

March 1, 2023 *Shinja Kokoro no Michi Benkyōkai*

The Changes of an Era Appear in Nature

Shinji

Humanity cannot control the flow of an era.

Civilization, culture, fads and ideas all change their flow in sync with the changes in the natural environment.

To the Shinja

Sense the changes of an era based on the Shinji, the principles, and have the conviction (the kokoro) to live by the principles.

The more your life is sustained by the principles, the strengths of your unmei are brought out, and you will live and move with the flow of an era.

Your mind and body will be protected and the existence of all people and all of creation will sustain your life.

See the past.

People, countries, and societies have evolved when they accept the changes of an era.

When they have not, many existences (lives) were consumed by the unmei (the power) of an era and have disappeared.

Live by the Shinji, the principles, so that your life and your family are protected from misfortune as you live out your life.

A family that learns the teachings together and abides by the principles will live and flow with the changes of an era.

The unmei of an era is guiding the way through nature—be aware of this.

Summary of the *Shinji*

The flow of an era does not stop, and it is always changing. This movement is not created or controlled by the power of human beings.

Human activities, the way life is lived, in other words, civilization, culture, fads and popular ideas of this world slowly and steadily change in sync with the changes in the natural environment. Nothing in this world is permanent. The way we perceive all things and events eventually changes over time.

All of us live within this flow of time. We should be deeply aware of this and perceive the movements of an era from the *Shinji*—the word of *Kami* who foresees all—and have the conviction to live by the principles and the workings of this world.

The more our life is sustained by *Kami's* teachings and the principles that we have learned, we can manifest the strengths that are needed in society and live within the flow of an era. In other words, we fulfill the roles that are asked of us, harmonize with all people and all things, and our existence shines at its very brightest.

If we look at history until today, people, countries, and societies have evolved and flourished when they have moved with the flow of an era. In contrast, the movement of people, countries, and societies that went against this flow were consumed and a history filled with suffering can be seen.

The changes of an era appear within a natural flow. These changes are not created by human beings. Hence unless we learn from *Kami*, we will not accurately perceive and understand it.

Your family has a direct bearing on your life. To protect your family from misfortune and to live out a life according to the *unmei* that has been given you, it is vital that you learn the *Shinji*. The teachings should become a part of your family members; create a family life that is rooted in the teachings.

If we can achieve this, then no matter what changes the environment undergoes, we will not be overwhelmed. No matter how much the stock exchange or the cost of living fluctuates, or how tense relations between countries become, our emotions remain anchored, and we will perceive the direction that we should move.

The movement of society will gradually be guided by the power of an era that human beings cannot go against. Hence it is important to learn the *Shinji*—the principles—to perceive the movement of society and to realize the way of life that we are being asked to live.