



IZUMO TAISHA NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE TO BE OBSERVED WITH NO FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

Even after the State's and City & County's Orders of Self-Quarantine in 2020, we are back to not being able to conduct any type of gathering or meeting at the Shrine. The New Year's 2021 Celebration was observed by individual appointments with careful attention to assuring visitors' and volunteers' safety and health. Our regular Monthly Worship service on the 10th day briefly resumed from May to July 2021, but unfortunately closed again to the public in August and September due to the resurgence of the pandemic with the COVID-19 variant. Volunteers' Days, Clean-up Days as well as the Scholarship Golf Tournament and Hiroshima Peace Bell Commemoration Ceremony were all cancelled this year again.

Although these events and gatherings were cancelled, we still conduct individual personal blessing services by appointment. The priests will also conduct the Annual Autumn Thanksgiving Worship Service on **October 10th** in a private service. The Board of Directors will be in attendance as representatives. **Short blessings, open to the public, will be offered during that day from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. You can visit us to pray, but you cannot stay for an extended time. Groups of 10 people or less may visit together, following social distancing requirements (standing**



Illustration by Brandon Goda
Instructor of Japanese Calligraphy

at least 6 feet apart), while wearing a face mask that covers both the mouth and nose of all attendees older than 2 years of age. The usual festive refreshments and entertainment will not be served this year. Please understand this situation and let us keep our hearts upright together with Kami-sama (Gods, Deities)!

OFUDA/OMAMORI OFFICE HAS BEEN MOVED; AUTOMATIC WATER DISPENSER INSTALLED AT BASIN; NEW BELL TO BE INSTALLED

After observing the 2021 New Year's Celebration by online appointments for the first time, Izumo Taisha Hawaii moved our *Ofuda/Omamori* office to the Nuuanu Stream side of the Kazuo & Mary Yamane Hall on February 14. This room had previously been used for storage, but was renovated with a counter for visitors. This was done in preparation for future building construction. We thank members **Mike Phoenix**, and the **Oshiro, Asato, Larsen, and Wong Families** for their assistance with the big move.

Other renovations are also planned for other parts of the Shrine. At New Year's 2021, we were not able to provide use of the water basin for hand washing due to pandemic restrictions. We now have a modified automatic water dispenser with motion sensor, donated and installed by **Ross Oshiro**. In addition, a new gold bell at the Shrine entrance was donated by **Izutsu Juyohinten** of Kyoto, Japan. They are one of Izumo Taisha's suppliers. The previous three bells that were rung for many years were removed last year and the new one will be installed this year.

CELEBRATING 115 YEARS IN HAWAII



The year 2021 is supposed to be the 115th Anniversary of our Mission although we cannot observe any gatherings and physical celebration. Since we celebrated the 110th Anniversary together with the Main Shrine officials from Shimane, Japan in 2016, 5 years have passed already. We always welcome your donations. Hopefully we can observe the 120th Anniversary in 2026 on a grand scale!



BIG KOINOBORI (BOY'S DAY CARP STREAMER) DONATIONS WELCOME!

Every May, Izumo Taisha hangs many big *koinobori* to celebrate Boy's Day in the front of the Shrine. We welcome your donations of big *koinobori*, if you have been keeping one in your storage room for many years, after your children or grandchildren grew up. If you have one to donate, please contact our office by phone, email or through our website.

CULTURE

JAPANESE POEMS (*WAKA OR TANKA*): SHINTO DESCRIBES ITS TEACHINGS THROUGH POETRY

In Shinto tradition, people put their teachings in writing, describing proper attitude, morals and ethics in poetry because Shinto does not have established dogma or doctrines. We also don't have sacred scriptures such as in the Bible or the Qur'an, but our ancestors felt spirituality and received religious ideas directly from their surrounding environment, or Divine Nature. Poetry was the best way for them to explain their inspiration literally.

Classical Japanese poems called *waka* (hereafter referred to as *tanka*) consist of five lines (*ku*, or phrases) of 5-7-5-7-7 syllabic units, containing 31 syllables total.

