

As High as the Clouds.

a story of fertility, necessity, and a mountain.



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Film filmneverdie Zombie ISO400

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Shot at Qiyunshan, Huangshan

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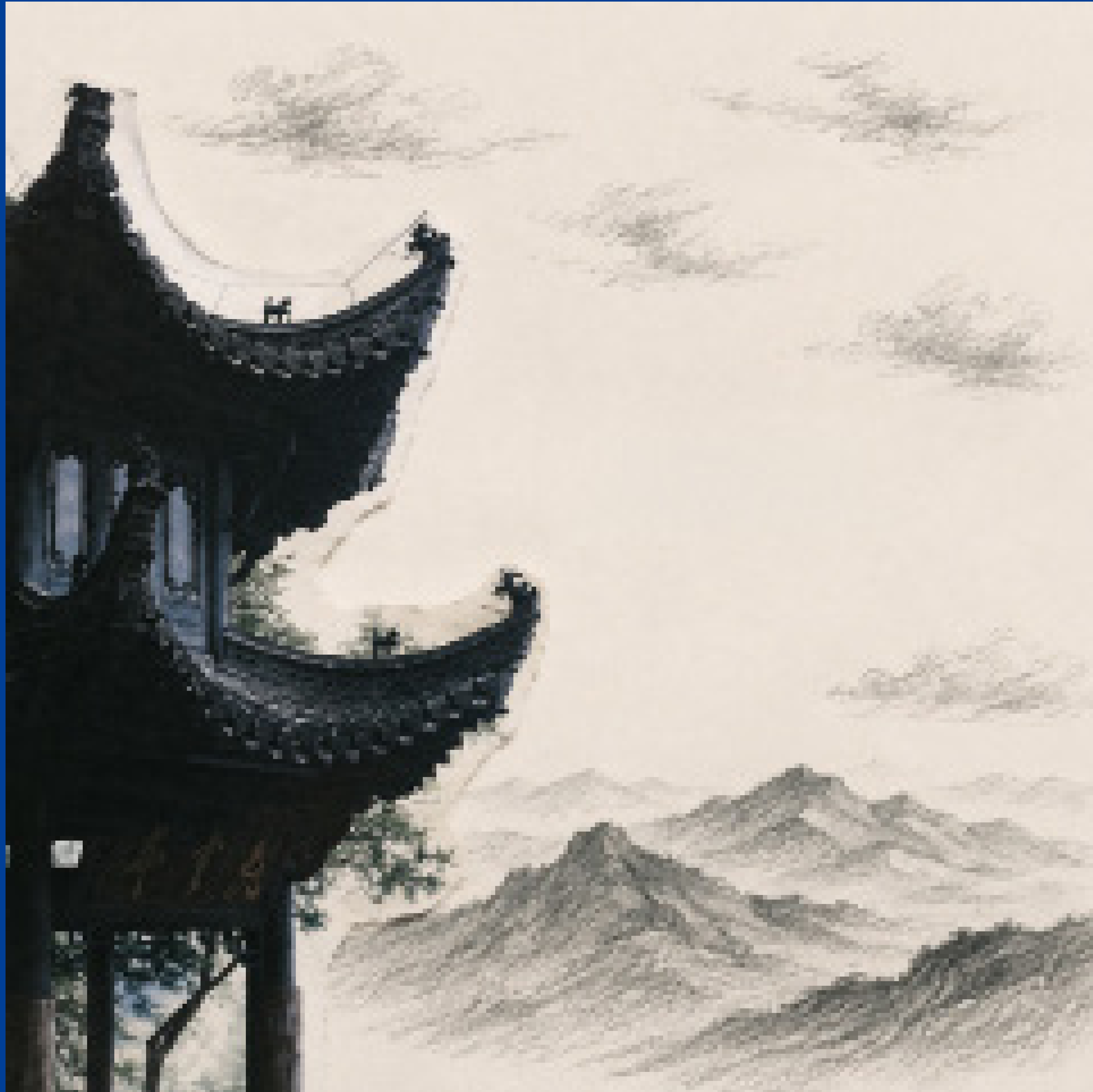




Mount Qiyun, literally “As High as the Clouds” Mountain, located in Anhui Province, is recognized as one of the Four Sacred Mountains of Taoism in China.

Mount Qiyun’s rich ceremonial tradition, recognized as provincial intangible cultural heritage, traces its legacy back to the Ming Dynasty when Emperor Jiajing’s emissaries performed a seven-day imperial ritual to pray for an heir: a prayer that was famously answered with the birth of a prince.

Right in the middle of taking all this in, reality struck: I had a heavy flow, and I didn’t bring enough tampons.



Today, Taoist priests continue this historical legacy by performing structured rituals and Prayers for Blessings and Heirs for both modern pilgrims and local devotees, offering traditional rites designed to bring family prosperity, good health, and longevity.

Ironically, I realized this was actually the perfect place to have my period. After all, what better proof of fertility is there on a mountain famous for granting heirs? I chuckled at the thought. But I knew that the moment I started chuckling, things were getting dire. I really needed to climb higher up soon so I could spot a small convenience store to get water and period supplies.



So I began asking every single stall vendor I passed. I approached everyone, even a vendor completely absorbed in his audiobook, asking directly: “Do you sell sanitary pads?”





What started as a personal emergency slowly morphed into a stark realization: across this entire sacred mountain, a place whose very historical fame rests on rituals for fertility, lineage, and childbirth... not a single shop sold basic menstrual products.

In the end, it was a woman running a local restaurant who reached into her own personal stash and handed me two pads.

What began as a desperate search transformed into a micro-feminist action: exposing a blind spot built into the mountain itself. Welcome to join me, till the world is full of feminine necessities.





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made by roselyle zhao, an award-winning cinematographer, documentary filmmaker. A native earthling wanders trying to be a true world citizen who stands with women. a radical feminist, a queer person in activities.

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