Hergé first published *Le Lotus Bleu* in the magazine *Le Petit Vingtième* in Brussels in 1934-5; the story itself is set in 1931. At that time Japanese troops were occupying parts of the Chinese mainland, and Shanghai, the great seaport at the mouth of the Yangtze Kiang, possessed an International Settlement, a trading base in China for Western nations, administered by the British and Americans. Hergé based his narrative freely upon the events of the time, including the blowing-up of the South Manchurian railway, which led to further incursions by Japan into China and ultimately to Japan's resignation from the League of Nations in 1933.

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Translated by Leslie Lonsdale-Cooper
and Michael Turner

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TINTIN AND SNOWY are in India, guests of the Maharaja of Gaipajama, enjoying a well-earned rest. The evil gang of international drug-smugglers, encountered in *Cigars of the Pharaoh*, has been smashed and its members are behind bars. With one exception. Only the mysterious gang-leader is unaccounted for: he disappeared over a cliff.

But questions have still to be answered. What of the terrible Rajaijah Juice, the ‘poison of madness’? Where were the shipments of opium going, hidden in the false cigars? And who really was the master-mind behind the operation?

There it is again. That’s the station I’ve been trying to identify...

It must have some meaning... but what?

My direction-finder shows WSW, ENE. In theory the transmitter should be along a line in the same direction, passing through Gaipajama.

Tintin Sahib, the Maharaja requests your presence.

Thank you. I’ll come.
My dear Tintin... I've asked the famous fakir Ramacharman to demonstrate his remarkable powers.

How interesting. I'm curious to see him...

I'm not!... I remember the last one!

He's quite extraordinary!

Isn't he?

Now, if your Highness permits, I will read the secrets of the future...

Please be seated...

Thanks.

Do so...

EEK!

There... look! I sat on a cushion!

Forgive me... I have a sensitive skin!

Now... Aha, I see you have a taste for adventure... You have already faced great dangers... But you are brave and... Oh, no!... The signs are not good...
I see an enemy! You think him dead, but he plans revenge... Be on your guard!

I also see a fakir, a disgrace to our brotherhood, dedicated to your downfall. He is close to you... very close to you. He spies upon you... He has a terrible weapon... and there is no defence.

Beware... I see another man... a man with a yellow skin... His hair is black... He wears glasses... Take every care! He has sworn to destroy you!

Tintin sahib, there is a stranger in the gallery, asking for you. He says he has come from Shanghai to see you.

From Shanghai?
That's a fair distance... just to talk to me... How peculiar...

Mr Tintin, sir?
Me? Yes...

Yellow skin... black hair... glasses... Careful, Tintin!

I have something extremely important to tell you. Can we talk here?

Certainly. We're quite alone: look...

A dare... dipped in Rajaijah juice... the poison of madness?! He's gone... He didn't waste any time...

Quick! Speak! What have you to tell me?

![Tong Si Nan Pei] Poor fellow!... He's gone mad!

Mitsuhirato... Someone needs you... I... Shanghai... Remember that name, Mitsuhirato... Mitsu... Mitsuhirato.

Good. Then?

![TINTIN!]
The other fakir, Tintin, the one I sent to prison, the one with the poisoned darts, he's escaped...

I thought as much!

We must pack the trunk, quickly...

Look... the poison of madness!
By Brahma! How awful!...

WOOAH! WOOAH!

I must go to China at once... Poor chap... he just had time to tell me I'm needed in Shanghai.

...I see an enemy!... You think him dead, but he plans revenge...

Well, we'll soon see!

Hello, where has Snowy gone?

Snowy?... Snowy?...

Snowy!

Great snakes!... He can't have been kidnapped!

You haven't seen Snowy?

Snowy?... No...

You search over there... I'll go this way...

Nothing, Sahib...

We haven't found him.

They must have taken him!

Some hours later...

They're bringing your trunk down... You've really made up your mind to go?

Yes... and no... I can't go without Snowy...
Snowy!! My poor Snowy!!... I must have shut you in the trunk!!... Well, now we can go!

Goodbye!!... Good luck!

Goodbye ...

Some time later...

So this is Shanghai...

That's him! That's him all right!

No mistake, that's him.

Mitsuhiroto... Mitsuhiroto... But how do we find him?
... It's certainly a Japanese name, but...

Come in!

'TO MR TINTIN'...
Most peculiar!!... How does anyone know I'm here yet...

RAT TAT TAT

Mr Tintin, the news of your arrival fills me with joy.
I cannot convey my happiness at the prospect of gazing upon your noble and virtuous features.
May I humbly beg the privilege of calling upon you at 3 o'clock this afternoon?
My servant will await your gracious reply.

M. Tintin
Excellent! ... Please tell the messenger his master is too kind. He mustn’t put himself out. I will call upon him myself.

I wonder how our Mr Mitsuhrato knew I was here... Anyway, he’s certainly a man with impeccable manners...

Are Japanese good chaps, Tintin?

Mr Mitsuhrato, Street of Tranquillity...

Dirty little Chinese man! ... To barge into a white man!
Stop me punishing a useless native, would you?... Interfering brat!

Your conduct is disgraceful, sir!

You'll hear more of this, busybody! You bet you will!

Wouah! Wouah!

Ah, Gibbons, my friend!

You look peeved, old chap!

Peeved! Am I peeved? Get a load of this!

... Some European kid had the nerve to back up a rickshaw boy... He'd knocked me flying and I was reaching him a lesson!... Trying to stop me beating a native... Intolerable!

What's the world coming to? Can't we even teach that yellow rabble to mind their manners now? It's up to us to civilise the savages! We soon won't have any control at all... and look what we've done for them, all the benefits...

... of our superb western civilisation...

Yes, our superb western civilisation...

You did that on purpose, yellow scum!... I'll teach you respect for your betters!

Where was I?... Oh, yes, our superb western civilisation...

Listen...

I'll try to find out the name of that young ruffian, the one who had a go at you. Since I'm Chief of Police of the Shanghai International Settlement, that shouldn't be difficult. Then I'll teach our young Don Quixote a lesson!
My dear Mr Tintin, you must go back to India at once. The Maharaja of Gaipajama is in great danger. I sent a Chinese messenger to tell you to guard the Maharaja. Didn't you see him?

