

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Dieter Schmidt - On Our Attitude To Nature

Knut Holdhus
June 6, 2024



Divinity in nature



Dieter Schmidt

mere coincidence, but a deliberate creation
Every tree, every flower, every creature is a

When we truly grasp this understanding, we can develop a sense of awe and reverence towards nature, recognising its inherent value and interconnectedness with our own existence.

For me, nature is like the body of our Heavenly Parent, something which is always around me, like the womb which the baby is in before it is born.

With that kind of feeling, why are we going to preserve nature? Because we all are the children of our Heavenly Parent. We should liberate [God](#) from [his sorrow](#).

2 The next thing we should do is to restore the original harmony. As you know, [Father Moon](#) teaches us that the harmony that once existed between humanity and nature has been disrupted due to our exploitation and disregard for the environment.

[Father Moon](#) says also in the reading we had today that he learned more than 80% of the [Divine Principle](#) from nature,

"We can learn everything from nature. I discovered more than 80 percent of the [Principle](#) in nature. I loved to spend nights in nature. One moonlit night I was walking through some pine trees. There were pine tree branches crisscrossing like intertwining arms. A half-moon was shining through the branches. Words cannot express such mysterious beauty. You have no idea how magical it was to hear the wind blowing while I was meditating in the midst of those drooping pine trees. I will never forget it. You must feel the joy." ("Let Us Return to Nature", a speech [Father Moon](#) gave 3rd Oct. 2001, excerpted and translated from the transcript.)

I am a doctor, especially for Oriental medicine, which explains the depths of the yin and yang of nature. We know this from the [Divine Principle](#), but also that yin and yang is at work in ourselves, in the body.

European leader emphasizes our attitude to nature in speech about major Holy Day

The Day of All True Things, one of the main Holy Days of the [Family Federation](#), was celebrated on 6th June 2024 (1st May according to the Oriental lunar calendar) for the 62nd time. Dieter Schmidt, regional head of the Central Region of the [Family Federation](#) of Europe and the Middle East, delivered in an online prayer meeting on 5th June, an inspirational message about the significance of the day. We have the pleasure to present excerpts, slightly edited.

The Day of All True Things has always been a very joyful day for me.

[...] Today we can see there are many movements who really fight to save this world and the environment from pollution, and protect the climate. I have to say we can learn a lot from them, and we should look more seriously into them.

But still, when I hear or watch them, I feel always something is missing. And what is missing is something maybe we, as the "children" of our Heavenly Parent, should add to this wonderful work to preserve our Mother Earth.

I want to share with you a few suggestions which might help us to know what we should do or what we can do in this process.



And the first is to recognise the divine creation. The [True Parents](#) taught us that nature is not a of a loving and wise [God](#), our Heavenly Parent. unique expression of divine artistry.

So we are, just like the [Principle](#) says, a microcosm of the macrocosm. And that is why we should completely be in harmony with this world.

And this is possible when we realise especially through physiotherapy, that [God](#) has actually given us all the plants and all the flowers, all the roots to preserve very well our health much more often than we can do with just medical treatment.

So, in this way, with our own body we need to live in harmony.

We have to take care, like [Mother Moon](#) says, of our health. We should really think deeply how and what we eat, so that we can contain our health and thus fulfil with a healthy body the work of our Heavenly Parent.



Half-moon shining through pine trees. Illustration by Microsoft Designer Image Creator

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The third, I would suggest, is also not new to us, but it is very significant. It is what especially [Mother Moon](#) emphasizes all the time - to practise gratitude and appreciation. By expressing gratitude and appreciation for the gifts of nature, something will change.

The nature will respond to our love. If we genuinely appreciate the beauty of the sunrise, or the majesty of a mountain range, or the delicate intricacy of a flower, we develop a deep sense of connection to and love for the natural world.

Let us cultivate a habit of gratitude, acknowledging the earth's generosity and committing ourselves to its preservation. In that sense, I learned so much from our [True Parents](#). I remember when they were in Switzerland, how much they loved the beautiful mountains there.



[Sun Myung Moon](#) feeding ducks in Berlin in 1965

I remember how [Father Moon](#) came to Berlin on his last visit there. The [True Parents](#) wanted to do

sightseeing, and we were prepared to show them many historical buildings. But their main wish was to see nature. So [Mother Moon](#) asked me, "Do we have mountains in Berlin?"

And I had to say to her, "We prepared everything, but no mountains. Sorry."

But then we went to the beautiful [Palace gardens of Charlottenburg](#), and there was such an important moment when [Father Moon](#) was close to a little lake [...] He was just sitting there for minutes to look at nature, to look at the little animals being there.

In this way, we really could feel how much he loves nature, and how much we all should love nature.

4 The next point I would suggest, is that when we look at nature, we should care for it as if it would be our home, our cosmic home. [Father Moon](#) taught us that the earth is not just a physical dwelling place, but a spiritual home for humanity.

As caretakers of this cosmic home, we all have a sacred duty to protect and nurture it. This involves adopting sustainable lifestyles, reducing waste, conserving resources and advocating for qualities that prioritise environmental preservation.

We, our movement, with this understanding that this is the beautiful creation of our Heavenly Parent, should actually be at the forefront of preserving nature.

We should really think more how we can speak up loud and do something in many different ways, but maybe also in very simple ways, at home, to preserve nature.

"All things" are not only the nature, also the things in our homes and houses. And we should really take beautifully care of them.

5 And last, I think when we live this lifestyle, it is very significant that we educate and inspire our children, the future generation, so that they can from the beginning understand. By instilling in our children a deep love and respect for nature, we empower them to become responsible stewards of the earth.

Let us educate them about the interconnectedness of all life, the importance of conservation and the need for some sustainable practises.

