

August Monthly Service

August 7, 2022

Good morning, everyone! Happy New Day, Week & special “Thanks” for joining us today. This is our monthly service at KC Chicago for August, 2022. I trust you are all enjoying the best of health & excellent spirits on this beautiful summer day.

Today we celebrate this service & also pray for students to improve themselves in all aspects of their academic education. Our founder prayed for young people to have good health & education. He said, “Young people should work hard to become smart & be able to remember what they learn very well.”

Young people are the treasures of the world. It is vitally important for an upcoming generation to perfect themselves physically, mentally & spiritually in order to be of great service to the world.

I now really feel young American people want to know the Konko Faith once they are introduced to it. There are many religions in the world. Among them, they sense some important message in our faith. We should be open-minded to them whenever they want to contact us through email or some other way, like phone-calls & visits. I want to do anything I can to show them what I know about our faith. So today I would like to talk about the most important concept of the Konko Faith.

I have always kept the following statement in mind:

“The aim of the Konko Faith is the peaceful joyful heart.

What we master is ‘All is Divine love.’”

I have tried to deepen peace & joy in my heart and realize even more that ‘All is Divine Love’ through respecting every happening in my life, good or bad, with gratitude as Kami’s sacred doing.

‘All is Divine Love’ and ‘One’s peaceful joyful heart’ are the front and back of one relationship. We cannot develop unbreakable peace & joy in our heart without the conviction of ‘All is Divine Love.’ When we do our best to respect with gratitude each & every happening in our life as Kami’s sacred doing, our mutual relationship with Kami is deepened and our peaceful & joyful heart is endlessly being developed.

Our Founder received the following revelation in the 15th year of Meiji, 1882:

"Those who have faith should not worry about the unexpected. There will be unexpected illnesses not only in summer, but also in winter. No one is aware of the blessings of Heaven & Earth which enable people to live. Kami shall have people become aware of the blessings of Heaven &

Earth by having Konko Daijin be born throughout the world where the sun shines, in every country, without exception."

When explained, everyone understands with their heads such blessings of Heaven and Earth without which we cannot survive; for example, the air we breathe, the water we drink, etc. So, what, then, are the blessings of Heaven & Earth that no one is aware of?

First of all, we should realize (from the bottom of our hearts) that we are allowed to live in the vast virtue of Heaven and Earth. Then here, I believe, Kami teaches us that even unexpected illnesses are divine blessings; that through them we could deepen our hearts. Such is even the coronavirus, or Russian invasion of Ukraine. If so, Konko Daijin is the person who realizes not only Kami's infinite blessings, but also that each & every happening, good or bad, is Kami's doing. And thus, all is Divine Love. Konko Daijin, our Founder, is the very first person who came to realize this and gives off this light of faith.

In order to have this realization I believe we should understand each & every happening through Kami's eyes and always seek Kami's wish or heart through these happenings. First, we should start to accept even small daily happenings in our everyday life as Kami's doing with gratitude and seek Kami's heart through them. That is how we can feel the rhythm of Heaven & Earth and find & realize Kami's wish in this way. Then we can feel that Kami is always working for us and deepen our hearts. When we experience this and accumulate more of such experiences, step by step, we can realize Kami's heart even through any major upheaval.

My father, Michinori Takeuchi searched for the truth of the universe throughout his life. As a reminder he kept in mind this poem of Mr. Misao Fujimura, called 'Feelings of the Precipice.' He was a student at the former Premier High School of Japan. Unable to resolve the emotional turmoil in his life, he left the poem as a suicide note before throwing himself off the top of the Kegon waterfall in Nikko in 1903. It was carved on a tree nearby. Let me read it.

"Feelings of the Precipice" by Misao Fujimura

How distant the cosmos; How vast the ages.

Can I, a mere 5 feet tall, attempt to fathom such greatness?

After all, what authority does the philosophy of Horatio claim?

The truth of the universe is contained in a single word, namely, "Incomprehensibility."

With this discontent at heart, after much anguish, I've come to settle on death.

Standing now on the precipice, my heart empty of fear,

I understand for the first time: The greatest despair is also the greatest peace.

When my father heard Rev. Otsubo speak about "All is Divine Love," with great joy he clearly understood this was the very truth of the universe.

When we understand 'All is Divine Love' is the truth of the universe, there is no other way to accept every happening as Kami's doing with joy & gratitude, whatever happens & no matter how difficult it may be. Even more this joy & gratitude comes from respecting Kami's workings.

So, it is not only our own joy & gratitude, but also Kami's joy & gratitude. The joy & gratitude, which is reflecting Kami's joy & gratitude, are our peaceful & joyful hearts, which is the essential foundation for human happiness.

I have always been praying as follows:

“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 would nurture the world. And please may I serve for Konko Daijin to be born throughout the world and in all states in the USA.”

I am aspiring for a blessing which will completely embrace the world with peaceful joyful hearts of people. I hope as many young people as possible in the world have the same desire as mine and contribute to create the Wagakokoro era in the world.