

# *A Little Monkey!*

A story from the *Xi Yu Ji*,  
or *The Journey West*  
adapted by Adrian Guthrie

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# *A LITTLE MONKEY!*

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# *A LITTLE MONKEY!*

## **Section 1 INTRODUCTION**

**TRIPITAKA** Here we are before our honored Master, the Emperor of China. These are my disciples Monkey - Soul of Vacuity; Pigsy - Heart of Gold, and Sandy - Willful in action. We have returned from our pilgrimage to India - it took us twelve years, and many strange and wonderful things happened to us on the way.

**PIGSY** Like the story of the white Bone Demon.

**SANDY** Or what happened to us in the Kingdom of The Black Cockeral just before you climb the mountains of Turkistan.

**TRIPITAKA** It is the story of the Manjushri's Lion with the Green Mane.

I was resting for the night in the Treasure Wood Temple. I had just recited my prayers, but having journeyed all day I was very tired and soon fell into a deep sleep in which I had a dream.

**NARRATOR** The Story of the Green Haired Lion.

## **Section 2 THE GHOST VISITS TRIPITAKA**

**TRIPITAKA** Early or late, to a man on a journey  
his prayers are his own, and his nights are lonely.

*(TRIPITAKA sleeps. Five bells. A ghostly wind. The KING's ghost appears)*

**GHOST** Master! Master!

*(TRIPITAKA sits up. His knees knock in fear)*

**TRIPITAKA** What? What! What ever are you?  
A vicious bogey, a slimy devil, or a troublesome jinx?  
I've got to warn you, I'm no everyday priest to harass as you please. I am the representative of the Emperor of China, and I am journeying to the west to worship the Buddha and seek the scriptures.  
And I have three disciples with me each of whom is able to quell monsters, subdue dragons, and vanquish bogies.

I'm telling you this out of pure kindness, if they find you here they'll grind you into fish-food!

**GHOST** Master, I am no monster, or dragon or bogy.

**TRIPITAKA** Then what are you doing here in the dead of night?

**GHOST** Master, look! Look at the crown on my head!

**TRIPITAKA** *(Bowing before KING)*  
Your majesty over what Kingdom do you rule?

*(He motions to the KING to sit.  
His hands pass through thin air.  
The KING's image vanishes.  
Startled, TRIPITAKA returns to his seat but by then  
the KING's image has returned.)*

Where is your Kingdom? Doubtless you are the victim of some wicked intrigue. Tell me your story.

**GHOST** Master, my home is the walled city just a day's journey west of here.

**TRIPITAKA** What is the name of your kingdom?

**GHOST** I am the king of the land of The Black Cockerel.

**TRIPITAKA** And what troubles lead you here?

**GHOST** Master, five years ago there was a great drought, the crops did not grow and the people were dying of hunger. It was pitiful.

**TRIPITAKA** Your majesty, there is a saying: Heaven is generous where right rules. Go back, and open your granaries, and share your wealth with the people -

**GHOST** All the granaries in my Kingdom were empty. I had neither grain nor cash. My public servants were unpaid, and even at my own table there was nothing to eat. I shared sweet and bitter with my people. I prayed and burnt incense, but for three years it was like this. Finally all the rivers and wells were dry.

When things were at their worst a magician came from the Cheng-nan mountains - he could call the wind and summon rain, he could even turn stones into gold. (First he submitted proposals to my ministers, and eventually he obtained an audience with me). At once I begged him

to mount the alter and pray for rain. He did so and immediately floods of rain fell. I told him one metre would be plenty, but he said the ground needed a good soaking, and brought down 100 mm more. When I saw he had such great powers, I prostrated myself before him, and treated him then on as my elder brother.

**TRIPITAKA**

This was luck! Why do you lack anything and come here?

**GHOST**

It was a time of great plenty. But in the spring of the second year, when everyone enjoys the sights of the new season, the magician and I went walking in the flower garden by the eight sided crystal well. Here he threw something into the well, and at once there was a golden light! He led me into the well side, and pushed me into the well! Then he took a paving stone and sealed the top of the well - covered it with dirt, and planted a banana tree on top of it!

Pity me!

I have been dead three years.

I am the ghost of one who perished at the bottom of a well.

**TRIPITAKA**

*(Terrified, his hair on end, his legs in collapse)*

It's hard to reconcile your story with reason.

You say you've been dead three years -

and none of your ministers or family have come looking for you?

**GHOST**

I've told you of the magician's powers - there in the garden he gave himself a shake, and turned himself into a mirror image of me! Now he sits on my throne. This impostor has stolen my kingdom, my forests and rivers, my ministers and officials, and my Queen and concubines - everything.

**TRIPITAKA**

You are easily deterred.

**GHOST**

Easily deterred?

**TRIPITAKA**

You should have petitioned the King of Death, and put in a complaint.

**GHOST**

This magician is very well connected there - half the court of the King of Death are eating out of his hand!

**TRIPITAKA**

But why pick on the world of living to seek revenge?

**GHOST**

I wouldn't have presumed - but **The Spirit that Wonders the Night**

picked me up in a gust of magic wind and dropped me here. He said that my three years torment in the well were up, and that your disciple was The Great Monkey Sage who is able to banish evil and make true the false.

**TRIPITAKA** So, you have come to ask my disciple to drive out the magician?

**GHOST** Just that!

**TRIPITAKA** My disciple Monkey is not all he might be in some ways, but defeating demons and evil spirits are just his cup of cha...tea.

*(Music. GHOST and TRIPITAKA dance together.  
They talk together further.  
Bow politely to each other,  
turn around and fall down.  
There is a ghostly wind.*

*TRIPITAKA wakes up from his sleep.  
The ghost vanishes.  
The jade insignia is left on the stage.*

*TRIPITAKA gets up from desk.)*

### Section 3

**TRIPITAKA** Disciples!

**PIGSY** *(Waking up and crossing to TRIPITAKA.  
Double take to get pot.)  
What? What!  
I thought that being a disciple would be uplifting -  
you know, OM MANY PAYDAY HUMP -  
Anyway I do most of the lifting - carrying the reverend's things all day,  
and bringing his pot all night.  
(It's not authentic look! I should be a CHINA pot!)*

**TRIPITAKA** I just had a strange dream!

**MONKEY** Master, dreams are the children of the wide awake thoughts.  
You worry so fiercely about what ogres and demons we may meet -  
and about what a long way it is to India...  
It's no wonder your thinking boils over into dreams.  
You should be like me -- not a thought in my head except  
the Pure Land of the Buddha's Paradise in the West.

