

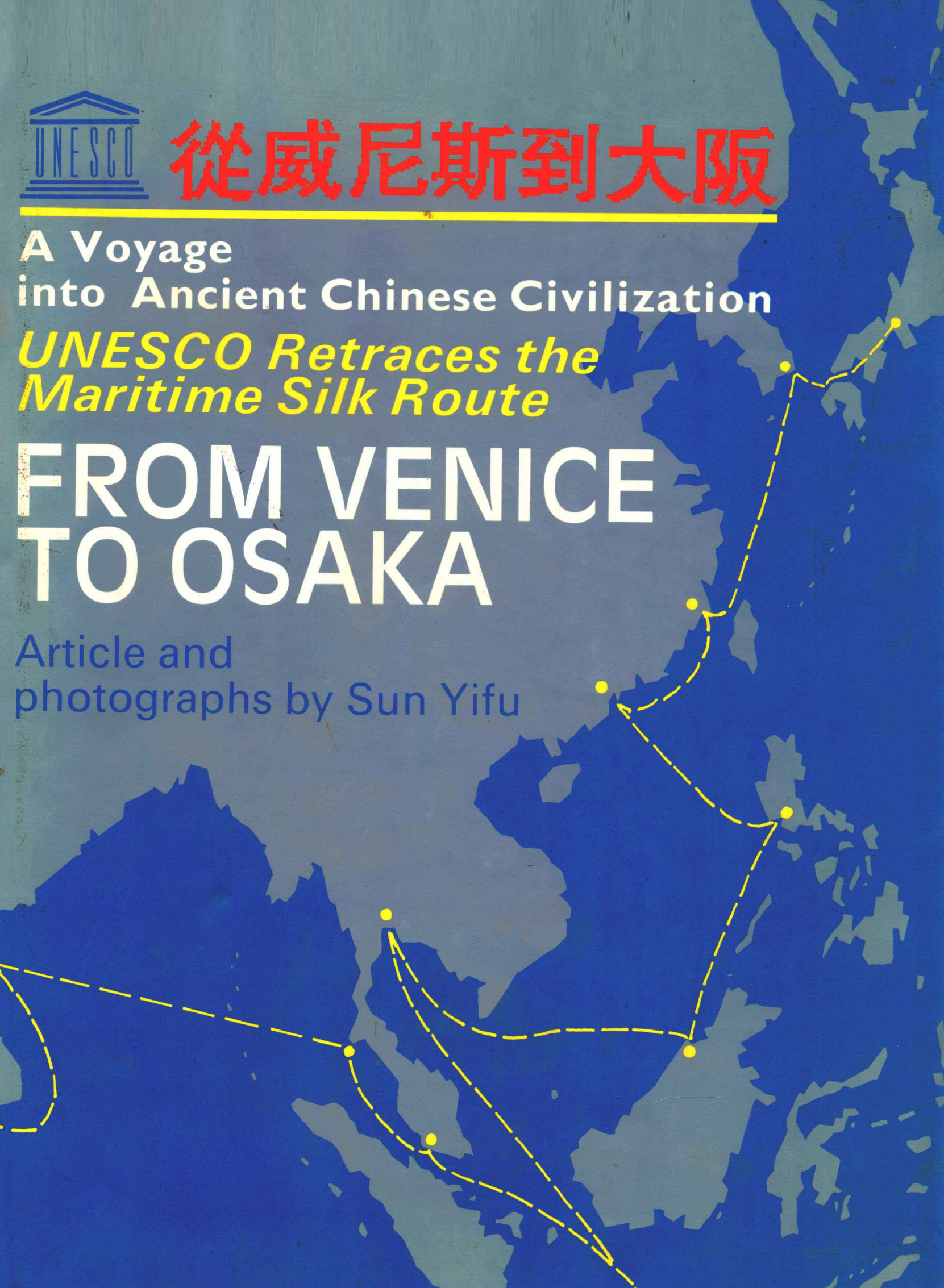
# 從威尼斯到大阪

A Voyage  
into Ancient Chinese Civilization

*UNESCO Retraces the  
Maritime Silk Route*

## FROM VENICE TO OSAKA

Article and  
photographs by Sun Yifu





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**A Voyage**  
**into Ancient Chinese Civilization**  
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*Maritime Silk Route*

# **FROM VENICE TO OSAKA**

Article and  
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The maritime expedition began at Venice, Italy, and ended in Japan's Osaka, covering a distance of 28,000 kilometers. Pictured is the *Ship of Peace*, provided by H.M. Sultan Qabus of Oman, sailing on the Mediterranean.





