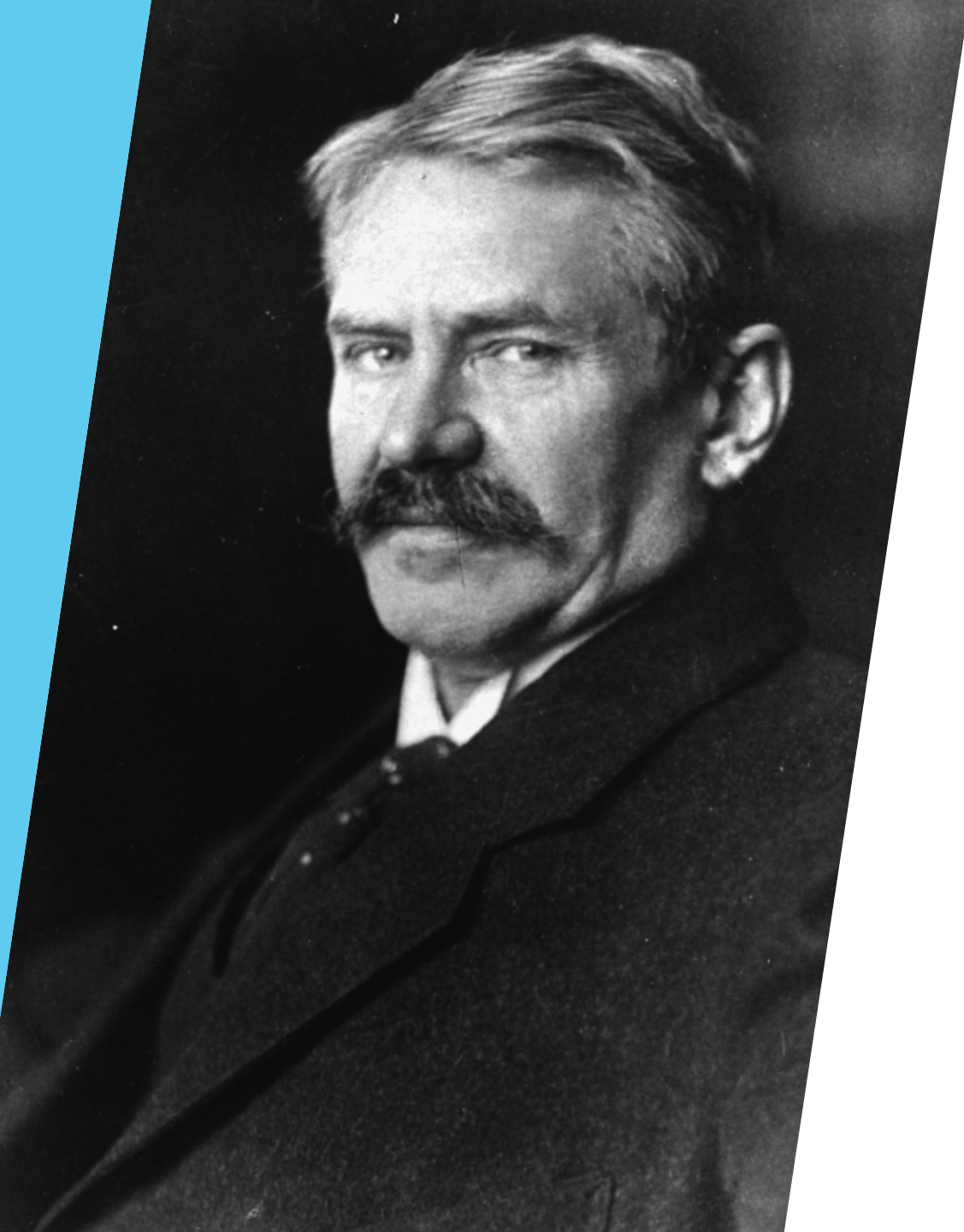




# *The Yeoju Headquarters Temple Complex as a Center for Social Welfare and Humanitarian Aid*

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## Rediscovering Troeltsch

- ▶ One of the most famous 20<sup>th</sup> century books about religion is *The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches*, published in 1931 by German theologian, historian and social scientist Ernst Troeltsch (1865-1923).
- ▶ The book is often quoted today for its distinction between “church” and “sect.” However, this was not its main focus.

