

ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

(Excerpts from Chapters 1, 25, and 27)

by Luo Guanzhong (circa 1330-1400)

Chapter 1

Near the end of the Han Dynasty (184 AD), discontent with the state of the imperial house of Liu causes a rebellion. The rebels are known as the Yellow Scarves for wearing yellow scarves, also known as turbans.

Liu Bei was twenty-eight when the outbreak of the Yellow Scarves called for soldiers. The sight of the notice saddened him, and he sighed as he read it.

Suddenly a rasping voice behind him cried, “Sir, why sigh if you do nothing to help your country?”

Turning quickly he saw standing there a man about his own height, with a bullet head like a leopard’s, large round eyes, a swallow’s thick neck, and tiger’s whiskers. He spoke in a booming voice and had the intensity of a herd of dashing horses. At once Liu Bei saw he was no ordinary man and asked who he was.

“Zhang Fei is my name,” replied the stranger. “I live near here where I have a farm; I am a wine seller and a butcher as well. I like to become acquainted with worthy people. Your sighs as you read the notice drew me toward you.”

Liu Bei replied, “I am of the Imperial Family, Liu Bei is my name, and I wish I could destroy these Yellow Scarves and restore peace to the land, but alas! I am helpless.”

“I have the means,” said Zhang Fei. “Suppose you and I raised some troops and tried to do what we could.”

This was happy news for Liu Bei, and the two went to the village inn to talk over the project. As they were drinking, a huge, tall fellow appeared pushing a hand-cart along the road. At the threshold he halted and entered the inn to rest awhile and he called for wine.

“And be quick!” he added. “For I am in a hurry to get into the town and offer myself for the army.”

Liu Bei looked over the newcomer, item by item, and he noted the man had a taller frame, a two-foot long beard, a face with the color of a date, and deep red lips. He had eyes like a phoenix’s and fine bushy eyebrows like silkworms. His whole appearance was dignified and awe-inspiring. Just then, Liu Bei walked over, sat down beside him and asked his name.

“I am Guan Yu,” he replied. “I am a native of the east side of the river, but I have been a fugitive on the waters for some five years because I slew a ruffian who, since he was wealthy and powerful, was a bully. I have come to join the army here.”

Then Liu Bei told Guan Yu his own intentions, and all three went away to Zhang Fei’s farm where they could talk over the grand project.

Zhang Fei said, “The peach trees in the orchard behind the house are just in full flower. Tomorrow we will perform a sacrifice there and solemnly declare our intentions before Heaven and Earth, and we three will swear brotherhood and unity of aims and sentiments: Thus will we enter upon our great task.”

Both Liu Bei and Guan Yu gladly agreed.

仁
義
禮
智
信

Five Confucian Virtues

仁 Rén – Kindness

義 Yì – Righteousness

禮 Lǐ – Courtesy

智 Zhì – Wisdom

信 Xìn – Faith



Various depictions of the Peach Garden Oath.

All three being of one mind, the next day they prepared the sacrifices, a black ox, a white horse, and wine for libation. Beneath the smoke of the incense burning on the altar, they bowed their heads and recited this oath:

“When saying the names Liu Bei, Guan Yu, and Zhang Fei the surnames are different, yet we have come together as brothers. From this day forward, we shall join forces for a common purpose, and come to each other’s aid in times of danger. We swear to serve the nation above and keep peace among the people below. We do not ask for the same day, month, and year of birth, but we seek the same day, month, and year of death. May Heaven The All-Ruling and Earth The All-Producing read our hearts. If we turn aside from righteousness¹ or forget kindness, may the Gods of Heaven² strike us down!”

They rose from their knees. The two others bowed before Liu Bei as their elder brother; Zhang Fei was to be the youngest of the trio. This solemn ceremony performed, they slew other oxen and made a feast to which they invited the villagers. Three hundred joined them, and all feasted and drank deep in the Peach Garden.

The next day weapons were gathered, but there were no horses to ride. This was a real disappointment, but soon they were cheered by the arrival of two horse dealers with a herd of horses.

“Thus does Heaven help us!” said Liu Bei.

The three brothers went forth to welcome the merchants. They were Zhang Shiping and Su Shuang from Zhongshan. They went northwards every year to buy horses. They were now on their way home because of the Yellow Scarves. The brothers invited them to the farm, where wine was served to them. Then Liu Bei told them of the plan to fight the rebels and protect the people. Zhang Shiping and Su Shuang were glad and at once gave the brothers fifty good steeds and also five hundred ounces of gold and silver and one thousand five hundred pounds of steel fit for the forging of weapons.

