

# Unlocking the Untold Stories: Oral Narrations of Japanese Military Comfort Women



When delving into the dark pages of history, few stories have been as harrowing and as haunting as that of the Japanese military comfort women. These women, often forced into sexual slavery during World War II, have only recently been given a platform to share their experiences through oral narrations. Today, we will uncover the shocking truths behind their stories, shedding light on a forgotten chapter in Japanese history.

## Understanding the Tragic Reality

At the height of World War II, the Imperial Japanese Army established brothels across Asia, where they enslaved an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 women from countries such as China, Korea, the Philippines, and more. These women,

commonly referred to as comfort women, were subjected to unimaginable physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.



## Can you hear us? The untold narratives of Comfort women: oral narrations of Japanese military comfort women

by Jane Belk Moncure([Print Replica] Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 35077 KB

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Paperback : 144 pages

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Screen Reader : Supported



For decades, the voices of these victims remained silenced, their stories buried beneath the weight of societal taboos and political denial. However, in recent years, efforts have been made to provide a platform for oral narrations, allowing these women to finally break the shackles of silence and share their untold stories.

### **Breaking the Silence: Courage and Resilience**

The oral narrations of Japanese military comfort women highlight the immense courage and resilience demonstrated by these survivors. Through their accounts, we discover the sheer horror they endured, often being kidnapped or deceived into a life of sexual slavery.

These women faced physical and verbal abuse on a daily basis, enduring countless rapes, beatings, and degrading acts of violence. Many were forced to service up to 40 or 50 soldiers per day, with no regard for their physical or emotional well-being.

Despite the unimaginable suffering, the strength and resilience displayed by these women is truly inspiring. Their narratives give a voice to the countless others who perished without ever having the opportunity to speak out against the atrocities committed against them.

## **The Importance of Oral Narrations**

Oral narrations play a crucial role in preserving history. They allow us to bear witness to the suffering and hardships endured by comfort women, ensuring that their stories are not forgotten or denied.

These women's testimonies not only shed light on the brutal truth of the past but also provide a source of empowerment to survivors who have carried the burden of their traumatic experiences for so long.

By listening to their stories, we can learn from the mistakes of the past, acknowledge the pain inflicted upon these women, and work towards preventing such atrocities from happening again.

## **: Unveiling the Voices of Japanese Military Comfort Women through Oral Narrations**

Each oral narration offers a unique perspective on the experiences of the comfort women, allowing us to piece together the broader picture of their suffering.

Through these narratives, we understand the long-lasting impact that the trauma of sexual slavery had on their lives.

We hear stories of women who were torn away from their families, enduring years of isolation and dehumanization. We witness their struggles in reintegrating into society, as the stigma attached to their past prevented them from finding solace and support.

However, we also come face-to-face with their strength and resilience, as many of these survivors refused to be defined solely by their victimhood. They fought for justice, seeking reparations from the Japanese government and demanding acknowledgment of the atrocities committed against them.

## **The Legacy of Comfort Women Oral Narrations**

Today, the oral narrations of Japanese military comfort women continue to play a critical role in shaping our understanding of history. They serve as a powerful medium to challenge revisionist narratives and uphold the truth.

While controversies still surround the issue, the testimonies of these survivors provide undeniable evidence of the systemic abuse and exploitation that occurred during wartime.

Furthermore, the oral narrations foster a sense of solidarity and compassion, encouraging society to support survivors and stand against any form of sexual violence and human trafficking.

## ***The Untold Stories Unveiled: Witness the Courage of Japanese Military Comfort Women Through Their Oral Narrations***

As we immerse ourselves in the oral narrations of Japanese military comfort women, we are confronted with stories of immense suffering, resilience, and triumph. These stories challenge our perceptions of history, forcing us to face the uncomfortable realities of our past.

We must continue to listen, learn, and amplify these voices, ensuring that the victims of sexual slavery are never forgotten, and those responsible for the heinous crimes are held accountable.

By honoring their stories, we move closer to a world where sexual exploitation becomes a thing of the past and where survivors can heal, grow, and reclaim their dignity.



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This book is a collection of oral narrations of Japanese military comfort women operated by The Commission on Verification and Support for the Victims of Forced Mobilization under Japanese Colonialism in Korea (South Korean Governmental Organization)

The Commission acknowledges publication of “Can you hear us?:The untold narratives of Comfort women”, a collection of vivid oral narrations of twelve comfort women who returned to home miraculously after years of forced

mobilization. This book also contains a testimony of a civic activist, who dedicated herself for a long time for the resolution of the impending issue of the requisition of Korean women for sexual slavery to the Japanese Imperial army.

Do-ah Kang : Remembering would only cause more heartache. I washed away the past and cleansed my heart

Aoo : I might be better off dead.

Boo : Are you the only ones who had to endure the war? We hurt in the inmost part because of you.

Coo : What a pity! I was always taken advantage of.

Doo : It was because of the Japanese bastards.

Eoo : I came back alive because my mother prayed for me.

Foo : I couldn't appeal to anyone, I cried and cried.

Goo : I thought they were taking me to a factory for a job there.

Hoo : I wanted to kill myself, without telling these to anyone.

loo : I wish I could be born a woman again, so that I could fulfill my desire.

Joo : I will buy you a cow with the money I make, working at a rubber factory.

Koo : I was as good as a corpse.

Narration of a human rights movement activist

Kim, Moon-sook, Chairwoman of "Busan Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan"

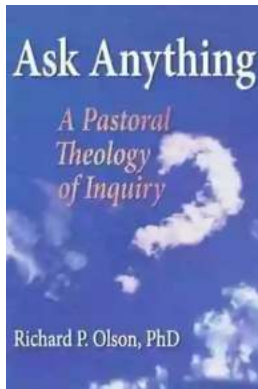
- We ought to get them back their dignity as human. We women must stop the war against us.

Appendix

Commission's current status of processing victims as Japanese military comfort women

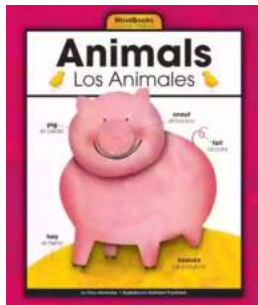
Current status of Government support for the victims of Japanese military comfort women

Chronology of major events related to Japanese military comfort women



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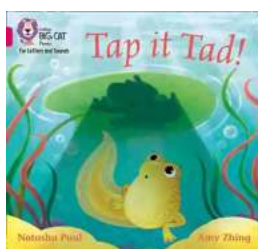
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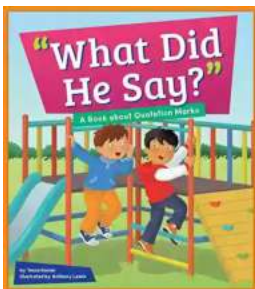
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