

BEAR GOOD FRUITS PLEASING TO GOD

**Message by Kyoshu-sama, Yoichi Okada,
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Good morning, and welcome to today's Paradise on Earth Service.

With a deep sense of awe, I acknowledge that the Supreme God, the only God, is surely alive within each one of us and within everything in the universe. Meishu-sama taught us that God's Plan is to create and establish Paradise on Earth. I believe establishing Paradise on Earth to mean that we return to the paradise that exists within us, and become true children of God.

In order to accomplish this Plan, He put His intention into the word *Messiah*, and implanted the spirit of the word *Messiah* into each one of us and into all of creation. God is nurturing us and guiding us towards the achievement of His Plan.

Meishu-sama was newly born following this Plan of God. We who are connected to Meishu-sama, and fortunate and blessed to be able to serve in God's Plan of creation together, with all humanity and their ancestors and everything encompassed within the universe—let us be grateful for this fact, and praise God.

Meishu-sama Is Shining Through Those Affected by the Earthquake

A few months ago a powerful earthquake and Tsunami hit the northeastern part of Japan, and subsequently a calamity occurred at the nuclear plant. A large number of people died and many are still missing. Still others were greatly affected in other ways by this disaster. Many people are still living in shelters. I have received reports regarding their situation on a regular basis, but their challenges are far beyond my comprehension.

Even amidst these difficulties, I understand that the survivors are doing their best to pass each day with a positive outlook, caring for each other and supporting each other, rising above their predicament and doing their best to

find the gratitude and joy in their lives. Their bright and unfailing attitude has made a deep impression on me and I am touched beyond words. As followers of Meishu-sama, they are shining and illuminating the hearts of those around them, giving courage, comfort and hope to others. I am amazed--in awe of their attitude in the midst of trying circumstances.

I give thanks to God for the fact that Meishu-sama is guiding those affected by this disaster to live with such a positive attitude, and I aspire to have the same sentiment: to trust and follow Meishu-sama and to be grateful for whatever circumstances I experience.

Many people sent donations to help those in need, and affected by the challenging situation. The relief effort is being carried out as well to help alleviate the survivor's difficulties. I appreciate the many different forms of support: material, physical and spiritual; for those who experienced the disaster. Also, our members from many different countries sent money, and prayed for those affected, expressing their concern and giving encouragement. During the earthquake, and subsequent Tsunami and nuclear power plant accident, and through the process of recovery from this scenario, Meishu-sama has been teaching us that those who *experienced* this calamity and those of us who, through the media *witnessed* the calamity from around the world are united. And all of us are being led to the true salvation.

We must take stock in ourselves constantly, and continue serving in God's work with a renewed frame-of-mind, and as a result we will move forward, steadily, one step at a time. In this sense, you are making efforts to practice "Gratitude Sonen," and "Practice of love for others," and I hope these practices will enrich your mind and make you closer to Meishu-sama.

The Door of the Rock Cave Has Been Opened Within Us

Eighty years ago, on the dawn of June 15, 1931, Meishu-sama climbed Mount Nokogiri in Chiba prefecture, and received an important revelation from God, regarding the shift in the spiritual realm from the Age of Night to the Daylight age.

We recited three poems by Meishu-sama during the service today. The first one says,

“On this auspicious day of June 15, 1931,
The door of the rock cave of the ancient legend
Opened quietly, unpretentiously, without notice by a single soul.”

This verse is one of many Meishu-sama composed, with the intention that it be recited for the service held on June 15, 1951, twenty years after the event on Mt. Nokogiri. I believe this verse to mean: a door in his *mind* opened, quietly, without notice by anyone, and the light shined into the darkness in his *mind*. Through this verse, Meishu-sama affirmed to himself that the shift from night to day was accomplished at the center of his own consciousness on June 15, 1931, and is teaching this fact to us.

Since God accomplished this major change at the center of the spiritual realm, in heaven, Meishu-sama also felt the change at the center of his own consciousness. Just like the door of the rock cave opened in the mind and heart of Meishu-sama, he also wants each of us to acknowledge that the door of the rock cave in the mind and heart of each one of us has opened as well.

Since we are connected to Meishu-sama, both in the spiritual realm and on this earth, we must be sensing this major shift at the center of consciousness of each one of us, as Meishu-sama sensed it.

Meishu-sama composed another verse, “When all people on Earth open their hearts and minds to God’s Divine Plan, darkness in the world will disappear.” (Prayer Book page 17.) In order to respond to Meishu-sama’s wish as expressed in this verse, we can honestly say that the door of the rock cave within our minds and hearts have been opened, and recognize as fact and reality that the change from night to day has been accomplished within our consciousness, and acknowledge it to Meishu-sama with deep reverence and gratitude.

God Already Forgave Us Through the Last Judgment

Meishu-sama tells us that the change from night to day also means what is commonly referred to as “Judgment Day” or the “The Last Judgment.” Since this major change happened already at the center of the spiritual realm, it shows us God already finished “The Last Judgment” and has already forgiven humanity.

This Last Judgment is not a judgment between what we consider good or bad in this world. It is not meant to punish those who have done wrong. The Judgment is part of God's great Plan, which is beyond the comprehension of the human mind; it is actually a blessing. God has been using us as divine instruments, both what we see as good or evil, surpassing our judgment and yardstick of good or bad.

