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**Commentary on “Two Points of View of Lee Yuk-Sa
– the warrior and poet” by
Assoc. Prof. Dr. So Young Kim and
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paulina Stoicheva**

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The text entitled *Two Points of View of Lee Yuk-Sa – the warrior and poet* prepared by So Young Kim and Paulina Stoicheva consists of two distinct sections, written by the two authors, respectively, which, besides the different points of view, present different aspects of the literary figure of Lee Yuk-Sa, a rebel and patriot, actively involved in national liberation struggles throughout his short life in the first half of the 20th century, and a poet, critic and prose writer.

The first section, by So Young Kim, offers a succinct outline of the historical and cultural situation in Korea during the first half of the 20th century when the country was under Japanese occupation. The biographical and family background of the poet is presented to emphasize his deep involvement with the fate of his nation. Some

interpretations of Lee Yuk-Sa's poetic oeuvre are surveyed, focusing on the patriotic liberationist pathos in his poetry.

The second part of the text by Paulina Stoicheva chooses one poem, *Blue Grapes*, for analysis, with the aim of looking more closely at the artistic side of the poet's achievement.

This type of collaboration between the two authors proves very successful as it results in a study both informative and analytical, providing a view of the wide panorama of Korean literature and culture as well as a critical glimpse at the exceptionally original poetry of Lee Yuk-Sa. The analysis of *Blue Grapes* traces some mythological and symbolic elements in the poem which imply quite distinct modernist connections.

On the whole the study of So Young Kim and Paulina Stoicheva, thoughtful and instructive, provides a really worthwhile reading, with an impact finely attuned to the exquisite poetry it presents.