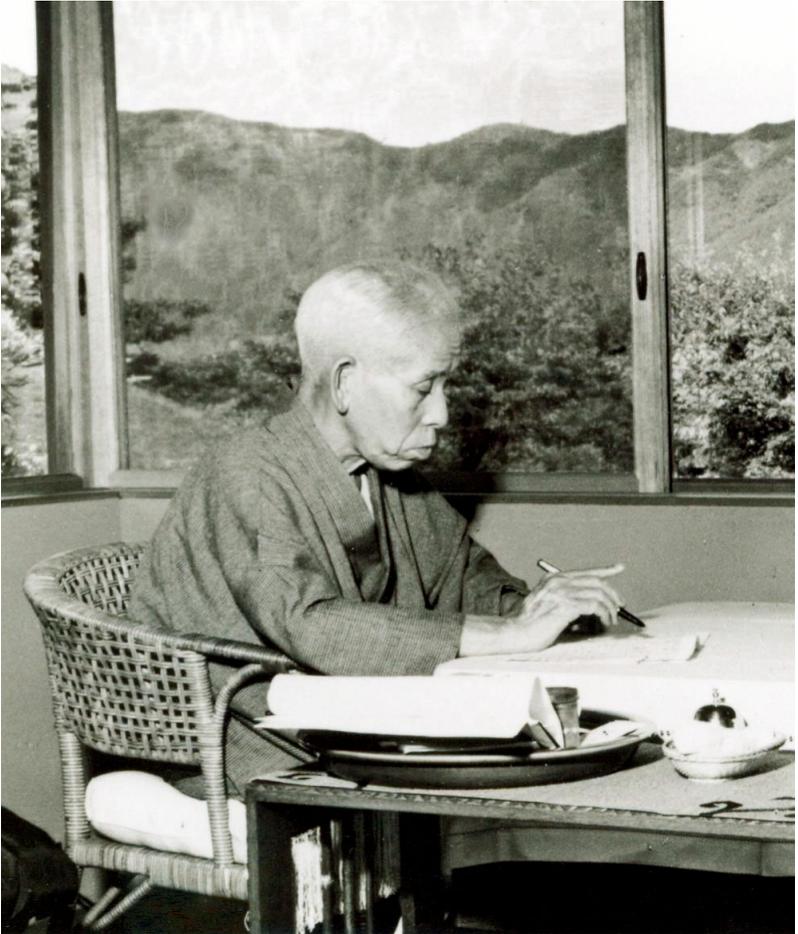


**TEACHINGS  
OF  
MEISHU-SAMA**

**VOLUME ONE**





Meishu-sama (Mokichi Okada) revised and edited his essays many times. In this picture, taken during the summer of 1953, Meishu-sama is reviewing and amending his manuscripts in his study (called the Sun Room because of the wide windows) at his residence (Kanzan-tei, or Mountain View Villa) in the Hakone Sacred Grounds.



**TEACHINGS  
OF  
MEISHU-SAMA**

**VOLUME ONE**

**IZUNOME ASSOCIATION, USA**

# Teachings of Meishu-sama, Volume One

明主様御教え 第一巻

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Sekai Kyusei Kyo Izunome Kyodan  
(SKK Izunome)  
Atami, Japan.

Published by Izunome Association, USA  
Hackensack, NJ, 07601  
[www.izunome.org](http://www.izunome.org)

First Printing: February 2009  
Printed in the United States of America

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## FOREWORD

*Teachings of Meishu-sama, Volumes One through Five*, are a collection of 180 essays selected from the many hundreds written by Mokichi Okada (1882 – 1955), a noted Japanese philosopher and spiritual teacher. He is also known by his followers as Meishu-sama, which means “enlightened spiritual leader.” Mr. Okada formed his spiritual group in 1935 in Japan. That is the present-day Sekai Kyusei Kyo (a spiritual group to help the entire world), the Mother Church of Izunome Association, USA.

He wrote these articles as “editorials” for the newsletter of his organization, published 3 times a month, and for a monthly magazine. Due to the frequency and quantity of his writings, much redundancy in theme or content occurred. In selecting the teachings to be included in this series, we tried to eliminate those recurrences as much as possible, though some are unavoidable. At other times they were retained to reinforce a particular idea or truth that Meishu-sama sought to convey.

Volumes One and Two were originally translated by the late Reverend Kiyoko Higuchi (1905 – 1989), who had been sent to America by Meishu-sama and became the founder of the Johrei movement in America. They were published by Sekai Kyusei Kyo in Japan, in 1967 and 1968 respectively, and since then have been read and studied by many Johrei members throughout the world. We revised and re-published them for this series. Volume One is still a good introduction to the teachings and philosophy of Meishu-sama. Volume Two provides deeper insight into his thoughts and principles.

Volumes Three to Five are new compilations edited and published by Izunome Association. Volume Three focuses on the practical teachings that we can apply in our daily lives to become worthy citizens of Paradise on Earth. The teachings in Volume Four are more theoretical, covering beauty, happiness, religion, and the spiritual world. The final compilation, Volume Five, mainly concerns Meishu-sama’s philosophies on the ways to improve one’s wellbeing and eliminate suffering, and includes such topics as health, nature farming, Johrei, and purification. Each volume, at its end, has at least two bibliographies, one listing the English titles with their original Japanese titles and publication dates,

another with the Japanese titles in alphabetical order.

The Introduction, which appears in the following pages, was written by the late Reverend Kiyoko Higuchi for the 1967 publication of Volume One, and is reprinted with some minor revisions in wording.

We hope that you will read and study all the teachings in this series many times over, and deepen your spiritual understanding and awareness for the coming Age of Light.

February 2009

Izunome Association, USA

## INTRODUCTION

There are many approaches to divinity and spirituality. Humanity has searched for God since its earliest recorded history. During various periods masters and great teachers have appeared, to show the way to a better understanding of God and a wider knowledge of spiritual matters.

The world is in a period of rapid change. Never before has the human race experienced such a critical time as it is experiencing now. It is confronted by innumerable problems in every direction. This is the struggle for the birth of the New Civilization. Humanity is standing at the crossroads in the great transitional period between the old era of semi-darkness and the new era of Light. Especially for this moment, we believe, God sent our beloved Meishu-sama, Mokichi Okada, founder of the Johrei Movement.

Our spiritual organization, Sekai Kyusei Kyo, is based upon revelations given to him concerning the coming Daylight Age. Our purpose is to bring about the realization of Paradise on Earth. The Direct Light of God is being released, which was kept in abeyance through the long Age of Night. The Light will transform our world into the Daylight Age and will awaken humanity to spiritual awareness so it may attain this goal. Spiritual awareness is the key to the New Civilization, and spiritual evolution is accelerating now, hand in hand with true scientific progress.

Meishu-sama revealed that Paradise on Earth is an ideal world free of disease, poverty and conflict. Buddha foretold the coming of a perfect world. Many other teachers and saints of the past made similar predictions. While the time of their fulfillment was never clearly outlined, Meishu-sama revealed that the hour is near at hand.

When this world is transformed into Paradise on Earth, humanity will be exceedingly happy. In order for the New Civilization to be brought into existence, the old one must be cleansed of all its impurities. The decision-maker in all matters will be God, Who will designate those deemed worthy of being the builders of, as well as the dwellers in, this earthly paradise.

We must, therefore, do everything possible to improve and purify ourselves spiritually, mentally and physically, so we may qualify for the coming New Civilization, as well as be competent to aid in its construction. Only in this way can we

safely pass through the difficult transitional period we have entered.

Just how can we prepare ourselves for this change? By having the clouds removed from our spiritual bodies; by having the proper mental attitude; by having the toxins removed from our physical bodies.

When the clouds fade from the spiritual body, there is a radiant joy that permeates the entire mental and physical being. When mental processes are rightly focused, ego disappears. Selfishness then gives way to selflessness. Hate and fear bow to love, and evil is transformed into virtue.

When disease is eradicated, youth, beauty, charm and poise will prevail. There will be no room for sickness, poverty and conflict.

Sekai Kyusei Kyo offers a way of bringing about these changes. Meishu-sama, through Divine Guidance, brought us this blessing. He was endowed with the Direct Light that God is releasing for the Daylight Age. Not only could Meishu-sama transmit this Divine Light, but he learned how to focus it so all members might also share it. God intends to save humanity from self-destruction and bring about a new and constructive civilization by working *through* the individuals comprising it. Each one, therefore, must do his or her part toward the realization of this plan for life more abundant.

The transmitting is called Johrei, which is a Japanese word [coined by Meishu-sama] meaning the purifying of the spiritual body by the Divine Light of God. It is *prayer in action*. Johrei disperses the clouds on the spiritual body. As it is purified, it becomes more radiant; and mental and physical wellbeing is re-established in accordance with the Divine Pattern.

When sufficient numbers of individuals have undergone the necessary changes through receiving as well as sharing the Divine Light of God, when they have begun to work in service to humanity, our world will become a beautiful place. A spiritual civilization of high development and remarkable achievement can then evolve. Humanity will enjoy real health, prosperity and peace in a world where truth, virtue and beauty abound. This, we believe, is the true realization of the Age of Light.

We trust that you will be greatly blessed through the revelations contained in these pages. We know you will feel a desire to read these privileged teachings again and again.

Reverend Kyoko Higuchi  
1967, Los Angeles



## **THE BIRTH OF THE NEW CIVILIZATION (1)**

Sekai Kyusei Kyo is not a religion in the ordinary sense of the word. Literally, it is a complete way of life.

Our purpose is to help in the building of a new society, to accelerate spiritual science so it will keep pace with the progress of material science, thus contributing to the evolvement of a true civilization.

The material side of civilization has made great progress and is still progressing. Almost from the beginning of our recorded history, however, the spiritual side has been lagging far behind.

The result of this imbalance is that material science has become so predominant the people everywhere are dazzled by it and the significance of spiritual things is almost completely overlooked. In fact, most people worship material science and are satisfied to be beholden to it. They have placed their precious lives completely in its hands and feel they are safe. Not yet realizing that science cannot guarantee life, they continue to trust it blindly. This is how people still think today.

God has great compassion for this fallacy and intends to awaken God's children through our teachings to the true meaning of life. God has revealed that a person's life does not belong to the material world but in its true essence is of the spirit, and that it is governed by God, its Creator.

You may wonder why a truth of such tremendous importance to all living beings has been largely unknown or ignored by the majority of the human race. It is due to the profound Wisdom of God. According to God's Plan, it was necessary to bring material science forward to a certain point of advancement, a temporary condition of the transitional period.

Now the time is right to accentuate the spiritual side, clarifying that which belongs to the spiritual as distinct from that which belongs to the material, bringing both into balance and thus enabling the correction of past human errors. When people become fully aware of the spiritual realm and its true significance, material and spiritual science will advance hand in hand. A new civilization will then emerge, for the old order will come to an end and the new order will take its place.

