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Journey to the west tv series 1996

Journey to the West is a Hong Kong television series based on the novel of the same name, starring Dicky Cheung as Sun Wukong and Kwong Wah as Tang Sanzang. The show was produced by TVB and premiered in November 1996. A sequel, Journey to the West II, aired in 1998 with a different lead actor for Sun Wukong due to contract issues. This adaptation is loosely based on the novel and features several new characters not present in the original work. While some argue it's not the best adaptation, it has its own fanbase due to its lighter tone, family-friendly content, and comedic elements. The series marked Dicky Cheung's breakout role and is distinct from Monkey King: Quest for The Sutra, another remake where he reprised his role as Sun Wukong. Examples of this adaptation include: - Abduction as a form of love - Adaptational angst upgrade in the character Honghaier's redemption arc - Adaptational attractiveness through the portrayal of Sun Wukong - Adaptational badass moments for Tang Sanzang Wukong and Sanzang collaborated to briefly remove Wukong's genuine golden headband, transferring it to Long Armed Ape Monkey instead. Sanzang effectively subdued Long Armed Ape Monkey with a curse that caused intense headaches. The Python Demoness easily overpowered Wukong due to his display of anger, but Sanzang arrived just in time to see Wukong incapacitated. She attempted to use the same method on Sanzang, but it backfired as Sanzang lacked the vices targeted by the magical stone. This adaptation combines elements from the White Bone Demon and Yellow Robe Demon characters, allowing the White Bone Demoness to survive Wukong's attack and later overwhelm Bajie and Wujing together. The Centipede Demon has also gained new abilities, including absorbing demonic essence and mimicking other beings' appearances and powers. When facing Wukong, he becomes powerful enough to transform into deities like Erlang Shen and Buddha. Notable changes include the portrayal of Sha Wujing as even less intelligent than Zhu Bajie, Bull Demon King and Princess Iron Fan being depicted as a bickering but well-intentioned married couple, and the Spider Demonesses being shown as not all evil. The adaptation also humanizes characters like Sun Wukong, who becomes friends with minor deities and shoulders punishment for his fellow monkeys. Zhu Bajie's past is omitted or reinterpreted in this version. The novel's Sun Wukong is adapted to be a more sympathetic character, particularly after joining the pilgrimage. Many of Wukong's killings from the original novel are also omitted in this adaptation. Wukong's character has undergone significant changes in this adaptation compared to the original novel. Unlike his depiction as merciless towards fellow demons, this version shows restraint and mercy on occasion. Zhu Bajie is also more noble and likable in this adaptation. The White Bone Demoness, a character from the novel, has been reimagined with a misguided motivation to gain human form and "love" her husband, making her less villainous despite still being vicious. Bajie, Zhu Bajie, and his role in the novel were drastically altered, becoming the subservient of the Long Armed Ape Monkey. In contrast, the novel showcased him engaging in fierce battles against numerous demons. Here, however, he becomes a pushover to characters like Wujing. In this version, there is limited notable fight scenes, with only his initial encounter with Sun Wukong being notable. The Bull Demon King, on the other hand, was depicted as an equal of Sun Wukong in the novel, but loses every time he fights him. In contrast, here he gets defeated by Wukong. Guanyin's influence is also highlighted in this adaptation, depicting her as Wukong's surrogate mother during his childhood. A notable change occurred with the introduction of the Long Armed Ape Monkey, who was initially just a name from Buddha's list but became a character in their own right here. An inconsistency arose when combining two story arcs - the Ginsengfruit story arc merged with the Golden and Silver Horned Kings story arc, but the resulting demons lacked parents since they originated directly from Ginsengfruits. The retention of the mother scene for the Golden and Silver Horned Kings doesn't make sense in this context. It is revealed that Wukong gained some skills, including invisibility, which was taught to him by his classmates who went on to become powerful demigods or Heaven's servants. Bajie indirectly contributed to Wukong's heroic feats, resulting in