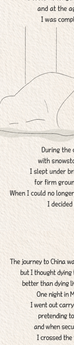
Heavenly Dream Prayer Letter

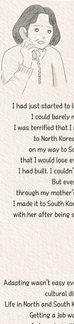
After losing my father at a very young age,
my mother defected to China alone.
When my grandmother and grandfather
also passed away,
I moved back and forth between
my uncle's and aunt's houses.
As I got older,
I could no longer stay with them,
and at the age of twenty,
I was completely alone.



During the cold winter,
with snowstorms raging,
I slept under bridges or looked
for firm ground to sleep on.
When I could no longer find a way to survive,
I decided to defect.

The journey to China was scary and dangerous,
but I thought dying trying to escape was
better than dying living in North Korea.
One night in March, at 11PM,
I went out carrying two buckets,
pretending to fetch water,
and when security was loose,
I crossed the freezing river.

Most North Korean defectors head to
China in order to survive,
but life in China was full of despair.
As an illegal immigrant,
I was constantly in hiding, anxious,
as I would be repatriated back to
North Korea if caught.

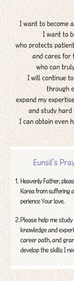


Fortunately, my mother's uncle was working
as a doctor in China,
so I was relatively safe
from exploitation and crackdowns.
Still, labor in China was not easy.
I wasn't paid fairly, and I couldn't dream of
basic rights such as education or medical care.
Everyday I lived in anxiety, isolated in society.

One day, a relative in China was able to
contact my mother,
who had gone to South Korea.
That was when my mother found out
that I had made it to China.
She urged me to come to South Korea,
but having lived in constant fear,
I couldn't even trust my own mother
and remained suspicious,
afraid of being scammed.

I had just started to learn Chinese and felt
I could barely manage to live.
I was terrified that I might be repatriated
to North Korea or scammed
on my way to South Korea, and
that I would lose even this fragile life
I had built. I couldn't bring myself to it.
But eventually,
through my mother's persistent efforts,
I made it to South Korea and was reunited
with her after being separated for so long.

Adapting wasn't easy even in South Korea due to
cultural differences.
Life in North and South Korea is vastly different.
Getting a job was also difficult.
I struggled with the language,
lacked any professional skills,
and didn't understand Korean society.
I ended up working low-wage labor jobs
just to get by.



Having difficulty finding the job I wanted,
and I barely managed to make a living.
Mentally, I suffered from depression
and anxiety due to the trauma of defection.
I missed my hometown and
was sometimes overwhelmed
with resentment and confusion.

I received socialist education in North Korea,
but dropped out due to living circumstances.
As I wandered, unable to get a job,
I realized how important education was.
I was too old to attend a regular school.
I learned about Heavenly Dream School
through an acquaintance,
and now I am studying here.
I'm grateful to this school for giving me
another chance to study.
Heavenly Dream School is
a stepping stone and
a support system that helps
North Korean defectors adjust
to South Korean society.
Although it's not easy to
study again after a long time,
I am determined to study hard
and settle well in South Korea.

I want to become a nursing assistant.
I want to be someone
who protects patients' health and safety
and cares for them someone
who can truly help others.
I will continue to gain knowledge
through education,
expand my expertise in the medical field,
and study hard so that one day
I can obtain even higher qualifications.

Eunsil's Prayer Requests

1. Heavenly Father, please lead all those in North Korea from suffering and oppression and experience Your love.

2. Please help me study hard in school, gain the knowledge and experience necessary for my career path, and grant me the wisdom to develop the skills I need.