

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: In-Depth Look At Fatherly And Motherly God

Knut Holdhus  
March 31, 2024



*Dr. David Hanna lecturing in Oslo, Norway on 16th March 2024*

### Understanding the Creator as fatherly and motherly God gives more comprehensive view of essence of God

Part 3 of a lecture given by Dr. David Hanna, head of the North European sub-region of the [Family Federation](#), at an international prayer meeting by Zoom on 27th March 2024.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

To conclude my presentation, here are some additional thoughts from me - indicated by the change of slide background - on the term "Heavenly Parent".

My own view is that in English it remains a bit problematic, although I'm getting used to it just through constant use. I suppose the term "Heavenly Parent" in English begs the question, "Well, which Parent do you mean, Mother or Father?"

Also, it's not a term of address that we use in everyday language. We don't say, "Good morning, parent."

父母

The Chinese character for parent(s).  
The left part means father,  
the right mother. In Korean,  
it's pronounced bumo.

However, the Korean word "bumo" is ambiguously either singular or plural. And even if singular, the word is anyway made up of the two phonemes, "bu" and "mo", meaning "father" and "mother".

So, my personal solution, at least for private prayer, is to use the Korean "Haneul bumonim". I can easily imagine that for Korean ears, this is a beautiful step up from "Hananim", which is an old word for [God](#) in native Korean religion and which translates, as - you might know - "the honourable

number one".

This change involves a comfortable expansion of the existing word in line with the developed concept.

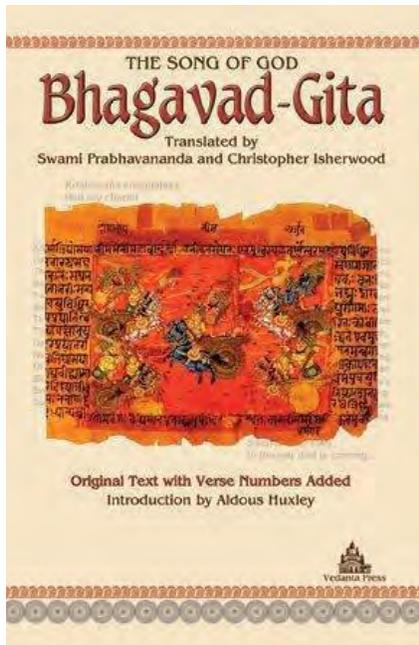
It has to be said, the idea of [God](#) as having both a feminine as well as a masculine nature, is not unique to us as Unificationists.

The root of our faith is, of course, in the Jewish Torah.

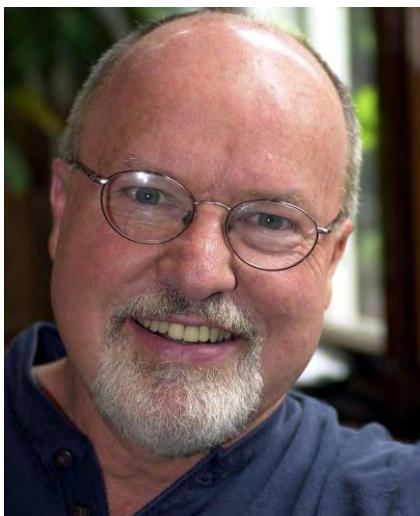
"So [God](#) created man in his own image. In the image of [God](#), he created him. Male and female, he created them." (Genesis 1,28)

It's really a revealed truth, very much ahead of its time. But also in the Hindu scripture the Bhagavad Gita, which is written around 200 to 400 BCE, it reads,

"I am the Father and Mother of this universe."



A new edition of the classic translation of the *Bhagavad Gita - The Song of God* - Translation by Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood



Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr.  
Photo (2001): Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

And for a more contemporary take, showing this is a topic about which there's a lot of talk actually, as well as a changing practice today. I was interested to read this. It's from the popular author and the Franciscan, so catholic monk Richard Rohr. He says,

