

### *Shinji*

*The more people (human beings) gain awareness from the teachings and use their kokoro (understanding) to correct their jittai, the kokoro to give back and live is brought out.*

*The path increasingly becomes the support in your kokoro (life) as you perceive the kokoro that you should have in life.*

*A life of much meaning and purpose is lived, elevated, at times supported and watched over by your many encounters.*

### *To the Shinja*

*Do you understand the kokoro of etoku?*

*Strive continuously to live by the teachings.*

*You will gradually feel the existence of your unmei's strength to guide and protect your life.*

*In that moment, all human beings understand the existence of Kami.*

*Simultaneously, you will understand the truth about your life—Kokoro no Michi is what allows you to live.*

*You will understand the workings of this world—that the three worlds of Kami, your ancestors, and human beings come together and revolve.*

*Human beings are at long last able to live with the kokoro of etoku.*

*This is where paradise lies.*

### **Summary of the Shinji**

Beginning with the main *Shinji* of the year given to us during *Kigansai*, the issues of this year have been addressed as of August. Thus the main topic every September is *etoku*. *Etoku* signifies a highly moral way of life based on the teachings. The goal is for us to live this way of life throughout the year so that during the time of *Kōju Shinja Sanpaiji* at the start of the new year, we're able to inform *Shinkon* about our progress.

As we touch on the teachings each day and gain a variety of insights, it's important that those insights become a part of the way we live and that we strive to raise our character. This is the *kokoro* that suppresses our *jittai* and brings out the strengths that we make the best of to give back to others and society.

We also draw closer to what it means to be a human being. We begin to cherish the *kokoro* of others and to develop affection for the things that we have as well. We live a way of life based on common sense. We remain unmoved by the flood of confusing information and begin to perceive a way of life that we should live.

As a result, we're able to maintain good relations with everyone. Supported by ties to different people, we're of use to many as we live by the *unmei* we were given. People are happy with us and our life is filled with meaning and purpose. This is whom we should strive to be.

When living by the teachings becomes a conviction, our *kokoro* will always be anchored. We remain unaffected by the words and actions of others. We no longer have biases about people and can be kind to everyone and in turn, everyone is kind to us. When the teachings are the mainstay of our *kokoro*, we're no longer at the mercy of our emotions and our *jittai* does not dominate our life. We naturally live each day at one with our *unmei*.

*Etoku* is attained when we live by the teachings and our character is elevated. Because we're able to be of use to many people, our moral character rises. We begin to feel *Kami's* immense protection each day as our life becomes one of peace and calm.

Simultaneously, we also become aware of how blessed we are to be allowed to live in this moment in the *Kokoro no Michi* of our parents and ancestors. People do not come into this world on their own strength. Hence do not forget to give thanks to *Kami* and your ancestors.

When we understand that the workings of this world revolve on the coming together of the world of *Kami*, the world of our ancestors, and the world of human beings, we're able to live with the *kokoro* of *etoku* based on the spirit to give back. When our character improves, we live a way of life that is one with the *unmei* we were given. *Kami* teaches us that this is when we experience the paradise of living in this world.