

HONG KONG DAY AND NIGHT

Written and illustrated
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In the 17th and 18th centuries, as the British followed other European powers in bypassing overland Silk Roads with maritime routes to Asia, they used Hong Kong as their gateway to China for silk, tea and porcelain. With their trade came people, mostly from China but also from throughout South Asia and the British Empire. Now it's a city of seven million



2012 is the Chinese year of the Dragon (the only mythical animal of the 12 in the Chinese calendar). It is the best year for marriage and children. It is life's strongest good-luck symbol. On a crowded tram, couples holding the overhead support rail whisper to one another. Possibly planning for their lucky year? Or a dragon wedding? To many people in the West, Hong Kong is another symbol of the exotic and increasingly wealthy East, but to those pressed together in the tram, it is just home.



Descendants of those who arrived at the end of the Silk Road era or with the British are still here, even though non-Chinese are only about five percent of the city

Sketching this scene from the Peak it became night before I finished, but I kept drawing and thought later I would

decide to come back to finish drawing by either day or by night. But later this became the truer picture, showing Hong Kong as a city that harmonizes its East-West, yin-yang, light-dark. You need both here. The painting became a symbol of a harmonious approach to life.

"In the early 20th century, it was for Chinese only. People migrated from China to Hong Kong. Gradually they settled here. Ours is a minority religion in Hong Kong, and we wanted our children to know something about the Qur'an. So we established our schools."

"We have Islamic studies in addition to the normal education. I am responsible for the common subjects for students who take public examinations."

"Today we have students from South and eastern China plus Nepal, Pakistan and Malaysia. We operate one secondary school, two primary schools and two kindergartens. We are subsidized by the government but it is all very competitive. We supply the uniforms and transportation."

Former-Chief Librarian Hong Kong Central Library
Alima Tuet
Committee Member
Chinese Muslim Fraternal Association



"In recent years most immigrants are lower class migrants, especially construction workers, security and domestics. They send money back home which is one reason we subsidize them."

"It is like Catholic schools in Toronto. I have a sister living there whom I visit occasionally. So I know how that works."



The Hui Muslims settled in China a thousand years ago. They played an important role bringing Islam to Hong Kong. Many are direct descendants of the Silk Road travellers. One of the best known is Kasim Wilson Tuet wai-sin. Born in Guangzhou in 1919, he came to Hong Kong with his father when still a boy. He graduated from the Kadoorie Academy, and the Islamic Tuet Memorial College is named after him. Today his niece, Alima Tuet, manages the College. She was Chief Librarian of the Hong Kong Central Library and president of the Hong Kong Library

Association. She is now a committee member of the Chinese Muslim Cultural and Fraternal Association, Supervisor of the Islamic Dharwood Pau Memorial Primary School and manager of Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College

Filipinos, Indonesians and Malay gather here. Most are domestics, security guards and construction workers. This is where they register for work and send money home to their families. Many of their children receive a subsidy for education.

Rob proudly posed at the World Wide House.

The World Wide House is a tall office building in the part of the city called Central. Stores on the ground floor and offices above. The subway station 'Central' is under the building.

世界大屋 - WORLD-WIDE HOUSE



"I work here 17 years. I'm a security guard." He smiles "lazy job." (Laughs)