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Some farmers actually consider the sunflower as a weed. However, when one sees the true life within God's creations and becomes grateful, its true essence, even for people, will manifest and wonderful things will be produced.

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Truth of Life

SEICHO-NO-IE (say-choh no ee-yay) is nondenominational, an International Peace by Faith Movement, based on the Truth that all religions emanate from one universal God.

FOUNDER: Dr. Masaharu Taniguchi (1893-1985)

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Husband and Wife Are One

HOW A HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOULD BE

A husband and wife are one, and since they are the union of one soul or spirit, disconnected feelings between them are against the divine will of God. This means that the couple is not manifesting the world of God, but instead manifesting a false world. There is no way that we can put on false appearances and still expect to become happy. The minds and hearts of a husband and wife must be one and they must live a life loving each other in accordance with the divine will of God.

One day Haruko Minami's husband began having abdominal pains. The pain became increasingly worse until he finally was admitted to the hospital. It was a strange illness that was difficult to diagnose, with such intense pain that he required surgery. The inside of his stomach was inflamed and began to rot and the doctors believed that there was not much they could do to help him. Even after the surgery, his condition grew worse each day and he began to get very weak. He had a fever of over 104°, and the doctors finally gave up on him, saying that he would never get well. Haruko, however, wanted to do anything she could to save him through her faith. Since she had been introduced to Seicho-No-Ie, she firmly resolved to guide her husband to Seicho-No-Ie and prayed to God every day asking for His help and guidance. She prayed, "Please, God—I beg You, please have my husband read the *Truth of Life*. And if it is Your will, please help my husband get well and become healthy again." Haruko practiced Shinsokan meditation and prayed in this way throughout the day and night.

BEING GRATEFUL

Haruko sat by her husband's bedside as he lay there, with a high fever, at the brink of death, and continued to quietly read the *Truth*

of *Life* to him so as not to disturb his sleep. Ten, then twenty days of this desperate prayer and deed of love continued when finally, as though her fervent prayer had been heard, her husband began to read the *Truth of Life* volumes on his own. He read them tirelessly day and night even with a 104° fever.

At the same time as the Minamis were diligently following the path of faith in God, Rev. Yonekichi Hitomi, a Seicho-No-Ie teacher, visited them from Kyoto. Haruko received personal counseling from Rev. Hitomi, who taught her, “Illnesses occur when one is not grateful enough. Even if you cannot feel grateful, just recite the words of gratitude, ‘Thank you very much. Thank you very much.’”

Haruko was very touched by what she learned. She realized that she hadn’t been grateful enough and made up her mind to repeat, “Thank you very much, thank you very much.” She went back to her husband’s hospital room after having seen Rev. Hitomi off at the train station, and, for the first time, her husband said, “Thank you. I’m really sorry to have caused you so much worry for such a long time. Everything’s fine now. Thank you, thank you.”

Just as she was about to express her gratitude to her husband, as though in answer to her thoughts, her husband thanked her first. After that, he gradually began to look more bright and cheerful, and stopped complaining entirely. Since her husband had changed so wonderfully, she resolved to give her entire self to her husband. She devoted herself to taking care of him, and he finally began to get better gradually. Since she had spent so much time at the hospital, her husband told her it would be fine for her to go home. Haruko then went home and while there, she heard that I was going to be having a Grand Lecture program. Haruko then went to the train station to travel to the event.

TOGETHER WITH GOD

When she got to the station, she was shocked to see her husband there looking like a ghost. Surprised, she ran to him and asked, “Dear, what’s wrong? Are you by yourself?”

“No, I’m with God,” her husband answered. Haruko was stunned and asked, “Where are you going?” He said that he’d heard there was going to be a Grand Lecture that day, and he wanted more than anything to go and listen to the talk. He realized, however, that since he had had a fever of over 100° and had only been able to eat rice gruel, the doctors would never let him leave his hospital bed, no matter how much he rested. So he had snuck out of the rear exit of the hospital and had just arrived at the station. Because he had been ordered to have complete bed rest for the past eight months, he looked like a ghost. His wife, however, was very moved that he had come in spite of all these challenges and took him—almost carrying him—to the venue for the Grand Lecture. When they got there, though, they found that the event was not at the Town Hall as they’d thought, but at a different venue. They started off again, this time by bus, and were finally able to get to the venue.

As they listened to the lecture, they found the talk was not about illnesses being healed as they’d thought but only about other things. Despite this, Mr. Minami listened attentively, until suddenly he began to perspire profusely. However, he continued to listen to the talk, totally engrossed and enveloped in the bright, cheerful, and harmonious atmosphere. He suddenly felt healthier, and by the time the program was over and they were on their way home, he felt normal again. While he had come to the lecture leaning heavily on his wife, on the way back to the hospital, he felt so good that he was almost running. It was all his wife could do to keep up with him.

