

Catherine Diamond

Journey to the Source: The Search for the Energy God

Journey to the Source is an adaptation of Wu Cheng-en's *Journey to the West* that features a monk, a pig, a horse, and the famous Monkey King, Sun Wukong, who went on a journey to India to obtain Buddhist sutras for China. The adaptation uses the same group of characters to search for appropriate energy sources for a contemporary society. This version refers to the situation in Taiwan, but it can be adjusted to another country's approaches to finding energy sources.

CHARACTERS by Scene (same actors can play many different roles):

Jerry, Mary, Jessie, Sandra—students

Sun Wukong, Monkey 1, Monkey 2, Monkey 3

Electrician, Zeus, Patriarch, Disciple 1, Disciple 2

Dragon King, Dragon Queen, Dragonella

Peach Garden Guard, Jade Emperor, Peach Maiden 1, Maiden 2, Maiden 3, Queen of Heaven, Lao Tzu, Guanyin, Buddha

Max Planck, Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein, Linus (San Tangzang)

Liu Boqin, Mr. Gao, Mrs. Gao, Chu Bajie/Pigy, Little Girl, Old Woman, Yami Man, Sha Wujing/Sandy, Yellow Wind Monster,

Black Wind Monster, River Demon, Perch Mother, Mr. Chen, Chen Guan, Chen daughter

Spider 1, Spider 2, Spider 3, Spider 4, Mother Spider

Yellow Flower Priest, Princess Iron Fan, Bull Demon King, Cake Girl, Linji

Scene 1

(roommates in student dormitory)

Mary:

Jerry, have you done your homework for (teacher's name) class?

Jerry:

No.

Mary:

You might fail if you don't write that report.

I know. I'll do it later. Jerry:

What's the topic? Mary:

Energy in Taiwan Jerry:

BLACK OUT (*electricity goes off*)

Damn! Black out! Jerry:

Black out or brown out? (*brings phone light.*) Sandra:

(*brings candles*) What do we do now? Jessie:

Go to sleep. Sandra:

(*brings a guitar*) How about a song? Jessie:

With no a/c, it's too hot. Sandra:

(*They sing to the tune of 'blowing in the wind'*)

G C D G
How many times must the tankers spill oil
G C G
before the waves blacken the sand
G C D G
Yes 'n' how many times must a pipe leak gas
G Em D
before it ruins farmers' land
G C D G
Yes 'n' how many times must cars jam the roads
G C G
before they're forever banned
C D G Em
The answer my friend is blowing in the wind
C D G
the answer is blowing in the wind.

G C D G
How many times must a river be dammed

G C G
 before it no longer runs free

 G C D G
 Yes 'n' how many times must a forest fall to fire
 G Em D
 Before they plant another tree
 G C D G
 Yes 'n' how many tons of waste must be burned
 G C G
 before the sun can't be seen
 C D G Em
 The answer my friend is blowing in the wind
 C D G
 the answer is blowing in the wind.

Jerry:
(lifts his phone) Oh no, my battery died.

Mary:
 Who wants some warm iced tea?

Sandra:
(to Jerry) What game were you playing on the computer?

Jerry:
 A great game with Sun Wukong. I got cut off right in the middle...

Sandra:
 Don't worry. Wukong's lived thousands of years; he'll be waiting for you when the electricity comes back on.

Jerry:
 Yeah, right, just the way he waited for the monk Sanzang to release him from under Five Elements Mountain...but I don't want to wait 500 years.

Jessie:
 You don't like to wait even five minutes.

Jerry:
 I wish there was some electricity god—you could just light a few incense sticks and pray to him...

Sandra:
 ...to her

Jerry:
 ...him, her, it, whatever. Pray, and the lights would go back on. Things were easier in the old days when there were gods instead of power plants—just make them happy and they make you happy.

Jessie:
Maybe the electricity will come back on in a few minutes

Sandra:
Or a few hours

Mary:
A few days

Jessie:
Or never. Then what'll you do?

Jerry:
Nothing to do but sleep...

(Jerry goes to sleep)
BLACK OUT

Scene 2

(monkeys playing in the water, sound of rumbling stone and breaking apart as Sun Wukong jumps out)

Monkey 1:
Look, a new guy! He's not one of us.

Monkey 2:
Attack him.

Monkey 1:
He's too big.

Monkey 3:
I wonder if he speaks our language. Hey monkey!

Sun:
You talking to me?

Monkey 3:
Who are you? What are you doing here?

Sun:
(confused) I'm not sure. I just burst out of a stone egg.

Monkey 2:
(all laugh) That's the most ridiculous thing we've ever heard of! A stone monkey!

Sun:
Don't laugh. I'm stronger than all of you.

Monkey 2:
Okay, prove it. You see that waterfall. We want to know what's behind it.

Monkey 3:

If you dare to go through and tell us...we'll make you king.

Sun:

No problem. I'll be back before you can say...Jack Robinson

Monkey 3:

Huh?

Monkey 1:

(splashing sounds) I think he's drowned.

Monkey 2:

That takes care of him. Scratch my back, will you? *(they play while Monkey is gone, eat bananas, slip on peel, wrestle, groom, splash in water)*

Sun:

(returns) Come, there's nothing to be afraid of. The other side has everything we need—stone plates and chairs, places to sleep protected from the rain. And fruit trees...

Monkey 2:

I don't trust him. *(everybody else goes and he follows last.)*

Sun:

See, everything has been set up for us. *(monkeys eat fruits.)*

Monkeys:

Perfect! Delicious! How pretty! How comfortable!

Sun:

(sits on throne) Well, bow down to me.

Monkey 2:

Why?

Sun:

You said you'd make me king. Keep your promise.

Monkeys:

Long live the king of the monkeys. *(all bow except Monkey 2)*

Monkey 3:

(to audience) For many hundreds of years, we live in perfect happiness. We're protected from enemies, we have food, and life is pleasant, but then the younger generation starts getting restless. They want more than the simple good life, and complain to the king.

Sun:

What's wrong with you—you have everything?

Monkey 2:

That's the problem. We want...to want.

We want...excitement	Monkey 1:
...adventure	Monkey 3:
...electricity.	Monkey 1:
Electricity? What for?	Sun:
To run our computers.	Monkey 2:
To charge our phone batteries.	Monkey 3:
To chill our ice tea.	Monkey 1:
To turn on the a/c.	Monkey 2:
	Sun:
Come on, it's not that hot, just sit in the shade and enjoy the breeze. Now tell me again, why do you need computers? You have everything here—friends, family, delicious food, clean clear water to drink and swim in, forests to explore, peace and no trouble...what will computers give you?	
Information about other places.	Monkey 1:
Games.	Monkey 2:
Facebook.	Monkey 3:
Online shopping.	Monkey 1:
But will it make you happy?	Sun:
<i>(jumping up and down)</i> Yes, yes, yes.	Monkeys:
<i>(to audience)</i> So the Monkey King grew thin and quiet.	Monkey 1:

Monkey 3:

Your Majesty, why are you sad? Is it because you've discovered you're mortal and one day Yama, King of Death, will come for you?

Sun:

No, I'm not worried about that yet. It's this electricity business I can't solve. How can we get electricity without destroying our lovely Flower Fruit Mountain? Everyone wants it, but I'm afraid we'll regret it if we're not careful.

Monkey 1:

Perhaps you need to consult the Energy God.

Sun:

Good idea. I need to see what others have done about it. Don't worry, I'll be back before...

Monkeys:

...You can say 'Jack Robinson.'

Sun:

Exactly right.

Monkeys:

(jumping up and down) Yay! *(he goes)*

Monkey 2:

That should take care of him. If he doesn't come back soon, I'll persuade people he's died and I should be king.

BLACK OUT

Scene 3

Sun:

(to himself) I've crossed oceans and forests, walked through dark villages and bright cities, but I haven't found anyone who knows where the Energy God lives. Every time I ask, they just say, 'tai dian, tai dian.' (Taiwan Power Company) Who is 'tai dian.' *(sees an electrician turn on a switch)* Ah, Sir, the light just went on when you flipped the switch.

Electrician:

Of course.

Sun:

But where does the electricity come from?

Electrician:

What? *(thinks he's crazy)*

Sun:

Where does...

Electrician:

I heard you. *(sarcastically)* From the god of storms, Zeus, who throws thunderbolts.

Aha! Zeus who?

Sun:

The Greek King of Gods.

Electrician:

Where is he?

Sun:

Mt. Olympus. Be careful, he might throw a thunderbolt at you. *(laughs and leaves)*

Electrician:

Sun:

I can dodge those. *(He flies past projection of greek ruins)*. Zeus needs a better housekeeper, his houses are falling apart.

Zeus:

Who are you?

Sun:

I'm the Monkey King.

Zeus:

We have no monkeys in Greece.

Sun:

I've come from far away, in search of the source of electricity. My people want it.

Zeus:

For weapons against me?

Sun:

No, for computers and mobile phones, lights and refrigerators.

Zeus:

My bolts are too strong for those gadgets, over a thousand volts, and would explode them.

Sun:

You can't adjust the power?

Zeus:

No way.

Sun:

Oh dear, what do I do now?

Zeus:

(sarcastic) You have no bolts of your own, king?

Sun:

No, I can only make static electricity. *(rubs his fur)* See?

Zeus:

Pathetic. Go see one of your own immortals. You must 'enlighten' yourself before you can light up other people.

Sun:

(leaves) Humiliating! I'll go to the Patriarch Subodhi and ask him amplify my powers. Another long flight back to the other side of the world. Fasten my safety belt. *(computer projection of clouds, then bangs on door)*

Patriarch:

Who's making such noise and interrupting my meditation?

Sun:

Apologies Holy One, I am the Monkey King of Flower Fruit Mountain seeking perpetual enlightenment.

Patriarch:

Oh you tricky hairy-faced monkey. I don't trust you.

Sun:

Please don't turn me away.

Patriarch:

Ni gui hsing? 你貴姓 (What is your family name?)

Sun:

Oh, I never show *hsing*. 性 (anger).

Patriarch:

(impatient) No, no, what's your family name?

Sun:

I was born from a stone egg.

Patriarch:

So I should just call you 'stoned.' No, I'll give you the name 'Sun Wukong.'

Sun:

Oh, thank you. It's very profound. 'Aware of Emptiness.'

Patriarch:

Rather, 'Knower of Nothing,' that is, 'ignorant monkey.' *(gives him stack of books)* Now, memorize these. There's an exam tomorrow.

Sun:

Essay or multiple choice?

Patriarch:

Study, foolish ape.

Sun:

(to audience) After several hundred years I finally learned all 72 transformations.

