



LU HSUN

GREAT REVOLUTIONARY, THINKER AND WRITER

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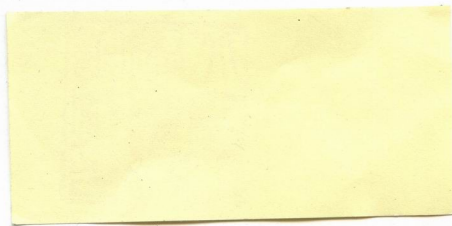
GREAT REVOLUTIONARY, THINKER AND WRITER

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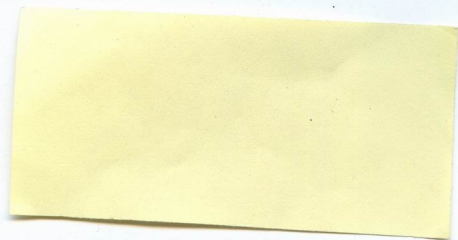
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THE CHIEF COMMANDER of China's cultural revolution, he [Lu Hsun] was not only a great man of letters but a great thinker and revolutionary. Lu Hsun was a man of unyielding integrity, free from all sycophancy or obsequiousness; this quality is invaluable among colonial and semi-colonial peoples. Representing the great majority of the nation, Lu Hsun breached and stormed the enemy citadel; on the cultural front he was the bravest and most correct, the firmest, the most loyal and the most ardent national hero, a hero without parallel in our history. The road he took was the very road of China's new national culture.

Mao Tsetung

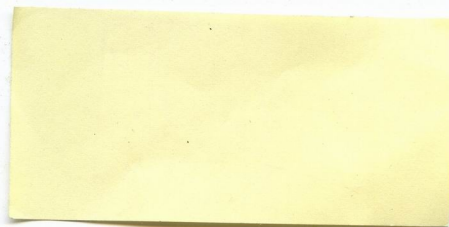




13. Denouncing Chou Yang and Company

THE FOLLOWING year Chou Yang and company put forward the bourgeois slogan of “literature of national defence” in an attempt to push through Wang Ming’s Right opportunist line. Lu Hsun’s sharp answer to this was the proletarian slogan “a popular literature of the national revolutionary war.” With the political acuity of the Marxist that he was, he saw through Chou Yang and company as not “honest people” and, with the dauntless revolutionary mettle of going against the tide, exposed these sham Marxists and counter-revolutionary double-dealers hidden in the revolutionary ranks.

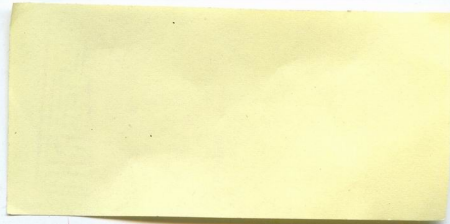




14. *Concern for the Youth*

LU HSUN regarded the youth as the revolution's future. He once said, "To create a third type of period [socialist society — *Ed.*], hitherto unknown in Chinese history, is the task of our young people today." Later, he said explicitly that "for revolution we need revolutionaries" and that "we ought to bring up a host of new fighters." He always urged the youth to concern themselves with the practical problems of their country and society, to integrate with the workers and peasants, never to yield but to persist in the struggle. To train revolutionary youth, he did solid work for them, never hesitating to do anything beneficial to the revolution or in the interest of the youth, even at the cost of his life.





15. A Life Devoted to the Revolutionary Cause

THE COMMUNIST Lu Hsun died in October 1936 after a lifetime of heroic struggle on the cultural and ideological front for the liberation of the Chinese people.

In "Reply to a Letter from the Trotskyites" written a few months before his death, he roundly condemned the Trotskyite gang for their betrayal of the nation. At the same time he openly voiced his support for Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, expressing his deep love and respect for Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party.

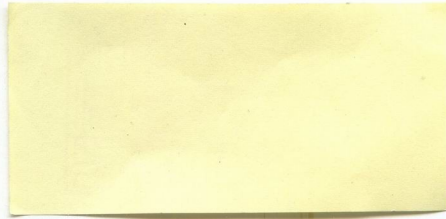
His firm proletarian stand and thoroughgoing revolutionary will to serve the proletariat and broad masses of the people so long as he lived are constant inspiration to the Chinese people to follow Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and carry through to the end the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.





