

THROUGH GOD, WE ARE CONNECTED WITH ALL OF HUMANITY

Message by Kyoshu-sama, our Spiritual Leader

At Suno-Hikari Kyodan Conference,

For Exchange with Overseas Members

Sunday, June 19, 2011, 12:30

Izunome Kyoto Center, Japan

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to the Fourth Annual International Gathering sponsored by the Suno-Hikari group here in Kyoto, which we hope will enlighten all of us on the bridges that have been developing and strengthening amongst Japanese and overseas members. I am very happy and grateful to meet all of you in person, in this city of Kyoto, at this gathering.

Meishu-sama Is Guiding Those Affected by the Earthquake Disaster in Japan

About three months ago, we here in Japan experienced a challenge of herculean proportions, a massive earthquake and Tsunami, immediately followed by an accident at a nuclear power plant. It affected the lives of those in Japan, and in the entire world. It seems that people's thoughts and feelings have been altered by this experience in a very deep way.

In the midst of such a time of major change, we had our Paradise on Earth Service this month, which was a very significant service. Among our members, those who were affected by the disaster in some way accepted it not just as an unprecedented natural disaster, but they have been given a message from Meishu-sama through this experience, to do their best to find a source of gratitude and joy even when facing great obstacles: to lead their lives with a bright and positive frame-of-mind, while caring for and encouraging each other. Their lights, as followers of Meishu-sama, shine into those around them, giving them peace of mind and hope. I am deeply impressed by this.

I am deeply grateful to Meishu-sama for guiding those members to take such attitudes. Their attitude gives me inspiration, they are true examples and I aspire to be like them, and to have faith in Meishu-sama and not be dissuaded from the attitude of gratitude, no matter what.

Today, here at this gathering, so many members have made the effort to come from abroad to Japan in the midst of its recovery from the earthquake disaster, overcoming the various difficulties and obstacles. You are here after attending the service at the Sacred Grounds and

praying there, and have gathered for today's conference, and I appreciate your efforts. In addition to those from abroad, many members from Izunome Kyodan Japan are attending today's gathering as well. Thank you so much for coming.

Meishu-sama's followers have come together at this site from many countries all over the world, engaging with each other, and sharing thoughts and ideas. This is what has been taking place amongst them and Meishu-sama must be very happy to see this. I know and I feel that Meishu-sama is welcoming us to him with a big smile, and I hope Meishu-sama's joy will be shared by all.

Honest and Frank Reports From the Members

Earlier we watched a video presentation, followed by Reverend Nakadomari's heartfelt greeting. We heard the moving testimonials of four members, Ms. Kayako Hamasaki and Mr. Tsutomu Takahashi from Japan, Marines Angelo of Brazil, and Francisca Martins of Angola. As I listen to these testimonials with all of you, I am grateful to be able to learn and receive inspiration from these experiences with you. I am moved by their earnest faith in Meishu-sama and their openness and honesty.

Our members from both Japan and abroad visit each other's countries, and have direct and close contact with each other. This is a very valuable and precious experience.

Those who had such direct experiences were used by Meishu-sama as the representatives among us. Therefore, we can accept that all of us were allowed to serve God together with them.

Although we are all listening to the testimonials together we each have had a slightly different understanding and experience that result in different viewpoints and feelings. This is because we each were used by Meishu-sama to produce such reactions. The important thing is that we do not judge our reactions as neither good nor bad, right or wrong, based on our own criteria. As this verse by Meishu-sama says, "It is most pleasant to listen to those who speak of things as they are, frankly and truthfully." (Prayer Book page 57.) Meishu-sama is pleased most when we frankly report our honest feelings.

It is because, God, through Meishu-sama, connects us to our ancestors in the spiritual realm and to all of humanity and to their ancestors as well, and brings us to feel their feelings and emotions as our own. God accepts all of our feelings as they are, and purifies and saves all humanity. I am deeply grateful for the fact that Meishu-sama is infusing this conference today with deep significance in order that it leads to the salvation of humanity in the world.