**TRIPITAKA**

It's not homesickness this time. No sooner had I shut my eyes than a gust of dank wind blew, and at the door was the ghost of the King of The Land of the Black Cockerel.

**(Music.**

**MONKEY gets up.**

**TRIPITAKA tells the story.)**

He told me his story: That he had been tricked and then murdered by a magician, who usurped his throne. This magician has transformed himself into a likeness of the King - while the King's corpse lies, unavenged, at the bottom of the well.

**MONKEY**

This dream came to you in order to bring a little business my way. No doubt this magician is a monster who has usurped the throne. If he had any idea Monkey would arrive on the scene he'd have made his exit long ago!

**TRIPITAKA**

The problem is going to be getting anyone to believe us faced with the pretender's appearance.

**PIGSY**

An exact likeness!

**SANDY**

Exactly!

**MONKEY**

There must be someone...

**TRIPITAKA**

There is! The King told me that the only heart that was true to his was the Crown Prince - his own son.

**(TRIPITAKA trembles with emotion.)**

**MONKEY**

Did the ghost tell you anything about the Prince?

**TRIPITAKA**

Yes! He told me to expect the Prince to go hunting this coming morning.

**MONKEY**

Then it's an easy matter to get him aside, and get him on side!

**PIGSY**

Beside!

**TRIPITAKA**

The poor Prince, without his true father.

(Sobs)

The false King has now forbidden the Queen and her son the Prince to meet.

**PIGSY**

How do you know?

**SANDY** The ghost told him, silly!

**PIGSY**

What did the monster do that for?

**SANDY**

So that they don't put two and two together -

**MONKEY**

Together.

**TRIPITAKA**

And he left a sign: a jade insignia.

**PIGSY**

(Laughs)

Where? Pull yourself together, Master - A dream's a dream.

(TRIPITAKA, MONKEY, SANDY and PIGSY  
find jade insignia.)

What's this?

**MONKEY**

This treasure, Brother is the jade scepter the King carried.

**TRIPITAKA**

The intricate carved sign of his office.

**MONKEY**

There's no doubt, Master!

We've got work to do!

(MONKEY plucks a hair and magically  
transforms it into a casket to hold  
the jade tablet.)

**Section 4.**

**MONKEY**

Master, take this casket with the white jade insignia inside it.

Meanwhile I will inspect the walled city - if an ogre is ruling there I will slay him, and do a deed for which I will be remembered here; but, if it is not a ogre, we must be careful of getting mixed up in this at all.

**TRIPITAKA**

You are right.

**MONKEY**

If your dream was true and the Prince goes hunting I will bring him here to see you.

**TRIPITAKA**

But how, dear Monkey?

**MONKEY**

You'll see!

**TRIPITAKA**

And if he comes, how should I receive him, a powerful young Prince and heir to the throne.

**MONKEY**

Oh, just let him come in to bow to the Buddha - don't take any notice of him, and don't you bow to him!

**TRIPITAKA**

Don't bow to him.

**MONKEY**

No, don't bow to him. He'll probably have his men seize you - they may even knock you about a little. But don't bow to him!

**TRIPITAKA**

That's not such a good plan - they may injure me.

**MONKEY**

Yes.

**TRIPITAKA**

They may even kill me!

**MONKEY**

That's all right I won't let anything really serious happen to you. If the Prince asks you anything tell him: you are here on the orders of the Emperor of China - who has sent you to the west to get the scriptures and meet the Buddha, and with you, tell him, you carry three treasures:

**(PIGSY nudges SANDY).**

The first your embroidered cassock, (given to you by our patroness to magically protect you on the journey).

Then take out this casket with the jade insignia in it, and tell him inside it is the second treasure, and I'll make myself the size of a finger and hide in the box. Say, that inside the box there is a little treasure, a small sage who sees the goings on past, present and future of one and a half thousand years! Then open it up and I'll jump out and continue the story...

**TRIPITAKA**

And what shall we call you?

**MONKEY**

Call me? Call me Little King Maker. And then, for the third treasure I will show him the white jade insignia embossed with gold -and if he has any heart he must believe us!

**TRIPITAKA**

Look, the first whiteness of the day in the sky.

**They look.**

**MONKEY**

Now then, you wait here and look after the Master - and no mucking up around the temple!

**Section5**

**MONKEY springs into the air. The others fall back and watch him disappear.**

Here on my cloud swing -  
at three thousand metres - the air is clear -  
Where is the city of The Black Cockeral.  
Looks a nice place -  
walled in like a graveyard!  
And lord, look, a hunting party is riding out  
with a hoard of soldiers, and statesmen  
to catch a little stray wildlife!

**(THE PRINCE with bow.)**

Certainly this man in his regalia is the Prince!

**(MONKEY plucks a hair from his head.)**

Now, if I was just a little white hare -

or turned myself into a white rabbit -

**(MONKEY turns and transforms himself into a white hare - puppet.**

**The hare runs.**

**THE PRINCE sees the hare, takes**

**aim**

**and shoots imaginary arrow.**

**MONKEY, with puppet, catches real arrow and runs off. THE PRINCE chases hare.**

**The temple gate with the arrow stuck in it.**

**The Prince enters the temple.**

**MONKEY changes into a midget in box.)**

## **Section 6**

**PRINCE**

"Treasure Wood Temple, Erected by Royal Command".

**(THE PRINCE enters to bow to the Buddha.**

**TRIPITAKA**

**Does not rise to bow to THE PRINCE.)**

**PRINCE**

Brute! Have you no manners? I don't expect an elaborate welcome, but why are you still sitting in my presence?

Seize this man! Tie him hand and foot!

**MONKEY**

Halt!

I may be changed to a little sage just three inches high, but even my little magic is enough to tie the hands of these guards and leave my master free!

**PRINCE**

What kind of man are you that you can bind my guards to the spot, and make yourself unapproachable?

**TRIPITAKA**

Truly, your highness, I have no such skill.

**PRINCE**

Then who are you?

**TRIPITAKA**

I am a priest sent by the great Emperor of China to travel to the West, and get the scriptures....and with me I have three great treasures -

**PRINCE**

What treasures?