1. *Lu Hsun — Great Revolutionary, Thinker and Writer*

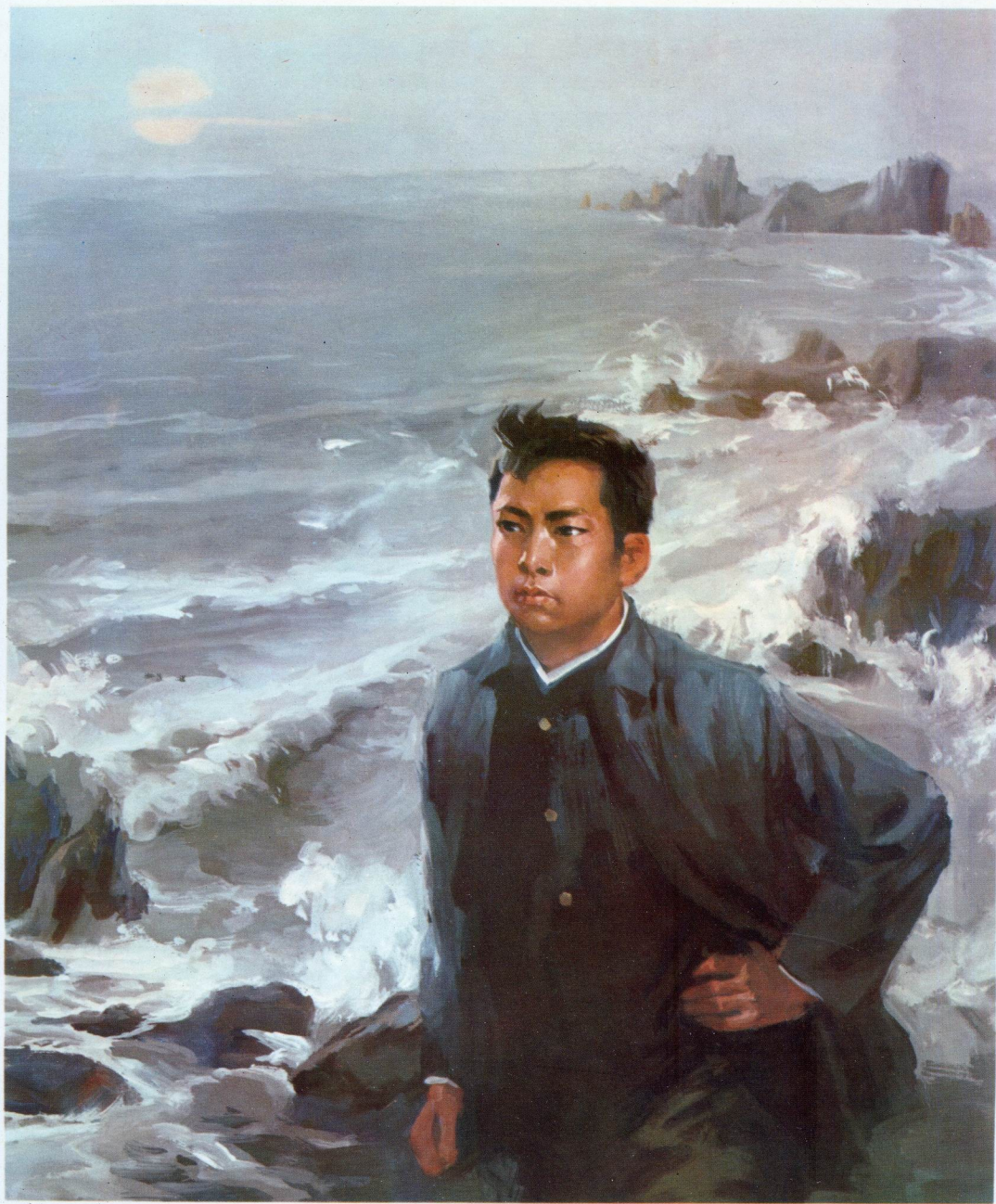


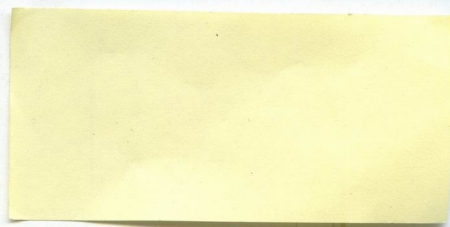


2. *In Search of Truth*

LU HSUN was born in Shaohsing, Chekiang Province, in 1881, at a time when China had been reduced to semi-colonial, semi-feudal status by imperialist aggression and the Ching Dynasty's ignominious betrayal.