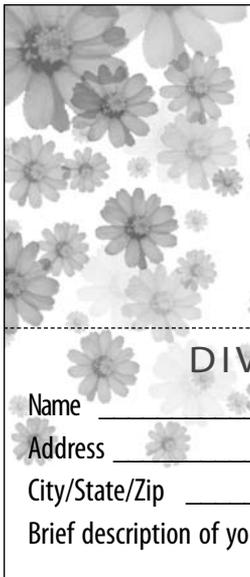
THE REALIZATION OF THE NON-EXISTENCE OF ILLNESS

When the Minamis got back to the hospital, they found the entire staff in a flurry of activity because he had disappeared. As soon as they saw him, they grabbed him and, while they were scolding him, began to examine him. They found his temperature was 97.5°. They thought they’d made a mistake, so they took his temperature again and found it again to be 97.5°. No matter how many times they took his temperature, it never went over 97.5°. Here he had continuously had a fever of over 100° until yesterday, and after having spent a

day away from the hospital his temperature was 97.5°. The doctors thought it was so strange and couldn't understand what had happened, but, indeed, Mr. Minami was extremely healthy.

Therefore, believing that his illness had disappeared, Mr. Minami was discharged from the hospital and he went back home. Afterwards, there were times when he would have abdominal pains and come down with a fever, but even then, he continued reading the *Holy Sutra* every day. Soon he realized that he would not have any more sick days left from work. He decided to read the *Holy Sutra*, *Song of the Angel* 1000 times and stayed inside a room upstairs and earnestly read the *Holy Sutra*. He used match sticks to keep count of each time he read it, reading it on average 35 times a day. On the day that Mr. Minami had vowed he would complete the 1000 readings, his prayers were answered and he was able to return back to the workplace. The next time I went to their town, since he could not come to tell me himself, his wife came and shared this testimony in my Grand Lecture.

From *Ai wa Subete wo Iyasu*, "Love Heals All," pp. 212-218



DO YOU NEED DIVINE HEALING?

GOD IS LOVE—LOVE HEALS ALL. Let us help you by praying for you. We consider it a privilege to pray for anyone seeking divine healing. Term of prayer: One month. Freewill offering gratefully accepted. Please cut out the form below and mail to:

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14527 South Vermont Avenue, Gardena, CA 90247

DIVINE HEALING REQUEST

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Brief description of your problem: _____

The Power That Brings About Good Health

Absolute Health Beyond Medicine

MASAHARU TANIGUCHI

Why Disease Occurs

Some may say, “I didn’t want to get sick but I did anyway.” These people must have had thoughts that were not aligned with God or thoughts of illness. They may also have wished for others to be unhappy or they may have had feelings of hatred or anticipated an unpleasant incident.

While these may only have been passing thoughts or ideas and not intended to truly harm, since thoughts create a part of one’s intention, having had these thoughts is actually equivalent to intending harm.

Having thoughts that are not aligned with God does not mean that He will punish us, but since only those things aligned with God are good, when we do have thoughts that are not aligned with Him, evil, suffering, or worries appear. The result is a test of the cause. The tree that produces good fruit is goodness and the tree that produces bad fruit is evil. If negative or unhappy results appear in your experiences, while you may not have done anything against God’s will intentionally, your thoughts are the cause. Therefore, as long as you correct the cause, the negative results will disappear.

Creations That Are Not Aligned With God Are Not True Creations

Since God is the only reality and sole creative power, if you visualize things that are contrary to God, the creative powers of those thoughts

are not real. Therefore, although some form may be created in this world, it is a false one and it is not really that something evil has been created. It is only that the thought appeared as an illusion.

Our five senses look at this illusion and mistakenly believe it to be reality. In the *Holy Sutra, Nectarean Shower of Holy Doctrines*, it is written, “The senses perceive nothing but the shadow of beliefs.” Do not affirm that illness and unhappiness exist simply because they can be perceived through the five senses.

If we were to describe things from the point of view of the True Image, goodness is the only reality and evil does not exist. Because we believe that nonexistent things do exist and allow our mind to get caught up in and think about them (since thoughts are a part of our intention), the result is that evil appears in the same way that it would have had we wanted or desired it.

God Is Absolute Goodness

God is absolute goodness. The *goodness* to which we are referring here is not “goodness that is the opposite of evil.” The mindset that believes there is “goodness versus evil,” “God versus Satan,” and “human being versus the bacteria that harms him,” destroys the view of a world of only God, and causes us to fall into a dual or pluralistic, chaotic outlook of the universe.

This outlook affirms the chaos in the world perceived with the five senses as “existing,” and is nothing more than simplistic realism dealt with theoretically. Since it is an argument based on the five senses that is the deluded mind, it is not the true form of things.

