I thank...

The Lord for giving me a life...
Jesus Christ for being crucified instead of myself...
My mother country for raising me in her womb...
My father for teaching me what Justice is...
My mother for showing me what Love is...
My fiancée for believing me all the time...
My relatives for supporting me when I face obstacles...
My senior engineers for building the way where I’m walking now...
The Not So Short Introduction to Han-Ul Yoon
한국

가개의

자주로

병

구가. 개가
화가하게 [형]

가쳐가. 보내가하라

무게 [원]

양용 [원]

중

라

1971. 10. 23. 6:00.

병

아비 아미.
Yoon Han-Ul,

Breaking the silence of the beginning,
With the sound of shaking the axis of the earth,
You began your life.

Countries and world
Are rolling around in mud aimlessly.
Purify them! Rectify them!

Your life
Be Han-Ul
Lead them with Big Spirit!

1977. 10. 23. 6:00.
Your father and mother.
In 23 October 1977 6:00 a.m., I was born in Cheju island, Korea. At that time, Korea was under military regime led by General Jung-Hee Park, a dreadful autocrat. Therefore, there was no democracy at all. A lot of people longing for democracy and seeking freedom, such as Dae-Joong Kim who later became President and won Nobel Peace Prize, were jailed, tortured, and even killed. It was a real dark time for Korea and seemed to last forever. My father, a pastor and a pioneer, fought for democracy and freedom of the country. He really wanted younger generations to have a democratic country. So, he named me Han-Ul ‘big spirit’ hoping that I would live for Koreans.
I am really proud of my family because I learnt almost all I need throughout my life from my parents. My parents introduced Jesus Christ to me. However, my father, a Presbyterian pastor, wanted me not to be just a naïve believer. He always told me “Be right human being first, then you can be right devotee!” Whenever I see people using religion as an excuse for their wrongdoings, I remind myself of what my father said. Except two or three years of my school life, I was elected as class president, and I did my best to be so with honor, altruism, and responsibility. I finished elementary school, middle school, and high school with outstanding grades with my parents’ support and under their protection.
“I pray day and night, thus I believe that my beloved sons and daughters will be strong, courageous, smart, kind and gentle, and be patriotic servants for the nation and apostles of peace for the world. I also pray that my beloved sons and daughters practice Chung-Ang’s motto, which is also my principle, Die in Honor, Live for Truth.”

– Louise Yim, the founder of Chung-Ang university –

“Die in Honor, Live for Truth!” What other motto would fit to express the heart of the young? In 1997, I got admissions from several schools and finally chose Chung-Ang University. It was founded in 1908 and brought forth many prominent scholars, politicians, and artists who took the motto to their hearts. Especially, College of Arts and Plays is the best in all universities in Korea. College of Advertisement is also so prominent that it’s the first choice for many high school applicants. My college, School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, is also one of the most competent in Korea. Upon graduating, most students get hired to work for Samsung or LG Electronics. I have deep gratitude for my school for developing me as I am now.
“Keep up the fire!” After passing the selective examination of KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army) program, I served in the 9th infantry regiment, 2nd infantry division, 8th U.S. Army from Mar. 2000 to May 2002. I learnt a lot of things from my military service. First it was “Freedom is not Free.” Someone must defend a nation vigilantly day and night for my family, neighbors, and country. Second, it was Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Courage. Finally, it was a real leadership, always “lead by example.” Since it was a really precious time of my life, it still comes up to my mind whenever I close my eyes to reminisce it. How can I forget the smell of Bradley’s smoke, mountains and rivers where I climbed up and swam across, the cadence of warriors, and my combat buddies?
“My robot. You are the blood and sweat of mine. Now I want to go to U.S. so as to give you a soul someday.” – Myself –

My interests in undergraduate study were processor architecture and intelligent robot. After graduation, I joined the ALIS (Artificial Life and Intelligent System) laboratory in my graduate school. The main subject of my laboratory was an intelligence algorithm. I grew slightly tired of just talking about the simulation result on PC because it is my philosophy that everything should be verified in practice. I strongly wanted to set an intelligent agent free out to the real world from the prison of PC. I tried to build a robot so that my colleagues and I could adopt and test some intelligent algorithms. Fortunately, after countless trials and errors, I succeeded in building a small mobile robot. With pleasure, I first adopted my own idea, ABAM (Area-Based Action Making) and Hexagon-Based Q-Learning for a robot to avoid obstacles while navigating through a hallway. And it was really successful! Now I am trying to adopt various reinforcement learning algorithms to my robot.
“Nobody can live twice in earth. If someone lives only for himself and his family, how shabby will his life be?” – My Father –

My father is a great mentor of mine. His heart is too profound for me to understand. He devoted his young life for the democracy of Korea and his mid-life for people and church, especially orphans and senior citizens. He is now serving as prime minister of Korea Presbyterian Denomination. When I was young, my father used to tell me “Nobody can live twice on earth. If someone lives only for himself and his family, how shabby would his life be? Let people, your country, and the world always be in your heart!” I learnt what altruism is from him and from his life.

Somebody said “God can not be always near everyone, so he sends a mother to every child.” It was really true. My mother has been everything of Love through my father’s life and mine. She also showed me what true Devotion is.

My fiancée is a frenetic supporter of mine. Applying for school in U.S. as a foreigner is a risky business since I could forgo my chance of getting a job in Korea. She always says “You will make it! I believe!” She taught me what Belief is.
Jesus Christ is the pillar of my life. He was the Son of Man, a mentor, a friend, a critic to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the Son of God. I follow his teachings not only because people say he is the Son of God, but also because I know he always walked the walk taking care of the people who were downtrodden. He was strong against injustice, but was mild and soft toward people who are in need of consolation. I pray and pray for the health of my family and relatives, for the peace and unification of my country, and for his will to be done on earth. Just as Jesus healed the blind and the lame, it is my hope that with my hands and skill, I help others, support the handicapped, become a person who makes the world better and more humane.
Two Roads diverged in a yellow wood,
...
I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

- Robert L. Frost -