Abstract

The Wild Grass (《野草》), written by the great modern Chinese writer Lu Xun (鲁迅), is a collection of 24 prose poems. The book was published in 1927 but the actual writings were done within the period 1924 to 1926.

According to Lu Xun, the prose poems in his book were mere expressions of his innermost thoughts and feelings. But in "Ancient Temples - Part Five" (《古庙杂谈》), Zhang Yi-ping (章衣萍) wrote: "Lu Xun has personally told me clearly that his own philosophy of life is included in the Wild Grass." This statement distinctly indicates that the Wild Grass actually contains Lu Xun's profound perception of life, which also reveals the significance of this book.

However, as Lu Xun hardly discussed nor analysed these prose poems in his books, it has puzzled many researchers for a long time. As such, many queries and doubts arose resulting in numerous different interpretations and analysis of the Wild Grass. This has created general misconceptions among the readers, as a complete analysis of the book has yet to be realised.

As for this academic exercise, I analyse the prose poems from various perspectives by sub-dividing it into six chapters. Chapter one is the preface which gives a brief introduction to this exercise. The second chapter looks into the three main related areas, namely, the development of Modern Chinese prose poetry, Lu Xun's early prose poetry writing, and the social
background and intentions behind each prose poem in the Wild Grass. As Western literature has a great influence on the development of modern Chinese literature. Chapter three discusses this from various angles in relation to the Wild Grass. Chapter four is an objective approach towards the interpretation of each of the prose poems in the book. The fifth chapter details Lu Xun's artistic styles in the writing of this book. The final chapter, a general conclusion of the entire exercise, includes my personal opinions of the analysis of the Wild Grass.