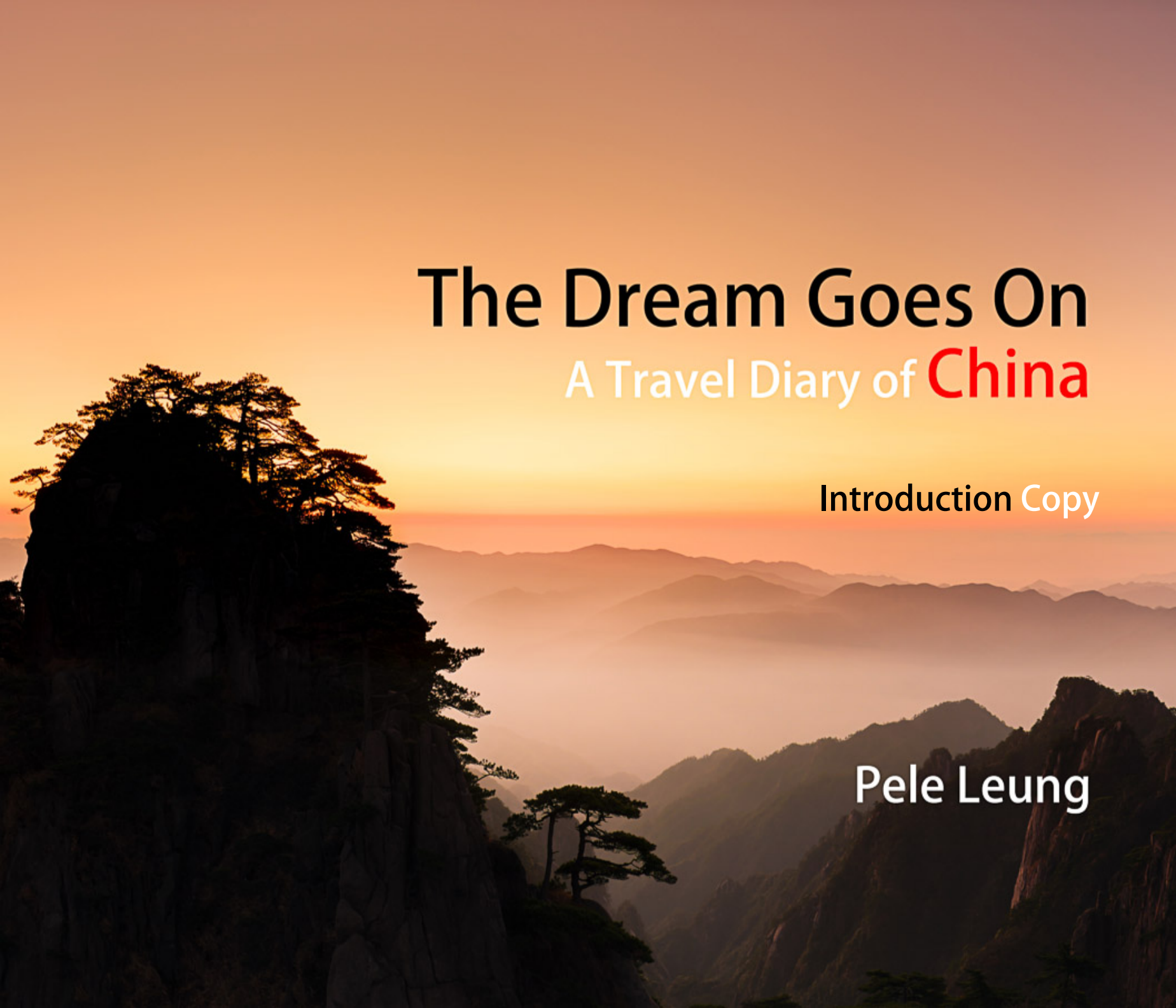




The Dream Goes On

A Travel Diary of **China**

Introduction Copy

Pele Leung

The Dream Goes On

A Travel Diary of China

