



Morning Sermon

by Rev. Shohei Tsuda

Episode 9

Tenchi Kane No Kami's body is Tenchi,
the Universe.

January 9, 2021

Good morning, we have been able to welcome January 9th of Reiwa 3rd.

We are able to awaken in the morning thanks to the blessings of Kami-Sama. Even during the night, while we are sleeping, while we are resting, Kami-Sama is always protecting us, inside and outside of our lives, working inside and outside. The life of heaven and earth is interconnected by Kami's work. Every single cell, every single thing requires the work of Kami-Sama.

A person has about the same amount of cells in their body as their weight—and you add a trillion for each kilogram you weigh. It is said that a person weighing 50 kg has approximately 50 trillion cells, and a person weighing 60 kg has 60 trillion. Every one of these cells is protecting us. Each cell also has intracellular organelles, and they are all working together.

It is an astonishing thing to think about and also unimaginable. But even in the macro universe, to every living thing in this *Sho-Tenchi* (micro-universe), I feel that the universe is expanding in both ways and that there is no end to it. I feel as if there is no limit to it. Tenchi No Kami-Sama works to bring about the unification of all things. So, what is heaven and earth? There are many ways to explain it, but let's not think too hard about it.

Tenchi Kane No Kami's body is Tenchi, the Universe.

(II Fukushima Gihe'e 10 Excerpt)

The deity of Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama is heaven and earth. I often talk about this to small children. I also speak to children four or five years old or who can listen to me a little. I ask, "Where is Kami-Sama?" Then they all grin and say, "Hmm" Then I would say "Where is Kami-Sama? Kami-Sama makes up everything that we can see. " Then I ask the next question. "Which body is Sensei's body?"

When I said "sensei's body," they say, "Hmm?" I'm in front of them at the Okekkai, so they point their fingers at me. Then I also point to myself and say, "This is the sensei's body, right?"

Then I ask, "Which one is your body?" Then, they would think for a moment, "Hmmm..." and then turn to their own body and say, "This..." and tell me that this is my body. And I say, "Yes, this is my body and yours is yours."

"Then what about Kami's body? It is this big heaven and earth itself. You know, everything we can see is Kami. The sky, the sea, the mountains, the rivers, the white clouds, and the soil. Everything is the body of Kami. The heavenly bodies, the sun, the moon, and the universe are the body of Kami. My body (sensei's body) is this. Your body is this. So Kami-Sama's body is everything we can see. So, if you want to see Kami, go out into the garden. There is divine teaching that says, "If you want to see Kami, go outside. Kami's body is all of heaven and earth.

"If you go outside, into the garden and you look up, what do you see? Oh, you can see the sky. Then the sky is Kami-Sama. Then, look down. What do you see? You see the earth. It doesn't matter if it's concrete; you can see the ground. It is Kami-Sama, too."

Our Founder said,

If you want to meet Kami, just step out of your house and look around you. The sky above is Kami and the ground below is Kami.

(III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 12)

In this way, while also telling the story of Kyoso-sama, "Kami-Sama, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. Since a long time ago, people have always looked upward and said heaven, and downward and said earth." The name Tenchi of Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama comes from here. If you want to see Kami, you can go anywhere. If you go outside, you can

see Kami anywhere, and even if you don't go outside, you can see Kami anywhere. Everything you see is Kami-Sama.”

The young children almost always say it on the spot. Then, they would say, "Is this Kami-Sama too?" and point to the tray on the mediation desk. "Yes, this too is Kami-Sama's body." "What, this too?" While touching the tatami they sit on and ask me. I answered "That's right. Everything is Kami-Sama. When you look up, the ceiling, the light, air, water, and so on. All are Kami's body."

"You have a lot of water in your body. Also, the blood is circulating through your body. You have a runny nose when it gets cold and you have tears." "Likewise, the same as Kami's body. There is the sea, the mountains, the rivers, and they are all in Kami's body."

"You know what? So, even though we can't see it, it's like a passage through Kami. So, no matter where we go, we are connected to Kami, and we are allowed to live in Kami's presence. So, no matter when, where, or what you do, if you say "Kami-Sama," Kami is listening to you. If you ask for Kami-Sama, he will always be there to protect you.

