



"Always Expect the Unexpected"

万事俱备, 只欠东风

S3E10

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Bèi	备	prepare, get ready
Chéngyǔ	成语	Chinese idiom or proverb
Chìbì	赤壁	Red Cliff
Chìbì zhī zhàn	赤壁之战	Battle of Red Cliffs, fought during the winter of 208-209
Cáo Cāo	曹操	Lived 155-220, first king of Cao Wei, famous statesman and military man
Cáo Wèi	曹魏	The northernmost of the Three Kingdoms and the most powerful. Founded in 220 by Cao Cao's son Cao Pi. Lasted until 265
Dōng	东	East
Dōngfēng	东风	The east wind
Fēng	风	Wind
Huáng Gài	黄盖	One of Sun Quan's generals and a major figure in Wu history
Hàn Emperor Xiàn	汉献帝	The final Han emperor, first a puppet of Dong Zhuo and later forced by Cao Pi to abdicate.
John Woo	吴宇森	Wú Yǔsēn - Great film director best known for Red Cliff, A Better Tomorrow, The Killer and Hard Boiled
Jù	俱	all, completely, entirely
Jùbèi	俱备	all ready
Liú Bèi	刘备	Lived 161-223, founder of the Han kingdom of Shǔ
Liú Bāng	刘邦	Founder of the Han Dynasty and reigned from 202 to 195 BCE
Luó Guànzōng	罗贯中	Author of the classic "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" Lived 1330-1400

Qiàn	欠	Lack, missing
Shì	事	Matter, affair, thing to do, business
Shǔ Hàn	蜀汉	The kingdom of Shu Han, one of the Three Kingdoms. Made up of parts of Sichuan, Yunnan and southern Shaanxi
Sūn Quán	孙权	Reigned as king of the state of Wu from 222-252
Sūn Wú	孙吴	Another name for the Kingdom of Wu, led by Sun Quan
Wuhan	武汉	The three cities of Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang combined
Wàn	万	Ten Thousand
Wànshì	万事	all things, everything
Wànshì Jùbèi	万事俱备	Everything was all ready
Wànshì Jùbèi Zhǐ Qiàn Dōngfēng	万事俱备只欠东风	All was prepared except for the East Wing
Wán Bì Guī Zhào	完璧归赵	To return the complete jade to Zhao, featured in Season 3 Episode 1
Yángzǐ River	扬子江	The longest river in China, also called the Chang Jiang
Zhōu Yú	周瑜	Lived 175-210, famous general for the Wu Kingdom (a.k.a. Sun Wu)
Zhūgé Liàng	诸葛亮	Shu Kingdom statesman, strategist and all around metaphor for clever guy. Lived 181-234
Zhǐ	只	Only
Zhǐ qiàn	只欠	Only missing
Zhǐ Qiàn Dōngfēng	只欠东风	Only lacked the East Wing

The
Chinese
Sayings
Podcast

by Laszlo Montgomery

TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

"There's Always a Way"

髀肉复生

S3E9



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Battle at Bówàng	博望之战	Fought between the forces of Cao Cao and Liu Bei. Liu Bei emerged victorious in 202 CE
Bì	髀	thigh or your thigh bone
Bìròu Fùshēng	髀肉复生	Thigh flesh has grown back
Bìròu	髀肉	the flesh on the thigh
Cáo Cāo	曹操	155-220 CE, Warlord and Eastern Han chancellor to the emperor. Founded the Northern Kingdom of Wei
Eastern Hàn Dynasty	东汉	Also known as the Later Han. Ran from 25 to 220 CE
Fù	复	duplicate, reply
Fùshēng	生	to come back to life
Guāndù zhī zhàn	官渡之战	Decisive battle fought between the forces of Cao Cao and Yuan Shao. September to November 200 CE
Jīng Province	荆州	One of the provinces of ancient China
Kam Jie	金姐	The loyal employee at Teacup Media who keeps all the teacups full and who brings 奶茶 at 3PM from the place next door (and the occasional 西米露)
Liu Family	六家族	The ruling family of the Han Dynasty going back to founder Liu Bang.
Líu Biǎo	刘表	142-208, Governor of Jingzhou during Han Emperor Xian
Líu Bèi	刘备	161-223 CE, After a slow start, he later founded the Kingdom of Shu Han
Luòyáng	洛阳	City in Henan. Site of a few dynasties in distress
Ròu	肉	meat, muscle or flesh
Shǔ Hàn	蜀汉	One of the Three Kingdoms. Located in and around Sichuan

