

- HERGÉ -  
★  
THE ADVENTURES OF  
TINTIN

# THE BLUE LOTUS



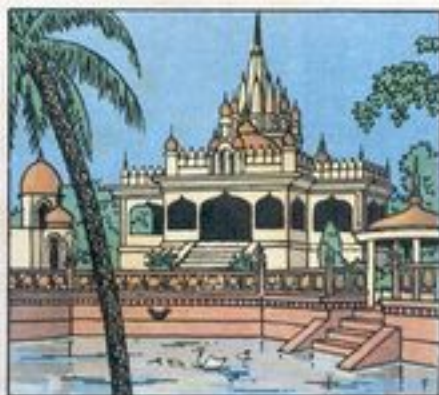
# THE BLUE LOTUS

## 藍蓮花

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 Rajajah 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?





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...




### THE BLUE LOTUS AFFAIR MITSUHIRATO COMMITS HARA-KIRI

Shanghai, Saturday: Mr Mitsuhiroto, 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!



# SHANGHAI NEWS

## 上海報

### 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 we reported incidents involving Tintin and the occupying Japanese forces. Secret society Sons of the Dragon aided Tintin in the rescue. Fang 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 Mitsuhirato 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.



Professor Fang Hsi-ying joined just after his release.

### TINTIN'S OWN STORY

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



Tintin, rescuer of Professor Fang Hsi-ying, with Snowy, his faithful companion.

The young reporter is the guest of Mr Wang Chen-ye at his host's 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 organisation.

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.O.T.

Young people very proud 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 upon 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 813rd 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 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!

WAY OUT →

Meanwhile, in Shanghai ...

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!

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



Great snakes!  
We've come out through  
a safe! ...



What a funny  
smell!... It's like...  
Opium,  
isn't it?...







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 Mitsukurato. 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 get him, Grand Master.

Mr Rastapopoulos!

Exactly!



Rastapopoulos!... Roberto 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 Gajpajama... 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 Kih-Oskh! (1)



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



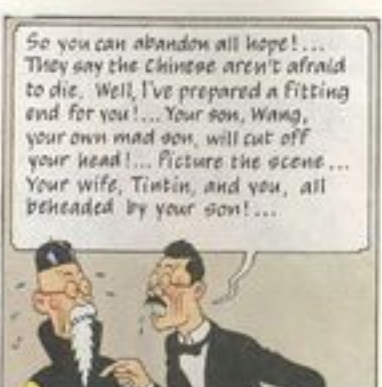
Lao Tzu said: "You must find the way. ... I've found it... It's quite easy. I'm going to cut off your head. Then you too will know the truth ..."

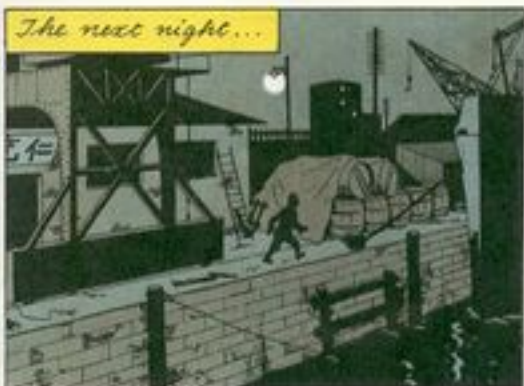


You're... you're absolutely sure there isn't any risk for us?...

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









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



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!...



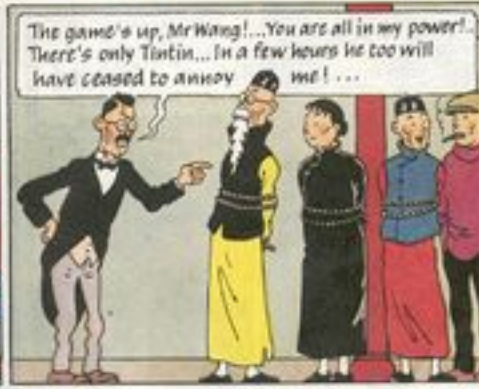
Oh, my goodness! Someone seems to have a love to pick with me!



