

# Chinese Nobel Laureate Mo Yan and Red Sorghum

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**Abstract:** Since his childhood, Mo Yan has lived in "Gaomi Dongbei Township", the land where he was born and raised. Therefore, he loves this land passionately and deeply. At the same time, he also has the traditional concept of human reverence and respect for the earth. And "Gaomi Northeast Township" also went to the world with his award, so that the world's eyes are focused on China, focusing on this place that he is familiar with, then, what happened on this land that makes Mo Yan so attached to this land, what makes the world fascinated by this land. Today, with this mystery in mind, we approach Mo Yan and his Red Sorghum.

**Keywords:** Strong Blood; Magical Realism; Integration of Social History; Love; Love Comes from Life; Gaomi Northeast Township.

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## 1. Introduction

Since his childhood, Mo Yan has lived in "Gaomi Dongbei Township", the land where he was born and raised. Therefore, he loves this land passionately and deeply. At the same time, he also has the traditional concept of human reverence and respect for the earth. And "Gaomi Northeast Township" also went to the world with his award, so that the world's eyes are focused on China, focusing on this place that he is familiar with, then, what happened on this land that makes Mo Yan so attached to this land, what makes the world fascinated by this land. Today, with this mystery in mind, we approach Mo Yan and his Red Sorghum.

### 1.1. Review the Main Content of the Book.

This book describes the history of the Anti-Japanese War from the perspective of rural life, which is very pictorial. The narrator of the novel is very special, who is "I" in the first person. However, what is different from the conventional setting is that the protagonists of this story are not me, but my grandfather Yu Zhanao and my grandmother Dai Fenglian. This story takes place in China Gaomi Northeast Township, Northeast Township is a contradictory place, here the most beautiful but also the ugliest, here there are the most heroic heroes, there are the most disdainful bastard. My grandmother Dai Fenglian grew up in this land of contradictions and entanglement. grandma is an unusual character for me. When I was growing up, I heard a lot of legendary stories about my grandmother from my aunts, most of which were amazing, such as her unclean relationship with Liu Luohan and so on. On the surface, Grandma was no different from most women at the time, starting to tie her feet at a young age and imagining that she would marry a handsome man who would come to meet her with colorful clouds. But soon, her imagination disillusioned, at the age of 16, Grandma's father, that is, my great-grandfather for money, to marry her to the village's rich second generation, "Shan Pinglang", the single home opened a wine shop, in the square hundreds of miles are famous, but Shan Pinglang not only ugly, but also a white, yellow water lepers. When Grandma heard this in the red sedan chair, her heart was like a mountain falling apart. Just as Grandma was crying for her rough fate, a man jumped out ungrateful. He shouted to the red sedan chair: "Leave the

money to buy the road." Grandma did not react, I saw a sedan carrier bravely walked to the robber and kicked the guy away. The heroic bearer was my grandfather Yu Zhanao. To the single home, grandma held scissors for two nights, only to force single flat lang failed to do with her wedding. Finally, on the third day, Grandma could return home. On the way back to the door, Grandma was stopped by my grandfather, and picked up and walked to the red sorghum field. Afterwards, grandma cried to grandpa grievously: "Shan Pinglang is really a leprosy." Grandpa just said, "After three days, you just come back." Three days later, as soon as grandma entered the village, she heard that father and son did not know who had killed them, and their sweet love began. But before long, the village was cast a shadow, the Japanese came, they arrested many Chinese to build Jiaoping road, and destroyed everyone's red sorghum. Farmer Liu Luohan because of hatred of the Japanese, while the night black wind high, with a shovel injured the Japanese mules and horses, who expected to be captured. The next day, the Japanese army skinned and cut Liu Luohan, the means are very cruel. Grandma saw Liu Luohan was skinned alive, vowed not to kill the Japanese is not peaceful. She put out the blood wine to commemorate Liu Luohan, let grandpa drink to kill the Japanese, let his son Yu Dou guan also go to avenge Liu Luohan. On the ninth day of August 1939, my grandfather took my father to the Jiaping Highway to ambush the Japanese motorcade. Although that year, my father was only 14 years old, but my father heard grandpa said: "Wait until the devil car on the bridge and then open fire together, the animals hit the river to feed the eel." At noon that day, grandma to grandpa a line of people to send dry food, at this time, red sorghum next to the road, there has been a Japanese car, grandpa turned his head, see wearing red clothes grandma, step by step, and then the father shouted: "Niang." Who expected, after the sound of the mother, followed by the Japanese shot, the bullet flew straight toward grandma, in grandma's chest bang hit two holes. Grandpa angry, with everyone and the Japanese went straight into a fight, after the battle, Grandpa's team suffered heavy casualties, but the Japanese devils did not go well, their car did not run away, and was also killed a major general, but grandpa has lost grandma forever, and father is also the first time to see always brave, not afraid of power grandpa shed tears. So, what are

