

Taras Bulba And Other Tales Nikolai Gogol

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Taras Bulba And Other Tales

Te Akau Shark set tongues wagging on Wednesday, as he brained the opposition in the Couplan's Bakeries Mile at Riccarton. Sent out an odds-on favourite having won four of his first five starts, the ...

Russian literature, so full of enigmas, contains no greater creative mystery than Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol (1809-1852), who has done for the Russian novel and Russian prose what Pushkin has done for Russian poetry. Before these two men came Russian literature can hardly have been said to exist. It was pompous and effete with pseudo-classicism; foreign influences were strong; in the speech of the upper circles there was an over-fondness for German, French, and English words. Between them the two friends, by force of their great genius, cleared away the debris which made for sterility and erected in their stead a new structure out of living Russian words. The spoken word, born of the people, gave soul and wing to literature; only by coming to earth, the native earth, was it enabled to soar. Coming up from Little Russia, the Ukraine, with Cossack blood in his veins, Gogol injected his own healthy virus into an effete body, blew his own virile spirit, the spirit of his race, into its nostrils, and gave the Russian novel its direction to this very day.

This superb collection of Nikolai Gogol's classic short stories includes, Taras Bulba -- St. John's Eve -- The Cloak -- How the Two Ivans Quarrelled -- The Mysterious Portrait -- The Calash.

Taras Bulba is Gogol's longest short story. The work is non-fictional in nature with characters that are not exaggerated or grotesque as was common in Gogol's later work, though his characterizations of Cossacks are said by some scholars to be a bit exaggerated. This story can be understood in the context of the romantic nationalism movement in literature, which developed around a historical ethnic culture which meets the romantic ideal.

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Finally available, a high quality book of the original classic edition of Taras Bulba and Other Tales. It was previously published by other bona fide publishers, and is now, after many years, back in print. This is a new and freshly published edition of this culturally important work by

Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol, which is now, at last, again available to you. Enjoy this classic work today. These selected paragraphs distill the contents and give you a quick look inside Taras Bulba and Other Tales: The fugitive from Poland, the fugitive from the Tatar and the Turk, homeless, with nothing to lose, their lives ever exposed to danger, forsook their peaceful occupations and became transformed into a warlike people, known as the Cossacks, whose appearance towards the end of the thirteenth century or at the beginning of the fourteenth was a remarkable event which possibly alone (suggests Gogol) prevented any further inroads by the two Mohammedan nations into Europe. ...All of Ukraine took on its colour from the Cossack, and if I have drawn largely on Gogol's own account of the origins of this race, it was because it seemed to me that Gogol's emphasis on the heroic rather than on the historical-Gogol is generally discounted as an historian-would give the reader a proper approach to the mood in which he created 'Taras Bulba, ' the finest epic in Russian literature. ...I have already told in my introduction to 'Dead Souls' (1) how Gogol created his great realistic masterpiece, which was to influence Russian literature for generations to come, under the influence of models so remote in time or place as 'Don Quixote' or 'Pickwick Papers'; and how this combination of influences joined to his own genius produced a work quite new and original in effect and only remotely reminiscent of the models which have inspired it. ... But most of all he dwells on its heroic qualities, inseparable to him from what is religious in the 'Odyssey'; and, says Gogol, this book contains the idea that a human being, 'wherever he might be, whatever pursuit he might follow, is threatened by many woes, that he must need wrestle with them-for that very purpose was life given to him-that never for a single instant must he despair, just as Odysseus did not despair, who in every hard and oppressive moment turned to his own heart, unaware that with this inner scrutiny of himself he had already said that hidden prayer uttered in a moment of distress by every man having no understanding whatever of God.' ...He was one of those characters which could only exist in that fierce fifteenth century, and in that half-nomadic corner of Europe, when the whole of Southern Russia, deserted by its princes, was laid waste and burned to the quick by pitiless troops of Mongolian robbers; when men deprived of house and home grew brave there; when, amid conflagrations, threatening neighbours, and eternal terrors, they settled down, and growing accustomed to looking these things straight in the face, trained themselves not to know that there was such a thing as fear in the world; when the old, peacable Slav spirit was fired with warlike flame, and the Cossack state was instituted-a free, wild outbreak of Russian nature-and when all the river-banks, fords, and like suitable places were peopled by Cossacks, whose number no man knew.

Some of the most powerful and dramatic writing of one of the men who opened the minds of the Russian people by showing them as others saw them. Gogol's tremendous power is one of the marvels of modern world literature and it is shown at its best in this remarkable book. Taras Bulba -- St. John's Eve -- The Cloak -- How the Two Ivans Quarrelled -- The Mysterious Portrait -- The Calash

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Gogol was a Ukrainian writer from the early 19th century. Taras Bulba is the story of the life of the Ukrainian Cossacks who lived during the 16th century. Taras Bulba is an old warrior who takes his sons on a training mission. He becomes their leader and lays siege on the Catholic Poles. When they are about to attack a walled city his son discovers that the woman he loves is in the city. Other stories included in this collection are St John's Eve, The Cloak, How the Two Ivans Quarrelled, The Mysterious Portrait, and The Calash.

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