**TRIPITAKA**

The first is this cassock -

**PRINCE**

We have plenty of clothes just as fancy as that!

**TRIPITAKA**

One thousand threads of love  
are contained in this vestment.  
One thousand stitches tie the wearer  
and his worldly troubles,  
to the place of bliss and resolution.  
Each embroidered stitch is a jewel  
given by the patroness of our journey.

A brute does not bow at the sight of the King.  
It is brutal for a Crown Prince not to avenge his murdered father!

**PRINCE**

What? My father is still alive and well - your wits are as incomplete as your coat.

**TRIPITAKA**

The Buddha's half coat hid the truth from the noisy world - and revealed it, too.

This little box hides the second treasure we carry: it is the sage called, Little King Maker. He knows past, present and future for one and a half thousand years - you may like to ask him some questions?

**PRINCE**

Let me see him.

**Section 7**

**(TRIPITAKA opens the box -  
out jumps a MONKEY  
figure three inches high.)**

This little thing the size of a man's nose can't know past and future.

**(Outraged, MONKEY transforms himself**

**into a figure two feet tall.  
THE PRINCE is astounded. MONKEY  
then grows to his normal size.)**

**SANDY**

If he keeps growing at this rate his head will hit the sky and change the weather.

**PRINCE**

Little King Maker, how do you divine the past and future, do you use the Book of Changes, or consult the auguries?

**MONKEY**

Neither. I say what I know with my three inch tongue. (Three inches is never too small to tell the truth).

**PRINCE**

What do you know of my country?

**MONKEY**

Your country of The Black Cockeral?

It is seven years since the drought commenced, and five years since it finished. All your public prayer came to nothing, until a Taoist doctor - a magician named X'iu-an-Chen - arrived from the mountain in the uninhabited land to the south. He brought down rain - over one metre of it - and he became your father's best and most trusted friend, isn't this so?

**PRINCE**

It is true.

**MONKEY**

So, where is this Taoist doctor, now?

**PRINCE**

Three years ago he and my father were walking in the palace garden, when a magic wind knocked the jade scepter from my father's hand.

**MONKEY**

And X'iu-an-Chen flew off with it to the mountains in the south.

**PRINCE**

Yes, how did you know -

**MONKEY**

And the garden?

**PRINCE**

Now the garden is closed by order of the King. And my father became stern and cold.

**MONKEY**

The man in the palace today is not the King, your father.

**PRINCE**

But if is not my father that is the King, who is he?

**(MONKEY laughs.)**

**PIGSY**

He doesn't know who his father is!

**SANDY**

It's a common problem!

**(PIGSY, SANDY AND MONKEY laugh.  
TRIPITAKA disapproves.)**

**PRINCE**

Why don't you say something - instead of standing there laughing?

**MONKEY**

There's a lot I can say.

In truth Your Majesty, it was your father that vanished in the wind - and it was X'iu'an Chen who usurped the throne and the monster sits there now.

**PRINCE**

That makes no sense, since X'iu'an Chen left, there has been great prosperity.

**MONKEY**

But the magician didn't leave, me made himself into an image of your father, and took his place.

**PRINCE**

No, I don't want to hear this subversive nonsense. If my father were here he'd cut you into little bits!

**MONKEY**

There, you see, Master! He doesn't believe the truth even when it's spelled out to him. Give it to him then, and let's get on with the journey!

**(TRIPITAKA takes the lacquered box,  
and hands it to MONKEY, who makes it  
vanish. MONKEY holds the jade insignia.)**

**He hands it to THE PRINCE, who is stunned.)**

**PRINCE**

Trickster! It is you who murdered my father, and stole this scepter.

Guards! Seize these men!

**(MONKEY looks to heaven.  
TRIPITAKA is frightened.)**

**TRIPITAKA**

It's him! You trouble maker - you manufacture problems for every step of the way to the West.

### **Section 8**

**MONKEY**

Prince, it is time to tell you the truth. I am not usually called the Little King Maker. My real name is quite different.

**PRINCE**

Good, I need your real names for the charges before the magistrate.

**MONKEY**

I have been charged already, by Tathagata, I've been charged with guarding him on his journey.

My name is the Great Monkey Sage the Equal of Heaven, and I am this priest's chief disciple.

Last night my master had a dream in which he was visited by the ghost of your dead father. He asked that I subdue this evil monster.

**PRINCE**

My father's ghost?

**MONKEY**

He said that the magician pushed him into the eight sided crystal well, where he is still buried.

**PRINCE**

In the locked garden.

**MONKEY**

Your highness, please help me do as he asked me and appease your father's spirit.

**PRINCE**

Well, even if I don't believe you, there's something true in what you are saying.

**MONKEY**

If you are still in doubt, ride home and ask your mother, the Queen, a question which will decide it: Ask her whether during the last three years her relationship with her husband has been as it was before?

**PRINCE**

Yes.

**MONKEY**

Ride there alone. Ride there in secret. Arrive at the back entrance. Speak to her privately.

**Section 9**

**PRINCE**

In the Queen's compound at the Palace of The Black Cockeral, in the garden of the Pavilion of Woven Perfumes I found my mother, the Queen.

**QUEEN**

This is a great joy.

**PRINCE**

But why have you been crying?

**QUEEN**

It was a foolish dream - it is over with - now I can see you who are closest to my heart. For the last three years you have been kept so busy, how is it that you are free to see me today?

**PRINCE**

Mother, I want to ask you a question -but only if you give me your forgiveness in advance.

**QUEEN**

There is no need for offense and forgiveness between mother and son.

**PRINCE**

Mother, if you compare your life with the King these last three years, with your life with him before, is his affection as great?

**(THE QUEEN, confronted, moves away.)**

Please, do not avoid my question, much depends on it.

**QUEEN**

I would have gone down to nines Springs of Death without ever speaking to a soul of this subject. But as you ask me:

What was warm and easy in the past

has turned to ice now.  
When I asked why the flood of love had faltered,  
he told me age had taken its toll.

**(THE PRINCE starts to go.)**

Do not leave, now, when it has been so long since I saw you last.

**(THE PRINCE returns.)**

**PRINCE**

Mother, today I was commanded to go hunting, and out beyond the city wall I happened to meet a priest sent by the Emperor of China to get the scriptures. He has a disciple, named Monkey, who has extraordinary powers, he told me that it is not my father that sits in the throne, but an evil spirit who has murdered the King. Last night the Chinese priest had a dream in which my father's ghost visited him and begged him to ask monkey to restore him to his throne.

