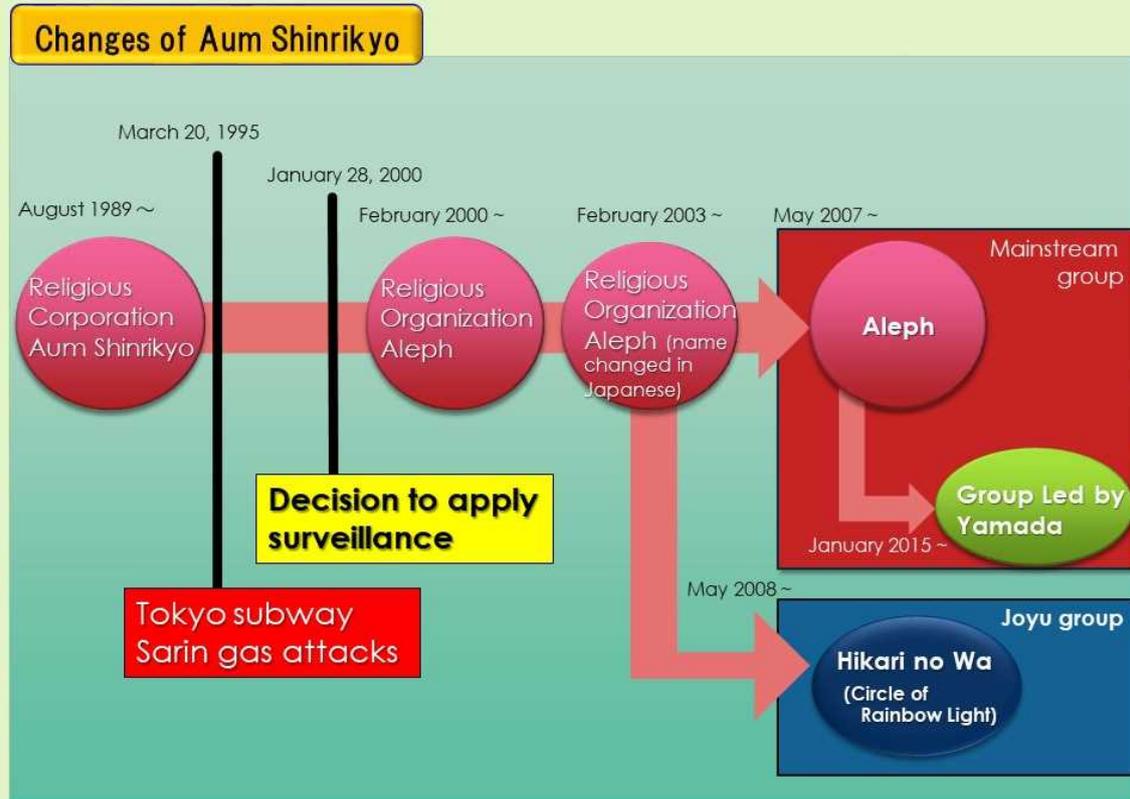


# Current Status of Aum Shinrikyo

## 1 Changes of Aum Shinrikyo

The cult continues their activities by changing their name and splitting into multiple groups.



## 2 Current Activities

### Mainstream group

— Aleph —

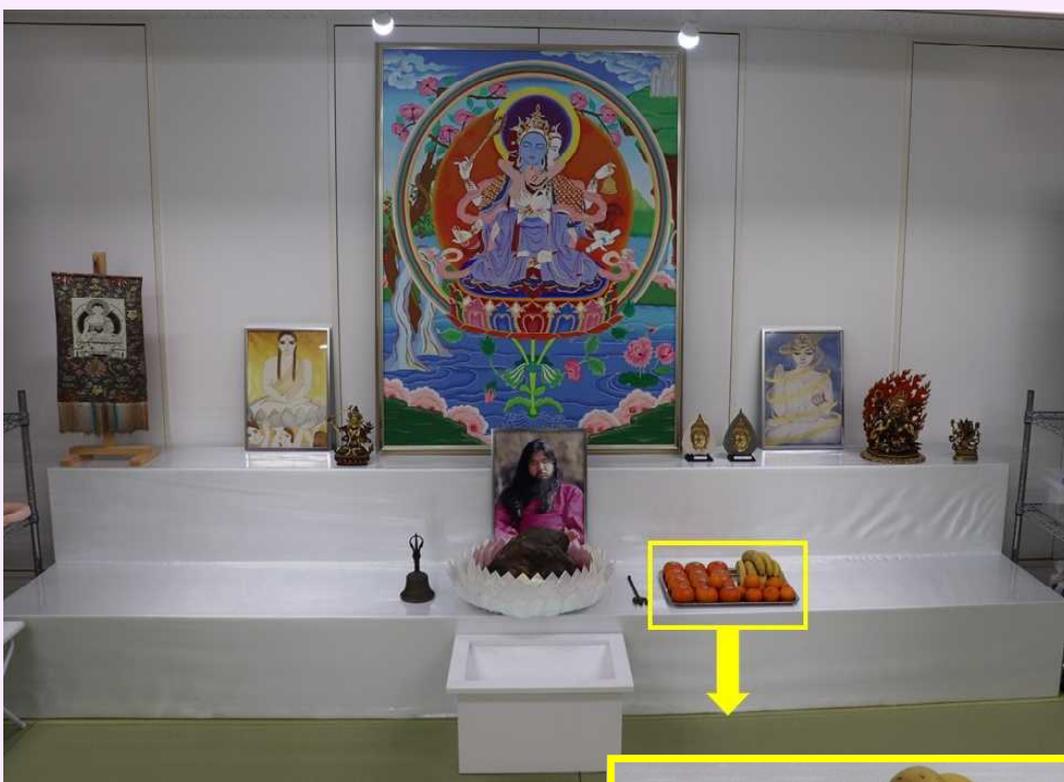
Even a year after the execution of Asahara and others in July 2018, the cult still continues to show absolute devotion to Asahara.