# Christian Social Welfare

- ▶ The main argument of Troeltsch is that Christianity was gradually transformed from a millenarian sect awaiting the imminent end of the world into a church with a strong social ethic (partially derived from Greek and Roman sources).
- ▶ The center of Christianity became love of fellow human beings, which manifested in a number of charitable works that were perceived as integrated, rather than separated, from the Christian love of God.





## Spatial Charity

- ▶ This ethos had a spatial dimensions, and Christians build complexes that were *at the same time* sacred spaces and centers of charity and welfare. I was reminded of this spatiality of (Troeltsch's) Christian social teachings while visiting the Italian city of Siena last Winter.

# Piazza Duomo



- ▶ In Siena, Piazza Duomo, or Cathedral Square, hosts both a magnificent cathedral and an institution which was part of the same complex, called Santa Maria della Scala.

# Santa Maria della Scala

Santa Maria della Scala is one of the oldest hospitals in the world, but it was much more.



# Free Health Care



The sick, if they were poor, were given free meals and treatments.

# Care for Neglected Children

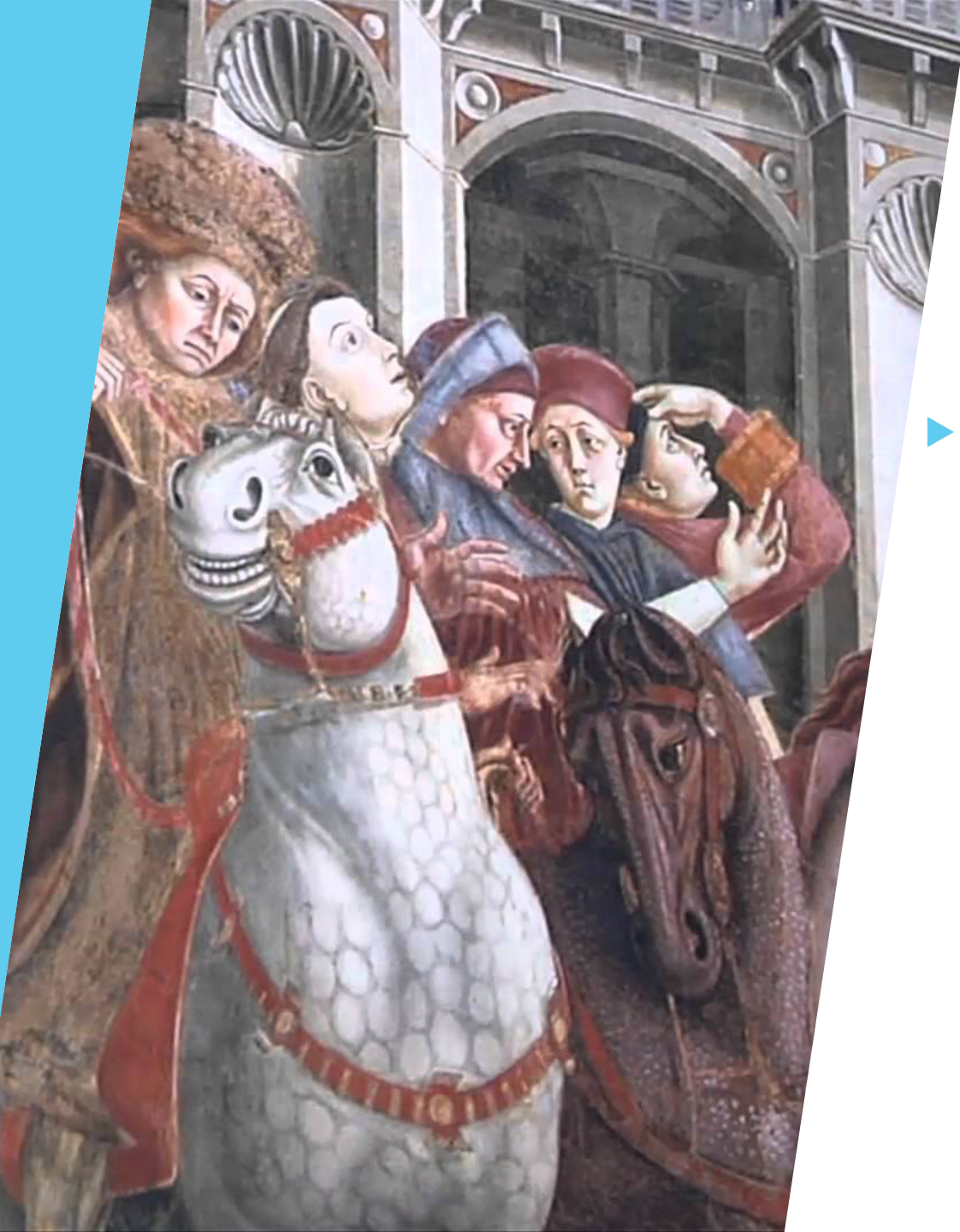


- ▶ Abandoned and neglected children found a home, clothing, and schooling.

# Social Welfare



- ▶ Meals were served for the poor three times a week, and girls in need received a dowry and help to find a suitable husband.



## A Religious Institution

- ▶ Troeltsch may be a good guide in visiting Santa Maria della Scala, discovering its many spaces for prayer and meditation, and understanding that *it was not separated from the Cathedral*. The question whether it was a religious or charitable space does not make sense: *it was both*. There was no special separation between religion and social welfare in Medieval Siena, and pilgrims came to visit both a sacred space and a unique social institution.

