

Johrei Fellowship

POEMS

Mission

How far different
From that of other people
Is my destiny.
With what abundant
blessings
Does God fill my entire
life!

Whenever I look
At the past years
Of my life,
I realize now
Each step I took was
guided,
Watched and protected
by God.

As if some event,
Wondrous, joyous, would
happen
At any moment,
My heart has sung
through the day.

In this spirit, the day
ends.

Johrei

The Power
To save those who are
suffering
In the present chaotic
world
has to be the greatest
power of all.

The Power to save
The people of this world
Is not logic
But true love and
wisdom.

No matter



The driving force behind all activities of the Johrei Fellowship is Mokichi Okada. We acknowledged him with the respectful title of Meishu-sama, or "Master of Light."

Johrei Fellowship centers and members observing Meishu-sama's birthday on this month.

Meishu-sama was born in Japan on December 23, 1882 into a poor family. Despite their circumstances, he was raised with a sense of justice and honesty. As a youth, he was

challenged with various afflictions and diseases which forced him to end his dream of becoming an artist. His purification was diagnosed as incurable by the medical professionals, so he began to investigate his own illness and the medical treatment he had received. He came to the conclusion that the "modern science" behind medicine was actually preventing him from regaining his true natural health. He gradually nursed himself back to recovery through a natural diet.

As a young man, Meishu-sama held a secular perspective of the world. He did not turn to divine beings or religion for answers and solutions. When events compelled him to embrace the role of provider of his family, he entered the world of business with very little resources and eventually built a successful enterprise. During this period lasting two decades, he experienced success but he also went through extreme hardships and heartache. Due to the uncertainty of the economy, his business suffered. He lost his wife and child due to complications of childbirth.

These trials and tribulations gradually directed Meishu-sama toward a new bearing - a search for a spiritual meaning of his existence and his purpose. As he was guided to this new awareness, his special mission began to be revealed to him. In his writings and discussions with his followers, he shed light on the errors of a material civilization which is dominated with a focus on the physical world. Through his personal health challenges, Meishu-sama began investigating the causes of illness and physical suffering and began to understand such experiences from a spiritual point of view.

As the miracle of Johrei was revealed to Meishu-sama, he disseminated

How impeccably
reason is expounded,
Without proof
Man is unwilling to
believe.

God's work of
Cleansing the clouds
On the body and soul
Through Johrei
Is true baptism.

God's Power is clearly
seen
In the work which
produces
Abundant life and good
health.

How grateful I am!
Not only is my life saved,
But I am permitted
To administer
The work of healing.

Service

Life's greatest treasure,
Which never corrodes
or turns to ashes,
is the hidden virtues
Done for the welfare of
others.

While still existing
In this transient world,
let us foster
An eternal life of
happiness.

Bathed in His Great Light,
Let us work closely
together
As kindred spirits
To save all of humanity.

Art and Beauty

The beauty of art,
Its essence,
Which refreshes,
Renews the spirit,
Is indeed a priceless
thing
In this material world!

Paradise on earth
Will be a world
Of beauty,
Where the inner hearts

this knowledge of this divine energy for the benefit of humankind. He taught his followers how one could improve health and well-being by nurturing a relationship with nature's beauty, the arts and by eating naturally grown foods.

He constructed museums and designed exquisite sanctuaries as physical examples of human creativity. These prototypes represent a perfect balance between the spiritual and the physical.

In 1953, Meishu-sama sent Rev. Higuchi and Rev. Ajiki to Hawaii and later to mainland US, to disseminate his message. Today, Meishu-sama's work continues to grow throughout the world, keeping in harmony with his spirit of respecting other beliefs and cultures. The mission of Johrei continues to benefit countless individuals of all faiths in many countries.

Another important aspect of Meishu-sama's mission is appreciation and gratitude. His guidance on the importance of developing awareness on understanding the core issues and source of purifications has helped countless people to maintain a sense of gratitude, while in the midst of challenges.

Meishu-sama taught that the true cause of global crisis is the accumulation of spiritual clouds and his Teachings on the dangers of excessive focus on the materialistic world for solutions to problems and health improvement are especially relevant today.

This is a time of the year when major faiths and various cultures observe age-old traditions. It is also an opportunity to join with them in prayer for harmony and peace for all peoples of this world.

Meishu-sama's Teachings provide inspiration and a blueprint to living healthier lives, to be tolerant and non-judgmental toward others and to express kindness through our actions.

