**THE BLUE LOTUS**

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 Rajah-jah 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?

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**RRCQ 15.30**


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.

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Tintin Sahib, the Maharaja requests your presence.

Thank you. I'll come.
My dear Tintin... I've asked the famous fakir Ramacharma 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!

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...

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

Forgive me... I have a sensitive skin!

Clap! Clap!

Now!
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.

Mr Tintin, sir?

Me? Yes...

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

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

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

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

A dart... dipped in Rajahah juice... the poison of madness!

He's gone... He didn't waste any time...

Quick! Speak! What have you to tell me?

...! Yes... I remember.

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!
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.

Continent Hotel

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

Rat Tat Tat

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

Come in!

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 replies.
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 Mitsuhirato knew I was here... Anyway, he's certainly a man with impeccable manners...

Are Japanese good chaps, Tintin?

Mr Mitsuhirato, Street of Tranquillity...

Dirty little China man!... To barge into a white man!
Ah, Gibbons, my friend!

You look peeved, old chap!

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

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!

Some European kid had the nerve to back up a rickshaw boy... He'd knocked me flying and I was teaching 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!
Thank you, sir, thank you for saving me.

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!

Here's a clue for you.
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?
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!

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!... Ha! ha! ha!... You're a pal!... Goodbye!

By the way... that little ragamuffin you brought in last night... Did you know he eluded 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...

THUMP

CLANG

BANG

ZZING

BOOM

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

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

Tai ping lu?...

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

TOK

TOK
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 MAPMAN! 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-yee. 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
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!

Yes, 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 set 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 Mitsukirato.

Mitsukirato?

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?...

...Not content with spying, he has joined forces with opium smugglers... He helps them distribute all over the world, but mostly here in China.

Hello? Hello? 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. Tin Tin. 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 Gaipanma I intercepted this peculiar message: Direct special attention Charles Yokohama urgently going coldly slow Istanbul ten rusty guys in Saturday means Tibetan medicine easily changes West Ekrome. I couldn't make head 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 weather a location Tuesday storm entraps top nine ghurkas.

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.

That night, at ten o'clock...
No, Mr. Mitsunihato 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.

Brrr! I’m frozen!

ATCHOOOO!

Someone over there!... Look!... A spy!...
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.
We'll soon see about that...

News just in details a treacherous attack on the Shanghai-Nanking railway...

This is Radio Tokyo! The enemy of China's guerrillas knows no bounds!

...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! 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!

He! He! Don't say I didn't warn you... China is an unhealthy place for little Nosy Parkers!
Yip-1-addy-1-ay!

Goodbye! Have a good time!

Happy days are here again!

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

TINTIN!

Wooah! Wooah!

Too-ra-loor-ra-loor-ra-loor-ra-

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 Rajajah... So what did I...?

Chang went to watch the house of Mitsukirato, Venerable... He has returned, need... Send him here at once!

I was hidden in the next room. I put coloured water in place of the Rajajah, 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!!...

I could have sworn my gun was loaded... Anyway, I still have my knife!...

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

Kamikaze! The blade's made of rubber!

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

Now we must go back to Mr. Wang...

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!
Hide yourself! Quick!

Hello?...Yes?...Still not found him?...Then search harder!...How could he have passed the city gates?

Thank you!

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 fishy... If I'd seen him sooner I'd have knocked him flat!

What do you think you're doing?

Take me to your officer!... I know where Tintin is, see?
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: play the fool with the military authority no one will let me out of here and I'll show him what I'm made of, the little swine!

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

Ayyah! Oho! Youp!

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

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.

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?... Yes, speaking... To whom have I the honour...

Dawson, 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.

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 Samurai!... 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!

But... but the general has just left!

And I’m telling you, blockhead, that I’m General Haranochi!! 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?

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 is Tin-tin and I...

Sorry!... Nothing doing!

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

Nothing doing!

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

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

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 was Tintin?

Look, Snowy!... Do you remember, in Arabia? Mr Rastapopoulos shooting his film... We interrupted them! (1)

WORLDWIDE NEWS

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

The President of the Pahlavidan Republic opens the national dog show...

PARIS WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPION

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!

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

(1) See Cigars of the Pharaoh
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...

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?

The Palace Hotel, quick!...

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-yi-ning. 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?

Professor Fang Hsi-yi-ning never got home.

Come in!

Didn't get home?... But it's only a few steps to his door from the place where I dropped him...
Oh, it is you, sir!... Come, please!... I have just received a letter from Honourable Master!

A letter?

Dear Chew, I have been waged by Chinese gangsters 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 left within a fortnight, at the old temple, about an hour's journey from Hikow on the right bank of the Yangtse 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...

OK, Chief, we got Tintin for you.

Well done, Richards... Bring him in...

