Zhou Dynasty – Analyzing Mu-tian-zi-Zhuan (Zhou King Muwang)

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MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN (Zhou King Muwang r. 962-908 B.C. per the forgery contemporary version [JIN BEN] of THE BAMBOO ANNALS; 1006-952 B.C. per Zhang Wenyu/XIAO-YUH2-DING cauldron; 976-921 B.C. per the forgery gap reign year project)

–The forgery Xia-Shang-Zhou dynasty project set the years of reign for Zhou King Muwang at 976-921 B.C.; the conventional [hypo] history, i.e., Shao Yong’s version from the Soong dynasty, adopted the reign years of 1001-946 B.C. The forgery contemporary version [JIN BEN] of ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) had the king’s reign years set at 962-908 B.C. This webmaster actually figured out who was behind the forgery of both Mei Yi’s SHANG-SHU of the Eastern Jin dynasty and the culprit for the forgery version of THE BAMBOO ANNALS, with proof on the details of dozens of entries in the forger’s book. Stay tuned to this webmaster’s epic 1500-2000 page book THE SINITIC CIVILIZATION that will cover astronomy, astrology, ancient geography, oracle bones and bronzeware. Zhang Wenyu, by assigning the XIAO (small) YUH2 DING cauldron to Zhou King Zhaowang, used the cauldron’s year of 35 to give Zhou King Zhaowang the reign years of 1041-1007 B.C., hence giving Zhou King Muwang’s succession a start year 1006 B.C. Zhang Wenyu, having ascertained that the sexagenarian days were the running sequence, believed that what MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN recorded was real. This webmaster’s point is that even though MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN carried the non-disrupted sexagenarian days for Zhou King Muwang’s off-road travel lasting one to two years, it did not mean the king actually travelled to the Kumtag desert and the Blackwater Lake.

Mu-tian-zi (Mu the Son of Heaven), i.e., Zhou King Muwang, the fifth king of Zhou Dynasty, was long rumored to have campaigned against Central Asia and met with Queen Sheeba. Charles Hucker mused about this. However, there is lack of evidence to link Queen Mother of the West to Queen Sheeba. After a re-examination of the travelogue of Mu-tian-zi, this webmaster is convinced that Zhou King Muwang, as depicted in the 4th century fiction Mu-tian-zhuan, did not travel beyond the Kumtag Desert, i.e., the ancient boundary of Sinitic China since prehistory. Furthermore, there was no trace of the Yuezhi people at the Black Water Lake at least at the time of Zhou King Muwang or more precisely, at the time the book Mu-tian-zi was written, i.e., about the time-frame of the 4th-3rd centuries B.C.E., when the book was buried in Wei King Xiangwang (?-296 B.C.E.’s) tomb.

Regarding Zhou King Muwang’s entries in the contemporary version of THE BAMBOO ANNALS, erudite Wang Guowei failed to find the credible books that claimed to have cited the original version of THE BAMBOO ANNALS. The books given for majority of the extracted texts were no other books than Guo Pu’s annotation on MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN; and Guo Pu’s annotation on SHAN HAI JING --which would be a self-perpetrating loop for substantiating the originally-formatted book THE BAMBOO ANNALS. The loop was the usage of Guo Pu’s annotation on MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN and SHAN HAI JING to rewrite the contemporary version of THE BAMBOO ANNALS, while GUO PU’S annotation purportedly came from the original “zhú [bamboo] shù [book]” or “ji [annualized] nian [years]” (not necessarily THE BAMBOO ANNALS) plus most likely cross-references between fiction MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN and divination-mythology SHAN HAI JING, something to make the recreation of THE BAMBOO ANNALS tainted by fiction, divination and mythology as well. That is to say, among the entries in THE BAMBOO ANNALS, everything related to Zhou King Muwang’s travels and the matter related to Queen Mother of the West were self-looped, had no credibility, and did not exist. So to say that the widely touted prehistoric east-west ‘cultural’ contact during the 10th century B.C. did not exist, either.

Yu Taishan, who used soundex to make wild speculation, had mistakenly extended Zhou King Muwang’s travels beyond the Kumtag Desert to Central Asia. See http://sino-platonic.org/complete/spip197_mu_tianzi_zhuan.pdf The other fallacy Yu Taishan had was that he assumed that Mu-tai-zi was actually a contemporary book from around 1000 B.C.E. Before Yu Taishan, there was Ding Shan in the first part of the 19th century making wild speculation. Ding Shan, someone who had wild imagination, provided several claims about the Zhou people’s possible linkage to the West, with the most ridiculous part being the finger-pointing of a fictional Chi-wu-shi [red and black clan] in MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN as some non-Sinitic [culture traveler-bearer] people dwelling to the west of the Yellow River, and the relatively plausible parts being about the Zhou people’s deviation from the Shang predecessor and others, namely, the Zhou people’s division of a month into four moon phases or points [’chu-ji’ (new moon to waxing crescent to first quarter), ’ji sheng-ba’ (first quarter to waxing gibbous to full moon), ’ji wang’ (full moon to waning gibbous to third quarter), and ’ji si-ba’ (third quarter to waning crescent to new moon)], and the Zhou kings’ usage of notable events for starting the kings’ first year of eras. Ding Shan’s pointing to the seven days’ records or the fire-burning/death characters in the divination book ZOU YI, however, had no merits.

At the northwestern-most “Da-ze”, i.e., the Great Lake, there was only the thousand-league distance of land covered by the bird feathers if literally paraphrasing what MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN wrote. Or at the time of the 4th-3rd centuries BCE, when the book MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN was possibly written, there was no trace of life at the Great Lake. Yuezhi, should they come from the west, could not have come to the area earlier than the 4th-3rd centuries. (I gave the Yuezhi the credit of living at the Lake Juyan in the 4th-3rd centuries at http://imperialchina.org/Barbarians.htm on basis of the excavated bamboo strips from the Lake Juyan area that showed that the
original Yuezhi people, after 80 years or 3-4 generations since the first Hunnic attack against them prior to 200 B.C.E., still lived in large numbers at the Lake Juyan.)

See Wang Guowei’s theory of invaders coming from the East while traders from the West for understanding the nature of the nine Zhaowu clans of the Yuezhi.

The space and time in the 4th century fiction MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN, as detailed below, corroborates Zhou King Muwang’s travelogue as far as the itineraries were concerned, giving a convincing proof as to the extent of the boundaries or the geographical knowledge that Zhou China possessed at the time the book was actually written, namely, the 4th century B.C.E. As this webmaster is to detail below, Mu-tian-zi-Zhuang contained multiple divination-nature records, matching with the divination bamboo slips excavated in the 20th century. That is, the book was both written as a fiction from the divination perspective and as a divination. Note that the value of Mu-tian-zi is not in the validity of the king’s actual trip to the Kumtag Desert but in ascertaining the ancient Chinese knowledge of the Northwest China geography during the 4th-3rd century B.C.E., as well as in corroborating the multiple other legendary books such as Shi-zi and Shan Hai Jing – extraordinary books that contained description of the outer limits of the Sinitic World – which was beginning to think beyond the four poles of a closed “liu-he” or six-side box to imagine the existence of an eight all-lakes area beyond the known Sinitic world of nine or greater prefectures, an eight all-land area, and finally an eight poles with gates at the edge of the world, i.e., some concentric annularities.

