

My "Good-Bye Speech/Letter" when I left Saeilo

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Photo date and location unknown

When I started college, I majored in Physics. Despite having to work 4 part time jobs simultaneously to put myself through college, I was the number 2 student for three years in my class, second only to my roommate who was both smarter and taller than me.

To the complete shock of the department, my senior year I changed my major to Psychology. The reason was not one I could share easily, for I was having many, many ESP experiences and I could see the explanation for these experiences was outside of what Physics could presently answer. I desired to study parapsychology, and try to understand the forces behind these experiences. Unfortunately, however, not only was this field of study seen as an unbecoming pseudo-science by the particular professors constituting the psychology department, but also the findings of this new field of study was basically a disappointment. When I graduated from college, I vowed I would never again waste time going to school..

Then, not too long later, I met Unification Church and I ended up I breaking my earlier vows by attending the Unification Theological Seminary. I have at times joked with friends that I went from studying things > to studying people > to studying God. ... and I still don't know how anything works in the universe.

Anyway, 14 years ago I was a seminary graduate who was working on Unification Church fishing boats and shrimp boats when I got a phone call to come to New York City and work on a Traveling Youth Seminar project sponsored by Unification Church.

Within days I was attending planning meetings composed of professors of religion and philosophy, heads of Departments of Regions at some of the major universities in the United States, and even monks sent by the Dali Lama from Darma Sala in India.

Within weeks I was soon traveling around the world through countries of Europe, Africa, the mid-East, and the Far-East making arrangements for this seminar of over 150 people from over 30 countries.

I did this for three years, and it was an incredible experience.

That is why I went back to school again. This time to Business School.

You see, it absolutely broke my heart and crushed me to see and smell poverty in the world. And I realized that a true religious movement had to be able to also express its ideals in the most practical terms.

Just as a body is needed to enjoy the world, and to express emotions and to love --- theology needed a financial force to express the truth of a loving God as the force behind the universe.

At that time, for one to go back to college was basically seen as desertion and leaving the Unification Church movement. It took great effort and the political backing of some very highly respected Unification Church members in high positions for me to get the "okay" to go back to grad school. Even then, for mainly political reasons I did not go to some of the better schools that even offered me scholarships (for example Rice University).

Anyway for three and a half years I did not get home until 11pm or midnight for three to four days each week, working full time in the day and then going to classes at night.

Ironically my experiences with college were, again, disappointing. At Baruch College, with a Nobel Prize winner for his theory of stock portfolio investment, the emphasis was, I felt, too narrow. The emphasis was not on how to build an ideal business, but rather was on how to make the best return to the investors..... and this was common to most business schools My thesis was not on building the "ideal company", but rather was a statistical analysis of the effects of various types of recalls in the automobile industry and the resulting effects on the value of the stock.

Anyway, why do I mention all this stuff? Especially why do I mention all this stuff now, when I am leaving a company whose very existence is heavily laden with theological interpretations and my own motivation and "attitude" have been up for inquisition

Because I still believe. I still have hope.

I still believe that there is a loving force behind the universe that is pissed off at the way history has distorted the very principles behind the creation of the universe. I still believe that there is a determined, loving God who wants to turn this world upside down and eradicate the poverty, the ignorance, and the manipulation of this false world.

I still believe in the creation of ideal companies to express the righteousness and the love of God.....

When I came to Saeilo, I was desperate for a job (But that's a whole 'nother story. Actually a story long enough for a book. Please buy it when I finish writing it...) When I came to Saeilo, I always had in the back of my mind the question, "What am I supposed to learn here?"

In reflecting upon this now, if there is one thing that I believe I have learned from experiences with Saeilo it is the absoluteness of the Principle of God. But to explain that, let me go through my own pseudo-analysis of the history of economics:

What has been the purpose of business through history?

I guess the first "rich" man was the guy in the cave with the sharpest arrow heads.....

And even after thousands of years of human history we really didn't progress much further.... It was less than two hundred years ago that slavery still existed! Talk about the total domination of others for a business reason!

Actually my understanding of history is that we are at such a time of change that we have lost perspective of the rapidity of that change... It was, for example, not so many generations back that the average person in the world was illiterate, uneducated, and poor.

It was not so long ago that only the "rich" people owned land. That was what defined wealth, the ownership of land (and people). He who had the most "things" was the richest.....

Then with the industrial revolution, wealth changed to who owned the "Capital". The wealth was no longer defined by the land but was defined by the ownership of who owned the processes of manufacturing. Now, ironically the "richest" person was not who owned the most things but he who owned the most symbolic representation of things (investment money or capital).

Now, in an incredibly short time in the spectrum of human history "wealth" has again changed, now it is the ownership of ideas. In this computer information age, the wealthiest person in the world is the owner of Microsoft, a company which manufactures only ideas. Now we are at a moment in history when the smartest person is the wealthiest. With stock prices based on expected future earnings of information companies, The richest person is now the one with the most ideas.....

In the study of Unification Theology, I learned one development in man's relationship to God was the development of man relating to God:

through fear and the offering of things,
through duty and the offering of symbols - of conscious thought and the following of God's words
and that finally it is to progress to relating to God through Love and the following of one's Heart

To me, it is not coincidence that the history of business follows the universal law of mankind's restoration to its eternal pre-destined fulfillment of being the true sons and daughters of God. We have gone from wealth being generated by land (things), to wealth generated by money (symbols of things), to wealth generated by ideas or thoughts.

Therefore the next step for "wealth" is still to be seen. It is not land, nor capital, nor ideas. It is the wealth of love. To deny this is to deny the force of the universe and where the universe is going.

The workforce is no longer tied to the land that one was born on, nor is one an indentured servant to the company which owns the factory. In this age of ideas, the trained professional is mobile and able to somewhat choose his desired work environment.... More and more the talented people will flow to where they want, and this will be the center of love.

The future therefore belongs to the "company of true love."

The "winner" of the future is the company whose vision is that Godlike combination of both the huge vision of changing the economic environment of the entire world and the even huger vision of seeking to see and develop the divine character and spirit of each and every employee.

The particular blue prints for these companies are not fully drawn, the founding characters are not etched in stone.... The Principle of God is above any short cuts... there can be no compromises, no falsities of ends justifying the means, no spiritual failures of "owning" others by force, by money, by power..... only the true expression of love will be acceptable to heaven and will thrive.

The Principles of God are absolute, they are true whether I am at Saeilo, or back on shrimp boats, or whether I go to another company, or whether I go back to get my Ph.D. in Business.....And given my present situation and character, and Saeilo's present situation and characters, I feel that at this time it is best that I presently continue my life's journey away from Saeilo....

I am grateful for what I have learned while at Saeilo. I wish all those at Saeilo the very best. Maybe, as Paul said, there have been times that I and others at Saeilo saw "through a looking glass darkly". Yet deep down, I know that life is eternal... we are destined to live eternally and see each other eternally ... with eternal eyes and eternal hearts..... much differently than we see and feel now.

May Saeilo become a wealthy company of the newest coming economic era, the era of the wealth of love.