

September 1, 2023 *Shinja Kokoro no Michi Benkyōkai*
Etoku—a High Character That Is One with Kami

Shinji

When human beings manifest Kibō no Michi, they achieve a life that is one with their unmei.

The more their understanding of the principles of the path deepen, human beings experience the truths about the spiritual world.

To the Shinja

Have you created a family that lives by the teachings having gained understanding of the principle—the truth about etoku?

Open your heart to Shinkon and in good faith, read deeply the teachings.

Your emotions will gradually anchor, and changes will occur in the movement of your kokoro.

You will become accepting of your encounters with all people and all things, feel grateful, and thoughts about giving back become stronger with each passing day.

This is the life (the condition) of the human being who lives with the kokoro of etoku.

Dōshin will gradually become a part of you as you live a life that manifests Kibō no Michi.

Protected and guided by your unmei, sickness, accidents, and disasters will be avoided.

Shindō will gradually come to be when you learn the teachings and they sustain your life.

You will become the generous human being (the person) who venerates Kami and hotoke and lives in the spiritual world.

Live in an era (a time) of etoku as you learn the teachings.

Summary of the Shinji

As you learn *Kami's* teachings, you become aware of your faults; and as you strive to correct them, the strengths of your *unmei* that were given to be useful in society are drawn out; and you have probably lived each day filled with meaning and purpose. This is the human being who manifests *Kibō no Michi* within *Shinkon's* protection.

The year began with *Kigansai*; and as you learned the *Shinji* each month, you have strived to put into practice the awareness that you have gained. As a result, you have probably grown and evolved. The success of your effort surfaces during the time of *Kōju Shinja Sanpaiji* (September 23 to November 15). This is a time when you will be asked to reflect about your endeavor to live by the teachings, to bring out your strengths, and the successes you have achieved throughout this year.

The more the principle of the path—the natural way things should be—become a part of you, the strengths of your *unmei* that make you useful in society surface and you begin to live a way of life that is in sync with who you really are and your place in the scheme of things. You will make the best of your ties with the many people that you have met; you will cherish the *kokoro* of others; and you will live out your days in harmony and much happiness. You will truly experience fulfillment and the joys of living in a spiritual world.

This is a person of high moral character who lives in harmony with everyone—especially with their family members. They never neglect their love for them, and they have probably created a family where the *kokoro* and the soul of family members find peace and calm.

When you learn the teachings sincerely with an open mind and act on them together with your *kigan*, your emotions will always anchor; and your way of life elevates. You will feel and notice things you never did before such as gratitude and consideration for others; and your *kokoro* begins to change.

You begin to cherish your ties with people and all living things. Together with a sense of gratitude, your desire to give back grows stronger. Starting with your family, your wish to make the best of your strengths for the sake of many people grows. This is the person who has achieved *etoku*, which is *dōshin* + *shindō*.

Dōshin is the *kokoro* that you naturally acquire as you manifest *Kibō no Michi*—your *kokoro* moves to make the best of your given strengths, and disasters are avoided. *Shindō* is the *kokoro* to live and revere *Kami*, *hotoke*, and the spiritual world. This is gradually acquired as you learn the teachings and allow them to sustain your *kokoro*.

In today's era when *Kibō no Michi* can be manifested, all of us can make the best of our *unmei* and experience *etoku*. This is why we must hone our character so that our *kokoro* becomes one with *Kami* and we make the best of our strengths.