



Read "WARA! welcome to Incheon"  
on the Incheon Metropolitan City website.

# WARA! INCHEON

WELCOME TO

The world of magic



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WARA! WELCOME TO INCHEON

The world of magic



Written by  
Ji Gang-min

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Written & drawn by: Ji Gang-min



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# WARA! WELCOME TO INCHEON

The world of magic





# Character Intro



Myr

A magic girl who came to Incheon from another dimension!  
A walking disaster and queen of clumsiness. Could she be able to find all monster eggs in Incheon and make it back to her world?



Jaemin

A boy born and raised in Incheon!  
He's a habitual grumbler but cares about Myr deeply.



Paper

An AI magic grimoire that came to Incheon with Myr.



Jaemin's Dad

Jaemin's dad. He loves his town Incheon but talks too much.



Jaemin's Mom

Jaemin's Mom. She supports Myr's collecting of monster eggs.



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# Episode.1

## A Journey to Incheon!





\* This webtoon complies with the broadcasting review regulations.







\* Monster: Referring to "evil creatures" in general.





That's it—I  
it's open!

FLASH



Ahhhh!!



What...  
What did...  
Just happen?



Huh? It's empty?!

Then those things  
that just darted  
out were...!?  
No way?!

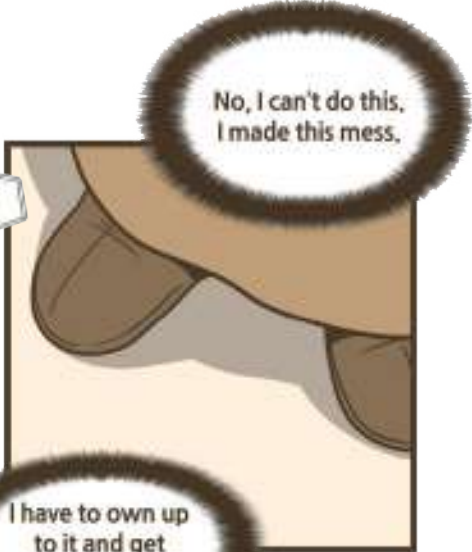


Hey, Paper!

Check if there's  
anything wrong  
with my spell  
just now!







Learn More

# Incheon, an International City for the World



▲ Songdo International City  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Incheon Bridge  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

Incheon is home to 3 million citizens and is the third largest city in Korea, followed by Seoul and Busan. Like the city's slogan\* "All ways INCHEON," it is the hub of Korea's transportation and logistics where countless tourists come and go and international trades are made through Incheon International Airport and Incheon Port. It is also a city full of modern cultural and historical attractions such as Open Port and Chinatown, natural attractions like Manisan Mountain and Eurwangni Beach, and international cities of Songdo, Cheongna, and Yeongjong.

Now, shall we go on a journey with Myr to see the charming attractions of Incheon?

\* City slogan: A phrase conveying the core characteristic or image of a city



▲ Eurwangni Beach  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Wolmido Special Tourism Zone  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

# Episode.2

## A Chance Encounter









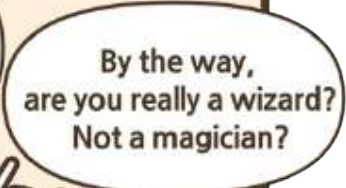
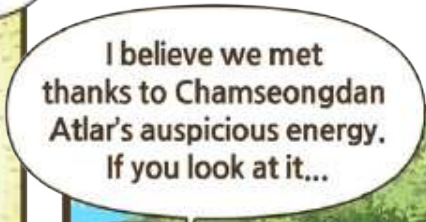


You're a wizard from another world, and you came to Incheon to retrieve monster eggs.

Then you got lost here and passed out after starving for days?











**She's getting even more suspicious**

Learn More

# Manisan Mountain and Chamseongdan Altar on Ganghwado Island



▲ The summit of Manisan Mountain and Chamseongdan Altar (Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

Manisan Mountain, standing 472m above sea level, is the highest mountain in Incheon. Geographically, it's located right in the middle of Baekdusan Mountain and Hallasan Mountain. Near the summit of the mountain is "Chamseongdan Altar," the place where Dangun Wanggeom, the first historical king of Korea, performed rites for the heavens. Its square top represents earth, and round bottom, heaven. Cheomseongdan Altar is a historic place where a king of Goryeo prayed to the heavens during the time of Mongolian Invasion of Goryeo. Kings of the Joseon Dynasty also prayed to the heavens here. Even today, the Korean National Sports Festival and other large-scale sport events take the sacred flame at this altar. Also, every October 3, the Gaecheondaeje Ritual is hosted here to celebrate the birth of King Dangun and establishment of Gojoseon.



▲ Gaecheondaeje (Source: Ganghwa-gun Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

# Episode.3

## Don't Worry



Oh, Jaemin!  
Look outside!



We're passing  
over a grand and  
magnificent  
bridge!

What's its  
name?



Incheon Bridge.  
It's one of the  
many landmarks  
of Incheon.

Hey, Jaemin!  
Tell me about  
Incheon Bridge.



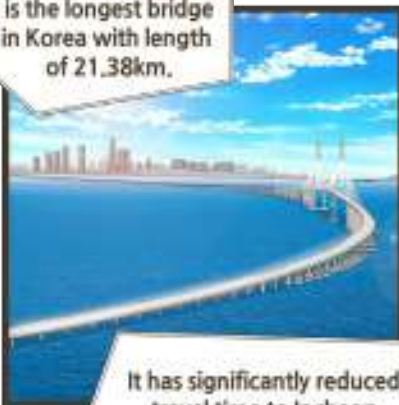
Huh? Who  
were you talking  
to just now?

Do you mean  
Incheon Bridge that connects  
Yeongjosa Island where  
Incheon International Airport  
and Songdo International  
City are?



!?

Incheon Bridge  
is the longest bridge  
in Korea with length  
of 21.38km.



It has significantly reduced  
travel time to Incheon  
International Airport.

Incheon Bridge is also  
known as the "highway on  
the ocean." It has the  
longest cable-stayed bridge\*  
span of 800m, which is  
the longest in Korea as well.



It is the most advanced  
bridge built to withstand  
winds of 72m/s and  
magnitude 7 of  
earthquakes.

\* Cable-stayed bridge: Bridge held by slanting cables and tower posts.



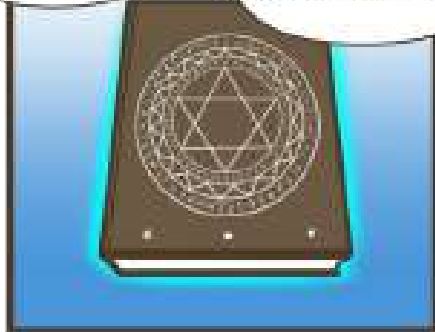


I'm feeling so lucky to have come to Incheon with such a splendid bridge!

Hey, wait! Your book is talking...?

Oh, this is Paper,

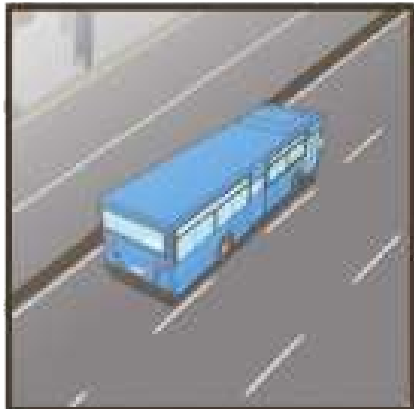
It's an AI grimoire that serves as an assistant to wizards.



Oh my gosh, you really are a wizard!

Then can you cast spells like fireball\*?

Of course. Wanna see it?



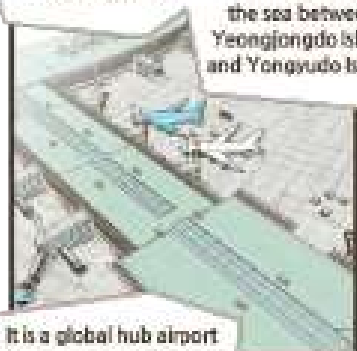
\* Fireball: A destructive fire magic





Incheon International Airport was built on a reclaimed land

that used to be the sea between Yeongjongdo Island and Yongyuodo Island.



It is a global hub airport that hosts 88 airlines and connects 189 cities in 58 countries.

It can handle 500,000 aircraft operations and up to 77 million passengers a year.

When the 4th development phase adding the 4th runway is completed in 2024, it is expected to host more than 100 million passengers a year.



100 million passengers? I didn't know that. That's incredible!

And I'm surprised that a book from another world knows this place better than I do.



That's not the point!

We need to find the egg before anyone else does!

No need to worry, Myr.



No need? How so?



If someone else takes that egg...

Oh? It's right there...?



How... How is this possible?

We Koreans very seldom steal stuff left unattended.



Anyway, there's the first egg!♥

Learn More

# Incheon International Airport, the most iconic facility in Incheon



▲ View of Incheon International Airport  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Incheon International Airport Terminal 2 after project phase 4  
(Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City vol. 3》)

Incheon International Airport is the most iconic facility of the city. In 1992 when construction began, Yeongjong-do Island was but a small island on the West Sea. So, reclaiming the surrounding sea including building an airport plus nearby facilities that cover 18 times more area than Yeouido is nothing short of a miracle. But the impossible was made possible; Terminal 1 opened in 2001, and Terminal 2, in 2018. Currently, it is solidifying its position as the global mega-hub airport that continues to rank no.1 in global airport service surveys every year.



◀ Changes made on Yeongjong-do Island  
(Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City vol. 3》)



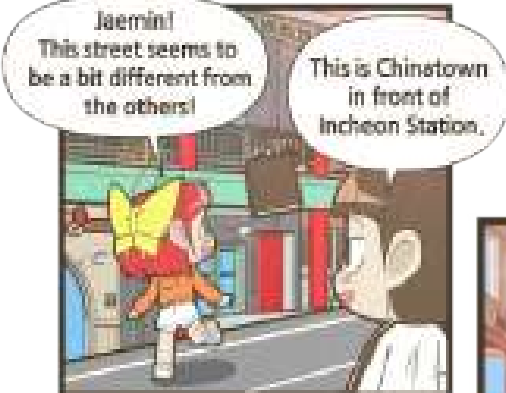
## Paper Talks “Incheon International Airport”

Incheon International Airport provides fast, easy and convenient airport services to global travelers, earning global recognition by ranking no.1 in the global airport service evaluation by the Airports Council International(ACI) for 12 consecutive years, winning the Best Transit Airport in the World Award by Skytracks for 7 times and winning the Best Airport in the World Award by Global Traveler for 11 times. In 2022 in particular, it earned level 5 ranking –which is the highest level–in the Customer Experience Accreditation by ACI. It was the first and only airport to earn that level.

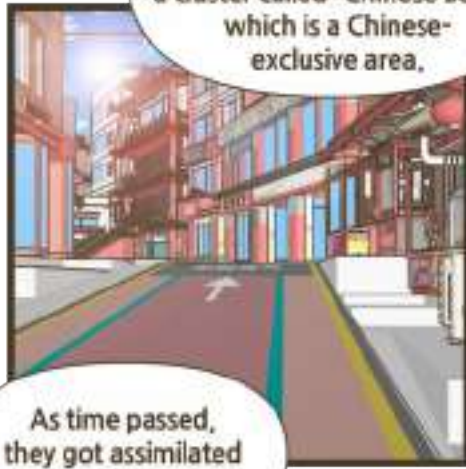


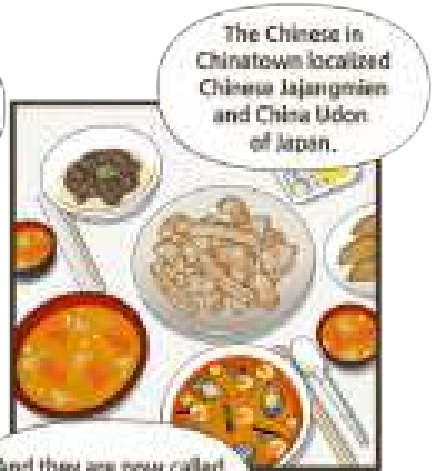
# Episode.4

## Artist's Favorite



Since the opening of the port in 1883, the Chinese began to form a cluster called "Chinese Base," which is a Chinese-exclusive area.





\* As of Aug. 31, 2011, both "Jjajangmyeon" and "Jajangmyeon" are correct spellings



It was so good... Hehe



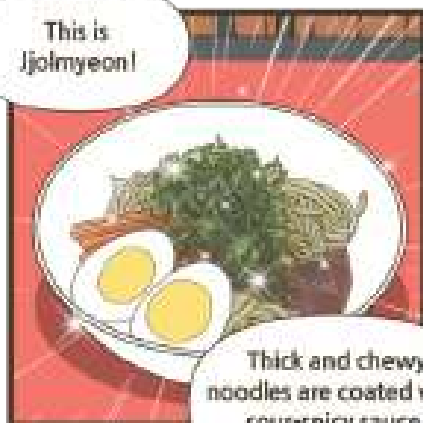
I see that even people from other worlds like Jjajangmyeon and Jjamppong.

Huh??

In that case... Follow me!



This is Jjolmyeon!



Thick and chewy noodles are coated with sour-spicy sauce, so yummy!

This also originated in Incheon, made by a noodlemaker accidentally making its noodles too thick.



Spicy!  
But so good!!

Since you're here, you have to try Shinpo Market's deep-fried and braised chicken!



This didn't originate in Incheon, but it's a favorite of the artist (Ji, Gang-min)

so he just added it!



This is so delish!



Byeolpyo Cider produced in Incheon was the first cider in Korea.

After the liberation of Korea, it became Star Cider.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



I didn't know that the first cider brand in Korea had its roots in Incheon...

Hehe, now you know!



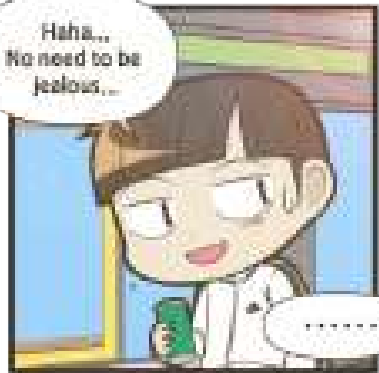
Incheon is the birthplace of so many good foods!



You live in such an interesting city, Jaemin! I so envy you!



Haha... No need to be jealous...



Oh, I'm so full, it was such a happy day for me today!



Isn't that right, Jaemin?

Yeah, I had good food thanks to you.

But...



I'm getting the feeling that I'm forgetting something.

Eh, I'm sure it's nothing. Nothing!



Learn More

# Incheon Open Port and Chinatown



▲ Entrance to Incheon Chinatown  
(Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ View of Incheon Open Port  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

As one of the key tourist attractions in Incheon, Chinatown traces its origins to the “Chinese Residence” where Chinese people lived after the opening of the port in 1883. Residence means “Area allowed for the residence and business operation of foreign people by a country.” There was another foreign residence on the street of Open Port, Jung-gu, Incheon—the Japanese Residence bordering Chinatown by the “China-Japan Residence Border Stairs.” A former fierce site of historical turmoil, it has now become a unique neighborhood where you can find different residential styles and cultural festivals that border a flight of stairs. Perhaps this is an iconic landscape of Incheon’s dynamic nature.



