

MONKEY MAGIC: THE JOURNEY BEGINS

written by

Hugo O'Connor

based on the novel "The Journey to the West" by Wu Cheng'en  
as translated by Anthony C. Yu

**SUPER: MONKEY MAGIC: THE JOURNEY BEGINS**

DARKNESS.

The voice of a wise old man narrates this tale,

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

**EXT. PRIMAL CHAOS - NIGHT**

Flashes of lighting reveal a volcano.

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 - NIGHT**

The big bang gives birth to the universe...

WU (V.O.)  
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.

**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 breaks free 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 disturbed when the glint  
in the monkey's eyes cast a 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 our story 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 dying?!

**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, 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.

A tall mountain rises up in the distance.

WU(V.O.)  
 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. In  
 these years he became 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 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 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 fatal 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 a celebratory 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.

OLD MONKEY

Our Great King has mastered the way, obtaining the secrets of immortality.

MONKEY MAGIC

Yes I know. Although it would be better if I had some great weapon. Then I would be king of the world!

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, parting 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 nothing suitable for a monkey.

MONKEY MAGIC

Nonsense! You have treasures beyond measure, why not lend one to me?

The DRAGON MOTHER and DRAGON PRINCESS join them.

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

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, past rare jewels and artefacts.

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 as Monkey lifts the rod!

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 towering 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 the 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.

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  
What do you mean?

OLD SPIRIT VENUS  
It's 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  
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, oblivious to etiquette.

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 and the  
World!



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, unimpressed, 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? So 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"

**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. They battle.

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.

(MORE)

OLD SPIRIT VENUS (CONT'D)  
 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 this 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. Making a mess.

**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, honourable Tathāgata Buddha, 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? 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 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 UNIVERSE - DAY**

Monkey Magic cloud flies through the universe.

**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 at the end of the universe! 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, magically 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 and hands popping out.

MONKEY MAGIC  
Buddha! You cheated! Let me out of  
this mountain! Buddha! I don't like  
it! I don't!

WU (V.O.)  
But Buddha waited for the time to  
fulfil itself...

**EXT. TEMPLE OF THE THUNDERCLAP - HEAVEN - DAY**

A magnificent golden temple floating in the clouds.

WU (V.O.)  
... Preaching in his library at the  
temple of the great thunderclap.

**INT. TEMPLE OF THE THUNDERCLAP - HEAVEN - DAY**

Buddha preaches to a hall full of HOLY IMMORTALS.

BUDDHA

Fellow Buddhas and Bodhisattvas!  
The Great Vehicle! Sutra! Shastra!  
Inaya! These are the scriptures, by  
them men may be delivered from  
suffering. Monkey nature turns them  
from the Buddha within. But the  
jewel at the heart of the lotus  
dwells within all men equally.  
Words can show a way to  
illumination. Thus the scriptures  
should be given to mankind. They  
should not be given too easily  
however, lest no one values the  
gift. Will one of you go to find a  
holy man to come here for them?

GUANYIN, the lady of compassion, rises up from the crowd.

GUANYIN

It may not be easy, but Guanyin  
will go, Lord Buddha. To try to  
find a holy pilgrim.

BUDDHA

You? Lady Compassion?

GUANYIN

Yes, I shall go!

**EXT. TEMPLE OF THE THUNDERCLAP - HEAVEN - DAY**

Guanyin and her disciple, HUI'AN, cloud fly through the gates  
of the temple.

**EXT. FLOWING SAND RIVER - DAY**

Guanyin and Hui'an cloud fly to the river.

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 his tears away.

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 the Marshal of the Heavenly  
Reeds in the Heavenly River. I got  
drunk and dallied with the Goddess  
of the Moon, and 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 scripture pilgrim.

**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 WHITE 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 scripture pilgrim. 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

Please, let me out. I'll do the  
right thing! I'm willing!

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. 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, 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,  
destined for a great journey, 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...

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. Tripitaka kneels before him.

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.

The Emperor doesn't understand him.

XUANZANG (CONT'D)

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.

**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, he 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 battles the OGRE KING and his HENCHMEN, defeating them.

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 mountainside 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 axe 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.

The bandits look at each other, confused by the brazenness of this Monkey man.

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...

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  
people 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.

Tripitaka takes the headband and holds it.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

He will not leave you again.

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.

(MORE)

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

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.  
His curiosity is piqued.

MONKEY MAGIC

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?

## 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 motions to swing 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 help...  
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.

Piggy 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.

Piggy's eyes light up.

PIG MONSTER

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

**EXT. GAO VILLAGE - DAY**

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

VILLAGERS glare at him.

They arrive to where Tripitaka is sitting.

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 Piggy 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. 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 too rough for any boat.

MONKEY MAGIC

Master, 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 -- a 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 down into the river, defeated.

## 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. 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 holds out 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. DUE-TO-FALL MOUNTAIN - DAY**

Tripitaka and his disciples 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.

SANDY  
I've got a bad feeling about this.



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!

SANDY

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, three 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, a Monkey and a gloomy looking Fish fellow, 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 LITTLE DEMONS rush up from the sides, grabbing Tripitaka, dragging him away.

**EXT. DUE-TO-FALL MOUNTAIN - DAY**

Piggy, Sandy and Monkey look around for their master.

PIGSY

Heavens! Heavens! They've taken Master away!

SANDY

We're doomed!

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

## MONKEY MAGIC

You two 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 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 and Sandy run up to 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.

SANDY

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.

SANDY

How terrible! You've been blinded!

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 and Sandy carry 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 nervously holding rakes, pitchforks and brooms.

OLD MAN

Who are you?

## MONKEY MAGIC

We are disciples of a holy monk  
from the Land of the East. Our  
master was captured by the Yellow  
Wind Monster.