I didn't believe this - but what you have told me makes me certain it is true.

**QUEEN**

My son, why believe these strangers?

**PRINCE**

I would not have, but they showed me the Royal scepter which the ghost left when it departed!

**(Shows scepter. THE QUEEN cries.)**

**QUEEN**

Then it is true! In the dream I had last night I saw the King, your father, saying he was dead, and that he had visited a Chinese priest.

## **Section 10**

**(THE PRINCE Leaves. Returns to Treasure Wood Temple.)**

**MONKEY**

Well, Prince, if he's as cold to your mother as you say, he's probably the transformation of some cold creature.

**PIGSY**

A toad or a lizard.

**MONKEY**

Or an eel, who knows? But tomorrow we'll make short work of him.

**PRINCE**

Let me wait here until morning, and I will go with you to the city.

**MONKEY**

No. We mustn't arouse his suspicion. And if we arrive together it will look as though you had invited us to help seize the throne.

**PRINCE**

I shall get into trouble any in case. I was sent hunting this morning, and now it is late afternoon and I haven't got any game.

**MONKEY**

Don't worry. Head off for the city, and I'll arrange to have the game line up by the roadside. You'll just have to pick it up and put it in your bags.

**PRINCE**

Very well! Then I shall see you tomorrow at court.

**(Exit PRINCE. MONKEY flies.)**

**Section 11**

**MONKEY**

I may try here and see if the local mountain spirit can organise a little wild life for us? Listen!  
Local Mountain Spirit  
just assemble the animal spirits and arrange some game, you know, deer, foxes, wild fowl, hares, tigers, panthers, wolves.....

How many? Oh, a few of each.

No, no not here! By the road to the city, so the Prince and his hunting party can gather them as they return.

**(Distant hunting song.  
MONKEY returns.)**

**MONKEY**

Master, we must make our plans.

**(TRIPITAKA pretends to be asleep.)**

Master? He's asleep.  
Why are you asleep?

**TRIPITAKA**

Why can't you go to sleep, instead of pestering me like this?

**MONKEY**

There's something I need your advise about, Master.

**TRIPITAKA**

What is it?

**MONKEY**

I talked very big to the Prince, but I'm not sure that I can pull this job off so easily tomorrow.

**TRIPITAKA**

If it's too difficult to catch the monster, then why do it?

**MONKEY**

It's not difficult to dispatch the monster.

Your so unworldly, Master, it's a question of whether it's legal.

**TRIPITAKA**

Legal?

**MONKEY**

The magician has been on the throne for three years now, the court officials all believe he is the King, even his concubines believe he is the King. If I arrive and confront the impostor, what will he say? I am the King of The Black Cockerel! You all know me.

**TRIPITAKA**

Then what is your plan?

**MONKEY**

Well, I've worked it all out, but there's one snag - you've got a soft-spot.

**TRIPITAKA**

A weakness?

**MONKEY**

A soft-spot for Pigsy.

**TRIPITAKA**

Pigsy?

**MONKEY**

Yes, you always favor him because he's so strong.

**TRIPITAKA**

Why do you think that?

**MONKEY**

If it were not so, you'd summon the courage to stay here with just Sandy, and let Pigsy come with me to get the King's corpse from the well. If we take the corpse with us to the court we can say, "Here is the man you drowned." And the Prince and Queen can wail over the dead body. It should be most effective.

**TRIPITAKA**

Everyone will believe and understand what they see.

**MONKEY**

Then I can set to work to dispose of the monster.

**TRIPITAKA**

Yes, it's a very good plan. But I'm not sure Pigsy will help you with the corpse.

**Section 12**

**MONKEY**

If he doesn't want to help, then I'll help him to want to.

**(PIGSY is asleep.)**

**MONKEY**

Pigsy!

**(PIGSY doesn't stir.)**

This Pigsy carries the luggage all day -  
and sleeps like baggage all night!

**(MONKEY pulls PIGSY'S ear.)**

Pigsy-wigsy!

**(He prods PIGSY.)**

What a bundle!

**(He shakes PIGSY.)**

A neat little load

**(Tickles PIGSY under his nose.)**

**PIGSY**

Go to sleep, and don't be stupid - tomorrow we've got to be on the road again.

**MONKEY**

I'm not being stupid, there's a bit of a job I want your help with.

**(PIGSY snores loudly.)**

A little business to see to -

**(PIGSY snores again.)**

A sizable sum to relocate -

**(PIGSY snores and coughs.)**

You heard what the King said about the treasure.

**PIGSY** **(Waking and sitting up.)**

Treasure? I didn't hear anything about a treasure!

**MONKEY**

Oh, well...

**PIGSY**

Tell-me-tell-me-tell-me-tell-me!

**MONKEY**

Tomorrow when we march on the city, the magician's money will buy an army of ten thousand men - that's a lot of fighting! We could save ourselves some of work if we stole it now.

**PIGSY**

Brother, are you asking me to commit robbery?

**(MONKEY indicates: "Well?". Then, "Yes".)**

If you are, that's a business I can really help you with!

**(Then shrewdly)**

But I don't just want a small cut of this loot.

**MONKEY**

**(Feigning)** Oh, what do you want.

**PIGSY**

If I get hold of it, I want the lot!

**MONKEY**

**(Feigning)** All of it?

**PIGSY**

I'm not as good at begging alms as you - I haven't such a nice voice - and in a fix, this treasure would be worth a feed, at least.

**MONKEY**

I only care about fame - I don't want any treasure - it's all yours!

**(PIGSY goes off with MONKEY, singing.)**

**MONKEY AND PIGSY**

*Booze give you a lift, and makes your cheeks red,  
but the promise of gold gets even Pigsy out of bed.*

**Section 13 AT THE GARDEN**

**PIGSY**

This looks like the garden wall - and here is the gate.  
What does the sign say?

**MONKEY**

Can't you read it?

**PIGSY**

I haven't brought my glasses.

**MONKEY**

"Imperial Garden". "Entry Forbidden, By Order"

**PIGSY**

But I've got work to do. I don't carry this rake for nothing.

**(He smashes the gate down.**

**MONKEY prances around with glee.)**

**PIGSY**

Shhh! You'll wake everybody up, and we'll be arrested.

