* that has been revealed to *shinja* and all of humanity. It also provides us with insights that we need at this moment in time based on the movement of our individual *kokoro*. In the past, the *Shinji* stressed the connection of "Kami, Shisha, and I," the link between *Kami* and ourselves. Thus the *Shinji* is *Kami's* direct word given to each of us through *Shisha*.

What *Kami* teaches us is based on a divine perception of society's movements, a perspective based on divine foretelling that tells us what we must pay attention to and how we should live. Thus when we learn the *Shinji*, we begin to see the movements of society. We're able to perceive the situation we're in and why it is what it is. We're able to be accepting of these changes and understand how we must live with them. The guidance the *Shinji* provides is meaningful to all of us because it is the word of *Kami*.

- **Leave behind evidence of your finite existence.**

The life of each person is finite. *Kami* encourages us to leave behind evidence of having lived during this important time. To achieve this, we must maintain good relations with the people around us, make the best of our strengths and give back to society. Our existence then becomes useful; we live a wonderful life; and leave behind good elements in our family.

Beginning with our politicians, many people advocate different kinds of ideas to protect and maintain peace in our societies. This is certainly important, but to achieve true peace, *Kami* teaches us that it's important for each person to make the best of their existence. Why? Because everyone is a life that came into this world because they are needed. And it is the family that provides the foundations that help each of us to make the best of our existence.

○ **Make the best of your encounters and strive to maintain harmony.**

How do you use your *kokoro* in your day-to-day life? May is the month of *Kōei Shinja Sanpaiji*—a time when *Kami* calls out to us to examine our *kokoro* and how we're living our life. It is a time when we're asked to assess ourselves to see if we've remained unaffected by the changes we see in society and have strived to continually maintain harmony and balance.

People tend to argue furiously over everything in society. This happens even in the best of families when there is a clash of opinion or ideas, and harmony falls by the wayside. But when the way we think is based on the teachings, we're better able to cope and adapt to the changes within our families and in our environment. Thus, there is no loss of harmony.

We live out our natural lifespan when we make the best of the many people and things that come into our life. Our knowledge may be great, but if we stubbornly believe that we're always right in our views, unity and cooperation disappear. If we don't respect one another, we're unable to make the best of the people and things that come into our lives.

○ **Create a family that lives by the principles.**

During this month of *Kōei Shinja Sanpaiji*, *Kami* once again strongly calls out to us to learn the teachings as a family and create a family that lives by the principles. It is to go to church as a family, to be in constant touch with the teachings and to practice them. We should not neglect to do this if we want to better our lives.

If the *kokoro* of the family comes together in harmony, this becomes the foundation that allows us to live in sync with the *unmei* to be useful that each of us has been given. *Kami* clearly states that this also becomes the strength that protects not only your life, but the lives of your children and grandchildren.

People today are more often than not mistaken in what they rely on—namely, knowledge and scholastic achievement, financial power, wealth, experience, and authority. These things may be necessary, but they do not lead to a fulfilling life. What leads to fulfillment is a life, where the foundations of a family that supports one another, allows us to live merged with our *unmei*.

People, who know *Kami's* teachings, live peacefully, untouched by the wave of turbulent hardships faced by society. *Kami* informs us that the *kokoro* as a human being becomes complete when we cherish and make the best of the many encounters we have with people and things; and our personality and character are honed through these encounters. We remain calm, deal with only those matters that concern us, and live a way of life that is good and refined no matter how unsettled and turbulent the society is around us.

○ **The teachings protect and guide us on the right path.**

Today society is undergoing great changes created by the power of an era's *unmei*. As *shinja*, we are very blessed that we know the direction of these changes and can learn how to live through these times. Therefore, learn the teachings repeatedly and make the principles the crux of how you live your life. The more the teachings take root in your *kokoro*, your awareness deepens, and you are protected as you walk the right path.

The *unmei* that *Kami* has given each of us is an invaluable gift. As we live a life that is one with our *unmei*, we are of use to many people, experience meaning and purpose, and live out a life without regrets.

May, the month of *Kōei Shinja Sanpaiji*, is the time to recognize the importance of sharing the teachings with our family, to look back and reflect on our own *kokoro*, and to endeavor to elevate ourselves. It's important to create a home where harmony is fostered because we live in a time of chaos.