(*enters*) Really? Prove it.

Disciple 1:

Change into something right now.

Disciple 2:

A pine tree.

Disciple 1:

Nothing could be easier. (*changes*)

Sun:

Where did he go?

Disciple 1:

There's a pine. It wasn't there before.

Disciple 2:

(*clap*) Bravo monkey

Disciples:

What's all the noise?

Patriarch:

Monkey was showing off and turned into a pine tree.

Disciple 2:

Patriarch:
(*looks at pine tree, shakes it*) Knower of nothing, change back into yourself right now. Change! I command you! (*pine tree doesn't change; instead a stone behind him changes*)

Sun:

Hah! (*jumps out from behind them*) I turned into a stone instead. (*laughs*)

Patriarch:

Foolish monkey, don't you know you shouldn't play tricks with your powers? They're for protection and enlightenment only.

Sun:

Sorry, Master.

Patriarch:

You must leave. Your monkey mind will never understand the truth. And never tell anyone you've been my disciple. I'd lose face.

Sun:

Please master, let me stay.

Patriarch:

No, now go. (*he and the others leave*)
BLACK OUT

Scene 4

Sun:

(alone) I can't turn into a light bulb and I still don't know where electricity comes from. I'll ask the Dragon King. Underwater, some eels and rays generate their own electricity. There those jellyfish with phos...phos... *(can't pronounce phosphorescence, actor from wings calls it out)* phosphorescence—like little light bulbs swimming around. I'll try to find the secret from them. *(puts on scuba mask)*

Dragon:

(to his wife and daughter, Dragonella) Oh dear, I knew he'd come. Bring out all the weapons. My dears, remember your parts.

Dragonella:

(wife and Dragonella nod) Yes, Father.

Sun:

Royal Sir, I have come to you for...

Dragon:

Yes, my good King of the Monkeys, I've been waiting for you and know all about your desire for a super weapon befitting your position.

Sun:

But, actually, I...

Dragon:

I know you might be disappointed but truly, I've brought out all my treasures.

Sun:

But what I really want is...

Dragon:

Please test them; perhaps one will suit you.

Sun:

Okay. *(tests them)* No, not heavy enough. No, not this one either. You call this a weapon? Come, don't you have anything heavier?

Dragonella:

(whispers to father, he nods)

Dragon:

My daughter reminds me that we have a rusty piece of iron.

Sun:

Show it to me.

Wife:

It's too heavy for any of us to lift.

Dragon:

You must go to it yourself.

Sun:

(tries the staff/cudgel) Ah, this is just about right. If only it were a little smaller.

Dragonella:

See, it's shrunk.

Sun:

Wow, that's great. Shrink some more. Even better. Thank you, and now, I have an important favor...

Dragon:

(as if he were deaf) Huh? What? Oh, no problem at all. My pleasure. Do drop by again. So glad to have this chance to meet you. Have a pleasant trip back. *(they force Monkey out)*

Sun:

Well, of all the dirty tricks. Not even letting me ask about phos.... phos... phosphorescence. *(begins to leave)*

Dragonella:

Monkey King, wait. Don't be angry with my father. He's conservative and just follows the novel. I can help you.

Sun:

Dear young lady, thank you but I'm afraid what I want is beyond your understanding. But you're very pretty, and perhaps I'd like to marry you.

Dragonella:

Listen, you stupid sexist ape, if you're not ready to listen to wisdom from unexpected sources, you can keep looking for a hundred years. You want electricity, right?

Sun:

Yes, how did you...?

Dragonella:

You live in Water Curtain Cave, right?

Sun:

Yes, I...

Dragonella:

Then your problem is easy to solve with hydroelectric, you can generate electricity from the falling water.

Sun:

Really? By what magic?

Dragonella:

No magic. You've already got a natural waterfall, like Niagara Falls that had the first hydroelectric plant way back in 1879. You just have to channel the falling water to a turbine

with a valve to control the flow and speed. The turbine converts the water flow into mechanical energy that turns a generator connected to power lines that distribute electricity to where you want.

Sun:

You make it sound so simple. There must be a trick.

Dragonella:

No trick. It's clean energy, no carbon emission, no pollution. And it won't be expensive either. You're lucky to have such a strong waterfall right at home.

Sun:

So I was right all along. Fruit Flower Mountain has everything we need. My offer of marriage still holds...Miss, uh Miss?

Dragonella:

Dragonella. (*goes*).

Sun:

Wow, I thought I was going to have a long dangerous adventure, but this young lady has solved the problem in an instant. Now I just have to build a turbine...whatever that is. Whoopee, back home with the good news.

BLACK OUT

Scene 5

At Flower Fruit Mountain

Monkey 3:

And so our Monkey community built and used the hydroelectricity. We had light at night so the children had to study late, and could not stop reading just because it got dark. More people got computers, so they had to work at home and could not stop once they left the office. All the young people got mobile phones and spent hours on social media, so they didn't bother to meet each other face to face anymore. So everybody was happy...sort of.

Monkey 2:

But then the hydro began to have problems. The water fall was strong in spring when there were heavy rains, but in summer, it fell to a trickle. Lights began to flicker; computers suddenly went off. Everyone got irritated because the electricity was unreliable. And they all blamed Sun Wukong.

Monkey 3:

Your Majesty, the hydro that once saved us is no longer dependable.

Sun:

I knew electricity was going to be trouble. We were happier without it.

Monkey 1:

But now people are used to it; they can't live without it.

Monkey 2:

You'll have to go search for a more consistent source of power.

Sun:

What is consistent when global warming is changing all the weather?

Monkey 2:

Young people are getting restless and there might be a rebellion.

Sun:

You'd like that, wouldn't you? Never mind, I'll go again. This time straight to Jade Emperor's heaven for an immortal source of power. *(he flies to heaven)*

Emperor:

Well, Great Sage, you caused a great deal of chaos the last time, but I'll give you another chance—Chief Gardener of the Immortal Peach Orchard.

Sun:

Your Majesty, I've come for a different reason, I...

Emperor:

Do you refuse?

Sun:

No, Chief Gardener sounds grand and not too difficult... *(aside)* maybe if I do something for him now, he'll help me later.

Emperor:

Go learn your duties. *(Emperor goes, monkey walks other direction to orchard)*

Keeper:

(shoots) Keep out! No trespassers.

Sun:

Step aside. The Jade Emperor has made me Chief Gardener.

Keeper:

What! A monkey?

Sun:

I'm here to inspect and taste...I mean, test, the fruit.

Keeper:

I was not informed.

Sun:

Go read the novel. I'm your boss. Now, tell me about those trees in the center. They look the best.

Keeper:

Those ripen only every 9,000 years. Whoever eats them outlasts heaven and earth and is equal to the sun and moon.

Sun:

Aside from all their vitamins, peaches are meant to be delicious. *(Sun picks one and eats it)*

Keeper:

You can't eat that!

Sun:

Don't you know that peaches are monkey biofuel—our bodies run best on juicy peaches. Besides as the Chief Gardener, I have to make sure that all the peaches are up to standard.

Keeper:

Biofuel? We press the pits for oil to make 'tao ren,' 桃仁 good for blood and digestion.

Sun:

Ah yes, I suggest you gather the pits as quickly as possible. *(eats peaches and throws pits in different directions)* Nothing like a full stomach to make one sleepy. I'll take a nap and then carry on with my duties. *(sleeps)*

Maiden 1:

(fairy maidens enter doing fan dance) The Queen of Heaven told us to pick only the most perfect peaches.

Maiden 2:

They're all perfect since they're all GMO peaches that never bruise or decay. That's why they're "immortal."

Maiden 3:

Look, several branches are bare.

Maiden 1:

Some pest must have eaten them.

Maiden 2:

I'll get the pesticide.

Maiden 3:

(Maiden 2 sprays) Hey, be careful.

Maiden 2:

(screams) A monster.

Maiden 1:

Silly. It's a sleeping monkey.

Maiden 3:

A very hairy ugly sleeping monkey.

Sun:

(awakes) Stop! How dare you come here and pick my peaches! I am the Great Sage Equal to Heaven. *(burps)*

Maiden 1:

Great Sage, don't be angry. We're fairy scientists collecting peaches to research their photosynthetic properties.

Sun:

What?

Maiden 2:

We're developing artificial photosynthesis with Lao Tzu. These peaches are best suited to replicate a perfect solar energy source.

Sun:

What?

Maiden 3:

Artificial photosynthesis aims to produce a fuel from sunlight that can be conveniently stored and used when sunlight is not available. With the development of catalysts able to replicate the key steps of photosynthesis, only water and sunlight would be needed for clean energy with the only by-product being oxygen. It has the potential to replace fossil fuels.

Sun:

From peaches?

Maiden 1:

The conversion of solar energy into hydrogen via a water-splitting process assisted by photoconductor catalysts is one of the most promising new technologies. And you have eaten some of these very important sources.

Sun:

I was making monkey biofuel. Excuse me while I return some of it back to earth. *(he turns and pees)*

Maiden 2:

Disgusting.

Maiden 3:

So wasteful!

Maiden 1:

Fortunately, we can gather the ruined ones for our biomass project. Peaches like sugarcane can produce high grade bio-ethanol. *(they gather peaches on the ground)*

Sun:

How do I know you aren't just going to eat them?

Maiden 2:

We'll have to report to the Queen what you've done.

Sun:

(low voice) I don't think so. Freeze! *(they freeze)* I can't let you go around spreading rumors about me.

Sun:

(climbs up, enters Taoist laboratory) What's this? Lao tzu's lab. It looks like they're making heavenly biofuel, peach wine! Another drop or two. *(drinks)* Oh dear, looks like I took a drop

too much. These cinnabar pills don't look too bad. Taste weird. Oh bad boy! Oh bad monkey!
When the Jade Emperor finds out, he'll skin me alive. I'd better get home and hide in my cave.
(*stumbles*) It's a good thing I don't have to drive. (*he flies away*)

BLACK OUT

Jade Emperor:

(*everyone shouting at him*) One at a time, one at a time. You first, my dear.

Queen:

My fairy scientists tell me that your ape gardener has eaten all the peaches.

Emperor:

I thought he'd do no harm.

Queen:

A monkey in a peach garden is like a child in a candy store.

Emperor:

What are we to do now?

Lao Tzu:

(*entering*) Vengeance.

Emperor:

Dear Lao Tze, what's wrong?

Lao Tzu:

Someone has broken into my laboratory, drunk my elixir of immortality and eaten all my long life pills. They've broken my flasks, scattered my compounds and spilled my chemicals. Whoever has done this is now very dangerous because he cannot be killed.

