My friend Xi, a Chinese graduate student at the Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg, took me for a walk in the hills south of town. She was imagining walking on the road, but I suggested that we walk in the forest, and head for the mountains. She wasn't sure she could find her way back from the woods, but I told her not to worry about it: I would make sure we made it back.



I eventually took us out of the forest, and she found our way to the grave of Edmund Husserl, one of my favorite German philosophers. Favorite, but I don't think I understand his writings. Along the way, Xi asked: "Is this what you do? Go into the forest and head for the mountains?" Yes, pretty much. Any better ideas?