Federico Mayor(left), Director-General of UNESCO, chats with an Indonesian scholar on the *Ship of Peace*.

Within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997) UNESCO in 1988 launched a major project entitled "Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue." One of the objectives of the project was to mobilize academic communities throughout the world to do research on the Silk Roads. It would also strengthen the cultural identity of each country through the study of its cultural heritage, thus contributing to the enrichment and preservation of that heritage.

UNESCO's Director-General Federico Mayor said, "The silk routes, which traversed steppe, sea and desert, were above all routes of encounter and dialogue, contributing to the cross-fertilization of great civilizations. The purpose of the 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads' is to heighten contemporary awareness of the need for dialogue by highlighting the historic opportunity for mutually enriching understanding and communication between the different civilizations linked by these roads.

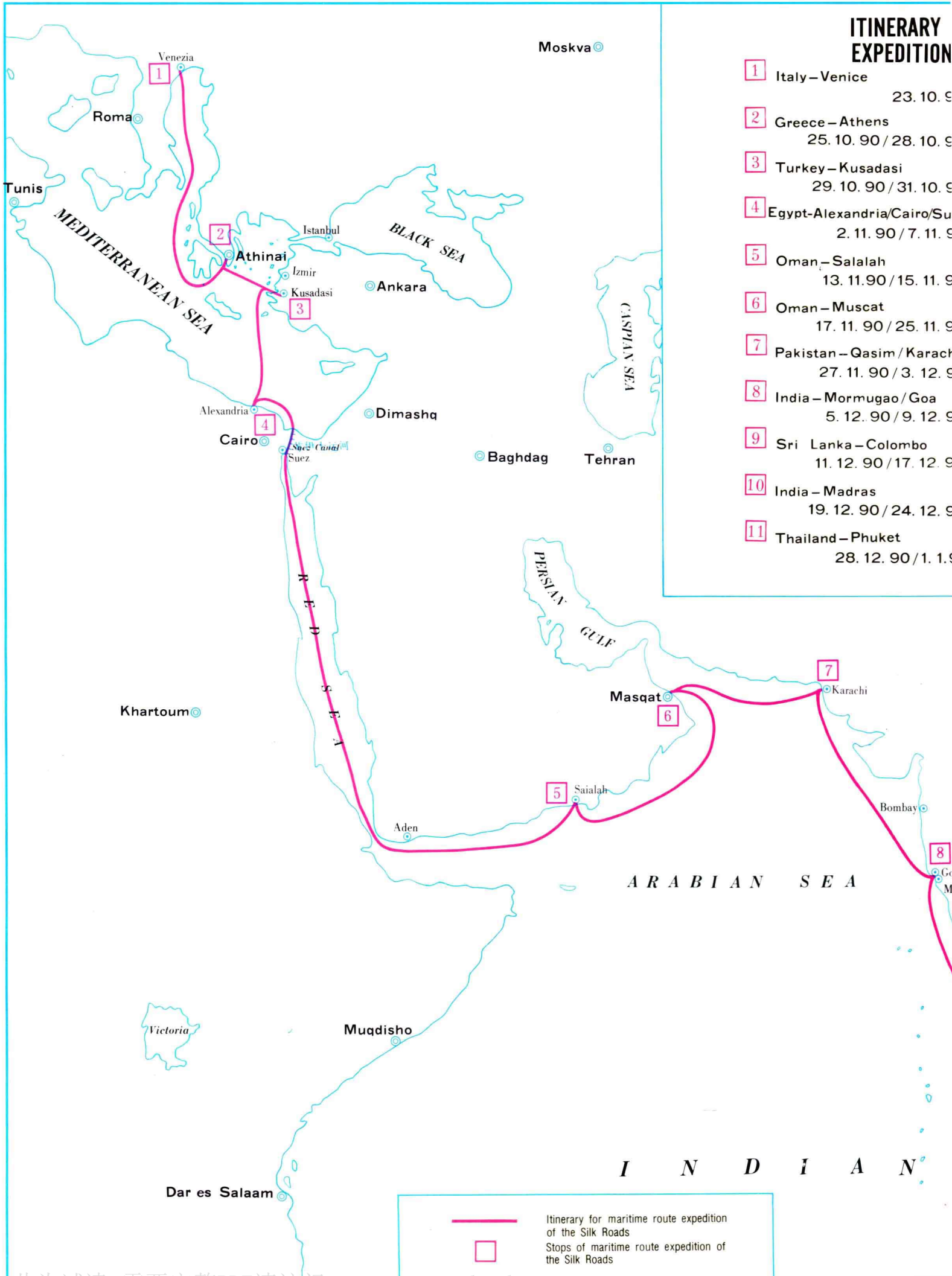
" UNESCO's maritime expedition, which is being undertaken within the framework of the 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue,' has been made possible by the generosity of H.M. Sultan Qabus of Oman, who has placed at its disposal his own ship, the *Fulk-al-Salamah* (*Ship of Peace*). The starting point of the expedition is Venice – city of Marco Polo, the 'West's window on the East.' After visiting 15 countries, the ship will conclude its voyage in Osaka, the ancient port of Naniwa, whence Japanese monks set sail to China in the eighth century. "

