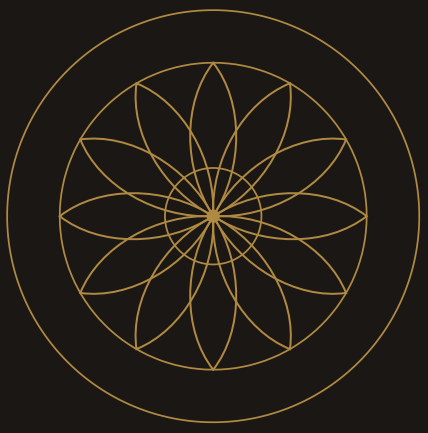


THE SACRED DIVIDE

THE FULL RECORD

Unification Church / Family Federation

New movements & the spiritual marketplace family

HONOR THE FAITH · NAME THE MACHINERY

TEXT CHECKED 2026-10-03

NOBLEFATHERCREATIONS.COM/FAITH

Before you begin

This is the record of Unification Church / Family Federation in *The Sacred Divide*. It has 27 sections, the same 27 used for every tradition, so that any section can be set beside the same section for another. Every fact is sourced.

Before each section, a short note says what the section is built to show, so you know what you are looking at before you read the detail.

After each section, a note headed *Why this matters to you* points at the part of the section most likely to touch an ordinary reader: a member, a donor, a parent, a voter, someone thinking about leaving, or someone outside forming an opinion. It usually ends with a question. The questions are not traps. They are the ones a careful reader would ask anyway.

The hard questions in section 23 are set out one at a time: the question, why it is asked, and an example already documented in this record.

Where a note states a fact, the fact comes from this record's own tables and cited sources or, in a few places, from a well-known research finding named in the text. Corrections are logged, with their dates, in the last section, *What changed on this page*.

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How to read this

Every religion in The Sacred Divide is laid out the same way, in the same 27 sections, so that any section can be compared across religions. This file examines institutions, offices, money and power. It does not judge anyone's faith or the truth of any belief.

EVIDENCE GRADES

Each of the 30 techniques carries a grade for how it is established in this tradition.

- **CODIFIED** Written policy, published rule, contractual requirement, or a procedure the institution has confirmed in its own documents. The strongest grade and the hardest to deny.
- **DOCUMENTED** Established by court judgment, government inquiry, regulatory action, or financial filing. Not the institution's own words, but a body with subpoena power.
- **TAUGHT** Repeated leadership instruction from platform, publication, or curriculum, without a formal rule. Deniable as emphasis rather than policy.
- **CULTURAL** Community enforcement the institution neither mandates nor prevents. Real in effect, unattributable by design — the highest-deniability grade. A volume graded mostly Cultural has not been cleared of anything: it means the page names no document that makes the institution responsible. Cultural does not mean minor, and it is not a finding of absence.

- CONTESTED Occurs in some parts of the tradition and is actively opposed in others. Generalizing this grade across a whole tradition is a misuse of it.
- REFORMED Documented historically and materially changed since — policy withdrawn, practice ended, or independent oversight accepted. Recorded because omitting it would be dishonest.
- UNGRADED Present in the source material without a grade assigned yet. Read as an unverified pattern claim, not as a finding.

RECEIPTS

Bracketed labels such as [OFFICIAL POLICY] name the kind of source a claim rests on.

- **Official policy.** The institution's own written rule: handbook, canon, policy letter, catechism, trust deed, temple recommend question. The strongest evidence available, because it cannot be attributed to a rogue individual.
- **Court record.** Judgments, convictions, filings, and testimony given under oath. Adversarially tested, which is more than most religious claims about themselves have been.
- **Government inquiry.** Royal commissions, grand juries, parliamentary and state investigations with subpoena power. Where these exist they are usually the best record of what an institution did rather than said.
- **Regulatory action.** Findings and penalties from bodies like the SEC or consumer-protection regulators. Narrow in scope, unusually precise in what they establish.
- **Financial record.** Filings, audited statements, tax returns, disclosed compensation, property transactions. Frequently the only place an institution tells the truth about its priorities.

- **Leadership statement.** Recorded sermons, conference addresses, published letters. The institution in its own voice, to its own people, on the record.
- **Independent investigation.** Reports commissioned by the institution but conducted externally. Weaker than a court and far stronger than a press release — and notable when the institution publishes them in full.
- **Academic source.** Peer-reviewed history, sociology, and demography. Best for context, structure, and scale; weaker for specific institutional conduct.
- **Former member testimony.** Firsthand accounts from people who were inside. Indispensable and interested at once — graded as testimony, never presented as documentary proof.
- **Pattern observed.** A recurring configuration with no single document behind it. Labeled as an observation rather than a finding, and the weakest claim type in this codex.

METHOD

- Separation of targets. This codex analyzes institutional control patterns, never the worth of believers or the truth of beliefs. Theology is out of scope; behavior, money, and power are in scope.
- Pattern over anecdote. A tactic is attributed to a tradition's high-control expressions only where the mechanism recurs — one bad congregation proves nothing; the same architecture in a hundred proves the architecture.
- Evidence weighting. Every factual claim carries a bracketed source-type label and should carry a grade (A–D). Claims marked SOURCE NEEDED or PATTERN OBSERVED are analysis, not established fact, and must not be published as fact.
- Steelman rule. Every tactic section presents the institution's strongest defense before countering it. If the defense cannot be stated in a form its adherents would recognize, the counter is not yet earned.

- Asymmetry honesty. Similar tactic does not mean identical severity. A shunning policy that costs your entire family is not the same as a community that cools toward doubters, and the codex must never flatten that difference.
- The mirror rule. Any framework this powerful can itself be misused — to smear traditions, flatter one's own, or manufacture grievance. The self-audit and language guardrails apply to this project as much as to any institution it examines.

CITATIONS

A small raised number in the text links to the matching item in this religion's Sources, near the end. Every source was checked, and the date of the last check is shown at the top.

01 At a glance

BEFORE YOU READ

The whole page on one screen: how big Unification Church / Family Federation is, who sits at the top, how that person is chosen and whether anyone can remove them, where the money comes from, and what leaving costs. The disclosure scorecard underneath asks six yes-or-no questions any charity or public company would be expected to answer. Every later section expands one of these rows.

SIZE	The size of the membership is disputed. Claims of worldwide membership have ranged from one to ten million. One scholarly account notes at least 600,000 members in the 1990s and about 60,000 official members in Japan, since declining [19].
WHO'S IN CHARGE	The leader is Hak Ja Han Moon, called True Mother (the movement teaches that she and Sun Myung Moon are the "True Parents"). A Seoul court sentenced her to two years in August 2026, a first-instance ruling the church said it will appeal [14] [27].
CHOSEN BY	She holds the office by doctrinal succession.
REMOVABLE BY	The church has no internal procedure for removing her.

MONEY IN ONE LINE	The money comes from donations, including "spiritual sales" in Japan, which Japan's lawyers' network and a scholarly account describe as goods sold at extreme prices by invoking ancestral karma (the claim that ancestors' suffering burdens the living) [12] [19].
LEAVING IN ONE LINE	Leaving can mean losing an arranged spouse, family and community, especially for second-generation members (those raised in the movement by member parents) [13].
THE UNANSWERED QUESTION	Why did the donations require courts to recover them?
EVIDENCE	The 30 techniques are graded Documented 8, Taught 7, Cultural 14 and Contested 1.
FAMILY	New movements & the spiritual marketplace — scientology, new-age, unification-church
LAST CHECKED	2026-10-03

Disclosure scorecard

ACCOUNTS	PAY	SAFEGUARDING	EXTERNAL FIRST	REMOVAL	REPLY
NO	NO	NOT ASSESSABLE	NOT ASSESSABLE	NO	NO

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

The glance table's answer to who chooses the top office is "She holds the office by doctrinal succession", and to who can remove its holder, "The church has no internal procedure for removing her". Read that as though it described the board of a pension fund holding your savings. Would you accept the arrangement there? The scorecard finds no public evidence of accounts, leaders' pay, a written removal procedure or on-the-record replies. Each "No" is something the institution could publish tomorrow. Ask yourself why it hasn't.

02 A day inside

BEFORE YOU READ

One ordinary day, told from inside. The person is a composite built from documented patterns, not a real individual. The point is to make the structure visible at human scale: phrases like "removal mechanism" or "giving record" are easy to read past, but a Tuesday organized around them is not.

- **name:** Haruka
- **when:** A Tuesday in autumn
- **where:** A suburb of Osaka

1. Haruka is twenty-three and was born Blessed (born to parents who had received the Blessing, the church's marriage ceremony). Her parents were matched in the eighties; her father keeps a photograph of the stadium where the mass wedding was held.

2. She works in a bakery. On her break she checks the news: the court case again.

3. Her mother calls to say the monthly offering is due, and asks whether Haruka can help. Haruka has helped every month since she was nineteen.

4. After work she walks past the family's old apartment building. They lived there until her mother sold it. Haruka was twelve.

5. In the evening her mother shows her a photograph of a young man from Korea, a candidate for her Blessing. He looks kind.

6. She says she will pray about it, and then sits in the bath until the water is cold, trying to work out whether there is any version of her life that is not already decided.

Haruka is a composite drawn from documented patterns. No real person is depicted.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Did any moment in that day feel familiar: a cost nobody questions, a door nobody can see how to open? The section of this page that explains that moment is the one to read first. If nothing felt familiar, ask whether that's because it isn't your life, or because the patterns have become normal to you.

03 The forefront

BEFORE YOU READ

The page's thesis in one place. First, the single question the documented record could not answer. Then the widest gap between what the institution says and what the record shows, one cost of leaving set beside how it is officially denied, and the strongest objection to this whole page, answered rather than dismissed.

