

An Intimate Encounter with Nature at 21-Day Chung Pyung Workshop in 2023

Vera Tsumagari
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During my time at Chung Pyung in May of 2023, I had the opportunity to engage in an intimate encounter with nature that would forever leave a lasting impact on me. The setting for this encounter was the 21-Day workshop, where participants were encouraged to embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal growth.



As we climbed the stairway leading to the Tree of Blessing, each step brought us closer to a breathtaking sight. From the top of the stairway, one can overlook the entirety of Chung Pyung, a vast expanse of pristine beauty. It is a sight that words cannot truly capture, as the sight of all the beautiful white buildings that sprung up over the years is nothing short of mesmerizing.

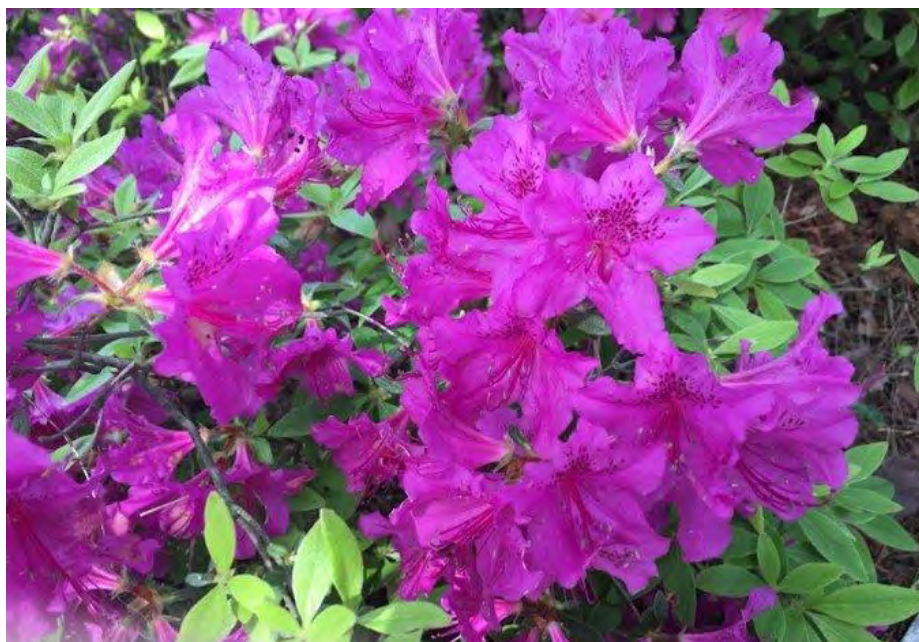
One day during my break, I did not have sufficient time to reach the top and decided to sit on a bench by the pond, close to where the water of life springs forth from the rocks. It was there that I had noticed the presence of two koi in the pond, a small one and a much larger one. Initially, both koi were swimming around, but lately, I had only observed the small one. As I sat down, I found myself communicating with the koi, expressing my concern and hope that nothing had happened to the

other koi. I did not want the little koi to be alone. The koi seemed to sense my concern, and it swam closer as if to acknowledge my thoughts. It was in that moment that I realized the connection between us - two beings from different worlds, separated by space and time. We may not have understood each other's words, but our thoughts and emotions seemed to connect on a deeper level.

Simultaneously, my attention was drawn to the exquisite blue Irises, which immediately evoked memories of Vincent Van Gogh, the renowned Dutch painter. As I observed the irises more closely, my attention was drawn to one particular blossom that appeared to be on the verge of bursting into full bloom. I had never experienced this phenomenon before, and I marveled at the anticipation that hung in the air. Assessing the time available, I informed the irises that I had exactly 15 minutes. If they could captivate me by demonstrating how an ethereal flower could emerge from such a tightly-sealed bud within that timeframe, I would be deeply honored to witness the process. In response, I set my alarm for precisely 15 minutes.

As I sat there, meditating and praying with my eyes opened, my attention was drawn to the pond in front

of me. To my surprise, I witnessed a fascinating event unfold before my eyes. The smaller fish in the pond suddenly swam towards a specific area, as if guided by an invisible force. I watched intently, and a few seconds later, a larger fish followed closely behind, as if escorting its companion. It was as if they were sending a message: "Don't worry, I am not alone, my friend is here." Intrigued by this unusual sight, I glanced out of the corner of my eye, and that's when I witnessed an incredible spectacle. Three petals, resembling orchids, one right after the other unfolded, leaning backwards like a ballerina throwing her body backwards with remarkable grace and precision. Just as the final petal began to unfold, I noticed a distinct color within. It was a vibrant shade of blue, radiating beauty and captivating my attention. In mere seconds, the inner three petals sprang open, revealing a stunning blue iris in full bloom.



The sheer beauty of this iris left me speechless. Its intricate patterns and vibrant colors seemed to radiate an aura of serenity and tranquility. It was as if the iris had responded to my deepest desires, granting me a moment of pure enchantment. Just as I was starting to lose myself in the beauty and wonder of that moment, my alarm suddenly went off, jarring me back to reality - it was time to leave. As I walked away from the pond, I couldn't help but reflect on the extraordinary experience I had just witnessed. Was this a mere coincidence, or was there something more to it? I couldn't help but believe that that iris had somehow responded to my wish, confirming the power of prayer and the beauty of nature. This is Cheong Pyong for you, a beautiful place created by our beloved True Parents where heaven comes alive.

