

Great Short Works of Leo Tolstoy

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Of all Russian writers Leo Tolstoy is probably the best known to the Western world, largely because of *War and Peace*, his epic in prose, and *Anna Karenina*, one of the most splendid novels in any language. But during his long lifetime Tolstoy also wrote enough shorter works to fill many volumes. Here reprinted in one volume are his eight finest short novels, together with "Alyosha the Pot", the little tale that Prince Mirsky described as "a masterpiece of rare perfection."

Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) is the author of *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *Family Happiness*, and other classics of Russian literature.

Other Books

The Two Old Men, Leo Tolstoy's story Two Old Men tells the tale of two men, Efim and Elisha, who decide that before they die they must make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. After months of planning, they collect what they will need and begin to walk. After a long day on the road, they come to a village that seems deserted. No one is about, and seeing a small hut, they look in to see what has happened. They enter its darkness and smell ... "Two Old Men" ("Два старика") is a short story by Leo Tolstoy written in 1885. It is a religious piece that was translated to English by Leo Wiener in 1904. The story is the retold in a sermon by Benedictine monk David Steindl-Rast, who concludes his retelling with, "Who really got the goal of pilgrimage?" The story is included in numerous Tolstoy collections, such as "Twenty Three Tales" (1924) and "Leo Tolstoy's 20 Greatest Short Stories" (2009).

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