

## Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony Sermon

May 22, 2022

Good morning, everyone! Happy New Day, Week & special “Thanks” for joining us today. This is the 2022 Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony of KC Chicago. I trust you are all enjoying the best of health & excellent spirits on this beautiful spring day.

Given the unprecedented, world-wide situation of both the novel coronavirus pandemic and the Russian brutal invasion of Ukraine, we all need to answer the fundamental questions of what human beings are, what faith is and what we should do for the world.

Today is the Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony of KC Chicago. So, we should first understand who Tenchi Kane No Kami is and what Kami’s wish is for us humans. Tenchi Kane No Kami is said to be three combined deities of sun, moon & earth. We humans are nourished & sustained and are allowed to live through the workings of these three deities.

Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Divine Parent of the Universe for us all. We human beings are all children of Kami. Konko Daijin taught us, “There are people between Heaven and Earth. In other words, Heaven is the father, and Earth is the mother. Humans, plants, and other living things live on Earth through blessings they receive from Heaven.” He also taught us, “Tenchi Kane No Kami is the parent Kami of all people. Why would Kami let Kami’s precious children suffer? Think of yourself as a parent of your own children?”

That is why Konko Daijin taught us, “Believe that you are being cared for by immortal parents. Then depend on Tenchi Kane No Kami for all things, and think that nothing is impossible.” He also taught us, “While you are living, pray to Kami for all things.”

Tenchi Kane No Kami bestows everything for our living. Therefore, it is a matter of course to respect Kami as our immortal parent, pray to Kami for everything and do our best to manifest the divine wish for each one of us for bettering the world. Let us become ever more aware of the purpose of our life, and awaken to the eternal wish of Kami.

Then what is the wish Kami has for us? It is clearly stated in the Divine Call: “Kami exists because of people, and people exist because of Kami. Everyone will become forever prosperous through the relationship of mutual reliance between Kami and people.” Kami wishes each of us human beings to create & manifest the world of mutual prosperity between Kami & each one of us.

In order to accomplish this precious task, Kami wishes to have people become aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth by having Konko Daijin be born throughout the world where the sun shines, in every country, without exception. Any Konko Daijin is a person who clearly understands the true blessings of Heaven & Earth through his/her faith experience.

When we seek our founder's life of faith, we come across one of the important events. He willingly accepted his brother's request to build a Konjin shrine, even though his brother was possessed by Konjin. Our founder accepted this request from a madman. In other words, he listened and responded to the wish of Kami. Later Kami said it was Kami's first request and he himself wrote that it was the start of his faith.

Since then, he accepted whatever Kami requested of him. His acceptance was so remarkable that Kami even told him, "There is no way to test you." Two years later he received the Divine Call.

In 1873 he accepted sincerely even the most difficult ordeal in his life. The Meiji government ordered him to remove all the altar fixtures. During that time Kami manifested the Divine Reminder to our founder in order for each person to live an ordinary life and to reach human fulfillment with Kami. Soon after that Kami revealed, "Everything that happens is Tenchi No Kami's doing. This includes major upheavals." It means all is Divine Love.

We are provided with water, air and everything for our living. Those are, of course, the blessings of Heaven and Earth. Besides those things, when we believe in the statement that all is divine love, we finally understand the true blessings of Heaven and Earth.

There is a two-sided relationship between 'All is Divine Love' and 'One's peaceful joyful heart.' We cannot develop unbreakable peace & joy in our heart without the conviction of 'All is Divine Love.' When we do our best to respect each & every happening in our life as Kami's sacred doing with gratitude, our mutual relationship with Kami is deepened and our peaceful & joyful heart is endlessly being developed.

Here are my prayers right now: "By the Virtue & Mediation of Shodai Oyasensei & our Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin let me pray to Tenchi Kane No Kami that the prosperity of humankind & true world peace will be attained. May Kami's wish for the coronavirus pandemic be fulfilled and may it be ended as soon as possible! May peace come to Ukraine promptly! Please end this cycle of human history that for thousands of years human powers continue to seek to dominate others. And establish an era of Wagakokoro (peaceful joyful heart), whereby Divinity & humanity can meet together in prayer, rejoice together in gratitude & delight together in mutual satisfaction. Let me do my best to accomplish this divine wish.

For that, please let me devote myself to respecting each happening as Kami's doing with gratitude, and deepen my peaceful joyful heart to the extent it resonates throughout

heaven & earth and embraces the world. And please may I serve for Konko Daijin being born throughout the world.”

I will continue to recite these prayers to Tenchi Kane No Kami as often as possible in my daily life.