

Venerable Choe Yang-eop Opera

Heaven on the Road

Script: Yoo Han-young, Ko Yeon-ock

Translation: Br. Thomas More Kim, LC

“Let us not be vessels of anger, but rather let us be children of God’s mercy.
We hope to see God the Father in this world, whom we will see one day in Heaven.”
(From the ‘10th letter’)

Chapter 1 Seaju – Early Dawn 1836, Bupyeong, Gyeonggi-do

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

Our son, Yang-eop, Thomas, has a long way ahead of him.
In the distant future you will become a priest.
Think of the thousands of people who are waiting for you.
Remember all the faithful who will be accompanying you with prayers,
awaiting your return.

Choe Yang-eop:

Father, Mother!
We will meet again, right?
This will not be the last, right?
Father, mother!

Yi Seong-rye:

We shall meet again. There is no separation for us.
My dear Thomas, our Yang-Eup, you will return here,
back to your homeland.
As a priest, as a shepherd...

James:

Big brother, I will be waiting for you and will be praying for you every day.

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

From here on you will have to go alone.
Go on. The priest is waiting for you.
Thomas, Yang-eop, who will one day become a priest
who would save many souls of your people!
Be strong and rejoice in the Lord always!

Young Choe Yang-eop:

According to the Lord's will,
and in His will,
standing at the onset of a long journey,

a journey set out in order to return,
a journey of separation that leads to reunion,
a lonely journey yet accompanied by the Lord.

I entrust my humble being in your hands Lord!

Take me in to your hands! Receive me!

Chapter 2 Three Seminarians, February 1837, Magaza, China

A) Prayer of the Seminarians

Your excellency, you who, despite your weak body,
came to this foreign land, to the far east corner of the world
to illumine our people with the heavenly light,

Before you there was no land flowing with milk and honey
but only the cross of pain and agony.

The Lord has put a halt to your steps here.
Now may you rest your tired body in peace.

We, who bid you farewell in deep reverence, ask you to bless us,
who are embarking on a long journey towards becoming a good shepherd,
after the example of your life of sacrifice.

Lead our footsteps.

Pray that we become priests who will look after the faithful of Joseon,
until the day, after having crossed the river of pain and agony, our lives come to an end.

B) A Letter of Yang-eop to his Teacher

To the most respected teacher,
For how long have I wandered in foreign lands?
At last, I am on my way to my homeland, to meet my people.

I ask for your prayers that I arrive at my beloved homeland this time,
I, who have no merit to show before my parents.
Your humble and obedient son, Yang-eop.

Chapter 3 – Mother, Yi Seong-rye, Maria and her Baby Son

(Women singing)

How terrible to see how she just cries there... trying to sing her baby to sleep...
The baby does not want to be separated from her bosom,
Yet her breasts have run dry...
No milk will come out, since she herself hasn't eaten anything.
Just to watch this makes me writhe in pain. What is with this Christianity that...
She hasn't given up her faith in this God of Heaven even when her son is dying.

Young mother, wake up.
How your fate could change if only you deny you know this God of Heaven.

Yi Seong-rye:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! (Weeping and singing a lullaby)
"Merciful Father, listen to the outcry rising from the blood of your servants."

(Women singing)

"Most benevolent God, I entrust myself totally to your providence."

< When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say.
You will be given at that moment what you are to say. > *(Matthew 10:19)*

Yi Seong-rye:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! Please have mercy...

(Yi Seong-rye and women singing)

"Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,
and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy."
"Jesus, give heed to our mourning and remember your mercy." *(repeat)*

Chapter 4 – A Harsh Journey to go back to Joseon on July 28th, 1847

A) Commentator

Peter Yi Seung-hun, the first Joseon person to receive baptism, was baptized in the Church of Beijing. He returned to his homeland in 1784 to spread the Gospel. John the Baptist Yi Byeok, and Francis Xavier Kwon Il-sin along with other faithful of upper scholarly class, gathered around Thomas Kim Beom-u, and began to hold meetings at Myeongryebang (*place where the first Christians gathered and taught catechesis*). Though many were passionate about their faith, many apostatized and left the Church, after having experienced deep moral quandary regarding the command given by the bishop of Beijing which prohibited the faithful from paying reverence to their ancestors.