Yes, but he was struck by a poisoned dart and only managed to say two words: your name and Shanghai. Then... nonsense.

Despicable creatures! Such persons stop at nothing! Believe me, you were wrong to leave the Maharaja. Who knows what they will do in your absence?....

Who are 'they'?

Please pardon me, I cannot tell you more: my own life would be in danger... But I beg you to take heed and go back to India.

I see... thank you. Maybe I'll take the next boat back. Meanwhile I'll telegraph the Maharaja to be on his guard.

Excellent plan... Ah, I was forgetting. Beware of everyone here, and especially the Chinese. Your life hangs by a thread...

But... how do you know?...

A true Japanese knows everything, honourable sir.

Bit seedy round here, eh?

Yes, I'm inclined to agree!
Missed him!

What was that all about?!

If I've got it right, the man who charged me down was saving my life...

This'll revive our spirits, anyway...

What about a cup of tea for me?

BANG
The shots came from this direction...

Let's hope that whistle doesn't bring reinforcements...

Hurry up, boys!
But I keep telling you... And I'm telling you, shut your trap!

Next morning...

Hello, Gibbons?... You remember your Don Quixote?... Yes... Well, I've got him!... Picked up last night by a patrol....

That's great... What'll you do with him?... What?... Let him go? But... Ah... Hahaha!... You're a pal!... Goodbye!

By the way... that little ragamuffin you brought in last night... Did you know he clouted one of your chums?... If I were you I'd give him a spot of corrective treatment...

Very good, sir!

Still, I hope they don't knock him about too much...

Yes?... An ambulance?... To St. James Prison?... Right... I'll send one along...

CLANG

THUMP

ZZING

BANG

BOOM

AMBULANCE
Obviously they knew I was innocent. And yet... they didn't go after the attacker...

A telegram for you, Mr Tintin, and a letter, and this parcel...

Mr Tintin,

Come tonight at 10 o'clock to the street called T'ai ping lu. There will be a lantern outside the door. Wear the clothes you will find in the parcel. It will be easier for you to

Poisoned?... No, thank goodness! His heart's still beating. He's asleep... Drugged?...

The tea!... He must have drunk the tea I split on the floor... But... but...

That shot... it was providential!... If I'd drunk the tea...

You sleep it off, Snowy old fellow. And don't worry if I'm late back...

T'ai ping lu?...

Here we are... Not a very healthy-looking place...

KAT TAT
Did you arrange to meet me here?

Excuse me, was it you who...?

Look here, are you deaf?

Or is this some sort of joke?

OK! If you've nothing to tell me, I'm off!

Are you going to say why you brought me here?

Peculiar expression...

Hopeless!... Best thing I can do is go away...

Wait!... Don't go!...

I want to tell you something...

And not before time, too!

Lao Tzu said: 'You must find the way! I've found it. You must find it too...'

Er...yes?

So I'm going to cut off your head. Then you'll know the truth!
Look, you needn't be afraid. I only have to cut your head off!

He's mad!

It won't take a minute, you'll see...

As I suspected... A puncture on his neck... Rajaijah!... What can I do for the poor fellow?

Officer, I found this poor madman. Can you take care of him?

The police will look after him... And I'm back at square one!

Next day...

Mr Tintin!

Why, it's Mr Mitsuhirato!

I heard you were leaving, so I came to say goodbye. I wish you a calm and peaceful journey.

Thank you. My good wishes to you, too.

Well, I haven't learnt very much in Shanghai...

TOOOOT

See that young man leaning on the rail? That's him!

I see!
That night...

Are you coming Snowy? Let's take a stroll round the deck...

All right. I'll catch you up...

There! It's done!...You haven't used too much chloroform, have you?

Put some on another handkerchief.

?...

That's it!...Here goes!

SPLOSH
You saw?... They made the signal!

We'll have a look...

Here are the boxes...

There, the sampan is coming back.

The next morning...

What do you make of it Snowy?... Last night, sailing to Bombay. This morning, here in this room...

Anyway, where exactly are we?...

We'll very soon find out...

Aha! There's someone who'll be able to tell us...

Excuse me, sir...

THE MADMAN! SHANGHAI!...

Have you found the way?... No?... Good!... Then I'll cut off your head!...

Again...
Didi!...Stop that!...Leave us...and behave!...Yes, Papa...

Allow me to introduce myself: Wang Chen-ye. I am the father of the poor soul you saw just now. He was attacked by our enemies and lost his mind the night he arranged to meet you in Shanghai. He was guarding you.

CRACK...BANG

It's quite true...I owe him my life. But please, why was he guarding me, and why have I been prevented from making my journey?

So it was him!

Certainly, I owe you an apology for such a violent kidnapping. But the telegram recalling you to India was false. My son was to explain, the night you saw him, and to ask you to stay longer in Shanghai. Alas, he was unable to do so, and you left sail. But you must remain in China.

I must remain in China?...But why?...

Will you come with me?...You will understand...

You stay here, Snowy, and behave yourself!

Here is the friend who will be of infinite help...

Now Mr Tintin, it is time to give you an explanation...

These are the headquarters of the Sons of the Dragon. We are a secret society dedicated to the fight against opium, the terrible drug causing such havoc in our country. Our greatest adversary is a Japanese, with whom you are acquainted. He is named Mitsuhirato...

Mitsuhirato?...

Well, well! Why don't I practise on him?

What does he want with me?
Yes, Mitsuhirato. He's a Japanese secret agent in China... and at the same time, one of the most active and evil of men...

Hello, Tokyo? Tokyo here... Ah, it's you...

Yes, Excellency... All is well... Tintin?... On the way to India... recalled by telegram, sent by me... of course... No, not easy... Those meddling Sons of the Dragon tried to keep him here... I had to take extreme measures...

Perfect!... Now the coast is clear for... you know what. Succeed in that... and you will receive the Order of Fujiyama, first class!

I'm certain to succeed, Excellency, provided your propaganda is well organised... It will be?... That is good!... Goodbye then, Excellency...

We hoped you would be willing to help us, so we sent a messenger to India... But Mitsuhirato's spy network is excellent. They attacked the messenger and he went mad... Yet you still came, and...

WOOAH! WOOAH! That's Snowy!

Snowy!... He's gone!

