Twitter Thread by Kestrel ■ lwj kin

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MDZS is laden with buddhist references. As a South Asian person, and history buff, it is so interesting to see how Buddhism, which originated from India, migrated, flourished & changed in the context of China. Here's some research (■■ @starkjeon for CN insight + citations)

1. LWJ's sword Bichen 'is likely an abbreviation for the term ■■■■ (du■ bì hóng chén), which can be translated as such: ■■: shunning or hiding away from ■■ (worldly affairs; which is a buddhist teaching.) (https://t.co/zF65W3roJe) (abbrev. TWX)

2. Sandu (■ ■), Jiang Cheng's sword, refers to the three poisons (trivi■a) in Buddhism; desire (k■ma-ta■h■), delusion (bhava-ta■h■) and hatred (vibhava-ta■h■).

These 3 poisons represent the roots of craving (tanha) and are the cause of Dukkha (suffering, pain) and thus result in rebirth.

Interesting that MXTX used this name for one of the characters who suffers, arguably, the worst of these three emotions.

3. The Qian kun purse "■■■ (qián k■n dài) – can be called "Heaven and Earth" Pouch. In Buddhism, Maitreya (■■■■■■■) owns this to store items. It was believed that there was a mythical space inside the bag that could absorb the world." (TWX)

4. The spell which MXY uses to summon WWX is ■■ (duó sh■);
'the practice is likely a reference to Phowa, one of the 6 Dharmas of Naropa, a Tibetian Buddhist tantric practice, which allows the practitioner the ability to transfer his consciousness into another body." (TWX)

5. The Jin Clan's motto; "The door to knowledge starts with the demonstration of one's sincerity; with the light of the cinnabar, glory awaits." (TWX)

or; ■■■■■■■■■ .... TWX suggests ■■ is a play on Kaiguang (■■) which is the act of consecrating deities with cinnabar (a buddhist-chinese tradition)

A/N- I had thought that it had more of a similar meaning as in Hinduism where the vermillion mark, known often as bindi (■■■■■), is associated with the third eye. However, the mark still has religious connotations, especially in Taiwenese Taoism.

Fun fact; taosim and buddhism overlap a lot especially in Ancient China as the principles are quite complementary. The difference is that Taoism originated from Laozi and China whereas Buddhism originated from Gautum Buddha and Ancient India.

More; https://t.co/6o6p8jqIdw

6. Qinghe Nie or the 'Unclean Realm' may have buddhist connotations. ■■ (unclean) ■(realm) is the direct name whereas the principle of Fujokan or Pa■ikk■lamanasik■ra in buddhism is ■■■ which is the meditation used to overcome attachment to desire and lust.

This tumblr post offers a great insight to the various meanings that MXTX could have meant in regards to the name and its relationship with Buddhism. https://t.co/PqXoRUhl64

7. Cloud Recessesses is noted to be like a monastery for which the chinese word is ■■ which is the direct transliteration of the sanskrit Sangh■r■ma/Sankaram.

8. The town by Dafan Mountain which WWX wanders through at the beginning of the novel is ■■■ or Buddha's foot town.

9. The Guanyin (■■) temple where the final showdown occurred is the Chinese iteration of Avalokite■vara Bodhisattva (or Padmapani) who is associated with compassion.

// End. I had the idea for this thread but it definitely not be as thorough and informative without @starkjeon who is currently translating MDZS. She includes amazing footnotes in each chapter which shed light to the historical context + easter eggs which eng speakers can't catch

Here's the link to their translation: https://t.co/XgLmZTSVe5

Doing this made me realize how much India and China influenced each other historically and spiritually and made me love MDZS even more.

I'm super grateful to all the CN people who have opened their hearts to us non-CN people and shared MDZS with us so lovingly ■■■ Thank you!

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