Still, many doctors, higher officials from the department of language and translation, and the lower-class faithful held on to their Christian faith. Many low-class people and good-hearted people also began to believe, placing their hope in the teaching that “all men are equal regardless of their class” and “heaven is opened to all who believe in God.”

Frs. Maubant and Chastan, and Bishop Imbert were martyred in 1839 during Gihae Persecution, having arrived to the Church of Joseon with much difficulty. 6 years later, the first native Korean priest, Andrew Kim Dae-geon arrived after much difficulty, but he too was martyred in 1846. Now, of the three seminarians of Joseon that went to Macao, only one remained, Fr. Thomas Choe Yang-eop. The faithful of Joseon awaited his safe return home with great expectation.

B) Commentator

On July 28th, 1847, Deacon Choe Yang-eop got on a French military ship from Hong Kong in order to go back to Joseon. This was his fourth expedition trip. However, on August 10th, he landed near Kogunsangun-Island, after having suffered a shipwreck. Although he wanted to stay there to eventually find a way in into Joseon land, Capt. La Pierre strongly forbade him to do so.

C) Fifth Letter

Choe Yang-eop:

“I have finally arrived this far and my people are almost within my grasp. Yet, when I learned that I had to come back once more to Shanghai due to unexpected succession of events, I couldn't help but to shed tears of sorrow. But we have not lost hope, we have not given in to despair. We trust in the mercy of God. And we entrust ourselves to his almighty and all-benevolent providence.” (*From the “Fifth Letter”, Sept. 20th, 1847*)

Chapter 5 – Ordination to the Priesthood and Failed Attempt at Returning Home

A) In the Jangaru Church (Shanghai, China)

(All singing)

Here I am Lord, have mercy on me.

I have responded to your call, have mercy on me.

Bind me to your will so that I attain greater freedom...

Let me die so that I attain greater resurrection...

At the hands of the most respected Bishop Maresca

I received the priesthood.

On the 15th of April, 1849.

Though I be a weak and lowly person,

though it be a heavy burden too difficult to carry,

through your benevolent mercy,

let it become a sweet and honorable burden!

I desire that you use me without holding back.

I pray that, through my sweat and blood,

I be able to proclaim the joyful news of salvation

even to the land in most suffering: that you are with us.

B) On the Ship

Choe Yang-eop:

We can't turn back like this!

Please let me get off!

Captain:

Do you not see how dangerous it is?

We barely held on to our lives.

Choe Yang-eop:

The land of Joseon is right before my eyes...

I can almost grasp it with my hand...

If you just let me off, with my strength... I can swim ashore...

Captain:

Because of the errors on the map, we arrive at a wrong place.
There are policemen everywhere to arrest Christians.
Remember the wretched death that the French missionaries suffered.
Let us wait for the next opportunity.

Choe Yang-eop:

I have failed for the past 7 years.
Not this time, no. This time I must...

Captain:

The people of Joseon have waited long for their shepherd arrive.
Will you go to them as a corpse?
Wait until the time is ripe!
God will use you as he fits,
and you will reach your homeland next time.

C) Prayer of Trust

Choe Yang-eop:

Lord, if I am of no use
then just throw me deep into the ocean!
I have wavered in my trust for you,
and have placed my trust in human hopes.
I offer myself to do only those things that would please you.
Send me, Lord, to my people according to your holy will.
There, in the land in which I will proclaim your Word,
I pray that in me and through me
your most holy will be accomplished.

Lord, please send me to my people
according to your holy will.
There, in the land in which I will proclaim your Word,
let me become like St. Paul,
who only preached Jesus as the Christ, Jesus as the Savior,
the one who hangs on the cross.
There, in the land in which I will proclaim your Word,
let me become like St. Paul,

who disappeared in order to have only you, Jesus,
to have you in my heart and as the center of my heart.