# Christianity Only?

- ▶ While it is well possible that Christians invented the modern hospital, only a Eurocentric prejudice would claim that *only* Christians were able to build spaces that at the same time were deeply sacred and provided social welfare services. This happened in most other religions. Buddhist temples provided a range of social services in the past, and continue to do so today.






## Kang Jeung-san's Donggok Clinic


- ▶ Daesoon Jinrihoe recognizes as the incarnated Supreme God Kang Jeung-san (1871-1909). He created an integrated sacred and social space with the Donggok Clinic, where he cured both physical and spiritual illnesses, and where he passed away in 1909.

# Let's Be Good to Each Other!

In Daesoon Thought, an omniscient and omnipresent Supreme God, who incarnated as Kang Jeungsan, presides over the Three Realms of Heaven, Earth and Humanity



God's Reordering Works of Heaven and Earth are supposed to rectify disorder that accumulated over thousands of years. Although God did complete this Work, humanity should cooperate by applying the principle of reciprocating favor out of gratitude (*Boeun Sangsaeng*)



The doctrines of Daesoon Jinrihoe are based on four Tenets: "Virtuous Concordance of Yin and Yang", "Harmonious Union Between Divine Beings and Human Beings", "Resolution of Grievances for Mutual Beneficence" and "Perfected Unification with Dao." All have clear social implications

# Haewon Sangsaeng

- ▶ The key principle of Daesoon Jinrihoe is “the resolution of grievances for mutual beneficence” (*Haewon sangsaeng*).



# A Religious and Social Principle



- ▶ *Haewon Sangsaeng* is both a religious and social principle. It deals with the whole universe and with cosmic grievances to be resolved, yet at the same time it calls for overcoming widespread human grievances and for a concrete mutual beneficence through social welfare.

