A Humble Thought and Some Reflections on Professor and Doctor John C. Raines  
By Kiyul Chung

Dr. Raines is one of the most influential professors who has made indispensable and irreplaceable impacts upon my life and work. He is also one of the most “appreciated” teachers whom I am deeply indebted to in many aspects, particularly in the sense of his extraordinarily “humble” spirit. Since 1994, throughout almost twenty years of a “teacher-student” relationship at Temple, I had been often deeply touched by his beautifully humble humanity.

Dr. Raines is one of the three most important teachers whom I’ve deeply admired and respected. Like the other two teachers—Prof. Pyon Sunhwan in Seoul, Korea during my bachelor degree in the 1970s and Prof. Cornel West at Yale Divinity School during a post-Master program (STM) in the mid-1980s—Prof. Raines’ influence in the areas of academic training and scholarship has been immense.

However, unlike the other two teachers, he not only aided me in the area of academic training and scholarship but also humbly counseled and guided my (then) “troubled life and family” situation in many unforgettable ways. In January 1997, my wife had to undergo a radical bi-mastectomy to overcome breast cancer. In August 1998, we lost our 5 year-old daughter to a car accident. In August 1999, due to an unpaid huge medical bill and other hospital-related expenses, we had to go through financial bankruptcy.

During those difficult and challenging years, Dr. Raines was not only my “greatest” teacher but also a “wonderful human being” who’d unconditionally and always readily provided “humble thereby deeply touching” moral, spiritual and other types of support. Through this special “family friendship” for over a decade since the late 1990s, Prof. Raines and I have been sharing and appreciatively cherishing some sort of a deeply “holistic friendship,” as he often reminds me, as a “colleague, friend and comrade” to each other.

Throughout my life and work, these three teachers have, equally but different from each other, made tremendously “indispensable and irreplaceable” influences upon my life, including my present academic profession.

On the occasion of writing this brief and short Festschrift in honor of Dr. Raines’ beautifully humble spirit, life, and work, I am hereby humbly presenting my deepest respect, gratitude, and honor before him and his beloved family. Together with Prof. Raines, who’s been my dear “teacher, counselor, friend, colleague and comrade” as he’s tirelessly taught all of his students throughout his life and work, I, too, shall continue to work for a “better, just and equal world” that he has never ceased dreaming.

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