

Let us have filial affection toward Heavenly Parent and True Parents and become Beacons for the World (“하늘대한 효정 세상의 빛으로”)

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Beloved blessed families and members of Madrid Community,
the many 2nd generation in attendance, and especially European Regional Leaders here in Madrid for the Regional Leaders Meeting!
Good morning! Buenos Dias!
It is very nice to meet all of you this morning.
Actually, Dr. Moon and I also came to Madrid this time to participate in the European Regional Leaders Meeting.
But we are so happy that we could come here again exactly one year after our last visit.
Because last time we visited Spain as a part of our tour as Special Emissaries, we were very inspired about the Spanish mission activities and all the blessed family members' absolute faith in True Parents and Heavenly Parent. We were especially inspired by the success and unity of the leaders in the Tongil business, and our visit yesterday confirmed this.

Rev. Jack Corley, our Continental Director called me unexpectedly last week and asked me to give the Sunday sermon to the Madrid community. That is why I am standing in front of you this morning.

And it is my great privilege and honor to have this opportunity to be once more in this beautiful center of Espacio Ronda.

This morning I am going to share with you some of my reflections and understandings about True Mother's heart during the commemoration of the 4th Seonghwa Memorial Ceremony, held on 19 August at Cheongpyung.

I believe that many of you watched the internet broadcast of True Father's Seonghwa Memorial Ceremony from Cheongpyung.

The Theme of the 4th Seonghwa Festival

As you know the theme of the 4th Seonghwa Ceremony was:

‘Let us have filial affection toward Heavenly Parent and True Parents and become beacons for the world.

‘하늘 대한 효정, 세상의 빛으로’

Dr. Moon and I also took part in the celebrations held in the Cheongshim Peace World Center together with leaders from all over the world and more than 20,000 members from Korea and Japan, including the 1,200 second generation from all over the world who had participated in the Top Gun Workshop.

As you already saw the ceremony was so amazing and magnificent. I could not help but be moved to tears.

‘The Seonghwa Memorial Ceremony was designated as Seonghwa Festival’

This time, the 4th anniversary Seonghwa memorial ceremony had a completely different concept.

When the International Headquarters staff first began preparing for Seonghwa Memorial Ceremony, True Mother said to them:

“The 4th Seonghwa Memorial Ceremony this year should go beyond commemorating True Father’s Seonghwa itself.

It should be a joyful and glorious festival that celebrates the ‘manifestation of True Parents on earth’ and their victorious lives.”

She added:

“The leaders and members who take part in this year’s celebrations should take home with them great experiences of the ‘Revolution of the Culture of Heart’ as advocated by True Mother. That is why we have to celebrate True Father’s Seonghwa as a ‘Seonghwa Festival’”.

True Mother’s devotion of her three-year special mourning period.

As you all know, True Mother offered special devotions by attending True Father through a ‘three-year special mourning period’ with all her heart and soul.

On the foundation of True Mother’s devotion, all blessed family members in the Unification Movement should no longer think of True Father’s Seonghwa with sorrow and regret.

True Parents came to earth to fulfill the mission of the messiah after 6,000-years of history, and have settled down on earth as the ‘True Parents of Humankind, Heaven and Earth’.

Therefore, True Mother has declared that it is now our mission and responsibility to be proud of ‘True Father’s Providential Victories and Lifetime Achievements’ in front of all humankind and history.

That is why this year’s Seonghwa Festival was entitled:

“Filial Affection toward Heaven and True Father and become the Beacons for the World”.

I was deeply moved when I saw this title and slogan.

This term, ‘filial affection in Korean 효정(孝情)’ was newly coined by True Mother. When we think about the meaning of those Chinese characters, we can see how deep the meaning is. The term 효정 comes from those two words, ‘filial piety(효도)’ and ‘heartfelt affection(심정)’. And this term clearly expresses more than any other our heart toward our True Father.

What is the meaning of the theme of this year’s Seonghwa Festival?

This means that, instead of observing the heart of filial affection internally, we should let it shine with joy and glory like a beacon to the world.

In short, we all should become beacons, armed with the Divine Principle. We all should light the future with a clear vision of True Parents words. We should become torches that march forward, lighting the way in the midst of chaos and darkness.

I think this word ‘효정’ that was created by True Mother is truly the perfect word which we have to keep in mind toward our True Parents.

The significance of True Parents’ lives goes beyond their time on earth. Though True Parents’ mission for salvation of the world began when they first came to this earth, that does not mean that their mission and vision have been suspended just because True Father has passed away to the spiritual world.

The providence of salvation of humanity and the world, begun by True Parents, will continue to progress eternally until Heavenly Parent’s providence of restoration is completed.

And the providence that began from one spot from Korea will advance, develop and spread out across the world and cosmos.

The time of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago.

Now I want to think about the time of Jesus Christ.

Jesus’ death on the cross was such a great sorrow to Heavenly Parent, so that the Bible said that heaven and earth were covered in darkness for three hours.

