



# The Journey to the West, Revised Edition, Volume 1

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**The Journey to the West, Revised Edition, Volume 1** From *imusti*

Anthony C. Yu's translation of *The Journey to the West*, initially published in 1983, introduced English-speaking audiences to the classic Chinese novel in its entirety for the first time. Written in the sixteenth century, *The Journey to the West* tells the story of the fourteen-year pilgrimage of the monk Xuanzang, one of China's most famous religious heroes, and his three supernatural disciples, in search of Buddhist scriptures. Throughout his journey, Xuanzang fights demons who wish to eat him, communes with spirits, and traverses a land riddled with a multitude of obstacles, both real and fantastical. An adventure rich with danger and excitement, this seminal work of the Chinese literary canon is by turns allegory, satire, and fantasy.

With over a hundred chapters written in both prose and poetry, *The Journey to the West* has always been a complicated and difficult text to render in English while preserving the lyricism of its language and the content of its plot. But Yu has successfully taken on the task, and in this new edition he has made his translations even more accurate and accessible. The explanatory notes are updated and augmented, and Yu has added new material to his introduction, based on his original research as well as on the newest literary criticism and scholarship on Chinese religious traditions. He has also modernized the transliterations included in each volume, using the now-standard Hanyu Pinyin romanization system. Perhaps most important, Yu has made changes to the translation itself in order to make it as precise as possible.

One of the great works of Chinese literature, *The Journey to the West* is not only invaluable to scholars of Eastern religion and literature, but, in Yu's elegant rendering, also a delight for any reader.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“In 1983, Anthony C. Yu’s *The Journey to the West* conveyed intact to readers of English the classic that had enthralled Chinese children for centuries. It taught scholars that the novel’s many poems were as important as its prose. This new version draws on thirty years of the author’s further studies in literature and religion. It traces one theme after another to the Quanzhen Daoist movement and its new synthesis of religious thought. The translation is a joy to read, and the introduction and commentary reveal the deep foundations on which this fantastic tale of adventure is built.”

(Nathan Sivin *University of Chicago*)

### About the Author

**Anthony C. Yu** is the Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago.

## Users Review

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