

THE COMING OF THE AGE OF WOMEN

April 10, 1992 Olympic Stadium, Seoul, Korea

Inauguration of the Women's Federation for World Peace and Seoul Rally of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia

Distinguished guests, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, representatives of the Women's Federation for World Peace from seventy countries, women leaders, and members of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia:

I am certain that today we are witnessing a great event that will have a profound meaning in the history of women in Korea, and throughout the world. Until now, men have provided primary leadership throughout the progress of history. This rally today, by declaring the "Beginning of the Age of Women," marks an historic turning point for the entire world.

The leadership of men has brought about a world filled with struggle and evil. Human beings continue to dream of liberation from this world of evil and struggle and the onset of a world of goodness, peace, and happiness.

God created us as His children, and we can be assured that God had no intention of sitting by and doing nothing while the world suffered for thousands of years through wars and evil. God has been actively working to find ways to lead us to salvation. This is the meaning of the salvation providence carried out through religion. As a religious leader, I have consistently preached that God's salvation providence carried out through religion represents the real hope for the world.

Throughout history, countless leaders and heroes have dedicated their lives to building a better world yet there has never been any fundamental change in the fact that we live in a world of wars and evil. Political and economic means are unable to bring such fundamental change to the world.

This fact is clearly illustrated by the superpowers and developed countries of today's world. The decline of morals has become a global phenomenon and presents a serious threat to the future of humankind.

Immorality and moral decline have reached such a point that mothers and fathers, husbands, and wives, and even children, hardly recognize each other in their respective roles. The very foundations of the family are being destroyed. The correlation between the increase in economic wealth and the decline in ethical conduct and sexual morality, as well as the spread of drug abuse, has brought about a critical situation.

Today the world is faced with the question of how to escape from the clutches of sexual immorality, for this is the most deeply rooted of all evils. There is no possibility that politics and economics alone can rescue this world from the crime and decadence that we see around us today.

Members of the Women's Federation, representatives from around the world, I have experienced firsthand the pain and sorrow of a weak nation trampled upon by a powerful neighbour. I was born seventy-two years ago during the Japanese colonial administration of Korea. During my youth, I thought seriously about how to bring salvation to this tragic world of war and evil. I concluded that salvation through religion has the most fundamental effect.

This is because God's salvation providence through religion has a strategy to use Satan's persecution for the purpose of reclaiming all the ownership that was stolen by the evil force of the devil. Religion teaches that evil brings about its own destruction by striking out at good; the path of good is one of bringing about the natural subjugation of evil by receiving evil's blows.

Ever since I was a young man in my teens, I have consistently taught the truth according to religious revelation and devoted my entire life to putting the content of this teaching into practice. My teachings, the Unification Principle, have spread to one hundred sixty countries around the world. The teachings are spreading particularly rapidly in the previously communist countries of the former Soviet Union as well as in Eastern and Central Europe, and even in North Korea. Also, in the Islamic countries of the Middle East region, people are coming to follow these teachings.

The Unification Church has received great persecution and suffering in several countries, including its home country of Korea. Today, however, it has set its roots down firmly and permanently all throughout the world. No one will ever be able to uproot the Unification Church from any place in the world.

Religion forms the fundamental means by which God plans to save this world, and all the world's major religions have at their centre an

expectation for some kind of messianic figure. Christians believe in the second coming of Jesus. Muslims, Buddhists, and followers of Confucius await the reappearance of the founders of their respective religions. All these religions believe that when the messianic figure appears, the Messiah will judge this world of sin and struggle and establish the ideal world, that is, the kingdom of heaven, in a short time.

Thus, all these religions teach that this world can only be saved through the second coming of the founder of their religion. This is referred to as the messianic ideal. Only a leader who gives truth and true love, one who can unite the fundamental teachings of the major religions and integrate the roles of the various messianic figures, can accomplish the salvation of this world.

Such a leader will reveal how our first ancestors committed the Fall and brought about a history of struggle and evil. This leader will explain original sin, the root of the world's evil, and shed light on the truth that will liberate humanity from evil. Because our first ancestors committed the original sin and became false parents, the returning Messiah will come as the True Parents, the original ancestors of good through whom all people will be reborn.

The True Parents will not make their advent on the clouds from the sky. Instead, they will appear in this age and on this earth in Korea and lead the world into an age of peace and unity. During my life of more than seventy years, I have received much persecution, yet I have never been defeated. My wife, President Hak Ja Han Moon, has walked this path of suffering together with me as the representative of all women in the world.

While following the path of righteousness in accordance with God's Will, when I received persecution at the hands of unrighteous forces in the form of imprisonment, my wife, Hak Ja Han Moon, decided to gather righteous women of good conscience and begin a movement for peace. That effort has borne fruit in this rally today.

No one knows the course of religious training I went through to receive this content of God's truth. During that time, I came to the realization that the key to world peace and world unity lies in the unification of the Korean Peninsula, which has been divided between communism and democracy. It is for this reason that I have travelled throughout the world and devoted all my energy to the accomplishment of this goal. This is also the reason I went to North Korea last November and negotiated directly with Kim Il Sung.

It will not be long now before we see the unity of all the world's major religions. Neither will it be long before the unification of the Korean Peninsula is accomplished. In fact, these two goals represent the reason that women from seventy countries around the world have gathered today to attend the Seoul Rally of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia, which is being held under the presidency of Mrs. Moon. I expect you will eventually be forming a federation of families for world peace. In God's salvation providence, Korea is the home country of the providence.

In each religion, we can see that the women are far more devout and active than men. The Bible says that true Christian faith is preparation as a bride who will someday receive the Lord of the Second Advent as her bridegroom. This biblical teaching means all religions have been prepared by God so that they may fulfill a female role, that is, the role of the bride, in the presence of the coming Messiah.

In the presence of the True Parents who come as the Messiah, the women of this age are the true workers who will cleanse this world of war, violence, suppression, exploitation, and crime. Women will build an ideal world filled with peace, love, and freedom. It is also up to women to see that the evil forces, led primarily by men, which opposed and persecuted the forces of righteousness and good, are now completely eradicated so that they cannot cause any more harm.

We live in the age when the Messiah returns as the True Parents of humankind, when North and South Korea are uniting through love and truth, and when all religions are to become one. This is the age in which all people of the world will rise above differences of race and philosophy to join in the building of a new world of peace. I am certain that God will give boundless blessings to all the world's women called for these great purposes.

I pray that God's great blessing will be upon the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia and the Women's Federation for World Peace, which is to be inaugurated today.

Thank you very much.