

Our Holy Wedding Ceremony, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

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Jesus was born to humankind 2,000 years ago. God intended that Jesus find his bride and, together with her, attain the position of True Parents, providing living examples of a true husband and wife, parents, and family.

However, God's hope for Jesus was not realized. The Lord went a secondary course, dying for us on the cross. We cannot imagine how devastated he must have been! When Jesus returns, his priority is to find the bride, with whom he will create a true family, society, nation and world.

Through the True Parents, the sorrows of heaven and earth can be alleviated, and the victorious foundation for God's ideal world can be laid.

In this providence, the prophesied Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the day of our Holy Wedding, was the turning point, the day when God won His victory and recovered His lost glory. Furthermore, this was a day of joy for humankind, as it inaugurated a new history in which all can live together not only with their True Father but also with their True Mother.

At the age of 15, Sun Myung Moon received his mission from Jesus Christ on Mount Myodu. It was a mission that would bring him severe hardship. It led him to study in Japan and to teach God's word in North Korea after Korea's independence, where he would face life-threatening hardships and unspeakable suffering. Communist Party officials and police cruelly tortured him and later sent him to a forced labor camp near the city of Hungnam. It was only the arrival of UN troops that saved him from execution there.

With two of his followers, he headed south to begin his ministry again. After planting his church in Busan he settled in Seoul.

Yet his trials continued and once again he was imprisoned, this time by the South Korean government. This course of hardships, during which time he relentlessly focused on teaching many new members about God and the mission of the Messiah, was the course he had to pass through to meet the only begotten Daughter prepared by God, and to hold the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Members of the early Unification Church endured bitter ordeals together with Father Moon. As the year 1960 approached, they were filled with indescribable hope. Father Moon was turning 40, and he had prophesied that this would be the year of the Holy Wedding of God's first Son and Daughter, the only begotten Son and only begotten Daughter. And that promise was fulfilled. At the Cheongpa-dong church, at 4:00 in the morning on March 27, 1960, the first day of the third lunar month, when spring was in full

bloom, Father Moon and I held our historic engagement ceremony.

We had invited 40 men and 40 women to witness the ceremony, but members wishing to see us had come in great numbers, and the small church was packed to overflowing. The engagement ceremony, held in two parts, was conducted in a holy atmosphere. It concluded with Father Moon's benediction, reporting the profound meaning of the ceremony to heaven and earth. The 6,000-year history of humankind, he prayed, was the anguished course necessary to receive the True Parents. That Jesus could not become the True Parent was the sorrow of all people, but the day of our engagement ceremony was the blessed day that finally relieved that sorrow.

Fifteen days after the engagement ceremony, at 10:00 am on April 11, 1960, the 16th day of the third month by the lunar calendar, we conducted the Holy Wedding. Seven hundred or so members chosen from our churches across Korea gathered at Cheongpa-dong Church to attend this splendid event, long awaited by our Heavenly Parent. Because even more members flocked to attend the Holy Wedding than the engagement ceremony, the church was overflowing, and those who could not enter the building filled the alleyway beside it. The atmosphere was nonetheless solemn and reverent.

The small chapel of the church was decorated beautifully and meaningfully for the occasion. The walls and floor were covered with white cloth, and a platform was set up to the left of the door. Dressed in a long, white skirt and top, with a long veil covering my head, I walked down the stairs from the second floor, arm in arm with the bridegroom, as members sang a holy song, "Song of the Banquet." All in attendance warmly welcomed us, and the Holy Wedding ceremony thus commenced.

The significance and value of this joyful occasion should have been praised, glorified and honored by all nations and peoples. Yet it was marred by a distressing incident. The day before the ceremony, the Ministry of Home Affairs, responding to a Christian group's accusations, arrested and interrogated Father Moon. He was able to return to his quarters in the church only after being subjected to humiliating questions until 11:00 pm. Yet under the grace of God and the Holy Spirit, Father Moon and I, and the entire congregation, put aside this painful experience as if it had never happened and conducted the Marriage Supper of the Lamb with serene hearts.

The first ceremony of the Holy Wedding was held in Western-style clothing, and the second ceremony was held in traditional Korean-style clothing, complete with robes and headdresses.

These ceremonies marked my formal emergence as the Mother of the universe and Mother of peace. The Holy Wedding finally realized God's predestined Will that the only begotten Son and Daughter would become one flesh through the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, so that through them, the dwelling place of God would be with men and women, an ideal which Adam and Eve had not been able to achieve.

After the ceremony, Father Moon and I, as husband and wife, ate at the same table for the first time. It goes without saying that newlyweds expect to go on a honeymoon and dream of their cozy life together, but it was not so with us. Our thoughts were fixed only upon God and the church. We then changed into bright Korean traditional wedding outfits, and my husband and I sang and danced to return glory to God, enjoying a merry time together with the members. When the members called for the bride to sing, I sang a song called "When the Spring Comes:" When the spring comes, Azaleas bloom in the mountains and meadows.

Where the azaleas bloom, So does my heart.

Spring signifies freshness and newness. I love spring, as it is the season of hope. Spring brings with it the expectation that, as we leave the cold winter behind, our days will be vibrant with life.

It awakens our dreams. As I sang, I was thinking that the history of the Unification Church should begin anew with this coming of spring. The appearance of the family of the True Parents on earth that day flung open a new door in the history of God's dispensation. The day of the Holy Wedding Ceremony, conducted after we had lived through perilous years, was the day of God's greatest delight.

In the New Testament's Book of Revelation, it is written that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place when the Lord comes again at the end of times. That prophecy was fulfilled by the Holy Wedding, by which the only begotten Son and only begotten Daughter, lost at the beginning of human history, were brought together as bridegroom and bride and anointed as the True Parents. As we were joined as husband and wife, I made a firm resolution in front of God:

"It is almost impossible to describe the heart of God. Until the day that God's Will is fulfilled, I will move forward in unity with you in heart and in every respect."

[This quote has been translated from the recently discovered recording of True Mother's Message at True Parents' Holy Wedding in 1960]