But Heavenly Parent did not end this incident only in sorrow; instead, He bestowed to Jesus Christ the grace of resurrection, thus transforming it into a miracle of joy and jubilation.

Therefore, rather than feeling sorrow for the death of Jesus as a failure, Christianity believed in him as the Messiah who succeeded by being resurrected.

Even though at that time nobody could imagine it, his teachings grew to become a most influential global religion. It was the work of God and not humans.

True Mother’s clear-sighted direction

It was clear-sighted of True Mother to designate this year’s Seonghwa celebrations as ‘Seonghwa Festival’. Through this, the way has been opened for our Unification Movement to become a religion of joy and victory.

The good news of True Parents’ manifestation on earth and propagation of the Divine Principle and True Parents’ words, can be a Heavenly gift to all human beings.

True Mother said that we should not think: “I was glad True Father was born on this earth, and I am sad that he has passed away”, because this is a very short-term concept.

Instead, we should think, “True Parents have manifested on this earth during my lifetime”, as a long-term concept.

For then, that fact in itself becomes one of eternal joy and victory.

As we all know, no being can live forever on earth.

True Parents have manifested on earth, lived victorious lives, and have built the foundation for the salvation of all human beings and the world of peace. The historic significance of their lives will live on earth and in history forever.

Now we, the blessed children of True Parents, and our second and third generations, should make the victorious lives of True Parents a historic fact that shines eternally in joy and glory. Then we can everlastingly serve our True Parents, who will live forever with us.

The International Headquarters followed these clear-sighted instructions of True Mother and beautifully succeeded in making this year's celebrations into a 'Seongwha Festival'. All leaders and members who attended the celebrations remembered True Father's great life with joy, and they shed tears of joy and their conviction that his life will shine forevermore as an immortal star in history was strengthened.

The construction of the stage and celebrations were amazing.

In the ceremony, the stage decoration and video displays were extraordinary superb and very professional.

For me, one of most the fascinating scenes was the moment when True Parents appeared on stage.

True Mother on earth came up from under the stage on an elevator, and True Father in heaven came down as a vision. The chandelier signifying the light of Heavenly Parent also came down.

And these three subjects formed a holy trinity and thus symbolically expressed the age of Cheon Il Guk and the providence progressing with True Mother united completely with True Father and Heavenly Parent in the spiritual world.

It was truly a real and moving scene.

True Mother presented a bouquet to True Father, which went beyond memorializing True Father's Seongwha and celebrated his life with heartfelt gratitude and glorious victory.

Next, she came up to the podium in front of the stage and spoke to us.

True Mother's words in commemoration of the Seongwha Festival

True Mother said:

"At last year's ceremony commemorating the third anniversary of Seongwha, we entreated True Father thus:

"We will fulfill our responsibility on earth. Therefore, we hope and pray that you, True Father will now be free to go and come as you please, and to comfort God, our Heavenly Parent, who has been lonely until now, in the eternal Garden of Original Homeland."

Here, what is our responsibility on earth?

It is to be proud of and love True Parents, and to make efforts to propagate the Will of True Parents so that all the 7.3 billion people in the world can know of True Parents.

Letting them know about True Parents is the hope of humanity and the dream of our Heavenly Parent.

In working for His dispensation through history, our Heavenly Parent chose one people to set the indemnity condition in the long course of history, and thus was able to establish the national foundation for the people of Israel.

On this foundation, He sent down Jesus Christ, His only begotten son. However, the central figures failed to fulfill their mission attending him, and so he had to die on the cross, leaving behind the promise to 'come again' 2000 years ago.

He said he will return and hold the 'Feast of the Lamb' which is the dream of God and the desire of humanity. This is because, in the fallen world, only by meeting True Parents can we become God's children again. Humankind cannot do so by themselves, since they cannot go to the Kingdom of God unless they are reborn through True Parents' Blessing.

True Parents, long awaited, were finally sent to the chosen people of Korea after 6,000 years. Our Heavenly Parent sent down His only begotten son and only begotten daughter and blessed them in the position of True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Then what path do we need to choose?

The blessed families need to fulfill their mission as new tribal messiahs in order to go beyond the levels of tribe and nation and build a victorious foundation for Cheon Il Guk in the world."

With these words, True Mother emphasized that such is our responsibility as we celebrate the 'Seongwha Festival' today.

I believe that this year's Seongwha Festival, as planned by True Mother, clearly revealed the 'Culture of Heart' of the Unification Church family. From now on, as our foundation grows, we should establish this festival as a tradition before the world, and expand it as a proud and glorious event and evidence of True Parents.

Cheon Il Guk International Leaders' Conference

The International Leaders' Conference was held next.

True Mother emphasized that, in order to achieve Vision 2020, at least seven nations must be restored on the national level, and this victory should be dedicated to True Parents.

Therefore, part of this year's CIG Leaders Conference was to select these special strategic nations across the world, and the first 13 chosen nations were presented and shared their strategies and goals.

During these sessions, on one hand I felt happy and passionate to hear their presentations, but on the other hand I was very sorry, because I felt regretful for the situation of the European movement. Frankly speaking we are not enough to match True Mother's expectation.