his eventual downfall and transformation into a pig monster. Wujing and Yulong were recruited together as well. Anachronistic elements appeared in the first arc of Season 2, including an involuntary Shapeshifting character who transformed into a Demonic Dragon when threatened with water, and Bajie using a telescope that didn't exist until the 1600s. Additionally, an Eagle Immortal's daughter sang a Chibi Maruko-chan OP to lure the Six-Ear Macaque's monstrous form into the seas. Guanyin was unaware of her own disguises as humans to test other characters' character, while Wukong had an Antagonistic Offspring in Snow Demoness. The second daughter of the Emperor displayed apologetic tendencies when Sha Wujing engaged in combat with weaker demons, occasionally offering prayers for the lives taken. This was evident during Bajie's empowered fight against the White Bone Demon, as Wukong led a raid on the demon's lair to locate Sanzang, praying while dispatching lesser demons. In contrast, Artifact of Doom: Season 2 featured a cursed Golden Bracelet that served as the primary antagonist in one chapter. The bracelet was discovered by a benevolent porcupine demoness and her lion demon partner, who soon found themselves corrupted after its use. Initially, Wukong and Bajie managed to deceive the lion demon into removing the bracelet, but it subsequently affected Wukong instead. Guanyin intervened, revealing that the Golden Bracelet was an ancient artifact responsible for destroying a neighboring kingdom by corrupting its ruler and prince. Another notable instance was Ash Face: What occurred during the final story arc of the first season, where Bajie and Wujing were left exposed to danger while Sanzang's vulnerability necessitated Wukong's protection. This situation was justified due to Bajie and Wujing being demons with enhanced durability compared to humans. In other instances, Asleep, Not Meditating: The Journey to the West commenced after Tang Sanzang's previous incarnation, the Golden Cicada, disrespected a Buddhist congregation by dozing off in Buddha's presence. This led to his punishment through reincarnation for the pilgrimage. Furthermore, The Assimilator featured Long Armed Ape consuming a demonic pill that granted him the ability to ingest individuals and assimilate their powers. If the person was not regurgitated promptly, they would perish and be digested. Additionally, Attack the Injury: During its final form after ingesting the Crow Demon's pet sacred elephant, the Long Armed Ape possessed only one weak spot - a scar on its foot sole. Unfortunately, it chose to plant its foot into the ground while Wukong and other protagonists focused their attacks elsewhere. Wukong successfully exploited this weakness by tunneling underground and targeting the scar. In the final saga, The Atoner: The heroes encountered six demons from previous sagas who sought redemption with limited success due to lingering misguidedness. They consisted of two Spider Demonesses (En En and her mother), White Bone Demoness, Black Bear Demon, Elephant Demon/Yellow Toothed Elephant, and Lion Demon/Azure Lion. However, Python Demon Queen brainwashed three of them to attack the protagonists and other unbrainwashed demons, prompting Wukong to take their lives. Lastly, Bad with the Bone: The White Bone Demoness employed a three-sectioned nunchuck made from femurs in combat. Given article text here The Kingdom of Chechi marks the next chapter in the story, where the villainous Tiger, Deer, and Goat Demons form a bumbling trio constantly outwitted by Wukong. This is followed by the dramatic arc with Yu-Shu, the Centipede Demon, who delivers a devastating Curb-Stomp Battle. The subsequent chapters include the Land of Many Perfumes and the fight against the Golden and Silver Horned Kings. The 10-episode arc with Long Armed-Ape Monkey is particularly perilous, where Wukong faces humiliation and is forced to regain his powers. In contrast, Jin-Chi's attempts at stealing Sanzang's Holy Robes are met with failure due to the Bear Demon's lack of power. Despite this, Bajie undergoes significant character development, showcasing his Brilliant, but Lazy personality. Other notable arcs include Wukong's birth as a giant ape and his subsequent defeat by Long Armed-Ape Monkey. Erlang temporarily loses his powers to save his mother, while Zhu Bajie is frequently subjected to misfortune and abuse. The Earth Deity is initially used for comedic relief, but eventually becomes the target of abuse itself. The story also features original characters such as Dream Demon and Crow Demon. Wukong's