



PROJECT MUSE®

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## Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

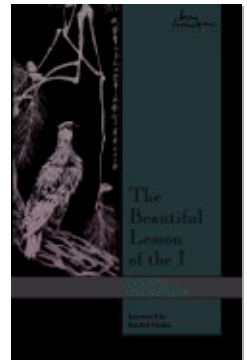
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➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9873>

## STRIKE OR MASSACRE

Hundreds of characters: bare chested men with banners and effigies, wailing women, rioting children, flying spirits, soldiers, skeletons, horses, dogs, vomited fish and rotting eels.

Setting: The scene is shaped horizontally in layers, part carnival, part apocalypse. Atmosphere of a toy theater with skirmishes on the street and pandemonium in the galleries. Smoke, Chinese kites, baskets, fish net, balloons, gold and rose-colored fog.

Stage effects: Candle for smoke, toy guns and gun powder when rifles discharge, a large fan creates the noise of wind.

Music: drums, penny whistles, shooting

As the curtain rises, there is shouting and moaning, all speaking at once. Some are vomiting, some throwing piss pots, soldiers curse.

The Fisherman's Wife rages at a Soldier but the Soldier is shut up in his own confusion.

Little Man in the Upper Gallery (he's pushing the head of another man into a basket): *Revenge!*

Thoughts of the Fisherman's Wife: *I cut the fish and the fish heads as though they were melons.  
They floated in water.*

Soldier: *She's kicking the empty bucket!*

Child in the Street: *Now we're lost.  
I don't recognize any of these faces or buildings.*

Narrator (pointing left and right): *Do you see how it's possible to change, but perhaps not completely?  
Can you see the feather lurking in the fish bones?*