I'm going to help you to find the way. Don't worry, there's nothing to it... It just means cutting off your head...

Look how sharp the blade is...
We'll go and look in my son's room...

Didi!...

Come in, Father, and see an interesting experiment...

And never do that again! Good to be together again, eh, Snowy?

Forgive my poor son, Mr. Tintin. He isn't responsible for his actions...

Courage, Mr. Wang. I'll do all I can to find an antidote to that terrible poison...

Now, when Mitsuhirato had failed to stop you coming to China, he tried to scare you into leaving immediately. When you stayed, he tried to kill you. Now he believes you are on the way back to India. So far so good. We know he communicates by radio with his accomplices...

By radio? Well, well... What a pity my receiving set is in my trunk aboard the 'Ranchi'... I could have...

Your trunk came with you, dear friend. We would not wish to deprive you of your luggage...

Look... One day in Goipana, I intercepted this peculiar message: 'Direct special attention Charles Yokohama urgently going oddy slow Istanbouen. Noisy gaps in Saturday means Tibetan medicine easily changes West Ekombe. I couldn't make or tail of it...

Then, on my journey, I managed to solve it. Take the first two letters of each word, and that gives you: Dispatch your goods. Listen again same time each week.'

The word Yokohama made me think the sender of the message was Japanese and... Wait! A signal on the same wavelength...

Blizzard ueda location Tuesday storm entraps top nine ghurkas T

Take the first two letters of each word... there... 'Blue Lotus ten tonight'... Well, that doesn't make much more sense...

Blue lotus... Blue lotus... Wait... Yes, I know... In Shanghai there's an opium den with that name...

An opium den? Right! I'll be there tonight...
No, Mr. Mitsuhirato has not yet arrived. But he won't be long. Please come with me.

I'll wait for him here...

Good evening, sir. Someone is waiting for you...

Yes, I know.

Here are 5000 dollars in advance. You get the same again when the job is done. But just remember, if you talk... you die!... You understand?... Good!... Now, we go.

Get in...
You have everything?

Careful!... We've arrived...

Now then, to work!

Crumbs, it's cold... Now what are they doing?... Taking cover?... I wonder...

Perfect!

Hello?... Cheng Fu station?... Chinese bandits have just blown the track... At post 123.

Brrrr! I'm frozen!

ATCHOOOO!

Someone over there!... Look!... A spy!...

BANG
The car! If I can reach it...

Ministry of War
Tokyo. Stop
Chinese bandits
have blown up
Shanghai-Nanking railway...

Damage to property
not significant.
Stop

Not significant!
We'll soon see about that...

This is Radio Tokyo...
The frontier of Chinese guerrillas knows no bounds!
News just in details a treacherous attack on the Shanghai-Nanking railway...

...stopped the train and attacked the innocent passengers...

...Having blown up the track, the brigands...

...Reports tell of many killed trying to defend themselves.

Twelve Japanese died.
After the attack...

...the bandits, numbering more than a hundred, fled with their loot.

Tokyo Express!...Special!
Special!...Chinese bandits attack passenger train!...
Many dead...Read all about it!

...Japan must never forget her duty as the guardian of law and civilisation in the Far East...Glory to our brave soldiers who have now gone to defend this noble cause!...

...and once again Japan has fulfilled her mission as guardian of law and civilisation in the Far East!

If we have been forced, to our utmost regret, to send troops into China, it is for the good of China herself!

He! he! Don't say I didn't warn you!...China is an unhealthy place for little Nosy Parkers!...
Tintin should have been back long ago...

My driver will take you back to Shanghai... I have unfinished business with our young friend!

They've brought me here and locked me in... What will they do next?

Where in the world can he be?

My dear Mr Tintin, do forgive me for not paying attention to you sooner...

I'm going to enjoy myself, dear friend. Here on the outskirts of Shanghai no one saw you arrive, and no one will ever see you leave, if that's what I decide.

You are at my mercy. If I so wish, you will vanish!... But all things considered, I don't want to kill you. No, on the contrary, I've decided to let you go...

Please excuse me... I'll be back in a moment...

I... of course... As you wish...

I must say, I hadn't expected this...

Do you know what this is?...

The poison of madness!!!

Just one little jab... and I'll set you free...

Don't be afraid! Only a little dose... We don't want to overdo things!

There!... You see... It didn't take long...

Mad!... I'm going to go mad!

And Chang?... He's still hot back either?

Whatever happens, I simply must find Tintin!

Each peach, pear, plum... In that order comes... Thumb!... And now, my little man, out you go!

Chick... chick... chick... chicken!
Yip-I-addy-I-lay!...

Goodbye! Have a good time!

Happy days are here again!...

He still isn't back...

TINTIN!

Wooah! Wooah!

Tarantara zing boom Zing & boom & boom

Golly!... He's... Tintins... drunk!

BRRRRRRRRR... Look out!... I'm coming in to land!

Too-ra loor-ra loor-ra loay

My dear old Snowy! Did you think I'd gone crazy?

Still, I wonder why I haven't?... He very definitely stuck a needle in my arm...
Seven suffering Samurai! That's not Rajaijah... So what did I...?
Chang went to watch the house of Mitsuhirate, Venerable... He has returned... Send him here at once!
I was hidden in the next room. I put coloured water in place of the Rajaijah, and I've brought you the real poison. I took care of his knife and his gun too...
I'll soon find him. He can't have gone far...
There!!...

!?

Kamikaze! The blade's made of rubber!

?...

And perhaps that's made of rubber as well!...

An hour later... Major, I'm Japanese... I've been half murdered by a young European, a Chinese spy! His name is Tintin!

Now we must go back to Mr Wang...

5000 Yen Reward
TINTIN

There isn't a moment to lose... I must get out of the city...
Too late! Japanese patrols are watching the gates. I can't get past...

How to escape from the city?...

?...

You're the one with a Japanese price on your head!
You saved my life. I shall never forget...
Don't thank me... My brother is a rickshaw boy. You rescued him from a foreign devil.

A real friend!

Blow me, if that isn't Tintin! ...Stopped me teaching manners to that Chinese chimpanzee!

What's he doing out here, dressed like a native? ...Very sly! ...If I'd seen him sooner I'd have knocked him flat!

