



SHINKI NEWS

NO. 21

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Soke's Word

Text: Michael Daishiro Nakajima

Once again, I was inspired by a history novel by Rin Hamuro. This time it was about “Kōmyō” (701-760), who practically played the role of the empress. She was the wife of Emperor Shōmu (701-756). Since she did not come from the imperial family, she was not officially allowed to be called Empress at the time. Still, it was the time of the empresses. I name them in the order of succession (years of life in brackets):

- 33. Suiko-Ten'no (554-628)
- 35. Kōgyoku-Ten'no (594-661)
- 37. Saimei-Ten'no (594-661: same person known as Kōgyoku)
- 41. Jitō-Ten'no (645-703)
- 43. Genmei-Ten'no (661-721)
- 44. Genshō-Ten'no (680-748)
- 45. Shōmu-Ten'no (701-756)
- 46. Kōmyō-Kōgō (701-760)
- 47. Kōken-Ten'no (718-770)
- 48. Shōtoku-Ten'no (718-770: same person known as Kōken)

Later there were two more empresses:

- 109. Meishō-Ten'no (1624-1696)
- 117. Gosakuramachi-Ten'no (1740-1813)

So in Japanese history there were a total of 8 empresses for 10 successions to the throne. **We see that there were many empresses in the 7th - 8th centuries. And they weren't necessarily just puppets of men. Many of them were aware of their responsibility to the people, and based on the ideal of Buddhism, which was introduced in Japan around 538, they tried to lead the country for good.** Incidentally, it is almost ridiculous that there is serious debate today about whether or not to accept an empress again.

But now I come back to the Kōmyō-Kōgō. Since she - as already mentioned - did not descend from the imperial family, but from the Fujiwara family, she had a difficult position

with regard to the members of the imperial family. Since her husband, Shōmu-Ten'no, did not seem to have had a strong character, she had to give him strong support. Within the imperial family, there was also a strong rival to her husband, who was later driven to his death by her brothers, discussing which side was more guilty. There was also a major smallpox epidemic that killed many people, including all four of Kōmyō-Kōgō's brothers. Her husband Shōmu wanted a peaceful country and happy people, but the above-mentioned negative events afflicted him. He was restless, and kept changing the capital as his seat to wish a better fate. However, Kōmyō-Kōgō realized that this was no solution and wanted to give her husband a sense of purpose.

She noticed the impotence of human endeavors, even if she wanted to be a ray of light for the emperor and the people, as her name translates as Kōmyō. For example, she built Seyaku-in (a type of government hospital) and Hiden-in (a type of government poor house). Finally, however, she initiated that the emperor should erect a large Buddha statue (Daibutsu) as a visible symbol for the mercy of the Birushana Buddha (Vairocana), who is present in the middle of heaven as the center of the universe and radiates his light of mercy. This is the Daibutsu of Nara that the traveling members saw in 2005 and 2015.

Even today we have a lot of suffering and misfortune in our world. Not only the corona virus, but also the unrest caused by dictators and the quasi-dictators (who are all men) and many natural disasters. A little more feminine energy and care seems to be needed. But is it not also necessary that we look to heaven? Outwardly, some of us looked up when Comet Neowise greeted our earth again after 4000 or 5000 years, or when the meteorite stream of the Perseids sent shooting stars, like every year this August. Do we do that internally too? Look up to the sky? Looking for the central meaning? Always striving to live unconditionally from the spirit of love?

Information About the Upcoming Election

Text: Duncan Underwood

Dear Shinki Rengo members,

5 years have passed since the last election for our respective Examination- and Instructor- Commissions. Therefore, the next election must be held this year.

Discussions about the election process, which began at our commission meeting this year, were delayed or postponed due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, which for all of us is new and unsettling. However, I think that there is now a general agreement about the best way to proceed.

Resolutions were passed both in 2015 and at this year's meeting.

Following consultation with Sensei, the election will be conducted in the first two weeks of November (beginning: 01.11.2020 – ending: 15.11.2020). The exact arrangements and procedure of which will soon be published on the Shinki Rengo homepage.

It is very important that members, who wish to be considered for election, contact me (duncan.underwood[at]t-online.de) up until 10.10.2020. They should inform me that they are willing to accept such an appointment, and importantly, all the obligations in which it entails. In case I do not receive any feedback from someone, I will assume that they do not wish to be considered for election.

These are the overall conditions:

Each eligible voter can cast up to 5 votes to different candidates. Voting for oneself is allowed. The commissions will be filled according to the order of results, the number of votes cast for each candidate, starting with the Examination Commission (4th Dan and above only), and then the Instructor Commission (2nd Dan and above only). The members standing for the Examination Commission and the Instructor Commission must be announced in advance and must declare their willingness to accept the role in the event of their election.

Eligibility to vote for the Instructor Commission: All who have a rank of at least 5th Kyu, are 18 years of age or over, and are named on the member list currently maintained by Susanne (this guarantees membership in Shinki Rengo of at least approximately 3 months prior to the election), and who are members of a German Dojo.

Eligibility to vote for the Examination Commission: The Examination Commission, as an expert commission, should be appointed by experts. In this respect, the eligibility to vote is deemed appropriate from 1st Dan and higher members of a German Dojo.

All voters should have attended at least one seminar with Sensei per year.

- Criteria to be considered for election:

For election to the Instructor Commission: Regular teaching in one's respective dojo, at least 2nd Dan.

- For election to the Examination Commission: at least 4th Dan.

Number of members per commission: Both commissions are to consist of 5 members each.

Distribution of Roles: The roles within the commissions will not be assigned directly based on election results (e.g., a chairperson is not appointed on the basis of the most votes). Roles will be distributed by the members within the newly formed commissions themselves.

I wish us all a fortunate hand in the election so that the functions are performed by responsible and dedicated elected members.

Promotions

May 13, 2020 – August 18, 2020

Aikido

Schmitt
Shishinyov

Benjamin Lucien
Yuriy

Kuryshhev
Ermarth
Paluszek

Vladimir
Enzio
Arkadiusz

Lahnstein
Lahnstein

HD Umlauf
Edingen
Rödental

9 Kyu
9 Kyu

Shidoïn
Shidoïn
Shidoïn

Seminars

2020

Seminars 2020

Sat 17. – Sun 18. October **Edingen: Shinkiryu Aiki Budo Lehergang** mit
M. D. Nakajima Soke

Sat 7. – Sun 8. November **Dresden: Shinkiryu Aiki Budo Lehergang**
with M. D. Nakajima Soke

Sat 7. November **Leopoldshafen: Aikido Lehergang Leopoldshafen**
with Rick Soriano

Sat 21. – Sun 22. November **Bartholomä: Shinkiryu Aiki Budo Lehergang**
with M. D. Nakajima Soke

Sat 10. – Sun 18. April 2021 **Hiddensee: Aiki Budo Lehergang**
with Petra and Bernd Hubl

Arigato gozaimasu

Preview Shinki News No. 22

The next edition of Shinki News will be published in December 2020.

If you would like to contribute to Shinki News, please submit your contribution(s) to: shinkinews@shinkiryu.de and we will contact you to discuss the formalities.

Have a nice autumn full of Ki!
Shinki News Team.

Imprint

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Rick Soriano



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