portrayal by Dicky Cheung emphasizes his Casanova Wannabe personality, while Bajie's character development highlights his Big Eater and Lovable Coward traits. Bajie often declares, "What's there to be scared of?" as part of his Black Comedy routine. He frequently recites a poem excerpt from his favorite work before his heaven-mandated reincarnations. The series uses composite characters, where multiple characters take on the roles of absent or demoted characters. Some arcs are combined into one storyline, such as the Honghaier and Bull Demon arcs. There are also suspiciously similar substitutes for missing characters. For example, Immortal Ruyi's role is taken by his niece, "Bull Girl." Other characters, like Earth Deity, play a Cool Old Guy, while Queen Mother of the West appears as a reasonable authority figure. However, Nezha and Red Boy are often cast in roles that don't match their on-screen ages. Additionally, Wukong frequently faces Curb-Stomp Battles with lesser demons, but he also receives his fair share of beatings, particularly from Rulai, the great Buddha, who defeats him instantly. These battles serve as pivotal moments for Wukong's character development, as he learns to become a better person. Other notable battles include Wukong vs. Red Boy and the Long Armed Ape, which ends in defeat for Wukong due to his weakness. The series also features its Darkest Hour arc, where the protagonists reach their lowest point. The White Bone Demoness adaptation is particularly noteworthy, as the team deteriorates under her machinations, with Wukong being sent away and Bajie leaving the group to settle down. • Accidental killing of Wujing while Sanzang was imprisoned has revealed the White Bone Demoness's brutal actions, slaughtering almost all humans involved. • To save his master, Bajie sacrificed himself to buy time for rescue, only to see Wukong seemingly killed in a failed attempt. • Bajie is demoted and becomes a dragon for Python Demon Queen in the second season, being the only male among her dragons. • Erlang's divine parentage comes from his fairy mother, while his father is human. • Sanzang's love story is revealed in one arc of the second season. • Black Bear Demon, despite physical strength, is a foolish antagonist misled by his master Jinchi on Buddhist concepts. • Jin-Chi and the Black Bear Demon orchestrate engineered heroics to maintain Jin-Chi's noble image. • Even malevolent characters like Ginsengfruit Demon Siblings care for their mother and each other. • Long-Armed Ape Monkey undergoes Unholy Matrimony with Python Demon Queen, but later reforms after realizing the harm caused by Wukong. • Rhino Demon is punished by the Gods after condemning a kingdom to drought; his son volunteers to take his father's place in menial labor. Jade Emperor's father was a significant figure in the series. ##### Evil Laugh Evil laughs are often used by antagonists, like Wujing, who has an intimidating presence. ##### Face of a Thug Wujing is depicted as having a rough face, and his character also resembles a thug. ##### Fallen Hero The Long Armed Ape Monkey's character development in the second season serves as a reminder that heroes can fall, even to fallen hero status. ##### Fantastic Racism Sun Wukong shows disdain towards most demons he meets during his pilgrimage, displaying prejudice. In contrast, his interactions with humans are often marked by jerkiness, despite exceptions where he is friendly with both demons and humans. ##### Fantastic Voyage There are instances throughout the series where Sun Wukong miniaturizes himself to enter a character's stomach or overcome an obstacle. Additionally, there are unique plotlines, such as the time Wukong and Bajie shrink themselves to help a constipated king. ##### Faux Action Girls The Ginsengfruit Demon siblings' sisters are depicted as weak warriors who rely on their brother for rescue in battle. Even Bajie easily overpowers them, highlighting their lack of strength. ##### Fearless Fool Sha Wujing's character embodies the fearless fool trope, realizing his own folly and displaying courage despite the risks. ##### Fireball Eyeballs When Sun Wukong gains his Fire-Eye abilities, he sports fiery comets that become glowing orbs when activated. This trait is also present during his time without powers in the second season. ##### Flying Saucer Sun Wukong escapes from a set of Golden Cymbals by summoning his flying cloud through sweat and steam, which is later mistaken for an alien saucer due to its appearance. ##### Forced Transformation San Zang is transformed into a black bear by the White