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## The journey to the west

Journey to the WestThe earliest known printed version of Journey to the West was published in 1592, featuring captioned cross-page illustrations. The modern 100-chapter form of the novel emerged in the 16th century, with earlier versions circulating through oral storytelling for centuries. The Yongle Encyclopedia and a Korean book from 1423 contain fragments of an early version of the story written in colloquial Chinese. The authorship of Journey to the West is traditionally attributed to Wu Cheng'en, but recent scholarship raises doubts about this attribution.Journey to the West, a novel of fantasy, draws inspiration from the true-life journey of Chinese monk Xuanzang. Born in 602, Xuanzang traveled extensively throughout India in the 7th century to gather Buddhist scriptures and bring them back to China. He defied imperial orders, but received a warm welcome upon his return. Xuanzang founded several institutions dedicated to translating and studying Buddhist texts, establishing him as the founder of the Dharma character school.The novel follows the story of Sun Wukong, a powerful monkey born from a stone nourished by the Five Elements. He learns Taoist arts and becomes a formidable warrior, but ultimately falls to his downfall due to hubris. Xuanzang's disciple, Wukong, is an allegorical representation of human thought and impulse.The legend of Tang Sanzang begins with his early life, where he's disillusioned by China's corruption and hedonism. The Buddha orders Guanyin to find someone worthy to bring back Buddhist scriptures for the people's enlightenment. Part of this section reveals Tang Sanzang's past as a monk named "Golden Cicada" who was saved from death by an official in the Underworld, and how he was sent on his pilgrimage by Emperor Taizong. In this story, Tang Sanzang represents humanity's inner struggles. The main part of the tale unfolds in chapters 13-99, where Tang Sanzang embarks on a perilous journey to India for Buddhist scriptures but faces various obstacles along the Silk Road. The landscape described is largely fictional, with demons and animal spirits inhabiting the wilderness, seeking to devour his immortal flesh. His disciples, including Sun Wukong, Zhu Bajie, and Sha Wujing, join him on this quest, each with their own pasts and allegorical meanings representing aspects of human nature: greed, base instincts, and redemption.Sun Wukong and Zhu are central characters in Journey to the West. Sha Wujing is an allegory for obedience without thought, while White Dragon Horse represents human will. The story begins with Sha Wujing's introduction, marking a geographical boundary, followed by 24 episodes of varying length featuring magical monsters or evil magicians. Tang Sanzang and his disciples must fend off attacks from various sources, often engineered by fate or the Buddha. In the end, they reach Vulture Peak, where Tang Sanzang receives scriptures from the living Buddha.Sun Wukong, a powerful figure in search of eternal life, discovers the "Grand Master of Bodhi" who teaches him the art of transformation. After drawing the ire of several gods and being relegated to a minor position as Keeper of Horses, Sun Wukong becomes enraged upon realizing he was not considered a full-fledged god. He declares himself the "Great Sage Equal to Heaven" and refuses to be subdued by celestial soldiers.Appointed to guard the heavenly peach garden, Sun Wukong indulges in peaches that grant immortality but soon finds himself at odds with fairies who mock his exclusion from a heavenly banquet. He retaliates by stealing wine and pills of immortality, leading to a confrontation with the Four Heavenly Kings and other celestial forces.Eventually, the Jade Emperor seeks the Buddha's intervention, resulting in Sun Wukong being sealed under Five Elements Mountain for 500 years. He is later released when he becomes a disciple of Tang Sanzang during his pilgrimage.As a powerful warrior, Sun Wukong wields his staff, the "Ruyi Jingu Bang," which can shrink or expand to immense sizes. His abilities are enhanced by gifts from the Dragon King, including a suit of golden armor and immortality-granting peaches. He also possesses fiery golden eyes, a steel-hard body, and the power to transform into various forms.According to mythological tales, Sun Wukong, a powerful monkey deity, possesses the ability to transform into any existing entity, be it animate or inanimate. However, his combat prowess is somewhat diminished when underwater, forcing him and his companions to rely on Zhu Bajie's and Sandy's marine combat skills during their perilous journey. The agile and quick-witted monkey utilizes these abilities to defeat nearly all demons they encounter, with the exception of the most powerful ones.Tang Sanzang, a Buddhist monk on a quest for scriptures, wields control over Sun Wukong through a magical band placed around his head by Guanyin, which can only be removed by Tang Sanzang himself at the journey's end. This band serves as a check on Sun's behavior, allowing Tang Sanzang to discipline him using the "Headache Sutra" whenever necessary.Sun Wukong's playful and impulsive nature contrasts with his cunning intelligence, making him a trickster hero in the story. His lighthearted antics provide comic relief throughout their treacherous journey into the unknown. Upon completion of their quest, Sun Wukong is granted the title of Victorious Fighting Buddha and attains Buddhahood.Tang Sanzang, a devoted Buddhist monk who renounced his family at a young age, embarks on a perilous journey to retrieve original Buddhist scriptures from Tianzhu Kingdom (India). Despite being defenseless, Guanyin aids him by finding powerful disciples to aid and protect him. In return for their assistance, the disciples will receive enlightenment and forgiveness for their past transgressions upon completion of the journey.Zhu Bajie, also known as Pigsy or Zhu Wuneng, is a half-man, half-pig humanoid who was once an immortal Marshal of the Heavenly Canopy. Due to his own actions, he is banished to the mortal world and forced to live among humans. His insatiable hunger for food makes him almost incapable of surviving without devouring ravenously.The Yunzhan Dong serves as Zhu Bajie's residence, where Guanyin commissions him to accompany Tang Sanzang on their journey to India. However, Zhu Bajie's lust for women often gets the better of him, leading to comedic and chaotic situations throughout their travels.Sha Wujing, also known as Friar Sand or the Sand Monk, was once a celestial Curtain Lifting General who stood guard at the imperial chariot in the Hall of Miraculous Mist. However, he was exiled to the mortal world after accidentally breaking a crystal goblet during a Peach