

Kyoshu-sama's Message

Beginning of Spring Service

Hall of Worship, Atami Sacred Grounds

February 4, 2014

Congratulations everyone on the Beginning of Spring Service.

In deep awe of God, I say that the Will of God the Creator is to make all humanity His children.

In this sense, Meishu-sama is our model and an example of one who has become a child of God by being born anew as a Messiah.

Today, on this day of the beginning of spring, I would like to praise God who is one with Meishu-sama and express my gratitude to God that I, together with every one of you, all humanity and all ancestors, am nurtured by God to be born anew as His child.

I have heard that you members of Izunome Kyodan set your objective for this year as “To wish to be born anew as a child of God and to aim to become a pioneer of salvation.” I understand that, in order to achieve this objective, you are putting your effort into practicing Johrei, Nature Farming, home gardening, Art and into sharing the altruistic love of Meishu-sama with others. I am truly humbled to know the continuous dedication you are giving each and every day to the divine work of Meishu-sama.

Now, today, I would like to tell you that the true “pioneer of salvation” is, in fact, Meishu-sama.

Meishu-sama came to the earth, took the form of a human being, just like us, and lived among us. He relayed the word of God to us and also showed us the power of God in various ways.

Not only that, though we tend to forget this, Meishu-sama was the first one among us – in other words the pioneer – to truly believe in the heaven within, return to this heaven and demonstrate that this act of returning to the heaven within was the only way to bring and save

the people of the world into heaven. Meishu-sama, in a poem, wrote, “I will, before anyone else, be a resident of heaven with a wish to bring others into this heaven.”

What Meishu-sama wants us to realize through this poem is that our true and real home is – our true and real home address is – this heaven existing at the center of each one of our consciousnesses and that the mission of human beings is to serve God at this heaven.

Knowing this mission and being our pioneer, Meishu-sama returned to his heaven within; yet he did not return there by himself.

He returned to heaven together with all humanity and all ancestors and thus paved and prepared the way for us to be able to return there too and enter into the path of salvation, that is, the path of being born anew as a child of God.

That is why we should recognize Meishu-sama as the true “pioneer of salvation.”

I am convinced that Meishu-sama is now encouraging us to realize what the true mission of a human being is and to follow him to become a true “pioneer of salvation.”

Let us, then, respond to this wish of Meishu-sama with great joy and become the first ones, that is, pioneers, among all humanity to return, today, to our heaven within and bring all humanity and all of our ancestors together to this heaven as ones who were already forgiven, purified and saved. And this, I believe, is how God wishes you to serve as the true pioneers of His work of salvation.

And we must not forget: even though we may have no memories of it, the divine particles each one of us possesses were originally in heaven and were serving God together with Meishu-sama. For this, to become a true “pioneer of salvation” on this earth also means that you are recalling how you used to serve God in heaven and had been constantly used in His work of salvation well before you were born into this world.

I would like to suggest one practice that all of you can do as a true “pioneer of salvation.” When you are going to visit someone or meet someone, whenever you think of someone in your mind or at the times you channel Johrei, speak to them, in your mind, “Together, let us return to heaven existing within us as ones who are connected to Meishu-sama.”

You may think nothing will change with these words you voice out in your mind. And yes, it is true that you may not be able to perceive any difference in this physical world. But you

must know: the power of the words above will generate the power of salvation far beyond the amount you imagine and your divine particle, I am certain, will shine ever more brilliantly within you.

Let me also say that this act of returning to heaven as a “pioneer of salvation” is not unrelated to the other objective you have set for this year – wishing to be born anew as a child of God. This is because God is nowhere but in heaven and without being a resident of heaven – the house of God – you can never be His child.

That is why I would like you to know that your two objectives of serving Meishu-sama as a “pioneer of salvation” and of wishing to “be born anew as a child of God” are not two separate things; they are one.

I must say that our true parent of life is God.

And it was Meishu-sama who taught us this truth through sharing his own experience with us.

60 years ago, in 1954, less than a year before he passed away, on the 19th of April, Meishu-sama suddenly collapsed with the symptoms of cerebral hemorrhage. As he struggled to recover from the stroke, Meishu-sama, on the 5th of June that year, summoned his most devoted disciples to Hekiunso, his residence in Atami at the time, and told them how surprised and happy he was that he was newly born as a Messiah, as a holy child of God.

Ten days later, on the 15th of June 1954, the “Provisional Ceremony to Celebrate the Birth of Messiah” was held in Atami, and Meishu-sama let all his followers know of this surprising fact.

When we think of all these events, there is one thing we can never ignore: Meishu-sama did not say that he was newly born as a Messiah *after* he regained his strength and recovered from the stroke; he declared it *amidst* struggling with his illness and not having any apparent sign of recovery.

Remember, Meishu-sama’s illness, in fact, worsened after he announced that he was newly born as a child of God and eventually, without overcoming the illness, left the earth on the 10th of February next year.

I must reemphasize: Meishu-sama was *in the middle* of illness when he realized that he became a son of God and felt enormous joy in it.

Why so?

I strongly believe that facing an illness which was not recovering as he wished and envisaging, to be frank, a physical death, Meishu-sama, with the help of God, came to the realization that there is another life each one of us human beings possesses besides that which we inherit from our physical parents. In other words, I believe Meishu-sama felt, truly and quite concretely, the limitation of his physical life and the eternity of the life of God within him. Perhaps, Meishu-sama had known this fact in theory, but I feel that God questioned Meishu-sama sternly, through the stroke, which life he truly believed: the life coming from his physical parents or the eternal life endowed by God to him.

Surprised at this question posed by God to him, Meishu-sama, I imagine, answered to God by saying, “Please forgive my gravest sin for not believing that the life I have is in fact Yours. I commend my soul to You, God, who is my true parent. If it is Your wish, please accept this soul, Your most precious creation of all,” and surrendered his life, his soul, to God.

Being the true parent of Meishu-sama, God, I believe, accepted the soul of Meishu-sama with great joy and then decided to endow, once more and newly, him with His eternal life, acknowledging Meishu-sama as His true son.

I am certain that Meishu-sama was allowed to perceive this great delight of God within him, and that is why he told us that he was newly born as a child of God and shared his joy with us through the ceremony on the 15th of June 1954.

We have long been walking in the darkness without recognizing the true parent of our life.

Out of his great mercy and being born anew as a son of God, Meishu-sama has made us realize who our true parent is.

We, of course, have received this physical life from our physical parents. But we must never forget the other and true life we have been granted from God.

When I think of the extraordinary fact that our true parent, God, and Meishu-sama, who

has been newly born as a child of God, are both shining brilliantly within me, I have to say I am lost for words and feel a deep sense of awe toward God for this wonderful blessing of His.

We often say we should honor our father and mother. Now, through Meishu-sama, we have come to know and meet our true parent. And it is this true parent of ours, God, who so wishes all of us to truly become His children. Believing that we came to this earth in order to become a child of God, let us speak, in the name of Meishu-sama, to our parent by saying, “I have been ignorant until today, but it is You, God, who are my true parent.” And this is how we can truthfully honor our parent and will be a huge step, albeit invisible, to being newly born as a child of God.

To close, on this day of the beginning of spring, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to God that I was able to be connected to Meishu-sama and to be awoken, finally, from the long sleep of believing in the concept of death. And now, as ones who have been blessed to know the parent of our eternal life, let us receive the new, fresh breath of God and pray that this breath of life will be imparted, through us, to all humanity, all ancestors and all nature.

Thank you very much.