Emperor:

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. Whatever shall we do?

Queen:

You must do something, you're the emperor.

Emperor:

Tell the planet generals to go to Flower Fruit Mountain and arrest the Great Sage. **BLACK OUT**

Monkey 1:

(*In the monkey kingdom. Monkey running to Sun*) Wake up, wake up! Your Majesty, a huge celestial army is at our gates to arrest you.

Sun:

(*waking up*) What a lovely dream. Four maidens surrounded me saying what a charming fellow I was. All that peach juice must have fermented in my brain. Oh dear, everyone is going to be angry at me, but there's nothing they can do about it.

Monkey 2:

A huge army has come to arrest you.

Sun:

Not to worry. I and my staff can take care of the whole bunch. (*fighting in the dark with glow sticks, Monkey wins*)

Emperor:

This is preposterous. All the forces of heaven cannot overtake a monkey?

Guanyin:

I can throw my willow vase on his head.

Lao tzu:

If you miss, you'll break your vase. In fact, if it hits his hard head it'll break. I'll use my magic snare to catch him. Stand back. (*he throws snare over monkey and pulls him in. everyone claps and congratulates Lao tzu.*)

Emperor:

Take him to the execution ground and dispatch him quickly.

Lao Tzu:

I'll burn him to ash in my crucible. (*they celebrate*)

Messenger:

(*to Jade emperor with queen and friends*) Sire, we've tried every way to kill the evil monkey but since he has drunk the elixir of immortality and eaten long life peaches, he is impossible to kill. Because he is of the fire element, he's escaped from Lao tzu's crucible and is more powerful than ever. He is on his way here, destroying everything in his path.

Emperor:

Oh, what are we to do now?

Guanyin:

Majesty, the monkey's outrage has alerted the Buddha of the Western paradise and he's here to help.

Buddha:

(*Buddha and monkey enter from opposite directions*) Put down your weapon, monkey.

Sun:

What baldy monk are you, asking for trouble?

Buddha:

I am the Buddha of the Western Paradise. How dare you behave like this?

Sun:

I am the Great Sage Equal to Heaven and now being stronger and smarter than this foolish Jade Emperor, I intend to take over.

Buddha:

You're nothing but an impulsive monkey spirit who's learned a few magic tricks.

Sun:

The fact is that none of them, or even all of them together, can overcome me.

Buddha:

All right, if you're really so clever, jump off the palm of my hand.

Sun:

Nothing could be easier. I can somersault through the clouds one hundred and eight thousand miles.

Buddha:

If you fail, you'll pay penance for 500 years. Agreed?

Sun:

Sure, Ciao baby. Be back before you can say 'Jack Robinson'. *(flies through sky, to 5 pillars, writes his name 'wu kong was here' and pisses)* Bet you didn't even finish saying 'Jack'.

Buddha:

Ridiculous stinking monkey. You never left my hand.

Sun:

Hey, I got to the five pillars at the end of the world.

Buddha:

Look, and smell. Do you discern a distinctly stinky odor?

Sun:

Wow! Monkey piss! I don't believe it. *(gets ready to run, but Buddha captures him and puts him in a box)* Hey, what is this, Five Elements Mountain?

Buddha:

No, Lungmen nuclear power plant. It's as solid as a mountain and not being used now. There you will remain until your master releases you.

Sun:

Let me out! Not fair! I'll be irradiated. You tricked me. I had no trial. I'll melt in a meltdown. Not guilty! Let me out! This prison is too small. I'm starting to glow in the dark. I need some peach wine.

BLACK OUT

Scene 6

(Scientists at a black board. Linus is in corner bent over computer, wears glasses, eats snacks, not paying any attention.)

Max:

Our current energy use is utterly unsustainable. We're facing a crisis. 98% of our energy is imported, from coal, oil, and gas. This is not only too expensive but our dependency makes us very insecure.

Albert:

40% of it comes from coal that not only pollutes our air but raises our carbon emissions to an unacceptable level.

Sigmund:

As an island nation, we can't hook up with regional sources. We have to utilize our indigenous sources—wind, solar, hydro, wave-tide, and geothermal.

Max:

You know we can't develop them fast enough. We don't have the infrastructure in place. We need nuclear and must complete the fourth plant. We can't cut off our only option, even if we use nuclear only to help us make the transition to renewables.

Albert:

The government plans to import more liquid natural gas.

Max:

Of course LNG is cleaner than oil and coal, but...

Sigmund:

It still leaves us dependent on other countries—Qatar, Indonesia, Malaysia.

Albert:

LNG will become more desirable, increasing both the demand and the price. We sell to our customers at below the import price and can't continue.

Max:

And extracting LNG releases methane gas that contributes to global warming. We have no choice but to include nuclear. Renewables cannot replace fossil fuels and nuclear in a single decade. Impossible!

Albert:

But politically nuclear is 'no go.' We're stuck.

Max:

People protest against nuclear, but more people have died in coal mines than in nuclear accidents.

Albert:

They'll protest again when their energy bills double.

Sigmund:

Coal and oil pollution is killing everyone slowly.

Albert:

Not to mention that global warming will kill us all. Taiwan already emits too much carbon; we have the largest coal-burning plant in the world!

Max:

But we can't go nuclear-free and carbon-free at the same time. If only the Fukushima Daiichi disaster hadn't happened. We wouldn't be facing this problem.

Sigmund:

People want cheap energy, but they don't like any of the ways we get it. We're headed for the Dark Ages.

Albert:

We have to reduce consumption. No excuse not to reduce.

Sigmund:

It's not the public, it's industry that uses too much power.

Max:

Japan has already gone back to nuclear. It couldn't afford the imports. All other Asian countries are using more coal and more nuclear. What makes Taiwanese think they alone can do without?

Albert:

We need something new...something we haven't thought of yet, a new energy source that excites people...that safely delivers.

Sigmund:

And cheaply.

Max:

Reliably and consistently.

Sigmund:

We need....

Albert:

...a miracle.

Max:

Who is up to the challenge of finding it?

Albert:

Someone of stealth and determination...

Sigmund:

Of courage and intelligence...

Albert:

Strong and handsome, yet scorns all women...

Sigmund:

Our resident supernerd.

Together:

(they nod in Linus's direction) Linus!

Linus:

Huh?

Max:

We've decided only you can infiltrate global systems and bring back the latest secret information on energy generation.

Gee, well I....

Linus:

You have the lowest profile of all of us.

Sigmund:

Your expendability will be a great asset.

Albert:

Well, thanks guys, but I really didn't want to miss the next episode of (name of TV show)

Linus:

The investigation shouldn't take too long and...

Sigmund:

And you'll be saving your country. You can't really turn down an assignment like that, can you?

Max:

Well, no....

Linus:

Congratulations. *(all slap him on the back)*

Albert:

Well, thanks. Uh, so what do I do?

Linus:

Don't worry. You'll have some assistants...and a code name.

Max:

Gee, my own code name!

Linus:

(snaps fingers) Code name, somebody?

Max:

Code name: Guanyin 3.5.
BLACK OUT

Sigmund:

(sitting above)

Buddha:

Ah, people down there are really too evil. They don't deserve the beauty of the world. They dig deep holes for oil, they dam up the rivers for electricity. Burn the forests, filling the air with carbon, dump all their wastes in the oceans. Everything they touch they destroy. They're not even smart enough to preserve it for their own good. They really disappoint me and deserve to be punished.

Guanyin:

They're greedy and wasteful, but give them another chance.

Buddha:

I have the instructions for alternative energy sources, but they must seek them. If they're smart, they'll embark on green energy. But if not, then, they'll go up in smoke. Like my friend the Christian god said after the big flood, 'It will be fire next time.' The world is heating up...and it will burn.

Guanyin:

We must find a superhero that will get your instructions and teach people how to change their ways.

Buddha:

His helpers are ready and waiting, but I don't know where we can find such a smart, brave, willing human...

Guanyin:

I think I'll know him if I see him. I'll begin the search...ow! (*bumps into Linus who is looking at his phone and not watching where he is going.*) (*sarcastic*) Excuse me. (*he doesn't hear or answer; she says louder and pulls out his ear buds*) Excuse me.

Linus:

(*surprised*) Oh, okay excuse you.

Guanyin:

Not me! You idiot, you! Why don't you look where you're going? You don't see, you don't hear, you don't even know when you bump into someone. (*she takes the phone, throws it down*)

Linus:

Hey, you broke my phone.

Guanyin:

Yeah? What are you going to do about it?

Linus:

I have an app that can put together...

Guanyin:

You have no app because you have no phone. Now what are you going to do?

Linus:

Gosh, I don't know.

Guanyin:

You're going to go on a journey and bring back information on the perfect clean cheap energy.

Linus:

A journey? But now I don't have my GPS. Besides, I'm on a mission.

Guanyin:

Journey, mission, same thing. Some companions will join you and take care of you. I'll give you what you need to start.

Linus:

I need my phone.

Guanyin:

No, you don't. *(throws it to the ground and exits)*

BLACK OUT

Scene 7

Linus:

(standing alone) I don't know whose idea this was, and I'm not sure what I'm looking for. That funny lady said she'd give me provisions. *(he looks in bag)* Clean tee-shirt, bananas, sandwich, instant noodles, and a water bottle. Wow. No candy bar, no money. Not even a credit card. And I'm supposed to trust her when she says people will help. *(sound of car crash)* Uh oh! *(Linus helps Boqin walk)*

Liu Boqin:

You saw it! It was the other guy's fault.

Linus:

Absolutely.

Boqin:

He totaled my motorbike.

Linus:

Absolutely. Can you walk?

Boqin:

No way. *(Linus helps him up)* Thanks. *(they hear another cry)*

Linus:

What's that?

Sun:

My master's come, my master's come.

Boqin:

Just the old monkey who was shut up in the nuclear plant.

Linus:

Did they do experiments on him?

Boqin:

They might have. They don't dare to let him out.

Sun:

Oh, Master, thank goodness you're here. I'm the Great Sage Equal to Heaven who created havoc five hundred years ago. The Buddha put me under this cement block to punish me. The Bodhisattva Guanyin told me to protect the traveler when he went to find the perfect energy source. I've been waiting day and night for you to release me, Master.

Boquin:
Mad. The radiation cooked his brains.

Linus:
Absolutely. *(they go)*

Sun:
Let me out!

Linus:
How?

Sun:
Go to the top. You'll see the secret code. Pray to Guanyin and then recite the golden words Om mani padme hum. *(follows instructions) (then everything begins to shake)*

Boquin:
Oh no, earthquake! Hold on! Ow! My leg. I can't believe my bad luck today.

