



Epidemic could occur in the transitional period. To be a person who can be acknowledged by people around the world by aiming at realizing an intercultural society

Occasion: Monthly Commencement Ceremony of March

2020

Date: March 1st, 2020

Location: Su-za, World Main Shrine

#### **Activities in February and March**

Many congratulations on attending today's Monthly Commencement Ceremony of March, 2020. Let me extend my gratitude for all of your wonderful dedications to hold the splendid Risshun Festival in February. Because Risshun Festival was held on the middle of the week, I assume that attending the ceremony was a real challenge. Despite the situation, many people came to offer their Divine Service such as to be Flag Bearers and Placard girls. This convinced me that many Kamikumites have established strong faith in God, and prioritized offering their Divine Service.

Thanks to these dedicated Kamikumites who came to Su-za from the day before the ceremony, the Risshun Festival was magnificently held filling the entire World Main Shrine to capacity. This marked the wonderful start of this year and I am very grateful for each one of your cooperation.

About the activities in March, we just had the Appointment Ceremony for Language Training Doshis. I am very happy to see the growth in Yoko College that there are many enthusiastic graduators to learn foreign languages to help our Worldwide Expansion. This month, we will hold the farewell party for these students who are going to abroad.

About the current situation due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), I know that many Kamikumites wish to visit Su-za and Dojo. As we are registered religious organization in Japan, we must follow the governmental announcement and guidance to avoid the gathering with crowds.

In the sense of Divine Teaching, viruses have a role in the

human body's process to melt toxins and be purified. To follow the general compliance, we regulated today's ceremony to limit the attendees, only for Kanbu (Kamikumites who have executive roles in the centers). I feel this is really a pity to face this unexpected outcome from Covid-19. However, the positive point is that we have the updated Internet Technology system, which makes us possible to broadcast the livestream of the Divine Ceremony to each center around the world. The establishment of Fuji Computer College provided the education of the computers. This time, Kamikumites around the world could attend the Divine Ceremony via internet. Even though we had to limit the attendees today, we could provide the opportunity to join the ceremony remotely at their own houses.

Due to Covid-19, the gatherings and meetings which we planned before and after the today's ceremony were all canceled. One of the gatherings for the junior ambassadors was postponed to next month. The entrance examination of the Yoko College shall be held at the local center this month. I am sure that these cancellations and changes of the events caused the inconvenience to Kamikumites; however please give us your understanding, as we have to follow the Japanese Government at this moment. The activities in March will be regulated, but I would like to ask your kind cooperation to operate your Dojos with the best condition in order to follow announcement and guidelines from the Government.

#### The great progress in the constructions of regional Suzas

Even though we are facing the tough time in the society, we shall put our high priority to develop the regional Su-za. Taiwanese Su-za is about to complete and the Completion and Relocation Ceremony of Taiwan Su-za is scheduled on the 19th of July. As we planned the tour for Japanese Kamikumites to attend this ceremony in Taiwan and application was all completed. International Department is making their preparation to conduct this tour. The Su-za in Mexico is now about to start the construction.

In the USA, the laws are all different from each state. Talking about Waikiki district in Hawaii State, the local community have strong authority. The application to open the religious place would be only accepted by City Hall with the approval from the local community. Our request to open our Divine Light Center was successfully approved from the community and now application to the city hall to have a business license has been already submitted. We expect to recieve the official permission to open the Hawaii Honolulu Divine Light Center within a few months.

#### Outbreak of epidemic in the middle of the transitional period.

After the 60th Grand Anniversary Festival, our organization is in time of transition to elevate our activity in the Growth Period. We aim at enlarging our global spiritual movements

after the Creation Period of building the firm foundation. This is the movement of the Divine Plan; therefore, we also face the big change in the society. This year, Japan will host the Tokyo Olympics and this will be the opportunity to have an international cultural exchange. We can say that this is also brining a big transformation to Japan. In the Japanese history, we can find the several outbreaks of epidemic in the time of transitions.