Bone Demoness, highlighting the darker aspects of the story. ##### Foreshadowing A scene where Wukong and Sanzang reminisce about their past encounter foreshadows how Long Armed Ape Monkey would initially be defeated. ##### Freeze-Frame Bonus A brief shot in the finale shows the repentant Python Demoness accompanying the protagonists, adding a touch of closure to her character arc. ##### Frontline General Erlang is depicted as a frontline general for Heaven, while Wukong serves as a leader among his own people. ##### Gaia's Vengeance The Spider Demonesses' story arc involves the Gaia's vengeance theme, where nature ultimately takes care of business. When the protagonists are overwhelmed, a vengeful Chicken Demon brings his chickens to attack, only for them to prove effective against the Centipede Demon. The demon's downfall comes from an unexpected weakness that Wukong seizes upon. Guanyin's backstory reveals her as a male human who was married to another woman. Sanzang has a prophetic dream where he is trampled by the Great Ape Demon, foreshadowing his impending doom. Fortunately, when this event occurs, Wukong intervenes and saves him. The show portrays the Taoist pantheon as ineffective in dealing with suffering, contrasting sharply with their Buddhist counterparts who offer a more dignified solution. Wukong demonstrates great respect for the Buddhist pantheon but treats the Taoist gods as equals at best. In Season 2, after being defeated by the Long Armed-Ape Monkey, the group seeks help from the gods only to be turned down due to their frequent reliance on divine assistance in the past. The Demon Realm is led by the Python Demon Queen, while Guanyin's golden aura and serene Buddhist music signify her divine status as the Goddess of Mercy. Wukong genuinely cares for his subjects' safety and requests that they be spared during his punishment. Long Armed Ape was initially a heroic monkey demon turned into Wukong's evil counterpart due to jealousy. Snow Demoness non-lethally freezes Sanzang before taking him away. Princess Wencheng is given more prominence as a military leader of the Tang Dynasty, though her effectiveness in battle is questioned. Bull Demon King introduces Wukong as his honorary uncle, much to Honghaier's surprise. Bull Demon King's hypocrisy is highlighted when he becomes enraged over what he perceives as infidelity by his wife. A Centipede Demon takes on Sanzang's form, leading the group to quiz both "Sanzangs" about their past adventures in an effort to expose the imposter. This Continuity Cavalcade serves as a Call Back to previous chapters and adds depth to the narrative. Who is my brother-in-arms from back then? note Answer: The Bull Demon "Where did we first meet when I pretended to be a rich nobleman?" note Answer: The Ko's Residence "What was written on my hands at the River of Sands?" note Answer: Buddha "Who defeated me and turned me back into a monkey?" note Answer: Red Boy "In which country did I become a prince?" note Answer: Kingdom of the Sacred Elephant "What was my occupation before exile, 100 years ago?" note Answer: Jade General Sanzang both answered correctly, making them realize Centipede Demon might be a mind reader and more powerful foe. Identical Stranger: It can happen when actors play multiple characters. Princess Wencheng reminded Bajie that people can resemble each other. Ineffectual Sympathetic Villain: Three Kings are portrayed as cowardly who got defeated by Bajie easily or had their plans go awry. They repeatedly failed in seeking power, wealth and fame. In Name Only: Some stories deviated from the novel without any homages to original events. Long Armed Ape saga has nothing to do with Fake Leylin Temple plot other than Yellow Brows character. The Real/Fake Sun Wukong saga had no relation to impersonators of Sun Wukong, only brief misunderstandings due to Sanzang's prophetic nightmares. Interspecies Romance: Erlang's parents are human and fairy/goddess respectively. Long Armed Ape and Python Demon Queen have a relationship. Bull Demon King and Crow Demoness (the only among his mistresses accepted by Princess Iron Fan) also share a romantic bond. Involuntary Shapeshifting: Wukong transformed into a monkey. Little Monkey turned into a Great Ape after eating poisoned food, unleashing great anger that transforms him instead. Jerkass: Sun Wukong was initially a jerk but developed as the story progressed and became more of a Jerk with a Heart of Gold by the end of the Spider Demonesses' story arc. Red Boy is arguably the most annoying character in this adaptation. • The Golden and