Vertical and Horizontal Interchange and Communication

We often think that our interchange and communication with others are just that--and we see it in a horizontal manner, as interchange among people. But in reality, it is fundamentally a vertical relationship which represents the interchange and communication between God and human beings. Because of the existence of the vertical communication between God and man, we are able to have horizontal communication between people. It is *because* God and Meishu-sama are at the center of our consciousness that we are able to have this experience and to understand the feelings of others. It is *because* God and Meishu-sama, make us One, and are guiding us and leading us.

Meishu-sama is using us through these connections. He is guiding us so that all of us can return to God who is our spiritual home, so we can succeed to become God's true children, and to have clear communications with God who is the parent of our life.

Meishu-sama teaches us that "it is due to the friction between good and evil that today's civilization has attained its present level of progress." ("The Secret of Happiness." Article #115. TM4-31.) His verse says, "Two major opposite powers are constantly in conflict. It must be according to God's Plan."

This world contains pairs of opposing forces of actions and reactions such as the words "good and evil". There are many examples of opposite pairs, such as positive and negative, plus and minus, and man and woman. God prepared and arranged for these pairs of opposing forces. The conflict of these opposing forces is the indispensable basis for our existence.

And these dualities exist within each one of us. Within our minds, there are many pairs of feelings and thoughts, such as good and bad in our criteria, likes and dislikes, love and hatred, joy and sorrow. We have to admit that each one of us has these opposing feelings and thoughts within ourselves with no exception.

Gratitude is an important teaching in our spiritual path. Meishu-sama teaches us that *being unceasingly grateful* is the key to attaining happiness and good fortune. But we are usually grateful when our wish is granted, and are hardly grateful when our wish is denied. However, God is the source of all thoughts and feelings. God placed these feelings of gratitude, joy and love at the center of our mind and heart. The feelings of gratitude, joy and love all come from God.

God is trying to make us sense those feelings of gratitude, joy and love which are at the center of our mind, and open them. This is why we can feel these thoughts, even if we possess a selfish or shallow gratitude or love. By letting us sense and taste these feelings within us, God is trying to bring us to notice the true and deep gratitude, joy and love derived from God. In this way, God is trying to nurture us in order to let us know God's thoughts and feelings little by little.

We Are the Vessels to Serve God

We are all, from beginning to end, God's instruments and God's vessels. It is our mission to serve God. God allows us to use our minds and hearts as if they are our own, but in reality our minds and hearts belong to God. Our minds are very precious, because they are to be used by God.

Within us is a duality--part of our mind believes in God, part of it does not believe in God, part of our mind is grateful and part of it is ungrateful, part of it is full of joy and part of it does not see any joy, part of it is full of love and part of it is loveless. These opposing feelings and thoughts are not two separate minds, but are expressions of one mind, one consciousness, and God is trying to nurture our mind, raise our mind and guide our mind, as a one and harmonized mind.

We have been treating these opposing feelings and thoughts within us as if they are our own, but going forward, we can ask God to use them freely as His, as one unified mind, not as ours. This declaration is how we can respond to God's wish. When we put our two hands together and pray, we make this request to God as our declaration and leave our minds and hearts in God's Hands.

When we shake hands with others, we extend our hand and make contact with the hand of the other person. Through this action of shaking hands, we are acknowledging, together with the other person, that we are all being used by God, as instruments and vessels to serve God, along with all the people who are connected with this other person, and all of humanity.

Our members living outside of Japan, and those members in Japan, were once serving God, as one, together, through our connection and relationship with Meishu-sama, in heaven which is the beginning of everything and source and cause of all. On this earth plane, as well, all of us would like to continue serving God as one, together, with Meishu-sama as our very center, and would like to return to heaven through our interchanges and communications.

In conclusion, I pray that the new breath of life existing in the renewed heaven, after the transition from the Age of Night to the Daylight Age, be shared with everyone and everything by you and through you. I will be praying as well, that you are allowed to live each day, joyfully and happily, with open minds as followers of Meishu-sama.

Thank you very much.

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