¹ Righteousness: originally 義 (pronounced yi) is a word with rich meaning and may also be translated as justice, loyalty, friendship, or fellowship.

² Gods of Heaven: originally 天人 could mean people in Heaven, or it is also translated “Heaven and Man”

The brothers expressed their gratitude, and the merchants departed. Then blacksmiths were summoned to forge weapons. For Liu Bei they made a pair of ancient-style swords; for Guan Yu they fashioned a long-handled, curve blade called Green-Dragon Crescent Blade, which weighed a full one hundred pounds; and for Zhang Fei they created a ten-foot spear tipped with refined steel. Each also had a helmet and full armor.

When weapons were ready, the troop, now five hundred strong, marched to Commander Zhou Jing, who presented them to Imperial Protector Liu Yan. When the ceremony of introduction was over, Liu Bei declared his ancestry, and Liu Yan at once called him “nephew” recognizing their relation.

Chapter 25

The warlord Cao Cao is now officially Prime Minister of the Han Dynasty. However, he is unofficially considered a tyrant ruler since he has the young Han Dynasty Emperor under his control and is using him as a puppet. Cao Cao is battling with other forces who want to free the Emperor, which means Liu Bei, Guan Yu, and Zhang Fei are among his enemies. Cao Cao is able to capture Guan Yu, who has become renowned for his achievements on the battlefield. Guan Yu is loyal to Liu Bei, but Cao Cao wants to turn Guan Yu to his side so much so that he even promised Guan Yu the safety of two of Liu Bei's wives and that Guan Yu could leave once the whereabouts of Liu Bei are known.

Guan Yu withdrew and then, with a small escort, went to his meeting with Cao Cao. Cao Cao came to the outermost gate to welcome him, and Guan Yu dismounted and made a show of respect. Cao Cao returned his salute with the greatest courtesy.

“The leader of a defeated army is grateful for the graciousness that has preserved his life,” said Guan Yu.

“I have so long admired your loyalty and high principles such that this happy meeting gratifies a lifetime desire of mine,” replied Cao Cao.

“As the Prime Minister has granted the three requests which my friend petitioned for on my behalf, there is now but little to discuss,” said Guan Yu.

“As I have commanded, so it shall be. I could not break faith,” replied Cao Cao.

“Whenever I hear where Uncle Liu Bei is, I must certainly go to him, even if through fire and water. It may be that there will be no time nor opportunity of saying farewell. I trust you will understand the reason.”

“If Liu Bei should prove to be alive, you must certainly be allowed to go to him. But I fear that in the confusion of battle he may have lost his life. You may set your mind at rest and let me make inquiries.”

Guan Yu thanked him. Then a banquet was prepared in Guan Yu's honor. The next day the army started on its homeward march.

For the journey to the capital, a carriage was prepared for the two ladies and Guan Yu was its guard. On the road they rested at a certain post station, and Cao Cao, anxious to disrupt the relationship between Guan Yu and Liu Bei by beguiling him into forgetfulness of his duty, assigned Guan Yu to the same apartment as his sisters-in-law³. Guan Yu stood the whole night in front of the door with a lighted candle in his hand. His eyes showed no trace of fatigue. Cao Cao's respect for him could only increase.

At the capital the Prime Minister assigned a dignified residence to Guan Yu, which he immediately divided into two enclosures, the inner one for the two ladies and the other for himself. He placed a guard of tens of his elderly soldiers over the women's quarters.

³ Sisters-in-law: Liu Bei's wives.

Guan Yu was presented to Emperor Xian who conferred upon him the rank of General Who Serves the Han. Guan Yu expressed his thanks to the Emperor. The next day Cao Cao made a great banquet, inviting all his advisers and officers, solely in honor of Guan Yu, who sat in the seat of honor. Additionally, Guan Yu received presents of silks and gold and silver containers, all of which Guan Yu sent into the ladies' quarters for their use and keeping. In fact from the day of arrival in the capital, Guan Yu was treated with special respect and distinction, small banquets following each other every three days, and large banquets held every five days.

Cao Cao also presented him with ten most lovely serving girls. Guan Yu sent these also within to wait upon his two sisters-in-law.

Every third day Guan Yu went to the door of the women's quarters to inquire about their well-being, and then they asked if any news of imperial uncle had come. This ceremony closed with the words: "Brother-in-law, you may retire when you wish."

Cao Cao heard of this extremely proper behavior and thought all the more of the man for it.

One day Cao Cao noticed that the green robe Guan Yu was wearing was old and frayed. Taking his measurements, Cao Cao had a new one made of fine brocade and presented it to him. Guan Yu took it and put it on under the old robe, so that the latter covered it.

