

VII. Conclusion

The writer hopes that this new suggestion would open a new horizon of study in Philosophy of Religion. Maybe the new horizon of the "Supreme" might be the central interest that will unify all people of good will together in a common effort to understand the very foundation of all religions, with the spirit of unbiased, of mutual respect, with the generosity of sharing and the sincerity of mutual well-wishes. This surely might be a happy token for Humanity to enter the Third Millennium with easy feeling that the coming Millennium will not be a Devouring Monster, but a Propitious Supreme who welcomes all His children of any conviction and good will to work together for the common wealth and common human interest that is Peace at All Levels. We still have much to do ahead of us, before we could realize such a Philosophical Dream!

References

- 1) Bangkok : Assumption University Press, 1994, pp. 2-3
- 2) See Kirti Bunchua, *Contextual Religions* (Bangkok : Assumption University Press, 1994), pp. 9-11.
- 3) Kirti Bunchua, *Contextual Philosophy*, Bangkok : Assumption University Press, 1992, p.27
- 4) Cf. Charles Hartshorne and William L. Reese, *Philosophers Speak of God*, Chicago : Chicago University Press, 1953, p.2.
- 5) See op.cit., pp.5-6

Bibliography

- ▶ Bunchua Kirti *Foundation for Professional Ethics*, Bangkok : Assumption University Press, 1994.
- ▶ Hartshorne Charles and Reese William L, *Philosophers Speak of God*, Chicago : The University of Chicago Press, 1953.
- ▶ Bunchua Kirti, *Contextual Religions* Bangkok : Assumption University Press, 1994.

Search for a New View of God in the Age of the Global Village

Dr. Hiroshi Mine
Hokaido College of Agriculture / JAPAN

I . The Purpose and the Method of this Paper

This paper is not intended to be followed to its logical conclusion, but rather it is a personal essay so that I may present you with some perspectives on traditional and new view of God, especially in regard to the question of how mankind can transcend the barriers of race, nation, religion, culture, etc. Also, in order to unite religion, there is a need for a new comprehensive view of God. The new view of God must be explained in harmony with science.

I need to explain the method by which I present this paper. Generally speaking, traditional Eastern philosophy has an intuitional approach towards truth seeking to grasp the whole reality. Whereas Modern Western philosophy has two approaches to discover truth. The first method was founded by Descartes and is known as deductive method. The deductive method, appealing to reason, leads us to logical and inner-connected holistic knowledge (rationalism). The second method was founded by Francis Bacon, and known as inductive method. The inductive method, working upon facts and experience, leads us to the knowledge of experienced reality (Empiricism).

I understand that Unification Thought is constructed through deductive method. It presents us logically refined and inner-connected holistic knowledge. On the other hand, the Bible is the historical record of living, acting God upon the people as experienced reality. And my knowledge of God is based upon my experience with living God, guided by biblical experience and information. Modern scientific knowledge is acquired through experimentation and

factual information, using the inductive method, as well as utilizing reasoning known as the deductive method. Therefore, when we say scientific method," it means both methods.

I . Peace and the heart of God

Eight years ago, when I met Rev. Moon, we were invited to a banquet after the completion of our international lecturing tour in Korea. Rev. Moon gave a speech: "How can our world have peace? There are over five billion people in the world and every one has his own thought. God is one. To have peace among five billion people, we need to have the heart of God." And he continued, "You are here from many different denominations (churches) but now please say, 'belong only to God ' and we will be one.'" I fully agreed with his words and I felt satisfied, then, and I still do today.

May I tell you why I came to be deeply interested in the peace of the world? When I was six years old, in 1945, my home town was air-attacked. The whole town was burned, and 45 people were killed. On the street I saw a groaning, dying man. Crying, I thought why would a human being do this? I then decided that I would work for peace. At age of 24, I went to U.S.A. to study for six years, and then traveled around the world three times, visiting 27 countries. After I settled down where I am now in a northern island of Japan, we started New Nature School (Shin-Shizen-Juku) with a small organic farm and woods. We are living together with several international young people mostly from Australia, America and Europe. We differ in race, nation, culture, language, so on, but we are learning to accept, understand, learn, live and work together.

