

The Chinese Sayings Podcast

Gimme Three Steps 退避三舍

S8E03

PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese idiom or saying, usually but not always four characters long
Tuì Bì Sān Shè	退避三舍	to avoid conflict, often with positive connotations of 'beating a strategic retreat'
Zu ŏ Zhuàn	左转	The Commentaries of Zuŏ
Tuì	退	to move back or to retreat
Bì	避	to avoid or evade
Sān	Ξ	the number 3
Shè	舍	a house or a shed or hut. But it also has an archaic usage that means a distance of 30 li which is about 15 kilometers or 9.3 miles
Jìn	晋国	a major state during the middle part of the Zhou dynasty, based near the centre of what was then China, on the lands attributed to the legendary Xia dynasty: the southern part of modern Shanxi. It lasted from the founding of the
Chǔ	出国	Also known as Jing (荊), Chu included most of the present-day provinces of Hubei and Hunan, along with parts of Chongqing, Guizhou, Henan, Anhui, Jiangxi, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Shanghai. It lasted from 1030 BC to 223 BC
Chóng'ěr	充耳	697–628 BC, also Duke Wen of Jin, second son of Duke Xian of Jin. He famously endured a long period of exile from Jin before finally being restored to power (r. 636–628 BC) and rapidly leading Jin to hegemony over the other
Duke Wén of Jìn	晋文公	See Chong'er above
Duke Xiàn of Jìn	晋献公	Father to Duke Wen of Jin. Dukle Xian reigned 676-651 BC
Róng	戎	The Rong were a nomadic people who lived close to the China heartland, to the north. They were genarally divided up in the Western Rong, Mountain Rong and Quan (Dog) Rong
Lí Jī	骊姬	Concubine and later the wife of Duke Xian of Jin. She died in 651 BC
Shào Jī	少姬	Sister of Li Ji and concubine to Duke Xian of Jin
Yīdài Yāo Jī	一代妖姬	the Witch of the Age, a nickname given to Li Ji for all the troubles she caused

Xīqí	奚齊	The son of Duke Xian and his concubine Li Ji
Shēnshēng	申生	The crown prince, eldest son of Duke Xian of Jin
King Chéng of Ch ǔ	楚成王	King of Chu from 671-626 BC
Partition of Jin		5th century that divided the land into the new states of Zhào, Hán and Wèi.
Chéngyǔ Yánjiū Zhōngxīn	成语研究中心	The Teacup Chengyu Research Center, located wherever Emma resides.