Linus:
Oh god, maybe it's an atomic explosion.

Sun:
(bursts out) No, it's Super Sun Wukong! Stronger than ever, but bound by oath to serve you.
(kneels)

Linus:
What am I supposed to do with a monkey? I really wish that goddess lady would just give me back my phone. If you're really so strong you can carry Liu Boquin back home.
BLACK OUT

Linus:
Monkey, it's been a long day. Can you conjure some dinner and a place to sleep?

Sun:
There's a mansion over there. Let's see if they'll let us stay the night.

Linus:
No, it looks too rich; all the lights are shining. They won't take in poor travelers like us.

Sun:
But there's a little house behind it. *(crying is heard inside. Sun knocks on door and Gao lets him in)*

Gao:
(to audience as wife serves monkey and Linus food) My wife and I didn't know what to think about the strange guests. They weren't beggars, but we weren't sure what they were. We wanted to be good hosts, but sorrow was eating at our hearts.

Linus:
(comes out and burps) Thank you for the excellent dinner.

Sun:

Mr. Gao, we heard someone crying before we came in, but I don't see anyone else here.

Ms Gao:

Our daughter is held prisoner in that mansion.

Gao:

A fat greasy monster keeps her there as his wife. He likes every kind of luxury. Always demanding expensive meats, taking long hot baths, leaving the lights on all night.

Ms Gao:

The air conditioning is so freezing we can hear our daughter sneezing when she isn't crying.

Gao:

He's an oil man and he uses a strange tool to make sure the oil pumps keep working night and day. The oil leaks into our water, into our fields. He's been a curse ever since he came promising to make us all rich.

Ms Gao:

Only he makes a profit. And he's so wasteful, throws away everything he doesn't want. The place looks like a rubbish dump. Twice a day we go clean up, but we never see our poor daughter locked inside.

Sun:

Well, I have a plan that will convert this pig. *(he puts on blonde wig and mask to be the daughter)*

Bajie:

(sound of a big car, honking horn) I'm home, dear. How about a little drinkie? No, make that a big drinkie!

Sun:

Here's a drinkie, dear, and some snacks. *(Bajie stuffs in his mouth)*

Bajie:

Forget the drinkie. *(chases her)* You look so lovely I just want to gobble you up. Gobble gobble gobble.

Sun:

Oh, you're so cute when you gobble.

Bajie:

Gobble, gobble, gobble.

Sun:

Oh dear, you're getting a little spit on your chin. And your nose is a bit runny.

Bajie:

Come here my beautiful wife and love me to death.

Sun:

I suppose you made a lot of money today.

Bajie:

Yes, but I already spent it! *(laughs)*

Sun:

On me?

Bajie:

Sorry, honey, investment. More oil drilling. I can't stop now. The easy oil has run out. We have to dig deeper and farther out—it all takes more and more money just to make our enormous profits and keep the stockholders happy. Now make me happy, kissy, kissy.

Sun:

Well, you should make me happy too. If you don't, the Great Sage Equal to Heaven will come take me away.

Bajie:

(grabs his rake) Oh yeah? Then he can expect a good knock-down fight. No sage is going to mess with me and mine. *(monkey bursts out and fights him)*

Sun:

(leaps out as himself) I am the sage.

Bajie:

(after fighting) Why do you pick a quarrel with me? What have I done to you that you destroy my happiness?

Sun:

First, you stole a young girl from her parents. Second, you destroy the land with these hundreds of oil wells. And third, you are monstrously rich and wasteful from the profits from your filthy oil, fourthly...

Bajie:

Wait! I serve humankind. Everyone needs oil. Oil makes everything go.

Sun:

(punches him) And that's for making humanity dependent on fossil fuel, and creating global warming and causing oil spills in the ocean. I am a disciple of the great science nerd who is looking for the perfect clean and cheap energy that will put you out of business.

Bajie:

Not Linus Sanzang? Why didn't you say so? I have been waiting for him. I want to invest in his green project.

Sun:

No way. We don't want your greenwashing. All your money is polluted. Anything you touch, you'll dirty with your piggy greed.

Bajie:

I'm sincere. *(to audience)* I know there's no future in oil. Green fuel stocks are a good price right now. There's a lot of money to be made in these new-fangled renewables. Let me join up with you.

Sun:

I don't trust you. But if you pay your respects to my master, he might let you join us.

Bajie:

Oh goody goody. I want to get in on the 'ground floor' and invest in anything he promotes. By the way, where's my wife?

Sun:

The girl you stole has gone back to her parents, you oaf!

Bajie:

I guess the good times couldn't last forever. *(keeps trying to nibble, but Sun slaps his hand)*

Sun:

Getting green and clean is going to be hard for you—nothing to eat but vegetables, nothing to drink but water, and nothing to wear but organic cotton monk's clothes.

Bajie:

Let me have one last supper, and then I'll be a monk to the new green religion.

Sun:

(pulls Bajie by the ears) Master, I've caught and converted the monster. Even though he is just an oily pig, he wants to be your disciple. He's strong and could be useful.

BLACK OUT

Scene 8

(street scene with people walking)

Linus:

Gee, for such a rich city, there're an awful lot of beggars. We won't have much chance of begging for food.

Sun:

I suspect not all of them are as poor as they look.

Linus:

That little kid. She's so thin and her clothes are just rags. I'd like to help her.

Girl:

Kind sir, please give me a little money and I'll tell your fortune.

Linus:

You can do that?

Sun:

Just superstition.

Girl:

I can see into the future. I can help you to know the challenges ahead.

Linus:

(gives her some money and she takes his hand) What do you see?

Girl:

You're on an important quest to find clean affordable energy for all.

Linus:

No, just 23 million on Taiwan.

Sun:

And Flower Fruit Mountain.

Girl:

There's only one answer—nuclear power.

Linus:

People have already rejected it.

Girl:

That's because they don't understand and are irrational about it. You, the great science nerd, have to explain it so they can accept it. The fourth nuclear power plant was almost finished. Not to use it will be just a waste. Its design makes it twice as safe as the three old ones that are still being used.

Sun:

Safer than Fukushima Daiichi?

Girl:

Yes. And nothing will reduce carbon emissions as fast. The huge coal plant has to be shut down. Only nuclear can help Taiwan transition away from fossil fuels.

Linus:

Are you sure this is the future even with the DPP in power.

Girl:

Yes, the DPP doesn't like nuclear, but eventually it will have to accept it.

Linus:

I had better go back and report to the Energy Bureau.

Sun:

(suddenly strikes girl and kills her) No!

Linus:

You horrid monkey. You've killed a little child.

Sun:

Look at her body. She's no child but the White Bone Demon.

Linus:

You're mad, you miserable ape!

Sun:

She is one of the tricky advertisements for nuclear power, saying ‘we’re clean’ ‘we’re safe’. Poor little girl, indeed! She was probably getting paid by the industry to deceive you.

Old Woman:

(calling) Has anyone seen my daughter? Oh, what happened to her? Who did this?

Linus:

I’m very sorry, m’am. There’s been a terrible mistake, an accident. You see...

Sun:

No accident! Can’t you see the little girl was too young to be her daughter? You, too, are a White Bone demon. Your radiated skeleton glows right through your clothes. You might fool the nerd, but you don’t fool me. *(he strikes her)*

Linus:

(horrificed) What are you doing, you criminal. You murderer!

Sun:

Master, you’re deceived. The nuclear companies use an old woman to prey upon your sympathies.

Linus:

Out of my sight. I don’t care what she is or what she’s done.

Old M:

Oh, has anyone seen my wife and daughter....

Sun:

I don’t believe it! Here comes another. *(looks at him closely)* Hey, where are you from?

Old M:

I’m a Yami from Lan Yu, where all the nuclear waste is stored. Many people complain about it, but I know it’s perfectly safe. I live close by, and look how healthy I am.

Sun:

Lies! The people on Lan Yu suffer higher rates of cancer. If the waste was safe, why isn’t it stored under the Taipower building on Roosevelt Rd? Why do they dump it near the homes of poor indigenous people? Next, they’ll say my cave on Flower Fruit Mountain is a perfect storage dump. *(strikes him)*.

Linus:

Wukong stop! You’re going straight to monkey hell where they’ll cut open your skull and eat your brains.

Sun:

You don’t appreciate that I’ve saved you from some very nasty demons—all the more dangerous because they seem so innocent.

Linus:

I’m a skeptical scientist. I don’t just believe everything I hear. But I know the data from many scientific surveys show that nuclear power is safe, efficient, and clean.

Sun:

Then why has Germany gone nuclear free?

Linus:

Germany buys nuclear energy from France. Even Japan has gone back to nuclear.

Sun:

That doesn't mean that Taiwan has to.

Linus:

Who are you to say 'no to nukes?'

Sun:

I am the Great Sage Equal to Heaven. But you won't listen to me. *(starts to go)*

Linus:

Where are you going?

Sun:

Home. We're just monkeys. I told my people that we lived in paradise, but they didn't listen to me either. They wanted to copy you people, who are just digging a deeper grave for the whole world. *(goes)*

Linus:

Don't go. I'm willing to give up nuclear if we can find something better.

Bajie:

He's too impatient.

Linus:

I miss him already.

Sandy:

Don't worry Master, you've got me and Bajie. We're as strong as the monkey and not so uppity.

Linus:

Yeah, but not as much fun either. Sorry, who are you?

Sandy:

Sha Wujing, English name 'Sandy,' another of your disciples. I'm an incarnation of the Curtain-lifting General and named after the sand-shifting river, but it would take too long to tell my story.

Linus:

(suspicious) Really? What's the code name?

Sandy:

Guanyin 3.5. She sent me.

Linus:

Oh, okay, welcome. I just wish Wukong didn't kill everybody he didn't like.

Sandy:

Don't waste your energy on him. That mountain ahead looks steep and we should try get over it before night fall. *(they walk)*

Linus:

(coughing) What's that terrible sulfur smell?

Sandy:

Something burning?

Bajie:

Like a big fart.

Linus:

Hot steam is rising all about us. Should we run?

Bajie:

I could fart back.

Sandy:

Oh! It's the Yellow Wind Monster.

Linus:

In this story everything is a monster.

Sandy:

Master, go up higher to escape it.

Linus:

Help! Help! There are more vents up here. The steam is so intense I can't see which way to go. It's burning my eyes. Help! Help!

Bajie:

There's the monster, huffing and puffing its stinking rotten egg breath from the Datun volcano. I can try to fight it but I'm afraid my delicate pink skin will get scalded.

Sandy:

You're already sweating.

Bajie:

Pigs don't sweat. That's why we have to sit in mud pools to cool down. But don't worry, I'll conquer him now.

