

## ***How to Strengthen your Relationship with Kami through Reflection, Sacred Mediation, and Practice***

In order to strengthen my relationship with Kami, I have been doing my best to respect each and every happening in my life, good or bad, as Kami's doing, as gratefully as possible.

As you know, our founder was ordered by the Meiji government to remove the altar fixtures in 1873. It was the biggest ordeal in his life. Even so, our founder respected it as Kami's doing and *with Kami* looked into himself more deeply. It was then that Kami revealed the Divine Reminder to our founder so that anyone could practice by themselves and each could reach human fulfillment with Kami. It is what shows the ultimate way to save humanity.

It has been a rather difficult time for the last two years, hasn't it? The spread of the novel coronavirus brought about a tumultuous situation which has crushed the whole world. People all over the world have been restricted from activities due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even so, instead of fearing it, I think, like our founder, this has been the *very* best time to seek Kami's heart *more precisely* and to deepen peace & joy in my heart more resolutely to develop the way for human fulfillment with Kami.

By doing my best to do so, I now believe I have reached a deeper insight into the Divine Reminder.

Our founder clearly taught Tenchi Kane No Kami was the Divine Parent for us humans, with an ardent wish to fill the universe with blessings for beloved human beings. I now more deeply understand Tenchi Kane No Kami is our Divine Parent, the Divine Parent of every human being. As a parent, Kami cares for each one of us, more than we care for ourselves. Kami is waiting for us to pray to Kami for everything with sincerity. Kami's wish for us, as children of Kami, is to strive towards fulfilling Kami's wish, through prayer.

With this deeper insight, my understanding of the Divine Reminder has become:

Through Divine Mediator, to Divine Parent of the Universe,

let us pray for everything with all our heart. Then,

since Kami's blessings depend upon our own peaceful & joyful heart,

Kami is requesting we deepen the peace & joy in our hearts.

On this very day, pray for our mutual fulfillment.

We can think of the Divine Reminder, in our hearts, at any time and at any place. The design of the Divine Reminder in Japanese is as follows: “Divine Parent of the Universe is at the center. Underneath it is written ‘pray with all our heart.’ Divine Mediator is written at the right side of ‘Divine Parent of the Universe.’ ‘Kami’s blessings depend upon our own peaceful & joyful heart’ is written at the left side of ‘Divine Parent of the Universe.’ Then from the left of it ‘On this very day pray’ is written. Through this design, we can easily imagine the worship hall of our headquarters and each church. The mediator usually sits at the right side of the worship hall and the Kami’s altar is always placed at the center. While imagining the Divine Reminder in our heart, we can seek the Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin and pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami for everything. We can do it at any time, at any place, by our own, and continue developing our relationship with Kami more and more deeply.