

The Grace of Holy Songs I - Exploring the roots of holy songs and hymns

Terue Amano
January 2021



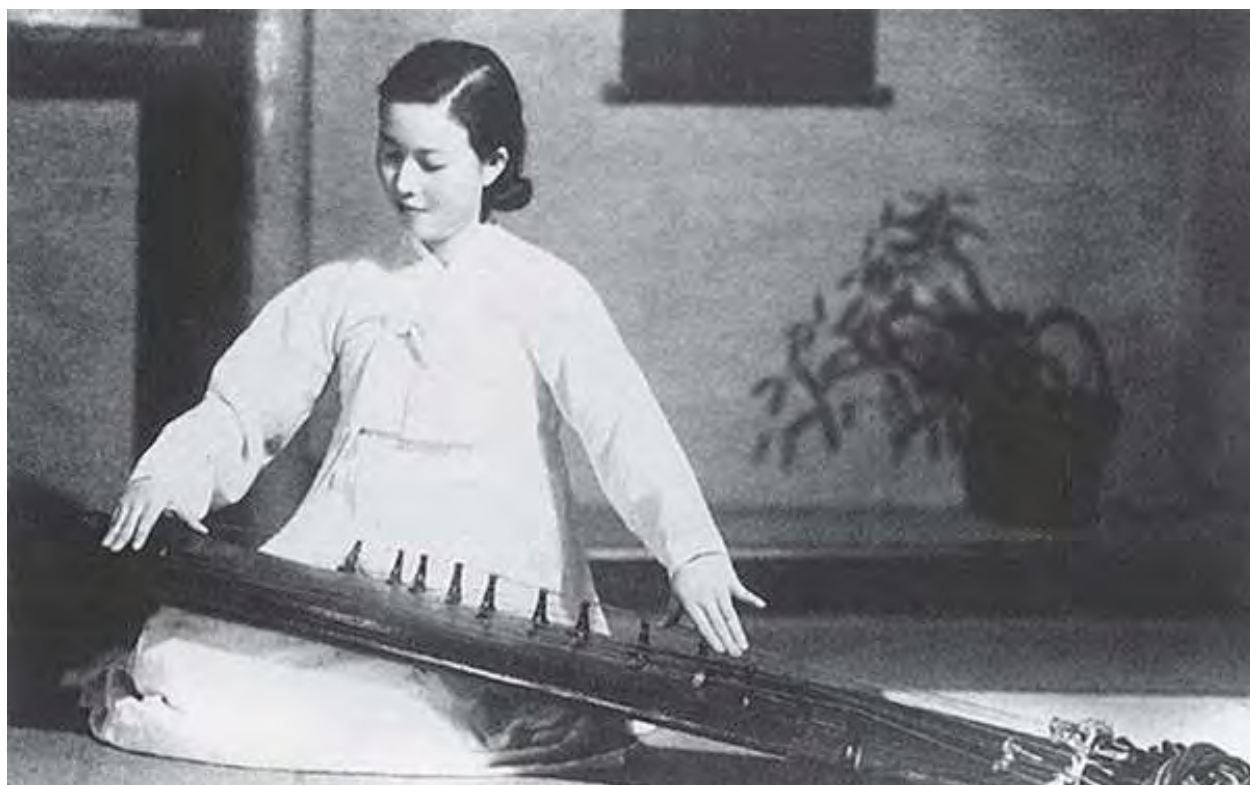
Terue Amano was born in Shizuoka, Japan, in 1944. She is a pioneer choir instructor. As a member of the Holy Song Compilation Committee, she has engaged in compilation, popularization, coaching and writing holy song verses. She also provides background on holy songs we often sing.

This song I will cover here was written by Professor Yoon-young Yang who taught music at the Ehwa Womans [sic] University in 1956, a difficult time in the early days of the church. To be exact, it is not a spiritual song, but it is a song she heard in a dream. When I visited her on January 7, 1976, she told me her story in a very bright mood.

"Back then, the spirit world tried to encourage us a lot. I often heard beautiful songs in dreams and woke up with inspiration. The songs were too good not to write down, so I used to leave a music sheet beside my pillow before I slept. But most of the time, I could not jot them down because the music was so beautiful and I would feel so dreamy whenever I heard them."

All I can say now is, It's a pity, but she said she heard music almost every day that she failed to write down. However, Professor Yang was able to write this song by recalling the memory of it, because the melody and the ambience of it stood out. The original title of this song in Korean is "Song of the March." This title is used in the first edition of the Korean *Holy Song Book*. The Japanese title comes from the first verse of the song. In English it is "Pledge."

Many hymns and holy songs are entitled by the first verse of the song. Today, this song is called "Amazing Love" in Korean and many parts of the world, and is referred to as such in Professor Yang's autobiography. At this distance of time, since I am the only person who heard about this song directly from Professor Yang, I would like to share her story here.



This is a photo was taken for the poster of Professor Yang's solo recital at the Military Officer's Club in Tokyo (1942)

When I heard the original title for the first time, I asked Professor Yang, "What Did you say 'Song of the March'" because my mind conjured up an image of troops marching in formation, which was quite

different from the impression of this song.