Xīnyě	新野	City just south of Nanyang in Henan Province
Xǔchāng.	许昌	City in Henan province
Yuán Shào	袁紹	Eastern Han Warlord. Died in 202 CE



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Chéng	乘	to ride...like ride a bus, ride an aircraft...
Chéng Fēng Pò Làng	乘风破浪	To ride the wind and cut through the waves
Chéngfēng	乘风	Ride the wind.....
Dèngzhōu	邓州	City on Henan province near Nanyang
Fēng	风	the wind
Hàn	汉朝	The Han Dynasty, 206 BCE to 220 CE
Hénán province	河南	Their ad campaign called that province the place "Where China began"
Jiànkāng	建康	Near present day Nanjing, the former capital of Liu Song, among other places
Jīn	晋朝	The Jin Dynasty that lasted 265 to 420
Liú Sòng Dynasty	刘宋朝	One of the Southern Dynasties, lasting from 420 to 479
Làng	浪	a wave
Línyì	临邑	A kingdom that preceded the Kingdom of Champa, south of the border in Vietnam
Nán Běi Cháo	南北朝	The Southern and Northern Dynasties period, lasting 420 to 589
Pò	破	to break, split, to cleave in two or cut
Pò Làng	破浪	to cut through the waves
Suí	隋朝	The Sui Dynasty, 581 to 618
Sòng Shū	宋书	the Book of Song

Yuàn chéng cháng fēng.....Pò wàn lǐ làng, Gàn yī fān wěi dà de shì yè	愿乘长风破万里浪, 干一番伟大的事业	To ride the wind and crash through the waves and build a great career
Zhōu	周朝	The Zhou Dynasty 1046 BCE to 256 BCE
Zōng Què	宗慤	Our hero for today's episode



"The Person Who Has the Will"

有志竟成

S3E7

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Chéng	成	to accomplish or succeed
Chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese Saying or idiom
Former Hàn Dynasty	前汉	The first half of the Han Dynasty. It ran from 206 BCE to 9 CE
Gěng Yǎn	耿弇	The hero of this episode
Hàn Guāngwǔ	汉光武	Liu Xiu's Temple name for which he is better known
Hán Xìn	韩信	Great Western Han general who died in 196 BCE, one of the Three Heroes of the Han Dynasty
Hòu Hàn Shū	后汉书	The book of the Later Han
Jìng	竟	to finish or complete something
Jìng chéng	竟成	to finish and accomplish
Later Hàn	后汉	The second half of the Han Dynasty. This one ran 25 to 220 CE
Liú Xiù	刘秀	Restored the Han Dynasty in 25 CE and reigned until 57 CE.
Luòyáng	洛阳	Located in Henan Province, site of a few dynasties
Línzī	临淄	Ancient name for Zibo
Qí State	齐国	Ancient Zhou era state in Shandong
Shì	事	matters or affairs, things to do, business
Shāndōng Province	山东省	Coastal province in China that was made up of the states of Qi and Lu
Wáng Mǎng	王莽	High ranking Han official who usurped the throne, ruling from 9-23 CE

Yǒu	有	to have
Yǒu zhì	有志	to have the will or determination
Yǒu zhìzhě	有志者	the person who has the will
zhì	志	will or determination
Zhāng Bù	张步	Warlord during this era who was giving the Guangwu Emperor some heat
Zhāngjiākǒu	张家口	City located just southwest of Beijing
Zībó	淄博	The capital of ancient Qi, called Linzi back then



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE
"Seeing is Believing"

