

MY SILK ROAD JOURNEY: ASHIDE LUSHAN



It is 695 C.E., you are a Sogdian noblewoman, Sogdiana was a territory of the Persian Achaemenid Dynasty, you believe in Zoroastrianism, and are a renowned horseback archer living in the Ferghana Valley. You will be going to Chang'an (X'ian) the capital city of the Tang Dynasty in China with your father. The purpose of the visit is that your father, Yu Lushan has been invited by the Tang imperial court to discuss the purchase of some horses from the Ferghana Valley, which are prized by the Tang military. Your father has invited you so that you might show your skill to the envoys of the Tang and demonstrate the strength of your horses. Your group will be taking a common route on the Silk Road headed east to China. First you will travel by horseback to Samarkand to visit with family you have there. Your group will then travel to Kashgar for supplies and to join a camel caravan in an effort to not exhaust your horses with riders and supplies as you cross the Taklamakan Desert. Your caravan stops in Dunhuang in the Gobi Desert to resupply and rest, while there you visit the Mogao Caves. While in Dunhuang, you visit with a colony of fellow Sogdians living there, which was one of your group's purposes in taking this route - your group spends a few days socializing with them and learning about their experiences in this area. Finally you depart for your final destination of Chang'an (X'ian) to meet with envoys of the Tang Imperial Court, show your skills, and hopefully make a profitable trade on your horses.

Character 3 – Ashide Lushan

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, etc.. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
 - o First paragraph, explain that Sogdiana was a last remaining kingdom of ancient Persians that were never taken over by the Greeks over the last several hundred years. Describe her

religion of Zoroastrianism. Also explain that the Sogdians are concerned about Muslim expansion into their territory but have thus far maintained their independence. Describe Sogdiana and the Ferghana Valley. Also talk about your skills as an archer on horseback, uncommon for a woman at the time.

- Second paragraph, explain why you are going on the Silk Road to the capital city of the mighty Tang. Horses of the Ferghana Valley were highly prized by the Tang military.
- I paragraph/2 images travel by horse to Samarkand and the city of Samarkand the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- I paragraph/2 images on the city of Kashgar (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- I ½ - 2 paragraphs/2 images on what it's like to be in a camel caravan and describe the Taklamakan Desert.
- 2 paragraphs/4 images on the Gobi Desert, the city of Dunhuang the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) – including info on the colony of Sogdians you visit there. And the art of the Mogao Caves.
- I paragraph/2 images on your final destination of Chang'an/X'ian the capital city of the Tang dynasty the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and what you did while there.
- I paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)

Information about the Persian Achaemenid Dynasty: <http://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/History/hakhamaneshian/achaemenid.htm>

Information and art images for Sogdiana:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/sogdians/sogdians.html>

Information about the history and pictures for the Ferghana Valley: <http://www.orexca.com/fergana-valley.shtml> and customs of the people there <http://www.orexca.com/customs.shtml>

Information about Zoroastrianism:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/religion/zoroastrianism/zoroastrianism.html>

Information about the Silk Road to China:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Information and images of Samarkand (only pay attention to history prior to Arab invasion in the early 700s C.E./early 8th century) <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/uz/samarkand/samarkand.html>

Information on Kashgar (only pay attention to history prior to Arab invasion in the early 700s C.E./early 8th century): <http://iranicaonline.org/articles/kashgar-kasgar-town-in-xinjiang>

Information on Camels of the Silk Road: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Information about being in a camel caravan: [http:// www.cpamedia.com/trade-routes/silk-road-trade-transport/](http://www.cpamedia.com/trade-routes/silk-road-trade-transport/)

Information about the Taklamakan Desert:

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Takla Makan Desert](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Takla_Makan_Desert)

Information on the history of Dunhuang: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/china/dh/dh.html> and <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/china/dh/dhhist.html> Dunhuang Cave Art (Magao Caves): <http://www.silk-road.com/dunhuang/dhintro.html> and interactive guide to art of the Magao Caves <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/06/dunhuang-caves/caves-interactive>

Images of travel in the Gobi Desert http://www.pbase.com/andrew_s_cheung/dunhuang_of_gobi_desert

Information on the Sogdian colony in Dunhuang (scroll down the page to find relevant information):

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/china/dh/sochist.html>

Information on the Tang Dynasty and Chang'an http://www.aboutxinjiang.com/topic/content/2008-01/18/content_2402380.htm and images <http://www.pitt.edu/~asian/week-10/week-10.html>

GENERAL RESOURCES ON THE SILK ROAD:

Modern Travel Journal Example: <http://www.jodypoesy.com/html/alterredbook.html>

Silk Road Travelers Maps (go to Silk Road Travelers, hit the arrow tab and scroll down to your traveler for map of where he traveled to): <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/maps/maps.html>

Information on Cities and Architecture of the Silk Road:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/cities.html>

Art and Culture from the Silk Road from the Art Institute of Chicago:

http://www.artic.edu/aic/education/trc/borrow/Selfguide_FINAL_new_.pdf

Cultures of the Silk Road:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/timeline.html>

Religions of the Silk Road:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/religion/religion.html>

Trade Routes of the Silk Road:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Camels and Horses on the Silk Road:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

The Importance of Silk:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Map of the Silk Road and images of goods sold on it:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Cross-Cultural Exchange on art/goods produced:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/exchange/exchange.html> (click on image of goods to the left for information on products)