

Prayer to Overcome Life's Sufferings

BY MASAHARU TANIGUCHI

WE are God's children, and our home is "God's land" where all His children reside. God loves and guides us with His omnipotent wisdom and almighty power. God is never short-sighted in His love but, seeing the future, always leads us to success. Therefore, regardless of how difficult things may seem, we always maintain our deep trust in God.

God constantly provides us with His almighty power and guides us with His omnipotent wisdom. As His guidance and protection are perfect, we can live without fear, completely relying on His guiding spirit. God always knows best. He sometimes gives us difficulties, but that is only to show us that there are precious jewels buried beneath the rocks. When we face difficulties, if we do not regard them as hardships but instead dig through them, we will find hidden jewels.

Thus, we should never attempt to avoid difficulties. God did not place oil, gold, or diamonds on the surface of the earth where they can be easily taken. Only those who have the courage and patience to overcome difficulties will be rewarded with priceless treasures. God made this world so that only through effort can one gain that which is truly valuable. Man's spiritual ability grows and progresses only through effort.

Learning in elementary school is easy and does not require much study, but profound truth cannot be grasped by knowledge acquired only at the elementary level. As we advance to a higher level, courses become more difficult but we gain greater, more valuable knowledge.

The more difficult our problems, the more lessons they contain. Problems given to us in life are never too difficult for us to solve, using the ability we have at that time. If we try hard enough, we will be able to work through any problem and find a solution. No matter how difficult a problem may appear at first, it is within our ability to solve it. Thus, we should never fear hardships. When we have time for leisure, we should seek difficult challenges, such as mountain climbing. Rather than mere mountain climbing, however, as we deal with life's problems, we are challenging higher mountains which have more meaning for our lives. It is indeed rewarding to overcome difficulties and finally reach the summit.

I offer my thanks to God for giving me this conviction and the power to overcome all difficulties.

— From *Shinri No Gisho*, "Recitations of the Truth," pp. 100-104