

To Me China Is Full of “Magic Power”

By: Becky (Xiaoli Shi)

When talking about China, what is your first impression?

You may think:

- China is a big country with various kinds of **delicious food**. (I have to admit that Stinky Tofu is too stinky to bear though.)
- China is an ancient country with a **long history**. (In high school, remembering all this detailed knowledge was a nightmare for me.)

Indeed, as was once said of William Shakespeare's play: “There are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people’s eyes.” So naturally, **there are a thousand “China”s in a thousand people’s eyes**. For me, a native college student who is one of the witnesses for the fast development of China has been studying Chinese history for nearly twenty years, and as a “fanatic” of the Chinese marital arts, I prefer to regard China as a country with “**magic power**.”

On Transportation:

You might have heard of “**Chinese Speed**” before. Yes, it is the typical phrase for the “magic power” of transportation.

- First it is about the fast development of **Chinese high-speed railways**. Once, my English teacher told us, in the 1990s, it would take one and a half days to get from Hefei to Beijing (1017.9 kilometers). But now, in 2019, you only need five hours.
- Second it is about the **transportation infrastructure**. Now, here is a riddle for you: What is the world’s largest annual “human migration”? You can find the answer when you come to China during the Spring Festival. Welcome! (The Spring Festival is just like Christmas Day, and we Chinese people should all go home no matter how far our hometown is.) There is a report from CNN about Spring Festival 2019: “2.46 billion miles will be covered by automobile, 413 million by rail, and 73 million by air.” This was unimaginable even ten years ago, but now China can handle it.

So in China, don’t worry about transportation, we have the “**Magic Power**”!



(From *Daily Mail* in 2019)

About Kung Fu:

Kung Fu, the nickname of Chinese martial arts, is another “magic power” of China.

But...

Not everyone in China is good at *Kung Fu*, but we like it, or just...**watch** it.



(Yes, watch *Kung Fu Panda* in a cinema!)

- Kung Fu, to begin with, is very **powerful**. As a national treasure of China, it has hundreds of styles. (Actually, we Chinese people also don't know the exact number). But, the origin of Kung Fu can be traced back to the needs of self-defense, hunting, and ancient Chinese military training. So, it is very powerful.
- What's more, Kung Fu is very **magical**. Why? Of course, it doesn't mean it will make us as strong as Captain America. But rather it is the culture behind it that makes it more magical. Some features in Kung Fu imitate animal actions in order to convey the notion of “unity between man and nature.” Kung Fu calls for respect of nature and harmony between man and nature. And Kung Fu is also enlightened by Chinese philosophical thoughts such as in Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, and ancient myths and legends. Too abstract to learn? Yes! That is the basic element of “magic”.

In short, to me China is full of magic. Want to know more about the magic power? Ok, I will tell you how to do it: come to China, buy a high-speed railway ticket, and learn Kung Fu!

What are your thoughts about China? Do you like China? Let me know your thoughts and experiences in the comments below!