



## Wander into the Wonder – Angkor Wat, Cambodia

*A photographic diary of Jan. 2008*

*by: Yau-Sun Tong*

As one of the most beautiful and mysterious historical sites in the world...

*“Angkor is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia. Stretching over some 400 sq.km, including forested area, Angkor Archaeological Park contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century. They include the famous Temple of Angkor Wat and, at Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations. UNESCO has set up a wide-ranging programme to safeguard this symbolic site and its surroundings.”...*

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# Preface

The following images within this “**Photo-diary**” of 《Wander into the Wonder - Angkor Wat》 is a photographic diary of my travel to the area of **Angkor, Cambodia** on last January.

These **snapshots** are only intended **to document** a fantastic travel to **Angkor Wat, Cambodia** - one of the amazing “wonders of the world”...

All images were taken with a little pocket-sized **Leica D-Lux 3** camera.

The little “point-and-shoot” **D-Lux 3** has a lot of limitations in picture taking, little performance in terms of optical quality (certainly not compared to the famed **Leica R and M** camera systems with slide-films I am so often used to and fond of using), but at the same time it poses a challenge to myself for still trying to create meaningful images with it.

High quality slide-film images taken from this trip are **not** shown in this **photo-diary**.

Some of the goals I am trying to achieve in my photography include:

- *True to the moments in nature and culture;*
- *Natural and candid;*
- *Compositionally challenge and unique;*
- *Meaningful in subjects and topics;*
- *Story telling with good impacts;*
- *Not to disturb and intrude into local human subjects' life.*

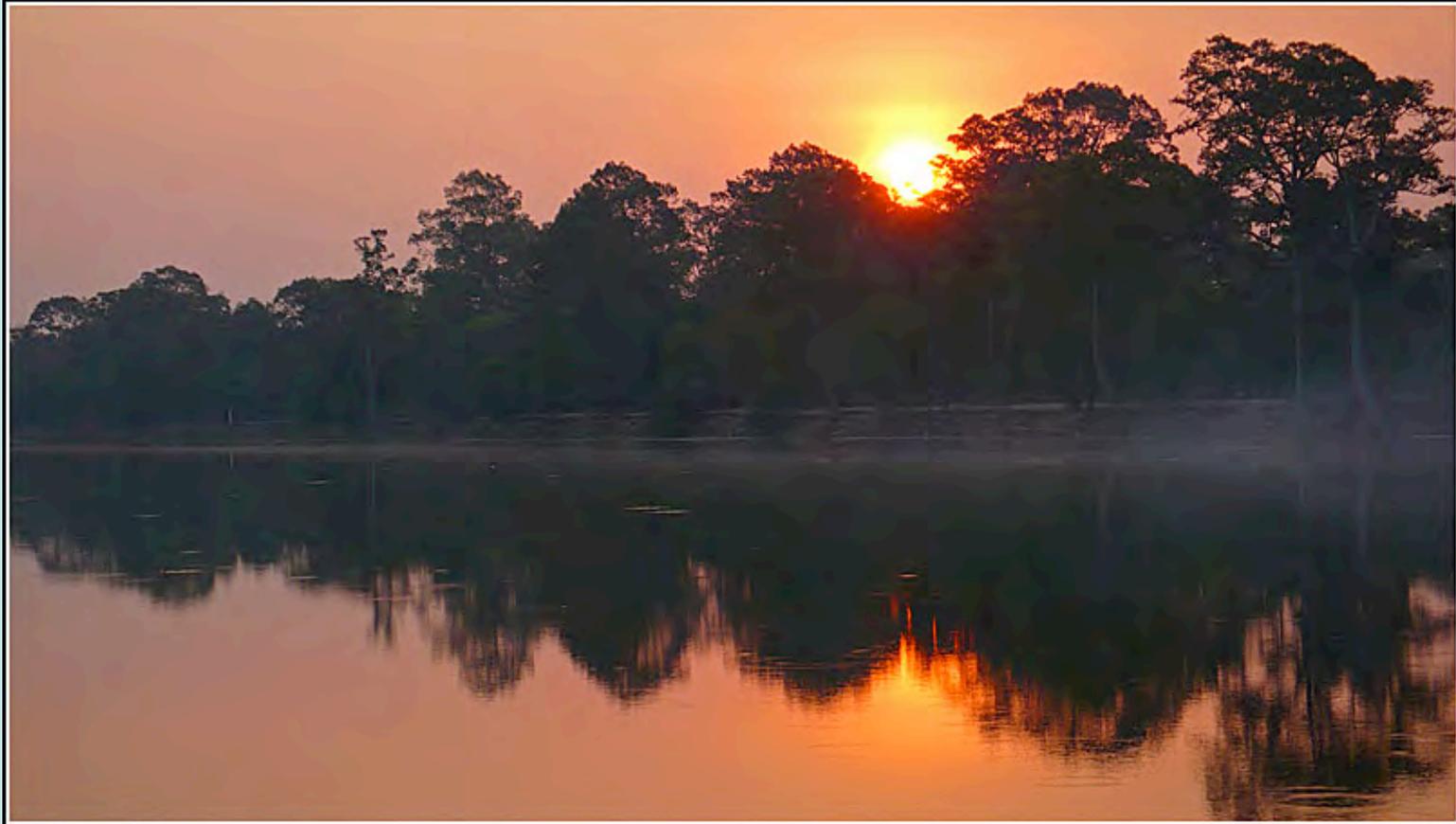
《吴哥短行》二零零八年一月“柬埔寨之行”摄影日志  
January 2008 Photo-diary