the characteristics of this piece of literature that make it stand out from other literary works?

## 1.2. With a Strong Bloody Text.

First of all, the text has a strong blood. Let's start with the plot of the book. This work is positioned as an anti-Japanese literary work, and its writing style is different from other literary works of the same subject. Most of the anti-Japanese literary works we know, such as Sparrow and Little Soldier Zhang Ga, write a complete story. And most of them write such as "militia", "small soldier Zhang Ga", "Chen Shen", "railway guerrillas" and so on these familiar characters, careful observation, it is not difficult to find that these characters have a common feature, that is, we say "the masses of the people", that is, we often say "common people", they chose to join the revolution for various reasons. A careful study of this book will not be difficult to find that the hero of this book is actually a bandit "Yu Zhanao". In our traditional cognition and traditional Chinese cultural concepts, the word "bandit" is a derogatory term, which represents a social level in which people are cognitively disadvantaged. Many people's stereotype of bandits is that they "steal, kill, rob, and do nothing evil". In many literary works, such as The Snow Field in the Sea of Forests, they are to be eliminated or banned, but this work changes people's stereotype, showing the bandits' manly spirit and their patriotic enthusiasm vividly. This is reflected in every word and sentence in the book; At the same time, this is also true in the depiction of some details in the book, for example, in the section where the Japanese army captured and skinned Liu Luohan, the cruelty of the Japanese army and Lao Liu's willingness to die and not yield were shown. The two are closely related and in sharp contrast, which vividly shows the masculine character of Liu Han, and promotes the development of the story through this typical representative character. It also shows the male nature of the "bandits", and perfectly shows the courage and determination of the anti-Japanese army and people. This "blood" is even reflected in the title of the book and the selection of various images in the book, "red" and "blood" are also closely related, the book "red sedan chair", "red head", "red sorghum field", "red sorghum wine", "blood flowers on the breast" and so on, are closely related to the "red" this background color; From a deeper level to understand, "red" here represents a kind of "Chinese red", that is, we often say that "the background color of the Chinese nation", this bright "Chinese red" behind represents the "Chinese soul", is the kind of Chinese people in the face of foreign aggression in the unyielding: We would rather shed our own blood on the land of China than allow the Japanese aggressors to set foot on our land, plunder our resources and property, and slaughter our compatriots! We vow to live and die together with the country and carry on the war of resistance to the end.

## 1.3. A Strong Emotional Foundation.

Second, I think the book has a very strong emotional foundation, whether it's about my grandfather and my grandmother's powerful love: "The first element of fanatic love is the pain of the cone heart, the punctured heart dripping with loose glue like liquid, the blood paid for the pain of love flows from the stomach, flows through the small intestine, the large intestine, and becomes a tar like stool discharged from the body; The second element of cruel love is the relentless criticism, in which the two lovers wish to peel the skin of the other alive, physical and psychological, spiritual and material,

