

Divine Principle from a Unification Thought Perspective

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In the last article, I had explained that the Universal Prime Energy is endowed to the universe by God and it allows the universe and everything and everyone in it to exist, to act, and to multiply. Before moving on, there are at least these two other things that I wanted to mention about the Universal Prime Force:

Universal Prime Force

First, in the Theory of the Original Image, it is explained that there are two purposes from the Heart of God: a purpose to form things, and a purpose that they should interact with each other. To this end, there are two corresponding forms of energy: a *forming* energy and an *acting* energy. Forming energy is manifested as “inert” matter. The second energy – acting energy – is endowed to inert matter so it becomes “alive”. This life energy that animates the universe is none other than the Universal Prime Force. Unification Thought then calls our attention to the fact that this energy has an inner motivating purpose; it contains an expression of, and it is inseparable from of God’s unifying, harmonizing love:

“Forming energy is that energy which becomes particles and creates material. On the other hand, acting energy is that energy which acts upon all things and is manifested as the force that causes give and receive action ... among all things. ...Heart, the root of love, is the base of give and receive action and therefore, the two energies are both the unity of physical energy and the force of love. Thus, the force of love is contained in ... Universal Prime Force.” – *ibid.*, p. 8

Second, there is a related and fascinating concept from the Unification Thought theory of epistemology, which explains that a cell is inert until it is penetrated and infused with life. This life is manifested in a consciousness that pervades the entire universe; for this reason, it is termed a *cosmic* consciousness. This infinitely vast life energy then enters into each single cell, thus enabling it to become alive, having life and consciousness of its own:

“Once the cosmic consciousness enters cells and tissues, it becomes individualized and we can call it protoconsciousness or life. In other words, life is that cosmic consciousness which has entered cells or tissues. Just as an electric wave enters a radio and produces sound, so, too, does cosmic consciousness enter cells and tissues and give them life. In short, then, protoconsciousness is life, and it is sub-consciousness with sensitivity, perceptiveness, and purposiveness.” – *ibid.*, p. 407

This notion too affirms the idea that Universal Prime Force is a miraculous gift to all living things, and most especially to we humans. That each cell in our body has life, that they can group into bones, tissues, and organs; that they can perform the astounding functions of the brain and the nervous system; all these things are enabled by the Universal Prime Force that God has given into these worlds.

Giving and Receiving and the “common base”

The Divine Principle then goes on to explain that:

“Through the agency of universal prime energy, the subject and object element of every entity form a common base and enter into interaction. This interaction, in turn, generates all the forces the entity needs for existence, multiplication and action. The interaction generating these forces, through this process, is called *give and take action*.” – *Exposition of the Divine Principle*, p. 22

These two terms – *common base* and *give and take action* – are then mentioned repeatedly in the succeeding sections of the Principle of Creation. The first observation to make is that Unification Thought renders the translation of the original Korean differently from the one in the Divine Principle: it uses the terms *give and receive action* rather than *give and take action*, because this is what is meant to be conveyed by the original Korean. The inference is clear: there can be a very noticeable difference between *taking* something from another person as opposed to *receiving* it from them. It’s for this reason that Unification Thought chooses to express the concept more precisely as *give and receive action*.



The other term – *common base* – is a critical term which has important implications that are not completely explained. In normal language, common base is a neutral idea; it is neither good nor bad; it can accommodate either. It is something agreed upon, and then incidentally, it can be either good or evil. But Unification Thought clarifies this notion: common base is most accurately rooted in an understanding of God, and so develops it further:

In order for a give and receive action to take place, a “common base” must be established. This common base is a reciprocal relationship established centering on a common element, or a common purpose. Thus, correctly speaking, once two parties are engaged in a reciprocal relationship and a common base is

formed, give and receive action will take place. – *New Essentials of Unification Thought*, p. 40

The meaning of the phrase “God is Love”

So far, so good: a common base refers to a *purpose* that’s shared by the two related parties. But in Unification Thought, the idea of purpose is very, very fundamental. This is because purpose emanates from the *heart*, and heart is defined as the inner, irrepressible impulse to experience joy through loving infinitely (*ibid.*, p. 23-24). Furthermore, Heart is considered the *most* fundamental aspect of God’s Divine Character. Because God is a God of Heart, God loves, and because of that, God thinks, and finally, because of that, God creates. And so, in its purest, original sense, “common base” is driven by the heart’s *desire* to experience love and by its *purpose* to realize love. Unification Thought puts it this way:

In God as well, give and receive action takes place between *Sungsang* (i.e., internal nature) and *Hyungsang* (i.e., external form) according to this principle. (They) are engaged in a reciprocal relationship centering on a common element (Heart or purpose), and so a common base is formed... **In God, the common element is Heart, or the purpose of creation, which is established by Heart...** – *ibid.*, p. 41



So, when we read about “common base” in the Principle of Creation, even though it is not spelled out, what it means is that the truest, most original forms of give and receive action occur when a subject and object pair share a common purpose that would in some way realize love and therefore provide joy.

By looking more closely at the nature of give and (receive) action and the common base as they occur within God, we are inevitably led to reflect on how they are practiced by humanity. If our give and receive

relationships were also guided by the highest, most generous purposes, the quality of our human relationships and their many different outcomes – personal, social, commercial, governmental – would be remarkably different.

These are just a few of the ideas that Unification Thought offered which deepened my understanding of the first two sections of the Principle of Creation, and ultimately, my understanding of God. In the next article, I’ll continue with these ideas.