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# Romance Of the Three Kingdoms

The Empty-City Ruse



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# Romance Of the Three Kingdoms

**The Empty-City Ruse**

Illustrated by Li Chengli  
Adapted by Zhang Qirong  
Translated by Hu Shiping



 **ASIAPAC • SINGAPORE**

*Publisher*

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Cover design by Steve Wan



## Publisher's Note

Asiapac Books is proud to bring you a pictorial series of the famous Chinese novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Against the backdrop of the tumultuous Three Kingdoms Period, famous battles of Guandu, Yiling and Chibi are brought to life through the skilful hand of Li Chengli.

In this eighth volume, you'll find out why Cao Cao finally died, the way Zhang Fei was assassinated by his own subordinates and how Liu Bei was badly defeated by a scholar. You'll also see how the brilliant Zhuge Liang managed to hold off five armies, captured the barbarian king Meng Huo

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seven times, subdued Jiang Wei, and finally how he deceived Sima Yi with his empty-city ruse.

### **Romance of the Three Kingdoms Series**

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# About the Translator

Hu Shiping, born in 1921, studied engineering in Yenching University in Beijing and Jiaotong University in Chongqing. He graduated in 1945 and obtained his M.S. degree in structural engineering from Purdue University in the United States in 1949. He worked as a structural design engineer in New York before returning to China in 1951 to further his career in engineering until he retired. He started doing Chinese-English translation in the mid 1980s.





# Introduction

*Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is a graphic presentation of one of China's greatest classical novels. It was written by Luo Guanzhong of the Ming Dynasty who fashioned it into a compelling semi-fictional literary masterpiece.

The novel is based on the history of the period that began towards the end of the Han Dynasty, when three smaller states: Wei, Shu and Wu, were founded and contended for supremacy until the unification of the country by the Jin Dynasty in AD 280. This was a period of great confusion covering nearly a

century of complex struggle for power.

You'll read all about the great battles including the battle of Guandu, the battle of the Red Cliff (Chibi), and the battle of Yiling with hundreds of generals, officials and strategists contending one another over political ideas, diplomacy, strategies and military prowess. The novel vividly depicts how different ideas and strategies are debated; how diplomacy is conducted; and how the battles are planned and fought. Some of the philosophies, views and ideas are valued by the Chinese even to this day.

Influenced by the feudalistic culture at that time, the novel has a tendency to glorify Liu Bei, a distant relative of the Han emperor, who later became the king of Shu, while condemning Cao Cao, a formative figure in Chinese history, who usurped the throne of the last emperor of Han and became the king of Wei.

Nevertheless, the more than four hundred historical characters are vividly described in the novel with distinctive individuality and epic grandeur. Among them are familiar historical figures such as the wise and resourceful

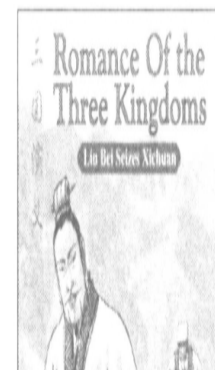
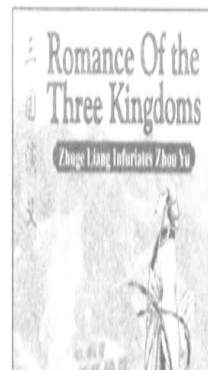
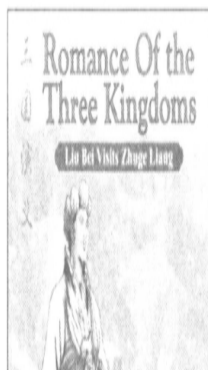
Zhuge Liang; the kind-hearted and generous Liu Bei; the proud Guan Yu who was a paragon of loyalty; the bold and frank Zhang Fei; the courageous and dauntless Zhao Yun; and the crafty and suspicious Cao Cao. The recurrent themes of power, loyalty and social obligations are important evergreen topics often talked about among the Chinese.

