

CHANGAN CITY EVER-LASTING

长安城未央

A
PHOTO ALBUM
OF XI'AN CITY WALL

西安城墙影像读本

西安城墙景区管委会 著
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序

今天，谁还可以从容自处，轻易离开一座城？

城市已融入每个人的生活。

但我们，或许早已遗失了心里的城。

为什么，现代都市高楼林立，车水马龙，我们反而被激流冲散，触碰不到灵魂的边缘？

为什么，城市已无墙垒，四通八达，随处可至，我们却日渐感觉封闭、阻隔，被深深围困？

为什么，经济繁荣，城市臻于尽善尽美，却纷纷模糊了自身样貌，没有了精神、血性？

为什么，我们置身城市辨不清历史现实，无从指认前世来生？

斑驳的古籍翻遍，检不出纽约、东京等字眼，

今日大都会与苍茫心事无缘。

当打印机和录影带加速吞噬过时的信息，风驰电掣般改造城市的记忆，

几百年后，又能有多少纸张影像，记录它们曾经光辉的过去？

一路追索，开拓这繁华盛世者，是另一种风度和气象，

生气蓬勃，精神高迈，贯穿，决然，

绵延千年，至恍恍惚的文明初肇，至远古洪荒。

远古又如何，黄沙漫过，古巴比伦的荣光沉没在历史长河，

塞米拉米丝的空花园，只得从考古学家的梦中得见，

玛雅的神话亦如被诅咒的金字塔，

纵有遗痕，再难与之亲切对话……

且慢，我们还有西安，还有绵延数十里不曾损伤的完整旧址，

还有历经沧桑仍如故人照面的风物，

以及随处可掇捡、可对谈的古今心事，与始终焕发的勃勃生机。

不然呢，我们是否也要到残垣断壁中去缅怀，到故纸堆中去翻找，

用尽对汉唐古风的倾心追仰，和大国盛世的全部想象，

于虚空中，构建千百年前的理想之城，中国精神之城？

幸好，有西安城墙——从容携来千年余绪，盛世荣华，触目可及。让我们拾阶而上，溯光阴之河，于荏苒变幻之中，踏访来时踪迹。

两千余年前的世界大邑，一千四百年前的上邦大国，

六百年前帝王且为之振衣肃容，今日想起，犹令神情激荡。

政事通达，文采风流，百业兴旺，豪气干云，

盛唐臻于古代中国的成熟巅峰，那巅峰也随着长安风华，长驻人心。

丝绸之路上的驼铃在夕阳大漠中摇晃出China最早的音符，

日本奈良、京都的古建筑，隔海致敬唐长安城建造者的匠心，

唐人街是海外游子对长安的另一种血脉散播。

长安是心灵的家园，是守护华夏儿女的心灵之城。

那座城，就在那里，有框架，有骨骼，有表情，有体温。

看不见的城市，固然意向缠绕，何如满目的实景美丽？

用城墙，为城市的姿态，为长安的灵魂，摹画轮廓，描出形体，

旧国旧都，虽使丘陵草木之缙，犹自畅然、清晰。

城墙是历史的定帧，每一座城楼，每一扇城门，都写满十三朝的兴衰更替，

城墙是文化的场域，块块城砖，层层院落，都回响着黄钟大吕的恢弘乐章，

城墙是艺术的载体，斗拱飞檐，折翼翘角，无不铺满大气工细的远古肌理，

城墙是市井的烟火，暮鼓晨钟，进城归园，柴米油盐中体味居家的生机和感动；

城墙是时尚的微醺，古今明月映照下，胡姬酒肆中若有似无的一丝牡丹香氛；

城墙是时间的脉搏，身处历史长河中，纷至沓来，萦绕不息的千年咏叹。

感谢长安，收纳那束难以追及的时光，盛放那片不可捉摸的空间，安置那些无从抚慰的心灵。

感谢西安城墙，让我们得以找寻心里的那座城。

PREFACE

Today, who can casually leave a city?

For it is already part of our life.

But, we might have forgotten

its original image in our memory.