Last year from Nov. 25th to 27th in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., I participated in the international conference of PWPA as a Japanese representative. The topic was "Identity and Character," and we discussed: "How to form a new character for the global age." On the last day, we split into regional groups. I was then in the Asian group. Initially discussion was low. And a Malaysian professor said, "Even religions are element of conflict, what is the Universal?" Then, I proposed, "We need to keep focusing on the topic —identity and character. We identity ourselves as a father, teacher, Japanese, Christian, etc. Through these social framework we are forming our character for the global age. The founder of PWPA addressed us at the opening meeting, saying, you are father, teacher and leader.

What is your model? God is your model. Have the heart of God, and you will be true father, true teacher and true leader. Having the heart of God, we can transcend the barriers of different race, religion, culture, etc. We need to develop such a character in each of our homes, schools and countries. Let us just open up, talk about the situations which each of us is facing to make this noble character a reality." And the chairman spoke, "We are all created by God." And the discussion went up.

I think, when religions became the element of conflict, it was because of difference of "particulars" in dogmas and ceremonies. The heart of God is "Universal," and when it is experienced and cultivated in the heart of man, becoming essential part of the personal character, it will bring forth a unified, peaceful world.

III . My Experience with God

May I tell you how I came to know God? It was when I was 27 years old. I was walking up on a hill. It was in the middle of January about 30 degrees centigrade below zero, at 3:30 a.m. Stars were sparkling like diamonds scattered in heaven. I sat on the hill, thinking about the greatness of the universe and its Creator. I was in a desperate situation, because my girl friend whom I had loved for ten years went to marry another man. Also, at that time I was ministering to a group of several Christians, but no one came any more. I thought, "If God is living, I have to see God, or let me die." The first words of the Bible are "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."¹⁾

I had thrown my whole existence toward God. I didn't move for some hours. It was dawn and the first rays of sun shine came and soon it was very bright over snow covered hills and valley. At that moment I saw the Spirit filling the heavens and the earth like clear, crystal fog. Only living God was there. God as "I AM" alone was there. Everything was in God's presence. Joy welled up within me. Hope was running through my whole life. I went down the hill, singing aloud happily. In summer of that year, we built a new church house. At the dedication service, about 60 people including children came and filled the room. And I have ministered to that church since then.

IV. A view of God in the Bible

Now, may we move to the view of God in the Bible? The Bible consists of Old Testament which has 39 books and New Testament which has 27 books. The Bible was not written by God himself in heaven, but by inspired people in certain time and place. Therefore all sources in the Bible were critically examined by modern science. The Bible is a record of the history of a living, acting God and His people, living in intimate fellowship. It is the record of experience of a vast number of people over the period of thousands of years.

I will state only main points on this limited paper. As the Bible is the record of history, it is centered around historical events. A. M. Hunter said, "The Bible is the book of the two Exoduses [deliverance]. The first Exodus is God's deliverance of the people through Moses. The second Exodus is God's deliverance of the people through Jesus."²⁾ Let us look at the event of the first Exodus. It took place about 3,500 years ago at the Red Sea. About two million people³⁾ of Israel, led by Moses, found themselves between the sea shore and a marching Egyptian army. When they looked back, the horizon of desert was smoking. They were in great fear. The people—children, women, the old and naked people without weapons—cried out and said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?"⁴⁾

Moses was casting his whole existence under the weight of his people and upon his living God who created the heavens and the earth. And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians. And the people believed in the Lord.⁵⁾ This is the birth of God's people. And the ideal of the Kingdom of God was born. The New Testament is the story of the second Exodus. Jesus had much in common with Moses. He was greater than Moses. Moses took the responsibility only for Israel; Jesus for the whole of mankind. Moses took responsibility only for his age; Jesus for eternity.

