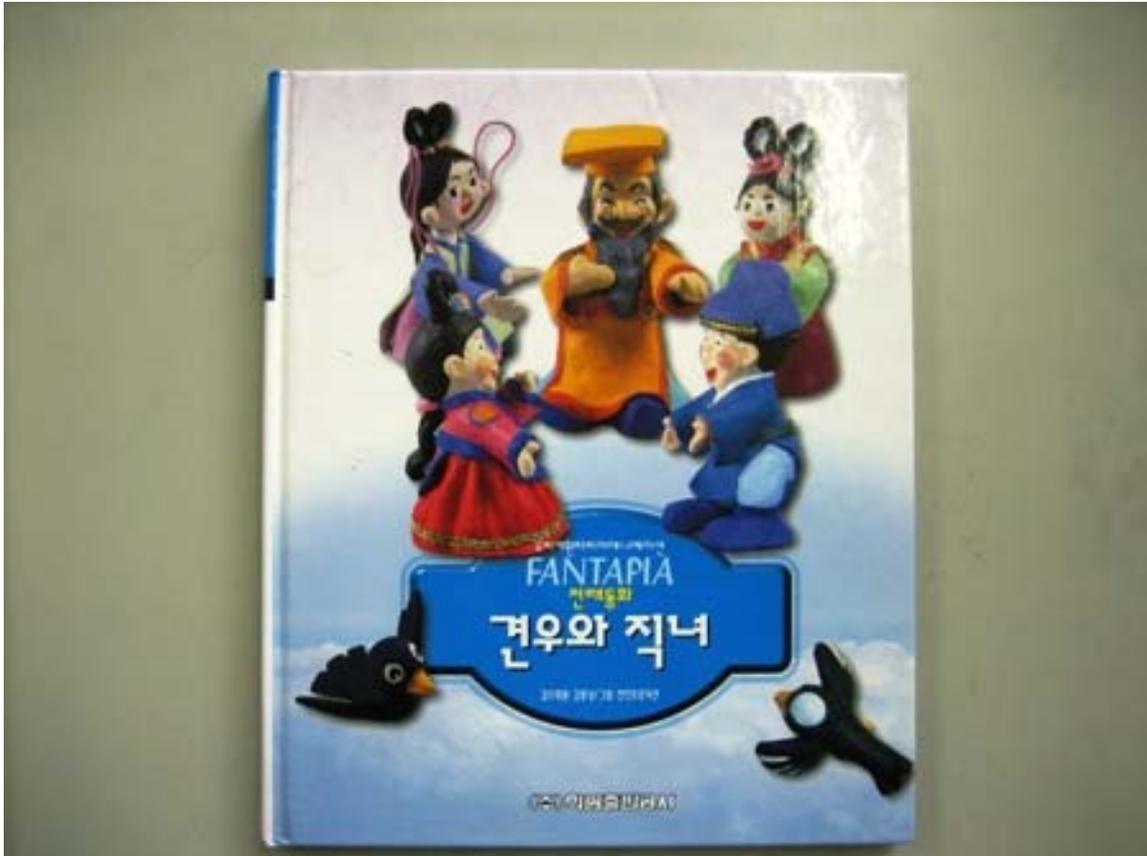


Chilseok



Adapted from
the Korean book *Gyeonwu and Jiknyeo*
by Sakuramoto Elementary School
Kawasaki, Japan

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Chilseok

A play by the second-graders of Sakuramoto Elementary School,
Kawasaki, Japan

Narrator 1: Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was living in a big country in the sky.

Narrator 2: The princess was very good at weaving, so she was called Orihime (weaver princess).

Narrator 3: The king thought he should find someone suitable for Orihime to marry, so he went to a neighboring country to look for someone.

Narrator 4: He found a prince who was a hard worker and good at taking care of cattle.

The prince takes care of cattle. The cattle look very pleasant.

Narrator 5: Orihime and Kengyuu (the herdsman) got married and became a lovely couple.

Narrator 6: However, the two got along so well that they did nothing but play all the time.

Narrator 7: Orihime's loom became covered with dust.

Narrator 8: The cattle pen also became filthy since Kengyuu did not clean.

Cattle 1&2: Moo moo, please clean the pen.

Cattle 3: I am hungry. Moo.

Narrator 9: Kengyuu neglected the cattle crying from hunger.

King: Stop playing and work.

Queen: Orihime, weave as hard as you can in the country to the east of the Milky Way.

King: Kengyuu, take care of cattle in the country to the west of the Milky Way.

Queen: I will allow you to meet at the Milky Way once a year on July 7th.

Narrator 11: The separated couple was very sad.

Narrator 12: They worked hard, always looking forward to July 7th.

Narrator 13: The long-awaited July 7th came.

Narrator 14: They hurried to the Milky Way.

Narrator 15: When they found each other across the Milky Way, they shouted

Kengyuu: Orihime

Orihime: Kengyuu

Narrator 15: loudly.

Narrator 16: However, there was the very wide Milky Way between them, so they could not cross it.

Narrator 17: Big drops of tears trickled down from their eyes.

Narrator 18: In a country on the earth...

Narrator 19: The clear blue sky became dark and started to rain heavily.

Narrator 20: Houses, rice fields, farms, animals, and even people floated into the waters.

Narrator 21: The couple's tears became a heavy rain that poured on the earth.

Narrator 22: People on the earth worried:

People on the earth 1: The sky must have broken.

People on the earth 2: It's a curse. We all are going to die if it stays like this.

Everyone: What are we going to do? We are in a bad situation.

Each group says it in a different time.

Narrator 23: A princess on the earth did not know what to do, so she asked a fortune-teller for help.

Narrator 24: She understood the reason for the heavy rain, so she gathered her followers and said:

Princess on the earth: Everyone, do you have any good ideas to help this situation?

Follower 1: In our country, we have *kachi* (magpies in Korean).

Follower 2: How about sending the *kachi* to fly and build a bridge?

Follower 3: That's a good idea.

Narrator 25: So the princess asked the head of the *kachi*.

The head of *kachi*: O.K. Leave this to us. We will go to the Milky Way now to become a bridge.

Narrator 26: The *kachi* of the whole country took off all together.

Narrator 27: Then what happened? A marvelous *kachi* bridge was created in the Milky Way.

Narrator 28: Kengyuu and Orihime were surprised and very happy.

Narrator 29: Kengyuu crossed over the birds' heads saying thanks to each *kachi*.

Kengyuu and Orihime: Thank you.

Orihime: Kengyuu.

Kengyuu: Orihime.

Narrator 30: The rain stopped completely on the earth and the sky started to clear up.

Narrator 31: This is why you cannot see even one *kachi* on July 7th.

Narrator 32: It is said that because Kengyuu walked on top of the *kachi*'s heads, their heads became white.

Narrator 33: It is said that the reason it rains on July 7th is that the two shed tears of happiness when they meet.

Narrator 34: It is said that the rain on the next day comes from their tears of sadness when they have to part from each other.

The End