

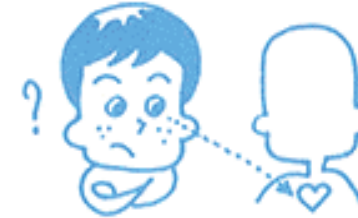
## It is possible to use your own mind, but not the minds of others.



“I want this and that.” We can think of anything like this. As individuals, we are free to think whatever we want, but we cannot control other people’s thoughts. Since each person has their own mind, it is unreasonable to force our desires onto others, and vice versa. If everyone insists on indulging their own ego, it is certain that disaster will happen.

We are taught in the Ofudesaki: “Even between parent and child, husband and wife, and brothers and sisters: their minds all differ from one another.” As we are each different in our own unique ways, we humans have the freedom to think in whatever way we want. However, the more we force our desires onto others, the more we end up amplifying our sense of want.

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*The body is a thing borrowed. That you do not have complete control over the body is proof that it is a thing borrowed.*

—Osashizu, December 6, 1887



Human beings have believed that their bodies are their own. The concept of the body as a “thing borrowed” is not something that anyone had thought of before. God the Parent, who created human beings, informed us of this for the first time. It is the same God who works tirelessly for us, so that we can breathe and live each day, without conscious effort. The bodily functions such as respiration and digestion are all enabled by God. As our bodily functions and our thoughts are closely related, we should be conscious of these daily blessings and have gratitude toward God while we are safe and sound.

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