

Renditions

Chinese texts—

AN UNTITLED POEM, composed by Lu Xun and written in his own hand in the month of May, 1934:

Ten thousand soiled faces
buried in a field of grass,
Nor dare they sing of sorrow
that would move the earth.

From deep in my heart a
cry reaches out to the
vast universe,

As in utter silence a peal
of thunder is suddenly
heard.

From 魯迅詩稿 (Lu Xun's Poetry Manuscripts), published by Renmin chuban she, Shanghai, 1961. The second line—*敢有歌吟動地哀*—became a rallying cry among the young freedom-loving writers who escaped from the mainland following 1978 and, for the first time, created a literature that told of their harrowing experience during the Cultural Revolution.

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