Linus:

Bajie, don't go. *(Bajie fights with monster)*

Sandy:

Too late.

Bajie:

The monster is too strong. His breath blasted my face. I'm being boiled from the inside.
(*collapses, monster takes the other two*)

Linus:

Take your hot paws off me, you stinky monster.

Yellow:

You're a nice tender one. A little thin, but I think my chief will be happy with you.

Linus:

I'll never tell you any secrets.

Yellow:

(*laughs*) You think you know anything we don't? Silly boy, we're going to eat you. I will have to decide which way to cook you: Steam slowly, steam quickly, simmer, boil, poach, or sous vide.

Linus:

Sous vide, what's that?

Yellow:

It's French for "under vacuum" A special technique where we put you in an air tight plastic bag and cook it in water that's a perfectly controlled temperature. La voila! Exquisitely tender meat with none of the taste lost.

Linus:

You should wait. I'm still not ripe.

Bajie:

And I'm overripe, almost rotten.

Sandy:

And I'm too tough.

Yellow:

Nice try. (*monster laughs and goes*) We'll have to sous vide you at different temperatures as your bodies are so different. Tough one first. (*puts plastic bag over Sandy*)

Linus:

Sun Wukong, why did you get angry and leave?

Bajie:

Oh stop moaning for the monkey. My oily hands are slipping out of the ropes. What should I do?

Sandy:

Put that metal cap on his head to keep the steam from coming out!

Linus:

Now attach the pipe. Then the steam can go through the turbines and produce electricity. Geothermal is an almost perfect source of renewable energy. It's almost carbon-free, doesn't put out poisonous gas or create radioactive waste, doesn't require cutting forests, doesn't take up

lots of room, and doesn't destroy the view. It's replenished by the natural heat of the Earth, and it's cheap!

Linus:

(Bajie unties them) Good going, Bajie.

Bajie:

You mean I did something right?

Linus:

Very right.

Bajie:

There, you see, pigs are as intelligent as monkeys. And I've found the answer we're looking for.

Linus:

Alas, no. Taiwan doesn't produce enough.

Bajie:

I'll force the monster to work harder.

Linus:

And geothermal has to be used right at source. It doesn't travel or store well.

Sandy:

We can put a refrigerator next to it.

Bajie:

Right-o. Ice cream. Cold beer.

BLACK OUT

Scene 9

Bajie:

(they are walking tiredly) Are you sure there isn't more we can do to develop geothermal. If I twisted the arm of the Yellow Wind Monster he'd tell me where more volcano monsters are.

Linus:

We'd need them right in the middle of the city. The other problem is that it's difficult to dig and control the outflow. I'm afraid we have to keep searching.

Sandy:

Don't look now but I think the Black Wind monster is heading this way.

Linus:

It's really yucky brown.... *(Black Wind only laughs loudly)* Ah, it just looks like ordinary pollution to me. If Taiwan cut down the number of cars and the EPA did its job forcing factories to clean up, this monster would wither away.

Sandy:

No, he's leaping out of those coal-powered electricity plants. Covering everything around him with black dust, blocking the sun. This one is so hard to fight; tiny particulates seep into the blood and lungs

Linus:

He's already eating us from the inside.

Bajie:

I don't feel anything. Don't worry. I'll go cut down his long neck.

Linus:

Oh no, his black fingers have got me by the throat. I can't breathe.

Sandy:

I can't breathe either. His strength has exceeded 2.5; his purple face is turning black with rage. Let me go!

Bajie:

(swings blindly) I can't see! The coal dust is blinding me.

Linus:

Bajie, if you can still breathe, run for Wukong. *(Bajie exits)* *(Black Wind laughs and captures Sandy and Linus)* Now what are you going to do?

Black:

Eat you.

Linus:

Of course. Why does every demon in this story want to eat me?

Black:

Wu Cheng-en must have been hungry when he wrote the novel.

Linus:

Listen, human flesh tastes bad, and mine is filled with toxins from city smog and pesticide-coated food.

Black:

Toxins are my spice. What kills you, makes me stronger! Not many city people come this way and I've been craving some tainted flesh.

Sandy:

I hope you're not going to sous vide us.

Black:

What?

Sandy:

This wind isn't so cultured.

Black:

I'm going to eat you raw. (*laughs, lights darken, freezes*) Drat! They've turned off the plant for awhile and my particulates are dispersing. I have to wait until its burning at full power again.

BLACK OUT

(*at monkey kingdom*)

Bajie:

(*panting*) Sun Wukong, you've got to come.

Sun:

(*lying down and eating fruit*) You're so fat you pant after 500 steps.

Bajie:

Please return.

Sun:

No, my monkey kingdom is suffering attacks from hunters—killing our people and stealing them for laboratories. I have to stay and defend them.

Bajie:

I'll let you tease me as much as you like.

..

Sun:

Are you getting bored having no one to argue with?

Bajie:

Exactly. Come back, monkey. The master regrets his anger.

Sun:

Will he apologize?

Bajie:

Apologize? Why should he? You killed three people.

Sun:

Not coming. They were demons and I saved his life.

Bajie:

(*goes away*) Foolish baboon, he'd rather be a monkey than a monk. Stupid ape, fit for only picking nits. He deserves to be struck by Zeus' thunderbolt.

Sun:

Arrest that porker. How dare you curse the Great Sage. (*monkeys catch him, turn him upside-down, grab his bristles, pull his ears, tug his tail, twist his hair*)

Bajie:

Enough! Tell them to stop. Great Sage, our Master is in deep trouble. The Black Wind Monster is going to eat him. You've got to save him!

Sun:

Stupid pig! Why didn't you say so in the first place? Jump on my cloud. (*they go*)

Black:

(waking up) Ah, the electricity plant is fired up again and so is my hunger.

Linus:

I'm vegetarian. It's against the rules to eat me as meat.

Black:

Who says? I respect no religion. I turn all shrines and temples black.

Sun:

Stand back, you disgusting pollution monster. *(puts on mask)*

Black:

Great Sage, you have no power over me. My particulates will penetrate your membranes. That silly mask won't protect you. Your eyes will turn red and sting from my smoke.

Sun:

Oh, my hair is falling out!

Linus:

Wukong, shut down the electricity plant. *(Sun flips a switch or presses a button)*

Everyone:

(shouting offstage) Ting dian! Ting dian!

Black:

(freezes and laughs) Hah! That might stop me momentarily, but you'll have to turn it on again eventually. I've penetrated everything, stick to everything. I'm blown around and seem to disappear, but I always come back.

Sun:

Not if we find your cousin who is much cleaner and nicer.

Black:

You mean, that wimpy clear stuff, LNG?

Sun:

Exactly, liquid natural gas, still a fossil fuel demon, but not as evil.

Black:

Not as cheap either.

Linus:

You're not cheap once you figure in all the health costs. *(Wukong goes to untie Linus)*

Black:

LNG is imported and needs a docking port. My uncle CPC is still negotiating with Taidian. Nothing is ready. You've depended on me all these years; you can't get rid of me so fast.

Sun:

Even if I can't kill you, I can put you back where you belong.

Black:

Where's that?

Sun:

Deep in the earth. *(he begins to suck, bloating up his body and then blows the coal back through a hole in the ground)* Now stay there another million years.

Bajie:

(blowing his nose) The sky already looks a bit cleaner.

Linus:

(cleaning his glasses) He put a film over everything. I don't know why people endured him for so long.

BLACK OUT

Scene 10

Linus:

(they come to a river) Wow. This river looks like it's a hundred miles across. I don't think we're in Taiwan any more.

Sun:

(reads) RIVER OF HEAVEN, 250 miles across; few travelers have been here.

Sandy:

You can just somersault over it, but what are the three of us going to do?

Linus:

We have to find a boat.

Bajie:

(looks about) No boat.

Sun:

Those waves look really big—it's probably too dangerous to cross. We have to go back to the village, and think of a plan. *(they walk to house and hear crying)*

Linus:

That doesn't sound good.

Sun:

Perhaps we can help. *(he knocks, and door is opened, Chen, frightened, shuts it)*

Linus:

(knocks) Excuse us, we're looking for shelter for the night.

Chen:

You look okay, but your friends have to go to the stables in back.

Linus:

They may look strange but they are holy pig-rims...pilgrims.

Chen:

All right, but we're poor and don't have much to offer.

Linus:

Thank you. We'll pay for our meal. *(they eat)* We don't like to intrude, but...

Sun:

Why were you crying?

Chen:

Every year a boy and a girl are sacrificed to the River Demon to bring rain to the farmers. This time my daughter and my brother's son must go.

Sun:

That shouldn't be too difficult to deal with. Bajie here and I will substitute the boy and girl, confront the demon and slay him. Pig, this time it's you who have to change into the little girl.

Bajie:

Me? *(he says a magic spell and his head is a girl's but he still has a big belly)*

Linus:

No good. Your belly is outrageous. *(pig says different spell, no change)*

Sandy:

Your belly defies all magic.

Sun:

Try again! It's so much fun watching you strain yourself.

Bajie:

You ape! I can't change anymore. Use one of your 72 transformations on me.

Sun:

(blows on him and he changes into Girl) That should do it. Now, I'll become the boy. *(known as Chen Guan)*

Chen:

Bravo! We'll take you to the temple by the river with all the other food offerings for the demon.

Linus:

And Bajie, no eating until your work is done.

C Guan:

If you give yourself away, I'll hit you with my staff, girl or no girl.

Demon:

(loud humming noise in the background) Fee Fi Fo Yum yum, who makes the sacrifice to feed my tum?

C Guan:

Royal sir, this year Mr. Chen has the honor.

Demon:

Is that so? *(to himself)* Very odd. The boy doesn't seem a bit frightened. What's your name?

C Guan:

Chen Guan.

Demon:

According to the custom, I should eat you first.

C Guan:

I've no objection. Go right ahead. Enjoy.

Demon:

Huh? You telling me what to do, smartass? Then I'll start with the girl instead.

Girl:

(high voice) Oh, it's better to follow the old custom.

Demon:

Shut up! I won't have two brats telling me what to do. *(he grabs Girl who hits him on the head)*
Ow! What kind of kids are you? *(he runs away into the river)*

C Guan:

Don't chase him. I can't follow in the water. We have to think of a plan. *(exit)*

(in the River Demon's court, loud humming sound)

Perch Mother:

Did you have a delicious sacrifice? Did you bring back any leftovers?

Demon:

No banquet for me, no scraps for you. They tricked me, but I'll get revenge. If you have an idea of how to catch them, I'll let you take the first bite out of their Master.