"If you don't say "Kami-Sama" to Kami on a regular basis and be friendly with Kami-Sama, it may be hard to help you even if Kami-Sama wants to. It is easier for Kami to protect human beings if you approach by saying, "Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama. If we were far away and bad people came..., even if Kami-Sama wanted to help us, it would be difficult to identify you if you are not regularly connected to Kami-Sama. That's why I am saying that it is better to connect with Kami-Sama on a daily basis. In our Founder's teaching, there is the phrase 'the demon'." "If the demon comes to you, or bad people try to beat you with a stick, if Kami is nearby, it will be all right. If you always say, "Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama! Kami-Sama will be there wherever you go." "What happens if you don't say, "Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama?" Kami-Sama still protects us as much as possible. But it would be better

if Kami were closer to us. Kami-Sama is more likely to protect you if you are close to Kami-Sama. I'm in touch with Kami-Sama wherever I go, so Kami-Sama is close. But our heart is important. If we don't say "Kami-Sama" in our heart, it would be hard to protect you. That is why the heart is so important.

And, well, if it's a story like this, most of the children are impressed. I used to give them the Goshinmai (sacred rice) written with the teachings on its back. Recently, I stop writing the teachings because Kami-Sama told me I do not need to do that anymore. These days, I rarely do so. I used to do it all the time. It is difficult to understand as it is, so I tell the story I mentioned earlier again and give it to children in writing.

And then, I say "If Kami-Sama is wherever you go, you may not know where to focus your heart, so I give you this Goshinmai to help you." I prepare it for them as a focus to pray. As long as you say Kami-Sama, that's all that matters in the house. Whenever you go outside, to kindergarten, or to school, put it in your school bag. Take it with you everywhere you go. When I often tell the children, "Just say 'Kami-Sama!'" they really listen to me.

If you have the mind to think, "I wonder if Kami-Sama will be thirsty when I wake up in the morning, "If it's a cold day, you can pour a little warm water, then say "Please have it, Kami-Sama." You will feel happy so Kami-Sama will definitely be happy to drink it.

"Not only that, but Kami-Sama also has a great 'virtue,' which is Kami's amazing power. Kami-Sama puts great power into the hot and cold water. Take it again when you go to bed. You'll be fine. If you say, "I will get well again," the children will do it. They really do.

Adults tend not to listen. Perhaps they become too logical and intellectual. It would be nice if people just sincerely and honestly listened, but it's hard for people to do

that. They say things like “Are you serious?” or “That’s so cumbersome!”

But kids will find it “interesting”, saying “Wow! I’d like to give it a try.” Kids are the ones that actually follow effortlessly. Kids are amazing, really. That’s why I think it is important for us as parents to try to help them get along with Kami-Sama from the time they are little.

It is not that Kami-Sama is far away, but that Kami-Sama is always close to us. Kami-Sama is always close to us. More to the point, we live in Kami-Sama’s body. So, wherever we go, we are blessed by Kami-Sama. We live our lives in Kami-Sama’s blessing.

We are born in Kami-Sama’s grace, live our lives in Kami-Sama’s grace, and die into Kami-Sama’s grace. Before we are born, after we are born, and after we die, we are all born with Kami-Sama’s blessings.

We are born, we live our lives, and we die in the midst of Kami-Sama’s blessings. Doesn’t that give you peace of mind? We are secure. No matter where you go, you are always in the presence of Kami-Sama’s blessings. We are really happy to have such a Kami-Sama.

There are many people in the world who believe in various things. Some people even worship the devil instead of Kami-Sama. Kami-Sama is merciful, and no matter how imperfect or rude we may be, Kami adores each and every one of us and showers us with blessings, so we are truly grateful.

I am also being used in Kami-Sama’s Goyo in this way. I am a human being who has been given the privilege to help as a *Hiromae no mori* (The guardian of this Hiromae). Even though I may not be qualified to do such sacred tasks, Kami-Sama’s blessings save us, and I would like to convey the heart of Kami-Sama to the people who come here, even if only in a small way. They are, in a sense, caretakers for the

people. To Kami-Sama, we are little children, the *Mitsugo* (three-year-olds) who may not be 3-years old in actuality.

