A personal assessment of Kim Il Sung

1. Entire Text

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

Kim Il Sung is a masterful playwright, an actor with an uncanny talent for propelling plots and events toward their logical end...
SETTINGS. IN OTHER WORDS, ETHICS ARE SITUATIONAL, NOT DEFINED BY INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCE WITHIN A "UNIVERSAL" MORAL CODE OF CONDUCT. KOREAN CONDUCT IS ACTED OUT ACCORDING TO PARTICIPANTS' AGE, SEX, STATUS, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND THE TIME AND PLACE OF A PARTICULAR SITUATION. THUS A KOREAN CAN BE VERY "AMERICAN" AMONG AMERICANS AND THEN WALK OVER TO A GROUP OF KOREANS AND IMMEDIATELY REVERT TO BEING TOTALLY "KOREAN". OCCIDENTALS WHO HAVE WITNESSED SUCH ABRUPT CHANGES IN KOREAN AND JAPANESE "PERSONALITY" TEND TO ASSIGN IT TO ASTONISHING FLEXIBILITY OR DEVIOUSNESS, DEPENDING UPON THE GIVEN SITUATION. BUT THE CHANGES ARE NOT IN PERSONALITY, NOR ARE THEY INTENDED TO BE DEVIOUS. RATHER, THEY ARE ADJUSTMENTS IN BEHAVIOR DETERMINED BY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. DURING THE JUST-ENDED POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, PRESIDENT CHUN PUBLICLY CALLED FOR A "CLEAN" ELECTION WHILE PRIVATELY SANCTIONING THE ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO VOTERS. HE WAS ROLE PLAYING. ON THE ONE HAND, A REMAINING AND BENEFICIAL RULER IN THE CONFORMIST MIND MUST SIT HIGH MORAL STANDARDS FOR HIS SUBJECTS. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, AS THE NATION'S CHIEF POLITICIAN, HE QUIETLY MOVED TO INSURE HIS PARTY'S SUCCESS AT THE POLLS. KDJ IS NOT DIFFERENT. HE WILL PLAY WHATEVER ROLE CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATE FOR HIM TO ACHIEVE HIS END.

6. BUT KDJ HAS GONE BEYOND SIMPLY MASTERING THE ACTING OUT OF ROLES. HIS ADROIT CHOICE OF CIRCUMSTANCES, STRESS ON PARTICULAR EMOTIONS IN A SELECTED SITUATION AND USE OF VARYING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND VOCABULARY, ENAELF HIM TO VIRTUALLY HYPNOTIZE ONLOOKERS INTO SIDING WITH HIM. ONCE ALIGNED WITH HIM, THEY, MORE SO THAN HE, MOVE EVENTS TOWARD HIS DESIRED OUTCOMES. THUS HE CONVINCED HIS ALLIATES NOT TO KILL HIM; AND EVEN WHILE IMPRISONED OR LIVING IN THE US, HE WAS ABLE TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS WHICH REPEATEDLY POST DILEMMAS FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF KOREA, THE US, AND JAPAN.

7. ON FEBRUARY 8 EMBOOSE KDJ FACE TO FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND WAS ABLE TO WITNESS HIS UNCAINLY TALENT. UPON ENTERING KDJ'S HOME JUST AFTER THE AIRPORT IMBECOLIC,
EMBOFF ANTICIPATED MEETING A MAN FULL OF ANGER AND BITTERNESS BUT INSTEAD ENCOUNTERED A COMPLETELY COMPOSED, CALM, COMPASSIONATE-SOUNDING AND GENTLE-LOOKING INDIVIDUAL WHOSE SOOTHING VOICE AND BENIGN GAZE TOTALLY DISARMED EMBOFF’S SUSPICIONS AND PRIMED EMBOFF TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING KDJ SAID. WITHOUT A SINGLE HARSH WORD, KDJ PORTRAYED HIMSELF AS THE HELPLESS VICTIM OF EVIL AND THE EMBODIMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND DEMOCRACY. BUT KDJ WAS INCORRECT, AS HE APPEALED TO EMBOFF’S EMOTIONS AND TOOK OF DEMOCRACY TO URGE THAT THE USG HELP HIM HELP HIS COUNTRYMEN ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY, KDJ TREATED AN ACCOMPANYING EMBASSY NATIONAL EMPLOYEE, HIS OWN COUNTRYMAN, AS THOUGH HE WAS A LOWLY SERVANT. KDJ WAS PLAYING TWO ROLES SIMULTANEOUSLY, ONE DIRECTED AT EMBOFF AND THE OTHER AIMED AT ASSERTING HIS SUPERIORITY OVER THE VISITOR TELLING HIM TO REMAIN STANDING AND NOT TO SPEAK.

