



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

It Don't Mean a Thing

九牛一毛

S5E08

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Jiǔ Niú Yī Máo	九牛一毛	One hair from nine oxen, meaning insignificant, meaningless, of no consequence
Jiǔ	九	nine
Niú	牛	oxen
Yī Máo	一毛	one hair
Bào Rén Shàoliǎng Shū	报任少卿书	The work from which this Chinese Idiom comes from
Sīmǎ Qiān	司马迁	The Grand Historian, son of Sima Tan,
Shǐ Jì	史记	The Records of the Grand Historian
Hàn Dynasty	汉朝	Dynasty that ran 202 BC to 220 AD
Hàn Wǔdì	汉武帝	Long reigning Han Emperor, also known as Han Emperor Wu
Lǐ Líng	李陵	d. 74 BC, Han general who later defected to the Xiongnu
Xiōngnú	匈奴	a tribal confederation of nomadic peoples who inhabited the eastern Eurasian Steppe from the 3rd century BC to the late 1st century AD.
Lǐ Guǎnglì	李广利	d. 88 BC, one of Emperor Wu's favorite generals
Tiānshān	天山	The Heavenly Mountain range of Xinjiang, north of the Tarim Basin
Xīnjiāng	新疆	China's largest province, located in the northwest of the country.



TEACUP MEDIA



The Chinese Sayings Podcast

TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

Produced By The Gods

神工鬼斧

S5E07

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Zhuāngzǐ	庄子	Also known by his personal name Zhuang Zhou 庄周, Zhuangzi was the philosopher's name and the name of the book he is credited with writing. The book is also referred to as The Second Book of the Dao.
Dá Shēng	达生	Understanding Life, the chapter from The Zhuangzi from which this idiom was taken
Shēn Gōng Guǐ Fǔ	神工鬼斧	Uncanny workmanship, superlative workmanship, the work of the gods. Can also be expressed as Guǐ Fǔ Shēn Gōng 鬼斧神工
Shén	神	god...deity or some immortal being
Gōng	工	Worker or a skill
Guǐ	鬼	ghost or spirit
Fǔ	斧	axe or hatchet
Warring States Period	战国时代	The final part of the Zhou Dynasty, lasting from the estimated death of Confucius in 479 to 221 BC
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese idiom or slang
Zìqìng	梓庆	The main character in this story, Craftsman Qìng or Master Qìng
Shandong province	山东省	Coastal province in the north of China
State of Lǔ	鲁国	A long-lasting Zhou Dynasty State located in the southern part of Shandong Province (Qi to the north).
Jù	簏	Wooden stands used for ceremonial Chinese bells
Zhou Dynasty	周朝	China's final Bronze Age Dynasty, lasted 1046 to 221 BC. The Western Zhou lasted 1046 to 771 BC. The Eastern Zhou (Spring and Autumn and Warring States eras) lasted 770 to 221 BC



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

Mom of the Millennia

孟母三迁

S5E06

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Mèngzǐ	孟子	Also known in the West as Mencius (c. 372-289 BC), Chinese philosopher and great Confucian scholar. Also the name of the book of his teachings: The Mengzi
Mèng Mǔ Sān Qiān	孟母三迁	Mengzi's Mother Moves Three Times, our saying for this time
Zōu	邹国	A minor state near Henan-Shandong during the Zhou Dynasty
Yà Shèng	亚圣	The Second Sage, one of the names given to Mengzi
Mǔ	母	Mother
Mèng Mǔ	孟母	Mengzi's Mother
qiān	迁	To move....move one's residence or the location of a business.
Han Dynasty	汉朝	Chinese dynasty that ran 202 BC to 220 AD
Liè Nǚ Zhuàn	列女传	The Biographies of Exemplary Women. This work contained stories about the lives of noble and virtuous women.
Líu Xiàng	刘向	77 - 6 BC, Chinese astronomer, historian, poet, politician, librarian, and writer of the Western Han Dynasty. Among his polymathic scholarly specialties were history, literary bibliography, and astronomy. He is particularly well known for
Emperor Chéng of Han	汉成帝	Han emperor who reigned 51 to 7 BC. Not one of the best emperors of the Han
Zhào Fēiyàn	赵飞燕	The name of one of the dancing girl from Emperor Cheng's court
rén zhì	仁治	Ruling through mercy
Widow Zhǎng	仉	Mengzi's mother's name
Chéngyǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Teacup Chengyu Research Center headed up by Emma and her team of scholars



