

Overview of How to Conduct the Chastening (Indemnity Stick) Ceremony

This overview document has been contributed by Dorit Smith and Jim Stephens, Former Co-director, Blessed Family Dept.

"In order to raise up the Israelite people, an angel came and struck Jacob's hip bone and then blessed him. Whenever the Israelites made an important pledge, they did it with their hands on their hip bone."

"All men and women in human history have misused the hip bone, and thus man has resentment against woman and woman against man. Without dissolving this resentment, you cannot stand as an original couple who is free of this resentment. Since this resentment came about through woman, the man hits the woman first. The three strikes represent three stages and three ages."

Blessing and Ideal Family (Part 1,7)

Rev. Sun Myung Moon

"And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh."

Gen. 24:2.

"And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter."

Gen.24:9

"And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him."

Gen. 32:25.

"And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt."

Gen. 47:29.

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Rev. 19:16.

Explanation of the Ceremony

1.

The fall arose because of the wrong use of the hips. Therefore, to establish a condition to restore this through indemnity, there is the indemnity stick ceremony. With the husband and wife hitting each other in the position representing God's chastisement, the ceremony grants them indemnity toward their past mistakes, in both body and mind.

2.

Three strikes symbolize the restoration through indemnity of the three orderly stages (formation, growth and perfection) and the three ages (the Old Testament Age, the New Testament Age and the Completed Testament Age).

3.

This ceremony is held in order for husbands (representing Adam) and wives (representing Eve) to restore their mistakes through indemnity and pledge a happy life as an eternal couple in front of God, Christ at his second coming and fellow couples.

General Outline of the Ceremony

1. Sing a few Holy Songs
2. Prayer
3. Physical performance of the ceremony

Ceremony Procedure for the Couple

1. Place True Father's and 2nd King Hyung Jin Moon and Queen Yeon Ah Moon's picture in an appropriate location in the room.
2. The couple offers a bow to God, True Father and the 2nd Kingship.
3. The husband strikes his wife on the fleshiest part of the buttocks three times.
"The striking (with the indemnity stick) should be done with utmost sincerity! Hard!," Rev. Hyung Jin Moon has instructed.
4. The wife strikes her husband on the fleshiest part of the buttocks three times.
5. The couple bows to each other.

Testimony about the Indemnity Stick Ceremony

by Jim Stephens, Former Co-director, Blessed Family Dept.

It was late at night on January 31, 2009, after the Holy Blessing Ceremony and the New York Crowning Ceremony of Hyung Jin Nim and Yeon Ah Nim as Inheritors of True Parents mission.

All the First Generation couples that were Blessed that day had been asked to gather in a big meeting room in the Pennsylvania Hotel for the Indemnity Stick Ceremony.

I was asked by several leaders there to give the guidance to the members about doing the ceremony. A couple of them suggested that I could tell them that it was all right not to hit really hard. Just a good tap would be OK.

I was not really sure of any really deep significance to the ceremony; not any meaning that made any sense to me. I remember hearing something about Jacob wrestling with the Angel and getting struck on his hip so hard that it was knocked out of joint. This was a spiritual condition for him to be able to win over his brother Esau with love when they met.

A lot of the couples gathered there were clearly newer members who probably did not have much deep understanding or faith in the Divine Principle. I feared that this ceremony might drive them out of the church.

Some, I could guess by looking at them, probably had been abused in their lives. If not physical violence, then at least mental. Maybe they had been children at the time, or teenagers, or some even more recently.

It was a scary moment for them.

I asked them all to join me in a prayer to start the ceremony. I really prayed that God would help us to understand what we were doing. Please send us an explanation or inspiration that would help each of us during this ceremony.

A holy spirit came over me as I prayed that prayer. I felt that I could sense hundreds of their ancestors gathered with us in that room.

I felt connected to the emotions that those ancestors were going through as they were there looking at us.

Some of the female spirits had had terrible lives, violently abused in all possible ways. Very, very few of them had ever enjoyed romance, love, and happiness in their lives.

Not only the women, but many, many men had been very badly treated in their lives. Few had ever found happiness or joy in life or in marriage.

Wow. The realization hit me that those newly married couples that gathered in that room had that very same day received "The Blessing" from God on their marriages. This was the Blessing that God wanted to give to Adam and Eve, but they messed it up. The Blessing had never been given on the earth until this age. None of those spirit people could receive the Blessing no matter how much they wanted it or how much effort they had made.

The ancestors looking on from spirit world understood much more deeply than we did what amazing grace Heavenly Father was bestowing on these couples. Heavenly Father had adopted them out of the lineage of Satan and into His lineage. It was pure grace.

But what emotions do you think those spirit people had? Many were still carrying their anger, bitterness, and resentment from their physical life. Do you think they felt joy for these couples when they themselves never had any joy? These young couples were, through no merit of their own, born at the time when the Messiah was on the earth. Did these couples work hard and live a life of sacrifice that could truly be respected? Were they particular saints who were recognized as worthy of this tremendous grace from God?

Unfortunately, it was glaringly obvious that these young brides and grooms did not deserve what they had received. Most of them didn't even understand much if anything of the value of what they had received.

Those in the spirit world with all those negative, trapped emotions from their lives, were easily in a position to scream out, "They don't deserve it."

Not only those troubled spirits looked on, but the high level spirits that had been dedicated Christians, some even martyred for God and Jesus, were there. They had been working for hundreds or thousands of years in the spirit world. They could not be married in the spirit world and could not receive God's Blessing in marriage. It was hard for them after all their sacrifice and suffering courses to feel great joy for these newlywed couples receiving something not available in spirit world yet.

This, I realized, is what the Indemnity Stick Ceremony was all about.

It was not about us here in the physical world. It was all about the ancestors of the couples in that room. It was an offering for them and a condition for them to be able to heal.

There was even some measure of healing in this ceremony for the individuals themselves. Some of the husbands and wives in their own lives may have experienced abuse. They were probably harboring some anger and resentment against the opposite sex. So here was their chance to get it out and beat someone for hurting them. Their spouse was willingly standing in as substitute for their abuser. Their spouse, although innocent just like Jesus on the cross, would receive the punishment in order for the victim to be able to find

forgiveness and healing. Any and all negative emotions should be incorporated into the swing of the bat. Your spouse by offering themselves to be hit, was liberating you. This act of unselfishness is an offering so you can start your marriage pure and clean.

After this Ceremony every person was clearly commanded that they should never, ever strike their spouse again. This was the final opportunity.

Just as Jacob wrestled with the angel and was struck on the hip, each individual was wrestling with their own angels that needed to be overcome in order to fulfill the ceremony. After which, they could go into the marriage victoriously.

For all the troubled spirits watching, they could be healed by taking part in the beating of an innocent person. And in particular, they could let go of any negative feelings they might have toward this husband or wife. Hopefully they could even go forth to help and support this couple from spirit world.

For the heavenly spirits, they could see that this man and woman had really deep faith and had dedicated their lives to God's will. Thus they were deserving to be respected and supported. Like the young boy Isaac who willingly offered up his life to his father, Abraham, to be killed on the sacrificial alter, these couples were showing their true hearts through this offering.

I shared with all the couples what I had received in my prayer.

I told them that it was their portion of responsibility to decide how hard they were going to hit their spouse.

[Suggestion for the couple talk it over within their couple: what they were going to do. They could do a small tap or they could hit really hard or any degree in between.]

As far as I could tell, every person hit as hard as they could.