8. WHEN THE CONVERSATION ENDED, EMBOFF AND THE ENS WALKED INTO THE ADJOINING ROOM WHERE JOURNALISTS WERE WAITING TO INTERVIEW KDJ. WITHIN TWO OR THREE MINUTES, KDJ EMERGED FROM HIS ROOM. HE HAD TRANSFORMED HIMSELF FROM THE CALM AND COMPASSIONATE PERSON INTO AN ANGRY AND ASSERTIVE MAN. EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS APPEARANCE, VOICE AND VOCABULARY WAS SO DIFFERENT THAT THE ENS ASKED EMBOFF, "IS THIS THE SAME MAN WE JUST TALKED TO IN THE OTHER ROOM?" LISTENING A WHILE LONGER TO KDJ, EMBOFF WAS SO STUNNED THAT HE WALKED OUTSIDE TO GET SOME FRESH AIR. RETURNING, EMBOFF WAS CONVINCED THAT KDJ IS A FLICKERING, MASTER ACTOR AND MANIPULATOR OF HUMAN EMOTIONS.

9. SEVERAL DAYS LATER, EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED A CONGRESSMAN TO KDJ’S HOUSE AND, UPON ENTERING FIRST, EMBOFF GRETTED KDJ, WHO RESPONDED WITH A STEER, ERIGE NO. WITHIN A MINUTE, KDJ WARMLY EMBRACED THE CONGRESSMAN AND LED HIM INTO A SEPARATE ROOM. THIRTY MINUTES LATER, KDJ RETURNED TO THE ROOM WHERE EMBOFF HAD BEEN WAITING, HIS FACE AND VOICE WARM WITH FRIENDLINESS. ONCE THE CONGRESSMAN HAD SPADED HIMSELF ACROSS FROM EMBOFF TO KDJ, KDJ FIRST PROJECTED HIMSELF AS THE HELPLESS VICTIM OF A DECEITFUL AND RUTHLESS GOVERNMENT. HE PLEASED FOR THE EMBASSY’S AND USG’S HELP. THIS GREW AN ALMOST ANGUISHED PLEA FROM THE CONGRESSMAN, WHO IMPLORED EMBOFF TO ESC Disconnect EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO HELP KDJ. BUT NOT SO OBVIOUS, AT LEAST TO EMBOFF. KDJ WAS PLAYING ON THE CONGRESSMAN’S EMOTIONS AND HIS WELL INTENDED ALLIGIENCE TO DEMOCRACY SO THAT HE COULD POSITION THE CONGRESSMAN TO PUSH THE EMBASSY INTO ASSUMING A MEDIATING ROLE BETWEEN KDJ AND THE ROKC. EXCEPT FOR ITS ELOQUENCE, KDJ’S EID WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT MADE BY NUMEROUS VISA APPLICANTS SEEKING TO USE EMBOFF AS THEIR WAY TO A VISA. FOR THE CONGRESSMAN, HOWEVER, UNINURED TO SUCH SITUATIONS AND ROLE PLAYING, KDJ WAS MERELY A BENIGN, HELPLESS VICTIM OF INJUSTICE AND RUTHLESSNESS IN NEED OF AMERICAN BENEVOLENCE AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

10. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBTING THAT KDJ IS A CHARISMATIC, HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND TALENTED POLITICIAN. HIS
POWER IS ONE OF PERSUADING PEOPLE TO FOLLOW HIM WITH ALMOST BLIND TRUST, BUT GIVEN HIS EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS AS A ROFL PLAYER, NOT EVERYTHING HE SAYS AND DOES CAN BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. FOR KDJ, IT WOULD SEEM, ALL ARE POTENTIAL PLAYERS IN HIS DRAMA OF GOOD VERSUS EVIL, DEMOCRACY VERSUS DICTATORSHIP AND CIVILIAN POLITICIAN VERSUS MILITARISM. ONCE DRAWN INTO HIS DRAMA, THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND. ONLY A CHOICE BETWEEN ONE OF TWO CONTENDING FORCES. CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN IN HIS PRESENT PASSIVE ROLE AS THE ADVOCATE OF CALM HE MOST LIKELY IS PLAYING OUT A PLOT WHICH HE HOPES WILL LEAD HIM TO POLITICAL POWER, EVEN IF IT MEANS CONFRONTATION AT SOME POINT.

11. POLCOUNS ADDITIONAL COMMENT: POLCOUNS HAS NEVER MET KIM, BUT HAS DISCUSSED HIM ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH KOREANS WHO KNOW HIM WELL. ON ONE OCCASION.

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