Zhou King Muwang was noted for defeating the barbarians, reaching today’s Qinhai-Gansu regions in the west, meeting with Queen Mother of West on Mt Kunlun [possibly around today’s Dunhuang area], and then relocating the barbarians eastward to the starting point of the Jing-shui River for better management [in a similar fashion to Han Emperor Wudi’s relocating the Southern Huns to the south of the north Yellow River Bend]. As to Zhou King Muwang’s travelogue, it could be a 4th century B.C.E. fiction that was built on the limited records from the early Zhou dynasty as well as the then-available knowledge about the northwestern frontier as of maybe the 4th century B.C.E. In another word, Zhou King Muwang, whose reign was about half a century, did not actually travel across the whole domain of China as the travelogue stated, but was admonished to discontinue the lavish travel and military conquests as history books Zuo Zhuang (Commentary on Zuo Qiming’s Spring and Autumn Annals) or ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) had recorded. Though, Zhou King Muwang did conduct campaigns against the barbarians to the northwest and rounded up the barbarians for resettlement at the origin of the Jing-shui/Wei-shui Rivers, which caused the other part of the [unconquered] barbarians to stop tributes or visits to the Zhou court as history recorded. (Adopting historian Du Yu’s viewpoint [which was to bundle all groups of the barbarians under the same source, i.e., the San-miao exiles of the 3rd-4th millennium], the [conquered] barbarians, who resettled at the Jingshui and Wei-shui, could have moved east later to first be part of the Li-rong barbarians who sacked the Western Zhou capital Haojing and then crossed the East Yellow River Bend to be the so-called Bai-di and Chi-di barbarians, namely, the so-called Quan-rong barbarians that Zhou King Muwang purportedly met in today’s northwestern Shanxi Province in the travelogue.)

ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS), Mu-tian-zi (Zhou King Muwang) and Shan Hai Jing (The Legends of Mountains and Seas) contained some similar description of the ancient legends, with the first two books more closer than to the book SHAN HAI JING. This could mean that some texts that survived the book burning could have become the feed into the book SHAN HAI JING. The story that was carried in THE BAMBOO ANNALS and MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN would be the count of the Yellow River. Per THE BAMBOO ANNALS, between Shang-ancestor-Xie4 and Shang king Shang-tang, the Shang people, who enjoyed the conferral as marquis, was located somewhere in the northern part of today’s Shanxi-Hebei provinces. The events recorded would be the killing of Shang ancestor Wang-hai, a son of Marquis Yin-hou, in the hands of the You-yi-shi people who could be the origin for the Yi-shui [Yongding-he] River located somewhere in the northern part of today’s Shanxi-Hebei provinces. The events recorded would be the killing of Shang ancestor Wang-hai, a son of Marquis Yin-hou, in the hands of the You-yi-shi people who could be the origin for the Yi-shui River near today’s Peking. Marquis Yin-hou, to defeat the You-yi-shi state, had borrowed an army from Count He-bo, i.e., the conferred count [elder uncle] for the Yellow River – a figure who was cited in the legendary King Mu-wang’s travelogue as someone who had a hereditary title as guardian for the Yellow River at the Northern Yellow River Bend. ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) stated that Wang-hai, who was a son of Marquis Yin-hou, was killed by You-yi-shi during the 12th year of Xia King Di-xie, and that Marqui Yin-hou, i.e., Wei, also known as Shang-jia [carrying the ‘jia’ stem, a hallmark of the Shang people], launched a campaign against You-yi-shi during the 16th year reign of Xia King Di-xie by borrowing the troops from He-bo or Count of the Yellow River. In the opinion of this webmaster, both Count He-bo and Xi-wang-mu (Queen Mother of the West), as well as Tang-shu [junior uncle Tang] appeared to be some hereditary titles.

According to ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) (《纪年》, Zhou King Muwang (Ji Man, reign 1,001 – 947 B.C.;: 1006-952 B.C. per Zhang Wenyu/XIAO-YUH2-DING cauldron; 962-908 B.C. per the forgery contemporary version [JIN BEN] of THE BAMBOO ANNALS; 976-923 B.C. per the gap reign year project) with Queen Mother of the West during the 17th year’s reign, namely, 946 B.C., one year later. For the sake of giving some sense to the fiction MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN, the year of the trip could be set at the 16th year or 947 B.C., while the year of the meeting with the Queen Mother in the forgery contemporary version [JIN BEN] of THE BAMBOO ANNALS should be 946 B.C. Below will be interpretation of excerpts of Mu-tian-zi (the original Chinese text for Mu-tian-zi is available at http://www.shuku.net/novels/children/mutzizh/mutzizho1.html) The calendrical sexagenary dates
followed Zheng Wenyu’s year 994 B.C. or Zhou King Muwang’s 13th year for the off-road trip on basis of the astral phenomenon in the 
bronzeware WANG GUI, namely, the conformity of the moon phase description with the sexagenary day with ‘shuo’ or day 1 entries of a 
month.

《卷一》 Volume I

While his father Zhou King Zhaowang had frustration campaigning against the southern barbarians [i.e., the O-3 haplogroup Hundred Pu 
people or the Hmong-mien people along the Han-shui River] and died on a sunken boat, Zhou King Muwang (r. 1006-952 B.C. per 
Zhang Wenyu/XIAO-YUH2-DING cauldron) repeatedly campaigned against the north and northwest and extended the Chinese dynastic 
rule to as far as the Black Water Lake [Lake Juyan] at the edge of the Kumtag Desert. Mu-tian-zi, literally meaning the heavenly son Mu 
(Ji Man), was a fictional travelogue detailing the king’s travel to the North Yellow River Bend and then westward to the West Yellow River 
Bend and further westward to the Qilian Mountain and the Black Water Lake. Mu-tian-zi, a book that was buried in tomb at the time of 
Wei Principality King Xiangwang, was excavated together with ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) during the Jinn Dynasty.

At the time of ‘wù—yín’, taken to be day 9 after the ‘geng-wu’ day or day 1 of March in year 13 or 994 B.C., Zhou King Muwang departed 
the capital city of Zongzhou (i.e., the original [ancestral] capital of Haojing near today’s Xi’an versus the later [accomplished] capital of 
Chengzhou [Luoyang]). There was some missing texts about the departure, with the geographical concept for the Zhou capital city of 
Zongzhou in the Western Zhou Dynasty time period wrongly pinned to the Chengzhou city of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty time period, an 
error of the fiction writer who lived in the late Eastern Zhou’s Warring States time period.

According to Zhang Wenyu, Zhou King Muwang departed Zongzhou for the west in year 13 or the 994 B.C. The reason that Zhang Wenyu 
selected year 13 was for the stem-branch days’ conformity with what was described in MU-TIAN-ZI ZHUAN. The ‘wù—yín’ day was taken 
by Zhang Wenyu to be after day 1 (‘geng-wu’) of March of 994 B.C. Zhang Wenyu selected the year 994 B.C. for Zhou King Muwang’s 13th 
on basis of the astral phenomenon in the bronzeware WANG GUI, on which there was the inscription that the June ‘chu-ji’ moon phase or 
day 1 of June was the ‘wu-xu’ day –a day conforming with Zhang Peiyu’s base table of calendar and astral phenomena. (WANG GUI was 
alternatively taken to be a bronzeware from Zhou King Gongwang’s time period.)

–The contemporary version [JIN BEN] of THE BAMBOO ANNALS stated that in the spring of the thirteenth year, Ji-gong, under the 
helm of King Muwang, commanded an army on a western expedition, and reached the land of Yangyu [which appeared to be located to 
the west but was pinpointed to be to the north of the Northern Yellow River Bend per fiction MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN]. In July, the Xi-Rong 
[western Rong] barbarians sent an emissary to seeing Zhou King Muwang. For year 13, according to the extracted texts in the 
porpurtedly original book THE BAMBOO ANNALS, the annotation texts on SHAN HAI JING, as cited by the books like YI-WEN LEI JU 
and TAI-PING YU LAN, claimed that ‘ji [annalized] nian [years]’, a reference to the bamboo annals or the complete batch of the bamboo 
slips, said that Zhou King Muwang campaigned west during his 13th year and reached the place where the green birds lived, with the 
green birds linked to some divine animals that fed the food to the mystified and non-human Queen Mother of the West. The actual trip to 
seeing the queen mother was in the extracted texts of the original book THE BAMBOO ANNALS for year 17.

