



## *Origin Story of Ideals of Love*

When I first embarked upon this journey, I didn't expect that my premise of 'Love is our Unifying Purpose', would become the axiom of a new paradigm that would hold the power of ideas to bring about the very peace that humanity has been longing to realize for all time. It seems an utterly audacious proposition, incredulous to even imagine. To consider the vast knowledge accumulated over the eons within the countless volumes of books stored in massive libraries and databases across the globe, it becomes outright laughable. How could a reasonable person take seriously the claims I make throughout this teaching? It would be understandable if it was dismissed offhand as the musings of a quixotic, old man who was a legend in his own mind.

Now that you have engaged in understanding this message, I hope you found that the solution presented had been in front of us all along. It was not a magic formula, not a 'secret', not a special technique or an extensive discipline that only a grandmaster could reveal. For your edification I would like to share with you the origin story of the Ideals of Love Paradigm.

### ***Three Great Blessings***

Let me take you back to the year 1985, when I was a young man of twenty-two, on a road trip to Los Angeles to explore a possible move from my hometown of Denver. It was on an early summer morning while sitting on Santa Monica beach alone, watching the sunrise, that I was approached by a member of the Unification Church. We chatted for a bit, then she invited me to a dinner program. Being the open-minded person that I was, and with the prospect of a free dinner, I happily accepted her offer. After our meal I listened to an introduction presentation about the teachings of Sun Myung Moon, followed by an invitation to a weekend workshop.

In the very first presentation given at the workshop, I was introduced to the first of many revelations within Father Moon's teachings. This insight is quite self-evident once presented in a logical way. It had to do with God's plan of creation according to the Old Testament. By examining the first two chapters of Genesis, we see that it was all about the creation of the Universe, of the earth, of the creators and of human beings, and that it was good- It was all GOOD!

Then the Creator blesses our first ancestors: *“And God blessed them, and said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.”* Gen. 1:28 These Three Great Blessings reveal that we are all designed to strive in growing into a mature, loving person (fruitful), then engage in our relationships (multiply) and build a world of happiness and harmony for all things (stewardship).

I already know that some readers have been triggered by this story. For any rational person, Creation stories are clearly mythological, yet, because there are teaching that espouse their holy books to be the literal, absolute message from God, we naturally react. When faced any 'story', be it in religion, politics, economics, or in our own lives, the criteria I ask myself is if believing in the story serves in becoming a more Loving person.

The reason I needed to share my encounter with this interpretation of the Three Great Blessings is because it was a story that informed the rest of my life choices. It told me that the design and purpose of life is Love, and Love's purpose was fully realized through the collaboration and care between all relationships. Love is a system of integration, and we are all a part of everything else.

I became a member of Father Moon's church, even attending his signature matching and mass marriage ceremonies, where out of thousands of participants who gathered in Korea from around the world, he chose for me a bride (whom I would marry three days later). Over the years my wife and I grew apart from the church, disgusted with its many schisms in the Moon family, the financial scandals and the blatant hypocrisy that contradicted everything we thought it stood for. Furthermore, my personal proclivity towards addictive behavior was unaffected by the teachings of the church, leaving me longing for a teaching with the power of ideas to serve my needs. It took a great deal of processing to discern what to carry forward and what to discard. As with all life experiences, it is ultimately a question of what we learned from our choices and to choose better next time. It is a soul-searching journey that this teaching calls every person to make.

### ***The Integrated Couple***

The arranged marriages of the Unification Church were the central strategy in Father Moon's plan for saving humanity. His vision was to bring a new generation of people into the world who were free from historical animosity through interracial and international marriages. Though it was a noble endeavor, it was fraught with real life challenges that only compounded the pain and resentment it was meant to resolve. Couples who spoke different languages needed a translator to communicate. Many of the candidates were Korean men looking for a wife. Faithful women from Japan, Philippines and Thailand who were

married off to these farmers were often treated no better than servants by the husband's family.

As it happened, and unbeknownst to Father Moon, my wife and I were both natives of Colorado. Yet when it came to building a life with a complete stranger, it mattered little. Everything about our relationship felt like a challenge and we began to question the wisdom of letting our teacher choose our spouse. Then we were blessed with five children in the span of five years. There was no turning back, we had to figure out how to make it work. Aligned with our beliefs of integration was the understanding that 'Love' is a verb that we must act upon for it to grow. If there was any chance of saving our marriage, it was going to depend on learning how to Love better. As with many men, I resisted counseling at first, but to my wife's credit, she would not settle for being in an unhappy, loveless marriage.

Not only did we go to counseling, but we also sought out every kind of relationship education program that was available to us. We attended couples' retreats, regardless of the religious or secular group that was hosting them. We did courses, both home study and workshops. We learned so much about relationships that we started to hold our own meetings with fellow Unification couples that shared in many of our same struggles. And it was working! We still had our fights, but we learned how to manage them and prevent them from escalating into irreparable showdowns. We learned how to get through our many hidden issues, how to take time to nurture our relationship, how to pay attention to each other's emotional states, how to be more empathetic towards each other.

