

Yi Sha

ANSWERING MY OWN QUESTIONS

“So just because of an earthquake that caused you
no harm at all
You become reconciled with the country you’ve confronted
for so long?
You reconcile so easily . . .”

“Beyond talking of reconciliation—in fact
I’ve never turned my back on the country that is in my heart
(the noble are not qualified to do this)
And I’ve always longed to love China the way
the Orthodox poet
Ached with love for Russia
Tsvetaeva wrote, “The snows of Russia are on fire
I’m so ashamed! I’ve not yet offered
My own country such a white-hot line of poetry”

“Then can I understand it this way: from now on
You’ll be reduced to a reconciled, harmonious, cooperative poet
Taking the flower-strewn path like the common herd?”

“No! No! No! I’m lowly too
Too bad my poetry is not lowly like theirs
It’s neither reconciling nor harmonious
I trust in it more than in myself
A pure poet should be completely attuned to poetry’s leading
Moreover those who stand between me and my country
Cannot represent the country that is in my heart
A murderous level eight earthquake can make me give up
on heaven and earth and Buddha
But it is powerless to change my most basic principles—
and my faith!”

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伊沙

答自己问

“就因为一场对你毫发无损的地震
你就与你长期对峙的祖国和解了吗?
这么轻易的就和解了……”

“何谈和解——事实上
我从未背弃过心中的祖国
(高尚的人没有这样的资格)
并且一直渴望像信奉东正教的诗人
苦恋俄罗斯似的爱我中华
茨维塔耶娃写道：俄罗斯的雪都在燃烧
很惭愧！我还没有为我的祖国
献出如此滚烫的诗句……”

“那么我是否可以作此理解：从今往后
你将沦为一名和解、和谐、合作的诗人
像庸俗的大多数迈上一条铺满鲜花的坦途？”

“不！不！不！我也庸俗
可惜我的诗歌却不具备同样的品质
它不和解也不和谐
比我更叫我信得过
一个纯粹的诗人应该完全听命于诗歌的引领
何况站在我与祖国之间的人
并不能够代表我心中的祖国
一场吃人的八级地震可以让我放弃天地与佛陀
但却无力改变我最基本的原则……还有信仰！”

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