

### *Shinji*

*All people (existence) who are leaders are respected by many and live by the kokoro (principle) of gratitude.*

*The more the teachings are learned and the kokoro (life) is supported by the teachings, people (human beings) feel a deepening sense of gratitude.*

*They begin to increasingly seek relations with people and things and naturally become a person (existence) whose kokoro is supported by the principles as they live their life.*

*They raise their character from egoism to the nonego to selflessness.*

*To the Shinja*

*In the time (month) of airei, how is the state of your kokoro?*

*Strive to become the person (the kokoro of salvation) who guides society on the correct path.*

*If you seek love that is the truth and deepen your learning of the teachings, the human kokoro is naturally honed and you become a person (existence) who is one with their unmei.*

*Firmly etch the meaning and purpose of life in your kokoro; and be the shinja who lives and entrusts their kokoro (unmei-jittai) in Kami's hands in the coming year.*

*Life is about deepening the right relations with many people as it becomes complete. Remember this principle—the effort to raise the jittai through gratitude, giving back, and love guides your life to kaiun.*

### **Summary of the Shinji**

December is a turning point as we head into the coming new year. This is why it is all the more important to deepen our sense of gratitude, to purify our regrets so that we do not carry them with us into the year that lies ahead.

The *kokoro* that we should have in December is one of gratitude. *Kami* has revealed to us that the majority of the people who are leaders and respected by many, lead a way of life that is in sync with the principle of gratitude. To feel gratitude is a natural part of being a human being. It is proof that we are living a way of life based on a broad perspective and a generous *kokoro*.

If we make the best of *Kami's* teachings, we begin to feel grateful in many ways. We become accepting of people and situations based on a wider perspective, empathize with the thoughts and feelings of others, and simply feel grateful.

People with a sense of gratitude cherish the *kokoro*, become more involved with the people and things around them, and strive to live a way of life based on common sense. It is a way of life that is in harmony with *Kami*, *Hotoke*, *Hito no Michi*.

This is when egoism elevates to the nonego, which then evolves further to selflessness. This how we build character. Egoism is a self-centered way of viewing life and people. But, when we rise to the level of the nonego, we begin to realize that we are all in the same boat. When our *kokoro* evolves to selflessness, it is freed of personal desires. A selfless person is someone of high moral character that we should strive to become.

The month of *Aiju Onrei Shinja Sanpaiji* is a time to reflect on whether the movements of your *kokoro* were driven by strong egoism, or had elevated to the nonego or selflessness.

The goal is to make the teachings a part of yourself and to become someone who guides those around them on the right path. When our *kokoro* evolves and we embrace love that is the truth, *Kami* asserts that we will naturally live a life that is one with our *unmei*. To attain *kaiun*, it is vitally important to elevate our *kokoro*.

The purpose of life is to achieve *kaiun*—etch that into your *kokoro*. Strive to become one with your *unmei* while correcting your *jittai*. Access the teachings constantly, elevate your *kokoro* and link your path to the coming year.

*Kami* teaches us that life is about deepening our connections to many people. We do not complete our life alone. Deepen your ties to different people, and build harmonious relations. *Kaiun* is achieved when we elevate ourselves as our *kokoro* moves from gratitude to giving back, then to love.