

Introduction

托爾斯泰

Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy
(1828~1910)



Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy (Leo Tolstoy) is one of Russia's greatest authors and considered one of the world's greatest philosophers. Tolstoy was born into a family of aristocratic landowners. He was the fourth son of the family. After he dropped out of university, he returned home and as a landowner, he tried to improve the lives of peasants in his feudal estate.

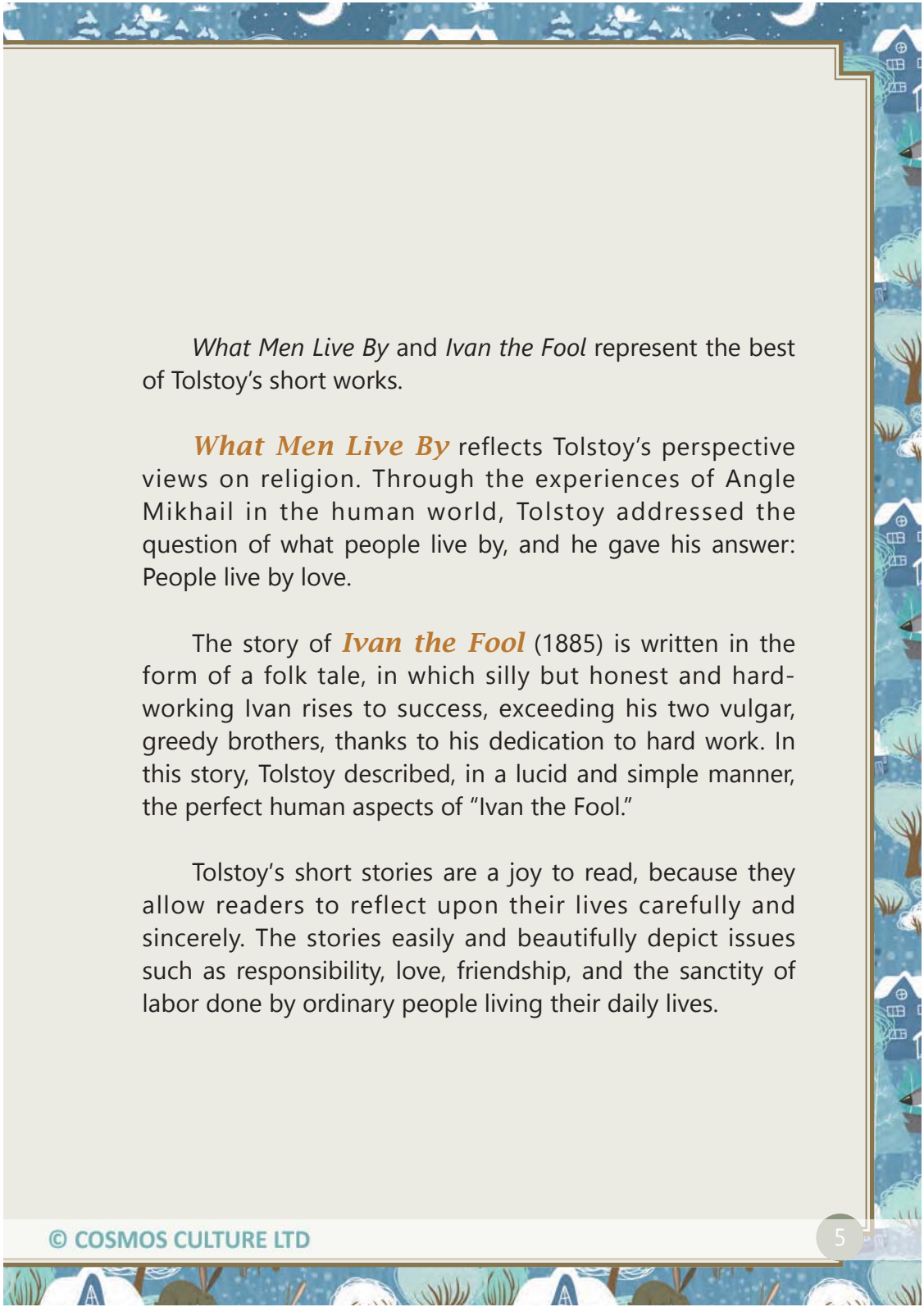
However, after he failed to realize his ideals, he began to live promiscuously, and then in 1857, he joined the army and served in actual military campaigns.