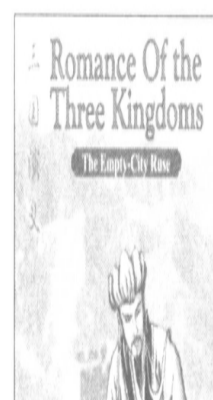
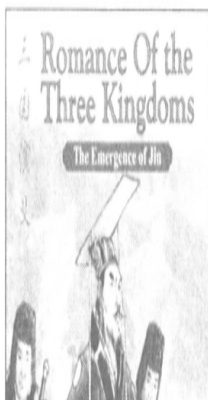
*Yin Shuxun*

# Romance of the Three Kingdoms Series

This 10-volume series is a complete pictorial rendition of China's foremost historical novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. The classic by Ming Dynasty writer Luo Guanzhong is based on the history of the Three Kingdoms when the states of Wei, Shu and Wu emerged from the remnants of the Han Dynasty and began to fight for power and sovereignty. It vividly depicts a series of famous battles and hundreds of historical characters in one of the most turbulent periods in China's long history.

*Illustrated by Li Chengli, 150x210mm, 168pp, comics*







Liu, Guan and Zhang took the oath of fraternity in the peach garden. Liu became the eldest brother, Guan the second, and Zhang the third.



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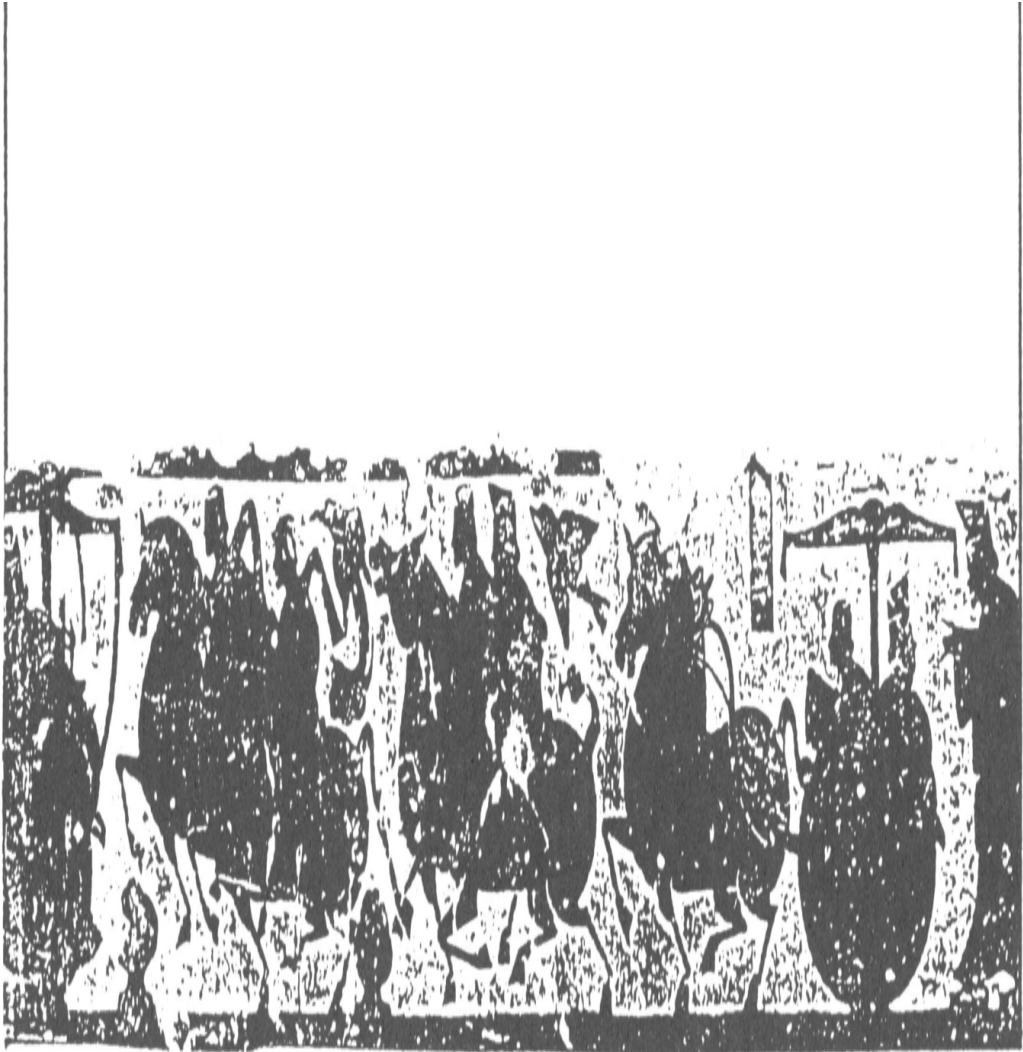
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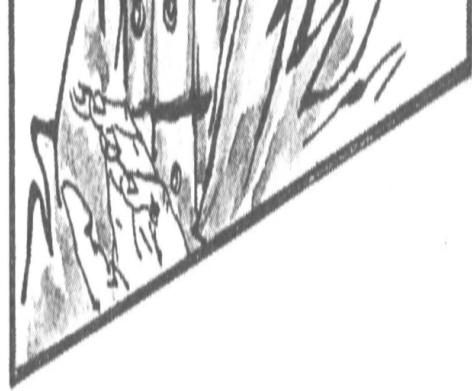


