

Searching for Traces of True Parents -- Part 2

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December 2015



Yang Heo, second from the right, at the Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung on Geomun Island

We began our second day at Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung by visiting our church on Geomun Island and the Hayanjang Motel. The Hayanjang Motel is the building next to the church. During True Parents' initial visits here, they would stay at that motel and do Hoon Dok Hae while repairs were going on in the church.

They continued to use the motel even after we had purchased and remodeled the Geomun church. In the end, they bought the motel as well. The Tongil Group owns it. Since construction concluded on the Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung, the church now uses True Parents' quarters in the motel for church activities.

As soon as you enter the church, you see True Father's signature, written at the time of the church consecration. Though it is a mission area without many members, the current church leader, Reverend Gong Su Hwan, is working hard with the heart to emulate True Parents' devotion. In keeping with the adage, "Where Heaven offers devotion, Heaven does not lose anything; Satan cannot occupy or seize territory," Reverend Gong maintains a faithful attitude, believing that by imitating True Parents' devotion and love as he lays a foundation, True Parents' teachings will blossom like flowers on Geomun Island.

I could not suppress my heart toward True Parents as I looked at their keepsakes preserved there. Being there reminded me of a time in 2007 when we rented a ferry and held the Abel UN Inauguration Review Meeting on the deck. Intellectual and revered ambassadors for peace, and woman leaders, including President Jeong Dae Hwa, gathered for Hoon Dok Hae with Father and gave reports.

I remember that Father had me sing "Ulsan Arirang" three times while dancing for everyone. Father said at that time that that place would become a holy ground because he had hosted the Abel UN Inauguration Review Meeting there.

Because True Parents offered their deep devotion for this area, even though it has only three thousand people living on it, Geomun Island now has an incongruously large building as its ferry passenger terminal.

Geomun Bridge, which connects two nearby islands, Dong and Seo, also opened in September. Coming in third place among Koreans as a tourist attraction that one must visit before dying, Geomun Island has many tourists on weekends.

After visiting the church, we went to the British Naval Cemetery. The spirits there seemed to be welcoming us because President Kim Young Hwi is the national messiah of England.

On my part, I prayed ardently and comforted the spirits with the thought, "How long have they been longing for the hand of salvation?" A British naval officer, Edward Belcher, surveyed Geomun Island in 1845. Afterward the British named it Port Hamilton, after the then secretary of the Admiralty.

Forty years later, in 1885, Britain had strained relations with the Russia after Russia had annexed territory in Afghanistan, implying a threat to invade nearby India, Britain's prized possession at the time. Thus,

Britain dispatched its China Squadron to occupy Geomun Island illegally, to preempt Russians from occupying it and as a base of operations for possible attacks on Vladivostok. Britain also used possible occupation of Korea by Russia as a pretext for remaining on Port Hamilton. The Russian Empire had signed a commercial treaty with Chosun in 1884.

Lǐ Hóngzhāng of Qing Dynasty China negotiated with Sergey I. Popov, the Russian Empire's ambassador in Peking, and received the promise that if Britain withdrew from Geomun Island, the Russian Empire would not invade Chosun's territory. They delivered this agreement to the British side and on February 5, 1887, and the British fleet withdrew.

Beside a wooden cross in the British Naval Cemetery was a small tombstone. British sailors are interred there. According to the records, at the time the British Navy withdrew, they left behind seven to nine graves; but only two remain.

The Korea that a Westerner Sees is an entertaining love story. When the British Navy was stationed at Geomun Island, Seo Island had a famous "shaman valley," where hundreds of people would come to be educated and then live as shamans. Included in those were the daughters of literary people of high moral repute. Some of the British sailors would swim from Dong Island to Seo Island to seek out the girls in the Shaman Valley to flirt with them and then swim back. A sailor named Peter was one such man.

He fell deeply in love with a literary man's shamanist daughter. In the end, they had a child. On this man's grave, the epitaph says that he drowned due to a heart attack.

According to the author of the book, Yeong Suk Park; Peter, the sailor, was drunk when he suffered the heart attack while swimming to Dong Island. The mixed-blooded child was a girl. Her eyes turned blue as she grew up and the contour of her face became more defined by thirteen.

Rumors about her spread throughout the nation, until the courts intervened and sent her to Britain. Three generations later, her descendants today live in Britain. Father said, "At the end of the eighteenth century on Geomun Island, Britain dispatched their navy to block the southward advance of the Russian Empire. By doing so, Britain fulfilled her responsibility. They are the Eve nation and in the context of Korea, they made a base where we could defend against the Russian Empire.

They fulfilled the Eve providence by sending the British Navy.

This is a significant site of the ocean world."

