

Recollecting a Great Statesman

Memory dims over time, as the saying goes. However, the Korean people are still yearning for their leader Kim Jong Il.

Affectionate and Optimistic

As a boy, he was tender-hearted and cheerful. He liked mingling with his friends and other people. As he was understanding, sensible and sympathetic, his friends opened their hearts to him. There prevailed a vigorous and cheerful mood wherever he was.

He liked listening to music or reading books.

In his school days he created good poems and songs like “Our Classroom”, “What is Friendship”, “Song of Best Wishes” and “My mother”.

He also had a flair for music. He once said his first love was music. By dint of his profound musical knowledge he led the sector of literature and the arts, thereby bringing about an upswing in opera, drama, cinema and music from the 1970s.

As for his expert-level guidance in the production of cinema, a Chinese journal commented: Chairman Kim Jong Il was well versed in cinema. While working at the Central Committee of the WPK, he rendered great services to the development of cinematic art.

Energetic and Passionate

Kim Jong Il’s old teacher in his primary schooldays commented;

“Kim Jong Il has a disposition only to progress like a swift current and without stagnation”.

“Kim Jong Il persists in everything he undertakes until he completes it.”

Upon undertaking anything, he concentrated on it without noticing what was going on around himself. One day he was so engrossed in reading a book that he was not aware of thunder cracking outdoors.

His broad knowledge was the fruition of his natural gift and tireless passion.

He read a mountain of books to formulate President Kim Il Sung’s revolutionary theories. Despite his hectic work schedule during the day, he used to spend the night giving guidance over the creation of literary and artistic works.

The speed campaign gained momentum in this country, a basic mode of creative endeavour for enlisting all forces and forging ahead projects as rapidly as possible, while ensuring their best possible quality. As a work style embodying Kim Jong Il’s creative method, it became a powerful driving force for the active promotion of socialist construction in the DPRK.

Compassionate and Virtuous

Chairman Kim Jong Il had a strong sense of moral obligation.

According to one of his childhood friends, he had a unique appeal of fascinating people at once. This was based on his unselfish affection and ennobling personality.

He always helped his friends with sincerity, especially when they or their family members had trouble. There are many episodes about his warm affection; giving his raincoat to one of his classmates on a rainy day and giving his new padded clothes to another in the post-war days.

For decades he showed close concern for his old teachers in his secondary school and university days, when the officials, who supported him with loyalty, passed away, he took paternal care of the bereaved families.

One needs to think over why Korean society is called a great harmonious family.

Song of General Kim Jong Il Still Resounds

Song of General Kim Jong Il portrays the life of Kim Jong Il (1942-2011), eternal chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who devoted his all for his country and fellow people.

Leader Kim Jong Il (Part 4), a biography of Kim Jong Il, which was published by the Pyongyang Publishing House, describes how the song was created:

The people's strong and absolute trust in and respect for General Kim Jong Il was as hot as molten volcano. At last, the volcano burst into eruption; *Song of General Kim Jong Il*, the revolutionary song of the era, was born. Reflecting the reality, newspapers such as *Rodong Sinmun*, dated April 9, 1997, and other mass media gave wide publicity to the immortal revolutionary song.

In December 1998, the 46th regular concert performed by the Seoul Symphony Orchestra was held in a concert hall in New York. At the concert, in which some American instrumentalists were also seen, *Song of General Kim Jong Il* was performed, drawing great interest of the world.

The song reflects the whole life of Kim Jong Il, devoted for the wellbeing of his fellow people. The words, *All blossoms on this earth, tell of his live, broad and warm; blue East and West Seas sing, his exploits in their song; he is the artist of great joy, glorifying the garden of Juche*, describe his ardent love for the people and his great exploits in laying everlasting foundations for building a powerful nation throughout his life. The legendary anecdotes about his continuous field guidance for the people—taking a nap, eating rice-balls, having a haircut during field guidance, parka he wore during field guidance trips and the forced march in the hottest days—are reflected in every word and tune of the song.

The words, *Socialist cause he defends, with iron will and courage; he raises national honour, far and wide throughout the world*, portray the courage, mettle, faith and will of the champion of justice, who defended the destiny of his country and the people from the worst-ever trials and demonstrated the dignity of the nation to the whole world.

Having declared, "Don't expect any change from me," he resolutely smashed every challenge by the hostile forces, and continuously inspected the army units, sharing joy and sorrow, weal and woe with the soldiers. Thanks to his love and devoted efforts, the DPRK demonstrated its might as a military power and politico-ideological power in which all the people are united single-heartedly and which remains unperturbed in the face of any trials and difficulties.

When the world was apprehensive of the country's future after his demise in December 2011, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un roused all the people with this song. On the day when the last farewell ceremony was held, *Song of General Kim Jong Il* reverberated solemnly on the 40km-long route followed by the hearse, during the national memorial service in Pyongyang and in all other parts of the country, emphasizing that Kim Jong Il, as their spiritual mainstay, will always be with the Korean people along with this song.

As Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is brilliantly accomplishing the cause of immortalizing the national leaders, Kim Jong Il will live for ever in the hearts of the Korean people and the progressive humankind of the world.