A Talk to the Officials of the Cinematic Art Section April 29, 1969

Recently the writers made a great effort to write one-act play and sketches to be staged in the performance by film actors. The success?ful performance of the film artists may be attributed to the writers, who completed the scripts on time.

I will ensure that the programme of performance by film actors will be staged continuously in the future because it is a good way of improving their skills and it is popular with the masses. To this end, more works must be prepared in advance. I want to give writers the task of holding several works in reserve this year.

On this occasion I felt keenly that the officials, writers and artists should be encouraged to study hard. As a well-fed ox works well, they must study hard in order to produce good results. They should become knowledgeable by reading diligently and studying life in depth. Knowledge will always produce good results.

Nowadays the officials, writers and artists are not well-read because they neglect their study. That is why, once a problem arises, they fail to assess it correctly and hesitate to resolve it. Such inci?dents occurred during preparations for a performance by film actors too. The officials of the art and literature sector must study art and lit?erature diligently. Musicians are most active in learning. They practise in their spare rnoments to improve their technique. Singers also practise a lot.

In order to learn anything conscientiously the officials must know themselves. When they are aware of that they do not know they will be determined to learn and when they realize that their experience is outmoded they will conceive the firm intention of mastering the new and introducing innovations in their work. If they do not know them?selves they will become obstinate and patriarchal. If they think that they know everything, though they have no useful knowledge and that their experience is the best, although it is outmoded, they will have no motivation to learn. Most of film music composers do their job in this awareness, but some of them have become obstinate because they do not realize this.

If work of art is to touch people 's hearts, its content and form must not only be good, they must also be harmoniously combined. Only then can the audience accept the idea of the work before they are

consciously aware of it, as a honeyed glutinous rice-cake passes smoothly down the throat once it is put into the mouth. In this sense, we can say that the current performance by film actors is on the whole like a honeyed glutinous rice-cake, though partly immature. The plays in this programme are well harmonized in content and fresh in form. The audience enjoyed seeing actors who are widely known from films appearing on stage, singing the songs included in films, and this greatly helped the actors in raising their level of skill. In order to produce works which will move people shearts, the writers and artists must sense the spirit of our times as well as every detail of our people. s feelings. In other words, they should be fully aware of the demands and aspirations of the masses as well as their peculiar national feeling, customs, tastes and habits, and should pro?duce works to suit them. If they create works without being aware of such elements they will produce a chilli-powdered rice-cake, not a honeyed rice-cake.

Some people say that Koreans like legitimate dramas, but do not care much for comedies. This is an expression of their ignorance. Koreans enjoy not only legitimate dramas but also humorous and satirical works.

The immortal classic revolutionary drama A Mountain Shrine cre?ated by the great leader himself during the anti-Japanese revolution?ary struggle, was very popular among the people at that time. This drama is just like a honeyed rice-cake.

The director plays an important role in increasing the influence of an art work as well as the writer. During the stage rehearsal a veteran director strives tirelessly to understand the minds of the actors who are portraying the characters and simultaneously to enter into the feelings of the people who will watch the work. A real director can read the emotion, psychology, tastes and even the breathing of the audience and is able to help the actors mould their acting to satisfy them. The same can be said of the Party workers who work with the people.

However, at the present time some Party workers talk with people or give lectures with no understanding of these matters, and so they often use empty words. Figuratively speaking, they work as if they were giving rice-cakes to people who feel thirsty and want water. If a baby cries, its mother considers whether it is crying for food or from pain or because it is sleepy or because of a wet nappy, before she puts her baby to her breast or treats its sickness or lets it sleep or changes its nappy.

At the present time some Party Workers are working in a slipshod manner without considering what the people think and what troubles them, just as a silly mother gives her breast to a baby which cries because it is sleepy. If the Party workers are to mobilize the people successfully in the revolution and construction work, they must see

into their minds and say at least one word to attract them. Only then can the people keep what the Party workers have said in their minds. The ability to motivate people is the ability to see into their minds. To know the people you must go among them and to know their minds you must see into their minds. There is a saying that 'o'the real test of a river is to cross it and the real test of a man is to share life with him, '\pm and there is another saying 'o'sitting together will make people intimate acquaintances \(\pm \nothersigma \). These sayings tell us that if you wish to understand the masses you must go among them and try to touch their minds, working with them to find a solution to the knotty prob?lems in their life and work.

By going deep into the masses and sharing their joy and pain one can understand their minds and find the key to the means to motivate people. If you fail to go out into the masses and stay in the office on the excuse of being busy, you will never understand what me masses think even after a hundred years.

If Party workers wish to enjoy privileges or special favours and assume an air of self-importance, the masses will not open their hearts even if the Party workers do go out into the masses. Party workers should acquire the habit of going into the masses and mixing with them, sharing their joy and pain.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle the great leader would distribute a single cup of parched-rice powder among soldiers during hungry times, and during the Fatherland Liberation War he shared the people 's joy and pain saying that when the people lived on foxtail millet he should also eat foxtail millet. The leader is always free and easy in his approach to people. When he goes to the country?side he talks with the farmers at the edge of the field under the scorching sun. He walks such long distance when he gives on-thespot guidance that his entourage has difficulty keeping up with him. When he paid a visit to a foreign country he talked energetically and tirelessly for three to four hours, so that the people of that country became anxious for his health and asked if he would take some rest, I was told. Having seen the image of the great leader working so ener?getically, the south Korean revolutionaries were moved to admiration, saying that they could not believe that he is nearly sixty. A patriarchal tendency has emerged among the creative workers and artists of the Korean Film Studio, influenced by old experience, custom and habits of dignity in and out of work, but the Party work?ers and senior officials fail to detect such a tendency and correct it.

