

The Thrill of Victory (Korea in the XXVII Olympics)

It could have been any sport  
rising and falling over the ages  
like a national icon, or an anthem,

and it could have been any chant  
shifting between the pages of history  
or an archive in a hall of fame

or a song our fathers sang when they were young.  
It could have been any group of men  
lifting and hugging each other

like childhood friends who drifted over the years  
and then ran across each other  
several children later,

and it could have been any prize  
shining and longing to be gold  
like an Olympic medal or a small gilded god.

But it was none of these things.

It was just a small group of people  
walking hand in hand  
in unison behind a flag –

one flag held by two people. Two  
people from two different countries  
longing once again to be one.

This was the Olympic moment.