

December 1, 2021 *Aiju Onreisai*

Deepen Your Gratitude and Understanding

Shinji

Kami asks the shinja:

How is your life now that you have learned the teachings and are living a life that abides by the principles?

The human being whose kokoro is guided by their unmei-jittai and lives a finite period of time (an era) will live out a life that is one with their unmei when their understanding deepens through the teachings.

But the principles are weak in society and many people live consumed by their greed.

They are unable to make the best of people and things, they go against the path, and this is the cause of their suffering.

To the Shinja

In the wake of passing years, this month of Aiju is the time to deepen your gratitude for a life that is protected in the hands of Kami (the truth).

All human beings live a finite period of time (an era) in the hands of Kami, protected and guided through their unmei.

Deepen your understanding of this truth, principle, and pledge to Kami (Shinkon) the kokoro that you should have as you live your life in the coming year; Kami wishes that you strive to elevate your jittai.

This kokoro (pledge) will fill the coming year with meaning and purpose and guide you to an era of joy.

Summary of the *Shinji*

The month of December that marks the end of the year is the time of *Aiju Onrei Shinja Sanpaiji*. This is an important time to deepen our gratitude and to give thanks not only for this year, but for years past, and to elevate our life. This is the gratitude that *Kami* wants us to express in December.

Having learned the teachings *Kami* has given us each month, how have you strived to put them into practice? The human *kokoro* is controlled by its *unmei-jittai*. Thus the more the teachings become a part of us, the *jittai* is corrected and our way of life becomes one with our *unmei*.

However, presently we live in a time when our *kokoro* is easily distracted by information and knowledge, and drawn to appearance and things. Thus we inevitably tend to be consumed by our greed. Therefore, we must be very careful. When we become consumed by form and appearance, we are unable to cherish the *kokoro* and do not make the best of the ties we have to people and things. We go against the path; and in many instances, what follows is worry and suffering.

Now that we are in the last month of the year, December, we must deepen our gratitude to the many people who have supported us not only this year, but in years past. We must repeatedly strive to achieve this. We must become the person whose gratitude deepens each year for the love and support we have received.

All of us are fated to live within a finite lifespan. Regardless of how much science and technology develop, no matter how much we endeavor in our lives, this is a reality that does not change.

This is why we must strive to live a way of life that is one with our *unmei*. The only choice we have that ensures we live a finite, but meaningful life is to make use of the strength *Kami* has given each of us by applying our individual and unique *unmei* to be useful in society.

If we live each day guided by our *unmei*, we become useful to many people; they are happy to know us; and we earn their gratitude. But if we live each day swept away by our *jittai*, we will probably face many regrets. As you look back on the past year, see the realities of the year, and keep a steadfast focus on the *kokoro* you will have next year. Pledge that you will strive to improve your *jittai*.

As we make this pledge each year, our cumulative effort leads to definite progress that fills our future life with much meaning and purpose and elevates it to one of joy. As we live our finite life year in and year out, our *kokoro* must experience fulfillment with the passing years.