Nowadays, when we hear the term *Mitsugo*, we usually think it is 3 years old, but in old days of Japan, we were already a year-old when we are born. So when we turn 2-years-old in today's time, we would be 3-years old in the past. The 2-year-old is in what is called the terrible twos period. It is a rebellious stage in childhood and kids can become quite a handful. If they grow a little bigger they tend to calm down. This is said to be the first stage of rebellion. That is the typical *Mitsugo* stage. At that stage, the kids become rambunctious, but I think it's only when they are accepted even at that stage in their lives, they feel safe.

If you say that people are three-year-olds until they die, that may be true. But Kami-Sama thinks we are all cute and, well, sometimes we get disciplined because Kami thinks it's good for us. We get scolded for our sake because that is how much we are loved. We are never abandoned by Kami.

It is the Toritsugi mediator who represents what Kami says, and who is present at the Ohiromae.

The will of Kami, the parental love, motherly love, and sometimes Kami is strict with us and scolds us. Both of these are precious works of Kami and Kami's love. I believe that. There is the love in gentleness, and there is the love in strictness. In heaven and earth, we are allowed to live our lives.

Humans are born amidst divine blessings, live amidst divine blessings and they die amidst divine blessings.

(III Toshimori Shino 1 Excerpt)

Today, we live in the midst of each other's blessings, and we can only take what we have been given. We have no choice but to take what we have been given. It's okay to receive. If we don't take it, we will not be able to survive.

Kami-Sama wants us to receive blessings that have been extended to us. So, we should be grateful to receive it, and as much as we can, we should believe in Kami-Sama's blessings.

I believe in Kami-Sama. So, since we are being granted this opportunity, it would be a disservice to Kami-Sama to live with a frown and bitter look on our faces. Let's be happy and joyful people and appreciative. Kyoso-sama cherished the people who visited the Hiromae.

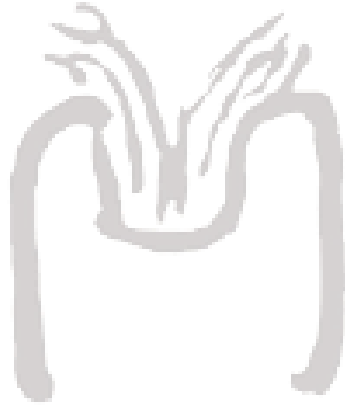
But people have difficulty feeling joyful and appreciative and if that is the case, you really shouldn't be saying you are done with it. It is the same as doing nothing in the way of piety. Faith is a practice. So, we must keep our hearts firmly focused on Kami-Sama. Therefore, we must keep our hearts firmly focused on Kami-Sama and receive Kami's blessings. This is also practice so that we can have a pleasant and enjoyable life. We must cherish each and every one of our blessings, savor them, and be thankful for what we have received. Savor it well. No matter how valuable and how delicious something may be, it is not enough to just pop it in your mouth and swallow it.

Therefore, the blessings we are receiving are still a rarity. The fact that we can have a meal, being able to go to the restroom—It may not feel like anything special. But it's the things we receive and take for granted that are truly precious and irreplaceable.

It's not that we don't understand our blessedness after we lose them, but, well, sometimes we may lose abilities due to illness. But it's hard to realize your blessings until after you lose them. However, we can learn from that too. Actually, we should learn from that as well, and be thankful for the blessings that Kami-Sama gives us every day that we tend to take for granted.

Let the blessings we take for granted really sink deep into our hearts and be sincerely appreciative of them. I believe that blessings are like the deeper flavors that come

out after thorough chewing. The more I chew, the more I appreciate the taste of Kami-Sama's blessings. It may not be something special by human standards, but in reality, the things that may have seemed so ordinary were actually the greatest blessings. The more you chew it, the more the flavors are noticeable. The more you chew it, the more it tastes good. We can be grateful, and appreciate its flavors and feel happy and joyful. I hope we can continue to practice the faith while finding, cultivating, and nurturing these feelings of gratitude in our daily life. It is good that you have come here today.



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