Placing Asahara's photo on altar

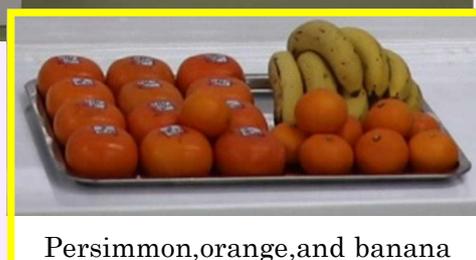
- Even after the execution of Asahara and others, a photo of Asahara is still placed on the altar of Aleph, and some facilities provide his favorite fruits for the altar.



An altar that was found during the on-site inspection at Ikuno facility (Osaka, July 2019)



An altar that was found during the on-site inspection at Sapporo Shiroishi facility (Hokkaido, November 2019)



Persimmon, orange, and banana

Implementing the same practices as the time of the attacks

- Even now, in their practices, they use (✂) an instrument called “perfect salvation initiation”(PSI), which is said to

“transmit Asahara’s brainwave data”.

※ They use headgear with electrodes wearing on the head, as shown in the frame of the photo below.



A “PSI” that was found during the on-site inspection at the Yokohama facility (Kanagawa, April 2019)

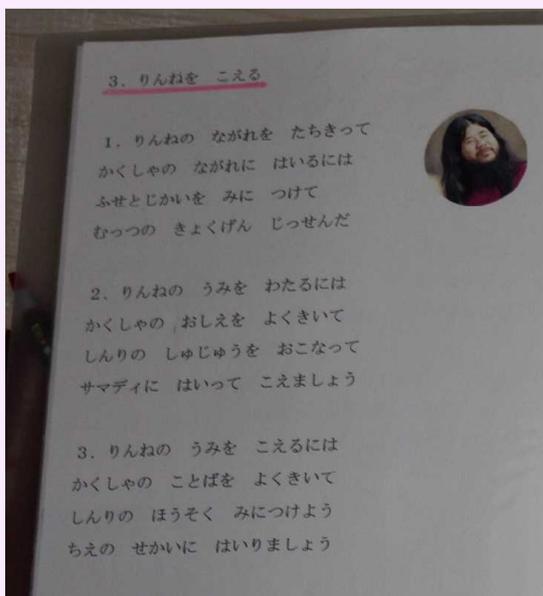
- Even now, as part of their practices, they use and drink “sweet water” that Asahara placed as “miraculous holy water” and is considered holy water filled with high-dimensional energy.



“Sweet water” tanks that were found during the on-site inspection at the Yashio Oze Facility (Saitama, June 2019)

### Guidance toward minors

- Minors, such as little children and elementary and junior high school pupils, visit Aum’s facilities where teaching materials for children including picture books are used.



A part of book of lyrics for children that was found during the on-site inspection at Nagoya facility (Aichi, January 2019)



A picture that was found during the on-site inspection at Sapporo facility (Hokkaido, May 2019)

Aleph, aiming to expand its organization, has actively

been recruiting young people while concealing the name of the cult. In 2019, Aleph acquired about 90 new followers with young people (aged 34 or under), accounting for nearly 80 percent of the new followers.

## < Main Process of Recruitment Activities >

### Step 1

Aleph's followers approach mainly **young people**, while concealing the cult's name.

☐ The cult group invites targets, i. e. those interested in religion and yoga to **yoga classes or study groups while concealing the name of the cult.**



Talking at a bookstore (two persons on the right are followers)

### Step 2

In the yoga classes, etc. , followers **build relationships** with the targets while instructing them.

### Step 3

After reducing the reservations about the cult held by targets, the followers **reveal the name of the cult and invite them to join.**

[Click here](#) for the details of the group's recruitment activities.

– Yamadara no Shudan (Group Led by Yamada) –

- Yamadara no Shudan splintered from Aleph and started activities from January 2015.
- Even after Asahara's execution, they continue to show absolute devotion to Asahara in the same way as Aleph, such as displaying Asahara's photo in their facilities and holding study groups using Asahara's preachings.



Asahara's photo (in the frame of the photo, upper-left) and an altar similar to that of Aleph that were found during the on-site inspection at Kanazawa facility (Ishikawa, March 2019)



Books that were found during the on-site inspection at Kanazawa facility (Ishikawa, March 2019)

### Joyu group

- Hikari-no-Wa (Circle of Rainbow Light) —
  - Hikarin-no-Wa is an organization formed by Fumihiro Joyu in May 2007 following the will of Asahara who sought the

continuation of his organization.

- As well as displaying Buddhist paintings apparently connected to Asahara in facilities, they introduce and conduct “learning tests” where followers are pitted against each other, which is a method once used by Asahara, and carry out such practices as “visiting holy places”\*.

\* “Visiting holy places” refers to the practice of visiting shrines and temples deemed holy places by Joyu, and visiting shrines regarded as “places related to Asahara”.



Buddhist paintings that were found during the on-site inspection at Minami Karasuyama facility (Tokyo, July 2019)



Meditation ceremony while visiting holy places (June 2019)