

MONKEY MAGIC: THE JOURNEY BEGINS

written by

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based on the novel "The Journey to the West" by Wu Cheng'en

SUPER: MONKEY MAGIC

DARKNESS...

WU (V.O.)
In the beginning there was
darkness. Primal Chaos ruled...

EXT. PRIMAL CHAOS - DAY

A volcano erupts.

Lava flows into the ocean.

WU (V.O.)
Heaven and Earth were obscure, and
all things indistinct.

Winds lash a giant wave.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It was not until the Great Pangu
broke the mess apart that the
clearing began.

EXT. SPACE - DAY

The big bang gives birth to the universe...

WU (V.O.)
It was at this point, the firmament
first acquired its foundation.

The Earth forms from stardust.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
With another five thousand years
the light rose up to form the sun,
the moon, the stars, and the
Heavenly bodies.

A milky way of stars shift into focus from a gassy nebula.

EXT. THE SUN - DAY

Solar flares leap from the surface of the sun.

WU (V.O.)
Then the sky began to harden and
Earth became solidified.

EXT. THE EARTH - DAY

The Earth looks much greener now with four large continents, not the continents we know today.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

A river runs through a wild forest.

Smoke drifts across, revealing a FIRE.

WU (V.O.)

Then came the five elements of
Water, Fire, Mountain, Stone and
Earth.

Further up river is a large mountain. Day fades to night.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In these five thousand years, the
aura of Heaven descended and the
aura of Earth rose up. All things
began to grow.

IMAGE: Flowers blossoming in slow motion.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Heaven and Earth were bright and
fair as the Yin mixed with the
Yang. In another five thousand
years, humans, beasts and fowls
came into being, and thus the three
forces of Heaven, Earth, and Man
were established.

CAVEMEN hunt wild boars. Chasing them.

EXT. THE FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY

A picturesque mountain top.

WU (V.O.)

It was on the mountain of Flower
and Fruit, that the seeds of Heaven
and Earth, the essences of the Sun
and the Moon all worked upon a
certain rock as old as creation.

Lightning strikes the rock.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And it became magically fertile.

The rock tumbles down the mountain.

It hatches.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
From it, then came a stone Monkey.

The Stone Monkey jumps out from the rock-egg, flailing its arms.

EXT. THE JADE PALACE OF HEAVEN - DAY

THE BENEVOLENT SAGE is disturbed --

the glint cast by the stone monkey's eyes, shines brightly.

WU (V.O.)
Heaven was momentarily disturbed
when the glint in the monkey's eyes
cast a golden beam so bright it
nearly blinded the Great Benevolent
Sage.

INT. THE WATER-CURTAIN CAVE - DAY

The Stone Monkey is now the Monkey King, and is gathered at a banquet with his MONKEY FOLLOWERS.

Over the course of the meal, he becomes melancholy.

WU (V.O.)
We could say many things about this
stone monkey, who would become the
Handsome Monkey King and enjoy many
banquets, but the story really
begins with a monkey troubled at
his own impermanence...

MONKEY KING
Do I really have to die? And what
is the point of it all! If we die,
shall we not have lived in vain!

AN OLD MONKEY rises up from the crowd.

OLD MONKEY
The Great King is farsighted! It
may well indicate the sprouting of
his religious inclination. There
are, among all the living
creatures, only three species not
subject to Yama, the King of the
Underworld.

MONKEY KING
Tell me! I want to know!

OLD MONKEY

They are the Buddhas, the
immortals, and the holy sages.
These three alone can avoid the
turning of the Big Wheel, and the
process of birth and destruction.

MONKEY KING

Where do they live? I want to meet
them and learn their secrets.

OLD MONKEY

They dwell within ancient caves on
immortal mountains.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The Monkey King sets sail on a makeshift raft. The monkeys
gather around to send him off.

WU (V.O.)

And so the Handsome Monkey King
prepared to travel to the ends of
the Earth to find these three kinds
of people in order to learn the
secrets of immortality.

EXT. SEA - NIGHT

The ocean heaves, crashing down on the Monkey King.

MONKEY KING

Is that the best you can do!

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The Monkey King finds human clothing on the beach.

WU (V.O.)

Washing ashore many miles from
home, the monkey took up the guise
of a human...

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

The Monkey King walks through a bustling crowd.

WU (V.O.)

... imitating human speech and
human manners in the marketplaces.
He was bent on finding the way of
the Buddhas, immortals and holy
sages.

(MORE)

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He saw however that the people of
this world were all seekers of fame
and fortune.

MONKEY KING
When will end this quest for
fortune and fame?

Monkey walks past a neighing mule.

MONKEY KING (CONT'D)
Riding on mules they long for noble
steeds. Now prime ministers, they
hope to be kings.

A POLITICIAN has gathered a crowd and is talking. Monkey
continues through the marketplace.

MONKEY KING (CONT'D)
For food and jewels they suffer
stress and strain. Seeking wealth
and fame and power to give to sons
of sons. Do they not fear Yama?!

EXT. ROADWAY - DAY

The Monkey King walks along the road.

WU (V.O.)
For many years he roamed the land,
searching for the way of
immortality, but he had no chance
of meeting it.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The Monkey King looks out across the ocean. He drags a raft
into the sea.

WU (V.O.)
And then he came upon the Great
Western Ocean and thought certain
immortals would live beyond it, and
so he set out once again across the
seas.

EXT. SEA - DAY

The Monkey King valiantly paddles his raft.

EXT. THE WESTERN CONTINENT - DAY

The Monkey King lands ashore.

WU (V.O.)
 After landing on the Western
 Continent, he searched for a long
 time, until finally he came across
 a magnificent mountain of Mind and
 Heart. And at the top of the
 mountain he found the cave of
 Slanting moon and Three Stars. And
 in that cave was the great
 immortal, Subodhi.

A GONG RINGS.

EXT. CAVE OF THE SLANTING MOON AND THREE STARS - DAY

Monkey knocks on the door to the cave. A DISCIPLE opens the door.

THE DISCIPLE
 The master has been expecting you.

IMAGE: MASTER SUBHODI, a wise immortal, with long white wispy hair, beard, eyebrows, and a yak's tail. Brushes imaginary flies away.

WU (V.O.)
 Over several years the Handsome
 Monkey King learned many magical
 secrets from his Master, including
 the Art of Earthly Multitude and
 the seventy two transformations. He
 also learnt how to cloud fly. He
 was truly, Monkey Magic. He still
 lacked however, right judgement.

IMAGE: THE DISCIPLES all laugh and cry at Monkey Magic's display of magic. He transforms into a PINE TREE!

IMAGE: Master Subhodi is angered by the carry on.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And he was banished for using his
 Magical talents so frivolously.

The door to the cave slams shut on Monkey Magic, who is now dressed in a red robe, yellow sash and black boots.

MONKEY MAGIC
 Why have magic powers if you can't
 show off a little?

Monkey summons his magic cloud, and flies off.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Monkey Magic cloud flies over the four continents.

WU (V.O.)

He had been gone some twenty years
and on finding his way back he
heard the call of cranes and the
cry of monkeys. His spirit was
moved with sadness.

EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY

Monkey Magic lands on the mountain. MONKEYS all crowd around him, crying.

YOUNG MONKEY

The Monstrous Demon King of Havoc
has bullied us all these years!

ANOTHER MONKEY

He tried to rob us of our Water-
Curtain cave!

MONKEY MAGIC

What sort of monster behaves with
such lawlessness! Let's see how he
likes the taste of Old Monkey's
fist!

Monkey Magic summons his magic cloud and flies off.

EXT. WATER-BELLY CAVE - DAY

Monkey Magic lands next to some DEMON IMPS.

MONKEY MAGIC

Monstrous Demon King of Havoc! I'm
here to settle the matter!

He shoos the imps away.

INT. WATER-BELLY CAVE - DAY

THE DEMON IMPS hurriedly run into the cave.

DEMON IMP #1

There is a monkey who calls himself
Monkey Magic, King of the Flower-
Fruit Mountain. He says you have
repeatedly bullied his young ones
and has come to settle matters with
you.

KING OF HAVOC
What kind of weapon does he have?

DEMON IMP #2
He is bare-fisted.

KING OF HAVOC
Get me my armour and my weapon.
I'll show this little monkey...

IMAGE: A SHARP SCIMITAR unsheathed. A black-gold helmet is removed from a shelf. Armour is laced up.

EXT. WATER-BELLY CAVE - DAY

Monkey Magic holds his fists out in a fighting pose. The ground shakes as the King Of Havoc arises from his cave.

KING OF HAVOC (O.S.)
Who is the Lord of the Water-
Curtain Cave?

Day turns to night.

EXT. WATER-BELLY CAVE - NIGHT

The Monstrous Demon King of Havoc stands seven times taller than Monkey Magic.

KING OF HAVOC
Ha ha ha! How dare you be so
insolent.

MONKEY MAGIC
You think I'm small! It's hardly
difficult for me to become taller!
Don't you know I can drag the moon
down from heaven with these fists!

Monkey Magic leaps into the air and strikes a punch at the monster's face.

The monster parries the blow with his hand.

KING OF HAVOC
If I were to kill you with this
scimitar, I'd be a laughing stock.
Let's see how well you can box!

The Demon King drops his weapon and holds up his fists. Monkey leaps forward, striking several quick blows to the monster's chest, then to his face.

The Demon King recoils, and picks up his weapon. He swings it down on Monkey Magic, who dodges the blow.

Monkey Magic pulls out a few of his own hairs and blows magic on them, transforming them into CLONES OF HIMSELF.

The little monkey clones overwhelm the Demon King, biting him and wrestling all his limbs.

Monkey Magic picks up the scimitar and strikes a blow to the Demon King's skull.

The sunlight of day returns.

Monkey Magic summons his magic cloud.

INT. WATER-CURTAIN CAVE - DAY

Monkey Magic enjoys another banquet.

OLD MONKEY

Three cheers for Monkey Magic,
protector of the Flower-Fruit
Mountain. Hip-hip!

THE MONKEYS

Hurray!

OLD MONKEY

Hip-hip!

THE MONKEYS

Hurray!

OLD MONKEY

Hip-hip

THE MONKEYS

Hurray!

MONKEY MAGIC

No-one should bother us again.

He sips on some wine.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Although it would be better if I
had some great weapon.

WISE MONKEY

I know where you could get a
weapon, if only you could enter the
ocean.

MONKEY MAGIC

I am the master of seventy-two transformations. I can go up to heaven, I can even walk past the Sun and the Moon without casting a shadow. There's nowhere I can't go.

WISE MONKEY

It's a good thing that the Great King is magical for beneath us is the kingdom of Old King Dragon who rules the Eastern Ocean. He has weapons beyond measure.

Monkey Magic grins.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Monkey Magic makes the magic sign and parts the water. He jumps into the ocean,

INT. EASTERN OCEAN - DAY

And swims past a school of fish, towards;

EXT. THE GREAT DRAGON PALACE - DAY

A jade green underwater palace.

INT. THE GREAT DRAGON PALACE - KING'S CHAMBER- DAY

A GUARD urgently runs up to the OLD DRAGON KING, an old man with a long black beard, sitting on his throne.

GUARD

Your majesty. There is a Monkey... he has entered the palace and is demanding a divine weapon!

OLD DRAGON KING

A Monkey?

A SCUFFLE can be heard down the hall. Monkey Magic wrestles FOUR GUARDS and enters the chamber.

OLD DRAGON KING (CONT'D)

What chaos is this?

MONKEY MAGIC

Dragon King, I hear you have a weapon for Old Monkey!

OLD DRAGON KING
We have a few weapons, but none
suitable for a monkey.

MONKEY MAGIC
Nonsense! You have treasures beyond
measure, why not lend one to Old
Monkey?

The DRAGON MOTHER and DRAGON PRINCESS join them in the
chamber.

DRAGON PRINCESS
Great King, this is clearly no
ordinary sage. That piece of rare
magic iron has been glowing these
past few days, perhaps as a sign...

