

ancestors *Tae-tsoo*, and *Tae-tsung*, began to lay the vast foundations of our empire, and *She-tsoo* became the sole monarch of China. Our sacred ancestors, *Kang-he*, the emperor, *Yung-chung*, the glory of his age, and *Keen-lung*, the eminent in honour, all abounded in virtue, excelled in martial prowess, consolidated the renown of the empire, and moulded the whole into peace and harmony.

“ His late Majesty, who has now gone the great journey, governed all under the canopy of heaven for five and twenty years, exercising the utmost vigilance and labour. Neither evening nor morning was he ever idle; assiduously did he aim to follow the best possible rule, and hence his government became excellent and illustrious. The court and the country felt for him the deepest reverence, and the benevolence of his heart was universally diffused through the benevolence of his administration. In China and beyond it, order and tranquility prevailed, and the common people were happy in multitudes. But in the midst of hopes that his glorious reign would be long protracted, and that the help of heaven would be received many days, the dragon charioteer (the emperor,) on alighting to bless with his august presence the village of *Lwanyang*, unexpectedly became a guest on high.

“ My sacred and indulgent father had, in the year that he began to rule alone, silently settled that the heavenly seat, (the throne,) should devolve upon my humble person. Conscious of the feebleness of my virtue, I felt at first very fearful that I should not be competent to the office, but reflecting that the sages, my ancestors, have left to their posterity their statutes and example; that his late Majesty has laid this duty upon me, and that the throne of heaven (the Chinese throne,) ought not to remain long vacant, I do violence to