During this period, his experiences of war influenced Tolstoy to write a lot of works that provided comprehensive insight into life and death, ethnic issues, and massacres.

When he left the army service in 1855, he was already acknowledged as a rising new talent in literature. After his marriage in 1862, he began to concentrate on writing. His major works are *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Resurrection*.

His writings include common themes of universal love, good and evil, religion and distrust, and the meaning of death and life. Tolstoy used his particular power of persuasion to deal with these themes in an easy-to-understand and interesting manner.

During the 82 years of his life, Tolstoy wrote around 90 works, Tolstoy, along with Dostoevsky, is regarded as one of Russia's greatest novelists.



What Men Live By and *Ivan the Fool* represent the best of Tolstoy's short works.

What Men Live By reflects Tolstoy's perspective views on religion. Through the experiences of Angle Mikhail in the human world, Tolstoy addressed the question of what people live by, and he gave his answer: People live by love.

The story of *Ivan the Fool* (1885) is written in the form of a folk tale, in which silly but honest and hard-working Ivan rises to success, exceeding his two vulgar, greedy brothers, thanks to his dedication to hard work. In this story, Tolstoy described, in a lucid and simple manner, the perfect human aspects of "Ivan the Fool."

Tolstoy's short stories are a joy to read, because they allow readers to reflect upon their lives carefully and sincerely. The stories easily and beautifully depict issues such as responsibility, love, friendship, and the sanctity of labor done by ordinary people living their daily lives.



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What Men Live By

人靠什麼活下去

Before You Read



Simon

I am a simple shoemaker who lives in the Russian countryside. Life is difficult because it is hard to make money. Martha, my wife, and I try to live as best as we can. But our life has changed a little after I met a naked young man.



Michael

I am an angel from Heaven. God tells me to gather good people's souls when they die, and bring them to Heaven. Once, I did not want to bring a mother's soul to Heaven. So God sent me to live with Simon so that I could understand God's plan for humans.



Martha

I am Simon's wife. Simon is a good man most of the time, but sometimes he makes me angry. For example, he should be stronger in his business. He lets his customers delay their payment too long!



Rich Gentleman

I am a rich noble, who can afford the finest things in Europe! If people do not do what I want, I can have them punished because I have many friends in the government.

Woman who raises two daughters

My neighbors died and left their two babies all alone. So we adopted them and raised them as our daughters. I love them very much, as if they were my own.



Chapter One



Simon, a Shoemaker

In old Russia, there was once an old shoemaker¹ named Simon. He and his wife were not rich.

One day in the late fall, Simon left his house to buy a winter coat. He and his wife needed a new coat to share².



1. **shoemaker** [ˈʃuːmeɪkə(r)] (n.)

鞋匠

2. **share** [ʃeɪ] (v.) 分享

3. **ruble** [ruːbl] (n.)

盧布（俄貨幣單位）

4. **plan to** 計畫；打算

5. **customer** [ˈkʌstəmə(r)] (n.)

顧客

6. **on the way** 在路上

7. **owe** [ou] (v.) 欠錢

Simon felt frustrated¹. He spent the twenty kopeks on² vodka, and started walking home. Even though³ it was getting dark now, the vodka kept⁴ him warm.

As Simon was walking, he came near a small church by⁵ the road. He saw something white behind the church. It looked like a man without clothes! Suddenly, Simon felt afraid.

