

Divided we Koreans stand

Koreans have always been team players, whether they like it or not.

With perils coming from every direction, Koreans have come to take unity as a survival strategy, while division is the ticket to perdition.

Japanese colonial education during its 36-year occupation brainwashed them, constantly **hammering** home the message: Koreans are born to be divisive and are fated not to live independently.

The inter-Korean division between the capitalist South and the "communist" North that has continued after the 1950-53 Korean War until now is also thrown in for good measure into the mix that reinforces this totalitarian psychology.

As a result, Koreans are alarmed at the first sign of division, worrying that it could possibly lead to the collapse of their nation. In this environment, conformity is the rule; with a challenge at it being an exception that can't be tolerated.

One such case recently took place when ex-President Park Geun-hye said, "The truth will come to light," upon returning to her private residence, Sunday, after the Constitutional Court stripped her of the presidency in its impeachment ruling.

Park came under fire for disputing the ruling and had to clarify through her aide that she had accepted it.

Another case is about presidential candidates being called upon to send a message of unity to heal the national division after months of demonstrations for and against the impeached head of state.

Moon Jae-in, a liberal frontrunner who is seen as a shoo-in, if the presidential election was held today, held a press conference to do exactly that. Others are following.

If the beauty of democracy is diversity and tolerance, then why should everybody adhere to the one-size-fits-all rule of conformity or risk being ostracized?

True, it is pitiful that Park failed to understand the magnitude of her crimes against the nation — sharing the presidential mandate with her friend and promoting their interests ahead of the people.

But shouldn't she have the right to disagree with the accusations and verdict as much as we call her the B-word?

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Summary

: It is about the people who criticize the fact that our country, which achieved liberal democracy. But, before you criticize your opponent, you must first look back at yourself and reflect.

My opinion

: I feel little regrettable that minority's opinions are focused on social problem rather than the effort of majorities profit. So they improve their profit and they hardly listen carefully others opinion. But, like this column's last part, I was able to look at myself.

최선혜: I agree with the plot. I think it is right to look at myself rather than see the other's weak points.

송승연: I sometimes criticize people with prejudice. I have to think twice before criticizing the other people.

안자은: It's amazing that things which I thought lately came out of column.

* key words : hammer 명심사이다.