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The Han Tombs of Mawangdui in changsha Good morning! Ladies and gentlemen: Today we will go and visit The Han Tombs of Mawangdui. From 1972 to early 1974, Chinese archaeological workers excavated three tombs of the Western Han Dynasty at Mawangdui and achieved tremendous results which attracted attention at home and abroad. The more than 3,000 cultural relics and a well-preserved female corpse unearthed from the tombs are of great value in studying the politics, economy, military, affairs, culture, science and technology of the early Western Han period. Mawangdui is located in the eastern outskirts of Changsha, about four kilometers from the center of the city. For centuries it was said that King Ma Yin of Chu of the Five Dynasties period was buried here and hence the name “ Mawangdui ” . Formerly there were two earthen mounds closely linked together in the shape of a horse saddle, thus it also called “ Mawangdui ” . In some historical documents it was called “ Erfeimu ” , and “ Shuangnvfen ” . The opinions about who was buried here varied widely and the truth did not come out until the excavations began in 1972. It turned out that there were three tombs at Mawangdui. The eastern mound was known as Tomb No.1, and the western mound as Tomb No.2. The third Tomb was located to the south of Tomb No.1 and covered up by the sealing soil of the latter so there was no visible trace of its existence. The three seals

unearthed from Tomb No.2 “ Chancellor to the prince of Changsha ” , “ State the Marquis of the Dai ” ,and “ Licang ” indicate that Mawangdui was the burial ground of Licang, chancellor to the prince of Changsha State and Marquis of Dai in the early Western Han dynasty, and his family. The historical records give Licang ’ s death as occurring in the second year of the reign of Empress Dowager Liu. He occupant in Tom No.3 is believed to be his son. Unearthed form the tomb was a wooden tablet inscribed with the burial date. The corpse in Tomb No.1 is that of Licang ’ s wife, whose personal name, according to an unearthed seal, was Xingzhui. A study of the stratigraphical relation of the tombs and the burial objects led to conclusion that Tomb No.1 date from about the sixth decade of the second century B.C, a little later than Tomb No.3. The three Han tombs were immense. Tomb No.1 preserved very well. Tomb No.2 the coffins were mostly rotted. The construction of Tomb No.3 remained that of Tomb No.1 but it was slightly smaller in size. The funeral objects unearthed are abundant. There are paintings, books, maps, weapons, musical instrument, silk fabrics and so on. Both the innermost coffins of tombs No.1 and No.3 were covered by a T-shaped. Color painting on silk. The two paintings are of similar subjects. The heavenly world, human society and the nether world are depicted. The top section portrays the sun, moon, stars, a big tree of a mythic island, celestial beings, heavenly gate guards, etc. The middle section depicts a scene of the tomb occupant offering sacrifices to gods. The bottom section represents a giant standing on the back of a pair of big mythical fish, holding up the earth. Well

balanced and ingeniously composed, the paintings harmoniously interweave fairy tales with reality. The artistic skill of the paintings makes them masterpieces of ancient art. Judging from the shape, content, and the positions where the paintings were placed in the tombs, we know that they were a kind of funeral banner called “ Mingjing ” . These banners were used in funeral ceremonies to usher the spirit up to heaven, reflecting the superstitious thinking of the feudal rulers. 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。 详细请访问 www.100test.com