Silver Horned Kings are absent from the meeting, but two new siblings replace them after being killed by the Ginsengfruit Demon Siblings. • The Woman Country's leaders seem to be asexual and can procreate through drinking from a magical well, resulting in truly single parenthood. • The Lemony Narrator enthusiastically describes events as if he's rooting for the protagonists, omitting some violent parts of the novel and portraying characters differently. • Some antagonists become comedic figures or friends with the 4 protagonists, like the Spider Demonesses and Black Bear demon. • Original motivations of certain antagonists are changed to be less dark, such as the Three Kings of Lion Camel Cave. • Sun Wukong decides to sacrifice his powers to spare sentient beings in exchange for their release. • Bajie's love for Chang'e causes him to suffer through many lives as a mortal and face various forms of love hurts. • The Long Armed Ape Monkey is shown to have an unrequited love for the Python Demon Queen after her death, but she eventually moves on. • Guanyin's wife is deeply saddened by his seeming death, only realizing he has ascended to a higher plane of existence. Wukong cunningly transformed one of his duplicates into a canine, enabling him to pilfer the severed head of the demon. This unexpected move ultimately led to the demon's demise, as it morphed into a decapitated deer. The Deer Demon, frantic and confused, repeatedly demanded that its head be reattached. Meanwhile, Sun Wukong whispered to Bajie about his duplicity, revealing that he had merely created an illusion to deceive their enemy. The story takes a mysterious turn, leaving the protagonists questioning whether it was reality or just a dream sequence, much like Sanzang's prayers and teachings. The events unfolding before them are eerily reminiscent of Buddhist magic, with seemingly inexplicable occurrences such as the appearance of a giant spider and its subsequent connection to Wujing's physical form. In another instance, Sanzang's powers proved capable of subduing the Dream Demon in Season 1 and deflecting the mind-control spell cast by the Python Demoness in the season 2 finale. However, Bajie found himself embroiled in a different predicament, set up by Crow Demoness' manipulation to make it seem as though he had engaged in an illicit affair with her. The protagonists soon discovered that they had undergone a transformation, becoming 'Mister Seahorse,' after accidentally consuming water from a magical well. This phenomenon was only experienced by Sanzang and Bajie in the original novel. The female demons, particularly the spider demons, were introduced through sensual scenes, while Erlang's mother served as his morality pet. As Wujing reflected on his past actions, he realized that he alone was responsible for his cannibalistic behavior. Meanwhile, Bajie struggled with guilt after accidentally killing Wujing and later discovering that the Black Bear he had attempted to slay was actually his own master. The Spider Demonesses, however, consistently exhibited a peculiar trait - they would seduce young men to steal their youth during trysts. The trio accompanying the protagonists during this storyline were exceptions: the Mother Spider Demoness prioritized family and unity, Si Si remained faithful to Yushu and sought his reincarnation, while En En was portrayed as merely bratty. Snow Demoness was marked by her white hair, a mystical trait that set her apart from others. Long Armed Ape's death served as an example of 'Never My Fault,' where he continued to exhibit oblivious evil behavior even after meeting his demise. Together with Jinchi, they thought killing these people would end their suffering quickly and bring them closer to Buddha. This alarmed the protagonists enough to ask Guan Yin for help to stop him. The Heavenly Court, led by Erlang Shen, got in the way. Chinese Dragons are Different: Some characters can transform into Chinese dragons, like the Dragon Kings, Subhuti, and Xueliang (Erlang's mother). Pet the Dog: Nezha let himself get defeated by Wukong and Bajie so they could protect depowered Erlang and his mother from Li Jing. Princess Iron Fan eventually accepted Crow Demoness as her husband's second wife. The Phoenix: Peng Demon/Golden Winged Great Peng's ancestor is a Fenghuang who saved Queen Mother of the West with Heroic Sacrifice, making him arrogant. Powers via Possession: After Wukong left, Sanzang was kidnapped by White Bone Demon. Bajie and Wujing were powerless to save him, so the Four Heavenly Kings secretly possessed Bajie to empower him, making