



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Ābǎojī	阿保机	Great Khitan leader and founder of the Liao Dynasty
Chányuān	澶渊	A town about a hundred miles north of Kaifeng
Chányuān Zhī Méng	澶渊之盟	A treaty that brought relative peace between Liao and Song....at a high price
Chén Yáosǒu	陈尧叟	High ranking official during Northern Song
Chéngyǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Chengyu Research Center
Gū	孤	alone, solitary
Gū Zhù Yī Zhì	孤注一掷	To bet it all on one throw of the dice
Gūzhù	孤注	a single wager....
Kòu Zhǔn	寇准	Great chancellor in Chinese history, served 1004-1006
Kāifēng	开封	Capital of Northern Song, located in Henan
Liáo Dynasty	辽朝	Khitan Dynasty in north China... 907-1125
Nánjīng	南京	Capital of Jiangsu province
Qīdān	契丹	The Khitan People
Sòng Dynasty	宋朝	Dynasty in China....960-1279
Sòng Shū	宋书	the Book of Song
Wáng Qīnrùo	王钦若	Song chancellor from 1017-1019
Yī	一	the number one

Yìzhì	一擲	One throw of the dice
Zhào Kuāngyīn	趙匡胤	Song Dynasty founder, a.k.a. Sòng Tàizǔ
Zhì	擲	to throw (dice)
Zhù	注	the stakes, as in a gambling wager
Zhēnzōng	真宗	Third Song Dynasty emperor
Zhōu Dynasty	周朝	Ancient dynasty that ran BCE 1046-256



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Bào	报	to pay back or reciprocate
Chūnqiū	春秋	Spring and Autumn era of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty
Gǎn	感	thankful, to thank or to appreciate
Gǎn Ēn	感恩	Appreciate or be thankful for the kindness, appreciate the favor
Gǎn Ēn Jié	感恩节	Thanksgiving holiday
Gǎn Ēn Tú Bào	感恩图报	To Repay a Kindness
Luòyáng	洛阳	Ancient capital of China, located in Henan
Lǎozǐ	老子	Ancient philosopher and Daoism founder
Shǐ Jì	史记	the Records of the Grand Historian
Sīmǎ Qiān	司马迁	Great Historian from the Han Dynasty, wrote the Shi Ji
Sūnzǐ	孙子	Sun Tzu, writer of the Art of War
Tú	图	to intend to do something, to plan to
Tú Bào	图报	to intend to reciprocate or pay back...
Wú State	吴国	Ancient Zhou Dynasty state around Zhejiang-Jiangsu
Wǔ and Wú	武 / 吴	Third tone Wǔ and second tone Wú
Wǔ Zǐxū	伍子胥	Great Wu era general and paragon of loyalty
Zhèng	郑国	State during the Zhou Dynasty

Zhèng Dìng Gōng	郑定公	King Ding of Zheng reigned 529-514 BCE
Zhōu Dynasty	周朝	Ancient Dynasty of China
Ēn	恩	grace, kindness, a favor or help

The  
Chinese  
Sayings  
Podcast

by Laszlo Montgomery

TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

"The Hu and the Hu"

狐假虎威

S1E8



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Chengyu	成语	Chinese Saying or Proverb
Chǔ Xuān Wáng	楚宣王	The Chu King from 369-340 BCE
Eastern Zhou Dynasty	东周	The entire Zhou Dynasty ran from 1046-256 BCE. This period divided up by Western Zhou 1046-771 BCE and Eastern Zhou 1046-256 BCE
Hán	韩国	a Warring State located today in parts of Shanxi and Henan
Hú	狐	a fox
Hú Jiǎ	狐假	A fox borrows....
Hú Jiǎ Hǔ Wēi	狐假虎威	The fox borrows the Tiger's Might
Húwēi	虎威	the might or power of the tiger
Hǔ	虎	a tiger
Jiāng Yǐ	江乙	Minister to King Xuan of Chu
Jiǎ	假	to borrow
Kingdom of Chu	楚国	A very powerful kingdom in its day. Comprises present day Hubei-Hunan and parts of China stretching from Chongqing to Shanghai
Qin Dynasty	秦朝	The first dynasty in Imperial Chinese history
Qí State	齐国	Located in present day Shandong
Wèi	魏国	Another of the Warring States located in the China heartland areas of Henan, Hebei, Shanxi and Shandong
Wēi	威	power, might, strength, prestige
Zhànguó Cé	战国策	Strategies of the Warring States...one of the few primary sources of those times

