

MAIN CHARACTERS



Tripitaka

The monk Xuanzang, who is on a pilgrimage to India to receive the Great Vehicle Law of Buddha from the Buddha Tathagata (pronounced Ta'tha'gar'tar).

Monkey

The chief disciple of the monk Tripitaka. Monkey's name is Sun Wukong; he is also called Pilgrim Sun, and The Great Sage Equal to Heaven.



Pigsy

Tripitaka's second disciple:
his name is Zhu Bajie.



Sandy

Tripitaka's third disciple.

Princess Iron Fan

An immortal, the wife of the Bull Demon.



The Bull Demon

An immortal who owns the Palmleaf Fan.



Bodhisattva Guanyin

(pronounced Gwan-yin)

Also known as the Goddess of Mercy.

A Bodhisattva is a being worthy of becoming a Buddha but who turns back out of compassion, to help the suffering people in the world.



Princess Jade

The second wife of the Bull Demon.

The story takes place in Xinjiang, and is based on the pilgrimage of Xuanzang from China to India in AD 629–645; he was away travelling and studying for sixteen years. Flaming Mountain is not far from Turfan, and is still a popular destination for visitors, many of whom say that the sun shining on its craggy rocks seems to bring the flames to life again.