

Theodore Shimmyo, Tokyo, 1966



I was a student at the University of Tokyo when I joined the Unification Church in Japan in the summer of 1966. The main reason why I joined was because for the first time I realized the suffering of God through my first Divine Principle workshop.

As a young man, I was searching for the truth that could solve the problem of human selfishness and ugliness in this world. I knew I was a selfish human being, and I also knew that all humans were selfish, and that even the power of their precious, inner conscience was not strong enough to defeat this selfishness. I tried out conventional Christianity, Soka Gakkai (a new Buddhist group), and even a leftist movement popular in the 1960s. I also read novels (such as Tolstoy's *Resurrection*) and philosophy books (such as Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*). But, I felt none of them had a real solution for the reason why evil still existed. When I realized this, I was deeply disappointed and cried every day. My heart ached and suffered.

But then, during the workshop I was taught that it was God who tremendously suffered when he saw fallen humanity. God's efforts to save his beloved children have been unable to bear fruit due to their continuous rebellion throughout history since the time of the fall of the first human ancestors. This was a surprising revelation to me, and when I learned it, I repented and burst into tears. I continuously wept hours and hours. (I also developed a strong sense of awe toward the undeniable parallels of providential history through which God has been guiding us.) I wiped my tears with my handkerchief, which became very wet and watery. My tears also dropped onto the pages

of my lecture notebook, creating a small flood there, and I could no longer take notes during the lecture.

After the workshop, I decided to dedicate myself to respond to God's calling, even saying in my prayer to him: "Heavenly Father, I want to work for your happiness even to the neglect of my own happiness!" I immediately quit college to be a full-time member. (Only because of a later Church direction did I return to college and graduate.)

Right after the workshop, whenever I prayed, light with bright golden color would spiritually arise from above and around to come into my body to sustain me as a new member. Around that time, my physical father got mad at me for joining the Unification Church, because he had expected me to become a man with a high rank in society after graduating from the University of Tokyo. He came to the Church headquarters in order to take me back home.

As a well-educated person, he had a heated debate with a couple of Church leaders, constantly blaming the Church and scolding me in front of the leaders for about three hours. But, my commitment to God and True Parents was unbent. So, my father gave up and left there with a curse word.

My heart ached very much, because I could not make my beloved father happy, when working to make Heavenly Father happy. With my heart aching thus, I desperately walked to the Headquarters holy ground to pray. No sooner did I say "Heavenly Father" than an invisible yet spiritually tangible fireball with the diameter of about one and a half feet came into my body directly from above, dramatically shaking my whole body with the overwhelming wave of God's love. I think it was literally the Holy Spirit. I felt that the suffering God of love was telling me how happy he was about my small victory over a difficulty. Tears of gratitude came down from my eyes like the Niagara Falls, while my body was trembling. But, those tears were also tears of determination because I was also telling God about my unbreakable

pledge and determination to work in order to liberate God and True Parents from their agony and suffering.

Later on, I had opportunities to see True Parents in Japan, Korea, and USA. True Parents have courageously fought fierce battles to win over Satan only because they, knowing God's miserable situation and his realm of heart, wanted to liberate God and humanity. They are the embodiment of God's love. Whenever I saw them, I was able to relate to them spiritually. In front of them, I cried numerous times. At those moments, True Father often called my name.

Throughout my life of faith in the Unification Church up to the present moment, I have never forgotten these experiences, and perhaps this is the reason why I have been able to overcome trials and tribulations in working for God's Will.