Zhāo Xìxù

昭奚恤

a feared Chu general during the Warring States period

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PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Dào	盗	a robber, a thief or means to steal something
Gǒu	狗	a dog
Hángǔ Pass	函谷关	A pass just outside of Sanmenxia
Jī	鸡	a chicken or rooster
Jīmíng	鸡鸣	the rooster's crow
Jīmíng Gǒudào	鸡鸣狗盗	To crow like a rooster and snatch like a dog
Qín Zhāoxiāng	秦昭襄王	Qín king who reigned 307 to 250 BCE, great grandfather of Qín Shǐhuáng (秦始皇)
Lord Jīngyáng	泾阳君	King Zhaoxiang's brother
Lǔ	鲁国	The other state of Shandong
Mèngcháng Jūn	孟尝君	Powerful noble from Qi, admired by Qin
Mén Kè	门客	"Door Guests" or hangers on
Míng	鸣	the sound or a cry from an animal...a bird, an insect...
mǎnyuè	满月	Special celebration for a son's first month
Qí	齐国	One of the two principle states of Shandong Province
Qí Lǔ Liǎngguó	齐鲁两国	The two states of Qi and Lu
Shāndōng	山东	Ancient province in China
Shǎnxī	陕西	Ancient province in China

<b>Shǐ Jì</b>	史记	the Records of the Grand Historian
<b>Sānménniǎ</b>	三门峡	City on the Yellow River located in Henan
<b>Sīmǎ Qiān</b>	司马迁	China's most famous historian
<b>Sīmǎ Tán</b>	司马谈	Father of Sima Qian and the one who started work on the Shi Ji
<b>Xiányáng</b>	咸阳	Capital of Qin
<b>xiǎng bànǎ</b>	想办法	Think of a way
<b>Xiān</b>	西安	Capital city of Shaanxi...site of ancient past capitals of China
<b>Yàn Jī</b>	燕姬	the king's favorite concubine





PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Chang'an	长安	Present day Xian, Shaanxi...but back in the Tang the place was known as Chang'an
Empress Dowager Cixi Tàihòu	慈禧太后	The Qing Dynasty Empress Dowager Cixi (Tzu-Hsi)
Jūn	君	a gentleman
Kāng Shēng	康生	Chief of CCP Secret police in pre-Liberation times
Lao Zhou	老周	"Old" Zhou...like saying "Old Boy"
Lái Jùnchén	来俊臣	The Tang Dynasty Secret Police Chief
Qiū Shénjī	丘神勣	a General in the Tang Army
Qǐng	请	to invite
Qǐng Jūn Rú Wèng	请君入瓮	To Invite the gentleman into the urn
Rù	入	to enter
Shénzōng	神宗	Song emperor from 1048-1085
Song Dynasty	宋朝	Chinese dynasty that ran 960-1279
Sīmǎ Guāng	司马光	Song Dynasty renowned scholar official, lived 1019-1086
Tang Dynasty	唐朝	Chinese dynasty that ran 618-907
Táng Jì	唐记	the Annals of Tang
Wèng	瓮	earthenware vase or urn
Wǔ Zétiān	武则天	One-time empress of China, founder of her own "dynasty"

<b>Zhōu Dynasty</b>	<b>周朝</b>	Wu Zetian's dynasty that lasted from 690-705
<b>Zhōu Xīng</b>	<b>周兴</b>	An official in the employ of the Tang Dynasty version of the Gong'an or Public Security Bureau
<b>Zìzhì Tōngjiàn</b>	<b>资治通鉴</b>	"Comprehensive Mirror in Aid of Governance"



