

An Introduction to *Journey to the West* (*Xi You Ji*)

Andrew H. Plaks,
Professor of Chinese Literature,
Columbia University





***Journey to the West* – a classic novel**



Journey to the West

- popular stories and drama
- 16th-century “classic novel”





A storytelling scene

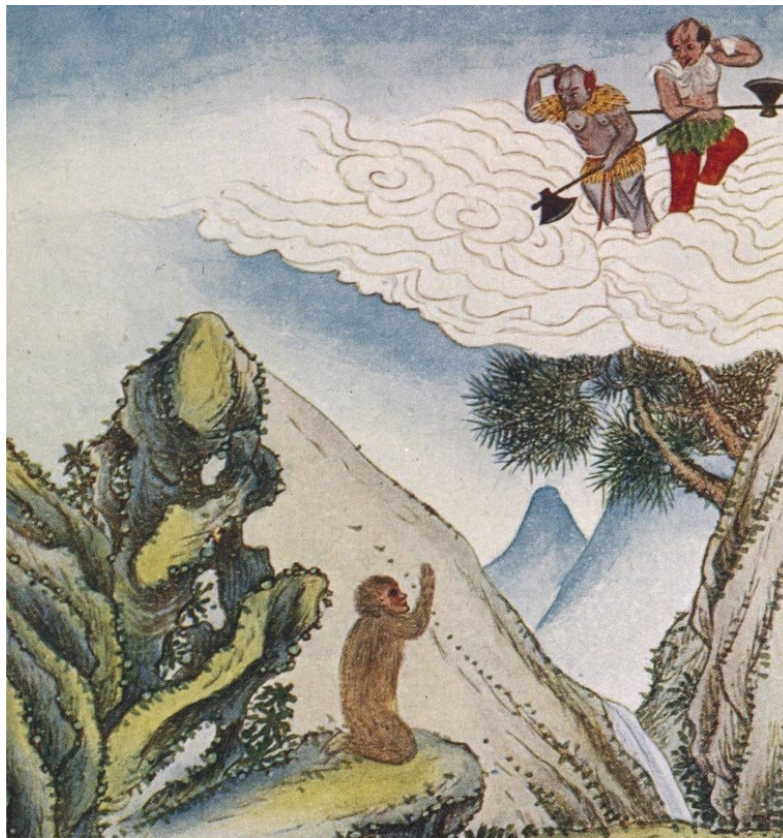
[From *Along the River During the Qingming Festival* (Qingming Shanghe Tu) by Zhang Zeduan (1085–1145)]





Monkey King causing an uproar in heaven
[illustrations of a “Li Zhuowu” edition]





PENGUIN  CLASSICS

WU CH'ÊNG-ÊN

Monkey

Arthur Waley's translation of
Journey to the West
(Penguin Classics, 1994)



First page of *Journey to the West*,
a *Shi de tang* edition (1592)

新刻出像官板大字西遊記月字卷之一

華陽洞天主人校
金陵世德堂梓行

第一回

靈根育孕源流出 心性修持大道生

詩曰

混沌未分天地亂 茫茫渺渺無人見 自從盤古破鴻濛
開闢從茲清濁辨 覆載群生仰至仁 發明萬物皆成善
欲知造化會元功 須看西遊釋厄傳
蓋開天地之數有十二萬九千六百歲為一元 將一元分為十
二會 乃子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥之十二支也 每會該一
萬八百歲 且就一日而論 子時得陽氣 而丑則雞鳴 寅不通光



Wu Cheng'en: the author and his times





THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

A map of Ming China

[Minneapolis Institute of Art, <http://archive.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/ming-dynasty-map.cfm>]





A map of Ming China (ca. the 16th century)

[TAN Qixiang, *The Historical Atlas of China*, Vol.VII. Beijing: China Cartographic Publishing House, 1982]



Wu Cheng'en (1506-1582)
(imaginary portrait)





西遊記

第一回

靈根育孕源流出

心性修持大道生

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混沌未分天地亂。茫茫渺渺無人見。自從盤古破鴻濛。
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蓋聞天地之數有十二萬九千六百歲爲一元。將一元分
爲十二會。乃子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥之十二支也。
每會該一萬八百歲。且就一日而論。子時得陽氣而丑則

釋厄二字着眼不能釋厄不讀西遊

First page (of the main text) of *Journey to the West*,
a “Li Zhouwu” edition



Xuanzang: the Tang monk in history



Xuanzang (596-664)
“The Monk Xuanzang,”
the 14th century,
Tokyo National Museum





A map of Tang China

[Minneapolis Institute of Art, <http://archive.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/pdf/china-tang-dynasty.pdf>]





A map of Tang (ca. the 7th century)

[TAN Qixiang, *The Historical Atlas of China*, Vol.V.
Beijing: China Cartographic Publishing House, 1982]





[From the film *Xuanzang*, 2016]





[From the animated series
Journey to the West: Legends of the Monkey King,
1998, CCTV]





