

LIFE MAGAZINE

9 771005 049127
027

生活

月刊

Le temps Supercool

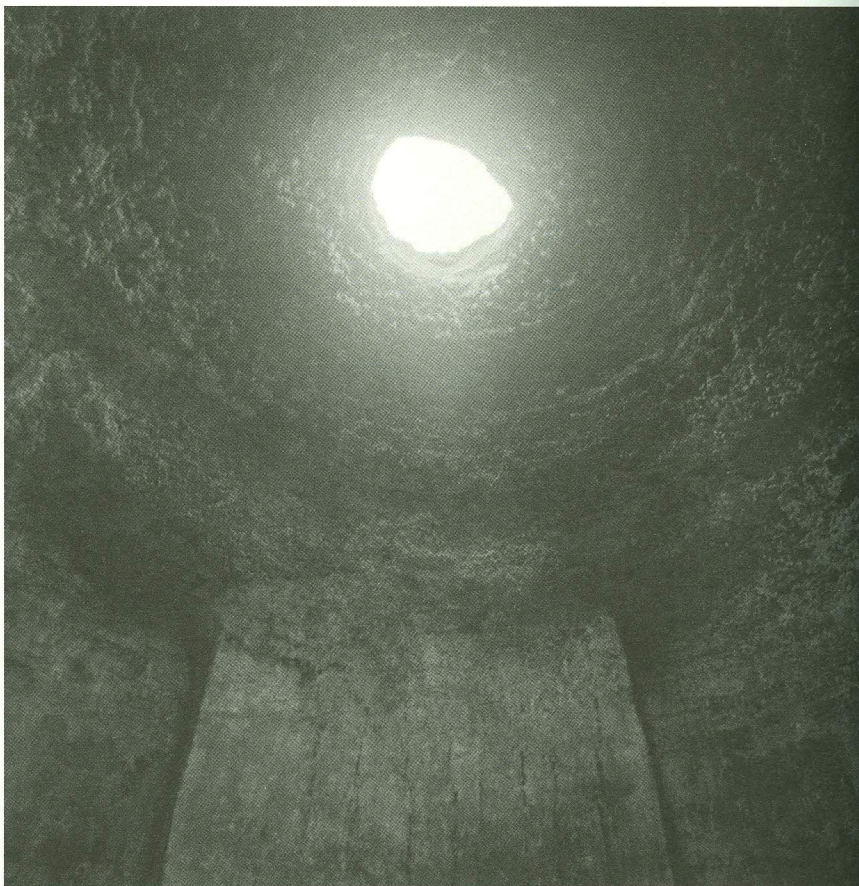


[heaven]

ODE

TEXT: JIANG WEI PHOTO: TA KE

Shi Jing, or *The Odes*, is the earliest existing collection of Chinese poems and songs. It comprises 305 poems and songs, with many dating from 10th to the 7th century BC time range. The collection records the happiness, sorrow, doubts and dreams of our ancestors who lived in a largely primitive world. The poems of *The Odes* tend to have certain typical patterns in both rhyme and rhythm, to make much use of imagery, often derived from nature. The prolific imagination and allusion challenge every artist who wants to base his art work on it. A photographer born in 1984, Taca stood a good chance of failure in shooting the Ode Series. He accomplished the task cleverly by dividing the project into regions and local-color scenes and objects. As an ancient Chinese scholar once wrote, "There appeared in the world the earth, then the mountains, then the plants, then animals, and then the human beings." From that angle, Taca set out to discover his homeland from which he was sure to receive support. The lyricism of *The Odes* inspired Taca's vision of a China that remained unchanged for thousands of years.



[earth]

CRAWLING TIME

TEXT: DONG SHUAI & CAI RUI PHOTO: XUJINYAN & WANG YUANLING

Perhaps driven by primitive instincts, human beings always feel great triumph on the movement of machines. We never grudge spending money on vehicles. For people of our time, speed can only be raised, never reduced. Thus the launch of any transportation tools means the start of a journey into something out-of-date. This is the cost of movements, a cost for the tools, not for us. In the Bise Village of southwest China's Yunnan province, we visited one of the earliest railway stations in China. Beside the Yangtze River in Chongqing, we saw the chain bridge that was in use two decades ago. We also met people having stories. Talkative or not, they have all spent a lifetime with these transportation tools. They never intended to resist the abandonment of time and to slow down with those old fashioned transportation tools. This was a natural process that did not deserve to make a fuss over.