**MONKEY**

Don't make me nervous.

Look, here, the treasure is hidden under this banana tree.

**PIGSY**

Right, I'll soon get it out of the way.

**(PIGSY demolishes banana tree. Digs.)**

Is a hole up to my waste, deep enough?

**MONKEY**

Ooh look! Here's something solid -

**PIGSY**

The treasure's obviously under this slab.

**(Lifts slab)**

Look. I can see something shining.

**MONKEY**

That is the moon, brother.

**PIGSY**

Why look, it's a well! You can see the stars reflected in the water. If I'd had known the treasure was in a well, I'd have brought my rope! Then you could have lowered me down.

**MONKEY**

Never mind, Brother, my magic cudgel which I was given by the Dragon King of the Southern sea will stretch far enough.

Change!

#### **Section 14**

**(MONKEY tosses cudgel in the air and it extends to five times it's size.)**

**PIGSY**

You lower me down, Brother, but when I reach the water, you stop.

**MONKEY**

Right!

**(PIGSY is lowered down the well.)**

**PIGSY**

I've reached the water!

**(MONKEY deliberately lowers PIGSY a little more. PIGSY kicks wildly and lets go. MONKEY falls about laughing. Takes up the staff. PIGSY splashes about....)**

**PIGSY**

I told you to stop when I reached the water.

**MONKEY**

Ooops, sorry.

**PIGSY**

There's nothing here but water.

**MONKEY**

The treasure must be under the water - have a look.

**(PIGSY dives.)**

**PIGSY** **(In bubble language.)**

It's just as well I was general of the Jade Emperor's Water Squadron before I took up pilgrimage for a change of outlook.

### **Section 15 DRAGON KING OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE**

**PIGSY**

Plop! into the unknown! Hee-hee!

Treasure! Here treasure! Here Treasure!

Oooh! Look at that! Ooh! No! It's just wet water - wetter than wet water - drenched! soaked! saturated! drowned water! Hee-hee!

**(PIGSY does a spot of opera.  
MONKEY, hearing this from the well,  
responds. A spoof duet follows -  
MONKEY singing and PIGSY being the echo.  
PIGSY is meanwhile circulating with  
the audience, looking for treasure.)**

*I know how to circulate  
at the current exchange rate*

*Perks and lurks and shady deals  
fortunately no tycoon "steals"*

*I'm the money you can thank  
to keep your interest in the bank*

*In the flood of humanity  
I'm a negotiable commodity*

*I mix well in moneyed circles  
water out of plug-holes gurgles*

*I know how to circulate  
at the current exchange rate*

Look! Oh! Ooo! Mmmmm! It's a sign. "Cry Stall Palace" And there's a picture of the great mysterious white elephant. The Cry Stall Palace, eh?

**(In audience)**

Money? Treasure? Loot? Gold? Cash? Money? Pay up, or it will be the worse for you!

**USHER ONE**

Ahhh! Call the Front of House Manager! One of them has escaped and is attacking the public!

**USHER TWO**

Quick Call the fire brigade

**USHER THREE**

Call the insurance company!

**USHER ONE**           **(From down the stairs.)**

It's the one with the big nose!

**USHER TWO**

I haven't got the shots!

**(Loud footsteps of people running in the  
foyer.)**

**USHER THREE**

Tell them to try coming up through the other stairs!

**(MONKEY is sitting on his head,  
meanwhile, kicking his legs playfully.  
Enjoying the show.)**

**MONKEY**

Isn't it wonderful!

**PIGSY**

You!

**(To figure emerging from the foyer  
area.)**

You must be the General Manager of this amusement pier! Your pinball machine isn't working!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

What's the meaning of this storming around like some sort of lunatic circus! This isn't the place

for cheep antics like this.

**PIGSY**

It's not cheep, I charge a *huge* price!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

You may think it large - but we all have our different standards.

**PIGSY**

I think it's large, and when it comes to questions of volume - I have the greater capacity!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Small concerns like yours can't go doing what they like upsetting everyone and causing offense

-

**PIGSY**

Try this for size -

The prices on this amusement pier are a joke.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Who is this person?

USHERS VOICE

General Pigsy Bristles, ex-water squadron.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

God alive! Not THE Pigsy Bristles?

Not the Pigsy Bristles who served with the Jade Emperor's fleet?

**(PIGSY nods.)**

That puts a completely different face on the fish.

**PIGSY**

Or a completely different fish on the face.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

You know, I was at Duncgut, Muckpuddle and Denthead, within days of you blokes! God! Those were the days! Fighting from dawn till dusk. The stench! The flies! Now! Now, look at me. A desk job!

**(He is near tears.)**

A bureaucrat! A stamp pounder! A penjerker!

**PIGSY**

Life's tough on a retired Dragon!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Roy Dragon, at your service, Pigsy.

I'd been warned to expect you of course -

Escort to the Chinese priest on his way to the West to search for scriptures.

**PIGSY**

Well, comrade! Now that we've got all that sorted out - could you hand over the dough, and we'll be getting on with it.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Ha ha. Still the same joker you always -

I remember stories about you and that young fly-by-night at Gangbash -

**PIGSY** (Putting hand behind back.)

Yes, that was one of my funnier turns -

That's why I've got to get to India. Pilgrimage is good for the spirit..But a bit a where-with-all always makes the going easier....so hand it over.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

We can't just give handouts

(He smiles knowingly.)

Even if we had the money.

No, no, with creeping inflation, and crawling stagnation with reaction and desperation - you must understand my position...

**PIGSY**

Treasure! I want what I came here for!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Yes! Of course you can have what you've come for.

It's over there.

**PIGSY**

'are, you're, a real mate....(Looking)

All that's over here is a stiff.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

That's what your after.

**PIGSY**

Listen, "mate"! don't come the prawn cutlet with me!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

I'm sorry, General, if you don't like it, then you must lump it.

**PIGSY**

I want treasure! Cash! Mon-nee!

**GENERAL MANAGER**

This is the body of the King of The Land of the Black Cockerel, I have kept it here in the office of my Crystal Palace (at the bottom of the eight corned crystal well) for three years - by means of a small government subsidy and a magic pearl.

**PIGSY**

We are at cross purposes - I came here for treasure, and you are offering me a corpse - look, he's hardly holding together.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

I understand that Monkey, The Great Sage, The Equal of Heaven, who is traveling with you, is to bring the King back to life and return him to his throne.