◀ Incheon Port from the China-Japan Residence Border Stairs  
(Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City in Photos vol. 1》)



## Paper Talks “Jajangmyeon Museum”

Located in Incheon’s Chinatown, Jajangmyeon Museum is the first Jjajang-themed museum and has been open since 2012 after renovating the old Gonghwachun building that sold the first-ever Jjajangmyeon, in order to shed new light on the cultural and historical value of the food. Meanwhile, around the museum are Incheon Open Port Modern Architecture Museum, Incheon Open Port Museum, Korean-Chinese Cultural Center, and Hotel Daebul Exhibition Hall, Jung-gu Life Center (Jung-gu Life Experience Center). These are the 5 major Incheon Open Port Museums. If you decide to visit all 5 museum all together in one day, you may get discounts.

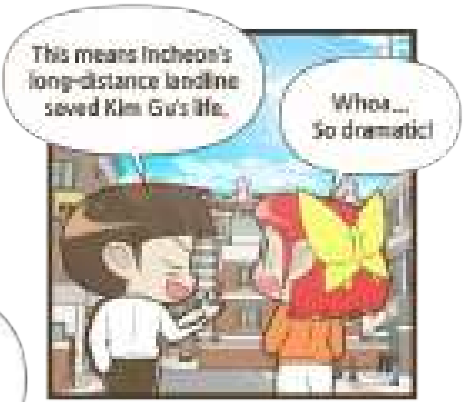
# Episode.5

## History, Almost Changed





\* The incident of Kim Gu killing a Japanese to "Avenge the murder of the queen" in Chihapo, Hwanghae-do Province



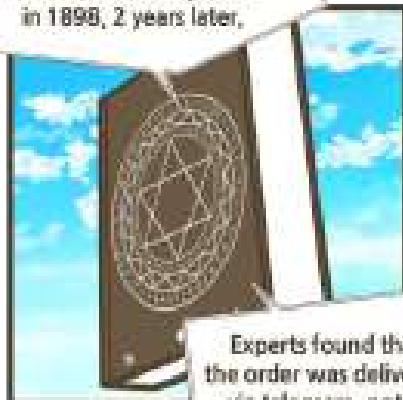


Do you mean the famous episode in Kim Gu's personal diary (Baek-beom-il-ji)?



Huh? We didn't ask...

Kim Gu's death sentence was given in 1896 and the Seoul-Incheon long-distance landline was completed in 1898, 2 years later.



Experts found that the order was delivered via telegram, not a landline phone call,

They also say that such confusion was caused by the



mental distress that Kim Gu got from the death sentence.

Oh, I see...

But it's still true that Kim Gu came close to death at Incheon Port Court,



Right, right.

...By the way,



Who is Kim gu?

Whoa,



Kim Gu is...





Learn More

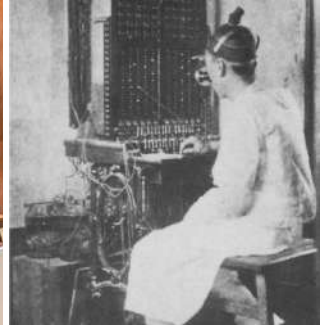
# First public telephone and Telephone operator



▲ Deokryulpung  
(Source: Official blog of ITO)



▲ Early magnetic telephone  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Early telephone operator  
(Source: «100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon»)

The first telephone in Korea was named “Deokryulpung,” a transliteration of the English word “Telephone” in Chinese characters. When telephones were first introduced, they were exclusively for the government or public institutes. Then, when was it made available for the general public? In 1902, the first public phone office of Korea was set up in Incheon. Initially, the landline connected Seoul and Incheon only, but additional lines were later installed in the city area, making it available for the public. Back then, it doesn't connect directly to the receiver by pressing numbers like today. Instead, there were “Telephone operators” who manually connected the callers to the receivers.

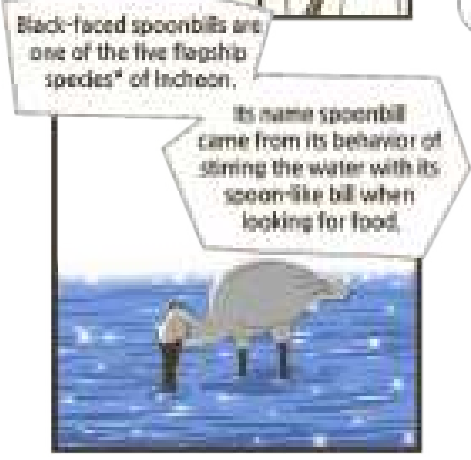
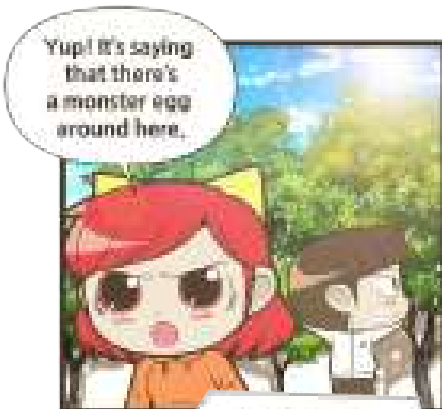


## Paper Talks “Chihapo Incident”

The Korean people's anti-Japanese sentiment grew fiercer since the Eulmi Incident, or the assassination of Empress Myeongseong by Japanese vagrants in 1895. In 1896, a twenty-year-old man named Kim Chang-su killed a Japanese at a tavern in Chihapo, Anak-gun, Hwanghae-do, in 1896 to “Avenge the murder of the queen” This is the Chihapo Incident, and Kim Chang-su is the childhood name of Kim Gu. At that time, Kim Gu was imprisoned in the Incheon Port Court Prison, which handle foreigner-related crimes.

# Episode.6

## Truth Uncovered

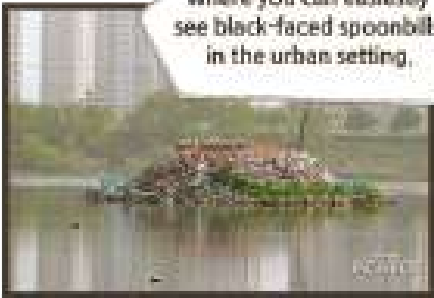


\* Flagship species: Species that people recognize as important to the ecosystem



This is Jeoposaeom Island, an artificial island in Namdong Marsh in Incheon

where you can easily see black-faced spoonbills in the urban setting.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

Now it talks even when we didn't ask, lol

That's AI - artificial intelligence,



There are birds on that island, but I can't see them from here.

I can't cross the marsh...

Hold on!



My! We can borrow binoculars from the Eco-Center to see spoonbills!

Really?



Wow! Amazing! A true city of magic, Incheon!

Black-faced spoonbills like it, too!

LOL



Oh! Spotted the monster egg! It's over there, on the spoonbill island!

What?!



A black-faced spoonbill must have mistaken it for its own egg...



We can't possibly get there, how can we get the egg?

Wait, didn't you say that monster eggs can be very dangerous when ordinary people get hold of them?

What if a bird cracks that egg...?!



Right, that's why we need to hurry!

FLASH



Ro'e burha juce mahasi!

What the-? What are you doing now?!



It's a spell that brings distant objects or life closer to the caster.

Myrl Behind you!

Huh?

Here we go! That was easy-peasy!



Ahhhh!!



\* You will be punished for stealing or eating black-faced spoonbill's eggs, so don't even try.



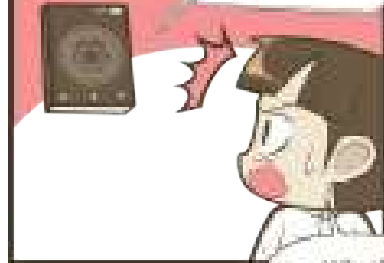


Hey, Paper-  
Tell me what  
monster eggs are?

Oh, Jaemin!  
What are you doing?

Do you mean  
monster eggs?

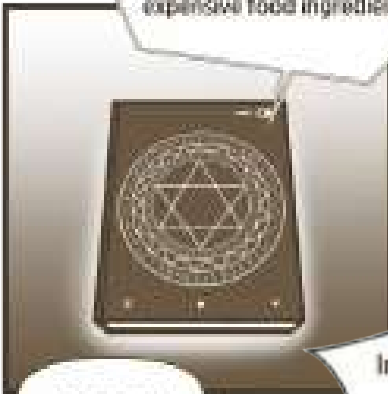
Monsters are  
rare birds found in  
'Grand'na.'



What?  
Rare birds?

\* Grand'na: The name of a place  
in the other world

Their eggs are known  
to be tasty and are a rare,  
expensive food ingredient.



.....

What?  
Incheon's history will  
be changed?  
Our world is in  
danger?

Paper-  
RUN!!



Hey, Myr!  
You stop there!  
I said, stop  
right there!

Food... ingredient...  
I see...

Hahaha,  
I mean,  
that's...

SHAKING



Learn More

# Seoul Frog, an Endangered Species



▲ Seoul Frog (Source: National Institute of Biological Resources)

As one of the five flagship species of Incheon, "Seoul Frog" is a Korean endemic species\* and a second-grade endangered species. Seoul Frog has a bright green color with two golden bands running on its back. Its major habitats in Incheon are large farmland areas in Gyeyang-gu or Ganghwado Island. Seoul Frogs used to be common sights in rice paddies or marshes, but urban development destroyed their habitats and almost drove them to extinction. Various eco-studies and flagship species education and promotion programs are in place to protect the flagship species of Incheon including Seoul Frog, with efforts dedicated to preserving their habitats and providing alternative habitats.

\*Korean endemic species: Biospecies found only in Korea



▲ Budeul Park in Bupyeong-gu, the Habitat of Seoul Frogs (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



▲ Information signs for protecting endangered species (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



## Paper Talks "Flagship species"

Flagship species means bio-species representing a region's ecological, regional, social, and cultural traits that are the representative of the region and thus require protection. The five flagship species of Incheon are black-faced spoonbill, vesper iris, uca lactea, Seoul frogs, and spotted seals. The Black-faced Spoonbill Eco Center was built in Namdong-gu, Incheon to protect black-face spoonbills, an internationally endangered species. The Black-faced Spoonbill Eco Center provides various educational programs for the ecology and environment of birds and offers interesting activities such as spoonbill nest cleaning, welcoming spoonbills, celebrating their birthdays, and throwing goodbye parties in case of their departure.



# Episode.7

## Jaemin's Motivation







Really?  
Gold coins are that  
precious in this world?

STUNG



Oh, that's why.  
I... see.

H-hey,  
I mean...  
I meant...!

I SEE THROUGH YOU



By the way, Jaemin,  
Why do you need  
gold coins?

I.. Hoped Pro  
512G LTE...



Alright, Jaemin!  
If you help me collect  
monster eggs, I'll give you  
my gold coins and,

Hoped?  
I'll give you  
that, too!



Really? I'll do  
my best, then!

We're friends again,  
right?  
Then let's look for  
the egg!

Yes!



But Myr,  
this stadium is massive...  
How do we find it here?



You're referring to this Incheon Football Stadium?

Here it goes again, blabbing away when we didn't even ask.

The first public stadium in Korea was **Ulsong Public Stadium** that opened in 1929 where **Jensuipo High School** sports today.

Hosting many sports events and matches, it laid the foundation of modern sports in Incheon.



(Source: 《100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon》)

With the establishment of **Incheon Middle School** on the site of the stadium, **Incheon Public Stadium** was newly built in **Sungui-dong** in 1936.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

Apart from the **Korean National Sports Festival**, **Sungui-dong Public Stadium** hosted many sports matches and events.

And in 2011, it was **refurbished** as **Incheon Football Stadium**, now getting much love from football fans in Incheon.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

Didn't know that the first public stadium in Korea was in Incheon.

Incheon has the first of everything!

I think the egg is inside the stadium. But how do we get in?

Huh?

I learned something new, too.





Isn't that a monster egg?!

Yes! It is!



Excuse me, sir! That egg... I mean, ball, is ours!

We'll get you a brand new soccer ball, so could you give that back to us?

What? You want this ball?

If you want it so badly, come and get it from me.



an even greater soccer player than Son Heungmin!



Let's begin! Hurry up, I'm heading home!

Oh, wait!!

DASH-



Please give it back!

I said, come and get it.

ICK! Power Sliding Tackle!

Ha, what a child's play!



Learn More

# Incheon Munhak Stadium



▲ View of Incheon Munhak Stadium  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Nightscape of Incheon Munhak Stadium  
(Source: Incheon Facilities Corporation)

Incheon is the hometown of sport teams in diverse games such as soccer, baseball, volleyball, basketball, etc. Among these games, baseball is a sport loved by Incheon residents as much as soccer. The baseball team “SSG Landers”—the baseball team representing Incheon—has its home ground “Incheon SSG Landersfield” in Incheon Munhak Stadium. Incheon Munhak Stadium has many facilities other than the baseball park, such as the main stadium where a 2002 Football World Cup was held, auxiliary stadium, Munhak Park Tae-hwan Swimming Pool, futsal field, artificial rock-climbing wall, etc., providing a multi-sport environment open to the sports-loving residents of Incheon.



▲ Incheon SSG Landersfield (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



## Paper Talks “Utteogol Stadium”

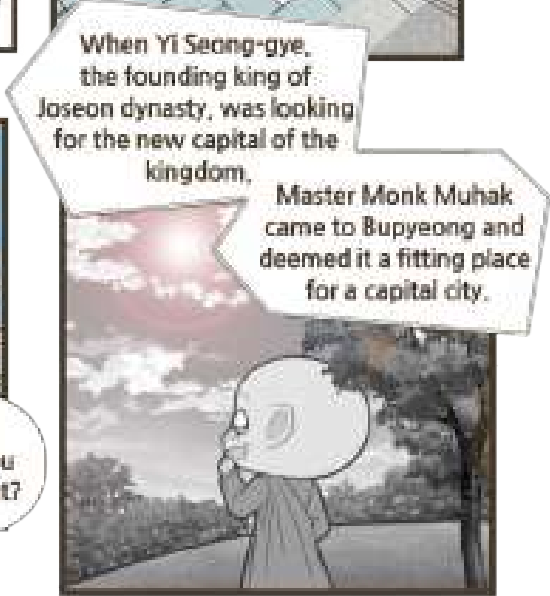
Utteogol Stadium often hosted baseball matches between Hanyongdan, a team of young men from Incheon, and Japanese teams. Many are said to have flocked to cheer for Hanyongdan.

# Episode.8

## If We Had One More

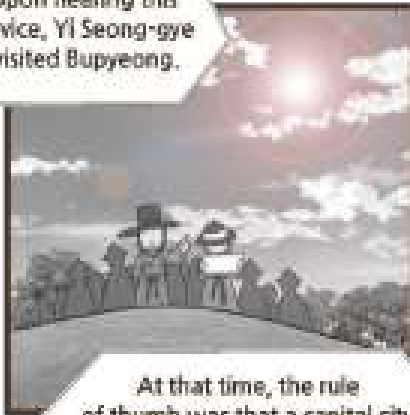






\* Wontongyi: It comes from the Korean word 'Wontonghada', which means 'Angry and unfair'

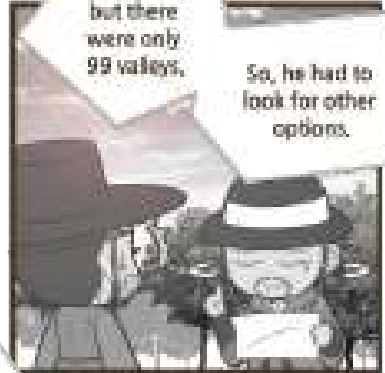
Upon hearing this advice, Yi Seong-gye visited Bupyeong.



