

Foreword

The chief priest of Zenkōji – Temple
Takeshi Kuroda

“Those who are benevolent will love people. Those who are courteous will respect people. Those who love people will be loved by others at all times, and those who respect others will be respected by others at all times.”

How beautifully this verse sounds. As you all know, the newborn princess was named Aiko and another official appellation Princess Toshi in a ceremony based on Imperial family tradition. The names were taken from Chinese verse by Moncius. It seemed to me that a precious virtue was given to remind us how to live. The words are very easy and familiar, but it is very difficult to practice their mind. You can love people at all times if you are benevolent and you can respect people at all times if you respect your parents and ancestors. Those who love people will be loved by others and those who respect others will be respected by others. This is the providence of nature which shows the most beautiful and precious human state of mind. The mercy of Buddha, the love of Christ and the benevolence of Confucius, all these divine teachings of Saint, God and Buddha are consistent and tell us the human mind and how to live. The only word can show how we live and the most important foundation of human beings.

This only word is "Mercy", though there are many other teachings of Buddha. Rev. Dōgen said this word as "to find out life and death is the biggest problem to be solved for Buddhists" and taught us it is the beginning to understand four pains.

Recently seeing many unprecedented phenomena of the world, I feel misgivings that we are losing something important to our lives, companies, nations and the world. I am in deep grief that we don't understand truth fundamentally. It is natural we are confronted with not a few religious problem to understand new different cultural religions. We should go along with foundations toward truth. The belief is "to go back to Buddha through the founder", "wooden pestle shortens its life for people and those who know it are precious". I have the same mind. Last year was the first year of the new century, and unforgettable year for Zenkōji-Temple and us. We put up the monument to Rev. Keizan in Kiyomizu Temple in Kyōto and won the special award for Sōtō Sect, furthermore I am honored to be appointed Great Rev. of Sōtō Sect. I just thank you and try to do my best along with my given duty.

The 35th anniversary of Zenkōji-Temple is coming and after that the 50th. We should do our best for prosperity of Buddha in the world, for encouraging people dedicated to society and for happiness and peace of our supporters.