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. Sandy is somewhat more reserved.

## 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 and Sandy are 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.

Sandy picks up the old man's walking stick.

SANDY

He left behind his prized walking  
stick!

PIGSY

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

MONKEY MAGIC

You two 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!

Sandy 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.

SANDY

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 -- 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. 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.

Pigsy 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. 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)

Master, 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.

**EXT. ABOVE THE CLOUDS - DAY**

THE CADAVER MONSTER gnashes her teeth.

CADAVER MONSTER

That damn Monkey! The Tang Monk was all mine and he ruined it! Time for some more fun...

The Monster dives down through the clouds,

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY**

And magically transforms into AN OLD LADY.

THE OLD LADY grins mischievously.

**EXT. WHITE TIGER MOUNTAIN - DAY**

Tripitaka and his disciples walk the road west.

PIGSY

Monkey you really don't know how to control yourself, do you?

MONKEY MAGIC

You idiot, can't you tell a monster when you see one?

Ahead of them, the Old Lady is weeping.

OLD LADY

My daughter!

PIGSY

Master, it's terrible! That old Mama is looking for someone.

TRIPITAKA

Looking for whom?



PIGSY

The girl slain by Elder Brother has  
to be her daughter.

MONKEY MAGIC

Nonsense! She's just another fake!

Monkey marches up to the Old Lady.

OLD LADY

My daughter... Have you seen her?

MONKEY MAGIC

*My daughter, my daughter.* Nice try  
you ugly monster!

TRIPITAKA

Monkey no!

Monkey takes out his rod and whacks the Old Lady.

She collapses dead, her body falling in a heap.

Tripitaka recites the Tight-Fillet Spell. Monkey falls to the  
ground in pain.

MONKEY MAGIC

Ow-ow-ow-ow! Master! Please! Say  
what you have to say!

Tripitaka stops the spell.

TRIPITAKA

What's there to say? Why do you  
persist in doing violence? You have  
beaten to death one commoner after  
another. How do you explain this?

MONKEY MAGIC

She was a monster!

PIGSY

That poor old woman.

TRIPITAKA

You tell me that there are many  
monsters! You are a person lacking  
any will to do good. You'd better  
go.

MONKEY MAGIC

Fine I'll go, but there's one thing  
I find disagreeable.

TRIPITAKA

What's that?

MONKEY MAGIC

Some five hundred years ago I was  
hero enough to receive the  
submission of the demons of  
seventy-two caves and to command  
forty-seven thousand little fiends.  
Ever since Nirvana delivered me  
from my sins, I had this gold  
fillet clamped on my head. I can't  
face the folks back home like this.  
Show some human kindness and recite  
the Loose-Fillet Spell.

TRIPITAKA

Monkey, I only know the Tight-  
Fillet Spell. There was no Loose-  
Fillet Spell.

MONKEY MAGIC

Well, if there is no Loose-Fillet  
Spell you'd better still take me  
along.

TRIPITAKA

I'll forgive you one more time, but  
you must not do violence again.

MONKEY MAGIC

I won't dare do so.

Monkey helps Tripitaka onto his horse. They ride on.

# **EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY**

They come to an OLD MAN, with flowing white hair, who is  
reciting the sutras.

TRIPITAKA

The West is truly blessed! This  
dear old man can hardly walk, but  
he still wants to recite the  
sutras!

PIGSY

Master, stop praising him! He is  
the root of disaster!

TRIPITAKA

What do you mean?

## PIGSY

Monkey killed his daughter, and then his wife. If we run smack into him, you'll pay with your life since you are guilty of death. Old Pigsy will be banished to serve in the army. Sandy carries out your orders, so he'll be sentenced to hard labour. And Monkey, of course, will use some kind of escape magic to get away, leaving us to take the blame.

## MONKEY MAGIC

You idiot! He's probably just another monster.

Monkey marches up to him.

## MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

Aged sir, where are you headed?

## OLD MAN

This old man has lived here for generations. My whole life is devoted to doing good and feeding monks, and reading scriptures and chanting sutras. My daughter left this morning to take rice down the fields and we fear she might have become food for the tiger instead.

## MONKEY MAGIC

Oh really.

## OLD MAN

Yes, and my old wife went searching for her, but she, too, did not return. I have no idea what has happened to them.

## MONKEY MAGIC

I'm the master of pulling pranks! You can't fool me. I can see that you are a monster!

Monkey takes out his rod and strikes down on the Old Man.

The Old Man crumples into a pile of white bones.

## PIGSY

Monkey is acting up again! Look!

Monkey dashes up to Tripitaka who motions for the spell.

## MONKEY MAGIC

Wait! Wait! Don't say it! Master!  
Just come and take a look at how  
she looks now.

Tripitaka inspects the pile of white bones.

## TRIPITAKA

This person just died, how could he  
change all at once into a skeleton?

## MONKEY MAGIC

She's a demon out to seduce and  
harm people. When she was killed by  
me, she revealed her true form. You  
can see for yourself on her spine,  
she's called "Lady White Bone".

## PIGSY

Master, his hand is heavy and his  
rod is vicious. He has beaten  
someone to death, but, fearing your  
spell, he deliberately changed them  
into something like this just to  
befuddle you.

Tripitaka recites the spell.

## MONKEY MAGIC

OW! Please not that again! If you  
have something to say, say it  
quickly!

Tripitaka stops the spell.

## TRIPITAKA

You managed to get away even after  
beating to death three people only  
because there's no one here to  
oppose you. Suppose we get to a  
crowded city and you suddenly start  
hitting people with that staff of  
yours, how would I be able to go  
free from that great misfortune?  
You'd better go back.

