

# A Story About Him, Him and Him

他,他,他

TRANSLATED FROM *URBAN CHINA* MAGAZINE BY BRIAN D HAMMER



AN URBANITE  
他是市民,



A FARMER  
他是农民,

A FARMER IN THE CITY  
他是进城的农民

中国人居住在城市和乡村, 在长期的环境适应及发展中形成了今天不同的生活方式。而进城农民这一特定阶段和身份的群体, 又在过着异于上述城和乡的生活。他们的生活场景片段, 就是城乡统筹这一命题最为微观的故事背景。

Chinese people living in cities and villages have developed and acculturated to the different ways of life that we see today. However, farmers in the city—this group defined in this particular period and by their special status—live a life different from both the city and the village mentioned above. A portrait of their life is a microcosm and forms the background of urban and rural integration.



非农业家庭户口簿  
HE HAS (NON-AGRICULTURAL) HOUSEHOLD REGISTRATION STATUS.



农业家庭户口簿  
HE HAS (AGRICULTURAL) HOUSEHOLD REGISTRATION CARD STATUS.

HE HAS APPLIED FOR A TEMPORARY RESIDENT.



HE'S A MEMBER OF THE 9-TO-5 OFFICE WORKER CROWD.



HE'S A FARMER WHO WORKS FROM SUN-UP TO SUN-DOWN.

TO HIM OVERTIME MEANS HE CAN MAKE MORE MONEY.



HIS LIFE IS INSEPARABLE FROM HIS MONTHLY CALENDAR.



AS TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS APPROACH HE STARTS TO CLEAN HIS HOUSE.

CHINESE NEW YEAR MEANS HE CAN GO HOME (TO SEE HIS FAMILY).

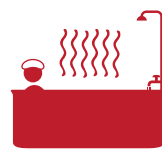


HE'S SO BUSY ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, THAT HE NEVER STOPS THINKING.



HE SAYS HIS DAYS ARE VERY TAXING, BUT THEY'RE STILL PRETTY SIMPLE.

HE'S NOT CERTAIN WHAT HIS LIFE IN THE FUTURE MAY BE LIKE.



HE LOVES TO SOAK IN THE BATH.



HE WASHES JUST ONCE PER WEEK.

HE PREFERS SLEEPING MORE TO TAKING A BATH.



HE SITS ON A TOILET.



HE USES A SQUAT TOILET.

HE SQUATS ON THE SEAT OF A WESTERN TOILET.



ONCE IN A WHILE HE GOES DOWNSTAIRS TO EAT AT MCDONALDS.



HE OFTEN EATS A BOWL OF NOODLES ON WORK DAYS.

HE EATS IN THE COMPANY CANTEEN.



HIS ANNUAL SALARY IS 19,909 RMB.



HE MAKES 5,919 RMB PER YEAR.

IN A YEAR, HE CARRIES HOME 8,000 RMB FOR HIS FAMILY.

IN CHINA THE URBAN POPULATION IS 630 MILLION.

IN CHINA, THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION IS 630 MILLION.

OF WHICH, 240 MILLION ARE MIGRANT WORKERS.

## 他的家,他的家,他的家

HIS HOME, HIS HOME, HIS HOME



HE AND HIS WIFE BOUGHT AN 80M2 APARTMENT.



HE AND HIS EXTENDED FAMILY LIVE IN A HOME WITH A COURTYARD.

HE AND HIS WIFE ENTERED THE CITY TO WORK WHILE THEIR PARENTS AND CHILD LIVE IN THE VILLAGE.



A WINDOW IN HIS HOME.



A WINDOW IN HIS HOME.

HIS DORMITORY IS NOT HIS HOME.

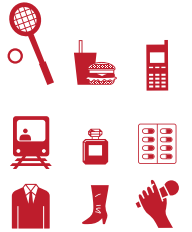


IN HIS HOME REFRIGERATOR SITS A 5 RMB BOTTLE OF SPRITE.



ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE, HE'LL BUY A 7 RMB LARGE BOTTLE OF SPRITE.

SPRITE IS JUST A KNOCK-OFF ITEM.