There Is No Conflict in the World of Reality

Since there is one universe, one God, and one universal consciousness, differences in purposeful will, rivalry, and conflict do not exist. This oneness brings harmony. Each part is governed by one purposeful will or one wisdom and is thus in harmony with each other—it is a state of beauty. Because all parts are one, looking at one part is like looking at the self, and because we feel the joy of others as if it were our own, it is love. Because all is in harmony

through love, it is a world with only goodness. This is the True Image and anything other than the True Image is phenomenon, and though phenomenon may appear to exist, it is false. Therefore, nothing other than the True Image exists. Thus, that which is contrary to harmony, beauty, and love—in other words, illness, unhappiness, and disasters—regardless of how they may appear to the five senses to exist, do not. They are only dreams. That which really exists is the world of grand harmony with the highest beauty and the highest good.

Illnesses, Unhappiness, and Catastrophes Are All Dreams

The universe is not matter but was created through God’s omnipresent consciousness that fills the empty space. Material things, the powers of function, and planning ability are all things that come from God’s consciousness that is omnipresent throughout the universe. God is the source of all life, wisdom, abundance, beauty and harmony. Not only is He the source but He is all things themselves. Nothing exists other than God. Therefore, every thing, as long as it exists, is an expression of God.

However, the notions of *something existing* and *being able to see something exist* are two different things. We can see illness, but it does not exist. We can see unhappiness, but it does not exist. We can see death, but it does not exist. This notion is also like the moon. Even though it may look like a half moon, that which truly exists is only a perfectly round, full moon. Similarly, no matter how ill a person may appear to be, that which exists is only the healthy person. Just as the moon when hiding behind a mountain seems to have disappeared but still exists, a person still exists even though he may appear to have died. Therefore, illness and death are merely dreams of the five senses.

What Our Attitude Towards Medical Treatment Should Be

Along with believing in God’s omnipotence, we must have tolerance for the tenets of religion and medical treatment. In the same way that the view from a mountain depends on how far up one has

climbed, the unfolding of the landscape of the Truth will depend on one's degree of enlightenment. We should not judge critically about this. From each step we take up the mountain, we learn how we should address the next step. There are instances when illnesses are temporarily healed through faith but then one might find the need to rely on medical treatment. In those cases, the medication and the coinciding medical care are an indication of nature based on divine guidance. Not only is it similar to praying, but it is also similar to the plowing of fields and grafting of plants being acts based on the guidance of God's wisdom. Therefore, we must not try and stop those who are seeking medical treatment. At times, the direction in which the patient thinks best is effective. In those instances, the patient is healed from within by the mind which wants to reward the patient for his selection. At the same time, because the patient is doing what he believes to be correct, healing comes as a manifestation of that conviction. However, there will be a time when the method of treatment that one has selected is unsuccessful. That, as is, is fine. All mistakes or failures eventually help the person to open his eyes towards the Truth.

Do Not Be Discouraged

If Medical Science Gives a Pronouncement of Death

When medical science has no choice but to pronounce an illness to be incurable, that pronouncement has a devastating psychological effect. If the illness is a physical illness and not a neurological one, that diagnosis would be equivalent to a death sentence. In those cases, the patient, just as someone drowning would grab at straws, comes seeking ultra-physical healing or faith healing. When this happens, the first thing the person providing guidance must do is to extinguish the notion of the illness being incurable and the dreadful, cataclysmic effects of illness. The healing is done, not by humans, but by God. Life power comes from God, so we should not allow ourselves to be affected by anything other than God—illness, for example. God has infinite power and answers even before we ask. Because there is no existence other than God, when we surrender

and release everything to Him, that absolute power shall destroy all other “false powers” (illnesses), etc. These are the things the person providing guidance must share.

As long as we open our mind's eye, the power to heal embraces us, swells and fills us, and tells us, “Recognize me, then I will appear.”

Do Away With Fear and Envision Health

We really have nothing to fear (fear has the opposite vibration of faith) and what we need to do is to pray and visualize health in our mind. Matter (particularly cells) is alive and has consciousness and will follow the orders of what we visualize in our conscious mind. Nutrients will be delivered to the failing organs according to the model of health that we visualize and give rebirth to our system. In other words, the form our physical system takes is the same as the ideas we visualize in our mind. That is why we must not think of ourselves as being an imperfect physical being but visualize ourselves as being a perfect and harmonious *child of God*.

From *Kenzen no Shinri, Seikatsu Ouyouhen*, “The Truth of Health,” Volume on Practical Application, pp. 9-17

GLOSSARY

PHENOMENAL WORLD: the inconstant world of appearance as perceived through our physical and spiritual senses.

SHINSOKAN (shin-SOH-kahn): a prayerful meditation to visualize God. For detailed information, see *Truth of Life*, Volume 8 by Masaharu Taniguchi, and/or *Shinsokan Is Wonderful* by Seicho Taniguchi.

TRUE IMAGE: the perfect and harmonious essence of all things—the ultimate reality; a child of God, one's divine essence, the true self.

TRUE-IMAGE WORLD: the world of God where your perfect and harmonious True Image, or your child-of-God nature, exists eternally.