



TV

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## DAZU ROCK CARVINGS IN CHINA

### VIDEO

STONE STATUE BEING CARVED

STONE STATUES FROM  
DIFFERENT SITES

LING FANG TIN ON CAMERA

VARIOUS SITE CARVINGS

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Carved into the face of cliffs near Chongching in south west China - the Dazu Rock carvings are an extraordinary monument to Chinese craftsmanship from the seventh to the thirteenth centuries. (12")

An amazing 60,000 statues spread over 75 different sites. The figures come from the Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist traditions and also feature monks, monarchs, military officials, government ministers, folk performers - and even jailers and executioners. (18")

Ling Fang Tin is Curator at the Dazu Rock Carvings Museum. (4")

#### LING FANG TIN: (Chinese)

*"The stone carvings of Dazu have a long history. They reflect some of the ideas of Chinese philosophy and the ancient ways of living. They mainly represent Buddhist traditions, but combine Taoism and Confucianism as well. These three*

*main philosophies that guided China through thousands of years represent the main pillars of Chinese civilization. And it's permanently carved in stone in the walls of the mountain.” (28”)*

### NARRATION

#### GROTTO ART SITE

Rock carving, or grotto art, came to China from India, along with Buddhism, 2,000 years ago. The Dazu Rock Carvings – the finest examples of Chinese grotto art – reached their high point in the twelfth century. (15”)

#### CARVING DETAILING

#### ROCK NICHES WITH CARVINGS

Along a 500 metre section of Mount Beishan, 290 niches have been carved into the rock, displaying more than four thousand statues. (10”)

This grotto is known as "the gallery of the Bodhisattvas of Compassion.” (4”)

#### BODHISATTVA

One of the most impressive statues can be seen in niche 136: the Bodhisattva sits cross-legged, one hand on her leg, one hand clasping a long-handled good luck charm called a 'ruyi'. Her plump face, smooth skin and restrained smile, as well as her softly draped clothing, create an image of a tender, loving mother for all humanity. (22”)

#### CARVING IN WATERFALL

During the Song Dynasty - from 960 to 1279, a Buddhist monk named Zhao Zhifung ordered work to start on elaborate carvings along a U-shaped section of Mount Baoding. He dedicated 70 years of his life to the project. (15”)

BAODING SITE

The resulting Baoding grotto, with its 10,000 statues, forms a ritual site of Tantric Buddhism, a branch of Buddhism that disappeared 400 years ago in northern China. Many of its carvings depict scenes of daily life and bear inscriptions of religious rules for everyday behavior. (18")

BAODING CARVINGS

The Baoding site is protected from the elements by a natural ceiling of protruding rock. Some of the carvings also incorporate drainage systems to protect them from water erosion. Baoding is the largest and best preserved of all the Dazhu sites and it attracts more than one million visitors a year - which is posing another preservation challenge. (21")

TOURISTS AT STONE CARVING  
SITE

LING FANG TIN: (Chinese)

LING FANG TIN ON CAMERA

*"One of the most damaging factors is the process by which the stone carving is exposed to the weather; we have comprehensive ways of maintaining these carvings indoors, but it is much harder for the ones like Dazhu in the cliffs. This is one of the technical problems that hasn't yet been solved in the rest of the world either, so we will step up our efforts in the future."* (20")

ERODED CARVINGS

NARRATION

INTRICATE STONE CARVINGS

Collectively, the Dazhu Rock Carvings have been listed in China as a national monument under state protection since 1961. In December 1999, they were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (13")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by UN Television for the  
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