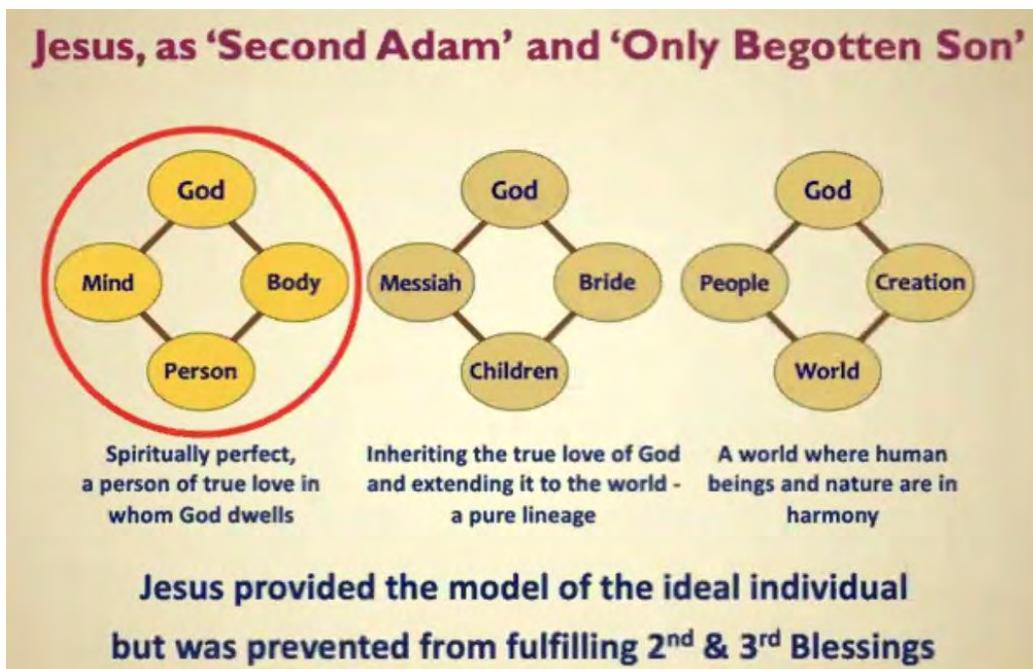
"Do you think if we'd had a more feminine image of [God](#), that we would have understood creation as labour and giving birth? If we had had an image of [God](#) as the great mother who is giving birth, I think history as process, pain, patience-guided destiny would have come more naturally. As it is, we have seen history as a linear obstacle course, something to be conquered, exploited and won." (Richard Rohr, "Jesus' Plan for a New World", p35)

And you'll surely find many more examples yourself.

I don't see myself resorting to dualism as being the main danger. I think a more real but hidden danger lies in inductive reasoning itself. If we start with what we know as masculine

and feminine and simply say [God](#) is like that, then we don't know [God](#). That is my worry.

I think the lecture could benefit also from a reference to the Holy Spirit and how that has been viewed historically. After all, we call [Mother Moon](#) "the substantial Holy Spirit".



Extract from a slide used by Dr. Jin-su Hwang

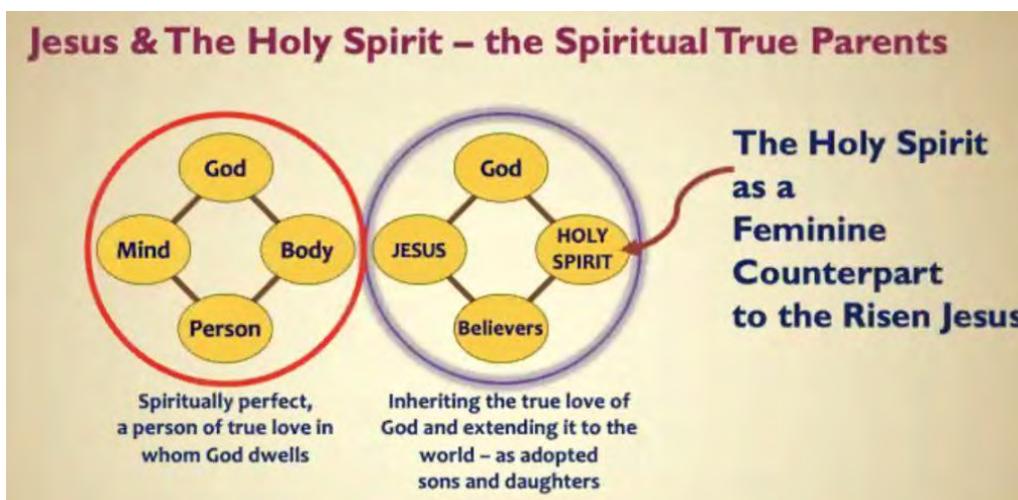
Jesus was and is the only begotten son of [God](#) and the first to fulfill the first blessing and become a complete embodiment of [God](#) or incarnation.



Extract from a slide used by Dr. Jin-su Hwang

Now, the traditional trinitarian view of [God](#) is all male, with [God](#) the Father as male, in mystical oneness with [God](#) the Son, who is, of course, male, and [God](#) the Holy Spirit, who is also regarded as male. So, three persons in one, but all male.

You also find much discussion in theological circles about the feminine nature of the Holy Spirit and how the masculine definition has been arrived at, which is largely by a quirk of language, actually, as well as being subjected to a male dominated church hierarchy.



Extract from a slide used by Dr. Jin-su Hwang

So, the [Divine Principle](#) reveals an elegant and very beautiful solution where the Holy Spirit is revealed and given as a feminine counterpart to the risen Jesus to give comfort and spiritual rebirth to those who turn to Christ. This is an important view to propagate, in my opinion.

Finally, let me remind you of just how advanced [Father Moon's](#) Christology, or "True Parentology", as I like to call it, how advanced it is.

Here he is speaking to dignitaries at the World Culture and Sports Festival banquet that's back in 2005. He said,

"Once Adam and Eve had reached perfection, however, [God](#) planned to dwell within them, to have complete oneness with them. He planned that He would enter a relationship of eternal [true love](#) with them, wherein He would be Adam and at the same time [God](#). Likewise, He would be Eve and at the same time [God](#).