## MONKEY MAGIC

Master, you have really wronged me.  
This was undeniably a monstrous  
spirit, bent on hurting you. I  
killed her and saved your life.  
Instead you believe this Idiot?  
Nothing can occur three times!

(MORE)

MONKEY MAGIC (CONT'D)

If I don't leave you I'll be a shameless fellow. I'll go! It's not big deal for me. I just worry that you'll have no-one to serve you.

TRIPITAKA

No-one? You think Pigsy and Sandy are no-one?

SANDY

You've really done it this time, Monkey.

MONKEY MAGIC

I was the one who captured demons and defeated monsters! Now you banish Wisdom to court Folly. The only thing left to settle is that spell of yours.

TRIPITAKA

I won't recite it again.

MONKEY MAGIC

So when you face those treacherous demons and bitter ordeals and these two idiots can't rescue you, I'll have a headache even if I'm one hundred miles away.

TRIPITAKA

Sandy, fetch me my brush and some ink and parchment.

Sandy takes the brush, ink and parchment from the luggage. Tripitaka writes a note on Sandy's back.

TRIPITAKA (CONT'D)

Here. A letter of banishment.

MONKEY MAGIC

An official banishment!

TRIPITAKA

I'll never want you as a disciple. If I ever consent to see you again, let me fall into Hell!

Monkey takes the letter.

MONKEY MAGIC

Good luck without me!

Monkey summons his magic cloud and flies off.

**EXT. THE GREAT EASTERN OCEAN - DAY**

Monkey cloud flies along the surface of the water, as giant waves crash down.

WU (V.O.)

We were telling you about the Great Sage, who though he was banished by the Tang Monk, was filled with regret and nostalgia when he saw the Great Eastern Ocean. He had not come this way for some five hundred years. On returning to his Flower-Fruit Mountain, he became more grief-stricken than ever...

Monkey flies to,

**EXT. THE FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY**

The mountain is bare, trees dried and withered.

WU (V.O.)

On finding it had been burned to total ruin.

Monkey descends on his cloud. He picks up a handful of the scorched earth, tears in his eyes.

SEVERAL SMALL MONKEYS scurry out from the bushes.

MONKEY #1

Father Great Sage!

MONKEY #2

You've come home!

MONKEY MAGIC

Why is everyone hiding?

MONKEY #2

Since the Great Sage left and became captive in Heaven, we have suffered at the hands of hunters.

MONKEY #3

We dare not play! How could we withstand those sharp arrows and long bows, those yellow hawks and wicked hounds.

## MONKEY #2

We conceal ourselves deep in the cave, only in hunger do we go steal some grass on the meadow.

## MONKEY #1

We beg you take care of us!

## MONKEY MAGIC

In former times, I had forty-seven thousand little monsters here. Where did they go?

## MONKEY #1

When Father left, this mountain was burned by Erlang and more than half of them were killed by the fire.

## MONKEY #2

The hunters killed many of those who remained. Serving us as food. Those they let live would be taught tricks to perform for the humans.

## MONKEY #1

But father, we heard that you regained your life so that you could protect the Tang Monk on his journey? Why are you not heading towards the West?

## MONKEY MAGIC

Little ones, that Tang Monk is a stupid idiot. For his sake I caught fiends and overcame demons, using all my abilities. Several times I slew a monster, but accusing me of doing evil and violence, he disowned me and banished me back here.

## MONKEY #2

What do you want to be a monk for anyway? Come home and you can lead us again!

## MONKEY MAGIC

Let's not break out the wine just yet, how often do those hunters come to our mountain?

## MONKEY #3

Great Sage, they are here everyday to cause trouble.

## MONKEY MAGIC

Little ones, go up to the mountain  
and bring back every little rock  
you can find. Pile them up here. I  
have a use for them.

The little monkeys all scatter, following his instructions.

Monkey summons his magic cloud.

**EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN (ABOVE THE CLOUDS) - DAY**

Monkey looks over the peak of the mountain to,

**EXT. SOUTH OF THE FLOWER FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY**

A THOUSAND HUNTERS riding horseback, beating drums and  
striking gongs, are approaching.

**EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY**

The monkeys have made piles and piles of rocks. Monkey Magic  
descends on his cloud.

## MONKEY MAGIC

Little ones, go hide in the cave.  
Time for a little Monkey Magic.

The monkeys run into the cave.

Monkey Magic makes the magic sign, and twirls his rod  
creating a vicious gust of wind.

The wind lifts the rocks, hurtling them towards the hunters  
-- smashing them bloodied.

It's a massacre.

Monkey Magic grins.

IMAGE: A BANNER - "THE FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN REBUILT, THE  
WATER-CURTAIN CAVE RESTORED - GREAT SAGE, EQUAL TO HEAVEN"

**EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - VARIOUS - DAY**

MONTAGE as Monkeys rebuild the Water-Curtain Cave.

## WU (V.O)

The word "monk" was never mentioned  
again.

Monkey Magic is visited by the Dragon Kings, with their  
divine water.



WU (V.O) (CONT'D)

As he enjoyed wide friendship and great power, he had no trouble borrowing some divine water from the Dragon Kings of the Four Oceans to wash his mountain and make it green again.

Monkeys plant trees, plough the fields. Industrious.

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

He planted elms and willows, pines and cedars. Peach, pear, date, and plum - he had them all. Then he settled down to enjoy life without any care.

The Flower-Fruit Mountain is restored to it's former glory.

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - FOREST - DAY**

Pigsy hacks through the thick scrub with his muckrake.

SANDY

Monkey isn't coming back, is he?

TRIPITAKA

Enough talk of that ape! Pigsy, I'm getting very hungry. Where can you find me some vegetarian food to eat?

PIGSY

Please Master, dismount, let Old Pigsy go beg some food for you.

Pigsy puts down the luggage and leaves.