"Though we speak of love, tell others to have mercy, our words are no more than wind whispering in pine trees, unless we turn them to deeds."
-Meishu-sama.

MEISHU-SAMA'S LIFE - A TIMELINE

Born

December 23, 1882 in Asakusa, Tokyo, Japan

Early years

Enrolls at the Tokyo School of Fine Arts (now renamed The Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music). After six months, he leaves school due to a severe eye disease followed by two bouts of pleurisy and the pulmonary tuberculosis. Although declared incurable, he is miraculously healed through a natural food diet.

Business, personal life and purification

Opens "Okada Shoten", his accessories wholesale business in Kyobashi, Tokyo.

Of all its inhabitants
Must be beautiful also.

Those who are enriched
By their deep
appreciation
of all the fine arts
Are people indeed
Living in paradise.

Flowers of various colors
Blooming in the
mountains and hills
Are the treasures
And blessings from God.

Each time I see
A beautiful flower
I realize
How exquisite and
ingenious
God's Work is!

To decorate the alcove
With a single camellia
Blooming in the garden
I have come to
understand
Life's joy.

Those who deeply
admire flowers,
Their grace, their beauty,
have hearts which must
be
Equally as beautiful.

For man to enjoy
Spring's beautiful flowers,
Autumn's bright-hued
leaves,
Is to respond to
God's abundant
blessings.

In this world
Full of weariness and
miseries
I would like to enjoy life
To be in communion with
Nature -
The flowers, birds, wind,
and moon.

Nature Farming

How foolish it is!
To sow the seeds

In 1907 he marries his first wife, Taka Aihara. She passes away at childbirth in 1919.

He is remarried to Yoshi Ota (Nidai-sama)

Creates unique products in art and fashion design including the Asahi Diamond technique; receives design patents in ten countries.

His experiences business setbacks due to the worldwide economic situation. He experiences various severe illnesses during this time for around ten years.

During this period he studies the biographies of successful businessmen to understand the difficulties they overcame and the spiritual faith that sustained them. He explores Western philosophy in depth, especially the writings of Henri Bergson (1859-1941) and William James (1842-1910).

In 1923 the Great Kanto earthquake strikes and his business suffers.

1924

Begins to read other spiritual teachings. Experiences personal mystic experiences and begins research to corroborate his personal experiences with the spiritual world.

1926

Further mystical experiences brings about realization of his connection to the divine and personal mission to help bring about positive change for humankind.

1928

He relinquishes his involvement with his business and completely devotes himself to this mission.

1931

Event on Mt. Nokogiri brings awareness of global changes - a turning point toward the balance of the spiritual and material world to create what he called "a paradise on earth." He sets forth to create an organization that would help bring about this transformation.

1935

Creates first organization, **Japan Kannon Society**. Due to very restrictive laws, he mainly practices a therapeutic approach.

1936

As Japan is steered toward conflict, Meishu-sama's work goes through a period of suppression and harassment from the authorities, for his efforts to help bring about a change in awareness of prevailing circumstances.

1938

Explores techniques in natural agriculture.

1945 (Post-WW II Japan)

His organization flourished as he focuses unhindered on his religious and spiritual work. He devotes his energies and resources full time to help people through administrating Johrei, teaching about natural diet and nature farming and teaching that art and beauty were vital to one's spiritual growth. He establishes a flower arranging school and builds wonderful museums which house collections from all over the world.

of suffering
By contaminating the soil,
Clouding the mind and
body.

How can we measure,
The Law of Nature,
So great, with our own
minute
Mental theories on life?

People of the world are
Suffering due to the
contamination of the soil,
God will bestow his
blessing by
Giving soil renewed life.



Whenever I look up,
The vast expanse
Of the sky
Always reminds me
How Limitless, Infinite,
Is the heart of God.

The highest mountains
Cannot reach nearly
as high,
And the deepest seas
Cannot be nearly
as deep,
As God's great
Benevolence.

It is not man's reason
But the invisible
Love of God
That generates the Power
To save humanity.

(In 1944) Begins construction of Shinsen-kyo in Hakone (1st Sacred Grounds)

(In 1945) Begins construction of Zuiun-kyo in Atami (2nd Sacred Grounds)

Meishu-sama called these "sacred grounds," prototypes of paradise that he had envisioned. Atami, Hakone and later in Kyoto. These three locations represent the unity of the spiritual elements of fire, water, soil.