Imperialist encroachment and the corruption and impotence of the Ching court had time and again brought humiliation and loss of sovereignty on the country and dire suffering to the people. This miserable state of affairs spurred Lu Hsun on in search of the truth. Unwilling to become a government clerk or merchant, he left his native Shaohsing in 1898 to attend school in Nanking.





3. *"I Dedicate My Lifeblood to China!"*

IN 1902 Lu Hsun went to Japan to study and, taking active part in revolutionary activity there to overthrow the traitorous Ching government, his thinking gradually crystallized into a revolutionary-democratic outlook against imperialism and feudalism. The above line from his poem "Self-Portrait" tells of his determination to devote his life to his country's liberation.



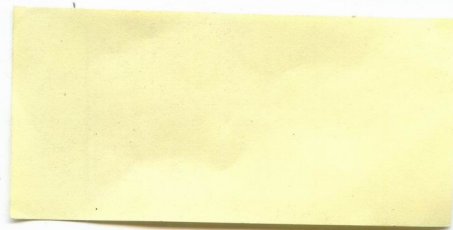


4. *Leaving Medical School to Take Up the New Literature*

LU HSUN had entered the Medical College at Sendai, Japan, in the belief that medical science could save China. The Russo-Japanese War had broken out and the imperialist powers were stepping up their partition of the country.

During a classroom showing of lantern slides, Lu Hsun was agonized at a scene of Japanese soldiers beheading a Chinese before impassive Chinese spectators. He realized that people even in the best of health, if not awakened politically, could “only serve to be made examples of, or to witness such futile spectacles.” Lu Hsun resolved to give up his study of medicine and devote himself to the new literature, in order to “change people’s character and reform the society.”





5. *Street Propaganda*

THE REVOLUTION of 1911 occurred in the third year after Lu Hsun returned to China. A teacher of the Shaohsing Middle School at the time, he welcomed the events with all his heart and organized students into propaganda teams which took to the streets. But disillusionment soon followed, when he found that this revolution of a bourgeois type had only dislodged an emperor, while "beneath the surface all went on as before."

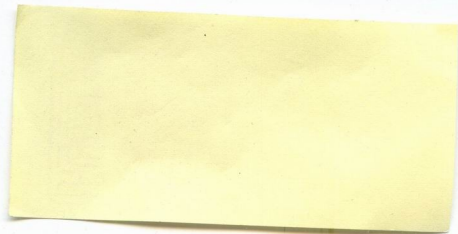




6. *Sighting the Dawn of a New Epoch*

“THE SALVOES of the October Revolution brought us Marxism-Leninism.” Lu Hsun was inspired by the victory of the October Revolution in Russia in 1917, looking to it as “the dawn of a new epoch.” In China, two years later, the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal May 4th Movement burst forth and the Chinese revolution entered the new-democratic stage, to be led by the proletariat. Lu Hsun found light on a question that had long occupied him — the way out for the Chinese revolution. With his new thinking, he plunged into battle and launched a heroic attack on the imperialist and feudal culture.

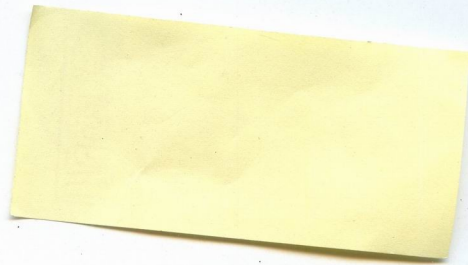




7. *Loyal to the Proletarian Revolutionary Cause*

THE CHINESE proletariat with the Chinese Communist Party as vanguard entered the country's political arena in 1921. The following year, "battling for brightness" for his country, Lu Hsun declared that literature, in cheering for the revolution, "must certainly obey the general's orders." He later said in forthright terms that his works were "written to order." Consciously observing instructions by the Communist vanguard, he fought selflessly in the revolutionary struggle led by the proletariat till his last breath.