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





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 barrier...

Mr Mitsukirato? ... 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

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...

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 Mitsukirato!

A week later...

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

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

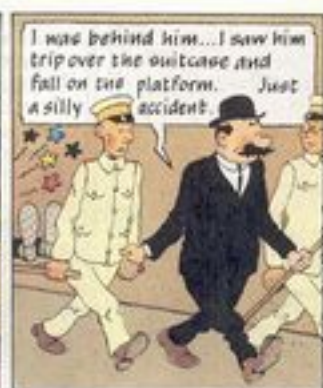
That night

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

OK...

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

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





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 stoww... 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 Samurais!

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!...

BANG BANG BANG



Of course! I should have realized immediately.



What's so funny, Your Worship?

To be precise, why're 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... er!



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 documents...



... Fell to the ground I picked it up, and ran to the house. I found some paper just the name, 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 Hai-ying...

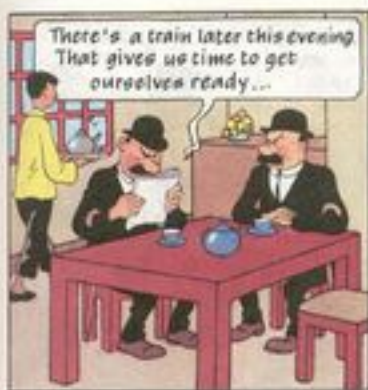
Yes, but there's a storm coming...





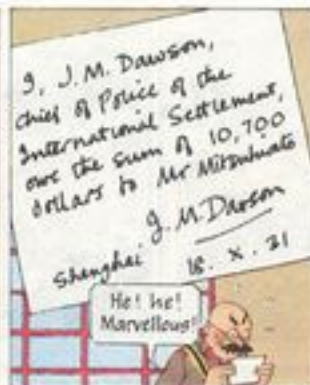
軍警當局務希  
與以臂助於持  
此執照者  
公安總局

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



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







He's alive!



That's better, eh? You almost swallowed half the river! ... What's your name? ... The 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 Harmless Fists, my father said.

The Boxer Rebellion, yes.



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 suffer agonies 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!!



Meanwhile...

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

You know where he is?



I have just received a telegram ... He caught a train this morning for Hukow...



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...

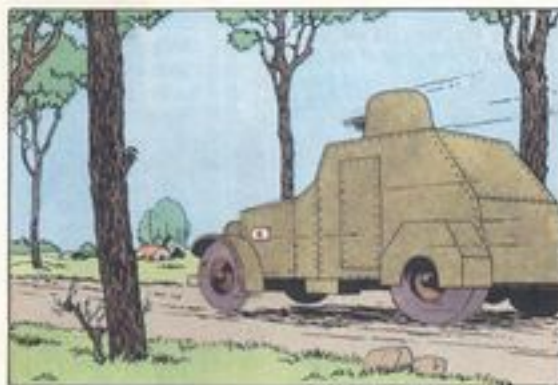
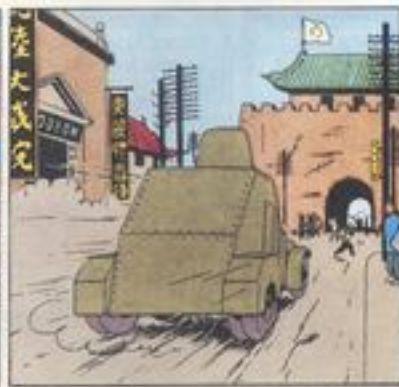


OK, then! ... OFF to Hukow!

I know a short cut ...









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?

Yes, I'm behind you, Mr Wang.



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

Your 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 paroled 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.





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!...

**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.

日本軍第五師團執行  
死刑告示  
茲將被處決之  
犯人姓名及  
罪名公布於  
世  
此示  
大正十五年五月廿一日



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?



You, 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?