# Spatializing Haewon Sangsaeng

- ▶ Building the Yeosu Headquarters Temple Complex was a major achievement by Park Wudang (1917-1995 in the lunar calendar used by the movement, or 1918-1996 according to the solar calendar), who succeeded in the religious orthodoxy recognized by Daesoon Jinrihoe after Kang Jeungsan and Jo Jeongsan (1895-1958).





## A Social Reformer

- ▶ Park Wudang, at the same time, put the principles of *Haewon Sangsaeng* and *Boeun Sangsaeng* into practice by making the Yeosu Headquarters the center of an impressive network of Daesoon Jinrihoe's social welfare activities.



## From Mutualism to Mutual Beneficence

- ▶ Daesoon Jinrihoe believes that among humans, as in biology, there is a type of symbiotic relationship known as “mutualism”. Two organisms interact in such a manner that both parties benefit, such as when bees produce honey. There is no altruism: both parties seek their own profit, but they benefit each other as a “happy coincidence.”
- ▶ Mutual Beneficence goes further, as it requires both parties to be motivated by pure intentions to benefit one another.

# Three Major Activities



- ▶ The Yeosu Headquarters oversees a global Daesoon Jinrihoe network in three major activities: Charity, Social Welfare and Education, to which Daesoon Jinrihoe consecrates over 70% of its financial resources.

# Health and Welfare Services

- ▶ Providing health and social welfare services is an integral part of Mutual Beneficence. With deep roots in the Korean tradition, providing for the elderly is a special priority of Daesoon Jinrihoe.
- ▶ Daesoon Jinrihoe operates a geriatric hospital, elderly nursing facilities and a youth training center.
- ▶ Some of the facilities are located *within* the Yeosu Headquarters, emphasizing its role as both a spiritual and social welfare center.





## Some Relevant Dates

- ▶ 2007: Daejin Welfare Foundation started its activities
- ▶ 2009: Daejin Medical Care Institute, Senior Welfare Center and Medical Care Hospital were established
- ▶ 2012: The Korean National Health Insurance Service recognized Medical Care Institute as a A-level institution
- ▶ 2014: Daejin Youth Center was established



# Daejin Medical Care Hospital

- ▶ The hospital has been certified by Korean medical authorities as a reliable, leading institution, equipped with modern, cutting-edge medical diagnostic and treatment systems
- ▶ The hospital uses volunteers to provide a better and wider range of services.
- ▶ While volunteers are mostly members of Daesoon Jinrihoe, medical care is offered to anybody who qualifies for admission, irrespective of religious affiliation.



## Daejin Youth Center - Children's Activities

- ▶ Certified programs to train young people as effective volunteers for Daejin Medical Care Hospital are offered by Daejin Youth Center.
- ▶ More generally, the Youth Center's mission is to empower young people to become future responsible leaders of their country.
- ▶ Programs for children are also part of Yeosu Headquarters' activities.

# Globalizing Yeoju: DIVA

- ▶ The Yeoju Headquarters are also the center from which welfare activities are organized outside Korea. Since 2017 DIVA (the Daejin International Volunteer Association) extended its activities to Vietnam



# DIVA in Vietnam



- ▶ DIVA's activities in Vietnam include assistance to Vietnamese medical practitioners to improve their services, health care education classes, first aid education, cultural exchanges, scholarships offered to Vietnamese students from low-income families, and a Korean Language Center at Hanoi Nguyen Trai University.



## Conclusion

- ▶ The Yeoju Headquarters Temple Complex is the center of the religion of Daesoon Jinrihoe: it offers to the believers deep spiritual experiences and esoteric rituals. At the same time, it serves as the pulsating heart of an international network of the social welfare activities. Under the principle of *Haewon Sangsaeng*, the two spheres are not separated. Like Piazza Duomo in Siena, the Yeoju Headquarters offer a holistic experience catering to the spirit, the heart and the body at the same time.