

Korean History The Legend of Dangun

The origin of the Korean race can be traced in the “Dangun” mythology. In the beginning, Hwanwoong, the son of a heavenly god, Hwanin, wanted to rule the earth. Thus, Hwanin, sent his son to earth. Upon his arrival, a bear and a tiger asked Hwanwoong to allow them to become humans. However, only the bear passed the test and became a woman.

The woman, Woongnyo, conceived Hwanwoong’s child, Dangun, the progenitor of the Korean race.

According to this mythology, the first human being was created as the result of the union between heaven and earth. In other words, heaven and earth were partners in the creation of a human. Therefore, from the beginning, heaven, earth, and humans have been inextricably linked. Moreover, heaven and earth are supposed to be in harmony and balance through a human being.

Thus, in traditional Korean philosophy, the principle of cheon (heaven) – ji (earth) – in (human) has been the central concept and the three key essentials of the universe. These essentials are also called “samjae” (the Three Essentials).

Symbolically, they were described as a circle, square, and triangle. While heaven was believed to be round, the earth was thought to be flat. A triangle represented a human (homo erectus) who stood in between heaven and earth.

...so...this is where our first form comes from: Cheon-Ji (heaven and earth) !
And now you know the rest of the story!

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