Verse 1

Let morning shine on the silver and gold of this land,
Three thousand leagues packed with natural wealth.
My beautiful fatherland.
The glory of a wise people
Brought up in a culture brilliant
With a history five millennia long.
Let us devote our bodies and minds
To supporting this Korea forever.

For many hundreds of years the Korean Empire was one country ruled by an Emperor. At the end of the Second World War in 1945 the north and south parts of Korea became separate countries. The south is known as the Republic of Korea and the north is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. A new anthem was needed for the new country and this one was written in 1947.