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*Enjoy...*

*Angkor from dawn to dusk...*



Sunrises by the Angkor Wat moat...

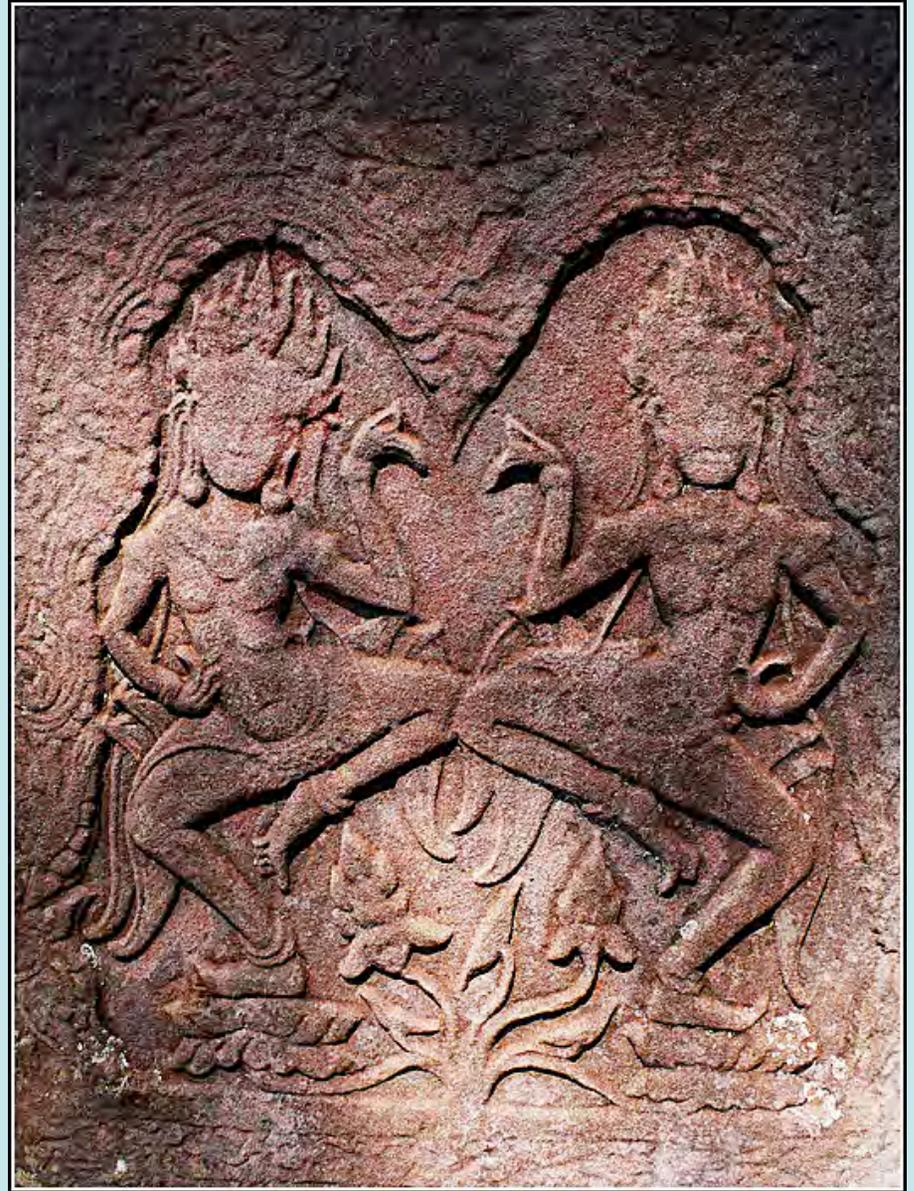




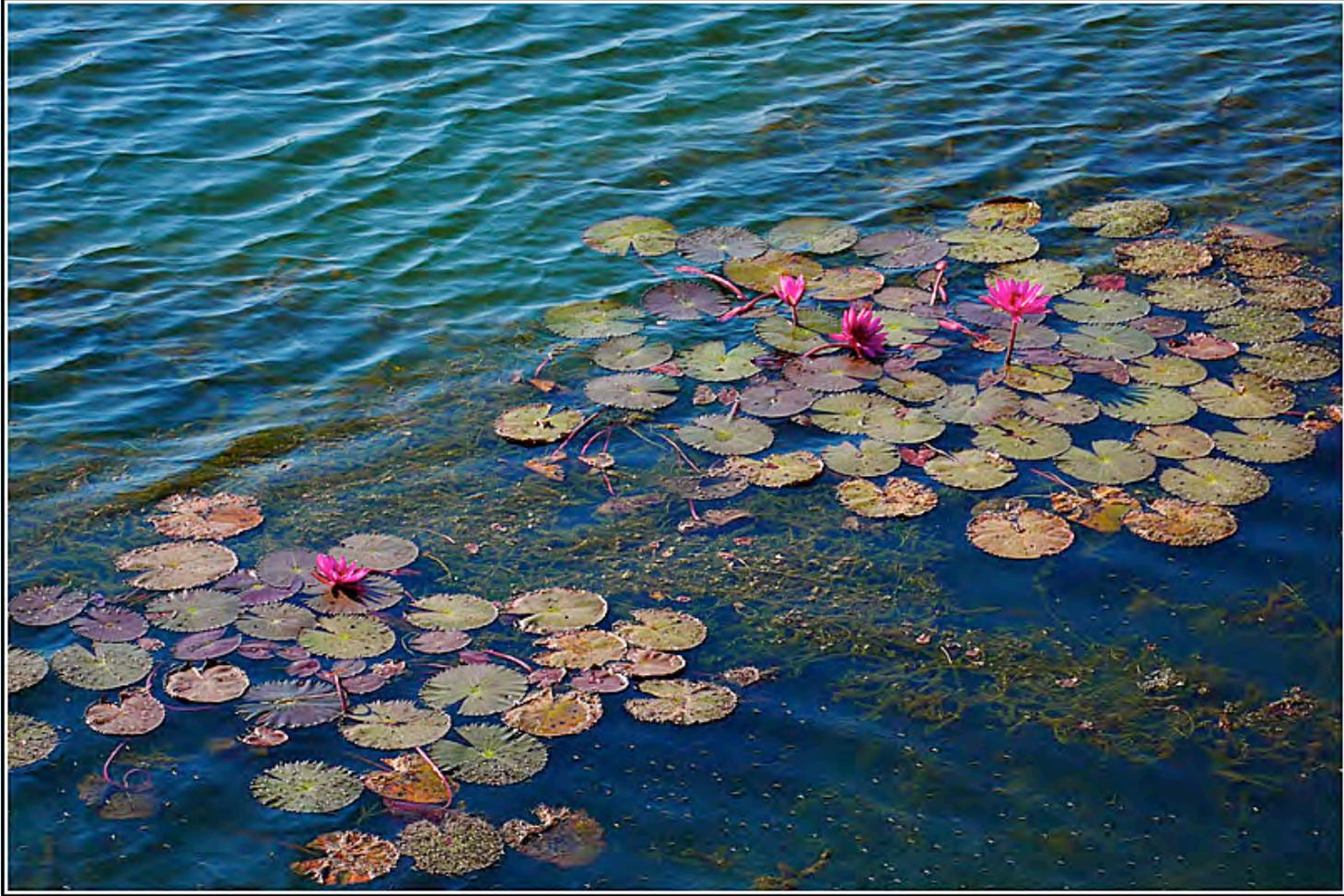