1950

Officially established the way of Johrei.

Creates and distributes Ohikari's (Focal Points) to his most dedicated followers.

Beginning in 1935 he starts writing essays, poems and articles on spirituality, philosophy, health, agriculture, art and culture. He left a prolific collection of his thoughts and views. Many of his writings are considered sacred writings which are inseparable and intrinsic guidelines for Johrei work.

Paintings and calligraphy: Between the time he began his spiritual work and his transition in 1955, Meishu-sama produces a large number of paintings and calligraphic works, channeling his great enthusiasm into the work of his brush. Besides their artistic value, this body of work is at the core of his spiritual work and they generated many miracles.

1951

Completes the construction of the Hakone Museum of Art. Secures the land where the future Kyoto Sacred Grounds - Heian-kyo - will be built.

1953

He sends the first missionaries to the United States. Kyoko Higuchi and Harutami Ajiki.

Upon being asked how they should present Johrei to Americans, Meishu-sama tells them to "listen to the voices of the American people." Although he never got an opportunity to visit the US, he said that the United States would play a major role in the global changes that would take place - materially and spiritually. He said that "ours is not a fellowship of preaching but one of direct experience through Johrei, the Arts and Nature farming to help evolve the human spirit."

1954

Experiences severe physical purification. He reassures his followers of the significance of his mission and their respective roles in continuing his work. His dissemination during this period is direct and unwavering.

Obtains a National Treasure, "the Red and White Plum Blossoms", a pair of twin-paneled screens by Ogata Korin. These unique works of art and now displayed at the MOA Museum of Art in Atami Japan.

Just prior to his transition he acquires the much sought-after work of art, the masterpiece known popularly as Fujitsubo, or Wisteria Jar, by Nonomura Ninsei.

EXCERPTS

Awareness Of Aesthetic Values

I think it is essential that we cultivate a greater awareness of aesthetic values. By so doing, not only individuals but also our nation as a whole will receive unexpectedly great benefits. Truly beautiful environments are a great help towards inspiring more beautiful thoughts in the minds of the public, and these will greatly reduce crime and other evils in society. If we act upon only this one point, it will certainly serve as a means of furthering the realization of paradise on earth.

I myself have loved the beautiful aspects of life since my youth. Even in those days when I was living in straitened circumstances, I made small flowerbeds, painted pictures whenever I could find some time, visited art museums and art exhibits as often as possible, and enjoyed the loveliness of Nature, especially that of flowers in spring and the red and yellow foliage of trees in autumn.

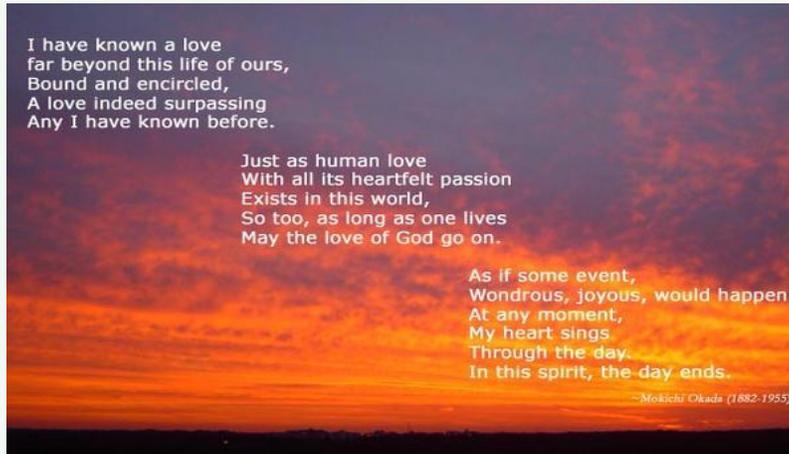
The Mission of Art

The "progress of civilization" means that humanity is gaining control over its animalistic nature. When this has been accomplished, we can say that the world of true civilization has been achieved. The truth is however, that most of humanity is still exposed today to the threat of war, and this means that a great deal of animalistic power is still present.

The artists of the world

February 10, 1955

Departs from the physical world at the age of 73. He leaves behind a legacy that has enriched the lives of millions of people around the world.



