

## *For Everything Pray to Kami with Sincerity*

*Monthly Service*

*Konko Church of Chicago*

*December 19, 2021*

Good morning! Happy Sunday in this *new* week of Kami's blessings! And thank you very much for joining today's service. This is our monthly service for December 2021. I hope each one of you is in good health & excellent spirits on this beautiful winter morning.

Time flies so fast. It is already December, the last month of the year, 2021. The coronavirus pandemic has not *yet* been stopped, in spite of all human efforts. And even more than that, the Omicron Covid-19 variant was just found and the signs of its spreading are becoming more apparent. The most important attitude for this pandemic is instead of fearing it, while going *through* it to *seek* Kami's wish for us humans and to *polish* the gem of our heart so we may *manifest* Kami's loving heart to the world.

As you know, our founder was ordered by the Meiji government to remove the altar fixtures in 1873. The government prevented him from helping people through his Mediation. It was the biggest ordeal in his life.

Even so, he respected it as Kami's doing and *with Kami* looked into himself more deeply. It was then Kami revealed the Divine Reminder to our founder so that anyone could practice and each could reach human fulfillment with Kami. It is what shows the ultimate way to save humanity.

People all over the world have been restricted from activities due to this coronavirus pandemic. Like our founder, this has to be the very time to seek Kami's heart *more precisely* and to develop the way more widely 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.

Here is the official English translation:

Divine Parent of the Universe // Divine Mediator

Pray sincerely, with all your heart. Be one with Kami.

Kami's blessings begin within hearts grateful & caring, in harmony & joy.

Look to Kami always, now & forever. On this very day pray.

*Before, those lines had been translated as:*

*Pray with all your heart. // Kami's blessings depend upon  
one's own peaceful & joyful heart. // On this very day, pray.*

I had thought the central point of this Divine Reminder was that Kami's blessings depend upon one's own peaceful & joyful heart. So, for a long time my understanding has been: "Through Divine Mediator, to Divine Parent of the Universe, pray to deepen peace & joy in my heart with **all** my heart on this very day." I think this understanding is still very important and meaningful. My deeper insight came about naturally through understanding the nature of Tenchi Kane No Kami. Let me explain.

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 the darling human beings. Our founder told one of his disciples: "I am telling you these things because Kami told me, to 'tell worshippers about the relationship between Tenchi Kane No Kami & people.'" We should understand the infinite benevolence of Heaven & Earth and of Kami's parental heart wanting to love people so much.

Our founder described Kami's heart as follows:

- Think of Kami as your parent, and Kami will think of you as Kami's child. If you have faith while thinking that Kami is your parent, Kami will protect you from disasters you cannot foresee. Since Kami is the guardian of Heaven & Earth, you cannot live without Kami. You must value Kami's protection.
- Since long ago, it has been said that Heaven is the father, and Earth, the mother. Tenchi Kane No Kami is the parent of all people. Those who practice my Faith will meet their immortal parents and will keep receiving divine blessings.
- Believe that you are being cared for by immortal parents. Then depend on Tenchi No Kami for all things and nothing is impossible.

I now understand more deeply Tenchi Kane No Kami is our Divine Parent, Divine Parent of each 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 Him for everything with sincerity. Kami's wish for us, as a child of Kami, is to pray for everything and reach closer towards praying for Kami's wish to be fulfilled.

With this deeper insight of Tenchi Kane No Kami as the Divine Parent, my understanding of the Divine Reminder has become:

Through Divine Mediator, to Divine Parent of the Universe,  
for everything let us pray with all our heart. Then,  
since Kami's blessings depend upon our peaceful & joyful heart,  
Kami is requesting we deepen the peace & joy in our hearts.  
On this very day, pray for our mutual fulfillment.

I have now come to understand all the teachings of our founder more clearly and deeper than ever before. For example, this teaching of the founder was not clear to me before.

*Our founder speaking to his son, Konko Ieyoshi said, "Repay Kami after you die." Then he added, "While you are living, pray to Kami for all things."*

Since we receive tremendous blessings from Kami in this world, we usually think we should repay Kami while we are alive. So, at first, I couldn't understand it well.

This teaching is speaking directly of Kami's parental heart. Parents don't tell their children to repay what they owe them. Parents just ask their child to pray for everything and depend on them. We humans are powerless and can do nothing without the blessings of Kami. This is the reality for us human beings. Therefore, we cannot help but rely on Kami for everything and pray to Kami for everything. I now understand this teaching much more clearly than before.

It was like this that I began to perceive with deeper insight almost all the teachings of our founder. I feel I began experiencing the essence of his faith. I now really feel I'm living closer to our founder. I feel closer to Kami. It's to feel and hear the Divine voice.

How is it for you? I pray your way may open and blessings lead you towards greater awareness. You can all realize Kami is there to guide the way.

Thank you