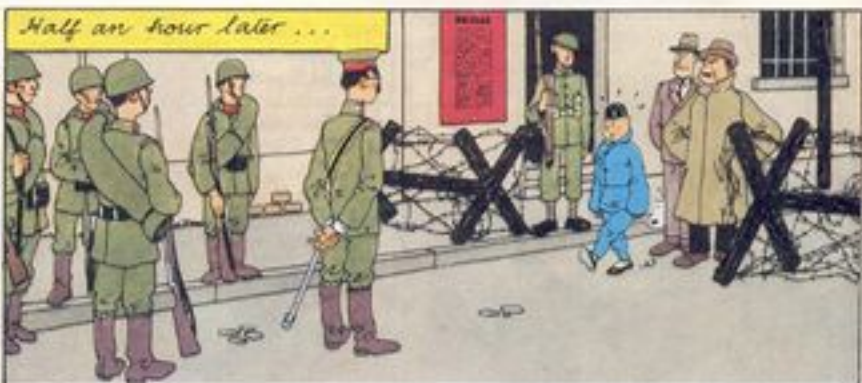
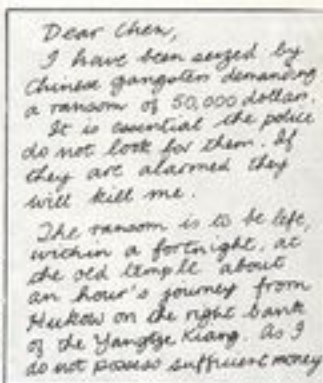


That's all. Here are 10,000 dollars. You accept my proposition, I get you out tonight, and the money's yours...



He refused?...

How did you guess?





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



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...



Aha! A patch of oil... A car must have parked here. I'm certain someone was waiting for the professor and "grabbed him"...



OH!



Woah!

W.R. GIBBONS  
Director  
AMERICAN & CHINESE  
STEEL INCORPORATED  
NEW YORK SHANGHAI  
53, Bund Shanghai

Gibbons... I don't know that name.



He didn't wish to give his name, sir, but he told me he'd only be a minute...

OK. Let him in...



Please come in...



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-ying... He disappeared last night...

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



He seemed worried...



Street of Infinite Wisdom... Fang Hsi-ying...



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-ying's house!... At the double!...





Is Professor Fang Hsi-ying at home please?

Honourable master has not yet returned. But he will not be long. Will you wait?



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! ...



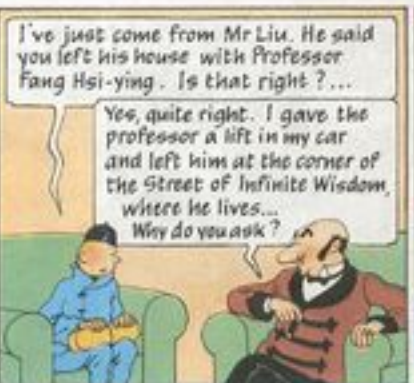
Come in!

RAT TAT TAT



Good evening, Mr Rastapopoulos!

Tintin! What a pleasant surprise! ...



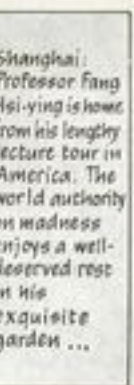
I've just come from Mr Liu. He said you left his house with Professor Fang Hsi-ying. Is that right? ...

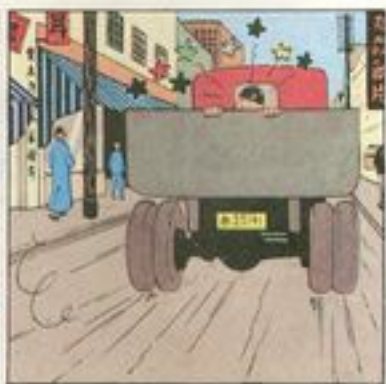
Yes, quite right. I gave the professor a lift in my car and left him at the corner of the Street of Infinite Wisdom, where he lives... Why do you ask?



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 ...







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 'general'!



But... but the general has just left!



And I'm telling you, block-head, that I'M General Haramochi!... I was attacked on the road by a young Chinese who stripped me of my uniform!...



No one about? Good!



Here we go! ...



One...



Two...



And three!



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



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...

Sorry! ... Nothing doing!