Chapter 6 – Entry into Joseon and the Joy of Reunion

A) Farewell to Fr. Maistre

Secret Emissary 1:

Fathers, look! On the other side of this Amrok river, there is the land of Joseon.

Fr. Maistre:

Ah, finally! The Amrok River. Finally, we are going into Joseon.

Choe Yang-eop:

Fr. Maistre, this is the road that I took when I left my homeland 13 years ago.

Secret Emissary 1:

Look, there is the other emissary who will guide you from here on.
Here, we are here!

(Secret Emissary 2, approaching crouched)

Secret Emissary 2:

The guards are all over the place. It seems almost impossible to pass through the gate.
It would be better to turn back.

Choe Yang-eop:

No, we can't. The guards will leave soon because of the storm and the cold.
Please guide us in.

Fr. Maistre:

Please, guide us in!

Secret Emissary 2:

Still, taking both of you will be too dangerous. Only one will go.

Choe Yang-eop:

No, we must go together.

Secret Emissary 2:

Do you also want to die together?

Fr. Maistre:

I will go back. Fr Thomas, may you enter safely into the country and meet your people.

Choe Yang-eop:

Most respected Fr Maistre, I will prepare the way for us to see each other again.

Secret Emissary 2:

Let us be on our way.

Choe Yang-eop:

Oh God, extend your mighty hand!

12 years ago, my companion, Choe Bang-Je entered the kingdom of heaven as a star due to a severe fever,

and my most dear friend Kim Dae-geon was martyred 3 years ago and has become the protector of the Church of Joseon.

I entrust everything to your all-benevolent providence. Lead us with your might!

My life is yours, accept it, my good God!

B) Entry into Joseon

Secret Emissary 2:

Truly, the God of Heaven has helped us.

The harsh cold has made the guards to go inside.

Father! You have finally arrived back to Joseon!

Choe Yang-eop:

Oh, my homeland so dear, I have finally returned.

The Good News of great joy which will shine as light to this land! The news of salvation!

A light of salvation to all those that walk in darkness! (cf. Isaiah 9:1)

C) The Wisdom of the Cross

(SOLO and all singing together quietly)

Jesus is the Christ, the Savior.

Christ who hangs on the cross is the Power of God.

Christ nailed to the cross is the Wisdom of God,
the unfathomable Wisdom of God hidden from all eternity.

I proclaim only the Christ crucified.

I think of nothing else

except the Christ crucified ...

I boast of nothing

except the Christ who hangs on the cross ...

D) Reunion with the Brothers

Little Brothers:

Miserere nostri Domine, miserere nostri!

Big brother, Father!

Following our mother's last will, we have patiently waited for your return in brotherly love.

We prayed for you every day so that you would receive the ordination
and return to Joseon as its shepherd.

We have skipped meals,

but we have never skipped a single moment without praying.

Miserere nostri Domine, miserere nostri!

<END OF ACT 1>

<OPENING ACT 2>

Chapter 7 – A Shepherd that Visits the Christian Villages

Commentator:

Since his arrival to Joseon 10 months ago, Fr Choe Yang-eop has been visiting Christian communities and villages in the provinces of Gyeonggi, Chungcheong, Jeolla, Gyeongsang, Gangwon. Despite their poverty, the faithful of these villages relied on each other in love and faith. They rejoiced greatly when Fr Choe Yang-eop came, and cried much when he departed. During all this time, Fr Choe constantly faced the danger of being arrested. The non-believers, who were jealous and detested the Christians, persecuted the Christians even when the government had not proclaimed an official persecution against them. Due to their constant spying and sudden attacks on Christian villages carried out by the policemen, the Christians lived in constant state of unrest and fear.

