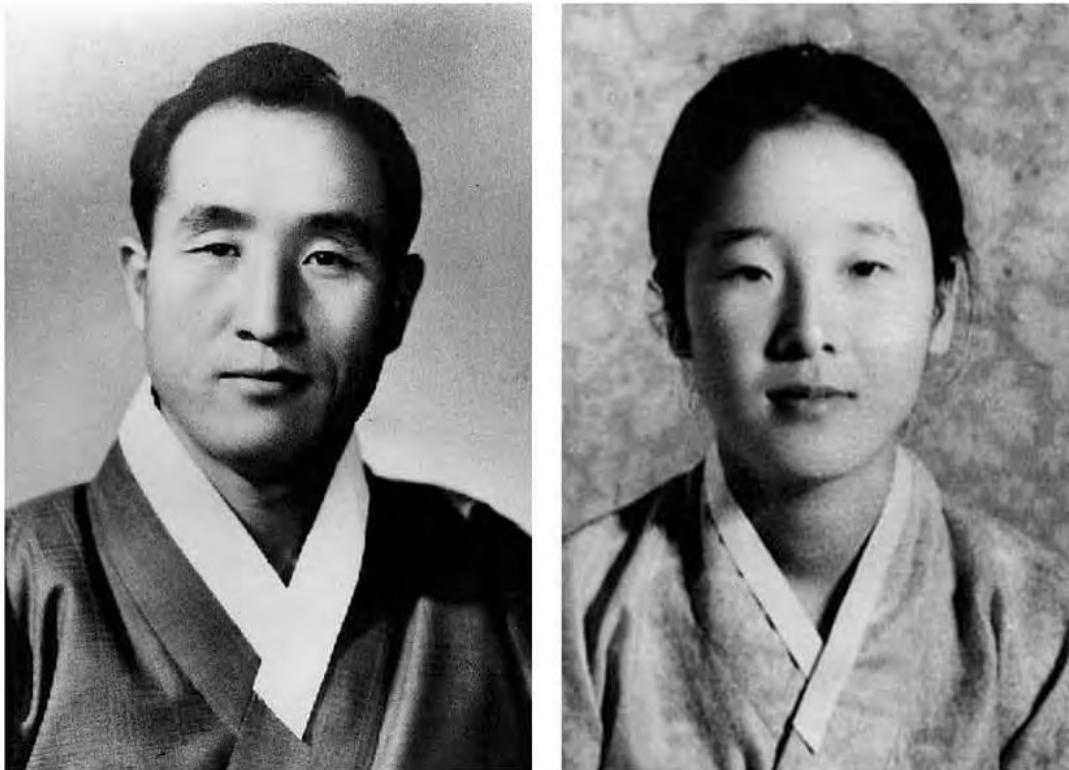


The Only Begotten Daughter - May Her Peace Settle Gently On the Earth

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True Mother gently awakened me this morning, as her love and presence resonated in my innermost heart. I felt a deep joy that I did not want to dissipate through activity, so for a moment, I communed heart to heart with her before I rose to begin my busy day. I cherish these moments. They cannot arise without a profound sense of unworthiness on my part, a sense that in turn, translates to gratitude and the emotional energy, the resolution of will, to get up and get going.

When I first heard True Mother proclaimed as the "Only Begotten Daughter of God," I initially experienced cognitive dissonance, then concern. The biblical, historical, and theological terminology of "Only Begotten" carries centuries of Judeo-Christian baggage. Thus, the historical confusion surrounding the term's meaning and implications, predictably created intellectual and conceptual static which took time to process. After all, what did True Mother mean by adopting the title? Or rather, what did our Heavenly Parent intend by bestowing the role and distinction upon her? What does this all mean? As a start, I fully embraced Mother's role as the "Only Begotten Daughter." And then, like Augustine, I prayed that deeper understanding would follow upon faith.

To conceptually grasp our True Mother's proclamation, we first must disentangle the title from a

misconceived Christian theology: to bestow this distinction on True Mother does not mean that, uncreated, she eternally existed with God the Father. "Only Begotten" is translated from the Greek μονογενῆς, which means "unique" or the "only one." In Hebrews 11:17, Isaac is referred to as Abraham's "only begotten son." Of course, we know that Isaac was not the only son of Abraham, who also fathered Ishmael. Rather, the passage indicates to us that Isaac is to inherit the covenantal relationship with the God of Abraham. From the Unificationist vantage, one informed by the Divine Principle and True Father's words, True Mother was chosen by God to walk an impossibly difficult course of salvation together with True Father, in order to recover the position of our original ancestor Eve, lost at the time of the Fall. Thus, the title represents the recognition by our Heavenly Parent of True Mother's substantial accomplishments as a providential figure. Like Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus, Hak Ja Han has become the inheritor of God's covenant. We will stand or fall based upon our unity with her. Even as I write these words, I feel a sense of awe over their implications and a sense of repentance for my profound ignorance as to the full significance of them.

For a moment, consider the role of Eve in the process of the Fall, and the course of restoration through the Holy Spirit after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Does it not seem intuitively appealing and persuasively logical that our True Mother, as the restored Eve, would bear the substantial burden of world salvation after our True Father's ascension? With this in mind, it seems clear that the pivotal event of modern human history is the Marriage of the Lamb prophesied in Revelations, and performed on April 11, 1960 amidst great persecution and in relative obscurity. Jesus foresaw, that "as in the Days of Noah," the world would carry on "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage," (Matthew 24:38) while missing entirely this singular, historical, and transformative occurrence.

As we establish ourselves in the Age of Cheon Il Guk, it appears that TS Eliot, in his poem "The Hollow Men," correctly predicted that the fallen world would expire, "not with a bang but a whimper." From 1960 forward, the bright light of truth has exposed human sin previously hidden in darkness, casting our age into growing disarray. The edifices of the world, constructed not upon rock but shifting sands, have begun to crack and crumble, while certainties and authoritative assertions have begun to ring hollow. Our secular and religious leaders inspire less and less confidence, and often, they simply appear tawdry. The illusions which necessarily sustain the fallen world, ever more frequently fail to have purchase and persuasive effect. Instead, we "see through" every political gesture and apprehend... nothing, as our social conversation devolves into increasingly acrimonious exchanges that spiral us downward to nihilism.

This festering existential crisis fittingly concludes the 400 year course of Christianity which began with John Calvin. The need for the healing balm of a maternal salvation in our world has never been so apparent. In answer to our prayers, God has blessed us with His Only Begotten Daughter. May Her Peace settle gently on the Earth in this season.

Merry Christmas!