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

Nothing doing!



What's the problem? Please...

The boy hasn't any papers, sir...



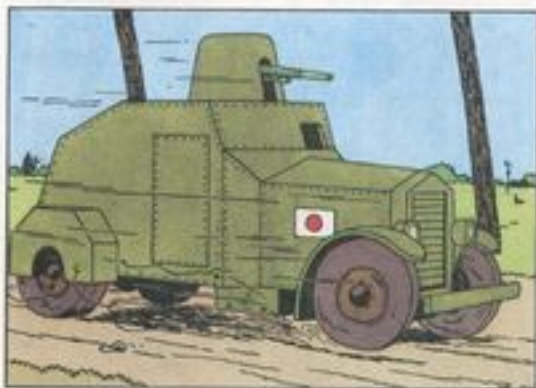
No use arguing, sonny. Must have proper papers to enter the Settlement...

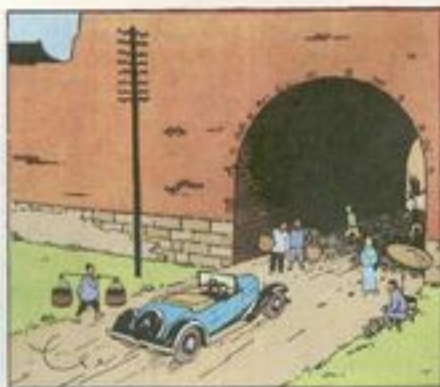


Now what? ... Crumbs! A Japanese patrol! I must get in. If I don't...

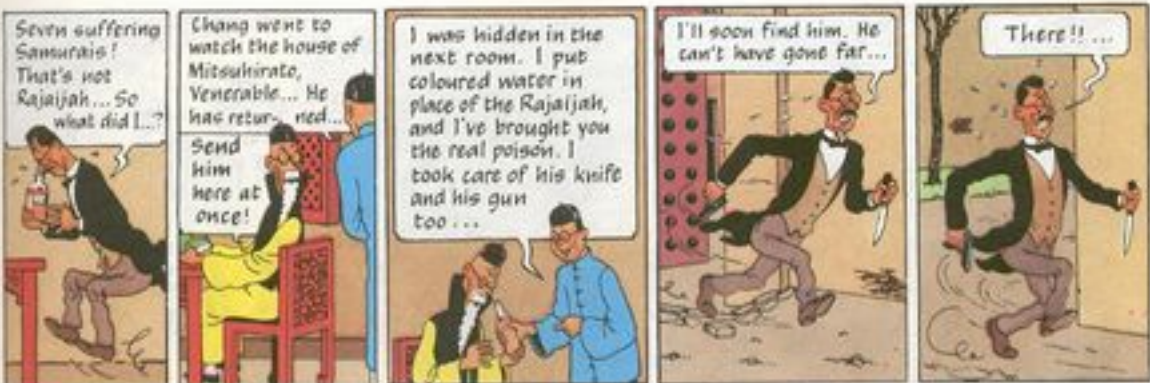


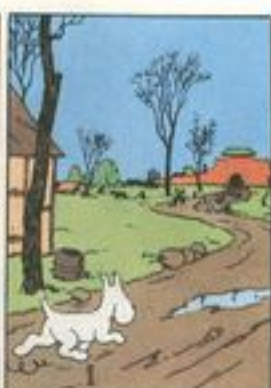


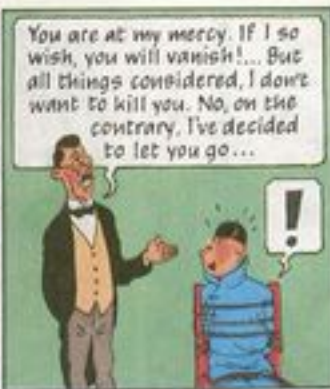


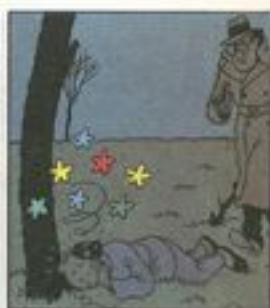














You have everything?