True Parents are striving for one world under God through international marriages that transcend religion, culture, national borders and race. There are no black, white or yellow people in God's eyes. Everyone is the same. The division between language and race began as a by-product after our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, failed. In this context, another reason for Father offering so much devotion for Geomun Island is that it is the origin of a mixed-blooded child between a westerner and a Korean.



Geomun Island, holy ground

After lunch, we went in search of traces of True Father. We decided to fish where he did. Unfortunately, the wind was strong and the waves were rough. President Byung Ho Kim still caught a largescale

blackfish, even though the boat was rocking hard. It was only twenty-five centimeters long, but it was a good result in that weather. We all immersed ourselves in fishing but we did not catch any more. When Father came to Geomun Island, he would always be on the water, on the New Hope II, except when he slept or did Hoon Dok Hae.

When it was time to eat, while he was at sea, he would have food brought to him by boat. He would receive news and reports from around the country and would ask about the situation of our members. He moved his control tower (figuratively) for human salvation to the ocean in front of Geomun Island and directed the work going on around the world from there. Sometimes he would be deeply lost in thought, perhaps making plans for humanities' future.

Once, when Father left for Geomun Island by helicopter, soon after attendants, including me, were contacted to come. We left hurriedly and joined Father by boat, the New Hope II. Father was happy that we arrived and had an expression that said he was waiting for our reports. We could not just stand there like stone statues. We tried to come up with something to report. If Father did not order us to report, he expected us to offer to do it anyway.

Father then said, "Why do you think I love the ocean? The ocean is level, neither high nor low. The ideal world is level. I am offering my devotion through fishing so that the members that are also offering devotion, while constantly thinking about the level world, will not have any debt." He continued to teach us saying, "The ocean is a repository of food for humankind.

Human beings came from the ocean. A person or a race who does not like fish will have no choice but to live in hunger. In the future, he who has dominion over the ocean can have dominion over the world. You must love the ocean." Father would not think of going back to shore even when it got dark.

The last time Father came to Geomun Island, he never worried about any stress on his body but said that he was going out on the ocean. At the docks, five or six staff members would accompany him and help him aboard the boat in his wheelchair. He did not dwell on how uncomfortable he was but immersed himself in offering devotion. On the way back to land, he would have the staff members sing. *Betnore* (The Boat Song), *Gohyangmujeong* (Heartless toward One's Homeland), *Halmi-got* (The Pasque flower), *Bandal* (Half Moon), *Heemangui Nararo* (To the Nation of Hope) were a few of True Parents' favorites.

The four days from July 24–27, 2012 were the last days Father stayed on his beloved Geomun Island. July 24 was a day the helicopter had a scheduled inspection, but Father expressed his desperation to go, so we went by car and ferry. During that time on Geomun Island, he appeared quite tired in comparison to previous trips. Nevertheless, he was strict about Hoon Dok Hae time. He would always remind us that as public figures, Hoon Dok Hae time was an appointment with God. As he walked into the Hoon Dok Hae room, his attendants supported him on each side. After Hoon Dok Hae, he ate sausages, a sandwich, sweet potatoes and potatoes while he pressed us with the providential assignments at hand.

When Father was on Geomun Island, hardly a day passed without his going out on the ocean, but one day when Captain Choi Jong Ho said, "Father, we are ready to go fishing," Father said, "I do not need to go to the ocean anymore. You should go together on your own!" This was unexpected from Father. What I think now is that Father foresaw that he was nearing the end of his life and was in the preparation stage.

On our way back to Chung Pyung, I was sitting across from Father in the VIP room at the Yeosu Airport. The sight of Father so gaunt and fatigued tormented me; I could barely stand it. Mother said, "Father was born healthy so that he could live to well over a hundred. Yet, exerting one's holy body too much can cause a person to pass away early." She continued, "Look at the cars that you ride around in. For them to run smoothly you need to clean them, tighten them and grease them. Even the electronic devices you love so much will only work nicely if you clean them well." Her words made us feel sadder.

All Father's doctors said that once people are in their nineties, not traveling long distance from East to West is best, but if they must, once every three years is appropriate. However, Father went to Las Vegas eight times in 2011 and four times in 2012. Frequently, he would not stop at Chung Pyung when he returned but would go straight to Geomun Island. I can understand what Mother meant when she said Father was overworked.

Geomun Island is certainly a holy ground because until the moment he ascended, Father invested all of his devotion to open the kingdom after the coming of heaven. Why is Geomun Island a holy ground? First, it is a place of refuge. Second, True Parents held the Abel UN Inauguration Review Meeting there. Third, Father wrote, "Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation," in calligraphy there. Fourth, he wrote, "Declaration Day to Commemorate the Greatest Victory of Cheon Il Guk" there as a final directive to change our lineage.

In light of this, Geomun Island is surely the place where a new providential and historic era began and where the radiant future of Unificationists will develop.