“Robbers⁶ must have killed him and taken his clothes,” Simon thought. “I must hurry or they will catch me, too!”



1. **frustrated** [ˈfrʌstreɪtɪd] (a.)

挫敗的；洩氣的

2. **spend A on B** 將 A 花在 B 上

3. **even though** 即使；雖然

4. **keep** [ki:p] (v.) 使保持（狀態）

5. **by** [baɪ] (prep.) 在……旁邊

6. **robber** [ˈrɒ:bə(r)] (n.) 強盜



Simon hurried¹ past²
the church. After a
while³, he looked back⁴.

“What should I do?”
thought Simon. “If I go
back there, he might kill
me for my clothes. Even if
he doesn’t attack me, what can I do for him?”

So Simon ran down the road, out of sight⁵.

At the top of the next hill⁶, he suddenly
stopped.

“What am I doing?” Simon thought. “The man
could be dying! I should be ashamed of⁷ myself!”
Simon turned around and went back to the
church.

1. **hurry** [ˈhʌrɪ] (v.) 趕緊；匆忙

2. **past** [pæst] (prep.) 通過；經過

3. **after a while** 過了一會

4. **look back** 回頭看

5. **out of sight** 看不見

6. **hill** [hɪl] (n.) 小丘；斜坡

7. **be ashamed of**

對……感到羞恥

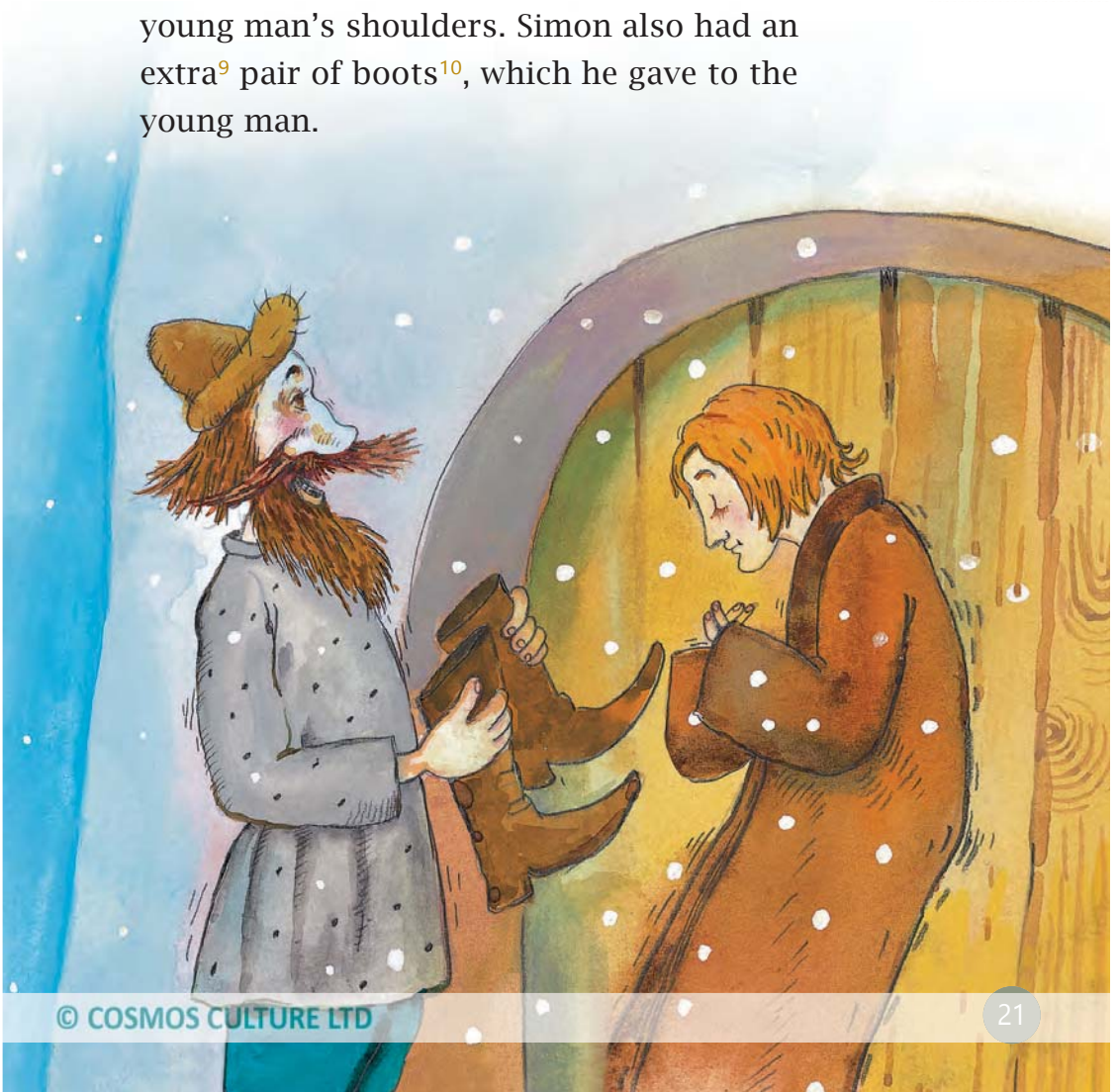
8. **take off** 脫下

9. **extra** [ˈekstrə] (a.) 額外的

10. **a pair of boots** 一雙靴子

When Simon went behind the church, he saw a young man there. This young man was tall and healthy, but he looked afraid.

He was very handsome, with a kind face. Suddenly, Simon liked the young man. Simon took off⁸ his old jacket and put it around the young man's shoulders. Simon also had an extra⁹ pair of boots¹⁰, which he gave to the young man.



Comprehension Quiz Chapter One

A True or False.

- T F** ① Simon and his wife had a lot of money.
- T F** ② The naked young man looked very angry.
- T F** ③ Martha was very angry when she saw her husband bring a stranger home.
- T F** ④ The young man, Michael, learned how to make shoes from Simon.
- T F** ⑤ Michael became a fine shoemaker.



B Fill in the blanks with the given words.

spend look owe leave

- ① One day in the late fall, Simon _____ his house to buy a coat.
