

Uzo Takami — Opening Words: Opening Words: “The Safest Country In Which To Be Born”

On February 20, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) published a report, entitled “Every Child Alive,” on newborn mortality rates around the world. According to this report, Japan has the lowest rate of newborn mortality, at a rate of 0.9 deaths for every 1000 newborn babies. It noted that “Japan is the safest country in which to be born.” On the other hand, in Pakistan, which was reported to have the highest rate of newborn mortality, 45.6 deaths were reported for every 1000 newborn babies. Roughly 80% of the cause of death was attributed to premature birth, complications at time of birth, and contamination. UNICEF has called for the goal of having “all mothers and babies to receive care at sanitary facilities equipped with soap, water, and electricity.” Our country has made the most progress in this regard. I appreciate that Japan is such a prosperous country.

Akio Inoue — A Preliminary Study of Tenri Linguistic Theology: The Future Image of “Koto” Worldview (49) Chapter Six: Takaaki Yoshimoto and *Shiso no ansorogi* [8]

Until the age of nineteen, Mozart knead his excrement every morning. Similarly, Michizo Noguchi, a well-known professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, argued that the first step to becoming a sculptor was to regain one’s bowel senses; thus, he had his students knead their excrement every morning. Shigeo Miki, an embryologist, was deeply inspired that kneading excrement was an artistic truth that was shared not only by a sculptor but also by a first-rate musician. I happened to read Miki’s book, *Taiji no sekai* (The world of the embryo), and was fascinated by its claims. I contacted Joseph Needham of Cambridge University, who is also a global comparative embryologist, and planned the Tenri International Symposium 86 “Cosmos, Life, Religion” as a way to bring him and Miki together. Its publication is infused with surprising truths of multiple incidences of “coincidence” leading to an invigoration of the global flow of knowledge. After the editing process of the publication, Miki suddenly passed away, without a chance to see its printing. Many famous thinkers gathered together for the symposium, and it was a memorable event in which many synchronic phenomena stunned its participants.

Takanori Sato — Creatures That Appear in the “Story of the Origin” (28) In Regard to the “Pufferfish” [1]

The “Story of the Origin” in Tenrikyo is the story of the creation of human beings and the world, and is the story of the truth unveiled for the purpose of human salvation. In it, many water creatures appear as metaphors. Among them, the pufferfish appears, given the “providence of cutting in general.” Species of the pufferfish are widely disseminated through warm and tropical places around the world, and most of these are located in the coastline, open seas, and deep waters. Among them, there is a specie that lives in brackish water regions and fresh water regions of China, Southeast Asia, and the African coasts, but their numbers are relatively small when compared to the species as whole. In China, from ancient times, pufferfish referred to the *Takifugu obscures*, and was known as the *fugu* (river pigs). Its meat was delicious and it resembled a pig; thus, its name. In Japan, on the other hand, it was known as *fuku*. This term, considered to express good fortune, was associated with the Japanese term for good luck, “*fuku*.”

Takayuki Onoue — Varieties of North American Tenrikyo Missions Seen Through the History of Japanese Immigration (17) Prewar Mission in Hawaii and the Japanese-American Immigrant Society [7]

Shozen Nakayama, the second Shinbashira, visited Hawaii in June of 1933. He visited churches in various regions and mingled intimately with its followers. Also, he visited the Japanese general consulate, churches of other faiths, and the Japanese language newspaper. He conveyed his message to the Japanese-American community through a newspaper announcement. This visit was to contribute significantly to the growth of the Hawaii mission. Further, in the following year of 1934, the Mission Headquarters in America

was established in Los Angeles, and lectures and film showings were held throughout various places in Hawaii. In such manner, Tenrikyo in Hawaii made steady progress during the prewar.

Koji Fukaya — Milepost Usage of the Ofudesaki (33) In Regard to Verbs [18]

Although there is no full understanding of what *kara* and *nihon* refer to, it is clear that God the Parent sought to “make a distinction” between the two, their workings were related with the “pillar” (Kanrodai), God used the expression “use fire and water to make the distinction,” such act was related to the “joyous Service” enabled by “joyous salvation,” and as a result, that a “world full of joy” would come about as result. We can see that “to understand” these intentions and workings of God the Parent is, in itself, related to the making of “distinction” between the two.

Jiro Sawai — Reflections on the Words of the Osashizu (29) “Issues in Church Headquarters” and the “Path” in Volume Three of the “Divine Directions”

I will categorize the references to “path” associated to issues within the Church Headquarters, as found in the divine directions of Volume Three of the Divine Directions, Revised Edition. There are 121 instances referring to issues within Church Headquarters, and “path” appears in 38 of them. In 19 of these, “path” appears more than three times. In Volume Three’s Divine Directions regarding issues within the Church Headquarters, there are many that concern the expansion of church property, construction of buildings, and the construction of Oyasama’s cemetery; however, “path” appears in very little of these divine directions responding to specific requests and inquiries. On the other hand, “path” appears frequently in divine directions responding to requests and inquiries regarding association with Shinto Honkyoku and the state bureaucracy. We can see that the term “path” invokes significant meaning regarding the fundamental guidelines for Church Headquarters.

Masahiko Okada — “Human Beings” Living in the Contemporary World and “Religion”: A Rethinking (5) Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep [1]

About thirty years ago, the movie *Blade Runner*, featuring Harrison Ford, depicted androids possessing features similar to human beings in both intellectual and bodily aspects; by doing to, the movie made an extremely cynical portrayal of the difference between “human” and “not human” existence.

Focusing upon the issues presented by this movie, I will reflect upon the theme of “what is human beings?” from a slightly different angle.

Hisao Kuwabara — Messages from the Ruins (33) Making Cultural Heritage Meaningful Today [2] Todaijiyama Kofun, where the National Treasure, Zhongping Inscribed Iron Sword, was unearthed

The Todaijiyama Kofun, located in the town of Ichinomoto, is famous for being the site where an iron sword dating to the late Han era (184-190) was unearthed. The unearthed resources from the Todaijiyama Kofun were summarily designated as national treasure in 2017, and were made available for public viewing at the Tokyo National Museum. On the other hand, the site of the Todaijiyama Kofun has not been designated as a historical heritage, and part of it is overrun by privately owned bamboo trees. The hilltop where the Todaijiyama Kofun is located is adjacent to the Akatsuchiyama Kofun, which is properly maintained. However, it is regretful that one cannot traverse from one to another, and there is a necessity of improvements in the future.

Mari Hatakama — From the Sankokan Musuem (14) Hosogami (Smallpox deities) and Red

Taking our cue from the May 8 declaration of global eradication of smallpox, I will introduce gift-giving practices of red toys and scarlet dolls associated with warding off smallpox, as one dimension of folk practice regarding warding off smallpox in Japan before the early modern period.