

TED W. JOHNSON

# SEOUL SEARCHING





*Seoul Searching contains highly descriptive, narrative poems written while the author was visiting Seoul and Jeju Island, South Korea in the spring of 2015. The sights and sounds of both natural and man-made sites are included. The author was favorably impressed by nearly all that he experienced during his first visit to Asia. This good feeling shines through the words of his poems.*

# Seoul Searching

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# **Seoul Searching**

**Ted W. Johnson**

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ISBN: 978-1-63491-035-4

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Bradenton, Florida.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2015

First Edition

## **Seoul Searching**

We did much Seoul Searching today  
On a city tour for several hours  
The weather was a perfect 68 or so  
The buses we were on did really go  
Zipping through the city  
Much of it quite pretty  
Dressed up in spring blooms

Our major stop was the  
Korean National Museum  
We saw Buddhas by the dozens  
Gold crowns, porcelain figurines  
Of many things, including a camel  
And at least hundreds of energetic kids  
In their school uniforms

Because they had a wheelchair for me  
I had a great time  
But Betsy and Sarah as “pushers”  
Were exhausted by the exit time

We had Italian pizza  
One with cheese, one with steak  
Sitting calmly, eating  
Was a change of pace

From interacting frantically with 10.5 million  
Of the human race here in Seoul  
We must have seen half of them today  
As our buses rolled

We also saw a retired palace  
Six hundred years old  
With intricate roof carvings  
Of critters and such  
The blooming flowers added  
To an impressive look  
From us, our last  
Touring energy it took

## **Sunrise Over Mount Hallasan**

Because of an achin' back and neck  
I arose before five  
'Cuz, what the heck?  
Sleep had my body left

Betsy and I watched the sunrise  
The sun rapidly appearing at 6:13  
From behind the mountain  
In one of the fastest risings  
I have ever seen

By 6:18 the sun was completely  
Above the slope of Mount Hallasan  
Bathing our little portion of Jeju  
In a bright morning light  
The calm and quiet around us  
Made it a peaceful sight

Betsy and I immediately knew  
Why Sarah was so happy  
To leave Seoul for Jeju  
The contrast in feel  
Was very real





## **Women Brave and Strong**

Not knowing what to expect  
We went to the Woman Diver's Museum next  
We were pretty impressed  
By the museum and the women

For four hundred years  
Haenyeo (women divers)  
Have been diving on and near Jeju  
Harvesting sea weed, abalone,  
Shellfish and octopi  
In the cold waters

Some women have careers  
From age 13 to 80!  
Virtually every day diving  
For about four hours

They dive to 50 feet  
Stay under two minutes at a time  
With abilities incredible  
They bravely harvest the sea  
The videos of their dives  
Were amazing to see

## **Teddy Bears Everywhere**

About one o'clock, the three of us  
Embarked on another adventure  
This one at Daejeong  
The drive wasn't long

The Teddy Bear Museum  
Inspired by American President Teddy Roosevelt  
Is a place filled with humor and whimsy  
With at least hundreds of stuffed bears to see  
Ranging from Einstein to Smokey

Three floors of bears to see  
In a wheelchair, me  
Sarah providing the "horsepower"  
For a couple of enjoyable hours  
Cinderella and Snow White themes  
Mixed with women divers  
And a manger scene

A great place for kids  
Of which I'm the biggest one  
It was great fun  
Including the gift shop

With bride and groom bears  
Standing, at each other gazing  
Under an arch  
Amazing!



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