When Japan was in the middle of Sengoku Period (Age of Warring States) which lasted a hundred years, Europe was in the Age of Discovery as voyage technology was developed rapidly. Francis Xavier arrived in Japan as the first Christian Missionary to venture the belief of Christianity into Japanese culture. At that time, matchlock gun arrived in Tanegashima-island in Japan. Nobunaga Oda used this weapon to unify over Japan. This brought the huge revolution to terminate the Sengoku Period (Age of Warring States). What happened during this age was the outbreak of contagious disease called Syphilis. This killed many people at the time.

The next revolution time, which was the end of Tokugawa shogunate period (1600 - 1868) and Meiji Restoration happened, Western Nations were trading with foreign countries. Western Countries already gained the high-developed technology and economic power. Japan decided to end the isolationism (Sakoku) due to the demand from United States to open the country for trade. At the time, the contagious disease brought into Japan from Europe was Cholera. As the result of this, so many people lost their

lives.

After World War II, Tuberculosis became common diseases and there was no cure at the time. As I mentioned, these epidemics occured when Japan faced the transitional period. At this present, we are in the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus, Covid-19. We never know how much damage we would encounter, but what I can say from the historical point is that the outbreak of contagious disease occur in transitional moments of society.

The optical phenomenon produced by sunlight is called Corona. In Latin language, Corona means "crown" or "wreath." The name refers to the characteristic appearance of the infective form of the virus by microscope. The shape of the virus is also similar to the figure of solar corona. I believe this Novel Coronavirus was produced by God's will to purify contaminated human's souls and toxins from physical bodies. I came to realize that these epidemics could occur especially in the historical transitional moment. Today's ceremony has marked my 315th occasion to conduct ever since I became Oshienushi; however, the number of the attendees also marked the lowest number. I am very disappointed with this situation; however, I strongly wish that this epidemic of Coronavirus will end very soon.

#### The Family that lives based on the Righteous Teaching

Today's thanksgiving speech by Mr. Haruki Kumagai was very energetic and hopeful. I hope all of you bring his passion back to your Dojo.

The Kumagai Family has produced the four generations of the Mahikari members, starting with Haruki's grandmother who was a very devoted member, to Haruki, a fourth-generation member. Two of their family members have become Doshi, in addition to Haruki who is a subchief of the youth group and his father, who is a subchief. They are quite an outstanding family indeed.

I was especially impressed by what Haruki's father had taught him. He reminded his son, saying "Don't ever think you are better than anybody else just because you know the Divine Teaching" and "It is God who makes a judgement." He was so correct. His father imprinted on him the very important righteous teaching of "Judging people is nothing but God's authority" and "If you want to guide people to God, the righteousness of your Sonen (innermost mind) is most important." It made me sure that the Righteous Teaching is truly rooted in his family. I believe that everyone at his center must be very grateful to have him as a leader of their youth group.

## In the age of the globalization, English will become more important than ever

Haruki mentioned in his speech that he wanted to become

an English teacher. We are in the age of the globalization, which is exactly what the First Oshienushi-sama had predicted. Back in 1960's, I was still in my 20s and wanted to find out what type of business would be promising and profitable to engage in. When I asked the question to the First Oshienushi-sama, his answer was the communication and transportation industries. Since my family business happened to be in transportation, I succeeded without hesitation. My life path was set thanks to the guidance of the First Oshienushi-Sama and other senior Mahikari members.

As you know, as communication and transportation have advanced, IT and globalization have also progressed. So has the need for English. I think that studying English is absolutely necessary. In today's society, there is no doubt that the most useful language to communicate with people around the world is English. Even Chinese children, whom we met through our junior ambassador cultural exchange program and who were studying Japanese very hard, were able to respond to us in English as well. In the future, English will surely become a universal language, so learning English would be very important for Haruki.