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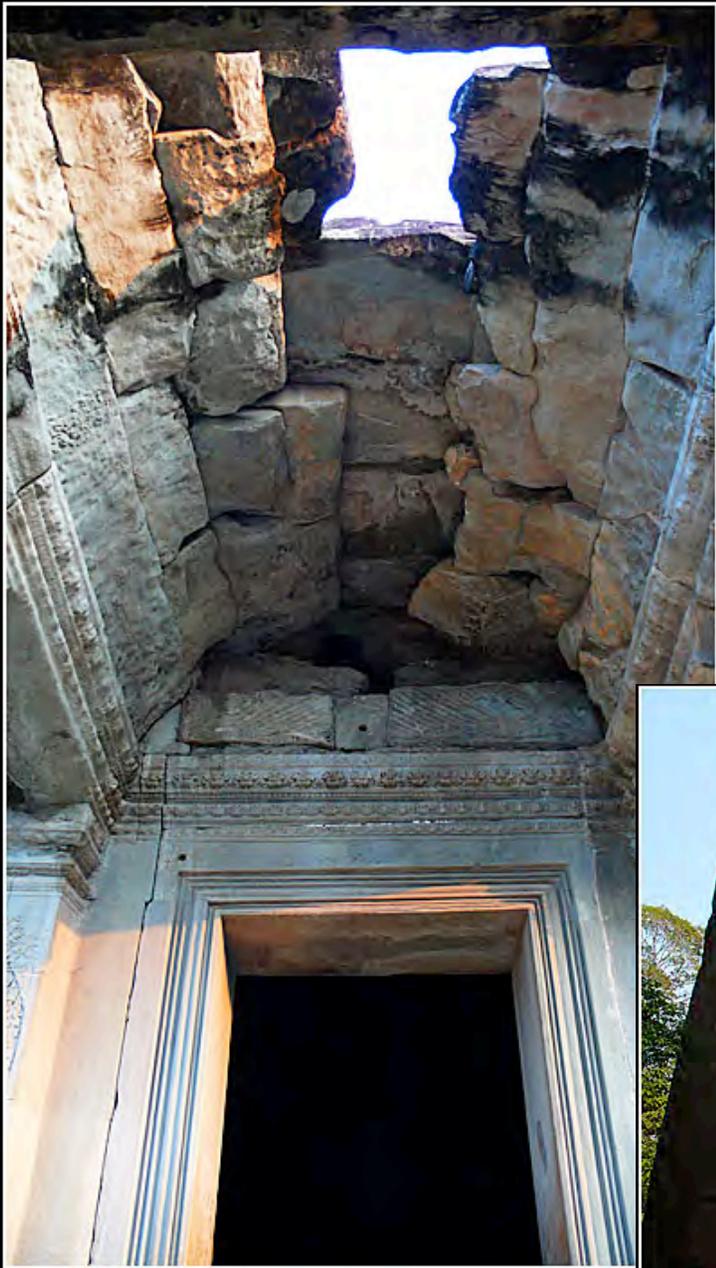