WU (V.O)

Pigsy left the forest and walked for over ten miles.

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - DAY**

Pigsy walks the road.

WU (V.O.)

But he did not come upon a single household.

PIGSY

Where in the world can I go to beg for food? If I go back now, Master will think I didn't try hard enough. Best take a little nap to while away a few hours.

Pigsy drops his muckrake and lies down beside the road.

He sleeps.

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - FOREST - DAY**

Tripitaka is restless and anxious.

TRIPITAKA

Why hasn't Pigsy returned from his trip to beg for food?

SANDY

Master, don't you understand? There are so many families in this region who love to feed monks, he's not going to worry about you, he's probably eating himself sick!

TRIPITAKA

You are right. But if he is staying at some place just to satisfy his hankering for food, where are we going to find lodgings?

SANDY

Don't worry, Master, you sit here and let me find him.

TRIPITAKA

Yes, it doesn't matter if there is food or not. But we must find a place to stay.

Sandy takes his staff and leaves in search of Pigsy.

FADE TO:

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - FOREST - DUSK**

Tripitaka puts their luggage together in a pile and ties the horse to a tree.

WU (V.O.)

The hours passed by slowly. Wishing to dispel his boredom, the Holy Fool went for a walk in this secluded forest.

Tripitaka walks through a field of wild flowers.

WU (V.O) (CONT'D)

After going in circles for awhile, he began heading south.

Tripitaka emerges from the pine forest and looks up to,

**EXT. A BEJEWELLED PAGODA (DISTANT) - DUSK**

The golden dome gleams in the setting sun.

TRIPITAKA

This must be some kind of monastery!

Tripitaka walks towards the pagoda.

On closer inspection, the pagoda is overgrown with weeds and creeper vines. This isn't what he was expecting.

Tripitaka looks around, walking through the nearby grassland.

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DUSK**

Tripitaka carefully enters the Pagoda.

There is a fire in the corner of the room.

And a MONSTER sleeping.

He has an indigo face, large fangs, curved nose, purple hair, and huge fists.

Tripitaka exits quickly in fright.

The Monster opens his golden eyes.

MONSTER

Little ones! Go see who is outside our door!

A LITTLE MONSTER sticks his head out, to see;

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

Tripitaka running away, back to the forest.

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

The little monster runs inside.

LITTLE MONSTER

Great King! It's a priest outside!  
He has a round head and a large  
face. Tender flesh and fine skin.

MONSTER

I was starting to get a little bit  
hungry, and food presents itself.  
Chase him down and bring him to me!

The little monster is joined by SEVERAL OTHER FIENDS.

**EXT. THE FOREST - NIGHT**

Tripitaka runs and runs.

The little monsters give chase.

The monsters surround Tripitaka.

He's trapped.

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

The little monsters drag Tripitaka before their King.

MONSTER

From what region are you, monk?  
Where did you come from? Where are  
you going? Tell us quickly!

TRIPITAKA

I'm a monk from the Tang court. I  
was sent by the Great Tang Emperor  
to seek scriptures in the West. I  
have no intention to disturb Your  
Eminence. Please forgive me.

MONSTER

Ha! I said to myself you were from  
a powerful nation, so you are  
indeed! You're exactly the person I  
want to eat! Tie him up!

The little monsters grab Tripitaka and tie him to a pillar.

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - NIGHT**

Sandy walks hurriedly, looking for Pigsy.

WU (V.O)

We now tell you about Sandy, who left the forest looking for Pigsy. He walked for over ten miles but did not see even a village or a hamlet.

SNORING can be heard in the grass.

Sandy approaches cautiously. He pulls back the tuft of grass to reveal a sleeping Pigsy.

SANDY

Idiot! Master told you to beg for food. Did he give you permission to sleep here?

PIGSY

Brother, what time is it?

SANDY

Get up quick! Master said it didn't matter if there was food or not.

Pigsy collects his alms bowl and muckrake.

**EXT. THE ROAD WEST - FOREST - NIGHT**

Pigsy and Sandy arrive back to the luggage and the horse.

PIGSY

Where's master?

Tripitaka is nowhere to be seen.

SANDY

It's all because of you, Idiot, for taking such a long time to find some food. Master must have been seized by a monster!

PIGSY

Brother, don't talk nonsense. This forest is a pure, lovely place. Not the place of monsters. It must be that that old priest cannot sit still and has gone sightseeing somewhere. Let's go find him.

They gather the luggage and lead the horse.

WU (V.O)

It happened that the Holy Fool was not destined to die just yet. Having looked for him for some time, his disciples eventually saw beams of golden light coming from the south.

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA (DISTANT) - NIGHT**

They stop and look at the distant shining pagoda.

PIGSY

Brother, the blessed will only receive more blessings! Master must have gone to that pagoda. Who would dare be inhospitable at a place like that? They must be preparing our feast as we wait.

SANDY

How do you know if it's a good place or not? Let's at least have a look first.

The two of them walk up to,

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

Above the door is written: CASSEROLE MOUNTAIN, CURRENT-MOON CAVE.

SANDY

Brother, this is no monastery. It's the cave-dwelling of a monster.

Pigsy drops the luggage and takes out his muck-rake.

PIGSY

Don't be alarmed, Brother. Tie up the horse and stand guard over our luggage. Let me question them.

Pigsy bangs on the door.

PIGSY (CONT'D)

Open the door!

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

The little monster standing guard runs into the Monster's chamber.

LITTLE MONSTER  
Great King, business is here.

MONSTER  
What sort of business?

LITTLE MONSTER  
There is a monk with large ears and  
a long mouth outside our cave. He  
is banging on the door!

MONSTER  
Well, if he is so audacious, let's  
not treat him casually. Bring me my  
armour!