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June 19, 2023 • Knut Holdhus

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“Day of All True Things”, established 1963, adds divine dimension to today’s green focus

A speech Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of Family Federation in Europe and Middle East, gave at the celebration of the Day of All True Things in Bad Camberg, Germany 18th June 2023.



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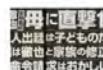
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“Good Teachings Put Into Practice For Society”

As you know, today is the Day of All True Things. As an inspiration for this brief message, I turn to **Father Moon's** speech on the Day of All True Things in 1974.



Dr. Michael Balcomb 18th June 2023.

To put things into context, at that time there were very few blessed couples, especially in the United States. None of the major public rallies like Madison Square Garden or Yankee Stadium or Yeoido had taken place. And **Father Moon** was speaking at Belvedere probably to a group of people of about this size, no more than one or two hundred people.

Days of celebration

And in his speech **Father Moon** commented that throughout history there have been many different types of days of celebration. Some days were celebrated purely locally, or maybe by one nation or another nation. And he commented that in many cases the celebration of one people is actually of their victory over another people. So what might be a day of happiness in one nation, could be a day of sorrow in another nation.

And he also went on to say that we also commemorate days which are days of sorrow or reflection for everybody. Here in Europe for example, on the 11th November, the whole of Europe pauses to remember the dead of two great World Wars, regardless of their nationality.

And then **Father Moon** asked, "So, what kind of day are we celebrating today? The Day of All True Things? Is it a day of joy, or is it a day marking a great sorrow?"

Creation in utter sorrow



I'm asking you. **Father Moon** had a different answer; he said, "Of course this is a day of joy, but we have to remember how it started. How did these Holy Days become necessary? It started with the Fall of Man."

Father Moon had this very interesting comment,

"At the time of the fall of Adam and Eve, if **God** had just slapped them on their cheeks, they could have felt a little relieved in their hearts. But **God** turned his face away and never said anything. He never did anything to them. If their sin could have been indemnified on the very spot by **God** beating them, it could have been much easier for men and women to return to **God**. But **God** could not do that. So **God**, human beings and all things had to be in utter sorrow and grief.

We have been taught by the **Principle** that at the moment of the human fall, men and women were chased out of the Garden of Eden. They ceased to be **God's** son and daughter; **God** was no longer their Father; and all things were not under their dominion."

Pretty strong stuff, right? And you can find the same sentiment in the Scriptures. Take a look at the book of Isaiah, chapter 24, verses 4-6.

"The earth dries up and withers,
the world languishes and withers;
the heavens, languish together with the earth.
The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants;
for they have transgressed laws,
violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant."

So **God** has had to remain in sorrow – **Father Moon** said for thousands of years until somebody could come and renew the covenant that Adam and Eve put aside. And that, of course, is our **True Parents**.

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Free gift from God became point of contention



Now many of us in the audience are parents, and perhaps you can remember as you were bringing up your children, maybe your grandchildren, two kinds of emotion. When you prepare something really beautiful for your children, and they happily accept it, play with it and are joyful, you feel so happy.

But what if they cast it aside or break it, or it even becomes a point of contention and fighting? And your children fight each other over what you had intended to be a beautiful gift? You know how disappointing that is, as a parent. And I believe that for our Heavenly Parent, it's the same. **God** gave us this beautiful world, this incredible creation, but instead of appreciating it, caring for it, loving it, it sometimes has become a point of contention and fighting.

Even now in Europe, we have a mighty and bloody war going on over the land that **God** gave to all of humanity. And not just in that country, but all over the world, there is conflict to possess the things that were meant to be a free gift of God.

Restore the pristine state

So our **True Parents** have come as the ones who can set this record right, not just once, but forever. Paraphrasing the book of Hebrews, **True Parents** are the same yesterday, today and forever, and we are here to remind ourselves of that covenant ourselves. **Mother Moon** is so serious about protecting the planet that God has given us. She's always talking about the need to protect the creation, and not just protect it, but restore it to its pristine state, to make it beautiful once again.

Those of us who had the opportunity to go to Korea a month ago could see how **Mother Moon's** desire is being expressed in so many different ways, in buildings, sure, but also in greenhouses, gardens and boats, and everything she touches. She's thinking about how to restore this world to its original state.

And luckily we have an opportunity to do something about that as well. Because each of us is created by **God** to fulfill those three blessings, among which is to have dominion over all of creation and all things.

Learn to love each other first

But one time, speaking in Brazil, **Father Moon** made a very simple observation. He said today people are concerned about the environment, but I can tell you we will never love the environment until we learn to love each other. Because we human beings are the pinnacle of all creation.

If we can't love each other, how can we love all the things? And we will never love each other unless we learn again to love our Heavenly Parent and to put **God** the very first in our life every day. **Mother Moon** says we have to understand the essence of the Heavenly Parent, the longing of the Heavenly Parent to gather all the children of the world back together.

Our responsibility, who we are

Turning back to that first quote where **Father Moon** makes this comment, if **God** could have slapped their cheeks, if **God** could have punished them on the spot, wouldn't it be easier for Adam and Eve to be forgiven or to recognize even what they had done? And I see in myself also this desire for instant action. If something is wrong, why don't you solve it right now?

God could not do that because God can only work when we realize and recognize our responsibility, it will never be taken away. So God had to step back. And sometimes we have to step back and allow the healing power of our own conscience to come and let us understand who we are, what we are.

[...] But one thing will never change. We are the eternal children of our Heavenly Parent and our True Parents. Today let us determine to renew that covenant that was lost, to love all things, to love each other, and to love God. Thank you very much.

"Green Focus Holy Day 60 Years" is a slightly edited version of Dr. Michael Balcomb's speech on 18th June 2023. ("Green Focus" headline added by unificationnews.eu)

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