

## 麻黃梁

麻黃梁是榆陽區的一個鄉，離榆林三四十公里，也是陝北我去的次數最多的地方。

公路基本和長城並行。比起三十年前，長城變得更加瘦小了，許多地方只是一溜微微的隆起。初到此地的人，若沒有人專門介紹，誰也不會料到這就是當年禦敵的屏障，舉世聞名的「大牆」。

路的兩邊比前幾年多出了一些房舍，零零星星的。有些貼了瓷片，有些被白色乳膠漆塗白了。房舍旁邊，通常會有一個寫了「農家樂」的牌子，但都關門閉戶冷清著。離公路遠些的地方，時不時會豎起幾支巨大的煙囪。由於地面相對開闊平坦，這煙囪就顯得突兀甚至有些蠻不講理。自從發現油、煤、氣之後，這一帶車多了，人雜了，鬧鬧哄哄，早已沒有了往日的清靜。柏油路面被超重的大車揉搓得如同廚師手裡的面團，臃腫起一個個柔和的包，黑乎乎的灑了一層煤，風一刮，臉面鼻孔就全黑了。

麻黃梁鄉地處沙地與黃土之間，東面兩三里是黃土峁梁，層層疊疊糾纏著到了天際；西面緊連毛烏素沙地，平緩遼闊，一望十來里。鄉政府坐落在相對平坦些的空地上，兩邊稀稀落落地起了兩溜門面房，夾出一條不過百米的街道，正北面，在街道的盡頭橫亘著一座齊齊整整的山梁，自東向西迤邐而去。山梁上面植滿了樹，將原本裸露的土坡一塊一塊地包裹上了。樹木在陽光下變得黝黑，遠遠望去，既平和又莊嚴，使得整座山梁也有了些神聖的意思。殘破的長城像一條線，從下往上軟塌塌地搭著，到山頂時結作一個小小的土台，然後就消失在了山的背後。這就是麻黃梁，村落也因此而得名。

麻黃梁北面是斷橋村，斷橋的東面是大溝、雙山、劉家坪，西北些是銀山界、黑疙瘩，再往北，就到了黑龍潭、王莊和建安堡……一個個村落像是誰從天上撒落下來的，隨意地長在或高或低或平坦或崎嶇的黃土地裡。原來去斷橋是要翻過麻黃梁的，前幾年修路把麻黃梁挖出了一個溝壕，現在車從裡面穿過去就到了。坐北朝南的十幾孔窯洞，原是很齊整的一字排開，現在由於沒人居住，大部分已經荒廢了，有的已經坍塌，有的只留下黑乎乎的門洞。窯洞上面先是一片坡地，到了高處，雞冠樣橫臥了殘破的長城。長城隨了地勢起伏，然後，一個漫圓的弧度把斷橋村攬在了懷裡。

畢竟離城鎮遠了，斷橋一派寧靜，秋陽下，四下里的黃土峁梁半夢半醒。

段正渠

# Mahuangliang

Mahuangliang is a village in Yuyang District, about thirty to forty kilometers from Yulin. It is the place I have visited most often in northern Shaanxi.

The highway essentially runs parallel to the Great Wall. Compared to thirty years ago, the Great Wall has become less noticeable; in many places, it simply looks like a slight swell. When you first come here, if someone does not specifically explain it, you would not expect that this was a barrier against an enemy—the world-famous Great Wall.

There are a few more houses scattered on both sides of the road than there were several years ago. Some are covered with ceramic tiles and some are painted white. There are usually signs for “country cottages” next to the houses, but they are quiet and desolate. A bit farther away from the road, you will occasionally see massive smokestacks. Because the land is open and flat, the smokestacks seem towering and even a bit absurd. After oil, coal, and natural gas were discovered, more cars and people appeared. The area became noisier, breaking the quiet of former days. Overweight trucks kneaded the asphalt road like a chef kneading a ball of dough into soft buns. Everything is covered with a layer of soot, and any breeze fills the nostrils with black dust.

Mahuangliang lies between the desert and the loess. There are loess ridges two or three miles to the east, with layer upon layer extending to the horizon. To the west, it adjoins the Mu Us Desert, a vast expanse that allows you to see for miles. The village government is located on a piece of flat, open ground, with a sparse scattering of shops and homes on either side of a street that stretches for barely one hundred meters. Due north, a neat mountain ridge that wends its way east to west stretches across the end of the street. The mountain ridge has been planted with trees, enveloping what was originally a naked slope. In the sunlight, the trees appear dark, and from a distance, they seem calm and stately, giving the entire mountain ridge a sacred air. The dilapidated Great Wall is like a line, feebly wending its way up to the top of the mountain, where it ends with a small earthen platform, then disappears down the back of the mountain. This is Mahuangliang, a village named for this mountain ridge.

The village of Duanqiao sits to the north of Mahuangliang, and to the east of Duanqiao lie Gagou, Shuangshan, and Liujiapan. More to the northwest, we discover Yinshanjie and Heigeda, and further north, we find Heilongtan, Wangzhuang, and Jian'anbao... It seems as if someone has scattered these villages from the sky, and they have randomly grown in the high or low, flat or hilly loess. Originally, you had to go around Mahuangliang to get to Duanqiao, but when they built the road a few years ago, they cut through Mahuangliang, so that you can drive straight on to Duanqiao. There, about a dozen cave dwellings face south. They were originally arranged in a neat line, but because no one lives there anymore, the majority have fallen into disrepair and some have collapsed. Others are simply a dark doorway. The cave dwellings are cut into the slope, the top of which is crested with a broken Great Wall. The Great Wall undulates with the terrain, its rounded arc pulling Duanqiao Village into its embrace.

Located far from the county town, Duanqiao is tranquil. In the autumn sun, the surrounding loess ridges seem almost dreamlike.

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