



KIM JONG UN APHORISMS

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)**



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CONTENTS

1. Motherland and Nation	1
2. Leader, Party and Masses	4
3. Ideology and Theory	9
4. Politics and Military Affairs	12
5. The Economy, and Science and Technology	16
6. Education, Public Health, Art and Literature and Physical Culture	22
7. Youth, Schoolchildren and Future	26
8. Trust and Affection, Man and Life	29

1. Motherland and Nation

“Where there is the motherland, there are our Party, our government, our socialist system and the happy life of our people.”

“Our motherland is a genuine country of the people, a country of national independence.”

“Patriotism can be likened to a gemstone.”

“People with the hearts of patriotism can make a great success.”

“Patriotism finds its highest expression in fostering the might of one’s country for the sake of its prosperity.”

“In answering the call of the country, one should not use mere words, but devote one’s whole being to translating it into practice; this is the proper stance of a patriot.”

“It is patriotism to value and love one’s motherland, where one was born and grew up, as one would do one’s own flesh.”

“One’s patriotism sprouts and grows at one’s dear native home where one took the first step with the help of one’s mother.”

“Those who do not feel any affection for their parents, spouses and children or for their homes, villages and workplaces cannot love their country and fellow people; they can never become genuine patriots.”

“It is patriotism to hold dear every blade of grass, every tree and every pebble in the country and devote one’s heart and soul to looking after them.”

“While planting and tending even a single tree by oneself, one’s patriotic feeling and the determination to protect it develop.”

“Attachment to one’s job is just patriotism.”

“A life dedicated to national defence is the most worthwhile, patriotic life.”

“Holding dear and adding brilliance to our own things is the genuine patriotism.”

“Selling the prestige of one’s country and nation is a treachery.”

“The ambition to beat the world has its roots in patriotism.”

“We must do everything so that the coming generations can enjoy the benefits, even though we may not enjoy them in our lifetime—this is genuine patriotism.”

“The longer the history of a nation is, the more brilliantly it shines, and the better historical sites and relics are preserved in their original state, the more valuable they become.”

“History cannot be revised, hidden and invented.”

2. Leader, Party and Masses

“A great leader brings up a great people.”

“The destiny of the country and people is defended and guaranteed only by their leader.”

“A revolutionary party is the powerful political weapon for guaranteeing a revolutionary cause—its beginning, progress and victory.”

“The supreme principle of our Party in its activities is to make the people lead a happy life envying nothing in the world.”

“Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!”

“Ours is a party that wages the revolution and that struggles for the coming generations, for the future.”

“The steel-strong unity and cohesion with the

leader at the centre is the lifeblood of the Party, source of its invincible might and firm guarantee for victory in the revolution.”

“A party without mass foundation is no better than a candle before the wind.”

“If a party loses the support and trust of the masses, it will become unable to maintain its own existence.”

“When the people listen to the Party’s intentions, the Party must listen to their opinions.”

“The voice of a mother is heard only in a family, but the voice of the Party reverberates throughout the country.”

“Abuse of power, bureaucratism and corruption that are revealed in a ruling party are a dangerous poison that may lead it to become a party of aristocrats and bureaucrats.”

“If abuse of power and bureaucratism are

tolerated in a party, it gives rise to high-handedness, arbitrariness and increased prevalence of corruption, from which sprout anti-party practices.”

“When they abuse their power and work in a bureaucratic manner, officials will impair the Party’s authority and the prestige of socialism, which will end up leading the revolution and construction to ruin.”

“Party work cannot be conducted by means of a formula or a uniform solution.”

“The best method of turning misfortune into blessing and adversity into prosperity should be found in the simple opinions of the people.”

“The Party and the country exist because the people exist.”

“The masses are the grass-roots foothold the Party relies on and the eternal companions with whom our Party should share the destiny until final

victory will have been won in the revolution.”

“The people do not exist for the sake of officials, but officials exist for the sake of the people.”

“There cannot be satisfaction in the work for the people.”

“What people say good is good.”

“The people’s demands and interests are the criteria for all undertakings.”

“The fairest judge is the people.”

