

WE ARE ONE WITH GOD THROUGH MEISHU-SAMA

Message by Kyoshu-sama, Our present Spiritual Leader (Yoichi Okada)
Meishu-sama's Birthday Service, December 22 & 23, 2010
Hall of Worship, Atami, Japan

Good morning. Greetings to everyone on today's Birthday Service for Meishu-sama.

With a deep sense of awe, I acknowledge that the one, Supreme God, is vibrant and alive.

Everything in the universe was created by God, and everything is vividly alive, blessed and endowed with God's breath of life. God is the one who gave birth to everything in the universe. We are all children born from God.

There is no human being that exists that was not born from God.

God's purpose in creating our life is to make us His true children—messiahs, who are becoming fully aware of our Parent and become able to serve the Parent who gave us this breath of life.

For this purpose, I believe God prepared beforehand all divine essences (our souls) in heaven which is the realm of cause for everything, and named them Messiah. I believe that He has connected all of these souls, (which are divine, individualized parts of God,) to Himself by the name of Messiah.

Therefore, we, all of humanity, in these Divine Essences of God which we carry, are endowed with God's intention, causing us to be newly born as true children of God.

Human beings did not recognize that God was our Parent and that God gave us life and created all forms of life. Therefore, being in darkness during the Age of Night, we neglected and ignored Him.

God forgave us with His great love, and completed the great transformation of the Age of Night, welcoming us into the new bright world of the Daylight Age.

All of creation, the whole world, heaven and earth, are now enveloped by God's light, and permeated with God's joy.

Because of His love for all of us, God is constantly teaching us and guiding us so that we can feel the same joy that He has and that His joy becomes our joy.

Meishu-sama became aware within himself of God's great forgiveness: the

turning of night into day. Meishu-sama served God fully, following God's assignment, and finally acquired the wisdom and understanding that he, as one existence with God, was newly born.

Because of this, I call him Messiah Meishu-sama, the true child of God. This is the foundation that we need to succeed, and pass down to many generations to come.

We are connected with this Meishu-sama, and we are being nurtured and cared for so that we, too, can be newly born, together with everything in the universe, and together with all of humanity, our parents, and ancestors. I am deeply grateful that we are able to praise God who is with Meishu-sama, and that we are able to pray that God's wish be accomplished.

Sacred Grounds at the Center of Everyone's Heart

You, members of the Izunome Kyodan are studying Meishu-sama's teachings, and doing your best to practice just one more gesture of loving-kindness for others. I understand that this practice aims for improving yourselves in order to bring a paradise-like consciousness into your lives. I acknowledge and appreciate your steady and honest efforts in training yourselves spiritually each and every day.

It is clear that you are learning many things by doing these daily practices, and the purpose is a deeper communication with Meishu-sama, and an ever greater intimacy with God. The fact that you are continuing these efforts gives me great encouragement and inspiration, and I am very happy with your enthusiasm.

You are also contributing towards construction and improvement of our Sacred Grounds as a prototype of paradise. Here at Atami Sacred Grounds, the renovation of the Crystal House has begun. The Crystal House is the last building that Meishu-sama built in his lifetime. I believe the renovation is very significant. I am very happy with this development.

I am now praying, and will continue to pray, that this renovation process of the Crystal House proceeds smoothly, without major obstacles. Meishu-sama said, "This Crystal House shall not be used by our Johrei members alone, rather, I desire that many people, members and nonmembers, visit here and enjoy this magnificent view, which was created by God." As these words by Meishu-sama indicate, once the renovation is finished, I hope that it will become a place where everybody who visits here can truly relax, and experience the comfort and joy of the beautiful scenery and attain peace of mind.

Along with the renovation of the Crystal House in Atami, the completion of the "Spring and Autumn Villa" in the Kyoto Sacred Grounds, is to begin shortly. I hope that the people visiting them come in contact with the beautiful and refreshing spiritual vibration of the Sacred Grounds, and awaken to remember the "eternal" Sacred Grounds that exists at the center of their very own hearts, and they may be healed. I believe that Meishu-sama must be very happy to watch these visitors having such an uplifting and profound experience.