Lord **Takatomi Senge**, the 80th generation of Izumo Taisha Head Priest and the Superintendent, was an elaborate religious leader in 19th Century Japan who composed many poems describing Shinto teachings. His poems mentioned daily appreciation and gratitude as well as Japanese traditional heart, and were carried down from generation to generation. Here are some of those poems, romanized and in translation.

志	“Kokorozashi
高く立てつつ	Takaku Tate tsutsu
不二の嶺の	Fuji no Ne no
姿正しく	Sugata Tadashiku
身を修めなむ	Mi wo Osame nan”

“Your ambition,
You should set your future ambition as high as possible to the heights of Mt. Fuji,
You should also be as upright,
Develop your character as Mt. Fuji's beautiful scenery shows you”

人はただ	“Hito wa tada
心を玉と	Kokoro wo Tama to
磨かずば	Migaka zu ba
生まれ甲斐の	Umare Gai no
いかであらまし	Ikade Ara mashi”

“As a human being,
Should you never polish your heart as a gem stone,
Meaningless will it to be have been born a human being”

His poems sometimes mentioned our proper daily life. He encourages people to live with a Shinto spirit. Daily life habits, motivations, ambitions toward our humanity all eventually concern our spirituality. Let us recite his poems and study them and feel Shinto's spirituality.



In-Person? Zoom? That is the question!

By Ken Kiyohara, MBA
PhD in Learning Design & Technology
Izumo Taisha Member

I teach business and communication courses at a Japanese junior college in Kapolei.

Like many of you, we were forced to go into pandemic lockdown mode in Spring 2020 and had to shift our

method of instruction from in-person to online using ZOOM, like many other educational institutions in the U.S. and around the world.

Fast forward to Spring 2021, when we resumed classroom instruction, and teaching seemed to get a little more complicated. Although most of the Japanese students decided to return to Hawaii as the COVID-19 situation here appeared better than at home, some students still remained in Japan and asked to continue taking classes with ZOOM. As a result, we grew to have two groups of students: one in Hawaii and one in Japan.

This situation forced us to utilize a “hybrid” mode of instruction, with ZOOM for students that could not be in the classroom while teaching the other group that was in the classroom. In addition, I occasionally made some class meetings full-time ZOOM so that the students in Japan would not feel left out from the in-person environment.

After doing this a few times, I began to notice that most of the students who were more vocal and participatory on ZOOM became rather quiet during in-person instruction. I thought that this might just be a coincidence, but I continued observing this until the end of our 5-week summer session. Interestingly, this pattern did not really change over the five weeks and I came to the tentative conclusion that the peer pressure of the in-person environment was preventing some students from being more vocal and participatory in class.

Of course, my research sample population is small and this is in no way conclusive, but I think that this apparent phenomenon of increased peer pressure in



the classroom environment versus less peer pressure in the ZOOM environment should be given some consideration when we have the choice to go back to full-time face-to-face learning after pandemic fears subside.

For some students, ZOOM might actually be a better learning environment, as they do not have their classmates sitting next to them and do not feel the peer pressure that often forms among classmates. Before those of us who have grown tired of ZOOM meetings and would vote to get rid of the format altogether, it might be worth investing some time in conducting some research. We should learn more about what kinds of students might benefit from online learning versus in-class learning, as each student has their own unique style of learning.

Many of us have been forced to get used to learning and teaching with ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But perhaps this was a positive development for some students who might have been struggling with peer pressure in the traditional in-person learning environment. It might be worthwhile preserving the online learning option for some students as part of the “new normal” in the world of education.