[From “Peak Evolution Media”,
<https://peakevolutionmedia.com/our-clients/discover-kyrgyzstan/>]

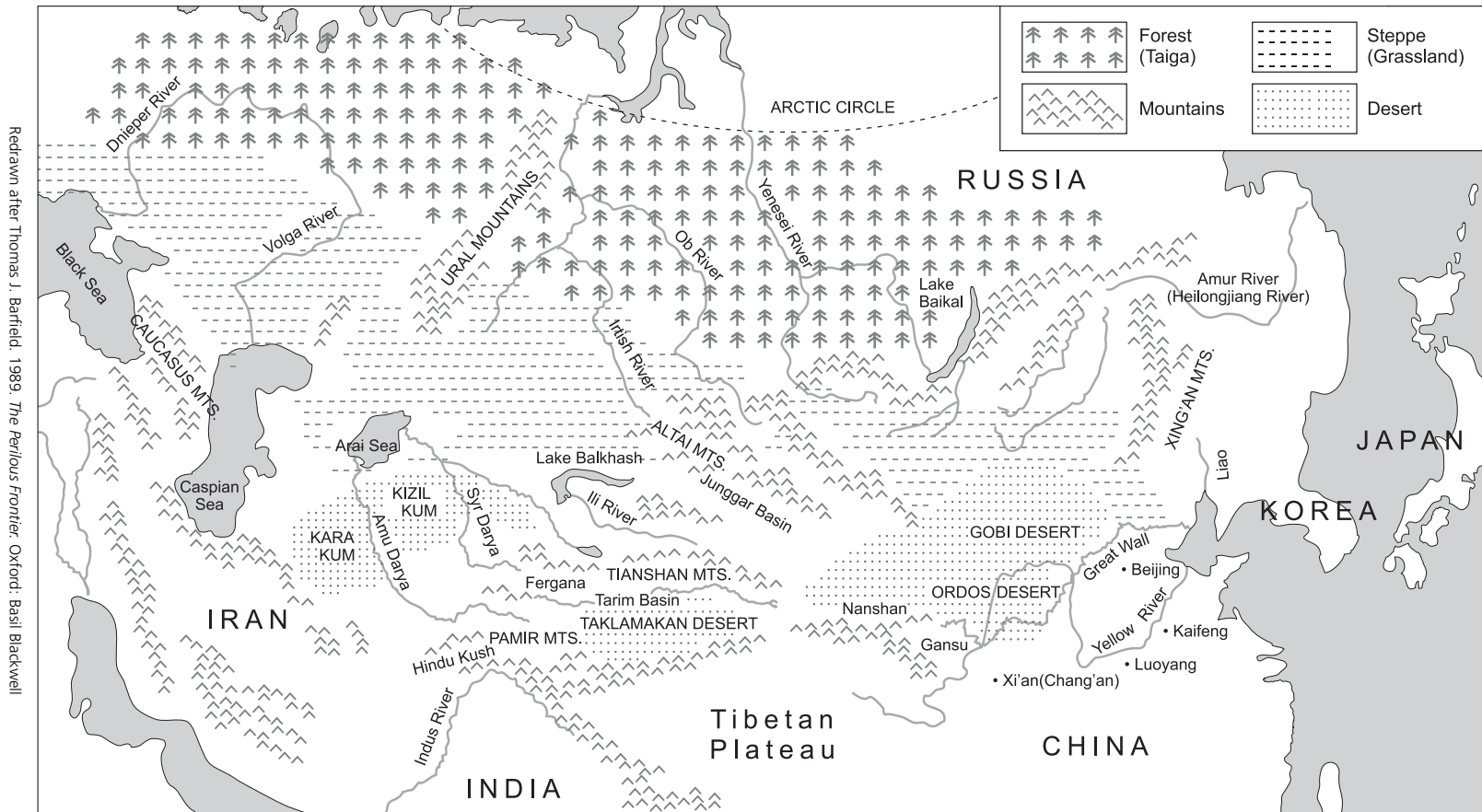




The route of Xuanzang's journey



Map A
Inner Asia's Major Ecological Zones



The topography of Inner Asia

[From Martin Amster ed. *From Silk to Oil*. China Institute, 2005.]





The route of Xuanzang's journey

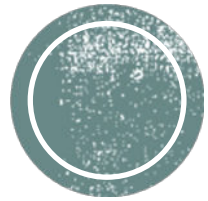




Frontispiece, Diamond Sutra from Cave 17, Dunhuang. 868 CE.

[The British Library, London.]





Heroes and demons in the adventurous journey





Illustration of Xuanzang, the four disciples, and a monster.

[*Journey to the West*, 1592 edition.]





