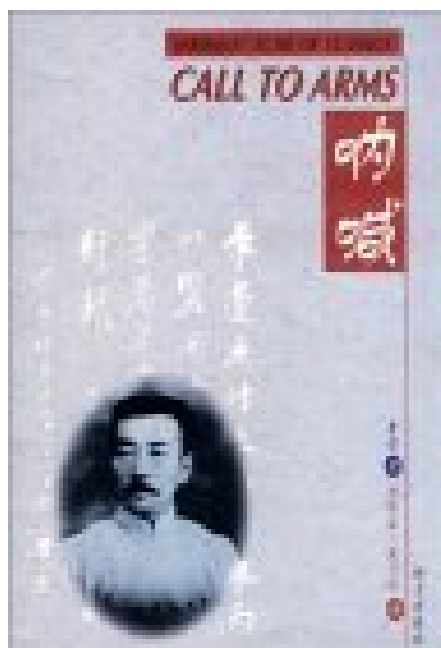




Call to Arms

Lu Xun , ??

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Call to Arms Lu Xun , ??

Lu Xun (simplified Chinese: 鲁迅; traditional Chinese: 魯迅; pinyin: Lǔ Xùn) or Lu Hsün (Wade-Giles), was the pen name of Zhou Shuren (September 25, 1881 - October 19, 1936) is one of the major Chinese writers of the 20th century. Considered by many to be the founder of modern Chinese literature, he wrote in baihua (the vernacular) as well as classical Chinese. Lu Xun was a short story writer, editor, translator, critic, essayist and poet. In the 1930s he became the titular head of the Chinese League of Left-Wing Writers in Shanghai. Lu Xun's works exerted a very substantial influence after the May Fourth Movement to such a point that he was lionized by the Communist regime after 1949. Mao Zedong himself was a lifelong admirer of Lu Xun's works. Though sympathetic to the ideals of the Left, Lu Xun never actually joined the Chinese Communist Party. Lu Xun's works are known to English readers through numerous translations, especially *Selected Stories of Lu Hsun* translated by Yang Hsien-yi and Gladys Yang.

Contents:

A Madman's Diary,
True Story of Ah Q,
Kong Yiji,

eleven other important works

Call to Arms Details

Date : Published January 28th 2000 by Foreign Languages Press (first published 1923)

ISBN : 9787119026954

Author : Lu Xun , ??

Format : Hardcover 443 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, China, Classics, Asian Literature, Chinese Literature, Short Stories, Literature

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Stopped at Ah Q. Hopefully will pick up this book again!

(Read in original Chinese) I really like Lu Xun's writing style. My book has an intro describing Lu Xun as a mirror that was necessarily broken because he was writing about a China that was broken. He is matter-of-fact and brief, which makes reading his short stories a very unique experience. I particularly liked *The Hair Story*, *Diary of a Mad Man*, and *Hometown*. Of course, *The True Story of Ah Q* is in this collection, but that story stands by itself.

Lu Xun is considered by many to be the greatest modern Chinese writer (he died in the 1930s). His hometown is Shaoxing, which is where I am living right now, so I thought I should read this. A lot of it is sort of classic short story sad AND classic Chinese sad, which makes for stories that read like "A man had a hard life, and everyone made fun of him, and he died and everyone forgot him."

His foreword is actually very optimistic and stirring, and the final story in the collection, the one about opera, is funny, wistful, and sweet. Probably his most famous story, "the True Story of Ah Q," is funny, almost black-humor funny, but ends on quite a dark note.

P.S. I think this is the only translation available (Selected Stories of Lu Xun uses the same one as this Chinese/English one), but this printing, from a Chinese publisher, is riddled with typos.

FantasticRICHAR says

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Pakwai_Chan says

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Ian says

I was skeptical about this book at first, but Lun Xu's self-deprecating style bases heartbreaking poetry in a shell of poverty and, inevitably, comedy. It averages about one typo every two pages, but it's worth slogging through the technical errors to get to the powerful style beneath them.

Vilis says

Ja neb?tu gar? (gandr?z trešda?a gr?matas), pam?šus smiekl?g? un skumj? st?sta par ciemata dz?r?ja Ah Q dz?ves spožumu un postu, ieliktu tr?s zvaigzn?tes un atliktu "interesant?s, bet droši vien ne p?rlas?m?s" klasikas plaukt?. Bet Ah Q st?sts ir br?niš??gs un p?c naftal?na nesmird. Nav pat neviena mirstoša z?dai?a!

Arthur says

The stories reflect the time of political and social transition in China during early 1900.

Yilin Wong says

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Jacob Mclaws says

Lu Xun's writings can be strange and depressing, but reading them in the context of a failing China, Lu Xun's short stories are powerful and show a profound hope that China will rise above her current problems.

Shaun Zhang says

It's been years since last time I read a part in the book. Many passages therein are selected in the textbook of middle school . But recall my school time, these passages seemed leave me less impression and shock than they do now. All words and sentences used by the author are so perfect that cannot be replaced, that shape every character vividly, as well as every look and every thought on the character touchable. From passages, the author, through satire, displays his strong motivation to save country.

Eun-kyeong says

Lu Xun's novels tell us the culture and lifestyles of the early 20th centuries' China through his realistic storytelling method. In the political and cultural transition period, characters in his stories go through conflicts between the long traditions and new ones, sometime suffer extreme poverty, but some of them such as ??? and ?Q keep positive attitudes in life, which imbues their stories with the pleasant point of view.

Kee Onn says

Na Han, or "Call to Arms" by Lu Xun is a combination of many things. It is at once a time machine into pre-independence, dynastic China with the looming influence of colonialism and revolutions towards the republican China. It is also a caricature, a sarcastic take of mentalities of that era, the indifference and ignorance of the mass population which was an inevitable product of the feudalistic social construct of a bygone era, but remains a major roadblock to societal progress. These are the themes of the two most notable works in this collection, "Madman's Diary" and "The True Story of Ah Q". Other stories features timeless stories such as reminiscing a childhood memory of watching outdoor movies (Chinese operas in the 1900s), the invariant phenomena of older generations complaining about the youngsters, and descriptions of anxiety and panic attacks in literature, which is forward-thinking for his time. A thoughtful and contemplative collection to read from time to time.

Carlos says

I found this collections of stories quite charming. Having read almost nothing of Chinese literature and much less of the literature of such a pivotal moment in history of modern China, I had no expectations for this book. I was surprised to find how accessible it was and how honest it was with the problems with both the previous imperial regime as well as with the first few years of the revolution. The stories are mainly about the day-to-day of the common people and allow the reader to get quite a good feel of the atmosphere of early 20th century China. Certainly an interesting book and I would gladly recommend it to anyone curious to expand their perception of what China was.

Harrison says

I didn't read every story, but I think I read at least 2/3 of them (original Chinese version). Anyway, it's been years and I don't have the will to finish. The stories are too much of a social critique for me to really appreciate, I think.

Nikolas says

Καταπληκτικ?ς οι ιστορι?ες και υποδειγματικ? η μετ?φραση (απ'ευθε?ας απ? την κινεζικ?) του Σωτ?ρη Χαλικι?, του πιο καταξιωμ?νου ?λληνα σινολ?γου.