— The editor —



# ITINERARY EXPEDITION

- 1 Italy – Venice 23. 10. 9
- 2 Greece – Athens 25. 10. 90 / 28. 10. 9
- 3 Turkey – Kusadasi 29. 10. 90 / 31. 10. 9
- 4 Egypt – Alexandria/Cairo/Suez 2. 11. 90 / 7. 11. 9
- 5 Oman – Salalah 13. 11. 90 / 15. 11. 9
- 6 Oman – Muscat 17. 11. 90 / 25. 11. 9
- 7 Pakistan – Qasim / Karachi 27. 11. 90 / 3. 12. 9
- 8 India – Mormugao / Goa 5. 12. 90 / 9. 12. 9
- 9 Sri Lanka – Colombo 11. 12. 90 / 17. 12. 9
- 10 India – Madras 19. 12. 90 / 24. 12. 9
- 11 Thailand – Phuket 28. 12. 90 / 1. 1. 9

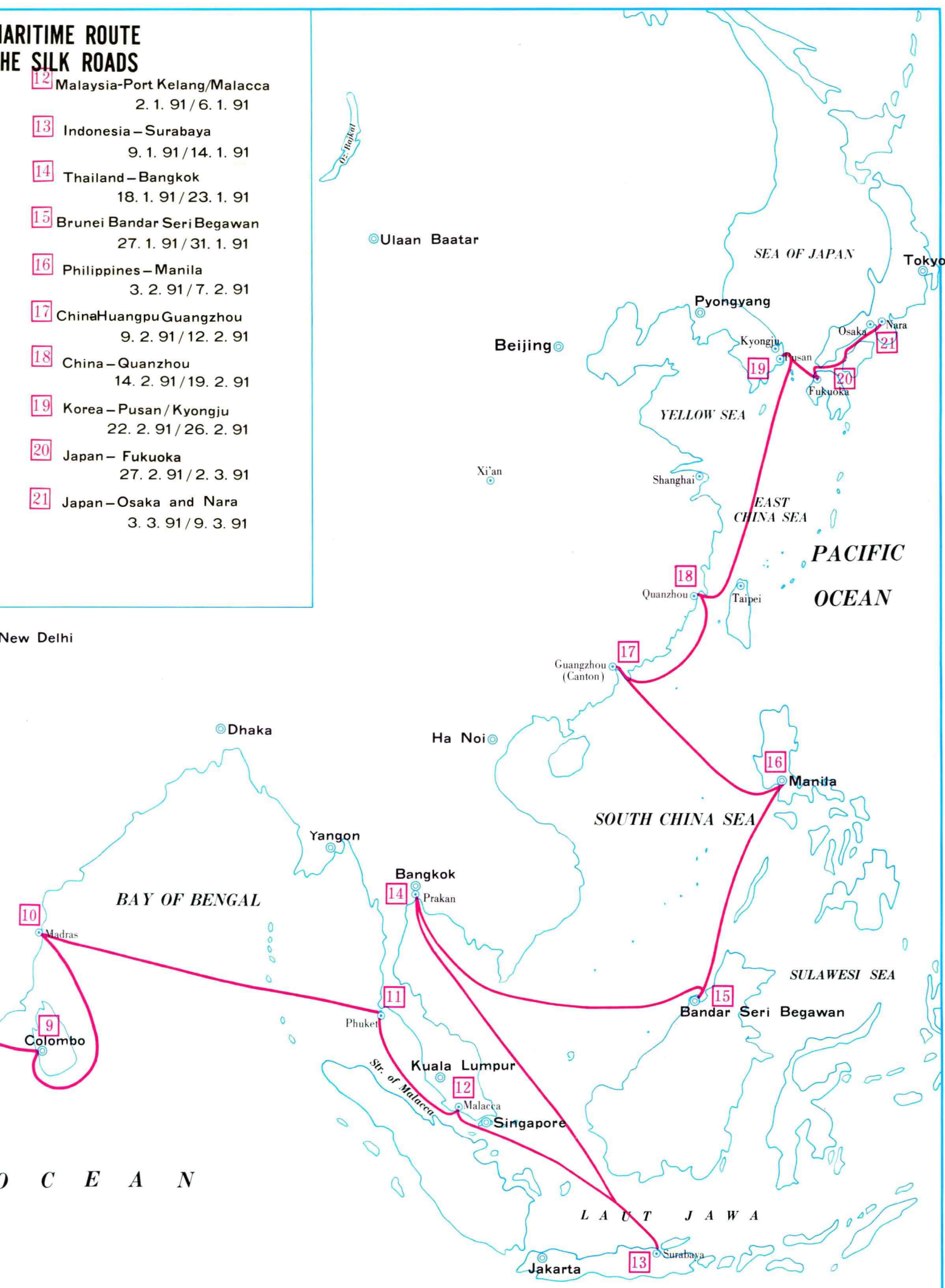




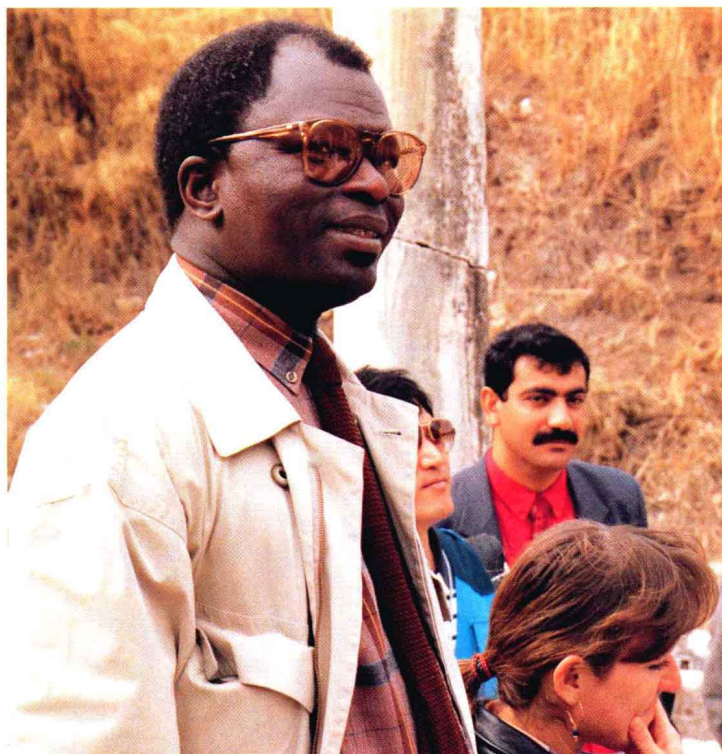
# MARITIME ROUTE THE SILK ROADS

- 12 Malaysia-Port Kelang/Malacca  
2. 1. 91 / 6. 1. 91
- 13 Indonesia-Surabaya  
9. 1. 91 / 14. 1. 91
- 14 Thailand-Bangkok  
18. 1. 91 / 23. 1. 91
- 15 Brunei Bandar Seri Begawan  
27. 1. 91 / 31. 1. 91
- 16 Philippines-Manila  
3. 2. 91 / 7. 2. 91
- 17 ChinaHuangpuGuangzhou  
9. 2. 91 / 12. 2. 91
- 18 China-Quanzhou  
14. 2. 91 / 19. 2. 91
- 19 Korea-Pusan / Kyongju  
22. 2. 91 / 26. 2. 91
- 20 Japan-Fukuoka  
27. 2. 91 / 2. 3. 91
- 21 Japan-Osaka and Nara  
3. 3. 91 / 9. 3. 91

New Delhi







Doudou Diene, organizer and leader of the maritime expedition and general coordinator for UNESCO's "Integral Study of the Silk Roads."

## Introduction

The Silk Roads: magical words which take us far back through the mists of time.... These roads which crossed both land and sea were, for many centuries, great arteries of commercial and cultural exchange. More especially, they were roads along which the spirit of dialogue between East and West was the underlying force behind the mutual enrichment of the world's great civilizations – Greek, Turkish, Roman, Chinese, Persian, Arab, African, Indian, Korean and Malaysian.