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!

Two days later...

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

Three days go by...

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 a tali with a cloth through the streets of the city as a warning to the population.

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...

Mitsuhiroto!

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...

CLACK
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-stocking!

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.
I'm going tomorrow to Hukow, on the Yangtze Kiang. That's where the ransom for the professor is to be paid to the kidnappers.

The next morning...

Didn't you know? The river has broken its banks. Everyone is fleeing from the floods. I doubt whether you will be able to reach Hukow at all...

What is happening?

The train isn't going any further. The line is cut...

Is it far to Hukow?

Three hours on foot...

Help! Help! Help!
What an excellent idea!... It remains to be seen if the chief of Police will agree...

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

J. M. Dawson, chief A Police of the International Settlement, owe the sum of 10,700 dollars to Mr Mitsuhirato...

He! he! Marvellous!

Mr Mitsuhirato...
Very well, show him in...

Next day...

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

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...

What are you getting at?

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 wouldn'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 Hei-ving, for example...

That's an idea...

Chinese Police Headquarters... Good morning, Mr Dawson...
What?... Fang Hei-ving?... 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 lives 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.

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

Into the other pocket, obviously!

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

I can't have put it away properly... I showed it to the prisoner.

Well, where is it?

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're you making fun of me?

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

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 Hukow...

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 boostly business... travelling all night...

All because of that rotten commissar...

That's the old temple they mean...

The next morning...

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!

BANG BANG
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 Rajaijah poison. If you find Fang Hsi-yiing, 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-yiing is not in the old temple... Where is he?

I don't know.

That's a lie!

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

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

No, luckily the bullet only grazed your shoulder.

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

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?

I agree!

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, Thomsen, what a life!
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!

What about Tintin? Are you 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 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....
Next morning...

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...

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

Mr Mitsuhirato?... Yes, it's me. I'm afraid not... 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!

Rat... Tat... Tat!

Mast... 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...

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

Understand?

Yes

The gods be praised! We meet again! You must rest for a few days... Give your wound a chance to heal.

I will... Then we must deal with Mitsuhirato!

A week later...

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

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

That night

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

OK...

No one!... So far so good...

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

Look 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. Kang 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...
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?...

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!

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...
9

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?

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 Mitsukirato. 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!...

We got him, Grand Master.

Mr Rastapopoulos!

Exactly!

Rastapopoulos! Robert Rastapopoulos! You've been trying to spike my guns for a long time... Me, Rastapopoulos, King of drug smugglers... Rastapopoulos, who went over a cliff near Goipajama... and you thought I died... Rastapopoulos, alive and well... And as always, coming out on top... You, leader of the gang... Impossible!

Bring in the others, Yamato...

You aren't convinced, eh... Look at that!... Now do you believe me?...

The sign of the Pharaoh KH-AKH!

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
BANG

Hands up!

Victory!

Only just in time, Chang! I thought you hadn't succeeded...

Yes, it went without a hitch. The crew of the 'Hakka 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 Mitsuhito. Were you really silly enough to believe I'd walk straight into the lion's jaws? You must think I'm 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 'Hakka 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-ying 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 this week we reported incidents involving TinTin and the occupying Japanese forces. Secret society Sons of the Dragon aided TinTin in the rescue. Feng Hsi-ying 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 Mitsuhara was also searched: No comment, say police on reports of seizure of top-secret documents. Unconfirmed rumors suggest the papers concern undercover political activity by a neighboring 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 at his heart-picturesque villa on the Nanking road. When we called, our hero, young and smiling, greeted us wearing Chinese dress. Could this really be the scourge 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 organization.

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.

LGT.

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 the Japanese subject working upon direct orders from his government!

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

Gentlemen, make no mistake! I categorically deny the accusations contained in the report of the 82nd Sub-Committee. These accusations are an insult to which Japan declines to make any response other than silence and contempt. Nevertheless, to prove that the integrity of my country is beyond doubt...

...I am authorized 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...

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

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

He has?... Oh, how glad I am!
Good morning... Er... Here we are at last...

Um... er... So here you are?

To be precise: good morning. Here we are, last as usual...

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...

It makes me sick! Having to help celebrate the triumph of that little snake!

What else do you think we can do?

Look, Tintin!... Read this...

THE BLUE LOTUS AFFAIR

MITSUI HIRUOTO COMMISSIONS HARA-KIRI

Shanghai, Saturday: Mr Mitsuhirato, implicated in the Blue Lotus affair and principal organiser of the attack on the Shangha Nanking railway.

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

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

Our fall?... What fall?

Oh, yes, our famous fall in Hekou!

Oh, 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!

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

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

Au revoir!... Goodbye!...

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!

Tooooot

Tooooot
THE BLUE LOTUS