Take me to your officer! ...I know where Tintin is, see?
So?... You are sure of your facts?

Absolutely certain, Major... I saw him clearly as I'm seeing you!

If we walk fast we'll be back with Mr. Wang by tonight.

Lucky for me I was hidden. I'd better keep an eye open in case he returns...

Careful! Here comes that armoured car again!

We didn't find him, sir. Not a chance of his escaping along that road...
At last!... I thought I'd never see you again!

You lied!... We found no trace of Tintin... you will be detained... And mark my words: he plays the fool with the military authority.

But... I...

Just let me get out of here and I'll show him what I'm made of, the little swine!

So this is the mysterious poison that's been so much damage... and if it hadn't been for your servant I'd have been a victim, too...

Ayayah! Oh! Youp!

Our son is having another fit of madness, Wang. Please, try to calm him!

Poor, poor, Mrs Wang...

If only someone could do something to cure his madness, but that's impossible...

Unless... yes, but it's only a chance in a million...

And if I do that, I'll have to get back through the Japanese lines.

Don't cry, Mrs Wang... tomorrow morning I'll go to Shanghai and I'll have that poison analysed. Who knows, perhaps we may find a cure for your son's madness.

Next morning...

I fear for you. Don't forget there is a price on your head! Don't be afraid... If I can manage to reach the International Settlement, I'll be safe. They can't do anything to me there...

Hello?... Yee, speaking... To whom have I the honour...

Dawson here, Chief of Police of the International Settlement... I believe you're holding a chap called Gibbons... yes... from a large American company... I think you'd be wise to let him go... could make an awful lot of trouble.

Agreed, but on one condition... We're looking for a spy, name of Tintin. If he takes refuge in the International Settlement, you'll hand him over...

It's a deal, Major... you can count on me!
You've really made up your mind, then?

Yes. But don't worry. All will be well... And I'll keep in touch with you...

Now, how am I going to get myself into the city?

I tell you, Tintin, it's absolutely crazy!...

What?... Still not caught him?... Seventy suffering Samuraïs!... Very well, double the reward! Ten thousand yen for his capture!

There's a new general coming here this morning on a tour of inspection. I want everything in perfect order... Turnout, barracks, the lot!

Present arms!

Yes, General, I haven't had time to shave this morning.

Four days' detention?!!... I... Very good, sir!

The paper?... It just blew here, General... Very sorry, sir.

Four days' detention???... But sir, it's only a piece of paper...

Eight days?!!... I... Very good, sir!
Full of charm, isn't he? And that's our new general!

Major, there's a little man who insists upon seeing you. He claims to be the general. Bring him in, I'll give him a general's tour.

But... but the general has just left! And I'm telling you, blackhead, that I'm General Haranöchi!... I was attacked on the road by a young Chinese who stripped me of my uniform!!...

No one about?... Good! Here we go!...

One...

Now let's release my false stomach... All right, Snowy?

Two...

And three!

Now to the International Settlement... And make it snappy!

All's well. We made it!

Halt!... Your papers!

My identity papers? I'm afraid I haven't got them with me... But my name's Tintin and I...

But look! You can see I'm a European...

What's the problem? The boy hasn't any papers, sir...

No use arguing, sonny. Must have proper papers to enter the settlement...

But look! You can see I'm a European...

Nothing doing!

Please...

Now what?... Crumbs! A Japanese patrol! I must get in. If I don't...
There!... That boy, escaping on a bike...

OK! We'll catch him in a couple of minutes!

Keep going, Snowy! I'll jump when we slow down...
Which way did he go? Left? Right? Straight ahead?

At least they won't come to look for us in here!

All I know, sir, he was a young lad dressed like a Chinese, and he told me his name was Tintin...

Tintin... Tintin... You're sure he said Tintin?

Look, Snowy! Do you remember, in Arabia? Mr Rastapopoulos shooting his film... We interrupted the scene! (I)

The President of the Pil-chardanian Republic opens the national dog show...

WORLDWIDE NEWS

PARIS WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPION

I... I'm very happy to have won... and... and I'll try to do better next time...

Shanghai: Professor Fang Hsi-ying is home from his lengthy lecture tour in America. The world authority on madness enjoys a well-deserved rest in his exquisite garden...

That's the man to cure Mr Wang's son!

Ssh! Quiet!

Hey!

I want Professor Fang Hsi-ying!... You know where he lives?

Yes, yes...

(I) See Cigars of the Pharaoh
What? My honourable friend has not reached home?... Strange... He left at about ten o'clock with one of our guests, Mr Rastapopoulos.

Rastapopoulos, here?... Where is he staying?

My heart is anxious. Honourable master told me he would be home by ten o'clock. Now it is after midnight... Do you know where he went?

Yes, he went to a reception given in his honour by his friend Mr Liu Ju-lin in the Street of the Purple Mountain.

Then I'll go there...

Come in!

The Palace Hotel, quick!...

Professor Fang Hsi-ying never got home.

Didn't get home?... But it's only a few steps to his door from the place where I dropped him...

Good evening, Mr Rastapopoulos! Tintin! What a pleasant surprise! ...

I've just come from Mr Liu. He said you left his house with Professor Fang Hsi-ying. Is that right?...

Yes, quite right. I gave the professor a lift in my car and left him at the corner of the Street of Infinite Wisdom, where he lives... Why do you ask?
Aha! A patch of oil... A car must have parked here. I'm certain someone was waiting for the professor and... Grabbed him!

Hello... Yes, it's me... What is it?... What?!!! You didn't arrest him?... Dozy dole!

It wasn't my fault, chief. The porter didn't warn me soon enough. He'd already gone...

Next morning...
Your master still hasn't come home?... Very odd... Well, I'll see what I can do...

Thank you!

Let's go over the professor's route from the time he got out of Rastapopoulos's car...

Mr Gibbons, this is your business card, isn't it?... Well, I found it in the Street of Infinite Wisdom near the house of Professor Fang Hsi-yin... He disappeared last night...

Disappeared?... That's news to me... Funny, I met him last evening... Gave him my card...

He seemed worried...

Hello!... Hello!... Get me the Chief of Police! Fast!

Hello?... Richards? Take Brown and go to the Fang Hsi-ying house on the Street of Infinite Wisdom. Tintin is on his way there. Handcuff him and bring him here!