If Adam and Eve had not fallen, if they had abided by the commandment of [God](#), achieved perfection as individuals, and come together in a holy matrimonial union with the Blessing of [God](#), their children and their descendants would have lived forever as His substantial embodiments, inheriting His nature

generation after generation." (From a speech [Father Moon](#) gave 1st August 2005)

So really, my final conclusion is just as St. Paul said in 1. Corinthians 15:13,

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised." (Amplified Bible)

So, we can say, if there is no "[Only Begotten Daughter](#)", what hope have we to become the substantial embodiments of [God](#)?

Thank you very much for your attention, everybody.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

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## History Of God: From Yahweh To Father To Parent

March 30, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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*History of God has witnessed a development from Yahweh to Our Heavenly Father to Our Heavenly Parent*



Part 2 of a lecture given by Dr. David Hanna, head of the North European sub-region of the Family Federation, at an international

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Dr. David Hanna lecturing in Oslo, Norway on 16th March 2024. Photo: Knut Holdhus

at an international prayer meeting by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Being a member of the second generation, Professor Hwang remembers his parents bowing to each other as part of the Kyeongbae

ceremony ["Kyeongbae" means bowing and is a common way of showing respect in South Korean culture. It is used in various social situations.] Maybe you've done this yourselves? And he explains, when we do the Kyeongbae ceremony, the whole family first bows to a picture of **True Parents**. Then we offer prayers. Then the couple face each other and bow to each other.

The fundamental meaning of this bowing to each other is captured in these words of **Father Moon**,

"Originally, parents represent the original position of **God**, and here husband and wife represent **God's** different sides." (From a speech **Father Moon** gave 17<sup>th</sup> January 1999)

Each becomes the other side's "god". You will understand this through the tradition of our bowing ceremony. It shows that there's an equality to husband and wife bowing to the "god" in the other.

**Mother Moon** asked a gathering of women leaders,

"Have any of you wives received a bow from your husband? Did your husband ask you to sit and then offered a bow to you?" ["We bow to each other," came the reply] And **Mother Moon** advises, "**Equality is what you should seek.**" (From a speech **Mother Moon** gave 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

### Why this is not dualism



- God's original substance (the original internal nature and external form) is one being, not two.
- The dual characteristics of man and woman are not the original substance in itself but attributes of the original substance.

Extract from a slide used by Dr. Jin-su Hwang. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

Dr. Hwang's third main point is about why this view of the **Unification Principles** is not dualism, by which I presume he is meaning a female **God** and a male **God**, or two beings.

I don't think myself that this is a confusing point for most Unificationists, but Dr. Hwang solves it by stating that **God's** original substance (the original internal nature and external form) that is the root of the masculine aspect and the feminine aspect, is one, not two. The dual characteristics of masculinity and femininity are attributes that belong to the original substance. They're not the original substance itself.

There is one being we call Heavenly Parent. That leads into the question of why we have understood **God** only as Heavenly Father until now, and Dr. Hwang gives three reasons but talks only of the first and third points.

The first reason is the explanation of the relationship between **God** and the creation as being that of masculine "subject" to a feminine "object" [Explanation given in the **Unification Principles**]. And if we misunderstand that, he points out that the creation as female "object" is of course populated by male and female pairs.

So, if anyone is confused on this point, his helpful suggestion is to think of this relationship [between **God** and the creation] as a parent-child relationship rather than a male-female relationship.

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### Historicity of Revelation According to the Progress of the Providence



Extract from a slide used by Dr. Jin-su Hwang. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

The third point the Korean professor mentions, is that historically, it's the fact that **Jesus was single and did not marry that cements the idea of God as male** in people's minds. This is part of the **historical progression from understanding God as Yahweh to God the Father to Heavenly Parent.**

Professor Hwang does at this point tantalize us further with another reference to Wolli Wonbon. There, [Father Moon](#) says,

"People throughout history have known [God](#) only as Father, without Mother. Nevertheless, it is true to say that we did not even think about the fundamental reason that [God](#) appears only as our Father, without being our Mother. Relating to such children who do not know [God](#) as their Mother, God the Father's pain and sorrow must be beyond description." (Wolli Wonbon, 1952, unpublished, p.278)

[Mother Moon](#) said to Christian ministers in America,

"**God wanted to be the True Parent, visible in the flesh through the first human ancestors.** That was [God's](#) hope and dream. It is [God's](#) purpose of creation." (From a speech [Mother Moon](#) gave 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

And Professor Hwang concludes his lecture saying that Heavenly Parent's dream is to assume the [True Parents'](#) bodies to realize one great cosmic family and live together forever in the joy of true love.

Dr. Hwang says that it is more in line with the spirit of the "Era of the Heavenly Kingdom" ("Cheonilguk" era in Korean) to call [God](#) the Heavenly Parent.

*Continued in [part 3](#).*

*See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)*

**Featured image** above: Jin-su Hwang, professor of theology at [Sun Moon University, Asan, South Korea](#). Photo (2023): Screenshot from video by [신통일한국 평화포럼](#)

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