

Shi Wenjie

A Walk in Summer Palace for the Sunset Views

Brilliant sunset moments present
a show of lights dimming and shifting
as the sun goes down over the west mountains
with softened shines.

I walk to the Garden from the south entrance
in later hours of a sunny afternoon
to look at the clouds and skylines
above the lake in the Summer Palace.

The single-arched marble bridge
named Xiuyi (Beautiful Ripple) Bridge
welcomes me and visitors
with its bow structure mirrored in the lake water.

The high-mounted center
serves as a perfect terrace to
look at the views open and wide
above water and beneath sky.

I gaze at the lakes bordering
the green fields and hills afar,
mirroring clouds in the afterglow,
rich in hues and fancy shapes.

A step northward or a second forward
will bring about varying
scenes of beauty and delights.

The dynamics of sun lights,
hills curving high or flat
lake ripples shimmering bright.

Willows line the lakeside
sway softly in summer breeze
cicadas sing aloud
from lush poplar trees.

Buildings and artworks
of stones and woods bathed in peace
give an enchanting moment of summer dusk.

The 17-arched marble bridge gives,
another popular resort for sunsetters
with a zeal for natural and cultural exploration.

Visitors walk over the bridge pass
in the dusk and the twilight
stretch their figures aground,

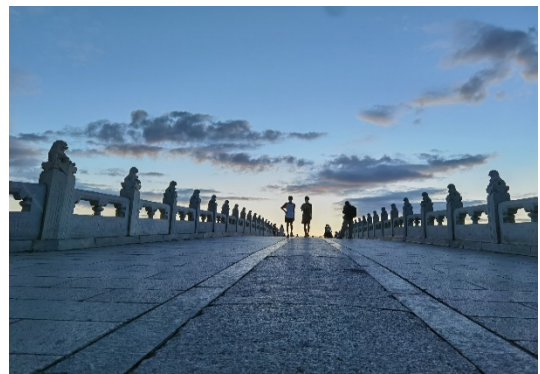
Their shadows in motion
look mysterious between
the bridge surface and lowered darkness.

The Bronze Ox stands by lakeside,
looking at the hill-top pavilion ahead,
across the wavy lake water
praying for peaceful days without
floods and natural disasters.

I walk around the lake to find peace
in the looming darkness,
and exit the Garden from the
east entrance to meet the
high wooden arch
of delicate colors and paintings with
the name stone in the lights.



Beautiful-Ripples Bridge (Xiuyi Bridge)



Visitors Walk in Twilight on the Bridge

Photos by Wenjie Shi