

# Waiting

Nearly 70 years have passed, yet no one has spoken of the pain and sorrow hidden behind Jeongbang Waterfall.

The beauty of the waterfall conceals the terror that silenced all testimony about the massacre of 250 lives lost south of Hallasan.

Beyond being recognized as the only waterfall in Korea that flows directly into the sea, it received no further attention.

As the faint light of dawn breaks, gunshots and screams echo from the button and starch factories above the waterfall.

Below the waterfall scatter camellia petals.

Countless camellia petals pile upon one another in the sea.

Why are you not found among the scattering camellia petals?

A girl stands with her eyes still fixed on the waterfall to this day.

Waiting for her father and brother.

Her hope of reuniting with them remains unwavering.

A day, a week, a month, a year have become seventy years and more.

Even today, her tearful eyes gaze upon the stream that pours out like weeping, like tears.

Should you show no sign of return, the memories of your traces and sorrow will last forever.

May no tragedy of the same kind ever happen again.

Prayers will never cease, with two feet firmly on the ground, until you return.