

# LOVE IN A HOLY LAND

Jerusalem is not often associated with romance, but for one couple, the ancient city proved a magical place to declare their commitment to each other.

**Zhou Wenting** reports.

Unlike Paris or the Aegean Sea, people seldom associate Jerusalem with love. It is a city better known for conflicts or attacks than romance.

However, it was in this place, which Jin Fei associated with anything but romance, that her boyfriend proposed to her.

Jin and her boyfriend Peng Bing are both Christians and Peng has spent many years working for a company that helps Chinese business people invest in Israel, so the couple has a special affection for the country.

Encouraged by Peng, who had been to Israel twice and talked frequently about its charms, Jin joined a group tour and landed at midnight in Tel Aviv on Nov 3.

"When I was looking around for tour buddies in that exotic airport surrounded by foreigners, I heard a familiar voice saying, 'Darling, welcome to Israel.' I turned around and saw him walking toward me with a rose in hand. I was surprised and overjoyed," says Jin, who never expected Peng would come to the airport, although she knew he was in Israel for work.

Because she was in a group tour, they didn't meet again until the tour arrived in Jerusalem several days later and Peng joined them.

One evening, the tour group gathered in the hotel lobby after a day of sightseeing. Before Jin knew what was happening, Peng had pulled her to the middle of the crowd, dropped to one knee and said, "Marry me."

"My brain went blank and on-lookers' voices of 'Yes, yes, yes...' kept echoing in my mind. Was this the so-called proposal? Was he serious? Was I in a dream? Was he the man who would be by my side for a lifetime?" Jin says.

He took out a diamond ring and she realized it was really happening.

"My memory suddenly flashed back to a dream that I had weeks before the trip. The marvelous thing was that he proposed to me in Jerusalem in the dream, which seemed so fantastic that I never thought I'd ever experience something like it," she says.

Jin nodded and cheers filled the lobby. Peng then revealed a wedding gown, which he had secretly brought from Shanghai. "I had imagined various ways how he would propose to me but never believed I'd ever wear a bridal veil in an alien land," she says.

Jin went to the hotel room and put on the wedding dress. "Looking at the beautiful bride in the mirror, I told myself that I was going to get married, which I'd been antici-

"My memory suddenly flashed back to a dream that I had weeks before the trip. The marvelous thing was that he proposed to me in Jerusalem in the dream, which seemed so fantastic that I never thought I'd ever experience something like it."

**JIN FEI**  
32, human resources manager



**PICTURE PERFECT:** Jin Fei and her boyfriend Peng Bing posed for pictures in Jerusalem after he proposed with a ring and a dress.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO SHANGHAI STAR

pating for so long, and it was happening in Israel," she says.

The couple posed for pictures in the streets after sunset, celebrating the sweetest moment in their life.

"I made this proposal plan because Jerusalem is alluring as it connects my interests and career. More importantly, I wanted to make this solemn commitment in the most holy city on the planet," Peng says.

The following day, the sweethearts had their pre-wedding portraits taken at city landmarks, such as the Tower of David, the Wailing Wall, and the Bridge of Strings.

"Wherever we were, passers-by applauded and cheered and some asked to take pictures with us. We were greeted by smiling faces of Israelis and tourists of different complexion. This city, which seems to have nothing to do with romance, surpassed all the romantic icons in my heart," Jin says.

That amazing proposal happened six months after Peng, a native of Hunan province, and Jin from Gansu province, first met in church. They didn't talk much until one day in July she told him that she dreamed



**SURPRISE:** Jin Fei was holidaying in Israel when her boyfriend proposed.



about him. They soon discovered that they held the same beliefs and core values and they would make perfect life partners.

"I never felt that I would have this determination of having a family so quickly until I met her," says Peng.

They will tie the knot next month.

Contact the writer at  
zhouwenting@chinadaily.com.cn

## ABOUT THE SWEETHEARTS

**Him:** Peng Bing, 29, business director at a company that helps Chinese business-people invest in Israel

**Her:** Jin Fei, 32, human resources manager

**TELL US YOUR LOVE STORY:** This is the page where we'd like to hear your love story. If you have an unusual romance or a spectacular wedding, we want to hear from you. Please send your story (500 words) and at least six to eight photos with captions to shanghaistar@chinadaily.com.cn.