

World Peace through Education*

—The Importance of Teaching the **True God** in Higher Education—

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[A Summary]

World peace as well as prosperity, material or spiritual, comes only from knowing the **true God** of man. So the best way for this purpose is to teach HIM in schools especially at universities where the students are mature enough to consider HIM. Egypt was once the most prosperous and peaceful nation while she continued to believe in the spiritual God, not idols.

Key words : word peace, higher education, the true God, IAUP, Egypt

What should we leave for our descendants? This country, Egypt inherited magnificent historical things called pyramids from the ancient ancestors. And we suppose you must be proud of those inheritances in some way. Now it has become our vogue to leave the world's precious things to our descendants; this is called World Inheritance Project initiated by UNESCO. This year Japan our country proposed to designate Hiroshima Dome as a memory of disaster of nuclear weapons. This is a good thing. But a more important for us to leave, or for our descendants to inherit is not visual and is invisible. Namely, spiritual inheritance is more essential than material things. Above all, we should leave the spirit of the world peace for our descendants. For this end, we must pay attention to the importance of teaching peace through education because education is the most effective way to realize the world peace. But

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a mere knowledge of importance of the world peace may be useless in critical situations. Through my several years of educational practice in my classes, I have come to realize, more and more, that nothing is more important than to teach the **true God** in the formal education either in lower-secondary education or higher education.

I just read a book titled : ***Mubarak and Education : A Look to the Future***. In this book, **Doctor Hussein Kamel Bahaa El Din, Minister of Education** of this country wrote as follows :

God is indeed the guardian of success.

Then why don't you teach the **true God**, more and more, from the start, in every level of education, especially in Higher Education. We should know the **true God** more and more in order to ask help from Him. In contemporary universities all over the world, it is now a common litany, a phrase that God is dead. But this is a false notion ; God is not dead. He is alive in no matter what condition and no matter when. So we should first seek and return to Him. We are blind, if not totally blind, if we overlook this major point. And how wonderful it would be if **Dr. Hussein** should be alive to the point and initiate to embody the notion !

I have been favored with good opportunities to appeal in the conferences sponsored by IAUP on the importance of education of spiritual meaning. It was at Mexico Conference sponsored by **Universidad Autonoma Guadalajara** held at Navidad that I could appeal to the audience for the importance of **Heavenly Education** so that material wealth may be shared fairly by all the inhabitants of the nation. Our true treasure is not in this world but in another world ; we should look upon this world not as having the absolute value or being the last one, but as a step to the eternal world of **Heavenly Blessedness**, prepared by our Benevolent Father in Heaven even before the beginning of this earth. So our great educational reformer **Comenius, Amos Komensky** of Czech in seventeenth century enthusiastically admonished us. Secondly at **Seoul Conference** which was sponsored mainly by **Kyung Hee University** in September, 1995 in which I straightly appealed to them for the urgency of letting the students know our **true God** through our normal education, for rampant materialism is destroying not only youth but nation itself. And we were surprised at a very rapid response of our conference which issued **Seoul Appeal** drafted mainly by **Kyung Hee University** from the Korean government. **President Kim** pursued the political justice to the utmost by

sentencing death to the former president for his usurping military power to take over the presidency of the nation, sacrificing many thousands of lives of his fellow-country people, and taking tremendously large sum of bribes. Korean people, who are truly ethical in heart, want justice for their spiritual need. They know materialism will cause death. In this way, the **Korean IAUP Conference** showed that a good international conference is good for the society on the national scale. Apart from the IAUP conference, in September-October last year, I attended and addressed in **Moscow International Conference**, the theme of which was "Education to World Citizenship" for the survival of the human beings, on the importance of teaching the true God in higher education as a way to world peace. If it had been in the former Soviet Russia, I might have been arrested and put into prison. And the authority of the conference accepted my proposal as one of its projects. It was a real surprise that once materialistic country should have realized the significance of teaching the **true God**. They know that man is meaningful only with reference to **our Creator the true God**.

The importance of teaching world peace will never be exaggerated too much when we survey the world history. I happened to visit Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the very day 7th December last year on my way from the **Third Joint Meeting of Acoustical Society of America and Acoustical Society of Japan**. It was the just day when Japanese navy made a surprise attack to the harbor. Those miseries of the World War II would never have broken out if the main leaders of the world had attained to the glorious world of the **true God**; hence, more and more significance of teaching the **true God** in all the levels of education. In this regard, with how much awesome and wondrous emotion I should remember the words of a Japanese man of thinker, who wrote the following prophetic words even before the World War II:

The contemporary nations firstly adore their own army and navy and secondly they adore God. But quite recently the old good religious belief is revived among some people in Britain and America though they are a very small in number. They want to dedicate their nations wholly to God. In America, the voice of military expansionists becomes very big and procession of demonstration took place. The President as well as famous personnels from both sides of the Opposition and the Government party participated in the procession. They thought as if those who did not take part in this were lacking of patriotism. But at this time there were two persons who denied to do so. They said that they would lose their job in their refusal of participation of the procession. They said to themselves: they are attacking

us, but if we participate in this, our faith would disappear at that very moment. The Japanese know very well the sense of American military expansionists. But these two persons say: "Come Japanese, we would leave this nation in the hand of Almighty God." And our grand foe is not these military expansionists but these men of non-resistance of small number. As long as these people live, they need not depend on superior army. God, hearing their prayer, will sink tens of thousands of Japanese battleships in the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

When I read these sentences, I realized how precisely his prophetic words came true though the thinker who wrote the prophetic words died before the Japanese battleships were submerged in the Pacific Ocean. It was not because of American military power but God's plan. To the present day, they continue to mistake the victory as derived from their military superiority instead of God's will; hence their consequent biased emphasis on the strengthening of military power which would cause fatal destruction of the human race.