Let us join together now in this wonderful service of the construction of the Sacred Grounds, as Meishu-sama's followers and his instruments, with gratitude and hope! Then the joy of Meishu-sama will be our joy, and the joy of everyone.

We Are All Divine Particles of God

Together, here today, at Meishu-sama's birthday celebration, we read three poems by Meishu-sama. The first poem says, "I, and I alone, having received God's assignment, bring salvation to the entire world."

The fact that Meishu-sama composed this poem, stating that he is the only one who received this assignment from God, means that he was convinced that he had the divine essence, and was and is a divine part of God, and was serving God to **bring** or **give** salvation to the world.

In this poem Meishu-sama says he alone, and only he. However, at this juncture, I would like to reflect upon the relationship between us, and Meishu-sama. I believe that we are included in his intention of the words "I alone."

At the same time, Meishu-sama, who said "I alone," resides at the center of the consciousness of each one of us. This is what I mean when I say we are tied as one with Meishu-sama.

I would like to mention another poem by Meishu-sama which is similar to the one I just quoted. It says, "Following God's assignment, I am doing my absolute best, **right now**, to bring salvation to all living creatures."

Is Meishu-sama's "**right now**" different from the "now" that we usually speak of?

I believe that the "right now" in Meishu-sama's poem, and the present time, "**right now**" for each and every one of us, are tied together and governed by God, encompassed in the eternal time frame of God.

Our every moment is being governed by God.

Everything that happened in the past, and everything that will happen in the future, and what is happening presently, are all are tied to the center of every individual's present "right now" which is the consciousness of this one present instant where God and Meishu-sama reside.

If we can surrender all of the past, all of the future and all the present to the center of this one present instance in time, the "right now" we will be able to forgive ourselves and save ourselves. Then, we can fully serve in the divine work, which can bring forgiveness and salvation to everything and everyone.

Through these words of "I am, right now" by Meishu-sama, we are being reminded by God that we are connected to Himself. Even though we have limited abilities, and have many shortcomings, we are all divine essences of God, and we can serve God, together with Meishu-sama, at His side of bringing salvation to all. It is important that we always remember the center of our consciousness, which is the center of God's work.

Our Physical Bodies as Receivers of Divine Essence

In this way, we are in the position to serve God because we carry God's divine essences. However, we are not only that. We also possess a physical body.

The second poem we read together at today's service says: "Led to the path of salvation and given a new life, I express my gratitude to God through service done with all my heart." [Prayer Book p. 65.]

The poem means that when Meishu-sama thinks of the present happiness given by God, Meishu-sama cannot help but serve God to the best of his ability, with all his heart and body, out of the gratitude to God.

Through this poem, Meishu-sama, as a receiver of God's divine essence, honestly and frankly expresses his feelings of receiving God's salvation. He also sets his intention to serve wholeheartedly with his physical body as an instrument and vehicle for God in sharing the deliverance and blessings of God with many people.

Meishu-sama said that a human being, the self, is the sum total of innumerable ancestors. I believe this self means a human being who is on the receiving side of the blessings from God, along with, and together with, all others. We human beings have minds which are underdeveloped spiritually, and full of shortcomings. These minds are encased in our physical bodies. I believe that this is why we can share God's blessings with gratitude, together with all others: including

our families; all of humanity; all of the ancestors; and all of creation. It is important for us to keep this thought of “together with all others” within us always, for we have these physical bodies in order for them to be used as receivers of, and instruments of, God’s divine essence.

A Dot in a Circle - Izunome

As I have explained thus far, we human beings from within ourselves together have two roles in serving in God’s work. One is on the side of “giving salvation and blessings,” and the other is on the side of “receiving blessings,” together with all others. This means that each human being has within his center a vertical axis, and at the same time, a horizontal expanse within himself.

Meishu-sama often used a symbol of a dot in a circle. This symbol depicts the two roles we are given. The dot at the center of the circle symbolizes the divine essence from God which is at the center of our consciousness, and which is on the “giving” side of salvation. The circle surrounding the dot symbolizes our physical body with its mind, which is on the “receiving” side of salvation, a receiver or a receptacle of the divine essence.

