

## Prayer: The true unification of Korea can only take place when we attend God

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New Year benediction prayer at the National Prayer to Open the Era for a Unified, Heavenly Korea

Official Translation

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Most high and noble Heavenly Parent!

I bow in front of You in infinite gratitude, within the infinite grace of the 6th year of Cheon Il Guk. The new year of the pig that we are welcoming marks the 100th anniversary of the day, in March 1919, Christian democrats and students shouted in front of the world for Korean independence, and brings us closer to the unification of this nation.

Though many righteous people and pioneers sincerely longed for the independence of this nation throughout its history, their devotion and effort could not prevent Korea from being divided into North and South. And we have come to the point where we see that political, religious, or human effort alone cannot undo this division. In particular, today, this people, whom You have since long ago embraced and raised until now to bring about the completion of the providence, must know about the truth of that history. The unification of Korea, which we so longed for, cannot come about based on human effort alone. The true unification of Korea can only take place from a position in which we attend God, our Heavenly Parent, Creator and the Owner of this universe, and in which we have received the Blessing of the True Parents.

I sincerely pray that humankind today will come to realize that the only way to establish the world with no war or conflict that all people have sought to realize, and the only way to bring down all man-made barriers, including the religious, cultural, and racial barriers, is through You, God, the true Owner of this universe and our Creator, and that without welcoming the perfected True Parents, who have come to realize Your wish and dream, in this fallen world, people cannot become Your sons and daughters. Through the past that You have shown us, please enable this nation to understand that only when Korea is unified and fulfills its responsibility as a people blessed by Heaven, and becomes a heavenly unified Korea that attends Heavenly Parent, will this nation have a future and have hope.

With only one year left until 2020, the year in relation to which the 20,000 blessed families here today made their commitment before Heaven, I sincerely pray that this nation will become a central nation in front of the world that fulfills its responsibility as a people who know who the true Owner is, and as a blessed people who are citizens of Cheon Il Guk. I offer You my sincere gratitude for the infinite love and grace You have showed this people, remaining with them amid numerous hardships and difficulties. This people now need to know. This people must not become a people that misses the time of the completion of the providence.

Two thousand years ago, You sent Jesus Christ through the people of Israel, whom you had raised for 4,000 years. The people of Israel, however, did not know the essence of Jesus, and thus they paved the

way for his tragic crucifixion. What happened to this people? They were dispersed and lived without a country for two thousand years. During World War II, 6 million were massacred. We all know about the history of indemnity they had to go through. This is the consequence that befalls a people that fails to welcome the True Parents of humankind, whom Heaven prepared to send through investing much effort over time.



Heaven chose the Korean people and made preparations to send His only begotten daughter, who would complete the providence. Despite the hardships it was going through, this nation continued to hold on to You, our God in Heaven. You know the pain of a people without a nation. At a time when democracy in South Korea stood helpless as the Korean War raged, we saw a miracle of God in the sending of the UN forces and the protection of democracy. Just as You gave all people a period of growth in accordance with Your principles of creation, You protected me, Your only begotten daughter, until I reached adulthood. As a result, in 1960, we could take our position as the True Parents.

Without the Christian foundation to support us, True Parents had to start from the very bottom. And I thank You from the bottom of my heart for Your work and for the infinite protection you provided us during the ensuing 50 years until we could establish a foundation across the world. Since Your Will must be accomplished without fail, the True Parents, who have borne that responsibility, have invested their everything for that until now.

As we will usher in the final year of the Chinese 60-year calendar cycle [cycle of [ten heavenly trunks and twelve earthly branches](#)] and prepare to begin a whole new cycle with the year of the rat in 2020, this nation must accept Heaven's Blessing, become a nation that fulfills its responsibility, and become a nation of whom Heavenly Parent can proudly say, "Truly, this is my homeland where my beloved sons and daughters live."

As a nation that Heavenly Parent is to work through and a nation that is to become Heaven's homeland, all the blessed families that have gathered here today should completely invest themselves in educating its people so that our country can stand strong as God's homeland in front of the world as God desires. When all people in this nation, without exception, receive the Blessing and Heavenly Parent can wholly embrace our country, what will there be to worry about? I sincerely pray that all blessed families will become proud blessed families of the Unificationist community that, through this nation, can show the world the realization of the dream of one great family under Heavenly Parent, a dream that this nation and the world have longed to see come true.

O Heavenly Parent! Though this nation remains inadequate in front of Your tremendous and infinite grace, I pray and proclaim in front of You, Heavenly Parent, and in front of this nation and world, that Korea will do its best to accomplish Your dream without fail.



## Heavenly Stems & Earthly Branches

Ancient Chinese people had the skill to calculate the history of five thousands years and record the chronological sequence of events. They invented a measurement by two sets of signs in a certain sequence - Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches. As early as about 2700BC, the ancestor of Chinese nation, [Yellow Emperor \(Huangdi\)](#), sent Da Rao Shi to create a calendar system. Da Rao Shi explored the rule of changes between sky and earth, as well as that of the four seasons. Then he created ten heavenly stems and twelve earthly branches to make combinations representing [a sexagenary cycle](#). A year can be represented by the composition of two characters, one from the heavenly set, and one from the other. That is believed to be the start of the stem-branch calendar. Thus came a way of counting time which has been passed down through thousands of years.

### The Heavenly Stems

甲	乙	丙	丁	戊	己	庚	辛	壬	癸
jiǎ	yǐ	bǐng	dīng	wù	jǐ	gēng	xīn	rén	guǐ
Jia	Yi	Bing	Ding	Wu	Ji	Geng	Xin	Ren	Gui

Earthly Branches can be used to count time of years, months and hours. When counting years, people use them with the 12 Chinese zodiacs and strictly one Earthly Branch corresponds to one fixed zodiac. For example, our ancestors have divided a day and night into twelve sections and named each as a 'shi chen', which is equal to today's two hours and has a fixed Earthly Branch name. From 11 pm at night to 1 am is decided to be the first one - 'zi shi', then the second two hours 'chou shi', on the analogy of this.

### The Earthly Branches and Corresponding [Chinese Zodiac Animal Signs](#)

子	丑	寅	卯	辰	巳	午	未	申	酉	戌
zǐ	chǒu	yín	maǒ	chén	sì	wǔ	wei	shēn	yǒu	xū
Zi	Chou	Yin	Mao	Chen	Si	Wu	Wei	Shen	You	Xu
Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit	Dragon	Snake	Horse	Sheep	Monkey	Rooster	Dog

Take the year of 2016 for example, 2016 can be described as 'Bing Shen', a combination of the third sign in Heavenly Stems and the ninth one in the Earthly Branches. Then the next year 2017 will be 'Ding You' - the fourth sign and the tenth one's association.

The Four Pillar of Life (also the Eight Characters of Birth Time or 'ba zi' in Chinese) was very popular and mostly used in fortune-telling. In four pairs of year, month, day, and hour of a person's birth, each pair includes one Heavenly Stems and one Earthly Branches. There are compatibility and incompatibility relations among the stems and branches. The expression of one's birth time in this way has always been vital especially when it is used for fortune foretelling.

► To know the [Compatibility Charts of Chinese Zodiac Animal Signs](#)