

SCENES OF CHENGDU

成都映像



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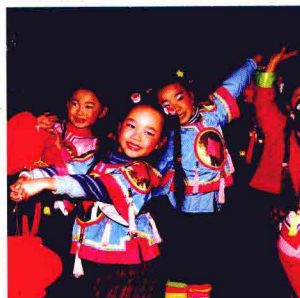


Xiling Snow Mountain / Photo by Hao Kangli
西岭雪山 郝康理·摄



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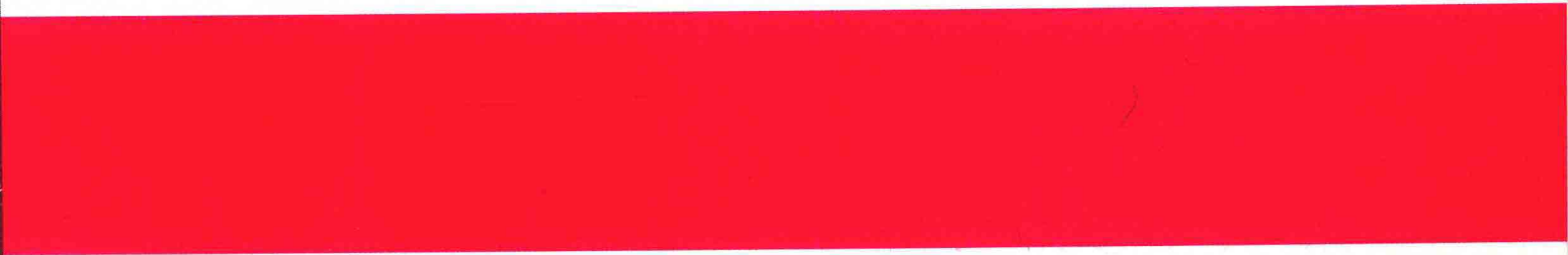
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PART I




spring

春





公元1287年的一个春天，山风劲吹，一队人马艰难地爬行在崇山峻岭中，走在前边的是一位高鼻大眼的外国人，他就是后来世界闻名的旅行家马可·波罗。这位出生在水城威尼斯的意大利商人，从北京出发，经涿州、太原、西安到成都，是第一个踏上南方丝绸之路的欧洲人。几十天的鞍马劳顿，四周连绵不尽的群山使他有些力不从心。而神力就在此时出现，他眼前忽然展现出一处柔媚恬静的盆地，更重要的是，他还看到了一座热闹繁华的都市。马可·波罗走在街上，看见大小的河流在街旁交汇，桥上是人川流不息的人群，使他不由想起万里之外的家乡威尼斯。“感谢上帝，”马可·波罗在他后来所写的《马可·波罗游记》第四十四章中说，“在走过这么多险要的路程之后，让我见到一个水城，见到了与故乡相似的景象。”这座城市的名字就叫“成都”。



从中文字义上解读“成都”这个名字，“成”是成功的意思，“都”是都市的意思。这座“成功的都市”不但历史悠久，而且所处的位置也十分地奇特：北纬30°线——这是一条地理学家画出的虚拟线，然而却没有任何一条经纬线有它如此神奇的魔力。这条纬线上有地球上最高的珠穆朗玛峰和最深的西太平洋马里亚纳海沟；长江、密西西比河、尼罗河、幼发拉底河均从这里注入大海。这亦是一个神秘莫测的地带，古埃及金字塔、狮身人面像，北非撒哈拉大沙漠中的“火神火种”壁画，加勒比海的百慕大三角区，古巴比伦的空中花园，中国的峨眉山、黄山、庐山均坐落在这条神奇的纬线上。在这个拥有灿烂文明的地带上，世界四大文明古国——中国、古巴比伦、古埃及、古印度均在这里最早绽放出人类文明的光彩。为什么会是这样的巧合？特别是当北纬30°线上的成都平原又发现了另一个奇迹——由古蜀人创造的三星堆文明和金沙文明，人们的疑惑和好奇就更加浓厚……这么多的未解之谜，从古至今，让很多人对这座城市产生了兴趣，甚至迷恋……

春天的成都特别丰富多彩，都市和乡村的韵味在这里水乳交融，古典和现代的意象在这里互相激荡。无论你徜徉在著名的春熙路还是魅力十足的锦里，其独特的建筑造型和浓郁的本土设计风格都会带给你难以忘怀的城市观感。日益发展的多元文化，给这里带来了多种多样的生活形态。而两千多年的历史沉淀，金沙的辉煌、三国的故事以及李白杜甫的华丽篇章，更让这座城市充满了令人迷醉的文化气息。

