

ALL ABOUT RACE...

When I originally created OMS, I followed the pattern of and included most of the questions from the paper Matching Application available at the time. One question was about race. Because I wanted to make sure that everyone would be comfortable with the question asked, I went on the internet to find out the best words to use to describe someone's racial origin.

When talking to a Caucasian sister a couple of years later, I was surprised that she was unhappy that the word "white" was used to describe her "race." I was open to suggestions, but she had no good substitute. So, "white," it stayed.

Throughout the years, I became more and more uncomfortable about this particular question, so I changed the "word" race to the words "Parental Heritage." I thought that would work. It did for a while, but then the discomfort returned.

In addition to my own reticence about this, as I worked with many different candidates throughout the years, I discovered that many individuals would, unconsciously perhaps, begin to read a profile but stop after reading the answer to that particular question. *That* disturbed me....a lot.

At the beginning of 2019, my colleagues and I were preparing for yet another Online Matching Meeting, something we do four times a year for 1st Generation members as well as Blessed Children. While reviewing someone's profile I was again reminded about the sensitivity of this particular question. Right then and there I decided to simply eliminate it.

I do not believe Unificationists are racists, but I *do* believe that it is not that simple for anyone looking for a spouse to step out of their comfort zone and go beyond the limitations of one's abilities to adapt.

From the 1960's to 1990's True Parents chose our spouses, and accepting their choice was easy. Faith in God and True Parents was virtually all that was needed. Today, however, those choosing their own spouses need to also have faith in *themselves*, something that requires a lot more personal effort.

Applicants on OMS, are no longer asked to indicate their "race" or "parental heritage." This question is entirely irrelevant in God's eyes and, at this point in human history, should be irrelevant for us all. I believe that in the future, we will be proud of our own and others' cultural heritages and be unafraid to answer questions of who we are. But today, some walls are still high.