The event is well known as are the facts concerning Christ—his person, works, death (cross), and the resurrection. The primary evidence for resurrection is the existence of Christian Church. Those who experienced risen Christ were transformed from disappointed, fearful disciples to joyous apostles with converted power of Gospel.⁶⁾ The Pentecost event, the birth and ever expanding church took place. After 2,000 years of history, the new belt of love is formed around the earth, occupying one third of mankind.

The topic of the Gospel⁷⁾ was "The Kingdom of God is at hand"⁸⁾ when Jesus sent out his twelve disciples, he told them, meaning, "The Kingdom of God will come with power before you go through Israel."⁹⁾ But the Kingdom of God has not come yet, although we witness its growth. The Bible looks forward to the third Exodus.¹⁰⁾ From biblical experience and events, we can draw many perspectives on the view of God.

1. The Bible insists that there is a spiritual reality behind all phenomena of the material world. The spiritual reality is eternal and universal, and is the cause of the phenomenal world.

2. This ultimate spiritual reality is called God, Yahweh, which means "I AM" can be translated as "Being."¹¹⁾ God created the universe the earth, all creatures and man.

3. God shows himself as "Father" (Abba) to man in intimate fellowship of love.

4. God has his purpose in creating man, the earth, and the universe toward perfecting as the Kingdom of God, through redeeming actions in history.

(Note 1): In Genesis 17:1, when God appeared to Abram, He said, "I am the Almighty God." This "Almighty God" in Hebrew is "EL SHADAI" which means "God who has breasts" indicating motherly nature.

(Note 2): Throughout the Bible, from the beginning to the end, there is seen progressive view of God. In Genesis 3:8 "They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden." Here God is described like a man. Then, in John 4:24, Jesus said to a Samaritan woman, "God is spirit"

V. A View of God through Natural History: the History of the Universe, the Earth and Mankind

When I was a student at Mennonite College in Virginia, U.S.A., around 1968, there was heated discussion on campus involving both professors and students, over the issue of "Creation and Evolution." The college was founded by a conservative church. Many professors and students were against the theory of evolution in order to defend biblical account of creation theory. The discussion went on and lasted about two months. There was discussion going on in classes and

private talk.

Dr. Kenton Bluebaker, the professor of biology, a devoted Christian, told me that biology cannot be understood nor explained without assumption of evolution. And astronomy instructor, Joe Maust, told me that; the process of evolution is on-going-facts in the universe, as stars are at birth, at death, and between, having immense time and space, but visible and observable events at a moment.

The conclusion was that God created and is creating still through the process of evolution. I stand on this position. For Christians, the basic reason to deny the theory of evolution is because it denies the existence of God and biblical account of the creation theory altogether. But here, evolution is the continuation of God's creation. It is the process of creation, starting at the birth of the universe, the earth and mankind, moving toward perfecting of mankind, the earth in the universe. Now, may I sketch very briefly the process of evolution? In the first page of the Bible, it is written, "God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light." In the beginning of the universe, there was light without form. Light was energy. Einstein discovered that energy can be changed into matter.

$$E = mc^2 (\text{Energy} = \text{matter} \times \text{speed}^2)$$

In the dark space of the universe light is sparkling. Light turned to be a running illuminous particle at high speed. Various elementary particles such as electrons, protons, neutrons appeared. An electron and a proton formed the first atom which is Hydrogen. Then two Hydrogen formed Helium through the process of nuclear fusion in tremendously high temperatures. This process continued producing all existing atoms until Uranium, the heaviest atom was formed. This process took place at the core of a star like the sun.

Then, atoms connected with other kinds of atoms and formed molecules. For example, two atoms of Hydrogen connected with an atom of Oxygen formed the molecule of water. Many kinds of molecules were formed from simple to complex. This process took place in planets like the earth. As the movement to form molecule grew larger and longer, finally formed giant molecules of protein. When this process reached a critical point, life was born, just as water through continual process of heating turns into steam which is gas.