人们常常感叹：为什么老天爷把那么多美好的事物都给了成都！成都的初春没有北京的黄沙蔽日，也没有海南岛的烈日炎炎，有的只是那和煦的春风，与那如丝如绢的绵绵春雨。被春风簇拥着的成都，万物生机勃勃，春雨滋润，草长莺飞，兰馨蕙香。“红杏枝头春意闹”，原本悄然无声的浓郁春意，此刻却演绎得似有声般轰轰烈烈。你可以信步走在河旁或湖畔：锦江、沙河、东湖、北湖……你都可以感受到春水的清凉与百花诱人的风姿。甚至那最普普通通的春耕、播种、插秧，江家菜园这类的生态农业基地，都被赋予了新的诗情画意。这春意伴着人们的欢声笑语，组成了一支支此起彼伏的奏鸣曲；而时时掠过耳边的车鸣，如深沉的低音贝斯和大鼓，奏响一个又一个春天的重音符，让春天充满了激情和快意。

成都的春雨如丝如雾，隐隐间只能朦胧地感觉，绵绵地又像柔情的蜀锦，笼罩在周围，似一种如梦如幻的幻境。漫步在雨中，这雨会很轻很柔地抚摸着，与你一起玩耍，会在你头上点缀上一颗颗晶莹的水珠。还有那脚下踏起的水花，如诗如梦。此时的你定会感受到“小雨纤纤风细细”的美丽与浪漫。

春天的成都更是花的海洋，令人喜气洋洋。龙泉的桃花、新津的梨花、天彭的牡丹、曾家坡的月季、石象湖的郁金香，甚至那满山遍野的油菜花……都会让你流连忘返，醉卧花丛。那情景，真是栀子花开香飘十里，蝴蝶花开精彩斑斓，玉兰花开满树银花。收一束令人“垂涎欲滴”的花朵放在家里，成都人会拉上漂亮的轻纱窗帘，独自感受满屋的芬芳，享受那春天美丽的心情。

在这和风拂面的日子里，骑辆自行车，无拘无束地穿梭在蓉城的大街小巷，实在是件非常惬意的事。没有目的地，只是随着兴致左弯右拐，看着城市在春的抚动下渐渐苏醒，听着路边的树木噼噼啪啪地发芽。这时，你会强烈地感受到，成都的春天是多么地温柔。

虽然成都的春天没有北京那样张扬，也没有上海的那种喧闹，却有“天府之国”的富庶所营造出的那份清幽、那份恬畅、那份平和与巴适。人们热爱成都的春天，它是那么的可爱，让人来了就不想离开。

It was in the spring of 1287. The mountain wind was blowing hard. A caravan was trudging among lofty and precipitous mountains, and in the lead was a foreigner with an aquiline nose and big eyes. He was Marco Polo (1254-1324), who later became a world-famous traveler and adventurer. This Italian merchant, who was born in the "City of Water" Venice, set out from Beijing, passed Zhuozhou, Taiyuan, and Xi'an, and got to Chengdu; he was the first European to have reached the southern Silk Road. After tens of travel-worn days, he felt his abilities falling short of his wishes amid all those continuous mountains. It was right then that as if by magic, a lovely and peaceful plain spread out suddenly before his eyes. And more importantly, he saw a flourishing and bustling city. Marco Polo walked in the streets and saw rivers, big and small, merging by the streets and people moving in an endless stream over the bridges, which reminded him of his faraway hometown Venice. "Thank God," Marco Polo wrote later in the 44th chapter of *The Travels of Marco Polo*, "after such a long distance of difficult and dangerous walk, I finally saw a city of water and a view similar to that of my hometown." And the name of this city of water is "Chengdu."