Our sole aim is to aid in this transition to a better world,  
the true civilization God has planned for the Earth.

## THE TURNING POINT IN CIVILIZATION (2)

The progress humanity has made, and is still making, is obvious when compared to the primitive living conditions of thousands of years ago. History tells us of the tremendous efforts human beings have put forth to develop civilization while struggling against such terrible handicaps as wars, epidemics and other calamities.

Humanity's impelling force has always been the eternal longing for peace and happiness. In order to realize this ideal, people have immersed themselves almost completely in the development of the material side of civilization. Each time a new invention has been produced, they have magnified and glorified it, thinking it would contribute to the welfare of humanity. Each time a new discovery has been made, the human race has firmly believed it was steadily coming closer to the realization of its goal.

The pinnacle of scientific progress was reached with the discovery of the secret of atomic fission. Such a development should truly have been a great blessing, but quite contrary to expectation, it has proved to be the most terrible discovery ever made. What people thought would be a path to Heaven has turned out, to their horrified surprise, to be a road leading to Hell. It gave them a method of annihilating tens of thousands of lives in the twinkling of an eye.

Has there been any event in all our long history that was as contrary to our expectations as this? How ironical it is that civilized society is now confronted with the great problem of harnessing this terror – the terror that we have developed with our own hands!

Actually, the discovery in itself is nothing to be feared. Such a scientific triumph, if adapted to peaceful and beneficial purposes, can be a tremendous boon to humanity's welfare. People became afraid of it because we first made use of atomic energy as a weapon of destruction. The evil in humanity caused us to utilize it for war, while the good in humanity urges us to employ it for constructive purposes. The issue, then, revolves about the *use* of atomic energy, not its discovery.

Here is where religion enters. Through the years it has rendered valuable service to a certain degree, as have other moral teachings, education and law. In spite of all these,

however, the world still seems to be dominated by negative forces. The fear humanity is experiencing today of atomic energy being used for destructive purposes testifies to it.

Let us consider this more deeply. If the atom is put to a diabolically destructive use, the inevitable consequences will be the complete obliteration of the human race. Do you believe the Creator of the universe and all things in it, the God Who has caused civilization to progress so far, will allow such a thing to happen?

Jesus foresaw "the end of the world." If it had been Jesus' only prophecy, it would have meant humanity could do nothing except wait for the time of its utter destruction. But Jesus also predicted the advent of the Kingdom of Heaven. \* These two prophecies indicate to us what the future portends. According to our teachings they suggest that the world as we know it will come to its end, but also that Heaven on Earth will become a reality.

In order to be saved from total destruction, it is necessary for humanity to change tremendously, to be governed by the primary spirit – the divine self within. What makes it possible for us to do so is the great Love of God, Who is releasing the Divine Light at this vital point in time.

During the reformation of the world, there may still be many people who are beyond redemption in the present life cycle and therefore cannot be saved. This is the Day of Judgment that has been prophesied for hundreds of years.

Let everyone realize the world is standing at the threshold of the turning point from the old order to the new, from the age of destruction to the age of construction. The conception of the coming Daylight Age with its spiritually controlled civilization has already been prepared, not by human wisdom or power, but by God. Since the very beginning of Creation, the grand Plan of God's Love and Wisdom has been working toward this great moment in time – the breaking of the Dawn!

\* Meishu-sama is referring to Matthew 13:36-50, in which Jesus mentions both prophecies in the parable of the tares of the field.

## **THE REALIZATION OF TRUTH (3)**

A religion's principal objective should be the realization of Truth.

Where is Truth to be found? In its pure and unadorned state, Nature is Truth. The sun always rises in the east and sets in the west, and every person exists physically by breathing, eating and drinking. These are self-evident facts, but society has reached such a confused state it has lost sight of the utter simplicity of Nature and needs to be reminded that Truth is this simple.

Conflict, crime and confusion pervade every area of human existence more and more; so, there seems to be greater cause for unhappiness than for happiness everywhere in the world.

What is the basic cause of this state of affairs? The ultimate reason lies in the fact that humanity has drifted – and continues to drift – away from Truth.

Moreover, the human race in general remains unaware that it is caught up in this tide.

People are so involved with the problems of everyday living they are no longer capable of finding their way back to themselves. To this day, religion has not given a clear picture of Truth because its own vision has been too limited. Humanity would not have drifted into its current depths of distress if religion had been able to benefit it by offering clear revelation, and there would have been some progress made toward the establishment of a Paradise on Earth.

The time has now come, however, when the great Love of God will be manifested. God is revealing the Truth now and will bring about its realization. It is being brought forth in an easily-understood form; and if approached with interest and attention, without prejudice, it will become a reality for the sincere seeker.

Human sickness and crime, conflict and poverty are all caused by deviation from Truth. God intended that we should live under ideal conditions, and these will be established when humanity attunes itself to the laws of Nature. The resulting society will be one of beauty and virtue, and human beings will live in a state of ultimate happiness. This is the true picture of what we call a Paradise on Earth.

God has given people complete freedom of choice. Our innate value and dignity lie in this gift, which causes us to differ from animals. Each person is free to elevate himself or herself and so approach divinity, just as each is free to drop to the level of the beasts. Under normal conditions, a person is at neither extreme but is somewhere between. Through their own choice and efforts, people bring about conditions of either paradise or purgatory here on Earth. Unless someone is completely under the influence of negative forces, it stands to reason a person prefers to advance toward paradise.

The ultimate goal of humanity is the establishment of Paradise on Earth, and the realization of Truth is the sole path to this goal.

This is the essential mission of our work, to show the way to Truth in order for each person to fulfill his or her divine purpose.

## **FAITH WORKS MIRACLES (4)**

Throughout the known history of humanity, written records attest to the fact that faith and miracles are inseparably related. A religion in which no miracles ever occur cannot be called a true religion. No matter how beautiful and elaborate its rituals may be, it has no value as a religion if its followers never experience miracles.

It is God Who performs miracles, not us. When an overwhelming blessing or a wondrous response to a prayer is experienced, the event is generally considered a miracle. Through this kind of action, a person is moved to feel deep, reverent gratitude and a faith so strong he or she is protected from misfortune. By having such an experience, one learns the priceless value of true faith. A single personal experience is worth a hundred theories.

It is a matter of great concern that crimes in society have increased. But more importantly, the general trend of thinking in the younger generation – the driving force of the future – is in utter confusion because of the bad influence of unwholesome ideas. These include self-centeredness, greed, and cynicism. I am convinced that overemphasis on materialistic education is responsible for this tragic condition. The problems of demoralization and juvenile delinquency will never be solved unless people are awakened to this great distortion.

In order to remove the worship of materialism, spiritual awareness must be aroused. But how can this be done? The only way is to awaken one and all to the reality of God, which nothing short of a miracle can accomplish. If the unbelievers see a seeming impossibility taking place before their very eyes, something beyond material explanation, all doubt and skepticism will vanish.

Worldwide peace and the establishment of a sound, virtuous society can be achieved only when all people come to believe in the existence of God through experiencing God's miracle-working Power and a spiritual culture becomes a reality.

In this period of the great transition, God is releasing the Divine Light for us. And such an intense, magnificent Light it is, performing one miracle after another! Never before in history have mortals been so blessed.

According to the revelation I received, the Direct Light of God is being released for the express purpose of awakening human minds, minds that are unaware of God's Existence, minds that cannot even imagine God's plan of creating an ideal world – Paradise on Earth.

The one, omnipotent God, Who has worked through the great masters and teachers of all time, now directly shares this Light with all, to see the human race through this major transitional period.

Thus, by the miracles performed through the Divine Light, God's plan for rescuing humanity from its own fallacies can be fulfilled. By God's almighty Power, God will manifest more and more miraculous works.

Since miracles fit within the sphere of faith, we may well say, "Faith works miracles."

## **ERADICATING MISERY (5)**

It seems impossible to eradicate misery completely, but it is not too difficult to alleviate it.

First, let us consider what misery is in essence. Is there anything in this world more dreaded than affliction? There may be different reasons for it, but in most cases the one undeniable cause is illness. There are other agents, such as immoral behavior, greed, hatred, etc., but on closer investigation we find these, too, are caused by spiritual or mental sickness.

The proverb, "A sound mind in a sound body," holds true. I have observed from many years of study that low morals, dishonesty, delinquency, alcoholism, bad disposition and indolence stem from physical imperfections and diseases.

Until now, there has not been any sure method of attaining spiritual, mental and physical health. The cause of human misery – clouds on the spiritual body – was not yet discovered. Even if it had been, how to eradicate it would have remained unknown. There have been many individuals who have claimed discovery of effective methods of healing. However, they could offer only temporary relief; so, as time has gone by these people have sunk into oblivion.

Through revelation, I have learned that the only way to eliminate misery is to dispel the clouds from the spiritual body with the invisible Spiritual Energy, the Divine Healing Light of God. Those who have had personal experience with Johrei know how truly powerful the Light is.

Theory, however wonderful or profound, is valueless in itself. Experience and results must prove its validity or else the salvation of humanity will forever remain a dream. The invisible power that moves the visible is the very essence of faith. That which is being transmitted by Sekai Kyusei Kyo is this power. Johrei is the method that enables the focusing of the Divine Light directly upon the spiritual body so it may awaken to the truth of the great Love of God. We refer to this action as effortlessly bringing the soul into its own. Compared with the work of sending the Divine Light directly to the spiritual body, preaching appears of secondary importance.

For members who are in direct contact with the Divine Light through giving and receiving Johrei, spiritual progress

is rapid. They steadily attain an advancement that is difficult to achieve otherwise. Not only are they relieved of their own miseries, but they are endowed with the power to help others.

## HOW RELIGION IS TAUGHT (6)

Throughout the ages, religions have stressed their basic precepts. They have attempted to impart these precepts through preaching, for the most part.

As you know, there is very little preaching in our movement. Some members may harbor doubts as to the wisdom of this course, and some may wish to understand the reason for it so they can explain to nonmembers if questioned. Therefore, I think it will be helpful to write a few words on the subject.

The purpose of religion is to expand a person's mental attitude, to elevate one's soul and accelerate one's spiritual development. In order to accomplish all this, the clouds accumulated on the spiritual body must be removed. If one's spirit is purified, a person will not commit negative deeds. Instead, people will become noble in character and will contribute to the welfare of their fellow human beings.

One method religion uses to approach a person is preaching, which purifies the spirit through the ear. Another is offering sacred books, such as the Scriptures, for study. This purifies the spirit through the eye.

In our movement, we also use methods of purification that employ the ear and the eye. We do not ignore the power of words in speech or in writing. However, God has shown us that the best method is Johrei, spiritual purification by God's Own Divine Light.

Purification through any of the physical senses is indirect and so cannot be as effective as a spiritual purification. Johrei shines the Divine Light directly upon the spiritual body, contacting the soul and producing results far more powerfully and effectively than any physical or sensory approach can.