Zhou King Muwang first took the trip east into the Linzhang-Handan-Xingtai area in today’s Hebei Province where he, after a drinking 
banquet, crossed the Zhang-he River. After another drinking banquet on top of Panshi (granite mountain), where there was the play of 
the ‘guang-yue’ fairy music, namely, the nine encore kind of music of the hundreds of gods above the ‘jun-tian’ central high sky, the king 
continued the trip. Riding on the chariot continuously [without letting go], Muwang arrived at the foot of the Xingchang Mountain 
(namely, the Jingxingshan Mountain, or the famous ancient locality of Changshan where Shu-han Dynasty General Zhao Zilong (Zhao 
Yun) was from, as well as one of the five deer-suffixed places of today’s Hebei Province), next to today’s Jingxing Coal Mine and the 
Shijiazhuang city. Muwang apparently took the same 

south-north route 
where the Chinese Communists repeatedly attacked the Hebei provincial government troops from 1938 to 1942 during the resistance war to thwart the Chinese government attempt at linking with the 
resistance fighters at Jehol-Chahar to the north and the Shandong peninsula to the east. In the snowy weather, Muwang went hunting at 
the western slope of the Jingxingshan Mountain. Muwang apparently changed direction to the west, namely, today’s Zhengding-
Taiyuan Railway, and took the route of penetrating into the Shansi mountain area through Jingxing, namely, the route of the 
Niangziguan Pass, which the Japanese took in 1937 in a two-prong attack against Taiyuan. Muwang then took the narrow mountain 
valley road towards the north, along which path littered the later five famous Chinese mountain passes from south to north, and 
travelled along the north riverbank of the Hutuo-he River.

戊寅，天子北征，乃绝泜水（绝，犹截也。泜水，今在郫县）。

庚辰，至于氵膚天子于盘石之上（膸者，所以进酒，因云膸耳），天子乃奏 广乐
Muwang, at today's Pingshan, to the north of Jingxing, [where there was a pass that the Japanese army attacked as the northern east-west parallel prong to attack Jingxing], crossed the Hutuo River which changed direction to flow southeastward near the Wutaishan Mountain to climb into he Feihe from the Shanxi province. Along the northern bank of the Hutuo River, Muwang traveled northwestward to climb top of a mountain [the Wutaishan Mountain] and then went north to campaign against the Quan-rong barbarians. The Quanrong chieftain gave a banquet to Muwang at the north bank of the Dangshui River, namely, the Hengshui River [today's Shahe River (沙河, the sandy River)], near Huping where Nie Rongzhen's communist 8RA was headquartered in the late 1930s.

Dispute about the characters Yuezhi (虞知): Yu Taishan, using the unscientific soundex approach, had over-blown himself in extrapolating King Muwang's travelogue to living directly in today's Shanxi Province during King Muwang's time of 1000 B.C.E. around, which was said to be Mount Yinshan per Yu Taishan), Muwang hosted an imperial ceremony on top of the Yanran mountain near the Yellow River.

At Yanran-shan Mountain (not the same name mountain that later denoted the Khangai Mountain of today's Outer Mongolia, and was said to be Mount Yinzhan per Yu Taishan), Muwang hosted an imperial ceremony on top of the Yanran mountain, near the Yellow River...
With Bo-yao (Count of the Yellow River) as guide, Muwang continued the trip to the west, and crossed the Yellow River on the date of 'yi-chou', with the river inferred here being possibly one of the multiple “marshland rivers” at the northwestern Yellow River inflection point.

DISPUTE: Per Jin Yufei, Yangyu Mountain could be located inside the sheath area. If that was the case, then it would be to say that Muwang’s crossing of the ‘East’ Yellow River Bend was initially not detailed and that the subsequent notation about river crossing would be that of the ‘West’ Yellow River Bend. If that was the case, Muwang would be travelling inside of the sheath area and along the ‘south’ bank of the North Yellow River Bend. What Mu-tian-zì wrote down as Yangyu was later inferred by a few ancient scholars to be Chiyang, which was to say it was kind of inside central-northern Shexi, near San-yuan, which would be even more erroneous. –Both Jin Yufei’s speculation above and the ancient scholar’s pinpoint towards Chiyang could be wrong. As Mu-tian-zì’s subsequent chapter on the return trip clearly pointed out, Muwang, on the date of ‘gui-chou’, escorted Count Bo-yao back to his home, which was said to be the point where the Yellow River flowed southward, i.e., the inflection point of the North Yellow River Bend and the EastYellow River Bend. What could be the truth here was that the inflection point of the Western Yellow River Bend and the Northern Yellow River Bend was inferred to be the start of the flow of the Yellow River —because the water flow was too slow to be counted as the real Yellow River along today’s Western Yellow River Bend, a segment people could easily float across on sheep-skin rafts. Mu-tian-zì, back and forth, pointed to this northwestern inflection point as the start of the Yellow River, while the northeastern inflection point was where Bo-yao’s homeland was. In another word, Count Bo-yao’s land extended throughout the Northern Yellow River Bend. (Flowing south along the Eastern Yellow River Bend, there were segments of the river that were navigable for ships, which were at one time utilized during the 1937-45 resistance war time period.)

乙丑，天子西济于河。

Mu-tian-zì continued to say that after crossing the Yellow River, Muwang arrived at the land of Wen’gu (温谷), namely, the “warm [crop] valley” [or a true warm spring versus another Chinese term for the hot spring, i.e., ‘tang gu’], and further stated that this place also belonged to Count Yao (the Count of the Yellow River), i.e., Bo-yao. (The [Yellow] River that King Muwang crossed was said to be a parallel river course to the eastern segment of the present North Yellow River Bend per Yu Taishan. This webmaster deduce that near today’s northwestern Yellow River inflexion point, there could have existed marshlands and multiple river courses that switched back and forth to become the trunk line of the Yellow River at a certain time in history.)

After crossing the river to the west, the king ordered to inspect on the treasures obtained so far. The king ordered minister ‘Jiao-fu’ to take commands, to have the eight stallions drink at a pond near the southern river at the piled-up mountain. The king made a self-blame for the indulgence in the travel and pleasures, and questioned whether the people would talked about his blunders in the future. The king’s bodyguards said that the king should not worry about it as the people in the future would understand that the people were enjoying happy life under the king’s reign.
丙寅，天子属授效器。《管子》曰：天子属器，四时行，鸟兽鸣，谷草皆生。南至于华阴。东至于砥柱。又东至于孟津。东

From here onward, Yu Taishan was to treat the locality of Ji-shi (积石 piled-up mountain) to be somewhere near the ancient mythical point of origin for the Yellow River, and further tried to match the five rivers around Kunlun to include the “Nan-he” (the southern trunk line of the Yellow River) that was recorded to flow out of “bei-shan” (northern mountain) towards the southeastern direction. This sudden jump in geographical distance from today’s northwestern Yellow River inflexion point, which could not be reconciled unless you insist that there were considerable passages of Mu-tian-zhi text that got lost, is fallacious. Here, in the view of this webmaster, Yu Taishan made a mistake in mixing up the mythical Ji-shi (积石 piled-up mountain) to the south of today’s Qilian Mountain [part of the Kunlun mythical land] with the historical Ji-shi (积石 piled-up mountain) at today’s northwestern Yellow River inflexion point.

