

Shinji

All people (humanity) who gain awareness from the teachings and are able to reflect on the state of their kokoro as they live, are guided and protected by the strengths of their unmei and lead a life of hopes and dreams.

This is the person (human being) who lives with the kokoro (principle) of etoku.

To the Shinja

How is your kokoro (conviction) to be in touch with the teachings?

Knowledge and experience come alive when you live with the kokoro to abide by the path.

However, there are many people (humanity) who live and rely on effort and knowledge, thus they suffer from their jittai.

How is your kokoro (effort) to see the state (the truth) of society as your awareness gained from the teachings deepens?

Society develops exactly because there are correct relationships.

But, there are many people (humanity) who do not know their place, go beyond their standing in life, and weep due to their jittai.

The teachings correct the kokoro (jittai) of people (humanity) and guide their kokoro (life) on the correct path.

Etoku—the kokoro (conviction) to abide by the path that connects to Kibō no Michi allows Shinkon to protect and guide your kokoro (life) so that you may live out your time (era) without regrets.

The elevated character is what enhances your life and becomes the strength (existence) to leave behind good elements in your Kokoro no Michi.

Summary of the Shinji

When we learn the teachings that we receive from *Kami* each month and strive to practice them, our character is honed and elevated to a high degree. This is the *etoku* that we achieve each year which has a cumulative effect. During the time of *Kōju Shinja Sanpaiji*, (September 23 to November 15) we *kigan* our gratitude to *Shinkon* and submit our letter of gratitude for the year. What is important is to deepen our awareness through our repeated effort to learn and make the teachings a part of ourselves, and to think about how we should live our lives as we reflect on our *kokoro* and continue to seek the correct way to live. As we do this, we become one with our *unmei* to be useful in the world and strive to do what we can for many people. This allows us to live a full life each day.

This kind of person makes the best of their given strengths, contributes to society in many areas, and attains moral excellence in their life. Their character evolves each year and they attain *etoku* without fail.

When we self-reflect, what do we see? Have the teachings led us to become aware about many things and have we strived to practice them in our daily lives?

The knowledge and experience that flood society are not necessarily useful to everyone. We are able to make the best of this knowledge and experience only when it is used and applied in a way that is consistent with the principles *Kami* teaches us.

However, there are many people who believe that knowledge and effort are absolute. There are many examples of people who are selfish, egotistical, offensive and aggressive toward others, who go against the principles and off the path. Such people have been swept away by their *jittai*.

Have the teachings become a part of you? Have you developed the ability to clearly perceive society? If you are swayed by the information around you, you will not be able to make the best of your strengths.

This world evolves when our individual goodness and strengths come together in a mutual relationship with others. This is how it works. Unfortunately, there are many people, who are unaware of their inherent goodness and the strengths of their *unmei*, and do not know their place or their parameters in life. As a result, there are many regrets.

If we live by the teachings, we will have the correct relationships that allow our strengths to shine. We will live a life that is one with our *unmei* and walk the correct path.

Kibo no Michi (the path) is accessed when we live and abide by the principles; we are guided and protected by *Shinkon* and our days are lived in peace. The elevated character of the human being that abides by the path leads to *etoku*, results in a life without regrets, and leaves behind good elements in the *Kokoro no Michi* that is continued by our descendants.