This is the reason Sekai Kyusi Kyo does not rely primarily on preaching, unlike most other spiritual movements.

## **THE PRIMARY WORLD (7)**

In the past, only the physical world engaged people's interest, since humanity was not aware of another world, the spiritual world of cause. Because its existence cannot be perceived by standard investigative methods, science made progress only in studies of the material world, and our civilization shows this imbalance.

The spiritual realm is the primary world. It is much more important than the physical world, since it is the realm of cause and the source of basic power. A complete civilization can never be attained without realization of this truth. Nothing proves it better than the fact that happiness, the greatest desire of the human race, has not kept pace with material progress.

If humanity had fully realized the existence and importance of the spiritual world from the beginning, material civilization might not have progressed as far as it has. Ignorance of the spiritual world's existence gave birth to atheism, which led to the birth of evil. The struggle between good and evil then began. In its one-sided evolution, the human race had to suffer much pain. Material civilization is now so advanced that without a commensurate growth in spirituality its further development may only lead to its self-destruction. One of the major signs of this critical condition is the development of the atomic bomb.

God has decided that now is the time for the greatest change in human progress. As the first step in the accomplishment of the changes, God has chosen to reveal the existence of the spiritual world visibly. The realm that has been largely ignored for such a long time will receive its just attention, and the necessary balance will thereby be established.

This visible manifestation cannot be achieved through the utilization of orthodox science, but through the release of the Power of God, which humankind has never experienced before.

It is difficult to persuade the purely materialistic thinker to accept this Power. I believe the most convincing way to demonstrate it to someone is through the miracle of Johrei. Upon observing the marvelous results, even an atheist would have to give some thought to the invisible power of the transmitted Divine Light.

When the truth is known to all the world, civilization will inevitably change and will develop a balanced, peaceful, constructive order all humanity can enjoy.

Before this can take place, a troublesome problem remains to be solved. The amount of clouds accumulated over thousands of years of material development is immeasurable. By clouds I mean the impurities of the human spirit and body. These present tremendous obstacles to the establishing of a new civilization. Like mountainous heaps of trash on the ground where a new structure is to be erected, the impurities must be removed before the building can begin. There must be a thorough cleaning, a complete purification. It cannot be avoided. It is nothing less than the long-prophesied Day of Judgment.

In the light of these facts, you can see that miracle-working Johrei is a wonderful part of God's Plan for awakening humanity to the presence of the primary world – the spiritual world. With it, human beings will be able to develop an unshakable faith and a real desire to contribute their share toward the establishing of a perfect world.

## THE SPIRITUAL REALM AND THE YUKON (8)

In order for someone to have complete happiness, that person must, among other things, find the answer to the age-old question of why he or she came into this world. Unless the meaning of life itself is understood, a person cannot live virtuously or enjoy serenity of mind to the fullest. Instead, people will waste their precious lives, without any significant purpose and without any change for the better.

In the divine revelation given to me, this question has been answered clearly: A person is born on the physical plane because he or she has a definite, individual mission assigned by God for the fulfillment of God's Plan.

What is God's Plan? From the very beginning of Creation, God has planned the establishment of a Paradise on Earth. Words cannot express the grandeur and beauty of God's Plan.

God has endowed each human being with special talents and capabilities so that his or her individual mission can be performed successfully. God has caused each one to be born and reborn countless times, to live again and again in the physical world in order to move forward toward the ultimate goal of perfection.

All things and all events are part of the movement toward attaining this goal. Evolution goes on endlessly. The history of humanity up to our time has been only the laying of the foundation, the setting of the stage for the coming Daylight Age. This is the turning point, from the Age of Darkness to the Age of Enlightenment.

The entire world is on the verge of taking decisive steps into the new era. Now is the time when all humanity must throw off the cloak of barbarism so it may reach the heights of a truly enlightened civilization. For the first time on Earth, chaos, conflict, disease and poverty will be eliminated. God has sent us the blessing of Johrei for the purpose of furthering God's great Plan in this direction.

In the spiritual world, there is a counterpart for each individual soul. In Japanese, this spiritual counterpart is called *Yukon* [the finer soul, as opposed to the coarser soul of the physical world]. God's Will is conveyed to the physical being through the Yukon. When God wishes to give orders to someone, God first imparts them to the Yukon, which in turn transmits them to the primary spirit [the coarser soul].

It is almost impossible for the average individual to perceive God's Will intuitively. Only someone who has attained a specific degree of spiritual purification can do so with ease. Most people have too many clouds on their spiritual bodies, blocking the contact. Also, where there are clouds, the dark forces attempt to prevent any contact.

For example, I'm sure most of us can recall experiences in which our fortunes took a totally unexpected turn, or our plans did not go as we wished. Some of us have undergone experiences that changed the entire course of our lives. At such times, have many of us not felt that events were being directed somehow by invisible hands?

The mystery is solved when we realize that the cause of anyone's experiences lies in the spiritual realm, which is divided into three principal divisions: upper, intermediate, and lower. These in turn are subdivided into many finer divisions.

It is the status or position of the Yukon in this realm that determines the mission and the fortune of each individual. The higher the plane on which the Yukon dwells, the greater is the mission assigned by God and the smoother is the road the individual travels. The lower the plane on which the Yukon dwells, the more difficult is the person's earthly existence. The reason is that the higher strata of the spiritual world are part of the heavenly state, whereas the lower planes are full of conflict and suffering of all kinds.

In order to achieve true happiness, an individual must first raise the Yukon to the higher planes. This is made possible through purifying the spiritual body, which lightens the Yukon and allows it to ascend. Conversely, added clouds make the Yukon heavier and cause it to sink to the lower planes.

In the past, it took a long time and assiduous effort for the spiritual body to be purified enough to raise the Yukon to a higher level. Now that God has revealed an easier way – through receiving and giving Johrei in service to humanity – elevation to the higher planes can be made more rapidly. Our members testify that they are soon conscious of spiritual and mental improvement, and that their outlook on life and their physical well-being are greatly enhanced.

A greater degree of awareness endows a person with greater wisdom, more intuition and a deeper understanding of the truth of existence. The negative phases of life disappear

and the positive ones replace them. Worries simply fade away, and peace and serenity fill the mind. Prosperity increases, as well.

It may be difficult for someone who has had many problems to accept the fact that such wonderful things are actually possible. Nevertheless, our records show numerous accounts of just such blessings being experienced by those who are living virtuously, constructively, and in service to others. Through practicing Johrei and making sincere efforts, they have raised their Yukons to higher planes in the spiritual realm.

## **STRATA IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM (9)**

The spiritual realm is composed of three major divisions, each of which is divided into 60 levels, totaling 180 levels. Each level has a different vibratory rate. In the upper strata the vibrations are very strong, while on the lower levels they are weak. The highest stratum is known only to the Supreme God, the Creator of the universe and Giver of all life, Who resides above the 180 levels [the 181<sup>st</sup> level].

Every human being has a visible physical body and an invisible spiritual body. The two bodies are the same size and shape. In the center of the spiritual body is the infinite mind, and in the center of the mind is the soul. The soul is the God-given self, the center of spiritual consciousness, or the divine nature itself.

The spiritual counterpart of the soul, the Yukon [see previous teaching], is on one of the planes of the invisible world. A spiritual cord connects the Yukon and the primary spirit. Through this cord everything the individual does and thinks is conveyed to the Yukon and thence to God. When God wishes to give an order, God's Will is conveyed to the individual through the spiritual cord, by way of the Yukon.

Sometimes, when a person makes certain plans and tries to carry them out, difficulties not prepared for are encountered or plans take an unexpected turn. If such happenings are weighed in that person's mind, inevitably the existence of an invisible Power guiding or directing him or her is felt.

This is the Will of God being transmitted through the Yukon. When a person moves in a direction that is contrary to God's Will, success can't occur regardless of the effort made. Before starting to do something, it is a good idea to examine one's motives closely, to make certain the actions are beneficial to society and to humanity as a whole.

I have always told our members to reflect on their thoughts and conduct deeply, so they can make certain these are in accord with God's Will. If there is any selfish or negative motive, the contact with God becomes obstructed. Then, even though they may seem to succeed for a while, in the end they will surely fail.

If a person's efforts are not according to God's Will, difficulties and even failure may be encountered, resulting in suffering. The suffering itself is a form of purification and

will result in rising to a higher level of consciousness. That person's next effort will be more in harmony with the Law and so will be more likely to succeed.

Often an individual reaches success only after having experienced failure. There are some people who fail many times before becoming outstandingly successful.

The only way to truly achieve happiness is by raising the Yukon higher in the spiritual realm. Its position is never stationary but is constantly changing, moving to a higher or lower plane. The lighter the Yukon becomes the higher it ascends, and visa-versa. It is human behavior that causes it to change in weight. When an individual is motivated to do one good deed after another, the clouds on his or her spiritual body steadily decrease. This reflects on the Yukon instantaneously and it becomes lighter. When a person commits negative deeds, clouds increase, adding weight to the Yukon, and it sinks toward the lower planes.

Our thoughts, our speech and our deeds, good or bad, are immediately transmitted to the spiritual realm and on to God. When we become fully conscious of this, we cannot be anything other than virtuous, for, not only our fates but our very lives are decided by the Will of God. We have been sent to this Earth plane with a certain mission assigned by God. But if we are extremely harmful to our fellow human beings and go greatly against God's Will, God might revoke our mission, resulting in death. When we are useful, beneficial members of society, living a virtuous life in harmony with God's Will, God grants us happiness, good fortune, and longevity.

The higher the Yukon goes in the spiritual realm, the less the sufferings of disease, poverty and conflict will be encountered by the physical being. On the higher planes, therefore, life is totally beautiful and joyous. When the Yukon dwells there, the beauty and joy are conveyed through the spiritual cord and a state of extreme well-being is enjoyed by the human body. If the Yukon dwells on one of the lower planes, it reflects on the physical body with suffering and other misfortunes.

Some people seek the foretelling of events so they will know what to expect or what to guard against. Others try to find the supernatural meanings of even the most casual things. When moving, some individuals try to figure out whether or not they are moving in the lucky direction, or

whether the shape of the house they are moving into is spiritually good or bad. There is some truth to be gained in these efforts. However, the Cosmic Laws are absolute and no one can change them.

For example, someone whose Yukon is on a higher plane in the spiritual realm will be led to a desirable location when searching for another home. That person will go to the right house quite naturally, or, if building a new one, will be guided in making the plans. Someone whose Yukon is low will be led to a location and a house corresponding to that level. No matter how hard you try, you cannot do anything except reflect the condition of your Yukon.

Marriage is also decided according to the same law of spiritual affinity and the law of oneness of spirit and body. Regardless of your efforts, you will marry the one for whom you are destined and with whom you are matched spiritually, and none other.