At that time, the rule of thumb was that a capital city must have 100 valleys surrounding it. So he counted,

but there were only 99 valleys,

So, he had to look for other options.



Master Muhak lamented, "what a shame that it's one valley short!"



Thus the name of the hill became Wontongyi Passage, wontong meaning disappointment in Korean,

Wow... So that means, if Bupyeong had one more valley, Korea's capital city



would've been Bupyeong, not Seoul?



Wow...!





Yes, Incheon is the central city!



**Jaemin is getting even more confused...**

Learn More

# Gyeongin Ara Waterway



▲ View of Gyeongin Ara Waterway (Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

There have been many attempts to connect the shores of Incheon and Gulpocheon Stream through Wontongyi Passage in Bupyeong. That's because a waterway connecting the sea and Han River would allow quicker and safer trips for Jounseon boats\*, or cargo ships, to Hanyang. However, there were stories of such attempts failing multiple times due to the rough water and rocks. Then, in 1955, canal construction began again to prevent flooding and secure a passage for large-scale cargo logistics. After decades of works, Gyeongin Ara Waterway opened in 2012. Today, it is a place of leisure where locals and tourists can enjoy cruise ferries and yacht rides.

\*Jounseon boats: Boats that carried grain collected as tax from provincial regions in the Goryeo and Joseon Dynasties



▲ Cruise ferries and water leisure at the Gyeongin Ara Waterway (Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

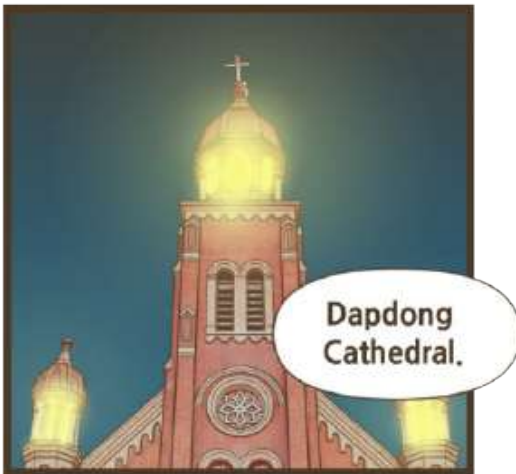


## Paper Talks “Wontongyi Passage”

Another legend tells the origin of the passage's name... Legend has it that the name of the location originates from the incident in the Joseon Dynasty. People were trying to transport rice harvested from provinces to Seoul safely so they began to dig a canal. But when they reached Bupyeong, a giant boulder blocked the way, and to everyone's disappointment, their efforts were wasted.

# Episode.9

## I Miss You

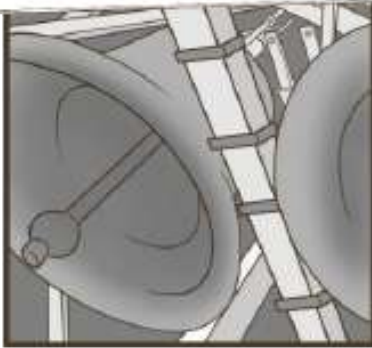


Dapdong St. Paul's Cathedral is the first cathedral built in Incheon,

sharing the history of the Incheon Catholic Church from its very beginning.



The three bells hanging in the towers as the symbol of Dapdong Cathedral were installed in the 1900s, ringing at every designated hour of the day.



Whoa.. It has a history of its own.



Excuse me...

Initially, it was built in Gothic style\*

but was refurbished with red brick facade in Romanesque style\*\* in 1937.



(Source: «100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon»)

\* Gothic style: An architectural style featuring straight lines and pointy steel-roofed towers

\*\* Romanesque style: An architectural style featuring arches and round domes

Although parts of the towers were damaged during the Korean War,



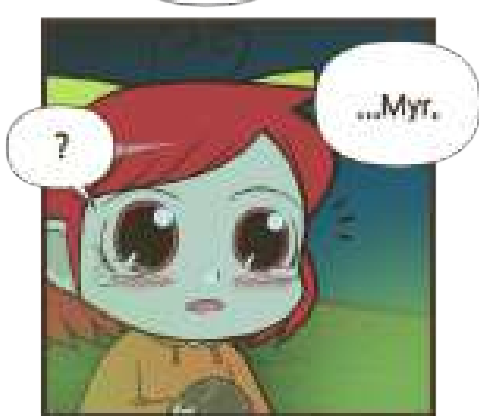
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

It still stands as one of Incheon's landmarks for a long time.











Huh?  
But you got it  
wrong yourself.

Whatever.  
I feel stupid  
now!

Oh, Jaemin...  
Are you  
miffed?

No, I'm not!

You're  
miffed.  
You are!

I said,  
I'm not!



Learn More

# History of Dapdong Cathedral and Korean Catholicism



▲ View of Dapdong Cathedral  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Inside of Dapdong Cathedral  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Catholic Incheon Parish History Hall  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

Incheon is a highly important city in the history of Korean Catholicism. Because Incheon has been the entrance to Korea since the olden times, Catholicism, too, came through Incheon. Next to Dapdong Cathedral is the Incheon Parish History Hall, the place to learn about key characters in the history of Catholicism in Incheon such as “Kim Taegon,” the first priest in Korea, “Lee Seung-hoon,” the first baptized devotee in Korea, and more.



## Paper Talks “Dapdong Cathedral”

Dapdong Cathedral was built in Jemulpo, the international trading hub that flourished during the late 19th century. It is the first Catholic construction erected in Incheon and one of the oldest modern Western-style cathedrals in Korea. In recent days, Incheon City and Jung-gu Office implemented the “Dapdong Cathedral Tourism Promotion Project,” and it is now getting refurbished as a space of culture and history where citizens can enjoy leisurely relaxation.



# Episode.10

## Boyfriend



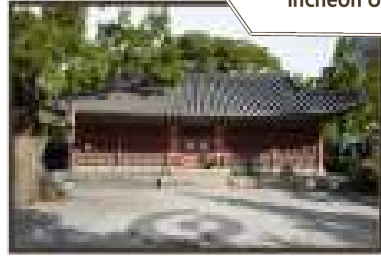
Want to know about Incheon Post Office, the first regional post office in Korea?



W-wait! Stop!! We're closing this episode!

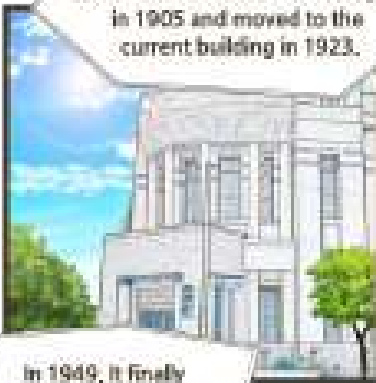
In 1884, Ujeongchonguk (former Central Post Office) was established in Hangeong for modern postal services, and Incheon Branch was established in Incheon.

After a brief closure during the Gabshin Coup of 1884, it resurrected under the name "Incheon Uchesa."



(Source: Korea Heritage Service)

Then, it was integrated into Incheon Central Post of Japan in 1905 and moved to the current building in 1923.



In 1949, it finally got the name Incheon Post Office.

The first regional post office was in Incheon? I'm not surprised anymore.

Incheon is truly the city of firsts!



Oh? The door's locked!

There's an announcement.

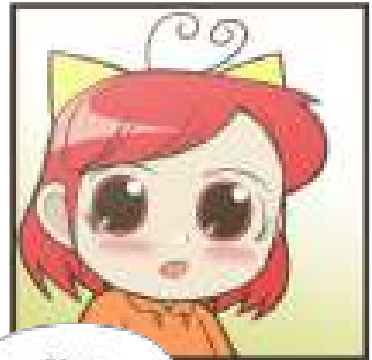


The post office has been moved!

It was moved due to a structural safety issue. This building will be renovated and opened to the public later.









I'm done!  
Hehe

Took you  
long enough.



Now, put it in  
the postbox.



Please deliver  
my letter safe!

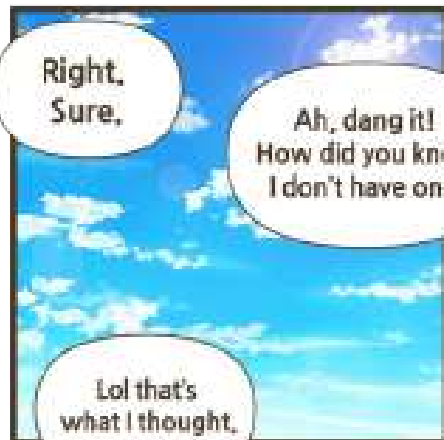
By the way,  
whom did you  
write to? Parents?  
Friends?



My boyfriend!

What?  
You have...  
A boyfriend??  
For real?

What? My face  
is pretty enough.



Right,  
Sure,

Ah, dang it!  
How did you know  
I don't have one?

Lol that's  
what I thought.



Learn More

# The first regional post office and postmen



▲ Incheon Post Office in 1923  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Old Incheon Post Office, a modern building from the port opening period  
(Source: «History of Incheon Metropolitan City vol.3»)



▲ Early postmen (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

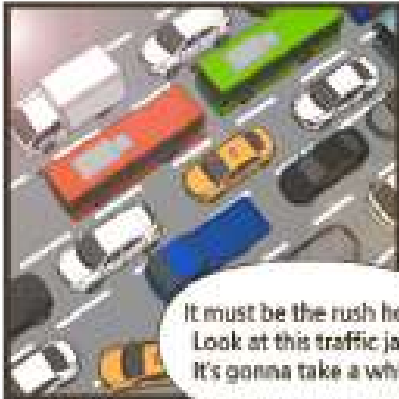


▲ Postcard of postmen in the 1990s  
(Source: «History of Incheon Metropolitan City in Photos vol. 1»)

The first regional post office was in Incheon. When the post office was just established, communicating between regions by putting stamps on letters was an incredibly amazing thing. Then, were there postmen like today? Yes, there were postmen who delivered posts even back then. Becoming a postman was said to be an extremely difficult process. They needed to read addresses in both Korean and Chinese characters on the envelopes to deliver them to the right places, and they had to walk for 8 hours a day before the emergence of railway systems.

# Episode.11

## Use THAT Magic



It must be the rush hour. Look at this traffic jam. It's gonna take a while.



It's alright, I'm happy you gave me a lift.

Thank you for sparing me your time.



Don't mention it. I'm headed that way, too. Thank you for thanking me.



I've been driving my son everywhere for decades and he never says thanks.

He's playing a terrible son, I suppose.



Oh...! I got a great idea!

K'reid Roviava Zeisi...!

Wait! Stop!! Stop!



What spell did you just cast?

It's a levitation spell. I'm going to make this car levitate so that we can go faster.

\* See ep.2



Think before you act.



Gyeongin Expressway was the first expressway built in Korea.

Its construction began in 1967 and the section connecting Yangpyeong-dong, Seoul and Gajwa Interchange, Incheon was the first to open in 1968.



With the opening of this expressway, the travel time between Incheon and Seoul that took over 1 hour



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

Thanks to this expressway, we can travel throughout the nation in one-day,

The traffic's pretty smooth usually, except for rush hours.



was reduced to a whopping 18 minutes.

Wow... Incheon is the city of firsts.

And Incheon City is now implementing



the Underground Gyeongin Expressway and Park Construction Project!

It's a great project to put the expressway underground and turn the aboveground area into parks and green areas for the citizens!



Myr, cast that spell again!

What? But you said not to just then?



We have to get to the destination fast to survive this!

Putting Gyeongin Expressway underground has been the Incheon citizens' wish for a long time.

I hope the project works out this time.

And there's...









Learn More

# Gyeongin Expressway, the first expressway in Korea



▲ Bird's-eye view of Gyeongin Expressway's construction (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ View right after the opening of Gyeongin Expressway (Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City in Photos vol. 2》)



▲ Current view of Gyeongin Expressway in Bupyeong-gu (Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City vol. 3》)

Gyeongin Express connecting Incheon and Seoul is the first expressway established in Korea, serving as the center of logistics that connects Incheon Port and the metropolitan area. With the opening of Gyeongin Expressway in 1968, a lot of parts in the passenger and cargo transports of the railway were transferred to the expressway, contributing greatly to the formation of the Incheon metropolitan area. Gyeongin Expressway undoubtedly laid the foundation of the development of Korean roads networks in terms of national territorial development.

# Episode.12

## The Living Legend

Panel 1 (Top Left): A character is walking. A speech bubble says: "Seriously, how much longer should I put up with her?"

Panel 2 (Top Middle): A character is walking. A speech bubble says: "What if she gets into an accident?"

Panel 3 (Top Right): A character is walking. A speech bubble says: "Yes, she needs some time to reflect on her behaviors!"

Panel 4 (Middle): A character is walking. A speech bubble says: "And that's right now!"

Panel 5 (Middle Left): A character is in a room. A speech bubble says: "...but"

Panel 6 (Middle Right): A character is in a room. A speech bubble says: "What if she's crying, terrified?"

Panel 7 (Bottom Left): A character is looking out a window. A speech bubble says: "She's so cute and lovely, she might get kidnapped...!"

Panel 8 (Bottom Right): A character is looking out a window. A speech bubble says: "Indeed it is a strange place for her." Another speech bubble says: "And she doesn't know anyone but me and my family..."

\* This is Jaemin's personal opinion











**Even natives can get lost their way in here.**

Learn More

# Dongincheon Underground Shopping Mall



▲ Commencement of Saeincheon Underground Shopping Mall in 1971  
(Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City in Photos vol. 2》)



▲ Commencement of Dongincheon Underground Passage in 1967  
(Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City in Photos vol. 2》)

Incheon is the city with the most underground shopping malls in Korea with a whopping 15 of them. Among them, the first one to have opened was “Dongincheon Underground Shopping Mall,” which predates “Saeseoul Underground Shopping Mall” – the first underground shopping mall in Korea – by 4 years. Construction of Dongincheon Underground Shopping Mall began on February 15, 1963 and finished on November 20 of the same year, but locals had different opinions on the mall. The official opening of the mall was in 1974 – 8 years later – following mediation by Incheon Metropolitan City. Today, Dongincheon Underground Shopping Mall has grown into a large shopping mall operating with about 750 shops in 5 complexes across Inhyeon Underground Shopping Mall and Shinpo Underground Shopping Mall. Dongincheon Underground Shopping Mall in its early years.



