

## Words Can Make A Difference

Until the day I die/I long to have no speck of shame/when I gaze up toward heaven,/so I have tormented myself,/even when the wind stirs the leaves./With a heart that sings the stars,/I will love all dying things./And I will walk the way/that has been given to me./Tonight, again, the wind brushes the stars (Prologue).

People can make a difference in numerous ways. From participating in a major march to conducting small actions, you can make a tremendous impact in the world. A Korean poet, Yun Dong-ju, helped Korea gain her independence. He used his pen to make a small, shady seed grow into a giant flower sprouting confident red, white, blue, and black petals.

Yun Dong-ju used his words to resist the Japanese invaders and their colonies during the Korean Colonial Period of Japan. He spent his life writing resistance poems as well as publishing them. At one point, he was captured by the Japanese police and served gruesome, torturous years in prison. Yun Dong-ju continuously stood up for what was right even when he was captivated within the cold, dark walls of his prison cell. During his darkest hours, he did not stop prospering his ideas of Korean independence. He wrote 100 poems before he died at age 29 in prison. Yun Dong-ju fought for what was right, although authorities around him opposed him using fear and

pain. He allowed his common good to guide him throughout his life and developed poetic words to peacefully disagree with surrounding authorities. Despite his pain, he chose to do the right thing.

Yun Dong-ju did what he could to help save Korea. He didn't actively march with a flag in his hand, nor did he respond using weapons. He contributed by using his pen and words. His poetry inspired people to act, and replaced Korea's sorrow with hope. He showered the Korean people with his poems, and helped a small sprout evolve into a dignified Korean flag.