

## Ode to the Mountains

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Mountains, ah, Mountains! How many people have praised you and eulogize you in ancient and modern times! But we are unable to extol your colorful stature, your rich implication and revelation well. You are far more beautiful than all this.

Ah, mountains! In your big family, some stand nearby the sea, listening to the chatters of wind and waves; some lie in the urban and rural sides, witnessing the evolution of the vicissitudes, people's labor, and struggle; some reach out to the sky, getting into glory and ascendancy; some show us heavy rocks overlapping one another, indicating the miracles of the chemical industry from nature. Come to think of it, we have so many famous and sacred mountains: **mounthuangshan**<sup>[1]</sup>: elegant, graceful, and magnificent; **Lushan Mountains**<sup>[2]</sup>: tall, bright, and handsome, which gives people a pleasant feeling in summer and autumn. The multi peaked mountains are shadowing **Lijiang River**<sup>[3]</sup>. And the beautiful **West Lake**<sup>[4]</sup> mirrors **Tianzhu Peak**<sup>[5]</sup>. From ancient times till now, so many tourists and travelers have been attracted to come visiting! The magnificent scenery bend the people's mind and stretch their rich imaginations. Those who visited the area enjoyed themselves so much as to forget to leave. At the top of the **Thai-hang Mountains**<sup>[6]</sup>, people can see with their own eyes the limitless scenery of beautiful half a round moon in autumn. Mountains, ah, mountains, you are colorful, beautiful, and majestic that make people emblazoning!

Ah, mountains, lovely mountains! You have the richest emotion and the broadest vision! You are the typical example of bravery and the symbol of defying brutal suppression! Ah, mountains, you rise abruptly out of the ground and reach straight into the sky. You stand still in front of the strong wind and the heavy rain and receive the baptism of the cloud from morning till night. The spirit that you would rather die standing than live on your knees is worthy of praise and pursuit. Ah, mountains, in front of the robbers, you are so brave, so mighty and are not easily bullied and desecrated. However, in the face of kindness and peace, you are so modest and honest, so simple and natural, so easy and amiable.

Mountains, ah, mountains, your rich implication gives us so much enlightenment. We do not have to chase back your ancient history. Only in recent decades, you and the people have forged a "Meet Joe Black" (a fate of life and death). In the war times, so many Chinese military guerrillas have swirled around you against invaders. You are the most secluded barrier and fortress against enemies. The Chinese soldier's footprint stepped all of mountain sides, e.g., **Yimengshan Mountains**<sup>[7]</sup>, **Tai-hang Mountains**, **Luliangshan Mountains**<sup>[8]</sup>, **Changbaishan Mountains**<sup>[9]</sup> and so on. There are a lot of mountains that we cannot name them all. The 25,000 miles of **Long March**<sup>[10]</sup> has been still in our memory: "The Five Ridges wind like gentle ripples. And the majestic **Wumengshan Mountains**

<sup>[11]</sup>roll by globules of clay.” (From a poem by Mao Zedong) We, Chinese people, have climbed over so many mountains and so many ridges!" Walking all over the castle peaks, and we are not getting old ". We are in the fluff of the vitality to climb the new mountains and the new peaks. And we are encouraged to meet the new challenges in new millennium.

Mountains, ah, mountains, since then, you have sheltered us and nurtured us; you have evaluated us, encouraged us. And you utterly understand us. Ah, mountains, you are our unshakeable and loyal friends!

Ah, mountains, honorable mountains! You are rich in mineral deposits, breeding dense forests, converging with trickling currents. Silently and diligently, you do your duty to our humankind. For the prosperity and happiness of the people, you are so kind to donate rocks and forests for us. You even generously pull out your hearts to us. You are not afraid of shredding. Isn't that the character of "**Lei Feng**"<sup>[12]</sup>?" Yes, it is not Lei Feng who owns that spirit. The quality of Lei Feng comes to realize from you, the honorable mountains.