OLD DRAGON KING
That, is the measure by which Great
Yu conquered the Flood. No-one can
lift it!

MONKEY MAGIC
No-one? We'll see about that!

INT. PALACE TREASURY - DAY

The Dragon King, Dragon Mother, and Dragon Princess lead
Monkey Magic to the centre of the palace treasury.

Before them is a large, glowing, rod, some twenty metres
high, as thick as a tree.

MONKEY MAGIC
So this is the magic iron then?

Monkey leans over and grabs it with both arms, lifting it
with all his might.

The Dragon King watches on in astonishment and terror.

DRAGON KING
No-one has lifted that since the
Great Yu himself!

MONKEY MAGIC
It would be better if it was a bit
smaller.

And with that, the iron magically shrinks down to half size.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
That's better. A little smaller
would be better still.

The rod shrinks further to a serviceable size.

Monkey Magic mock fights, spinning the rod back and forth.

The palace shakes.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
Now this is a great weapon!

Old Dragon King watches on in terror, pretending to smile.

OLD DRAGON KING
Very good Old Monkey, very good.

Monkey shrinks the rod to the size of a toothpick and places
it in his ear.

WU (V.O.)
And so the Handsome Monkey King
found a weapon that could shake
Heaven and Earth.

EXT. WESTERN HEAVEN - DAY

Old Dragon King enters through the gates of Western Heaven.

WU (V.O.)
And shake Heaven it did. The very
same day, Old Dragon took his
complaint to the Jade Emperor.

INT. HALL OF DIVINE MISTS - HEAVEN - DAY

Old Dragon King runs into the hall of divine mists and
prostrates himself before THE JADE EMPEROR OF HEAVEN.

OLD DRAGON KING
Your Majesty, it's a terrible
thing, a monster has stolen the
great iron that fixed the milky way
and is wreaking havoc on Earth.

JADE EMPEROR
What kind of monster is it?

OLD DRAGON KING
A stone monkey. He has learnt The
Way and mastered the seventy two
Earthly transformations.

JADE EMPEROR
A stone monkey?

OLD DRAGON KING
We humbly beg for your imperial
justice. We beseech you send the
Heavenly hosts to subdue this
monster!

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
Highest and Holiest grace!

OLD SPIRIT VENUS, rises from the court to address the Jade
Emperor.

OLD SPIRIT VENUS (CONT'D)
A stone monkey, born of the sun and
moon, with a body nurtured by
Heaven and Earth. A monkey who has
the power to subdue dragons and
tame tigers. Dare I suggest Your
Majesty, to remember the
compassionate grace of Creation and
to issue a decree of pacification?

JADE EMPEROR
Even a Monkey could become an
immortal, I guess...

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
Let him be summoned to Heaven and
given some official duties. If he
is disobedient to your command, we
shall arrest him forthwith.

The Jade Emperor considers his proposal.

EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY

Old Spirit Venus descends from the sky on his cloud. He lands
next to a group of YOUNG MONKEYS who are playing.

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
Monkeys! I am a heaven-sent
messenger with an invitation for
your king.

INT. WATER-CURTAIN CAVE - DAY

Monkey Magic is feasting at the banquet table.

LITTLE MONKEY

Great King, there's an old man
outside. He says he is a messenger
from Heaven with an invitation.

MONKEY MAGIC

I was just thinking of making a
little trip to Heaven, and now
they've come to invite me!

EXT. WATER-CURTAIN CAVE - DAY

Monkey Magic meets Old Spirit Venus at the exit of the cave.

OLD SPIRIT VENUS

I am the Gold Star of Venus, from
Western Heaven. I come bearing an
imperial decree of pacification
from the Jade Emperor.

MONKEY MAGIC

Pacification?

OLD SPIRIT VENUS

It's more of an invitation you
see... an invitation to Heaven
where you will receive an *immortal*
appointment.

Monkey Magic grins.

MONKEY MAGIC

Well? What took you so long?

He somersaults onto his magic cloud and flies off.

The Old Spirit Venus follows behind on his cloud.

EXT. SOUTH HEAVEN GATE - DAY

Monkey Magic arrives at South Heaven Gate, followed by the
Old Spirit Venus.

The tall jade gate rises up from the clouds and is cast in
shafts of golden light.

They enter.

Monkey Magic walks through mist filled streets, through;

EXT. THE GARDEN OF UNFADING FLOWERS - DAY

A garden full of flowers, with a pool of white lotus and
bushes of pink jasmine.

MONKEY MAGIC
Oh, it's very nice up here!

Old Spirit Venus smiles.

TWO GIANT DRAGONS with red-whiskers and golden scales wrap around the street, sleeping.

THE HEAVENLY BELL RINGER rings the bell.

THE IMMORTALS OF HEAVEN gather to the Hall of Divine Mists.

INT. HALL OF DIVINE MISTS - HEAVEN

The immortals prostrate themselves before the Jade Emperor, who takes up his throne.

Old Spirit Venus comes to the front of the court and prostrates himself.

Monkey Magic joins him and looks around the room, arms folded.

A DIVINE OFFICIAL shakes his head in outrage.

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
Your humble servant has delivered
the bogus immortal.

JADE EMPEROR
Which one is the bogus immortal?

MONKEY MAGIC
Old Monkey Magic, King of the
Flower-Fruit Mountain.

DIVINE OFFICIAL
That wild ape! Does he have no
manners?

JADE EMPEROR
Monkey Magic is a bogus immortal
from the region below. We shall
pardon him for his ignorance of
court etiquette.

DIVINE OFFICIAL
Thank you, Your Majesty.

JADE EMPEROR
What vacant appointment may he
receive?

THE STAR SPIRIT OF WUQU enters with a long list of official appointments.

STAR SPIRIT WUQU

There is no lack of ministers in the Palace of Heaven. But we could do, um, with a supervisor in the imperial stables...

JADE EMPEROR

Let him be made 'Keeper of the Heavenly Stables'.

MONKEY MAGIC

'Keeper of the Heavenly Stables'. What about 'Divine Keeper of the Heavenly Stables?'

The Jade Emperor nods.

JADE EMPEROR

'Divine Keeper of the Heavenly Stables'.

Monkey Magic grins.

EXT. THE HEAVENLY STABLES - DAY

Monkey Magic feeds the THOUSAND HEAVENLY HORSES, one by one.

WU (V.O)

The Monkey King diligently attended to his duties for several months.

Monkey Magic oversees STEWARDS, who groom and wash the horses.

WU (V.O) (CONT'D)

Then one day, various heavenly ministers came to congratulate him on a job well done.

EXT. HEAVENLY BANQUET - DAY

VARIOUS HEAVENLY MINISTERS sit at a banquet with Monkey Magic.

DIVINE OFFICIAL

A toast to the Divine Keeper of the Heavenly stables! If you keep up this good work, in five hundred years, you will earn yourself a Gold Star.

MONKEY MAGIC
A gold star?

DIVINE OFFICIAL
It would be in recognition of a
"fairly good effort".

Monkey sips his wine.

MONKEY MAGIC
What sort of rank am I?

THE HEAVENLY MINISTERS nervously exchange glances.

DIVINE OFFICIAL
You do not really have a rank...

MONKEY MAGIC
So I must be the highest then?

DIVINE OFFICIAL
Not at all. Your rank is really
'unclassified'.

MONKEY MAGIC
What does that mean?

HEAVENLY OFFICER #2
It means you are the lowest of the
lowly.

MONKEY MAGIC
Huh. The lowest. They thought they
could trick Old Monkey. The lowest!
Don't you know who I am!

Monkey Magic takes out his magic staff from his ear and kicks
over the table.

GUARDS run in to arrest him, he fights them off --
and summons his magic cloud.

EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY

WU (V.O)
And so Old Monkey rebelled against
heaven, returning to his Flower-
Fruit mountain wherein he declared
himself "The Great Sage, Equal to
Heaven"

IMAGE: A BANNER - "THE GREAT SAGE, EQUAL TO HEAVEN"

MONKEY MAGIC

That stupid Jade Emperor. Who does
he think he is!

INT. HALL OF DIVINE MISTS - HEAVEN - DAY

CELESTIAL MASTER ZHANG prostrates himself before the Jade
Emperor, then runs forward to the court.

MASTER ZHANG

Your Majesty! The Ape Monster has
rebelled! He has declared himself
"The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven".

JADE EMPEROR

That impetuous ape! Send forth the
celestial soldiers to capture this
monster.

EXT. WESTERN HEAVEN'S GATE - DAY

HUNDREDS OF CELESTIAL SOLDIERS march out from the gates of
Heaven, diving down to Earth.

INT. WATER-CURTAIN CAVE - DAY

Monkey Magic stumbles to the banquet table, drunk.

MONKEY MAGIC

I am the Great Sage! Equal to
Heaven! And I want more wine!

OLD MONKEY

Great Sage, the armies of heaven
have descended to capture you.

MONKEY MAGIC

So they want to fight me, do they?

Monkey Magic drinks up his wine.

EXT. WATER-CURTAIN CAVE - DAY

The Celestial Soldiers have surrounded the cave. Monkey Magic
stumbles drunk out to the centre of the enclave.

THE CELESTIAL GENERAL OF MIGHTY-SPIRIT, lands in front of
him.

CELESTIAL GENERAL

Lawless ape! We have come to arrest
you. Yield at once, to avoid
execution.

MONKEY MAGIC

You go back to Heaven and tell that Jade Emperor that he has no regard for talent.

CELESTIAL GENERAL

You fraudulent monkey! How dare you call yourself "The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven"!

MONKEY MAGIC

You're quite right, I'm at least twice as good as Heaven! But! If am promoted according to this title, I will lay down my arms, and there will be peace on Earth. If not, I shall fight my way up to the Jade Emperor himself!

CELESTIAL GENERAL

So you want to be the "Great Sage, Equal to Heaven"? Take a bit of my axe first!

The General lunges at Monkey with his axe.

Monkey parries the blow.

The combat of the heavenly general is graceful. Monkey stumbles, but is a drunken master.

Several celestial soldiers rush in.

Monkey enlarges his wishing staff -- spins it around -- whacking them.

He grins.

INT. WESTERN HEAVEN - DAY

The celestial soldiers of heaven are wounded, each in their own way. They groan and cry.

INT. HALL OF DIVINE MISTS - HEAVEN - DAY

The Celestial General prostrates himself before the Jade Emperor.

CELESTIAL GENERAL

I beg your merciful pardon... he is a very magic monkey. Your unworthy warrior could not prevail against him.

JADE EMPEROR
How powerful can one monkey be?

CELESTIAL GENERAL
He has set up a banner bearing the words "The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven". He said that he would declare his allegiance should he be granted this title.

JADE EMPEROR
What sort of compensation was he requesting?

CELESTIAL GENERAL
Your majesty, he did not mention any form of compensation.

JADE EMPEROR
And what duties did he ask for?

CELESTIAL GENERAL
Your Holy Grace, he did not ask for any official duty.

JADE EMPEROR
How dare this baneful monkey be so insolent!

The Gold Star of Venus steps forward.

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
Your Grace, might I suggest we indeed let him be made "The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven"; it will be an empty title. Rank without compensation. He will not be given any duty or office, but we shall keep him here in Heaven so that his perverse mind might be put at rest. Then, he shall desist from his madness, and the universe will be calm and the oceans tranquil once again.

The Jade Emperor nods.

JADE EMPEROR
We shall heed the counsel of our minister.

The Jade Emperor puts his head in his hands.

WU (V.O)
 And so the Handsome Monkey King
 earned his title "The Great Sage,
 Equal to Heaven"

EXT. SOUTH HEAVEN GATE - DAY

Monkey Magic cloud flies to the gate. Old Spirit Venus flies beside him.

At the gate -- THE GUARDS OF HEAVEN hold their stance, austere. Monkey gets up close to them.