In Chinese, "Cheng" means "success or successful" and "du", "big city" or "capital." This "Successful City" not only boasts a long history, but also holds an unusual position: latitude 30 degrees north. An imaginary circle marked out by geographers, it nevertheless possesses a magic power that no other longitude or latitude could possibly rival. It is on this circle that lie the highest Mount Everest and the lowest Mariana Trench in the west of the Pacific Ocean; and it is on this circle that the Yangtze River, the Mississippi River, the Nile River, and the Euphrates River all pour into the sea. It is also a mysterious circle, on which stand the pyramids and Sphinx of Egypt, the mural of "god of fire and kindlings" in the Sahara Desert of North Africa, the Bermuda Triangle in the Caribbean Sea, the garden in the air of ancient Babylon, Mount Emei, Mount Huang, and Mount Lu of China. It was on this

circle that the four civilizations of ancient China, ancient Babylon, ancient Egypt, and ancient India all gave off their first rays of light. Why are there so many coincidences? We feel more puzzled and curious than ever when another wonder—the Sanxingdui-Jinsha civilization created by the ancient Shu people in Chengdu Plain of latitude 30 degrees north—was discovered... So many unsolved mysteries through the ages have kindled many people's interest in and even fascination with this city...

The spring in Chengdu is unusually colorful. The lasting appeal of the city and the lingering charm of the countryside are well blended here like milk and water, and imageries of the classic and the modern are interweaved here just as well.

Whether you saunter in the famous Chunxi Street or in the fascinating Jinli Street, the unique style and indigenous design of the local architecture will make an unforgettable impression on you. The cultural pluralism, which has been evolving day by day, results in many and varied ways of living here. A profound history of over 2000 years, the resplendence of Jinsha culture, the stories of the Three Kingdoms (222-280), and the beautiful writings by Li Bai (701-762) and Du Fu (712-770) fill this city with an enchanting cultural flavor.

Visitors often exclaim with surprise: Why has Nature endowed Chengdu with so many desirable things? In the first month of spring in Chengdu, there is neither yellow sand that hides the sun from view as in Beijing nor scorching sun as in Hainan; instead, there are pleasantly warm vernal breezes and continuous silk-like spring rain here. In this city, which is embraced by spring breezes, everything is full of vitality; moistened by spring rain, grass flourishes and orioles dart, and orchids give off a strong and pervasive fragrance. "The luxuriant pink apricot flowers are busy displaying the beauty of spring on the branches," which characterizes the silent yet rich beauty of spring as noisily vigorous and lively. You may ramble along the Jinjiang River, the Sha River, the Eastern Lake, or the Northern Lake, where you can fully appreciate the



coolness of spring water and the seductive charm of all flowers. Even the commonest practices of spring plowing, sowing and transplanting rice seedlings in such eco-agricultural bases as the Jiangs' Vegetable Garden are endowed with a new idyllic beauty. Such spring beauty, in harmony with people's cheerful chatting and laughing, composes a sonata in which one movement falls, another rises; like a deep-range double bass and bass drum, automobile horns blow now and then by your ears, sounding accents of spring one after another, and hence passion and joy permeate spring.

In Chengdu, spring rain is silk-like and mist-like; it is so invisibly fine that you can only feel it indistinctly and so continuously mild that it seems like certain Shu brocade infused with tender feelings; enveloped in it, the whole city looks like a dreamlike fairyland. If you stroll around in the rain, it will touch you softly and gently, play with you and sprinkle your hair with many a sparkling raindrop; now you are sure to have a true grasp of the romantic beauty of "a delicate drizzle and a balmy breeze." And the splash of rain under your feet also feels so dreamy and poetic.

The spring in Chengdu is a sea of flowers and hence a great joy. Peach flowers in Longquan, Pear flowers in XinJin, peonies in Tianpeng, Chinese roses in Zengjia Po, tulips in the Shixiang Lake, even rape flowers all over the mountains and fields, and the like, will all make you forget to leave and lie drunk in the depths of the floral sea. Gardenia flowers in full bloom give off a pervasive fragrance that floats about for ten li, iris flowers look bright-colored and gorgeous, and yulan trees in blossom teem with silvery flowers. The people of Chengdu will gather a bunch of flowers that make one lick one's chops and bring them back home; they will draw the beautiful light gauze curtain on, smell the fragrance that penetrates the whole room, and enjoy a cheerful mood in spring by themselves.

In these days when a soft breeze brushes your face, it is very delightful to ride a bicycle freely through the high streets and back lanes in this city of hibiscus. Without a destination, you just turn left or right at your sweet will, watching this city awaken to the touch of spring and listening to the cracking sound coming from the roadside tree's bud. At the moment, you will become strongly aware of how tender the spring in Chengdu is!