◀ Dongincheon Underground Shopping Mall in its early years  
(Source: Architecture & Urban Policy Information Center)



## Paper Talks “Bupyeong Modoo Mall”

Bupyeong Modoo Mall (formerly Bupyeong Station Underground Shopping Mall) is the world’s largest underground shopping mall with 1,480 shops and 33 exits and was famously called the “largest underground dungeon of Incheon.” Now, however, its paths are color-coded with four colors and Naver Map and Kakao Map navigation services work in the shopping mall so that visitors can navigate their way easily. Bupyeong Modoo Mall was selected as a cultural tourism market and is a popular attraction in Incheon that caters to the needs of all ages and genders with rich shopping experiences, entertainment, and easy access to transportation with Bupyeong Station in close proximity.

# Episode.13

## An Old Man's Story



Phew...  
We finally escaped  
the underground  
shopping mall!



Told you,  
follow me and  
you'll  
find the exit.

You were right,  
We escaped the  
dungeon.



After 2 hours...

Hmph...!  
Hmph...!



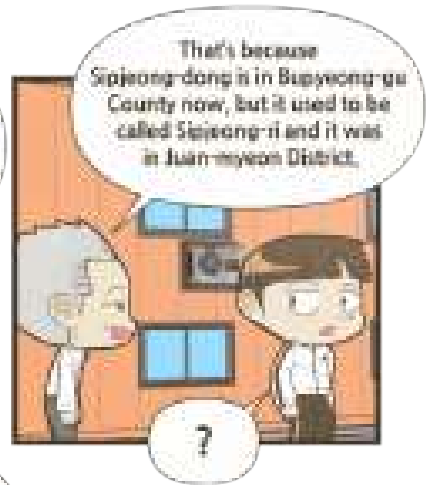
Oh? Jaemin!  
What's this? There's  
a tombstone here.

A tombstone?  
But this is an  
industrial area?

This stele was erected  
to commemorate  
Juan Salt Pond, the first  
sun-dried salt pond that  
was first made in Korea  
in 1907.

Oh,  
like Incheon  
Post Office?







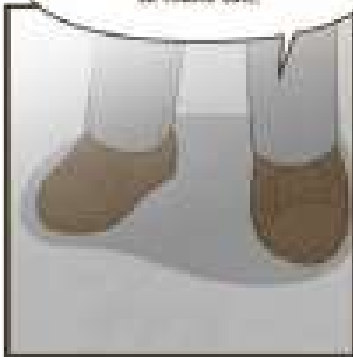
But Juan, Incheon became the first place to produce sun-dried salt by trapping seawater in a pond



and letting the water evaporate.

(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

People also made "Sun-dried Salt Tasting Site" in Sipjeong-ri, Juan-myeon in 1907 and found it to be a fitting place to make salt.



So Incheon was the first place in Korea to make sun-dried salt,



Incheon has so many firsts!

The result was a huge success and the salt pond here was expanded to Juan Salt Pond.



Then, a village where salt pond workers live was built nearby.

With the massive success of Juan Salt Pond, many other salt ponds sprang up in Incheon, like Namdong Salt Pond, Gunja Salt Pond, and Sorae Salt Pond,



(Source: Michuhol-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

Juan Salt Pond must've been incredible if it encouraged



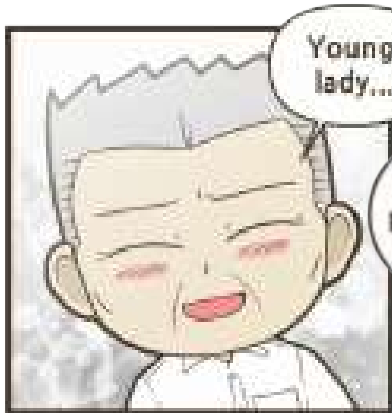
people to make a village and other salt ponds!

Yes, that's correct!!





Thank you. What a beautiful young lady with a beautiful heart!



**She just makes everything harder.**

Learn More

# Sorae Salt Pond, another salt pond of Incheon



▲ A view of old Sorae Salt Pond  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Old salt warehouse of Sorae Salt Pond  
(Source: Korea Heritage Service)



▲ Sorae Swamp Eco Park  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Sorae Swamp Eco Park  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

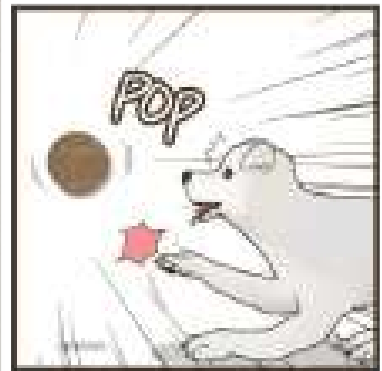
In 1907, the first sun-dried salt pond, Incheon Juan Salt Pond, was made. Sun-dried salt pond refers to salt ponds that made salt by trapping sea water and drying it with sunlight and wind. During the Japanese Imperial Occupation, Japan exploited salt from these ponds to make explosives. After the liberation of Korea, Sorae Salt Pond in Incheon—the largest salt production site in Korea along with Juan Salt Pond—was closed down amid the waves of industrialization. Later, Sorae Salt Pond was reclaimed by mudflat, becoming today's "Sorae Swamp Eco Park" with diverse flora and fauna. Perhaps it's a unique view in Incheon, touched by nature again after a brief period of sad history.

# Episode.14

## Rescue the Monster Egg









Haha, I knew it'd work!



Oh, it wasn't mine.



This place is... The Memorial Hall for Incheon Landing Operation?

Do you mean Incheon Landing Operation, the battle that turned the tide of the Korean War?



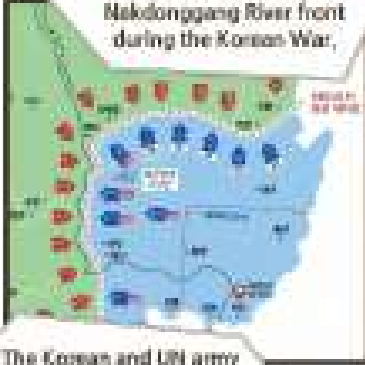
Paper, we didn't ask you.



SAD...

Oh, right...

South and North Korea were at a stalemate with the Nakdonggang River front during the Korean War.



The objective of the Incheon Landing Operation was to disorient the North Korean forces by landing on three shores of Incheon.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

The Korean and UN army needed to turn the tide, so they planned the Incheon Landing Operation.

and occupy the North Korean military facilities and Incheon Port. The operation was a huge success.

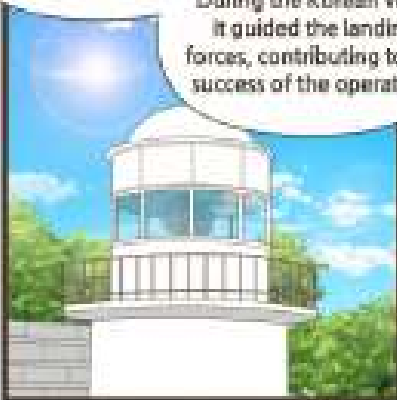
With the success of the operation, the UN and Korean army forces were able to recapture Seoul.

The North Korean army was pushed back to Kaesong and P'yongyang, turning the tide of the war.



Palmido Lighthouse, the dog was guarding, is the first modern lighthouse built in Korea.

During the Korean War, it guided the landing forces, contributing to the success of the operation.



Oh? That's what we just did!

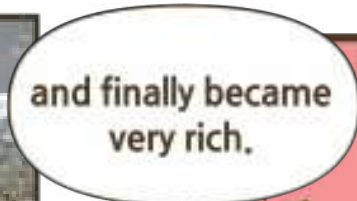
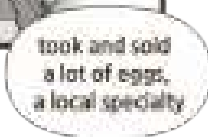
Yes, exactly.



The actual lighthouse is on Palmido Island in Jung-gu, Incheon, and that's a model installed for filming a movie 'Operation Chromite'.



Wow!



Learn More

# Incheon Landing Operation and sacrifices of residents of Wolmido Island



▲ The Allied Forces arrive at the Red Beach  
(Source: 《Incheon War History vol. 2》)



▲ The Incheon Landing Operation  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

The three major battles of the Korean War are the Battle of Dabu-dong, Incheon Landing Operation, and Battle of Changjin Lake. Incheon Landing Operation in particular turned the tables\* of the war and laid a foundation for the allied forces to reclaim Seoul and march beyond the 38th parallel. However, nobody knew that 100 residents of Wolmido Island were sacrificed during the bombardment for the Incheon Landing Operation. To commemorate these victims, the Wolmido Resident Homecoming Committee hosts "Incheon Landing Operation Wolmido Resident Victims Memorial" events regularly. Perhaps it's a good idea to remember these victims on September 15, the day of the Incheon Landing Operation.

\*Turning the tables: Changing a situation with an action



▲ Wolmido Island engulfed by bombardments of the Allied Forces  
(Source: 《Incheon War History vol. 2》)



▲ Memorial Monument for the victims of Wolmido Island established in 2021  
(Source: 《Incheon War History vol.2》)



## Paper Talks "Palmido Lighthouse"

Palmido Lighthouse, the lighthouse that played a critical role in the Incheon Landing Operation, is the first modern lighthouse that began its operation in June 1903. Located on the entry to Incheon, it guides boats that enter and exit Incheon Port. A tiny island called Palmido Island, where this lighthouse stands, is named as such because it looks like the Chinese character eight (八, pal in Korean) with the two islands connected by a sandy strip of land. Palmido Island, one of the 8 wonders of Incheon thanks to its beautiful sunset, has been open for public visits since 2009 when its military reservation status was lifted. It is also one of the 15 most beautiful lighthouses in Korea selected by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries <Lighthouse Stamp Tour>.



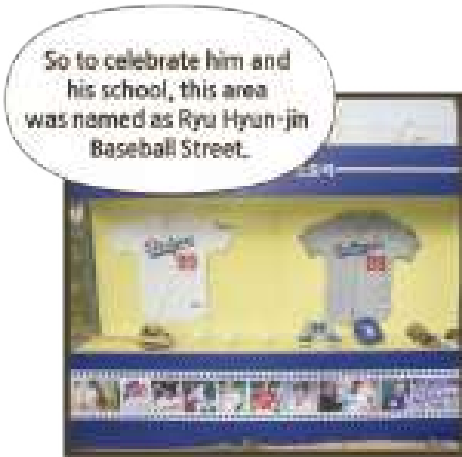
# Episode.15

## A Global Superstar



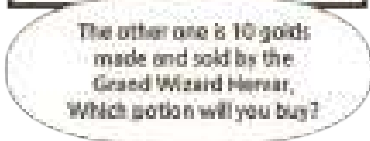
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)





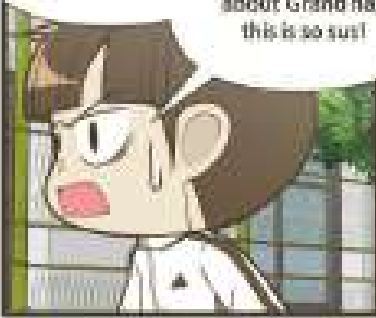
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)





And how does he know the Grand Wizard name from your world?

We never told him about Grand na, this is so sus!



Because Herva is a global household name! Like Ryu Hyun-jin!

**A Global Superstar!**



But this isn't your world, he shouldn't know it!

Did you know this, too?

What now?



The first commercial advertisement of Korea was displayed in Incheon!

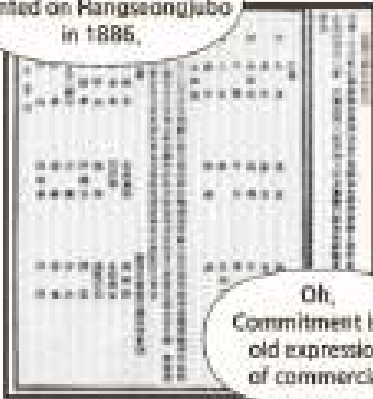


Really?

What commercial was it?



Commitment of Sechangyanghaeng\* was printed on Hangseongjubo in 1886.



Oh, Commitment is an old expression of commercial.

(Source: 《100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon》)

\* Sechangyanghaeng: A trade company established by the Germans in Jemulpo

The commercial said that they are purchasing cowhide, horse hide, dog hide, etc., and



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

selling imported alarm clocks, Western sewing needles, glasses, and more, waiting for customers' visits.

It was literally a "Commitment" of the company to sell products at fair and honest prices to children and old people as well.



How romantic is that?



...By the way, why do they keep disappearing?



Not from this world.



Jaemin! Why are you running away? He seems like a nice guy!



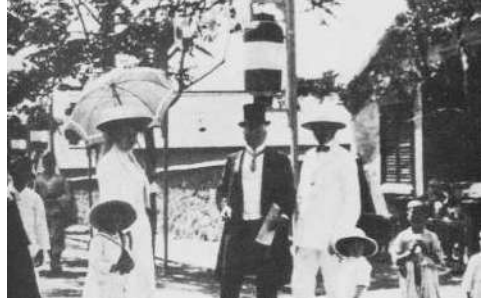
Myr, I think that man is...

Learn More

# Sechangyanghaeng, a Western trading company



▲ Sechangyanghaeng company building (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Meyer and Wolter, owner and manager of Sechangyanghaeng (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Advertisement of Sechangyanghaeng in Dongnipsinmun Newspaper in 1897 (Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City vol. 2》)

Sechangyanghaeng was the company to issue the first modern commercial advertisement, and it was a trading company branch established in Jemulpo, Incheon in 1884, as an Asian base of 'Meyer Trading Company' from Germany. The advertisement of Sechangyanghaeng was issued on 'Dongnipsinmun Newspaper' which was established in 1896. This promoted the company's products and spread the concept of commercial advertisement in Korea. However, there are mixed evaluations on Sechangyanghaeng. Some say that the company exerted political pressure to make money in Korea, thereby violating the sovereignty of the state and hindering the country's normal economic growth.



## Paper Talks "Commitment of Sechangyanghaeng"

Sechangyanghaeng is a trade company established as the Jemulpo branch of Germany's Meyer Trade Company in June 1884. It exported Joseon's grains and imported Western products including English cotton products. The imported "Sechang sewing needles" were thin and sturdy, so housewives raved about it. "Kinine", a malaria treatment, was known as a popular cure-all. Sechangyanghaeng have two "First" titles. Its staff quarters built in Gakguk Garden (current Jayu Park) in 1884 was the first western house in Korea. Its "Deoksang Sechangyanghaeng's Commitment" in 《Hanseongjubo》 in 1886 was the first modern commercial advertisement in Korea.



# Episode.16

## An Extraordinary Person



How did he know  
and follow us  
from Bupyeong to here?

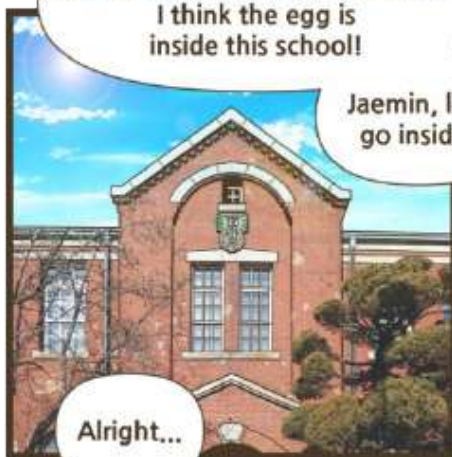


I mean, no one's supposed  
to be able to see it  
because of your spell...





