

The Korean New Year - Happy Lunar New Year, It Is The Year Of The Tiger

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The Korean New Year, or 'Seollal,' is a time when millions of Koreans return to their hometowns to celebrate traditions dating back to the 7th Century. This day, February 1, is a cultural celebration as well, influenced by China with its roots in traditional Chinese Confucianism. Based on the lunar cycle, 2022 is the year of the tiger and indicates a prosperous year as the tiger represents great strength, fearlessness, and bravery.

As the homeland of True Parents, Korea is the chosen nation to bring about God's providence on earth. Let's celebrate this Lunar New Year with our brothers and sisters of the East as we honor their rich history and traditions, as well as the great teachings of our founders. Below is an excerpt from True Father's 2000 speech "God's Fatherland" in which he shares how Korea is the microcosm of the world and integral to uniting all people from East to West.

Excerpt:

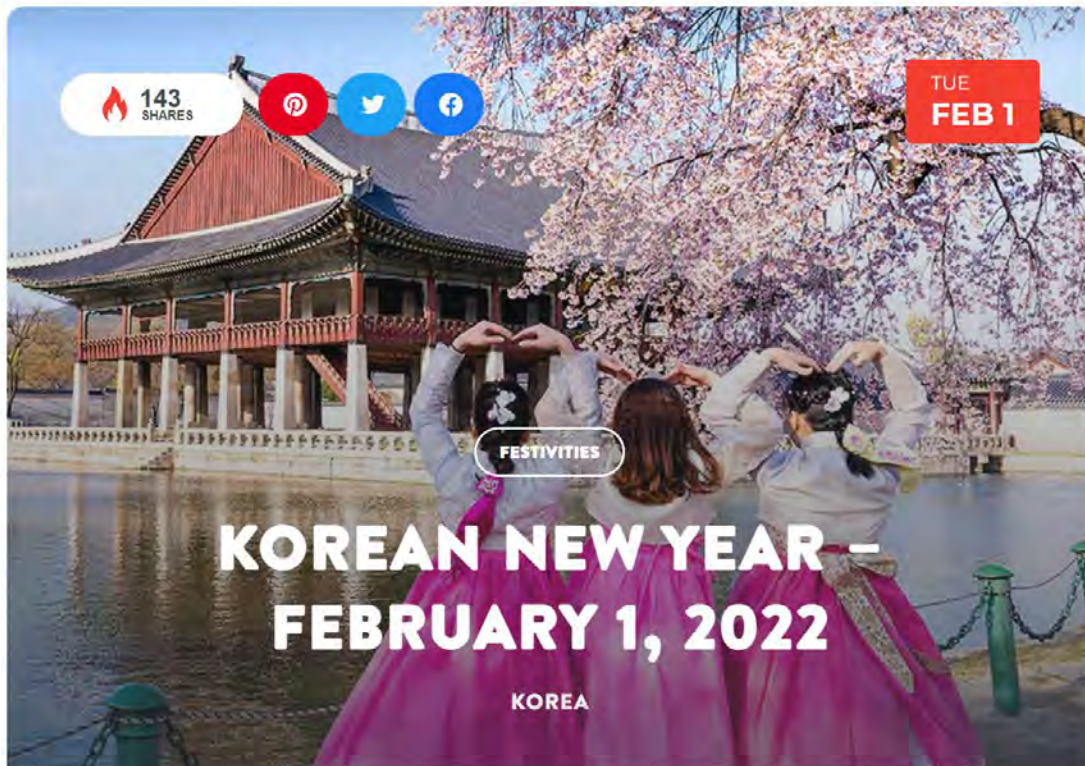
Korea represents the entire world. The North-South Korea struggle is one of wealth and culture. There is a battle between the Eastern world and Western world, and those global situations are represented in Korea. South Korea has a severe East-West problem, just as exists in the world. The East represents the world of spirit and the West represents the world of material. The saints came from the East, whereas the Western world represents the world of material. But materialism will end because it is horizontal. But the vertical world has no end; there is but one straight line to God.