Why when the traffic in modern urban areas is well arranged but we are at a loss as if driven away by the tide of the times and could not reach the edge of our soul?

Why when the streets of the city can lead us to every direction but we still feel isolated, blocked and deeply entrapped?

Why when our city functions to perfection and economy is in blossom but we can hardly recognize ourselves, being unenergetic and without courage?

Why when we live in the city but we could not retrieve its history from reality and could not understand our past glory or envisage our bright future?

We could not find New York or Tokyo in any ancient books, metropolises of today have nothing to do with early history.

When printers and videotapes speed up the fading-away of outdated information and quickly reshape the memory of urban areas,

we just wonder, how could the glories of the cities be kept in paper and videotapes after several hundred years?

Dating back, we may see the pioneers, who created this prosperity, in different demeanor and mentality.

They were vigorous, in high spirit, consistent and determined, and the time lasted for thousand years, from early civilization to the immemorial period.

How is the status qua of the ancient miracles?

History is replete with examples of extinct civilizations covered in sand, the glory of the ancient Babylon sank in the long river of history.

The Hanging Garden of Semiramis could only appear in the dreams of archaeologists. Maya pyramids are like those with curse in Egypt.

Although they have left remains, yet it is hard to have intimate contacts...

Yet, Xi'an has withstood the test of time and is intact, it reminds us of its past glories, ancient stories, and inspirational vitality.

Without Xi'an, we would have to reminisce about dilapidated houses or heaps of ancient records the splendor of the Han and Tang Dynasties or fancy the prime times of them, and then try to, conjure up the ideal and spiritual city of China thousand years ago.

Fortunately, we have the Xi'an City Wall. It brings us a live history flourishing and tangible. Let's go back in history to trace its roots

A big city in the world 2,000 years ago and a civilized country capital 1,400 years ago. It is really exciting to imagine emperors dressing up for their reign here 600 years ago. At that time, this was a place featuring good governance,

flourishing cultural activities, prosperous businesses and striving people.

The height of the Tang Dynasty indicated maturity of a civilization in ancient China, with which, the name of Changan was warmly associated in the hearts of the people.

On the Silk Road, camel bells in the sunset desert rang out the earliest sound of China, and Japanese ancient architecture in Nara and Kyoto were copies of those in Changan.

China Towns in other countries are the far reaches of the ancient civilization of China, and to overseas Chinese, the home city and the guardian in their heart has been Changan.

The city exists there, with its shape and physical body, even feelings and sentiments, invisible and hard to define, and it was a beautiful and prosperous city.

The city wall can be regarded as the shape of the aspiration of the city of Changan.

Although covered in vegetation, the former capital is still refreshingly distinctive.

As fixed frames of history, each gate and its tower of the city wall witnessed the prosperity, decline and replacement of the thirteen dynasties.

In the cultural arena, each brick and each courtyard near the city wall seemed to echo the magnificent melody from the imperial music instruments.

In the arts, the cornices, brackets and upturned eaves of the city wall towers all feature the state-of-the-art of the ancient architecture.

The city wall stands for the hustle and bustle of the market. From the beating sound of the morning drum to the striking on the evening bell, people came to urban malls and went home, showing a dynamic scene and the movement of daily life.

The city wall is the advertisement for good wine in vogue, in the moonlight either in the ancient time or nowadays, people can all smell the subtle peony-like wine fragrance from wine shops.

The city wall represents the pulse of the time. It lives in the long river of history, and brings a lingering aria of thousands of years.

We are deeply thankful to and humbled by Changan for preserving time that can never be re-lived, holding the space that is difficult to touch and for soothing those who are difficult to console.

Xi'an City Wall provides us a place to find an important part of our history and keep it close to our hearts.



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SCENERY



A NIGHT VIEW OF THE CITY

繁花三千風入夢

第一话

夢·守護

GUARDING
IN DREAMS

我愿为武士
披甲执剑
守护一座城池的温柔

I am a warrior in my dreams
armed with a sword
in high vigilance and in city
protection





