

1 Experiencing Heavenly Parent's Love in a True Family

– Parents' Love

True Parents' Words

Children are the substantial manifestation of their parents' love and investment. They are an extension of their parents' life and the embodiment of their parents' ideals. Those who have given birth to children and loved them know this. They say to their beloved children, "You are the embodiment of my love, the extension of my life and the realization of my ideals. You are a second me." Because children are born on the basis of the parents' love, life and ideals, the more the parents see their children, the more they find them lovable, the more vibrant their lives become, and the more they discover in their children their ideal object partners. [CSG 3.2.2:1]

The most precious love of all is parental love. This is because true love travels by the most direct route. Parental love is the vertical expression of true love. Vertical love occupies only one point and cannot be divided. If you change that position, you are turning heaven and earth upside down. No matter how capable you are, no matter how skillful you are, if you shift the position of vertical love, you make heaven and earth grow dark; you turn it into hell. Since love travels along the shortest route, it intersects the horizontal plane at a perpendicular angle. You cannot damage this love; you can't put it aside. It is only one. It is absolute. Because the parent-child relationship is vertical and perpendicular, no power can sever it. [CSG 3.2.2:3]

A mother and father do not keep accounts of their sacrifices for their children, how much they worked at night to feed them and send them to school. They don't calculate their investment or expect a return, saying, "I have spent this amount on you; in ten years it will be worth this much, including interest." Instead they invest everything without keeping track of it and forget what they have invested. The principle of creation tells us that only in sacrifice can you find true love. This is why parents are good. Parental love is the best thing. People without parents are called orphans. Being an orphan is very sad. An orphan has no roots and so cannot set his or her direction in place. [CSG 3.2.2:5]

To satisfy a baby's hunger, its mother's breasts swell with milk. When the milk accumulates, the breasts begin to hurt and the mother's entire body feels pressure. The feeling of a mother as she embraces and breastfeeds her child is beyond expression. When the swollen breasts empty, the mother feels relieved and happy. Only mothers can understand this feeling. Moreover, as a mother watches her baby nurse at her breast and caresses it, love springs up in her heart. At that time, joy and sadness intertwine in a mother's heart in a way that only a mother can comprehend. [CSG 3.2.2:14]

Sharing Thoughts

The Japanese novelist Kenzaburō Ōe is a well-known writer. While in university, he already debuted in his literary career as a young writer with a promising future. As soon as his talent was recognized, he was not envious of anything.

However, that kind of life changed for him in a moment. After he married, in the year in which he turned 26, he had a son who had a congenital deformity of the brain. In a moment, the color of Kenzaburō Ōe's life changed to gray. His son had surgery but remained a disabled child who would not be able to live a normal life. Still, Kenzaburō Ōe was not discouraged. He determined to start his life again and live together in that world with his child. His son appears in many of his novels. One of these describes his life with his son, and the shock he felt at his child's illness. His literary works usually

deal with the problems of life, love and the salvation of humankind, but the influence of the work about his son has spread beyond Japan out to the world.

Ultimately, in 1994 he received the Nobel Prize in Literature. Due to his unfortunate son, his life had turned around. Later it was discovered that this son to whom he had given so much love had musical talent; he now is active as a famous composer.

If we look at the allegory above—before marriage Kenzaburō Ōe must have had many dreams about his life! After marriage, when he found out that his child was disabled, he might have felt despair, as if the sky were collapsing. On his own, however, he chose the role that as a parent he had to take; at the same time, he was able to distinguish between his conscious role as a parent and some fateful, destined life course. Maybe because of that he was great. He did not work hard for himself or his own honor. However, by raising and taking care of his child, eventually he was able to attain a result that he had not anticipated.

Parental love is possible only after giving up and sacrificing oneself. Love for our children is not something that comes about through human power. That fact makes us experience a desperate heart and makes our character grow. Giving birth to and raising a child who resembles them gives parents an experience as if they are living a second life. While loving the child in their heart, the parents experience the child's growth process. The parent and child can find perfection if they live for and love each other. Parents cannot become parents by themselves. This is not something that a parent can decide by him- or herself. The parent must have a child, and when the child calls him or her "my parent," the parent can become a complete parent. However outstanding a character or personality one may have, without marrying or having a child, one's position as a parent cannot be set. Ultimately the value of a parent rests on how perfectly the parent has raised the child.

Therefore, parents worldwide also live sacrificially if it is for their children. Of course, they take care of their clothing, food and shelter, and they invest everything for their children's future. Why do they do that? It's because they must help their children become perfect before they can say they lived their lives well as parents. They are assessed as parents according to the successful position of their children. Moreover, we who are living and attending our Heavenly Parent hardly need to say anything more. Accordingly, our Heavenly Parent also comes to us, the children, so that we will respond as children do to their parents. and Heavenly Parent's position then will become perfected.

*** Points for contemplation**

- 1) Let's think about why we feel that the love of parents is great.
- 2) What kind of love did Kenzaburō Ōe fulfill?
- 3) Let's think about when the value of parents' love can be recognized.