The correct reading of the southeastern flow of the “Nan-he” (southern trunk line of the Yellow River), in this webmaster’s opinion, should be attributing this particular ”Nan-he” [southern river], i.e., the (southern trunk line of the Yellow River), to the fact that there was the sudden change of direction of today’s Yellow River, from the south-north flow along today’s Western Yellow River Bend to the [roughly] west-east or exactly northwest-southeast direction of today’s Northern Yellow River Bend.

More, there appear to exist multiple localities for Ji-shi (积石 piled-up mountain), the same as multiple localities for Jie-shi (碣石 stone tablets) in China. According to 叶方恒 in 卷九十六工政二河防一, Lord Yu, when working on flood control, had treated the Yellow River the top river to be named; Lord Yu started the work from the point of Ji-zhi [piled-up mountain] to the point of Long-men [dragon gate] which was near Mt Lvliangshan; and the direction of the Yellow River started from Ji-shi (积石 piled-up mountain), flowed “northeastward (东北)” or alternatively in the actual northwest-southeast direction of the North Bend [towards today's northeastern Yellow River inflexion point, of course], and then charged course to the south (南) along today's Eastern Yellow River Bend, of course, which was to be known as ‘xi he’ or the West River. -So, there is no slight doubt to this webmaster that the Ji-shi (积石 piled-up mountain) reference here had to be some piled up rocks mountain at today’s northwestern Yellow River inflexion point. Namely, this is not the same as the Lesser Jishi [小積石] in Jincheng [金成河關縣], a county near today’s Linxia (临夏) and Lanzhou on the bank of the Yellow River, nor the Greater Jishi [大積石] in Maqu (馬曲) of Qinghai, to the south of today’s Qilian Mountain [part of the Kunlun mythical land] and near the Yellow River nine-winding area.

More evidence about the locality of Ji-shi [積石):

《尚書·夏書·禹貢》

黑水西河惟雍州。弱水既西。涇属渭汭。漆沮既从。汧水攸同。冀首惟明。河首惟方。柳及既腖。殿閟於海。

More evidence about the locality of Ji-shi [積石]:

《卷二》Volume II

Volume 2 was about the travelogue of Zhou King Muwang at the Kunlun hill.

Mu-tian-zhi also inferred that Bo-yao (Count of the Yellow River) lived at the land of the origin of the Yellow River. This, in this webmaster’s opinion, could mean that the Yellow River, at the very origin in the grasslands and along the most part of the West Yellow River Bend, was so slow that it was not in a sense considered a real river. Hence, the origin of the Yellow River started around the inflexion point of the Western Yellow River Bend and the Northern Western Yellow River Bend.

http://www.imperialchina.org/Dynasties/?p=43 6/14
What Mu-tian-zi-zhuan inferred from the mouth of Bo-yao, i.e., the Count of the Yellow River, there was one person from the Shang dynasty’s lineage, by the name of ‘Mo-zhou’, who was assigned the land to the north of the North Yellow River Bend.

柏夭曰：欲封膜昼于河水之阳（膜昼，人名。膜音莫），以为殷人主（主，谓主其祭祀，言同姓也）。

Towards the southwest direction, the king climbed up to see an ancient lord’s ruins, where there were the big trees, luxuriant grass, and beasts. Days later, the king traveled further to a place where the locals surrendered wine to the king. After drinking, the king continued his way, and spent the night at the foot of Kunlun and on the northern riverbank of the Chi-shui River. The king spent three days at the Zhen-niao bird’s mountain.

At the slope of Kunlun, and on the north bank of Chi-shui (Red River, said to be one of five different colored rivers in the area), where the Chi-shui River came from the southeastern direction, made an inflection, and then flowed to the northeastern direction. (A brief check of the map would pinpoint the tri-provincial area of Inner Mongolia, Ningxia and Gansu, namely, from Jingyuan to Shimen to Zhongwei, as fitting in with the recorded pattern for the Yellow River, not the Red River. Per Jin Yufei, Kunlun-shan could be an altar somewhere between today’s Yinchuan and Qingtongxia. Per Jin Yufei, Kunlun-shan could be an altar somewhere between today’s Yinchuan and Qingtongxia. Per Jin Yufei, Kunlun was a small hill that was later appropriated to mean a different mountain.)

–Note Kunlun-shan (昆仑山, i.e., mountain) was not the same as Kunlun-xu (昆仑虚, i.e., remains or ruins), nor Kunlun-qiu (昆仑之丘, i.e., hill). See below for the ultimate destination of Kunlun-shan (昆仑山, i.e., mountain) where the Queen Mother lived.

On a propitious day (i.e., ‘xin you’), the king climbed up the Kunlun-zhi-qiu hill to observe the Yellow Overlord’s palace. The king ordered to add mud on top of the mausoleum-kin of the round burial ground for sake of propagating the message of reverence to the future people. Days later, the king prepared the animals for making sacrifice to the Kunlun hill.

Muwang campaigned to the north, stopped at Zhu-ze (the pearl lake) and fished at the Liu-shui River. Returning south, Muwang climbed Kunlun on the date of ‘xin-you’. At Kunlun Hill, there was a palace from the Huangdi (Yellow Overlord) era, which was located to the north of the Red River and to the south of Chong-shan Mountain.

天子升于昆仑之丘，以观黄帝之宫（黄帝巡游四海，登昆仑山，起宫室于其上。见《新语》），而封隆之葬（隆上字疑作丰，丰隆，筮御云得大壮卦，遂为雷师。亦犹黄帝桥山有墓。封，谓增高其上土也，以标显之耳），以诏后世（诏谓语之）。癸亥，天子具蠲齐牲全，以禋昆仑之丘。

天子北征，舍于珠泽（此泽出珠，因名之云。今越巂平泽出青珠是），以钓于氵不水。曰：珠泽之薮，方三十里（泽中有草者为薮）。爰有雚、苇、蒲、茅、薠、蒹、薾。乃献白玉只，□角之一，□三，可以□沐。乃进食，□酒十□，姑劓九□。亓味中麋胄而滑。

因献食马三百，牛羊三千。天子昆仑（此以上似说封人于昆仑山旁），以守黄帝之宫。南司赤水而北守舂山之珤（欲以崇表圣德，因用显其功迹）。天子乃赐□之人□吾，黄金之环三五（空边等为环），朱带贝饰三十（《淮南子》曰“贝带鵕鸃”，是也），□吾乃膜拜而受（今之胡人礼佛，举手加头，称南膜拜者，即此类也。音模）。天子又与之黄牛二六（以为犴牲种）以三十□人于昆仑丘。

季夏丁卯，天子北升于舂山之上，以望四野，曰：舂山，是唯天下之高山也。

Muwang then went north to Chong-shan Mountain which was said to be a place of blossom and plush, rich in jades, and full of birds and beasts. Mu-tian-zi continued to state that there was an imperial garden there, with the character ‘xian’ possibly inter-exchangeable to ‘xuan’ to mean a hanging-in-the-sky garden. (Per Jin Yufei, Chong-shan Mountain was part of the three-peak Helanshan Mountain Range.)

