



The Coming of the Age of Women

True Father gave this speech on April 10, 1992, in Seoul's Olympic Stadium, at the joint Inauguration of the Women's Federation for World Peace; and the Seoul Rally of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia.

Distinguished guests, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, representatives of the Women's Federation for World Peace from seventy countries, woman leaders and members of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia:

I am certain that today we are witnessing a great event that will have profound significance in the history of women in Korea and throughout the world. Until now, men have provided primary leadership throughout history as it progressed. This rally today, by declaring the beginning of the age of women, marks a historic turning point for the entire world.

God's Salvation Providence carried out through Religion

Male leadership has brought about a world filled with struggle and evil. Human beings continue to dream of liberation from this world of evil and struggle and the onset of a world characterized by goodness, peace and happiness.

God created us as his children, and we can be assured that God had no intention of sitting by and doing nothing while the world suffered for thousands of years through wars and evil. God has been actively working to find ways to lead us to salvation. This is the meaning of the salvation providence carried out through religion. As a religious leader, I have consistently preached that God's salvation providence carried out through religion represents genuine hope for the world.

Throughout history, countless leaders and heroes have dedicated their lives to building a better world, yet never has there been any fundamental change to the fact that we live in a world of wars and evil. Political and economic means are unable to bring that fundamental change to the world.

This fact is clearly illustrated by the superpowers and developed countries in today's world. The decline of morals has become a global phenomenon that presents a serious threat to humankind's future.

Immorality and moral decline has reached such a point that mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, and even children, hardly recognize each other in their respective roles. The very foundation of the family is being destroyed. The correlation between the increase in economic wealth and the decline in ethical conduct and sexual morality, as well as the spread of drug abuse, has brought about a critical situation.

Today, the world is faced with the question of how to escape from the clutches of sexual immorality, for this is the most deeply rooted of all evils. No possibility exists that politics and economics alone can rescue the world from the crime and decadence that we see around us today.

Members of the Women's Federation, representatives from around the world, I have experienced firsthand the pain and sorrow of a weak nation trampled upon by a powerful neighbor. I was born seventy-two years ago, during the Japanese colonial administration of Korea. During my youth, I thought seriously about how to bring salvation to this tragic world of war and evil. I came to the conclusion that salvation through religion has the most fundamental effect.

This is because God's salvation providence through religion has a strategy to use Satan's persecution for the purpose of reclaiming all the ownership that was usurped by the evil force of the devil. Religion teaches that evil brings about its own destruction by striking out at good; the path of good is one of bringing about the natural subjugation of evil by receiving evil's blows.

Ever since I was a young man in my teens, I have consistently taught the truth according to religious revelation and have devoted my entire life to putting the essence of this teaching into practice. My teachings, the unification principle, have spread to a hundred sixty countries.

The teachings are spreading particularly rapidly in the once-communist countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as in Eastern Europe and Central Europe, and even in North Korea. Also, in Islamic countries in the Middle East region, people are coming to follow these teachings.

The Unification Church has received great persecution and its members have suffered in a number of countries, including its home country, Korea. Today, however, it has set its roots down firmly and permanently all throughout the world. No one will ever be able to uproot the Unification Church from any place in the world.

Religion constitutes the fundamental means by which God plans to save the world, and all the world's major religions have at their center an expectation for some kind of messianic figure. Christians believe in Jesus' second coming. Muslims, Buddhists and followers of Confucius await the reappearance of the founders of their respective religions. All these religions believe that when the messianic figure appears, the Messiah will judge the world of sin and of struggle and establish the ideal world; that is, the kingdom of heaven, in a short time.

Thus, all these religions teach that the world can only be saved through the second coming of the founder of their religion. This is referred to as the messianic ideal. Only a leader who gives truth and true love, one who is able to unite the fundamental teachings of the major religions and integrate the roles of the various messianic figures, can accomplish the salvation of the world.

Such a leader will reveal how our first ancestors committed the sin causing the Fall and brought about a history of struggle and evil. This leader will explain original sin, the root of the world's evil, and shed light on the truth that will liberate humanity from evil. Because our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, committed the original sin and became false parents, the returning Messiah will come as the True Parents, the original ancestors of good through whom all people will be reborn.

The True Parents will not begin their advent on clouds in the sky. Instead, they will appear in this age, on earth in Korea, and lead the world into an age of peace and unity. During my life of more than seventy years, I have received much persecution, yet I have never been defeated. My wife, President Hak Ja Han Moon, has followed this path of suffering with me as the representative of all the world's women.

In the course of following the path of righteousness in accordance with God's will, when I received persecution at the hands of unrighteous forces in the form of imprisonment, my wife, Hak Ja Han Moon, decided to gather righteous women of good conscience and begin a movement for peace. That effort has borne fruit in this rally today.

True workers will cleanse the world

No one knows the course of religious training I went through in order to receive God's truth. During that time, I came to the realization that the key to world peace and world unity lies in unification on the Korean Peninsula, which has seen division of a nation into one advocating communism and another advocating democracy. It is for this reason that I have traveled throughout the world and devoted all my energy to the accomplishment of this goal. This is also the reason I went to North Korea last November and negotiated directly with Kim Il Sung.

It will not be long now before we see the unity of all the world's major religions. Neither will it be long before unification on the Korean Peninsula is accomplished. In fact, these two goals represent the reason that women from seventy countries have come today to attend the Seoul Rally of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia, which is being held under Mrs. Moon's presidency. I expect you will eventually be forming a federation of families for world peace. In God's salvation providence, Korea is the providence's home country.

In each religion, we can see that the women are far more devout and active than men. The Bible says that true Christian faith is preparation as a bride that will someday receive the Lord when he comes again as her groom. This biblical teaching means all religions have been prepared by God so that they may fulfill a female role; that is, the role of the bride, in the presence of the coming Messiah.

In the presence of the True Parents, who come as the Messiah, the women of this age are the true workers that will cleanse the world of war, violence, suppression, exploitation and crime. Women will build an ideal world filled with peace, love and freedom. It is also up to women to see that evil forces, led primarily by men, which opposed and persecuted the forces of righteousness and good, are now completely eradicated so that they cannot cause any more harm.

We live in the age when the Messiah returns as the True Parents of humankind, when North Korea and South Korea unite through love and truth, and when all religions are to become one. This is the age in which all people of the world will rise above differences of race and philosophy to join in the building of a new world of peace. I am certain that God will give boundless blessings to all the world's women that he has called for these great purposes.

I pray that God's great blessing be upon the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia and upon the Women's Federation for World Peace, which is to be inaugurated today.

Thank you very much.