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Nowadays science and technology are making great progress, and people say that the Fourth Industrial Revolution fusing the physical, digital, and biological areas will create a new world that we have yet to experience. Robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, quantum computing, The Internet of Things, 3D printing, and autonomous vehicles are some examples of emerging technology breakthroughs.

However, in spite of the Scientific-Technological Revolution, there are still so many mysterious things that we human beings haven't been able to understand in the human body and mind, in nature, and in the universe. Personally, I've been interested in human dreams for a long time.

So, I've read some important books in that area like 'The Interpretation of Dreams' written by Sigmund Freud and 'Memories, Dreams, Reflections' written by Karl Jung. Many scholars and psychoanalysts argue that dreams are like a bridge connecting the conscious and subconscious mind, so we can understand our inner world by interpreting dreams.

But, understanding dreams is very hard because the subconscious world is still mysterious. I am not a dream person; I don't dream dreams often, and easily forget the content in the morning even although I had some last night. But, about 13 years ago I had a dream, and I won't forget it as long as I live. It was short but powerful.

When I had the dream, it was about one year after my marriage. In the dream a friend of mine appeared and asked me a question, "How would you bring up your daughter?" and disappeared. You know what? I couldn't remember the face of my friend in the morning, but didn't forget the question, "How would you bring up your daughter?"

At that time we had no child; a few weeks later we knew that Yoo Mi was pregnant. A few months later we heard from a doctor that we would have a baby daughter. Yes, the dream was real. That is my only experience so far that a dream can come true.

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When it comes to dreaming, many people think of Joseph because he was a dream person. According to today's first Bible reading, Genesis 37:12-28, he was sold to a caravan of Ishmaelites by his stepbrothers. His brothers hated him so much because of their father's favouritism toward Joseph, and his dream was the last straw that broke the camel's back. After the dream had been shared, his brothers' anger became worse, enough to kill him. At the last minute, however, they changed their minds and sold their brother for money.

What's the dream that drove them so mad? Joseph's dream was recorded in verses 5-11 that were omitted in today's Lectionary reading. He had two dreams. The first dream was that when they were binding sheaves of grain out in the field, the sheaves of his brothers bowed down to Joseph's sheaf. The second dream was similar; the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to him.

You know, his dreams came true in the end; afterwards, he became the second most powerful man in Egypt next to Pharaoh. However, the process wasn't easy at all. After being sold by his brothers, he was resold to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. By making considerable efforts, he became Potiphar's personal secretary, but was thrown into the prison without any fault of his own but due to his master's wife.

Joseph had to stay in prison for a few years and was called to interpret Pharaoh's dreams through the introduction of his chief cup-bearer whom Joseph had met before in the same prison. After interpreting Pharaoh's dreams clearly and suggesting how to deal with the drought foretold in the dreams, Joseph became the prime minister.

The Bible says that he was 30 years old when he began serving Pharaoh, King of Egypt. We don't know exactly when he was sold, but many scholars presume that he would have been 17 or 18 years old. This means that it took at least more than ten years to see his dreams realised.

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While preparing today's sermon, I was struggling to understand how the first Bible reading is connected to the Gospel reading. Today's Gospel reading,

Matthew 14:22-33, contains the story of Jesus walking on the water. It's hard to connect these two stories, the story of Joseph sold by his brothers and the story of Jesus walking on the water.

But, I thought there might be a reason for putting these seemingly unconnected narratives together in today's Lectionary reading, and finally found a correlation between them by focusing on Peter rather than Jesus in today's Gospel reading.

In the Gospel story, Peter was highlighted by Jesus' miracle. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the wave, they were terrified in the boat. After recognising the rabbi, Peter asked Jesus to make him able to walk on the water too. With Jesus' command, "Come," Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the lake, and came towards his master.

But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid and then began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me," and Jesus caught him saying, "You of little faith. Why did you doubt?" This episode shows us how important our faith is, and how weak our faith is. When Peter focused on a gust of wind, he was totally overwhelmed by the reality and forgot the presence of Jesus.

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What's remarkable is that this story of Peter is like a picture illustrating the hard life of Joseph. The scene in which Peter got down out of the boat to walk on the wave with the promise of Jesus is exactly like the moment when Joseph was sold by his brothers to enter into God's plan.

The sight of Peter walking on the lake towards Jesus signifies the tough journey that Joseph had to take overcoming dreadful realities; and the strong wind that made Peter afraid is like the life storm of Joseph. Both Peter and Joseph were facing critical situations requiring a strong faith.

Yes, the story of Peter is like the abstract of Joseph's life; there are many similarities between them in those stories, but their end was entirely different. Both of them got the divine promise, but only one of them could fully enjoy it. That huge difference started from a small difference in what to see.

Peter began to sink from the moment he looked at the gale of wind, while Joseph could walk on the ‘water’ to the end only focusing on God who made the storm, rather than the storm itself. At every dark moment in his life like being sold by his brothers, being thrown into the prison without any fault or staying there without any hope, Joseph didn’t look at the devastating situations, but only at God and his unchanging promise.

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How could he do this? This is the power of faith. Three weeks ago, our marriage celebrant visited us, and we had a great time with him. One day after having lunch at ‘At The Heads,’ we could see a beautiful rainbow outside. We took a picture with the rainbow in the background and found a surprising thing in the photo.

In the photo, there were two rainbows. We couldn’t see another rainbow when we took the picture and realised that there are many things in our life that we cannot see with our eyes like that. The second rainbow is like God’s secret sign or grace, and we can recognise it only through the eye of faith, which can make a huge difference in our life journey.

Sisters and brothers,

The faith in God is the bridge connecting the reality and the divine promise. Depending on what we watch, we could be a Peter or a Joseph. So, don’t lose your faith by looking at the strong wind. Rather, keep the faith by focusing on God beyond the stormy situations. Amen.