> You may have found here a family, a marriage, and a sense that your life fits inside God's history. Some of what you felt was real. This page is about what Japanese courts found was done with that feeling, what a Korean court found was done with church money, and what happened to the children whose parents gave everything.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Why did the donations require courts to recover them?

The strongest objection, answered

- *Attack:* "Religious persecution by a state — the same as the kidnappings."
- *Concede:* The confinement of a member for twelve years was real and wrong, and a Japanese court said so [16].
- *Answer:* Japan's courts based the dissolution on decades of civil findings about how money was solicited [4][5], and the Supreme Court held that it does not violate the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom [26]. The church and UN experts dispute the breadth of the "public welfare" ground [21][30]. The Korean conviction, a first-instance

ruling the church said it will appeal, is for bribery and embezzlement [14 27].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Try answering the unanswered question yourself: *Why did the donations require courts to recover them?* If you can't, who could, and would asking them be welcome? How an institution reacts to a fair question often tells you more than the answer does.

04 What healthy looks like here

BEFORE YOU READ

What genuinely works in Unification Church / Family Federation, stated first and separately from any critique. That is a standing rule of this book: no tradition is reduced to its worst documented moments. Anything criticized later is measured against the best of what is described here.

> The Unification Church is a new religious movement (a religion founded in the modern era) established in Seoul in 1954 by Sun Myung Moon and led since his death in 2012 by his widow Hak Ja Han Moon [1]. Membership figures are disputed. Claims of worldwide membership have ranged from one to ten million; one scholarly account notes at least 600,000 members in the 1990s and about 60,000 official members in Japan, since declining [19]. It is known for its "Blessing" mass wedding ceremonies, its teaching of Moon and Han as the "True Parents", and a wide business and media network [1].

- Members show genuine commitment to marriage, family and interfaith events.
- Accountability mechanisms worked as designed:
- Japan's courts and legislature acted against the church [4][5][8].
- A Korean court convicted its leader at first instance [14].
- A US appeals court affirmed the founder's tax conviction [2].
- The church made its own compensation offer in 2023, of up to 10 billion yen [17]. This page cites no source on how the courts weighed it.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

A bias check before the critique. People tend to read criticism of their own group as an attack and criticism of other groups as simply true. Social psychologists call this in-group bias; it shows up even when the groups are assigned at random (Tajfel's "minimal group" experiments, 1971). If you belong here, did this section feel fair? If you don't, did anything in it surprise you? The surprise is a rough measure of what you had assumed.

05 History

BEFORE YOU READ

A dated timeline and a few moments where the direction changed. Dates matter because they show that most rules had a beginning. A rule that began in a particular year, for a particular reason, is a rule that can be examined, and sometimes retired.

The movement was founded in Seoul in 1954 as the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity [1]. Moon's *Divine Principle* (the movement's central doctrinal text) teaches that the Fall (in Christian theology, humanity's first sin) corrupted humanity's lineage, and that the True Parents restore it through the Blessing (arranged marriage) [1]. The movement reached Japan in 1958 or 1959, depending on

the source [12] [19], and the United States in the 1960s–70s. It built businesses and anti-communist political networks, which a US congressional subcommittee investigated in 1976–78 [3]. It took the name Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in the 1990s [1]. After Moon's death, sons led rival organizations.

Timeline

DATE	EVENT	READING
1954	Moon founded the church in Seoul [1]	A messianic claim becomes an institution.
1958–59	The church's mission to Japan began; France 24 gives 1959 [12] and a scholarly account gives 1958 [19]	Japan becomes the treasury [18].
1976–78	A US House subcommittee investigated the movement, and its report was printed on 31 Oct 1978 [3]	The report described the movement as "essentially one international organization".
1982	Moon was convicted of filing false tax returns and sentenced to 18 months, and the conviction was affirmed in 1983 [2]	The founder's finances were tried in federal court.
1987	Japanese lawyers founded a network against "spiritual sales" [12]	This starts a long civil record.
2012	The founder died, and Hak Ja Han took over the leadership [1]	The succession came by schism.
Jul 2022	Former Prime Minister Abe assassinated by a man who blamed the church for ruining his family through his mother's donations of nearly 100 million yen [9]	Private ruin becomes a national question.

Sep 2022	A Liberal Democratic Party survey found that 179 of 379 lawmakers had ties to the church (the Japan Times headline counts 121 with "substantial ties") [10]	The survey counts the political ties.
Dec 2022	Japan enacts a law against unjust solicitation of donations [8]	The legislation is aimed at the practice.
Oct 2023	Education ministry asks a Tokyo court to dissolve the church's legal corporation (its status as a religious corporation under Japanese law) [7]	The state moves.
25 Mar 2025	Tokyo District Court orders dissolution [4]	This is the first revocation of a religious corporation based on civil-law violations [4].
Sep 2025	Hak Ja Han arrested in Seoul in a bribery case [15]	The apex was in custody.
21 Jan 2026	Assassin sentenced to life imprisonment by the Nara District Court [9]	—
4 Mar 2026	Tokyo High Court upholds dissolution; liquidation begins; the church files a special appeal to the Supreme Court [5] [6]	The finding stands on appeal.
Jun 2026	The Supreme Court rejects the church's special appeal, ruling that the dissolution order does not violate the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom [26]	The dissolution is final.
22 Jul 2026	The liquidator reports assets of over 83.4 billion yen at dissolution, 45 billion yen in cash and deposits, and more than 250 properties, including church facilities and parking lots, handed over [28]	The liquidation is under way.
31 Aug 2026	Seoul Central District Court sentences Hak Ja Han to two years for bribery, political-funds violations and embezzlement; the church said it will appeal [14] [27]	The leader was convicted at first instance.

Moments in the room

YEAR	TITLE	WHAT HAPPENED	WHY IT MATTERS
1978	The Fraser Report	Congress described one international organization moving money and people across borders [3].	The structure was named early.
2022	The assassination	A family's ruin became a national question [9].	Private harm becomes public fact.
2026	Upheld; final; convicted	The Tokyo High Court upheld dissolution [5] and the Supreme Court made it final [26]; a Seoul court convicted the leader at first instance [14].	Findings were made at both ends of the organization.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Pick one rule that shapes your week and look for it on the timeline. If it has a start date, it was decided by people at a particular moment, for reasons of that moment. Were you taught it as timeless? What would it mean for you if it turned out to be younger than your grandparents' grandparents?

06 Branches & variants

BEFORE YOU READ

Unification Church / Family Federation is not one bloc. This section maps the main branches and variants, so that nothing documented about one community is read as true of all of them.

The movement has divided into the Family Federation (led by Hak Ja Han) and rival organizations led by two of Moon's sons (Sanctuary Church; Family Peace Association) [1].

BODY	WHERE	WHAT DIFFERS ON THIS PAGE'S QUESTIONS
Family Federation for World Peace and Unification	Its headquarters are in South Korea, and its largest follower base is in Japan [18]	It has been led since 2012 by Hak Ja Han Moon [1], who was sentenced at first instance in Korea in 2026, a ruling the church said it will appeal [14] [27]
Japan church	It operates in Japan	According to experts cited in reporting, it is the majority funding source for the movement [18]. The courts ordered it dissolved, and the Supreme Court made that final in June 2026 [4] [5] [26]
Businesses and political networks	They operate in the United States, Korea and Japan	They include *The Washington Times* (founded 1982) and other holdings [1], and anti-communist political ties [3]

Membership is disputed: claims have ranged from one to ten million; one scholarly account notes at least 600,000 members in the 1990s and about 60,000 official members in Japan, since declining [19].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you know one community of Unification Church / Family Federation, you know one community. Most bad generalizations about a religion, and most unfair defenses of it, come from treating one branch as the whole. Which branch is the one you picture when you hear the name? Is that picture yours, or one you were given by news coverage or by the community itself?

07 Structure

BEFORE YOU READ

The organizational chart: how many people and institutions there are, where authority sits, who holds the top office, and who holds what beneath it. The question to keep in mind is simple: if the person at the top got something badly wrong, what written procedure exists to correct or remove them?

Size and shape

- **adherents:** The number of adherents is disputed. Claims of worldwide membership have ranged from one to ten million. One scholarly account notes at least 600,000 members in the 1990s and about 60,000 official members in Japan, since declining [19].
- **regions:** The movement is active in South Korea (headquarters), Japan (reported largest financial base) [18], the United States and elsewhere.
- **branches:** the Family Federation (Hak Ja Han); rival organizations led by two of Moon's sons (Sanctuary Church; Family Peace Association) [1].
- **trend:** The church has been dissolved as a religious corporation in Japan, and the Supreme Court made that final in June 2026 [5] [26]. Its leader was convicted at first instance in Korea, and the church said it will appeal [14] [27].
- **participation:** Participation is intense for core members, and the second generation is openly divided [13].

Authority

- The "True Parents" hold supreme spiritual authority. Since 2012 that is Hak Ja Han Moon as "True Mother" [1].

- National churches are led by appointees. Japan has been the movement's largest source of funds, according to experts cited in reporting [18].
- Marriage matching places members' family formation under institutional authority [1].
- A 1978 US congressional report concluded that the church and Moon's other religious and secular organizations "constitute essentially one international organization", moving people and money freely across borders [3].

The top of the chain

> A Seoul court has convicted the True Mother at first instance, and Japanese courts have dissolved the corporation in Tokyo. Courts in both countries reached the leadership or the corporation itself.

OFFICE	WHO SITS IN IT NOW	CHOSEN BY	REMOVABLE BY
True Mother	Hak Ja Han Moon holds the office, and a Seoul court sentenced her to two years in August 2026, a first-instance ruling the church said it will appeal [14] [27].	She holds it by doctrinal succession.	No internal procedure exists for removing her.
Family Federation, Japan (legal corporation)	It has been in liquidation since the High Court ruling [5].	—	A court removed it: the Supreme Court rejected the church's special appeal in June 2026, which made the dissolution final [26].