A) “Sa Hyang Ga” (*A Poem of Christian Doctrine Written by Fr Choe Yang-eop*)

Come, friends, let us return to our true home.
Across the four seas and eight directions, where would our true home be.
To the blessed land we go, which Moses could not enter.
To the paradise we go, from which Adam was expelled.
Even if we possess all riches, only for so long would we enjoy them.
Even if we suffer all hardships, only for so long would we be troubled by them.
(From “Sa Hayng Ga” of Fr Choe Yang-eop)

(*Women singing together prayerfully*)

Women Faithful:

All-benevolent God, you are all good, you who have sent us a priest!
Our God, you know of our fervent prayers and our tears shed in secret!
Oh, blessed is the moment in which we receive the sacraments through the priest,
having kept our faith and hope through all fears and persecutions.
We pray for the salvation of our souls. Remember us!

(*Repeating “Sa Hyang Ga”*)

Come, friends, let us return to our true home.
Across the four seas and eight directions, where would our true home be.
To the blessed land we go, which Moses could not enter.
To the paradise we go, from which Adam was expelled.

Even if we possess all riches, only for so long would we enjoy them.

Even if we suffer all hardships, only for so long would we be troubled by them.

Woman Believer 1:

At age 15, I came to know of Christianity and ran away from home.

Woman Believer 2:

My husband locked me up in the house for 12 years for believing the Christian faith.

Women Faithful:

For so long, we have silently sought for each other.

For so long, we have waited and prayed together.

And now, the day has finally arrived on which we meet a priest.

Please give us the sacraments.

B) An Uproar from the Non-believers

Non-believer:

Get out now, you thieves!

All westerners are scammers, thieves, and instigators falsehood!

We need kill them. Let's put them in chains and bring them to prison.

Non-believers:

The soldiers will soon arrive. They will chop off your heads!

Anyone who defiles Joseon and its women will be punished!

Believers:

Father, leave through the back door! The policemen are coming!

Please come back to us again, Father, our shepherd!

Non-believers:

Get them!

Choe Yang-eop:

Lord, my heart melts knowing that I am powerless to help the faithful

who live in such destitute poverty and have to endure such miserable state!

Chapter 8 – Barbara Longing for Heaven

A) Barbara and her Mother

Barbara:

Lord, please come into my heart.
Please make haste, for I long for you eagerly.
How will my soul continue living without you, Jesus?
Please heed to my eager plea.

Women Believers:

Let us endure all our bitterness for God.
“God is our comfort, our hope,
our desire. In him we live and die.”
(From the “First Letter”, April 26th, 1842)

Barbara:

Mother,
Please consider me as a daughter of the Blessed Mother Mary.
Though life here on earth be brief, eternal freedom is found in God.
Without losing my virginity,
I desire only to see him and to live my life loving him only.
Do not worry, mother, for I am happy and content.
God will protect all those that trust in him until the end.

Barbara:

All the riches of the world give me no satisfaction,
but the love of my Lord fills my heart abundantly.
Lord, I am not worthy that you come to me always.
But only say a word, and I will be cleansed.

Barbara’s Mother:

My daughter, you haven’t eaten or drank for months
and yet you say that you are happy.
My daughter, you are dying. Please come back to me.

Barbara:

Mother, I want to receive the sacraments. Have you seen the priest?

Barbara's Mother:

Whenever I heard of his appearance, I went in haste. But always too late.

Barbara:

Oh... If only I could receive the sacraments...

Barbara's Mother:

While I was making your wedding garments with these hands,
I prayed that you receive love and live happily all your life,
and that your husband protects you all through your life.

Barbara and other Women Faithful:

We are already citizens of heaven
and no matter how sweet the happiness of this world,
it cannot be exchanged with the eternal love that I have found.
My beautiful wedding garments are stained with the color of death.

B) Barbara and her Betrothed

Barbara's Older Brother:

A woman of Joseon not getting married is unthinkable!
Will you abandon your family because of that Western ghost that you can't even see?
I cannot bear seeing you all locked up in the cave like an animal anymore!
I am going to get you out of there today!

Barbara and other Women Faithful:

We are already citizens of heaven.
Do not bind us with the excuse that we are women of Joseon.
I have the right to choose my place,
and be that a cave or a cold floor, I am always with my God.