**PIGSY**

I'm not Monkey's carrier pigeon.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

It's been a memorable meeting , General. We shall leave the corpse here for collection. Good bye.

**PIGSY**

Shove off!

**Section 16**

**PIGSY**

**(Shouting up the well.)**

Brother, get me out of this!  
There's nothing here but a dead body!

**MONKEY**

That's your treasure, brother.  
If you don't bring it up, I'll go back to the temple and go to sleep.

**PIGSY**

You wouldn't leave me here?

**(MONKEY nods.)**

This well is shaped like a honey pot -

**MONKEY**

Quickly!

**PIGSY**

And it's sides are as slippery as sin.

**MONKEY**

Come on, Brother.

**PIGSY**

Alright, I'll bring the corpse up...

**MONKEY**

Good, then we can return to the Temple and have a sleep.

**PIGSY**

even if I throw up!

**(PIGSY dives into the water and returns with the corpse)**

**MONKEY**

Bite this rope between your teeth.

**PIGSY bites rope, and MONKEY**

**also with**

**rope between his teeth, pulls PIGSY, who is carrying the King's corpse, from the well.**

**MONKEY**

You're out.

**PIGSY**

I'm thoroughly put out!

**MONKEY**

Come on you carry the corpse back to the Temple to show it to Tripataka.

**PIGSY**

It's been dead for some time now and I don't want to handle it.

**(PIGSY holds his nose.)**

**MONKEY**

Pigsy, that's it! If you don't do it then I'll have a bash.

And it will be you that get the bashing.

**(PIGSY is afraid.)**

**PIGSY**

Your cudgel, dear Brother is very powerful - you may kill me Please don't.

**(PIGSY picks up the corpse on his shoulder  
and carries it back.)**

**MONKEY**

I'll let you off, I'll summon a magic wind to return us in moments.

**PIGSY**

**(Aside)** What an indignity! But I'll get him back for this.

### **Section 17 At the temple again**

**TRIPITAKA**

Who is it?

**(PIGSY enters. Turns back to close  
the door.)**

What do you want?

**(MONKEY laughs.)**

**MONKEY**

It is us master! We have returned with the dead King.

**TRIPITAKA**

Dear Monkey!

What a pitiful sight! The good King - victim of the evil magician.

**PIGSY**

But Master, Monkey says that he can bring the King back to life!

**MONKEY**

What?

**TRIPITAKA**

Return the King to the living?

**MONKEY**

Only the King can do that.

**PIGSY**

Don't let him confuse the issue, Master - he's so full of magic, plenty to do that!  
Listen, if you recite your magic spell on him -

**TRIPITAKA**

Our patroness gave me the spell which tightens the band around monkeys head to use if he becomes unruly -

**PIGSY**

Go on, he can do it. He just doesn't want to.

**TRIPITAKA (To MONKEY)**

Disciple, it is not showing compassion to withhold a good service which it is in our power to do another creature.

**PIGSY**

Go on, recite your spell -

**TRIPITAKA (Recites the spell.)**

Tight as the heart of thought -  
The hard heart -  
A stone wall ringing -  
With the wailing angles -  
fallen out of grace -  
The madness of giving  
only to take away -  
All bent in on  
the ice cold heart

The fire eating a hole in space.

**(MONKEY Twists and writhes in agony,  
his eyes bulge.)**

**MONKEY**

Master! Mercy! I'll go down to the King of Death and ask for the King's soul back -

**PIGSY (Laughing)**

Don't let him, it's a trick to get out of range.

**MONKEY**

Master! Please! Then I'll visit the top story of heaven and ask Lao Tzu for a shot of his elixir of immortality.

**(TRIPITAKA stops preying.)**

**MONKEY**

But, I'll be back before morning -  
And, it's only proper - as you're waiting here with a corpse, you should be mourning.

**TRIPITAKA**

Yes, Monkey. And no crocodile tears Pigsy! Good solid howling .

**PIGSY**

Right!

**(PIGSY pokes paper up nose...tears flow,  
TRIPITAKA is overwhelmed.)**

**MONKEY**

**(To audience.)**

Well, that's what you've got to put up with while I high on my cloud fly to 33rd heaven.

**Section 18**

**(MONKEY flies - others fall away.  
Sound fades in the distance.)**

Are you with me?

Well, this is the palace of Lao Tzu - You know him? He wrote a book called the Tao Te Ching -

He's a grand old man - but we don't get on. I stole about a gallon of his elixir of immortality once!

He didn't see the funny side of it. Later he tried to melt me down in his cauldron, to get it back, but I was immortal - several times over by then.

However, I did get smoke in my eyes - they have never been the same since.

**LAO TZU**

I can smell smoke. Where there's smoke there's trouble.  
Watch it!

**(Sees MONKEY)**

It's that Monkey!

500 years ago he stole 2 gallons of my elixir - enough to immortality to all the inhabitants of heaven several times over -

and he drank it!

**MONKEY**

How then reverend sir -

**LAO TZU**

Why have you left Tripitaka on his journey west and come to disturb my alchemical studies?

**MONKEY**

Not to disturb you sir, but to honour you with a small request -

**LAO TZU**

Honour?

**MONKEY**

You see, sir we have uncovered a plot in the land of The Black Cockeral, the King has been displaced by an impostor and my master, Tripitaka, wants very much to have the King returned to life. And for this I require.....1000 drops of your magic elixir.

**LAO TZU**

Not a drop!

**MONKEY**

500 drops would suffice.

**LAO TZU**

Not ten!

**MONKEY**

One hundred would be enough.

**LAO TZU**

No!

**MONKEY**

Actually, ten would be plenty.

**LAO TZU**

Nothing!

**MONKEY**

Respected, sir, a single drop is all that is needed to bring the King to life.

**LAO TZU**

**(Shrugs, shakes his head.)**

Hump!

**MONKEY**

I shouldn't like to revert to my old ways as a burglar. Your heavenly doors hardly deserve to be broken down but the little cudgel of the Monkey King - The Equal of Heaven.

**LAO TZU**

I'm forced to compromise - "Give a little and conserve a lot". Here is a single drop.

**MONKEY**

Thank you, Lao Tzu. I'll just check that it's the real thing.

**(MONKEY swallows the elixir in one gulp.)**

**LAO TZU**

No! Too late!

