

Schism? What schism?

Lewis Rayapen
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Every time God sends Adam to the world, there is controversy. Take the case of the first Adam. Did Adam and Eve actually exist as portrayed in the Garden of Eden story? Marxists and Darwinians argue human beings evolved over thousands of years in perpetual interaction with their environment, caught in a struggle to adapt and survive, as we still do to this very day. The story goes that an African elder, somewhere near the Rift valley, talking to his fellow tribesmen, deploras that “these white folks...they lord it over us but forget that we are their ancestors.” On the

other side of the planet, a white American takes a DNA ancestry test and discovers that his genealogy goes back to ... the Rift valley. And there are no black slaves among his ancestors! How is that possible? Mormons may have a point in practicing the baptism of ancestors.

Now, as if the advent of the first Adam was not controversial enough, there is the added complication of a fall from grace of the same Adam. Thousands of years of Providential history had to elapse before God could send the second (some say last) Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). Orthodox Jews contend Jesus is not the messiah because prophecies announcing his advent had not been fulfilled. Muslims, who honour Jesus as a prophet, do not believe he was actually crucified. And what happened to his body? And what is to be made of his resurrection?

In any case, God started again a new providence through Christianity. The 11 apostles did receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13) but it was Paul who launched Christianity worldwide. Once he received his mandate directly “by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Gal. 1:12), he set off immediately on his missionary journey. It was only three full years later that he showed up in Jerusalem to confer with the then ethnocentric Peter and James (Gal. 1:17-19). To be sure the Spirit moved him in a very special way. Does Christianity owe as much to Paul as to Jesus?

On this foundation, anyway, God renewed His Providence and 2000 years after Jesus, He decided the time was ripe to send the third Adam in the person of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. At least so says the Unification Movement. Now, why should anyone accept that Rev. Moon is the messiah, the Lord of the Second, the True Parent of mankind? There is no miraculous birth and, as yet, no genealogical tree as with Jesus. A DNA genealogy test is still possible, however. Anyone of the Moon children would do. And should another one be done for Hak Ja Han, Moon’s wife? Perhaps this might help determine providential legitimacy and divine anointment.

Is 1920, the year of Moon’s birth, a special providential year based on the sophisticated numerology underlying the unification theory of the parallels of history? What about the place? The chosen nation from which the messiah comes is a nation from the east, namely Korea. Like ancient Israel, it is supposed to symbolically mark the frontline between the forces of good and evil. What about the prophecies in the Bible announcing the portentous events of the Last Days (wars and famines, the Lord coming on the clouds, false prophets, etc.)? Many believe that we live indeed in the end times, the days of the Apocalypse. These issues are addressed in the chapter entitled The Last Days in the Divine Principle, the foundational text of the Unification Movement.

Is the Divine Principle revealed or inspired scripture? Or was it discovered through imaginative exegesis of the Bible, intense prayer, profound meditation, astral travel, a grueling life course? Rev. Moon still claims (note the present tense) God used Jesus to confirm his pre-ordained mission and his eventual findings. Accepting Rev. Moon as messiah may entail engaging in a course somewhat similar to that of the Reverend: prayerful study of the Principle and testing its application in one’s personal life. There is also the legacy of the man, his life and works, now that he has moved on.

To the majority of Unificationists, Mrs. Moon is the legitimate successor of Rev. Moon. She is co-messiah, True Mother, represents the “king” and ought to receive the same allegiance. But Mrs. Moon claims to be the “only begotten daughter of God”, standing on her own predestined divine foundation. God simply used Rev. Moon to raise her up. Her time is now come. She takes over the direction of the providence, is the only one qualified to dispense blessings in holy matrimony and to determine the orthodox canon of the Unification Movement. Could the New Age be indeed a matriarchal age? After all, the Godhead is both and simultaneously male and female. If the masculine aspect of Father God is incarnate in Adam, why should the feminine aspect of Mother God (traditionally the Holy Spirit) not be

incarnate in the new Eve? Thus True Mother is identical in nature to True Father, and of equal value. Hak Ja Han the Usurper, the Apostate, main cause of schism in the Unification Movement? What schism?