We were grateful that our marriage could take advantage of the plethora of new understandings about relationships that no other generation before us had the privilege of knowing. Yet, one crucial aspect that was totally lacking was the in the marriage education industry was about integration; the role the couple plays as an integral center for

all other relationships. It is self-evident, but the health of a couple has a powerful impact on all other relationships and ultimately, in the prospect of realizing world peace.

It is a consciousness of integration, one that my wife and I held with absolute certainty. It was rooted in our knowing that Love is the purpose and design of life, placing it at the center of our relationship as our higher purpose, the unbreakable bond that held us together. We considered how valuable it would be to design our own marriage program that was committed to emphasizing the importance of developing an integrated consciousness. This was the inspiration that is at the core of the origin story of Ideals of Love.

### ***Our Crucible***

The creation of this teaching began in earnest only after we crossed over our crucible. A crucible is defined as a situation of severe trial. It is the crescendo of crisis that tests our resolve to the core. Our crucible occurred around year twenty of our marriage, when my mortgage career bottomed out from the financial crisis of '08, losing our home and having to move in with my parents. It was the same country homestead that my eleven siblings and I grew up in. This move coincided with my parents' failing health.

Over the next eight years, we became their caregivers, together with my siblings. Needless to say, old family dynamics and unresolved issues that lay dormant came to the surface in need of healing. It was a challenge beyond measure, abundant opportunities for growth. In the end, we did right by our parents and by each other.

My father's passing was just as he had hoped for; at home and surrounded by family. Through this experience, we all learned how to Love better. Our children developed compassion for others by living in a three-generation household, caring for their grandparents and relating with their aunts, uncles and cousins.

Perhaps the greatest breakthrough was gained for our marriage. Megan's dedication to my parents' care won my heart to the core. The sacrifices she made endeared her to me like nothing else and I came to cherish her more than I knew was possible. It was a powerful confirmation that the ideas we held about the importance of an integrated consciousness in marriage were crucial and valuable for others. We knew that we were on to something special and wanted to share it with the world.

### ***Building the Foundation***

When the time came to put our program on paper, the days turned into months, and the work of internally processing our ideas turned into years. My wife gave me her blessing and moved on to other things. I persevered in my countless iterations, trying to crack the code, unlocking toggles one by one. It would have gone quicker had I not struggled with 'imposter syndrome', a sense of unworthiness to bring such a powerful teaching to the world. But playing small to my calling served no one and being silent was a burden, knowing the impact this teaching would make for others. I grew bolder in my determination as the message was confirmed for me time and time again.

The First task was to secure the name for my program. It was all built on the premise that the design of life and the Universe is Love, that every person has within their design the drive to maximize the potential of their lives- These are our Ideals. This potential is ultimately realized in the person they become, the quality of their character and the depth of their compassion for others. Therefore, every person is striving to realize their highest IDEALS OF LOVE!

Next, I set out to design a symbol that embodied the concept of Ideals of Love. With the help of my artistic daughters, we struck upon the beautiful Venn diagram, geometrically aligned to be three yin-yang symbols that form a heart at the center. This symbol has already served in giving me a concrete reminder of my mission over all these years. It is my anchor of inspiration and integrity.

Finally, I knew that if Ideals of Love was going to be credible, it had to be sourced from a wide variety of contemporary teachings that confirmed the ideas of Ideals of Love. Father Moon's teaching of the three great blessings was central, as I have shared. The philosopher Rudolf Steiner, founder of Waldorf schools, had a profound impact on our children and the culture of our family. Then, Spiral Dynamics- the study of consciousness, Landmark- a psychology in personal responsibility, Course in Miracles- teachings on forgiveness, AA- the twelve-step program, Eckhart Tolle- living in the moment, Erich Fromm- the art of loving, Victor Frankl- the importance of meaning, to name a few. Once the premise of integrated relationships was established, confirmation showed up everywhere I turned.

As the work progressed, I periodically held programs, giving me immediate feedback on how the ideas were being received. These events invariably sent me back to the drawing board, putting me that much closer to realizing the full potential of this teaching. It was of utmost importance that the logic and methodology of this teaching could be intuitively understood by everyone.

Reflecting back on the journey, it was through the persistent support from family and friends, as well as the epiphanies and inspirations from a legion of saints and angels that ILP has seen the light of day. It took years of internal processing and countless iterations, like cracking a code, unlocking toggles one by one. It would have been ready sooner had I not struggled with 'imposter syndrome'. But being silent

was a burden, knowing the powerful impact that Ideals of Love Paradigm would make in the world. I grew tired of playing small to my calling, and I grew bolder as the message was confirmed for me time and time again. Ideals of Love Paradigm comes on the foundation of all those who dedicated themselves to the betterment of humanity. Finally, after twenty years from its original conception, the current framework of this teaching revealed itself.

*May it bless your life beyond measure and may we work together in blessing the lives of all! Truly, Jas*