Marker at Meishu-sama's birthplace



Marker at Mt. Nokogiri

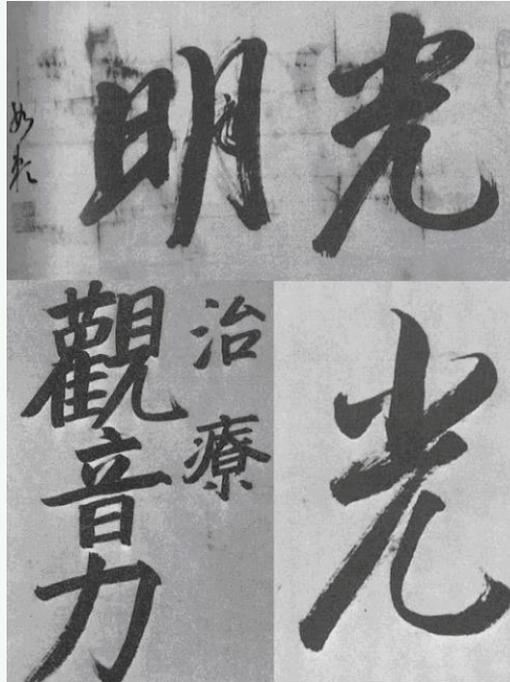
are given the important work of helping to eradicate that animalistic part of humanity's nature. The mission of an artist is to help elevate humanity's character through art, through painting, literature, music, dancing, drama, and so forth.

Through these various means an artist's soul appeals to the souls of the people. To put it more simply, the vibratory power emanating from the artist's soul touches the heartstrings of others through his or her painting, music, literature, voice or dancing.

Half-Civilized World

People in general probably think that the present-day world is a most civilized one. However, as we study its true substance we find it is full of defects, as we can easily see from the daily newspapers, which are filled with reports of crimes and of other unhappy events involving people.

What is to be done, then, to correct this state of affairs? It is not a particularly difficult undertaking; it is, in fact, quite easy. That is, it can be done by awakening people from their materially-based education and making spiritual education more important. To put it more plainly, we can correct this condition by dispelling the false belief in the invisible. The only way to accomplish this is to awaken people to the reality of God by the power of spiritual teachings.



Sacred Calligraphy for Focal Points



Sacred Scroll



Meishu-sama's original manuscript

Act Natural

The deeper the faith, the more natural and unaffected a person is. One with true spiritual understanding speaks and acts sensibly, modestly, sincerely. One leaves an uplifting, warm impression upon those with whom he or she meets, because this person is concerned about the individual happiness of others and the welfare of society.



Moss Garden, Hakone Sacred Grounds, Japan

Observe Nature

Observe Nature, which never rests, never stands still. It is constantly renewing itself, is always progressing. Once we can clearly see that all things in Nature and in the world are making progress every moment and are growing, we human beings should follow those larger examples and constantly work to improve ourselves. This is living in accord with Truth.



Sekirakuen Garden, Hakone Sacred Grounds, Japan

Influence Of The Soul Of The Artist

A strong, inseparable connection is formed between the soul of the artist and that of the public. If the artist's character is low and mean, the public's character becomes baser and meaner. If the artist's character is high and noble, the character of the public is elevated accordingly. Herein lies the greatest value of art. In other words, an artist needs to be the kind of individual who is able to lead the public to higher levels with his or her spiritual self.



Hakone Museum of Art

Be A Good Listener

An ancient Chinese philosopher once said, "Don't underestimate people when they talk to you." What this means is that we should listen with open minds and not discount a person's ideas before we know what they have to say; that we must not judge by appearances. We can often learn something from the most unlikely source.

Even a small child can voice a wonderful truth or express an original idea.

Self-Improvement

If progress were to be made only on the materialistic side of life - in business or social activities - people would be like tumbleweed, without roots and aimless in direction. True progress means evolvement of the soul and ennoblement of character.

Keeping this constantly in mind, build your own life step by step. Never be in too great a hurry; do not be concerned if your development seems slow, for in the long run you will surely grow. Your determination to improve yourself is the measure of your strength of character.



Museum of Art, Atami Sacred Grounds



Red and White Plum Blossoms screens - Ogata Korin



Johrei Fellowship is dedicated to uplifting humanity through spiritual education. Our primary goal is to help create communities in which people experience ideal spiritual and physical health. We refer to this state of being as existing in a "paradise on earth" where the principles of truth, goodness and beauty prevail.