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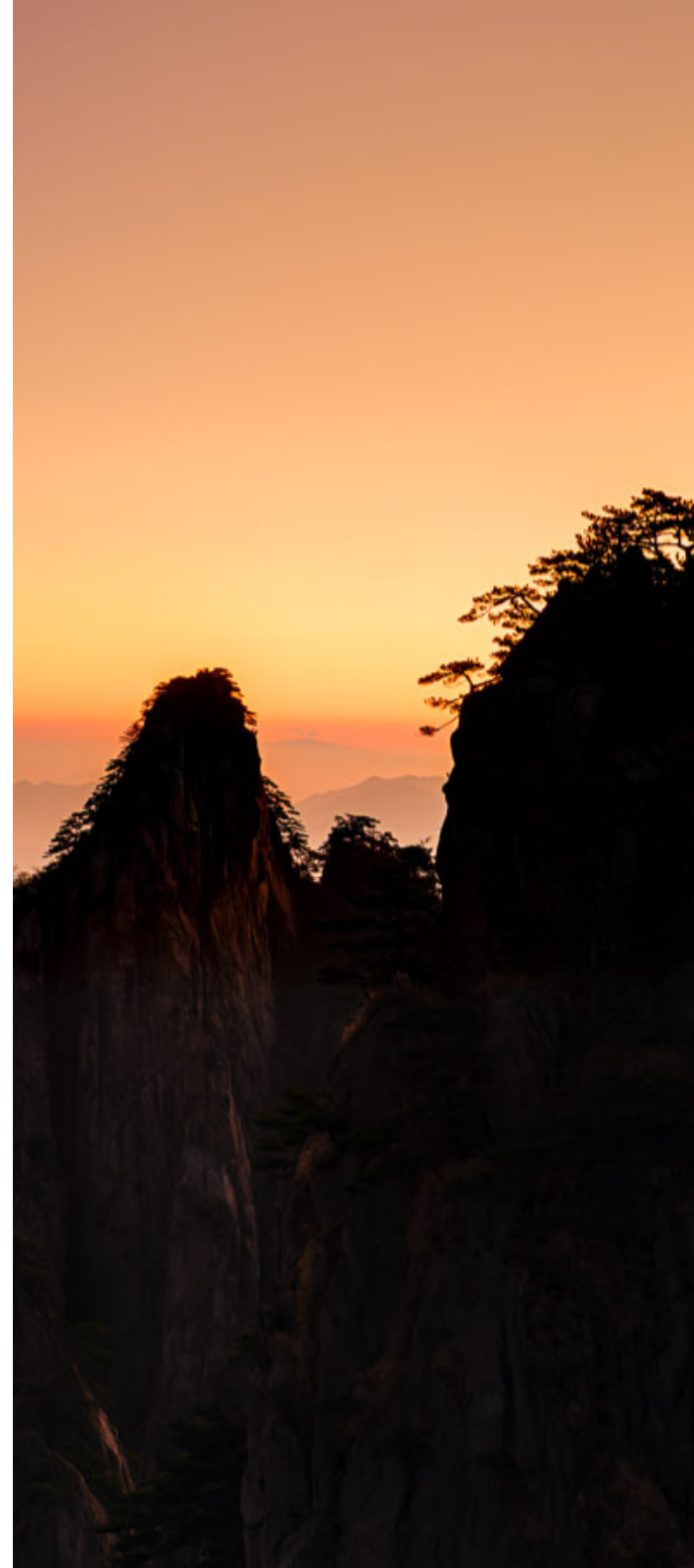
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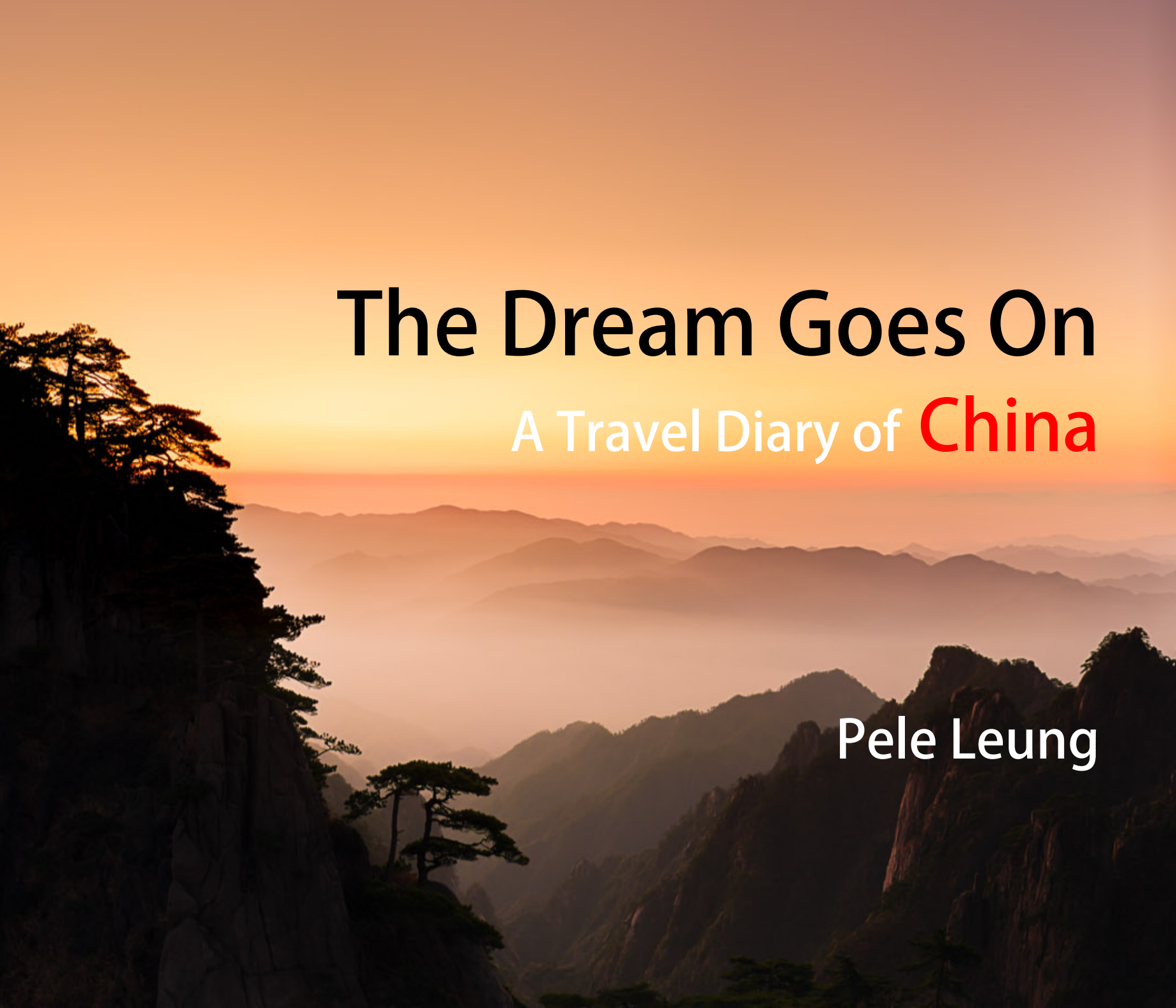
