ABSTRACT

This study aims at a definitive interpretation and assessment of Wang Tong Zhao, an outstanding literary writer in contemporary China. He began his career as a professional writer in 1918. During his life time, he had achieved an enviable status as a leading protagonist of New Literary Movement.

Wang Tong Zhao's writings were much related to his life experiences. His early literary writings were based on love and aesthetics, reflecting human's aspirations. However, after experiencing a number of wars and revolutions in modern China, Wang Tong Zhao's literary works became realistic; his post-war work reflecting the actual situation of Chinese society. Wang Tong Zhao's achievement is evident from the great number of novels, poems, prose writings, literary criticisms and reports.

Among the many literary works, *A Storm in the Mountains* (《山雨》) is the most representative and notable of Wang Tong Zhao's writings. This novel was published in 1932 and received favourable comments from the literary circles. It has the war between rival warlords and the anti-Japanese war as the background. He described the oppressed and miserable livelihood of the peasants in Shan Tong Village. He exposed the evils and corruption of bureaucrats, the bullies and the feudal lords of those days; how they exploited the chaotic situation and the ignorant peasants in the country to attain enormous profits. He also revealed the awakenings of the peasants under such exploitation.

This academic exercise attempts to make a thorough study of *A Storm in the Mountains*. Structurally, the exercise is divided into seven chapters. The introductory chapter consists of a brief discussion of Wang Tong Zhao's prominent status in China's literary world and the objective of studying this novel and outlines the scope of the thesis. Chapter two is an account of Wong Tong Zhao's life and literary activities. Chapter three discusses in detail the social
and political background which forms the subject matter of the author's novel. It is also a discussion of the intentions of the writer in writing this novel. The next chapter deals with the main theme of *A Storm in the Mountains* through an in-depth analysis of the novel. Chapter five concentrates on the artistic features in *A Storm in the Mountains*. Chapter six analyses and comments on the various studies made by other writers on this novel. Chapter seven provides an overall evaluation of *A Storm in the Mountains*.

This academic essay thus aims to provide a systematic and in-depth evaluation of Wang Tong Zhao's *A Storm in the Mountains*.

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