MONKEY MAGIC
 Do they know who I am?

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
 Of course, you are "The Great Sage,
 Equal to Heaven".

Monkey grins.

INT. HEAVENLY MANSION - DAY

Old Spirit Venus shows Monkey Magic his new home, a palatial mansion gilded in precious gems -- as one would expect in Heaven.

MONKEY MAGIC
 So this is the house of the Great Sage!

Monkey lies down on the couch, he holds out his hands expectantly and ATTENDANTS bring him food and wine.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
 I could get used to this.

Old Spirit Venus bows.

EXT. HEAVENLY STREETS - DAY

Monkey Magic roams the streets of Heaven, joking with immortals, making faces, laughing, and mucking about.

WU (V.O)
 Idleness and mischief are close companions. The Jade Emperor, fearing that idleness might lead to roguery, summoned the Great Sage for a special task.

INT. HALL OF DIVINE MISTS - HEAVEN

Monkey Magic stands leaning on his wishing staff before the throne of the Jade Emperor.

JADE EMPEROR

Great Sage, we perceive that you have nothing to do and have decided, therefore, to appoint you with a special assignment as "Protector of the Immortal Peach Garden."

Monkey's eyes light up.

EXT. IMMORTAL PEACH GARDEN - HEAVEN - DAY

STEWARDS tend to the garden, hoeing, watering, cleaning, and sweeping.

Trees hold head-sized peaches from their branches.

Monkey Magic enters.

MONKEY MAGIC

The Jade Emperor has authorised me to look after this Garden. I've come for an inspection.

THE ATTENDANT salutes him.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

How many of these trees are there, anyway?

ATTENDANT

Great Sage, there are three thousand six hundred. These twelve hundred on the outside have peaches that ripen every three thousand years. One taste and you'll become enlightened in the way and live forever. The middle twelve hundred trees ripen once every six thousand years. Eat one of their peaches, and you'll be able to fly! And at the centre, are twelve hundred trees with peaches that ripen only once every nine thousand years. If eaten, your age will rival Heaven and Earth, the sun and the moon.

Monkey gets an idea (to eat the peaches).

MONKEY MAGIC

You're all working too hard. As
Protector of this garden, I think
it wise for everyone to take a good
well earned break and I'll keep a
guard for you. How does that sound?

ATTENDANT

Thank you Great Sage.

The attendant indicates for the stewards to lay down their
rakes and shovels. They leave.

Monkey Magic climbs up one of the trees and sits there.

He looks at one of the peaches.

He plucks it and eats it.

He plucks another one. And another.

FADE TO:

EXT. IMMORTAL PEACH GARDEN - HEAVEN - LATER

The peach trees have been completely stripped of their
fruits.

SEVEN IMMORTAL MAIDENS carrying baskets walk around to the
tree where Monkey Magic is asleep on a branch, having
transformed himself to the size of a thumb.

BLUE MAIDEN

This is not good...

Monkey Magic falls out of the tree, transforming to his
regular size. Startled, he whips out his magic staff.

MONKEY MAGIC

Thieves! Who has the gall to steal
my peaches!

The maidens jump back.

RED MAIDEN

Great Sage, we mean no harm, we
have simply come to harvest peaches
for the heavenly peach banquet.

BLUE MAIDEN

We have been sent by the Lady Queen
Mother.

They bow.

MONKEY MAGIC

Please arise divine maidens. Who is invited to this banquet?

YELLOW MAIDEN

Buddha, the Bodhisattvas, the holy monks, and the arhats of Western Heaven. Kuanyin from the South Pole. The Holy Emperor of Great Mercy of the East...

MONKEY MAGIC

And what about "The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven"?

The Maidens exchange nervous glances.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Am I invited?

BLUE MAIDEN

We did not hear your name on the list.

YELLOW MAIDEN

That doesn't mean you aren't? Or, not that we know...

MONKEY MAGIC

And tell me, where in Heaven is this banquet?

The blue maiden looks to the yellow maiden -- should she say?

EXT. HEAVENLY PEACH BANQUET - DAY

A large banquet is laid out, awaiting the arrival of guests. Monkey Magic jumps off his cloud and inspects the banquet.

MONKEY MAGIC

So they didn't think to invite Old Monkey? Well this looks very nice.

Monkey starts helping himself to the banquet, stuffing his face with handfuls of divine delicacies.

INT. HALL OF DIVINE MISTS - DAY

LADY QUEEN MOTHER OF HEAVEN rushes into the Jade Emperor's chamber.

QUEEN MOTHER

That awful monkey has ruined the festival!

The Jade Emperor puts his head in his hands.

EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY

Monkey Magic cloud flies to the bottom of the mountain.

An Old Monkey looks up to Monkey Magic in astonishment.

OLD MONKEY

The Great Sage has returned.

MONKEY MAGIC

They're all stuck up in Heaven.
Anyway, very overrated.

OLD MONKEY

For the first time in one hundred
years, the Great Sage has returned!

Monkeys rush out to greet him.

EXT. HEAVENLY PEACH BANQUET - DAY

The banquet is in disarray.

BUDDHA, IN FEMALE FORM, looks over the damage. She is with
the Jade Emperor and the Lady Queen Mother of Heaven.

BUDDHA

And where did this monkey come
from?

JADE EMPEROR

He was born of a rock on a
mountaintop. Please, help us subdue
this troublesome monster.

BUDDHA

Gentleness is needed in this case.
I shall make him a wager.

EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Buddha appears on the horizon, a giant.

BUDDHA

Monkey awakened to Emptiness!

MONKEY MAGIC

The Buddha.

BUDDHA

Why are you so violent and unruly?

MONKEY MAGIC

I'm too special for Earth. Then,
when I went up to Heaven they
didn't recognise my talent, so I
had to show them.

BUDDHA

What makes you think you are worthy
of the Throne of the Jade Palace?
Don't you know that the Jade
Emperor has gone through the bitter
experience of seven hundred and
fifty ordeals, with each ordeal
lasting a hundred and twenty-nine
thousand six hundred years?

MONKEY MAGIC

Tell him to move out at once and
hand the Celestial Palace to me. Or
else I'll continue to cause ordeals
and there'll never be peace!

BUDDHA

What powers do you have that you
dare usurp this hallowed region of
Heaven?

MONKEY MAGIC

I know the seventy-two
transformations. I have a life that
will never grow old and I also know
how to cloud fly.

BUDDHA

Let me make you a wager. If you can
somersault clear of this right palm
of mine, I shall consider you the
winner. I will ask the Jade Emperor
to go live with me in the West, and
you can have the Celestial Palace.
If you lose, you shall go back to
the Region Below and be a monster.

MONKEY MAGIC

Ha! The buddha is a fool! Don't you
know who I am?

Buddha holds out her palm, which is a metre or so wide,
Monkey Magic hops onto it. He summons his magic cloud, and
flies off at full speed.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

See you, Buddha!

IMAGE: Monkey Magic a tiny streak of light and cloud, breaks through the sound barrier, hurtling towards;

EXT. THE FIVE PILLARS AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE - DAY

Five flesh-coloured pillars rise up from a cloud.

MONKEY MAGIC

The five pillars! This must be the end of the road. I better leave a little memento.

Monkey plucks a hair from his body, breathing magic on it, transforming it into a writing brush soaked in ink.

On the middle pillar, he writes;

"The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven, was here"

He urinates on the first pillar.

He summons his magic cloud, and flies off.

EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Buddha smiles as Monkey lands back on her palm.

MONKEY MAGIC

Tell the Jade Emperor to give me the Celestial Palace!

BUDDHA

You silly ape. Since when did you ever leave the palm of my hand?

MONKEY MAGIC

I found the five pillars at the end of the universe and left a little memento there to prove it.

Buddha holds up her right hand to reveal that her fingers are the five pillars that Monkey defaced.

Monkey is astonished.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

I don't believe it! Could this really happen? Could it be? Let me go back there to check.

Before he can summon his magic cloud, Buddha grabs him. Her left hand transforms into rock, folding into a giant mountain. Trapping him.

EXT. HEAVENLY CLOUDS - DAY

THE THUNDER GODS, KASYAPA AND ANANDA watch on in delight.

KASYAPA
Buddha has subdued the monstrous
Monkey!

ANANDA
Praise be to virtue!

A bolt of lightning materialises in Ananda's hand and he
throw it down to Earth;

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF THE FIVE PHASES - NIGHT

LIGHTNING strikes the mountain top.

Monkey is stuck beneath the mountain, with just his face
popping out through a crack.

MONKEY MAGIC
Buddha! You cheated! Let me out of
this mountain! Buddha!

WU (V.O.)
And so the Buddha instructed Monkey
in the ways of patience. For some
five hundred years he remained
trapped in that mountain. But that
is not the last we shall hear of
Old Monkey. Our story now turns to
a Holy Monk, of origins most
mysterious.

EXT. RIVER-SIDE - DAY

A BABY floats down river on a basket.

The basket comes to rest in some reeds.

AN OLD MONK, discovers the baby.

He lifts him out of the river.

WU (V.O.)
He was discovered floating down
river. A baby, having been
abandoned to the mercy of Heaven,
with a letter written in blood tied
to his chest.

The old monk takes the letter.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But we shall say not more of that.

EXT. MONASTERY - DAY

A YOUNG BOY carries water to the temple.

WU (V.O.)
Time passed by like an arrow and
the boy who they called "River
Float" soon reached his eighteenth
year.

LATER:

The Old Monk shaves the young boy's hair.

WU (V.O.)
He shaved his hair, joining the
practice of austerities, and earned
his religious name "Xuanzang",
meaning "Teacher".

LATER:

XUANZANG prays to a statue of the Buddha.

WU (V.O.)
Xuanzang pursued the Way with great
determination. We could say many
things about this Holy Monk, but
his story really begins with a
divine vision...

EXT. MONASTERY - NIGHT

Xuanzang prays in the courtyard.

A sudden wind sweeps up the leaves. Bright lights flash.

GUANYIN, THE COMPASSIONATE, appears as a glowing apparition.

GUANYIN
Hey Monk! You only know about the
teachings of the Little Vehicle.
Don't you know anything about the
Great Vehicle?

XUANZANG
Guanyin, the most compassionate!

He bows his head in reverence.

GUANYIN

I have in my possession Tripitaka,
three collections of the Great
Vehicle Laws of Buddha, which are
able to send the lost to Heaven, to
deliver the afflicted from
suffering and to break the cycle of
birth and death.

XUANZANG

Really?

GUANYIN

These scriptures are so powerful
that they can redeem damned spirits
from Hell.

XUANZANG

Please Guanyin, tell me where I can
find these scriptures!

GUANYIN

Go West. Go to the mountain. Go to
the Great Temple of Thunderclap.
These scriptures can untie the knot
of a hundred enmities, and can
dispel unexpected misfortunes...

XUANZANG

Can you read me some of it?

GUANYIN

If I were just to read it to you,
you probably wouldn't appreciate
it!

XUANZANG

Please Guanyin!

GUANYIN

You must make The Journey to the
West. The way: a hundred and eight
thousand miles.

Guanyin vanishes in a cloud of smoke.

EXT. COURT OF THE EMPEROR - DAY

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA, TANG TAIZONG, sits on his throne.

WU (V.O.)
 Wishing to cultivate the fruits of
 virtue, the Emperor received the
 news of the vision with great
 interest.

TANG TAIZONG
 The Tripitaka you said?

XUANZANG
 Yes your majesty, it was a vision
 as clear as day.

TANG TAIZONG
 And who should seek for the
 Tripitaka?

XUANZANG
 Though your poor monk has no
 talents, he is ready to perform the
 service of a dog and a horse. I
 shall seek these true scriptures on
 behalf of Your Majesty, that the
 empire of our king may be firm and
 everlasting.

TANG TAIZONG
 If the Master is willing to express
 his loyalty this way, undaunted by
 the great journey, we are willing
 to become bond brothers.