The little monster fetches the armour and the scimitar.

The Monster laces his armour and grabs the scimitar.

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

The Monster comes out of the door.

MONSTER  
Where are you from monk, that you  
dare cause this racket!

PIGSY  
My child, don't you recognise me?  
I'm your venerable father! My  
Master happens to be the royal  
brother, Tripitaka. If he's in your  
house, send him out at once! Or  
I'll level you with my rake!

MONSTER  
Ah, there is a Tang Monk in my  
house and I haven't denied him  
hospitality either. I was just  
preparing some buns filled with  
human flesh for him to enjoy. Why  
don't you join us?

Pigsy looks uncertain. Sandy whispers to him.

SANDY  
Elder brother, he's deceiving you!  
Master is a vegetarian.

PIGSY  
Nice try you ugly monster!

Pigsy swings at him with his muckrake. The monster dodges the blow and parries with his scimitar.

The monster magically ascends, Pigsy follows him,

**EXT. ABOVE THE CLOUDS - NIGHT**

Pigsy battles the Monster.

Sandy joins them.

The two disciples fight with the monster.

It's a ferocious battle.

**INT. BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

Tripitaka is tied up and weeping.

TRIPITAKA

Pigsy, I don't know in which village you have met a friend of truth and are enjoying being fed. Sandy! Where have you gone to search for him? Will you two realise that I met a demon and am suffering here?

A WOMAN enters the chamber.

WOMAN

Elder, where did you come from? Why did he bind you here?

TRIPITAKA

I must have been fated to die when I entered your door. If you want to devour me, go ahead. Why bother to question me?

WOMAN

I don't eat people! Some three hundred miles west of here is my home, a city by the name of Precious Elephant Kingdom. I'm the third princess of its king. Thirteen years ago, I was enjoying the sight of the moon when this monster-spirit kidnapped me in a violent wind. I was forced to become his wife and to bear his children.

(MORE)



WOMAN (CONT'D)

It was impossible, of course, for me to send any news back to the Court. But where did you come from, and how did he catch you?

TRIPITAKA

I am a pilgrim sent to acquire scriptures in the West. I was taking a walk when I bumped into this place. Now he wants to catch my two disciples also so that we will all be steamed and eaten together.

WOMAN

Elder, please don't worry. If you are a scripture pilgrim, I can save you. All I ask is that you deliver a letter to the Precious Elephant Kingdom.

TRIPITAKA

If you can save the life of this poor monk, I shall gladly serve as your messenger.

She hands him the letter.

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - NIGHT**

The spark and jangle of weapons can be seen and heard through the clouds.

The woman runs out the door.

WOMAN

Lord Yellow Robe!

The Monster abandons the battle, dropping down from the clouds.

YELLOW ROBE

Mistress, what do you want?

WOMAN

Husband, I was sleeping just now and in my dream I saw a golden-armoured deity.

YELLOW ROBE

And what did he want?

WOMAN

During my youth, I made a secret vow that I would ascend the famous mountains and visit the immortal abodes, and feed the monks. Since I married you, we have had such happiness that I never had the opportunity to mention this to you.

YELLOW ROBE

And?

WOMAN

Just now that golden-armoured deity came to demand that I fulfil my vow and then I saw the monk tied to the pillar and I came to beg you to be compassionate for my sake, and spare that monk.

YELLOW ROBE

I thought it was something important! All right! If I wanted to eat humans, I can catch a few anywhere. This one monk, I'll let him go.

WOMAN

Thank you!

Pigsy and Sandy descend from the clouds to see what the fuss is about.

PIGSY

Come here you ugly monster!

YELLOW ROBE

For the sake of my wife, I'm going to spare your master! If you ever trespass our territory again, I will not spare you.

# **EXT. THE ROAD WEST - NIGHT**

Pigsy, Sandy and Tripitaka travel west.

SANDY

It's all his fault, you know. Sleeping like that when he was meant to be begging for food.

PIGSY

You were the one who left Master to wander off in the first place!

SANDY  
Because I was looking for you!

PIGSY  
You need to learn to be a bit more patient...

SANDY  
Monkey Magic may have been violent,  
but at least he wasn't so careless!

TRIPITAKA  
Enough! I do not want to hear  
another word about that silly ape.

SANDY (to Pigsy)  
He's really not coming back, is he?

PIGSY  
Don't you understand? Master  
banished him.

Sandy is gloomy and depressed as this fact sinks in. Monkey Magic is definitely not coming back.

MONTAGE as Tripitaka and his disciples journey west.

WU (V.O)  
At night they sought a place to  
rest. When the cock crowed they  
looked at the sky. Stage by stage,  
they soon travelled some two  
hundred and ninety-nine miles.  
Until they arrived at the Precious  
Elephant Kingdom.

Tripitaka and disciples, Sandy and Pigsy, pull up to a rest  
before the gates of,

# **EXT. THE PRECIOUS ELEPHANT KINGDOM - DAY**

A bustling city. Palaces, halls, fishermen, woodsman, with  
civil and military officials.

Tripitaka walks to the GATE OFFICIAL.

TRIPITAKA  
A priest from the Tang court has  
arrived to seek an audience with  
the Throne.

The Gate Official nods.

**INT. THE DRAGON-PHOENIX PALACE - DAY**

The Gate Official bows before THE KING.

GATE OFFICIAL

Your Majesty, there is a monk from the Tang court who wishes to have an audience with you.

THE KING

Summon him to come in.

Tripitaka enters the chamber and bows.

THE KING (CONT'D)

Elder, why did you come to our Kingdom?

TRIPITAKA

This humble monk, is a Buddhist from the Tang court. I have the decree of my emperor to go to acquire scriptures in the West. On our journey, I was asked to present you with a family letter.

