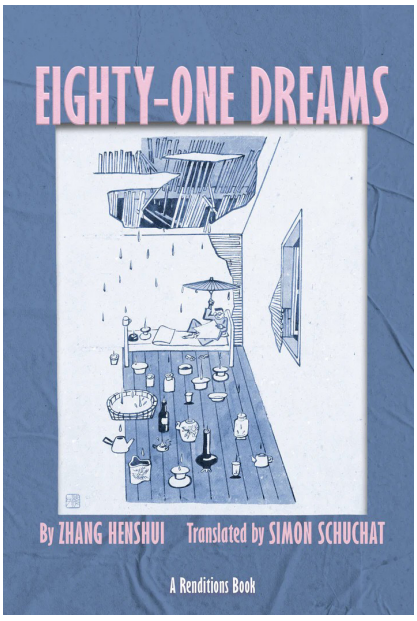
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Eighty-One Dreams

By Zhang Henshui
Translated by Simon Schuchat

Eighty-One Dreams was Zhang Henshui's foremost contribution to the patriotic literature of the War of Resistance against Japan, criticizing the political and social corruption of the Chiang Kai-shek regime. Soft surreal transitions and narrative shifts faithfully reproduce the logic of dreams; sharp reporting exposes contemporary social problems; characters and motifs from traditional Chinese fiction and history satirize the conduct of the war. A deft mixture of the popular style of the Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies School with the innovations of May Fourth modernism, *Eighty-One Dreams* is a window on China's educated classes, in its own time and still today.

Zhang Henshui, pen name of Zhang Xinyuan (1895–1967), was probably China's most popular novelist during his lifetime. Born in Jiangxi province, he began working as a reporter in 1917. In 1924, he finished his first novel, heavily influenced by the romantic Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies School then in vogue. In the 1930s, his popularity reached new heights with the serialization of his best-known novel *Fate in Tears and Laughter*. In 1949, he published *Reminiscences of A Writing Career*, a literary memoir, and thereafter concentrated his writings on historical themes.

Simon Schuchat is a retired American diplomat with over fifteen years of experience in Greater China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, and Hong Kong. In the late 1970s, he was a Foreign Expert at Fudan University in Shanghai. He did graduate work in premodern Chinese literature at Yale and Harvard universities. His translations of Tang and Song prose and poetry have appeared in various anthologies and magazines, as has his own poetry, which has also been published in four collections.

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