"Why so very humble?" laughed Cao Cao.

"It is not humble," was his reply. "The old robe was a gift from my brother, and I wear it because it reminds me of him. I could not allow the new gift to eclipse his old one."

"Truly a man of honor!" said Cao Cao, sighing.

One day when Guan Yu was at home, there came a messenger to say that the two women had thrown themselves on the ground and were weeping. They would not say why.

Guan Yu dressed properly, went over, and knelt by the door, saying, "Why this grief, sisters-in-law?"

Lady Gan replied, "In the night I dreamed that the Uncle had fallen into a pit. I woke up and told Lady Mi, and we think he must be dead; so we weep."

"Dreams are not to be trusted," he replied. "You dreamed of him because you were thinking of him. Please do not grieve."

Just then Guan Yu was invited to another banquet, so he took leave of the ladies and went. Seeing Guan Yu looked sad and tearful, his host asked the reason.

"My sisters-in-law have been weeping for my brother, and I cannot help being sad in sympathy."

Cao Cao smiled and tried to cheer up his guest. Cao Cao plied Guan Yu with wine so that Guan Yu became quite intoxicated and sat stroking his beard and saying, "What a useless thing am I! I can do no service for my country, and I have parted from my elder brother."

"How many hairs in your beard?" suddenly asked his host.

"Many hundreds, perhaps. In the autumn a few fall out, but in the winter it is fullest. Then I use a black silk bag to keep the hairs from being broken," replied Guan Yu.

Cao Cao had a bag made for him to protect his beard. Soon after when they were at court, the Emperor asked what was the bag he saw on Guan Yu's chest.

"My beard is rather long, Your Majesty," said Guan Yu. "So the Prime Minister gave me a bag to protect it."

The Emperor told him take off the bag and show his beard in all its fullness. It fell in rippling waves below his chest.

"Really a most beautiful beard!" said the Emperor. "This is why people call him: 'The Man with the Beautiful Beard.'"

Another time, after a banquet, Cao Cao was seeing his guest depart from the gate of his palace when he noticed that his horse was very thin.

"Why is it so thin?" said Cao Cao.

"My worthless body is rather heavy and really too much for it. It is always worn out."

Cao Cao at once told his attendants to bring out a certain horse, and before long it appeared. It was red, like glowing charcoal, and a handsome creature in every way.

"Do you recognize it?" asked Cao Cao.

"Why, it is no other than Red Hare!" cried Guan Yu.

"Yes, it is Red Hare," said Cao Cao and he presented the horse, fully equipped, to his guest.

Guan Yu bowed many times and thanked him again and again till Cao Cao began to feel displeased and said, "I have given you many things, lovely handmaids and gold and silks and never won a bow of gratitude from you before. This horse seems to please you better than all the rest. Why do you think so poorly of the damsels and so much of the steed?"

"I know the horse: It can travel three hundred miles a day, and I am very lucky to get him. Now as soon as I find out where my brother is, I can get to him in a single day," said Guan Yu.

Cao Cao grumbled to himself and began to regret his gift. A poet later wrote:

Above a country all divided,
shines this hero's name.
He stays away from others' wives,
he's pure and without blame.
The crafty minister tries winning
him with courtesies
Not knowing that the great Guan Yu
will never bend his knees.

Cao Cao said to Zhang Liao, "I have treated Guan Yu pretty generously, but he still cherishes the desire to leave me. Do you know if it is really so?"

"I will try to find out," was the reply.

So Zhang Liao took an early opportunity to see Guan Yu, and when the politeness of the visit was over, Zhang Liao said, "I recommended you to the Prime Minister, and you have not lost much by that."

"I am deeply affected by his kindness," said Guan Yu, "but, though my body is here, I am always thinking of my brother."

"Your words do not express present conditions quite correctly. One who lives in the world without discrimination and consideration of his relations with others is not the most admirable type of person. Even Liu Bei never treated you better than does the Prime Minister. Why then do you maintain this desire to get away?"

"I know only too well that he has been most kind, but I have also received great kindness from Uncle Liu Bei. Besides, we have sworn to die together, and I cannot remain here. But before I go, I must try to render the Prime Minister some exceptional service to prove my gratitude."

"Supposing Liu Bei should have left the world, where will you go?" asked Zhang Liao.

"I will follow him to the Nine Golden Springs in the realms below."

There could no longer be the least doubt as to Guan Yu's intentions, and Zhang Liao told Cao Cao just how matters stood.

Cao Cao sighed. "To serve one's lord with unwavering loyalty is a proof of the highest principle of all," he said.

