

Stories My Father Told Me

A Korean Father's Wisdom for His Child

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Illustrated by Kim, Dae-ik

£21 hardcover

200 x 160 mm; isbn 978-1-56591-491-9
296 pages, all in colour; 31 individual
works of art (paintings on canvas).
26 subjects are illuminated by 94 stories.

**EVERYONE SHOULD READ
THIS BOOK - IT OFFERS A
RICH SOURCE OF GUIDANCE
FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN
ALL OVER THE WORLD...**

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published by
Hollym

Represented by

Kodansha Europe Ltd.
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The Blind and Lame

I asked my father, "Having lived 90 years,
What is a happy person?"

He said, "A long time ago
I was sitting in my store, looking out onto the market place.

In the distance, a healthy looking man was carrying a woman on his back.
The two looked happy.

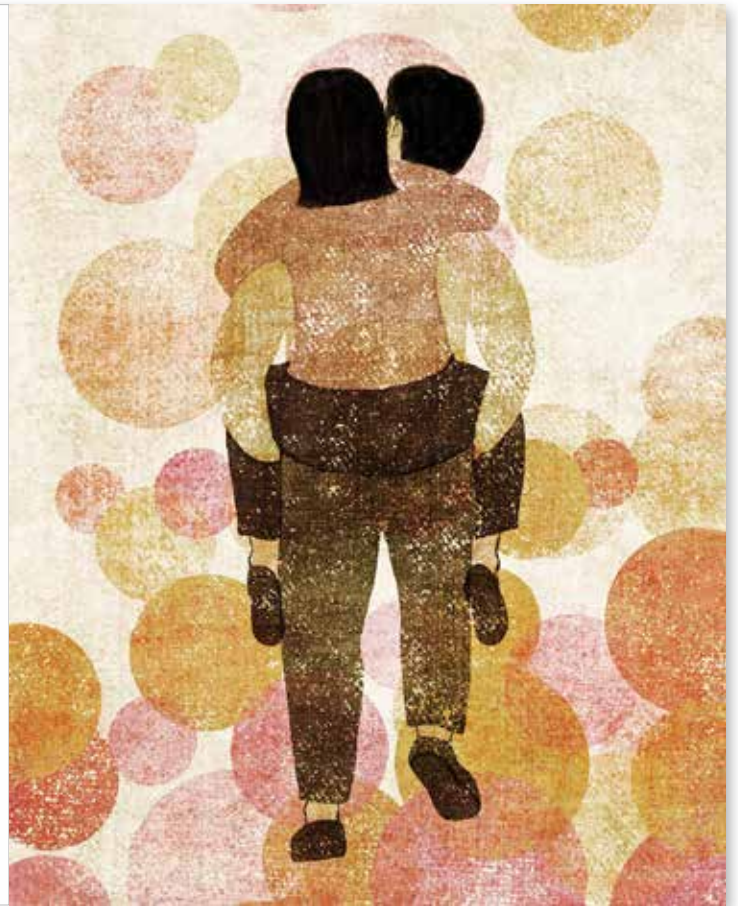
I continued to watch them.
They continued to come closer, they looked happy, smiling.

When they were close enough for me to see their faces
I saw that the healthy man was blind, and the woman on his back was a cripple.

They were relying on each other, to fill that which they each lacked
Merrily together on their way.

Never again have I witnessed such happiness on another person's face, as I
saw on theirs that day.
I realized at that moment, that happiness does not come from having lots of
possessions."

36 Prologue



*"I fell asleep, my head on my grandmother's lap, and I dreamt a dream.
Startled, I awoke and 90 years had passed. Now my head is covered in grey hair."*

This book begins with the words of a ninety-year-old father. The reader is reminded that life is short, as but a dream, and is challenged to ask what is essential in life and how should life be lived.

A father's precious legacy: the true meaning of a good life

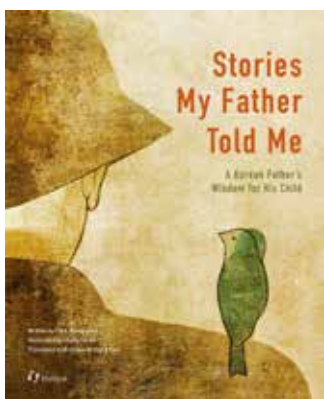
The author tells a series of stories from her childhood that were told by her father, together with her own observations on her father's life. These stories emerge from his childhood struggles with poverty, war, being a refugee during the Japanese colonial period, later from the Korean War, and subsequently from his life in South Korea as a farmer. They are the stories of a real father – full of sincerity, perseverance, caring, tolerance, and love: the most valuable roots of life itself. These stories clearly illustrate that a sincere life adhering to such true values are the essence of happiness.

Not preaching, but self-realisation

The father in the book does not advise solely with words, but with actions as well. He shows respect to even very young children and guides them towards an understanding of themselves and the world. The author communicates her father's philosophy of life in an honest and accessible manner.

One father's life

We're born, children of parents, and become parents ourselves. No-one is born an adult, no-one is born a parent. As a child, our reality comes from our parents, and they are our whole world. As we become adults, we come to realise that our parents were once young and awkward themselves. We then begin to pay attention to how they themselves became adults, became parents. It is here that the universal message of this remarkable book lies. The constant struggle of a father to live a good life for his daughter is recorded between these pages as a series of anecdotes remembered by that child in adulthood and committed to us for posterity. These are lessons we can all learn in any culture and pass on to our own children with gratitude.



Pure and clear. The simplicity of the life-philosophy of an honest farmer-father who has suffered under colonialism and the Korean War and lived on to experience the affluent modern culture that South Korea has become. Viewing suffering in a positive way is the first steps towards happiness and these stories give voice to a generation wishing to pass on to their children that the right attitude can bring far more happiness than material wealth.

This is an uplifting book for those weary of busy modern life and competition; an opportunity for reflection on life as it should be lived.

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