

“The Banished Jupiter”: Kim Kirim’s Work of Mourning for Korean Literary Modernism and Yi Sang*

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This article examines how and why Kim Kirim (1908–?), a representative Korean modernist of the 1930s, commemorated his colleague Yi Sang (1910–1937). Kim expressed his thoughts on the deceased poet in his poem “The Banished Jupiter,” in which Yi is likened to Jupiter. The poem is widely remembered as Kim’s representative work, having been immediately translated into Japanese and published by their colleague, Kim Soun (1907–1981). This article analyzes the poem in detail, reconsiders the relationship between Kim Kirim and Yi, and underlines Kim’s attempt to overcome his own crisis as a poet and literary critic through Yi’s modernist writings during the final years of Japanese colonial rule in Korea and the liberation period (1945–1948).

Keywords: Kim Kirim, Yi Sang, Banished Jupiter, mourning, planetary modernism

Introduction

This article examines why Kim Kirim (1908–?) eulogized Yi Sang (1910–1937) during the late Japanese colonial period and in the years following Korea’s liberation. It focuses on Kim’s monody, “The Banished Jupiter as the Elegy to Yi Sang’s Death” (*Jyupita chubang: Yi Sang ui yeongjeon e batchim*, ca. 1939; hereafter “The Banished Jupiter”), and on the *Selected Works of Yi Sang* (Yi

*Unless otherwise noted, all English translations are by the author.

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