“Tackling Stigma” draws from a chapter in one of my current book projects Global World Literature and Health: Moderating Expectations, Creating Possibilities. I’ll be focusing on the Korean writer Yi Ch’ŏngjun’s (이청준) Tangsind’il ùi ch’ŏnguk (Your Paradise, 당신들의 천국, 1976) in the context of Korean literature, leprosy literature, world literature, and, most importantly, the medical humanities. After introducing the larger book project, I’ll be examining such topics as: how does Your Paradise relate to other works by Yi Ch’ŏngjun and other Korean writing on disease; how does Your Paradise relate to global leprosy literature, a genre that has proliferated from ancient times; how has Your Paradise been translated – of most interest is the Urdu translation; and, especially, what insights does Your Paradise offer into the stigmas and implicit biases surrounding leprosy and other diseases, especially their impact on patient health and well-being.

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