

韶关之游：朋友的友情与人生感悟

A Trip to Shaoguan: Friendship and Reflections on Life

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一天晚上，我沉浸在《六祖坛经》的世界里，六祖成佛的传奇轨迹深深触动了我，心中突然涌起一股参拜“南华禅寺”的强烈念头。查阅资料后得知，南华禅寺位于韶关，韶关这个名字我早有耳闻，当下便决定五一一来一场韶关之旅。

我兴致勃勃地联络了侄女二妹，巧的是，她也正想去韶关探望朋友。就这样，机缘巧合，我们一拍即合。

韶关三日游转瞬即逝，回想起这几天的经历，一切都十分顺利，这全得益于二妹的朋友阿丽。她把行程安排得妥妥当当，吃、住、玩各方面都考虑周全，比专业导游还要贴心周到。

阿丽热情大方，整日身着旗袍，无论是逛街还是爬山，都优雅得体，活脱脱一副典型大陆女强人的模样。然而，阿丽和很多典型的中国退休一族不同，她虽已拥有宽敞的套房和商铺，本可无忧无虑地度日，但她依旧雄心勃勃，还在积极规划自己的事业，有着年轻人敢闯敢试的冲劲。

阿丽还是一位虔诚的六祖信仰者，十几年前便已皈依。一路上，她兴致勃勃地跟我们分享了许多皈依后的趣事。她反复提及，遇到事情时，她总会向六祖寻求指引，而六祖都会在梦里告诉她如何处理，她只需照着梦境的指引去做就行。这听起来有些神奇，但仔细想想，历史上也有不少数学家、科学家在梦里找到问题的答案。

阿丽学历不高，却怀揣着梦想。自从皈依佛法后，她一心想着为他人着想、为社会做贡献，投身于中医、养生和治病领域。据说她还治好了一些疑难杂症，这让她信心大增，如今正计划着开展健康文创旅游业。

阿丽的先生骆生，从事环境雕塑工作，也擅长画画，尤其钟情于风景画。他开了一家画廊，售卖国画、书法以及自己的画作。他的画色彩鲜艳，立体感十足，这得益于他扎实的雕塑功底。看到骆生，我不禁想起曾经我最好的艺专朋友杨明刚-他也有着相似的事业轨迹，不知因何缘故，我们已失去联系多年。

我跟二妹提起杨明刚，没想到她有个朋友曾在贵州某大学学绘画，杨明刚还教过她。通过这位朋友，我们打听到杨明刚不久前已经离世，这个消息如晴天霹雳，让我十分震惊。

杨明刚在 1988 年前就在贵州艺术专科学校雕塑系打工，他吃苦耐劳，艺术才华也十分出众，1988 年正式考入油画系学习。那时我在师范专业学习，我们成了好朋友，常常一起切磋绘画艺术。毕业后，他凭借优异的成绩留校任教。他不仅专业能力过硬，还很擅长处理人际关系，常与高官权威人士交往，获得了不少城市雕塑业务，还出版了书籍，一直努力奋斗着。然而，他奋斗得来的一切，如今都已化为泡影。

这次韶关之行，在感受韶关美景和朋友热情的同时，也让我对人生有了更多的思考。生命无常，曾经的友情、奋斗的成果，都可能在不经意间消逝。但那些美好的回忆，以及朋友之间真挚的情谊，会永远留在心间。

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One evening, I was absorbed in the *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*. The legendary path of Huineng's enlightenment deeply moved me, and I suddenly felt a strong urge to visit Nanhua Temple. After looking it up, I learned that the temple is in Shaoguan—a place I had heard of before—so I decided to take a trip during the May holiday.

I eagerly called my niece, Ermei. As it happened, she was also planning to visit a friend in Shaoguan. The timing felt serendipitous, and we quickly agreed to go together.

Our three-day trip passed in a flash. Looking back, everything went smoothly, thanks largely to Ermei's friend, Ali. She arranged every detail—food, accommodation, and activities—with remarkable care, even more attentive than a professional tour guide.

Ali is warm and gracious, always dressed in a qipao. Whether strolling through the streets or climbing hills, she carries herself with effortless elegance—a classic image of a capable mainland Chinese woman. Yet unlike many retirees, she is far from settling into a leisurely life. Despite already owning a spacious apartment and commercial property, she remains ambitious, actively planning new ventures with the bold, enterprising spirit of someone much younger.

She is also a devoted follower of the Sixth Patriarch, having taken refuge in Buddhism over a decade ago. Along the way, she shared many

stories from her spiritual journey. She often mentioned that whenever she faces difficulties, she asks the Patriarch for guidance, and in her dreams, he shows her what to do. It may sound mystical, but on reflection, many mathematicians and scientists have also found answers in dreams.

Though not highly educated, Ali is driven by a sense of purpose. Since embracing Buddhism, she has focused on helping others and contributing to society, especially through traditional Chinese medicine and wellness practices. She has reportedly helped cure some difficult illnesses, which has strengthened her confidence. Now, she is planning to develop a health-focused cultural tourism business.

Ali's husband, Mr. Luo, works in environmental sculpture and is also a painter, particularly fond of landscapes. He runs a gallery selling traditional Chinese paintings, calligraphy, and his own works. His paintings are vivid and dimensional, reflecting his strong sculptural background. Seeing him reminded me of my old art school friend, Yang Minggang. They had similar career paths, yet for reasons unknown, we had lost touch over the years.

When I mentioned Yang to Ermei, she recalled that a friend of hers had studied painting in Guizhou and had once been taught by him. Through this connection, we learned that Yang had passed away not long ago. The news struck me like a bolt from the blue.

Before 1988, Yang had worked tirelessly in the sculpture department of Guizhou Art College. Gifted and hardworking, he later enrolled in the oil painting program. At that time, I was studying to be an art teacher, and we became close friends, often exchanging ideas on art. After graduation, he

stayed on as a lecturer. With both professional skill and social savvy, he built connections with influential figures, secured numerous public sculpture projects, and even published books. He had worked hard to build a successful career—but now, all of it has vanished like a dream.

This journey to Shaoguan brought not only beautiful scenery and warm hospitality, but also deeper reflections on life. Everything is impermanent—friendships, achievements, even lives themselves can disappear unexpectedly. Yet the precious memories we carry, and the genuine bonds between friends, remain with us forever.