天子北征，舍于珠泽（此泽出珠，因名之云。今越巂平泽出青珠是），以钓于氵不水。曰：珠泽之薮，方三十里（泽中有草者为薮）。爰有雚、苇、蒲、茅、薠、蒹、薾。乃献白玉只，□角之一，□三，可以□沐。乃进食，□酒十□，姑劓九□。亓味中麋胄而滑。

天子昆仑（此以上似说封人于昆仑山旁），以守黄帝之宫。南司赤水而北守舂山之瑶（欲以崇表圣德，因用显其功迹）。天子乃赐□之人□吾，黄金之环三五（空边等为环），朱带贝饰三十（《淮南子》曰“贝带鵕鸃”，是也），□吾乃膜拜而受（今之胡人礼佛，举手加头，称南膜拜者，即此类也。音模）。天子又与之黄牛二六（以为犴牲种）以三十□人于昆仑丘。

天子升于舂山之上，以望四野，曰：舂山，是唯天下之高山也。

Zhou King Muwang then continued the westward campaign, and reached the land of Chi-wu-shi (red and black tribe) on the date of ‘jia-xu’, who were descendants of the lead (‘zhang [长]’) court minister under the Zhou Dynasty’s Grand King Danfu [Tanfu], by the name of Ji
Chuo [季绰], the same way as Zhou’s conferral of elder (yuan [元]) son to the Yangtze River delta, and further gave his elder daughter to Ji Chuo [季绰] as wife. (丌璧臣：丌=笄=玉器 => meaning protocol official. Ji Chuo [季绰] appeared to be a royal family member who became a son-in-law.) What this meant here was word for word, namely, the Chi-wu-shi Tribe was related to the Zhou family and had been living on the west bank of the Western Yellow River Bend since the beginning.

(Per Jin Yufei, Chi-wu-shi’s Chong-shan was to the west of the Chong-shan [i.e., Helanshan Mountain Range].)

壬申，天子西征。

甲戌，至赤乌。赤乌之人丌献酒千斛于天子。食马九百，羊牛三千，穄麦百车〔穄,似黍而不黏〕。天子使祭父受之，曰：赤乌氏先出自周宗〔与周同始祖〕，大王亶父〔即古公亶父字也〕之始作西土〔言作兴于岐山之下，今邑在扶风美阳是也〕，封其元子吴太伯于东吴〔太伯让国入吴，因即封之于吴〕，诏以金刃之刑〔南金精利，故语其刑法也〕，贿用周室之璧〔贿，赠贿也〕，封丌璧臣长季绰于舂山之虱，妻以元女，诏以玉石之刑〔昆仑山出美玉石处，故以语之〕，以为周室主。天子乃赐赤乌之人丌默乘四〔周礼，大夫乘墨车〕，黄金四十镒〔二十两为镒〕，贝带五十，朱三百裹。丌乃膜拜而受〔裹，音罪过之过。丌，名。赤乌，人名也〕，曰：□山，是唯天下之良山也。珤玉之所在。嘉谷生之，草木硕美。天子于是取嘉禾，以归树于中国〔汉武帝取外国香草美菜种之中国〕。

庚辰，济于洋水〔洋水，出昆仑山西北隅而东流。洋，音详〕。辛巳，入于曹奴之人戏，觞天子于洋水之上〔戏，国人名也〕。乃献食马九百，牛羊七千，穄米百车。天子使逢固受之〔逢固，周大夫〕。

King Muwang crossed the Yang-shui [洋水] River [which originated to the northwest of the Kunlun Hill, and flew eastward]. After receiving tribute from the Cao-nu [曹奴] people at Yang-shui, Muwang further campaigned to the north, and then returned from the eastern direction. Muwang then went to Hei-shui (black river, 黑水) on the date of ‘jia-shen’, which was apparently neither the Black Water River that flew down the northern slope of Qilian Mountain to enter the Black Water Lake at the Inner Mongolia border with Chinese Turkestan, nor the Black River south of Mt. Qilianshan and located in northern Sichuan Province. The Black River was said by Mu-tian-zi to be one of the five rivers there, which originated to the northwest of the Kunlun Hill but flew towards the southeast. At the Xi-he (? the west river segment) of the Black River, Zhou King Muwang officially assigned the land to the Chang-gong-shi (长肱) people, namely, the people with long arms but a same-length body as the Chinese.

壬午，天子北征，东还（从东头而还归）。甲申，至于黑水（水亦出昆仑山西北隅而东南流），西膜之所谓鸿鹭（西膜，沙漠之乡。以言外域，人名物与中华不同，春秋叔弓败莒师于清，言外域人名物也）, 于是降雨七日，天子留骨六师之属〔穆王马骏而御良，故行辄出从众前〕。天子乃封长肱于黑水之西河〔即长臂人也。身如中国，臂长三丈，魏时在赤海中得此人裾也。长脚人国，又在赤海东，皆见《山海经》〕，是惟昆仑鸿鹭之上，以为周室主。是曰留胥之邦〔因以名之〕。

辛卯，天子北征，东还，乃循黑水。癸巳，至于群玉之山〔即《山海经》：玉山，西王母所居者〕，容成氏之所守。曰：群玉田山，□知，阿平无险〔言边无险阻也〕，四彻中绳(言皆平实)，先王之所谓策府（言往古帝王以为藏书册之府，所谓藏之名山者也)，寡草木而无鸟兽（言纯玉石也）。

Muwang again campaigned to the north and returned along the Black Water River from the eastern direction. Muwang on the date of ‘gui-si’ arrived at the Mountains of Jade, i.e., the land of the Rong-cheng-shi (容成氏) people. (Per comments from ancient scholars such as Guo Pu, the jade mountain was the dwelling place of Queen Mother of the West, which could alternatively mean that Queen Mother of the West had a domain covering the whole area west of the Western Yellow River Bend.) Per Jin Yufei, this would be western slope of the northern part of the Helanshan Mountain, which was to the northeast of Chi-wu-shi’s Chong-shan Mountain. Muwang continued the campaign to the north to reach a place called Yuling (羽陵).

Thereafter on the date of ‘xin-chou’ Muwang went west to Ji-lv-shi (剞闾)’s land, i.e., Tieshan (铁山)。–Note somewhere there, there was a so-called iron pass that the later Tanguts had defended against Genghis Khan’s Mongols to the extent that the Mongols had to go straight west to detour around the Black Water lake and travel through the Tengri-Badanjin Deserts for attacking the Western Yellow River Bend from the west.

孟秋丁酉，天子北征，□之人潜弭〔潜弭,名也〕，觞天子于羽陵之上，乃献良马牛百九，羊牛七千，穄米百车。天子使逢固受之（逢固，周大夫）。

戊戍，天子西征。

辛丑，至剞闾氏〔音倚〕。天子乃命剞闾氏供食六师之人〔天子六军。《诗》曰“周王于迈，六师及之”〕于铁山之下。天子已祭而行，乃遂西征。
According to ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) (《纪年》), Zhou King Muwang met with Queen Mother of the West during the 17th year's reign.

《纪年》“穆王十七年，西征，至昆仑丘，见西王母。其年来见，宾于昭宫”.

Before the meeting with Queen Mother of the West, there was a missing passage about the western Xia people. As stated from Chapter 4, from Yangyuan-shan to Xixia-shi's land, there was a distance of 2,500 ancient li, and from Xixia-shi to Zhuo-yu-shi's land (He-shou, i.e., origin of the Yellow River), there was a distance of 1,500 ancient li. Here, the name Xi-xia [i.e., the western Xia people], who were inferred to be living near the origin of the Yellow River, namely, the northwestern inflection point, appeared to this webmaster to be a latter-day add-on, namely, it was a terminology that was in shape after the Tanguts launched the Western Xian dynasty in A.D. 1038. Per Jin Yufei, Xiang-shan Mountain would be Zhuo-zi-shan (table mountain) at today's Wuhai, Inner Mongolia. More, this webmaster believed that the number of summary leagues here, like the terminology Xi-xia or western Xia, were all latter historians' annotation.