Who holds what

ENTITY	TYPE	HOLDER	HOLDS	SECTOR	RECEIPT
True Parents / True Mother	It is the spiritual apex.	Hak Ja Han Moon holds it (convicted at first instance, Aug 2026 [14]).	It holds supreme doctrinal authority.	It reaches your marriage and lineage.	OFFICIAL POLICY [1]
Family Federation, Japan (religious corporation)	It is the national church.	Appointed leadership holds it.	According to reporting, it holds the largest donation base [18].	It reaches your family's savings.	COURT RECORD [4] [5]
Korean headquarters	It is the headquarters.	The movement holds it.	It receives central funds; a scholarly account says Japan-based ventures sent it 10 billion yen a month in the 1980s [19].	It receives what Japan raises.	ACADEMIC SOURCE [19]
Business network	It is commercial.	Movement entities hold it.	It holds media and commercial holdings.	—	GOVERNMENT REPORT [3]

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Sun Myung Moon founded the church in Seoul in 1954. Since his death in 2012 his widow, Hak Ja Han Moon, has led it, and the history table records that the succession came "by schism." In August 2026 a Seoul court sentenced her to two years for bribery, political-funds violations and embezzlement; it was a first-instance ruling, and the church said it will appeal. The scorecard finds no written way to remove the leader. If you are a member, who inside the church could have stopped what that court found?

08 Law & state here

BEFORE YOU READ

What states actually do. That includes how they fund, protect, regulate or enforce the tradition, and which outside body, if any, can compel an answer from it. For most readers, this is where the institution meets their own passport.

COUNTRY (continued)	WHAT THE LAW DOES	WHAT HAPPENED
Japan — dissolution	Courts can dissolve a religious corporation for harm to public welfare [7]	The Tokyo District Court ordered dissolution in March 2025; the Tokyo High Court upheld it in March 2026; the Supreme Court rejected the church's special appeal in June 2026, which made the dissolution final [4] [5] [6] [26]
Japan — donations	A law enacted in December 2022 prohibits high-pressure solicitation of donations and supports victims' families [8]; "spiritual sales" are a recognized category in consumer law [11]	Lawyers say they have sought ¥123.7 billion in damages for former followers [12]
Japan — children	The health ministry issued guidance in 2022 on child abuse linked to religious belief [20]	Second-generation members began speaking out publicly [13]
South Korea	Bribery law applies [14] [15].	Hak Ja Han was arrested in 2025 in a case involving a former president's wife, and sentenced to two years in August 2026, a first-instance ruling the church said it will appeal [14] [15] [27]
United States	Tax law applies [2].	The founder was convicted of filing false tax returns in 1982 and sentenced to 18 months [2]

Who can compel an answer

Japanese civil courts and the Religious Corporations Act (the Japanese law that governs the legal status of religious bodies) [4], Japan's donations law (enacted December 2022) [8], Korean prosecutors and courts [14] and, historically, US federal courts [2] can compel an answer.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Japan's courts and legislature have acted against this church. After former Prime Minister Abe was assassinated in 2022 by a man who blamed the church for ruining his family, a law enacted in December 2022 banned high-pressure solicitation of donations. The Tokyo District Court ordered the church's religious corporation dissolved in 2025, the Tokyo High Court upheld that in 2026, and the Supreme Court made it final in June 2026. If you are Japanese, the courts have found that how this church raised money harmed the public welfare, though the church and UN experts dispute that ground. What do you think should happen to the families who gave?

09 Money

BEFORE YOU READ

Where the money comes from, how each flow is justified, how it can be used to control, and who benefits. Read it the way you would read any organization you give to: what is disclosed, what is not, and who decides.

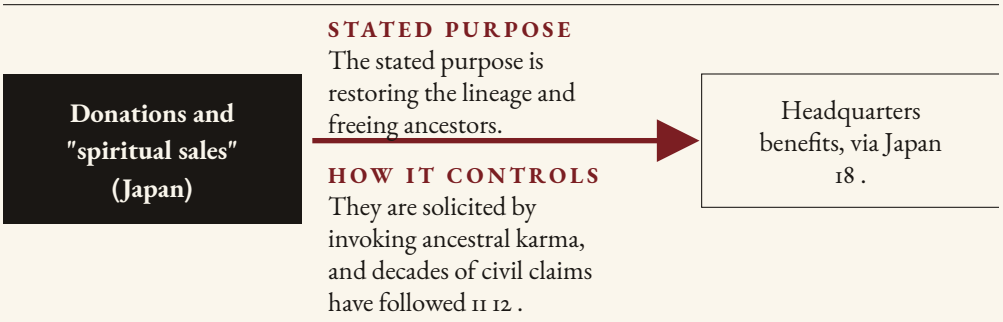
Where it comes from

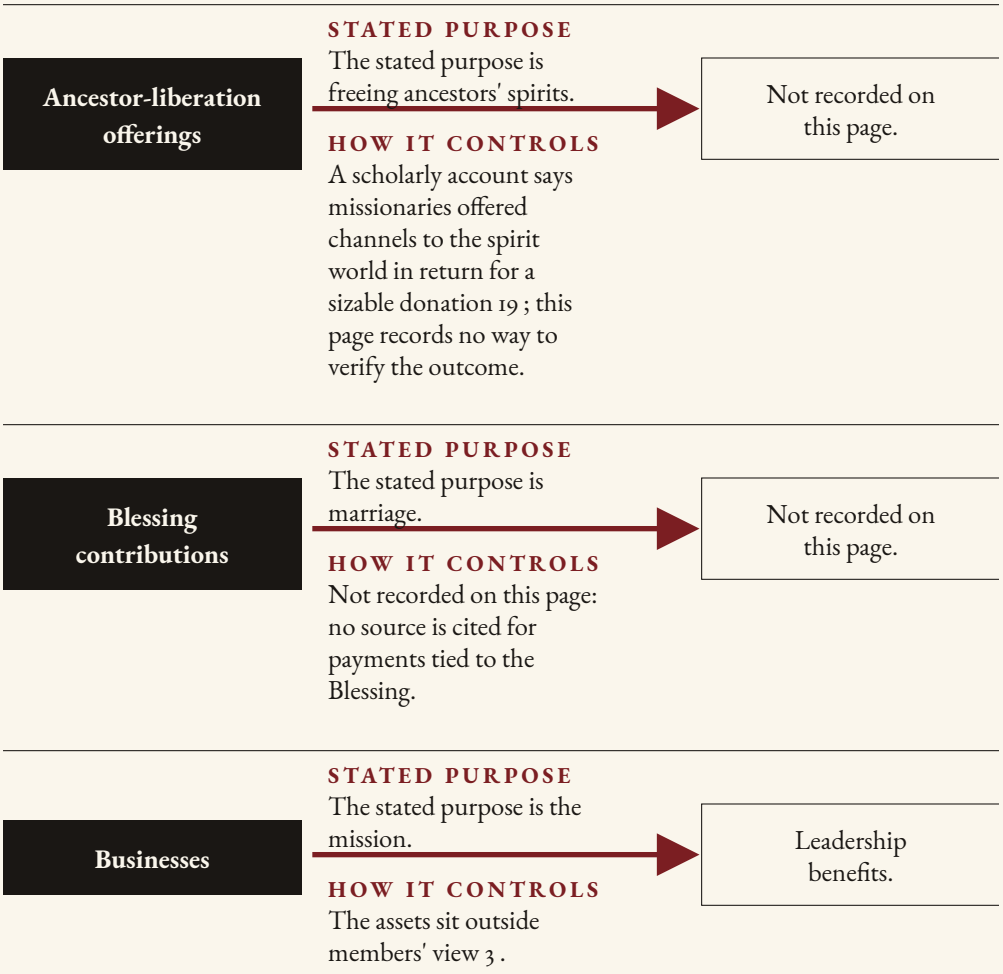
- **Donations in Japan, including "spiritual sales"** are one source of money. Japan's lawyers' network and a scholarly account describe "spiritual sales" as the sale of goods at extreme prices as remedies for ancestral karma [12] [19]. Reported examples include a 43-million-yen statuette that Japanese believers were told would absolve them or their ancestors [12].
- Japan's National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (founded 1987) says it has filed suits seeking 123.7 billion yen in damages for former followers [12].
- Consumer law in Japan now treats "spiritual sales" as a recognized legal category [11].
- The church in Japan offered to deposit up to 10 billion yen (about $66 million) as a compensation fund in 2023, while the dissolution case was pending [17].
- The movement also has a business network that includes *The Washington Times* (founded 1982) and other commercial holdings [1].
- The founder was convicted in 1982 of filing false tax returns; the conviction was affirmed on appeal (*United States v. Sun Myung Moon*, 718 F.2d 1210, 2d Cir. 1983) [2].

Follow the money

FLOW	STATED PURPOSE	HOW IT CONTROLS	WHO BENEFITS
Donations and "spiritual sales" (Japan)	The stated purpose is restoring the lineage and freeing ancestors.	They are solicited by invoking ancestral karma, and decades of civil claims have followed [11] [12].	Headquarters benefits, via Japan [18].
Ancestor-liberation offerings	The stated purpose is freeing ancestors' spirits.	A scholarly account says missionaries offered channels to the spirit world in return for a sizable donation [19]; this page records no way to verify the outcome.	Not recorded on this page.
Blessing contributions	The stated purpose is marriage.	Not recorded on this page: no source is cited for payments tied to the Blessing.	Not recorded on this page.
Businesses	The stated purpose is the mission.	The assets sit outside members' view [3].	Leadership benefits.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES, AND WHAT IT HOLDS



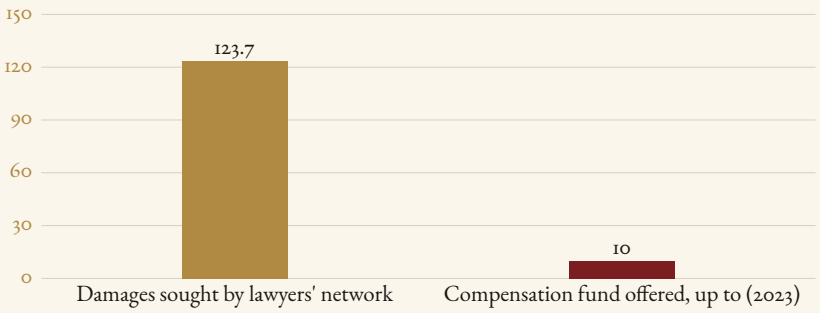


Not to scale. The table gives one figure, the German church tax of €6.75bn in 2025; the other flows are shown without amounts.

