

June 27, 1983: Conference

(At the breakfast table)

You must learn Korean. To understand Reverend Moon's ideology in its original form, you must speak Korean. Already people in the communist world are studying Korean in order to understand what he is saying and thinking.

If, as a leader in the Unification Church, you do not understand Korean, it will be your weak point. Father is learning English at the age of 65 (Korean counting). He continually memorizes English. How can you not study Korean? Eventually all national conferences will be in Korean.

Ideologically speaking, the central point of salvation is True Parents. It is very logical that children should speak their mother tongue. The English speaking world tends to take it for granted that others should speak English. People around the world burn the midnight oil studying English.

If you are true children, you should be able to speak your parents' language. If you don't speak that language there must be something wrong with you as the child. (as though kidnapped or given away for adoption.)

In our nursery schools, they are learning Korean, as in Japan, for instance. Why do I want blessed children to go to the Little Angels' School, for instance? Basically for the language. Once you master the Korean language it will be an incredible advantage for studying other foreign languages. Korean is one of the foremost and difficult languages, but mastering it linguistically (will give you ) has given the Korean people an incredible capacity to adapt to other languages.

Within a few years, Korean people can learn to speak Chinese like a native. Look at Father, he came to America, not at the age of a student--to learn to master a foreign language at his age is virtually impossible. But, because his basic language is Korean, he can understand the American accent, intonations, pronunciations quite well. For religious and spiritual expression and vivid adjectives, no language under the sun can be compared with Korean. Today, so many people internationally praise Korean for its genius quality. It is a most advanced and sophisticated language. When you say "spiritual" there are five areas of descriptions of spiritual phenomena, but in English there is only one word: "spiritual." Korean has a dozen different words to express different nuances. When Father speaks, he uses such a full, rich spiritual heritage which is very descriptive and fitting as a means to express his ideas. You are missing so much in the process of translation. Father feels so uncomfortable--it is almost a torture to have to use an interpreter. It is an agony for Father. Sometimes he feels very sorry for because you are only getting the carbon copy.

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It's not the real thing, but colorless, almost like a Xerox copy. There is no depth, no understanding of the message or its vividness.

There is only one way we can solve that problem: you are going to learn Korean so you can listen to Father directly. Within the next ten years, many of those educated levels of people in the world will speak Korean. Mr. Oyamada, the Japanese vice-president understands 90%, even of the most advanced Korean that Father speaks.

It will be a tremendous setback for the American movement unless you learn Korean. Father will not be here all the time--don't take him for granted. When you come to Korea, he will speak to you in Korean, not in English. Father is very fluent in Japanese but seldom speaks it even to the Japanese leaders. Thus, they can learn Korean directly through Father. He is giving them prestigious enhancement; their ancestors in the spiritual world can feel the fulfillment of their children who are learning Korean and listen to Father in the Korean language.

When Father came, he did not understand the English language. Now he understands it so well that he can judge how clumsy the interpretation is. Father feels astonished in a way. His impetus is always, "I am going to push these people to learn Korean so they can understand ME!" We have to be liberated from this torture, for you and for Father.

For those of you who are total strangers to the Korean language, you must be totally flabbergasted when you hear Father or Koreans speak. It is so fast, and they're laughing and joking with just impossible sounds coming out of them. By the same token, when Father first came he had a pretty good reading capacity in English. When he listened to members speak though, it was mumbo jumbo--incredible sounds! Father could only understand yes or no.

The best way to learn would be to go to Korea for a two year fundraising mission. You could move about the laborers' working places, learning the vocabulary appropriate to each profession. Then you could go to the church and learn the church vocabulary. When you go to jail, you could get the jail vocabulary.

When Father leaves the United States to go to Korea, he will have a training program to summon certain Western leaders to come to Korea and study Korean and serve Father there. When you came to Korea so far, you were treated like VIPs. Next time, you will be treated like beggars. Being a professional beggar will provide your best chance to learn Korean--you've got to communicate to survive. If you have at least one third basic Korean capability, then you'll suffer less when the time comes.

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Unless you know the taste of kimchee and ko chi chon, you don't know the real taste of Father.

Today's birthday celebration was held in the midst of the United States, in American culture. Yet surrounding Father are basically Korean leaders. You may feel, "What's going on, why this Korean speaking? This is America."

I want you to understand--this is our tradition. Those who understand Father, who can communicate with him best, must surround Father closely. By the same token, those Americans who understand Father better--the Korean language, Father's way of life, and his ideology-- those Americans should surround Father. That's a natural tradition.

From now on, Father's time is more and more limited. The conferences will be conducted in half the time if there is no English translation. Father will speak in Korean, period. You get the message go home and follow the instructions.

You should know these requirements already and get down to doing it. You don't though--that's why Father has to give them. If Father does not say this kind of thing to you, then spirit world will say to him upon his arrival, "Rev. Moon, why didn't you tell my children to learn Korean? Father doesn't want that kind of accusation. That's why Father is speaking this way giving these instructions.

When Father hears American songs, American hymns, and compares them to the Korean hymns, he feels that the American songs are far away from the providential meaning. For example, Unified Soldiers was written by Father. When you sing that song in Korean, the entire dispensational message comes out. The English, however, is flat, horizontal, not a circle or global shape, but a flat shape. On June 25, Father delivered the graduation message in English. He had written the original message in Korean. When he read it in English it didn't seem like the same message he wrote--it was far away from him. The language did not translate.

In the future, historians and scholars and philosophers will study Father in his own language, the original language, finding incredible shortcomings with the translations. Those who translated Father during his lifetime will be greatly accused by history.

Original language is so important, particularly in the religious and philosophical circles--more than for treaties, for law or international law (they decipher every word in rel/ph. circles). In international agreements, such as intern treaties, each word has such a precious quality, more so in religious language. When the future scholars try to understand Rev. Moon, they will go back to the original language and every word will be deciphered.

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The time has come, universally, whatever profession they may be-- businessmen, politicians, economic scholars, merchants, teachers, whatever-- that all must learn to understand Rev. Moon and his way of thinking and doing things. Rev. Moon will become a focal universal point of interest to all people. This age has come now. You are the closest to Rev. Moon and you represent and understand him well. If you don't know Rev. Moon closely now, then you are a fool, in a way. You are given such a great opportunity, but you did not use it.

Father would like you to go everywhere and anywhere with dignity, as his representatives. Father wants to send you as his special envoys. Father then has to say these things because you must understand him correctly. What would you do as the one condition to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? It is that you understand Father's language, Father's heavenly language. That's the Principle: Adam and Eve's children were supposed to speak their parents' language, but they are all speaking the archangel languages now. When you enter the Kingdom of Heaven, whether you know the Korean language or not will make an important difference. You ancestors will come to you and say, "You've been working with Rev. Moon for so many years on earth--you didn't learn the Korean language? How could you do that?" Thus you will be accused by them.

You are concerned because it is your mother tongue, your birthright. Rev. Moon happened to come from Korea and its language has become the mother tongue--don't think of it as a foreign language, but as your first language.