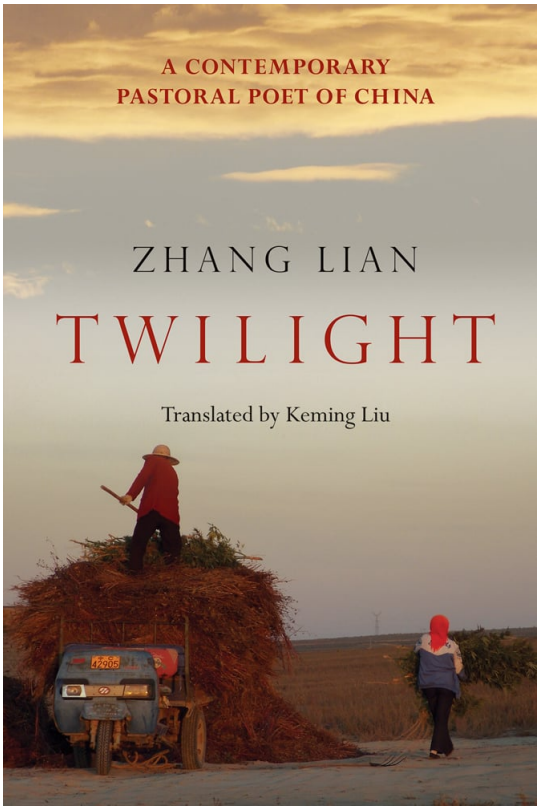
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Twilight

A Contemporary Pastoral Poet of China

Zhang Lian

Translated by Keming Liu

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- Zhang Lian's authentic voice comes from real experience; his poems capture both the hopelessness and hopefulness of his austere world, and a deep belief in the redemptive power of words

Zhang Lian is a struggling potato farmer who turned to poetry to describe the harsh beauty of his environment and his daily struggle to eke out an existence. In 2000 he borrowed money from friends to print and hand-sell his first book of poems; by 2012 he had been chosen as one of the "Ten Best Rural Poets" by the Chinese Writers Association and published his eighth collection. Zhang's work has appeared in more than one hundred anthologies and been translated into several languages, now including English. For this volume, noted translator Keming Liu selected one hundred poems, chiefly representing Zhang's multifaceted perceptions of his world at dusk, when farmer and shepherd are blessed with a moment to daydream. Although Zhang's work follows a pastoral tradition, the authenticity of his voice comes from real experience. His poems capture both the hopelessness and hopefulness of his austere world, and a deep belief in the redemptive power of words.

Keming Liu is professor of linguistics and literature, and former chairperson of English, at the City University of New York's Medgar Evers College. An internationally recognized translator and scholar, Dr. Liu's anthology *Voices of the Fourth Generation: China's Poets Today* (Floating World Editions, 2010) is a required text for Asian literature courses in Asia and the United Kingdom.

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