These two roles we are given are not two separate - in reality they are one. God prepared our souls, which are our divine essences, and then created our physical bodies with a mind which receives and houses the soul. God uses these two as one. Because they are one, when they are brought together, we can exist and live as human beings on earth, and we can serve in the work of Izunome, which is at the center of the cross of the vertical and horizontal lines.

In one of the verses which Meishu-sama composed, he shares his feeling about himself: “I feel strange when I think of myself; for, I am human, yet more than human, divine, yet not completely divine.” [Prayer Book p. 22.] I believe this verse shows that Meishu-sama was aware of the two roles and functions that existed within himself—the role of being a divine essence, and the role of being a receiver of the divine essence.

Because he was aware of these two roles within himself, Meishu-sama humbly served for God, doing God’s work, and even now he is teaching us and guiding us in total accord with God’s will.

Words Belong to God

God is using us in His work, using both the “giving side” which is the divine essence within us, and the “receiving side” which is the receptor and receiver of the divine essence, as one. The third poem we read together at today’s service allows us some insight on this point.

The third poem says, “The essence of living our faith can best be described in one word, Makoto – Love. No other words are needed, no lesser word would suffice.” [Prayer Book p. 39.] The verse says: “one word, Makoto – Love.” What does it mean? How should we interpret and understand this verse?

God revealed His existence to us through Meishu-sama, and implanted in us the sense of believing in Him and having faith in Him. Faith is something that God gave us. Through Meishu-sama’s teachings, we have been awakened to this sense of faith in God, the sense which was implanted within us by God.

The teachings of Meishu-sama are comprised of words. Words exist within thoughts, and thoughts exist within words. Words are expressed in spoken and written form, but also include thoughts that are not expressed in spoken or written form. Words contain spiritual vibrations and have a spiritual essence. God is the source of the spiritual vibrations of words, and is at the center of those spiritual vibrations. I believe Meishu-sama meant to include God, in the expression “one word, Makoto – Love.”

In this way, we are connected with God, or more accurately, we are one with God, through Meishu-sama’s teachings, which means, through the spiritual vibrations of the words of God. Words belong to God. Until today, we believed that words belong to us, and using these words, we tried to understand Meishu-sama’s teachings, and tried to use these words to explain the teachings and to persuade others.

Once we realize that until today, we have used words believing that they belong to us, I think it is important for us to report and apologize for this error in thought to Meishu-sama, and return words themselves to God. All existence and all matter subsist within our words. So, our returning words to God means that we ourselves return to God’s home.

We can hope that once we return words to God, that God will use these words as His own, and God will lead us and inspire us toward deeper understandings and awareness through Meishu-sama’s teachings, and hope that our daily practice of the teachings will grow to be more in harmony with God’s wish and grow to be more active

and productive.

Let's Keep Working Tolerantly, Steadily, and Patiently

Another verse by Meishu-sama says, "God loves those people most who keep working steadily, and patiently, while having high hopes and big dreams."

My big hope is that, no matter how immature and stubborn our mind is, or how much sufferings and problems we are facing, we will be able to become true children of God, who have a close relationship with Him. This is because we are all children born from God.

For this purpose, God forgave us and connected us to Himself, along with Meishu-sama, and is nurturing us and raising us up by giving us many different experiences. We can be grateful for this fact, and in order to be the keepers of those high hopes and big dreams, we would like to continue working tolerantly, steadily, and patiently, without being overly proud or, in the other extreme, belittling ourselves.

Today's Meishu-sama birthday service is an important service, and serves as a closure for 2010. The birthday present we can give to Meishu-sama, and which Meishu-sama would be most pleased to receive is ourselves, just the way we are. If we can acknowledge from deep within our hearts that God is the Parent of our life, and if we can report this honestly to Meishu-sama who taught us this important truth, Meishu-sama would accept the whole of ourselves with these words and thoughts as the most precious birthday present he could receive from us.

In conclusion, I pray and wish that the blessings and peace you receive from Messiah Meishu-sama be shared by all of humanity and all things on earth, through you, and that this coming New Year will be a bright year, filled with hope and peace.

I am very grateful that together with all of you, I can praise God who is alive forever! Thank you very much.

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