By the way...  
Changyeong Elementary School?  
I think the egg is inside this school!



Jaemin, let's go inside!



Oh, it means that the March 1st Movement took place nationwide during Japanese colonial era.



and in Incheon, this protest first started right here at Changyoung Elementary School.

\* the Memorial Monument of Incheon March First Independence Movement



This is the first public primary school in Korea established in January 1896.



Oh, so this sign commemorates that movement.

Another first of Incheon.

By the way, Jaemin. You know quite a lot about this school. Have you been here before?

Of course. I went to this school.



That explains it. I'm curious. What were you like in elementary school? Jaemin, were you always...



complaining, even back then? I was also a perfect innocent young thing at that time!





By the way, what's the March 1st Movement?



The March 1st Movement is a national independence declaration movement that first took place on March 1st, 1919.

The March 1st Movement, which was developed from all walks of life across the country, drew the world's attention and renewed awareness of the Korean people.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

It eventually led to the establishment of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai, China.

It inspired people to have resilient and fierce resolution for liberation from the colonial rule of the Japanese Empire,



And served as a catalyst for Japan to switch their policy from military rule to cultural rule.

Incredible. A peaceful protest without any arms?



And it all began at this school in Incheon?

(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

Yes, The news traveled late to Incheon, and the protest took place at this very school, Incheon Public Primary School, on March 6th.



Dozens of students from the school marched to the streets and began an independence demonstration.

Students realized that the Japanese Police ordered the school to watch them.



In response, they cut the school's landline and stood in solidarity against the Japanese Empire, going on a student strike.

While on strike, they joined forces with Incheon Public Commerce School\* and carried out an independence movement.

It then spread all over Incheon.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

\* Incheon Public Commerce School

: Today's Incheon High School

Whoa, Jaemin!  
You went to such a great school!

That's incredible!



Nah, it's nothing.

My seniors were so brave putting their lives at stake for the independence of this country.



But at their age, I was just a kid who couldn't do anything by himself.



It's just embarrassing, really...

Well, we did get lost in Bupyeong Underground Shopping Mall...

But we got out!



After 2 hours, you mean!

But I don't think so.



Huh?

Jaemin, you're now helping me find monster eggs for Grand'na as the representative of Korea.







**She was so quick to change the subject**

Learn More

# Hyanggyo and Seowon



▲ Incheon Hyanggyo  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Ganghwa Hyanggyo  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

Incheon has a long history of modern educational institutes such as Changyeong Elementary School, Yeonghwa Academy, Inmyeong School, etc. Then, what kind of educational institutes were there before these? First of all, there were “Hyanggyo” Confucian schools to teach local students during the Goryeo and Joseon Dynasties. In Incheon, there were Incheon Hyanggyo, Bupyeong Hyanggyo, Gyodong Hyanggyo, and Ganghwa Hyanggyo. Gyodong Hyanggyo in particular, is known to be the first hyanggyo built in Korea, established in the 5th year of Goryeo’s King Injong (1127). While hyanggyo was a public educational institute established by the state, there were private schools called “Seowon” In Incheon, there was only one of them, located on the slope of Munhaksan Mountain and called Haksanseowon Confucian Academy. Haksanseowon Confucian Academy was closed in 1871 by the order of Daewongun to close all seowons, but perhaps it laid the foundation of education in Incheon, which is making inroads into the international scene.



▲ Marker stone of Haksanseowon Confucian Academy in the 1950s  
(Source: «100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon»)



▲ Haksanseowon Confucian Academy in Gwangyeodo Map in the late 18th century



## Paper Talks “Incheon Public Primary School”

Incheon Public Primary School is the former name of Changyeong Elementary School. It is where the Incheon March 1st Movement began, and it has such long history and cultural significance that its old brick staff quarters built in 1924 is a tangible cultural heritage of Incheon. Recently, Changyeong Elementary School’s date of establishment, January 22, 1896, was recognized to be the earliest among public elementary schools in Incheon, which makes it the first public school for Korean children.

# Episode.17

## Jumping the Queue



This is Hongyemun Gate. It's pretty famous so I know it, too, but this tunnel is all there is.



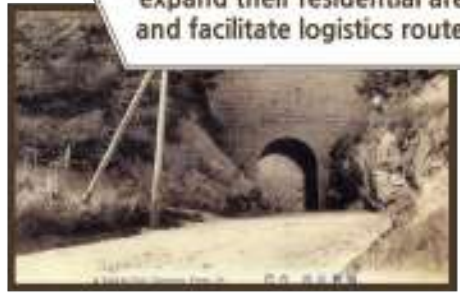


W-wait!  
Why is the cat commenting  
about Hongyemun Gate  
all of a sudden?!



Opened in 1908, this tunnel  
was called Hyeolmun Gate\*  
by the Japanese.

They literally made a hole  
in the mountain range to  
expand their residential area  
and facilitate logistics routes.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)  
\* Hyeolmun gate: a hole gate

Hongyemun Gate  
was designed by  
the Japanese.

But the actual construction  
work was done by Koreans  
who were forcibly mobilized.



My master's father was  
one of them, and he died  
from chronic diseases  
that he contracted from  
that construction...



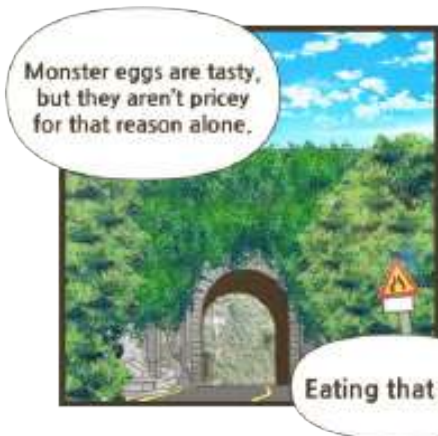
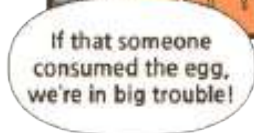
My master missed  
his father for a long time,  
and only after meeting me,  
he was able to smile again.











\* Mana: The power that allows people use magic

Learn More

# Hongyemun Gate



▲ Hongyemun Gate (Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

Hongyemun Gate in Incheon is a very impressive architecture characterized by the arch-shaped stone gate and style. Thanks to its unique appearance, it's often featured in dramas and films. It made an appearance in major films such as "Classic" and TV drama "It's Okay, That's Love." There are pretty cafe streets with Hongyemun Gate in the center, with many nearby attractions such as Jayu Park, Chinatown, Shinpo Market, and more, attracting many visitors. In fact, many people have been using Hongyemun Gate from the past. Movie post panels were put up on the gate as part of promotions back in the days. As such, Hongyemun Gate of Incheon continues to be loved by the residents.



▲ View of Hongyemun Gate in the 1950s  
(Source: 《History of Incheon Metropolitan City vol. 7》)



▲ Movie post panel put up on Hongyemun Gate in 1958  
(Source: Good Morning Incheon <Stories of Incheon in School Yearbook> written by Yu Dong-hyeon")



## Paper Talks "History of Hongyemun Gate's Construction"

Hongyemun Gate, which means rainbow gate, is a gate that stands on the Chukhyeon Station (current Dongincheon Station) side of Gyeongin Railway at Jemulpo Port. It's a stone gate made by the Japanese to facilitate goods logistics during the Japanese Occupation period. Many Korean workers were sacrificed during its construction. But it is now an Incheon Tangible Cultural Heritage as a cultural asset showing the construction method and materials of that time. Today, it is a key architectural site visited by many tourists thanks to the ivy covering the stone walls on both sides of the entrance and the cafe street around the gate.



# Episode.18

## Myr's Past



Oh? We've been here before,  
Changyeong Elementary School!  
Where Jaemin went!



...Or rather,  
the school next door!

Yeonghwa  
Elementary School?



I guess an egg  
was here, too.



Let's go,  
Jaemin!

.....

We should've paid  
a visit when we  
were here before!



So eating  
a monster egg  
automatically turns  
anyone into a mage?

Even  
ordinary people?



Not sure.  
Everyone in Grand'na  
can use magic,  
so it'll surely work.



But it's not going to  
do anything to people  
without any potential magic  
in them.

Jaemin, have you  
seen or heard about

people who can use magic in Incheon?

Nope. Never.



Then no need to worry.

The things you're worried about won't happen.



I guess I got excited because I was thinking that this place is like Grand'na.



.....

Found it!



It's not cracked!

...Oh?



But this building looks really old.

Is this some kind of historical building?





Hey, Paper-



...Is your inquiry about Yeonghwa Academy, the first elementary school for Koreans established in Incheon?

The second-generation pastor of Naeri Church, Pastor Johns, and his wife, missionary Mrs. Bengel,



\* Missionary Bengel

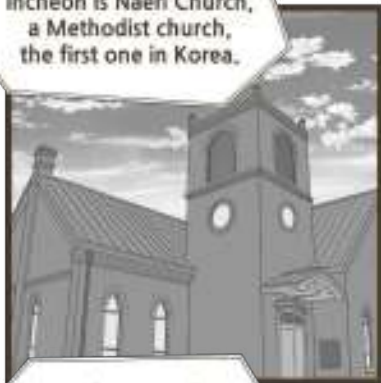
Opened Yeonghwa Academy in Naeri Church in 1892 and moved it to this very building in 1911.

Or cooking them in steaming pots, so it was difficult to recruit students.



Oh my... So there were fake news in the past, too.

In Nae-dong, Jung-gu, Incheon is Naeri Church, a Methodist church, the first one in Korea.



But at the time when the port was just opened, people were against foreign religions.

And there were rumors of Western people cutting off Koreans' limbs, canning them, and sending them back to their countries.



(SAW IT WITH MY VERY OWN EYES!)

Despite these hardships, they recruited and taught students with all they had.



And the school produced many great people like Kim Ae-ma, the person who began the first teacher training in Korea, Kim Yeong-ui, the first female music educator in Korea,

and journalist  
Lee Kil-yong, who erased the  
Japanese flag that was on the  
chest of Son Ki-jeong.

a gold medalist at the 1936 Berlin  
Olympics marathon, from his report.



Well, now it's normal  
for girls to study and  
work independently,



But about a hundred years ago,  
that was something completely  
unheard of,

So Incheon didn't allow  
girls to do certain things  
in the past, like us?

It was like that in  
Grand'na, too?



Don't get me started.  
Girls can't slay  
dragons on  
their own,

Girls can't storm  
the Devil's Castle, sheesh.  
So many no's and don'ts,



I think men shouldn't  
do those things alone,  
either?

It wasn't just  
that!



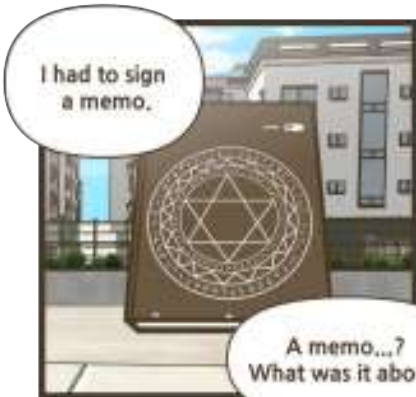
Do you have any idea how  
long it took me to persuade  
my parents to send me to the  
mage's school?



It was so hard...



How did you persuade your parents, Myr?



A memo...? What was it about?

"I will make sure to pay extra attention so that I do not destroy houses or villages with my magic..."



How Grear was the destrucion...?



Yup! I'm super hungry, too!



No, we don't need the egg shells.



Learn More

# Naedong Church of the Anglican Church and Ganghwa Cathedral



▲ Naedong Church of the Anglican Church of Korea (Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

While "Incheon Naeri Church" is the first Methodist church in Korea, "Incheon Naedong Church" is the first Anglican church established in Korea. Anglican church is a branch of church that follows the doctrine of the Church of England, and Naedong Church was built by Bishop Corfe (Korean name: Goh Yo-han) who came to Incheon as a missionary. Dr. Landis, a physician from the US, built "St. Luke Hospital," the first Western medical center in Incheon for medical missionary services. He was respected and called "Yakdaein," meaning "A great man giving medicine away," and Naedong, Incheon where the hospital was located was called "Yakdaein Hill." Meanwhile, Bishop Goh Yo-han built "Ganghwa Cathedral of the Anglican Church of Korea" on Ganghwado Island, and it is the oldest hanok cathedral in Korea that still stands today. Ganghwa Cathedral is characterized by its mixture of Western European basilica style\* and Eastern Buddhist temple style.

\*Basilica style: A special architecture style originating from ancient Roman court buildings



▲ Ganghwa Cathedral of the Anglican Church of Korea (Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



## Paper Talks "Incheon Naeri Church"

Incheon Naeri Church was established by missionary Appenzeller, who established Baejae Academy. It is one of the churches built during the early age of Korean Protestantism history, so it is also known as the "Mother church of Korea." It also has many "Firsts in Korea" as it was where Yeonghwa Elementary School—the first modern elementary school in Korea—was established, and the first church that imported a reed organ to sing hymns. In addition, it has a deep relationship with the immigration to Hawaii as 50 of 121 immigrants on the first ship to Hawaii that departed in 1902 were devotees from Naeri Church.

# Episode.19

## Pit-a-pat





Oh, Ae Kwan Theater was built by Jeong Chi-guk, a rich man who lived in Incheon in 1895.



Jae- Jaemin...! This movie looks good!



I like th-this movie better!

At first, it was named "Hyeupryulsa" and was exclusively for plays...

It changed its name to Ae Kwan and began to show movies in the early 1920s.



Oh yeah! We need to get popcorn!

And soda, too...!



Dad...



Sorry, Dad, I didn't mean to cut you off

I was worried that we'd be standing here forever when the movie's about to start...





Myr, why aren't you surprised?

Could it be that you...?

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

Myr's hand is rougher than I thought. And hard...

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

Huh? Hard...?

TA !? DA

Oh my gosh, Jaemin! You found an egg while watching the movie!

But, what's wrong? You don't look so happy.

No- It's nothing...

FLUTTER

FLUTTER



Learn More

# Incheon Cinema Street



▲ Ae Kwan Theater (Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

Did you know that the Gyeong-dong and Dongincheon areas in Incheon used to be the base of local culture where various drama companies and artistic organizations engaged in cultural and artistic activities? If Seoul has Chungmuro, Incheon's Gyeong-dong area was the local "Cinema street," flourishing as the center of local cinema. It was made possible by theaters established in Incheon in the 20th century. Incheon once had about 20 theaters such as Mirim Theater, Dongbang Theater, and Inyeong Theater as well as the first modern indoor theater, Ae Kwan Theater. Today, many of these theaters that led the heyday of Incheon cinematic art have disappeared into the chapters of history, but Ae Kwan Theater still stands today.



▲ Ae Kwan Theater in the past  
(Source: Good Morning Incheon "‹Stories of Incheon in School Yearbook› written by Yu Dong-hyeon")



▲ Dongbang Theater in the past  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



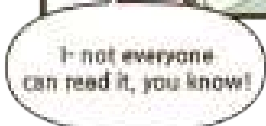
## Paper Talks "Ae Kwan Theater"

Located in Jung-gu, Incheon, Ae Kwan Theater is the first modern theater built in 1895 and is the oldest one of its kind that is still standing. It is the successor of "Hyeopryulsa" the first indoor theater and performance house in Korea. It was a popular place for locals before multiplex cinemas began to emerge in the 2000s. Even now, it operates with 5 cinemas, latest projectors and digital sound system, 860 seats, and unmanned ticket kiosks, and the ticket price is half of that of other general theaters, so it is still receiving lots of love from people as a unique date course and an outing destination.



