

We've got to take the power back

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When I grow old, if indeed I am afforded such a luxury, I anticipate the privilege and responsibility of being a tribal patriarch. Not so much in an autocratic sense of the term, but I would hope that my numerous children/grandchildren/great-grandchildren and extended tribe would respect my authority as a man who has fulfilled the three greatest blessings in life. As a true parent, a true teacher and a true owner – with a heart resonating with the heart of our Heavenly Parent – I expect that my advice would be actively sought. Even when my instruction and guidance may be painful and challenging, I would hope that it would be gratefully received. Such is, I imagine, the glory and majesty of being a victorious tribal messiah.

Is this position something I could choose to relinquish? Would I choose to give up this role and hand it over to someone else? Would I choose to abdicate?



Signing over the crown

Yesterday, Beatrix Queen of the Netherlands abdicated from the Dutch throne and, in a secular ceremony involving the signing of a legal document, handed power over to her eldest son, Willem, now King of the Netherlands. This event brought memories of the recent abdication of Pope Benedict XVI from the papacy. Such actions have led the question of whether or not the British Queen, Elizabeth II, should abdicate from her positions. She has clearly stated that she never intends to do this, wishing to accomplish the promise she made, as a young princess, to serve her people for the rest of her life. In the more than 60 years of her reign, she has encountered many incredible changes, many quite challenging, and yet she continues to perform her duties well.

I respect Queen Elizabeth II a lot. One of the reasons I like her so much is because of her faith, both in God, in Christ and in the people she serves. I reckon that one of the reasons she feels qualified and able to perform her roles is that she believes God gives her the power and strength to do so. Even when faced with her own limitations, I imagine that she would turn to God to supplement her.

Why did Beatrix and Benedict abdicate? I don't know for certain, but I'm guessing that their decision may have been influenced by any doubt that they could fulfil their roles sufficiently. This doubt, if legitimate, would betray a deeper doubt in God's ability to support and sustain them. Whereas Beatrix performed a secular role, Benedict was the acting head of a global community of faith, and it would be alarming and disturbing (although not entirely surprising) that maybe in his late years, facing the huge crises that the Catholic Church is facing today, he may have doubted his ability to perform the papal duties sufficiently and likewise betray his doubt in God's ability to give him such ability. For a faith leader to lack faith in God is worrying. Perhaps if this was his limitation of faith, then perhaps replacing him wasn't such a bad idea, but it would reflect a sadness in the life of faith of a man who was meant to be a man of great faith to many.



Retired church father

To abdicate is to publicly declare something away from me, in other words to say that the role doesn't belong to me, or I don't deserve it. When I watched *The King's Speech*, a film that dramatically portrays, amongst other things, the crisis when Edward VIII abdicated to allow his younger brother George VI to become King, it occurred to me that this was an incredible event in history, analogous to the partial restoration of the Cain & Abel relationship. It got me thinking that True Father's statement that an English princess could have been True Mother had some profound legitimacy.

<http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon84/840520.htm>



In this situation, the older, less qualified brother recognised the merits of the younger brother to rule and gave up responsibility to him. As people who are trying to restore the world, we should aim to reverse what happened in the Garden of Eden, in which Adam gave up his responsibility to Eve, and she in turn handed it over to the serpent (Gen 3:12-13). We need to wrestle back this responsibility from the archangel, taking responsibility even for the things were not originally our fault. Then we can stand as the tribal messiahs who have taken responsibility and can be trust to be responsible – knowing how to respond – to life's circumstances.

If I feel like a task is too big for me, that I am not enough, I have to remind myself that with God's support, I can discover the strength & ability to rise to the occasion. This is one responsible approach. If someone else more qualified than me exists, then a responsible action would be to enlist this friend's help & support to allow me to accomplish the task. If they refuse, then I must find others to help. This is the example of Christ and of True Father. I look forward to seeing the collection of stories of emerging tribal messiahs as they also demonstrate the power of taking responsibility and striving for victory until their last day.