# "Should I Save or Should I Throw?"

## 味如鸡肋

S1E5

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Book of Wèi	魏书	One of the scrolls from the Record of the Three Kingdoms
Chéngyǔ	成语	Sayings, Idioms
Chǔ Hàn Contention	楚汉战争	The big final showdown between Xiang Yu and Liu Bang
Cáo Cāo	曹操	Chancellor to the Han Emperor and great military power in the north
Cáo Pī	曹丕	Son of Cao Cao who founded the Wei Kingdom
Eastern Hàn	东汉	The The second half of the Han Dynasty, CE 25-220
Guātián Lǐxia	瓜田李下	Chengyu from episode one, In the melon field and under the plum tree
Hàn Dynasty	汉朝	Great ancient dynasty that ran from BCE 206 – CE 220
Hànzhōng	汉中	City in southern Shaanxi
Jī	鸡	a chicken
Jī lèi	鸡肋	chicken ribs
Liú Bèi	刘备	The King of Shu State
Liú Bāng	刘邦	Founder of the Han Dynasty, a.k.a. Han Gaozu
Luó Guànzōng	罗贯中	Author of the Chinese classic novel: Romance of the Three Kingdoms
Lèi	肋	ribs
Línzhāng County	临漳县	County located in between Handan and Anyang in southern Hebei Province
Rú	如	like, as, or as if

<b>Shǎnxī</b>	陕西	Province in north China, capital at Xian
<b>Shǔ</b>	蜀汉	Kingdom of Shu, one of the Three Kingdoms
<b>Sān Guó Zhì</b>	三国志	The Records of the Three Kingdoms
<b>Wèi</b>	味	the flavor or taste of something
<b>Wèi</b>	曹魏	Kingdom of Wei, one of the Three Kingdoms
<b>Wèi Rú</b>	味如	the taste is like or this tastes as if.....
<b>Wèi Rú Jī Lèi</b>	味如鸡肋	Tastes like chicken ribs
<b>Wú</b>	孙吴	Kingdom of Wu, one of the Three Kingdoms
<b>Xiàng Yǔ</b>	项羽	The Overlord of Chu who rose to power after the fall of the Qin
<b>Yáng Xiū</b>	杨修	Ill-fated advisor to Cao Cao who lived CE 175-219
<b>Yèchéng</b>	邺城	an ancient district in Hebei, present day Línzhāng County.



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE  
"A Lousy Place to Fish"  
缘木求鱼

S1E4

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
chéngyǔ	成语	saying or idiom
Duke of Zhōu	周公	Son of Zhou founder, regent to third Zhou king and a whole lot more
Eastern Zhōu	东周	771-256 BCE
Héběi	河北	province in North China
Hénán	河南	province in North China
King Xuān of Qí	齐宣王	King of the Qi State 319-301 BCE
Mèngzǐ	孟子	Mencius, Confucius's best known follower
Mù	木	wood or tree
Qiú	求	to seek or look for
Qiú yú	求鱼	to seek a fish
Qí	齐国	Ancient state in present day Shandong province
Shāndōng	山东	province in North China
Shānxī	山西	province in North China
Shǎnxī	陕西	province in North China
Spring and Autumn period	春秋	771-476 BCE (1st part of Eastern Zhou)
Warring States period	战国	475-256 BCE
Western Zhōu	西周	1046-771BCE

Yuán	缘	reason, edge, along, predestined relationship
Yuán Mù	缘木	to climb a tree
Yuán Mù Qiú Yú	缘木求鱼	Climb a tree to catch a fish
Yú	鱼	fish
Zhōu Dynasty	周朝	Ancient Chinese dynasty 1046 – 256 BCE