Xuanzang bows his head to the ground.

TANG TAIZONG (CONT'D)
 Arise, our brother and holy monk,
 "Tripitaka".

The emperor smiles.

TANG TAIZONG (CONT'D)
 The years are long and the journey
 is great.

EXT. MONASTERY - DAY

Xuanzang, now TRIPITAKA, is farewelled by A GROUP OF MONKS.
 He rides his horse out of the gates of monastery.

WU (V.O.)
 The way West is filled with tigers,
 leopards and all kinds of monsters.
 And so Guanyin sought out a band of
 suitable protectors to be disciples
 of this most Holy Fool...

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - DAY

Guanyin cloud flies to the river, with her disciple HUI'AN.

GUANYIN
 This place is difficult to cross.

HUI'AN
 Teacher, how wide do you suppose
 this river is?

She looks around in the water, when --

A FISH MONSTER leaps out from the depths, grabbing Guanyin.

Hui'an jumps into the conflict, wielding his rod -- battling
 with the monster, who stirs up waves.

They fight.

Hui'an blows wind, knocking the monster down.

HUI'AN (CONT'D)
 Monster! What quarrel have you with
 the Bodhisattva?

FISH MONSTER
 The Bodhisattva?

The monster drops his weapon and bows before Guanyin.

FISH MONSTER (CONT'D)
 Please forgive me, Bodhisattva. I
 am no monster. Rather, I am the
 Curtain-Raising General who waits
 upon the phoenix chariot of the
 Jade Emperor of Heaven.

EXT. WESTERN HEAVEN - PEACH BANQUET - FLASHBACK

THE CURTAIN-RAISING GENERAL, tries to put a broken jade cup
 back together.

FISH MONSTER (V.O.)
 I carelessly broke his favourite
 cup at the Festival of Immortal
 Peaches and was banished and
 changed into my present shape.

The Jade Emperor magically casts out the Curtain-Raising
 General. He falls to Earth.

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - DAY

The fish monster is in tears.

FISH MONSTER
 I am cold and hungry and every few
 days I must find a traveler for
 food. I did not mean to offend the
 great, merciful Bodhisattva.

Guanyin takes pity on him.

GUANYIN
 You were banished for your sin in
 Heaven, but now you add sin to sin
 by taking life in your present
 manner.

FISH MONSTER
 I know, I know. I'm so miserable.

GUANYIN
 There is a Holy Monk, a scripture
 pilgrim, join him on his journey to
 the west and seek refuge in right
 action.

FISH MONSTER
 I must tell you a terrible thing.
 There have been a number of
 scripture pilgrims through here and
 I ate all of them. Their skulls
 floated on the water and would not
 sink so I chained them together
 with a rope...

Hui'an shakes his head in disgust.

FISH MONSTER (CONT'D)
 I fear no other scripture pilgrim
 will want to come this way...

GUANYIN

Not come this way? How absurd! Take the skulls and hang them round your neck. There will be a use for them when the scripture pilgrim arrives. And take this...

Guanyin throws down a MAGICAL RED GOURD. The fish monster catches it, looks at it.

GUANYIN (CONT'D)

Do the right thing and I shall restore your post in Heaven...

The fish monster dries away his tears.

Guanyin and Hui'an cloud fly away.

GUANYIN (CONT'D)

"Sandy, who awakes to Purity".

WU (V.O.)

And so Sandy washed his heart and never took life again, but waited attentively for the arrival of the scripture pilgrim.

EXT. LAND OF THE EAST - DAY

Guanyin and Hui'an cloud fly towards a mountain covered in fog.

They enter the fog.

Suddenly, the fog clears to reveal a PIG MONSTER!

The pig monster strikes down on Hui'an with his muckrake.

HUI'AN

Reckless monster! Desist at once!

Hui'an battles the pig monster. His iron rod jabs the chest. The muckrake swipes his face.

Their weapons weave and clash.

Guanyin magically casts lotus flowers, that rapidly blossom, overwhelming the monster.

PIG MONSTER

What region are you from, that you dare play this 'flower-in-the-eye' trick?

HUI'AN

I am the disciple of the
Bodhisattva of the South Sea. These
are lotus flowers thrown down by my
mentor.

PIG MONSTER

Guanyin? The one who sweeps away
the three calamities and rescues us
from the eight disasters?

HUI'AN

Who else, if not she?

PIG MONSTER

Venerable brother! Please be so
good as to make the introduction!

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF THE BLESSED MOUND - DAY

Hui'an leads the pig monster to Guanyin, who is praying.

PIG MONSTER

Bodhisattva! Pardon my sin! Pardon
my sin!

GUANYIN

What region are you from, wild
boar, that you dare bar my way?

PIG MONSTER

I am not a pig! My spirit lost the
way for my next incarnation, and I
passed through the womb of a sow
and ended up with a shape like
this! I took over this mountain and
pass my days eating people.

GUANYIN

Where did your spirit come from?

EXT. WESTERN HEAVEN - NIGHT -- FLASHBACK

THE MARSHAL OF THE HEAVENLY REEDS, drunkenly flirts with the
GODDESS OF THE MOON.

He chases her around heaven.

PIG MONSTER (V.O.)

I was originally Marshal of the
Heavenly Reeds in the Heavenly
River.

(MORE)

PIG MONSTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I got drunk and dallied with the
 Goddess of the Moon, and so the
 Jade Emperor banished me to the
 world of dust.

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF THE BLESSED MOUND - DAY

The pig monster is in tears.

PIG MONSTER
 I implore you! Save me!

GUANYIN
 There is an old saying - 'if you
 want to have a future, don't act
 heedless of the future'.

PIG MONSTER
 I would like to follow the truth,
 but since I have offended Heaven,
 even my prayers are worthless.

GUANYIN
 There is a Holy Monk, a scripture
 pilgrim, follow him as his disciple
 and your merit will cancel out your
 sins.

PIG MONSTER
 I'm willing! I'm willing!

GUANYIN
 "Piggy, who awakens to Power!"

Guanyin and Hui'an cloud fly off.

WU (V.O.)
 From that moment on, Piggy accepted
 the commandment to return to the
 real. He ate only vegetables, and
 fasted, so as to wait single-
 mindedly for the Holy Fool.

EXT. WILD STORM - DAY

Guanyin and Hui'an cloud fly into a thunderous storm with
 pouring rain.

HUI'AN
 Look! Up in those clouds!

They ascend above the clouds.

A DRAGON is chained up, and weeping.

GUANYIN

What dragon are you and why are you weeping?

DRAGON

I am Aorun, son of the Dragon King of the Western Ocean. I accidentally burned down the palace, and my father, the king, charged me with grave disobedience. I am to be sentenced to death. Please save me!

GUANYIN

If I am to release you, then you must wait for the Holy Fool and carry him on his Journey West as a white horse.

DRAGON

I'll do it! Anything! Please spare my life!

Guanyin magically casts off his chains and the dragon falls to Earth, crashing through the clouds.

Guanyin and Hui'an cloud fly off. Coming to;

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF THE FIVE PHASES - DAY

A bright glow radiates from the top of the mountain.

GUANYIN

The seal of the Buddha.

HUI'AN

This must be the mountain where Buddha imprisoned the Great Sage, Equal to Heaven.

They fly closer.

MONKEY MAGIC (O.S.)

Hello! You over there!

INT. MOUNTAIN OF THE FIVE PHASES - DAY

Guanyin and Hui'an land next to the imprisoned Monkey Magic.

MONKEY MAGIC

My first visitors! I've only been here for five hundred years.

GUANYIN

Do you recognise me?

MONKEY MAGIC

How could I not! You are the Mighty Deliverer, the Great Compassionate Bodhisattva Guanyin of the South Sea. Show a little mercy and rescue Old Monkey?

GUANYIN

If I rescue you, I fear that you will again perpetrate violence and that will be bad indeed.

MONKEY MAGIC

I know the meaning of penitence. I entreat the Great Compassion to show me the proper path, for I am now willing to do the right thing.

GUANYIN

If your heart is set on the good, then wait here for a scripture pilgrim, a holy monk, who will set you free. Join him as his disciple on a Journey to the West.

MONKEY MAGIC

So, you're not letting me out? All you have to do is take down that stupid seal. I can do the rest!

GUANYIN

Patience. Wait for the Holy Monk.

Monkey Magic's face is full of disappointment.

GUANYIN (CONT'D)

"Monkey, Awakened to Emptiness"

WU (V.O)

So our Great Sage, with manifest nature and enlightened mind, returned to the path of good. But what of Tripitaka's path?

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

Tripitaka is on a brown horse, accompanied by TWO MONKS.

WU (V.O.)
Having lost his way outside the
city of Gongzhou, they stumbled
into an ogre's pit.

IMAGE: Tripitaka and his companions fall into a pit.

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The monsters, who captured them,
ate both followers of the scripture
pilgrim. It was only by divine
intervention that Tripitaka was
saved from this bitter ordeal.

IMAGE: The Star Spirit of Venus magically defeats the OGRE
KING and his HENCHMEN.

IMAGE: He magically revives Tripitaka.

OLD SPIRIT VENUS
I am the Star Spirit of Venus from
Heaven, who came to you by special
request. Some pupils divine will
come to your aid. Blame not the
scriptures for the hardships that
await you.

Tripitaka bows.

TRIPITAKA
I thank the Gold Star for seeing me
through this ordeal.

FADE TO:

EXT. WINTERY MOUNTAIN RIDGE - DAY

Tripitaka rides on his horse, a lonely figure in the cold.

WU (V.O.)
Cold. Quiet. And still. Not a man
in sight, the Holy Fool started up
that rugged mountain, submitting
himself to the will of Heaven. When
he was disturbed by a piercing
cry...

MONKEY MAGIC (O.S.)
My master has come! My master has
come!

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF THE FIVE PHASES - DAY

Tripitaka rides his horse to the stone box, where Monkey Magic is imprisoned -- with his head and hands sticking out.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, why have you taken so long?
Welcome! Welcome! Get me out and
I'll protect you on your Journey
West. You are the scripture
pilgrim, aren't you?

TRIPITAKA

I am, why do you ask?

MONKEY MAGIC

I am the Great Sage, Equal to
Heaven. I was imprisoned here by
the Buddha, some five hundred years
ago. Guanyin persuaded me not to
engage again in violence, but to
faithfully follow the way of truth
and to wait for you, my Master!

TRIPITAKA

Though you have good intentions, I
have neither ax nor drill. How can
I free you?

MONKEY MAGIC

See that seal? That is Buddha's
seal. All you need to do is take it
off.

IMAGE: The red seal of Buddha -- glows.

TRIPITAKA

I will say some prayers. If you are
indeed destined to be my disciple,
the seal will lift.

Tripitaka closes his eyes and prays.

Magically, the seal flies off in a gust of wind.

MONKEY MAGIC

You did it! Master, you better
stand back so that I can come out.

Tripitaka takes a few steps backwards.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

You might want to go back a little
bit more furtherer.

EXT. MOUNTAIN OF THE FIVE PHASES - DISTANT - DAY

Tripitaka rides his horse a few miles away from the mountain.

MONKEY MAGIC (O.S.)
Ok! That should do it!

The Earth begins to quake...

Suddenly, the mountain explodes!

MONKEY MAGIC
I'm free!

Monkey Magic cloud flies around the exploding mountain and lands next to Tripitaka.

TRIPITAKA
Disciple, what is your name?

MONKEY MAGIC
You can call me "Monkey Magic".

TRIPITAKA
Why "Monkey Magic"?

MONKEY MAGIC
Because. I can look at a person and discern his character. I can listen merely to sounds and discover truth. If I want to be big, I can fill the universe. If I want to be small, I can be smaller than a piece of hair. You see, I know a lot of magic tricks.

Tripitaka smiles, relieved to have such a powerful disciple.

WU (V.O.)
So master and disciple, the two of them, chatted as they journeyed, and soon the sun sank in the west.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - NIGHT

Monkey carries luggage, leading Tripitaka and horse.