Professor Yang then told me what went into this song. It is not a dreamy, romantic, pretty song, but a song about an "amazing and surprising path of blessing like a dream." God's children are gathering from all over the world with a torch in their hands and holy spirits, angels and heavenly armies are watching over them and encouraging them with all their might.

One by one, the number of torches increases and the growing light eventually defeats the darkness. "Saints and sages! Let us follow this path of hope! Let us embrace True Parents' invaluable love and courageously move forward!" When we realize that this is a song to encourage members, we begin to sing while emphasizing the words in a deeper voice.



Rev. Jeon-baek Yang

The Principle opened her spiritual eyes

Let us take a look at the Korean verses of this song (in the box). In order to gain a deeper understanding of this song, we must learn about its composer and historical background. The composer, Professor Yang, performed good deeds as a seed of witnessing in South Korea. She is a relative of Rev. Hyo-won Eu, the first president of the Unification Church in Korea. Rev. Eu, who is one of True Parents' three disciples, received the Blessing among the 36 couples. He wrote the Divine Principle (under True Father's direction). Rev. Eu and Professor Yang have known each other since childhood. Rev. Eu called Professor Yang "*Gohyang Nuna*" [older sister from my hometown].

Professor Yang's grandfather was a famous pastor and all of her family and relatives were devout Christians. Her uncle (her father's older brother) was Rev. Jeon-baek Yang, a pastor in North Korea and a member of the thirty-three activists who formed the core of the March 1st Movement. At Tapgol Park (formerly Pagoda Park) in Seoul, the first gathering place for the March 1st Movement, is a monument engraved with the

Proclamation of Independence and the names of the thirty-three activists, including Rev. Yang.



Professor Yang offering a small devotion to True Father who visited the Tongil Industries in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, close to Jinju, where she ran the Hanseon Music School.

Professor Yang was born in a lineage of such patriots. She had a beautiful voice and had studied under a famous Italian singer when she was a student in Japan for three years. She even held a solo recital at the Military Officer's Club. After returning to Korea, she taught music at the Ehwa Womans University, a prestigious mission school. Back then, the church members in Seoul rented a room of about 9.5 square meters for pioneer witnessing.

Professor Yang's younger sister had joined the church and was helping in the kitchen. People were then spreading bad rumors about the church.

True Father was considered a heretic in North Korea and was sent to Hungnam Labor Camp, where he endured hellish labor for the charge of deceiving society. Some North Korea Christian pastors, as war refugees in the South, had heard this criticism and called True Father a criminal.

Meeting the church

On April 2, 1954, Professor Yang visited the church with the determination to rescue her relative and sister from heresy. But since Rev. Eu had strong faith and excellent academic credentials, and since he was her relative, she decided to oblige his request to listen to his lectures, and took the course officially from the next day. Professor Yang is highly intelligent as well as spiritual. She was entirely convinced by

the lectures and was filled with inspiration. At that time, she became spiritually open. "I took the course from April 3 and became spiritually open on the third day," she said.

True Father, who was touring around Korea, happened to be in Seoul at that time. He was wearing a jacket and sat in the room like an ordinary young man. Professor Yang had met him once earlier, but she had no concept of the significance of this thirty-three- or thirty-four-year-old young man who sat there when she was listening to the lectures. However, at a given instant, she became spiritually open and realized who he was before anyone told her.



Professor Yang with Rev. Hyo-won Eu at the former headquarters church (Cheonpadong) Annex

Surprised, she bolted off toward True Father, who was almost a decade younger than her and said, "Father, my father, Why are you pretending that you don't know me It's me, your daughter..." In the way a little child would bother her father, she went up to True Father and said, "Father, do you love me How much do you love me This much... or that much" It was a dramatic moment filled with happiness like a scene from a movie.

Filled with delight, she started singing. The melody and verse were very simple. "Aboji, aboji, woori aboji, chokkuna, chokkuna, cheongmal chokkuna" [Father, father, my father, I'm happy. I'm happy. I'm very happy]." She kept on singing as she changed the key and rhythm. What look was on True Father's face How did he feel

I heard this moving testimony from Rev. Hyo-won Eu's cousin, Rev. Hyo-min Eu, in 1968. I can almost see Professor Yang singing, filled with the joy of meeting her True Parent as if

she had longed to see him for thousands of years, and True Father lending his ear to her song. I could not hold back tears as I heard this moving testimony.

11 행진 노래

1. On this path like a dream, I found heaven's treasure
 For six thousand years, Father has promised this gift to me
 As I embrace it at my heart, I feel
 This amazing love Hallelujah Amen

2. On this path like a dream. I saw a shining light
 On this bright new day, I attend Father
 The saints gather and kneel down to bow
 This amazing love Hallelujah Amen

3. On this path like a dream, the chosen people stand up
 When they light the torch and march forward
 Whole humanity gathers to join the parade
 This amazing love Hallelujah Amen

4. On this path like a dream, I found a new path
 As they wave the white banner People sing Hallelujah
 Forefathers and patriots, spirits, heavenly armies and angels respond
 This amazing love Hallelujah Amen

Translated Korean Verses

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For six thousand years, Father has promised this gift to me
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