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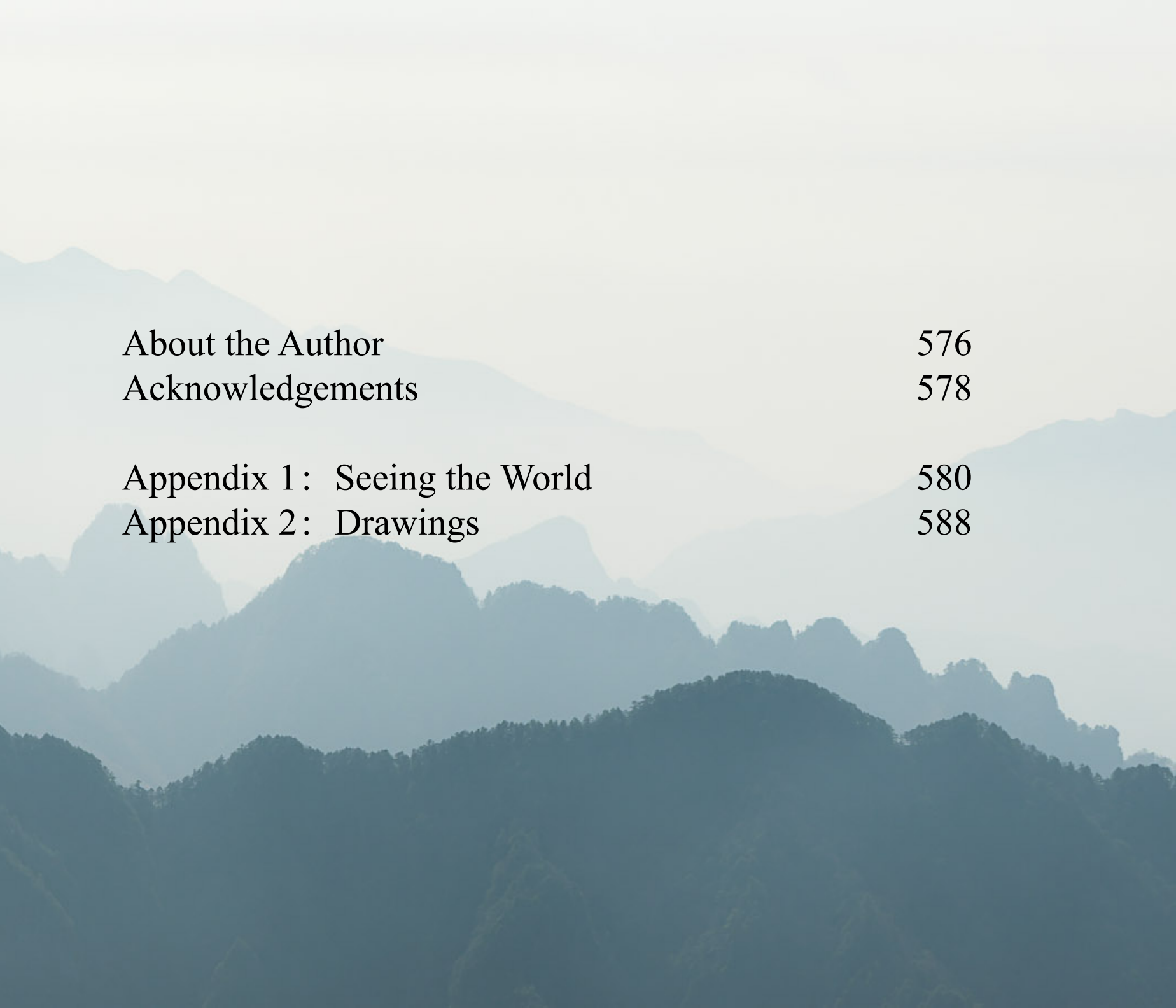
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Table of Contents

