

Train in the Valley

China Train Car

I remember it as clear as day

The memory often pops into my mind in awkward moments

Or when I'm sitting all alone

People fill the seats (the lucky ones who had enough money for a seat)

Their elbows dig into each other's ribs

I have elbows on either side sitting between two people

Women, men, children, babies all line the floor so that walking
down

the aisle

requires

maneuvering

around and

over

and

side to

side

Touching people all the way

Sweat

P o u r i n g

down

each

inch

of your body from the heat the hundreds of bodies give off

The ten meter box car needs more oxygen

People fall asleep so easily

I wish I could fall asleep

It's been 20 hours on this train

My body has gone numb from lack of proper movement

I have trouble feeling my legs and the elbows on either side have stopped bothering me

It takes five whole minutes to walk from my seat somewhere in the middle of the car to the hole in the floor where I urinate onto the tracks.

Cheap travel

Traveling like the average Chinese person would travel across the country

Shaanxi is an ancient painting

Tall mountains with green, green grass and

Temples

Here

And

There

Villages tucked into valleys

Bending

Around

Corners

Passing through

A mountain side graveyard

Little tombs

Climb, climbing

On the right

The left; a

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R

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Drying corn h
a
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g
s from shacks on s
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p
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s

Spring run-off
Sliding
Down
To feed l a
z
y trees

Tai-chi in the farmer's field
Giant
Stairways
Of
Tea
To
Replenish

Replenish me
This trip
So l o n g

People line the floor
The toilet is in the
Next
Car

People P Toilet
People E People
People O People
People P People
People L People
People E People

People P People
People E People
Me O People
People P People
People L People
People E People

China

Tea

Replenishes the view

Reminds me of the crowd

Forty hours passed

Ten to go.