

# The Quest for a Good Life

“INCENSE SEEING  
AND THE POROUS AND DIVIDUAL HOPING PERSON IN  
NORTH CHINA” (QU, 2022)



## Have you ever thought about this?

Nowadays, many high school students engage with fortune-telling services, such as tarot, hoping to know their future earlier. However, after their tarot readings, they tend to remain doubtful about the results. Have you ever thought about the reason behind this? Follow me! Let's figure out through the similar experiences of the local people in North China's Xia County.



XIA  
COUNTY

## Let's travel through the experiences of the local people in Xia County.

### 1. Peiya, hotel worker in Xia County

After her ex-boyfriend appeared to her in a dream, she rushed to find a nearby seer instead of Master Liu. After the consultation, as the deity foretold, the ghost never returned to Peiya's dreams. Peiya then slept well and resumed her hope for a good life.



### 2. Nana, raised in Xia County and working as a migrant in Zhejiang Province

At the beginning, Nana with her belief in the fortune-telling service, traveled far to Xia County to find Master Liu to explain the evil stuff in her rented room. In spite of this, although Master Liu said her boyfriend is definitely not her ideal mate for marriage, Nana questioned the result and decided to keep this relationship.

### 3. Brother Ma, author's local friend in Xia County

Although he said that he did not fully believe in spiritual forces, he kneeled down for the God of Wealth and War, praying for his parents' health in the future and his son's success in joining the army.



## What can we learn from this?

For most people in Xia County, practices of hope include secular aspirations for a bright future and uncertain beliefs in the supernatural. Similarly, “sincerity” or “truthfulness” may not be a concern for most of the high school students doing tarot. Instead, their hope and expectation to live a good life may have a larger effect on how they view the results.