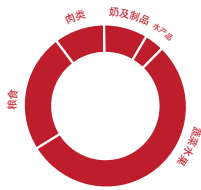


THEIR FAMILY'S ANNUAL EXPENDITURES OF 36,000 RMB ARE USED ON TENNIS, FAST FOOD, CELL PHONES, SUBWAY FARE, PERFUME, MEDICINE, AND CLOTHING.

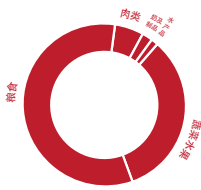


THEIR FAMILY'S ANNUAL EXPENDITURES ARE ALLOCATED TOWARD RICE, CLOTHING, FERTILIZER, AND FARMING IMPLEMENTS.

THEY ARE NOT AT HOME, SO THEY ARE VERY THRIFTY (EAT NOODLES).



THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR DAILY DIET.



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IN CHINA, URBAN HOUSEHOLDS NUMBER 200M.

IN CHINA, AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS NUMBER 150M.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF URBAN MIGRANT WORKERS' FAMILIES ARE STILL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

## 他的城,他的乡, 他的...

HIS CITY, HIS VILLAGE, HIS...

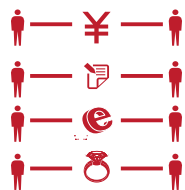


EACH DAY HE CRISSCROSSES HIS CITY'S COMPLEX ROAD NETWORK.

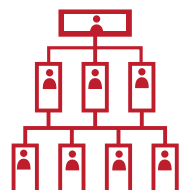


WALKING TO THE OTHER END OF THE VILLAGE TAKES 10 MINUTES.

WHERE HE LIVES IS CALLED A VILLAGE IN THE CITY.



RELATIONS IN THE CITY ARE MONETARY, WORK-RELATED, DIGITAL, AND THROUGH MARRIAGE.



MOST OF THE MEN IN HIS VILLAGE ALL HAVE THE SURNAME LIU.

RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE (IN THE CITY) COME FROM "FIVE OCEANS, FOUR SEAS" (EVERYWHERE).



HE ONLY RARELY SEES HIS NEIGHBORS.



HE KNOWS EVERYONE IN HIS VILLAGE.

HE FREQUENTLY SEES HIS NEW CO-WORKER FRIENDS.



MANY SUPERMARKETS OF VARIOUS SIZES ARE LOCATED NEAR HIS HOME (CARREFOUR, DARUNFA, LIANHUA, QUANJIA, LEGOU).

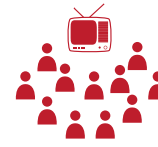


AT THE VILLAGE EDGE IS A SMALL SHOP SELLING SUNDRY GOODS.

HE'S A FREQUENT CUSTOMER OF NIGHT MARKETS, WHERE GOODS ARE SPREAD ON A BLANKET ON THE STREET.

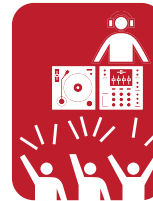


IN THE EVENING, HE AND HIS WIFE SOMETIMES WATCH TV.



IN THE EVENING, HE MOVES HIS TV TO THE COURTYARD FOR ALL TO WATCH.

AFTER WORK, HE SOMETIMES GOES TO THE INTERNET CAFÉ TO CHAT.



ONCE IN A WHILE HE'LL GO TO A BAR WITH FRIENDS.



IN HIS FREE TIME, HE AND SOME FELLOW VILLAGERS WILL PLAY ERHU.

ONLY RARELY DOES HE THINK ABOUT GOING TO HAVE A FOOT MASSAGE, BUT HE DOESN'T GIVE IN TO THE URGE.



SOMETIMES HE'LL ARGUE WITH PEOPLE.



SOMETIMES WHEN HE'S ANGRY HE'LL GET IN A FIGHT.

USUALLY WHEN HE ENCOUNTERS A PROBLEM, HE'LL JUST LEAVE AND IGNORE IT.



CHILDREN WALK TO SCHOOL.



CHILDREN WALK FIVE KILOMETERS ON A MOUNTAIN PATH TO SCHOOL.

AFTER CHILDREN COME TO THE CITY THEY OFTEN TRANSFER THEIR STUDIES AND RETURN TO THE VILLAGE.

IN CHINA, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 655 CITIES.

IN CHINA, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 644,000 VILLAGES.

IN CHINA, HOW MANY VILLAGES IN THE CITY ARE THERE?