Preface	006
01 Lights That Intoxicate the Soul	010
02 Blood and Tears Over Nanjing	056
03 A Glimpse of Heaven	084
04 Dreaming of Ancient Glory	100
05 Old Memories of the Five Rams	158
06 A Narrow Strait, Worlds Apart	226
07 Dreams of Huangyao	252
08 From Heaven to Earth	268
09 Tears of the Perseverant Grand Aunt	280
10 Living Stone, Petrified Forest	294
11 Etched in the Ancient City	308
12 Golden Years, Hometown Sentiment	322
13 Heritage in Macau	372
14 Dreams of a Wanderer	398

The background of the page is a soft-focus photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are layered, with the closest peaks in the foreground appearing in shades of blue and green, and the distant peaks fading into a pale, hazy sky. The overall mood is serene and atmospheric.

About the Author	576
Acknowledgements	578
Appendix 1: Seeing the World	580
Appendix 2: Drawings	588



Preface

By my reckoning, ten years have passed in the blink of an eye since I first began seriously travelling and photographing the vast lands of China. Over more than twenty trips in that time, the places I have actually visited are but the tip of the iceberg. When, in early 2016, I first compiled my travelogues and photographs into a book, bringing *Footsteps and Frames* into being, I felt a deep sense of fulfilment. Four years on, my journeys across China have never ceased, and now I have continued that unfinished bond by editing my travels and photography from the past four years into this new volume: *The Dream Goes On*.

