

SEICHO-NO-IE IS A WAY OF LIFE BASED ON THE WORSHIP PRINCIPLE.

by Reverend Masaharu Taniguchi

This can be called the sundial principle applied to other people. In a word, the sundial principle is to not record in thoughts or words one's days of sadness. The worship principle is not to record in mind the evil of another or express it in words but to worship his divine essence. The worship principle agrees with the teaching of Christ to love one's enemies.

Friends, from this moment on regain your noble frame of mind that is not captured by the evil of others. Why must you become a cog of the wheels of hatred because another has committed evil? Your mind is not like food that is fed to the evils of others. Know that your mind is not bound by anything and that it can find happiness on its own. Restore the dignity of your mind! Win back its freedom and independence! While you think that another is base and mean, you should know the foolishness of becoming equally mean by confronting him. Just because someone is mean-spirited is no reason to leave your station of nobility and take a place beside him.

Nevertheless, to awaken to one's own nobility and yet not to associate with another's baseness -- in other words, one cannot freely give full play to one's life by sitting haughtily on the throne of forgiveness that sees oneself alone as being pure and forgives another with disdain. Such is not the Seicho-No-Ie way of life. If one lives in such a manner, the higher one rises the more others will appear even lower. A person who lives in such a manner must constantly envision the ugliness of others. As he rises higher, his mind will be increasingly filled with contempt and criticism for others. Before he knows it the residue of life that he thought he threw away will come to overflow within him.

The worship principle of Seicho-No-Ie is not simply broad-mindedness. It is not captured by the seemingly evil appearances of another. According to this principle, no matter what wrong he has committed we see that his essence is a child of God and undefiled. Although the bill of paper money may be soiled, its inner worth is that of gold coins. Would you doubt the indwelling value of a 100 yen bill because the bill is dirty? In the same way, regardless of the sin that defiles a human being, you must not question the person's inner worth -- the child of God.

For this reason, in Seicho-No-Ie we see only the child of God that dwells in all people. Here we cannot help but completely change our outlook on human life. A dark view of life will change to a bright one. We will come naturally to see all our brothers and sisters standing in the light of the sun. This is indeed the secret to a happy life. Although Christ taught that we should love our enemies, through Seicho-No-Ie enemies will no longer exist in our world.

(excerpt from monthly SEICHO-NO-IE magazine, First Issue, pp. 22-23)