



The previous story told how Monkey used all his ingenuity to subdue three demon kings and rescue the Tang Priest and the two other disciples, after which they left the Lion-Camel City and headed west. They tramped over hill and dale and waded across rivers. After travelling several more months, they reached another walled and moated city.



Noticing an old soldier standing near the wall, Monkey went up to him and said, "Could I ask what this place is called?" The old man replied, "This place used to be called Bhiksuland, but its name has been changed to Boytown."





The Tang Priest and his three disciples spent some time walking around the streets, admiring the general air of prosperity. They noticed that hanging in front of every house there was a goose cage covered with silk in five colours, and they wondered why.



Monkey instantly turned into a bee, flew to one of the cages and slipped in through the curtains to take a look. A little boy was sitting inside. Monkey inspected eight or nine cages and all were the same.





Monkey turned back into his normal self and reported to the Tang Priest, who thought it was very strange. Then they saw a hostel in front of them. The Tang Priest said, "We shall stay in this hostel tonight and tomorrow morning go to the palace to see His Majesty and have our passport inspected." "Yes, that's good," said Friar Sand.