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

Mr. Know-it-all

井底之蛙

S5E05

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese saying or idiom
Jǐng Dǐ Zhī Wā	井底之蛙	A frog at the bottom of a well
Jǐng	井	A well
Dǐ	底	At the bottom
Zhī	之	particle used between an attribute and the word it modifies
Wā	蛙	Frog
Zhuāngzǐ	庄子	A major figure in Daoism, Zhuangzi was his name and the title of the work that he wrote (part of)
Qiūshuǐ	秋水	The chapter from the book "The Zhuangzi" from which this Chinese saying is derived
Dōng Hǎi	东海	The East Ocean (that ocean that is east of China), a.k.a. The Pacific Ocean
Dà Yǔ	大禹	Yu the Great, founder of the mythical Xia Dynasty
Xià Dynasty	夏朝	China's first dynasty, though no solid proof attests to this. The Xia lasted from approximately 2070-1600 BC
King Tāng of the Shāng	商汤	Founder of the Shang Dynasty who lived around 1646 BC
Zhōu dynasty	周朝	The Zhou Dynasty that ran 1046 to 256 BCE, the last of China's Three Bronze Age dynasties



TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

The Wood Man

木人石心

S5E04

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Western Jin Dynasty	西晋	The Western Jin Dynasty 265-317
Cháng'ān	长安	Present-day Xian, ancient capital of many kingdoms and dynasties going back to the Zhou era.
Sīmǎ Family	司马家族	The ruling family of the Jin Dynasty
Chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese Saying or idiom
Jīn Shū	晋书	The Book of Jin, one of the Official Twenty-Four Histories
Tàizōng Emperor	唐太宗	Tang Emperor who reigned 626-649
Yǐnyìliè Zhuàn	隐逸列传	A chapter from the Book of Song 宋书
Jiǎ Chōng	贾充	217-282, major politician during Three Kingdoms and Western Jin. Very close ally of the Sima Family
Cáo Wèi	曹魏	The most powerful of the Three Kingdoms, established as a dynasty in 220 by the son of Cao Cao, Cao Pi
Sīmǎ Yán	司马炎	236-290, Emperor Wu of Jin, grandson of Sima Yi
Jiǎ Nánfēng	贾南风	257-300, Empress Consort and first wife of Jin Emperor Hui. The War of the Eight Princes was blamed on her intervention in Jin court politics. Also known as Empress Jia
Gǒu Wèi Xù Diāo	狗尾续貂	A dog's tail joined to a sable - a wretched sequel to a fine work (of literature)
Emperor Huì	晋惠帝	Sima Zhong, who reigned 290-307 as the second emperor of the Western Jin
Mù Rén Shí Xīn	木人石心	Someone who can be described as "wooden" and with a "Stone heart"
Mù	木	Wood
Rén	人	Person
Shí	石	Stone, rock

Xīn	心	Heart
Xià Tǒng	夏统	The hero of today's story.
Xiāoshān	萧山区	An area of present-day Hángzhōu
Hángzhōu	杭州	Ancient southern Chinese capital for several dynasties. Today the capital of Zhejiang Province
Luò River	洛河	The river that runs through the center of Luoyang
Luòyáng	洛阳	Historic city in Henan Province that served as the capital of many dynasties
Zhèjiāng province	浙江省	Province on the east coast of China
Cáo É	曹娥	130-143, a girl who died trying to protect her father from drowning in 143.
Sòng Dynasty	宋朝	Dynasty that lasted in the north and south from 960-1279
Xiánfēng Emperor	咸丰	Qing emperor who reigned 1850-1861



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Tóu Bǐ Cóng Róng	投笔从戎	To throw down one's pen and give up a desk job to join the military
Tóu	投	Throw, fling or hurl
Bǐ	笔	A pen
Cóng	从	To join or be engaged in (among many other meanings)
Róng	戎	Military Affairs or a Military Campaign
Hàn Dynasty	汉朝	Dynasty that lasted 202 BC - 220 AD
Hàn Shū	汉书	Book of Hàn
Xī Hàn	西汉	Western Hàn Dynasty, that part from 202 BC to 9 AD
Liú Sòng Dynasty	刘宋超	Northern dynasty that lasted 420-479 AD
	班彪	3-54 AD, writer of Book of Han, father to Ban Gu, Ban Zhao and Ban Chao
Bān Gù	班固	32-92 AD, co-author of the Book of Han
Bān Zhāo	班昭	32-102, co-author of the Book of Han
Sīmǎ Tán	司马谈	165-110 BC, Court historian and co-writer of the Records of the Grand Historian. Father to Sima Qian
Sīmǎ Qiān	司马迁	145-86 BC (c.) Also known as The Grand Historian, China's most famous and renowned historian
Xīnjiāng	新疆	Province in China's northwest
Bān Chāo	班超	32-102, great military strategist and conquerer of China's northwest regions
Xiōngnú	匈奴	a tribal confederation of nomadic peoples who, according to ancient Chinese sources, inhabited the eastern Eurasian Steppe from the 3rd century BC to the late 1st century AD

