

Testimony: My Early Impression of True Father

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True Father arrived in Japan on January 28, 1965. At that time, though it was the first time I had met him, through Teacher Jong Ok Lee, I received a letter from True Father. That letter included "With a parental heart, become a servant and raise many people." This was a high-level task for someone lowly like me. However, I was made very happy by the thought that Father had expectations for such a lowly person as me.

True Father's purpose of visiting Japan was to dedicate a holy ground. Out of all the countries in the world, the first place to decide a holy ground was Japan. From Dr. Nishikawa (Masaru Nishikawa, the first missionary to Japan from Korea; Bong Choon Choi [Sang Ik "Papasan" Choi]), I was told to go around with True Father to choose the holy ground, so I went around with him.

Eight places had been chosen for Japan but we could not go to the last place, Sendai, Sapporo. The places I went to were in Tokyo, Nagoya, Oosaka, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka, these six places. By the way, we travelled with Dr. Nishikawa and Mrs. Sakurai to Sendai and Sapporo. In Nagoya, we rode the newly invented bullet train.

Those who rode the bullet train were True Father, Teacher Won Pok Choi, Teacher Nishikawa Teacher [Osami] Kuboki and I. I sat opposite True Father with a slight space between us. While we were having a meal, True Father asked, "Tomi-chan, do you want to eat a little bit?" and handed me his lunch box. Normally, because it would be too high an honor, one would normally say, No, thank you; that's all right. Yet, counter to what I would usually do, I accepted it, replying, "Thank you for the food." At that time, we were in a parent-child relationship, so I was able to receive it honestly. Then True Father said, "Give me some of yours, too, Tomichan."



From my half-eaten lunch box, nothing remained to reasonably offer, but I handed him my lunch box. Father took one thing from the lunch box. To this day, I do not know why Father did this, but he may have been trying to loosen up my heart, which was feeling nervous. My first impression of True Father is that he seemed like the pro wrestler, Riki Dozan (real name, Momota Mitsuhiro, an adoptee of Korean ethnicity, 1924-1963). I felt that he was such a great person on an unimaginable scale. It reminded me of when I was little and my father first took me to see the ocean, the unimaginable wide vastness of which the Shinano River, which flowed through Niigata, my hometown, could not compare. At that time, we called Teacher Nishikawa "Papa" but after meeting True Father,

Teacher Nishikawa seemed small and more like an older brother than a father. I might of have just seen it spiritually. Looking at the three wrinkles on Father's forehead, I thought, "Normally, wrinkles form from hard work for oneself or for one's own family, but this person has been working hard for others and formed these wrinkles." As I was serving True Father, I had the opportunity to observe him up close. True Father's lips and the area around his mouth were damaged. I later came to learn that before he came to Japan, he had gone around Korea continuously teaching Heavenly Parents' message.

I think it was in 1965, when I was cleaning the table in the room where True Father slept. I heard True Father snoring. Though a screen divided the area with the table and the bed were, from the sound I looked in the direction where he was resting and his sleeping figure came to my eyes. I was surprised. While holding an English book in his left hand with his arm raised in the air, he slept and snored loudly. Ordinarily, an arm holding a book would be in the air; otherwise, from its own weight, the book would fall from one's fingers. It was as if I were seeing some strong aspect of his heart: We see him as our Teacher but it is not as if naturally he would have a sense for English. He might not learn it in the way that young people can. In this way, Father was studying very hard.

Already, Father had with him Teacher Won Pok Choi, who spoke English fluently. I did not think he needed to study English, but True Father apparently thought he did.

"Just take it as if you were born to do this" is what True Father says but True Father's life was already such a life. True Father is an always serious and always a life-risking person.