# Episode.20

## The Impending Crisis



But what's this place, really?  
Why does it have so many  
Braille books?  
And old things as well.



This is the SongAm  
Park Doo-sung  
Center.

This center was  
opened to  
commemorate his works.



You can learn about his life  
and see keepsakes left by him  
in this center.

So, ma'am, what kind of  
volunteer work are you  
doing here?



SongAm Park Doo-sung  
was an accomplished man  
from Incheon who  
created Hunmeengjeongeum,  
the Korean Braille.



What a  
great man,  
creating these  
characters!


He is also known as  
King Sejong the Great  
of the Blind.



I usually help  
making materials  
for the visually impaired.

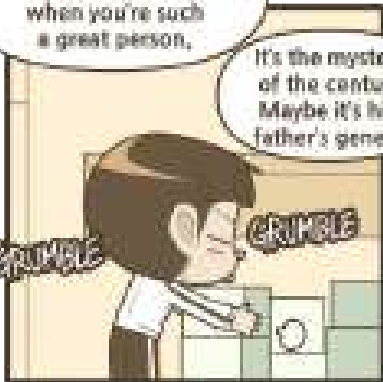
or reading books  
to make audio books.





That's so incredible, sharing your talents for others!

Haha, it's really nothing, I'm just doing it because I like it.




I wonder how you came to have such a bratty son when you're such a great person,

It's the mystery of the century. Maybe it's his father's genes?


GRUMBLE

GRUMBLE




Come on, why are there so many boxes? Is there a festival or something?

PHEW




It'll be November 4th soon! It's "Korean Braille Day" so we've got lots to prepare!

Huh? Who are you?



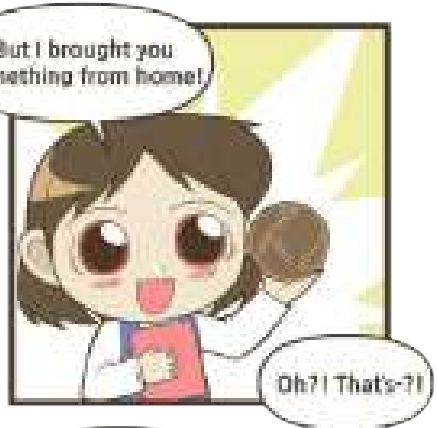
Hey, Sojin. This is a regular at the SongAm Braille Library's second floor...

Hello, ma'am!

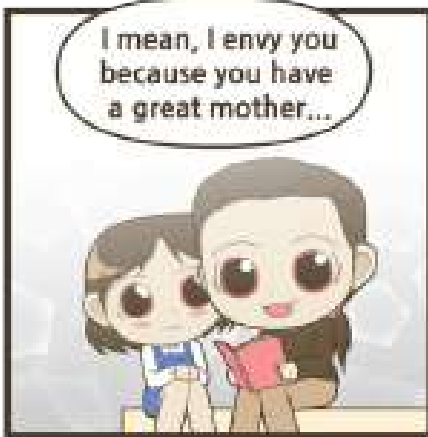


Can you please... Read me a book today, like always?

Of course! But on one condition.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



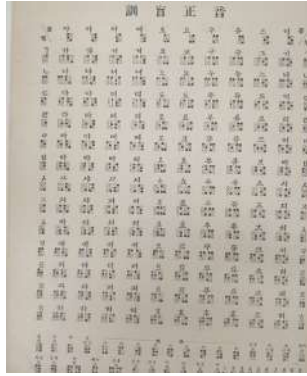


Learn More

# History of Korean Braille



▲ Landmark of Korean Braille  
(Source: Korea Heritage Service)



▲ Hunmaengjeongeum  
(Source: Korea Heritage Service)



▲ “Songam” Park Doo-sung  
(Source: 《100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon》)

The visually impaired can read with Braille, or special characters expressed with embossed dots that can be touched by the fingertips. The first Korean Braille system was “Pyeongyang Braille” composed of four dots, made by a US citizen named Rosetta Hall. Because it was based on New York Braille, however, it did not have a sufficient number of symbols, and the difference between Hangeul’s first and medial syllable was unclear. So, Park Doo-sung used the principles of Hangeul and made a more systematic and easier Braille system called “Hunmaengjeongeum,” which consists of six dots and differentiates the initial, medial, and final consonants. It has been revised many more times to become the present-day Korean Braille that we use today, so it was quite a feat. Recognized for its value, Hunmaengjeongeum was listed as the first National Heritage from cultural heritages related to the visually impaired.



▲ “Songam” Park Doo-sung teaching at a school for the blind and mute (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



## Paper Talks “Hunmaengjeongeum”

“Hunmaengjeongeum,” the foundation of the Korean Braille System, was laid by SongAm Park Doo-sung who is also known as “King Sejong the Great of the Visually Impaired.” Born in Ganghwa-gun, Incheon, Park Doo-sung worked as a teacher for the visually impaired people during the Japanese Occupation period. While teaching his students, he felt the need for a Korean Braille and secretly formed the Korean Braille Research Committee in 1920, hiding from the Japanese Government of Korea and jump-started research for Korean Braille. Finally, on November 4, 1926, he announced Hunmaengjeongeum. To this day, Korea celebrates November 4th as “Korean Braille Day.”

# Episode.21

## Suspicious Man



First of all, accessibility!  
It's connected to an excellent metropolitan transportation network, including Incheon Airport.



And also!  
Incheon has global infrastructures  
like the largest Free Economic Zone  
in the country, residential area  
for overseas Koreans,  
and international schools!



In addition, it's the symbolic place  
where the first 121 Korean  
immigrants left their homeland in 1902.  
So Incheon is THE place!



Come on,  
just say we're right!

And I found that international  
schools in Incheon are close  
to the airport!



Hmm... Alright,  
I suppose.

Ughh...  
Fine.

You're right!



We won!



Thank you, Myr,  
Appreciate your help!  
Here, go and get  
some snack for you.

Thank you!



Jaemin! Let's go to the  
convenience store!  
It's my treat!



I can't be bothered...







Don't you  
play dumb! You are,  
aren't you?







Learn More

# Global city, Incheon



▲ Yeongjong International City-Seaside Park  
(Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Songdo International City – G Tower  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

Incheon attracted the Overseas Koreans Agency in 2023. Thanks to its excellent intra-regional transportation network represented by Incheon International Airport as well as high-quality global infrastructure such as the largest free economy zone in Korea, Incheon was selected for the site of Overseas Koreans Agency. Songdo, Yeongjong, and Cheongna International Cities, which were designated as Free Economic Zones in 2003, have 13 international organizations such as the World Bank, GCF (Green Climate Fund), etc., and 75 global corporates such as Samsung Biologics, Celltrion, Boeing, BMW, etc., from 15 countries. They also have the global campuses of New York State University, George Mason University, University of Utah, etc., for world-class education opportunities as well as environments for logistics, medical services, advanced industries, and more. We expect to see Incheon raising overseas Koreans' interests and rights and the city's status as a global city.



▲ Cheongna International City – Cheongna Lake Park's Music Fountain  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

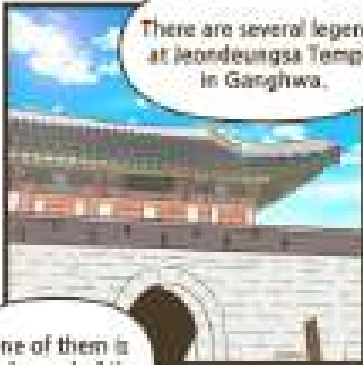


## Paper Talks “Overseas Koreans Agency”

The “Overseas Koreans Agency” is the agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established in June 2023 in Song-do, Incheon to support 7.5 million overseas Koreans. With the establishment of the agency, Incheon, the place where Korea's history of immigration began, is expected to become the hub of the overseas Koreans' network.

# Episode.22

## I'll Protect You



There are several legends at Jeondeungsa Temple in Ganghwa.

One of them is the legend of the ginkgo tree.

And Monk Chusong came to Jeondeungsa Temple and began a three-day prayer for more fruits.

After three days, he said,



After he said that, the sky darkened and a storm began to rage.

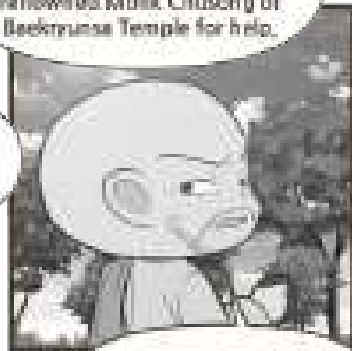


After the storm, they found that Monk Chusong and the old monk and young monk were gone.

In the late Joseon Dynasty when Buddhism was oppressed, Jeondeungsa Temple had to pay twice the amount of ginkgo fruits as tax.



After much consideration, an old monk and a young monk of the temple asked the renowned Monk Chusong of Beekryunsa Temple for help.



"These two ginkgo trees will no longer bear fruits."

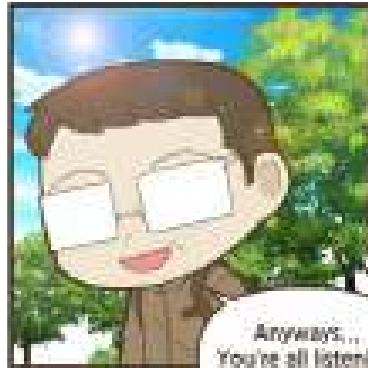
And people began to believe that those three monks were Bodhisattvas disguised as monks to save the temple.



In fact, it's said that those trees stopped bearing fruits ever since.



It is the legend of the 500-year-old ginkgo tree in Jeondoungsa Temple, the oldest Buddhist temple in Korea.



Anyways.. You're all listening to my story, right?

You just have your eyes closed because of the sun? You're not dozing off, right?



Oh, Jaemin! You cared to listen...!

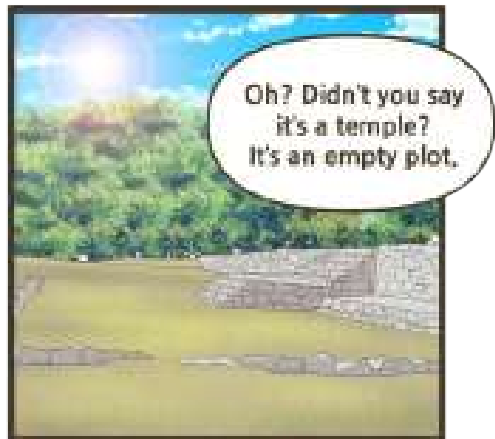
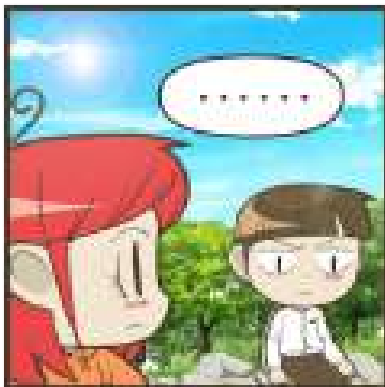
.....

I couldn't do anything when Myr was in danger.




If Myr hadn't cast a spell at that moment..











Like I said before,  
you need to be really careful  
when using magic here.

There are a lot of people who  
are much more dangerous  
in this world.

But what if that  
kind of man  
appears again?




Leave it to me.

I'll protect  
you.

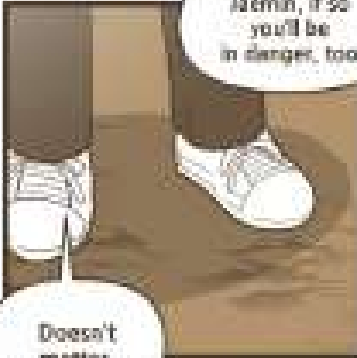


I promise.



They might come  
after your magic,  
not monster eggs.

So don't ever  
use magic  
again.



Jaemin, if so  
you'll be  
in danger, too.

Doesn't  
matter.



.....

Learn More

# Jeondeungsa Temple and the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty



▲ Entrance to Jeondeungsa Temple  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



▲ View of Jeondeungsa Temple  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

Jeondeungsa Temple is the oldest Buddhist temple in Korea and an iconic place of national protection. Ganghwado Island where the temple is located is close to Seoul, the capital city. Thanks to its geographic feature as an island, it was a strategic stronghold and the first choice of refuge when the nation went under threat. During the Goryeo Dynasty period when Mongol invaded the state, it served as the capital city of Goryeo for 29 years. During the Joseon Dynasty, an archive was made to store the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, which was called "Jeongjoksansago National History Archives" at Jeondeungsa Temple. The Annals of the Joseon Dynasty and royal court documents were said to have been kept in the archives from 1660. After the violation of national sovereignty, these annals were moved to Seoul and are now kept in Gyujanggak of Seoul National University. Jeongjoksansago National History Archives, too, was lost after multiple invasions as well as the Japanese Imperial Occupation but was reestablished in 1998.



▲ Jeongjoksansago National History Archives  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Annals of the Joseon Dynasty  
(Source: Korea Heritage Service)



## Paper Talks "Tripitaka Koreana"

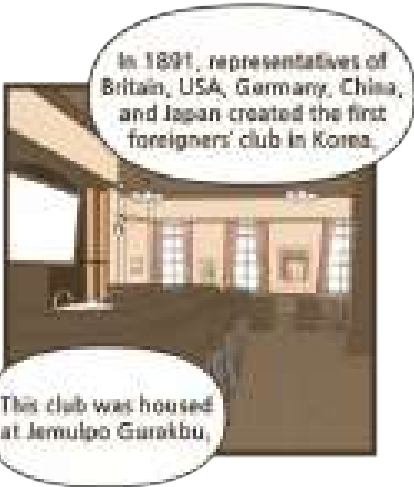
The Tripitaka Koreana is a collection of plates with engravings of Buddhist scriptures made in order to defeat the Mongolian Invasion of Korea during the Goryeo Dynasty. It has about 80,000 plates, and it is the oldest Tripitaka existing in the world. Completed in 1251, the Tripitaka Koreana was listed as a UNESCO Memory of the World in 2007 thanks to its incredible wooden printing system and beauty. It is now kept in Haeinsa Temple, but was assumed to have been produced at a dedicated royal institute at Seonwonsa Temple on Ganghwado Island.

# Episode.23

## Level Up



Changed back again

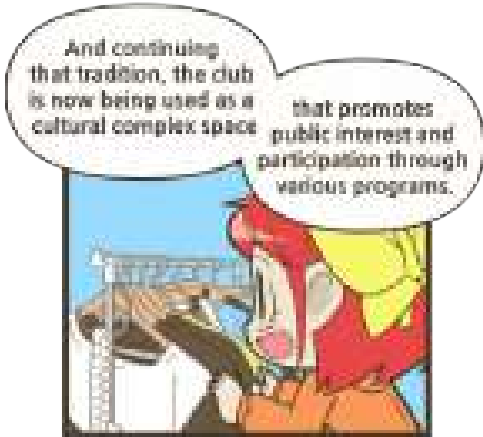


(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

\* Foreigners' residential area:  
Foreigners-only residence installed in the port



Jemulpo Gurakbu has always been the place where people of diverse nationalities discuss culture, philosophy and art.