What will happen between East and West in the world? Exchanges are needed. For example, there are rich children in the West and poor children in the East who should be joined in marriage. If there were only two such families, would they live separately?... If there are brotherly relationships in which an elder brother could die for the sake of his younger brother and vice versa, rather than their killing each other, unification will be realized. When the parents see their children united they will also unite...

International marriages conducted worldwide will bring about the unity of East and West... America has enjoyed affluence, but in the midst of this is doomed to perish. The only way to save America is to give everything, to offer everything to poor countries and save them. My conclusion is that we should look at this on our own family level. As long as there is unity among the man, woman, son and daughter in your family, the world will be united...

Without true love and True Parents, unification cannot be realized. True love is repeatedly giving and forgetting, for the sake of others... So the time will come for settlement in the father nation of Korea, the mother nation of Japan, and the elder son nation of the United States.... Then you can restore God's fatherland, our homeland, our motherland.

You can learn more about the Korean Lunar New Year [here](#).



FESTIVITIES

KOREAN NEW YEAR – FEBRUARY 1, 2022

KOREA

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Jan	February	Mar
SUN	MON	TUE
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27	28	

AFRICAN AMERICAN
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Korean New Year or 'Seollal', falling on February 1 this year, is a festival and national holiday that usually occurs in January or February on the second new moon after the winter solstice, unless there is an intercalary 11th or 12th month in the lead-up to the New Year. It marks the first day of the Korean calendar. It is one of the most important traditional Korean holidays.

HISTORY OF KOREAN NEW YEAR

Seollal is a cultural holiday, which has its roots in traditional Chinese Confucianism and is celebrated on the first day of the Korean lunar calendar. It usually lasts three days — the day before Korean New Year, Korean New Year itself, and the day after Korean New Year.

The "Book of Sui" and the "Book of Tang" have the first recorded histories of Silla, an old kingdom from 57 B.C. to 935 A.D., that celebrated Seollal. The Joseon dynasty, a renowned kingdom that ruled from 1392 to 1897 also has traces of government officials gathering in the five grand palaces to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Seollal is a unique Korean tradition, influenced by China, and is based on the lunar cycle. Each year represents a different animal and the cycle is repeated every 12 years. The 12 animals are the following: mouse, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. The order of the animals is thought to have been based on the sequence in which they were invited to see Buddha.

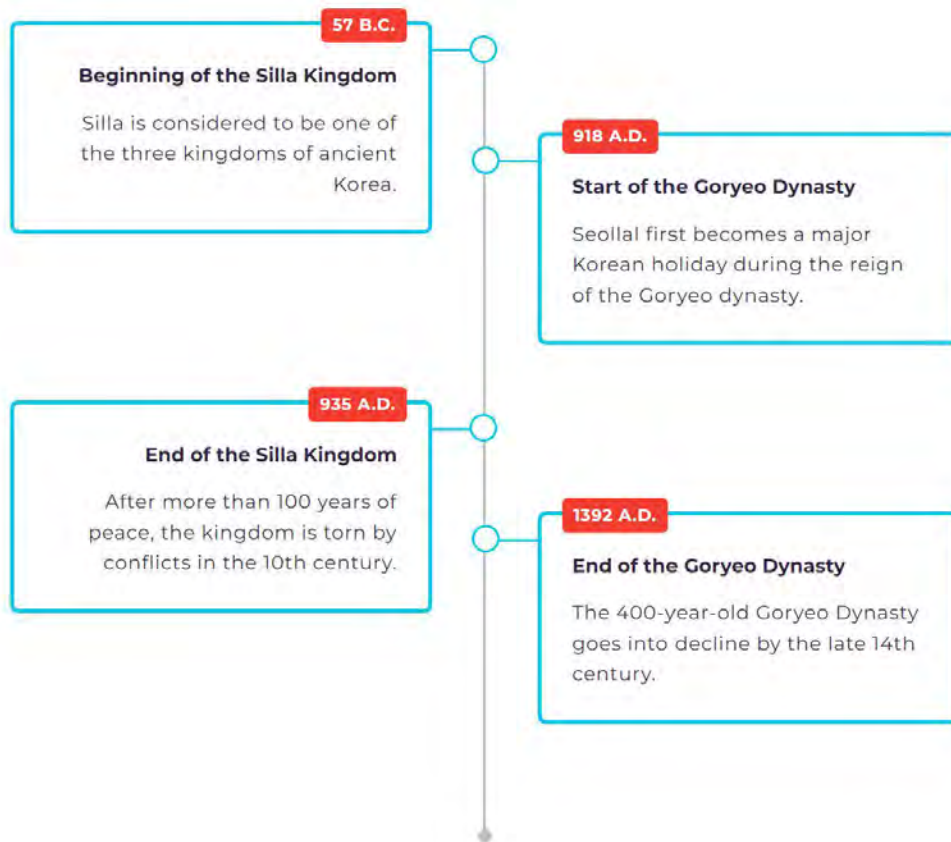
Koreans believe that the animal representing the year that a baby is born will attribute certain characters and qualities to that baby. There are even some parents who plan the birth year of their children in accordance with this belief.