Now, the place of naming for Kunlun-qiú here is being disputed. We noted previously that Kunlun-shan (昆仑山, i.e., mountain) was not the same as Kunlun-xu (昆仑墟, i.e., remains or ruins), nor Kunlun-qiú (昆仑丘, i.e., hill). There was a reference to Kunlun-qiú (昆仑丘, i.e., hill) previously, which was inferred to be an altar on today's Helanshan Mountain Range, that was from the Yellow Lord's era. Zhou King Muwang's ultimate destination of Kunlun-qiú (昆仑丘, i.e., hill) [not Kunlun-zhi-qiú (昆仑之丘, i.e., hill)], where the Queen Mother lived, was apparently a stony palace on today's Mt. Qilian-shan.

This webmaster wants to emphasize the importance of correctly pinpointing the geographical naming. There was an unfounded wild claim that the Yuezhi, who was inferred to be the misnomer Indo-European, were involved in the jade trade with Sinitic China since prehistory, and that Yang Bo-da, a jade con artist from modern-China's commodity world, claimed that the ancient Chinese jade as excavated in Shang queen Fuhao's tomb were from Khotan on basis of two sentences in China's history books:

Book 1 – Guan-zi – which Ma Feibai had pierced to be a forgery. The book juxtaposed the pearls from the Yangtze with the jade from the [fabricated] Yu-shi tribe. This webmaster had debunked the myth that Qi Lord Huan'gong ever campaigned across the Kunqtag Desert to state that there was no such thing as the Yuezhi or misnomer Yu-shi people being engaged in the jade trade at all.

Book 2 – Li Si’s “《谏逐客书》” etc – where the reference was that the ancient jade was termed Kunshan-yue or the jade from the Kunshan Mountain. This webmaster had analyzed Mu-tian-zi’s travelogue here to conclude that the ancient Chinese were referring to the Helanshan range on the bank of the West Yellow River Bend and the Qilian Mountain at the Western Corridor to be Mt. Kunshan, with at minimum two Kunlun-qiú (昆仑丘, i.e., hill) identified. Th Kunqtag Desert was still the Outer Limit of Sinitic China. Zhang Qian’s trip to the west was taken as PIERCING THE VACUUM in China’s history. Han emperor Wudi, after arguing with ministers, finally made his call in designating the Khotan jade as Mt. Kunlun jade. (Wudi's original intention was to seek out immortals on Mt Kunlun.) Prior to Wudi’s naming, we Chinese called this mountain south of the Taklamakan by NAN-SHAN or the Southern Mountain, a name that was apparently appropriated to the west from the original ZHONG-NAN-SHAN [i.e., the ultimate southern mountain], or the Qinling Ridge, south of the ancient capital of Xi’an. (Historian Sima Qian correctly defined the Kunlun Mountain as a mythical land, not a physical place: 司马迁《史记·大宛列传》：“史公曰：《禹本纪》言河出昆仑。昆仑其高二千五百余里，日月所相避隐为光明也。其上有丰泉瑶池。而天子发其九郡卒徒，往伐宛之宛王，宛王悉举国引兵奔其邑大宛。于是汉大破大宛。然后计其舆服车乘所至国，宛不足比数。乃自其子，发其天子美女，西至盐泽，以见天子。天子自初发，其属者数千人，马数百匹，前其代表。天子为发锡，西至盐泽，使使迎其一步到王都。其都城为九仞之城，城中居众前后万馀人。宛王见汉使者，匍匐顿首，谢大汉天子赐。”)
Muwang’s Travelogue was possibly a divination nature book. In the excavated bamboo slips, there were multiple divination statements matching Mu-tian-zhi-Zhuan’s records, including the record on the long distance travel to see Queen Mother of the West.

Zhou King Muwang then traveled north towards the Black Water Lake, namely, what was noted by 《山海经》as a big lake with birds dwelling around it, and what was noted by ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) as the land where birds’ feathers lay around an area extending for one thousand li distance.

《纪年》曰“穆王北征, 行积羽千里”,皆谓此野耳）。曰: 天子三月 舍子旷原, 天子大飨正公、诸侯、王, 勤七萃之士〔勤, 犹劳也〕,于羽陵之上（下有羽陵, 疑亦同）, 乃奏广乐。□。六师之人翔畋于旷原（翔, 犹游也）, 得获无疆（无疆, 无限也）, 鸟兽绝群（言取尽也）。六师之人大畋九日, 乃驻于羽陵之□, 收皮效物（物, 谓物色也。《诗》云“九十维物”）, 债车受载（债, 犹借也）。天子于是栽羽百车（十羽为籥, 百羽为縷, 十縷為緷。见《周官》）。

ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) was commented to have inferred that King Muwang spent three months at the wilderness, exhausting beasts and birds after an extensive hunting in the area. At Yuling (feather ridge [hill], 羽陵), which had to be near the lakeside and had to be the same Yuling that was mentioned in the first section of the travelogue – prior to the 360-degree clockwise trek, Muwang stayed for nine days. (This could mean that King Muwang had in fact traveled a whole circle to reach Yuling clockwise, the same place he first reached from the Kunlun[xu] locality.) Carting away feather in one hundred carts, Zhou King Muwang returned towards the east at the date of ‘ji-hai’. On the date of ‘geng-zi’, Zhou King Muwang arrived at [?] Shan Mountain (□) in advance, resting to wait for the arrival of his six columns of army to catch up.

天子于是栽羽百车（十羽为籥, 百羽为縷, 十縷為緷。见《周官》）。己亥, 天子东归, 余师□起。

Subsequently, on the date of ‘geng-chen’, Zhou King Muwang mounted an eastern [i.e., return] campaign and on the date of ‘gui-wei’ arrived at Wu-shan (戊山), the land of Zhi-shi (智氏). Zigzagging southward and eastward and back and forth, Zhou King Muwang returned towards Sinitic China. In probably the same fashion as the Mongols did in penetrating the Tengri/Badanjilin Deserts to attack the Tanguts from the west, Zhou King Muwang went through the deserts. Muwang continued the trip home, arriving at the Xian-shui (献水) River, and moving eastward and then southeastward to reach Gua-lu-shan (瓜爐) Mountain on the date of ‘ji-hai’, which was the land of the people of E-shi (阏氏, Yan-shi in modern pronunciation, with possibility of a misnomer link to the later Yuechi people) and Hu-shi (胡氏). Moving eastward through the deserts, on the date of ‘xin-chou’, Muwang had to drink horse’s blood to quell thirst at a place without water or a desert with watery sand, namely, 沙衍。

己丑, 至于瓜炉之山, 三周若城（言山周匝三重, 状如城垒）。阏氏胡氏（阏, 音遏）之所保。天子乃遂东征, 南绝沙衍（沙衍, 水中有沙者）。

[There was a possible gap or lost text between the end of chapter three and the beginning of chapter four. Nevertheless, the trip after collecting the feathers explicitly stated that the direction was to the east and south or to the southeast, which is to say that there is no likelihood that Zhou King Muwang ever crossed the Kumtag Desert to travel westward into the territories of today’s Chinese Turkestan.]

《卷四》Volume IV

[There was a possible gap or lost text between the end of chapter three and the beginning of chapter four.]

On the date of ‘geng-chen’, Zhou King Muwang arrived at the Tao-shui (滔水) River, the river where the Zhuo-yao-shi (飦氏) people made their living by fishing. The Legends of the Mountains and Seas claimed that Tao-shui could be the San-zhuo (三淖) River where the Kun-wu-shi (昆吾氏) people lived. (Note that ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS) stated that the Kun-wu-shi (昆吾氏) people were once the imperial guards of the Xia dynasty, the same as the ancestors of the Qin people acting as imperial guards of the Shang dynasty.) On the date of ‘bing-xu’, Zhou King Muwang reached the western border of the Chong-shi (重氏) clan, whom Count Bo-yao claimed would be descendants of the San-miao-shi people whom the ancient overlord Shun had exiled to the western Kumtag borderline from the mid-Yangtze/Han-shui River area. – Chong-shi (重氏) had to be the same as Chong-li-shi, namely, the guardian god of the southern Chinese, including the [O3-haplogroup Hmong-mien/Hundred Pu] people of the later Chu Principality. On the date of ‘geng-yin’, Muwang reached the bank of the Hei-shui (Black Water, 黑水) River, namely, the land of the Chong-shi (重氏) people.

