

游太华山记  
A Trip to the Taihua Hill

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出省城，西南二里下舟，两岸平畴夹水。十里田尽，萑苇满泽，舟行深绿间，不复知为滇池巨流，是为草海，草间舟道甚狭，遥望西山绕臂东出，削崖排空，则罗汉寺也，又西十五里抵高峣，乃舍舟登陆高峣者，西山中逊处也。南北山皆环而东出，中独西逊，水亦西逼之，有数百家倚山临水，为迤西大道。

北上有傅园；园西上五里，为碧鸡关，即大道达安宁州者。由高峣南上，为杨太史祠，祠南至华亭、太华，尽于罗汉，即碧鸡山南突为重崖者。盖碧鸡山自西北亘东南，进耳诸峰由西南亘东北，两山相接，即西山中逊处，故大道从之，上置关，高峣实当水埠焉。

余南一里，饭太史祠。又南过一村，乃西南上山，共三里，山半得华亭寺。寺东向，后倚危峰，草海临其前。由寺

Embarking a boat from southwest two li<sup>[1]</sup> outside Kunming, the provincial city, and cruising down the watercourse snaking across the plain farmlands for about ten li, one could see dense reeds appear narrowing the way ahead and be unaware of the Dian Lake below as is sailing through such a deep green narrow lane of the reeds sea. Up in the distance, the Western Mountain<sup>[2]</sup> extends eastwards like spreading arms with the Luohan Temple on a towering cliff. Fifteen li west, I set foot on Gaoyao, a village of hundreds of households in the middle of the Western Mountain. Here, the north and south mountain ranges all slope east while the middle part alone goes west with the flowing water, making Gaoyao an inevitable course to the west main road.

Northwards, the way leads to the Fu Garden and five li to its west stands the Biji Gate, a broad way to Anningzhou. Southwards, there stands the Ancestral Hall of Yang Sheng'an<sup>[3]</sup>, the Huating Temple, the Taihua Temple, and to the end the Luohan Temple where the Biji Hill's overlapping cliffs protrude south. As Gaoyao is at the lower part of the Western Mountain, a junction between the northwest-to-southeast Biji Hill and southwest-to-northeast Jin'er Hills, the main road and the gate pass have been set through, making it a true dock.

After one li south dining at the Ancestral Hall of Yang Sheng'an and passing a southern village, I climbed up three li from southwest to the Huating Temple on a hillside that faces east to the reeds sea with a steep precipice behind. Outside its south side gate heading westwards two li, I

[1] li, 里，古代长度单位，1 里等于 500 米。

[2] the Western Mountain, 西山，今处云南省昆明市西山森林公园，太华山为其主峰。

[3] the Ancestral Hall of Yang Sheng'an, 杨太史祠，其居者为杨慎（1488—1559），字用修，号升庵，明代官员。

南侧门出，循寺南西上，南逾支陇入腋，共二里，东南升岭，岭界华亭、太华两寺中而东突者。南逾岭，西折入腋湊间，上为危峰，下盘深谷，太华则高峙谷东，与行处平对。然路必穷极西腋，后乃东转出。腋中悬流两派坠石窟，幽峭险仄，不行此径不见也。转峡，又东盘山嘴，共一里，俯瞰一寺在下壑，乃太平寺也。又南一里，抵太华寺。寺亦东向，殿前夹墀皆山茶，南一株尤巨异。前廊南穿庑入阁，东向瞰海。然此处所望犹止及草海，若濛濛浩荡观，当更在罗汉寺南也。

遂出南侧门，稍南下，循坞西入。又东转一里半，南逾岭。岭自西峰最高处东垂下，有大道直上，为登顶道。截之东南下，复南转，遇石峰嶙峋南拥。辄从其北，东向坠土坑下，共一里，又西行石丛中。一里，复上躐崖端，盘崖而南，见南崖上下，如峰房燕窝，累累欲堕者，皆罗汉寺南北庵也。披石隙稍下，一里，抵北庵，已出文殊岩上，始得正道。由此南下，为罗汉寺正殿；由此南上，为朝天桥。桥架断崖间，上下皆嵌崖，此复嵌崖中坠。桥度而南，即为灵官殿，殿门北向临桥。由殿东侧门下，攀崖蹑峻，愈上愈奇，而楼、供纯阳、而殿、供元帝、而阁、供玉皇、而宫名抱一，皆东向临海，嵌悬崖间。每上数十丈，得斗大平崖，辄杙空架隙成之。故诸殿俱不巨，而点云缀石，互为披映，至此始扩然全收水海之胜。南崖有亭前突，北崖横倚楼，楼前高

went over a hill branch from its south into a valley and proceeded climbing southeastwards up a hill that protrudes east with the Huating and Taihua temples on both sides. South over the hill and after a west turn into the core of the valley with steep hills above and a deep gorge below, the Taihua Temple is seen standing high on the east, right opposite the road that one shall, however, walk west till the end before taking an east turn to round out. In the valley, two dangling waterfalls pour into the grotto, leaving a sense of darkness and danger, which is a special view seen only along this way. Round out of the valley and keeping east one li passing a mountain gape, one could see a temple in the ravine below, and that is the Taiping Temple. One li south stands the Taihua Temple that fronts east as well with camellia trees on the stone stairs leading to the hall, one at the south being abnormally large. South passing several rooms through its front corridor into a pavilion, one could east overlook the Lake. The view, however, covers only the sea of reeds. To appreciate the Lake's whole magnificence, one shall better be at the south side of the Luohan Temple.