“Our single-hearted unity, formed by the leader, the Party and the masses with a great ideology and warm feelings and affection, is the greatest wealth and cannot be compared to millions of tons of gold.”

“Single-hearted unity that is separated from the public sentiment is inconceivable.”

“Our single-hearted unity is a harmonious whole in which the leader, the army and the people are linked with one bloodline.”

“The single-hearted unity constitutes the cornerstone of our style of socialism.”

“The single-hearted unity of the army and people around the Party is our strongest weapon and a powerful propellant for building a thriving socialist country.”

“The strength fostered by the truth is inexhaustible.”

3. Ideology and Theory

“The bloodline of the revolution is defended and the revolution advances on the strength of ideology.”

“Socialism emerges victorious if it holds fast to its ideology, and if it does not, it collapses.”

“The might of socialism is, in essence, the ideological might.”

“The most powerful weapon for a party that is waging a revolution—in fact its one and only weapon—is ideology.”

“Arms fully charged with ideology and morality always win victory.”

“Even an egg, when charged with ideology, can break a rock.”

“There is a limit to one’s physical strength, but

no limit to one's spiritual strength.”

“Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is, in essence, the people-first doctrine.”

“The Juche idea is the most reasonable and universal revolutionary ideology which all those who aspire after independence can readily empathize with and accept as their own.”

“The Juche idea is an encyclopaedic revolutionary ideology representing the entire history of implementing the cause of independence of the masses and a great ideology guiding mankind to the future.”

“The collectivist spirit is an important ideological and spiritual quality for revolutionaries.”

“The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance is the traditional spirit of struggle for our people and a powerful weapon that gives an impetus to the revolution and construction.”

“Looking upon others for their help leads to nowhere.”

“People lacking in the spirit of living by their own efforts may become sycophants and a ruined nation before they realize it.”

“The mother of miracles is the increased spiritual strength of the masses.”

“The unquenchable spiritual strength of the masses is the fundamental source of miracles and a guarantee for victory.”

“When the spiritual strength of the masses is enlisted, they are capable of moving a mountain and filling up a sea.”

“A person’s ideology is expressed in practice and its outcome, rather than in revolutionary rhetoric or pledges.”

4. Politics and Military Affairs

“Politics is a decisive factor on which the destiny of the masses and the rise and fall of the country and nation depend.”

“Ideas and ideals are translated into practice by politics.”

“Military affairs are inconceivable separated from politics.”

“Our Party’s benevolent politics, all-embracing politics, is politics based on affection for and trust in the people, which embraces all of them without discrimination and looks after them as a mother would do her children.”

“Our Party’s politics is one of respecting and loving the people.”

“Strengthening the defence capability is the

most important of all state affairs, and the country's dignity, the people's happiness and peace depend on powerful arms."

"Great military strength makes it possible to defend the country and guarantees the happiness of the generations to come."

"If one is powerless, one will be reduced to a bargaining chip of powerful ones however honest-minded and just one may be, and one's precious history defended at the cost of blood will lose its brilliance in an instant."

"Nothing is more precious than peace, but it is not something that can be achieved if one simply craves or begs for it."

"When arms waver, they cannot maintain the Party nor defend the socialist government and system."

"The military might of a country represents its national strength; it is only by building up its

military might in all aspects that it can develop into a thriving country and defend the security and happiness of its people.”

“Armed forces are symbolic of the strength of a nation.”

“War is a showdown of ideology and faith before being a showdown of strength.”

“If an army is dazzled by money, its country goes to ruin.”

“Modern warfare is a war of brains, a war of intelligence.”

“Peacetime separated from wartime can never exist for a soldier.”

“There can never be a tomorrow in making preparations to cope with war.”

“Soldiers must always think of the battlefield even in days when gun reports do not ring.”

“The secret of becoming a-match-for-a-hundred combatants lies in strict training.”

“Today’s training has a direct bearing on tomorrow’s possible war and on the destiny of the country.”

“In war there is no mercy for ill-trained soldiers.”

“In wartime a soldier who is exemplary in battle is a hero, but in peacetime a soldier who is good at training is a hero.”

“The secret of excellent marksmanship is a great spiritual strength plus painstaking efforts.”

