

September 23, 2023 *Shinkon Tanjō Kinensai*
Etoku—a High Character That Is One with Kami

Shinji

As understanding of the Shinji, the principles, deepens and the more life is lived sustained by them, the life (the kokoro) of human beings anchors and the kokoro's movement to go off the path does not arise.

However, the principles are weak in today's society, and troubles that beset the kokoro that goes off the path are endless.

The low jittai suppresses the strengths of the unmei, and they are unable to make the best of their encounters with all people and all things.

To the Shinja

Learn the teachings with family members and create a family that interacts based on the principles.

The teachings bring together as one the kokoro of family members; and a home environment is created where the soul (the kokoro) finds rest and peace.

In a home where harmony is fostered, human beings become an existence (a person) with a deep sense of love who make the best of their encounters.

Kibō no Michi guides the life (the kokoro) of human beings to a life without regrets.

You must not neglect the effort (the kokoro) to learn the teachings and correct your jittai through the principles.

When you deepen your understanding and your soul (kokoro) becomes one with Shinkon, all human beings will correct their jittai and ask Kami for a life guided by their unmei.

This is the life (the condition) of the human being who has attained the principle (the kokoro) of etoku.

Etoku—the high character that most closely mirrors and becomes one with the kokoro of Kami.

Summary of the Shinji

The human *kokoro* anchors when it is in touch with the *Shinji*, and the more the teachings become a part of our *kokoro*, it does not go off the path. We live a highly refined and moral way of life; we are able to fully bring out the strengths of our *unmei*; and we achieve *etoku*.

However, in reality, there are many people who are self-centered, self-serving, and their behavior is thoughtless and irrational. To achieve their own ends, they create difficulties and problems for others and engage in ways that go against the path. As a result, their troubles and suffering are never-ending.

This is because the way a person thinks, views people and situations stem from their *jittai*, which suppresses the strengths of their *unmei*. What especially tends to be forgotten is the *kokoro* to give back. This is why they are unable to make the best of their many encounters in their daily life.

To achieve *kaiun*, learn the teachings with your family members and create a family that lives a way of life that is grounded. If the teachings become a part of their life, the family's *kokoro* becomes one and each member finds peace and comfort in the family. It is in this kind of harmonious family that love is fostered, where correct interaction with society grows, and the *unmei*'s strengths are fully brought out.

Kibō no Michi manifests when you learn *Kami*'s teachings and elevate your way of life. What is crucial is for your *kokoro* to become one with *Shinkon*. *Kigan* your thoughts and feelings honestly and openly, live by the teachings, and hone your character.

A person with character is deeply insightful and has the ability to sense the atmosphere of a place or a situation as well as the thoughts and emotions of other people. When we have the *kokoro* to intuit, we cherish the feelings of other people and use our strengths for society.

If we elevate our character based on the teachings, strive to contribute our strengths to the happiness of many people, we experience meaning and purpose and the good that we accomplish builds. And we live out a life without regrets.

Etoku is achieved when we develop a high character that becomes one with the *kokoro* of *Kami*. The *kokoro* of *Kami* is the *kokoro* of detachment; it is freedom from avarice; it is to cherish the *kokoro* of others and to live in the spiritual world. Begin with your family. This is where the *unmei* you have been given begins to blossom.