The Japanese thinker whom I mentioned above that we the Japanese can be proud of as one of the world greatest thinkers is named **Kanzo Uchimura** (1861 - 1930) who lived about a hundred years ago. He is very famous for his anti-war movement when Russo-Japanese war broke out and his anti-emperor-idolatry behaviors during Japan's military period. He wrote an interesting article concerning Hosea which appears in the Old Testament. The following are his sentences which I translated into English, though the Scriptures are not the case:

Hear the word of the Lord ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood touched blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelt therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. (4 : 1-3)

The word is very simple; its meaning is very profound. The land became waste and Jehovah departed from people and accused them in the court of truth. People do not know God. As a result, they are devoid of sincerity and affection within. Instead, they are filled with mutual curses, falsehood, murder, stealth, and adultery among

neighbors. Their battle for existence goes against morality and law. Consequently, the land mourns and people wane. The waste conditions spread to domestic animals. Fishes also disappear. That is to say, man is the lord of the whole creature. When man wanes, the other creature also wanes. And the center of man is his spirit. When sincerity ceases to be within his heart, society is troubled and the land is destroyed. And it is knowledge of God that gives rise to sincerity and affection within the heart. Loss of knowledge of God leads to the complete decay of individuals, society, nation and the produce of the land.

Kanzo Uchimura continues :

As Hegel said, the fate a nation depends on how people there conceive their God. Nation is like their god they adore. The nation who worship god lowly are low ; the nation who worship god highly are high. Modern people say that god is the last thing to consider or of no need to consider. Prophet Hosea, like Plato, advoceted that God was the first thing we should consider; that the need to know Him was the first thing of our life. He taught that everything was well when we know Him ; that everything is wrong when we know him not. In this regard, ancient people are right ; the modern people are wrong. Without knowledge of God, no morality, no politics, no industry. And fish of the sea also shall perish.

Kanzo Uchimura continues :

This is no superstition or no arbitrary dogma ; this is a fact fully endorsed by man's history. It goes without saying that morality cannot stand firm without good religion whether it is individual or social or national. There are many cases in which a lack thereof leads to decay of industry even of fishes of the sea. Man's evils extend even to the sea. Fishermen of Europe who forgot God extinguished precious whales from the North Atlantic Sea and North Arctic Ocean. The Netherlands, America and Japan are no exception. Moral degradation causes abuse of fishing and kill the seeds of fishes.

Our primary and urgent duty as a professor of higher education is to familiarize students' souls with deep sense of universal God ; not scientific knowledge nor other knowledge. This line of education renders our **Mother Earth** peaceful and fruitful forever. Consider how rampantly and harshly the degraded materialism is ravaging the tender souls of our youth. This is a rigid horrible fact. To repeat : we cannot say

too much that we need to educate the **true God** in the hearts of all the students in our universities not in a way of knowledge but heartfelt sympathy. I believe it is in this line of education that the **President Mubarak** earnestly seeks innovation of education. To know the **true God** is to get renovating energy. It is like electricity the source of which is in **Heaven**. First we should teach **Him** in the heart of all the students. Then they are voluntarily activated to do good; the nation becomes activated likewise without many costly facilities. I believe this kind of education is an emergent thing for you and for us to do.

The alleged failure in attaining the desired standard of education is due to the neglect of this kind of education. Egypt is a rich land. She once protected the **Sacred Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus** who wanted refuge from the cruel hands of **King Herod**. We are grateful for this to the land of Egypt. Without her, no **true God** had been revealed to us. Thank you Egypt.

So now you and we must turn our eyes to the **Resurrected Christ**. He is the source of all the treasures heavenly as well as terrestrial. First seek the Kingdom of God, then every thing necessary are given you and us.

Your **President Mubarak** has a genuine personality in his realizing God as "The Compassionate, The Merciful" (*Mubarak and Education*, p. 9). Why don't you ask to Him for all the necessities. He hears your prayer. For as **President Mubarak** writes :

Their last plea is Thank be to God the Lord of this Universe,
The Great Lord is indeed trustful.

(Mubarak and Education, p. 86.)

So seek first Kingdom of God. This will resolve everything. Don't seek materials first. Seek God. He answers you and us by giving us everything we need.

I love the spirit of **Mubarak**; I love the generosity of Egypt. Now believe in the True God and be prosperous.

And teach Him in the heart of the students; then, they move voluntarily. We need many efforts. But we should not spare them. Dedicate your life and ours to this cause. Then your land thrives for long not in Japanese way which is wrongly materialistic.

Thank you.

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