

# When Asura Meets Pineapple Bun: My Cultural Translation Notes from Mogao Grottoes

—The Art of Bridging Ancient and Modern Dialogue Learned in 45 Days

## Introduction:

This summer, as a Hong Kong intern guide at the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang, I embarked on a journey to promote cultural heritage while developing leadership skills. The project was aimed at enhancing visitor engagement and preserving artistic integrity through innovative interpretation.

## Objectives:

- Enhance my leadership ability by transforming from a learner to a cultural ambassador.
- Use modern analogies to make ancient art more relatable to diverse audiences.
- Implement visitor-centered guided tours to increase engagement and awareness.

## Methods:

- Developed a layered interpretation approach blending foundational, academic, and interactive narratives.
- Personalized tours for various visitor types, focusing on the unique aspects of Dunhuang's art and history.
- Used storytelling techniques to connect ancient wisdom with modern experiences.

## Results:

- Successfully engaged diverse audiences through tailored narratives and modern analogies.
- Increased interest and understanding of Dunhuang's cultural significance among visitors.
- Developed strong leadership skills in adaptability, cultural translation, and audience engagement.

## Conclusions:

The project underscored the importance of cultural empathy and adaptation in leadership. By making historical art accessible and relatable, I learned to lead with creativity and insight, enriching both my personal growth and the visitor experience.

## Impact:

- Enhanced cultural appreciation and awareness among visitors.
- Contributed to the ongoing legacy of Dunhuang's preservation efforts.
- Strengthened my capacity for empathetic and adaptive leadership.

## Reflection:

This project taught me that true cultural leadership transcends boundaries. It involves not just imparting knowledge but igniting passion and understanding in others, ensuring the longevity of cultural traditions.