庚辰, 至于滔水。飦氏之所食（《山海经》曰“有川名曰三淖, 昆吾之所食”亦此类）。辛巳, 天子东征。癸未, 至于苏谷。骨厮氏之所衣被（言谷中有草木皮, 可以为衣被）, 乃遂南征, 东还。丙戌, 至于长, 重氏之西疆（疆, 界也）。
The Hei-shui (Black Water) River, where the Chong-shi people lived, appeared to be an east-to-east [not the south-north flowing river that is known as the E-ji-na River today, a river where water flows down the northern slope of the Qilian Mountain to feed into the Black Water Lake]. More, the Hei-shui (Black Water) River as recorded in Chapter 4 must be the same as that mentioned in Chapter 1, which was said to have origin to the northwest of the Kunlun Hill and flow southeastward, being part of the five rivers around the Kunlun Hill. –This pointed to King Muwang’s travel encompassing the whole circle that included today’s Tengri and Bayin deserts. As to this west-to-east Black River, it could have been buried by the sand already by now.

丁亥，天子升于长，乃遂东征。庚寅，至于重氏黑石之阿。爱有野麦（自然生也），爱有苞堇（祗谨二音），西膜之所谓木禾（木禾，谷类也）。长五寻，大五围。见〈山海经〉）。

重氏之所食。爱有采石之山（出文采之石也），重氏之所守，曰：枝斯，藻瑰（藻瑰，玉名）。〈左传〉曰：赠我以藻瑰。翣回两音）。<王史>瑶（瑶，瑶音通），琅玕（石似珠也，琅玕两音），玲（玲，玉名，字皆无闻。玲音铃饼），珥珥（玉属也，珥珥其二音），尾（尾无闻焉），凡好石之器于是出（尽出此山）。孟秋癸巳，天子命重氏共食天子之属（侲供，言不及六师也）。五日丁酉，天子升于采石之山，于是取采石焉。天子使重氏，铸以成器于黑水之上（今外国人所铸作器者，亦皆石类也）。

乙丑，天子东征，送天子至于长沙之山。□只，天子使柏夭受之。柏夭曰：重氏之先，三苗之□处，以黄银木采，□乃膜拜而受（三苗，舜所杀于三危山者）。

On the date of ‘yi-chou’, the Chong-shi people escorted Zhou King Muwang to Changsha-shan Mountain (长沙之山). On the date of ‘ji-si’, Zhou King Muwang arrived at Wenshan (文山) Mountain, with ‘wen’ meaning the ingrained marks on the stones. Muwang spent three days collecting the colored stones. On the date of ‘ren-yin’, King Muwang had a drinking banquet on Mt Wenshan. The people of Wenshan surrendered 10 horses, 300 oxen, 90 dogs, 200 desert-traveling camel-like oxen (i.e., single hump camel).

丙寅，天子三日游于文山。于是取采石焉。□子之山。有模堇，其叶是食明后（模堇，木名。后，君也。堇，音谨）。天子嘉之，赐以佩玉一只，柏夭再拜稽首。

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癸酉，天子命驾八骏之乘，右服骝（疑华骝字）而左绿耳，右骖赤□（疑渠字），事皇天。天子三日游于文山。于是取采石焉。□子之山。有模堇，其叶是食明后（模堇，木名。后，君也。堇，音谨）。天子嘉之，赐以佩玉一只，柏夭再拜稽首。

乙亥，天子升于长，乃遂东征。庚寅，至于重氏黑石之阿。爱有野麦（自然生也），爱有苞堇（祗谨二音），西膜之所谓木禾（木禾，谷类也）。长五寻，大五围。见〈山海经〉）。

重氏之所食。爱有采石之山（出文采之石也），重氏之所守，曰：枝斯，藻瑰（藻瑰，玉名）。〈左传〉曰：赠我以藻瑰。翣回两音）。<王史>瑶（瑶，瑶音通），琅玕（石似珠也，琅玕两音），玲（玲，玉名，字皆无闻。玲音铃饼），珥珥（玉属也，珥珥其二音），尾（尾无闻焉），凡好石之器于是出（尽出此山）。孟秋癸巳，天子命重氏共食天子之属（侲供，言不及六师也）。五日丁酉，天子升于采石之山，于是取采石焉。天子使重氏，铸以成器于黑水之上（今外国人所铸作器者，亦皆石类也）。

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On the date of 'bing-yin', Zhou King Muwang was back walking on the narrow ridge road of the Xing-shan (钘山) Mountain. After crossing today's Taihangshan Mountain, Zhou King Muwang crossed the Yellow River to reach the capital Zong-zhou.

Measuring the recorded length of the segments of trip, from capital Zong-zhou to the land of the Yellow River deity [i.e., Yangyu-shan Mountain], the distance was 3,400 ancient li; from Yangyu-shan to Xixia-shi's land, the distance was 2,500 ancient li; from Xixia-shi to Zhu-yu-shi (珠余氏)’s land (He-shou, i.e., origin of the Yellow River), the distance was 1,500 ancient li; from Xiang-shan Mountain at He-shou (origin of the Yellow River) to Chong-shan/Zhu-ze/Kunlun, the distance was 700 ancient li; from Chong-shan to Chi-wu-shi’s Chong-shan, the distance was 300 ancient li; and from the land of Queen Mother of the West to the northern wilderness (大旷原), the distance was 1,900 ancient li.

The return trip to the southeast could be subdivided into the segment from the northwestern wilderness to Yangyu Mountain (7,000 ancient li) and from Yangyu Mountain to the capital (3,000 ancient li).

Zhou King Muwang, after return to the capital, went to the Luo-shui River, traveled north to cross the Yellow River, and returned southwest to reach Nanzheng in the Hanzhong area, southwest of today’s Xi’an. (Mu-tian-zi-Zhuan, a warring states time period book, had mixed up the two Zhou capital cities of Haojing [Xi’an] and Luoyi [Luoyang]. There were more than half of the terminologies used in the book, that were only used in the late Zhou dynasty time period.)
From ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS):

- In the first year of King Muwang's reign, the king, who was already 50 years old, ordered the building of the Zhao-gong Palace after ascending the throne in the first lunar month, and in month of October, ordered to build the Qi-gong Palace in Nanzheng. In this year, Muwang made a conferral onto Yu-mi (Count Xin-bo) who previously made a rescue of Zhou King Zhaoang in the Han-shui River while the Zhou army was campaigning against the Jing-ren (?O3-haplogroup Hundred Pu people or O3-haplogroup Hmong-mien people).

- In the sixth year, Zi-dan (? Viscount Dan) of Xu of the Xu-an statelet, one of the [? O2-haplogroup] Yi people [along the Huai-shui River], came to the Zhou court, and was conferred the title of Bo (Count).

- In the spring of the 8th year reign, Bei-tang (i.e., North Tang, some Northwestern Rong statelet), came to deliver a black-colored horse as tribute, which later gave birth to one of Muwang's chariot horses, Lu-er.

- In the 9th year, Muwang ordered to construct the Chun-gong [spring] Palace.