Fang Hsi-yin's house!... At the double!...
Dear Chew,
I have been seized by Chinese bandits demanding a ransom of 50,000 dollars. It is essential the police do not look for them. If they are alarmed, they will kill me.
The ransom is to be paid within a fortnight, at the old temple about an hour's journey from Hukow on the right bank of the Yangtze Kiang. As I do not possess sufficient money.

I'm going to look for the Professor... While I'm gone, will you look after this package? Please, take the greatest care of it...

Oh, it is you, sir!... Come, please!... I have just received a letter from Honourable Master!

A letter?

I'd like to know why you've arrested me...

Just a second, old man, and you'll be in the picture...

Hello?... Japanese border post?... Is that you, Major?... Dawson here...

Yes... yes... Tintin!... You arrested him?... Congratulations!... Yes, that's right... Excellent... In half an hour... Goodbye...

It's disgraceful!... I'm on international territory here and you have no right to hand me over to the Japanese!...

Excuse me, you're quite wrong... Have you papers allowing you to be in the Settlement?... No, you haven't... So I have the right to expel you... If the Japanese arrest you, that's none of my business...

Half an hour later...
Hello...yes...Tintin!...You got him?...His trial begins tomorrow?...How long will it last?...Two days?...Good!

Venerable Master, Tintin is a prisoner of the Japanese and they've condemned him to death!...I saw posters in the city!

NOTICE
The Council of War of the Fifth Army of Occupation have CONDEMned TO DEATH the prisoner TINTIN, found guilty of:
1. Espionage
2. Attempted murder of a Japanese
3. Assaulting a senior officer
4. Illegally wearing a uniform and medals
For three days preceding the execution the condemned man will wear the tablet and be paraded through the streets of the city as a warning to the population.

Three days go by...

Tomorrow at dawn Tintin ends his career...I can't see any way to get myself out of this one...

You really think he'll accept?...Seriously?

Now what do they want?

Hello, dear friend...

Mitsuhirato!

I come to you as a friend, dear Tintin...No, no I'm not joking. I've come to offer you your freedom!

Really?

Yes, but on two conditions. First, that you join our counter-espionage service. Second, that you tell me where you've hidden the poison you stole...

That's all. Here are 10,000 dollars. You accept my proposition, I get you out tonight, and the money's yours...

That's all?

He refused?...

How did you guess?
Well, that's torn it. Now I know what's in store for me...

You see, tomorrow morning we have to cut off his head with one chop...

The mouse went down there... Perhaps there's a cellar... I could try to lift a flagstone...

All well?

Yes sir. Everything quiet...

It's no use... All I've done is break my nails!...

Don't make a noise... and come quickly!... Mind, there's a ladder...

What if it's a trap?...

Oh well, I've nothing to lose...
It's Mr Wang!

How can I thank you?

Shh! Not a sound! We must hurry! Follow me, quickly!

I'll lead the way...

Are you following me?

There!... Now you're in my house!

My house, yes... It's the one next to where you were imprisoned. As soon as I heard you'd been sentenced I rented this house. Then I made use of the three days you were being paraded to dig this tunnel...

We must leave the city at once. It will soon be light and the alarm will be raised... Ah, is everything ready?

Yes...

Vanished? The prisoner vanished?... Blockhead!... When you're guarding a prisoner you don't let him escape... And the major?... What's the major going to say?

Escaped?... Bungling blockheads!... When you're guarding a prisoner you watch him!... And the general?... What's the general going to say?

Blockheaded bungler!... When you're guarding important prisoners you're on your guard!... Now don't let this news get out!

Flaming Fujiyama! Tintin has escaped!

Double the guard on the gates... He can't be allowed to get out of the city. We'd be a laughing stock!

My brother told me, and he had it from one of the guards. Young Tintin escaped from prison right under their noses!

Ah, so! That pest Tintin has escaped... I've got to keep my eyes open.
Wait!... What's inside those sacks?

It's rice, Lieutenant...

We'll see about that! Run your bayonet through each sack!

All done, Lieutenant! You can go!

Have you seen a cart go past with sacks on it, pushed by three Chinese?

Yes, I saw it. Why?

They've made a fool of you, Lieutenant!... Tintin was hidden in one of those sacks!

Now I'm in trouble!... But I don't understand... We bayoneted every sack...

Sergeant-major, the sentry guarding the armoured cars has disappeared.
Hello?...Yes...What?...Someone stole an armoured car?...It isn't possible...you must be mad!...I...Very well, I'm coming!

It's our lucky day!...Everything went like clockwork!...

Not to mention finding our brave Snowy wandering in the road...

I've had enough!...Enough, d'you hear?...They'd steal a whole regiment, and all you'd see would be a puff of smoke!

Why didn't you go after them...immediately?...Answer me!...Why not?

We...we couldn't, General. All the other vehicles had been sabotaged...

Then for heaven's sake, why didn't you send aeroplanes?

Yes, General...We found the armoured car half-ed 20 kilometres away...Yes, we landed and had a look...Empty...No, no one at all...I don't know...But sir...Hello?...Hello?...

Bunglers, bunglers, bunglers!...The lot of them!...Who knows where Tin-tin is now?

Let's take it step by step. If we're going to save your son we must find Fang Hsi-ying. Then we'll take care of Mitsuhirato and his gang...
He's alive!

That's better, eh? You almost swallowed half the river!... What's your name?... I'm Tintin.

I am Chang Chong-chen... But... why did you save my life?

I thought all white devils were wicked, like those who killed my grandfather and grandmother long ago. During the War of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, my father said, yes, The Boxer Rebellion.

But Chang, all white men aren't wicked. You see, different peoples don't know enough about each other. Lots of Europeans still believe...

... that all Chinese are cunning and cruel and wear pig-tails, are always inventing tortures, and eating rotten eggs and swallows' nests...

The same stupid Europeans are quite convinced that all Chinese have tiny feet, and even now little Chinese girls suffrageonies with bandages...

... designed to prevent their feet developing normally. They're even convinced that Chinese rivers are full of unwanted babies, thrown in when they are born.

So you see Chang, that's what lots of people believe about China!

They must be crazy people in your country!!

I have news for you, General, about Tintin...

Meanwhile...

I know a short cut...