If old experience, customs and some men's pride influence our work and life the new seeds may fail to germinate. Considering them?selves the best, some veteran artists oppress young artists unthinking?ly and try to force them into obedience. In other words, they are try?ing to bind people in the apprentice system of the old

society.

The Party workers of the film studio have become infected by this tendency instead of launching a campaign against it. Some Party cell and branch secretaries, too, play the role of patriarchs, copying the behaviour of veteran artists. Under the jurisdiction of such workers, any new bud, no matter how promising it may be, will wither before beginning to sprout. The patriarch method cannot unite artists nor can it encourage their talents to blossom.

I once said to the leader that I feel awkward at work because I am young and have little experience. At that time the leader advised me that carrying out the revolution does not depend on one sage, but on one sare revolutionary will and ability, that I should improve my ability with an iron will and not worry about my age, and that it is particular?ly important for me to know the masses of the people inside out. The leader said that the finest quality a revolutionary should acquire is the ability to understand the masses and motivate their strength and wis?dom and that he faced many difficulties when he set out on the road of revolution in his early days, but he was able to overcome the great?est of hardships by trusting in the masses and motivating their revolu?tionary enthusiasm.

At present, I take as an axiom in my work the leader. s teaching that the finest quality in a revolutionary is the ability to understand the masses and motivate their strength and wisdom. The more I think on this teaching, the more profound meaning I discover in it.

When the great leader set out on the road of revolution, many of the communists who were fighting for the restoration of the father?land were 10 or 15 years older than the leader, but they selected him, a young man, as the leader of the Korean revolution and held him in high esteem. I would have to explain many account for their selection of him as the leader and their high esteem for him but it was mainly because he had a particular ability to understand people more deeply than others and to move their minds.

During early days after setting out on the road of revolution, the leader was already convinced that popular feeling was the will of Heaven and that if there was an almighty being in the world, it was not god, but the masses of the people. With a firm faith that the mass?es are the greatest being and if they are awakened and mobilized in the revolutionary struggle there will be nothing they cannot do, the leader always went among the people and shared their joy and pain, seeking a way to touch their hearts and arouse them to the revolution?ary struggle. As a consequence, as a teenager he was already an expert in understanding people and moving their minds. It was natu?ral that everybody trusted him wholeheartedly and followed him, for he knew them through and through like an overcautious and sensitive mother, and could relieve their anxiety with a single word.

The leader was so well-informed that even the village elders respected and fol?lowed him a young teenager, addressing him as Teacher Kim Song Ju. If the masses are an almighty being, our leader is the sun of the masses, who personifies the hearts of the people. Our Party workers, who are the leader soldiers, must learn to follow his great example in mixing with the masses and sharing their joy and pain. Only then can they become real Party workers who can touch the people so hearts.

At present, the US imperialist moves to provoke war have made the situation in our country extremely tense. After their spy plane which had intruded into our air space was shot down by our self-defence steps, the US imperialists have begun threatening to 'retali?ate' ± against us, building up aggressive troop formations around the Korean peninsula on a large scale. But, no matter how terribly they may threaten us, they cannot surprise us. We issued a statement condemning the reckless US imperialist moves to provoke war and stating our unhesitating resolution to confront them. The terms of the statement we have recently issued are very strong. The leader taught that the statement and newspaper comment on this incident should criticize the US imperialists sharply, though this should be expressed gently. 'Return retaliation for 'Retaliation'.'! '± This is the resolute position which we can never concede in the struggle against the enemy. The current incident has made our officials, Party members and working people more clearly aware of the great?ness of our leader

Because we have the great leader, our country, a small and devel?oping country, can resolutely confront the US imperialists, the ringleaders of reactionaries in the world, with their large territory and developed economy and technology and deal a blow heavy enough to defeat them whenever they provoke us. In originating the immortal Juche idea, the leader clarified the truth that the most powerful being in the world is a people who are fully aware of their historical mis?sion and united as one and, on the basis of this truth he demonstrated the way in which the people of a small country can build a strong socialist state by carrying through the revolution on their own. Today our country is a shining example to the world of a dignified strong socialist state, independent, self-reliant and capable of self-defence, which nobody dare provoke. This 'model country of socialism  $\pm$  offers hope, faith and courage to the revolutionary people of the world, entirely because the leader is leading our revolution along the road of victory and glory.

When he was talking about the greatness of the leader a senior official once said that it was regrettable that our national territory was so small. It is not regrettable. Since we live under the leadership of the respected leader, the genius of revolution and legendary hero, our country and people have achieved worldwide fame as a great country and a great people, though our territory is not large.

There is no other man as great as our leader in the world. Howev?er, few of our officials are striving to learn from him and imitate the leader. s great personality in the work and style, even though they say that they will become the leader. s genuine revolutionary soldiers.

I, too, am often aware that I am poorly prepared to fulfil my duty as one of the leader. s soldiers. I am carrying out an honourable task assigned to me by the leader, the task of guiding artistic and literary work sincerely in order to bring about a revolution in these areas. I have been little concerned here with drama and dance, but a rev?olutionary change should take place in these sectors, too, in order to make a revolution in art and literature. I intend to make a strong case for the drama and dance sectors from now on.

The officials, creative workers and Party workers in particular, must take pride in participating in the revolution under the leadership of the great leader, and with this in mind, they must study and study to prepare themselves politically, practically and morally and make strenuous efforts to develop a personality befitting a genuine revolu?tionary soldier of the great leader.

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