

Shinji

Human beings learn love that is the truth, their kokoro gains awareness and deepens in understanding, together with their physical development.

But they are at the mercy of knowledge without any principles, unable to gain awareness about the truths of the spiritual world and go off the path of their own accord; thus the development—understanding—of their kokoro does not evolve.

Unable to connect with many people, unable to become someone (an existence) who gives back to society, they suffer.

To the Shinja

Now that it is the month of airei, it is the time (month) to reflect on the state of your kokoro based on the teachings.

Having learned the teachings with family members, how is your effort to create a family that is one with the principles?

Having deepened your learning of the teachings, how are your efforts to become the human being who will guide society on the correct path?

Do you talk about the worth of Shinji Kyōkai, where the kokoro can learn and gain understanding of the teachings, to family members, relatives, friends, and acquaintances with the pride of a shinja?

There will be love (affection) for the church in the kokoro of a person (human being) who lives each day of their life supported by the teachings. Simultaneously, thoughts of gratitude and reciprocation to the people (existence) who have supported and been involved in your life grows.

The more the gratitude of a shinja to Kami (Shinkon), Shisha, shokuin, kakari, family members, relatives, other shinja and people in society deepens, understanding of the kokoro grows, Kibō no Michi is manifested and the shinja is protected and saved.

Summary of the Shinji

As the year comes to an end, let's reflect on how much our *kokoro* has grown. People gain awareness about many things through a variety of events and circumstances. This awareness leads to understanding that becomes a part of us. Ideally, a *kokoro* of love should be abundantly fostered within us. But what is important is for our *kokoro* to evolve steadily each year from a strong egotistical *kokoro* to the nonego or the realization that we are all in the same boat, and finally to selflessness.

Kami has pointed out that there are many people who do not reflect on their *kokoro* and are no longer able to spiritually evolve because they are dependent on the knowledge and experience that flood society today. The *kokoro* to give back to the people around them by making the best of their inherent strengths is missing. Thus as *shinja* who know the teachings, we must not be this kind of person.

Kami teaches us to examine our *kokoro* through the teachings during this month of *Aiju Onrei Shinja Sanpaiji*. Were you able to learn the teachings with family members and create a harmonious family? Have the teachings become a part of the way you live your life? Have you become someone who guides those around them on the right path? Do you tell the people around you about how grateful you are for the existence of *Shinji Kyōkai*, for the opportunity to learn the teachings, and to cultivate a *kokoro* of abundance and generosity?

Those of us, who live supported by the teachings, develop an attachment for the environment that allows us to learn the *Shinji*, and the love for *Shinji Kyōkai* grows. At the same time, the *kokoro* of gratitude to all the people who come into our lives and the *kokoro* to reciprocate—to return the many kindnesses we have received—continues to deepen.

First, is the gratitude we have for *Kami* and *Shisha*. We must be grateful to *Shinkon* and the *Shisha*, who receives and teaches us the *Shinji*. Secondly, we must be grateful to the *shokuin* and *kakari* at *Shinji Kyōkai* because the *kokoro* of each *shokuin* and *kakari* looks to *Kami* with confidence and faith; and they are involved in helping *shinja* to seek *Kami's* divine help in times of need and to give thanks in times of happiness. Thirdly, we must be grateful to our family members and relatives because they are always there for us. Fourthly, we must have gratitude to other *shinja* and people in society. We live in a society based on mutual help. Therefore, it is vitally important to have gratitude to everyone.

The more this sense of gratitude deepens, we begin to live a way of life that synchronizes with *Kami*, *Hotoke*, *Hito no Michi*. As a result, *Kibo no Michi* manifests and we are greatly protected and saved. We are able to live a life guided by our *unmei*.