

Sun Myung Moon : the Man and his Ideal

by Paik Chull Lee Hang Nyong Sheen Doh Sung Yoon Se Won

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Preface

In the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Korea has given birth to a world spiritual leader.

The founder of the Unification Church, which has been tremendously successful on a global level despite adverse circumstances such as poverty, imprisonment, and denunciation, Rev. Moon is a religious leader who holds reverence for heaven and love for man. He is executing numerous cultural, social and industrial enterprises in order to realize the lofty ideal he holds for the building of one world of peace centered on God.

A layman such as I cannot do justice to his profound philosophy and spiritual life. Through the several opportunities I have had to meet him directly, however, I have seen that he takes a deep interest in all fields of scholarship, including the humanities as well as the natural and social sciences, and has superb insights concerning each of these. Further, I have seen that in unfolding his noble aspirations for the nation and all of humanity, he possesses a burning passion and will as well as an outstanding ability to exercise leadership.

The many who truly know him think it lamentable that such a figure, for whom Korea and the world have a genuine need, has not been appreciated by the world but instead has had to be the object of distortion.

He has in truth suffered for Korea. Though others were unaware of it, he has long been walking the path of the patriot with a burning desire to have Korea widely respected in the world. Further, he is leading efforts to solve the difficult problems facing the world today, such as the expansion of Communism, the collapse of traditional values, and the lack of morals among the youth.

He is also a man who dreams of a world with a unified culture. Through his "Unification Principle," he points the way to the realization of mature individuals and a mature society, on the basis of which he envisions the complementary fusion of religion with science and the Orient with the Occident bringing about a world culture that is rich both spiritually and materially. His endeavor is to bring about a second Renaissance. With respect to today's academic world, which has become specialized and particularized in the extreme and in which relativism runs rampant, Rev. Moon advocates the search for absolute values which can form the basis for science and the unity of the various fields of scholarship as well as their balanced development. For this purpose, he takes the lead in the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, in which world intellectuals from the Orient and the Occident participate. He has not begrudged massive support for such academic and cultural undertakings.

The Rev. Moon possesses an extraordinarily open attitude for a religious leader, and invites criticism from any scholar even on matters concerning his beliefs and the work that he has undertaken. The humble attitude with which he never fails to lend an ear to the opinions of scholars cannot but be the generosity of a man of great calibre who is capable of encompassing the wisdom of all people.

Considering the fact that "Unification Principle" and other enterprises which began in Korea have spread throughout the world in only twenty to thirty years, we can expect that the person of Rev. Moon and his Unification Movement will be the center of even greater attention during the decade of the eighties and beyond. This is because as the confusion of present day value systems deepens, the harmonization of Oriental and Occidental cultures and the unification of religion and science as found in Rev. Moon's ideas will become ever more urgent tasks.

In this volume four men who have associated closely with Rev. Moon, Dr. Lee Hang Nyong, Dr. Paik Chull, Dr. Sheen Doh Sung and Dr. Yoon Se Won, attempt to shed light upon the true personage of Rev. Moon, and I am deeply impressed by their efforts.

It is evident in their writings that they have striven to express forthrightly what they themselves have seen and felt regarding the character of Rev. Moon and the aspiration and keen insight by which he strives to solve the issues facing present day human history.

Considering the depth of Rev. Moon's purpose and the breadth of his character, an introduction such as the one given here may fail to mention some aspects. Until now, however, he has not even been introduced to the extent he is here, and it is my sincere desire that now the true image of this man become known throughout Korea and the world. Those of us who cherish this desire will experience unsurpassed joy if those who read these lines come even a little closer to such an understanding.

Yi Pyong Do

Contributors

Paik Chull, a literary critic, is a former Dean of the Graduate School of Choong-ang University, Seoul, and is a member of the Korean National Academy of Arts. He is the author of many books, including *The Complete History of Korean Literature*, *Theory of Korean Literature*, and *The History of the Trends of Thought in Modern Literature*.

Lee Hang Nyong is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Law, and former president, of Hong-ik University, Seoul, and is a former Dean of the College of Law and Politics at Korea University, Seoul. He is a member of the Central National Election Management Committee, a member of the Korean National Academy of Sciences, and the president of the Professors World Peace Academy of Korea. He is also a former Vice-minister of Education. He is the author of many books, including *Introduction to Philosophy of Law*, *Introduction to Civil Law*, and *Human Studies from the Viewpoint of Philosophy of Law*.

Sheen Doh Sung, a former Professor of Seoul National University, and former president of Young-nam University, Taegu, is currently Professor of Political Science at Myungji University, Seoul. Formerly Minister of the Korean Unification Board, he is now Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Institute for the Study of Communist Bloc Affairs. He is the author of numerous books, among which are: The Basic Theory of Democratic Politics, A Study of Sino-Russian Conflicts, and The Ideal and Reality of Korean Unification.

Yoon Se Won is a former Professor of Physics at Seoul National University, a former vice-president of Kyung Hee University, Seoul, and a former president of the Korean Physics Association. Currently he is a vice-president of the Professors World Peace Academy of Korea. He is the author of, among other books, On Physics, On Quantum Mechanics, and On Korea's Modern Development.

Yi Pyong Do is Emeritus Professor of Korean History and former Dean of the Graduate School at Seoul National University. He is an Elder Member and former president of the Korean National Academy of Sciences, and a former Minister of Education. He is the author of many books on Korean history, among which are: A General View of Korean History, Ancient Korean Society and Culture, and The Life and Thought of Yi Yul-gog.