

Let us be born anew to realize God's blessing!

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Photo date and location unknown

Most people are attached to their earthly life. They regret its passing because, due to the Fall, they are ignorant of the fact that after they discard their clothes of flesh, they are meant to live forever in the beautiful and eternal spirit world. The transition from physical life to life in the spirit world may be compared to the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly. If the caterpillar had self-awareness, it might feel the same attachment to its limited existence, climbing about the leaves of a plant, as people do to their earthly life. It, too, would probably be reluctant to end its existence as a caterpillar, unaware that it is destined to enter a new phase of life as a butterfly, when it will enjoy fragrant flowers and sweet nectar to its heart's content. Exposition of the Divine Principle; page 135

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12: 2

I think that God is truly a wise being. God doesn't give advice or words of wisdom directly. However, through the multiple people we meet around us and even the objects we interact with we are able to learn something from God. God doesn't force us to learn and understand, but He lets us choose to follow or not to follow.

I feel like this kind of God is very popular amongst children^{^^}. In the average household when parents give children a lesson or give them an advice they receive it as nagging or scolding. However, for the wise and all-knowing God He never scolds us even though he is a parental figure.

Today I would like to share with you a lesson that God teaches through the nature that surrounds us.

God fashioned a creature called caterpillar. This caterpillar will live its life as a caterpillar until it makes its own cocoon or chrysalis. This pupa stage is truly an important factor in the caterpillar's life. It is a casing to protect the caterpillar to continue a successful life.

God has given us a lesson through this small significant life form. When True Parents compared our life to this caterpillar's they refer to the three growth stages. Human life and caterpillars' life are analogous. Here Rev. Moon had compared one cycle of the Caterpillar with human life.

Through comparing humans to caterpillars in smaller segments we can see that these moments will happen any time in our life. So comparing humans to caterpillars what would the pupa stage be for Humans?

When we were little we grew to learn many things thus building our character and behavior. At this growth period the child is discovering who he or she is. This consciousness is presented as a unique personal figure to society. In other words the person is making his or her own world. Similar to how a caterpillar creates a pupa to protect itself while it transforms into a butterfly, humans also have a stage of personal character and world development similar to the pupa.

Today the point I am talking about is that human beings like the caterpillars must create their own world like a pupa.

When the caterpillar breaks out of its pupa it turns into a butterfly, there is no situation where the caterpillar breaks out of its pupa just to be a caterpillar. However, there are situations where the caterpillar will stay in its pupa and then die unable to break out of the pupa.

While centering on these three situations let us observe and think about the lessons God has given to us.

So let's go with an unfortunate example. The caterpillar creates a pupa, but is unable to come out and then dies inside it.

When we look at human beings we can see we are full of self-pride. There is always a person who thinks their way is correct, their idea is the best, or their action is always necessary. If a person were to be perfect then the only way they could be is to become one with God. This situation is a very rare case or non-existent one. That is why carrying the thought that you are always correct and other people are wrong is a dangerous thought. These kinds of people are stuck in their own concept or their own consciousness, unable to break out of their own pupa. It is obvious that we haven't died in our own selves like the caterpillar in the pupa, but like the caterpillar if we continue to live in our own worlds then we will not survive any longer.

The second situation is when the caterpillar comes out of the pupa, it must be a butterfly, but it is the same caterpillar. This process absolutely goes against God's law. In nature it never happens. However, in human history, many times man's act and behavior go against God's law.

What kind of situation is this? What kind of a person would that be? It is the kind of being that makes new resolutions and goals, but never changes and never tries to accomplish them.

The third situation is when the caterpillar comes out of the pupa and morphs into a beautiful butterfly. I was thinking why the caterpillar change to a totally different life form called a butterfly to travel and experience a new world. How does everyone here think about this? What do you all think about this transformation?

God created everything for the sake of human beings. However, not everything is meant to be consumed by humans as food. Many creatures and elements of the nature that surround us are meant to be textbooks, learning materials that teach us God's principle, God's desire, and God's goal for all and each one of us.

I feel that caterpillars turning into butterflies that fly freely in the skies are a call from God, is a lesson from God to look into the smallest creatures to discover His will for us.

As human beings grow through their consciousness we are able to create or discover our own identity. If I may, just like the previous example when the caterpillar turns into a pupa it is a stage to turn into a new life form.

The concepts and stereotypes we carry may bring us together, but we must break through these stereotypes. When we do so we can become new beings. Just as God has taught us through caterpillars we should see to it that we also come out of our pupas, transform our lives into new lives similar to the process that led to butterflies.

Everyone! Have you had an experience where you have realized a small segment of truth and truly felt like you can fly into the skies? Have you felt or sense that spark?

