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北冥有魚,其名為鯤。鯤之大,不知其幾千里 也。化而為鳥,其名為鵬。鵬之背,不知其幾 千里也;怒而飛,其翼若垂天之雲。是鳥也, 海運則將徙於南冥。南冥者,天池也。齊諧者, 志怪者也。諧之言曰:「鵬之徙於南冥也,水 擊三千里,摶扶搖而上者九萬里,去以六月息 者也。」野馬也,塵埃也,生物之以息相吹也。 天之蒼蒼,其正色邪?其遠而無所至極邪?其 視下也,亦若是則已矣。

節錄莊子逍遙遊

## English Translation of the Xiao Yao You Excerpt:

"In the northern darkness there is a fish and his name is K'un. The K'un is so huge I don't know how many thousand li he measures. He changes and becomes a bird whose name is P'eng. The back of the P'eng measures I don't know how many thousand li across, and when he rises up and flies off, his wings are like clouds all over the sky.

When the sea begins to move, this bird sets off for the southern darkness, which is the Lake of Heaven.

The tale is found in the Qi Xie, a record of marvels.

And it says:

'When the P'eng journeys to the southern darkness, the movement of the water stretches for three thousand li, and he soars up on a wind of ninety thousand li, rising into the blue sky.

*He carries the blue sky on his back — and nothing can obstruct his progress.* 

He rides the wind for six months at a time.'

Below him, the dust and wild whirlwinds are blown and stirred. The sky is dark and misty — is that its real color? Or is it because it's so far away and has no end?

When the P'eng looks down, all he sees is this — and so he keeps going."

— Zhuangzi, "Free and Easy Wandering" (trans. Burton Watson, 1968, pp. 23–24)