5. The Economy, and Science and Technology

“To boost the economy and improve the people’s standard of living is also a struggle to defend socialism.”

“The metal and chemical industries are twin buttresses of an economic giant.”

“Traffic is what blood vessels are to man.”

“Construction is a yardstick for the economic strength of a country and the level of its cultural development.”

“The Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people.”

“The masses of the people are responsible for architecture.”

“The Juche character and national identity are the lifeblood of construction.”

“The principle of prioritizing convenience, aesthetic beauty and the outlook on the rising generation is a principle to be consistently adhered to in architecture.”

“Design, building work and building materials are three elements of construction.”

“Architectural design is the initial process in construction and creates an operational map for it.”

“A designer is a man who tends the flower garden of socialism.”

“Designing for furniture is also an art.”

“Building materials are a basic element that decides the durable and attractive character of an architectural structure.”

“Construction is an ensemble of modern science and technology.”

“Post and telecommunications are the nerves and blood vessels of a country.”

“Land administration is a patriotic undertaking of lasting significance for achieving the prosperity of the country and a noble undertaking for creating an excellent living base for the people.”

“Forest creation and conservation is one of the greatest patriotic undertakings for the future of the motherland.”

“The forest restoration campaign is a war to improve nature.”

“The development of the economy is preconditioned by the development of the industrial art.”

“People-oriented, kindly, cultured and hygienic characters are fundamental to service work.”

“Economizing means production and is a manifestation of patriotism.”

“Even if it flows endlessly, the volume of water of a river decreases if it is consumed.”

“The key to increased production and improved quality is in putting the technical equipment, production lines and production methods on a modern, scientific footing.”

“The present is the era of the knowledge economy, and the national strength and the position and future of a country and nation are dependent on the level of development of science and technology.”

“Science and technology are an engine which drives the times and a powerful propellant for building a thriving socialist country.”

“Development of science and technology and education leads a country to prosperity and it is a shortcut to building an economic giant.”

“The key to self-reliance and increased production is in science and technology.”

“We must not merely follow the road already travelled by others, but make a leap forward from one century to the next by developing science and technology.”

“The level and speed of economic and social development are regulated by the development of science and technology.”

“This is an era when the strength of a country and the development of its economy and culture are decided by talented persons, an era of giving prominence to talented persons.”

“Scientists and technicians are precious assets of the country and point-men of the times in hastening the building of a thriving nation.”

“The era of the knowledge economy demands that workers, too, become technology-oriented human beings, knowledge-oriented human beings, possessed of modern science and technology.”

“A writing devoid of philosophical character

and creation is not a scientific and theoretical writing.”

“An impractical theory that gives no solution to the demands of revolutionary practice, a theory or knowledge that is not verified in practice, is useless.”

“A theory separated from reality is no better than a book in the library.”

6. Education, Public Health, Art and Literature and Physical Culture

“Educational work is a patriotic undertaking of everlasting significance for the prosperity of a country and nation.”

“When training talented persons is likened to tending trees, education is the soil and the conditions and environment for it are the manure.”

“The contents and methods of education are the fundamental factor that guarantees the quality of training talented persons.”

“The work related with education and science and technology can be successful only when it is propelled steadily with an eye to 10 or 20 years ahead.”

“Educational work requires conscience, devotion and patriotism.”

“Teachers must serve as the roots and fertilizer in fostering the future of the country.”

“Family education is the basis of school education and social education.”

“The lineage of a family is the lineage of a country.”

“Excellent teaching skills and ennobling traits are a hallmark of a teacher.”

“Qualifications of a teacher are reflected in the academic performance of his students.”

“Teachers should become ‘our well-informed teachers’ and ‘walking dictionaries.’”

“Public health service is an important undertaking that has a bearing on the existence of a nation.”

“The main thing in treating a disease is to treat its cause, not its symptoms.”

“The strength of art is greater than that of a nuclear bomb.”

“The genuine viability of art and literature is in making the whole society astir with revolutionary passion and mettle and rousing people to struggle and feats.”

“Art should sensitively reflect the spirit of the times and the trend of developing society and be pulsating.”

“Music is a form of art that is most closely linked to people’s life.”

