

My Unificationist Memoirs Chapter 66

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Photo date and location unknown

Each encounter on MFT served as an opening for God. Running from person to person, shop to shop, or door to door, in an instant, we could often perceive an individual's spiritual condition, the state of their heart, or even intuit some hidden attribute or sorrow. Although an intimate, detailed knowledge of each person's life was then, and always will be, beyond our capacities, in a moment we could perceive what was essential. Of course, this insight was, and is, the action of God's grace. If the "Family Is the School of God's Love," MFT was the "School of Empathy."

America is a land of many micro cultures. Before MFT, I thought I knew America having lived in different parts of the country as a military kid. But I didn't. I had no idea of the vast complexities of culture and lifestyle that made each locale unique. Nonetheless, whether in the hollows of West Virginia, the canyons of Chicago, or the depths of suburbia, I had to make a "connection." Achieving this required me to open my heart and reach beyond the surface differences of identity, geography, and local culture. When looking into a person's eyes, I sought nothing short of an intuitive melding. We all did. During those long days of heart to heart encounters, God could work through us. On MFT, we daily seeded the country with empathetic connection, with the substantial evidence of God's love. If America is to be saved, I am convinced that these billions of encounters and spiritual conditions will play no small role. Momentary encounters with God have repeatedly changed the course of human history, and we provided countless numbers of these.

At the heart of Marxist theory reside the twin concepts of alienation and struggle. Marxism conceives of alienation between classes as insurmountable, violent struggle inescapable. The only way forward in history is to accelerate this conflict to precipitate revolutionary change and the destruction of class

enemies. We who lived through the second half of the 20th Century, have witnessed the horrific destructiveness of this demonic ideology. I intend no hyperbole when I refer to Marxism and any of its abhorrent philosophical or political offspring as "demonic." It is a perfectly accurate descriptor.

Like many demons, Marxism is a shapeshifter, constantly assuming new forms to meet new circumstances, in order to lead even the most well intentioned of us astray. Of course, our current crop of politics suffer from an infestation of Marxist imperatives. We can readily identify these shapeshifters by means of their unchanging and essential philosophical assumptions: alienation and struggle. These will always manifest in the politics of resentment, which thrives on historical sin and a sense of social injustice, and will freely transition between the Left and the Right, dwelling comfortably on the extremes. Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals," cover common ground. The last century (and Carl Jung) taught us that Hitler, Mussolini, Lenin, and Stalin were related manifestations of the same phenomenon: when human society denies the Transcendent, citizens will posit ultimate authority in the State. And enemies, based on their identity, will serve as the blood sacrifices for the New Age or New Man. The political triumph of "Identity Politics" and the sudden eruption of sustained social conflict, class hatred, racial violence is not accidental or coincident - it is a simple matter of cause and effect.

Which brings me full circle to the past, MFT, as well as to the present, Headwing. I am convinced that True Father introduced the Headwing concept as the antidote to the politics of our time. If True Parents are the Messiah, then Headwing is our redemption. But what is Headwing? It is Divine Principle, Unification Thought, CAUSA, and the body of True Parents' teachings, of course. But without God's love, these are nothing but Paul's "clanging symbol." As with all of True Father's teaching, it must be embodied to be meaningful. We must be the "Headwing" that encounters our fellow citizens and restores perspective to our national politics. I find myself easily impatient and irritated with those views I find disagreeable. I am quite capable of holding my ground in any contentious intellectual dispute. And yet... we cannot triumph simply by means of our will or intellect. Ours must be a triumph of the heart.

The practice of empathy dissolves resentment. Our daily life on MFT taught us this truth repeatedly. If we can muster the heart to listen to those with whom we disagree, to understand and even absorb their anger, then we can, at the very least, restore civility to our politics. We can become the vital center that brings dialogue, cooperation, and social harmony, weaning our fellow citizens from the fringes and violent extremes. Persuasion requires empathy and patience.

Especially with our own children.

Undeniably, there are those who have given themselves over to violence, and are committed to political extremism, for whom dialogue is an impossible concession. A society, like a person, possesses the right to self defense. We also learned this on MFT (and CARP). Yet these are the exceptional encounters and we should not be defined by them. And hopefully, they will remain the exception over time. Meanwhile, we must bring God into the moment and be the bridge that unites our fractured republic, no matter our political affiliations. As on MFT, each encounter can serve as an opening for God to work.

Writing this passage took great spiritual and intellectual discipline on my part... I would rather have yielded to my urges and vented my political spleen. "Oh, wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

True Parents, of course.