The aim of the Major Project "Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue," launched by UNESCO in 1988, is to give new life to these age-old routes along which not only silk, but other important trade goods such as spices and ceramics, as well as arts, technologies, beliefs and customs travelled. The integral and interdisciplinary study undertaken by UNESCO, through the rediscovery of these different forms of exchange and communication, aims to make people living in the present day aware of the need for a renewed dialogue among themselves.

Since the beginning of the project, three expeditions retracing the early Silk Roads have already taken place: the Desert Route in China (20 July to 22 August 1990), the Maritime Route from Venice to Osaka (23 October 1990 to 9 March

1991) and the Steppe Route in USSR (18 April to 17 June 1991). Due to the number of countries involved, the diversity of the places visited and the scale of the undertaking, the Maritime Route Expedition probably remains the most attractive to the public eye. Both the opening ceremony in Venice and the closing ceremony in Osaka were presided by Mr. Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, who was also present in Muscat and Colombo.

This amazing journey in the wake of the vessels which travelled the ancient sea routes was made possible through the generosity of His Majesty Sultan Qabus bin Said, of Oman, who put his ship "Fulk al-Salamah" (Ark of Peace), and its entire crew, at the disposal of UNESCO for the duration of the Expedition. Mention must be made here of the high professional and personal qualities of the whole of the ship's crew, instilling an atmosphere of efficiency and friendliness throughout the journey.

Retracing the Silk Roads Maritime Route was in fact a highly ambitious project. Indeed, in this route are gathered together the main underlying themes of the whole of the Integral Study. At the height of its glory this route was the very symbol of material, technical, intellectual and spiritual exchanges between the people. The international seminars which took place in nearly all of the twenty-one ports of call clearly brought out these important aspects of communication.

The interest aroused by the project is attested by the number of countries, sixteen in all, which actively participated as host countries to the Expedition: Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Oman, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, China, the Republic of Korea and Japan. Brunei's participation can be regarded as particularly important since it is not a Member State of UNESCO. This country showed its desire to take part in the dialogue generated by the Project, in particular with regard to its rich cultural heritage, by hosting the Maritime Expedition for several days in January 1991.

The Expedition also underlined the relevance, today, of the concept of dialogue, which is present throughout the Project. There were three levels on which this was particularly visible: on the political level, amongst the population and in the academic community. From the political point of view support was given by the highest authorities of the host countries. The Mayor of Venice, the Governor of Alexandria, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the President of the Philippines, the whole of the Omani government, the Vice-President of the Chinese National Assembly, His Royal Highness the Prince Mikasa Takahito of Japan all proffered a very warm welcome to the members of the Expedition. Furthermore, the heartfelt greetings extended by



the local people at all stops along the route and illustrated by popular music and dance performances, highlighted the specific artistic and cultural traditions of each host region. The parade of historic boats in Venice, the popular festivities in Salalah (Oman) and the fabulous pageant in the streets of Quanzhou (China) are but some of the examples of the many wonderful performances organized wherever the Expedition passed.