Tripitaka takes out the letter and hands it to him.

He reads it.

Tears stream down his face.

WU (V.O)

And so the King learned of his daughter's ordeal at the hands of the monster and was moved to tears. After he had wept for a long time, he asked;

THE KING

Who dares lead the troops and captains to capture the monster and rescue our princess?

THE OFFICIALS are dumbfounded.

THE KING (CONT'D)

Anyone?!

OFFICIAL #1

Your Majesty, we are merely mortal creatures. We have studied military manuals and tactics, of course, but what do we know of magic?

OFFICIAL #2

Perhaps this priest would be best suited to the task of subduing a monster?

They turn to Tripitaka.

THE KING

Elder, if you have the power to catch the monster so that my child can return to the court, then you have no need to journey West. We will become bond-brothers, you can let your hair grow long again, and enjoy our riches together. How about it?

TRIPITAKA

This poor monk truly does not know how to subdue monsters.

THE KING

If you don't, then how dare you seek scriptures in the West. Don't you know the path West is beset by all kinds of monsters and demons?

TRIPITAKA

Indeed, Your Majesty, your poor monk would find it difficult to come here if he were all by himself. I have, however, two disciples, most capable of opening up a pathway in the mountains and building bridges when we come upon the rivers. They have accompanied me here.

THE KING

Well what are you waiting for? Summon them in!

Pigsy and Sandy enter the chamber.

THE KING (CONT'D)

Not the prettiest looking things, are they?

TRIPITAKA

Apologies, Your Majesty.

PIGSY

We might look ugly at first glance, but you'll get used to us.

THE KING

Which one of you is good at  
subduing monsters?

PIGSY

Old Hog knows how.

THE KING

So, you must know some magic?

PIGSY

I shouldn't boast, but I do know a  
trick or two. A few kinds of  
transformation...

The King enjoys this novelty.

THE KING

Try to change into something big.

PIGSY

Ok then!

Pigsy makes the magic sign, and transforms into four times  
his size and back again.

THE KING

Marvellous! Elder, what sort of  
weapons do you intend to bring with  
you to do battle on this  
expedition?

PIGSY

A pronged rake!

THE KING

A rake? We have here whips, maces,  
gilt bludgeons, mallets, scimitars,  
spears, halberds, swords, lances  
and battle sickles. You can pick  
anything you like and take it with  
you.

PIGSY

This rake is no ordinary rake. When  
I was commanding some eighty  
thousand sailors on the Heavenly  
River, I relied solely on the  
strength of this rake. This rake  
ploughs the mountain dens of tigers  
and wolves and overturns the water  
homes of dragons and snakes.

THE KING

Bring the special wine! The whole bottle!

Pigsy grins.

THE KING (CONT'D)

Elder, this cup of wine is for the labour you are about to undertake. When you capture the monster and bring back our little girl, we shall have a huge banquet and a thousand gold pieces to thank you.

Pigsy takes the cup, bows, and drinks it all in one go.

He leaps up into the air and cloud soars.

SANDY

Master, when we battled that monster the two of us came to a draw. I fear that if Pigsy goes there alone, he may not be able to withstand him.

TRIPITAKA

You are right, disciple. You may go to lend him some assistance.

SANDY

You know, if we had the Great Sage to assist us...

TRIPITAKA

That insolent ape only knows violence, which is why I had to banish him. Capture the monster, but do not kill him.

SANDY

Yes Master.

Sandy leaps up into the air, cloud soaring after Pigsy.

**EXT. ABOVE THE CLOUDS - DAY**

Sandy cloud soars and catches up with Pigsy.

PIGSY

Brother, why did you come?

SANDY

Master told me to come help you.

PIGSY

Welcome! Together the two of us can go and catch that monster.

They soar away.

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DAY**

Golden light gleams from the pagoda roof.

Pigsy and Sandy land outside the front door.

Pigsy swings his muckrake and blasts a hole in the front door.

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DAY**

The little monster rushes into the chamber of Yellow Robe.

LITTLE MONSTER

Great King! The Pig Monster has returned. He's with his friend and they've busted our door.

YELLOW ROBE

How dare they come back and wreck my door!

The Monster, Yellow Robe, quickly puts on his armour and takes out his scimitar.

**EXT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DAY**

Yellow Robe walks out the front door.

YELLOW ROBE

For what reason do you dare break down my door?

PIGSY

You lawless monster! You've really done something all right!

YELLOW ROBE

What?

PIGSY

You abducted the princess of the Precious Elephant Kingdom and forced her to be your wife! Go inside and tie yourself up! That'll save Old Pigsy a lot of bother.

Yellow Robe grows enraged.



He lifts his scimitar and slashes at Pigsy's head. Pigsy steps aside, returns a blow with his rake. Sandy joins the battle.

PIGSY (CONT'D)  
You defrauded a nation!

YELLOW ROBE  
What business is it to you!

PIGSY  
You raped a princess!

YELLOW ROBE  
Stop meddling in other's affairs.

The battle continues. Pigsy and Sandy are over powered.

PIGSY  
Sandy, you fight him for a while, I need to shit.

SANDY  
Now?

Pigsy abandons Sandy to fight with Yellow Robe.

He finds a bramble bush and hides.

Meanwhile, Sandy is overpowered by the monster.

He is captured.

# **INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DAY**

Sandy is tied up to a pillar, hanging upside-down.

YELLOW ROBE  
Tell me! How did you know about the Precious Elephant Kingdom?

SANDY  
I don't know, truly!

Yellow Robe ponders this.

YELLOW ROBE  
Aha! It has to be some sort of letter sent by that wife of mine back to her kingdom, and that's how the news leaked!

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - PRINCESS'S CHAMBER - DAY**

Yellow Robe bashes the door open.

