

One Chair

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A Personal Reflection

Happy New Year in this 6th Year of Cheon Il Guk!

It is become regular occurrence to see only one chair during some Holy Day celebrations—the chair that True Mother is sitting in. This leads most of us to wonder, “Why only one chair? Where is True Father’s chair?” There are some brothers and sisters who go as far as wondering if True Mother is trying to dethrone True Father. Is she?

The explanation given herein is a personal reflection based on my humble understanding of the providence. It is not an official statement from the church.

It is my understanding that True Mother is using only one chair in some Holy Day celebrations because she wants to help us understand that she and True Father are one. In a sense, having only one chair in which True Mother sits in, instead of also having an empty chair next to her, conditions us to see True Father through True Mother.

Of course, we would like to continue to see two chairs because, to us, seeing two chairs reminds us of True Father. However, we need to realize that the era of two being separate has been transitioning to the era of two being one for quite some time. In other words, the era of us looking at the True Parents as two separate positions—True Father being in one position and True Mother being in the other—has been behind us since before True Father transitioned into the spiritual world. We have not realized it because we have constantly looked at the providence with our limited sight. True Father and True Mother are two different individuals occupying the same position—the position of the True Parents.

When True Father was on the earth, we used to focus mostly on True Father rather than on both them. Sometimes, even when True Mother was right there, next to True Father, we still focused on True Father. This

explains why some people have been conditioned to look at the position of the True Parents being filled only by True Father; rather than by True Father and True Mother. This is also why, to some people, speaking of the True Parents means True Father; not True Father and True Mother. The reality, however, is that speaking of the True Parents means True Father and True Mother—two separate individuals fulfilling the same mission.

We can say that years before he transitioned into the spiritual world, True Father labored to prepare us break the mold of us looking at the True Parents as only meaning True Father. Providential occurrences such as True Mother doing the world tour and delivering keynote speeches should have helped us to this end. During these events, True Father invited brothers and sisters where he was and watched True Mother's speeches attentively. It is my understanding that his watching True Mother's events attentively was more than a physical thing. In a sense, though True Father was in a physical location far away from True Mother, they were actually spiritually together. To us, it was True Father attentively listening to and watching True Mother. This is because we were looking at things physically. To them, it might have been that they were in each other, intertwined, in those specific moments.

Today, using our physical eyes alone, we cannot tell whether True Father is listening to and watching True Mother attentively during any of these Holy Day celebrations. This is because True Father is only in a spiritual form. If I was to guess, I would say that he is attentively listening to and watching True Mother. This is because he used to do it when he was on the earth.

There are many changes that have taken place since True Father transitioned into the spiritual world. There are many more to come. We will understand some of them and we will struggle with a few other. Hence, it is not really a problem that we are wondering why there is only one chair. It is only a problem when we start to negatively challenge the repeated occurrence of one chair. Have we ever thought that True Mother might be using one chair in order to help us unite to True Father through her because we mostly only access our physical senses? How ironic is it to think that an empty chair, an inanimate object, would help us connect to True Father better than True Mother would?

The most recent Holy Day celebration during which there was only one chair was the True Parents' birthday celebrated on January 6th in the 6th year of Cheon Il Guk (February 21, 2018 in the Gregorian calendar).

Thank you for reading this personal reflection.

May you have a successful 6th Year of Cheon Il Guk!