

**THE SYMBOL
OF NATION AND ASPIRATION OF UNIFICATION
IN KOREAN CONTEMPORARY POETRY
IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

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It is estimated that Korean contemporary poetry began in 1908 when Choi Nam Sun published his new poem called *"The Boy and The Sea"*. During half of a century, Korea poetry developed in the circumstance when the country carried out two wars: The war to against Japanese invaders (1910-1945) and the war between the two regions North and South of Korean peninsular (1950-1953). Father land is the significant symbol as well as the topic of all tides of poetry in Korea during a half of 20th century.

The symbol of Father land was discovered in different points of view and angles such as far away Father land, with sufferings, deep resentment of the poets carrying "the grief of small country", "guilt of ancestors", "resentment of country-losing people" (Wol Dong Chu, Yi Yook Sa).

Father land was also poetical symbol attaching with the concrete historic conditions: landscape, patriots, the citizen responsibility... The country at war, the country was invaded and lost

sovereignty... became the grief, the great emotion so that the poets in this period spoke out their sentiments with the country. Many poets talked about belief and hope, the sacrifice for an independent and free day (Huyng Choe, Yi Sang Hoa, Simho, Sang Ok Han...).

The symbol of Fatherland and the aspiration for unification in the war was expressed at a new levels and deep philosophy. When the war "brothers fight each other" occurred, Father land did not belong to anyone.

Father land was common for everyone. Don't let blood of the people in the same family bled. Stop the war. Rebuild love.... Those are the eternal aspiration of Korean people.

On the points of view of traditional benevolence, the blood-relationship, the contemporary poetry in Korea has had the right opinions about enemy, war and Father land.

The contemporary poetry in Korea made many generations of readers moved about the losses in war as well as the aspiration for peace and unification of Korean people.