

Platonov

He sees a new way through the material world. This in spite of the horrors he saw at first hand, unlike nearly all his compatriots who were silent, abashed or hopeless. This insight to an attempt he appears to have been sympathetic too gives him an unusual angle. Out of it comes a new method of dissecting the material of life. He purposes that the superstructure (us) created by nature has as its by-product souls. This is what gives human beings meaning - otherwise their happiness would come from materialism which clearly it does not. Happiness then becomes our prerogative but what of suffering? Let that part of life be independent of us in the sense that yes it exists but only gains expression through us and is really a "rubbish wind". The Foundation Pit perfectly expresses the banality and risibility of proletarian communist language and no wonder Stalin called him scum. But he never appeared to rescind his socialist ideals and this gives him an authentic voice in this setting. Happy Moscow, Soul, The Return and other stories what a master of a way forward.