Perch M:

I do have a plan. Listen. *(she shouts in his ear)*

BLACK OUT

Linus:

(at Chen's house; they are celebrating, laughing) I wish I had been there to see the monster try to eat Bajie.

Sun:

I'm worried he'll want revenge.

Chen:

I'm also worried. The river demon blesses us with rain for the crops. If he's angry and brings no rain, we'll all die.

Sandy:

Could you build up the fire? It's suddenly gotten terribly cold.

Chen:
Brrrr. It does seem colder than usual. (*looks out*) It's snowing! And the River has turned to ice.

Linus:
Good, if it's frozen we can cross it.

Chen:
The ice won't be thick enough.

Sun:
We must test it first.

Bajie:
I'll hit it. (*he hits ice and his body shakes*) It'ssssss...vvvvvery...sssssolid.

Chen:
I still think you should wait.

Linus:
But we're eager to be on our way. (*they slip and slide across the ice*)

Bajie:
Everyone carry your pole sideways in case the ice cracks. Then you won't fall in all the way.

Linus:
(*suddenly there is a crack and Linus falls through*) Waaaaa! (*monkey jumps in air, Bajie and Sandy swim away. Demon and perch mother tie up Linus*)

Demon:
Your plan worked.

Perch M:
I'm worried the others will come back to rescue him.

Demon:
We'll prepare the feast and you get the first bite

Perch M:
Let's wait until we've defeated them before enjoying the tender meat. (*pinches Linus*)

Demon:
Good idea.

Linus:
Yeah, good idea.

Demon:
Clamp him in a clam shell!

Sun:
(*enter, to Bajie and Sandy*) You two are more comfortable in the water, so you go first.

Bajie:

You can ride on me. (*Sun puts on snorkel and rides on Bajie*)

Sandy:

Here's Sea Turtle House—perhaps it's where the demon lives.

Sun:

But I see only dead turtles caught up in nets or suffocated by plastic bags. What's that noise? I can't stand it.

Sandy:

It hurts my ears!

Sun:

I can't hear you. I am going to see if I can find the master.

Bajie:

I can't hear you. I'll wait out here.

Sun:

(*shouting*) Master, master, are you in here?

Linus:

(*shouting*) Wukong, is that you? I can't hear you.

Sun:

Master is that you? I can't hear you?

Linus:

Help! They want to eat me.

Sun:

Just let them try. (*Demon enters*) All right, you old fiend. The Great Sage Equal to Heaven is here. Come out and fight. You can't hide from me.

Demon:

Oh dear, it's the Great Sage!

Perch M:

Don't fight him—you won't live if you do. (*she whispers to him*)

Demon:

Another excellent idea. Great Sage, your master is safe in an air bubble, so don't worry. But we also have a problem. If you can help us, we'll turn over your master, and no longer require child sacrifice.

Sun:

What? I can't hear you!

Demon:

That's the problem, the terrible noise! Many of us water creatures rely on echolocation to escape enemies and catch food. The noise confuses us completely.

Sun:

Where does it come from?

Demon:

The wind turbines above us create vibrations that magnify under water.

Perch M:

And now it's more than just noise. It's also magnetism

Demon:

See those tanks over there? They generate electromagnetism from wave power. We sharks, turtles, and fish use magnetism to direct us in our migrations and these new machines are throwing us off course.

Sun:

You mean energy can be made from waves? Wow!

Demon:

They provide energy for *you*, but *we* pay the high price.

Perch M:

Waves have too much energy and are hard to control. Tides are better, more predictable. But tide machines create problems for the shore birds and animals.

Demon:

Fortunately, the technology is still rather primitive. That's why we want our voices heard before it gets too loud and nobody can hear us.

Sandy:

The good thing is that fishermen won't come in because their nets would get tangled up in the cables. You'll be safer.

Demon:

But larger fish and whales also get caught.

Perch M:

Many island countries are using wave and tidal energy. All the structures make our migrations too difficult. We'll die.

Demon:

We just want to be left in peace. Well?

Sun:

This is too difficult for me. You'd better ask our nerd Master.

Linus:

(Demon lets him out) Thanks, guys. Let's go. This noise is driving me crazy.

Demon:

And you don't even have sensitive ears like ours. This is our home. We can't go.

Sun:

(to Linus) You won't let me destroy those machines, will you?

Linus:

No, they're just in an early stage and need to be improved. Scientists are experimenting to test their effects on marine life.

Demon:

They don't care about us. You see that electric eel over there. He's Miguel Wattson sending out tweets with his own electric power—S-O-S.

Linus:

Wow, that's so cool. Look, I'll make a detailed report. I can't promise you a solution, but I'll stress the need to reduce the noise.

Demon:

Why should we believe you? Monkey, use your magic powers, do something now.

Sun:

I've got it! You know the conch shell you put to your ear and can hear the sea. I'll take a conch shell and when the scientists put it to their ears, the noise will deafen them.

Demon:

Good idea. But you, nerd, have offered nothing.

Linus:

Well, gee, I can't....

Demon:

(takes Linus's glasses) So we'll keep your glasses as ransom.

Linus:

But hey! I can't see!

Demon:

Just right. You can't see and we can't hear. When you get rid of the noise, we'll give you back your glasses. Remember, we could have eaten you!

Linus:

Yeah! Great deal. Let's go, guys. (*stumbles blindly*)

Sun:

This way, Master.

BLACK OUT

Scene 11

Sun:

(walking on road) That's strange—the stream was flowing strongly and then disappeared.

Sandy:

It just flowed underground.

Linus:

I wanted to meditate beside it. The sound of the rushing water is very refreshing.

Bajie:

Well, at least now it's easier to cross.

Linus:

I'm tired and hungry.

Bajie:

Hey, that's my line.

Linus:

I haven't had any real food since we started. In Taipei I can get great vegetarian food, not this tasteless monk stuff.

Sun:

Don't mention food or will have to start listening to the pig's stomach growling.

Bajie:

I've seen you nibbling on your tail hairs.

Sandy:

Hunger makes us all bad tempered.

Linus:

I'll get some food at the next town.

Sandy:

There's a cave up ahead. Maybe someone's living there.

Sun:

Let me check it out first.

Linus:

No, I'll go. *(he stumbles without his glasses)*

Sun:

Hold on! It's an earthquake.

Sandy:

Goodness!

Sun:

It's the work of demons underground.

Linus:

Demons, again! It's all you think about. I'll be back shortly. *(he goes, sees 4 women sewing)* Oh dear, only girls. I'm not very good with girls. Without my glasses and phone, they'll just laugh at me. Oh, but something smells so good! Dear little sisters...

Spider 1:
(laughs) We're not as young as we look.

Spider 2:
Nor as old as we sound.

Spider 3:
We just sew and sew like Odysseus's wife Penelope...

Spider 4:
...Waiting for her husband's return.

Linus:
Why do you work inside a cave?

Spider 1:
It's cooler, of course. Come in out of the sun, and rest yourself. *(she pours water)*.

Linus:
Yes, it is more comfortable. *(tastes water and puts it down)*

Spider 2:
The coolness keeps our silk threads tauter.

Spider 3:
They stretch but not too much.

Spider 4:
They're soft but strong.

Linus:
Very nice embroidery. Such high quality silk must be expensive.

Spider 1:
Indeed, but we spin it ourselves.

Linus:
(earth shakes again) Oh, another quake.

Spider 2:
We're so used to them we hardly notice.

Linus:
I don't think I could.

Spider 3:
It's just mother getting dinner ready. It's been a long time since we've seen such a nice young man.

Linus:
Uh really.

Spider 4:

A little on the scrawny side, but...

Linus:

That's it. I'm famished. Surely you can spare a little food.

Spider 3:

Yes, we're always cooking.

Spider 4:

(calls) Mother, have you finished? *(mother enters)*

Mother:

I felt the vibrations in the web, I mean, I heard a voice, so I knew we had a guest.

Spider 1:

Please feed him; he's very hungry.

Mother:

With pleasure. *(serves flies and insects)*

Linus:

(recoiling) Uh, this looks delicious, but I'm afraid I'm a vegetarian.

Mother:

Vegetarian? What kind of monster is that?

Linus:

I eat only vegetables...no flesh.

Spider 2:

Not even insects?

Spider 3:

They're full of protein. They may one day feed the world.

Linus:

If people were vegetarians, we wouldn't have to worry about feeding the world or creating greenhouse gasses.

Mother:

You talk nonsense like a spoiled child. Just eat what I've given you and be grateful.

Linus:

I'm sorry, I can't. I'd better go.

Mother:

You'd better stay right where you are. *(girls block his way, play with him like a ball, then tie him up with silk ropes)*

Spider 4:

You'll be so delicious later on. Come, sisters, let's take a bath in the Filth-cleansing Spring before dinner.

Mother:

The clean water is all gone; there's only waste water left.

Spider 2:

We don't mind, do we, sisters? *(exit)*

Sun:

(outside) Something's happened. The nerd is in trouble...

Bajie:

Or he's having one hell of a feast without us.

Sun:

Wait here. *(he becomes an eagle and spies on the girls who are off stage; he steals their clothes)*
Sandy, Bajie, some she-devils have captured our master. I've stolen their clothes.

Sandy:

That's an odd way to rescue him.

Bajie:

No, it's perfect. I'll go force them to release him.

Sandy:

You need help?

Bajie:

With naked ladies? Absolutely not. *(Bajie spies on spiders, Sun and Sandy spy on Bajie)*

Spider 1:

(screams) Who stole our clothes?

Spider 2:

Don't worry, it won't take long to weave new ones.

Bajie:

Dear ladies, having a bath? The water looks nice. I'll join you. *(splashes in)*

Spider 1:

You filthy pig. Get out!

Bajie:

You have a friend of mine. I want him back. Otherwise, I will have to take your lovely selves back with me. *(chases them)*

Spider 3:

Sisters, tie him up.

Bajie:

Not so fast. You see this rake of mine. It is like a spaghetti fork—I just wind the silk like noodles around and then gobble it up. Like this!

Yuck!

Sun:

Mother, Mother, help us.

Spider 4:

How do you like your new silk clothes now?

Bajie:

Mother:
(aside) Foolish pig. I can take care of him. *(she puts poison in the food)* Sir, you must be a very hungry hero. Here, have something to eat.

Just what I need. *(he is drugged and falls asleep)*

Bajie:

Sun:
(flies in) But you won't catch me so easily.

Mother:
No, I'll eat you right now. *(they fight, and Wukong makes himself small goes inside her, she burps)* Delicious, I haven't had monkey meat in a long time. New laws are against it.