Suddenly, A GANG OF BANDITS leap out from the forest brandishing swords, spears and all kinds of weapons.

BANDIT #1
Stop! Leave your horse and drop your bags, and we'll let you pass on alive!

Tripitaka faints from fright, falling off his horse. Monkey lifts him up off the ground.

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't worry, Master. It's nothing really, just some people coming to give us clothes and a travel allowance.

TRIPITAKA

Monkey, you must be hard of hearing, they told us to leave our bags and our horse and you want to ask them for a travel allowance?

MONKEY MAGIC

We'll see what happens...

BANDIT #1

You! Ugly monkey man. Are you deaf?

MONKEY MAGIC

Sirs, for what reason are you blocking the path of this poor monk?

BANDIT #1

We are kings of the highway. Leave your belongings or we will chop you to pieces!

MONKEY MAGIC

You know, I was a king once.

BANDIT #1

You! A king!?

BANDIT #2

The monkey man is delusional!

The bandits surround Monkey Magic.

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't you know who I am? Now. Bring me the treasures you have stolen and I'll spare your lives.

Enraged, the largest bandit charges at Monkey with his sword. Monkey stands still as if nothing was happening.

SCHING! The sword bounces back from Monkey's hard head -- not leaving a scratch.

Another bandit charges at him with a spear SNAP! -- it breaks in two -- Monkey is completely unaffected.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Time for a little entertainment...

Monkey removes the toothpick sized wishing rod from his ear -- swings it around -- it grows to full size.

The largest bandit pales in terror.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Don't run! Let Old Monkey try his hand on you with this rod!

The bandits flee in all directions. Monkey chases after them.

Tripitaka watches on, horrified.

WU (V.O.)

And so Monkey chased down each of the bandits and beat every one of them to death. He seized their valuables and returned smiling...

Monkey Magic grins.

MONKEY MAGIC

You may proceed now, Master. Those robbers have been exterminated.

TRIPITAKA

What a terrible thing you have done! They may have been bandits, but they would not have been sentenced to death even if they had been caught and tried. You should have just chased them away. Why did you kill them all?

MONKEY MAGIC

Master! If I hadn't killed them, they would have killed you!

TRIPITAKA

I would rather die than practice violence. If I were killed, there would be only one of me, but you just slaughtered a dozen people!

MONKEY MAGIC

Do you think I would be "The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven" if I let robbers rob me! I've lost count of the number of people I've killed over the centuries.

TRIPITAKA

It is precisely because you had neither scruples nor self-control that you had to undergo your ordeal under that mountain. If you insist on practicing violence, you are not worthy to be my disciple. You're wicked! You're just too wicked!

MONKEY MAGIC

Fine! If that's what you think, you needn't bother me further with your nagging! I'll leave!

Monkey Magic summons his cloud and flies off.

Tripitaka watches as he disappears over the horizon, breaking through the sound barrier.

TRIPITAKA

That fellow! He's so unwilling to be taught!

Tripitaka gathers his belongings and mounts his horse, setting off Westward.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY

Tripitaka rides through desolate lands on the journey west.

FADE TO:

EXT. WATERFALL - DAY

Tripitaka dismounts and ties his horse to a tree.

He drinks from the pool beneath the waterfall.

AN OLD LADY covered in sores, approaches.

OLD LADY

Elder, where do you come from and why are you walking here all by yourself?

TRIPITAKA

Your child was sent by the Great King to seek the true scriptures from the Temple of the Thunderclap.

OLD LADY

The journey there is one hundred and eight thousand miles. You are all by yourself with neither companion nor disciple. How can you possibly think of going there?

TRIPITAKA

I had a disciple until a few days ago. I scolded him a little, but he refused to be taught and then he disappeared.

OLD LADY

I have just finished mourning the loss of my son. He was a monk like you. I was given this by his master, to be kept in his memory.

She pulls a Golden Headband out from her bag. It glistens.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

I want you to have it.

TRIPITAKA

I dare not take it.

The old lady chuckles.

OLD LADY

This is no ordinary headband. I have a spell called "True Words for Controlling the Mind". Take this headband and when he returns, give it to him. If he refuses to obey you, recite the spell silently. He will not leave you again.

Tripitaka takes the headband and holds it.

When he looks up the old lady has vanished.

TRIPITAKA

Guanyin!

Tripitaka sits, practicing the spell.

WU (V.O.)
And so Tripitaka practiced the spell, until he knew the words by heart. Old Monkey, having left his master, headed straight to the Water Crystal Palace of the Eastern Ocean.

INT. WATER CRYSTAL PALACE - DAY

Monkey sits having tea with the DRAGON KING OF THE EASTERN OCEAN.

WU (V.O.)
Wherein he met with Old King Dragon...

MONKEY MAGIC
That Holy Fool knows nothing of human nature. There were a few ruffians who wanted to rob us, and so I slew them all. But Tripitaka wouldn't stop nagging me and telling me how wrong I was. Can you imagine Old Monkey putting up with that sort of tedium?

DRAGON KING
Great Sage, if you do not accompany the Holy Monk, if you are unwilling to exercise diligence or to accept instruction, you will remain a bogus immortal after all.

Monkey Magic sips his tea, heeding these words of wisdom.

WU (V.O.)
Old Dragon regaled Monkey with stories of legendary immortal Master Red Pine. And so Monkey took heed of his wisdom.

MONKEY MAGIC
Fine then! I'll go back!

Monkey summons his magic cloud and flies off.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY

Tripitaka is sitting dejectedly at the side of the road. Monkey Magic lands next to him.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, why are you not on the road? What are you doing here?

TRIPITAKA

Your absence has forced me to sit here and wait for you.

MONKEY MAGIC

I was just gone for a little tea with Old King Dragon of the Eastern Ocean.

TRIPITAKA

Disciple, don't lie! It was less than an hour since you left me, how could you claim to have visited the Eastern Ocean?

MONKEY MAGIC

I can fly one hundred and eight thousand miles in single somersault! That's why I can go and return in no time at all.

TRIPITAKA

So while you're off having tea I have to sit here and endure hunger. Do you feel good about that?

MONKEY MAGIC

I can go beg some food for you?

TRIPITAKA

There's no need, fetch the dried fruits from my bag.

Monkey goes to the luggage and discovers the Golden Headband.

MONKEY MAGIC

Wow! What's this?

TRIPITAKA

Oh that? That's nothing. Just something I wore in my childhood.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, can I try it on?

TRIPITAKA

It might not fit properly...

Monkey Magic puts on the Golden Headband.

MONKEY MAGIC
How does it look?

TRIPITAKA
Sorry Monkey...

Tripitaka starts to recite the spell.

MONKEY MAGIC
Ow! My head! It hurts! It hurts!

Monkey rolls around on the ground, trying to pry off the headband. Tripitaka stops saying the spell.

Monkey gets up and tries to take off the headband. It's stuck. He shoves his rod in to try and wedge it out. Tripitaka says the spell again.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
Ow! That really hurts! Stop it!

Tripitaka stops the spell.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
Master has put a spell on it!

TRIPITAKA
I was just saying a little prayer.

MONKEY MAGIC
Yeah well say it again and see what happens!

Tripitaka silently recites the spell again.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
Ow! Stop! Stop! It hurts!

TRIPITAKA
Now will you listen to my instructions?

MONKEY MAGIC
Yes, I will.

TRIPITAKA
And never be unruly?

MONKEY MAGIC
I dare not.

Tripitaka stops the spell.

In a flash of rage, Monkey swings his wishing staff at Tripitaka -- who engages the spell -- causing him to fall to the ground in pain.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
Master! Please I've learned my
lesson! Stop! Please stop!

Tripitaka stops the spell.

TRIPITAKA
Will you follow my instruction?

MONKEY MAGIC
I will! But don't go saying that
spell for no reason.

TRIPITAKA
Help me onto the horse and let's
get going.

FADE TO:

EXT. EAGLE GRIEF STREAM - DAY

Tripitaka and Monkey arrive at the bank of the stream.

MONKEY MAGIC
This is the Serpent Coil Mountain.

Tripitaka and Monkey look into the stream, when suddenly --

A WHITE DRAGON splashes up from the depths, darting straight for Tripitaka. Monkey pulls him out of harm's way.

The Dragon dives back into the stream.

The horse has vanished.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)
Master, that dragon has swallowed
our horse!

TRIPITAKA
If it has been eaten, how can I
walk through those thousand hills
and ten thousand waters?

Monkey takes out his magic rod and walks over to the bank of the stream.

MONKEY MAGIC
Lawless Lizard! Return my horse!

TRIPITAKA

Monkey! What are you doing?

MONKEY MAGIC

I'm going to get my horse back.
Return my horse you ugly snake!

The Dragon splashes back above the stream.

WHITE DRAGON

Who dares insult me with his big
mouth?

MONKEY MAGIC

Just a cheeky Monkey. But you can
call me "The Great Sage, Equal to
Heaven!"

Monkey runs across the surface of the water, lunging at the
dragon with his rod.

The dragon breathes fire!

They fight!

Monkey wedges his rod in the dragon's open jaw.

The dragon spews more fire! Monkey jumps out of the way.

The dragon retreats back into the depths.

Monkey returns to Tripitaka.

TRIPITAKA

You said you could tame dragons and
subdue tigers. Why can't you subdue
this one?

Monkey Magic takes a deep breath to calm his anger.

MONKEY MAGIC

Fine. I'll go show him who is
master!

Monkey leaps into the stream. Tripitaka goes over to look
into the depths.

Some bubbles come to the surface.

Suddenly, Monkey emerges from the water atop a WHITE HORSE.

He rides over to Tripitaka, triumphant.

TRIPITAKA
What happened down there?

MONKEY MAGIC
It turns out this Dragon was freed
by Guanyin in order to help you on
your journey. So I changed him into
a horse.

TRIPITAKA
How?

MONKEY MAGIC
Monkey Magic.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY

A YOUNG MAN, walks towards Tripitaka and Monkey Magic.

YOUNG MAN
Are you Holy Priests?

MONKEY MAGIC
Yes, what is it to you?

YOUNG MAN
I was hoping you would say a prayer
for my sister. She needs some help,
you see. Where are you headed?

TRIPITAKA
We are scripture pilgrims on a
Journey to India.

YOUNG MAN
My village is five miles West of
here. I can offer you some food and
lodgings. Father can explain.

EXT. GAO VILLAGE - DAY

Tripitaka and Monkey Magic enter the village.

VILLAGERS look on at them, expectantly.

INT. GAO VILLAGE - COTTAGE - DAY

The young man introduces Tripitaka and Monkey to his FATHER.

FATHER
Are these the exorcists?

MONKEY MAGIC

I am the Great Sage, and this is my Master, Tripitaka.

YOUNG MAN

They are Holy Monks, who have travelled a great distance.

FATHER

It's about my son-in-law. We never had a son you see. We were hoping to find an heir. He married my youngest daughter. Things were going well. He worked the fields without even using a buffalo. And had an appetite to match. Then, he started to change...

TRIPITAKA

What do you mean?

FATHER

His appearance...

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't be shy, what did he look like?

FATHER

This whole affair has brought shame on our family. We haven't seen our daughter for more than a year. We don't know if she is alive or dead.

MONKEY MAGIC

So he's some kind of monster?

FATHER

A pig monster!

TRIPITAKA

A pig monster?

MONKEY MAGIC

You're in luck. Because we are, in fact, most experienced at capturing monsters.

WU (V.O.)

And so Monkey obtained the full details of the affair, including the known whereabouts of the pig monster.

Monkey summons his magic cloud, and flies off.

EXT. PIG MONSTER'S DEN - DAY

Monkey lands outside the entrance to the den. He calls out into the darkness.

MONKEY MAGIC

Hello?

GREEN ORCHID (O.S.)

Hello?!

MONKEY MAGIC

I am the Great Sage, Equal to
Heaven and I've come to rescue you
from the pig monster!

