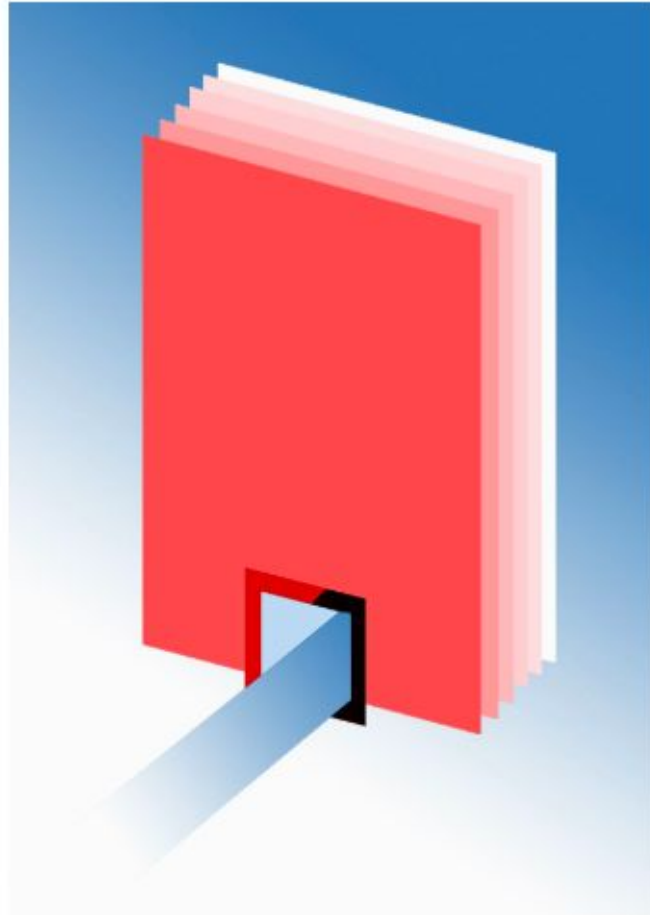


aug 2019

# chogwa

issue 1



Last month, I was bound to fly from ICN to SFO with two decidedly overweight bags. The counter person, seeing me at myself, only charged me for one. My excess weight: lifted.\*

I want to do the same for you. To accept what's extra. To let it slide for once.

Bring us that little flourish you want everyone at the workshop to comment on. Like you're trying on a new perfume or the slightest but flattering fade. We're all about the single earring that you keep in your pocket, just in case. What you didn't have to say but said anyway.

And speaking of baggage, *Jibi aniya Jimiya*. Sorry not sorry about this line. Jin Eun-Young, noted poet-philosopher, said that! This poem comes from her first collection published in 2003. While an English translation of this poem had not yet been published, her first full collection in English, *We, Day by Day* (translated by Daniel T. Parker and YoungShil Ji) came out in 2018. Which means you can read more about Jin's work in [Words Without Borders](#), [Korean Literature Now](#), and the [Poetry Foundation](#).

Korean translators know that the real *jim* is having to consider what would \*best\* represent the experience and nuances of this poem to another culture in another language. Jim, the anxiety of representation.

Instead of competing for a single spot in this capitalist hellscape, we're going to share the *jim* this issue by featuring all ten translations!

I can answer the question of **why did I choose this poem** by listing my top five curiosities and how the ten translators approached each one.

1. **The title.** Yes, the dictionary definition is “snail.” But *dalpaengi* (snail) and *dal* (moon) appear to be related concepts in this poem. Then you realize a snail's shell does look a bit like the moon and consider the *paengi* (top, as in the spinning kind) part, but “moon-top” doesn't make much sense. Hoyoung Moon's title “Moon Whorl” gets at the spinning motion, though they revert to “snail” in the body of the poem. Emily Yae Won's

take: “Have you noticed how a snail on a leaf / has the spiral moon forever rising behind it?” Nonetheless, nine out of ten translators went with “Snail,” likely because the *dal/paengi* image isn’t reinvoked. I think “Moon Slug” sounds nice and slimy...!