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KOREAN NEW YEAR TIMELINE



KOREAN NEW YEAR FAQs

- Is Korean New Year the same as Chinese New Year? +
- How do you wish Happy New Year in Korean? +
- What do you give a Korean on New Year? +

KOREAN NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

1. Give gifts

In addition to yummy food and family reunions, another reason that Seollal is a special holiday is the custom of giving and receiving gifts. This gift-giving extends beyond homes to workplaces when companies usually offer each of their employees a gift as well. So the best way to celebrate would be by giving gifts.

2. Play folk games

We can also celebrate by participating in traditional folk games. Folk games are a major part of New Year festivities for Koreans. The most commonly played game is 'Yut Nori,' a traditional Korean board game. Men also go out for some kite flying, starting on the Lunar New Year and in the days leading up to the new year's first full-moon day. For young women, 'neol ddwigi' is also a popular activity.

3. Eat Korean food

Almost any large family gathering in any culture generally revolves largely around food. So an amazing way to celebrate Korean New Year is by eating Korean food. One main dish that is considered comfort food during Korean New Year is 'Tteokguk' (rice cake soup). This starchy and soothing bowl of soup is a beloved New Year's tradition.

5 FACTS ABOUT KOREAN NEW YEAR

1. Hiding their shoes

Koreans hide their shoes as they believe that if a person's shoes go missing, it's because ghosts have taken them away and bad luck will follow that person for the whole year.

2. Hanging strainers on their walls

People rush to the market early in the morning to buy 'bokjori' (bamboo strainers), which are hung up high on their houses' walls to bring/catch good luck and fortune.

3. 'Sebae,' the Korean New Year bow

After eating the food, the young members of every family perform a ritual called 'sebae' or 'New Year's bow,' which is the act of bowing deeply.

4. 'Charye' — an ancestral worship ceremony

Koreans believe that their ancestors visit them on Seollal so they prepare special food to pay tribute to their ancestors and call this practice 'charye.'

5. Wearing 'hanbok'

People prefer traditional clothing to celebrate this big day — South Koreans wear 'hanbok,' which has beautifully embroidered patterns and colors, on this day.

WHY WE LOVE KOREAN NEW YEAR

A. It brings unity

People celebrate Seollal with great joy. Family members and relatives get together to practice their different traditions and rituals and celebrate in the spirit of this day.

B. It is a time of reflection and hope

People understand the value and significance of marking the end of one year and the beginning of another. This is a time for reflection, hope, and high spirits. That is what makes it extremely special.

C. It is a time to pay respects

Korean New Year is the time to pay respects to family members and ancestors. That is why visiting the graves of ancestors is a common practice for the day. In addition to this, the younger kids bow to their elders and, in return, receive pocket money from them. These practices increase their love and respect for each other.

KOREAN NEW YEAR DATES

Year	Date	Day
2022	February 1	Tuesday
2023	January 22	Sunday
2024	February 10	Saturday
2025	January 29	Wednesday

KOREAN NEW YEAR RELATED HOLIDAYS



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Harvest Moon Festival



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6,858
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