This volume comprises fourteen chapters, runs to over five hundred pages, and contains even more photographs and richer content. Beyond landscapes and travel experiences, I have also included elements of historical heritage and culture. In addition, I have appended one story and some paintings: the short story recounts my first proper trip to mainland China over thirty years ago – touches that I hope add a little extra colour.

Over the past decade, broadly speaking, I have visited most of the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government, and special administrative regions, though without splitting hairs over the finer details. The places I have yet to set foot in are Qinghai, Liaoning, Gansu, Hainan, Tibet, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia and Tianjin. I hope that in the not-too-distant future I can bring all of these regions into my photographic and travel map of China, so that I may then publish the concluding volume I still dream of – *One Grand Loop Across China*. In the meantime, I can only continue to plan and execute with diligence, though that, I suppose, will be another story altogether.



01 Lights That Intoxicate
the Soul

One drizzly evening, I wandered alone through Wuzhen's illuminated West Scenic Area—ancient bridges and flowing water, as if stepping back centuries. The next day dawned clear; I explored the East Scenic Area, where old mansions stood one after another, each with its own story waiting to be discovered.



02 Blood and Tears Over
Nanjing

Nanjing, once known as Jinling, has known both glory and tragedy. I walked its streets with a heavy heart, tracing relics of bygone dynasties and confronting the harrowing memory of the Japanese invasion—a city steeped in triumph and unspeakable sorrow.



03 A Glimpse of Heaven

May in Hangzhou brings gentle warmth. A soft breeze from West Lake soothes the spirit. I strolled along Bai Causeway, then Su Causeway, as famous views unfolded one by one. Su Shi's lines came to mind: "Men have sorrow and joy; the moon waxes and wanes..."



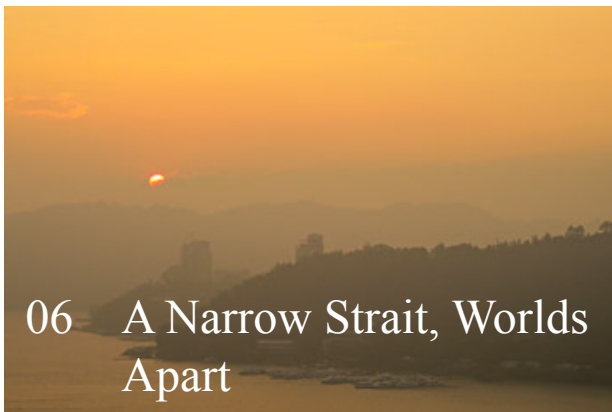
04 Dreaming of Ancient Glory

Beijing—what springs to mind? The Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, the Great Wall—countless ancient sites await. With fresh eyes, I revisited these familiar places, determined to see beyond the surface and discover details I had missed before.



05 Old Memories of the Five Rams

Many travel far to find novelty, yet Guangzhou, close to home, offers plenty. Food lovers are well rewarded; history seekers and those craving escape from city bustle will also find this southern metropolis unexpectedly satisfying.



06 A Narrow Strait, Worlds Apart

A narrow strait separates Taiwan from the mainland, yet close inspection reveals countless connections. This time, I began in Taichung and journeyed inland. As the sun sank over Sun Moon Lake, I sat on the stone steps of Wenwu Temple, lost in thought.

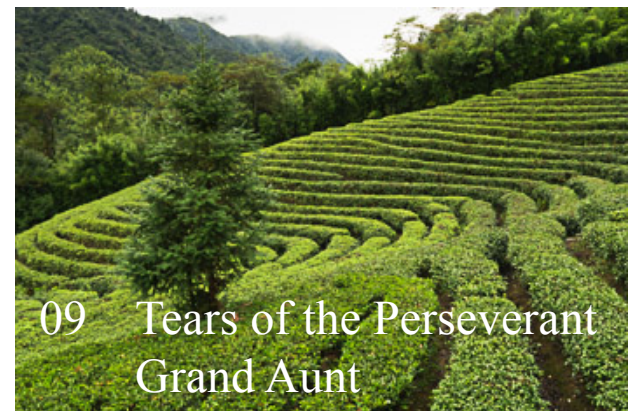
Where there are hills, there is water; where water flows, bridges appear; with bridges come pavilions; and pavilions call for couplets and plaques. Huangyao's eight streets are paved with flagstones, worn smooth and gleaming. Night fell, and lanterns lit the main street, but alleys remained as dim as in old country villages.