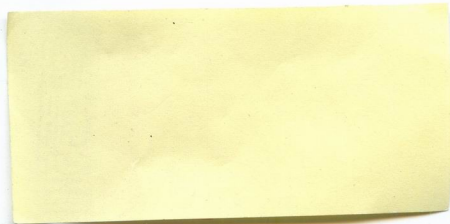




8. *Firm Support for the Students' Just Struggle*

IN 1925, under the impact of the worker-peasant movement, the students of the Peking Women's Normal College rose up and expelled the reactionary college president. Lu Hsun stood firmly with the revolutionary students and went on to wage unremitting struggle against the Northern warlord government and its lackeys in cultural circles. In battling the enemy, Lu Hsun never failed to display a thoroughly revolutionary spirit. He stressed the need to "beat dogs in the water" lest they swim ashore and bite men again. His article "On Deferring Fair Play," from which this quotation is taken, was a call to arms in which he summarized lessons gained from the revolutionary struggle at the cost of blood.

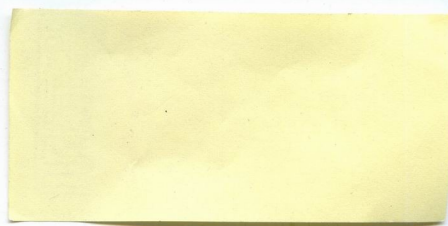




9. Emergency Staff Meeting at Sun Yat-sen University, Canton

ABETTED BY imperialism, the Kuomintang reactionaries in April 1927 openly betrayed the revolution and massacred Chinese Communists and other revolutionary people. Scores of progressive students at Sun Yat-sen University were arrested. An emergency staff meeting was called at which Lu Hsun strongly protested this atrocity and urged that the students be rescued. When the school authorities failed in this, Lu Hsun indignantly resigned from all his posts at the university.

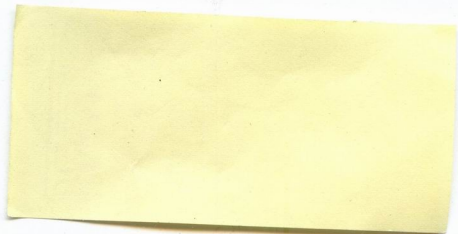




10. A Keen Student of Marxism

IN OCTOBER 1927 Lu Hsun went to Shanghai, where his thinking reached a new stage. The grim realities of the class struggle had left deep marks on him. Now, with revolutionary practice in mind, he avidly studied Marxist theory in the most intense struggle and dangerous circumstances. Lu Hsun was also strict in "dissecting himself," overcoming his former "one-sided belief in evolution." He said, "The problems which seemed so puzzling are at once cleared up when looked at from the Marxist point of view." From the time he attained a firm Marxist world outlook he was a great communist.

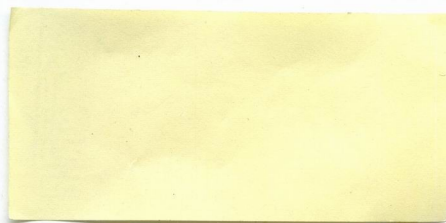




11. Speaking at the League of Left-Wing Writers Founding Meeting

FROM ITS very first day the League of Left-Wing Writers experienced a two-line struggle. In his "Thoughts on the League of Left-Wing Writers," a speech delivered on March 2, 1930 at the League's founding meeting, Lu Hsun pointed out with great insight that if Left-wing writers stood aloof from the workers and peasants and from revolutionary struggle, if they only spouted "radical ideas," they could easily "turn into 'Right-wing' writers." His words were a telling refutation of the Wang Ming "Left" opportunist line pushed by Chou Yang and company.





12. Congratulating Chairman Mao and the Communist Party Central Committee

THE NEWS in 1935 of the Red Army's victorious arrival in northern Shensi Province at the end of the Long March overjoyed Lu Hsun, whose health was already failing. He at once sent a message of congratulation to Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee, carrying the warmest proletarian sentiment. In the message, he said, "The hope of China and mankind rests on you."



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