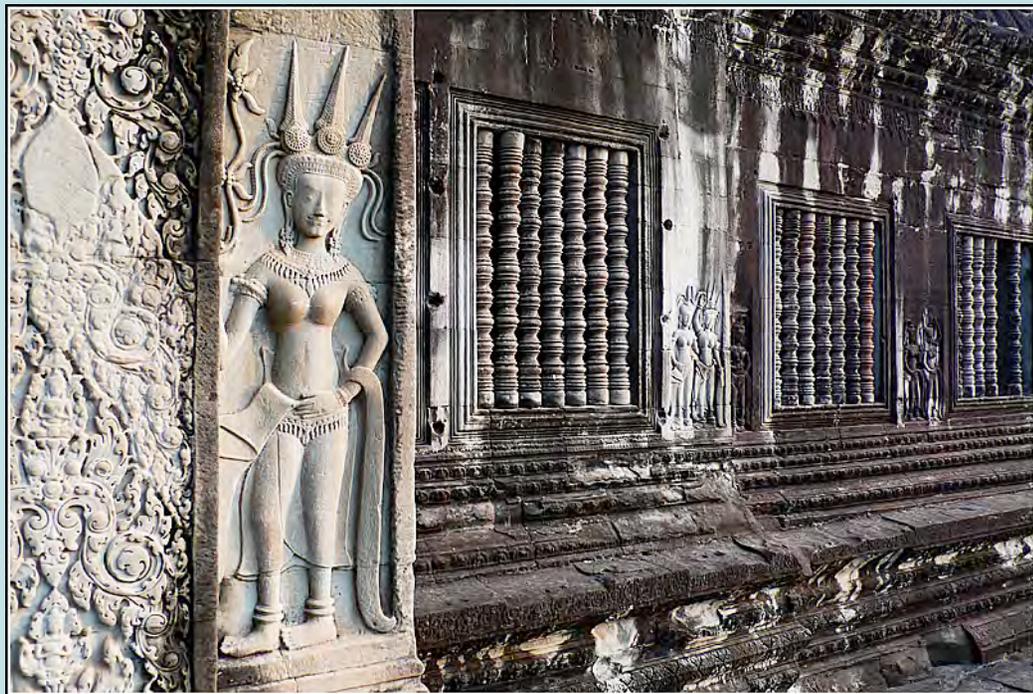






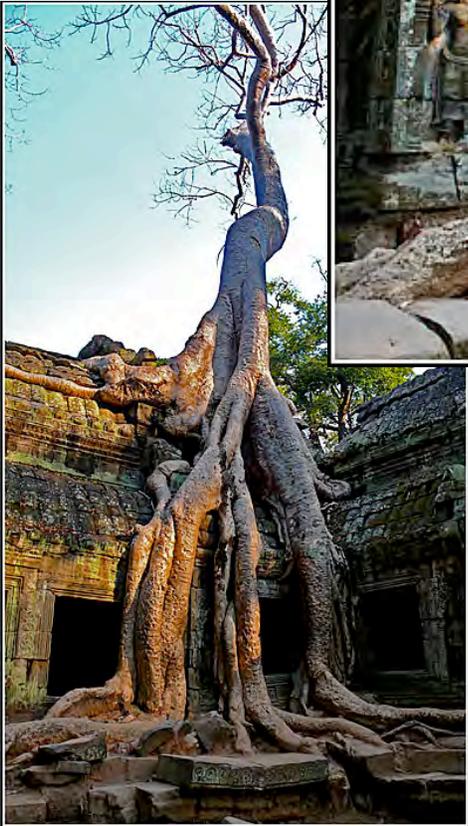