The Princess is terrified.

YELLOW ROBE  
You filthy wench!

PRINCESS  
Husband, what is bothering you so terribly?

YELLOW ROBE  
When I first brought you here, you didn't utter half a word of protest. You had silk to wear and gold to put on, whatever you needed I got for you. You enjoyed my deep affection every day. And yet you betray me! Why else would you set that monk free? It was so you could deliver your letter, wasn't it!

PRINCESS  
What letter?

YELLOW ROBE  
Don't lie to me!

PRINCESS  
Would you slay me unjustly?

Yellow Robe grunts, considers this - maybe?

Suddenly, he grabs the princess by the hair and drags her into;

**INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - PRISONER'S CHAMBER - DAY**

Throwing her to the ground before Sandy, who is still tied up, Yellow Robe takes out his scimitar.

YELLOW ROBE  
I ask you this: was it because this girl had sent a letter back to her country that the king told you to come?

Sandy looks at the situation -- should he say the truth?

SANDY

We went to the Precious Elephant Kingdom and had our travel receipts certified. The King showed my Master a portrait of his daughter and that's how the whole thing happened. Since when was there a letter? If you want to kill someone, you can kill old Sandy! But don't harm an innocent bystander.

Yellow Robe considers this. He throws down his scimitar and gently picks up the princess.

YELLOW ROBE

I was quite rough with you just now, and must have offended you deeply. Please forgive me!

They hug and kiss.

WU (V.O)

Kindness to others is really kindness to oneself.

#### **INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DUNGEON - DAY**

Sandy is locked up in the dungeon. The little monster brings him some hot food.

WU (V.O)

Having been saved by Sandy, the princess convinced her Husband to move him somewhere a little more comfortable.

#### **INT. THE BEJEWELLED PAGODA - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

Yellow Robe drinks wine, attended by his little fiends, dining with the Princess.

YELLOW ROBE

I think it's time I became acquainted with my kin...

PRINCESS

What kin?

YELLOW ROBE

Your Father King. I'm his imperial son-in-law and he's my father-in-law. Why shouldn't I go and get acquainted?

PRINCESS

You can't go!

YELLOW ROBE

Why not?

PRINCESS

My Father King did not win his empire by might, he inherited it. Since he ascended his throne in his youth, he hasn't even left the gate of the city. If you meet him, you might scare him...

YELLOW ROBE

Well, what if I looked like this?

He makes the magic sign, and transforms into A HANDSOME MAN.

HANDSOME MAN

Is that better?

She smiles, suddenly attracted to him.

**EXT. PRECIOUS ELEPHANT KINGDOM - NIGHT**

The Handsome Man approaches the Gate Official.

HANDSOME MAN

The third imperial son-in-law has come to seek an audience with the Throne!

**INT. THE DRAGON-PHOENIX PALACE - NIGHT**

The King is with Tripitaka, surrounded by COURT OFFICIALS.

The Gate Official is before him.

THE KING

We have only two sons-in-law. How is it that there is a third?

OFFICIAL #1

The third imperial son-in-law must be that monster.

THE KING

Was he a monster?

GATE OFFICIAL

He did not appear to be any kind of monster, Your Majesty.

THE KING

Then what are you waiting for?  
Summon him in!

The Gate Official exits.

The Handsome Man enters the court and bows before the King.

THE KING (CONT'D)

Son-in-law, where is your home?  
When did you marry our princess?  
Why did you wait until today before  
coming to be recognised as our kin?

HANDSOME MAN

My Lord, your subject comes from a  
household east of this city, in the  
Current-Moon Cave of the Casserole  
Mountain.

THE KING

How far is your mountain from our  
place?

HANDSOME MAN

Not far, only about three hundred  
miles.

THE KING

Three hundred miles. How could our  
princess possibly get there to  
marry you?

The Handsome Man, who is in fact the monster Yellow Robe,  
grins.

HANDSOME MAN

My Lord, I have been fond of  
archery since my youth... Thirteen  
years ago, I led a score of  
houseboys up to the mountain, and  
we were just sending out our hawks  
and hounds when we saw a large,  
striped tiger...

**EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY - FLASHBACK**

IMAGE: A LARGE TIGER carrying a YOUNG GIRL in its jaws.

HANDSOME MAN (V.O.)

It was carrying a young girl.

IMAGE: The Handsome Man shoots an arrow, killing the tiger.

HANDSOME MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It was your humble subject who shot the tiger with a single arrow and brought the girl back to our village, where she was revived with some warm liquids.

IMAGE: The Handsome Man revives the young girl.

**INT. THE DRAGON-PHOENIX PALACE - NIGHT**

The king is caught up in the tale.

HANDSOME MAN (CONT'D)

When I questioned her about her home, after saving her life, she never mentioned the word 'princess'. Had she declared she was the third princess of your Majesty, would I dare be so insolent as to marry her without your consent? Because we seemed ideally suited, and because she claimed to be from some peasant household, I asked her to remain in my village. That's why we've been married these thirteen years. After our wedding, I was about to slaughter the tiger and use it to feed the relatives. The princess, however, requested me not to do so. She said that had it not been for that tiger, we would never have been united. So I let him go.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY - FLASHBACK**

IMAGE: The Tiger limps back to his den.

HANDSOME MAN (V.O.)

Little did I anticipate that after a few years, the tiger thus spared managed to become a spirit in the mountain through self-cultivation, bent on seducing and hurting people.

IMAGE: A PRETTY WOMAN seduces a TRAVELLER, transforming into a TIGER MONSTER, devouring him.

HANDSOME MAN (V.O.)

Some years ago I heard of several scripture pilgrims sent by the Great Tang.

IMAGE: Tripitaka travels up the mountain, is confronted by the Tiger Monster.