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鎮座 115周年

Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii

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思いやりの心 — 神話・スポーツを通して

2021年8月、9月に世紀のスポーツ祭典、東京オリンピック、パラリンピック 2020+1が開催されました。コロナ禍の状況下で開催直前まで賛否両論が渦巻いていました。しかし、開催されたら両大会共それぞれ、世界一流の選手が集い、競技されたので多くの感動的情景やドラマチックな結末があり、予期せぬ驚きや美しさに心を揺さぶられた人も居たでありましょう。私たちは今般の両大会からスポーツマンシップ以外にも、感謝の気持ちやおもてなしの心、また次回に向けて反省すべき事等、たくさんの事を学びました。そして、国境を越えて互いに理解し感動を別ち合えるスポーツの素晴らしさを実感致しました。

また今回は、性的少数者(LGBT)に関しての取組みも注目されました。地域や環境の違い、また世の中の変化に伴い価値感の多様性も進み、思慮の欠けた言葉遣いやSNS等による発信が、周囲の人々の気分を害したり傷付けたりする事に繋がるのです。人知れず悩み苦しんでいる人は多いのです。昔から「口は災いの元」と言われますが、感情的な言動を慎み、相手や周囲の人を思いやる気持ちを持つことが人間として大切なのです。

実はハワイ出雲大社にお祀りされている大國主大神様の物語の一つに「稲羽の素菟」があります。

ある時、大國主大神とその兄弟(八十神)等は、稲羽の国の八上比売が婿殿を捜していると聞及び、我こそはと思い皆んなで姫に会いに行きます。兄弟等は性格の優しい

大國主大神に荷物を持たせ、先方をどんどん歩いて行きます。すると羽毛を筆られた裸の菟が泣いているのを見付け、おもしろ半分に海水に入ってから風に吹かれたら良い、と嘘を教え先に行ってしまった。荷物を持って遅れてきた大國主大神は、泣



いている菟を見つけ、騙された話を聞くと気の毒に思い、海水ではなく真水で身体をよく洗い、蒲の穂綿に包まれば元の姿に戻りますよ、と優しく教えたのでした。そうしたら菟は元の通りに回復し芽出度しとなるお話です。

ではどうしてこの話が今日迄、長い間語り継がれてきたのでしょうか。

そのひとつは因果応報が挙げられます。つまり菟には羽毛を筆られる理由があったのです。それは菟が鮫の仲間の数を数えると言って鮫を移動手段に使ったので、騙されたと知った鮫が怒り、菟の羽毛を筆ったのです。他人を欺いてはならない、騙してはいけないという人間生活上の大切な道徳を説いているのです。

また、痛みや苦しみに耐えて嘆いている人には優しく接してあげなさい、とも諭しています。どうして欺いたのだ、悪い事をしてはならない等と理屈を言っても意味はないのです。痛みや苦しみに耐えている人に寄り添い、心の調子を尋ね同じ気持ちに

なる、つまり共感することが大切なのです。

人間の心はうわべだけでは解りません。ふだんの生活でも周囲の人々の心や感情を察知することは難しいのです。ましてや窮地に陥っている人の心は如何許りでありましょう。そんな時に少しでも気持ちを和らげ、理解してくれる人が居たらどんなに嬉しい事でしょう。本当に心強く救われた気持ちになるに違いありません。

つまりこの物語は弱きを助け支え励まし、未来に希望を持って邁進出来る様に、愛の手を差し伸べる事の大切さも私たちに教えて下さっています。勿論、無償の援助であり見返りを期待するものではありません。無償かつ真心からのお手伝いが、相手の心にも伝わり共感をもたらすのです。私利私欲、利害損得を考えての行動は、その魂胆をすぐに見透かされてしまいます。相手と同時限の純粋な気持ち、心から湧き出る感情が大切なのであり、高飛車の助言や忠告は相手の心には届かないのです。

私たちは、地域、時代、環境等により様々な影響を受けています。また、日常生活のみならず、スポーツや古典からも学ぶことがあります。そして、大切なのは学んだことを実践に活かすことです。これからの人生に於いてもフェアプレイを行いつつ、大國主大神様や先祖の皆さんが築き上げた良き習慣、伝統を継承し、思いやりのある優しい気持ちで周囲の人に接し、お互いが助け合いながら明るい未来の為に努力を重ねましょう。

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