Hukow?... But that's deep into Chinese territory. So long as he's there we can't touch him...

Excuse me, General, there is one way... It's this...

Now, Chang, what are you going to do?

My parents are lost... I've nowhere to go... Couldn't I come with you?...

It's just... I may be running into great danger...

But two of us would be far stronger...

OK, then!... Off to Hukow!
What an excellent idea!... It remains to be seen if the Chief of Police will agree...

Oh, I can vouch for him, General...

Look...

3, J. M. Dawson, chief of Police of the International Settlement, owes the sum of $10,000 dollars to Mr. Mitsuhiro.

Shanghai, J. M. Dawson
16th, X. 21

He! he! Marvellous!

Next day...

Good morning, Mr. Mitsuhiro.
What fair wind blows you here?

Mr. Mitsuhiro?
... Very well, show him in...

I come to beg a favour... If you agree to grant it, then in return I'll forget all about that trifling sum of money you owe me...

Quite simply... Tintin is now in Hukow...
And I want you to get him arrested...

Hukow?... That's Chinese territory. My jurisdiction is limited to the International Settlement...

Of course, but the Chinese won't refuse you permission to go after a European even outside the Settlement...

No, maybe not... But what reason can I give?... Tintin hasn't committed any crime...

A reason?... How should I know?... What if you suspect him of involvement in the kidnapping of Professor Fang Hsi-yung, for example...

That's an idea...

Chinese Police Headquarters... Good morning, Mr. Dawson...
What?... Fang Hsi-yung?... You've got a lead?... A European? And you want a pass for your detectives...

Of course...

That's it... We'll have the pass tomorrow morning. My men will leave as soon as it comes.

A happy arrangement. You arrest Tintin, and let him go for lack of evidence... By chance, he falls into our hands...

Right... and you cancel that trifling debt of mine...

Hukow...

My father had a friend in the town... We'll ask if we can stay with him...
Of course... What greater happiness! My friend's son under my humble roof...

You already have travel permits. This is a safe-conduct from the Chinese authorities. It will facilitate your mission...

POLICE HEADQUARTERS
All Chinese authorities are hereby directed to render whatever assistance may be required by the bearer of this pass.

A rotten job! Just our luck! Ordered to arrest a friend!

There's a train later this evening. That gives us time to get ourselves ready...

Next morning...

What a life... All night in the train... then three hours walk... Hukow at last...

Just as well we came in disguise... Precisely!

Imagine the sensation we'd have caused, coming to a place like this in European clothes...

Don't look now, but something tells me we're being followed...
Look at this. A warrant for my arrest!

And this... All Chinese authorities have to render assistance to the bearer of this pass...

All right, do what you must. I'm ready to go with you...

Goodbye, Chang. I'm being arrested. I have to go with them...

Now for the Chief of Police!

We've just arrested this young man, Your Honour. Here is our authorisation to operate in Chinese territory... Oh dear! Where's it gone?

Goodness gracious! It isn't there either!... What...

Into the other pocket, obviously!

What luck!... There it is!

Here it is! I found it!
Of course! I should have realised immediately.

What's so funny, Your Worship?

To be precise, why's he making fun of us?

You're funny, all right!... Ha! ha! ha! Here, you can have your precious paper... Then you'd better get out, fast!... Without your prisoner...

It's disgraceful!

We're a disgrace...!

It's... it's monstrous!

You'll hear more of this, Monstrosity!

We must do something!

We need something to do! Shanghai must be told!

As for you, young man, you're free to go, of course.

Thank you very much, Superintendent.

Here I am!

Free?

Yes, free... but I can't imagine why... The Superintendent took one look at the paper, roared with laughter, and threw the detectives out!... It's extraordinary, don't you think?

Not really. You see, I wrote the paper they showed to the Superintendent... It was like this... The real document...

... Fell to the ground, I picked it up, and ran to the house. I found some paper just the same, and wrote: 'In case you haven't noticed, we are lunatics and this proves it.' Then I put my paper in place of the other one...

Now I understand!... What a good friend you are, Chang!

Poor Thomson and Thompson!

Don't worry, Tintin... They deserved it.

Kindly send this telegram to the Chief of Police, International Settlement, Shanghai...

Now we must look for Professor Fang Hsi-ying...

Yes, but there's a storm coming...
Botheration! Telegraph lines to Shanghai are cut because of the floods. We'll have to go ourselves...

To be precise... Shanghai will be flooded with telegrams because we cut ourselves...

Here's the storm... I think we'd be safer to go back down...

You're right, Chang...

Meanwhile in Hukou...

Here's my messenger!... You've got news of Tintin's arrest, that's for sure!

'Arrest failed. Tintin free. Instructions awaited.' Seventy-seven suffering Samurai!

I want this Finished! Desperate cases call for desperate remedies! 'Liquidate!' One word, that's enough!

What a beastly business... travelling all night...

All because of that rotten commissar!

The next morning...

That's the old temple they mean...

A lot of tourists must visit this old temple. Look, Chang, there's even a photographer...

Picture of you together, gentlemen? Ready in five minutes...

OK? If you like...

Ready now... Watch the birdie!...
Filthy Chinese!... I'll teach you to mind your own business!

Infernal machine! My Tommy gun jammed...

Hands up, gangster, or I'll 'photograph' you at point blank range!

Now then, start talking! Japanese, aren't you?... Mitsuhirato put you up to this, didn't he?

Yes, he's afraid of you... You have the Rajajah poison. If you find Fang Hsi-yung, he thinks the professor will develop an antidote... That's why he kidnapped the professor.

The ransom letter was a fake to lead the police on a false trail.

So Professor Fang Hsi-yung is not in the old temple... Where is he?

A fake! I should have guessed it!

That's a lie! It's the truth! I swear! Only Mitsuhirato knows where the professor is...

So that was him, too! What about the letter accusing Chinese gangsters?

All right, we'll go back down to Hukow... Nothing serious, is it Chang?

No, luckily the bullet only grazed your shoulder.

The Chinese police can handle this thug...

That's put him behind bars... Now, Chang, if Mitsuhirato won't come to us, we'll go to Mitsuhirato!... What do you think?

All right, off we go to Shanghai!

That's the Shanghai train coming now...

Here we are again.

