

Lawrence and Frieda

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Jiro Yoshimura

D. H. Lawrence was born in 1885 in the United Kingdom, and his wife was Emma Maria Frieda Johanna Baroness von Richthofen, who was born in Germany in 1872. They married in 1914. However, their married life was not easy, because there were many problems to solve in their life. They were quite different in class. Lawrence came from the working class, while Frieda was from the upper class. In addition, **they** were different in race. Lawrence was British, while Frieda was a German. These differences often brought about many quarrels and conflicts between them. It is said that Lawrence sometimes hit the wife in a fury, so did she. Their married life seems much different from the normal one. But their repeated battles were necessary for them to understand each other, as Frieda says in her memoir *Not I, But the Wind*, “We had so many battles to fight out, so much to get rid of, so much to surpass. We were both good fighters.” But they shared an indomitable desire at the bottom of repeated battles. The desire was to reach beyond their class, to be reborn into the essence of their individual beings, the essence that is so much deeper than any class distinction. The life they shared for 18 years shows a unique form of love.