There is a difference between fate and destiny. Destiny is decided at birth and cannot be changed. From the moment an individual comes into this life, that person is destined to dwell within a certain sphere in the spiritual realm. To leave this area is impossible. Fate, however, is subject to change. Your progress determines whether you reach the highest point in your destined sphere or descend to its lowest level, depending on your efforts and attitude.

We must always live virtuously if we wish to decrease the clouds on our spiritual bodies and raise the Yukons to higher levels in the spiritual realm. This is the only way to attain a true and lasting happiness.

## **THE POWER OF SPIRITUAL ENERGY (10)**

Modern science has discovered many facts about our world and the atmosphere surrounding it. However, atmosphere, matter – all the elements known to us through our senses alone – are only physical. Science has yet to fully account for that which lies beyond those five senses.

What I wish to dwell on now is something that is in the realm beyond the material, the release of the spiritual energies around the earth.

The word "spirit" is most generally used to indicate something that is invisible or intangible. Because of this, it has been limited to the category of religion or spiritualism.

There has been a tendency among many individuals to deny the existence of spirit, to treat it as mere superstition. This is unfortunate, for, the truth is that spirit is the actual source of power, the tremendous energy that creates, activates and maintains all things in this universe. Spirit, the invisible force, is not only omnipresent but omnipotent.

The visible world, the physical world known to our five senses, is immersed in a sea of universal energy. Unknown from the perspective of scientific evidence, this "sea" is the spiritual world. According to the natural laws of the universe, all that appears in the physical world first originates in the spiritual realm, just as thoughts give rise to all physical manifestations.

In the past, material science attempted to explain all of life in physical terms, and that is why humanity's much-vaunted progress has not really brought happiness with it. The troubles of the physical world can only be solved by recognizing that everything begins in the spiritual realm, and so, all problems must first be solved on the spiritual level before they can be successfully dealt with on the physical plane.

Illness is no exception. True healing can come only through the healing of spirit by Spirit.

The human being has a visible physical body and an invisible spiritual body, the physical being a manifestation in the material world of the spiritual body, which belongs to the spiritual world. When the physical body suffers from disease, the true cause of it lies within the spiritual body. A toxic area or affected spot of any kind is simply the outer or

surface reflection of clouds that are covering the same part of the spiritual body.

Nature tries to eliminate these clouds through its own processes so the body can work toward its God-given wholeness. Pain is an indication of the action that is attempting to disperse the clouds, clearing some of them from the spiritual body so they are no longer manifested as strongly in the physical body through disease or other afflictions.

We call this process purification. The purification of the spiritual body is a wonderful solution for any human misery, and the way to achieve it is with the Divine Light of God. Human beings must recognize this and obey the laws of Spirit on all levels of existence if there is to be a constant condition of health and happiness.

In the process we call death, the physical body has become unable to function as a result of illness, injury or a general degeneration. The spiritual body therefore separates itself; and while the discarded physical body returns to dust, it returns to the spiritual world, where it stays until it is ready to reincarnate.

The primary spirit – or soul – is infinite, of main importance, and has eternal life, while the physical body is finite and of secondary importance, existing only for a single lifetime. Therefore, the primary spirit, the true being, should be the center of our attention in healing.

It was revealed to me that every living creature, every vegetable and mineral emits spiritual vibrations that are different to any other. Of them all, the vibrations of the human being are the highest.

While all human bodies emit a more powerful radiation than anything else in creation, each one differs in the degree of power according to the spiritual awareness of the individual. The greater the spiritual discernment, the finer and purer is the spiritual radiation and the higher is the vibration; and the higher the vibration, the more difficult it becomes to detect it by material means.

There is a spiritual radiation that is far superior to the human. It is the Divine Radiation, or what we term the Divine Light. Through revelation, I learned how to contact and then send the Light for the welfare of humankind. This is done by bringing it into focus, then transmitting it

through the hand in a special way that disintegrates the clouds on the spiritual body. The process is that which we call Johrei.

One of the outstanding characteristics of this Divine Spiritual Energy is that it is effective *only* when it is used for the welfare of humanity.

The principle of Johrei is taught to each member of our movement, so each may become a conduit for the Divine Energy. The strength of one's faith and the degree of one's love influence the intensity of the Light. As the member grows in spiritual understanding, the flow of Light increases accordingly. Thus, each has the privilege of sharing in the Divine Plan for the transformation of this world into a true and real paradise.

## **THE TURNING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT (11)**

After thousands of years of darkness or semidarkness, a great turning point has arrived – the turning from the Age of Darkness to the Age of Light as predestined in God’s great Plan.

Because of the endless cycles of evolution, there is progress and there is growth. When we meditate upon these actions, by enlarging our view we can see that our universe is boundless, ever-expanding. At the same time, by focusing our view we can see that our universe is also microscopically detailed, infinitesimally small. In deep thought, we can catch a glimpse of the objectives of God and God’s Plan for the cosmos.

In everything in the universe there is positive and negative: day and night, light and darkness, etc. The principle of this variation applies not only to the objective world but also to time. We can see the change from day to night and back again in twenty-four hours. Similarly, there is a change of light and darkness in a year, in a hundred years, in a thousand years.

During its long, spiritually negative period, Earth had only what might be compared to the dim, reflected light of the moon, and with that shining only at certain times. Symbolically speaking, when the moon was hidden in shadow there was only the light of the stars, and when the clouds covered these as well, darkness reigned.

Moonlight, even when shining at its fullest, is an indirect light, a reflection from the sun and consequently feeble, whereas the direct light of the sun is powerful and radiant. The experiences of the nations during the Age of Darkness may be likened to the waxing and waning of the moon.

After thousands of years of darkness, the time has now come for a more direct light to shine. We are in the dawn of the new, positive period, and a great change will take place – is taking place – a change such as humanity has never before experienced. It is astonishing, in some ways terrible, yet it will be a most joyful change when it is completed.

We can see the signs that this has already started. Look at the amazing transformations in Japan, a small-scale example of that which is to come. The old civilization of night has collapsed. The burning of many important cities during World War II, upheavals in industry and economy,

and the complete fall of feudalism and the privileged class after the war, are all manifestations of a great advance toward the true Light of the Daylight Age.

The nocturnal, or indirectly-lighted world was the darkness of conflict, famine and suffering. The diurnal, or directly-lighted world will be one of peace, prosperity and health. Once the sun has risen, it will inevitably reach the center of the sky. The old order of things has already begun to collapse and the birth of the new is in progress, the Light of the New Civilization.

It is the time when the fate of the Earth's inhabitants has begun to be decided. When the day of total sunlight arrives, no one still in darkness will escape the fiery cleansing. There is no need for concern on the parts of spiritually-advanced people, who belong to a higher vibratory level. But those on a low level of understanding had better give their attention to this warning, because the only way to reduce the numbers caught in the cataclysmic actions is to prepare for their coming.

Through the purifying process of Johrei, we are given the means by which we can avoid great harm and we have the opportunity to take an active part in the birth of the New Civilization.

Remember, the Light sent through Johrei is Divine Energy. It is the spiritual force of this Light that disperses the clouds accumulated on the spiritual body, replacing disease and misery with genuine health and happiness.

During the Age of Darkness, the spirit of water was most predominant in our world. This can be seen in the ebb and flow of the tide of events, the fluctuations from war to peace to war again, from hardship to prosperity and back to want.

Now, the spirit of fire is increasing in intensity in the spiritual realm, through the release of God's Light for the Daylight Age. The teachings of Sekai Kyusei Kyo reveal the truth about this action, and Johrei brings the Light to those who seek it.

The spirit of fire heals; this has already been mentioned. But also, as it increases in power, it hastens the purification process by accelerating the various eliminative and corrective actions. As its intensity becomes greater, the majority of people may become subject to increasingly severe purifications. The cleansing spirit of fire will purge

their systems, removing the toxins, both natal and acquired, if they have sought to be prepared for the New Civilization.

During the Age of Night, the purification processes were almost totally arrested and toxins were hardened as a result. They usually remained in the body for many years, often for an entire lifetime. Whenever there was an attempt on the part of Nature to clear the system of its poisons, various suppressive methods caused an apparent recovery, so they were relied on more and more in the mistaken conviction that they restored an individual to health.

Now, with the intensification of spiritual energy, the solidified toxins are dissolving more quickly. The increase in the speed with which they are dissolved indicates the general acceleration of the purification process. It will become more difficult for toxins of any kind to solidify in the body as the Age of Light draws closer. There are far more individuals with familiar diseases than there were only a few years ago, and there are many new diseases appearing. Again, these are indications of the growing severity of the purification process.

When we consider these things we begin to realize the tremendous significance they have, for, they are indeed the signs of the turning. No one can say when the old cycle of the Age of Darkness will be completely ended, giving an exact date, nor can anyone say when the Age of Light will have become totally established. There are many signs, however, that it will be in the not-too-distant future. One strong indication is that those who are giving Johrei are noticing a stronger effect on those who are receiving it.

We believe this shows the increase in the intensity of the spirit of fire in the spiritual realm, and, consequently, the approach of the true Light Age in the physical world. Without this understanding, the basic principles of our movement and the purpose of Johrei could hardly be appreciated. Those who do understand can perceive the future of the world and experience its many changes with real serenity.

## **SEEK THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD – THE DAY OF JUDGMENT APPROACHES (12)**

Jesus spoke about the Day of Judgment\* and the advent of the Kingdom of Heaven, and urged people to express repentance. However, it seems that few of them realized there could be a deeper meaning to this warning, probably because the time was premature. It still was the Age of Night.

We can think of Jesus' referring to the Day of Judgment as indicating the purification of the Age of Night, and the Kingdom of Heaven as indicating the coming Daylight Age. The long, dark period, symbolized by the night, would be followed by a glorious day filled with Light – an age of true happiness where humanity will be freed from all negativity and suffering.

Earnest seekers can readily accept this, but those who have not thought deeply about spiritual matters might find a further explanation of the great change helpful.

The turning of night into day is continually moving forward in the highest part of the spiritual realm, where God develops the Plan. It is then projected to the spiritual world at large, and will soon be reflected in all parts of the physical planet.

The first stage of the great change had its inception in the spiritual realm in 1881, and the next important step began in 1931. The last stage of this change from night to day will take place on the physical plane, ushering in the time of major upheaval. It will be the cleansing action for the entire planet, and it is rapidly approaching. In short, the world is standing on the threshold of the great New Dawn.

During the Age of Night, the spirit of water was the active ruling force and the spirit of fire was a lesser power. In the Age of Light, this will be reversed and the spirit of fire will become the greater force, changing darkness into light as it intensifies.

If this were the only change taking place in the spiritual realm, there would be no cause for concern on our part. But the change in power, we are told, will be manifested on the physical plane with a material change beyond human imagination. A period of great destruction and then reconstruction such as humanity has never experienced before will come to pass.

With the intensification of the power of the spirit of fire, all purificatory activities also will increase in strength. One effect of this will be a sharper distinction between good and evil, right and wrong, which will extend itself throughout the world.