The Betrothed of Barbara:

I am out of patience!
My betrothed possessed by the Western ghost and all locked up in a cave?
She doesn't even deserve to get married.
I will go in now and teach her a lesson to be submissive to her husband.

Barbara:

Oh Lord, protect me!

Barbara and other Women Faithful:

Oh Lord, oh Lord! Where are you?

Please take pity on us and lift us up with your mercy and power.

And when we have passed through this cruel night, grant that we see you in heaven.

C) Barbara and Fr Choe Yang-eop

Barbara:

My life, which was protected by the love of God through much suffering and happiness,
is fading. My short life is approaching its end.

I do not have much time. I must meet a priest,
the one who will guide me to heaven.

Choe Yang-eop:

I have come to you finally, Barbara,
you who have protected your faith with faith!
Just as life gives birth to life, so faith gives birth to faith.

Barbara:

My only suffering is that I have not given sufficient thanks
to the Lord and to Mary for all their graces.

I only desire to leave this broken body and go to my Heavenly Father
to thank him for all the love I have received from him.

D) Barbara's Wish

"As a flower, hidden in a remote valley of tall mountains,
I want to live.

As a nameless flower, surrounded deep within the mountains
where there are no shadows of bees or butterflies,
I want to live.

Hidden away in secret for the rest of my life,
as long as I see my sun, my lover,

I want to blossom.”

(From “Flower Burnet”, Poem by Choi Min Sun)

E) The Death of Barbara

Choe Yang-eop:

Into your hands, Lord, I commend the spirit of Barbara.

Please allow us to see each other again in heaven!

Lest the evil of the world harm her mind,

and lest the hypocrisy of this age confound her wisdom,

you have taken her up to heaven in haste.

Barbara:

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

Grant that I behold you in heaven, Lord.

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

Choe Yang-eop:

Though her life was short, she has lived to the full!

Barbara, when you arrive to heaven

please remember me before the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ

and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Chapter 9 – The Martyrs of the Gihae Persecution (1839)

A) The Confession of Choe Gyeong-hwan

Choe Yang-eop:

Dear most respected Fr. Legregeois and other fathers,

As I have vowed since long time ago through the mercy of God,

I send you a report on the research done

with regards to the martyrdom of my parents and other faithful.

Commentator:

Choe Gyeong-hwan, though a wealthy man in the past, freely accepted poverty and calamity.

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

Why fall into despair and give into mourning!
I firmly believe that all things come from God
and that all things happen according to his providence.

Policemen:

Who is the owner of this house? Supposedly, this house belongs to a Christian!

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

Why have you arrived so late?
Please eat, and then we will be on our way.

Policemen:

Bind them tightly with ropes.

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

Come my friends. Do not think of today's march towards death as a hardship.
An angel of the Lord will mark out our steps with a golden ruler
and will watch over our steps.

Commentator:

Mary Yi Seong-rye, along with her husband Francis Choe Gyeong-hwan, her five sons, and about 40 other believers from Suri-san were bound in ropes and brought to Seoul. Her second son, Hee-Jeong, was 14 years old, Seon-Jeong. There were also Woo-Jeong, Sin-Jeong, and baby Stephen, who was only 2 years old.

Bystanders:

You wretched woman!
How could you take your own sons with you to death!

Commentator:

When they arrived to Seoul, Mary was locked up with her baby in the jail set aside for women, separated from her husband and her other sons.

The tortures began the next day:

Judge:

Will you discard your precious life given by the ancestors for a superstition from the West?

I will forgive you of your crimes if you only say that you will not believe.

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

It is considered a grave crime not to be faithful to your master here on earth.

How, then, can I betray God, the master and Lord of all things!

Commentator:

His arms and legs were mangled through torture

and all of his body broken and covered in blood by the beatings.

Policemen:

Why does your God just watch silently when you and your sons are dying?

If you still love him, then go ahead and tell us about him.

