

True Mother's Special Yute Game with Five Thousand Participants

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Following the Foundation Day celebration, True Mother invited all five thousand participants to divide up into four one-thousand+ teams, by region, for a special yute game. The teams were led by members of the True Family, Sun Jin nim, Yeon Ah nim, Hoon Sook nim, and In Sup nim. Each team had a name based on one of the core values and virtues of Cheon Il Guk, Tongil, Hyo Jeong, Hwahap or Cheonwon. I was skeptical that a yute game with so many people could be organized well. But soon we were lining up, by regions. For example, my team included the members from Japan, America and Asia Regions. Dr. Chang Shik Yang and Mr. Ho Yul Ahn served as judges, not an easy job, and each team had a strategist who would move the mal tokens.

Once the teams were paired up, for the first semi-final round, the training center began to shake as the ballroom was filled with the deafening chants and cheers of each team.

True Mother had said that the Foundation Day yut game was dedicated to helping establish our unity as one family. Indeed, that objective was achieved. Everyone, whether high or low in the chain of command, whether elder or younger, whether Eastern or Western, white, black, or yellow, the teams merged together as one organism. Cheers resounded as if they were a thousand voice choir. Competition was intense. Tempers flared and sparks flew on more than one occasion, only to be resolved with smiles.

The combination of strategy and fortune, skill and luck, was central to success. This game, seemingly so simple, was bringing us all together. A game that emerged in Korea more than two thousand years ago, perhaps during the Three Kingdoms period, was bringing us all together, while linking us to an ancient tradition and part of Korean history. We merged with the ancestors. We were in battle, together, with one heart. People who had barely known each other suddenly became best friends and allies, comrades in a mythic moment of challenge and victory.

Veterans of the game guided us in cheers as the next person prepared to throw the yut sticks, hoping for a doe (advance one space), a kay (advance two spaces), a goel (advance three spaces), a yut (advance four spaces), or a moe (advance five spaces), depending on the placement of the mal token. In cheering, the team joined in collective consciousness and solidarity, combining emotion, prayer, and hope. The Pyeongchang Olympics were magnificent, but the yut game at the Training Center on Foundation Day rose to an even higher level of intensity and joy!

I was in awe as I witnessed small miracles in the final game. Yeon Ah nim, always seemingly reluctant to take her turn, threw five straight yut moe turns; each yut or moe allowing for an additional turn. Mr. Kajikuri, at a moment of great difficulty, and against all odds, threw a bek doe to liberate the mal token to move toward the finish line. Skill? Fortune? Unity? Whatever the reason, we were one team. Hwahap had won. Everyone had won. We jumped and shouted and embraced with joy; "high fives" all around. True Mother looking on, broadly smiling joyfully. Five thousand brothers and sisters as One Family Under God, centered on True Parents. The Foundation Day celebration couldn't have concluded on a higher note.