That moment is the moment we can be born like a butterfly from its pupa. Then everyone here will be able to travel to a new world with a new self. Also we will be able to spread the truth on the third level of the growth stage. Like how a butterfly lays eggs, then those eggs hatch to give birth to caterpillars and so on... we will be able experience a new world. This is God's law of creation. A caterpillar cannot stay in its pupa forever. When it decides to stay in there it is the same as its death. Also when a caterpillar comes

out of its pupa and it is still a caterpillar, it is like going against the law of heavens. So we can call the situation when an egg turns into a caterpillar goes through the pupa stage and then finally turns into a butterfly God's original law of creation.

In our lives, we must constantly upgrade ourselves. We must struggle. That kind of change is suffering to our physical eyes. However, there will be no change without suffering. When our mother's gave birth to us they experienced pain beyond belief. Long ago in Korea medical techniques were not so advanced, so when women in labor when went into the birthing rooms they would look at their shoes wondering will I be able to wear these shoes again after all of this while crying. This is not only for humans. In our environment for a new creation to be born a lot of effort and dedication are needed.

Amongst many religious leaders there were many who underwent arduous suffering and endurance just to attain enlightenment. Those people were so determined because they wanted to live a new spiritual and physical life as their goal. Those people did not even marry and they disconnected themselves from relationships and the world so they could discipline themselves and attain enlightenment.

However, Unificationists are so blessed because we can receive such education without the need of going through such lonely paths, but through the teachings of True Parents.

Recently I went to Korea for the celebration of True Parents' birth and True God's day.

I met many world leaders and family members who came to participate in these events; when you looked at the whole schedule you could feel True Parents' love and substance in them. For me through these events, I was able to come out of my pupa and look at a new world.

First through True Mother, I was able to see True Father in the spiritual world. Through this event I was able to see heaven's providence move forward with no obstacle in its way. There was the UPF conference, the IAPP, the SunHak prize, ICUS, and the birthday musical. Then there was the leaders' meeting. When I heard the report, I was able to see the great results from everywhere where True Parents made all the foundation. I have come to realize that those results cannot simply come out from human hands without Heavenly Parents and true parents this would be impossible.

Through this experience I started to become more conscious of the husband and wife relationship. I am certain that a couple that is matched and blessed is not only together in the physical world, but also together for eternity in the spiritual world. So even if one side goes to the spirit world they will still be connected. Just like Rev. Moon is in the spiritual world and Mrs. Moon is in the physical world, they harmoniously. True father and true mother couples are like God's base pair in DNA (Humans have approximately 10 trillion cells, so if you were to line all of the DNA found in every cell of a human body it would stretch from the earth to the sun 100 times!).

As blessed couples we must know that we have to become beings that live in a cultural community working things together. Of all the people out there God has chosen us and has blessed us. Since we are the chosen people we need to move out together and live together. Through those events I have relearned that even though it may be difficult we must love one another since that is our destiny.

It seems like it is only yesterday that I stood here wishing you happy 2017 new year, but 2 months have already passed. We need to look back and check how many times have we come out of our pupas and turned into a butterfly. Some might still be in their pupas while others might have sneaked out only to return into their pupa stage. So we need to look back and examine ourselves.

For a new life to be born there must be pain and suffering. We cannot avoid such path. Like how a woman is afraid of having a child and she decides to not have a child, without Dedication and effort we cannot create anything new.

In Las Vegas Spring has come upon us. Spring represents the season of new life. For all the mammals who have hibernated and the reptiles that have awoken it is a season for activity. For the plants and trees that were asleep they now grow buds. Nature doesn't fear spring. There is a saying No pain no gain. Without pain you cannot attain anything.

If the cocoon you made for the past year was negative then we must break out of that negative cocoon and see a new world. That is why we must become butterflies and become aware of God's principle of creation while living our lives.

So everyone here ask yourself what kind of cocoon have you made for yourself? What kind of thoughts are you carrying in you, your brothers or sisters, friends, and even couples' relationship, and church community? Is it full of happiness, joy, and gratitude? Then we must break out of that cocoon of comfort, happiness, joy, and gratitude and become butterflies so we can spread love and gratitude throughout the world. Also like how a butterfly lays eggs we must multiply this happiness, joy, and gratitude

everywhere. What would happen if you were to stay in that cocoon of happiness, joy, and gratitude? We would die. That is why in Genesis 1:28 God blessed Adam and Eve and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth.

We must therefore be perfect like our Heavenly Parents. Then on the foundation of that perfection, we should be fruitful we must multiple in numbers and then fill the earth, while taking responsibility for it.

So, for this year of 2017, I truly hope everyone can break out of your cocoon, experience the butterfly like life that God has envisioned for all and each one of us, people who can be fruitful, multiply in numbers, and fill the earth, transforming it into the beautiful kingdom that God envisioned when he created the heavens and earth and created human beings as their center. Let us become healthy caterpillars and become beautiful and heavenly butterflies. Let's be born anew to realize God's Blessing.