An awkward pause.

GREEN ORCHID (O.S.)

He's not here!

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't be silly, I can smell him!
Come out here you pig monster! Let
Old Monkey fry your bacon!

The Pig Monster emerges from the den, putting his shirt on.

GREEN ORCHID

Don't hurt him!

PIG MONSTER

I'm not afraid of you Great Sage.
You see this muckrake. This
muckrake was forged in heaven by
the finest steel. Mars himself
added the charcoals piece by piece.

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't brag too much, idiot! Old
Monkey will stretch out his head
right here and you can give it a
blow!

The Pig Monster looks at him uncertain.

PIG MONSTER

Are you sure? I might just knock
your head off completely.

MONKEY MAGIC

Hit me you stupid hog!

The Pig Monster strikes down on Monkey with all his might -- sparks fly -- it bounces back. Monkey is unharmed.

Pigsy cowers. Green Orchid runs over to protect him.

PIG MONSTER
Don't hurt me! We're just young and
in love! Is that so wrong?

Monkey holds up his rod and is about to strike --

GREEN ORCHID
The Monkey has come to steal all
your gold and treasures!

MONKEY MAGIC
Me? I'm a holy monk, not a thief.
Besides, this pig has no treasures.

She recoils from him with utter disgust.

GREEN ORCHID
You ugly lying swine! Where are my
treasures!

PIG MONSTER
Sweetheart! I was just talking
figuratively...

She slaps him and runs away.

PIG MONSTER (CONT'D)
Great Sage, have you simply come
here to terrorise me? What is your
reason for being here?

MONKEY MAGIC
If you must know, I am accompanying
a scripture pilgrim.

Pigsy's eyes light up.

PIG MONSTER
Please! I submit! Take me to meet
this Holy Monk!

EXT. GAO VILLAGE - DAY

Monkey leads Pigsy, who is tied up, through the village.

VILLAGERS glare at him.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, this pig monster has requested an audience. Speak, idiot!

PIG MONSTER

I am the Marshall of the Heavenly Reeds, I got drunk and dallied with the Goddess of the Moon and was banished to Earth. Guanyin, the compassionate, promised to free me from this incarnation, should I accompany you on your scripture pilgrimage.

TRIPITAKA

If you are to be my disciple, will you follow the practice of austerities?

Piggy reluctantly nods.

PIG MONSTER

A little drink here or there wouldn't hurt, would it?

The Father watches on.

FATHER

I cannot thank you enough. What gifts can I give you?

TRIPITAKA

We are Holy Monks, we cannot accept any gratuity.

PIG MONSTER

Master, some new shoes would be nice. Or at least some food for the journey.

MONKEY MAGIC

Shut-up! Didn't you hear what the Master said? You're a Holy Monk now!

Green Orchid glares venomously at Piggy as they depart.

WU (V.O.)

And so Piggy entered their fold, leaving behind worldly pleasures for the many trials and tribulations that would await them.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY

Tripitaka, Monkey and Pigsy travel west.

WU (V.O.)

The three of them proceeded toward the West, and for about a month it was an uneventful journey.

EXT. PAGODA MOUNTAIN - DAY

Pigsy stops, looks up at a tree.

PIGSY

I know this place.

TRIPITAKA

Where are we?

PIGSY

The crow lives here.

Above them, a murder of crows.

The murder dives down on them!

And materialise into the CHAN MASTER, who stands before them.

CHAN MASTER

Hello Pigsy, how do you have the good fortune to journey with the Holy Monk?

MONKEY

Who is this person? And why does he recognise you, and not me?

PIGSY

He is a Holy Man, like Master.

CHAN MASTER

I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting you.

TRIPITAKA

This is my disciple, Monkey Magic.

CHAN MASTER

On your journey West?

TRIPITAKA

How did you know?

PIGSY

He has knowledge of past and future events.

TRIPITAKA

Will we make it to India?

The Chan Master smiles.

CHAN MASTER

Though it may be very far, you will arrive there one day.

TRIPITAKA

Teacher, how did you become so accomplished in the way?

CHAN MASTER

In emptiness, there are no forms and no sensations, perceptions, volition, or consciousness. Because there is nothing to be attained, the mind of the Bodhisattva has no hindrances, no terror or fear. He is far removed from error and delusion. Thus I impart these words to help you on your journey.

Tripitaka bows to express his gratitude.

The Chan Master smiles, disintegrates into a murder of crows, and flies away.

FADE TO:

EXT. DUE-TO-FALL MOUNTAIN - DAY

The three walk into a gully. A WILD WIND sweeps up.

TRIPITAKA

The wind is rising!

MONKEY MAGIC

Why fear the wind? Nothing to be afraid of.

PIGSY

The wind is too strong! Let's find shelter until it dies down.

MONKEY MAGIC

What would happen if you were to
meet a monster face to face?
Although there is something strange
about this wind...

Monkey sniffs the wind.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Smells like a tiger. Or some other
sort of monster.

Suddenly, A TIGER appears, roars at Monkey.

PIGSY

Cursed beast!

Pigsy charges at the tiger with his muckrake.

The tiger morphs into A VANGUARD SOLDIER, wearing tiger skin.

TIGER SOLDIER

I am the vanguard of the army of
Great King Yellow Wind and you look
like the perfect hors d'oeuvres!

PIGSY

We're not food, we're holy monks!

Pigsy and the soldier fight!

The tiger soldier parries the muckrake, morphs into the wind.

TIGER SOLDIER

Ha ha ha ha!

Tripitaka has vanished!

MONKEY MAGIC

He took the master!

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

TWO GUARDS stand in front of the door to the cave.

The tiger soldier carries Tripitaka over his shoulder.

TIGER SOLDIER

Go report to the Great King and say
that the Tiger Vanguard has
captured a monk.

INT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

The tiger soldier kneels before the GREAT KING YELLOW WIND, with Tripitaka, who is tied up.

TIGER SOLDIER

Great King! I have captured a monk for your culinary pleasure. How would you like him? Steamed or Fried?

KING YELLOW WIND

I have heard some rumours, that this is Tripitaka, the divine monk in search of scriptures by imperial decree of the Great Tang. Was he alone?

TIGER SOLDIER

He has, in fact, two disciples. I changed my form and escaped them.

KING YELLOW WIND

Rumours are that he has under him a disciple whose name is Monkey Magic, and who possesses tremendous magical power...

TIGER SOLDIER

There was a Pig and a Monkey, but they did not seem very impressive.

KING YELLOW WIND

Tie him up. We'll wait three or four days. Then, if we are undisturbed, we can eat him!

SEVEN DEMONS rush up from the sides, grabbing Tripitaka, dragging him away.

EXT. DUE-TO-FALL MOUNTAIN - DAY

Pigsy and Monkey look around for their master.

PIGSY

Heavens! Heavens! They've taken Master away!

Pigsy cries.

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't cry! The moment you cry, you
already feel defeated. They have to
be somewhere in this mountain.
Let's search for them!

Monkey leads Pigsy on the search.

WU (V.O.)

They searched for a long time,
until finally they found the
entrance to the cave...

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DISTANT - DAY

Monkey and Pigsy crouch behind a rock, watching the guards in
the distance.

MONKEY MAGIC

You wait here. Old Monkey will go
rescue Master.

PIGSY

Go quickly!

Monkey marches over to the guards.

MONKEY MAGIC

Monster! Send out my master at
once, lest I level your dwelling!

INT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

A LITTLE DEMON runs over to the Yellow Wind King.

LITTLE DEMON

Disaster!

KING YELLOW WIND

What's the matter?

LITTLE DEMON

Outside the cave door is a Monk,
who calls himself Monkey Magic. He
is demanding the return of his
master.

The Yellow Wind King turns to the Tiger Soldier.

KING YELLOW WIND

I asked you to patrol the mountain,
catch a few buffalo, wild boar or
goat.

(MORE)

KING YELLOW WIND (CONT'D)
Instead, you've caught a Holy Monk
and upset the Great Sage, Equal to
Heaven!

TIGER SOLDIER
Put your worries to rest, I will
capture this Magic Monkey and serve
him as a condiment for your meal.

IMAGE: The tiger soldier grabs two bronze scimitars.

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

The tiger soldier marches out the door of the cave.

TIGER SOLDIER
Where did you come from monkey,
that you dare make such a racket!

MONKEY MAGIC
You tricky tiger. You better send
my master out immediately or I
won't spare your life.

TIGER SOLDIER
I took your master so he could be
served to my Great King as meat for
his rice. Now I'll catch you too
and you'll be eaten along with him.

MONKEY MAGIC
You've got a very big mouth, but
can you fight?

Monkey lunges at him with his rod.

They fight!

The tiger soldier is quick, transforming into wind and back
again, circling Monkey.

Monkey has the upper hand. The tiger soldier retreats,
heading towards Pigsy -- who strikes with his muckrake.

The tiger soldier explodes into a ball of flames.

INT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

ANOTHER LITTLE DEMON runs in.

LITTLE DEMON
Great King! The Tiger Soldier was
beaten to death by the ugly monk.

KING YELLOW WIND
This fellow does not know when to
stop! I have not eaten his master,
but he has killed my best soldier!
Bring me my armour!

A GROUP OF DEMONS quickly bring out the golden armour, which
is buckled and laced. He grabs a steel trident.

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

King Yellow Wind emerges from the cave door, armour
glistening.

KING YELLOW WIND
Who is this "Monkey Magic"?

MONKEY MAGIC
Old Monkey is here! Send my master
out at once!

King Yellow Wind looks him up and down -- he's a midget.

KING YELLOW WIND
Too bad! I thought you were some
kind of invincible hero. But you
are only a midget!

MONKEY MAGIC
I can grow bigger if I want to. Hit
me on the head, see what happens!

KING YELLOW WIND
Harden your head, and have a taste
of my trident!

King Yellow Wind darts forward, striking Monkey on the head.

Monkey magically grows three times his size.

KING YELLOW WIND (CONT'D)
How dare you stand at my door,
displaying this paltry magic! Stop
using tricks!

King Yellow Wind jabs Monkey with his trident. Monkey,
unperturbed, parries with his rod. King Yellow Wind becomes
enraged.

They battle fiercely. Trident meets rod. Back and forth.

Monkey pulls out some of his hairs, breathing magic on them,
transforming them into clones of himself.

A HUNDRED MONKEYS surround King Yellow Wind, each with a rod.

King Yellow Wind takes a deep breath in. He blows a fierce wind! It sends the monkeys reeling through the air.

EXT. GAO VILLAGE - DAY

Green Orchid is blown sideways by the wind.

EXT. WESTERN HEAVEN - DAY

The Seven Maiden's dresses are caught up in the wind.

EXT. HELL - DAY

THE TEN KINGS OF YAMA have their records of the living and the dead blown asunder.

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

Monkey lifts his rod to attack King Yellow Wind -- who blows wind in Monkey's face.

Monkey falls to the ground, unable to open his eyes.

He rolls around in pain.

The wind recedes.

Pigsy approaches him.

PIGSY

Elder brother! What a mighty wind!

MONKEY MAGIC

In all the years since Old Monkey was born, I have never witnessed such a violent wind.

PIGSY

Did you get him?

MONKEY MAGIC

His technique was formidable. And he knows how to use the trident! That wind of his is vicious, and makes it hard to defeat him.

PIGSY

How are we going to rescue master?

MONKEY MAGIC

We'll have to wait. I wonder if there is any eye doctor around here who can look at my eyes.

PIGSY

What's the matter with your eyes?

MONKEY MAGIC

That monster blasted wind in my face, now I can't see a thing! Just blurs and shadows.

PIGSY

Monkey, we are in the middle of a mountain, and it's getting late. Let's not talk about eye doctors; we don't even have a place to stay.

MONKEY MAGIC

I doubt that monster has the gall to harm our master. Let's find our way back to the main road and see if we can find somewhere to stay. We can subdue the monster tomorrow.