Banquet. He was subsequently transformed into a hideous immortal and took up residence by the Flowing Sands River, where he terrorized local villagers and travelers. Sha Wujing joined Tang Sanzang's pilgrimage to the West, along with Sun Wukong and Zhu Bajie, after being subdued by his new companions. His abilities include using a magic wooden staff wrapped in pearly threads and possessing 18 transformation methods, making him highly effective in water combat. Despite initially appearing as a minor character, Sha Wujing proved himself to be the voice of reason and peacemaker within the group, often mediating disputes between his fellow disciples. He also served as Tang Sanzang's trusted advisor on difficult decisions. Ultimately, Sha Wujing became an arhat, achieving a higher level of spiritual exaltation than Zhu Bajie but lower than Sun Wukong and Tang Sanzang, who were granted Buddhahood.The Xiyoubu, or Monkey: A Folk-Tale of China, is a novel created by Dong Yue that revolves around Sun Wukong, the embodiment of desire. He travels through time, serving as the King of Hell and judging the souls of traitors. During his adventures, he faces various challenges, including Pramit, one of his five sons born to Princess Iron Fan.The story takes place between chapters 61 and 62 of Journey to the West. Dong Yue wrote this book as a counterpoint to Sun's immense strength, allowing him to explore the complexities of desire through an opponent he cannot defeat.The Monkey King has been translated into English by Arthur Waley in his 1942 abridged version, which was later published under various titles, such as Adventures of the Monkey God.Waley's translation is considered one of the most well-known versions available in English, and it has been praised for its faithfulness to the original spirit of the work. However, some critics argue that it oversimplifies the novel's allegorical framework, which reflects Waley's interpretation of Journey to the West as a "folktale" with comedic elements.Recent translations, such as Julia Lovell's 2021 edition, have sought to provide a more nuanced understanding of the novel. The Journey to the West, translated by Anthony C. Yu in four volumes from 1977-1983, offers a comprehensive translation that includes poems and songs essential for grasping the author's meanings.Journey to the West has been adapted into various media forms since its release in 1982-84, with notable versions including William John Francis Jenner's complete translation in four volumes and a Japanese television series produced by Nippon TV and International Television Films. The show was later translated into English by the BBC and followed by several other adaptations, such as the Chinese Central Television (CCTV) adaptation in the 1980s, which covered previously skipped portions of the original work.In addition to these television series, a movie titled Doraemon: The Record of Nobita's Parallel Visit to the West was released in 1988, based on the same story. A jazz opera by Fred Ho premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1997, while a video game adaptation titled Enslaved: Odyssey to the West was released in October 2010 for PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, and Microsoft Windows.More recently, Netflix announced production of a new live-action television series called The New Legends of Monkey, which premiered globally in 2018. However, the show attracted criticism for "whitewashing" due to the lack of Chinese descent among its core cast members.The theme "Lego Monkie Kid" was released, inspired by Journey to the West, a classic Chinese novel. Four days later, an animated TV series pilot was launched, which later became a serial production starting in September 2020. The book has had significant cultural impact, being considered one of the most popular works in East Asia. It is a foundational text in Eastern fiction and shares similarities with European literary classics like The Canterbury Tales and Don Quixote.The novel features various characters from Journey to the West, including Sun Wukong's 72 transformations. These numbers were not originally assigned limits to his power but are used as metaphors for infinity. Pramit, a character mentioned in the novel, is unique among its sons due to its appearance and naming.Journey to the West has been extensively translated, with notable translations by Arthur Waley and Anthony C. Yu. The book explores themes of spiritual growth, morality, and cultural identity. Its impact extends beyond literature, with references to the work appearing in various media forms, including films, TV shows, and video games.The novel is considered a cornerstone text in Asian literary culture, with scholars like Julia Lovell highlighting its significance. "Monkey" has also been adapted into various art forms, including theater productions and exhibitions at the National Palace Museum.Overall, Journey to the West remains an influential work in Chinese literature and cultural heritage, continuing to inspire new adaptations and interpretations across different media platforms."Journey to the West", a classic Chinese novel, has been extensively studied and translated. The book has been published in multiple languages and has undergone several revisions. Recent editions include ones with original Chinese on one page and English translations on the other. Academic studies and reviews have explored the literary, cultural, and historical significance of the work.References to notable scholars and publications include:" Andrew Plaks' 1987 study "The Four Masterworks of the Ming Novel"\* Barbara Miller's edited volume "Masterworks of Asian Literature in Comparative Perspective" (1994)\* Julia Lovell's translation of "Monkey King" published in "Los Angeles Review of Books"\* Chen Minjie's articles on the cultural significance of "Journey to the West"\* William John Francis Jenner's translations and introductions to the work\* Jeffrey Wasserstrom's conversation with Julia Lovell on the monkey king's travelsThe list also includes references to various academic journals, including Education About Asia, The Journal of Religion, and History of Religions.According to the Gutenberg Project and Xahlee, "" or Journey to the West is a renowned Chinese novel that tells the story of Sun Wukong. The text is available in both Traditional and Simplified Chinese characters. Moreover, there exists an archived link featuring 200 images of Journey to the West, created by Chen Huiguan, which provides a summary for each chapter. Additionally, users can access a Chinese-English dictionary embedded within the text for better comprehension.Please note that I've applied the "INCREASE BURSTINESS" (IB) rewriting method to the original text.

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