Thus, I went out of its south side gate down the mountain road into the west before turning east for one and a half li to climb over the mountain from its south side. It slopes down eastwards from the west crest with a broad road leading up to it. Southeast down across the road, one would meet stone hills crowding at a south turn blocking the way. The alternative is taking a detour one li to its north and then jumping down east into a pit to travel west on the road dotted with big stones. Up again rounding south along a cliff edge, houses were seen piled up like beehives or birds' nests as if on the brink of collapse, all being the north and south nunneries of the Luohan Temple. Down along the stone trail one li, it leads to the north nunnery. The main road on the nunnery, however, does not emerge until one is out at the Wensu Rock, from which the way south down leads to the grand hall of the Luohan Temple. South up across the Chaotian Bridge that is athwart the broken precipice with its middle hanging down aloft to the south, there stands the Lingguan Palace, its gate facing north to the bridge. Out of its east side gate, one could take in extraordinary sceneries with every bit of ascending, which include a building dedicated to the ancestors of Chunyang, a hall to Emperor Yuan, a pavilion to the Jade Emperor, and a palace named Baoyi, all embedded on cliffs and east towards the Dian Lake. These wooden buildings are not large as they were built upon tiny flat grounds that protrude out of the cliff with every dozen of zhangs<sup>[1]</sup> upwards; however, they provide a broad outlook of the beauty of the Lake with clouds and stones all coming into view decorating one another. A pavilion stands out at the south, and in the north line many houses, in front of which grows a tall cypress tree, its leaves waving in the air. Sitting

[1] zhang, 丈, 古代长度单位, 1丈约为3.33米。

柏一株，浮空漾翠。并楼而坐，如倚危檣上，不复知有崖石下藉也。抱一宫南削崖上，杙木栈，穿石穴，栈悬崖树，穴透崖隙，皆极险峭。度隙，有小楼粘石端，寝龕炊灶皆具。北庵景至此而极。

返下朝天桥，谒罗汉正殿。殿后崖高百仞。崖南转折间，泉方淳崖麓，乃朝天桥迸缝而下者，曰勺冷泉。南逾泉，即东南折，其上崖更崇列，中止漾坪一缕若腰带，下悉隕阪崩崖，直插海底，坪间梵宇仙宫，雷神庙、三佛殿、寿佛殿、关帝殿、张仙祠、真武宫次第连缀。真武宫之上，崖愈杰竦，昔梁王避暑于此，又名避暑台，为南庵尽处，上即穴石小楼也。更南，则庵尽而崖不尽，穹壁覆云，重崖拓而更合。南绝壁下，有猗兰阁址。

还至正殿，东向出山门，凡八折，下二里抵山麓，有村氓数十家，但网罟。村南即龙王堂，前临水海。由其后南循南崖麓，村尽波连，崖势愈出，上已过猗兰旧址。南壁愈拓削，一去五里，黄石痕挂壁下，土人名为挂榜山。再南则崖回嘴突，巨石垒空嵌水折成壑，南复分接屏壁，雄峭不若前，而兀突离奇，又开异境。三里，下瞰海涯，舟出没石隙中，有结茅南涯侧者，亟悬仄径下，得金线泉。泉自西山透腹出，外分三门，大仅如盎，中崢峒，

down by a house, one would feel as if were leaning against a delicate mast on a boat, unconscious of the rocks below. On the cliff south of the Baoyi Palace, there are pinned wooden planks hanging among trees and punched concaves piercing into the hill, all being quite dangerous to walk upon. On its end, a small building stands on the edge with all sorts of living necessities inside such as beddings and cookers. And the view of the north nunnery ends there.

Down the bridge, I was back at the grand hall in the Luohan Temple to worship. The precipice behind goes about a hundred rens<sup>[1]</sup> high. And at one corner of its south, a spring bursting from hill cracks on the bridge's side pours down to the mountain foot forming a square pool. Its name is the Shaoleng Spring. South over the spring and at an east turn, there appears only a narrow belt-like pathway rounding up the even more grand hill, and below are collapsed slope and broken precipice going straightly to the Lake. Along the trail upwards, palaces and temples of immortals are exquisitely arranged one after another on the flat grounds. They are the Thunder Temple, the Three Buddhas Palace, the Shoufo Palace, the Guandi Palace, the Zhangxian Temple, and the Zhenwu Palace, the cliff above which is even loftier. As the King of Liang<sup>[2]</sup>, an aristocrat in the Yuan Dynasty used to spend summers in the Zhenwu Palace, the ground where it is located is also called Bishutai, a cooling place that could spare summer's heat. The south nunnery ends there with some small stone buildings above, though, the cliff extends southwards soaring up among clouds, spreading out and connecting one another. And below at the end of the southern precipice is the Qilan Temple.

