**Moving forward through THE EPIC ROAD**

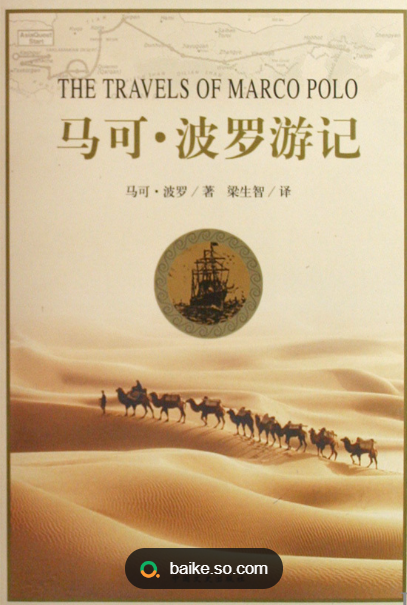
1. I stand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***a*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***series of*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_both the rocks and the sky an unusual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of Mars***.*** I might indeed be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***into*** believing I'm on another planet altogether, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***it not for*** the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***of road that*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***through the center of the valley*** and reminds me that others have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***their way into the*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of this place before me. (这段描写有什么特色)







1. One of the first Europeans to ***set*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***for t***hese lands was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***explorer*** and writer Marco Polo, who\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***far from his own country*** and ***into Yuan Dynasty-era China*** in 1275. "I did not write half of what I saw, for I knew it would not be believed," he wrote in his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the period.



1. Like ***our journey through*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***of evolutionary changes***, the Silk Road is a trip that is considered important to the human condition. It may not be the first story of human movement, recorded or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but it is perhaps the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Silk Road was a series of trade routes that began thousands of years before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***Era*** and lasted until the 15th or 16th century (though many scholars argue that it continued for much longer). ***Over the*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as ***kingdoms*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***and*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and conquerors \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_broad areas of what is now Central Asia, the Middle East and Southern Europe, the route ***swerved and shimmied***, crossing mountains and deserts and eventually even the sea. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_west from the ancient city of Chang'an (now Xi'an) in China ***trundled*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of silk, tea, paper, and spices, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***toward t***heir destinations in Rome or Constantinople; heading east came glass, gold, silver and horses. The route was some 4,000 miles, and dangerous; the people who traveled along it knew that they could be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***by*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***both human and*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***,*** that at any moment, the lands they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_could become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***territory.***
2. And so why did they persist, these early travelers? For one thing, there was their curiosity, ***their*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***for the new***, as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_to our condition as hunger or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_（analogy）. It wasn't just new objects or technologies that they encountered on the route; it was new ideas, new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_and new cultures（什么修辞）. To travel was to risk not only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_danger, but a different kind of risk as well — the chance that you might \_\_\_\_\_\_\_what you'd always believed for some other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_altogether. The road could change you so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_that you might never again be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_back home.
3. For another, there was the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***of adventure***. Yes, the path was dangerous. Yes, you might never see your family again. But movement is also\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***to the human experience.*** It is why ***the*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***of the Silk Road*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***all these years later:*** Although you can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***it as the first, most*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***experiment in*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you can also ***see it as a*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***to not just our desire, but our need to explore***. Every traveler who leaves home therefore \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***in the spirit of our Silk Road*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***out of our known world i***n the hope that we might be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

[6] I had always been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_by the same desire for adventure and exploration. And so this May, I arrived in Gansu Province to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***a small part of Polo's*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***route***, voyaging from the city of Lanzhou to ***the Buddhist*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***of Dunhuang***.

[7] I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***through*** wide rivers and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***rock*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, encountered beautiful oasis cities, listened to ***sand*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_sing and ***lost myself in rainbow-ridged mountains (此句为何吸引人)***. I also passed construction sites, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***neighborhoods*** and trucks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***on superhighways*** ***stretching for thousands of kilometers*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***,*** which is part of "the New Silk Road." Sometimes it seemed like I w***as being*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***back in time*** — at others, ***forward into a*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_***future land***. (翻译本段)





1. And toward the end of my trip, I realized that the Silk Road has more lessons to offer us in this moment than I'd previously thought. While it is ***a*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***f our desire for*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it is also a reminder that open borders and movement bring wonder and awe to our lives, although they may also be accompanied by hardships and sorrows. ***Over the*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***of the Silk Road's operation***, humanity had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***with some of the toughest challenges in*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***history.*** The journey was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ***the risks,*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***or political, were*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and ***the dangers were*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***serious***. Travelers struggled with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***deserts,*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***mountains***, and harsh weather. They also faced robbery, starvation, and ***other forms of*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***.*** Numerous travelers lost their lives along the way, never being able to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with their family and friends.

[9] But for all these hardships and sorrows, the journey continued. Trade continued. Exchanges among different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_continued. The need to discover new things and new people, to ***look*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***the road*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, continued. What else could they do, those pioneering travelers? They could ***no more*** ignore what they desired \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_they could \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***what centuries of exploration and*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***had taught them***. （什么修辞？） ***The only way*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_（什么修辞？）was forward.

[10] It is the same for us today. The only way through is forward. Let us find some comfort, though, in the knowledge that ***we are*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***by centuries of human endurance***, by those travelers who remind us that the journey, no matter how difficult, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_up ***as an epic road worth taking***.