Sun:
Indeed! I'm inside, but I'm indigestible. I'll give you such a tummy ache you'll beg for mercy.

Mother:
I have hundreds of stomach acids and chemicals that will dissolve you in an hour. They are strong enough to cut through rock and release the oil and gas inside.

Sun:
I'll give you gas, all right, you fracking freak. I know why you spiders hide in caves, going deep into the earth where no one can see you. But your chemicals seep into the groundwater and poison it. The cracking of the rock creates earthquakes and subsidence.

Mother:
But everyone likes our cheap oil and gas.

Sun:
Not the people who live near your cave! No more fracking. It's too violent, and besides it uses far too much water—water better used in hydroelectric.

Mother:
What do you care? There's no fracking in Taiwan.

Sun:
It's part of the global market Taiwan buys from.

Mother:
That's too big for you, little monkey, to change.

Sun:

But I can make you groan, just like the earth with all the pumping, cracking, forcing, gushing. How does it feel to be fracked? *(she burbles up different color liquids, Monkey jumps out)*

Linus:

Wukong, over here. Cut me loose. They were going to eat me...again.

Sun:

Speaking of eating, where's the pig?

Sandy:

He's been paralyzed with spider poison. But he'll be okay.

Linus:

Let's get out of here; this cave gives me the creeps.

Sandy:

But how to get out—it's a maze, full of cracks and tunnels.

Sun:

Careful, it could all come collapsing down on us. I see a little speck of light. Follow me.

Sandy:

But the light's moving. *(buzzing sound)*

Linus:

Follow it anyway—it's all we've got. At last, out of that cave. *(they all blink except Bajie who is still drowsy)*

Sun:

But what was our guide? A firefly?

Linus:

No, I see it now—an Oriental hornet. It's the only animal that can convert sunlight into energy like plants. Catch it! *(Monkey chases it and it stings Bajie)*

Bajie:

(jumps up) Ow! *(then blinks)* Turn off the spot light. Get the sun out of my eyes.

Sandy:

That's not just the sun—it's the reflection from that temple roof. It's gleaming super brightly. Perhaps we can rest and get some food there.

Bajie:

It shines like polished gold.

Sun:

That's because it *is* polished gold.

Sandy:

It's also inlaid with little mirrors! Don't look too closely; it'll burn your eyes.

Scene 12

Bajie:

We'll soon find out. (*he starts to knock and the door opens*)

Priest:

The priest of the Yellow Flower Temple welcomes you. Please sit down and refresh yourselves. I've heard about your daring adventures to find the perfect energy source, and I have to say, you've finally come to the right place.

Linus:

Really? Please tell us.

Priest:

Eat and drink first. Discussion after.

Bajie:

My sentiments exactly.

Linus:

I won't say 'no.' Our body needs energy too.

Priest:

And just like the food we eat, there's no absolutely perfect energy source. If food was perfect, we'd digest all of it, wouldn't we, and not have to expel any waste?

Linus:

You're right. I never thought about that.

Bajie:

Me either.

Sun:

Anybody who's smelled your waste has!

Priest:

The vegetables we eat are stored energy from the sun; those who eat animals eat an even denser consolidation of sun energy.

Bajie:

So all that we ever eat is always just a form of sunlight?

Priest:

With a little water, minerals, and chemical transformations thrown in, but 'yes.' The sun is the cornerstone of all life.

Linus:

Wow! So harnessing the sun's energy directly is probably the cleanest cheapest method.

Priest:

Almost. The Earth receives more energy from the sun in one hour than is used in the entire world in one year. But our photovoltaics cannot store the energy when the sun doesn't shine, and

the slightest imperfection on the surface of a panel, reduces its efficiency—just a bit of dust, or a leaf.

Linus:

Geez. It's too bad we couldn't uncover the secrets of the oriental hornet. I hoped solar would be the answer. The sun is free.

Priest:

But capturing its energy is still expensive. And to make the silicon for the PV panels, a deadly chemical is used.

Bajie:

This is getting really discouraging. Perhaps we should just go back home.

Sun:

Back to your oil business? Did you feel at home with Mother Spider and her fracking?

Bajie:

I liked her daughters better.

Sun:

You're still the same greasy pig. My hydro is far better than your oil.

Sandy:

I rather like tidal power myself, if we could get rid of the noise.

Linus:

And the all scientists I work for all believe only nuclear can efficiently reduce carbon emissions. Perhaps this is the end of our search.

Priest:

Oh no, I don't want to discourage you. Come, I'll show you our array of panels. And then perhaps, instead of trekking all the way back home, you can ride in the first solar powered airplane. You know, it just completed its first world tour.

Sun:

(they look at the panels) Wow, this is very impressive. And Taiwan produces a lot of the solar panels.

Priest:

Yes, but mostly for export, and it must import all the materials to make them. To produce enough to keep Taiwan's electricity users happy, you'd have to cover 700 square kilometers with panels—where are you going to find that much land?

Linus:

Rooftops is the logical place to start.

Sandy:

(whispers to Sun) I've been thinking...did you hear about that SOLAR company employee who stole hundreds of kilos of gold used in making panels?

Sun:

No. Do you think the Priest was involved, storing the gold on the temple roof?

Sandy:

It's possible. Jump up on your cloud and take a look.

Sun:

You're right. There are dozens of dead birds up there. They look like they've been fried right out of the sky.

Priest:

(secretly coming up) You've discovered my secret. Inside the tower are huge mirrors that concentrate the sun's light...

Sandy:

...and create a bird-blasting death ray.

Priest:

...that directly boils water to create steam energy—virtually no carbon emission and much more effective than those thousands of the PV panels below.

Sun:

Are you using the mirrors to conceal the gold you stole?

Priest:

Brilliant, eh? But you won't stop me. Only I have harnessed the great power of the sun and can turn it against you. *(takes off jacket and reveals shiny mirror on his chest)* A thousand eyes of flashing gold light—I can reflect the entire tower of power and burn your eyes right through. *(they fight, monkey keeps on bumping into things)*

Sun:

He's blinding me, but more than that, my head is going soft, like an overripe melon. I have to find a way to turn his fire power back on himself.

Sandy:

Wukong, make him bend down and his sun power will set fire to the tower's cables below.

Sun:

Good idea!

Priest:

Help! Help! I'm burning. *(his reflectors burn him, exit)*

Sun:

Run away! The whole temple is going to explode. *(they run off, sound of explosion; they rest and catch their breath)*

Bajie:

Too bad. And it seemed like such a good idea. And so pretty.

Linus:

It is a good idea, it just fell into the wrong hands. Look at the moon—it reflects the sun's light and doesn't hurt us.

Sun:

Doesn't create energy either.

Linus:

I always feel energized by the moon. Makes me want to howl like a wolf.

Bajie:

Since we're all feeling happy to be alive, let's celebrate with a little wine and poetry under the moon. (*pours wine*)

Sun:

Where did you get that?

Bajie:

I stole it from the Priest.

Sandy:

We're offered polluted water, poisoned tea, and you dare to drink wine?

Bajie:

If you're afraid, I'll test it first. (*drinks*) Ah, elixir of moon drops.

Sun:

Listen to him, one sip and he's a drunken Li Bai!

Linus:

Not bad for a pig poet. Wukong, how long do you think we've been traveling?

Sun:

(*counts*) About four years.

Linus:

Shouldn't we be graduating soon?

Bajie:

Have we grown wiser?

Sun:

You haven't. You're not even thinner.

Linus:

The first Sanzang and Sun Wukong faced a lot of difficulties, but they had it easier than us. They knew what they were looking for.

Sandy:

But remember, they were tricked the first time and given empty scrolls. They had to go back for the real sutras. We too, have to keep trying.

Sun:
You're right. We have to keep going.

Bajie:
What? We're never going back?

Linus:
We can go back home, but never to the old methods. The fossil fuel past is over.

Bajie:
The good old days when you just tapped the ground and oil came spurting out! Black gold.

Sandy:
Now it has to be green gold.

Bajie:
Not the same. Too much work. More wine.

BLACK OUT

Scene 13

(On the road, they stop to wipe the sweat from their faces and take off clothes)

Linus:
My god, it's already so hot and we've hardly started.

Sun:
(jumps up) Those mountains ahead are fiery red. Perhaps the Yellow Flower temple started a forest fire when it exploded.

Sandy:
You're right; flames are licking the sky.

Bajie:
Hey, we could go North instead of West. It'd be cooler.

Sun:
We should help put out the fire. We might have started it!

Bajie:
You might have started it.

Sun:
Trying to rescue *you*, you fat, drunken, lazy, ugly, despicable pig!

Bajie:
Enough with the compliments. I'm hungry.

Sun:
(sarcastically) Maybe there will be a 7-11 around the next bend. *(he goes ahead of the others)*

Girl:
(pushing a cart) Cakes! Cakes for sale.

Sun:

I don't believe it! Here, I'll buy some. Ah! They're too hot.

Girl:

If you don't like the heat, don't stay here. It's always hot.

Sun:

But how do you grow wheat for flour?

Girl:

Princess Iron Fan has a plantain fan; if she fans once, the flames go out, twice, the wind comes, thrice, the rain comes and we grow our wheat.

Sun:

So all I have to do is borrow her fan to put out that fire on the mountains.

Girl:

She won't let you, unless you bring offerings. She wants two sheep, two pigs, 100 cakes....

Sun:

I don't have time for that. I'll be there before you can say 'Jack Robinson.' *(flies and calls out)* Princess Iron Fan, the Great Sage Equal to Heaven has come politely requesting to borrow your Fan to put out the forest fire.

Iron:

What? My enemy has come right into my home. I will destroy him. *(holds a sword)*

Sun:

What is this show of enmity? I come only to put out a fire.

Iron:

Obviously you don't remember I'm the mother of Red Boy. You ruined him, and now you will pay with your life.

Sun:

Red Boy? Red Boy? He isn't in this play. Sorry, I've forgotten all about him.

Iron:

Well, I haven't. Stick out your head for me to hack it off. If you can stand the pain, I'll lend you the fan. If you can't, you go straight to King Yama. *(she strikes him and it doesn't hurt him)*

Sun:

Now the fan, please.

Iron:

You want my fan? All right, I give you my fan, stupid ape. *(she waves it and it blows him around)*

Sun:

(blown around, then clings to a rock) I must have been blown a thousand miles.

Lingji:
17, 000 miles to be precise.

Sun:
Who are you?

Lingji:
The Bodhisattva Lingji. What are you doing here?

Sun:
I was blown here by Princess Iron Fan.

Lingji:
Her fan is an ancient treasure formed by Heaven and Earth. I'll give you a Wind-fixing Pill to withstand it.