Since disease is a purifying activity caused by the spirit of fire, those who have more clouds on the spiritual body and toxins in the physical body will naturally have to suffer more severely as the change progresses.

Until the acceleration of the power of the spirit of fire, purification was frequently mild and not too dangerous in many cases. At the end of this Age, however, disease will become a tremendous purifying activity, appearing abruptly and spreading rapidly. If it strikes in two or three forms at one time – such as headache, coughing, and diarrhea – the life of the body will probably not be threatened. But if it comes in seven or eight forms all at once, the individual may not have the physical or spiritual stamina to withstand such an ordeal.

The end of the Age will be a frightening experience for those who are not prepared, but humankind must face this manner of drastic purification if civilization is to be saved. Jesus implied this in warning us of the Day of Judgment, but most people have not fully realized the importance of those words.

Now that the crucial moment is at hand, we are shown for the first time the nature of events to come. Not only will the great purification take place on an individual level, but on a cosmic level as well. The only way to pass through this period safely is, first of all, for God's Divine Light to purify our spiritual clouds. This is the warning God is giving to humanity. Our lives rest in God's Hands, Whose great Love wishes to save as many of us as possible.

We can be most strengthened and prepared for the huge tests soon to come by receiving sufficient spiritual purification through God's priceless Gift of the Divine Light. I pray and hope you have read my words with an open mind and will think seriously about them, because the protection is here if you will simply accept it.

\* Jesus makes specific reference to the Day of Judgment in Matthew 10-12.

## **WHAT IS THE DAY OF JUDGMENT? (13)**

Jesus warned humanity about a time of great tribulation to come, but did not mention when it would occur or in what way it would transpire. It has been an enigma through the centuries. What it might be is particularly important for me to discuss now, because God has revealed to me that its time is nearing.

The phrase "Day of Judgment" is often associated with Christianity. According to our teachings this is the period when the Age of Night changes into the Age of Day. During it a great, worldwide purification will take place. The change has already begun and is increasing in intensity. It is being made in three steps: first, it was started in the innermost part of the spiritual realm; second, it was then projected to the spiritual world at large; third, it is now being reflected in the physical plane. When this step is fully completed, the world will be transformed into the new era of Light. The change is gradual, of course, but every day it is inevitably moving forward, step by step.

As the spiritual world becomes brighter, purification will become more severe and simultaneously the effects of Johrei will be more pronounced. Our members can tell by comparison with previous Johrei practice that already people are responding more quickly to Johrei, and that the results are greater than they were in the very beginning of our activities.

Human society and the world in general will change more noticeably as the purification becomes more severe. According to the governing spiritual law, those who are not pure in spirit will gradually weaken while those who are will thrive, in proportion to the extent of purification in the spiritual realm. Good and evil will finally be clearly defined, and no one will be able to resist the power of Nature as the Light grows in intensity.

With the force of the spirit of fire on the increase, Light will flood all darkened areas and everything previously kept hidden or secret will be revealed. The degree of spiritual purification and physical stamina will determine survival during this important turn of events. Individuals who have accumulated too many clouds on the spiritual body or have too many toxins in the physical body will not be able to endure the power of the Light. The Day of Judgment will

indeed be terrible for these, but others can anticipate its completion with joy.

From now on, we cannot be at ease unless we purify ourselves enough to withstand the increasing intensity of the Light. We must realize that the purpose of our Johrei movement is not the healing of the physical body in itself. The purpose is to remove the clouds from the spiritual body by use of the Divine Light, sent through the Love of God to make us ready for this trying time.

## **AURA AND RADIATION (14)**

Every human being has an aura. It is a kind of light that emanates from the spiritual body and radiates in all directions through the physical body. This spiritual aura can be seen in varying degrees of brilliance and strength by clairvoyant individuals. It is usually observed as white, but sometimes has a yellowish hue, sometimes a violet tone.

The way to happiness lies in continuously endeavoring to expand one's aura. The question is, how? To answer that, it is first necessary to know the aura's nature and essence.

The auras of individuals differ greatly in width. The person who is in average physical condition has an aura about 1.2 inches wide [approx. 3 cm]. The aura of a sick person is narrow, and if his or her condition worsens it becomes narrower still. At the moment of death, the entire aura disappears. The expression "the shadow of death upon the face" refers to the impression one receives from a person whose last moment is approaching, because that person's aura is exceedingly narrow and is becoming weaker and weaker as it prepares to disappear altogether.

Conversely, the aura of a healthy individual is wide, and when he or she is of fine character it will be even broader and brighter. Wider still is the aura of a person of major spiritual development. That of a saint is indeed a light of great radiance and beauty.

The width and intensity of any aura are not permanently fixed. They vary with each moment according to the thoughts and actions of the individual. A person who lives virtuously and works for justice has an aura that is wider than the average. One whose actions are to the contrary has an aura narrower than most.

As I mentioned before, there are a few individuals who can perceive the radiation of the aura. However, although it is invisible to the average person, even one with ordinary vision can become aware of it to some extent through concentration and by training the sight to focus on it.

Many individuals who suffer ill-fortune believe they were born under an unlucky star and so resign themselves to what they consider a hopeless condition. They have no knowledge of the aura and its powers, for, the width of the aura influences both their welfare and their affairs. The wider one's aura, the happier and more successful is that

person; the narrower one's aura, the unhappier that individual feels and the more problems he or she is likely to encounter.

A very wide aura can envelop those who come within the scope of its radiance. Individuals with such an aura are well-meaning and give a great impression of warmth and pleasant feeling to those with whom they come in contact. Consequently, they attract many people.

By contrast, individuals with a narrow aura will give an impression of coldness, so those who come in contact with them will feel uncomfortable in their presence and will not want to stay near them.

Each thought and deed creates a radiation that is either positive or negative, so, the width and brilliance of the aura is proportionate to the amount of positive or negative traits in the individual.

When a person's thoughts and deeds are constructive, the inner being is at peace and in this happy state emanates a greater light. When someone does something to help another, that person's gratitude forms light, which is transmitted to the helpful one through the spiritual cord. This increases both the width and the intensity of the latter's aura.

When individuals express destructive thoughts or actions, they form clouds that darken the spiritual body. Also, when people generate feelings of hatred, jealousy or envy in others because of their words or deeds, these too reflect upon their spiritual bodies, causing their auras to darken and become narrow.

Occasionally we hear of people who have attained sudden success or have gained riches quickly, only to become failures later. Such individuals are apt to attribute their success to their own abilities, talents and efforts; so, they become conceited and arrogant, selfish and opinionated. Being completely self-indulgent, they live in wasteful luxury and usually incur thoughts of jealousy and hatred from most of the people with whom they come in contact. Their own attitudes and actions, and the resentments they arouse in others, cause their auras to dim and to narrow, until finally they are ruined.

Sometimes we see families of nobility or wealth for generations eventually decline. The cause is the same. Those who are members of the upper classes enjoy greater

comforts than do average people. For being so privileged, they should show gratitude by helping others. That is, they should try in every way possible to help lift the loads of those less fortunate. Thus, they would dissipate the clouds formed by their selfishness and by the antagonism others feel toward them.

We should maintain beneficent attitudes and try to make others happy at all times. Unfortunately, too many people only think of their personal interests and show very little if any concern for the good of others. Because of this attitude, although they may be outwardly prosperous they are spiritually the poorest of the poor. Since by universal law the spiritual cause precedes the physical manifestation, it is natural that they should eventually fail in their material lives.

Tokyo was hit by a big earthquake in 1923, and was totally devastated by it and the ensuing fire. Shortly before that, a friend of mine with the gift of clairvoyance told me that all the tall buildings and beautiful houses in the town looked like small, poor shacks. After the earthquake hit Tokyo, it became a reality, and I was surprised by the accuracy of his prediction. This shows that whatever happens in this world first occurs in the spiritual world, according to the law of the spiritual preceding the physical.

Another thing I wish to emphasize is this: the narrower an individual's aura is at the start, the more certain he or she is to fail in whatever is undertaken. Because of the clouds already accumulated on the spiritual body, the person's brain tends to be dull and is unable to form the right judgments. Consequently, such people spend their time dreaming of success and becoming impatient if their dreams do not come true immediately. They may progress in a small way temporarily, but in the long run will certainly fail.

If a country is poorly administered, it is an indication that the administrators have narrow auras. It also indicates that the people themselves have narrow auras, for, if theirs were wide and clear they would not elect, nor would they allow, individuals with such auras to be in power.

Like attracts like, so, it is inevitable that people who have many clouds on their spiritual bodies will undergo more purifications than those who have only a few. They will become ill quite easily and may be accident-prone.

If there is a traffic accident and an individual is injured, that person's aura is narrow. One with a truly wide aura usually escapes danger. When an individual is on the point of being hit by a vehicle, the vehicle's spiritual body may injure the spiritual body of a person with a narrow aura, but one with a wide aura has a sort of elastic force which protects the person. He or she may be sent flying, but will often emerge without a scratch.

I wish to remind those who are giving Johrei that the wider their auras are the better the results will be, because the Divine Light then flows more freely. Also, since this is a two-way principle, the more people they help through Johrei, the wider and more radiant their auras become. This is due partly to giving this service and partly to the gratitude received from those who have benefited through it.

## THE SPIRITUAL CORD (15)

Many people seem to be unfamiliar with the term "spiritual cord." While the spiritual cord is invisible, being of exceedingly fine texture – finer than atmosphere – its role and influence in life are so great it cannot be lightly regarded. The cord is the conveyer of life-supporting energies, and it influences the fate of human beings and even the world's destiny at large. Therefore, we should come to know its significance more fully.

Before going into detail, I wish to point out that the concept of the spiritual cord is scientific as well as religious. In the future, it will be a subject of much study. All interactions concerning people individually and society in general are related to the spiritual cord.

Let me explain first the relationship of the individual to other individuals through his/her and their spiritual cords. Suppose, for example, we consider your own. There are innumerable invisible cords connecting you with the people around you – hundreds, thousands of them. Some are wide and some are narrow, some are strong and some are weak, some are bright and some are dull. Each one exerts a constant influence on you to a certain degree, for, various vibratory energies are exchanged through these cords between you and the people with whom you are connected.

In personal relationships, the largest cord is the one between husband and wife. Next in size comes the cord between parent and child, after that the cords between brother and sister, then the cords between relatives – aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins – then those between friends, and last, those between acquaintances. Expressions such as "cords of love" and "to bind the cord of a relationship" have no doubt originated from the recognition of this invisible tie.

The spiritual cord is changeable, sometimes growing larger and stronger, sometimes becoming smaller and weaker. When all is harmonious between husband and wife and they are living together happily, the spiritual cord is very large and luminous. If there is discord and quarreling between them, the cord becomes smaller and smaller, losing luminosity as it shrinks. The same thing can be said about the spiritual cords connecting parents and children, brothers and sisters, and all other relatives.

