

Reflections on Our Leader

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How should I address him? Should I call him Leader? No, he's more than our Leader. How about Master? Yes... but no. He is our Master, but to address him as Master would not tell him how much I love him. How then should I address him? What way would tell him what is in my heart? What way would tell him of my love for him? He is so much like a Father to us all.

... Father...

Yes, of course... Father,

It was just over a year ago that I sat spellbound, listening to the conclusion of the Principle: "The New Age has now dawned. The Lord of the Second Advent will reign over heaven and earth with divine truth and fatherly love, and his kingdom will live forever. Do you have any questions?"

The only question I had was one that I was unable to ask out loud: "How can I find out if this man is really the Lord of the Second Advent?" The answer came to me over a series of months. "Study the Principle. Observe the members of the Family. Take part in the Family activities. Learn to give of yourself."

Slowly I realized the truth of the Principle because of the love in the Family. The people in the Family came to be like my parents, helping me to grow and helping me to express my love. It was through them

that I came to love the True Parents; it was through them that I came to know how much our True Parents love us. Now they are here-our true Father and our True Mother.

When Father speaks, he speaks with love for us, his children; he speaks about the urgency of the present time and what our responsibilities are now and in the future; and he speaks about how he is disappointed that we haven't grown more than we have.

He speaks of how he will personally sacrifice for us, taking on persecution for us, to help us grow and fulfill our mission. But why? Must he continue to sacrifice for us? Haven't we depended on him long enough? Isn't it time that we grew into responsible adults so that he can depend on us? Can we honestly say to him, "Father, give us responsibility. You can trust us."

Yet his love is so great. He will look at us and smile, his eyes will sparkle, and he will embrace us with his love. Then he will ask one of us to get up and sing. After that he will ask others, and we realize that it doesn't matter if we sing out of tune, as long as we sing with our whole hearts. When we finish, he smiles at us and says, "Thank you." Then he gets up and sings, sometimes he sings a happy song that makes us laugh, and other times he sings a song that shows his whole heart.

Now, he stands silently before us. He is looking from person to person... searching. Now he is pointing to certain individuals, saying, "You... and you... Yes, and you... Go out and bring my lost children to me. Go to all fifty states and gather my lost children together, and bring them to me. I am giving you responsibilities. Can I trust you?"

What is our answer? "Yes."

But he asks us to repeat our answer, and we shout, "Yes!"

He looks at us and smiles. "Then go out and do it", he whispers. After a final prayer, he looks at us a few moments longer. Then he says "Good night", and goes back upstairs. Yet, as each of us goes to bed, we realize that he is not sleeping. He will continue working and planning until late into the night; he may not sleep at all tonight. Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow will be the same; he never quits.

How do we show our love to a Father like this? How do we show our appreciation for all that he has done for us?