

Thank You, Anonymous Leaper

November 26, 2020

I hope that the still-anonymous North Korean refugee who jumped a three-meter high, barbed-wire fence a few weeks ago — details are just now emerging — has paused to thank himself for his daring and initiative.

Now is a good time to do it. Thanksgiving is an American holiday, but we're happy to let others around the world borrow it for their own thanks-giving purposes.

On November 3, a former 110-pound, North Korean gymnast leapt over a ten-foot fence

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in the demilitarized zone to reach South Korea.

The man has confirmed his story to the extent of proving his ability to leap tall barriers in a single bound in front of South



Korean officials. He says he wants to defect.

I wish we knew more about him. But until I hear different, I'm going to assume that he is not a double agent. Just a guy who dislikes being oppressed and who wants a better life.

Every time a person leaps from totalitarianism to freedom, we should *all* be thankful. Here is someone who made it! This, despite pandemic-incited lockdowns that have made it even harder to escape North Korea. His feat shows others stuck behind country-wide prison walls that escape is still possible, even if few can do it the same way.

It also inspires those of us already on this side of the fence to keep working to preserve and expand the freedom, so often jeopardized, that we still enjoy.

Thank you, sir.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.