New cords are formed when new friends are gained or new acquaintances are made. An especially strong spiritual cord is formed when two individuals fall in love, and when that love reaches its greatest degree, the cord becomes exceedingly large. Through it alternating currents of sentiment flow strongly between the two lovers. This creates a subtle and happy sensation, and a kind of longing or yearning goes back and forth until the spiritual cord is of the utmost strength and size. It is then when lovers become so close they feel they are indeed one and can no longer be apart. At this point, if relatives, friends or anyone else tries to separate them for any reason, the attempt only draws them closer together.

Romantic love between two individuals is analogous to the positive and negative poles of electric power, with the spiritual cord acting as the conduit.

In a parent-child relationship abounding in mutual love, the children reflect many of the adults' characteristics through the spiritual cords. For this reason, if people expect their children to be good they must first be good themselves. If they have not set a proper example, admonishing the young ones for bad behavior will have little or no effect.

Sometimes, seemingly wonderful individuals produce a very delinquent child and we wonder why this happens. Often it is because the apparently fine parents have excessive clouds on their spiritual bodies and these are reflecting through the spiritual cords onto their offspring.

Again, we find two children of widely different character in the same family. There are two possible reasons for this situation. It may be because the divine nature of the parents' character reflects in the good child, and the lower nature reflects in the delinquent child.

In another instance, one of the children in a rich family, where the parents have accumulated ill-gotten wealth, may turn out to be a "prodigal child." This is caused by the spirits of the family's forebears, who, through the spiritual cords, are making one of the children use up the money until all of the fortune is gone.

They know that according to the Divine Law the family cannot prosper in the true sense of the word as long as it possesses this ill-gotten wealth. From the spiritual point of view, therefore, the child chosen to be prodigal is really playing a wonderful part, for, the child is saving the family.

One should sympathize with the child for the wrong thoughts directed toward him or her by people who consider the child merely a profligate squandering the family fortune.

Individuals' spiritual cords differ in number according to their positions and activities. For instance, the head of a family or organization has more cords than the other members. A family head has connecting cords with each member of the family; the head of an organization, with employees, business associates, friends and acquaintances. Public figures, such as mayors, senators, governors, etc., have many cords connecting them with the people in their charge or with those they represent. The higher their rank, the larger the number of spiritual cords they have.

Needless to say, any leader should be a person of noble character. If the spiritual body is clouded, this condition reflects upon all who are connected with him or her and upon the thoughts of the public at large, having a demoralizing influence on everyone.

The head of any government should be a person of high character, someone of wisdom and benevolence, who will manage the affairs of the office with integrity. If the general trend of thought becomes corrupt and undisciplined, or if criminal activities are on the increase, the administration is responsible to a large degree.

Teachers especially should realize what an important influence they exert upon their students through the spiritual cords.

Founders of religions or orders, priests and ministers all have an exceedingly strong influence on members or devotees because they are held in such reverence and are looked up to with so much respect. These individuals should be more conscientious than anyone else. If they take advantage of their high positions and do something unworthy of their own teachings, their actions not only reflect on all their followers but sometimes result in the total disintegration of the organizations.

Spiritual cords not only connect people with other living individuals, but also with those who have passed on to the spiritual realm. In the spiritual world, there are both righteous, good spirits and corrupt, bad spirits. Working through the cords, the good spirits encourage virtue while the evil spirits tempt wickedness. All human beings are continually influenced by either good or bad spirits.

Also, everyone has a guardian spirit. This is one of the ancestors selected to protect and guide its descendant by means of the spiritual cord. If an individual is unknowingly approaching danger, his or her guardian spirit will try to give some kind of warning.

Suppose a person plans on taking a certain train, but is prevented from reaching the station in time to catch it and is forced to take the next one instead. Later, the person learns that the missed train met with a bad accident.

Such an escape from trouble is caused by the activity of the guardian spirit. If it belongs to a higher plane, it has greater protecting power and can easily foresee any possible disaster threatening the individual in its charge. It can then try to warn him or her of the danger in advance.

The difference between the spiritual cords of divine spirits and those of human individuals is that those of divine spirits are exceedingly luminous. On the other hand, the cords of human beings of noble character are lustrous white, those of more ordinary individuals tend to be grayish-white, lacking luster, and the cords of wicked people are blackish.

There is a saying, "Those who touch pitch shall be defiled therewith." Everyone should be careful in choosing friends and companions, since their own vibrations are conveyed through all the connecting spiritual cords.

Even among the divine spirits there are higher and lower beings, and therefore there are differences in the degree of their power. The more intense their light and luminous their spiritual cords, the greater are the benefits that can be received from them.

Some people worship low-level spirits without knowing these spirits are influencing them toward evil. They become more and more unfortunate because of the clouds they are receiving from the negative spirits. So, everyone should be on guard, not only in choosing friends but also in choosing who, or what, to worship.

The Light from God is the most powerful of all, of course, and the benefits realized by worshiping God are tremendous. The primary object of worship should always be the Supreme Being, the Creator of all things.

I have explained the influences conveyed through the spiritual cords between human beings, and also through those that come from divine spirits and evil forces. In addition to all these, there are spiritual cords between

human beings and inanimate objects.

Each thing – clothes, jewelry, dwelling, furnishings, and articles in daily use – forms an individual spiritual cord with its owner. The more attached one becomes to an object, the larger the spiritual cord grows. The more highly one treasures it, the more strongly are vibrations conveyed through it.

I once read in a parapsychology magazine from America about a woman with some psychic ability. By looking at a certain object she could tell its owner's features, age, and even recent actions. As she gazed at it, she could see those things impressed on it like a photograph. These were the vibrations imprinted on the object through the spiritual cords.

The qualities of all cords and the vibratory influences conveyed through them are indeed subtle and wonderful.

## THE REASONS FOR MIRACLES (16)

The word "miracle" usually indicates a wondrous event that seems to transcend natural law. It is not an everyday occurrence or something that can be explained in ordinary terms.

Actually, everything that happens is made possible by Divine Law. The idea of "impossibility" is in itself an illusion, based on a superficial interpretation of natural phenomena. When something happens that does not seem to be in accord with their ideas of the laws of Nature, individuals who think materialistically look on it as an aberration, or perhaps even fabricated.

But to many people who see something happening considered humanly impossible, or who have an experience totally beyond their comprehension, it is a "miraculous" event. In other words, the event transcends human knowledge of natural laws, such as some of the occurrences experienced by believers in Johrei.

One reported that a child who had fallen from a high cliff was found to be quite safe and unharmed. Another told of a collision between a bicycle and an automobile, in which the cyclist was uninjured and there was no damage to the bicycle. A man who missed his train and had to take the next one found he had escaped possible disaster, since the train he missed had gone off the tracks and overturned. Another believer used Johrei on a burglar, causing him to run away. Still another had the experience of having some stolen possessions returned to him. Several others reported the power of Johrei had saved their homes from burning by changing the direction of the wind.

Many of our members have experienced or witnessed miracles such as these. How can they happen? *Their reasons lie in the spiritual realm.*

There are actually two types of miracles, one produced through the person involved, the second kind coming from other sources. I will begin by explaining the first type.

Every human being has an aura, which emanates from the spiritual body and radiates through the physical body. Invisible to the average person, the aura is a whitish, misty light enveloping the physical body. Each aura differs in width according to the degree of purity of the individual's spiritual body – the more pure the spirit, the wider the aura.

As I have explained before, there is a spiritual reason for escaping from accidents. For instance, the spirit of an automobile (*everything* has a spirit) cannot hit an individual with a wide aura because of the strength of that person's aura. The physical automobile will turn aside and the individual will be safe. If a person with a wide aura falls from a height that might normally result in a injury, even though his or her body strikes against some projection or actually hits the ground, likely the person will be protected by the aura and be unharmed, landing gently and safely.

Buildings also have auras. If the head of a family occupying a house is a virtuous, good person, the aura of the house is wide. In the event of a fire, the spirit of the flames is less likely to touch the house because its aura protects it.

There are some exceptions, when houses owned by good, virtuous people may be burned to the ground. There is a profound spiritual meaning behind these events, which the people involved may possibly understand later. While such cases are rare, they are sometimes necessary for the fulfillment of God's Plan.

I now wish to explain the second kind of miracles, which are those caused by spiritual intervention.

A human being has three spirits: a primary spirit, a secondary spirit and a guardian spirit. \* In times of danger, the guardian spirit gives special help to the individual in its charge, perhaps even informing him or her in a dream of something important happening in the future.

Sometimes, for an individual who has a special mission, one of the divine spirits extends help in place of the guardian spirit. For instance, if the person is riding on a train that is about to collide with another train, a divine spirit may protect him or her by causing both trains to stop, preventing the crash even at the last moment. A divine spirit knows everything. Wherever it might be, even thousands of miles away, it can reach a spot instantaneously and save a person in danger.

As you see, a miracle of either kind does not take place through mere happenstance, but occurs for very good and valid reasons. When you come to fully understand this, you will know that miracles are neither unusual nor strange. Since I started on this spiritual path, miracles have become normal events to me, so I feel peculiar when I am not

experiencing any. For instance, once in a while I encounter a difficult problem whose solution seems to be prolonged. I then say to myself, "It is time for a miracle to happen," and wait. I am soon blessed with that miracle and the problem is solved. This often happens to me. I am sure those of you who have deep faith and spiritual understanding and who have done a lot of good for others have often had similar experiences.

If we think good thoughts, perform good deeds, live virtuously, and constantly make efforts to remove clouds so our auras will expand, we should not be concerned about accidents or other misfortunes.

Those who have wider auras give a warm feeling to, and endear, all who come in contact with them. They are the ones who attract others. Naturally, many people gather around them, their work goes smoothly, and they make constant progress.

\* For a more extensive explanation by Meishu-sama of the three spirits, please refer to "The Three Spirits," article 31 in Volume Two, and other articles.

## **THE VIBRATORY POWER OF SPEECH (17)**

Wonderful results can be experienced through prayer. When a person is seriously ill and in pain, in danger, or faced with some other difficulty, our members often chant the Amatsu Norito prayer aloud. \* The person in difficulty is relieved, sometimes so miraculously he or she wonders how it could have happened. There is a definite reason for this action.

It is the vibratory power of speech that causes such a seeming miracle. The universe is filled with ether, in which seventy-five great, basic sounds, with all their variations or different frequency rates, are in continual vibratory motion. These are the soundless sounds and voiceless voices filling the ether, which human ears cannot hear. This ether is called the spiritual realm of speech. By means of its frequencies all things in the universe come into existence, and they in turn emit certain wavelengths of sound.

The human ear is equipped to hear only the sounds that fall within its limited range. The words we utter are impressed upon the ether that surrounds us, creating vibrations that influence the spiritual realm. Noble or positive words emit high vibrations, which diminish the clouds in the spiritual world, while ugly or negative words emit low vibrations, which increase the clouds.

