



As spring begins bush warblers in forests everywhere

I offer you my sincere congratulations on the 15th anniversary of Omotesenke Domonkai Eastern Region USA.

I wish to express my heartfelt respect for the first branch manager Ueno Ryuji and all the branch members.

Omotesenke Domonkai was inaugurated at Kyoto's Daitokuji Temple in Showa 17 (1942). Straddling the 20th and 21st centuries and becoming established in different regions and in the hearts of each member, it has flourished to the present day.

This time it is an honour for Omotesenke to have Yuyusai asked to give the keynote speech at the Library of Congress. To commemorate this, the Iemoto is donating the two-line calligraphy 'As spring begins bush warblers in forests everywhere'.

This verse comes from the Zen saying, 'As spring begins flowers in forests everywhere In autumn the reflection of the moon in all kinds of water is the same for everyone'. It means that when the earth is bathed in spring sunshine the hills and fields are filled with flowers and in autumn the moon's reflection shines in the clear water of bays. I think it shows the grandeur of nature and the fairness and impartiality of its boundless spirit. The third generation Iemoto Genpaku Sotan changed 'flower' to 'bush warbler'. This makes us feel all the more the preciousness of all living things.

I think that what Omotesenke Domonkai has been aiming for is conveyed in the spirit of these words.

I would like the spirit of tea, transcending the boundaries of countries, regions and times and respecting nature and people, to be preserved and transmitted.

I wish for the success of this commemorative function and for the Eastern Region USA branch to make even greater progress through the devotion of each member.

Jimyosai  
**Sen Sotan**