- In the 11th year, King Muwang made a conferral on 'Qing-shi' [minister] Moufu, i.e., Lord (Duke) Ji-gong.

- In the 12th year, Ban (Lord Mao-gong), Liâ (Lord Gong-gong), and Guï (Lord Pang-gong [?Feng-gong]) commanded the army to campaign against the Quan-rong barbarians under the helm of King Muwang. In October, King Muwang went north [i.e., northwest] on a hunting trip and attacked the Quanrong [in today's Guyuan area of Ningxia]. (King Muwang attacked the Quan-ron against the advice of Ji-gong, which led to the barbarians' cessation of tribute relationship with the Zhou court.)

- In the spring of the thirteenth year, Ji-gong commanded an army on a western expedition under the helm of King Muwang, and reached the land of Yangyu. In July, the Xi-Rong [western Rong] sent an emissary to seeing Zhou King Muwang. While King Muwang was campaigning in the west, the Xu-Rong people under self-proclaimed King Xu-yun-wang [i.e., Zhou-sanctified Count Zi-dan] invaded the Luo-he River area from the east. In October, Zhou King Muwang, riding on the chariot commandeered by Zao-fu, returned to the Zong-zhou capital for quelling the Xu-yun-wang rebellion. (According to ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNLSS), Zhou King Muwang met with Queen Mother of the West during the 17th year of the reign. According to Mu-tian-zi, i.e., Zhou King Muwang's travelogue, King Muwang departed the capital one year earlier, and traveled to the north of the Northern Yellow River Bend, where Mount Yangyu was said to be located, and continued on the trip to seeing the Queen Mother in July of the 17th year of the reign. Hence, the two accounts had conflict, meaning that MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN or the travelogue was a fiction written in the 4th century B.C.E. on basis of the limited records available in ZHU SHU JI NIAN (THE BAMBOO ANNALS).)

- In the fourteenth year, King Muwang, having obtained another stallion Ji-liu,] travelled south to the Chu land, ordered Chu-zi (Viscount Chu) [i.e., Chu King Wenwang per Hou Han Shu] to attack the Xu rebels. The Xu rebellion was quelled. In April, King Muwang went hunting at Jinqiu; in May, ordered to construct the Fan-gong Palace. In September, the Di-ren barbarians invaded the Bi statelet. In winter, King Muwang went hunting at Ping-ze Lake. After a tiger was caught, King Muwang ordered to build a tiger cage, i.e., the future Hulao [tiger cage] Pass in today's Yingshang, Henan Province. (This turned out to be the story of the king’s bodyguard Gao-ben-rong catching the tiger barehanded in the fiction MU-TIAN-ZI-ZHUAN.)

- In the spring of the 15th year reign, the Liu-kun-shi people came to pay pilgrimage. King Muwang ordered to make Chongbi-tai (double wall terrace). In winter, King Muwang stayed at the Yian-ze (the salt lake).

- In the 16th year, Marquis Huo-hou, Jiu, passed away. King Muwang conferred onto Zhao-fu the land of Zhao.

- In the 17th year reign, King Muwang made an expedition to Kunlun-qi (Kunlun Hill), and visited the Queen Mother of the West. In this year, the Queen Mother of the West came to Zhou to show respect, and dwelled at the Zhao-gong Palace. In Autumn, in August, Zhou King Muwang relocated the [Quan-] Rong barbarians to the land of Tai-yuan [grand plateau, i.e., the land of the origin of the Jing-shui and Wei-shui Rivers]. (The barbarians would continue to move east, became part of the Li-rong barbarians at Mount Lishan after sacking Haoying the Zhou capital and then crossed the Yellow River to reach today's Shanxi, where they might have split into the Bai-di and Chi-di barbarians [if not the same as descendants of Tang-shu or Uncle Tang] and intermarried with the Jinn principality – possibly the hint as to the imaginary meeting between Zhou King Muwang and the Quan-ron in the fictional travelogue Mu-tian-zi of the 4th century B.C.E.) (Per Hou Han Shu, King Muwang caught five barbarian chieftains in this campaign, whom the later historians referred to as chieftains of the Five Rong Group, i.e., ancestors of the later Yi-qi-rong people.)
In the spring of the eighteenth year, King Muwang lived at the Qi-gong Palace, where he received the visits of the vassals. (ZUO ZHUAN claimed that minister Ji-gong had advised against the king's lavish travel across the country, wrote a poem called QI [Qi-gong Palace] ZHAO [axiom], and the king accepted the advice and lived to pass away at the Qi-gong Palace.)

In the 21st year, Ji-gong [posthumously Ji-wen-gong] passed away.

In the twenty-fourth year, King Muwang ordered Zuo-shi [leftside history minister, i.e., one of the three elderly dukes], to take charge of compiling the history of the king's commandments and the past dynastic events.

In the thirty-fifth year, the Jing-ren people, who were in today's Hanzhong plains and had defeated predecessor Zhou King Zhaowang, intruded into the Xu land. Count Mao-bo, i.e., Qian, commanded the army to defeat the Jing-ren at (? not possibly Zigui, which was near today's Yangtze gorges and the Han-shui River estuary).

In the thirty-seventh year, King Muwang raised nine armies to attack south, reaching as far as Jiujiang (the nine rivers), with turtles caught to make a bridge. The Zhou army attacked the Yue statelet [at the lowerstream Yangtze], and reached the place of Yu [which could be the soundex word for the 'yu' word in the term Yu-yue people]. The Jing-ren people [who were to the upper reach of the Yangtze] came to submit tributes [after hearing of Zhou's campaign success in the lower Yangtze].

In the 39th year, King Muwang assembled vassals at Mount Tushan, where Lord Yu, the Xia dynasty founder, married with the Tu-shan-shi woman who was noted in legends to have the shape of the nine-tail fox. (This could be the San-tu place mentioned in ZUO ZHUAN, near today's Luoyang, Henan.)

In the forty-fifth year, Marquis Lu-hou of the Lu Principality, by the name of Ji Fei4, passed away.

In the 51st year, King Muwang made the penal code "Lv Xing" after reflecting on his 100 plus years of life.

In the fifty-fifth year, King Muwang passed away at the Zhi-gong Palace.

**Historical truth:**

《左传》昭公十二年: “昔穆王欲肆其心，周行天下，将皆必有车辙马迹焉。祭公谋父作《祈招》之诗，以止王心，王是以获没于祗宫。”

Zhou King Muwang was said by ZHOU BEN-JI of SHI JI to be already 50 years old, when he ascended to the throne. The LV XING section of SHANG SHU claimed that the king lived to one hundred years, which was called by 'qi [old] huang [desolate]', for which the Warring States scholars made him an icon of longevity through fiction MU TIAN ZI. ZUO ZHUAN, in the 12th year of Lu Lord Zhaogong, carried a dialogue between Chu King Lingwang and Chu minister Zi-ge, which was about the minister's attempt at dissuading the ill-fated Chu king from continuous military campaigns against the small feudatory states. When the Chu king mentioned minister 'zuo shi Yi-xiang' and his abilities to read the ancient texts, Zi-ge replied to state that if 'zuo shi Yi-xiang' did not know the QI ZHAO poem that Zhou minister Ji-gong-Mou-fu wrote to dissuade Zhou King Muwang from travelling across the country to leave the rut trace and horse shoe prints, how could he know things beyond. This episode in ZUO ZHUAN provided proof that MU TIAN ZI was a latter-day invention while the records in THE BAMBOO ANNALS were well known among both the people in the central Sinitic land and the far south Chu Principality's world before 530 B.C. The fiction in MU TIAN ZI hence could be pierced. The Zhou king had taken the admonition, hence stayed put, and died in the Zhi-gong palace.