Hey, Paper-I  
Tell me about  
Daebul Hotel!

Yes, you mean  
Daebul Hotel, the first  
western hotel in Korea?

Since the opening of  
Incheon Port, foreigners  
who entered Incheon  
had to stay there a night  
before going to Seoul.



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

Hori Hisataro, a Japanese  
who saw a need for  
accommodations there, built  
a three-story brick-facade  
western hotel.

Hoteliers at Daebul Hotel  
responded in English because  
their main customers  
were foreigners.

It was the first  
place to sell  
coffee in Korea.



Oh, so it was the first  
western hotel and cafe  
in Korea.



I didn't know it,  
but it's quite a  
meaningful place.

Jaemin!  
I was wondering why it was  
called the exhibition hall,  
and it really displayed  
the old hotel's interior!

It's similar to  
Grandpa's, where  
I'm from!



This tea cup is so  
pretty!  
Oh?





Learn More

# Daebul Hotel Exhibition Hall and Jung-gu Living History Exhibition Center



▲ Daebul Hotel Exhibition Hall (Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

As the first Western-style hotel in Korea, Daebul Hotel offered accommodations services to foreigners who entered Korea through Incheon Port at the early ages of the open port and flourished during the period. With the establishment of Gyeongin Railway in 1899, however, the transportation time between Incheon and Seoul was shortened drastically, and the hotel closed down eventually. Later on, the hotel was turned into Peking restaurant “Junghwaru,” operating for about 50 years. Then, in 2018, “Daebul Hotel Exhibition Hall” featuring the old hotel interior opened. Next to the exhibition hall, “Jung-gu Living History Exhibition Center”, which invites visitors to experience life in Jung-gu, Incheon in the 1960s and 1970s, opened. How about taking a trip to museums in the open port of Jung-gu where you can see the modern and contemporary history of Incheon?



▲ Jung-gu Living History Exhibition Center  
(Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

▲ Jemulpo Gurakbu  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

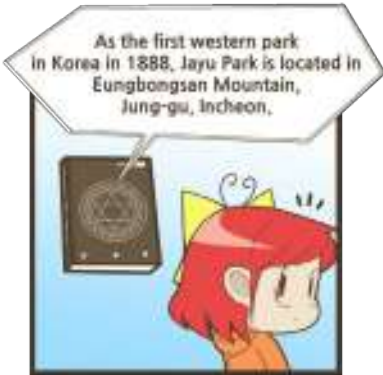


## Paper Talks “Jemulpo Gurakbu”

Jemulpo Gurakbu was the field of fierce diplomatic warfare by Western powers and the origin of the saying “Jemulpo political schemes.” It appeared to be a social club on the outside but was actually a political outpost. The building of Jemulpo Gurakbu, which holds the traits of the early period of port opening, was previously used as Incheon City Museum and Incheon Cultural Center. Currently, it’s a cultural complex connecting the history and culture of Incheon. It was also used as a filming site of drama <Guardian: The Lonely and Great God>.

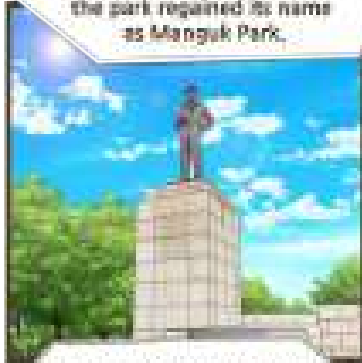
# Episode.24

## Red Sunset





At the time of establishment, Gakjuk Park was also known as Manguk Park, West Park, or Yamate Park. After the liberation of Korea, the park regained its name as Manguk Park.



Later in 1957, its name was changed to Jayu Park to celebrate General MacArthur and the Incheon Landing Operation.

Jayu Park has many historical monuments such as the 100th Korea-US Alliance Anniversary Monument.



Incheon Student Volunteer Army Monument, as well as the statue of MacArthur who commanded the Incheon Landing Operation.

Oh? General MacArthur and the Incheon Landing Operation...?

Yes, that's right. We've been to the Memorial Hall for the Incheon Landing Operation before!



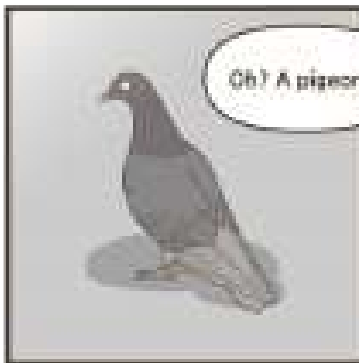
Jaemin! Look over here! It has a cute Palmido Lighthouse miniature!

LOL! It's a great photo zone.



Jaemin! Do you still have that chip bag? Can I have it?

Hmm? Hold on.



Oh? A pigeon?!



\* Do not feed pigeons



After the March 1st Movement in 1919, Koreans in and outside of Korea worked hard to establish a provisional government. Some notable institutes were "Korean Assembly" in Yeonhaeju, "Korean Provisional Government" in Shanghai and "Hanseong Government" in Korea,



(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

They joined forces to build one provisional government, and as a result, on September 11, 1919, the "Provisional Government of Korea" was officially established in Shanghai.

The name and location were the legacy of the Shanghai Provisional Government, but the legitimacy inherited the Hanseong Provisional Government, which was established by the mass meeting of the public.



And Jayu Park, former Incheon Manguk Park, was where the mass meeting of the representatives of the 13 provinces of Korea was held to establish the Hanseong Provisional Government.







Learn More

# Jayu Park



▲ Jayu Park Plaza  
(Source: Jung-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Statue of General McArthur and Jayu Park  
(Source: Good Morning Incheon)

Did you know that Jayu Park, the first Western-style park in Korea, was made for foreigners? Because the park was located inside the residential areas for US, British, and German people, it was called "Gakguk Park" since its visitors were foreigners from various countries. Another name of the park was "Manguk Park" as it's visited by people of many countries. Later, during the Japanese Imperial Occupation, the foreign residences were closed in 1914, and the park opened to the public. The park earned its name after the Korean War, or more precisely from October 1957 when the statue of General McArthur was erected. Time passed, and now it's one of Incheon's key tourist attractions with the cherry blossom festival in every April and a place of relaxation and leisure for locals.



▲ Gakguk Park in the past  
(Source: 《100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon》)



▲ Tennis court in Gakguk Park  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



# Episode.25

## All Set



Myri Myri  
Come over here!



Hehehe.. Sally,  
tell me tomorrow's  
wheather,

Jaemin,  
who are you  
talking to?

Yes, tomorrow's  
weather in Incheon  
will be warm and  
clear all day.



!!



Whoa, Jaemin!  
You have a  
Paper, too?

Haha, This is an  
AI speaker.

Our world can make  
Papers, too.



Is it can cast  
spells like Paper?

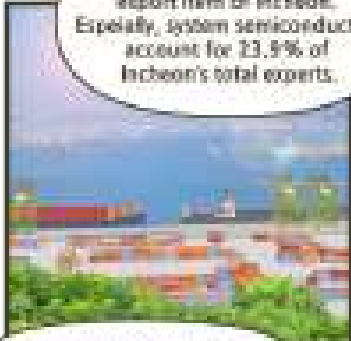
No,  
not that part.



Let's check how much  
Sally knows,


Sally,  
tell me about  
Grandma,





Semiconductors are the no.1 export item of Incheon. Especially, system semiconductors account for 23.9% of Incheon's total exports.

Incheon accounts for about 46.1% of Korea's total system semiconductor exports.




This is because Incheon is where the world's no.2 and 3 semiconductor packaging manufacturers and many other semiconductor devices and materials companies are located.


It also has infrastructure such as port, airport, and Free Economic Zone that can attract global investments and it is a part of the Capital area of Korea.



Whoa, amazing.



I only went to the old areas of Incheon, so I didn't know about this part.



By the way, how many eggs have you collected so far?



Eh... 15 all in all.



That's quite a lot. So how many left?

We're almost done, I think?



Hey, Paper!

Do you mean monster eggs? Currently we have





I have to keep Myr safe from him until then!



Protect Myr!



Myr will be going back to her world. Right?



.....



Learn More

# Automotive and aviation industry in Incheon



▲ Future vehicles (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

Incheon is known for its bio and semiconductor industries. Other than these industries, it also has core strategic industries such as automotive and aviation industries that will drive Incheon’s future. Incheon Metropolitan City is reorganizing its automotive industry structure to a future automotive-centric one centering on connected cars\* and automotive vehicles, thereby leading the automotive industry. As Incheon is a hub of transportation and logistics connecting Korea’s capital region and the world, it is also developing its aviation industry based on advanced technologies. With “taxis in the sky,” urban air mobility (UAM), and aviation crafts’ maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) industry and drone utilized for various fields such as safety, environment, and facilities management, Incheon is making innovations and leaping forward into future.

\*Connected car: Vehicles that can be connected to the Internet



▲ Yeongjongdo Island Korean Air New Engine Repair Factory (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Demonstration of boat firefighting using drones (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



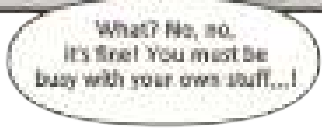
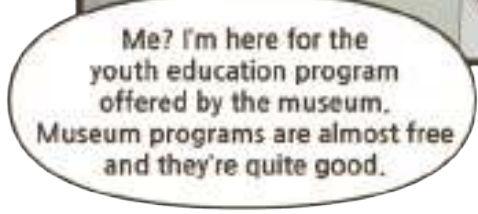
## Paper Talks “Semiconductor industry”

The semiconductor industry is a representative core future strategic industry of Incheon along with the bio and mobility industries. As traditional key industries such as machinery and metalworks have stagnated for a few decades, the semiconductor has emerged as a new growth engine that facilitates the growth of value-added in the manufacturing sector and thus leads that of the local economy.

# Episode.26

## Time's Up







Thank you, pretty lady!

Alright, let's start from here.

Hey, you! Are you even listening to me?!



By the way, where are you from, Myr?

You speak really good Korean for someone who's lived overseas.



Incheon Metropolitan City Museum is the first public museum of Korea that opened in April 1946.

It provides a variety of attractions along with an introduction to the cultural traits of Incheon, including the local history, cultural heritage, and modern culture after the opening of the port.



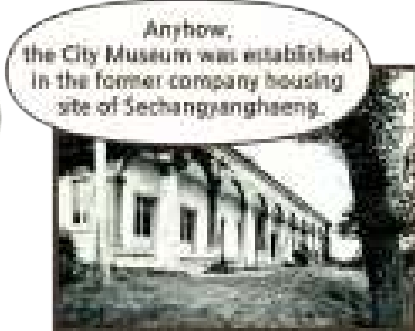
I'm from Grand'na..

Oh, Myr is from a country called Latio Grandnas!

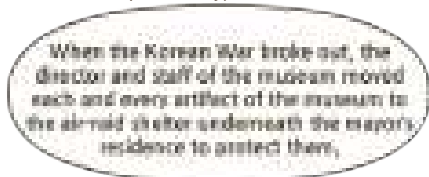


Latio Grandnas? Never heard of it.

It's a tiny country in Africa, not many people know about it, Hahaha.



Anyhow, the City Museum was established in the former company housing site of Sechangyanghaeng.



When the Korean War broke out, the director and staff of the museum moved each and every artifact of the museum to the air-raid shelter underneath the mayor's residence to protect them.

But the entire museum was destroyed in the cannon fire during the Incheon Landing Operation,



so it opened again in 1953 in the Jamsilpo Gaeokbu building.

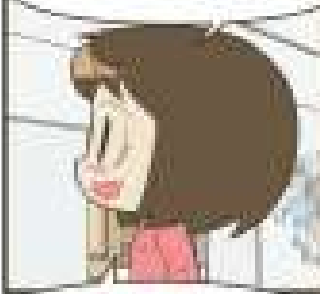
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

Oh, I know Jamsilpo Gaeokbu! We've been there!

For real? You must be really passionate about Incheon's history!



Incheon Metropolitan City Museum was the center of regional culture and also a place of rest and education.



In its days when the post-war liberation and the Korean War had put under huge stress and made confused,

In 1990, it was moved to the newly built building in the current premises.

And in 2006, it was renovated again to the present look that we know,



That's why it looks so nice!

By the way, I like your lip color. What lip tint do you use?

What's a tint? Is it edible?



Edible? LOL

Joking lol

Joined at the hip, already.



I guess girls have lots of common things to talk about.



...Maybe

If Myr met someone else, not me,

things would have been better for her...



?

...Well, anyhow, I'll do what I can. That's for her.



I'd better surprise her with the egg when Haron leaves. She'll love it. Hehe.



Jaemin, I'm going to have dinner with Myr then go to a karaoke. I'll bring her home, okay?

What? Wait...! Just the two of you? What about me?!

See you later, Jaemin!



**Jaemin feels betrayed**

Learn More

# Incheon City Museum and the first Director, Lee Gyeong-seong



▲ Incheon City Museum  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Inside of Incheon City Museum  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))

Incheon City Museum was opened as the first public museum in Korea in 1946 led by Master Lee Gyeong-seong “Seoknam,” the first-generation art critique in Korea who was born in Incheon. It is said that there were a total of 364 artworks on display at the time of the opening. As a young art student aged 28 at the time, Lee Gyeong-seong collected materials discarded and scattered by the Japanese Empire, carried Chinese artifacts discarded at the arsenal in Bupyeong with the US Military Government’s consent, or borrowed artifacts from the National Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Anthropology (currently known as the National Folk Museum of Korea). He was credited with the early foundation of the city museum. Thanks to director Lee Gyeong-seong, Incheon City Museum solidified its position as the center of regional culture and allowed the people of Incheon to enjoy culture.



▲ Incheon City Museum at the time of its opening  
(Source: Good Morning Incheon)



▲ First Director Lee Gyeong-seong  
(Source: Good Morning Incheon)



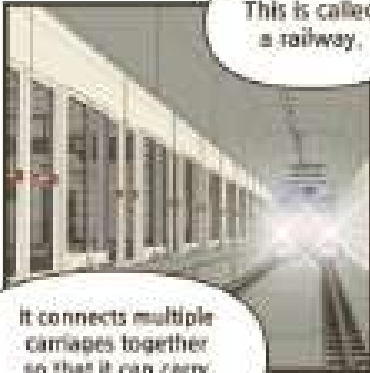
## Paper Talks “The First Public Museum”

In 1946, the first public museum of Korea opened in the old Sechangyanghaeng’s company building. Unlike the National Museum or private museums, it was the first museum established by the local government and dedicated to academic research activities related to the region and sharing of results with the public. Japanese collectors who lived in Incheon during the Japanese Occupation period had quite a lot of Korean artifacts. With Korea’s liberation in 1945, cultural figures in Incheon were concerned that the Japanese returning home would smuggle Korean heritage artifacts with them. A consensus was reached that a space for collecting and exhibiting such cultural artifacts is needed, so Incheon Metropolitan City Museum was built, opening in 1946.

