

Filial devotion and loyalty are moral values that are deeply entrenched in Korean history and culture. I am saddened to say that this is not the case for most ethnicities, especially in modern-day civilization. This set of Korean folklore has impacted me in a way the written word cannot even attempt to capture, but I shall give it a try.

Koreans quintessentially embody the virtues of virtuosity, love, and patriotism- the very qualities that compose the pillars of Korea. These tales exemplify the manner in which Koreans purge the sordidness of human nature from their lives and denounce both pessimism and bias. Rather, the acceptance of diversity is paramount in Korean culture.

Koreans comply with a social contract and value collectivism. It is not in an enforced, dictatorial manner, but rather from natural inclinations from love for oneself, one's ancestors, and one's nation. Social inequities characterized by privilege and hierarchical standards are frowned upon in Korea because it is fundamental that a country takes responsibility for its people. In that vein, it was understood that no people equates to no country. By dividing and sharing good fortune, the enjoyment metastasizes to the entire country. Koreans need empathy to rid them of their guilt and to display their gratitude. By substituting yourself in another's proverbial shoes, you can receive absolution from your wrongdoings and atonement for your sins. The characters went as far as self-mutilation to help others and they spared others' lives even if that resulted in risking the quality of their own. There was a wide spectrum of Chung- even people who weren't aristocratic performed great acts of compassion and heroism. This shows that benevolence is nondiscriminatory- a lesson anyone can benefit from.

Korea conceptualized that respect gives people humility and benevolence gives people equality. Kindness should never be circumstantial or opportunistic, driven by an ulterior motive. In order for kindness to have authenticity, it should be unrelenting. It is ingrained into Korean culture to recycle love and gratitude back to parents after they have invested much effort into caring for their children. Happiness is communicable. By having filial devotion, you receive social commendation and that is more than enough to incentivize others to do the same. Hyo and Chung, filial piety and nationalism, respectively, are the intersections by which Koreans navigate their lives. In other words,

they follow a linear path of devotion that they never stray from. Filial piety is something of constancy and moral obligation without exemptions. Chung was necessitated by the need for self-preservation of Korea and it masoned the groundwork for peace within Korean society. Hyo and Chung are not mutually exclusive, but Hyo is a prerequisite to Chung.

Overall, these stories have inspired me to wholeheartedly manifest the ideologies of filial piety and patriotism into every fiber of my conscience. Hyo and Chung will invoke self-satisfaction and contentment, albeit their purpose is to benefit all of mankind. Intolerance and gluttony are illicit in Korean culture, but that shouldn't have specificity towards one culture when it has the capacity to benefit the entire world. It inspires me to rid society of hatred that is immorally based on race, creed, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or economic status. The ill will that permeates society has led to repetitions of blights in history. We have persecution on the most unjust grounds that violate the inalienable rights provided by the Constitution. Sadly, government negligence and familial neglect are eroding the value of filial piety. Nowadays, the elderly are marginalized because they are not able-bodied and therefore 'useless'. However, they are a cache of wisdom that many people seem to need. Society has undergone corruption and has been tethered to idealistic fantasies of personal gain and everyone fulfilling their own agendas. No one is widening his or her lens on the broader scheme of life that is inclusive of everyone, which will provide more self-benefit than what would actually result from an individualized incentive. Conservatism has not let society improve. Instead, society should be fixated on the old-age views of filial piety and loyalty, philosophies that maximize benefit instead of incurring loss and despair.

Unfortunately, time has taken a negative toll and modernization and materialism are vastly outpacing these precious traditions. Competition from this 'rat race' mentality has blinded people from trying to live and act for the benefit of all mankind. It would truly be a remarkable feat to be able to live in harmony despite economic struggle and we will be ultimately honoring Hyo if we make an effort to uphold these customs. Compassion, sympathy, and sacrifice are qualities that need to be indoctrinated en masse.

Optimism is a precursor to happiness, but a fear for reform has been perpetuated in society. If the necessary people seek asylum and edification in respect, we can live in harmony.

We can exponentially increase Chung and use the same mechanisms to improve the world. Global peace isn't a novelty or a lofty goal. These Korean anecdotes have sent rattling reverberations right through me, but I am just an infinitesimal part of this world. Korean mythology has done wonders by just scratching the surface, but we have to begin an archaeological dig and stave the root of the gnarled vines that are entangling society, which is prejudice.

It is of utmost importance to ingrain basic facets of love and loyalty into society and make a change, and all it takes is one person. Look at Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Susan B. Anthony, and the like. They each had a dream and revolutionized the world through civil disobedience and rightful protest. By challenging the norm and making others realize that the continuity of injustice should be broken, they helped create equality and goodwill. I have a vision in which all people are tolerated, if not embraced, for their uniqueness. We need the determination to kindle a spark that will inflame the whole world. We need to extinguish the violence, the hate, the malignance that people mutually have towards each other and use that intensity for a good notion. We need to transform inaction to action and build skyward from what the Koreans have so successfully begun.