

Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament became more vigorous

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November 2020

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I am sure you, dear Cheon Il Guk families, are spending your days feeling uncomfortable, unable to attend worship and that you have changed your surroundings due to the influence of the Novel Corona Pandemic. However, in the face of this situation, I think that our Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament has become stronger and more vigorous. Of course, martial arts are particularly at a disadvantage compared to other groups given that face-to-face education and social activities that require us to be together have been restrained or banned.

However, we have the exemplary Unificationist sport, Tong-il Moo-do. It is also a martial art among those using the *kata* method such as karate (a Japanese martial art), or the haze type to do alone, without a competitor. This is possible through online competitions because they can take place alone or in a group, unlike a game-style tournament that requires an opponent.

A tournament during the pandemic

The competition featured seventy athletes from fourteen countries -- Korea, Japan, the United States, the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, India, Argentina, Malaysia, Germany, Brazil, Zambia and the Republic of the Congo. Since the event was successful, we continued to hold this "dance" competition from August 2 to 10. It was similar to the "exemplary sport," but different in that it is a dance competition, which focuses on art. The competition involved nine organizations from eight countries -- Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Brazil and the Republic of the Congo.

"I plan to bring sports and the arts together. I am trying to integrate dance and music with exercise. I want to create something that is not simply an exercise, like gymnastics, but dance-gymnastics combined with music. I am planning to transform even something like karate into an art. I am actually doing such exercises every day; they are exercises that integrate sports and art. In them God's spirit is reflected." (*The Philosophy of Peace*, Book 10)

Based on True Parents' teachings, this new field, which is responsible for the integration of physical education and art, that is, the work of the culture of heart, was sponsored by the Hyojeong Cultural Center and the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace. They began pioneering with the World Tong-il Moo-do Federation. The result of the tournament was that Japan, Korea and Congo came in first, second and third place, respectively.

In this "dance" competition, each of the contestants expressed Heavenly Parent's wishes and Heavenly Parents' hopes as well as advancement through the arts of martial arts and music. In addition, while each country had different cultural characteristics, the athletes demonstrated the integration of physical and artistic arts through a "uniform dance," along with artistic performances. The event became an event in which the World Tong-il Moo-do Federation dancers demonstrated their hope for the realization of a peaceful world, centered on Heavenly Parent and True Parents, across cultures and borders.

Some pertinent background

I have been involved in this activity for more than twenty years while also teaching dance and singing to non-Korean students who had come to Korea as Universal Peace Academy cadets and to local church members. Before I began teaching, I was first a student of many respected martial artists. I also studied in Sun Moon University's Department of Martial Arts. I maintained the attitude of a performer who wanted to learn various martial arts.

At the time of its establishment, the Department of Martial Arts had an educational policy of teaching not

only Taekwondo, Judo, Kendo, and Hapkido but also other martial arts as minor courses. They had no view or obsession that they should only teach one martial art. We kept an attitude of pursuing the best of what martial arts offers.

When I first met Dr. Jun-ho Seuk, the founder of Tong-il Moo-do, I mentioned my martial arts history, and he said, "Since you have faith, it is as if you have already learned the Tong-il Moo-do dance." In addition, Dr. Seuk Jun-ho said, "The Tong-il Moo-do dance is a martial arts that unites all martial arts around the principle of harmony, and from this humble standpoint, we are in a position to learn from all martial arts."



Martial arts and faith

Until now, in the martial arts providence, the central martial art changed from Karate to Wonhwado and then to Tong-il Moo-do. In the midst of these historical changes, senior practitioners who had been engaged in the martial arts were forced to abandon everything they had, to shake off the conflicts between martial art forms, as True Parents taught us, with sweat and tears. Last year, during the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of World Tong-il Moo-do Federation, True Mother gave us a new message.

As the True Parents, we have earnestly sought to reach out to fallen humanity, trying to bring back one more nation, one more life, to Heavenly Parent during our lifetimes on earth, as well as guide them to a position in which they can receive blessings as true devoted children of Heavenly Parent. With such ardency we created Tong-il Moo-do.

I think this is a guide and foundation to bring about the era for the heavenly unified world. The martial arts providence has been practicing this. On the day True Mother said this, she also presented a new philosophy for the martial arts. This was convincing and shockingly true:

Unfortunately, the body does not follow what the mind desires. To bring unity in the family, nation and world when the individual still struggles from body–mind disunity is tremendously difficult.