Life took the form of a cell, from a simple form and structure, it moved into more and more complex structure. As division of cells advance, various kinds of organs were formed and then appeared nerve organs. As nerve system concentrated, there appeared brain. As brain organs grew bigger and more complex, consciousness appeared

as Man. So, history of mankind began as the final part of evolution. All races of mankind today are originated in one species called Homo Sapiens. As Theillard de Chardin points out, because the earth is round, mankind in West and East are bounded to meet, mix and unified. Civilizations advanced when different races and cultures met and mixed.

In the past two centuries, with progress in technology, transportation and communication, mankind is moving towards an inner-related unified world. With development of economy, the free market system, and regional grouping of nations such as European Union, mankind is pointing toward a unified world. We are witnessing that Christians as well as other religious groups like Buddhists are forming the belt of love around the earth. Existence and emergence of the Unification Movement is pushing it. Mankind is moving after much trial and error towards the ideal of a peaceful unified world, based on God and love, which the Bible calls "The Kingdom of God."

Now, shall we draw some perspectives on the view of God from this natural history?

1. Through the process of unfolding evolution of the universe, earth and man, we see the eternal, universal, powerful, purposeful and intelligent spirit that is God.
2. God-in-evolution has the purpose of creation, moving towards His goal.
3. Here we see unity between religion and science.
4. Here we see unified holistic knowledge of all natural, social, and human sciences, even art and music
5. Here we see unification of space with time.
6. It tells us that: From where we are,
To where we are going, and
What we are.
7. It provides the relationship between humans and nature (and universe).
8. It inspires our heart, showing us beautifully, with sense of deep awe, the structure of the universe and nature, and reveals the process in past, present and future direction.

VI. Epilogue: on Relationship to Unification Thought

I presented here the view of God, using a totally different method from the method of Unification Thought. As I mentioned at the

beginning, Unification Thought is constructed through the deductive method. It presented to us logically refined and inner-connected holistic knowledge. On the other hand, I presented an experiential reality using inductive approach because it fits to my life style and thought style in my long habit of seeking reality.

It is my hope that Unification Thought can combine both methods, as Immanuel Kant once did in his way, putting empirical reality into logically refined and inner-connected holistic knowledge. In relation to God-in-evolution theory, it can go well with creation theory of the Bible. I know many devoted and productive Christians who harmonized both views, including Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, who is one of the greatest Christians in Japan.

Notes

- 1) Genesis 1:1
- 2) *Introduction to New Testament*, p. 7
- 3) The Bible, O.T., Numbers 26:51.
Male population alone 650,000, plus same number of women plus children
- 4) The Bible, O.T., Exodus, 14:11
- 5) The Bible, O.T., Exodus, 14:31
- 6) Hunter, *Introduction to N. T. Theology*, p. 52
- 7) *The topic of Matthew, Mark and Luke is the Kingdom of God*
- 8) The Bible, N.T., Mark 1:15
- 9) The Bible, N.T., Matthew 10:23. When Jesus says "the Son of Man" he means his second coming with the arrival of the Kingdom of God.
- 10) The Bible, N.T., Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, Revelation 21
- 11) In Hebrew

A New Scientific View of God According to Unification Thought

Akifumi Otani
UTI-Japan / JAPAN

Since ancient times, theologies and philosophies have discussed such issues as the existence and nature of God and what the origin of the universe and all things are. These are essential questions which fundamentally affect the guidelines for our real life in terms of our view of nature, view of man, view of society, etc. However, clear answers have not been given so far neither by theologies nor philosophies as expressed by Paul Johnson, British historian, who wrote, "We can spend a lifetime in a library, studying theology, but at the end of it all we have is knowledge of what men and women have thought about God."¹⁾ In order to solve problems in nature, human beings and society, these fundamental problems must be solved properly by all means.

I. On the Existence of God

Whether God exists or not has been a question which fundamentally affects one's view of life. Therefore, the struggle between theism and atheism has been historically fought desperately by both sides. I will deal with this question from Unification Thought point of view.

1. Traditional Methods of Proving the Existence of God and their Limitation

The first attempt to prove the existence of God in Christian philosophy was made by Archbishop of Canterbury, St. Anselm (1033~1109). He used a method of proving the existence of God