Universal Peace Academy Class of 2019 Commencement Address

Thomas Selover February 22, 2019



Standards and Pursuit of Divine Objectives

Let me start by offering glory and praise to our loving Heavenly Parent and victorious True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. I also want to acknowledge representatives of the International Headquarters, chairman Yong-cheon Song, president Gi-seong Lee, other distinguished Cheon Il Guk leaders, family and friends and most especially 2019 graduates of SunHak UP Graduate University. Thank you for your presence here, and good morning to you all!

I'll begin with guidance from True Parents' malssum [the word]. I want to read a short passage from Cheon Seong Gyeong: "You need to establish a tradition based on the word and develop a character that will enable you to attain oneness with the word. In the Last Days there are three judg-ments: the first is judgment by the word, the second is judgment of character, and the third is judgment of heart. This is the absolute standard; it is already established." CSG 254 (2.5.5.18, K 256)

This passage outlines the three stages of judgment that we must meet: judgment of the word, judgment of personality (in-gyeok), and judgment of heart (shimjeong).

Judgment based on the word refers to how deeply we are endowed with the word of God; that is, the Divine Principle and True Parents' teachings. The word of God is our armor, our shield and our sword. Our recently ascended heavenly patriot, Dr. Bo Hi Pak, famously proclaimed "Truth is My Sword." The second judgment is based on personality (in-gyeok), how intensely and thoroughly we are able to love others. The third is judgment based on heart (shimjeong). This standard refers to how deeply and closely we are connected with and resonate with God's heart. All three stages are clearly described in True Parents' teachings. Our graduate university pursues training and discipline in all three -- word, personality and heart.

Education of heart, norm, genius

To emphasize this point, I will relate these three judgments to the three forms of education mentioned in Unification Thought -- education of heart, education of norm, and educa-tion of dominion to develop genius. ("the education of heart may be called an education to develop a person of character; the education of norm may be called an education to develop a good citizen; and the education of dominion may be called an education to develop a genius.") -- New Essentials of Unification Thought, p. 264.

Heart Here in the womb of the Hyo Jeong Cheonwon [the greater Chung Pyung area], developing a filial heart of hyo jeong and devotion toward Heavenly Parent and True Parents is the fundamental core of our education. Attachment to True Parents' realm of heart is a mysterious dimension that students may not always feel consciously but which affects everything that we do. By being filial children of True Parents, we can become filial children of our Heavenly Parent, the most fundamental reality among realities. Without knowing True Parents, we cannot understand our Heavenly Parent, who is invisible, and yet is our ultimate parent, the living origin, source and wellspring of shimjeong.

All of us here together, serving and training in this place, are constantly reminded to align our thinking and feelings with True Parents. We have pledged to be inheritors, so that one day True Parents can say to each of us, My son, my daughter, you are always with me, and everything that I have is yours.

Norm, personality

The goal of education of norm is to produce "a good citizen with a good personality."

In our graduate university, this education has two sets of norms, which I call *mun* (of *munhwa*, culture) and *Mu* (of *mu-do*). Mun in this school represents academic training, the discipline of study and writing. Mu in this school represents field-training, particularly for UP cadets, which includes the disciplines of physical training, lecturing, witnessing, and many others. When both sets of norms, Mun and Mu, are pursued to excellence together, they produce shining citizens and leaders for Cheon II Guk.

Genius

Education of dominion stimulates genius. Particularly for the graduates today, I hope and believe that you have all had "aha!" moments in your study and writing or in your prayer, when suddenly something became clear to you in a new way. One of the purposes of writing a thesis is so that you can experience this kind of discovery. Some of you even have the ability to induce "aha!" moments in others.

We can call that "genius." And we know that genius has a genesis, a divine source. The experience that Heavenly Parent has revealed something to you personally is precious beyond measure. Treasure those insights, and let them grow as heavenly seeds in your heart. Those seeds will strengthen you, and form the wisdom to guide others. Since truth is interconnected, those moments of genius bring us into a deeper relationship with God's word. We come to understand and experience that God's word is living, and living in us.

Of course, genius is not only about ideas. Genius also refers to abilities to accomplish things well, with excellence. In your future missions, genius will be the ability to devise and implement skillful strategies to accomplish providential goals. Just remember that genius is even more powerful when it is shared.

Deepening and broadening

In the life of our graduate university, research is a major component of our identity. It is our portion of responsibility to discover and express new applications of the new truth brought by True Parents. This past year, our research focus has been on developing a deeper and broader understanding of hyo jeong, the great insight that True Mother, God's only daughter, has been sharing with us.

We are all engaged in a deepening and broadening process, because the influence of our community must deeply penetrate Korean society. At the same time, we are pursuing a global impact through strategic research, and through our graduates who are serving in worldwide missions. Today's graduates also join this ongoing and expanding national and world restoration process.

Conclusion

In conclusion, an ordinary graduate school is difficult, and this is not an ordinary graduate school. All of you graduates are providential victors. You have been guided by the living God and the living True Parents, as well as the dedicated efforts of the faculty and staff.

Now, the mission of raising future leaders also becomes your mission. Do not expect to be treated as a leader, but show your heart and ability in leadership by the way that you serve and attend others. Invest your heart, personality and genius for the glory of Heavenly Parent and True Parents, for the safe settlement of a heavenly unified Korea and for the world of Cheon Il Guk. Aju! Thank you for your kind attention.