However, we know God, the Creator, our Heavenly Parent. We also know that True Parents are our True Parents. I know that most of you who have gathered here today have been blessed. We have responsibilities as blessed families. The place in which you reach absolute unity with True Parents is the place in which your body and mind becomes one.

In other words, if you leave True Parents and insist on mind–body unity it cannot be achieved in its true sense. I think this should be enough to deflate the pride and misconceptions martial artists have about their excellent knowledge in the area of mental– physical unification. This new concept of mental–physical, mind–body unity, was a paradigm shift. And from this point of view, when we look back on the history of the martial arts, we realize that even if you're a master of martial arts and an amicable person, the next question is whether you're absolutely united with your True Parents or not.



True Father's tacit approval

This year marks the eighth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension. A year before his Seonghwa at the Yeosu Training Center during the morning Hoon Dok Hae, I was called by True Father and demonstrated my skills. When he called me, I asked him if I could sing, I know it was kind of rude to ask, especially as we did not even have a sound system there. So, I asked Father, "Should I sing?" And when he said okay, I started to sing! I expressed my strong will. Father gladly approved and later asked everyone to clap and to sing "Arirang." And I did a martial arts demonstration to that song.

I can now say that this, too, was a form of energetic dance. After that, Father spoke about martial arts while enthusiastically mixing martial arts steps and movements. Looking at him, in those moments, I felt the value and absolute necessity for martial arts to be recognized. The reason I felt this was because, Father was tapping on the desk and talking, with excitement and a happy expression on his face. If he was pleased with the performance of an inexperienced person like me, how much joy must it bring to Heavenly Parent and True Parents when younger blessed second- and third-generation members do these martial art demonstrations? This is why I learned all I could about martial arts and why I teach these skills to young people.

Our Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament has held a martial arts festival at this time every year since True Father's Seonghwa. We promoted not only Tong-il Moo-do but other martial arts such as Taekwondo and Judo. Other organizations participated in the festival. Originally, the mission given to the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace Tournament lay in creating various martial arts and other activities for Cheon Il Guk.

Clearing some confusion

In my opinion, many people seem to confuse the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace and the similarly named, World Tong-il Moo-do Federation. Oftentimes, the two organizations are mixed up. I ask myself, How are they different from one another? I will try and explain both. The Martial Arts Federation for World Peace is a providential institution established in 1997. As mentioned earlier, it engages in various martial arts activities for the creation of Cheon Il Guk. In simple terms, it is the "UN of martial arts." Of course, the founders are True Parents, who established Tong-il Moo-do.

On the other hand, the World Tong-il Moo-do Federation is not a providential institution but a corporate organization in the martial arts category of unified martial arts, like karate and judo. It celebrated its fortieth anniversary last year. The founder of this organization is Dr. Jun-ho Seuk. It is one of numerous martial arts groups under the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace."

We have unity in True Parents

However, if you look at what True Mother said at the August 28, 2019 anniversary event, "The place in which you reach absolute unity with True Parents is the place in which your body and mind become one," which is because True Parents are the founders, which is why we have their pictures in our centers. We show respect to and honor our True Parents during training. "Train your heart and body for courage in difficult times" and "With filial piety and patriotism, you'll always succeed" are mottoes True Parents gave us.

We read Hoon Dok Hae and bow before training. As far as I know, only martial arts organizations around the world testify to True Parents in an honest and fair manner without hiding anything from society.

Until now, many martial artists and martial arts organizations have not been able to meet Heavenly Parent's expectations. Even though we might be inexperienced or new in the field, the only martial art chosen by the heaven is Tong-il Mood-do. There is no room for any other theory here.

In the future, more martial arts organizations that try to contribute to world peace will be selected to be part of the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament. In order to establish a heavenly unified world, we and the rest of the world are going to boldly march ahead. In any age and in any environment, martial arts exudes energy and can always move forward powerfully. So it is essential to combine the talents of *hyo jeong rang* [heavenly warriors] who will be in charge of the future era.

I hope that martial arts education will spread as quickly as possible in each church. In addition, I sincerely take to heart what True Parents want to convey through their own martial arts and pray that all of us can grow up healthy as filial sons or daughters as desired by Heavenly Parent and True Parent.