There is a specific order to the arrangement of the great, basic sounds in the spiritual realm of speech. The wavelengths of the words that convey good and loving thoughts are in attunement with this order and with the Law of Truth, Virtue and Beauty. They are pleasing to the human ear because they penetrate the mind and contact the soul, the center of awareness. Conversely, bad and hateful words do not reach the soul but stop at the mind.

The secondary spirit, which is of an animal nature, can possess the mind and stay there, but cannot enter the soul. The denser the clouds are that surround the mind, the stronger, and consequently more active, the secondary spirit becomes.

When this condition exists, the clouds and the secondary spirit cover the light of the soul, the voice of conscience becomes weak, and the individual begins to take delight in doing wrong.

Most people are pleased at hearing something good. Because the vibrations released are of an uplifting nature, they cause a pleasant reaction within the spiritual being.

When people enjoy hearing ugly or negative words, it is because their secondary spirits like the low vibrations the words emit. For instance, if good people were to overhear some evildoers intent on making vicious plans, their conversation would sound so unpleasant the listeners would hardly be able to hear it; yet, it would be pleasing to those speaking.

When benevolent words reach the innermost part of the spiritual body, the primary spirit takes on greater radiance, which begins to dissipate the clouds surrounding the soul. This then causes the power of the secondary spirit to diminish. As it does so, the primary spirit gains more power and becomes predominant, causing the individual to develop a greater dislike for words with a low vibration.

When the Amatsu Norito prayer is chanted, the powerful vibrations emitted by the words weaken the secondary spirits within those who are chanting and also in those who are listening. If an evil spirit is in possession of one of the listeners, torturing that person's body, the spirit will have to leave. It will be unable to withstand the high vibratory force of the prayer.

When clouds surrounding an individual's mind are diminished or dissolved, the physical body is freed from the suffering accordingly.

The vibratory power of rightly-chosen words is tremendous. Thus, when the Amatsu Norito is spoken aloud, the surrounding spiritual world becomes much more purified. Also effective in this way are the Lord's Prayer, quoting from the Bible, singing hymns and chanting holy words, though their rates of vibratory strength vary. Were it not for these good words of high vibratory rate, there would be far more clouds accumulating all over the world, causing even more disasters than we experience today.

There is another important point to mention in regard to the power of words. It is not only the vibrations of the words themselves that determine their effect, but also the degree of purity of the spiritual being uttering them. The purer the soul, the more powerful will be the vibrational waves emitted by the words that are uttered.

Therefore, we must always do our utmost to raise our vibrations to a higher plane so our words will have greater power.

\* The Amatsu Norito, literally translated, means "the prayer of Heaven." It is an ancient Japanese prayer, used since the earliest days of Japan's recorded history. Because of the way it combines sounds and syllables, the Amatsu Norito carries a very high and powerful vibration. For this reason, Meishu-sama used it in services in Japan, and now it is generally used in the services of his spiritual movement all over the world.

## CLIMATE AND WEATHER (18)

So many people are accustomed to accepting scientific explanations of all natural phenomena that it may not be easy to convince them of the truth. However, as with other truths, the spiritual explanation of climate and weather was revealed to me by God, so I am presenting it to you and want you to accept it as truth.

To state it simply, the extreme changes of climate and weather are all manmade.

Besides the various conditions and events in our physical world, which we are aware of through our five senses, there are phenomena in the invisible spiritual realm that affect the physical world.

The year is divided into four seasons, with the climate varying from the cold of winter to the heat of summer and changing in extent according to location. This is a natural occurrence, so the change of seasons should come smoothly and easily according to the transition of time.

Sometimes, though, there is an extreme change of temperature. It is caused by human thoughts, which are reflected in the spiritual realm. For instance, if the majority of the people in an area entertain righteous and peaceful thoughts, the climate will be mild and normal. But if a large percentage become extreme in their thinking and their attitudes lack the warmth of love, they reflect on the weather, making it colder than it would naturally be for that particular season.

On the other hand, if the majority of people in an area become excited and emotionally unbalanced, the weather tends to become hotter than it should be. Also, if many people hold harmful thoughts, become complaining, discontented, resentful, or give way to despair, this will be reflected in the spiritual realm and will produce a murky atmosphere in the physical world.

Human speech also has great influence on climate and weather. Words that express negativity – lies, complaints, grumbling, abuses, etc. – form clouds in the spiritual realm.

I once had a friend who could see the spiritual vibrations of words. He said that when loving words were spoken he could see a bright, whitish light coming from the speaker's mouth, and when hateful words were uttered he could see something that looked like black soot being emitted.

This soot-like substance adds clouds to the spiritual realm. When they increase to a certain point, purification automatically occurs and disperses the clouds. This is a law of Nature at work.

The natural purification of a large area may come in one of several forms. Heavy rains, typhoons, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and fires are all forms of purification. They are the means Nature employs to cleanse the physical world, blowing or washing away the spiritual clouds from the world, just like we sweep away dust and dirt from inside our homes. By observing this behavior of Nature we can understand how the purification process occurs within the human body.

The same natural laws apply throughout creation. When we reach an understanding of these laws, we realize that we have to be careful of our thoughts and words, and we begin to comprehend the wonders of Nature and the wisdom of God, Who governs it through God's immutable, self-regulatory Law.

## **DISASTERS AND THE LAW OF PURIFICATION (19)**

Since ancient times disasters caused by fire, wind, water, war, famine and disease have been referred to as great calamities. Let us consider their deeper meaning.

Where impurities accumulate as clouds in the invisible spiritual realm, physical purification must occur according to the great laws of the universe. The purposes of fire, wind and water are to act as natural purifiers of the earth and of the sky. The fires cleanse, the winds blow, and the rains wash away the impurities.

This is the reason storms occur. What causes the spiritual clouds that activate the storms? Human thoughts and words form them. Negative, harmful thoughts – of discontent, hatred, jealousy, selfishness, resentment, falseness, and vengefulness – form clouds and make the spiritual realm murky and dark. Malevolent spoken words – angry, abusive, condemning, deceitful – form clouds and dim the spiritual realm of speech, which is next in power to the spiritual realm of thought.

When the accumulation of clouds reaches a certain magnitude, Nature sets its own laws into action and purification begins as it works to bring everything back into a harmonious condition. If left alone to accumulate still more, the negative vibrations formed would be extremely harmful to human life and welfare, as well as affecting the health of trees, vegetation, and especially of crops.

If the people continue thinking and talking negatively, the dissipated clouds are simply replaced by new ones, the condition returns and purification remains necessary.

The spiritual clouds cause people to be ill and poor, and open the way for noxious insects and germs to gather and propagate on crops and vegetation.

Besides terrible natural disasters, there are also manmade ones, the most destructive of which is war. War is a mass conflict. To date, humankind seems to prefer conflict to peace. This applies not only to international relations but also within nations, in almost every field of human contact – in government, in industry, in associations of every kind. There seems to be a constant, covert animosity between individuals, who often criticize or denounce one another.

We often find conflict between husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, as well as

between friends and acquaintances. Indeed, there is almost universal discord among human beings. Even on the street, in buses, trains, automobiles, and on the sidewalks, we frequently notice people arguing with one another. Observing these things, we must realize discord and conflict fill a large part of our lives.

Everyone has some clouds on the spiritual body. There are two reasons for the forming of these clouds. One is wrong thoughts, words and acts. The second is the introduction of foreign substances into the physical body, making the blood impure and depriving it of its spiritual energy; for, blood is the materialized form of spirit.

When impure substances increase in the blood, the spiritual vibration is affected and clouds are formed. These manifest as toxins in the physical body, particularly in its nerve centers, the most active of which are in the areas above the neck. The brains, the eyes, the nose, the mouth and the ears, all in the head, have nerves serving them, which function without a moment's rest during the conscious periods. Consequently, it is only natural that clouds and toxins gather most heavily around these nerve centers and cause tension in the neck and shoulders – a complaint common to many people.

The accumulation of toxins solidifies, then dissolves in a reverse action when it has reached a certain amount. We call this action purification. It is often accompanied by fever, which liquefies toxins and makes their elimination easier.

A slight fever in the head or in the shoulders may cause pain, a feeling of heaviness or tension, watering of the eyes, running of the nose, or ringing in the ears. A cold or the flu is one of the main forms of natural purification, eliminating toxins and at the same time dissolving clouds through discharge of nasal mucous, phlegm, perspiration, and so on.

Many individuals experience this form of purification over a long period of time, but to such a slight degree that they scarcely notice it. While they often think that they are in very good condition, they are actually not completely healthy.

It is this general feeling of discomfort that tends to make people irritable or quick-tempered. It can easily lead to anger, conflict, and sometimes to a collective action that, under certain circumstances, culminates in war.

Most individuals have doubtlessly had the experience, when they were not feeling their best, of flaring up at a mere chance remark that would not have disturbed them in the least had they been well and happy. The way to eradicate humanity's strife-consciousness is to eliminate this primary indisposition.

Some babies are peevish and cry often. They invariably have fever in the head and shoulders, and many have stiffness in the shoulders. When Johrei is given to these infants, the fever quickly disappears, all tension is relieved and the crying stops.

Children who are quick-tempered, disobedient or stubborn also have fever and tension in the head and around the shoulders. Johrei easily corrects such conditions and makes the children amiable, obedient and cooperative. They also become better students when in school.

Often quarrels between husbands and wives have the same cause. Johrei changes them and so makes their homes happier and more harmonious.

Ill-will and class- and rank-consciousness, which give rise to social struggles and destructive ideologies, originate in the indisposition of the individuals involved. Also, some people tend to seek strong stimulants or excitement as an outlet, without knowing the cause of their restlessness. This results in bad habits and bad conduct, such as alcoholism, immorality, crimes and indolence. In every age, materialistic exploiters with selfish ambitions have taken advantage of this situation, increasing the discontent of the people to the extent of stirring up war or causing social and political upheavals.

All of this has been revealed to me by God. If we wish to bring about everlasting Paradise on Earth, all of us must first cleanse our spiritual bodies and so bring our physical bodies and minds to a state of true health. When this is accomplished, everyone will come to dislike conflict and will become peace-loving and altruistic.

As you see, the fundamental cause of all conflict is the accumulation of toxins, which are the manifestation of clouds on the spiritual body; and it is these that the purification process disperses. The human race can be freed from conflict by the total elimination of this condition.

When we learn the Law of Purification, we see that it is a Divine Law working everywhere without exception. Natural purification must inevitably occur where impurities collect.

When human action is not what it should be, the impurities connected with material structures – buildings and, on a larger scale, cities, states and nations – are destined to be eliminated some day, probably by disasters and calamities. Few structures can escape this purification because the money used in their construction and the thoughts and actions of their occupants are not free from clouds. Everywhere, the sustaining vibratory energies have been dangerously lowered through actions motivated by greed and exploitation.

The greatest and the most terrible purifications come through war. Such a disaster, and other general disasters, can be prevented by the Divine Light of God. It is for this purpose that the Direct Light of God has now been sent to humankind, at the dawn of the Daylight Age.