him ridiculously strong and easily defeating White Bone Demon. Psychopathic Man- and Womanchild: Ginsengfruit Demon siblings. Rule of Three: The adaptation of Sun Wukong's three attempts at attacking the White Bone Demoness was surprisingly faithful to the original. Long Armed Ape had one-on-one matches with Sun Wukong three times, losing the first two but winning the third. The story begins with the protagonists tricking the Priests into thinking they have an elixir of immortality, only to reveal that it's their own urine. This act is motivated by their desire to defy destiny and rescue Tang Dynasty from destruction by the Great Ape Demon. According to Guanyin, the heroes' duty is not to stop the demon, as even she believes that Tang Dynasty is beyond saving. Instead, they want to save the innocent Little Monkey, who is actually a kind and gentle creature. This theme is echoed in Jin Chi's past failure as a candidate for the pilgrimage, where he showed that he cared more about appearances than true character. Similarly, the story of Buddha's past teachings warns of the dangers of self-fulfilling prophecies, as seen in the tale of Ajatsharu, who predicted his own demise and ultimately gained enlightenment by sacrificing himself. The story also explores the concept of sheltered aristocrats, as Siddharta Gautama was once a human prince raised in luxury but later discovered the harsh realities of the world. Finally, a nod is given to Ultraman's Specium Ray stance during Tianpeng's confrontation with Sun Wukong. 1. Wukong's casual walk in the meeting has been compared to a monkey trying to imitate a human. 2. The three Fiends Of Cheda are impersonating Taoist priests while possessing actual supernatural powers. 3. The adaptation of this series is on a sliding scale, ranging from faithful reproduction to complete changes. 4. Some arcs, like the Kingdom of Chechi, remain largely true to the original novel, while others, such as the Spider Demonesses story arc, introduce new plotlines. 5. There are instances where Sanzang is abducted by demons during snowfall, and Wukong's near-death experience also occurs during a snowy scene. 6. The three Demon Taoist Priests repeatedly challenge Sanzang's team to re-matches, which ultimately lead to their downfall. 7. Wukong's actions might have motivated the Demon Taoist Priests to accept these re-matches, leading to their demise. 8. In the White Bone Demoness arc, Wukong initially leaves the team but rejoins later with his comrades being resurrected by Guan Yin. 9. Zhu Bajie shows little character development despite facing numerous challenges, but does show an ability to change and grow in certain situations. 10. Erlang's mother has supernatural abilities due to her fairy heritage, while Erlang is half-human. 11. The Bull Demon King demonstrates supernatural bindings on multiple occasions to discipline or restrain his son Red Boy. Armed Ape Monkey seems to be a powerful artifact primarily effective against opponents who aren't prepared. Sun Wukong attempted using it but was unsuccessful due to his opponent knowing how to counter the spell. Superpowered Evil Side refers to the Great Ape Demon's connection to Little Monkey, with the former being brutal and relentless, while the latter is innocent and mischievous. Sanzang subdued Sha Wujing by engaging him in conversation rather than killing him. Erlang had a third eye in mythology, but lost it when he temporarily gave up his powers to save his mother. Most demons assume human form, reverting to their original forms upon death. Sun Wukong transformed back into his juvenile monkey form after suffering defeat by Hong Hai-er's flames. The Emperor Taizong of Tang Dynasty captured the Great Ape Demon alive to prove superiority, despite realizing his mistakes. Citizens in Chechi Country toppled a statue of the Long Armed Ape, erecting a new one for Sun Wukong instead. The latter was displeased and destroyed both statues. In Woman Country, mothers can procreate without males by drinking from a magical well. The storyline of the Beast entering the capital city is heavily influenced by King Kong. The Long Armed Ape's history bears striking resemblance to that of The Happy Prince, with key similarities including the ape's heroic demise in battle and its subsequent statue being used for good before a harsh winter strikes. Interestingly, upon death, the Long Armed Ape somehow manages to possess his own statue, allowing it to communicate with a lark to aid the villagers by using the statue's golden flakes, ultimately having its jewel eyes removed after saving them.