# Episode.27

## Jaemin's Concerns





This is called a railway.

It connects multiple carriages together so that it can carry a lot more people.



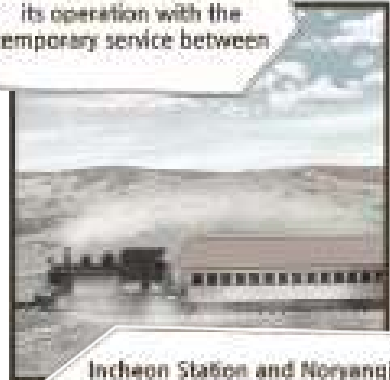
Was it the first in Incheon, too?



It was? Well, I'm not sure...

You mean Gyeongin Railway, the first railway built in Korea in 1899?

Gyeongin Railway began its operation with the temporary service between

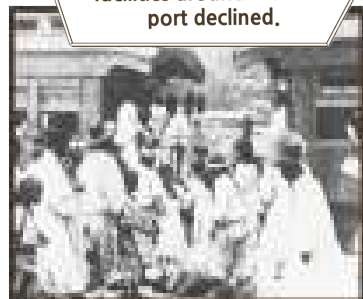


Incheon Station and Noryangjin Station on September 18, 1899.

The travel time on the land route used to take 12 hours by a cow-drawn carriage. And by waterway only Incheon and Yongsan could be traveled. The operation of railway drastically reduced the travel time between Incheon and Seoul,



Because of the reduced travel time, people didn't have to spend a night at the port. As a result, accommodation facilities around Incheon port declined.



(Source: 《100 Best Firsts in Korea, Bests in Incheon》)

I guess Daebul Hotel closed down because of the new railway. It carried people right into Seoul...



Oh... I see.

Meanwhile, Incheon Station is the last station of metro subway line no.1 as well as the Suin-Bundang line's.



It is the oldest last station of all Korean railway stations as it opened in 1899 as the last station of the Gyeongin line.



The life-sized model of "Mogal 1," the first steam locomotive of Korea, is now displayed in North Square of Dongincheon Station.

Wow, so Incheon began the first railway operation in Korea,

and thanks to it we can enjoy fast, comfortable transport!



Incheon is the city of firsts!

I knew you'd say that. LOL



.....



We're down to two eggs...  
We're almost there.



When we collect them all, Myr will go back to Grand na.



What should I do?  
Should I confess my feelings before she leaves?



And I'll have to say goodbye to her.

But even if I do,  
that won't make her stay here.



If she doesn't feel the same, it'll just make things awkward.

Ah, I'm so confused!  
What should I do?



For being with me.



I really mean it,

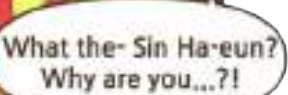
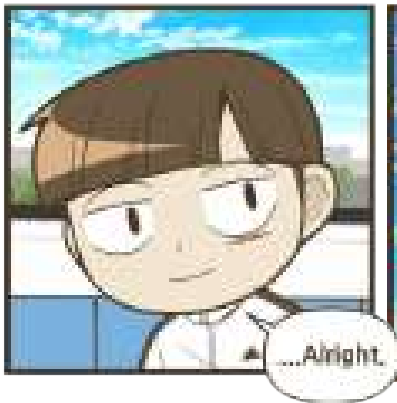


Jaemin,  
Thank you.



Hmm?  
For what?





Is he going to be the third wheel, again?

Learn More

# A hurtful history of Suin line that connects Suwon and Incheon



▲ Sorae Railway Bridge and train with narrow gauge  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Present-day view of Sorae Railway Bridge  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)

Are you familiar with the Suin line, which was established after the Gyeongin line of Incheon? The Suin line was established by the Japanese Empire in 1937 for the purpose of exploiting Joseon's commodities such as rice and salt. Unlike the Gyeongin line that is headed to Seoul, the Suin line was operated between Incheon and Suwon. Because the gauge of the railway was narrower than the common railway, Suin line trains were called "Midget trains". The Suin line has a painful history of the Japanese exploitation of Korea but was also an important means of transportation for the public back in the days when there was only a small range of options. On December 31, 1995, the line had its last operation. The old Sorae Railway Bridge still stands in Soraeopogu Port as evidence of its past existence.



▲ View of the Suin line and its narrow-gauge train in the past (Source: Incheon Metropolitan City blog)



## Paper Talks "Incheon Metro"

Incheon was the first city in Korea to begin a railway operation in 1899. At that time, the Gyeongin line ran between Jemulpo and Noryangjin. For better transportation access within Incheon as well as Incheon-Seoul inter-city transportation, Incheon has been operating the diverse railway systems it built. Incheon subway line no.1 runs through Incheon from north to south, and Incheon subway line no.2 is an unmanned light train line that began its operation in 2016. In addition, metro subway line 7 has a part that runs between Incheon and Bucheon, serving as a means of transportation for the people of Incheon.

# Episode.28

## The Confession



'Welcome to the Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival!

Held every July and August, it lasts for three days.



It has a spectacular lineup from top-notch artists to up-and-coming artists at home and abroad.

Incheon hosts this massive festival every year? I love this city!

How's that? Happy to be here, right?



The Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival first began in 2006.

And it's one of the largest rock festivals in Korea!

It also won the Golden Award in the Pinnacle Awards\* in the Best Merchandise and Best Green Program for 2 years in a row.



No doubt, it's the most iconic festival in Korea!

\* The Pinnacle Awards: An awards competition by the International Festivals & Events Association







Too hot!  
I'm getting  
roasted alive!



That's why you  
need an umbrella.  
I understand now.







for giving  
me the answer!



You thought  
I gave up on ya?

I always  
pay back my debts.  
HAHAHA



Learn More

# Various festivals of Incheon



▲ Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival  
(Source: Incheon Tourism Organization (ITO))



▲ Bupyeong Grand Pungmul Festival  
(Source: Bupyeong-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

Incheon has various regional festivals other than Pentaport Rock Festival. Some of its key festivals are Bupyeong Grand Pungmul Festival, Soraepogu Festival, Ganghwa Goryeosan Azalea Festival, Incheon Open Port Cultural Heritage Night Tour, and more. Soraepogu Festival in particular is a maritime ecology festival hosted every autumn from 2001 and is Incheon's key autumn festival visited by 7 million tourists every year. The prawn and blue crab fishing program that allows visitors to fish these key seafoods of Soraepogu Port is a popular program for children, and there are many other experience booths and cultural performances.

Why don't you join various festivals of Incheon with rich resources to make special and treasured memories?



▲ Soraepogu Festival  
(Source: Namdong-gu Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Ganghwa Goryeosan Azalea Festival  
(Source: Ganghwa-gun Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)



## Paper Talks "Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival"

The Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival is the most iconic festival of Incheon selected as a "Promising festival" by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism for 8 Consecutive years from 2012 to 2019 and one of the "Korean Cultural Tourism Festivals" from 2020 to 2024. Pentaport means the five ports symbolizing the Incheon's urban development strategy and they are: Incheon Port, Incheon Airport, Information port, Business port, and Leisure Port. The festival has been held in July or August every year since 2006. The 2023 Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival was held in Songdo Moonlight Festival Park from August 4th to 6th. It attracted 150,000 people, the most ever, making an economic impact of KRW 68.6 billion.



# Episode.29

## A Moment of Crisis



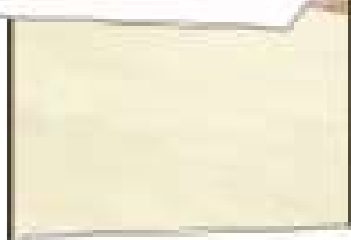


A National Geopark is a geoscientifically important and beautiful area



designated by the Minister of Environment for the purpose of recreation, education and tourism.

This is Segat Beach, where the floor is covered with a layer of tiny and evenly sized sand, so it is as hard as the concrete.



Thanks to that, it's one of the only two natural airfields along with Mookseok Beach in Italy. This place was used as a runway for the ROK and US army during the Korean War and throughout the 1960s. Until the 1960s, there was a signboard that read "Taengryeongdo International Airport."

Oh? It really is. It's a sandy beach, but it's so dense we're not leaving any footprints!

This is so fascinating!

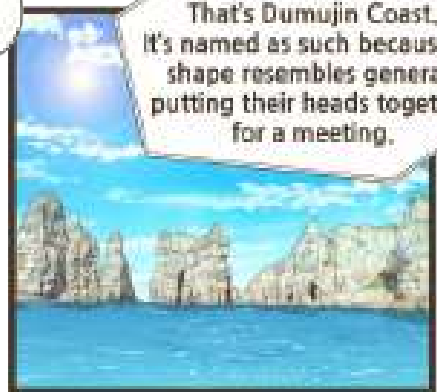


Those strange yet beautiful rock formations gave this place the name "Haegeumgang Islets of the West Coast."



It contains the original sediment structures, helping us study environments of 1 billion years ago.

That's Dumujin Coast. It's named as such because its shape resembles generals putting their heads together for a meeting.



1... billion years?! Didn't know that Incheon had such an ancient place!



That's new to me, too.







!!



\* Reference: ep.12 The Living Legend

Learn More

# Gorgeous Islands of Incheon



▲ Islands of Incheon (Source: Ongjin-gun Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)

South Korea is the fourth country with the biggest number of islands in the world. Incheon in particular has 168 islands in all, 40 of which are inhabited and 128 are deserted. It literally is the area with the natural landscapes and views of the Western Sea. Incheon has a beautiful island that shoulders Baengnyeongdo Island, and that is "Seonjaedo Island" located between Daebudo Island and Yeongheungdo Island. Mokseom Island of Seonjaedo Island is the "Most beautiful island in Korea" selected by CNN in 2012. Mokseom Island is a tiny uninhabited island floating in the ocean all by itself and can be reached by the 1km sandy strip revealed only at low tide. It is a mysterious place that can be reached by foot twice a day.



▲ Mokseom Island of Seonjaedo Island (Source: Ongjin-gun Office, Incheon Metropolitan City)



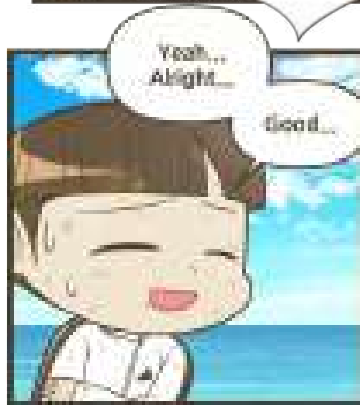
## Paper Talks "Baengnyeongdo Island"

Baengnyeongdo Island, as a part of Ongjin-gun, Incheon, is the island nearest North Korea and the 8th largest island in South Korea. It has rich seafood produce such as sand lance, natural seaweed, abalone and more. There are also many attractions to visit such as Mulgaebawi Rock, which is the only natural habitat of spotted-seals, Sogot Beach, which is one of two natural airfields in the world, Simcheonggak Pavilion where you can overlook Indangsu where Simcheong drowned herself for her blind father, Kongdol Beach and basalt field, and more! Why don't you visit Baengnyeongdo Island?



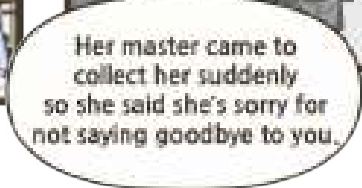
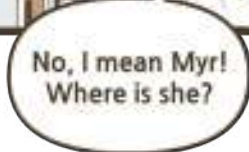
# Episode.30

## Epilogue





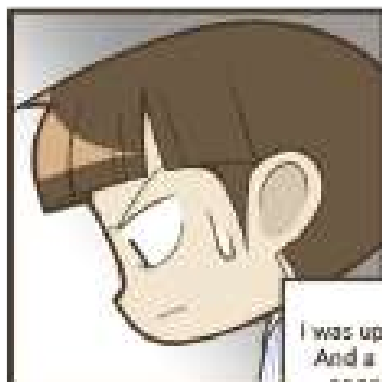




What...  
But we've spent so  
much time together.



She should've  
waited for me  
and said goodbye  
in person at least!



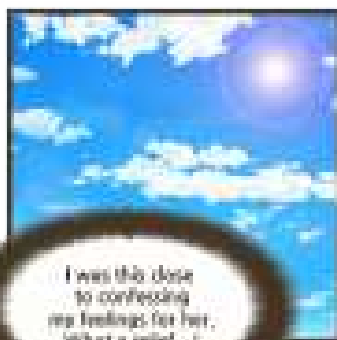
I was upset.  
And a bit  
angry.

She got what  
she wanted, and  
she left just like that.



That's who  
she really is.  
I should've  
known that.

I was this close  
to confessing  
my feelings for her.  
What a relief...!



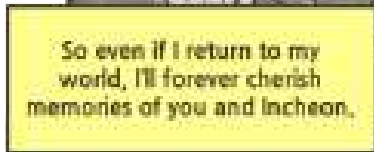
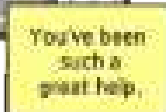
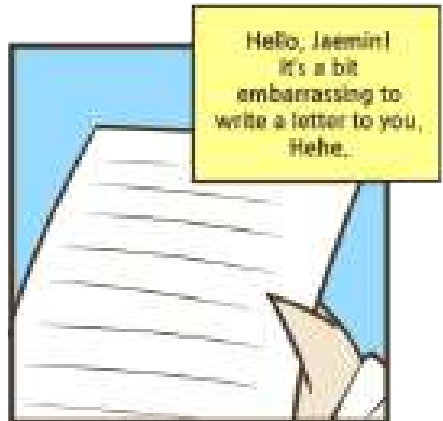
Life continued, and  
my memories of Myr  
began to fade away.  
Then, a letter arrived.



Oh? It's from  
Myr? How did she  
send it?







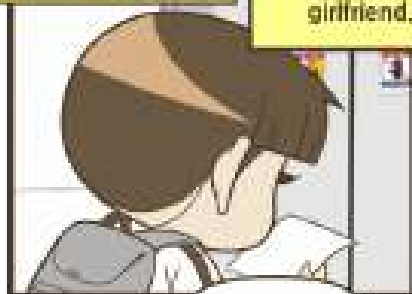
I'm not sure how much longer I'll take to collect all the remaining eggs.



but I hope we enjoy the remainder of our journey.

Goodbye.  
I'll pray for your health and happiness.

From Myr,  
Jaemin's "FIRST" girlfriend.



After reading that letter,

I was finally able to say a proper goodbye to Myr.



I'll always remember Incheon,  
the city I explored with you.



Goodbye, Myr...

Learn More

# Future Incheon



▲ View of Songdo International City  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Incheon International Airport  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)

Incheon is a city with countless firsts and best stories. Incheon continues to march into the world, refusing to settle for being the first of Korea and the best of Incheon. Incheon's maritime gateway was opened in 1883 with the opening of Jemulpo Port in 1883, and aviation gateway, with the opening of Incheon International Airport in 2001. Now, by opening the third port, Incheon is becoming a global business hub and a world-class future city with happy citizens, creating the future of Korea. May you continue to show interest in Incheon and witness the city writing the history of many firsts and beyond.



▲ Songdo Central Park  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



▲ Incheon Inner Port Redevelopment bird's-eye view  
(Source: Incheon Metropolitan City)



# Keywords

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