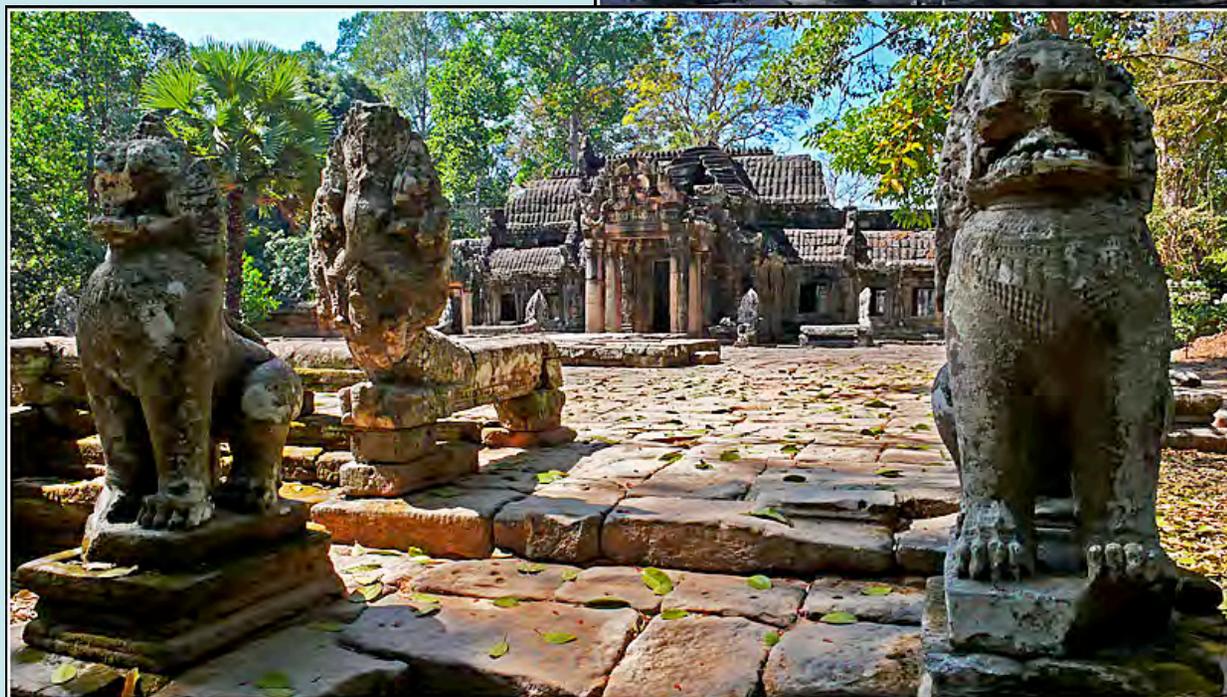
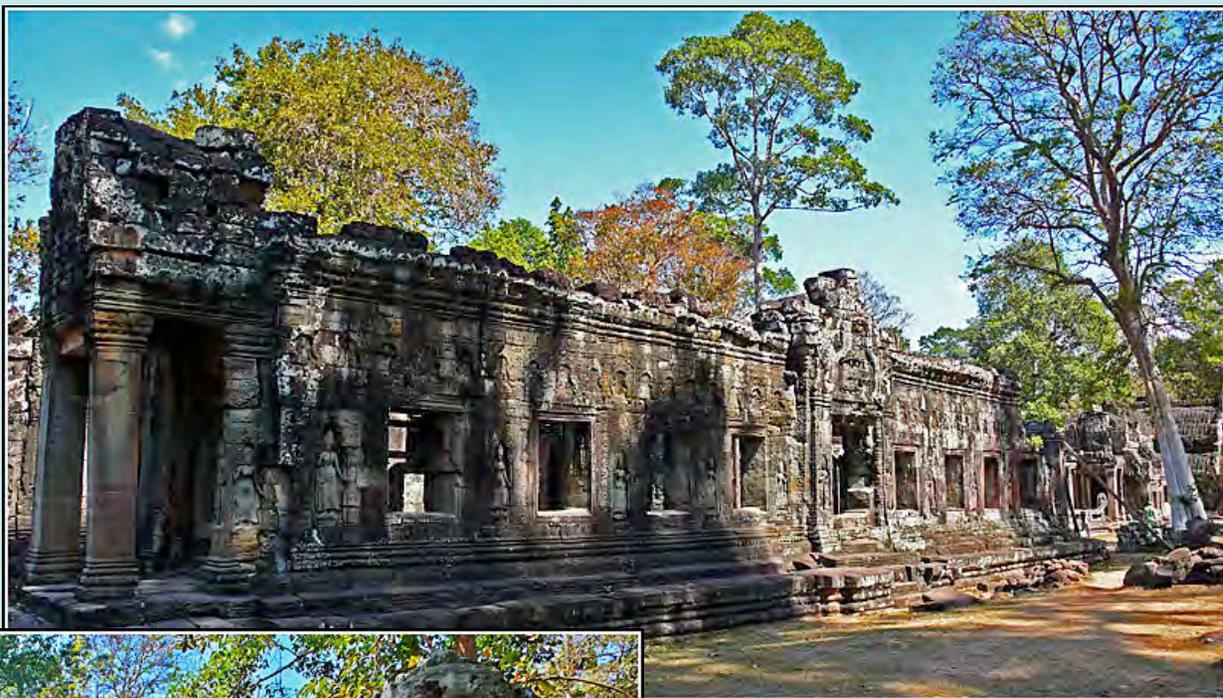