Commentator:

Choe Gyeong-hwan is reported to have preached to them happily about salvation and love of God, as if he had been invited to a well-prepared banquet.

B) Christ Crucified

(All Singing)

"Lord, give heed to our moaning and remember your mercy."

(From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.)

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

Let us remember the last words of the Lord before he died on the cross.

He cried, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" (Mark 15:34).

It means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

(The Chorus)

"Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:26)

"I thirst." (John 19:28)

"Father, forgive them." (Luke 23:34)

"It is finished." (John 19:30)

Commentator:

Francis Choe Gyeong-hwan suffered much under brutal tortures to the point of not being able to speak. He prayed with the last of his remaining strength...

Choe Gyeong-hwan:

Jesus is the Christ, Christ the Savior!

I thirst, please give me some water.

Commentator:

And thus... imprisoned... at the age of 35...

He went to heaven, to his Lord.

(The Chorus sings the song "Way of the Cross")

Jesus is Christ, Christ the Savior!

All my glory is in the shame of the cross.

The cross is the road to life.

Following your footsteps, I cross from death to life

Following your footsteps, I go back my true homeland, heaven.

The cross, the cross, is the eternal glory.

Beyond the pains of martyrdom, there is eternal rest.

Beyond the shame of martyrdom, there is eternal life.

Beyond the glory of martyrdom, there is eternal happiness.

C) The Martyrdom of Yi Seong-rye

Commentator:

Mary Yi Seong-rye was the mother of Fr Choe Yang-eop. Her heart was weakened by her maternal-love for her baby, and not bearing to see her 2-year-old baby son, Stephen, dying in a prison, she apostatized.

She returned to her house after her release from the prison. Soon after, however, the news reached the government officials that her eldest son was in Macao studying Latin in order to become priest. On that charge, she was arrested and imprisoned once again.

Mary Yi retracted her previous apostacy, and after suffering three gruesome tortures, was sentenced to death. Thus, God, in his mercy, gave his handmaid the grace to overcome her weakness until the end. (*Cf. "Eighth Letter", October 15th, 1851*)

Yi Seong-rye:

Most benevolent God, look down at my misery.
Grant your mercy to my broken body and heart.
I offer you my two sons, Lord,
the first one as your priest, and my baby one in death.
Please protect them with your hands.

Commentator:

As the day of her execution drew near, Mary called her son James and instructed:

Yi Seong -rye:

Be diligent in keeping the commandments of God
and love each other in harmony and love.
I, your mother, will always be at your side.
“Do not be afraid.” The Lord will be with you always.

Commentator:

Mary and other 6 faithful were beheaded tied to the cross.
Thus, at the age of 39 she was martyred...

James:

God, please let my mother die with a single swing of the sword, to die without pain!
Let her final journey toward you be painless, most merciful God!

Commentator:

His relatives were able to bury the body of his father, Francis Choe.
But the body of his mother, Mary Yi, was taken elsewhere in the night.
And to this day, no one knows where her body lies.

Martyrs (*singing together*):

Lord, we stand before the gates of heaven after having endured much suffering on earth.
Finally, we dive into your bosom which we have only dreamt of.
You who became poor and shed your blood with us,
cast away all darkness in this land and send forth your light of salvation.

D) The Way of the Cross

(Singing together)

The cross is the road to life.

Following your footsteps, I cross from death to life

Following your footsteps, I go back my true homeland, heaven.

The cross, the cross, is the eternal glory.

Beyond the pains of martyrdom, there is eternal rest.

Beyond the shame of martyrdom, there is eternal life.

Beyond the glory of martyrdom, there is eternal happiness.

Chapter 10 – The Hardships and Persecutions of the World

A) The Life of the Faithful

The Faithful:

Come, friends, let us return to our true home.

Across the four seas and eight directions, where would our true home be.

To the blessed land we go, which Moses could not enter.

To the paradise we go, from which Adam was expelled.

Even if we possess all riches, only for so long would we enjoy them.

