

### *Shinji*

*Having entrusted your kokoro (unmei-jittai) in the hands of Kami this year, this is a question to the kokoro of all (shinja):*

*Did you have thoughts of gratitude to family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances, and the many people whom you have met?*

*Human beings do not live alone.*

*Supported through ties to many people, they connect to their Kokoro no Michi, live, and their life comes to an end. All people (human beings) who understand the truth about life, feel the existence of Kami and deepen their understanding about the sacredness of their life (unmei).*

*Thus they hone their kokoro (character) of their own accord and live, their kokoro (life) supported by the path of the principles.*

*They learn the principles, kigan each day, and elevate their life as a person (existence) who lives with love that is the truth.*

*This is the worth of a human being born into this world (society) in the hands of Kami.*

*Human beings cannot live alone.*

*They cannot hone and elevate their kokoro (existence).*

*Only by learning the teachings and correctly perceiving the state (truth) of society, are they able to elevate their life.*

*Now is the time to understand the principles, the truths about life, and be the shinja who walks the correct path.*

*All (shinja) who entrust their kokoro in the hands of Kami and live their life, will deepen their understanding and the coming year will be one of peace and security.*

### **Summary of the Shinji**

December is the time of *Aiju Onrei Shinja Sanpaiji* when each *shinja* visits *Shinji Kyōkai* to give thanks to *Kami* and *Shinkon* as they look back on the year. With each passing year, this cumulative effort deepens our understanding; and what awaits us at the end is the rich harvest of life as we come into full bloom.

The *kokoro* of gratitude and thanks must increase with each passing year. A magnanimous *kokoro* that is accepting of everything continues to grow with the passing years; and we should strive to become a person who is forgiving and shows deep and all-encompassing love.

What we need to do at the end of the year is to purify our *kokoro* as well as express our gratitude, to feel joy at how much our *kokoro* has grown over the year, to self-reflect on areas where we need to do more work, to purify ourselves with the power of *Kami*, and to elevate ourselves to become the person who abides by the path.

This is the significance of the month of December. Thus *Kami* asks each of us how we see our *kokoro* in this month of self-reflection. Do we feel grateful to our family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances, and people with whom we have ties? Human beings do not live alone. They are born into their *Kokoro no Michi*, live, and die; and this cycle is repeated because they are supported by many people. When you know this truth, it is important to develop a sense of deep gratitude.

Realize how sacred is the life *Kami* has given you and feel the worth of your *unmei*—the life you live now can only be lived once. Thus hone your *kokoro* and strive to be the person who lives by the path of the principles.

Advance yourself by learning the teachings, *kigan* daily, gain the *kokoro* of gratitude because that leads to the *kokoro* to give back, and to a love that is the truth. What you will discover is a life that gives meaning to your birth in this world.

We cannot live alone. We hone and manifest our *unmei* through our relations with others. When we learn the teachings, the principles form the foundations to the way we think and live our lives as we correctly perceive the movements of society. We remain unconsumed by its flow and our life is elevated.

Understand the workings of this world as well as the *kokoro* that you should have as a human being and strengthen your conviction to walk the correct path. With each passing year as your *kokoro* remains anchored and at peace, you will move steadily toward *kaiun*.