Should not the messianic heritage have passed to the elder son, Hyun Jin (Preston) Moon? For, based on the principle of 3 kinships God-True Father-elder son, has not Rev. Moon himself declared “You (Preston) have to lead (the Unification Movement) for 50 years? Indeed Preston contends Rev. Moon did not come to start a new religion. It is in this spirit that he, Preston, is continuing the mandate to establish “One Family under God” embracing people of all faiths through the ecumenical Global Peace Foundation. Agent provocateur precipitating further schism in the Unification Movement? What schism?

But the youngest son, Hyung Jin Moon (Sean) is adamant Rev Moon did start the Tong Il Kyo He Church with strong religious principles emphasizing chastity, prayer, fasting and especially the sacrament of marriage. So Sean’s specific mandate is to uphold this religious tradition. He has been crowned in 2009 by the True Father himself as “the king of Cheon Il Guk” (Kingdom of Heaven on Earth), hasn’t he? So, he founded the Sanctuary Church. In principle, the Cain/Abel paradigm, so central to the solution of original sin in Unification doctrine, ought not to apply to the “true children” precisely because they were born sinless from True Parents. But does being sinless mean being flawless? Does it eliminate fierce competition for the establishment of CIG? Sean, a schismatic? More schism? What schism?

Now, does CIG require a formal Constitution, as proposed by the FFWPU of Hak Ja Han and the Sanctuary Church of Sean Moon? Millenarians and other apocalyptic groups have attempted to establish monotheistic theocracies where the Rights of God have superseded the Rights of Man (including the Right to Life). Consider this declaration of John Calvin: “God Himself has explicitly instructed us to kill heretics, to smite with the sword any city that abandons the worship of the true faith revealed by Him.” (Comments on Ez. 22:20, etc.). Nearer to us, there is the radicalism of the Islamic State. The formulation of a constitution copying that of the United States ought to take account of this pertinent comment of Thomas Jefferson on the First Amendment: “I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances” (Letter to the Danbury Baptist Association).

Religious pluralism does raise the question whether pluralism is a result of the Fall of Man or whether it is the outcome of divine abundance. Is it diversity in legitimate ways to acknowledge and worship God? Can God choose providential figures from religious and non-religious spheres? He could very well have pitted Mahatma Gandhi, a frail Hindu, against the mighty Christian British Empire. Could Nelson Mandela, who claimed to be an atheist freedom fighter, have been called to confront the Dutch Calvinism of the Boers in order to bring an end to apartheid? And Gorbachev, the communist, wittingly or unwittingly used to initiate the collapse of the Soviet Union? Even controversial Vladimir Putin could be provisionally a chosen instrument to combat ISIS. Can newly elected President Trump restore and implement the moral values underlying the foundation of the United States?

Did Rev. Moon have in mind a gradual elevation of human consciousness through diverse religions when he commissioned the remarkable World Scriptures? Were not there other civilizations preceding the Judeo-Christian culture? Is unification a question of diversity in unity or unity in diversity? There is no schism in the heart and mind of God but a cornucopia of things good and beautiful. God is not schizophrenic. Nor was Moon who claims he emulates God. So Moon delegated different responsibilities to his successors according to their personalities, some to act as priests (sacerdotal tasks), some as prophets (to admonish and educate) and some as “kings” (to organize and administer). The different mandates can overlap and change with the passage of time, depending on the fruit brought to God’s altar. Rev. Moon apparently never asked anybody to follow him. Individual persons decide who or what to follow, according to a number of factors such as birth, upbringing, education, destiny, etc. The point is to do the proper, principled thing.

The Unification Movement now lives in high expectation of special events in 2020, marking the centenary of Rev. Moon’s birth. Other religious groups, for example, Jehovah’s Witnesses, have engaged in forecasts about the return of Christ but have had to review their predictions time and again. Jesus has explicitly said: “...as for the time and place... only the Father knows” (Mat. 24:36). So God, by whatever name people choose to call Him, was, is and shall ever be Master of His Providence. Nobody knows why God chooses a prolongation of His Providence. The FFWPU is certainly entitled to prepare for the future. Apparently, Sun Jin Moon, 4th daughter of the Moon Family, has, in 2015, been appointed the International President of the FFWPU and Chairperson of the Supreme Council of the Unification Church. A 4th Eve instead of a 4th Adam?