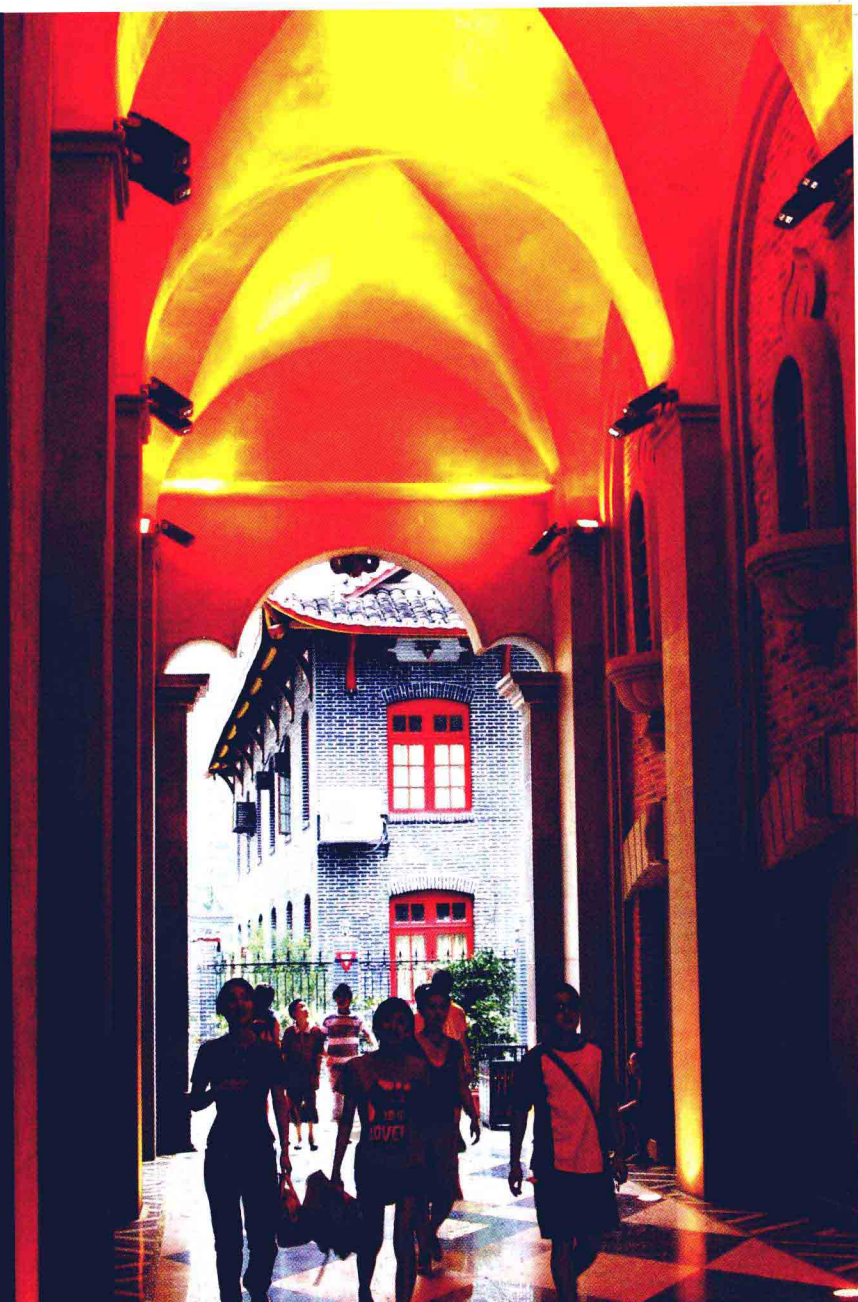
Although the spring in Chengdu is not as flamboyant as in Beijing, nor as rip-roarious as in Shanghai, it can still boast certain quietness, serenity, placidity and ease that originate from the affluence and prosperity of this "land of abundance." Everyone loves the spring in Chengdu, which is so lovely, that nobody wants to leave once they come to Chengdu.





