Way back when, I was young just around 11 years old. Yeah exactly when I was in Elementary school. Believe or not, I was really hooked on reading books. I liked folktales, no matter it’s from Korean or other countries. I tried much to read books as much as I could. But one day, I got little bit tired of some kinda books such as Aesop’s Fables and some simple short stories for kids. Then, I did not know how to find another and ‘buying a book’ was not an available option for me as I did not have money. Anyways, I have tell this story first.

You know, my father was and still is a beekeeper. He was away from home around 6 months in a year. And in the busy season, my mother also had to go with him to help his work. And I and my younger brother had to live a while with other families or our relatives nearby my home. And I really hated that situation as I’m not an outgoing person. I never wanted to present in other’s home because it felt very weird and nervous to me. And the whole period of staying there, I always felt lonely and nervous.

Come to think of it. I fell into reading books due to that reason that I was so introverted and felt loneliness for long time.

And when my loneliness was in the highest, my teacher in 3rd grade gave me a book of Tolstoy. Once I read it, I got absorbed into that book immediately.

It gave me lots of lessons and I think it grew me up in some ways. It taught me how people live for, or what’s the most essential things in the life.

I reckon I have dreamed for whole my life to be a Yerisei in the story which named ‘Two old man’. He thinks he himself is not a good one but his behaviors are good to see in God’s eyes. Though he smokes and drink, he is the person willing to help others and share his things to others.

He started a journey to ‘Holy land’ with a friend of him but not like his friend, he failed. But on his journey, he saw God’s various appearance through other people. I can’t tell you the all story but recommend you to read it if you have a chance.

And the reason why I remembered it as the best gift I was given, it released my mental pain when I was in the most hassled situation in adolescence.