Last, but far from least, is the strong encouragement provided by the national academic communities. The active participation of eminent scholars from universities, scientific academies and other learned institutions, has resulted in a running dialogue between scholars, who hitherto had little chance to communicate with each other. At Sohar, in Muscat, Mme. Monique Kervran, researcher in the CNRS, Paris (French National Research Centre), managed to identify, with the help of Chinese scholars in the international team, Chinese coins dating back to the first century A.D. These are but two examples which show how scholars of different nationalities and different disciplines, together, can solve a scientific riddle, hitherto unsolved. Many of the scholars are now reaping the benefits of the contacts made during the Expedition.

A great deal of the success of the Maritime Expedition is due to the strong support given by the academic community. The international team that participated in the Expedition was made up of ninety specialists of renown, who travelled on a rotating basis and came from twenty-five countries in all. The specialists were kept busy: one hundred and twenty-two debates and brain-storming sessions were held in the ship during sea-travel days, and seventeen international seminars and two colloquia were held in the ports of call of the host countries. Moreover, some three hundred other scholars, local experts and specialists specially invited from other countries, also attended the international seminars.

Media partners were also strongly implicated. The announcement of the Expedition had already excited the media in the countries concerned, and as a result a media team of thirty-five people participated, on a rotation basis, in the Expedition. This team was composed of members of television companies, eighteen journalists from the radio and the written press as well as ten photographers. National documentary films have already been produced from the hundreds of hours of film shot during the Expedition, and international documentaries are in preparation. More than three hundred articles have appeared in the press of over twenty countries, and series of radio-programmes have been already been on the air. This massive feed-back goes to prove that the participation of the media is essential in order to ensure the visibility of

the Expedition, and beyond this in order to reinforce the credibility of the Project as a whole.

However, without the strong commitment of China, at the outset, the Project would not even have existed. One of the focal points of all papers and discussions and, one might say, the initiator of the Silk Roads, "China" was the one theme omnipresent right from the start in Venice, and throughout the journey. This is added proof, if further proof were needed, of the cultural strength and historical weight of the Chinese civilization, whose navigators learnt very early to master the seas. Moreover, the warmth of the welcome received on Chinese soil was felt to be so exceptional that, on the ship's departure, a message of thanks and congratulations was immediately sent to the Chinese authorities. Indeed the population was given to such rejoicing, that both stops in China, in Guangzhou (Canton) and Quanzhou, were gala occasions. The exhilaration and high spirits of the Chinese people have left all the participants with colourful memories of bouquets, banners, streamers, giant lion and dragon puppets, lanterns and fireworks. From the academic point of view, the papers presented by the Chinese scholars during the seminars and the light they were able to throw on certain questions attest to their high professional ability and confirm the reliability of studies and research on the silk routes traditionally carried out in China. Lastly, the Maritime Expedition carried out its mission of goodwill to the full when eight shipwrecked fishermen were rescued onto the Fulk al-Salamah from their sinking boat, after having drifted hopelessly in the China Sea for two weeks. This was certainly the most moving moment of the Expedition.

SUN Yi Fu, the well-known Chinese photographer, is one of the loyal companions of the Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue. SUN Yi Fu's first book on the theme of the Silk Roads entitled "The Silk Road on Land and Sea," published by the China Pictorial Publishing Company, gives an original and very beautiful view of the Silk Roads.

As Coordinator of this Major Project and in the name of UNESCO, I have great pleasure in presenting SUN Yi Fu's second book on Silk Roads' themes, the maritime silk routes. I am hopeful that the wide success of this book will help promote public awareness and interest in the ancient silk routes and in the aims of the UNESCO Silk Roads Project.



D. Diene,

Coordinator of the UNESCO Silk Roads Project



The ancient Parthenon at Athens.









