



The Word That Causes Death's Defeat: Poems of Memory (Annals of Communism)

Anna Akhmatova

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Anna Akhmatova (1889–1966), one of twentieth-century Russia's greatest poets, was viewed as a dangerous element by post-Revolution authorities. One of the few unrepentant poets to survive the Bolshevik revolution and subsequent Stalinist purges, she set for herself the artistic task of preserving the memory of pre-Revolutionary cultural heritage and of those who had been silenced. This book presents Nancy K.

Anderson's superb translations of three of Akhmatova's most important poems: *Requiem*, a commemoration of the victims of Stalin's Terror; *The Way of All the Earth*, a work to which the poet returned repeatedly over the last quarter-century of her life and which combines Old Russian motifs with the modernist search for a lost past; and *Poem Without a Hero*, widely admired as the poet's magnum opus.

Each poem is accompanied by extensive commentary. The complex and allusive *Poem Without a Hero* is also provided with an extensive critical commentary that draws on the poet's manuscripts and private notebooks. Anderson offers relevant facts about the poet's life and an overview of the political and cultural forces that shaped her work. The resulting volume enables English-language readers to gain a deeper level of understanding of Akhmatova's poems and how and why they were created.

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