

## True Parents' vision of the Sunhak Peace Prize

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One of the centerpieces of the third anniversary of our True Father's ascension will be the Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony, centering on our True Mother, because the Sunhak Peace Prize is linked to Heavenly Parent's providence and to the mission and work of our True Parents.

The emphasis on this year's Sunhak Peace Prize is on the ocean and the environment around us. This is central to True Parents' core vision. We have a creation-centered theology.

The three blessings are at the heart of the Principle.

The third blessing elucidates our relationship to the environment.

Heavenly Parent created this magnificent, incredible world, this universe, this cosmos, this physical world, this planet. To be part of this world and to live and breathe is a miracle. This is Heavenly Parent's gift and blessing. So we need to love the creation with all of our heart and soul as a way of loving our Heavenly Parent.

With this in mind, our True Parents invested time and energy into the ocean itself and into thinking about the importance of the ocean and the environment. They also spent so much time in the Pantanal region, one of our great environmental treasures of the world, and on protecting that region and the rain forests. This has been central and core to the overriding mission of our True Parents throughout their entire ministry.

True Parents want to restore all seven billion people of the world. Part of that mission is to take care of those people. They're concerned about hunger and malnutrition that could afflict so many millions of people around the world. The ocean and care of the environment is central to that mission.

The ocean is our treasure and a precious resource. Seventy percent of the planet's surface is the ocean. It sustains the life of this planet. It is a source of food and nutrition and replenishes our oxygen supply, which keeps us alive. It has many natural resources, and its gas and oil are energy sources that sustain the world. It is an instrument of trade through shipping lanes around the globe. It is so important to our future, our destiny and our wellbeing.

True Parents' legacy is in every field of endeavor, so I am sure True Mother especially gave a lot of thought to the core focus and theme of this inaugural Sunhak Peace Prize.

The conclusion, which was accepted by the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee, was to focus on the ocean and the significance of our ocean as a precious resource and a gift of our Heavenly Parent.

But there are many threats to our ocean, to our planet, to our environment. Climate change is a critical issue facing humanity. Related to climate change has been the melting of polar ice caps in the Arctic region; in many glaciers and the ice is melting.

This creates the problem of sea levels rising. There is also the problem of the pollution of the ocean. All the sewage, industrial waste and petrochemicals from agriculture flow into the streams and rivers, which empty into the ocean, affecting bio-diversity, and even affecting the food chain. We get certain chemicals in our food, including fish, that if we eat it, it is not healthy for us. We want a clean ocean and that is a strong value that our True Parents emphasized.

In some respects, we might associate the Cain-approach with taking a strong interest in the environment.

Yet, true ownership of the environment belongs to the Heavenly Parent. People connected to the Heavenly Parent and True Parents should feel a sense of ownership. In virtually all speeches True Parents deliver, they explain the three blessings, in which the care, stewardship and love for the physical world is central. Part of our responsibility is to take care of this planet, this home that Heavenly Parent has given to us.

You know it is very interesting: At the same time that True Mother advised us on the Sunhak Peace Prize to focus on the ocean and the environment, the entire world began turning its attention to sustainable development. The primary focus of the opening of the seventieth session of the UN General Assembly, which will begin in September, will be on the issues of climate change and sustainable development. That means that the head of state in 193 member states will come to New York for that, and they will spend their energy and time considering the issue of climate change, the ocean and sustainable development.



*Singing for the congregation at Cheon Bok Gung*

In early December, once again, all the UN nations will meet in Paris for the Global Summit, again on climate change, the environment. The entire world has their attention on this topic and the first Sunhak Peace Prize is standing in a leadership position by convening in August even before the General Assembly, before the Paris International Climate Change Summit, to set a certain direction and tone.

How do we approach sustainable development and address the problem of climate change from a principled point of view? This is the significance of this Sunhak Peace Prize. When True Mother spoke at the United Nations in Vienna, she was crystal clear about the guidance and direction from True Parents. The world needs to come to know our True Parents, know the Principle and True Parents' teachings. This is the root or core of the solution to global problems. It applies to climate change and to the restoration of our environment, which is Heavenly Parent's home for all his children.

Please, let's not think of the Sunhak Peace Prize as something over on the side, in some special external area. No. This is at the center of Heavenly Parent's providence, at the very center of True Parents' mission.

At the core is how to educate the world on True Parents' vision and the solutions to global problems.

The Nobel Prize was rooted in Scandinavia in the Atlantic civilization era, and the Sunhak Prize is emerging now, in the Asian Pacific era. You have heard True Parents speak about the Abel UN. I believe this will develop as an Abel Nobel Peace Prize as it grows in stature around the world.

It will be a means to educate the seven billion people of the world. That is True Parents' deepest aspiration, and even their longing and heartache: How do we reach them?

This instrument, the Sunhak Peace Prize, becomes a means and an occasion to educate the world about Able-like figures who understand the true meaning of peace and to help the world move toward taking care of our world and fulfilling our responsibility as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Parent.