HANDSOME MAN (V.O.)

The tiger, I think, must have taken their lives. He probably got hold of their possessions and changed into one of their forms to come here to deceive my Lord.

**INT. THE DRAGON-PHOENIX PALACE - NIGHT**

Yellow Robe turns now to Tripitaka.

HANDSOME MAN

My Lord, that person sitting over there is not a real scripture pilgrim. He is none other than the tiger which carried away the princess thirteen years ago.

THE KING

Worthy son-in-law, how could you tell that this monk is a tiger?

HANDSOME MAN

My Lord, I eat tigers. I sleep with them. I rise with them. How could I not recognise them?

THE KING

Then make him appear in his true form.

HANDSOME MAN

Please give me half a cup of clean water and I shall dispel his illusion.

THE KING

Fetch him some water!

Tripitaka looks around in a panic.

The Gate Official rushes in with some water and hands it to the Handsome Man.

Making the magic sign, the Handsome Man spits a mouthful of water on Tripitaka -- changing him into A TIGER!

The King jumps up onto his throne, terrified.

THE GUARDS rush forward with their weapons, cornering the tiger.

**INT. COURT OF IMPERIAL ENTERTAINMENTS - NIGHT**

The Handsome Man drinks wine at the banquet laid out for him.  
The King toasts him.

WU (V.O)  
The King held a huge banquet to  
thank his new-found son-in-law for  
saving him from the "fake" monk.

**INT. SILVER PEACE HALL - NIGHT**

After the banquet -- the handsome man is surrounded by  
EIGHTEEN YOUNG PALACE LADIES, who sing, dance and pour wine  
for him.

WU (V.O)  
By the hour of the second watch, he  
got drunk and could no longer  
refrain from mischief...

The handsome man leaps up onto the table, laughing  
hysterically, and magically changes back into his original  
form -- Monster Yellow Robe.

The Palace Ladies are terrified.

Suddenly, the Monster grabs the girl playing the flute and  
bites her head off.

The Palace Ladies scream, dashing out the room to hide and  
shelter from the monster.

The monster pours himself some wine, drags the dead body of  
the flute girl and takes another bite.

**EXT. SILVER PEACE HALL - NIGHT**

The screams of the palace ladies echo throughout the kingdom.

The Horse is tied up near the hall.

HORSE (V.O)  
Big Brother is long gone, and there  
is no news from Piggy or Sandy. If  
I don't try to rescue the Tang Monk  
now, my merit will be undone.  
Finished!

The horse neighs and magically transforms into the DRAGON.

The Dragon flies up to the window of the hall to see;



**INT/EXT. SILVER PEACE HALL - NIGHT**

The Monster sitting alone, drinking wine and chewing on human flesh.

HORSE (V.O)  
What a worthless fellow! He has  
shown his hand! It's not very  
smart, is it, to eat people! I  
might as well have some fun with  
him...

The Dragon flies back down, shakes his body, transforming  
into a seductive PALACE MAID.

**INT. SILVER PEACE HALL - NIGHT**

The Palace Maid enters the hall, bowing before the Monster,  
Yellow Robe. He looks at her suspiciously.

PALACE MAID  
Imperial son-in-law, please don't  
hurt me, I came to pour wine for  
you.

YELLOW ROBE  
My cup was almost empty.

She walks over to the monster and starts to pour wine for  
him.

By magic, she pours the drink above the rim of the cup.

YELLOW ROBE (CONT'D)  
What uncanny ability you have!

PALACE MAID  
I can pour and make it go even  
higher!

YELLOW ROBE  
Pour some more! Pour some more!

She pours some more wine. The drink rises like a pagoda - not  
spilling a drop.

The monster sticks out his mouth around the drink and  
consumes it all in a single gulp. He burps. Then continues to  
eat the human flesh.

YELLOW ROBE (CONT'D)  
Can you sing?

PALACE MAID  
No, but I can dance.

YELLOW ROBE  
Give me a little dance!

PALACE MAID  
But I have nothing to dance with.

Yellow Robe unbuckles the sword on his waist, pulling the blade from its sheath. He hands it to her.

The Palace Maid dances with the sword, creating intricate patterns of movement.

Yellow Robe is dazzled.

Suddenly, she breaks step and slashes at him!

The monster lunges sideways, then kicks her in the chest. She flies across the hall.

Magically, she transforms back into a Dragon!

The Dragon spews fire at Yellow Robe,  
who jumps out of the way,  
and swings on the candelabrum,  
which collapses under weight,  
grabbing his sword and the candelabrum,  
smashing through the glass window --

**EXT. SILVER PEACE HALL - NIGHT**

-- ascending on a cloud to --

**EXT. ABOVE THE CLOUDS - NIGHT**

The Dragon follows Yellow Robe, spewing fire.  
They battle.

Eventually, the Dragon is caught off guard,  
Yellow Robe slashes his leg --  
-- and he falls through the cloud,  
landing in a moat.

YELLOW ROBE  
Ha ha ha ha! Ha ha ha ha!

Yellow Robe laughs maniacally.

**EXT. CASTLE MOAT - NIGHT**

The Dragon's limp body floats in the water. Leg bleeding.

WU (V.O)  
With reason and right so parted,  
what can be achieved?

**EXT. FLOWER-FRUIT MOUNTAIN - DAY**

The mountain is tranquil and peaceful.

At the Beachside, Monkey Magic is lying on a hammock, not a care in the world.

The Loose-fillet spell echoes through the land.

Suddenly, Monkey Magic is thrown into tremendous pain.

He falls out of the hammock, writhing in pain. He tries to resist, but knows what it means.

He's being called, by Tripitaka, back to the adventure, back to the great journey that is only just beginning...

THE END