- ② They _____ him five rubles for work he had done.
- ③ He _____ the twenty kopeks on vodka, and started walking home.
- ④ The young man was tall and heathy, but _____ afraid.

C Match the two parts of each sentence.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Michael was cold | • | • | a because he was naked. |
| 2 When Martha smelled vodka, she thought | • | • | b after he felt ashamed. |
| 3 Simon went back to the church | • | • | c so he smiled at her. |
| 4 Martha gave the stranger food | • | • | d that Simon had spent all their money in a bar. |

D Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Why didn't Simon help Michael when he first saw him?
(a) Simon thought Michael was a robber.
(b) Simon wanted to get home fast because he was cold.
(c) Simon was afraid of being robbed.
- 2 Which is NOT one of the reasons Martha was angry with Simon when he came home?
(a) She knew Simon had been drinking vodka because she could smell it.
(b) Simon came home very late.
(c) She thought Simon had a secret lover.

Understanding the Story

Heavenly Creatures— The Angels

Michael, the angel who visits Simon and his wife in this story, is the strongest of all the angels. Long before God created mankind, He created angels.

These creatures look like humans, but they have large white wings. They are usually clothed in white, shining robes. In fact, humans cannot look directly at an angel's face, because a bright light seems to come from their heads and bodies.





Angels are the servants of God. Their main job is to tell God's message to human beings.

Angels tell people about God's love and try to help them. Their other job is to lead dead souls to heaven. If the person was good, the angel will visit them when they die and take their soul up to Heaven.

Sometimes, angels protect humans. They may save humans from serious accidents. That's why some people in dangerous situations pray to their 'guardian angel' for help.