**MONKEY**

Take it easy - it's never too late.

Monkeys have a pouch under the gullet - it will be safe there whilst I fly back.

**LAO TZU**

You irresponsible! irreligious! Irregular! irreverent! irritating! irresponsible! irrepressible! irresistible you!

**(MONKEY flies back)**

**(The wailing of the others grows louder)**

### **Section 19**

**TRIPITAKA**

Is that you, Monkey?

**(PIGSY keeps crying.)**

**MONKEY**

Yes, Master, you're a worker! You don't do a job by halves! But now you've mourned 'till morn - stop - or go elsewhere. Bring me some water.

**(MONKEY takes the water in his mouth and spits it into the KING's mouth. The KING's belly moves, but then subsides, lifelessly. MONKEY and TRIPITAKA look at each other.)**

**MONKEY**

Oooo.

**TRIPITAKA**

For three years his breath has stopped, he's waterlogged. We should inflate him again.

**PIGSY**

I'll do it.

**TRIPITAKA**

No, Pigsy. Your breath is defiled - you've eaten human flesh. Monkey, you do it - you've always lived on raw fruit.

**(MONKEY breaths into the KING's mask, his chest fills and falls. They watch. It rises again! His body heaves. His fist clenches. He sits up. He kneels.)**

**KING**

Master! Last night when my soul visited you, little did I think that today I would again be among the land of living.

**TRIPITAKA**

You must thank my disciple.

**MONKEY**

No, for all his trouble, you must thank my master.

After breakfast will go on to the city, and return your Majesty to the throne of The Black Cockeral.

**KING**

Master, I am unworthy to return to my kingdom without showing my gratitude for my return to life.

Let me go with you on your pilgrimage to India. This gentleman can have my place on the throne, and I will carry your baggage to the west.

**(PIGSY likes the idea.)**

**MONKEY**

No, your Majesty, if I wanted it I could be King several times over - but my destiny is to return you to your throne, and then continue my pilgrimage.

**Section 20**

**PIGSY**

Welcome abroad the road to glory. your Majesty.

**KING**

Thank you.

**MONKEY**

Don't mind if we share the baggage, so you don't look too conspicuous.

**(PIGSY produces an old hat**

**for the KING.)**

**PIGSY**

This cover up will do the trick.

**MONKEY**

It's a bit old hat!

**KING**

Not at all.

**PIGSY** (Puts everything light in his own load.)

Now, I'll just put all the big things in my bundle -  
and leave all the little things in your bundle.

**PIGSY**

Wait on! Which's Britches?

**KING**

Here, let me carry the biggest one.

**PIGSY**

No, no your majesty, you can't get away with it that lightly. You are King after all, and you must carry your burden of the affairs of state -

**KING**

Even beyond the grave.

**PIGSY**

Let me take the big load, and you take the small one.

(They travel to The Land of the Black Cockerel  
singing.)

## **Section 21**

**TRIPITAKA**

Now we are here in the city of The Black Cockerel we must go immediately go to the palace and present our passports -

**PIGSY**

And give that impostor a going over!

**MONKEY**

But we won't bow to him.

**TRIPITAKA**

(Weakly) Oh!

**MONKEY**

(MONKEY goes up to gate and knocks.)

We have been sent by the great Emperor of China to worship the Buddha and fetch the scriptures. Please announce our arrival at court.

(The KING weeps silently.)

**SANDY**

Your highness, keep control of yourself.

**MONKEY**

If you go on crying like this, you'll have us all in trouble.

(They enter the court and stand in front of the FALSE KING.)

**MONKEY**

(To TRIPITAKA)

We've caused a flutter of consternation already, without a bow or a by-your-leave.

**FALSE KING**

Who are you?

**MONKEY**

We are priests from the east.

**FALSE KING**

What land in the east? Am I it's vassal that you behave with so little respect for my throne?

**MONKEY**

Long ago our land became great. Yours is a frontier station -

**FALSE KING**

Guards!

Remove these vagabonds from the court!

(FALSE KING moves forward, but is frozen.)

**MONKEY**

Halt!

(PRINCE moves up to the FALSE KING.)

**PRINCE**

Father - do not harm them. These priests are favourites of the Chinese Emperor, if you were to harm them he will make war on you. Question them first - then if you punish them, punish

them justly.

**FALSE KING**

Why did you leave China?

**MONKEY**

My Master is called Tripitaka, and he is treated by the Emperor of China as a younger brother. I am his chief disciple. This is Pigsy Bristles and Sandy Bottom, we have traveled from China

-

**FALSE KING**

And this other figure?

**(The KING trembles.)**

**MONKEY**

Allow me to tell his story too.

**FALSE KING**

I hope his with you of his own accord.

**(MONKEY does a double-take.)**

**MONKEY**

This old stick is silent now -

he's fallen on bad times.

Five years ago disaster overtook him  
and his family.

In the great drought he suffered horribly -

But the Taoist doctor from the south came  
and brought rain.

After two years of plenty this magician murdered the King of The Land of the Black Cockeral,  
and hid his body in the eight cornered well.

This magician was a monster in disguise,  
he transformed himself into a likeness of the King -  
and he sits on the throne before you now.

**Section 22**

**(The FALSE KING rises. MONKEY is  
about to strike, but the KING flees.  
All watch him go. Music.)**

**PIGSY**

He's gone, now we'll never catch him!

**MONKEY**

Don't worry, I'll catch up with him

**(Move all masks.)**

You look after the royal family - and the master.

I'll find this monster if I have to check the four corners of the sky.

**(MONKEY flies off. All fall back.)**

**MONKEY**

There you are, you impostor!

Still in the shape of the King?

Better watch it now, Monkey has come!

**(MAGICIAN transforms himself to  
Magician's mask.)**

**MONKEY**

Ahhh!

**(MAGICIAN transforms back to KING's  
image.)**

**MONKEY**

Make up your mind!

**(MAGICIAN transforms to Magician's mask  
again. MONKEY rises to strike. Short  
fight. MAGICIAN doubles back.)**

### **Section 23**

**(PILGRIMS move-in centre, MAGICIAN now  
amongst them.)**

**TRIPITAKA**

What?

**PIGSY**

Where's Monkey?

**TRIPITAKA**

Who was that?

**(MAGICIAN transforms himself to image of TRIPITAKA.)**

**PIGSY** (To MAGICIAN)

It looks like the monsters come bake.