"A Sincere Gift of a Mere Trifle"  
千里送鹅毛

S1E3



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Cháng'ān	长安	Modern day Xian. Ancient capital of a few dynasties
Chéngyǔ	成语	Chinese proverb or idiom
é	鹅	swan
Húběi	湖北	A province in Central China
Kūnmíng	昆明	Capital of Yunnan Province
Lǐ	里	a mile but specifically a Chinese mile which was about a third of a mile
lǐ	礼	a gift
Lǐ qīng qíngyì zhòng	礼轻情意重	The gift is light in value but heavy in meaning
Miǎn Bógāo	缅伯高	An official from the Yunnan-Burma region
máo	毛	feather
Páihú	排湖	Lake Pai
Qiān	千	a thousand
Qiānlǐ	千里	a thousand Li or a thousand miles
Qiānlǐ sòng é'máo	千里送鹅毛	A swan feather from a thousand li (miles) away
qíngyì	情意	affection or the positive feelings behind some action
qīng	轻	light, as in weight
sòng	送	to send

Táng Tàizōng	唐太宗	The Tang emperor Taizong (Li Shimin)
Xiāntáo	仙桃	City in Hubei province
Xiān	西安	Capital of Shaanxi Province
Yángzǐ	扬子江	Also called The Chang Jiang, China's longest river
Yúnnán	云南	A province down in the southwest of China
zhòng	重	heavy





# "Fen-Wise and Yuan-Foolish"

## 贪小失大

S1E02

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Bā State	巴国	Just east of Shu. Centered around Chongqing
chéngyǔ	成语	Chinese Saying, proverb, idiom
Dà	大	great or big
Fēn	分	1/100th of a Yuan
King Huiwén of Qín	秦惠文王	King of the Qin State from 338-311 BCE (a century before Qin Dynasty founding emperor Qin Shihuang)
Lǚ Bùwéi	吕不韦	Early advisor to Qin King Ying Zheng (and rumored to be the King's father). Later executed after Ying Zheng became Emperor Qin Shihuang
Lǚshì Chūnqiū	吕氏春秋	The Spring and Autumn Annals of Lü Buwei, a leading primary source of these times
Qín	秦	The name of the dynasty and state with the Ying 嬴 family as its core
Qínlíng Mountains	秦岭山	Mountain chain in southern Shaanxi separating northwest and southwest China
Shíniú Dào	石牛道	the Stone Cattle Road
Shī	失	to lose
Shī dà	失大	lose big
Shǎnxī	陕西	Province in China
Shǔ	蜀国	Ancient kingdom centered around Chengdu
Sìchuān	四川	Province in China
Tān	贪	to covet or be greedy for something

Tān Xiǎo	贪小	greedy for small things
Tān Xiǎo Shī Dà	贪小失大	because you are greedy for the small thing, you end up losing the big thing
Xiǎo	小	small
Xiān	西安	Capital of Shaanxi Province, formerly known as Chang'an
Yúan	元	1 Yuan (or 1 RMB)
Zhōngguó	中国	China, Middle Kingdom



# "Take Care in That Melon Field"

## 瓜田李下

S1E01

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Guā Tián Lǐ Xià	瓜田李下	In the melon field, under a plum tree (listen to the episode for the meaning)
Chéngyǔ	成语	Chinese saying or idiomatic expression
Guā	瓜	A melon
Tián	田	A field
Lǐ	李	A plum or plum tree, also the surname Li (Lee)
Xià	下	Underneath, below
Jūnzǐ fáng wèirán, bù chū xiányí, guātián bù nà lǚ, lǐ xià bùzhěng guān	君子防未然, 不处嫌疑间, 瓜田不纳履, 李下不整冠	A gentleman, in order to prevent suspicion, never ties his laces in a melon field and never adjusts his hat under a plum tree
Cáo Cāo	曹操	Chancellor from the late Eastern Han
Cáo Zhí	曹植	Son of Cao Cao
Cáo Pī	曹丕	Son of Cao Cao and founder of the Wei Kingdom