Meishu-sama teaches us that humanity's past history has been in the preparatory stage in establishing Paradise on Earth [127. TM4-47]. The constant conflict between good and evil has helped to advance human knowledge and has aided in the development of civilization. Thus the existence of evil was a necessity during the age of darkness. [47. TM2-56.] We have been used, in both good and evil roles, as God instructed us.

God deeply loves us. God forgave all our past activities because He regarded us as having served Him, and so forgave all our transgressions. In this manner God brought us out of the realm of darkness and shifted and welcomed us into the world of light, the daylight age, so He can nurture us and bring us up in the new, brand new world.

The realm of darkness signifies the state of mind where we were unaware of our own ignorance of turning away and neglecting God, though God, our spiritual parent, is alive within us eternally. The world of light signifies the state of mind where we become conscious and aware and notice that we have turned away and forgotten God. If we became aware of our own ignorance, it was only because a beam of light entered into the darkness of our consciousness and filled it with light. Light prevailed over darkness.

We may not be happy with ourselves and be boastful when we see our ignorance but we must understand that it is specifically *because* we were forgiven by God that we are allowed to have this awareness. We are grateful for this understanding, telling this to God through Meishu-sama, and offering ourselves into God's hands, so that we can be used in God's work of sharing this blessing with everyone and everything.

The Change From Night to Day Already Happened Within Ourselves

I interpret that the word "last" in the phrase "The Last Judgment" to mean our ego consciousness. We started our journey from heaven, the first

stage of creation, and when we were born this time we reached the final stage of creation called the self-conscious ego. That is the existence called the "present me." God put judgment in our mind, which is an integral part of the ego and a product at the final or *last* stage of creation, hence the term "The Last Judgment."

We have been given this important role to play at the final phase of creation. If we acknowledge that the judgment is over, and that we have been forgiven, along with everything else, then we return to heaven which is the starting phase of creation, and we can help to bring it to an end and "The Last Judgment" will cease, in its truest sense.

In this physical world, we may not experience that this major change was accomplished, and cannot see, hear or sense it with certainty. But God has given us the concept of and the word "faith," so that we can believe and recognize what we do not see. God is communicating with us constantly through the process of faith, and is guiding us, through faith, toward the world which God already achieved.

In order to teach us this Plan of God, Meishu-sama has warned us from time to time about the coming judgment, and stressed the importance of having faith many times. I believe he did this so that our ego-centric minds might gain humility and bend to God's wish, becoming open and receptive to God's forgiveness.

If we do not acknowledge God's love and forgiveness of us, God considers that we arrogantly think all the mental and physical activities and accomplishments of mankind were done by our hand, by human power. If so, we will have to keep resolving, liquidating, settling and atoning what we have done, by ourselves. We have been sent to this earth to be used in God's work, of assisting as many human beings as possible by connecting them to Meishu-sama.

Meishu-sama composed this verse, "Do not remain careless and inattentive, and think that the world is still in darkness. The sunlight has already broken through the clouds." We are in the midst of a new morning, and the sun is already shining brightly. The new heaven, after the change from night to day, already exists within us.

God's work, to forgive, purify, save and revive all, has been

accomplished already within ourselves. For this reason, we can entrust and surrender ourselves to God and pray that God's wish be done within ourselves. For the same reason, we can desire to serve in God's work of constructing Paradise on Earth even just a little, even if we are arrogant and self-centered.

May God Shine and Manifest Himself Through Us

God, who is the source of everything, implanted His own precious "seed" within us, along with His breath, and sent us to this earth plane. This seed is God's own eternal consciousness, eternal life, and eternal soul.

God's intention is for the seed to bear His fruit within us. For this goal to be accomplished, God is working with all his might through Meishu-sama, to nurture and guide us, and to use our minds and bodies as His own, so that good fruits will be produced which God will be pleased with. "To bear good fruits which will be pleasing to God," is the essence of the expression to "be newly born."

The true meaning of "being newly born" is that God Himself is newly born within each one of us, not that we be newly born. God wants us to be expressions of Himself. From our point of view, we are vessels and instruments which are receptive to God and serve to express Him.

For this reason, Meishu-sama often used the expression "accumulating hidden virtue," and composed this verse, "Good deeds, clearly visible to everyone, cannot be compared spiritually to those done secretly, without fanfare. They are heaven's true treasures." [Prayer Book, page 73.] Through these teachings, Meishu-sama advises us not to become conceited or arrogant regarding our accomplishments.

Whatever manifests is not "me" or "us," but God. Whatever shines is not "me" or "us," but God. When Meishu-sama manifests and shines, it is God who is within Meishu-sama who does so. We are connected to Meishu-sama, and in order that God, who is with Meishu-sama and within Meishu-sama, manifests and shines, we desire to serve in the new activities after the change from night to day, as God's conduits and instruments, together with all of humanity, their families and loved ones in the spiritual realm and their ancestors, and together with everything in the universe.

In conclusion, I offer my deep gratitude to God who accomplishes all with His boundless love, and I pray that God's light and power be shared with everyone and everything by you and through you, as *you* are connected to Meishu-sama, and guided by Meishu-sama. Thank you very much.

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