Sun:
Thank you. Wow! Everything used to be so easy—just a little magic pill and everything was solved. Now we have to use complicated technology. Please excuse me. *(flies off)*

Iron:
(watches him come) I see that the 'sage' is back again. Stupid ape. Can't he learn?

Sun:
Dear Princess, I, again kindly request the use of your fan. I only want it a short time.

Iron:
Come here, ape, if you dare. This time I'll destroy you once and for all.

Sun:
This time, you'll do no such thing. *(they fight; she fans him and he doesn't move)*

Iron:
All right, you win. I'll let you use the fan, but you must return it to me in 24 hours.

Sun:
No problem. *(takes fan, flies to his friends)*

Bajie:
So this is the famous fan? Doesn't look so impressive.

Linus:
Good work, Wukong. Let's go. *(they walk, they sweat, their feet burn)*

Sandy:
It's getting too hot. I can't walk further.

Linus:
Wukong, use the fan and put out the fire.

Sun:
(he waves the fan) The first wave should quell the flames.

The flames jumped higher.

Bajie:

The second wave ushers in the clouds

Sun:

The flames are spreading more quickly.

Sandy:

The third wave should bring rain.

Sun:

The fire has shot up to the sun. Everybody run!

Linus:

Help! Run! It's coming toward us! (*running till they rest in a safe place*)

Bajie:

That damned Princess gave me the wrong fan. I'll teach her to fool with the Great Sage. I'm going to turn into her husband, the Bull Demon King. He left her to go live with a concubine. She should be very glad he comes to visit her. (*disguises himself*)

Sun:

Dear husband, to what do I owe the pleasure of your company? Now that you have a new wife, you rarely see me.

Iron:

True but I never forget you. Recently I have been bothered by that rascally monkey, the Great Sage. I know you hate him too for what he did to our son.

Bull:

Indeed, he's given me lots of trouble. But I've always kept the upper hand.

Iron:

Good, good. Together we can destroy him, and avenge Red Boy.

Bull:

Come, have a drink with me.

Iron:

My pleasure. How did you overcome him?

Bull:

First with wind. The second time, I gave him the wrong fan. Instead of putting out the flames, its wind made them worse.

Iron:

(*they laugh*) Excellent trick. But I'm afraid he'll be back to try again.

Bull:

Iron:

He'll be angry as a hornet this time. I'm glad you're here to fight him.

Bull:

Where's the real fan, so I know it is safe?

Iron:

Don't worry. *(she spits it out)*

Bull:

How could such a little leaf put out a fire?

Iron:

Your new wife must have made you forget everything. You must tap it seven times, saying, 'Hui-xu-bei-xi-xi-chui-bu'.

Bull:

(he repeats to himself, then takes off Bull mask) Foolish Princess, see who you've been talking to!

Iron:

Oh, I could die with shame. *(pretends to faint)*

Sun:

What you do now is not my affair. *(flies to his friends)* Come, now I have the right fan. No time to waste. *(waves at the sky)*

Bajie:

The clouds are gathering...

Sandy:

The rains are coming...and the flames are going out. The air smells fresh and cool.

Linus:

Thank goodness it worked. I was afraid we were seeing global warming setting the world on fire.

Iron:

(enters humbly) Great sage, give me back my fan.

Bajie:

I like that, shameless woman. We spared your life.

Iron:

You promised.

Bajie:

Be gone, before we change our minds and kill you.

Sun:

How do we know you won't stir up dry winds and start the fires again?

Iron:

You don't. Winds bring clouds and rain, winds also stir up fires and blow the ocean waves. It is the way of wind. Leave me in charge of the fan.

Sun:

All right; I know you only fought me because you thought I harmed your son, but Red Boy is now with Guanyin and on his way to becoming a bodhisattva. You need not worry about him.

Iron:

Thank you. I'll be the beneficent guardian spirit of the winds and provide their gentle blowing. But if people keep heating up the earth, I won't be able to prevent the typhoons, tsunamis, and hurricanes from getting stronger. That's beyond my control.

Linus:

We understand.

BLACK OUT

Scene 14

(windy place, they are clinging to rock and clothes)

Sandy:

We're almost at the top of the mountain. We should get a good view soon.

Linus:

I can't see anything without my glasses. But this side of the mountain is certainly windier. Those gusts are really strong.

Bajie:

That damn Iron Fan Princess. She broke her word as soon as we turned our backs.

Sandy:

Hold on, master, or you'll be blown away.

Linus:

She must still be very angry.

Bajie:

I told you! Wukong, you should never have trusted her. *(sees wind turbines)* Now look, she sends an army of wind monsters with thousands of waving arms and sharp swords against us.

Sun:

(lifts his cudgel) They don't frighten me. Thirty giants churning up the air, all of whom I mean to engage in battle and slay. For this is righteous warfare, and it is God's good service to sweep so evil a breed off the face of the earth.

Bajie:

Huh? What's he talking about?

Sandy:

I have no idea. He sounds like he's from another planet where they speak weird English.

Linus:

Not another planet, another novel. He thinks he's Don Quixote!

Sandy:

Why not? It might be one of his 72 transformations.

Linus:

Wukong, hold on. Those aren't what you think they are.

Sun:

It is easy to see, that thou art not used to this business of adventures; those are giants; and if thou art afraid, away with thee, and betake thyself to prayer while I engage them in fierce and unequal combat. (*puts on knight's helmet*)

Bajie:

He's lost his mind.

Sun:

Fly not, cowards and vile beings, for a single knight attacks you. (*he attacks the turbines*)

Linus:

This is what happens when you have too many demons spinning around in your head. Help him. He's getting smashed.

Sun:

(*staggers*) I think Princess Iron Fan has turned these giants into wind turbines in order to rob me of the glory of vanquishing them. But in the end her wicked arts will avail but little against my good sword. (*attacks again and gets knocked down, hits his head*)

Bajie:

He must have done some good; the turbines have stopped churning up the wind.

Linus:

They don't churn the wind; the wind spins them and generates electricity.

Sandy:

You mean, Wukong was trying to destroy the solution?

Linus:

Well, one of them. Even the wind of Princess Iron Fan can't be perfect.

Bajie:

Why not?

Linus:

People don't like the turbines—they blot the landscape.

Bajie:

Strange. They didn't mind hundreds of my oil drills "blotting" the landscape.

Linus:

They complain the noise gives them a headache. That's why the offshore wind farms are better.

Sandy:

No, what people can't see they don't care about. The River King cares—the noise and structures damage the echolocation of his people.

Sun:

(waking up) Shall I destroy more?

Linus:

No, we just have to come up with a better model and place them more carefully.

Sandy:

There's a monastery up ahead. I'm sure we can get some medicine for Wukong and rest there.

Linus:

Good idea. Then we'll plan our next step.

BLACK OUT

Scene 15

(they sit around a table with food)

Bajie:

Master, I've decided to go home. We've wandered all over, seen many sights, endured many dangers, but we haven't found the energy solution.

Sun:

You can't give up yet. You haven't profited from your investment.

Bajie:

I don't think I ever will. This green technology is going to take too long and be too expensive.

Linus:

Oil and nuclear were expensive too. You just got subsidies from the government and tax breaks; green energy needs the same support.

Sandy:

But he's right. We haven't found the right answer.

Linus:

Not one method alone is perfect; they're all pieces needed to complete the puzzle.

Sun:

Then we can all go home?

Linus:

I guess.

Sandy:

But all the so-called green alternatives cause damage to the earth, water, air...in different ways. That doesn't make me feel enlightened. It makes me feel depressed.

Bajie:

What to do?

Sun:

We've come to the end of this mission...but perhaps it's only the first step of the journey.

Linus:

What do you mean?

Sun:

We've come as far as we can...for the moment. Let's meet again next year and see if we can go further.

Sandy:

Have our own convention on climate change!

Linus:

Let's meet at the Chen's house and see how the farms and river are doing. Then we can walk in a different direction to see what new developments have happened over the year.

Sandy:

Good, now I don't feel quite so hopeless. Good-bye everyone, till next year!

Sun:

Bye, Sandy, *(to Bajie)* Bye, you fat slob. I'll miss twisting your tail. *(he walks away)* Bye, nerd, get some new glasses. *(they go, Sun Wukong stands near Waterfall Curtain Cave, thinking. Dragonella comes out of the water)*

Dragonella:

Silly monkey, giving up?

Sun:

You talking to me? No way. The Great Sage....

Dragonella:

...Equal to blah, blah, blah.

Sun:

I'm tired. Leave me alone.

Dragonella:

I told you the answer is right under your nose.

Sun:

Partial answer. Natural hydro is unreliable, especially with climate change and irregular rain fall.

Dragonella:

So, pump the water back up to the top of the waterfall. That way you always have enough. A recycling loop. Pumped-storage hydro is the best renewable energy source available. Mingtan at Sun Moon Lake has been doing it since 1995.

Sun:

Why do you tell me this now?

Dragonella:
Your monkey mind wouldn't have listened before.

Sun:
I'll begin work on it tomorrow.

Dragonella:
Tonight, the falls are full and beautiful. (*she holds up a bottle*) Shall we celebrate with a little peach biofuel?

Sun:
Ah, absolutely.

Dragonella:
Look, fireflies.

Sun:
I wish the Patriarch had taught me how to convert their light.

Dragonella:
Nature holds all the secrets.

Sun:
True.

Dragonella:
But it's important to remember the big picture, the consequences of our actions. Not to injure others when we find solutions for ourselves.

Sun:
Now you sound like Linus the nerd.

Dragonella:
Actually, he's my brother. My father got tired of his phone addiction and asked Guanyin to cure him by sending him out on an adventure.

Sun:
Let's set off on a different kind of adventure. (*embraces her*)

Dragonella:
Suits me. (*kiss*)
BLACK OUT

Scene 16

Jerry:
(*Jerry still dreaming*) No, no, oh, yes, yes, yes, oh thank you, thank you, yes, more.

Mary:
Jerry, wake up.

Jerry:
I don't want to. I want to stay in my dream. I'm solving the whole energy crisis.

Mary:

Yeah? That's why it's dream.

Jerry:

We have to dream the solution before we can pursue it.

Mary:

You haven't even written your paper for (teacher's name) class.

Jerry:

Forget the paper. (*goes to computer*) I'm going to create a new game—find the best energy source. I'll set it up so that anybody can play for free—then if everyone is working on it from different angles we might be able to come with some amazing new solutions.

Mary:

(*doubtfully*) Will it be fun?

Jerry:

Of course. 'Journey to the Source.' Code Name: Guanyin 3.5.

BLACK OUT

THE END