

LET OF TOLSTOY, written on Tolstoy's 80th birthday, published 1909

"Mikula Seljanovich, peasant hero of the folk epic, says of himself
'I am the beloved of raw mother earth.'" Such is the religious
myth of Russian Populism WHICH RULED FOR DECADES OVER THE MINDS
OF THE RUS. INTELLECTUALS.

WAR & PEACE, written in 1867-69, rewritten 7 times.

"Perhaps what is most astounding in this titan's creativeness
is that the artist permits neither himself nor the reader to become
attached to any individual character... But from behind this general
indifferent attentiveness to individual parts there rises
mighty apotheosis of the whole, where everything breathes the spirit
of inner necessity & harmony... (esthetic pantheism) for which there
is neither beauty nor ugliness, neither the great nor the small,
because it holds as the great & beautiful only the whole of life."

"TOLSTOY is just as far removed from Turgenev who is lyrical, rhapsodic,
scintillating & aware of the beauty of his language as he is from
Dostoevsky's tongue, so sharp, so choked-up & pock-marked."

(DOSTOYEVSKY once wrote, having Tolstoy, singer of the perfected form
in mind: "He would not be able to write in any other way except
historically, for the beautiful type no longer exists in our own day.")

"Tolstoy's phil. resembles Chinese painting. Ideas of entirely
different epochs are not located in perspective but arranged on
the one & the same plane." "He has preserved intact PRICELESS
TALENT FOR MORAL INDIGNATION."

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