# To be a noble individual who will be acknowledged by people around the world

In this upcoming age, we aim to bring an intercultural society. To realize such society, English is high demand for

people to play a motive role in the world. Besides, the most important aspect is to cultivate one's character. As our organization, our aim is to bring a society which all cultures are interwoven as Goseigen (the Collection of the Divine Revelation which First Oshienushi-Sama received) says. This is the era of no barriers or walls among religions, but with a great unison with harmony without completion. Now is the transitional moment when the Water Era based on the competitive principle is ending and the Fire Era based on cooperative principle is arriving. The very first step in this transitional period is to understand your own culture. In this way, the sense of respects and acknowledgement towards the different cultures will grow. By doing so, the era of the unification and collaboration with world cultures will arrive. This is our journey to bring our global expansion. Today's thanksgiving report gave me a big courage. Youngsters like him are the motive power for our organization to realize worldwide expansion. There are many reputable professors in Tohoku University. I hope that he can devote himself to study in his university as well as to lead the youth members in Tohoku Guidance Division.

## Plan fun activities that the youth members would like to join

The Japanese economy has been experiencing decades of deflation where commodity prices have gone up while salaries have staggered. Young people are busy juggling

their time between their regular work or school and parttime jobs. Consequently, they are having a hard time to find spare time to go to the Dojos for Divine Services, and as a result they would stop coming to the Dojo. Therefore, I believe that the youth members need to come up with some fun activities that even busy people would like to join. Unless you prepare for such an activity and try to reach inactive young members, they would eventually end up hibernating even though they actually want to go. However, if the activities at the center were all about divine services, it would become an obligation for them to go. So please cooperate with one another and plan an enjoyable activity to attract inactive members and help them continue their membership.

## The meanings of spiritual number of Three (3) and the principle of trinity

Let me explain the spiritual number of three (3) as we are in March now. Goseigen (the Collection of the Divine Revelation) says, "Number of ONE (1) is the origin and beginning of everything, but this is not one." This means that number ONE (1) is the unified form of Fire and Water. Goseigen also says, "Number TWO (2) is two but it is not always two." This indicates the spiritual number of TWO (2) has two shapes. First point is the separation of Fire and Water, which is called Hodoke (untied) era. Another point is the combination of Fire and Water. When Fire and Water

combined with perfect harmony, number Three (3) comes in bearing a fruit, which is called Minori (fulfillment). This is the universal arrangement that two different elements combined as one, the fulfillment of the fruit will come along.

The Principle of Trinity is that we all have connections with the spiritual worlds of God and Ancestors. The physical world is connected with the world of God and Ancestors. This is the condition of Trinity. Divine World, Astral World and Physical World are interconnected, interwoven, and interlocking. We who are alive, are still connected through spiritual lines, to the vibrations of our ancestors. In order for us to avoid communicating with the vibrations of evil spirits, it is important for us to make our efforts to harmonize with the positive vibrations of God.

The spiritual number of THREE (3) shows the Principle of Trinity. God administrates the whole universe with the arrangement to have a perfect prosperity eternally by succeeding, bearing, transforming and nurturing all the creatures. Goseigen also says that the Principle of Trinity is also Principle of Miroku (369).

The supplemental teaching of "Fire can blaze thanks to Water. Water can circulate thanks to Fire" means that Fire and Water can rotate when they combine crosswise. God's principle has a clear distinction of Fire and Water; however, God utilizes Two Great Principles of distinction and rotation to produce all existence and creatures of the whole universe. The day of March 3rd is called the Festival of Spiritual Materialization. In Japan, we celebrate the day of March

3rd as the Girl's festival. This originated from the meaning of Spiritual number of THREE (3) and Principle of Miroku. I hope you can all understand this Principle of Miroku and Trinity and please do your best on your divine service in this month. For me, my mission as Oshienushi is to offer my deepest prayers for all of you to be blessed with happiness here in Su-za, World Main Shrine. I hope and pray for you to have a brilliant month with lots of happiness. This concludes my speech this month. Everyone, congratulations on attending today's Divine Ceremony.