Fù Jièzǐ	傅介子	Carried out an assassination of the King of Loulan during the time of Hàn Emperor Zhāo in 77 BC that planted the China flag in Xinjiāng for the first time。 He died in 65 BC
Zhāng Qiān	张骞	mission to the Western Regions, called for by Hàn Emperor Wǔ 汉武帝 led to eventual opening up of that part of Central Asia and the launching of the Silk Roads that did so much to change China and so much of Asia
Hàn Emperor Zhāo	汉昭帝	Han emperor from 87 to 74 BC. He was the son of the great Han Emperor Wu
Lóulán	楼兰	An ancient city known by many past names. It was located on the extreme eastern part of the Taklamakan Desert in Xinjiang
Luòyáng	洛阳	The "Eastern Capital" for many of China's ancient dynasties
Hóngú zhī zhì	鸿鹄之志	A Chinese Saying featured in Season 3 about a young man with great aspirations
Hāmì	哈密	City in northern Xinjiang
Bùrù hǔxué yān dé hǔzǐ	不入虎穴焉得虎子	You can't catch the tiger's cubs without entering the tiger's lair....or Nothing ventured, nothing gained as we say in English....borrowing from the 14th century French proverb "Qui onques rien n'enprist riens n'achieva,"
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese Saying or Idiom
Bān Chāo Lièzhuàn	班超列传	Book of Later Han chapter from which we get this Chinese Saying. The Biography of Ban Chao.
Teacup Chéngyǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Teacup Media state of the art Chengyu Research Center

The
Chinese
Sayings
Podcast

by Laszlo Montgomery

TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

It's Too Late Baby

病入膏肓

S05E02



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese Saying or Idiom
Sīmǎ Huī	司马徽	Early 3rd century hermit in Sichuan. Had a reputation as a good spotter of talent. He is the Hao Hao Xiansheng
Hǎo Hǎo Xiānshēng	好好先生	Mr. Good-Good, someone who never disagrees about anything and trying to walk the middle road
Zhou Dynasty	周朝	Dynasty founded in 1046 BC, lasting to 256 BC.
State of Jin	晋国	The State of Jin, one of the major states during the Warring States Period
Shānxī	山西	Province in north central China
Duke Jǐng	晋景公	Ruler of Jin State 599-581 BC
Hán, Zhào and Wèi.	汉, 赵, 魏	The three states created after the Partition of Jin State in 468 BC (approximately)
Zuǒ Qiūmíng	左丘明	556-451 BC, Chinese historian during late Spring and Autumn Period. Writer of the Zuo Zhuan, or "Commentary of Zuo"
Zuǒ Zhuàn	左转	One of the official Chinese histories that is regarded as a commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals (Chunqiu 春秋).
Chéng Gōng Shínián	成公十年	The chapter in the Zuo Zhuan where the story behind 病入膏肓 can be found
Bìng	病	Sickness, disease
Rù	入	To enter
Gāo	膏	the vital organs of the body
Huāng	肓	in Chinese medicine is the part of the body between the heart and the diaphragm
Bìngrù Gāohuāng	病入膏肓	The disease has entered that part of the body that is incurable
gùshi	故事	a story

Zhào	赵	The surname Zhao
Zhào Tóng	赵同	A loyal military official of Jin, murdered in 583 BC
Zhào Kuò	赵括	Another loyal official of Jin, surnamed Zhào who was murdered in 583 BC on Duke Jin's orders
Wū	巫	A witch or shaman
Qín	秦朝	The Qin Dynasty 221 to 206 BC
Jìn Jǐng Gōng	晋景公	Ruler of Jin State 599-581 BC

The
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by Laszlo Montgomery

TERMS REFERENCED IN EPISODE

Everything's Good

好好先生

S05E01



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Hǎo Hǎo Xiānshēng	好好先生	Mr. Good-Good, someone who never disagrees about anything and trying to walk the middle road
Hǎo	好	Good
Xiānshēng	先生	Mister
Sīmǎ Huī	司马徽	Early 3rd century hermit in Sichuan. Had a reputation as a good spotter of talent. He is the Hao Hao Xiansheng
Gǔ Jīn Tán Gài	古今谭概	A book of essays written by the late Ming Dynasty literary figure, Fēng Mènglóng 梦龙
Páng Tǒng	庞统	179-214, Pang Tong was an advisor to Liu Bei. Sima Hui spotted him right away as a man of talent.
Zhūgě Liàng	诸葛亮	181-234, a.k.a. Kongming, Crouching Dragon, Statesman, diplomat, strategist
Liú Bèi	刘备	161-223, Eastern Han warlord and later King of Shǔ during the Three Kingdoms period
Luó Guànzōng	罗贯中	1330-1400, early Ming Dynasty author who wrote The Romance of the Three Kingdoms