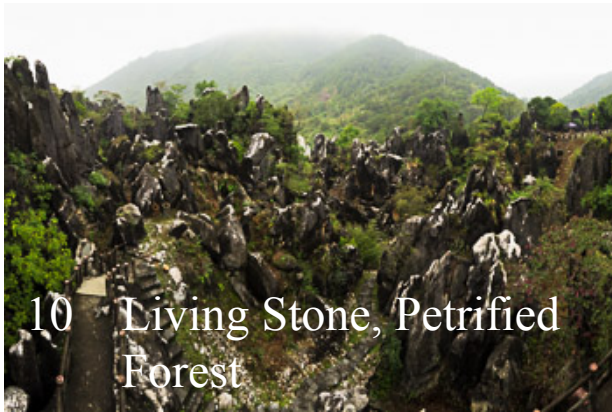


How long is 190 million years? Written out, it is 190,000,000. Hezhou's Ziyun Cave was shaped over that immense span, drop by drop of lime-rich water, until stalactites took form. Facing such deep time, my mind went blank with wonder.



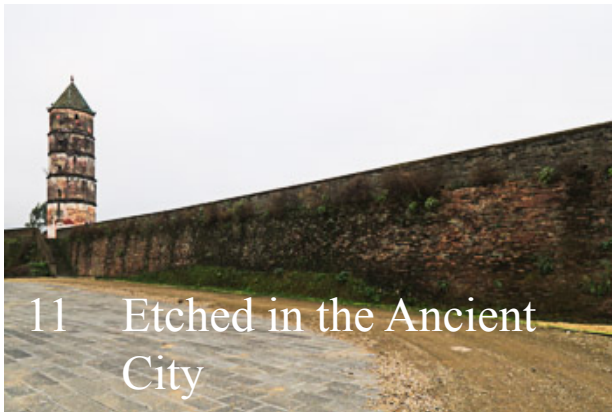
Gupo Mountain lies forty minutes north of Hezhou; its highest peak exceeds 1,800 metres. With 90% forest cover and abundant negative ions, it is a natural oxygen bar. Wildlife thrives, streams flow everywhere, and waterfalls punctuate every gorge—a perfect spot for exploration.





10 Living Stone, Petrified Forest

This geological wonder formed 100 million years ago from rare jade-like stone, hidden deep underground. Tectonic shifts eventually raised it to the surface, where wind and rain gradually exposed the jade pillars and stalagmites to begin their journey in the human world.



11 Etched in the Ancient City

At first glance, it is just an unremarkable old city wall—but it is over a thousand years old. Each dynasty repaired it differently, so the bricks vary in texture and pattern. Only by looking closely does one realise that not all the bricks are truly ancient.



12 Golden Years, Hometown Sentiment

After years away from home, memories of my hometown began to blur. I decided to put pen to paper, writing five recollections—capturing those days before they faded entirely, holding on to a past that shaped me.

My first visit to Macau was long ago; I even learned to cycle there. Over the years, I returned several times, always finding something new. Macau blends old and new, and its heritage conservation outshines many places—well worth revisiting again and again.



13 Heritage in Macau

Over three weeks, I took fifteen high-speed trains—the shortest journey lasting just one stop, the longest nearly five hours. My route crossed nine provinces, climbed four famous mountains, and reached the thundering waterfall. From landscapes to ancient culture, this journey was unlike any other—the very heart of this book.