Even if we suffer all hardships, only for so long would we be troubled by them.

Noble-Class Faithful:

Please consider how difficult it is to be a Christian as a nobility.

A nobility of Joseon doesn't need to work hard.

Even if he is of a poorer family, still, no need for him to work.

Better for him to die than to ever need to or learn to work.

With his friends, he goes around the town, doing whatever pleases him.

Now, I have become a Christian despite the opposition from my family,

and look! How come there are so many restrictions?

You can't meet with your friends, you can't have fun, you have to associate yourself with the dirt-covered peasants, even if you are a noble man.

Choe Yang-eop:

It is harder for a rich person than a poor person,
for an learned person than a unlearned person,
for a nobility than a peasant,
to enter into heaven.

Noble-Class Faithful:

I have left behind all my wealth and honor!
I deserve to go to heaven!

Another Faithful:

My old master is a wealthy noble man, but he is very different.
He said that we were all brothers and sisters in the heart of all-merciful God.
He gave away his entire fortune to the poor people, and commanded us to not to call him
“master”. He prayed with us and taught us how to read. He even used to work with us...

Choe Yang-eop:

He is truly an example...

B) An Attack from the non-Believers**The Faithful:**

Father, Father, Run and escape!

The Non-Believers:

You were all hidden here, you worthless rats!
You are nothing but thieves that eat away at our country!
You take our women and brainwash them to disobey their husbands,
and you take our ignorant young men and teach them non-sense such as
salvation, Christianity, and freedom.
We will not tolerate this anymore! We will kill every single one of you until you are extinct.

Official of the Police Department:

I just can't understand it.
If Christianity is that great of a religion,
and if it is truly a transparent religion with no hidden treachery,
why do their Western priests come in and spread their doctrine in secret?
The Western countries always boast about their powerful armies and weaponry.

Why do they not boast of their Christian God and require all men to believe in him,
who supposedly gives salvation to all?

C) The Path towards God

Choe Yang-eop:

The path that leads to God is not a wide, flat path.
It is full of thornbushes and blizzards, it is a path of hardship and suffering,
always accompanied by gruesome death.
But it is also a happy and beautiful path that leads to salvation.
It is a glorious path in which we follow the footsteps of the Lord.
It is a path of hardship, taken one step at a time, that leads to God.

Official of the Police Department:

Destroy them all! We will see how long they last!
If you apostatize now, we will spare your lives!

D) A Letter of Departure to his Teacher

Choe Yang-eop:

I send you greetings, my most respected teacher.
We are eternal wanderers, who have no place to stay,
who live and die on the road.
Lord, do not let us be vessels of anger,
but rather, children of God's mercy.
Let us see you here on earth,
whom we shall see one day in heaven.
I ask you to pray for me and for the people of Joseon,
that, even if it cost our lives, we would never abandon the Lord.
This will be my last greetings to you.
Wherever I go, there are policemen after us.
There is little hope that I escape from them.

Chapter 11 – Heaven on the Road

A) According to the Will of the Lord

The Faithful: *(Chorus)*

“Our Father,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy holy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Forgive us today our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Do not let us fall into temptation

But deliver us from evil. Amen.”

(From “Cheonju-seongkyo-gongkwa”, a book of compilation of Christian prayers)

B) Miserere Nobis

The Faithful:

When will you come back to us?

The word of God, the love of God, the joyful songs of heaven...

Choe Yang-eop:

Remember that the day will come when all of us will be praising God together.

We will see each other again.

The Faithful:

Yes, most dear Father! We will see each other again!

Choe Yang-eop:

Know that I will always be walking on this path.

(The Chorus)

Miserere nobis! Miserere nobis!

“The will of the Lord has been accomplished” (cf. John 19:30)

Now that we have climbed the high mountains

and crossed the deep rivers of pain and agony,

he will stop our beaten and aching steps.

Choe Yang-eop:

Today and tomorrow, we are walking the heaven on the road.

(The Chorus)

Today and tomorrow, we are walking together the heaven on the road.

< END >