Donations in Japan, including "spiritual sales" are one source of money.

Money in numbers

UNIFICATION CHURCH IN JAPAN: MONEY IN THE RECORD



¥ billion — The lawyers' figure covers suits filed since 1987; the church offered the fund while the dissolution case was pending. [12] [17]

- **"Spiritual sales":** reported examples include a statuette sold for ¥43 million [12].

- **Japan as funder:** Japan is the movement's largest source of money, according to reporting on its 1971 "national guilt" teaching (the teaching that Japan owed Korea for its colonial sins) [18].
- **The US tax case (1982):** The founder was convicted of filing false returns [2].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Japan's lawyers' network and a scholarly account describe donations in Japan as solicited by appealing to ancestral karma, and "spiritual sales" became a recognized category in Japanese consumer law. A scholarly account says missionaries offered channels to the spirit world in return for a sizable donation, and no outcome can be verified. The techniques section puts it plainly: "Nothing promised can be checked, and every payment can." If a relative of yours gave everything, do you know whether they could still recover some of it through the courts?

10 Genealogy

BEFORE YOU READ

Rules with a history. Each card asks the same three questions: what was this rule originally for, has that reason expired, and who benefits from the rule continuing anyway?

1. **Ancestral-karma giving** - *Origin:* The doctrine holds that the lineage is restored through "indemnity" (restoration through sacrifice) [1]. From 1971 the church also taught that Japan owed Korea for its colonial sins [18]. - *Then:* Sacrifice carried theological meaning. - *Expired?* When courts treat the solicitation as unlawful, it is a sales method [4] [11]. - *Benefits now:* Headquarters benefits [18].

2. **Matched marriage** - *Origin:* The Blessing is understood as the restoration of God's lineage [1]. - *Then:* It was the central sacrament. - *Expired?* International matches move spouses across borders: by February 2023 some 13,000 Japanese women had married Korean men through mass weddings, and more than half of them moved to Korea [19]. Former members' testimony describes dependency; this page cites no named account. - *Benefits now:* The institution controls family formation.

3. **Political cultivation** - *Origin:* It began as anti-communist networking in the 1960s–70s [3]. - *Then:* It provided protection and influence. - *Expired?* In 2022 it became a national scandal in Japan [10], and in 2026 a first-instance criminal conviction in Korea [14]. - *Benefits now:* Politicians and the movement benefit jointly.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

The expired-reason test works on any rule. Take one you follow or enforce, name what it was originally for, and ask whether that reason still exists. If it doesn't, and the rule survives anyway, the section's last question is the one that matters to you: who benefits from it continuing?

11 Reach

BEFORE YOU READ

How far the institution's authority extends into three private areas: what members may read and hear, how children are raised and schooled, and decisions about their own bodies.

Information

- The *Divine Principle* and the True Parents' speeches are authoritative [1]. Former members describe critical media being framed as satanic persecution. FORMER MEMBER TESTIMONY

Children

- Second-generation "Blessed" children are born into the lineage and expected to marry within it [1].
- From 2022, second-generation members in Japan spoke publicly about poverty and neglect caused by parents' donations, and about restricted religious freedom [13]. On 27 Dec 2022 Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare issued a Q&A to local governments on child abuse related to religious belief [20]. UN human-rights experts later criticized materials distributed to children in 2025, which they said risk conflating legitimate religious practice with abuse and appear to target Jehovah's Witnesses in particular [21].

Bodies

- By February 2023, some 13,000 Japanese women had married Korean men through the mass weddings, and more than half of them moved to Korea [19]. Former members' testimony, which this page does not cite by name, says women matched and moved abroad face language and legal dependency. FORMER MEMBER TESTIMONY
- Doctrine places sexuality and lineage at the root of the Fall [1].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you are a parent, this is the section about your children: what they may read, what they are taught about their bodies, and who else has a say in their schooling. Ask what your child would need to do at sixteen to hear the strongest case against what they were taught. Would they be allowed? Would they know it existed?

The Divine Principle and the True Parents' speeches are authoritative.



12

The 30 techniques

How the thirty techniques are established here

8	7	14	1
DOCUMENTED	TAUGHT	CULTURAL	CONTESTED

STAGE 1 Idealize	1 Love Bombing DOCUMENTED	2 Weaponized Generosity TAUGHT					
STAGE 2 Hook	3 Future Faking TAUGHT	4 Hoovering CULTURAL					
STAGE 3 Devalue	5 Devaluation TAUGHT	6 Gaslighting CULTURAL	7 Double Bind TAUGHT				
STAGE 4 Confuse	8 Intermittent Reinforcement CULTURAL	9 Moving the Goalposts CULTURAL	10 Strategic Ambiguity DOCUMENTED	11 Projection CULTURAL			
	12 DARVO CULTURAL	13 Normalization / Desensitization DOCUMENTED					
STAGE 5 Isolate	14 Isolation DOCUMENTED	15 Triangulation CULTURAL					

STAGE 6 Extract	16 Flying Monkeys — CULTURAL	17 Smear Campaign — CONTESTED	18 Silent Treatment / Stonewalling — DOCUMENTED	19 Manufactured Consent — TAUGHT
	20 Trauma Bonding — CULTURAL	21 Learned Helplessness — CULTURAL	22 Benevolent Control — TAUGHT	23 Infantilization — CULTURAL
	24 Identity Erosion — TAUGHT	25 Spiritual Bypassing — CULTURAL	26 Financial Control — DOCUMENTED	
STAGE 7 Discard	27 Manufactured Crisis — DOCUMENTED	28 Discard — CULTURAL		
STAGE 8 Replace	29 Replacement — CULTURAL	30 Plausible Deniability — DOCUMENTED		

Thirty named techniques from domestic-abuse and social-psychology research, applied to institutions, in the eight stages of the cycle.

BEFORE YOU READ

A fixed checklist of thirty influence and control patterns from research on coercive control and social psychology, applied here to institutions rather than to individual people. Every entry carries an evidence grade. The grade matters more than the name of the technique: Codified or Documented means there is a paper trail; Contested means the claim is disputed.

Thirty named techniques from domestic-abuse and social-psychology research, applied to institutions, in the eight stages of the cycle. Each carries an evidence grade for this tradition.

Stage 1 · Idealize

You arrive with a need and are met with more warmth than you have had in years.

Friendly recruiters appear, often without naming the church [19].

What it asks of you: When were the donation teachings disclosed?

1 · Love Bombing

Overwhelming affection on arrival to create emotional dependency before terms are revealed.

How it shows here

- A scholarly account describes recruiters approaching strangers in a friendly way while hiding the church's name, aimed at their personal and financial worries [19].

The strongest defense. Hospitality to seekers.

The counter. Warmth that arrives before the price list is a sales funnel.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> DOCUMENTED Rests on one scholarly account of recruitment [19]; a second, independent record would make the grade firmer.

2 · Weaponized Generosity

Giving help that installs unspoken obligation.

How it shows here

- Community care comes first, and obligation follows.

The strongest defense. We care for members.

The counter. Care that ends when giving stops was a loan.

EVIDENCE GRADE

TAUGHT Care first and obligation after is taught as the order of church life.

Stage 2 · Hook

You are given a future that cannot be verified, and a rope for whenever you drift toward the door.

Salvation of your lineage and your ancestors is offered.

What it asks of you: The promise is unverifiable, and it is priced [12].

3 · Future Faking

Promising a future that keeps you invested but never has to arrive.

How it shows here

- The promise is lineage salvation and freed ancestors [1].

The strongest defense. Faith in restoration.

The counter. Nothing promised can be checked, and every payment can.

EVIDENCE GRADE

TAUGHT Lineage salvation and freed ancestors are the church's own teaching [1].

4 · Hoovering

Pulling someone back after they've started to leave, through guilt, love, or fear.

How it shows here

- Families pull members back, especially in the second generation [13].

The strongest defense. Families want their children home.

The counter. Home should not come with a Blessing candidate attached.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Families pulling members back is reported by second-generation members [13].

Stage 3 · Devalue

You are taught that you are broken, that your perception is unreliable, and that both exits from the trap lead back inside.

Members are told that their lineage is fallen and their ancestors suffer.

What it asks of you: Who sold you the diagnosis?

5 · Devaluation

Reducing your sense of worth so you become dependent on the institution for identity.

How it shows here

- The teaching names a fallen lineage and Japan's national guilt [18].

The strongest defense. Theology of the Fall.

The counter. A doctrine that makes a nation's guilt payable is a revenue model.

EVIDENCE GRADE

TAUGHT The fallen lineage and Japan's national guilt are taught doctrine [18].

6 · Gaslighting

Making you doubt your own experience so you trust the institution's interpretation instead.

How it shows here

- Court findings are described as persecution.

The strongest defense. Anti-religious bias.

The counter. Two courts heard the evidence [45].

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Describing court findings as persecution is a pattern in the church's responses.

7 · Double Bind

A trap where both options lead to compliance. No exit serves you.

How it shows here

- Free will is set against ancestral obligation.

The strongest defense. Giving is voluntary.