Europe is where the completion of the Providence of Restoration cannot be abandoned.

Some time back, True Mother said, "The European continent, where the 2000-year history of Christianity unfolded, can be said to be the main stage of our Heavenly Parent's Providence of Restoration. Therefore, no matter how difficult things may be, we cannot give up Europe".

She also added, “The six providential nations in Europe must fulfill their responsibilities”. Remembering these words, I came to think how great True Mother’s expectations of us are.

Beloved blessed family members!

Europe is not a continent that we can allow to be taken by Satan. No matter what indemnity we need to pay, we cannot achieve the completion of the Providence without restoring this continent. Until now, many of our elder members have filled in the pit of indemnity course through their innumerable sacrifices. They have sacrificed much, and shed much sweat and blood.

Even though their sacrifice is still a pain and a heartbreak, on the other hand, I think Heavenly Parent has blessed Europe with many wonderful second generation.

Testimony of one proud second generation

One Sunday in France, I attended the Youth Sunday Service. A young man who had just returned after finishing this year’s STF program, gave a testimony of his experiences.

I was very much moved and filled with hope as I listened to his testimony. The experiences of a nineteen-year old second generation in the one-year STF program were truly amazing. It sounded like he had accumulated many decisive assets in that one year’s experience that can influence the rest of his life. It was as if he had experienced the 6,000-year providential history of Heavenly Parent.

Moreover, when he was persecuted while fundraising in Canada, he experienced the heart of True Parents who were persecuted all their lives. This was an experience he could not have had anywhere else.

And when the STF team went on a pilgrimage to the holy grounds in Korea, he shed tears without realizing it; I thought this spiritual rapport was a miracle worked by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, he grew up as a proud blessed child of the Unification Church. After realizing his great value, he told a friend openly and honestly about his experiences, and his friend had told him that he loved and respected him even more.

This is our hope and desire; that our second generation have this kind of identity.

Yes, the blessing we have received is so great and so precious. Our views about God, history, values, and humankind, based on the Divine Principle, are truly great.

But sometime we are not aware of how great those values are. When the world learns of our values and our awareness of history, it will respect us.

But the fact is that we ourselves are not confident about these values, and some time we hesitate and hide.

That is why True Mother is telling us that it is now time to reveal the truth.

The Four Great Holy Items bestowed by True Parents

My dear brothers and sisters!

In commemoration of the 56th anniversary of True Parents’ Holy Wedding, True Mother bestowed the Four Great Holy Items to us. By setting the condition of forty-day devotion, we can separate ourselves from evil and unite our mind and

body to receive these holy items. As she bestowed the holy items to us, True Mother forgave us on all accounts and allowed us to be reborn through her blessing and prayer.

We are so grateful this time that True Mother gave us these Four Holy Items and gave us the time to repent of how much we deviated from the standard of Divine Principle. These Holy Items make us re-start our lives on the Foundation of Faith and become the conditions to make the victory of the Foundation of Substance of Tribal Messiahs.

We are people who have been rid of the original sin by True Parents’ Blessing. Our children are proud second and third generation who were born without the original sin.

However, are there no sins in this world? Can we live in a clean house, avoiding all sins in the world? We cannot. We need to fight and win against the sins in daily life.

In the course of doing so, we ourselves become tainted. We become contaminated. Therefore, we need to clean our mind and body. This is done through the overall forgiveness of True Parents with the Four Great Holy Items.

Let us think about the Holy Items.

But would that mean that the holy wine and the holy salt are chemicals with which you can automatically cleanse yourself of sin?

No, they are not. They are a condition.

The cleansing of sin can only be made possible through your resolution of the mind and the heart. With that resolution of our mind as our condition, Heavenly Parent forgives us.

Our faith and resolution are the conditions for forgiveness.

I love the term, ‘Settlement of Noon’ which was mentioned in True Mother’s prayer. I believe it is truly important in our daily lives.

Naturally, everyone has shadows.

Depending on how you are aligned with the sun, the length of your shadow varies. The condition is how you are aligned. The condition of receiving the Four Great Holy Items determines how we are to be aligned with our Heavenly Parent who is like the sun to us.

Not the items themselves, but the heart and resolution with which you receive them, are the condition.

Beloved blessed family members, brothers and sisters!

Let us all live in complete vertical alignment with the sun, so that our lives will be free of shadows.

I have already told you that this year’s Seongwha Festival was titled, “Filial Affection toward Heavenly Parent and True Parents and become beacons for the world”. What it means is that True Parents want us to become luminous beings who can rid ourselves of shadows and live in the settlement of noon, with a heart of filial affection toward Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

True Mother said, “I wish to go to the bright Kingdom of God together with all of you.” This is the heart of a parent.

We should respond to that heart of True Mother and work to become victorious individuals, families and communities, and to restore this nation, Spain.

Lastly, I hope and pray that the blessings of Heavenly Parent will be always with you and your families.

Thank you. Muchas Gracias!