WU (V.O.)

And so they left the fold of the mountain and went up the road. The blind leading the blind.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - NIGHT

Pigsy leads the blind Monkey along the road.

WU (V.O.)

Walking a short distance they arrived at the door of a particular household.

Pigsy knocks on the door.

PIGSY

Open up! Open up!

AN OLD MAN opens the door ajar, is backed up by SEVERAL FARMERS each holding rakes, pitchforks and brooms. Nervous.

OLD MAN

Who are you?

MONKEY MAGIC

We are disciples of a holy monk from the Land of the East. As we passed through this mountain our master was captured by the Yellow Wind Monster. Since it is getting late, we have come to beg for lodgings.

The Old Man looks at them and opens the door. He has a walking stick with a dragon carved into it.

OLD MAN

This is a place where clouds are more numerous than people. We were afraid that you might be someone like a wily fox, a tiger or a mountain bandit. Please come in.

INT. MOUNTAIN COTTAGE - NIGHT

Pigsy and Monkey scoff down the bowls of rice their hosts have prepared for them.

MONKEY MAGIC

May I ask the good man whether there is someone in the region who sells eye medicine?

OLD MAN

Which of you has the eye disease?

MONKEY MAGIC

I do. I was blasted by the Yellow Wind trying to rescue my master.

OLD MAN

No one can survive the Yellow Wind. You must be some sort of immortal?

MONKEY MAGIC

Well, I am. Just a little bit. Anyway, my eyes really hurt after that and I can hardly see.

OLD MAN

I myself suffer from sore eyes. I met someone extraordinary once, they gave me a prescription. It's called the three-flowers and nine-seeds ointment.

MONKEY MAGIC

Could Old Monkey try some?

OLD MAN

Certainly.

The Old Man hands Monkey his cane, and digs around in a box for the ointment.

Pigsy stuffs his face full of rice. The farmers look on at him, a curious sight.

MONKEY MAGIC

This is some great walking stick
you have.

OLD MAN

Oh, that! I was journeyman once
myself. That walking stick saw me
through many hard times. It has the
protection of dragons.

MONKEY MAGIC

Dragons? I see!

The Old Man puts ointment on Monkey's face.

OLD MAN

That should do it. See how you fare
in the morning.

MONKEY MAGIC

Thank you old man! Thank you!

EXT. GRASS BESIDE THE ROAD WEST - DAY

Monkey wakes up. Pigsy is still asleep next to their luggage.
Their horse is tied to a tree.

The cottage is nowhere to be seen. Monkey looks around.

MONKEY MAGIC

They must have been magical!

Pigsy wakes up.

PIGSY

What's happening! Where is the
cottage?

MONKEY MAGIC

It appears that they were not
farmers but rather, divine
guardians, sent to help us.

Pigsy picks up the old man's walking stick.

PIGSY
He left his prized walking stick!
Look at your eyes! You can see now!

MONKEY MAGIC
I wonder if this humble walking
stick indeed has some magical
powers?

PIGSY
Let's go and rescue master!

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

Monkey and Pigsy crouch behind a rock near the entrance to the cave.

MONKEY MAGIC
You wait here. Time for a little
Monkey Magic.

Monkey makes the magic sign and transforms into a Mosquito!

Mosquito Monkey flies to the entrance of the cave, past the guards. He flies inside.

INT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

Mosquito Monkey flies past a horde of little demons.

KING YELLOW WIND
That lawless ape! This time, when I
face him again, I'll use my divine
wind to blow him to death! Then we
shall feast on his Holy Master.

Monkey flies through to;

INT. CAVE OF YELLOW WIND - DEN - DAY

Tripitaka is tied up and crying. Mosquito monkey lands on his head.

MONKEY MAGIC
Psst! Master! It's me! I've come to
rescue you!

TRIPITAKA
Monkey! Where are you!

MONKEY MAGIC
I'm on your head!

TRIPITAKA
That monster is planning to kill
you and eat me!

Monkey Magic transforms back to his regular shape.

MONKEY MAGIC
Don't worry master. I have a
special magic walking stick!

INT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

The little demons flee as Monkey enters the King's lair.

MONKEY MAGIC
King Yellow Wind! Let's see how
well you can fight!

KING YELLOW WIND
Come for another round? Did you
learn nothing the first time!

King Yellow Wind lunges at him. Monkey parries the trident.

Yellow Wind takes a deep breath in, and blows wind! Monkey
transforms back into a mosquito and flies out the cave.

EXT. CAVE OF THE YELLOW WIND KING - DAY

King Yellow Wind chases the monkey mosquito outside.

KING YELLOW WIND
Come have another taste of my wind!

Monkey Magic transforms back to his regular shape.

Yellow Wind takes another deep breath in,

MONKEY MAGIC
The stick! Quickly throw it to me!

Piggy throws Monkey the walking stick. Yellow wind blows!

The walking stick magically sucks up all the wind.

KING YELLOW WIND
The staff of the flying dragon!

The walking staff glows...

And breaks into a thousand pieces as a GOLDEN DRAGON
magically emerges, grabs King Yellow Wind in its jaws and
bashes him against the mountain.

King Yellow Wind transforms into a YELLOW MINK (a small, cute rodent).

Pigsy returns from the cave mouth with Tripitaka.

PIGSY

Look, he's just a little rodent.

The very cute mink is not sure what to do with itself.

Monkey runs up to him with his rod, is about to strike!

TRIPITAKA

Monkey! Do not hurt him! He is on his own journey, even monsters can become good.

MONKEY MAGIC

You're really no fun sometimes, master.

They depart.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY

Monkey leads Tripitaka on horse, Pigsy carries the luggage.

WU (V.O.)

Time went by swiftly now, and summer yielded to the arrival of autumn. As they proceeded, they came upon a mighty river...

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - DAY

They arrive at the banks of the mighty sand river.

TRIPITAKA

Disciples, look at that vast expanse of water. Why are there no boats in sight? How are we to get across?

PIGSY

It's very turbulent, too rough for any boat.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, it's truly hard! I can easily cloud fly across, but you wouldn't be able to cross it in ten thousand years!

TRIPITAKA

I can't even see the other shore
from here. How wide is it?

MONKEY MAGIC

It's about eight hundred miles.

Suddenly, waves rise up from the waters -- the fish monster!

The fish monster lunges at Tripitaka. Pigsy intervenes with
his muckrake. Monkey carries Tripitaka to higher ground.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Master, sit here and don't be
afraid. Old Monkey is going to have
a bit of fun.

Pigsy and the fish monster battle.

Magically, they run along the surface of the water. Muckrake
meets the monster's staff. They are well matched.

Monkey Magic sprints along the surface of the water, jumps --
slams his rod down on the fish monster's head.

The fish monster dives into the river, in defeat.

PIGSY

What are you doing? I was just
about to capture him, and then you
rush in and scare him away!

MONKEY MAGIC

Why do you always try to keep the
fun to yourself!

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - BANKS - DAY

Pigsy and Monkey return to Tripitaka who is waiting with
horse and luggage.

TRIPITAKA

Did you catch the monster?

MONKEY MAGIC

He didn't last our fight and fled
back into the water.

TRIPITAKA

This monster has probably lived
here a long time and ought to know
the deep and shallow parts of the
river.

(MORE)

TRIPITAKA (CONT'D)

We need someone who is familiar
with this region to lead us across.

MONKEY MAGIC

Exactly! When I catch him, I won't
kill him -- I'll just make him take
Master across the river! Except,
I'm not really fond of water.

PIGSY

When I was Marshal of the Heavenly
River, I commanded a naval force of
some eighty thousand men. I am good
with water. Let me go capture the
monster.

MONKEY MAGIC

If he has any other monster friends
down there, lead them up to the
surface and Old Monkey will take
care of them...

Pigsy jumps into the water,

INT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - DAY

Pigsy swims towards an underwater cave.

INT. FISH MONSTER'S DEN - DAY

Pigsy emerges into the fish monster's den. It is scattered
with bones.

FISH MONSTER

Monk, watch where you are going or
you'll receive a blow from this!

The fish monster strikes down on Pigsy with his staff. Pigsy
blocks the blow with his muckrake.

PIGSY

What sort of monster are you that
you dare bar our way!

FISH MONSTER

I'm not a monster!

PIGSY

Then what are you! And whose skulls
do you wear around your neck? Tell
me your name and I'll spare your
life.

FISH MONSTER

I am the Curtain-Raising Captain of
Heaven.

They continue to exchange blows, with less and less intensity
as they converse.

PIGSY

Really? I thought you looked
familiar. Don't you recognise me?

FISH MONSTER

No. Who are you?

PIGSY

I was the Marshal of the Heavenly
Reeds. What did you do to get
banished?

FISH MONSTER

I broke the Jade Emperor's cup.

PIGSY

The green one?

FISH MONSTER

I'm ashamed to say, yes.

PIGSY

How terrible!

FISH MONSTER

Why were you cast down to Earth?

PIGSY

I got drunk and dallied with the
Goddess of the Moon.

FISH MONSTER

Lady Vega?

PIGSY

Love of my life. Now, I'm stuck on
this scripture pilgrimage. And
we're not even half way there!

The fish monster lights up.

FISH MONSTER

You're travelling with a scripture
pilgrim?

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - BANKS - DAY

The fish monster runs up towards Tripitaka and prostrates himself.

FISH MONSTER

Forgive me! Master, please forgive me! I've been waiting such a long time for your arrival that I didn't recognise you. Guanyin told me to become your disciple.

MONKEY MAGIC

You bum! Why didn't you submit in the first place?

TRIPITAKA

Monkey, do not berate him. What are those skulls around your neck?

FISH MONSTER

These? I'm not even sure to tell you the truth?

Tripitaka looks through him.

FISH MONSTER (CONT'D)

Ok! I can't lie! They are the skulls of scripture pilgrims. I ate them in my hunger! Guanyin told me there would be a use for them when the time came.

TRIPITAKA

If you are to become my disciple, will you follow the path of all that is right and good?

FISH MONSTER

I will! I promise I will!

TRIPITAKA

Monster, what is your name?

FISH MONSTER

Sandy, who awakes to purity.

TRIPITAKA

Come Sandy, help us cross this river.

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - BANKS - DAY

The four of them stand at the banks of the mighty river.

TRIPITAKA

How shall we cross?

SANDY

Guanyin gave me this gourd. We can sail across on it.

Sandy shows them the red gourd in his hand.

PIGSY

How are we to fit on that?

MONKEY

And I thought he was the idiot?

SANDY

Watch!

Sandy lays his necklace of skulls on the grass, and puts the red gourd in the middle of it.

Whispering some magic, Sandy transforms the red gourd to thirty times its size -- into a vessel. He smiles.

EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - DAY

The pilgrims ride their magic vessel over mighty waves. They travel swiftly.

WU (V.O.)

And so the pilgrims crossed the flowing river, and were delivered from its mighty waves.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST -- MONTAGE

Tripitaka on horse is led by Monkey, as Sandy and Pigsy closely follow. They pass through green hills, wild grasses, and lakes.

WU (V.O.)

The way to acquire scriptures is no different from the way of attending to the fundamentals in one's life. Master and disciples, the four of them, who, having awakened to the suchness of all things, broke free from the fetters of dust. They passed through countless green hills and blue waters. Wild grass and untended flowers in endless array. Time was swift indeed and soon it was autumn again.

(MORE)

WU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 As it was getting late one evening,
 they came across a wealthy
 estate...

EXT. ESTATE OF THE JIA FAMILY - NIGHT

A princely estate.

Tripitaka brings the disciples to a halt.

PIGSY
 Master, my feet are sore and my
 belly is empty.

MONKEY MAGIC
 Quit complaining you idiot! No one
 ever said it would be easy!

TRIPITAKA
 Disciples, we shall go and beg for
 lodging at this house.

Piggy knocks on the gate.