The counter. Voluntary, with your ancestors' suffering on the other side of the scale.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> TAUGHT Free will set against ancestral obligation is taught.

Stage 4 · Confuse

The rewards become unpredictable, the standard keeps moving, the answers stop meaning anything, and the accusation gets turned around.

Critics and courts are cast as religious persecution.

What it asks of you: The Supreme Court held that the dissolution order does not violate religious freedom [26].

8 · Intermittent Reinforcement

Unpredictable reward that creates addictive emotional dependency.

How it shows here

- Sacrifice is praised, and doubt meets silence.

The strongest defense. We honor dedication.

The counter. Honor rationed by giving trains giving.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> CULTURAL Praise for sacrifice and silence for doubt are reported practice.

9 · Moving the Goalposts

The standard of success keeps shifting so you can never arrive.

How it shows here

- France 24 quotes a source describing daily pressure to donate, with karma attached to money [12]; this page cites no record of rising amounts.

The strongest defense. Providence requires it.

The counter. Name the amount that would be enough.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> CULTURAL Daily pressure to donate rests on one quoted source [12]; no record of rising amounts is cited.

10 · Strategic Ambiguity

Language that sounds profound but means nothing specific — functioning as a shutdown to real questions.

How it shows here

- The lawyers' network and legal analysis describe "donations" as solicited through sales of goods [11] [12].

The strongest defense. Legitimate religious offerings.

The counter. Japan now classes it as a consumer-law category [11].

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> DOCUMENTED The lawyers' network and published legal analysis record solicitation through sales [11] [12].

11 · Projection

Accusing the outside world of the exact thing the institution practices.

How it shows here

- Critics are cast as greedy lawyers.

The strongest defense. They profit from attacking us.

The counter. The claims are victims' money [12].

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Casting critics as greedy lawyers is a pattern in the church's messaging.

12 · DARVO

Deny the wrongdoing. Attack the person who raised it. Reverse victim and offender.

How it shows here

- Victims and courts are recast as persecutors.

The strongest defense. We are the victims.

The counter. The confinement of a member for twelve years was real [16]; so are the donation claims [12].

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Recasting victims and courts as persecutors is a pattern in the church's responses.

13 · Normalization / Desensitization

Practices that would seem extreme to an outsider feel normal to insiders because they were installed before critical evaluation developed.

How it shows here

- Recurring offerings are treated as ordinary devotion [13].

The strongest defense. Faithful practice.

The counter. A household sold to pay is not ordinary.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> **DOCUMENTED** Reporting by second-generation members records recurring offerings treated as devotion [13].

Stage 5 · Isolate

Your world narrows until every voice you hear is inside the system, and everything you came for now runs through a middleman.

Workshops, communal living and matched marriage do the isolating.

What it asks of you: Who outside could you ask?

14 · Isolation

Shrinking your world until the only voices you hear are inside the system.

How it shows here

- Workshops, communal life and matched marriage isolate members [3].

The strongest defense. Spiritual focus.

The counter. Who outside could you ask?

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> DOCUMENTED The US House investigation recorded workshops, communal life and matched marriage [3].

15 · Triangulation

Inserting intermediaries between you and the thing you came for, so the institution is always in the middle.

How it shows here

- Parents, leaders and the True Parents align on marriage and giving.

The strongest defense. Everyone wants your blessing.

The counter. Everyone in the triangle is inside the structure.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL The alignment of parents, leaders and the True Parents is reported practice.

Stage 6 · Extract

Now the harvest: your labor, your money, your identity, your silence, your children's schooling, your capacity to trust yourself.

Donations, fundraising labor and marriage are what is extracted.

What it asks of you: Japan's lawyers counted 123.7 billion yen in claims [12].

16 · Flying Monkeys

The community enforces the institution's norms without being asked — mobilized by culture, not memos.

How it shows here

- Relatives press second-generation members to marry within the lineage [13].

The strongest defense. Parents' love.

The counter. The institution never has to ask directly.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Pressure on second-generation members to marry within the lineage is reported [13].

17 · Smear Campaign

Rewriting your character after departure to protect the institution from the implications of your leaving.

How it shows here

- Critics and lawyers are portrayed as anti-religious activists.

The strongest defense. Defending the faith.

The counter. Answer the evidence, not the lawyer.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CONTESTED The portrayal of critics is disputed: the church calls them activists, and the courts heard their evidence.

18 · Silent Treatment / Stonewalling

Refusing to engage with legitimate questions in order to maintain control.

How it shows here

- Recovery has run through lawsuits by the lawyers' network [12]; this page cites no source that refunds were refused.

The strongest defense. Legal process.

The counter. The claims total 123.7 billion yen [12].

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> DOCUMENTED The lawyers' network records recovery through lawsuits [12].

19 · Manufactured Consent

Creating the appearance of choice when the conditions of choice were shaped before you could evaluate them.

How it shows here

- Marriages are matched through the Blessing [1], and a second-generation member's "choice" is made inside that arrangement.

The strongest defense. They choose the Blessing.

The counter. A choice made inside a lineage with no exit is not clean.

EVIDENCE GRADE

TAUGHT Matched marriage through the Blessing is the church's teaching [1].

20 · Trauma Bonding

The wound and the bandage come from the same hand.

How it shows here

- Shared persecution narrative binds members to leaders.

The strongest defense. We suffer together.

The counter. The suffering was real for the member who was confined [16], not for the treasury.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL A shared persecution narrative binding members is a pattern described by members.

21 · Learned Helplessness

Teaching you that your own judgment is unreliable until you stop trusting it entirely.

How it shows here

- Families are unable to recover savings without lawyers.

The strongest defense. Trust providence.

The counter. Providence did not return the house.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> CULTURAL Families needing lawyers to recover savings is reported practice, not a rule.

22 · Benevolent Control

Control wrapped in the language of care, so that resisting the control feels like rejecting the love.

How it shows here

- Marriage and life decisions are guided "for the lineage"

The strongest defense. Guidance protects you.

The counter. Protection you cannot refuse is control.

EVIDENCE GRADE

TAUGHT Guidance on marriage and life decisions for the lineage is taught.

23 · Infantilization

Positioning the adult believer as permanently childlike and dependent on institutional authority.

How it shows here

- Adults' marriages are chosen for them.

The strongest defense. Parents know best.

The counter. Adults choose their own spouses.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Matched marriage for adults is reported practice under the Blessing.

24 · Identity Erosion

Gradually replacing your identity with a role the institution provides, until you can't separate who you are from where you belong.

How it shows here

- Selfhood is defined as lineage position [1].

The strongest defense. Identity in God's family.

The counter. If the self cannot leave, it was assigned.

EVIDENCE GRADE

TAUGHT Selfhood as lineage position is taught doctrine [1].

25 · Spiritual Bypassing

Using spiritual language to avoid engaging with real pain, real questions, and real accountability.

How it shows here

- Loss is reframed as indemnity paid.

The strongest defense. Suffering has meaning.

The counter. Meaning is not a refund.

EVIDENCE GRADE

CULTURAL Reframing loss as indemnity paid is reported pastoral practice.

26 · Financial Control

Extracting money through spiritual obligation while offering no transparency about where it goes.

How it shows here

- Donations and spiritual sales are the means of financial control [4] [11] [12].

The strongest defense. Free-will offerings.

The counter. Two courts disagreed [4] [5].

EVIDENCE GRADE

DOCUMENTED Court rulings and legal analysis record donations and spiritual sales [4] [11] [12].

Stage 7 · Discard

You become expensive — too many questions, too much independence — and the urgency ramps up until you are removed.

Those who leave the lineage are discarded.

What it asks of you: Nothing is said. Everything changes.

27 · Manufactured Crisis

Creating urgency to suppress critical thinking and generate loyalty.

How it shows here

- Urgent campaigns are tied to ancestors' suffering [12].

The strongest defense. Spiritual urgency.

The counter. Urgency that always requires money is a sales technique.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> **DOCUMENTED** Reporting records urgent campaigns tied to ancestors' suffering [12].

28 · Discard

Removing members who become too costly — too many questions, too much independence, too visible a contradiction.

How it shows here

- Those who leave are cut off from lineage and family.

The strongest defense. They chose to leave.

The counter. Leaving should not cost your family.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> CULTURAL Cutting off those who leave is reported by former members.

Stage 8 · Replace

Your seat is filled before the door shuts, and nobody is responsible for any of it because the authority was attributed to God.

New members and the second generation replace them.

What it asks of you: The children are the next cohort [13].

29 · Replacement

Your seat is filled before the door closes behind you.

How it shows here

- The second generation fills the pews [13].

The strongest defense. Faith passes to children.

The counter. Faith assigned at birth and costly to leave was not simply passed on.

> EVIDENCE GRADE
>
> CULTURAL The second generation filling the pews is reported [13].

30 · Plausible Deniability

The institution is never responsible, because the authority is attributed to God — who isn't available for cross-examination.

How it shows here

- The conduct is attributed to "individual members' excesses"

The strongest defense. Headquarters never ordered it.

The counter. The courts attributed it to the organization [4][5].

EVIDENCE GRADE

DOCUMENTED The church's attribution to individual excesses, and the courts' contrary finding, are on record [45].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Count grades, not names. A long list of Contested entries says something very different from a short list of Codified ones. A bias to watch for in yourself: people rate the same pressure as "normal" when their own group applies it and as "manipulation" when another group does. Before you judge an entry, try imagining it applied by a group you distrust. Does it look different?

13 The loops

BEFORE YOU READ

How the techniques connect into cycles. A single practice can look harmless on its own. The loops show how one step feeds the next, so that, for example, a newcomer's welcome turns into an obligation.

The seven loops below show how the practices connect, so that each step makes the next one easier and the last step feeds the first. The loops are

> analysis built from findings recorded elsewhere on this page PATTERN OBSERVED; each step names the section or technique where its fact is recorded.