To be precise: here we aren't. It's three hours, walk to Hukow... What a life, Thomson, what a life!
What about Tintin?

On the platform! Waiting for the train!

The train! It's leaving for Shanghai...

Great snakes! Thomson! Let's hope he doesn't catch us!

I was behind him... I saw him trip over the suitcase and fall on the platform. Just a silly accident...

Ah! He's beginning to come round...

TINTIN!

... I was just catching it, but I didn't notice I'd run out of platform!...

Only one thing to do: warn Shanghai by telegram. They'll arrest him on arrival...
That's the last of the passengers... and still no sign of Tintin...

No luck, chief... He wasn't on the train. I reckon he hopped off en route...

Infuriating! Wretched little brat! ...Always outwits us at the last minute!

It's dark now... We can risk it...

Master, Tintin is in Shanghai!... I saw him with a Chinese boy. They got into a taxi, but I couldn't hear the address they gave the driver...

Good thing we jumped when the train slowed outside the station. I'm sure someone would have been waiting at the barriers...

Pity!... Listen, Yamato... Get busy... Try to discover where he's gone to ground, and who's hiding him. Understand?

Mr Mitsuirato?... Yes, it's me... I'm afraid not... I slipped through our fingers!... Yes, I'm as sorry as you are... What do you expect? I did my best...

Policemen!... I suppose I'll have to do it myself, for the umpteenth time!

Come in!

That night

There's Mitsuirato's house. While I get inside, you keep guard...

OK...

You're sure it doesn't hurt any more?

Not a bit, Chang... Look, all back to normal...

That night

You're sure Tintin is there right now?...

No one!... So far so good...
Why shouldn't he be?... He's been there for over a week...

You're right, Yamato, it's just that I'm itching to get my hands on the lot of them!

All clear: you can come...

What's the matter?... You seem worried...

I'll explain later, Chang... Hurry! We haven't a moment to lose...

A car, quickly! We need a car!

At last... there's one now...

Quick, driver, quick!... Take us to the Nanking road!

Lock here, I'm not a taxi!... Can't you see this is a private car?

Doesn't matter! For heaven's sake get going!... Please!... Lives are at stake!

No, no, no!... And when I say no, I mean no!

They know everything, I heard them... They know Mr Wang has been looking after us... They're going to kidnap him tonight with his wife and son... And us too, if they find us there...

Shall we be in time?...
All seems quiet...
The door isn't closed!...

It's Mr Wang's Servant!... He's been chloroformed!
Too late! They've been kidnapped!
The game's up, Mr Wang!... You are all in my power!
There's only Tintin... In a few hours he too will have ceased to annoy me!

Tintin!...
Look what I've found...

Blue Lotus Wang.

Come on! To the Blue Lotus!
The Blue Lotus?... It's an opium den in Shanghai... How do I get in without being recognised?... In disguise?...

平 安 如

Will there be anything more, sir?

No, no thank you...

He is here...

You're sure it's him?

Indeed, Master... He has tried to disguise himself... A fake beard and a black wig, but I recognised him...

Now for some fun!...

WHEEET

Oh, my goodness! Someone seems to have a bone to pick with me!

BANG

That's it!... Let him have it!

Not a bad idea, was it, my friend?... That trick with the little bit of paper, with a scrawl on it by Mr Wang...
I protest!... I protest!...

He! He! You protest!... You’ve got a nerve, I must say!

OW!...

YEOW!...

Fujiyama!... Not Tintin!... Untie him!...

No, I am not Tintin! I am the Consul for Poldavia!... You’ll hear more of this, vi!... Eek!... Er, Iain!

Forgive me, sir, it was all a mistake... I look you for somebody else...

Even for somebody else, that’s no way to treat people!... You will pay dearly for this!

Seven hundred suffering Samurai!... Wait till I get him, just wait till I get him!

I’m going home!... Yamato, be ready with the lorry at midnight tomorrow, at godown No. 9. The ‘Harika Maru’ will moor alongside. Load the goods and take them to the warehouse...

Yes, Master...

Goodbye!... Telephone me if there are any developments...

Right, Master...

I don’t think Tintin will come...

No, he’ll be suspicious...

Ha! ha! None of that fell on deaf ears!...

The Blue Lotus

Any news?

All’s well, Chang. I discovered quite a lot... Come quickly, we mustn’t stay here... I’ll put you in the picture...

Midnight tomorrow?... I’ll come with you...

No, Chang, I think it’s better if I go alone... I’ll tell you why...

The next night...
Careful, there they are!

Is that the last lot?

Yes, just these to be loaded, and we can go.

So far so good...

Take the opium out of the barrel, get inside... and Bob's your uncle...

OK, we can move off now...

Meanwhile...

It was a mistake to pit your wits against mine, my dear Wang!... A big mistake!... But it's too late now... The time has come for you to die!

You smile!... You think it's like a thriller, don't you?... The hero rushes in at the last moment and saves your life... Pardon my laughter!... At this very moment your hero Tintin is already in my power!

We've been going for two hours... I wonder where to...

So you can abandon all hope!... They say the Chinese aren't afraid to die. Well, I've prepared a fitting end for you!... Your son, Wang, your own mad son, will cut off your head!... Picture the scene... Your wife, Tintin, and you, all beheaded by your son!...

Ah, it's you, Yamato!... All went well?

Like clockwork, Master... The barrels are in there...

Please enter, dear Mr Wang!... We don't want you to miss the show!

Now for some fun!

That's the one, Master... marked with a cross...

My dear Tintin, welcome to the end of the road!
Something tells me you weren't expecting this sort of reception when you emerged! Too true!

I knew perfectly well you were in the barrel... You were at the Blue Lotus' last night... and had a good laugh at my expense, no doubt. You heard the orders I gave Yamato... Everything had gone your way... But one of my men saw you leave and alerted me.

I told myself you certainly wouldn't be able to resist such a good opportunity, so I set a trap. I told them to leave you alone, they loosened the top of one barrel, and everything happened as I'd foreseen!

Well done, Mr. Mitsuhirato. You're quite a clever man!

Cleverer than you thought, anyway!... Ah, here's an old friend of yours... He doesn't want to miss your execution!...

Bring in the others, Yamato...
You aren't convinced, oh?... Look at that!... Now do you believe me?...