WU (V.O.)
 They waited for a long time, but no
 one came out. Impatient by nature,
 Monkey leapt the gate to take a
 look...

INT. ESTATE OF THE JIA FAMILY - HALL - NIGHT

Monkey tours the large halls of the impressive house.

WIDOW (O.S.)
 Who are you that you dare enter a
 widow's home without permission?

Monkey turns around to see a beautiful woman, A WIDOW.

MONKEY MAGIC
 We are scripture pilgrims. There
 are four of us altogether. As we
 reached your noble region, we
 approached your house to seek
 shelter for the night.

WIDOW
 Elder, where are your companions?
 Please invite them to come in.

MONKEY MAGIC (shouting)
 Master! You are invited to come in!

Pigsy, Sandy and Tripitaka enter the house.

Pigsy falls in love at the sight of the widow.

WIDOW

Come, let me make you some tea.

INT. ESTATE OF THE JIA FAMILY - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tripitaka and her disciples sit around the dining table, drinking tea.

WIDOW

My maiden surname is Jia, and the surname of my husband's family is Mo. Unfortunately, my in-laws died prematurely, and my husband and I inherited our considerable fortune. It was fated, however, that we should have no sons, having given birth to three daughters. The year before last, it was my great misfortune to lose my husband also, and I was left a widow. We have no other relatives beside mother and daughters to inherit our vast property and land. We are delighted therefore, that the four of you have arrived, for we four, mother and daughters, would like very much to ask you to become our husbands. I do not know what you will think of this proposal. Our vast riches would make for a very comfortable life, if you would be willing to change your minds and enter the family of your wives. Will that not be better than the toil of the journey to the West?

Pigsy eagerly looks at Tripitaka -- well? Tripitaka shuts his eyes to quiet his mind of the temptation.

WIDOW (CONT'D)

We have over three hundred acres of paddies, four hundred and sixty acres of dried fields, and over four hundred and sixty acres of orchards and forests. We have countless livestock, over seventy barns and haystacks.

(MORE)

WIDOW (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

In this house there is enough grain to feed you for more than eight or nine years, silk that you could not wear out in a decade, gold and silver that you might spend for a lifetime. You will be most comfortable having all these riches to enjoy.

PIGSY (whispering)

Master! Listen!

WIDOW

Though I am rather homely, my daughters fortunately, are rather good-looking. Moreover, each of them is well trained in the arts. And because we had no son, my late husband brought them up as if they were boys, teaching them some of the Confucian classics as well as the art of writing verse and couplets. If you elders can put away your inhibitions and let your hair grow again, you can at once become masters of this house-hold.

PIGSY (whispering)

Master! How can you ignore what the lady has been saying to you? Try to pay some attention.

TRIPITAKA

You cursed beast! We are scripture pilgrims. How can we possibly allow ourselves to be moved by riches and tempted by beauty?

WIDOW

I was asking you, with all sincerity, to enter our family and share our wealth, and you insult me instead.

TRIPITAKA

I apologise if I have caused you any offence.

WIDOW

Out! All of you!

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - NIGHT

Tripitaka and his disciples walk along the road.

PIGSY

Master! You really don't know how to handle these matters. The way you spoke! You should have at least given her a vague reply so we could have enjoyed a pleasant evening.

SANDY (earnest)

Why don't you stay here and become her son-in-law?

MONKEY MAGIC

The idiot is tempted! Look at him!

PIGSY

Which one of us can truly say that he doesn't want this? You're all tempted!

TRIPITAKA

Enough! We shall setup camp for the night.

EXT. ROADSIDE CAMP - NIGHT

Tripitaka is asleep with his disciples, the Jia estate can be seen in the distance.

A shadowy figure weaves towards them through the forest.

It's the widow. She whispers in Pigsy's ear.

WIDOW

Pigsy, follow me.

Pigsy wakes up and nods. He looks around to check the others are still asleep.

She leads him through the forest, to;

EXT. ESTATE OF THE JIA FAMILY - NIGHT

The Widow's three daughters, ZHENZHEN, AIAI and LIANLIAN are waiting on the front porch.

PIGSY

I can't believe it! You're all so gorgeous. Which one of these dear sisters do you plan to give to me?

WIDOW

That's my dilemma. I was going to give you my eldest daughter, but I was afraid of offending my second daughter. I was going to give you my second daughter, but I was afraid then of offending my third daughter. And if I were to give you my third daughter, I fear that my eldest daughter may be offended. That's why I cannot make up my mind.

PIGSY

Mama, if you want to prevent strife, why not give them all to me?

WIDOW

Nonsense! You alone want to take all three of my daughters?

PIGSY

Who doesn't have three or four concubines nowadays? I could also take you as my wife too, if you wanted.

WIDOW

I have a large handkerchief here, with which you can blindfold yourself. I'll ask my daughters to dance around you, and the one you catch will become your betrothed.

The widow puts the blindfold on Pigsy. He giggles.

PIGSY

Come to Pigsy! You dainty little things!

WIDOW

Zhenzhen, Aiai, Lianlian! Come out and determine your fated marriage!

Pigsy grins.

He chases the girls around, in circles, not able to catch any of them.

EXT. ROADSIDE CAMP - DAY

Monkey Magic opens his eyes. It's morning.

SANDY
We are finished!

MONKEY MAGIC
What are you talking about?

SANDY
That estate has vanished! We must
have been talking to ghosts!

MONKEY MAGIC
I wonder how that Idiot is going...

SANDY
Pigsy! They've taken Pigsy.

MONKEY MAGIC
He'll be alright. They were just
some Holy Immortals, who had waited
for us to teach us a lesson.

PIGSY (O.S.)
Master! Save me, please!

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Pigsy is tied up with rope hanging from a tree.

MONKEY MAGIC
What a dear son-in-law, all bound
and beaten. Where's your wife?

PIGSY
Very funny. Can someone please
untie me!

Sandy helps to untie him.

WU (V.O.)
One must take care in the pursuit
of truth to purge desires. And so
Pigsy learnt his lesson about
lustful habits.

EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY

Tripitaka and the pilgrims journey west.

WU (V.O.)
They journeyed onwards and soon
came upon a magnificent mountain.

EXT. TALL MOUNTAIN - DAY

The lofty mountain rises up before them.

TRIPITAKA

Disciples, we best be careful as we travel up this mountain for there may be monsters seeking to harm us.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master! Don't fear monsters. Ahead of your horse you have the three of us.

TRIPITAKA

This is some magnificent mountain, perhaps we are not so far from the Thunderclap, and, if so, we should prepare to meet the World's Honored One.

MONKEY MAGIC

Ha! We're still one hundred and eight thousand miles from the Thunderclap. We haven't even covered a tenth of the distance.

SANDY

How many years will it take us to reach it?

MONKEY MAGIC

You can walk from the time of your youth till the time you grow old, and after that, till you become youthful again. And even after going through such a cycle a thousand times, you may still find it difficult to reach the place you want to go.

TRIPITAKA

Disciple, go somewhere and beg some vegetarian food for me.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master! We are in the middle of a mountain, no village in sight nor any inn behind us. Even if we had money, there's no place for us to buy anything.

TRIPITAKA

You ape! Don't you remember how I freed you from that mountain, why are you not willing to exert yourself a bit more?

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, please don't get upset. A little offence and you will recite that little something spell! Dismount and rest a while. Let me find out if there's any family to beg some vegetarian food.

Tripitaka dismounts from the horse and sits by the road.

Monkey Magic summons his magic cloud and flies off.

EXT. TALL MOUNTAIN (ABOVE THE CLOUDS) - DAY

Monkey Magic flies above the clouds. Scans the horizon.

In the distance are some tiny specks of red.

EXT. TALL MOUNTAIN (BELOW THE CLOUDS) - DAY

Monkey Magic descends on his cloud to Tripitaka.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master! There's something to eat!

TRIPITAKA

What is it?

MONKEY MAGIC

Mountain peaches!

Tripitaka smiles.

EXT. PEACH ORCHID - DAY

Monkey plucks peaches from the tree, filling his basket

WU (V.O.)

A tall mountain will always have monsters. A rugged peak will always produce fiends.

EXT. TALL MOUNTAIN - DAY

A thick fog has descended on the mountain. Tripitaka sits beside Pigsy and Sandy.

Pigsy notices something in the fog. He lifts up his muck-rake.

Something moves.

A YOUNG WOMAN emerges from the fog. She has a moon-like face and red lips. Pigsy grins, lowers his guard.

PIGSY

Hello my pretty thing! Where are you going? What's that you are holding in your hands?

YOUNG WOMAN

Elder, what I have in the blue pot is fragrant rice made from wine cakes. I came here for no other reason than to redeem my vow of feeding monks.

PIGSY

Master! The good man will have Heaven's reward!

Pigsy runs back over to Tripitaka.

PIGSY (CONT'D)

Because you were hungry, you asked Elder Brother to go beg some vegetarian food. But we really don't know what that ape has got up to! Take a look at this beautiful girl, she has brought food for us!

Tripitaka stands up, notices the young woman.

TRIPITAKA

Lady Bodhisattva, where is your home? What kind of vow have you made that you have to come here to feed the monks?

YOUNG WOMAN

Master, this mountain which turns back serpents and frightens wild beasts bears the name of White Tiger. My home is due west of here.

TRIPITAKA

Why do you walk the mountain all by yourself?

The young woman smiles broadly.

YOUNG WOMAN

Actually, my husband is north of this mountain. This happens to be the lunch I prepared for him to eat. But I would very much like to use this rice as food for monks.

Monkey descends on his cloud. The girl's smile vanishes.

Monkey frowns. He carefully puts down his basket of peaches, and pulls out his magic wishing staff.

TRIPITAKA

Monkey! Who have you come back to hit!

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, this girl is a monster and she has come to deceive you.

TRIPITAKA

This kind girl merely wants to feed me with her rice, why do you say she's a monster?

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, how could you know about this? When I was a monster and I wanted to eat people I would change myself into gold or silver, a lonely building, a harmless drunk or a beautiful woman. Anyone feeble-minded enough to be attracted to me I would lure back to my cave and eat!

TRIPITAKA

She's a good person, just trying to help where she can.

MONKEY MAGIC

I think I know what's happening. Your worldly mind has been aroused by the sight of this woman's beauty. Let me build you a little hut right here and you can consummate the affair!

Tripitaka blushes.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Why bother fetch the scriptures!

Monkey marches up to the young woman and strikes her dead.

Her body collapses to the ground. Monkey looks back at the others.

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Don't worry, it's just a fake body.
Any old monster can make a fake
body these days.

SANDY

Monkey, what have you done?

PIGSY

He's killed that poor little girl!

MONKEY MAGIC

Don't be offended, Master. Come see
for yourself what kind of things
are in the pot.

Monkey cracks open the pot -- frogs and spiders jump out.

PIGSY

Master, how could that poor girl be
a monster? He's just trying to
befuddle you so you won't recite
that spell.

TRIPITAKA

Enough!

Tripitaka recites the spell.

MONKEY MAGIC

Ow! My head! Stop it! Stop
reciting!

Tripitaka stops the spell.

TRIPITAKA

You practice violence with every
step! Since you have beaten to
death this innocent commoner what
good would it do even if we were to
acquire the scriptures? You might
as well go back.

MONKEY MAGIC

Where do you want me to go back to?

TRIPITAKA

I don't want you as my disciple.

MONKEY MAGIC

Good luck without me! Do you
realise that monsters are trying to
eat you!

TRIPITAKA

My life is in the care of Heaven.
If it is ordained that I should be
food for some monster, even if I
were to be steamed or boiled, it's
all right with me.

Monkey tries a different tack.

MONKEY MAGIC

Please Master, forgive me.

Tripitaka considers this.

TRIPITAKA

I'll forgive you this time. But if
you work violence again as before,
I'll recite this spell over and
over twenty times.

MONKEY MAGIC

You may recite it thirty times.

Monkey helps Tripitaka onto his horse and hands him a peach.