Ma Su



Wang Ping





Zhuge Liang

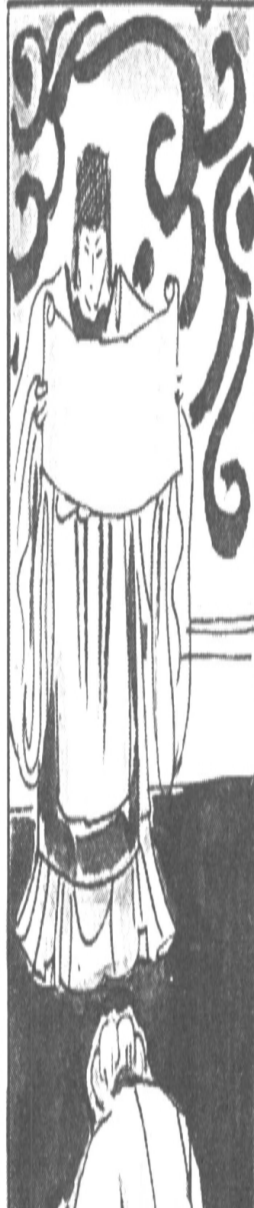


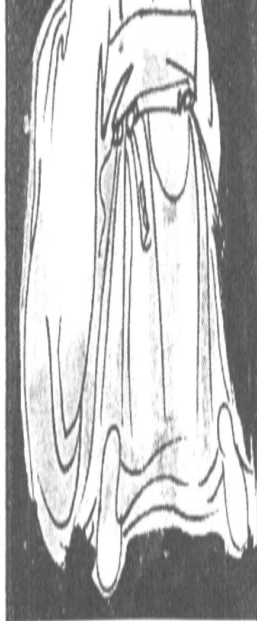
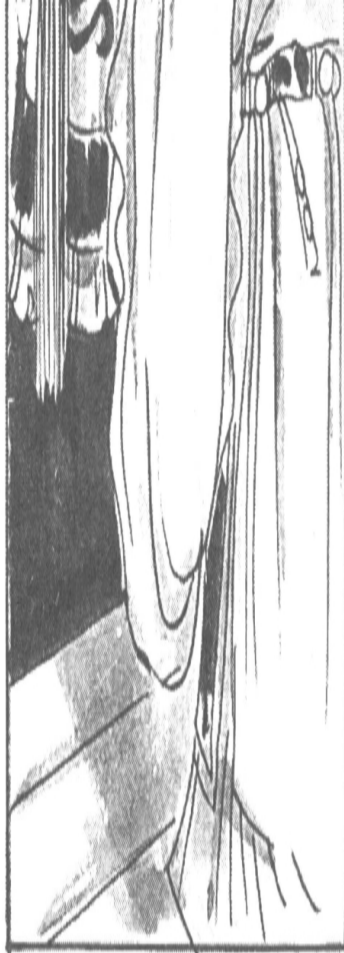


After returning to Hanzhong, Zhuge Liang executed Ma Su, the officer who lost JiETING, with tears in his eyes.



Zhuge Liang proposed his own demotion from high office.





Liu Chan agreed but asked him to carry on his duties as a prime minister.



After his self-imposed demotion, Zhuge Liang let his soldiers rest so as to prepare for another attack.

Wei