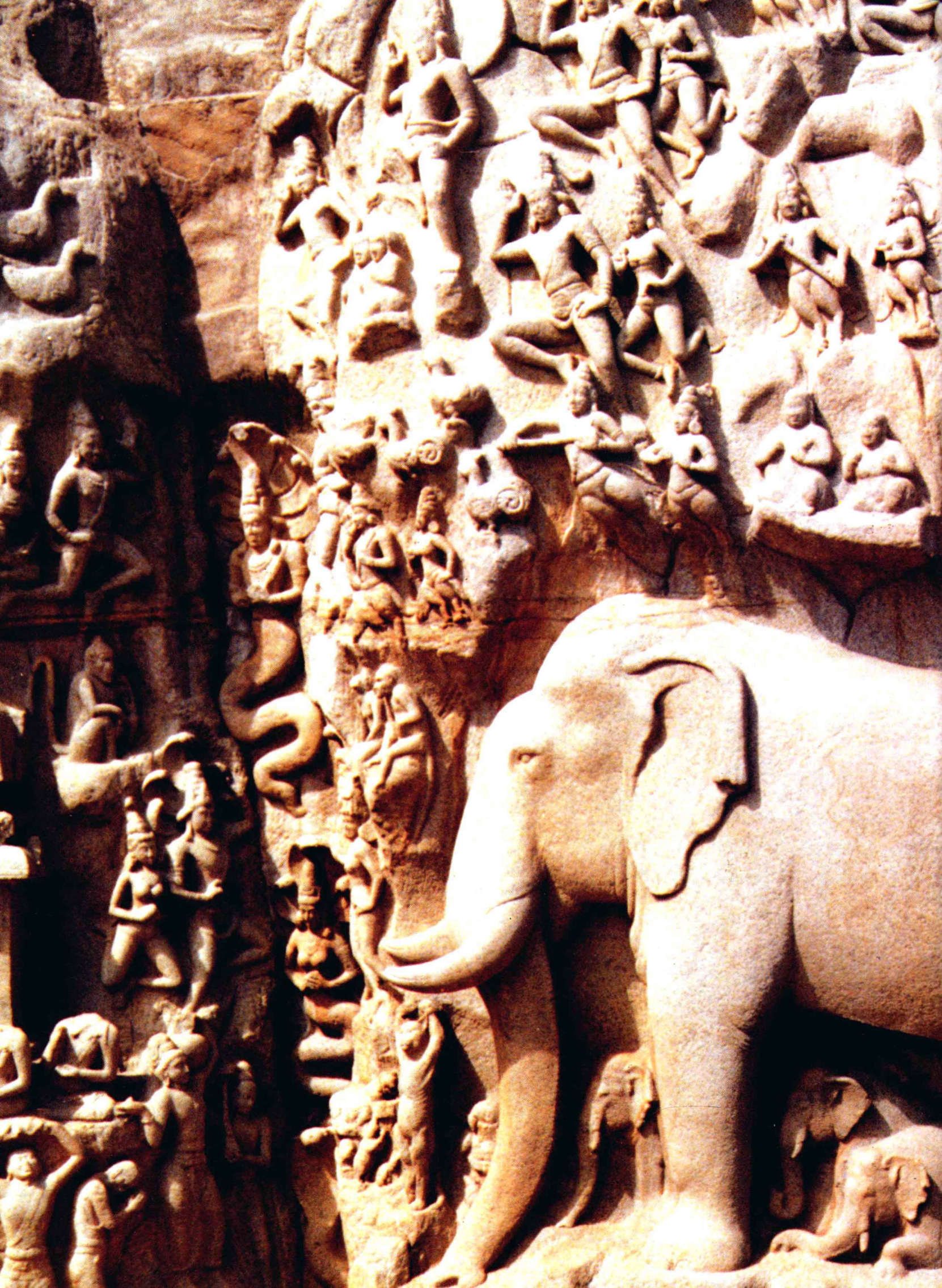






Egypt's sphinx and pyramid.









Sculptured rock relief in India's Mahabalipuram.





老君岩建于宋代，  
明度，仅存老君石象一  
座。造型雕刻均甚精美  
，为全省最早道教造像  
艺术珍品。



Song Dynasty (960-1279) statue of Lao Zi, founder of Taoism, in China's Quanzhou.





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