Sun Wukong (“Monkey”)

[From the film *A Chinese Odyssey*, 1995]





Zhu Bajie (“Pigsy”)

[From the TV series
Journey to the West,
1986]





Sha Wujing (“the Sand Monk”)

[From the TV series *Journey to the West*, 1986]





the dragon-horse

[From the TV series *Journey to the West*, 1986]





Mountain Huaguo,
the Shuilian Cave

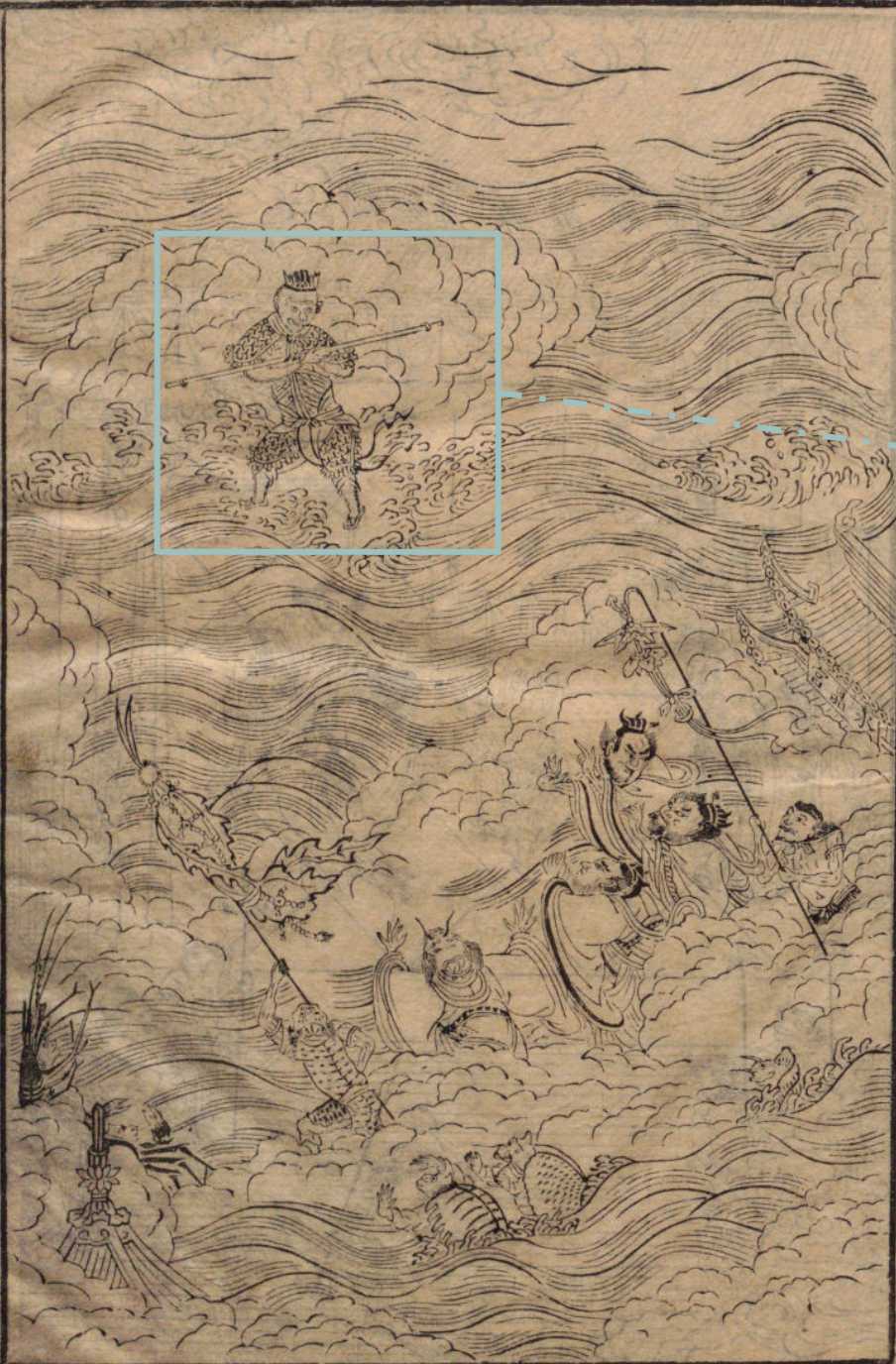
[illustration of a “Li Zhuowu” edition]





Monkey King under the Five
Elements Mountain (*Wuxing shan*)
[illustration of a “Li Zhuowu” edition]





“Ruyi Jingu Bang”

(“The Compliant Golden-Hooped Rod”
or “As-You-Will Gold-Banded Cudgel”)

[illustration of a “Li Zhuowu” edition]





Guanyin (*Avalokiteśvara*)





Baigu Jing
("White Bone Spirit")

[< from the film *The Monkey King*
2, 2016]





Niu Mowang
(Bull Demon King)

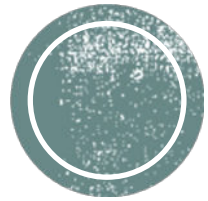
[above image from the film *A Chinese Odyssey*, 1995]





Liu'er Mihou ("the Six-Eared Macaque") pretends to be Monkey





Allegorical readings of *Journey to the West*