Ah, there are countless mountains in the world. In Japan, there are mountains of volcanoes that are ready to erupt. And in Americas, there are **the Sierra Maestra Mountains**<sup>[13]</sup> that stand on the Caribbean coast, against the stormy of the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. And in the north, there are **Carpathian Mountains**<sup>[14]</sup>, the air of which is enveloped so it is difficult to recognize its true face. In China, we have **the Mountain Himalayas**<sup>[15]</sup>, the highest and the greatest and the most admired mountains. He is the youngest and the tallest mountains in the world. He stands towering in the east of Asia, overlooking the entire world. He is fighting against the icy rain of the westerly wind blowing in the Pacific Ocean, sweeping the Demons fog from the north. He looked at the world with his cold eyes. Piercing the blue heaven, your barbs unblunted!" (Mao Zedong's poem) The heaven would give a way, but for their mighty stay. The mountain Himalayas is full of youthful spirit and valiant and heroic in bearing as well. Could we see the five-star red flag flying in the snowy Mount Everest? It is just like a beacon at sea never-ending its light. Standing there, raise our heads and we can see whole China. And we can see the entire world, too. Ah, Himalayas, you are the hero among them all. You are the greatest mountains in the world.

Mountains, ah, mountains! Incredibly beautiful mountains! You are strong, lovely, respectable! Please accept my blessings and accept my respect: May you do better every day. May you stay young forever!

### AUTHOR'S NOTES

**1. Mount Huangshan:** One of the famous scenic spots in P. R.China, the world's tourism holy land, located in Huangshan City, southern Anhui Province, the main peak Lianhua Peak, 1864.8 meters above sea level.

**2. Lushan Mountains:** Located in Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province, 1,474 meters above sea level. It is famous for its beauty, majestic, miraculous, precipitous, and magnificence as well.

**3. Lijiang River:** Guilin Lijiang River Scenic Area, world Natural Heritage site, national AAAAA tourist area. Located in Guangxi Province.

**4. West Lake:** It is in Longjing Road, Xihu District, Hangzhou city, Zhejiang Province, covering an area of 21.22 square kilometers.

**5. Tianzhu Peak:** Southwest of Tonggu County, Jiangxi Province.

**6. Thai-hang Mountains:** It lies between Shanxi Province and the North China Plain. It is 2,882

meters above sea level.

**7. Yimengshan Mountains:** It is located at the junction of Shandong and Jiangsu provinces, crossing Linyi, Zibo, Weifang. It covers an area of 1,125 square kilometers. The main peak is 1,156 meters above sea level.

**8. Luliangshan Mountains:** Western Mountain range, Shanxi Province, P. R. China, 2,831 meters above sea level.

**9. Changbaishan Mountains:** Located in the southeast of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, Jilin Province. National AAAAA level scenic spot.

**10. The Long March:** From October 1934 to October 1936, the first, second and fourth front armies of the Red Army of China were forced to conduct strategic shifts to get rid of the pursuit and encirclement of the Kuomintang Army, withdrawing from the central base and conducted **the Long March**. It passed through fourteen provinces, climbed eighteen mountains, crossed twenty-four rivers, passed through grass lands, and climbed over snow-capped mountains, overcoming so many difficulties and so many soldiers died along the way. The total of Long March is 25,000 li, which is well known event both at home and abroad.

**11. Wumengshan Mountains:** One of the main mountain ranges on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in Western China, 1900.6 meters above sea level.

**12. Lei Feng:** (1949-1962) a soldier of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Lei Feng died in the line of duty at the age of twenty-two. A typical representative who serves the people wholeheartedly. A revolutionary fighter dedicated to the cause of serving the people. He is one of the advanced representatives of the People's Liberation Army.

**13. The Sierra Maestra Mountains:** In Cuba

**14. Carpathian Mountains:** in Ukraine

**15. The mountain Himalayas:** Located on the Tibetan Plateau, which is the highest mountain in the world, 8,848.13 meters above the sea level.

### AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY



**Guan Xinghua**, professor of English at Guangdong University of Finance (GUF). Graduated from Liaoning University, China, he engaged in his studies in University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) USA from 1991 to 1993. Over the years, besides GUF, she has been teaching English in Jinzhou Medical University and Guangzhou Xinhua University, respectively. He devoted his time in the compilation of English Chinese and Chinese English dictionaries and have them published. He has presided over projects of provincial level and national level. He has published research papers related to English teaching and the compiling of dictionary.

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