“An excellent song is a weapon more powerful than a gun or aircraft.”

“One who is not empathic and responsive to the reality cannot create a masterpiece that pulsates with the breath of the times.”

“A creative worker who lacks burning passion cannot approach the reality with warm heart and

describe life realistically.”

“For creative workers and artistes, skills can be likened to their lifeline.”

“Sports is a hallmark of the international prestige of a country and its national strength.”

“The height of a medal-awarding podium represents the prestige of the country.”

“The one that leads the competition in sports science and techniques becomes the victor, and the one that lags behind, the loser.”

7. Youth, Schoolchildren and Future

“The destiny of a party and revolution and the rise and fall of a country and nation depend on how young people are prepared.”

“A prosperous tomorrow will be achieved earlier by our young people taking vigorous steps.”

“Young people are sensitive to the new, are enterprising and love justice and truth, and a revolution that gives prominence to them will always overflow with vigour and vitality and surely emerge victorious.”

“When young people are prepared ideologically and spiritually, we have nothing to fear and nothing will be beyond our strength.”

“Young people, with their hot blood and soaring ambition and aims, should have the quality of

organizing their work on a grand scale and performing world-shaking feats, like moving mountains and filling up the rough sea at one go.”

“If young people march forward in high spirits, the whole nation will be inspired and the hot wind of a leap forward will sweep across the country.”

“The members of the Children’s Union are treasures more valuable than billions of tons of gold, and represent our hope and our future.”

“The future of Korea is that of the members of the Children’s Union and the future of the country is represented in their faces.”

“When the laughter of children rings aloud, the whole country becomes bright.”

“The future of a thriving Korea will be represented first in the academic records of the members of the Children’s Union.”

“The nearer schoolchildren are to books, the

faster the prosperity of the country will be achieved; the farther they are from books, the slower it will be.”

“While book is a secondary magazine for the officials’ ‘rifle,’ it is the primary magazine for the students’.”

“The members of the Children’s Union are pillars, who will support a prosperous Korea of the future.”

8. Trust and Affection, Man and Life

“Trust leads to victory and single-hearted unity.”

“Trust is followed by loyalty, but distrust produces betrayal.”

“There can be no love and devotion that are separated from trust.”

“While single-hearted loyalty is the highest expression of beautiful mind, betrayal is the highest expression of wicked mind.”

“Those who have formed an integral whole for the community in ideology, intention, feeling and obligation and share weal and woe on the road of struggle are comrades-in-arms.”

“There should be no selfishness in comradely relations.”

“Once he has shared feelings with the other, man must cherish them to the end.”

“A man waging the revolution should not follow another man for his official position but just the man.”

“A man who follows another man for his official position easily betrays him when the revolution experiences trials.”

“Although a term of military service may expire, there must be no end to the devoted service for the country and the people.”

“Love and respect for the people emanate from the spirit of loving labour.”

“One who lives his days meaninglessly without any goal and aspiration is a forlorn man.”

“Greater is the pride in having climbed a high mountain and deeper are the footprints on the swampy and muddy paths.”

“A man overwhelmed by money unhesitatingly takes the road of betraying his country and nation.”

“One must live a worthwhile life even in one’s latter years.”

“One who lives at the expense of one’s self-respect is not a man, but a being inferior to an animal.”

“He is a genuine man who cherishes pure conscience and acts as indicated by it.”

“One can become an excellent man only when one has seen, listened and felt much since one’s childhood.”

“When all families are harmonious and happy, the whole society can become one family and the socialist system further consolidated.”

“Book is a silent teacher that gives people a rich knowledge.”

“In our society a poor man is not the one who lacks money but knowledge.”

“A man who is poor in knowledge is no better than a pauper.”

“A man who is very poor in the 21st century is the one who is poor in knowledge.”

“As a fish pond without a spring soon dries up, man becomes a good-for-nothing if he does not study.”

“Man’s facial expression is the mirror of his heart.”

“Man smiles and speaks by his eyes.”

“Just as beautiful flowers and rich fruits cannot be expected on arid land, so the life devoid of artistic emotion and optimism cannot produce zeal for struggle and confidence in the future.”

“Song is in life and life is in song.”

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