

In-sun Park's life story summarized

Her birthdate is not precisely known, but is between 1945 and 1946. She does not recognize the word 'Korean War.' She has a memory when her father carried her on his back before abandoning her at a riverbank, which seems to be her first memory. Presumably the father left his daughter while taking refuge from the war. Next memory is at Seoul Station, yet how she got there is undiscovered. Starved, she wandered about begging and selling scrap metal to make a bare living. One day she fainted from hunger on a street, and when she woke up people were burying her underground, surprised by her recovery. Then one buddhist brought her to a temple, where she did all kinds of chores and attended early morning prayer. She eventually ran away, since nobody fed her despite all her labor. Then she got back to Seoul Station, and how she got there is again a mystery. People were living in a big red brick warehouse. She remembers some immoral men conducting sexual violence against her, how blood ran down her legs, how her shoes were all soaked with the blood, and also the sympathetic stares of elder women. As a matter of fact, the time order is not clear between the events in the temple and the rape at the Seoul Station. Around that time, she once hit her head on a running jeep and almost got killed. She survived, despite not being able to get any treatments. She then followed a warm-hearted woman who said she would buy her some noodles, only to end up at an agency near the station. In-sun is still chagrined that three bowls were not enough. The agency sold her to an prostitute quarter in Yang-dong, but shortly the quarter was raided. As a result In-sun entered a reformatory in Bulgwang-dong, where they did not feed children with water so she had to drink from wet mops. Also In-sun remembers the director of the reformatory calling out children at night to rape them. The brave In-sun managed to escape the facility, and stole some clothes from a laundry in the neighborhood. She again got back to the Seoul Station, where she was sold to another Kiji-chon in Yongju-gol, Paju. There she met the pimp who she called 'mother.' First In-sun worked as a messenger for Yangseksi[Yankee whore] and as a tout in alleys to draw soldiers, chanting "I have seksi," then she asked the pimp to let her prostitute herself, lured by good-looking dresses and cosmetics. Eventually she became a Yangseksi, but since the pimp fed her with pollack stew every single day, till now she gnashes her teeth even at the thought of pollack. One day, the U.S. military camp in Yongju-gol vanished. Considering the fact that it was the time of Nixon Doctrine, when the U.S. military camps in northern Gyeonggi-do massively shifted their locations or were downsized, the division which was stationed at Yongju-gol must have returned to their homeland. After that, In-sun followed her mother – the pimp – to the Ppaet-beol in Uijeongbu. Referring to her resident registration, which we managed to get a copy recently, the event happened in 1970. ©PARK