百闻不如一见

S3E6

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Bùrú	不如	not as good as or inferior to
Bǎi	百	a hundred
Bǎi Wén	百闻	to hear a hundred times
Bǎi Wén Bùrú Yí Jiàn	百闻不如一见	To hear a hundred times is not the same as seeing once
Chéngyǔ	成语	Chinese Saying or idiom
Hàn Xuān Dì	汉宣帝	Han emperor who reigned 74 to 49 BCE
Jiàn	见	to see
Qián Hàn Shū	前汉书	The Book of Han
Qiāng	羌族	Qiāng are one of the 56 official ethnic minority people of China
Wén	闻	to hear
Wò Xīn Cháng Dǎn	卧薪尝胆	Featured in a previous episode, to lie on firewood and taste bile
Yī	一	the number one
Yíjiàn	一见	see one time
Zhào Chōngguó	赵充国	A reliable old trusted general of Emperor Xuan's



"He Sure Had a Lot of Gall"

卧薪尝胆

S3E5

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Battle of Zuili	槊李之战	The Battle of Zuili
Cháng	尝	to taste something ...to try some food out
Cháng dǎn	尝胆	to taste bile
Chǔ	楚国	The Chu State down in Central China
Dǎn	胆	gall bladder or in this case the bile from the gall bladder
Huái River	淮河	One of the major rivers of China
Hàojīng	镐京	Ancient capital of Zhou,
Hán Gōu	汗垢	The Han Canal, forerunner to the Grand Canal
Jiāngsū	江苏	Zhejiang's neighbor to the west and north
Jin	晋国	The Jin State around present-day Shanxi
King Fúchāi	夫差王	Son of Helü, king of Wu
King Gōujiàn	勾践王	King of Yue
King Héliú	阖闾王	Father of Fuchai, King of the Wu State
Luòyáng	洛阳	Ancient "Eastern" capital of a few dynasties, located in Henan, "where China began"
Qín	秦朝	The Qin Dynasty
Qín Shǐhuáng	秦始皇	The first emperor of imperial China
Shànghǎi	上海	Where the Yangzi empties out into the East China Sea

Sì Dà Měi Nǚ	四大美女	The Four Beauties of Ancient China
Sūn Wǔ	孙吴	Sun Tzu's name
Sūnzǐ Bīngfǎ	孙子兵法	The Art of War by Sun Tzu
Sūzhōu	苏州	Ancient city in Jiangsu Province
Wò	卧	to lie....as in to lie on something, to lie down
Wò xīn	卧薪	to lie on firewood
Wò Xīn Cháng Dǎn	卧薪尝胆	To lie on firewood and taste bile
Wú State	吴国	The State of Wu
Wǔhàn	武汉	The historic "Tri-Cities" of Hubei Province
Xī Shī	西施	A charming beauty from Yue sent to Wu as a ploy by Goujian to distract Fuchai
Xīn	薪	firewood
Yuè	越国	The Yue State
Yángzǐ	扬子江	Longest river in china
Zhèjiāng	浙江	East Coast province in China
Zhōu Dynasty	周朝	Ancient dynasty 1046 - 221 BCE



"A Man of Great Ambition"

鸿鹄之志

S3E4

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Ānhuì	安徽	Province in central China, west of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, East of Hunan and Henan
Chén Shèng	陈胜	A man of great ambition, leader of the ill-fated Dazexiang Uprising
Chén Shèng Shì Jiā	陈胜世家	The chapter in the Shi Ji that introduces the story of our main character
Chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese saying or idiom
Chǔ-Hàn Contention	楚汉之争	206 BCE The winner-take-all showdown between the forces of Xiang Yu of Chu and Liu Bang of Han
Dàzéxiāng Uprising	大泽乡起义	The first major uprising against the Qin Dynasty 209 BCE
Hàn Dynasty	汉朝	Dynasty that followed the fall of the Qin, 206 BCE - 220 CE
Hénán	河南	Ancient province where China began
Hóng	鸿	a swan or goose
Hóng Hú Zhī Zhì	鸿鹄之志	The ambitions of a swan
Hónghú	鸿鹄	the word for swan
Hú	鹄	also means a swan
Liú Bāng	刘邦	The founder of the Han Dynasty, Emperor Han Gaozu
Mìyún County	密云区	Located in the northwest corner of the Beijing Municipality
Pò Fǔ Chén Zhōu	破釜沉舟	From S3E03, Xiàng Yǔ's bold order to smash the pots and burn the boats and take the fight to the Qin army or bust
Qín Dynasty	秦朝	The short lived dynasty that changed China forever 221-206 BCE
Qín Shǐhuáng	秦始皇	The first emperor of China (a.k.a. Ying Zheng)