---

1 · Money



I

The doctrine of indemnity sells the payments that fund the teaching [11].

How it runs.

1. The doctrine of indemnity (restoration through sacrifice) converts payment into salvation (section 14).
2. In Japan, donations and "spiritual sales" are solicited by invoking ancestral karma (sections 9 and 12; techniques 10 and 26).
3. The money flows to headquarters, with Japan reported as the largest source (sections 7 and 9).
4. The payments fund the movement and its teaching (sections 9 and 14).
5. The teaching goes on presenting payment as salvation, and the giving continues (technique 3).

Techniques that feed it. 3 · Future faking, 10 · Strategic ambiguity, 26 · Financial control, 27 · Manufactured crisis.

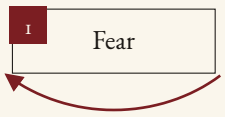
Why it closes. The payer is promised an outcome that cannot be checked, while every payment can be checked. Section 12 puts it in those terms: "Nothing promised can be checked, and every payment can."

Where it could be broken, and by whom. It weakens wherever the payments become visible to the people who make them. Section 8 records Japan's donations law (enacted December 2022) and consumer law that treats "spiritual sales" as a recognized category, and section 9 records the lawyers'

network that has pursued recovery since 1987. A donor can ask for the finances that section 20 says would change this page. This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. Section 9 records a statuette sold for 43 million yen to Japanese believers who were told it would absolve them or their ancestors [12].

2 · Fear



2

Ancestral suffering is relieved only by giving [12].

How it runs.

1. The members are told that their lineage is fallen and their ancestors suffer (section 12, stage 3; technique 5).
2. Relief is offered through ancestor-liberation offerings and donations (section 9).
3. The outcome cannot be verified (section 12, stage 2; technique 3).
4. Campaigns tie urgency to the ancestors' suffering (technique 27).
5. A loss is reframed as indemnity paid, the fear remains, and the next offering follows (techniques 25 and 9).

Techniques that feed it. 5 · Devaluation, 3 · Future faking, 27 · Manufactured crisis, 25 · Spiritual bypassing.

Why it closes. The movement states the problem and also sells the relief. Because the relief cannot be confirmed, nothing ends the need for the next payment.

Where it could be broken, and by whom. It weakens where a person tests the claim outside the movement, as families have done through the lawyers' network and the courts (sections 9 and 20). Section 18 names the point where local solicitors could refuse to sell an object by invoking the dead. This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. Section 2 shows Haruka's mother calling to say the monthly offering is due, and Haruka has helped every month since she was nineteen.

3 · Children



3

Blessed children are born into the lineage [13].

How it runs.

1. Second-generation "Blessed" children are born into the lineage and expected to marry within it (section 11).
2. Marriage matching places family formation under institutional authority (section 7; technique 19).
3. Relatives press second-generation members to marry within the lineage, and families pull members back (techniques 16 and 4).
4. The second generation fills the pews (technique 29).
5. Their own children are born Blessed in turn (section 11).

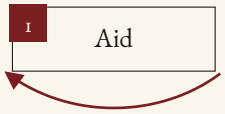
Techniques that feed it. 19 · Manufactured consent, 16 · Flying monkeys, 4 · Hoovering, 29 · Replacement.

Why it closes. Each generation is born inside the lineage, and exit costs family and community (section 15). The loop continues unless someone decides to stop it.

Where it could be broken, and by whom. It weakens where second-generation members speak publicly, as they began to do in 2022 (sections 11 and 21), and where the state issues guidance on child abuse linked to religious belief, as Japan's health ministry did in 2022 (section 8). This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. Section 2 shows Haruka, born Blessed, shown a photograph of a candidate for her own Blessing.

4 · Aid



4

Peace events and political relationships are read here as buying legitimacy; the page records the ties, not their effect [10] [14].

How it runs.

1. Members show commitment to marriage, family and interfaith events (section 4).
2. The movement cultivated anti-communist political networks from the 1960s and 1970s (sections 5 and 10).
3. A Liberal Democratic Party survey in September 2022 found that 179 of 379 lawmakers had ties to the church (sections 5 and 16).
4. The movement had ties to 179 of 379 Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers in Japan, and a Seoul court found at first instance that it gave gifts to political figures in Korea (section 16).
5. On this page's analysis, the relationships give the movement legitimacy and protection; the page records the ties, not their effect (section 10).

Techniques that feed it. 2 · Weaponized generosity, 15 · Triangulation, 30 · Plausible deniability.

Why it closes. Politicians and the movement benefit jointly (section 10), so each has a reason to keep the relationship.

Where it could be broken, and by whom. It weakens where courts and legislatures act, as Japan's did after 2022 and Korea's did in 2026 (sections 8 and 14). Section 18 names the point where church liaisons to politicians could refuse to trade gifts for favor. This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. In Korea, a court convicted the leader at first instance in 2026 of giving bribes and illegal political funds (section 16 [14]).

5 · Labor



5

Members carry out the fundraising and solicitation.

How it runs.

1. Fundraising labor is among the things extracted from members (section 12, stage 6).
2. Local solicitors sell and solicit, and are asked to meet targets (section 18).
3. Workshop leaders are asked to escalate commitment (section 18).
4. The money flows to headquarters, with Japan reported as the largest source (sections 7 and 9).
5. New members and the second generation replace those who leave (section 12, stage 8; technique 29).

Techniques that feed it. 26 · Financial control, 22 · Benevolent control, 9 · Moving the goalposts, 29 · Replacement.

Why it closes. The people who solicit are members themselves, so enforcement is carried out by volunteers (section 15). The movement does not need to ask directly.

Where it could be broken, and by whom. It weakens where solicitors and workshop leaders decline, which section 18 names as the point where each could refuse. This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. Section 2 shows Haruka's mother asking whether Haruka can help with the monthly offering.

6 · Scandal



6

Individual solicitors were blamed, and the structure persisted until the state intervened [4].

How it runs.

1. Victims' claims surface through civil suits, which lawyers have brought since 1987 (sections 5 and 20).
2. The conduct is described as "individual members' excesses" (section 12, technique 30; section 15).
3. Recovery has run through lawsuits rather than refunds (technique 18).
4. The church makes a compensation offer in 2023 (sections 4 and 9).
5. The Tokyo courts attribute the conduct to the organization, and dissolution is ordered in 2025, upheld in 2026 and made final by the Supreme Court in June 2026 (sections 5 and 14).

Techniques that feed it. 30 · Plausible deniability, 18 · Stonewalling, 6 · Gaslighting, 12 · DARVO.

Why it closes. Blame stops at the individual solicitor, so the organization is never the one asked to change. The structure persisted until the state intervened.

Where it could be broken, and by whom. Section 14 records that the courts rejected the claim of individual excess and attributed the conduct to the organization. That is the point at which the loop was broken, and it lay with the courts and the education ministry. This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. Section 15 records that the "individual members' excesses" explanation was rejected by the Tokyo courts [45].

7 · Persecution



7

Real deprogramming (forced attempts to make a member renounce the faith) abuses [16] are cited against all criticism, including court rulings.

How it runs.

1. Deprogramming abuses were real: a member was confined by relatives and deprogrammers from 1995 to 2008, and a court awarded damages (section 15).
2. Critics and courts are cast as religious persecution (section 12, stage 4; techniques 6 and 12).
3. A shared persecution narrative binds members to leaders (technique 20).
4. Critics and lawyers are portrayed as anti-religious activists (technique 17).
5. The evidence is not answered, and the next ruling is met the same way (section 14).

Techniques that feed it. 12 · DARVO, 6 · Gaslighting, 17 · Smear campaign, 20 · Trauma bonding.

Why it closes. Because the abuses were real, the claim of persecution has a true core, and it can be extended to rulings that rest on different findings.

Where it could be broken, and by whom. Section 3 concedes the twelve-year confinement of a member and answers that the dissolution rests on civil findings about how money was solicited, and section 23 asks whether the wrong of the deprogrammers makes the solicitation right. It weakens when members read the rulings as findings about money. This paragraph is analysis, not a documented finding.

An example from this page. Section 14 sets the claim "Religious persecution." against the record that the dissolution rests on civil-law findings about fundraising [4].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

The loops explain why good people stay in arrangements they would never sign up for from scratch. The more you have already put in, the harder it is to walk away. Researchers call this the sunk-cost effect (Arkes & Blumer, 1985), and it works on time, money and relationships alike. Ask yourself: if you were starting today, knowing what you know, would you join?

The seven loops below show how the practices connect, so that each step makes the next one easier and the last step feeds the first.

14 Say versus do

BEFORE YOU READ

Direct, checkable comparisons: a public statement on one side, the documented record on the other, and the receipt that links them. This is the most falsifiable section on the page, because each row either matches its source or it doesn't.

What they say, what the record shows

THEY SAY	THE RECORD SHOWS	RECEIPT
"Donations are free will."	Two Tokyo courts ordered dissolution over solicitation practices [4] [5].	COURT RECORD
"We are a family church."	Second-generation members testify to poverty and neglect [13].	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
"Religious persecution."	The courts based the dissolution on civil-law findings about fundraising [4], and the Supreme Court held that it does not violate religious freedom [26]; the church and UN experts dispute the breadth of the "public welfare" ground [21] [30].	COURT RECORD

Accountability or theatre?

- **Last ran:** Courts dissolved the Japanese corporation [4][5]; a Korean court convicted the leader at first instance [14].
- **Chair now:** Hak Ja Han Moon and the Korean headquarters hold the chair, with the Japanese entity in liquidation after the Supreme Court made the dissolution final [26].
- **Predict:** Activity continues through a voluntary association without corporate status [5]. Liquidation is under way: the liquidator reported assets of over 83.4 billion yen at dissolution and 45 billion yen in cash and deposits by 22 July 2026 [28]. Watch whether assets move to affiliated bodies during liquidation.