blood vessels, muscles, internal organs, black or red hearts, and then both sides throw their hearts at each other, and the two hearts smash into pieces in the air; The third ingredient of cold love is a lasting silence. Cold feelings turn the lover into a Popsicle, frozen first in the cold wind, then in the snow, then thrown into the glacier, and finally frozen in the freezer of modern civilization, hung in the freezer of pork and yellow croaker." This description of love seems to be very philosophical, but it is not difficult to find that it reveals a strong "love", this metaphorical description in essence can let us understand the abstract "love" in place, into a symbolic thing; In the details of the work, the main focus is the feelings of family and country, but the author does not directly start from this major aspect, but divides it into different parts, one by one, and presents it in detail. Whether it is "the encounter between grandparents" or "the entry of Japanese Devils into the village", the scenes are so real, making us feel like watching movies and TV dramas, the pictures are extremely vivid and specific. These stories all take place in "Gaomi Northeast Township", and my attachment to this land is also implied in it. Whether it is red sorghum or the people living on this land, they are essentially closely connected with this land and become a whole, which cannot be separated. This land is heavy and it has nurtured this people, and the people on this land are also worthy of recognition. They vowed to defend their home, protect this land, the story of what happened in this land is also beautiful. The author tells the story of this land to the world with a reminiscence style, and this emotion is also complex: the awe of the land and nature, the praise of the hero, the comfort of the hero, the worship of the epic... The complexity and interweaving of this kind of emotion gives this work a thick sense, and it is this emotion that gives us a sense of familiarity: I feel that the hot and pure love of grandparents exists in our fathers, feel that the sorghum field is the scene of our hometown countryside, feel that the firm resistance to Japan exists in each of us Chinese... This real foundation comes from that thick and true feelings. It can be said that the entry point of this book is very small, but behind it is a tragic epic of man and nature, man and man, unity and resistance! This style of writing also proves that "Mo Yan is adept at exposing the darkest aspects of human life with teasing and undisguised pleasure." Unconsciously, find images with strong symbolic meaning. He blends history, folk tales and contemporary society very well!" The basis of all the above is the innovation of feelings in "breaking" and "standing".

## 1.4. Clever "Magic Realism" Writing Technique.

Finally, I think the most ingenious writing method in this work is his, which is "magic realism". What is "magic realism"? It is what we usually call "making the impossible possible", then you may say that this is not "magic"? We must have read Journey to the West. Wu Chengen, the author of the novel, was based on the dark social reality at that time. He dared not speak frankly about the darkness of the society. Instead, he constructed various gods with vast powers and extraordinary skills through imagination. It is through the transformation of the characters to construct a "mythical feast", which is to transform an impossible into an imagined possibility, similar to what we call magic. This style was first seen in one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, Marquez, whose masterpiece "One Hundred Years of Solitude" is widely known, and when it comes to this book, it

begins: "Many years later, when facing the firing squad, Colonel Aurelia Noa Buendia must remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to see the ice cube..." "Every time you read this, the reader must be fascinated by it, you must have a strong sense of reading, eager to know what happened, which is like a key to open the magic world of memories, to open the door of your interest in reading. This writing style is exactly what Mo Yan used, it is because of this, there will be such words as "after many years", "the story will start from my grandfather and my grandmother", which puts the reader into the "time and space tunnel", so that we have a sense of weightlessness and confusion, it is this feeling that urges us to continue reading the novel, there are many such writing styles in this novel: For example, after my grandmother Dai Fenglian heard that "Shan Pinglang" was a leper, she was skeptical and did not know how she would end up and what she should do in the future. At this time, the writer suddenly jumped out of "many years later", the grandfather was introduced to the stage, from the grandfather's point of view to tell what happened in these years, but also confirmed that "Shan Pinglang is indeed a leper", this writing can be said to be wonderful, both unique and innovative, cleverly linked the whole story. And the use of this technique is also inseparable from another technique - "metaphor" : Liu Luohan in the article hurt the Japanese mules and horses, here the mules and horses actually implied the irony and abuse of the Japanese, comparing them to animals; The Japanese Wolf dogs bite the corpses of the villagers, here in essence again use the metaphor of Wolf dogs to show the ferocity of the Japanese people, these seemingly very ordinary details, in fact, are different, although they appear in different parts, but are closely linked and inseparable. It can be seen that the author's writing skills are strong.

## 2. Summary

In short, whether it is the tragic experience of childhood, or the encouragement of mother to learn; Whether it is the heavy land of "Gaomi Northeast Township" or the military life after leaving home; Whether inspired by "Marquez" or patronized by "magical realism." This has achieved a brilliant work, this has achieved a great writer who "transferred his own blood and soul into his work", and has achieved the "Nobel Prize in Literature" of the first person in China! He is Mo Yan, a great writer who tells the "Chinese story" to the world, a great writer who makes "Northeast Gaomi Township" famous in the whole country and north and south! Perhaps, there is not only red sorghum on this land, but also the people behind red sorghum and the soul behind the people.

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