Shǐ Jì	史记	The Record of the Grand Historian
Sùzhōu	宿州	City in Anhui Province (Not the Sūzhōu 苏州 of Jiangsu)
Sīmǎ Qiān	司马迁	Lived sometime around 145-86 BCE. Along with his father Sima Tan, he compiled the Record of the Grand Historian
Wú Guǎng	吴广	Chen Sheng's partner in launching the uprising
Yànquè ān zhī hóngū zhī zhì zāi?	燕雀安知鸿鹄之志哉？	How can a mere finch understand the great ambitions of a swan?
Yíng family	赢家族	The ruling family of Qin
Zhì	志	will or aspirations...ambitions
Zhāng Hán	章邯	The Qin general who was tasked with beating back all the uprisings against his emperor. Died 205 BCE
Zhī	之	a possessive particle that sort of acts as the Chinese version of our English apostrophe



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Battle of Dingtáo	定陶之战	Battle in 208 BCE that saw Xiang Liang face off unsuccessfully against Zhang Han
Chén	沉	to sink
Chén zhōu	沉舟	sink a boat
Chǔ	楚国	Powerful state in central China centered around Hubei
Fǔ	釜	a kind of pot that was commonly used in ancient China to make your rice and cook food
Guānzhōng	关中	The Qin homeland and part of the heartland of China
Hándān	邯郸	Capital of Zhao
Húběi	湖北	Central Chinese province
Jùlù zhī zhàn	巨鹿之战	Battle of Jùlù 207 BCE (present day Hebei). Qin suffered a defeat at the hands of Chu
Liú Bāng	刘邦	Xiang Yu's rival, the founder of the Han Dynasty (a.k.a. Han Gaozu)
Pò	破	to break something
Pò Fǔ	破釜	to break your cooking pot
Pò Fǔ Chén Zhōu	破釜沉舟	Break the pots and sink the boats
Qí	齐国	One of the two main states that comprise present day Shandong
Qín	秦朝	The Qin Dynasty 221 - 206 BCE
Qín Shǐhuáng	秦始皇	The First Emperor of China
Qín Èrshǐ	秦二世	Son of Qin Shihuang and the second emperor

Shǐ Jì	史记	Records of the Grand Historian
Sòng Yì	宋义	Procrastinating general of Chu. He moved too slow for Xiang Yu
Sānménxiá	三门峡	Ancient Yellow River city west of Luoyang in Henan
Sīmǎ Qiān	司马迁	Han Dynasty historian (c. 135-186 BCE), father of Chinese historiography, co-writer of the Record of the Grand Historian
Sīmǎ Tán	司马谈	Father of Sima Qian and co-writer of the Record of the Grand Historian
Tai'an	泰安	City just south of Jinan
Xiàng Liáng	项梁	Uncle of Xiang Yu who perished at Dingtao
Xiàng Yǔ	项羽	Military great from Chu State who lived 232-202 BCE
Xiàng Yǔ Běn Jì	项羽本纪	The chapter from the Record of the Grand Historian that contains this chengyu
Xiányáng	咸阳	Capital of the Qin Dynasty, present day Xian
Xiān	西安	Capital of Shaanxi province
Yimǎ	义马	City south of Hándān in Hebei
Zhào Gāo	赵高	Scheming advisor to all Qin emperors
Zhào state	赵国	One of the Seven warring States
Zhāng Hán	章邯	Qin military great who fell to Xiang Yu at Julu
Zhōu	舟	a boat
Zhōu Dynasty	周朝	The dynasty that preceded the Qin