2. **Jibi aniya Jimiya (line 5).** [Subject] is not (a) house [Subject] is (a) burden/baggage/load. Some translators recreated the sonic similarity of *jib* and *jim* (e.g., Siyon Kim’s startling yet understandable “home” and “han”). The lack of punctuation opens up the choice to treat the line as two independent clauses through capitalization or to combine into a run-on.
3. **Dongsaeng (line 8)** is a gender-neutral term for “younger sibling.” Some translators guessed the gender, some didn’t.
4. **Die = pass away = return to the earth (line 9).** No one picked the last one, which is both “literal” and specific to traditional Korean beliefs about death. This line is strangely coupled with the next one about wanting Mother to leave the house, or go out. They can be addressed in different ways; compare Jaewon Che’s

“I’d like Father to have passed away” with Anton Hur’s “Father, I wish you’d die.”

5. **Who’s going to the moon, exactly? (line 14).** Is it “we” (Dasom Yang, Emily, Archana Madhavan), “you” (Siyon Kim, Matte Luncheon), “I” (Emily Yae Won), “one” (Hoyoung Moon), possibly “the sun” (grace hs.p)? Or is it something else entirely? Also, the new voice is only italicized by Emily Yae Won.
6. **How [adverb] am I rising? (line 18).** “gently,” “placidly,” “so serenely,” “stilly,” “with poise,” “in peace” are some options. I want to add that overall, Jin’s use of language is quite leveled.

Some major STUNTS were pulled across the ten translations. My question is, *Was it worth the risk?* And when someone makes a noticeable compromise, I want to ask, *What were you afraid of?*

**Intentionality:** Dasom Yang’s “I’ll have to kill you” x Hoyoung Moon’s “you keep dying”!!!

**Tone:** Emily Yae Won’s “saddled” x Matte Luncheon’s “Kiddo.”

**Punctuation:** grace hs.p’s “please don’t show up; you keep dying dad” x Emily’s “please don’t appear. I kill Father often.” Also, capitalization or lack thereof.

**Sounds:** Siyon Kim’s “home... han” (alliteration) x Archana Madhavan’s “home... load” (four letters, o sound). Archana’s “crimson with *your* blood” adds a personal touch.

**Length:** Jaewon Che’s expansive em dashes x Anton Hur’s minimalism (e.g., eliminated adverb in the final line). Sometimes, the placement *is* the read.

Tag us @chogwazine with your thoughts.

Best,  
So J. Lee

\* If only this happened. I’m the fool who paid the full fee. But it would’ve been nice!

*Each issue, chogwa zine invites an artist to interpret the poem into a cover image.*

### Artist’s Statement from [Kahn J. Ryu](#)

The cover for the inaugural publication of Chogwa is inspired by the title and subject of the poem in translation: snail.

The minimalistic and mobile lifestyle of snail is counterbalanced by a sticky trail dutifully shadowing its slow movement. Here, excess intimates a kind of transcendence that can be found in lasting absences.

To reflect several lines in the poem about the house and the moon, I created a mild red-blue color contrast between a series of parallelograms and the background.

With sincere congratulation on the zine’s launch, I wish every devotee of translation literature a cherishable read.

## 달팽이 / 진은영

집을 등에 이고 사는 것들은  
모두 달로 가야 한다  
나뭇잎 위에 앉아 있는 달팽이를 본 적이 있는가  
배경으로 언제나 달이 뜬다  
집이 아니야 짐이야  
그 짐 속에는 아버지가 주무시고  
어머니가 손톱을 깎으신다  
동생은 수학 문제를 풀고  
아버지 돌아가셨으면 좋겠어요  
어머니 외출하셨으면 좋겠어요  
꿈속에서 나는 자주 아버지를 총으로 쏘 죽었다  
제발 나타나지 마세요 아버지 자꾸 죽어요  
내 집이 피로 붉어요  
얘야 노을이 저야 달로 간다  
나는 너에게 가르쳐주고 싶다  
달이 창백한 건 일찍 나왔기 때문이 아니야  
달은 출혈의 산물이야  
내가 얼마나 피 흘리고서야 잔잔히 떠오르겠습니까