Words used here

TERM	INSIDE MEANING	WHAT IT DOES	SAID PLAINLY
Indemnity	It means restoration through sacrifice.	It converts payment into salvation.	"Pay to fix your past."
Blessing	It means a matched marriage.	It has the institution form the family.	"We choose your spouse."
Lineage	It means God's restored bloodline.	It makes exit a crime against your descendants.	"Leaving damns your line."

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Test one row yourself. Pick a "they say" line you have actually heard said in person, then read the receipt. If the record matches the statement, this page is wrong about that row, and you should tell us. If it doesn't, what does it mean that you had never seen the receipt?

15 Cost & cover

BEFORE YOU READ

What leaving actually costs here, in family, work, housing, money and legal status, and how each of those costs is officially denied. Where the cost is low, the page says so plainly.

What leaving costs

- Leaving can mean losing an arranged spouse, family (especially for second-generation "Blessed" children) and community [13]. FORMER MEMBER TESTIMONY
- Teachings on leaving the restored lineage carry spiritual threat. FORMER MEMBER TESTIMONY
- **Balance:** for decades in Japan, some families hired "deprogrammers" who confined members against their will. A Tokyo court awarded damages in January 2014, and the Tokyo High Court increased the award in November 2014, to a member held by relatives and deprogrammers from 1995 to 2008; the ruling was later upheld by the Supreme Court [16]. In 2014 the UN Human Rights Committee recorded concern at reports of abductions and forced confinement of converts to new religious movements by family members, and asked Japan to guarantee freedom from coercion [30].

The ledger of exit

COST	DOCUMENTED?	DETAIL	THE OFFICIAL DENIAL
Marriage and family	Yes [13]	A spouse was matched within the movement.	"Marriage is a free choice."

Money	Yes [12] [17]	Donations are lost, and the lawyers' network has sought recovery through lawsuits [12]; the church's 2023 offer was a separate step [17].	"Donations are voluntary."
Spiritual threat	Testimony	The threat attaches to leaving the lineage.	"A theological teaching."
Children	Yes [13]	The cost shows in second-generation identity and poverty.	"Parents' private choices."

How the cost is denied

CHANNEL	LEVEL	NOTE
Explicit policy	Medium	Doctrine is published; solicitation methods are not.
Informal enforcement	Medium	—
Leadership distance	Medium	The claim of "individual members' excesses" was rejected by the Tokyo courts, which attributed the conduct to the organization [4] [5].
Doctrinal ambiguity	Low	—
Cultural outsourcing	Low	—
Volunteer enforcement	High	Members carry out the solicitation.
Sacred secrecy	High	—
Exit cost denial	Medium	—

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

For the second generation, those "born Blessed" to matched parents, leaving can mean losing your family and your lineage identity at once. From 2022, second-generation members in Japan spoke publicly about poverty and neglect caused by their parents' donations. If you are one of them, you are not alone, and Japan's health ministry issued guidance in 2022 on child abuse linked to religious belief.

16 The ledger

BEFORE YOU READ

The balance sheet. It shows who benefits, who pays, and what leverage flows back to the institution in return for what it gives.

Who benefits

- The central leadership and Korean headquarters benefit, funded mainly from Japan, according to experts cited in reporting [18].
- Affiliated businesses benefit [1].

- Politicians who received organizational support also benefit:
- In Japan, an internal survey of the Liberal Democratic Party (Sept 2022) found 179 of its 379 national lawmakers had some tie to the group, ranging from event attendance to election help [10].
- In South Korea, a court convicted the leader at first instance in 2026 of giving bribes and illegal political funds; the church said it will appeal [14] [27].

Money out, leverage back

- Ancestral fear is converted into payments, as Japanese courts and consumer law now recognize [4] [11].
- Political relationships existed between the movement and 179 of 379 Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers in 2022 [10], and a Seoul court found at first instance that the movement gave gifts to political figures in Korea [14].

Who pays

- Japanese families have been reported impoverished by donations; in one reported case a mother who donated nearly 100 million yen later declared bankruptcy [9] [12].
- Second-generation children pay [13].
- Former members' testimony says matched spouses pay, especially women moved abroad; this page cites no named account.

- Members confined by their own families under "deprogramming" also pay (see "Balance" in section 15) [16].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Find yourself in this table. Are you among those who benefit, those who pay, or both? Most readers are both. The question is whether the exchange was ever explained to you in these terms, and whether you would agree to it if it had been.

17 Who gets hurt most

BEFORE YOU READ

Where the weight lands hardest, and what it compounds with: poverty, childhood, gender, a lack of civil alternatives. This is the human stakes stated plainly.

Where the weight lands

The table lists who bears the heaviest costs of the practices recorded above, and how each cost compounds.

WHO	HOW	COMPOUNDS
Japanese elderly and families	They are hurt through donations; a scholarly account says elderly people and housewives are the most vulnerable to the fortune-telling and ancestor-worship approach [19].	The harm has compounded into bankruptcy in at least one reported case [9] [12].
Second-generation children	They are hurt through poverty and lineage identity.	The harm compounds because there is no exit without family loss [13].
Matched spouses abroad	Former members' testimony says they are hurt through isolation.	The same testimony says the harm compounds through language and legal dependency; this page cites no named account.

The table lists who bears the heaviest costs of the practices recorded above, and how each cost compounds.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

The table's rows are short and heavy: elderly Japanese and their families, who in at least one reported case were pushed into bankruptcy by donations; second-generation children, living in poverty with no way out that doesn't cost them their family; and spouses matched abroad, who former members say are isolated by language and by legal dependency. If you know someone in a matched marriage abroad, do they have a way home if they need one?

18 The middle tiers

BEFORE YOU READ

The people in the middle: local solicitors, workshop leaders, matching officials and church liaisons to politicians, whose roles this page sets out as analysis. The section exists so that an institution is not collapsed into a monolith, and so that people in the middle can see their own position in it.

The table lists four roles below the leadership. For each it records what the role does, what it sees, what it is asked to do and what it could refuse. These rows are analysis, not documented findings; the page cites no source for what each role does, sees or is asked to do, apart from the liaisons' row.

ROLE	DOES	SEES	ASKED	COULD REFUSE
Local solicitors	They sell and solicit.	They see families in distress.	They are asked to meet targets.	They could refuse to sell an object for a fortune by invoking the dead.
Workshop leaders	They teach.	They see who is vulnerable.	They are asked to escalate commitment.	They could refuse to escalate.
Matching officials	They match couples.	They see mismatches.	They are asked to proceed.	They could refuse to send someone abroad against their doubt.

Church liaisons to politicians	They arrange support.	They see the exchange.	They are asked to deliver.	They could refuse to trade gifts for favor [14].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you are a solicitor, a workshop leader, a matching official or a church liaison, this section is about you. It is not an accusation: most of the people who carry out a rule did not write it. But the middle tier is also where a rule is most often quietly softened, or quietly enforced. Which do you do, and what would happen to you if you chose differently?

The table lists four roles below the leadership.

19 Documented cases

BEFORE YOU READ

Named, dated, sourced incidents: court records, government inquiries, regulators' findings and on-the-record reporting. Read the outcome lines in particular. They show what actually changed, if anything.

1. ***United States v. Sun Myung Moon*, 718 F.2d 1210 (2d Cir. 1983)** — the Second Circuit affirmed his conviction for false tax returns [2]. COURT RECORD

2. **Tokyo District Court dissolution order (25 Mar 2025) [4], upheld by the Tokyo High Court (4 Mar 2026) [5]**; the Supreme Court rejected the special appeal in June 2026, which made the dissolution final [26]. COURT RECORD

3. **Seoul Central District Court conviction of Hak Ja Han (31 Aug 2026)** — the court convicted her of bribery, political-funds violations and embezzlement and sentenced her to two years [14]. It is a first-instance ruling, and the church said it will appeal [27]. COURT RECORD

4. **Tokyo High Court, deprogramming damages (2014)** — see "Balance" in section 15 [16]. COURT RECORD

5. **US House subcommittee report (1978)** [3]. GOVERNMENT REPORT

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

These are not hypotheticals. Five documented cases on this page rest on a named record. The most common reaction to documented cases is "that was them, not us." Before settling on that, read the outcome lines. Did anything change in the structure that allowed each case to happen, or did one person leave while the structure stayed?

20 Precedent

BEFORE YOU READ

What has already been broken once, somewhere, and what would count as real change here. It is a benchmark, not a prediction.

It has been broken before

WHAT	WHO	WHEN	COST
Civil claims for victims	A Japanese lawyers' network brought them [12].	They began in 1987.	The claims have run for decades.
Donation-solicitation law	The Japanese Diet (parliament) passed it [8].	It passed in 2022.	An assassination prompted it.
Dissolution ordered, upheld and made final	The Japanese government and courts did it [4 5 26].	It happened between 2025 and June 2026.	—
Deprogramming ruled unlawful	A member confined for twelve years brought the case [16].	The ruling came in 2014.	The cost was twelve years of his life.

What would change this page

This page would change if the church published its finances and an independent party verified an end to solicitation practices.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Some rows here record a change that has already happened somewhere; others name what would count as change here. When you are told something "can't change", it is fair to ask: can't, or won't? And who decided?

21 Voices from inside

BEFORE YOU READ

Voices recorded on this page: second-generation members who spoke publicly, a member confined by his relatives, and a lawyers' network that speaks for former followers. Only the second-generation members spoke from inside the movement.

- **Second-generation members in Japan** began speaking publicly in 2022 about their upbringing [13].

- **Toru Goto** was a member confined by relatives and deprogrammers from 1995 to 2008, and he won damages in Japan's courts [16].
- **The National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales** was founded in 1987 to represent former followers [12].