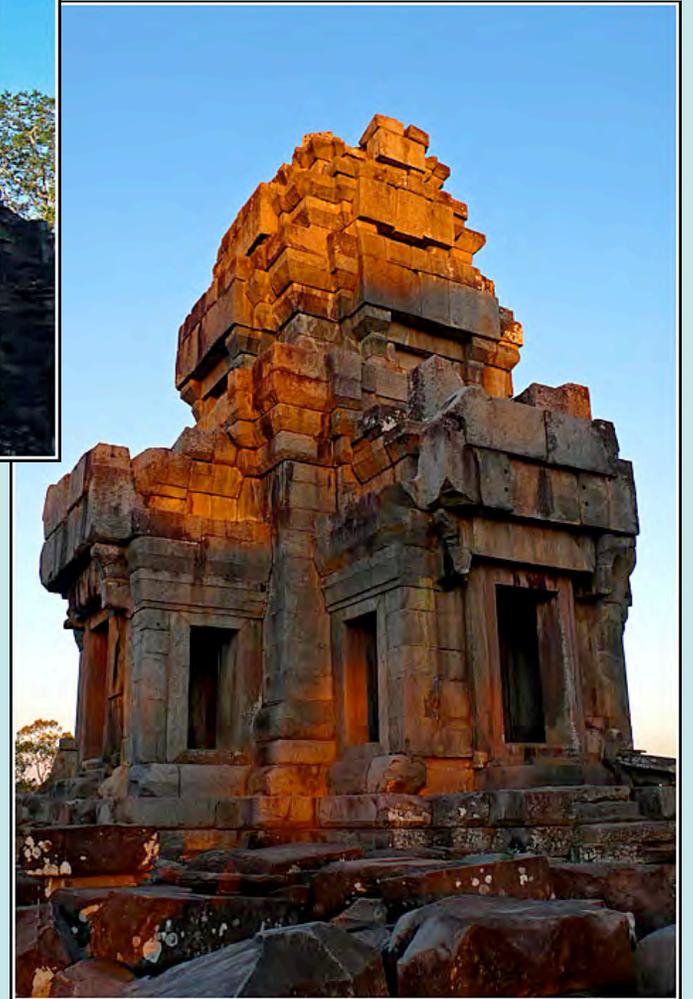




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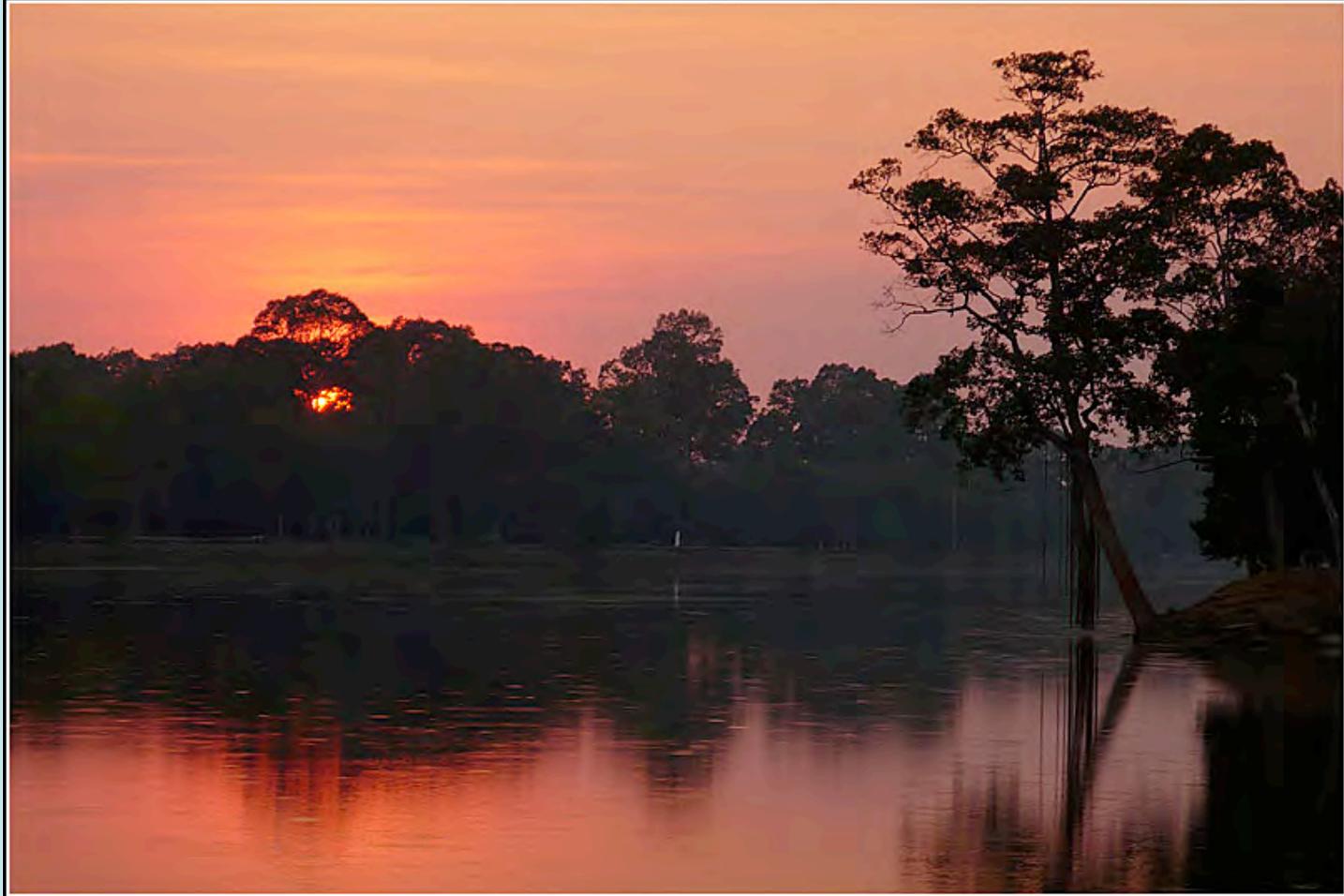












Sunsets by the Angkor Wat moat...

## *A village funeral event*



“**Long** and **Lob** in early morning sunlight”...

**Long** - a Cambodian boy who invited me to attend his grandfather’s funeral in this small village outside Siem Reap...;

it is a traditional ceremony held after 100-days of the death.



Villagers are making decoration items with banana trees and wild flowers for using in the funeral ceremony event...



Good quantities of foods are prepared for the ceremony, to feed the invited monks who come to conduct the ceremony, and for all the coming guests and villagers...



This elder of the village records and accepts donations from coming guests... while the monks on the stage are giving ritual in this event...



**Long** is also busy helping in arranging guests to seat down for meal after the monks' ritual...



It takes a lot of works from the family members and village friends to hold a funeral event like such, as well as money too...



While kids always have fun,  
no matter what the event is...

## *A roadside village wedding*



A bridegroom and his party in a Cambodian village wedding event...



The bridegroom side of the village is fully ready...



The celebration goes on...



And the bridegroom's party marching along the road towards the bride's village...

In the bride's village, things are also ready already...





Now all join together to begin this wedding event...



The new couple is attending to the parents...



Meals are prepared for the party... all are welcome...





The happy event continues for the day...

*In Siem Reap and Lake Tonle Sap...etc.*



An art displaying outside this gallery in Siem Reap... the piece is totally made with gun barrels and parts; a unique symbol of changing from the “killing-field” to the peace of...

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A great lake in Cambodia -  
“...Tonle Sap is the largest  
freshwater lake in South East  
Asia and is an ecological hotspot  
that was designated as a  
UNESCO biosphere in 1997...”

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A Cambodian boy jumps from boat to boat selling drinks...



This girl with her snake and her family live on the lake...



The waterfalls of Kulen Mountain...

# *Epilog*

The snapshots in this Photo-diary are in no way able to represent the richness of culture and nature scenes I've seen, the fun and joy I've experienced during my travel to Angkor Wat, Cambodia...

for Yau-Sun Tong's special "Western China Cultural/Photographic Series"  
expedition tours for September/October and November 2008  
as well as for February and March 2009

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*Good-bye for now...*