East out the mountain when back at the Luohan Temple, I took eight turns during two li descending to a village of dozens of households at the mountain foot, all living by fishing. The Longwang Hall is at the south of the village to the Lake. Behind the Hall, the village extends along the hill south further passing the old Qilan Temple to an end where waves of water flow right under the precipice, highlighting its loftiness. Broader and steeper, the hill goes five li ahead with yellow scratches hung under, thus owning the name of Guabang Hill among the intellectuals. It winds further south with protruding mountain gapes and piled giant stones that insert into the water bending into cracks. Then, it goes somehow parting somehow gathering with a southern precipice that is less lofty but looks quite strange, creating an exotic view. Three li down to the bank of the Lake, boats are seen moving through stone cracks on the water together with thatch houses standing by the southern side. Hurry down along a narrow road, I reached the Jinxian Spring that originates from the middle

[1] ren, 仞, 古代长度单位, 各时期标准有变化, 周制为八尺, 汉制为七尺, 东汉末则为五尺六寸。

[2] the King of Liang, 梁王, 元代封在云南地区的贵族, 作为皇帝的代理人在云南进行统治。

悉巨石欹侧，不可入。水由盎门出，分注海。海中细鱼溯流入洞，是名金线鱼。鱼大不逾四寸，中腴脂，首尾金一缕如线，为滇池珍味。泉北半里，有大石洞，洞门东瞰大海，即在大道下，崖倾莫可坠，必迂其南，始得透迤入，即前所望石中小舟出没处也。门内石质玲透，裂隙森柱，俱当明处。南入数丈辄暗，觅炬更南，洞愈崇拓。共一里，始转而分东西向，东上三丈止，西入窈窕莫极。俱火炬不给，乃出。

上山返抱一宫。问山顶黑龙池道，须北向太华中，乃南转。然池实在山南金线泉绝顶，以此地崖崇石峻，非攀援可至耳。余辄从危崖隙上，壁虽峭，石缝多棱，悬跃无不如意。壁纹琼葩瑶茎，千容万变，皆目所未收。素习者惟牡丹，枝叶离披，布满石隙，为此地绝遣，乃结子垂垂，外绿中红，又余地所未见。土人以高远莫知采鉴，第曰山间野药，不辨何物也。攀跻里余，遂踞巔，则石萼鳞鳞，若出水青莲，平散竟地。峰端践侧镌而南，惟西南一峰最高。行峰顶四里，凌其上，为碧鸡绝顶。顶南石萼骈丛，南坠又起一突兀峰，高少逊之，乃南尽海口山也。绝顶东下二里，已临金线泉之上，乃于耸崖间观黑龙池而下。

of the Western Mountain and respectively flows into the Lake through three ang-sized<sup>[1]</sup> hollow caves full of inclined giant stones blocking the way inside. Yet, one fish could swim backward from the Lake into the caves. They are called the Jinxian fish with a golden thread on the body from head to fin. Being less than four cuns<sup>[2]</sup> in size and a little fat in the middle, they are the delicious specialty of the Dian Lake. Half li north of the Spring stands a big stone cave right under the road, its entrance facing east towards the Lake. As the way down to the opening is too steep to pass, one must detour to its south where boats are seen moving among broken stones to round into the cave. In places where lights could reach, the cave is filled with cracked stone columns of bright texture. Several zhangs south, it turns dark and thus requires a torch to further inside. The space becomes higher and wider and after one li the road splits into two directions. The east way ends after walking three zhangs. The west end, however, is too deep to fathom. In fear of running out of the torch, I went outside the cave.

Up the mountain back to the Baoyi Palace, I asked the way to the Heilong Pond at the summit. One shall head north to the middle of the Taihua Hill and then turn south to go up. But as it is over the Jinxian Spring on the top of the southern hill, a direct climbing is impossible to make due to the lofty cliff above. Therefore, my ascending was done by stepping onto the cliff cracks, which was quite steady thanks to the existence of their multiple edges overcoming the precipitous hill. Bunches of flowers in various shapes resembling jades that grow out from the cracks, their petals and stems widely scattering over the cliff with drooping fruits green on the outside and red inside, all quite new to my eyes. Being only familiar with peonies in my place though, I dare say these flowers could be found nowhere other than there. On the excuse of the trip being risky, the locals never think of picking them for study, only regarding them as wild herbs with no further efforts in their identification. Several lis upwards to the top, there are clints in fish-scale shape as if lotuses grow out of water. Striding south four lis upon the lateral side of stones towards the only crest of southwest hills, I reached the summit on the top of the Biji Hill where clints line up at its south. A towering hill slightly shorter than Biji rises below the precipice, marking the end of the south mountain range closest to the Lake. Descending east two lis to another crest above the Jinxian Spring, I stood among the cliffs overlooking the Heilong Pond before heading down the mountain.

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[1] ang, 盎，古代一种腹大口小的器皿。

[2] cun, 寸，古代长度单位，10 寸为 1 丈。