

monkeying with Gene

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 04 Mar 1999

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Damien Broderick — 04 Mar 1999, 21:39

Strictly speaking this should go to the WHORL list except that I'm not subscribed and it might interest some people here. It's a kind of meta-comment, borrowed from my Swedish friend Anders Sandberg, who recently wrote:

< I'm right now reading the Chinese epic "The Journey to the West", and enjoying the character of Sun Wukong the monkey king immensely. I regard good Sun as a kind of transhumanist divinity. He starts out merely as a rather unique monkey, but gathers skills and knowledge so that he can become immortal. Then he uses his new knowledge to help his people, tricks the Dragon of the Eastern sea into giving him an immense magical weapon, descends into the underworld and erases his and all the other monkeys' names from the Book of Death. As Heaven tries to intervene he causes trouble up there, becomes super-immortal by eating the Peaches of Immortality *and* the Pills of Immortality, is briefly (500 years) trapped by the Buddha under a mountain and for the rest of the epic acts as a traveling companion and enlightened advisor for the buddist monk Tripitaka, becoming a saint in the process. Talk about a career! Sun manages to become a Taoist immortal and a Buddhist saint *and* have a great time too (OK, those 500 years under the mountain might have been boring). >

Some little prickles at the back of the neck at the coincidences between good Sun and certain events in the lifetale of `good Silk' (Son, perhaps, of the Long Sun).

I haven't read "The Journey to the West" so this might be utterest bogosity.

Damien Broderick