「일곱 개의 단어로 된 사전」中 (2003, 문학과지성사)

## Dalpaengi / Jin Eun-Young

Jibeul deunge igo saneun geotdeureun  
modu dallo gaya handa  
Namusip wie anja inneun dalpaengireul bon jeogi inneunga  
Baegyeongeuro eonjena dari tteunda  
Jibi aniya Jimiya  
Geu jim sogeneun abeojiga jumusigo  
eomeoniga sontobeul kkakkeusinda  
Dongsaengeun suhak munjereul pulgo  
Abeoji doragasyeosseumyeon jokesseoyo  
Eomeoni oechulhasyoesseumyeon jokesseoyo  
Kkumsogeseo naneun jaju abeojireul chongeuro sswa jugeotda  
Jebal natanaji maseyo Abeoji jakku jugeoyo  
Nae jibi piro bulgeoyo  
Yaeya noeuri jyeoya dallo ganda  
Naneun neoege gareuchyeojugo sipda  
Dari changbaekan geon iljjik nawatgi ttaemuni aniya  
Dareun chulhyeorui sanmuriya  
Naega eolmana pi heulligoseoya janjanhi tteoreugetseumnikka

from *Ilgop gaeni daneoro doen sajeon* (2003, Moonji Books)

## Snail

tr. Dasom Yang

All living things that carry houses on their backs  
Need to go to the moon  
Have you ever seen a snail on a leaf  
The moon always rises in its background  
It's not a home it's a punishment  
In which my father sleeps  
and my mother clips her nails  
And my sister works on her math homework  
Father, I wish you would die  
Mother, I wish you would leave  
In my dreams I often shot my father to death  
Please stop showing up father I'll have to kill you  
I'll have to wet my house with blood  
My dear the sun has to set so we can go to the moon  
I want to teach you—the moon  
Isn't pale because it rose early  
It is pale because it's bled itself out  
How much more blood do I need to lose  
In order to rise with poise, into abandon

from *The Dictionary Made Of Seven Words*

## Moon Whorl

tr. Hoyoung Moon

All those that live carrying home on their backs  
must go to the moon  
Have you seen a snail sitting on a leaf  
In the background always the moon is rising  
Not home but haul  
in which father sleeps  
and mother clips fingernails  
Younger sibling solves math problems and  
Father I would like you to pass away  
Mother I would like you to go on an outing  
In dreams I often shot father to death  
Please don't appear father you keep dying  
My home is crimson with blood  
Child the sun must sink before one can go to the moon  
I want to teach you  
The moon is pale not because it came out early  
The moon is the product of hemorrhage  
  
How much must I bleed to rise, rippling

from *A Dictionary Composed of Seven Words*

## Snail

tr. Emily Yae Won

Creatures saddled with home  
should be destined for the moon  
Have you noticed how a snail on a leaf  
has the spiral moon forever rising behind it?

*It's not a home it's a burden*

in which father sleeps  
mother trims her nails  
sister works out equations

Father I wish you'd die

Mother I wish you'd go out

The times I shot him dead -

Stay out of my dreams, Father  
you keep dying, leaking blood  
to stain my home

*Child, don't you know the red sun must set  
before I go moonward*

*I'll teach you not to mistake the moon's pallor for prematurity  
remember: she is the product of bloodshed*

How much blood must I spill before you rise up

from *A Dictionary of Seven Words*

## Snail

tr. Matte Luncheon

Things that live with a house on their back  
should all go to the moon

Ever seen a snail sitting on a leaf?

There's always a moon in the backdrop

The house is not a house but a burden

Inside that burden, Father sleeps

Mother clips her nails

and Little Brother solves math problems

I wish Father would die

I wish Mother would go out

In my dreams, I often shoot Father dead

Please don't come in my dreams Father, you keep dying

My house is red with blood

You can go to the moon only after sundown, kiddo

Let me tell you something:

The moon isn't pale because it rose early  
but because it bled out

How much do I have to bleed before I gently rise

from *A Seven-Word Dictionary*

## Snail

tr. grace hs.p

Things that go through life bearing their homes on their backs  
must all go to the moon

