PART V

Gender and Race
Russo-Japanese War and Literary Expression: Voice, Gender and Colonialism

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In the East the clouds of war have settled
The lofty reputation for justice that shines like the rising morning sun
We shall strive for the day when everyone looks up to this Asian nation of the ascending sun.

‘The Japanese Army’ 1904
Lyrics: Ōwada Tateki, Melody: Fukazawa Toyokichi

There is only one
Nation of Japan, fragrant in the morning sun
There is only one person in the world
To whom one has made vows and taken as wife

‘On my One Hundredth Pilgrimage’ 1905
Journal Taiyō Ōtsuka Kusuoko

As seen in the poem and song lyrics quoted above, the Japanese response to the Sino-Japanese War could be articulated quite differently. Using the same image of the rising sun, Ōtsuka’s poem is an urgent and personal plea for the acknowledgement of the marriage bond