Abstract: Essayist Wei An (1960-1999) wrote about nature, village life, his travels, people he knew, things he believed in, and writers he respected, including Thoreau. Wei An was an idealist, pacifist, deep ecologist and vegetarian. He grew up near the countryside, and his work is a eulogy for the agricultural way of life and call for a “more complete” future life. In 1998 he came to a wheat field on each day of the twenty-four solar terms of the traditional Chinese calendar, took a picture, recorded the time and weather, and made notes for an essay he was not able to finish before he died. I will discuss my effort to translate Wei An’s unguarded expression of emotion and direct discussion of truth, beauty and goodness in his 1991-1999 “Things on Earth”; my project to finish his essay on the Solar Terms; and my understanding of his philosophy and its application.

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