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Changping	长平	Site of a great battle in 260 BCE that saw the destruction of the Zhao army and the victory of Qin
Fù	负	Carry something on your back or shoulder or to bear a burden or responsibility
Fù Jīng Qǐng Zuì	负荆请罪	Carry brambles on your back to seek forgiveness
Fùjīng	负荆	Thorns or brambles carried on the back
Handan	邯郸	Capital of the ancient Zhao state
Hebei	河北	Northern province in China
Hé Shìbì	和氏璧	Ancient piece of jade with a long story. Later turned into the imperial seal of Qin Shihuang
Jīng	荆	A kind of tree but it's short for Jīngjí (荆棘) which means thorns or brambles
King Zhāoxiāng of Qin	亲照相	Pugnacious king of Qin 325 to 250 BCE
Lián Pō	廉颇	One of the greatest of the Warring States generals
Lián Pō Lìn Xiāngrú Lièzhuàn	廉颇蔺相如列传	The biography of Lián Pō and Lìn Xiāngrú
Lìn Xiāngrú	蔺相如	Loyal and capable official to the Zhao king
Qin State	秦国	The champions of the Warring States Period. They founded a dynasty
Qǐng	请	To request or to ask
Shǐjì	史记	Records of the Grand Historian
Sima Qian	司马迁	Along with father Sima Tan, co-author of the Records of the Grand Historian
State of Zhao	赵国	One of the seven Warring States of the Zhou era

Wán Bì Guī Zhào	完璧归赵	To return the complete Jade to Zhao
Zhou Dynasty	周朝	Bronze Age dynasty that ran from 1046 - 256 BCE
zuì	罪	Crime or guilt



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE
"True to His Word"
完璧归赵

S3E1

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Ānyáng	安阳	City along the Yellow River. The Shang Dynasty had their base there
Bì	璧	a flat jade disc that has a hole in the middle, used in ancient rituals and ceremonies
Chéngdū	成都	Present day capital of Sichuan province
Chéngyǔ	成语	Chinese saying, idiom
Guī	归	To return something
Hàn Dynasty	汉朝	The dynasty that followed the Zhou
Hán Fēizǐ	韩非子	Student of Xunzi and later one of the fathers of Legalism
Hándān	邯郸	Capital of the ancient Zhao state
Hé Shì Bì	和氏璧	Ancient piece of jade with a long story. Later turned into the imperial seal of Qin Shihuang
Héběi	河北	Hebei Province
King Huìwén of Zhào	赵惠文王	Gullible King of Zhao from 298-266 BCE
Kingdom of Qín	秦国	The champions of the Warring States Period. They founded a dynasty
Lìn Xiāngrú	蔺相如	Loyal and capable official to the Zhao king
Shuāngmù Lín	双木林	"Double Tree" Lin (林), the most common surname with the L-i-n pinyin spelling
Shānxī	山西	Shanxi Province
Shǎnxī	陕西	Confusing next-door province to Shanxi, differentiated by being spelled Shaanxi.
Shǐ Jì	史记	Records of the Grand Historian

Sīmǎ Qiān	司马迁	Son of Sima Tan. They co-authored the Records of the Grand Historian
Sīmǎ Xiāngrú	司马相如	Great poet and scholar-official of the Han
Wán	完	finish or complete
Wán Bì Guī Zhào	完璧归赵	To return the complete Jade to Zhao
Wèinán	渭南	City along the Yellow River
Xiányáng	咸阳	Present day Xian, the capital during the Qin Dynasty (and a few more dynasties after that too).
Yíng	嬴	The Clan who ruled the Qin State
Zhào	赵国	Zhou Era state and major contender during the Warring States Period
Zhèngzhōu	郑州	City along the Yellow River, also the capital of Henan Province
Zhāoxiāng	秦昭襄王	Wily king of Qin 325 to 250 BCE