Jinli / Photo by Wangxiao
锦里 / 王效·摄

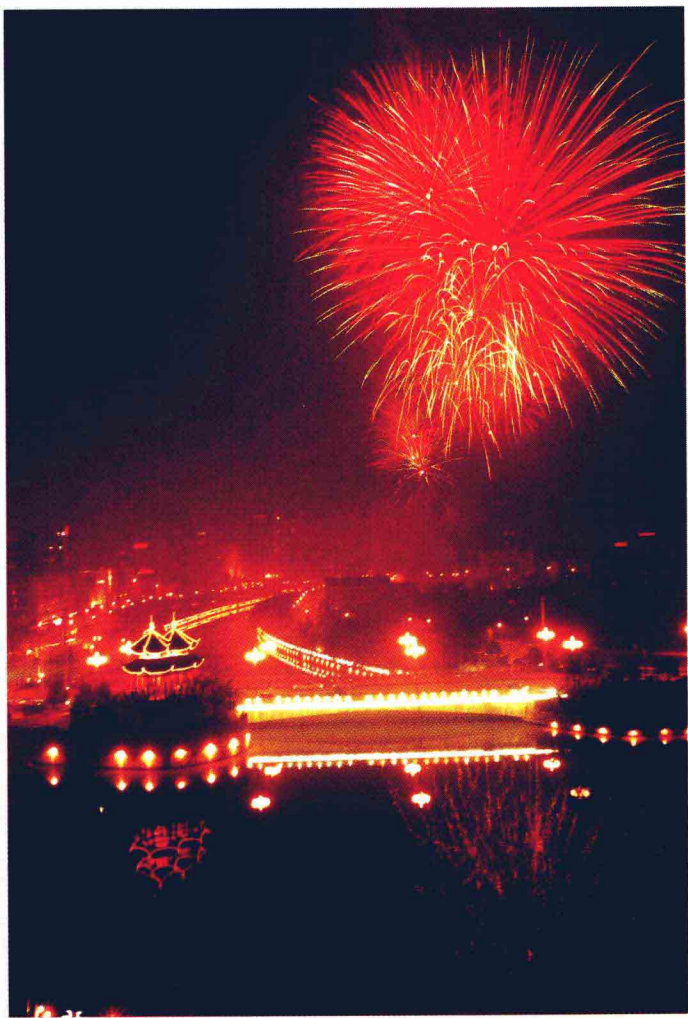
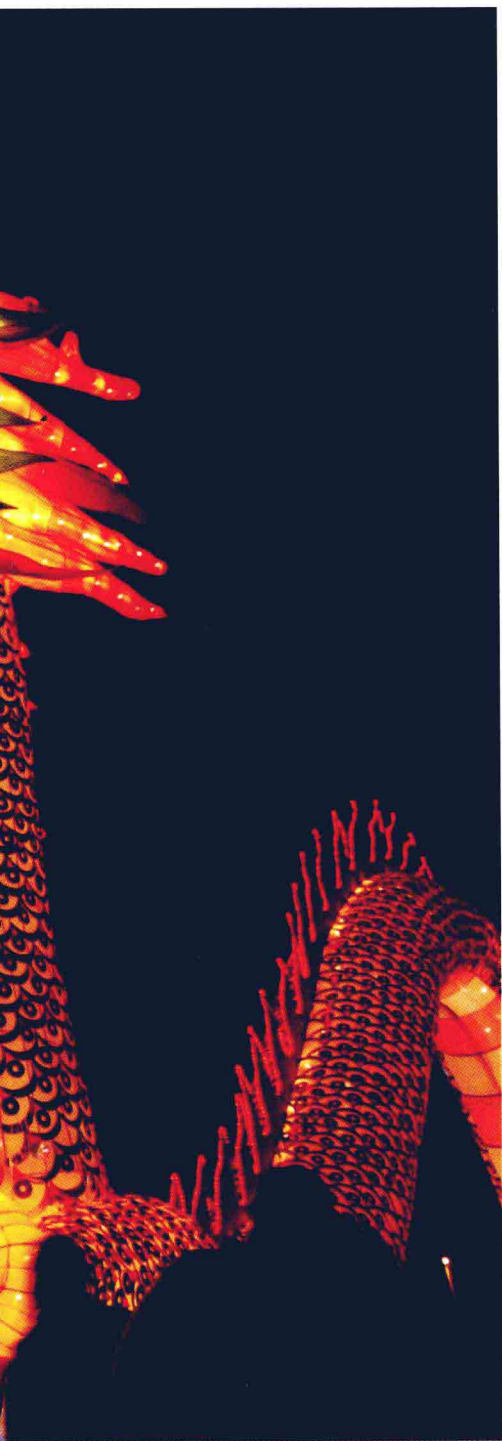
春熙路小巷 · 王若冰 · 摄
Alley of Chunxi Street / Photo by Wang Ruobing



New Year Fireworks / Photo by Guo Guangyi

新年烟火 / 摄影：郭广毅





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Chengdu International Fireworks Festival / Photo by Jin Shizong

New Year's Pray /Photo by Sun Lixin

新年烧香祈福 /孙立新·摄