Only the second-generation members speak from inside the movement. Goto was a member confined by his relatives, and the lawyers' network is an outside body. This page cites no other insider account.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Were these people traitors, or the most loyal members their tradition had? Most were treated as the first at the time, and some are honored as the second now. If someone in your community raised one of these questions tomorrow, how would they be treated, and by you?

Only the second-generation members speak from inside the movement.

22 Regional variants

BEFORE YOU READ

The same tradition under different governments. What a member can say, leave, marry or inherit depends heavily on the state, and these cards show how differently it plays out.

Japan

APEX: The apex is the church's Japanese corporation, under the Korean headquarters [18].

LAW: The dissolution case and the donations law enacted in December 2022 apply [4][5][8].

DOCUMENTED Decades of civil claims [12] and the dissolution rulings [4][5][26] are documented.

EXIT: Leaving can mean losing an arranged spouse and family [13].

REGULATOR: The courts and the education ministry regulate it [7].

TELL: The state sought dissolution only after a former prime minister was assassinated [7][9].

South Korea

APEX: Hak Ja Han Moon is the apex [1].

LAW: Criminal law applies [14][15].

DOCUMENTED Her 2026 first-instance conviction is documented [14]; the church said it will appeal [27].

EXIT: Leaving is legally free.

REGULATOR: Prosecutors and courts regulate it [14].

TELL: The movement's leader was convicted in its home country at first instance.

United States

APEX: The apex is the church in the United States and its affiliated companies [1].

LAW: Tax law applies [2], and the 1978 congressional investigation examined the movement [3].

DOCUMENTED The 1982 conviction [2] and the Fraser Report [3] are documented.

EXIT:	Leaving is legally free.
REGULATOR:	The IRS and courts regulate it [2].
TELL:	Congress investigated the movement's political ties in 1978 [3].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

This page covers Japan, South Korea and the United States. Your country changes what this tradition can do to you, and what you can do about it. If you live somewhere not listed, ask which of these cards your country most resembles. If you are a voter, note that each of these arrangements was chosen by a government.

23 The questions

BEFORE YOU READ

The six questions the documented record could not resolve. Each is set out below: why it is being asked, and a concrete example already on this page that it points back to.

QUESTION 1 OF 6

If the donations were freely given, why did the church offer up to 10 billion yen for compensation [17] and still lose its legal status, a loss the Supreme Court made final [5] [26]?

WHY THIS IS ASKED

A compensation offer and a court's dissolution order both suggest that the donations were not simply free will. The question asks readers to weigh them against the claim.

EXAMPLE ALREADY ON THIS PAGE

The money section records the church's 2023 offer to deposit up to 10 billion yen as a compensation fund [17]. The history section records that the Tokyo High Court upheld dissolution in March 2026 [5] and that the Supreme Court made it final in June 2026 [26].

QUESTION 2 OF 6

What do the ancestor-liberation payments buy, and who can verify it?

WHY THIS IS ASKED

A payment for an outcome no one can verify is a sale with no possible receipt. The question asks what is being bought, and who could check it.

EXAMPLE ALREADY ON THIS PAGE

The money table lists ancestor-liberation offerings, for which a scholarly account says missionaries offered channels to the spirit world in return for a sizable donation [19]; the page records no way to verify the outcome.

QUESTION 3 OF 6

What happened to the children whose parents gave everything [13]?

WHY THIS IS ASKED

The children of donors bore the cost of decisions they didn't make. The question asks what happened to them.

EXAMPLE ALREADY ON THIS PAGE

The reach section records that from 2022, second-generation members in Japan spoke publicly about poverty and neglect caused by their parents' donations [13].

QUESTION 4 OF 6

Why did two Japanese courts order the religious corporation dissolved [4][5]?

WHY THIS IS ASKED

Dissolution by a court is an extraordinary step. The question asks readers to understand the grounds.

EXAMPLE ALREADY ON THIS PAGE

The history section records the Tokyo District Court's dissolution order on 25 March 2025, the first revocation of a religious corporation based on civil-law violations [4].

QUESTION 5 OF 6

Why did a Seoul court convict the True Mother, at first instance, of bribery and embezzlement of church funds [14]?

WHY THIS IS ASKED

A criminal conviction of the leader for misusing church money is a court finding about the institution's conduct, not about belief. The Seoul verdict is a first-instance ruling, and the church said it will appeal. The question asks members to take it seriously.

EXAMPLE ALREADY ON THIS PAGE

The history section records that on 31 August 2026 the Seoul Central District Court sentenced Hak Ja Han to two years for bribery, political-funds violations and embezzlement [14], and that the church said it will appeal [27].

QUESTION 6 OF 6

The deprogrammers who confined a member for twelve years were wrong, and a court said so [16]. Does that make the donation solicitation right?

WHY THIS IS ASKED

One wrong does not cancel another. The question asks readers to hold both: the confinement of a member for twelve years was wrong, and so was the donation solicitation.

EXAMPLE ALREADY ON THIS PAGE

The forefront section concedes that "the confinement of a member for twelve years was real and wrong, and a Japanese court said so" [16], and answers that Japan's courts based the dissolution on "decades of civil findings about how money was solicited."

In closing

1. You were told your family was the center of God's history. The standard that follows is simple: no family should be impoverished for it.
2. You can keep your faith and ask for your money back. Some have already sought it through lawsuits [12].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Choose one question and ask it this month, out loud, to a real person who could answer it. Then write down what happened. Were you answered, redirected, or told that asking was the problem? Whichever it was, the response is information.

24 Leaving safely here

BEFORE YOU READ

Practical, non-theological guidance for someone who needs to step back or step away safely. It is a safety document, not an argument.

Practical guidance, not legal advice.

1. **Leaving is legally free.** Families should never confine a member; Japanese courts have awarded damages for it [16].

2. **If you gave money under pressure in Japan,** the law enacted in December 2022 and lawyers' networks can help you seek it back [8] [12]; Houterasu, a government-backed legal aid body, runs a free consultation line for spiritual-sales harm [29].

3. **Second-generation members** can find others who have spoken out [13].

4. **Find support** [22] [23] [24] [25].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Even if this section is not for you, it may be for someone you know. Most people who leave a high-demand community say that the first person who listened without trying to argue them back mattered more than anything else. Could that person be you?

Second-generation members can find others who have spoken out.

25 Where to get help

BEFORE YOU READ

Organizations that can help, each checked directly against its own site, with the date of the check. Nothing here is endorsed beyond that check.

Checked 2026-10-03.

ORGANIZATION	FOR	WHERE	CONTACT
National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales	Former followers seeking money back	Japan	Contact is through the lawyers' network [12].

Houterasu (Japan Legal Support Center), spiritual-sales consultation line	Victims of "spiritual sales" and their families	Japan	**0120-005931** (toll-free in Japan; weekdays 9:30 to 17:00, not weekends, holidays or year-end; from abroad 050-3383-0010, call charges apply). The service page is in Japanese. [29]
ICSA	Former members of high-control groups; families	International	Contact is through its website [22].
Recovering from Religion	People questioning or leaving faith	US, Canada and online	**(844) 368-2848** (the service aims to be available 24 hours and also offers web chat) [23]
Faith to Faithless	People leaving high-control religion	UK	**0800 448 0748** (freephone; Monday 10:00–13:00, Wednesday 10:00–13:00, Thursday 16:00–19:00 UK time) [24]
Childhelp	Child abuse	US	**1-800-422-4453** (24 hours; text "GO" to 800.422.4453 or use the website chat) [25]

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Save one contact now, before anyone needs it:

National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales (former followers seeking money back; Japan).

People in crisis rarely have the energy to research options. Having a name ready is one of the most useful things you can do for someone else.



26

Sources

BEFORE YOU READ

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WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

Don't take this page's word for anything either. People tend to believe a claim more the more often they have heard it, whether or not it is true; this is the "illusory truth effect" (Hasher, Goldstein & Toppino, 1977). Spot-check three citations at random. If any fails, tell us, and it will be corrected and logged.

27 What changed on this page

BEFORE YOU READ

A dated log of what changed on this page: corrections, additions and new sources. Changes are logged in public rather than made quietly.

- **2026-10-03:** Updated the Japanese dissolution case: the Supreme Court rejected the church's appeal in June 2026, so the dissolution is final, and the liquidator's July 2026 figures were added. The Seoul verdict against Hak Ja Han is now marked as a first-instance ruling that the church said it will appeal. Statements the sources only attribute to others, such as the description of "spiritual sales", the political ties in Japan and the claim that neither case concerns belief, are now attributed, and the page notes that the church and UN experts dispute the "public welfare" ground. Removed claims the sources did not support: a Korean "ritual center", Blessing payments, an aging first generation, the Philippines, and the church's collective mediation. Added sources for the women who moved to Korea after matching and for the recruitment and ancestor-offering practices, regraded two techniques, added an Evidence row, corrected the compensation offer to "up to 10 billion yen", the date of the donations law and the education ministry's role, and added the government-backed Japanese consultation line.
- **2026-09-27:** Sections on branches, law, money figures, voices from inside, regional cards, leaving safely and help lines were completed.

- **2026-09-29:** Sources completed: the Tokyo High Court case number for the confinement ruling [16], the health ministry's original 2022 notice [20], and the membership figures, checked against the article they come from [19].

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

This page keeps a public log of its own changes, mistakes included. Does the institution you belong to, give to, or were raised in keep one like it? If not, how would you know what it got wrong, and when?

Colophon

Set in EB Garamond (SIL Open Font License), regular, italic and bold, with true small capitals and old-style figures in text and lining tabular figures in tables. Laid out with Paged.js in Chromium from the same Markdown that feeds the website. US Letter, single-sided, tagged for accessibility and checked against PDF/UA-1 with veraPDF. Built 2026-10-27. Text checked 2026-10-03.

Palette: ink, oxblood, gold, cream, rule. Seven type sizes. Rules of 0.4 pt and 2 pt only.