The Queen's Family of Koguryo（高句麗）

by Ki-baik Lee

According to the Ko-ku-ryō Jôn（高句麗傳） in the San-kuo-chih（三國志），the Jol-no-pu（絕奴部） was the queen's family which married their daughters to kings for successive generations. I believe these records to reflect the truth. However, I believe that the record in the San-kuo-chih should be supplemented or corrected in some respects, viz: first, in the San-kuo-chih, the Jol-no-pu is identified with the Yôn-na-pu（يج那部） which appears in the Sam-kuk Sa-ki（三國史記）; second, the surname of the queen's family was probably Myông-nim（明臨氏）; third, the relationship in question between the royal house and the Jol-no-pu continued from the reign of King Ko-kuk-chôn（故國川王, AD 179—196）to the reign of King Sō-chôn（西川王, AD 270—292）.

This period coincides with the period in which the succession to the throne in Ko-ku-ryō was transformed from fraternal succession to paternal succession. Furthermore, it coincides with the transition stage in which the five tribes（五族） of Ko-ku-ryō were reorganized into the five districts（五部）.

Thus, we can see that this phenomenon took place in a transition stage in which weak sovereign power became replaced by a strong, despotic sovereign power. We can also see that Ko-ku-ryō was transformed from a tribal union into a kingdom during this period, i.e., from the end of the second century to the end of the third century.