Have you ever seen a snail perched on a leaf

The moon is always floating in the backdrop

It's not a home, it's baggage

And inside that baggage my father sleeps

while my mother clips her nails

and my kid sibling solves math problems

I wish my dad would die

I wish my mom would go out

In dreams I would often gun my father down dead

I'm begging you please don't show up; you keep dying dad

My home is red with blood

The sun must set to go to the moon, dear

I want to tell you something

The moon's pallor isn't because it's out early,

but is the consequence of blood loss

How much blood must I shed to rise so serenely

from *Seven-Word Dictionary*

## Snail

tr. Emily

all things that carry their homes on their backs  
must go to the moon

have you ever seen a snail sitting on a leaf?

a moon always rises in the background

it's not a house, but rather a burden

inside that burden, Father is sleeping

and Mother is clipping her fingernails

and Sister is solving math problems

I wish Father would die

I wish Mother would go out

I shoot and kill Father often in my dreams

please don't appear. I kill Father often

my house is red with blood

darling, we go to the moon only when the sun sets

I want to teach you

that the moon is not pale because it's early

but because it's the fruit of a hemorrhage

how much must I bleed before it placidly rises?

from *A Seven-Word Dictionary*



**Snail**  
**tr. Siyon Kim**

Those who live with a home on their backs  
must all head to the moon  
Have you ever seen a snail perched on a leaf?  
The moon always rises in the background  
It is not a home, it is han  
Inside the han, Father sleeps  
Mother clips her nails  
& Sister solves a math question  
Father I wish you would pass away  
Mother I wish you would go outside  
In my dream, I often killed Father with a gunshot  
Please do not appear Father you keep dying  
My home is red with blood  
Child, the evening glow should pass for you to head to the moon  
I want to teach you  
The moon is pale not because it came out prematurely  
The moon is the fruit of its bleeding

How much shall I bleed until I rise up stilly

from *A Dictionary Made Up of Seven Words*

**Snail**  
**tr. Archana Madhavan**

Creatures that carry their homes on their backs  
all need to go to the moon  
For if you've ever seen a snail sitting atop a leaf  
A moon always hangs in the sky behind it  
Not a home, but a load  
Within which Father slumbers  
Mother trims her fingernails  
And my sibling solves math problems  
I wish you would die, Father  
I wish you would go outside, Mother  
In my dreams, I often kill Father with a gun  
Please don't show up, Father, you always die  
And my home is crimson with your blood  
The sun must set before we go to the moon, my child  
I want to tell you this:  
The moon is not pale because it is rose early  
It is what remains after the bleeding ceases

How much blood must I have shed for it to have gently emerged

from *A Dictionary With Seven Words*

**A Snail**  
tr. Jaewon Che

All that carries on, with a house mounted on its back,  
shall rise to the moon  
Have you ever seen a snail atop a leaf? No exceptions—  
as a backdrop floats the moon  
What it is—is a mountain not a house  
In that squashing heap, Father sleeps  
and Mother clips her nails  
Sister flips through math problems  
I'd like Father to have passed away  
I'd like Mother to have walked away  
In my dreams I often shot Father to death and—  
died: Please Father, do not appear in my dreams and—  
keep dying;  
my house is aflame in lurid blood  
My child, the sun has to flame away  
before the moon is given its way  
I would like to tell you this:  
The moon hasn't paled because it came out  
early, the moon is a sun that has bled out  
How much blood shall I have to shed before we rise, in peace

from *A Dictionary of Seven Words*

**The Snail**  
tr. Anton Hur

Any creature that carries its home  
goes to the moon  
Ever seen a snail on a leaf  
A moon rising behind it  
Not a house but a burden  
Father sleeps inside  
Mother cuts her fingernails  
Little sister does her math  
Father, I wish you'd die  
Mother, I wish you'd leave  
I kept shooting my father in my dreams  
Father, be gone from them, you keep dying  
My house reddens with blood  
But child, the sunset must precede the moon  
I want you to learn  
The moon is pale not because it rose early  
The moon is because of hemorrhaging  
How much must I bleed before I rise

from *Dictionary of Seven Words*