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 handits have just blown the track... At page 123

Berrr! I'm frozen!

ATCHOOOO!

!

?

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

BANG





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?



SHIP	CARGO	DESTINATION
MARSHALL	OPPIUM	MARSHALL
...	OPPIUM	AMSTER
...	OPPIUM	LE HAVRE
BANK BOK	OPPIUM	ROTTERDAM
SUSSEKET	OPPIUM	HAMBURG
SATYREN	OPPIUM	LONDON

...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!



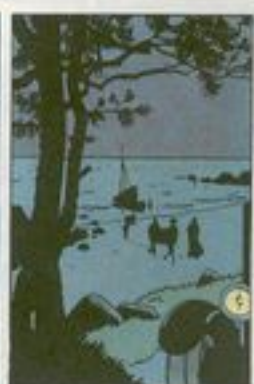
I'm going to help you to find the way. Don't worry, there's nothing to it... It just means cutting... off your head...



Look how sharp the blade is...



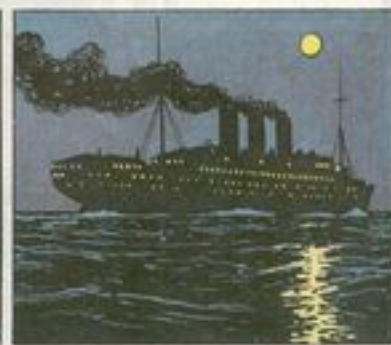
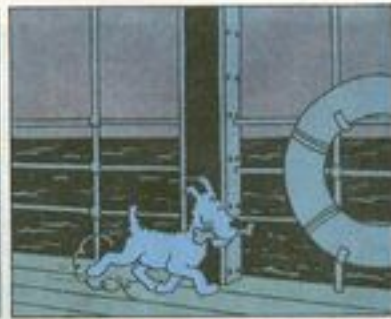
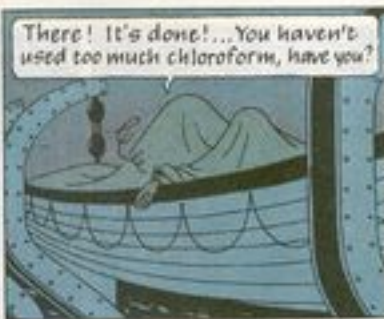




That night...

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

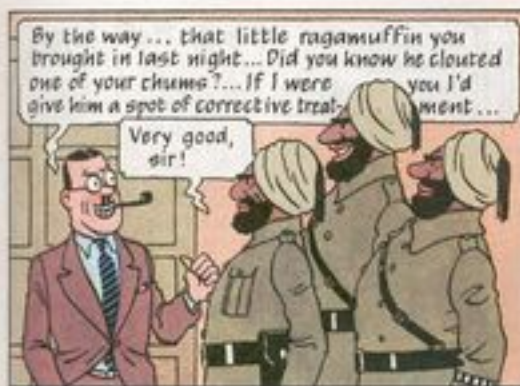
Allright. I'll  
catch you up.





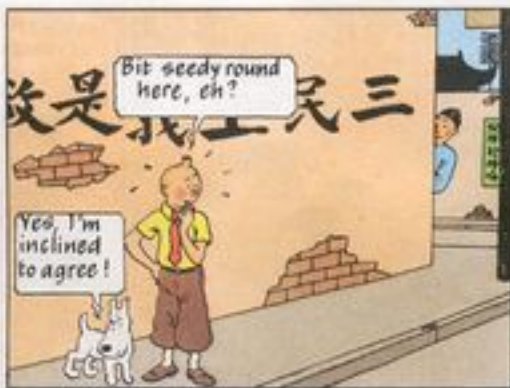










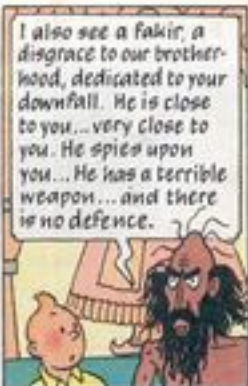














*Some days later...*

... 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