**TRIPITAKA**

Ahhhhhhhhhh! It's me!

**PIGSY** (To MAGICIAN)

Oh no, his transformed himself to look like you!

**(MONKEY arrives. Is about to strike - is unable to decide.)**

**MONKEY**

Which is true and which is false?

**PIGSY**

We don't know, we were looking out for you.

**MONKEY**

Well... I'll have to risk it!

**(MONKEY raises cudgel. TRIPITAKA quakes with fear and tip toes off. MONKEY winks to PIGSY and watches TRIPITAKA. MONKEY is about to strike the MAGICIAN.)**

**(The MAGICIAN, meanwhile, spins around and transform to the MAGICIAN's mask and is off again).**

**PIGSY**

There he goes!

**(They fall back.)**

**MONKEY**

Then I'm after him!

**(They fall back. MONKEY and MAGICIAN meet. MONKEY swings cudgel. The MAGICIAN avoids blow. The MAGICIAN produces a sword. Fight. MONKEY looks to have the better of**

**the fight. The MAGICIAN does a double-double take and escapes.**

Section 24

**THE PILGRIMS come forward with the MAGICIAN amongst them in the image of TRIPITAKA. MONKEY enters.)**

**PIGSY**

Did you get him, brother?

**MONKEY**

Idiot! Look!

**(PIGSY turns and sees two TRIPITAKA'S. Both eyeing each other coolly.**

**PIGSY bursts into laughter.)**

**PIGSY**

Well done brother!

**MONKEY**

It will be easier going for you with two masters to give you orders.

**PIGSY**

Listen, wise brother, why don't you ask the master to recite the spell which makes your head ache!

**MONKEY**

Good thinking Pigsy!

**TRIPITAKA**

Tight as the heart of thought....

**MAGICIAN**

**(Listening in.)**

Tightly then hearty thoughts...

**(MONKEY in agony on the floor.)**

**PIGSY**

It's him! He's the monster!

**MONKEY**

Stop, master!

**(TRIPITAKA has stopped.)**

**PIGSY**

He was only mumbling!

**(PIGSY raises his rake.**

**The MAGICIAN goes to escape.**

**MONKEY blocks his way.**

**PIGSY closes in.**

**TRIPITAKA recites sutras.**

**MONKEY thrusts. The MAGICIAN recoils.**

**MONKEY is about to strike THE MAGICIAN.)**

## **Section 26**

**MANJUSRI**

Monkey, stay your hand.

**(All fall back.)**

**TRIPITAKA**

Manjusri! Holy Bodhisattva!

**MANJUSRI**

Look in the mirror which reflects everything in it's true form.

**MONKEY**

This is not a magician or monster -

it is the lion with the green mane on which you ride -

**TRIPITAKA**

Holy one, how has it come to be causing this trouble on earth instead of serving you in heaven?

**MANJUSRI**

My guardian lion was sent by the Buddha.

You see, the King of The Land of the Black Cockerel pleased the Buddha well, and he sent me, some years ago now, to bring him to the paradise of Pure land in the West, I came here as a wondering priest - but when I asked him to leave with me, he grew angry and ordered his guard to throw me in the river - where I was stuck for three days! And for that reason he has spent three years in a well.

**MONKEY**

Well, you've been avenged alright - but what about all the people in the kingdom this monster has ruined.

**MANJUSRI**

He's ruined none.  
It has rained. The land is prosperous.

**PIGSY**

Well what about the Queen and concubines?

**MANJUSRI**

He has defiled no-one. He is a gelded lion.

**(PIGSY feels to make sure.)**

**PIGSY**

He's right.  
He's got good looks, but he lacks the goods.

**TRIPITAKA**

Manjusri the mounted and rode his guardian lion back to his place, just to the right of Buddha - as you will see him depicted in many temples... Then the King held a great feast at the court-

**PIGSY**

And we ate our fill!

**TRIPITAKA**

Just as everyone was congratulating us, and particularly my disciple Monkey, on restoring the King, another party of priests were announced, and they entered wearing the cloak of a King-

**SANDY**

Everyone thought this meant that there was another contender for the throne!

**PIGSY**

They'd get there royal line in knots if you let them!

**TRIPITAKA**

It was the kind priests of the Treasure Wood Temple, who had dried and cleaned to a kings regalia - soiled by this time in the well.

**SANDY**

So the King put his regalia on before the crowds at the banquet, and he held the white jade scepter.

**(MONKEY is putting on his jacket to go.)**

**TRIPITAKA**

What a troubled world -  
Things aren't straight -

**PIGSY**

More...platted.

**TRIPITAKA**

And it takes such a lot of twisting to make them line up again.

**MONKEY**

And if you want to know what happened to us after we left the land of The Black Cockeral on our journey west -

**PIGSY**

You must listen out for:

(Song - **DEAR MONKEY.**)

Don't Monkey 'round with Monkey, Dear Monkey, Dear Monkey.  
Don't Monkey 'round with Monkey, Dear Monkey, The Monkey King.

Not a thought in his head, in his head, in his head,  
Not a thought in his head, He's a great sage.

Rampage and pilgrimage, pilgrimage and rampage,  
Rampage and pilgrimage, until you stop.

**THE END**

**Heart Sutra**

The perfectly wise figure,  
exquisite patroness, Kwan Yin.

Holy, loving, forgiving. Kwan yin.

Moving on the flood of mind -  
beyond movement and mind -

Look down on these five  
senseless sensations.

forgive, restore, reconcile.

Form is emptiness -

and that emptiness is form.  
Emptiness is not different from form -  
and form is not different from emptiness.  
Whatever is form, that is emptiness.  
Whatever is emptiness, that is form.

Sense is emptiness -  
and that emptiness is sense.  
Emptiness is not different from sense -  
and sense is not different from emptiness.  
Whatever is sense, that is emptiness.  
Whatever is emptiness, that is sense.  
Knowledge is emptiness -  
and that emptiness is knowledge.  
Emptiness is not different from knowledge -  
and knowledge is not different from emptiness.  
Whatever is knowledge, that is emptiness.  
Whatever is emptiness - that is knowledge.

Energy is emptiness -  
and that emptiness is energy.  
Emptiness is not different from energy -  
and energy is not different from emptiness.  
Whatever is energy, that is emptiness.  
Whatever is emptiness, that is energy.