The sign of the Pharaoh K'K-OSKH!

Here, take this. It's for you...

Lao Tzu said: 'You must find the way... I've found it... It's quite easy. I'm going to cut off your head. Then you too will know the truth...'

You're... you're absolutely sure there isn't any risk for us?...

No, as soon as he's done the job Yamato will take care of him...

(1) See Cigars of the Pharaoh
Yes, it went without a hitch. The crew of the 'Harika Maru' didn't have time to say 'Ouch'!

I bow my old head in respect before the courage of your youth, Chang!

Now you are free, Mrs. Wang!

Well, gentlemen! It's my turn to do the explaining. Mr. Mitsuhimoto...Were you really silly enough to believe I'd walk straight into the lion's jaws?...You must think me a very simple soul!

I knew perfectly well I'd been seen leaving the Blue Lotus. Nonetheless, I decided to visit godown No. 9 but I took a few precautions...Last night, the crew of the 'Harika Maru' were surprised by the Sons of the Dragon and put in irons. Some of our friends hid in the barrels to be delivered to you. Others waited for your men, then gave them a hand unloading the barrels...You know the rest...

Three men stay here to keep guard over the prisoners. The others search the house. Chang and I will go this way...
Great snakes! We've come out through a safe!...

What a funny smell... It's like...

Opium, isn't it?

The Blue Lotus!...
FANG HSI-YING FOUND: Professor Prisoner in Opium Den

SHANGHAI, Wednesday:
Professor Fang Hsi-yung has been found! The good news was flashed to us this morning.

Last week eminent scholar Fang disappeared on his way home from a party given by a friend. Police efforts to trace him were unavailing. No clues were found.

Young European reporter Tintin joined in the hunt for the missing man of science. Earlier we reported incidents involving Tintin and the occupying Japanese forces. Secret society Sons of the Dragon aided Tintin in the rescue. Fang Hsi-yung was kidnapped by an international gang of drug smugglers, now all safely in police custody.

A wireless transmitter was found by police at Blue Lotus opium den. The transmitter was used by the drug smugglers to communicate with their ships on the high seas. Information radioed included sea routes, ports to be avoided, points of embarkation and unloading.

Home of Japanese subject Mitshirato was also searched. No comment, say police on reports of seizure of top-secret documents. Unconfirmed rumours suggest the papers concern undercover political activity by a neighbouring power.

Speculation mounts that they disclose recent Shanghai-Nanking railway incident as a pretext for extended Japanese occupation. League of Nations officials in Geneva will study the captured documents.

TINTIN'S OWN STORY

This morning, hero of the hour Mr Tintin, talked to us about his adventures.

The young reporter is the guest of Mr Wang Chen-ye on his yacht, picturesquely named "Nanking". When we called, our hero, young and smiling, received us wearing Chinese dress. Could this really be the scoundrel of the terrible Shanghai gangsters?

After our greetings and congratulations, we asked Mr Tintin to tell us how he succeeded in smashing the most dangerous organisation.

Mr Wang, a tall, elderly, venerable man with an impish smile said:

"You must tell the world it is entirely due to him that my wife, my son and I are alive today!"

With these words our interview was concluded, and we said farewell to the friendly reporter and his kindly host.

L.G.T.

Young people carry posters of Tintin through Shanghai streets.

The conclusions of the Sub-Committee leave no room for doubt. The documents seized in Shanghai provide irrefutable proof. The attack upon the Shanghai-Nanking railway was planned and executed by a Japanese subject working on direct orders from his government!...

I shall be interested to hear the Japanese delegate's reply...

Me, too... Look, he's going to speak now...

Gentlemen, make no mistake! I categorically deny the accusations contained in the report of the 83rd Sub-Committee. These accusations are an insult to which Japan declines to make any response other than silence and contempt! Nevertheless, to prove the integrity of my country is beyond doubt...

I am authorised to announce that my government has ordered its troops to withdraw from Chinese territories occupied after the incident on the Shanghai-Nanking railway. To that, gentlemen, I must add with regret that in solemn protest against the affront to my country, Japan finds herself obliged to resign from the League of Nations!

Meanwhile, in Shanghai...

I have wonderful news for you: my son is cured!... Professor Fang Hsi-yung has discovered an antidote to the terrible poison of madness!...

He has?... Oh, how glad I am!

Venerable Master, two gentlemen wish to speak to Mr Tintin.

...
It makes me sick! Having to help celebrate the triumph of that little snake! What else do you think we can do?

That reminds me... I’m glad to see you completely recovered from your fall.

No, we’ll be keeping our eyes open, never fear!

Our fall?... What fall?

Oh, yes, our famous fall in Hukow!

Now it’s time to go. We must leave you.

Au revoir!... Goodbye!...

Yes, we’ve come... to offer our congratulations, and to tell you we... we...

We never believed for a minute you were guilty. But what could we do? We had to obey orders...

THE BLUE LOTUS AFFAIR
MITSUIRATO COMITS HARA-KIRI

Shanghai, Saturday: Mr Mitsuirato, implicated in the Blue Lotus affair and principal organiser of the attack on the Shanghai Nankin railway.

Poor devil!... Still, he was a real villain!

Oh, yes, our fall in Hukow!... Yes, yes, now I remember!...

Yes, we’re fully recovered now. How could we come such a cropper? We’ve never fallen so low!...

We shan’t forget that downfall... We’ve learnt our lesson. We’ll be careful in future!

You can be sure we shan’t fall for that again!

Already?
Some days later...

...I raise my glass to your precious health, Tintin. Your courage and nobility have restored happiness to this humble house. Your memory will be engraved upon our hearts as in finest crystal.

There is one who, if such is possible, will miss you even more than I. Chang, who has already known the sadness of losing his parents. Chang, who found in you a brother. If he wishes, he will be my son, the brother of my own poor son to whom our honourable friend Fang Hsi-ying has restored his reason...

What is the matter, Chang?
There is a rainbow in my heart. Venerable Lady... I weep because Tintin is going but the sun shines because I have a new mother and father!

Farewell, noble Tintin. May other friendships lighten your days in your country in the West, and accompany you along the way!

The next morning...

Goodbye, Tintin... Good luck go with you!
I wish the same for you, Chang!... Goodbye!

TOOOOT

TOOOOT

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