14 Dreams of a Wanderer



Appendix 1: Seeing the World



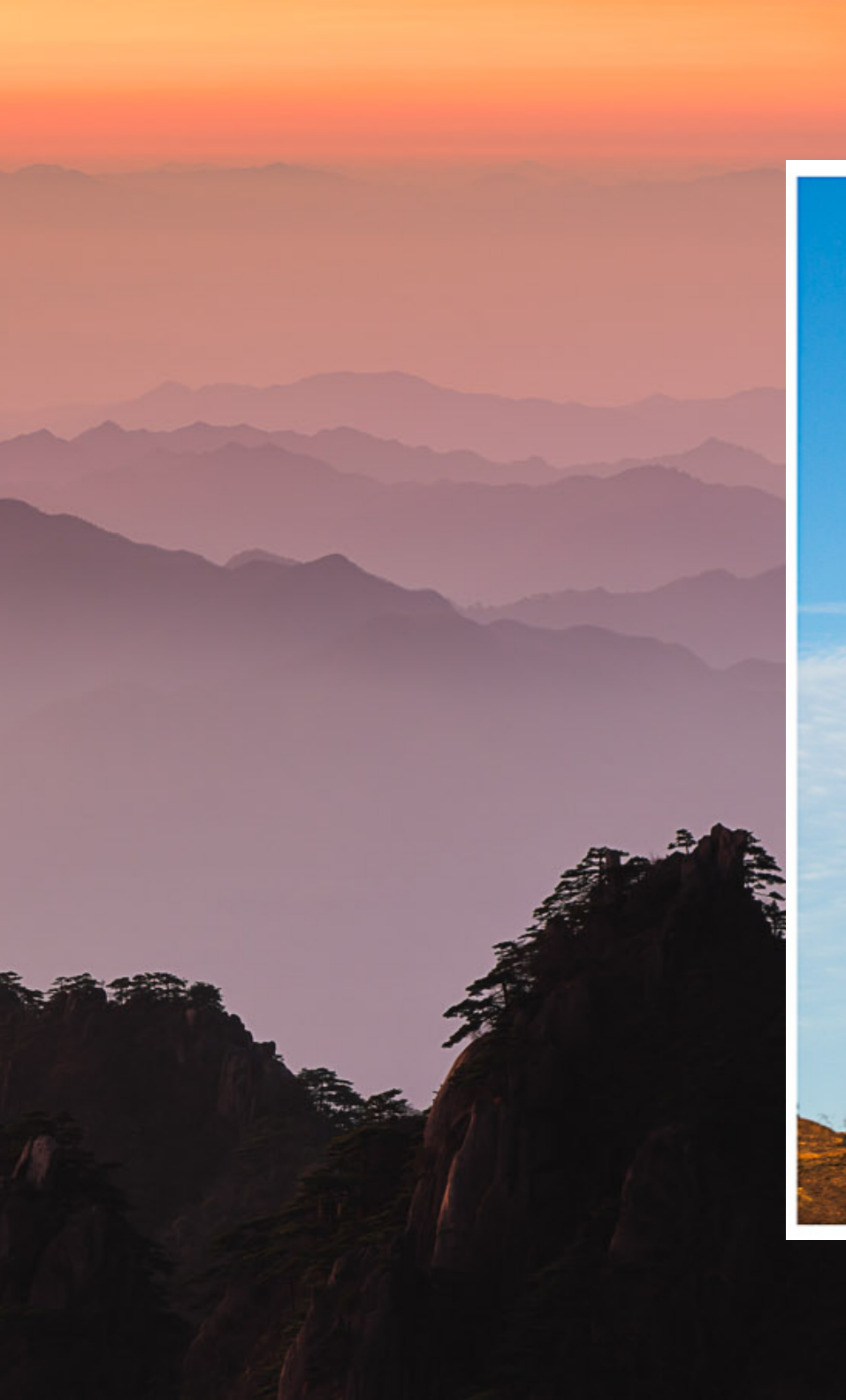
Appendix 2: Drawings

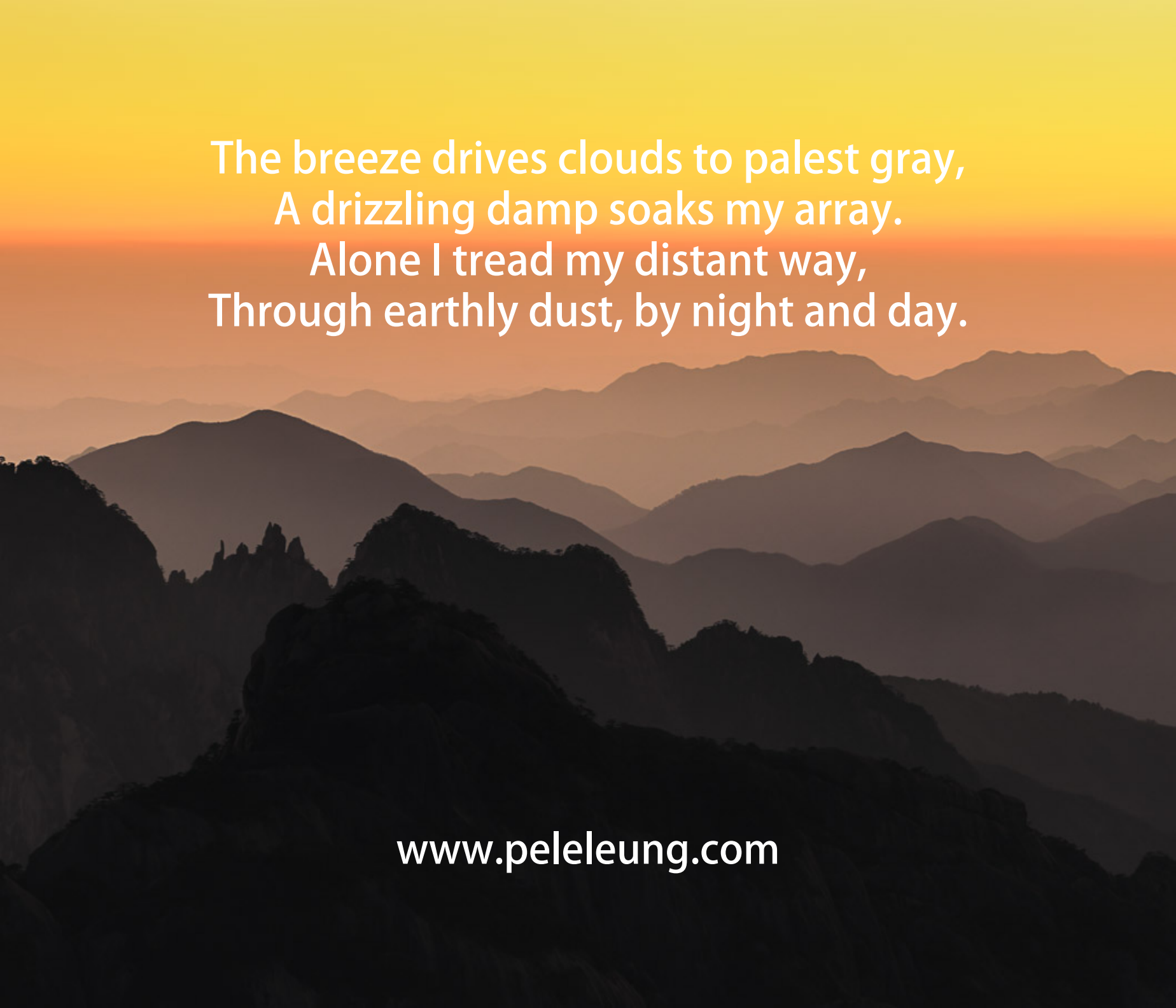
About the Author

Pele Leung worked in the software industry for many years before falling in love with landscape photography over two decades ago. A fortunate turn of events later led him to spend the better part of a year travelling across the entire continent of Australia, capturing countless photographs along the way. After that journey came to an end, he decided to pursue a professional career in photography.

Besides photographing Australia, he also travels frequently to China – a practice he has maintained almost every year since 2009. His subjects are not limited to natural landscapes, but also encompass local architecture, cultural relics, and the human stories woven into the scenery. Pele now lives in Melbourne, Australia.







The breeze drives clouds to palest gray,
A drizzling damp soaks my array.
Alone I tread my distant way,
Through earthly dust, by night and day.

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