Since our world is made up of individuals, each one must become fine and noble in character, to be freed from clouds spiritually and from toxins physically, so a severe general purification is unnecessary.

Johrei brings this about. It occurs not just in theory, but in practice. To understand the effectiveness of Johrei, the tangible, visible results need only be observed.

This Divine Law at work proves that the time is approaching for Paradise on Earth to become an actuality.

## **A SPIRITUAL EXPLANATION OF FIRES (20)**

How and why does a fire break out? There is usually an obvious physical reason. Often it is caused by someone's thoughtless act: a match or cigarette carelessly thrown away, a heater dangerously placed, or some similar action. Still, always there is also a spiritual reason behind a fire. It is enlightening to learn the cause from the spiritual point of view.

Disease is Nature's attempt to purify the body. When an individual's accumulation of spiritual clouds (and physical toxins) has reached a certain point, an eliminating activity starts because the clouds and toxins are beginning to hinder the proper functioning of the organs. This is purification of the spiritual body manifesting itself in a cleansing action in the physical body, an action without which health cannot be maintained. A purification, therefore, is a great blessing that occurs in accordance with the natural laws established by God.

To refer to disease while speaking of fires may seem odd, but the cause of disease and that of fires are one and the same. A fire is also a form of purification.

The same holds true for a storm of any type. When the spiritual world becomes over-clouded with the accumulated impurities from the negative thoughts, words and deeds of human beings, it is purified by means of some kind of storm. Although this may not be fully understandable to the human mind, it is the way in which the spiritual world is purified.

The body is purified by disease. The atmosphere surrounding the Earth is purified by storms. The buildings on Earth must be purified as well; so, when their spiritual clouds accumulate and reach a certain magnitude, fires break out. The impurities of buildings are primarily due to the ill-gotten money used in acquiring them, and to the destructive thoughts, words and deeds of the people who occupy them.

In the big fire that devastated Atami recently [April 1950], the building then being used as the temporary Mother Church was surrounded by flames, but it did not burn. It was saved because it was comparatively free from spiritual clouds.

A person with the gift of clairvoyance once told me that, while walking on the streets of Tokyo, to his psychic eye the

large buildings and beautiful houses in Tokyo looked like broken-down shacks or army barracks, and squalid cottages; and he wondered why this was so. It was a few years before the great earthquake of 1923. When the earthquake and its resulting fire hit the area, the combined forces burned down most of the buildings in Tokyo and its vicinity. While standing among the destroyed houses, this clairvoyant person remembered the scene he had envisioned a few years before, realized it looked exactly as the one he was then witnessing before his eyes, and he understood the meaning of his former vision.

It is true that everything taking place in this world first occurs in the spiritual realm. According to the Law of Order, first the spiritual realm is purified and then the purification is reflected on the physical plane.

Although we should make every effort to fireproof our buildings and prevent or contain fires by improving our fire prevention methods, it is still more important that we try to keep our buildings spiritually pure. By so doing, we create a sort of spiritual fireproofing. When all the inhabitants are awakened to this truth and do their parts, our cities will become really fireproofed and will not be devastated by flames.

In the larger cities of the Western nations, many buildings are made of non-inflammable materials; yet, these so-called fireproof structures are sometimes gutted by fire. Is there not a spiritual principle behind this action?

The Universal Laws of God cannot be violated with impunity, regardless of whether or not we are aware of their existence.

## THE ART OF TRUTH, BEAUTY AND GOODNESS (21)

Paradise may be called a world of art. Truly fine painting, sculpture, literature, music and other forms of art and entertainment will flourish in the Daylight Age. Not only these, but all phases of living should be equally artistic, for, art is an essential part of life.

In essence, art must be based upon *truth, beauty and goodness*. This principle extends to the body also. Illness, whether physical, mental or spiritual, results when the art of living is violated. The channeling of the Divine Light, therefore, can truly be called an art. Health is the true state of being – the true condition of humanity.

Let us use any manmade item as an example. If it is damaged in any way, it loses its usefulness in ratio to the extent of that damage. That is, it can no longer function as its maker originally intended. The item must be repaired in order for it to serve its full purpose once more.

Similarly, if someone cannot work or properly function as a human being because of illness, he or she is useless. That person also needs to be made whole and returned to the true state of complete health. It is Johrei, the Divine Light of God, that can accomplish this.

If people should lose the quality of *goodness* and do wicked things, they are no longer existing as a true human beings. They are worse than useless, because they have degraded themselves to a state where they are of harm to society and to themselves. As a result, the laws of society are set up to deny them the right to live free within it.

But the power of life and death is held in God's Hands. Individuals who disobey Divine Law bring suffering upon themselves in one way or another. They may fail in business, suffer from illness, or be harassed by poverty. In some cases, they may lose their lives.

There are two kinds of evil: that which is committed intentionally and that which is committed unintentionally. The penalty paid through suffering is proportionate to the degree of the evil committed and the motives behind it. The Divine Law is absolutely fair and impartial.

Beauty is the true essence of art, and while I will not spend time expounding it here, I will mention that we are constructing miniature paradises exemplifying the art of beauty as another important phase of our activities.

Still another activity is Nature Farming. \* The art of life, the art of beauty and the art of agriculture combined will result in a new civilization, an Age of Light, bringing the ideal world into manifestation.

The fundamental requisite for the transformation into Paradise on Earth is the embodiment of truth, virtue and beauty in every part of living.

\* The principle of Nature Farming advocated by Meishu-sama is described in Volume Five.

## **PARADISE IS A WORLD OF BEAUTY (22)**

God's Purpose is to create an ideal world where truth, virtue and beauty reign. Needless to say, the dark forces foster falsehood, vice and ugliness. Falsehood and vice are well-understood terms, but ugliness may need explaining.

One mistake commonly made is the tendency of spiritually-oriented people to live in ugliness side by side with truth and virtue, with many people admiring them all the more for it. Since ancient times, there have been numerous virtuous souls who have served their fellow human beings but have been content to live in squalor. If forced by circumstances, it cannot be helped that these individuals experience stark privation. But when it is not necessary and such an austere life is led by choice, it is not a good thing.

There have always been quite a number of religious who lead ascetic lives as a means of self-discipline. They themselves believe this is commendable, as do their followers and admirers. Such thinking, however, is erroneous. Beauty, the most important element, is neglected; and a life of truth and virtue without beauty is incomplete.

In view of God's Abundance, our foods, our houses and our apparel should be as wholesome, attractive and comfortable as circumstances permit. The inner life of each of us requires this because it is part of God's Plan. Beauty is necessary to the soul. As it brings joy and a sense of wholeness not only to yourself but to all who come in contact with it, it can be called a kind of virtue. The higher a civilization is, the more conscious it should be of the value of, and need for, beauty.

Consider the lives of barbaric people. Scarcely any trace of beauty is found in them. Thus, it might be said that the progress of a culture, in a way, is synonymous with its appreciation of beauty.

Beauty, orderliness and cleanliness should certainly prevail in the home. Not only the families occupying such houses but their guests, too, will feel uplifted. They will automatically feel respect for their hosts. The exterior of a house, if kept in good repair, clean and beautiful, though not necessarily expensive, will give pleasure to the passer-by.

Men and women alike should take care of their personal appearance so they are always attractive and dressed in good taste. Needless to say, women especially should try to be as lovely and charming as possible.

It is essential that everyone cultivate a greater sense of aesthetic values. By so doing, not only individuals but nations as a whole will benefit. Making beauty and its expressions in the various phases of life one of a person's main goals is a contribution of immeasurable value toward the betterment of society, which will certainly serve as a means of furthering the realization of Paradise on Earth. Beautiful environments make for beautiful thoughts, helping to place a person's mind on a higher plane. This, in turn, reduces crime and other negative actions in society.

I myself have loved the beautiful aspects of life since my youth. Even in those days when I was living in strained circumstances, I used to make small flower beds, draw or paint, visit museums and art exhibits as often as possible, and enjoy the loveliness of Nature, especially in spring and autumn.

Of course, I have now been blessed by God with the means to enjoy beauty to my heart's content. This in turn is contributing to our spiritual work. Outsiders sometimes criticize my way of living as extravagant. When compared to the lives of the founders of spiritual movements in olden times – those who spread their teachings while enduring all kinds of hardships and poverty – my life must indeed look extraordinary.

Now that the Daylight Age is dawning, ours is a work of salvation that can be carried forward while living in a heavenly state. This is an important point we should keep in mind. It must be realized that any teaching that aims at high ideals should maintain an awareness of beauty.

## **HEALTH IN ACCORD WITH THE LAW OF NATURE (23)**

Everything in the universe is born, grows, changes, unites with or separates from other things, prospers and declines, in accord with the law of Nature. Through this process, the world endlessly evolves and advances. Whatever looks unnatural or illogical in human eyes is in reality natural and logical; what looks like a coincidence is not really a coincidence but is inevitable; and what looks disorderly and confused is really happening according to strict laws. The human intellect cannot fathom all these occurrences.

The Great Nature works in a way that embodies the manifestation of truth itself. God governs the universe and is the embodiment of truth. The Great Nature itself is the manifestation of God's Will.

A human being breathes in the Great Nature, and is grown and nurtured by the power of Nature. Life and death both follow the law of Nature – both follow God's Will. The human being who goes against the law of Nature perishes. The human being who lives and functions by following the law of Nature prospers. Therefore, human beings should look up to the Great Nature and try to learn from it. To live by following the law of Nature means to live by following God's wish, and that is the meaning of Kan-nagara. The word Kan-nagara has a very powerful and extremely high spiritual vibration.

We can apply this principle to human health. Human beings are born to this Earth so that they can serve in God's Plan for the world. Each person has been given certain unique traits and capabilities in order to fulfill a specific mission assigned by God. While alive, a person should live and function, to the best of his or her ability, to fulfill the mission given by God. Death means the assignment from God is over. Since a human being has an important mission given by God in this way, people should try to keep their bodies and hearts pure always, and do their best for the fulfillment of their God-given missions. This is why it has been said since ancient times that a human being is a child of God, a vessel and an instrument of God, a house of God.

To live a life of Kan-nagara – following the law of Nature – is not particularly difficult. On the contrary, it is very simple. In order to maintain health, a person first drinks

mother's milk and later begins to eat regular food. Nature provides a person with food: grains, vegetables and animals in a countless variety of forms, shapes, flavors, tastes, appearances and textures, all suitable for human consumption. So, human beings can enjoy eating foods provided by Nature, whenever and wherever needed. And if people diligently perform their tasks and work at the occupations they've been given, they should not be afflicted by illness.

This is the meaning of "Kan-nagara health," or, health in accord with the law of Nature.

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Dai Sansai to Sho Sansai	19. Disasters and the Law of Purification
Genrei no Iryoku	17. The Vibratory Power of Speech
Higeki wo Messuru	5. Eradicating Misery
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