

## 青山國王記復文

青山國者。在朝鮮以北。歷覽史籍所記。未有此國。吾為行旅之人。游學關東諸國。乃過山下。雲霧晦冥。經歷數日。猶不知所在。吾欲速歸。故登其頂。仰望其下。見山腰以下有茅舍。吾走近茅舍曰。我欲速歸關東。願與我行歸山下。舍主曰。君今日到訪青山國。朕為青山國王。所以君為朕臣民。不得通行。吾曰。青山國何在。舍主曰。青山國御殿在此。吾曰。茅舍御殿為馬鹿。國王曰。青山國天壤無窮。八紘為宇。國民義勇奉公。恭儉持己。朕肇國宏遠。樹德深厚。朕之訓言。子孫臣民所當俱遵守焉。通之古今而不謬。吾曰。汝夜郎自大。茅舍之主。何以為國王。國王曰。君毋妄言。無禮無儀。無貴無賤。何其謬也。吾曰。正子有言。狂妄自大者樹不大而招風也。王請度之。言未走之。昭和三年九月著。

## Tale of the Green Mountain King

The Green Mountain Kingdom is located north of Joseon<sup>1</sup>. In all historical records, there is no record of such a kingdom. I am a wandering man, hoping to travel and learn from the various nations of Kwantung<sup>2</sup>, thereby passing under a mountain. It was cloudy and misty, and after several days I still did not know where I was. I wished to return swiftly to Kwantung, and so climbed the mountains to look down. I saw a straw shack halfway down the hill. I walked close to the shack and said, "I wish to return to Kwantung swiftly, please walk with me down the hill." The owner of the shack said, "Today you have visited the Green Mountain Kingdom. I am its king, so you are my subject, and cannot leave." I said, "Where is this Green Mountain Kingdom?" He said, "The Green Mountain Kingdom's imperial palace is here." I said, "Calling a shack a palace is foolishness." He said, "The Green

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<sup>1</sup> The historical name for Korea

<sup>2</sup> While Kwantung can also refer to the Kanto region of Japan, in this case based on the suggestion that the story is set north of Korea it most likely refers to the Chinese name for an area East of the Shanhai pass, also known as Manchuria. The Kwantung army was also the name of the Japanese forces staged in this area that later invaded and established the puppet nation of Manchuko here, and this is likely a reference to that.

Mountain Kingdom has been blessed by heaven, and takes the eight crown cords under one roof<sup>3</sup>. Its citizens are kind, brave, and obedient. I have established a great kingdom, and are blessed with great wisdom and virtue. My orders should of course be obeyed by my subjects, this has never been disputed from past to present.” I said, “You are as prideful as the nation of Erlang<sup>4</sup>. The master of a shack cannot call himself a king.” The King said, “You must not speak rashly. No manners, no understanding of high and low, how ridiculous!” I said, “Zheng Tse once said that those who suffer from hubris attract strong winds while being weak trees<sup>5</sup>. Your majesty, please consider this.” Having finished speaking, I left.

Written the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Showa period, September.

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<sup>3</sup> Imperial slogan, referring to uniting the eight directions of the compass (represented by the eight crown cords in a traditional Chinese crown) under one roof i.e. in one empire.

<sup>4</sup> A Chinese proverb.

<sup>5</sup> An alteration of the Chinese proverb, “Large trees attract strong winds”.