Xun Yu said, "He spoke of performing some significant act of service before leaving. If he gets no chance of such a thing, he will not be able to go."

Cao Cao agreed that this was so.

Liu Bei went to Yuan Shao for refuge. Here Liu Bei was always sorrowful and, when asked the reason, said he did not know where his brothers were nor what had happened to his family since they fell into the hands of Cao Cao.

“Why should I not be sad when I have failed towards my country and my family?” he said.

“I have long wished to attack Xuchang,” said Yuan Shao. “Now it is autumn and just the time for an expedition, so let us discuss plans for the destruction of Cao Cao.”

Tian Feng at once opposed this.

“When Cao Cao attacked Xuzhou and Xuchang was undefended, you let the chance slip by. Now that Xuzhou has been captured, and their soldiers have grown bold with victory, it would be madness to attempt it. It is necessary to await another chance.”

“Let me think about it,” said Yuan Shao.

He asked advice from Liu Bei whether to attack or to wait.

Liu Bei replied, “Cao Cao is a rebel. I think you are failing in your duty if you do not attack him.”

“Your words are good,” said Yuan Shao.

He made up his mind to move. But again the adviser Tian Feng intervened.

Then Yuan Shao grew angry, saying, “You fellows who cultivate literature and despise war have made me miss out on a lot things!”

Tian Feng bowed his head and said, “Neglect your servant’s wise words, and you will fail in the field.”

Yuan Shao was so angry that he wanted to put Tian Feng to death. However, Liu Bei begged him not to do so and he was only imprisoned.

Seeing the fate of his colleague, another adviser, Ju Shou, assembled his clan and distributed among them all his possessions, saying, “I go with the army. If we succeed, then nothing can exceed our glory; but if we are defeated, the risk I run is great.”

His friends wept as they said farewell.

General Yan Liang was appointed to the command of the advance guard, to go to attack Baima.

Then Ju Shou first protested, “His mind is too narrow for such a post. He is brave but unfitting such a post.”

“You are not the sort of man to measure my best generals,” replied Yuan Shao.

The army marched to Liyang, and Governor Liu Yue of Dongjun sent an urgent call to Xuchang for aid. Cao Cao moved his armies hastily.

As soon as the news of battle spread, Guan Yu went to see the Prime Minister and said, “Your Excellency, the army is mobilized. I volunteer to lead the front line.”

“I couldn’t possibly put you to such an inconvenience, but, if the need arises, I will call upon you.”

Thus Guan Yu retired, and one hundred fifty thousand soldiers marched out in three directions. On the road the letters from Liu Yue arrived begging for help, and Cao Cao marched the first fifty thousand troops to Baima and took up a position supported by the hills. In the wide plains in front of them, Yan Liang was encamped with one hundred thousand veterans.

Cao Cao was frightened at the force opposed to him and, returning to camp, spoke to Song Xian, who had once served under Lu Bu, saying, “You are one of Lu Bu’s famous veteran generals. Can you battle this Yan Liang?”

Song Xian agreed to try. He armed himself, mounted, and rode to the front. Yan Liang was there on horseback, his sword lying crossways. Seeing an opponent approaching, he uttered a loud shout and galloped toward Song Xian. The two met, but after only three rounds, Song Xian fell under a mighty slash from Yan Liang’s sword.

“What a ferocious warrior!” said Cao Cao in consternation.

“He has slain my comrade, I want to go and avenge him,” then cried Wei Xu.

Cao Cao ordered him to go and he rode out, spear set, and in front of the army railed at Yan Liang.

Yan Liang replied not a word, but their two steeds came together; and at the first blow from Yan Liang's sword, Wei Xu's forehead was cut in half.

"Now, who again dares face him?" cried Cao Cao.

Xu Huang took up the challenge and he went out. The combat persisted twenty rounds, and then Xu Huang fled back to his own side. The other generals were now greatly depressed at their failure. Cao Cao withdrew his army, feeling very sad at the loss of two generals in quick succession. Yan Liang also marched off his force.

Then Cheng Yu went to see his chief, saying, "I can produce a man to equal Yan Liang."

"Who?" cried Cao Cao.

"None other than Guan Yu."

"I am afraid that if he is given an opportunity to perform that return service he spoke of, he will leave me."

"If Liu Bei is still alive, he is with Yuan Shao. If you get Guan Yu to defeat Yuan Shao's army, Yuan Shao will look differently at Liu Bei and put him to death. With Liu Bei gone, where can Guan Yu go?"

This argument appealed to Cao Cao at once, and he sent a request to Guan Yu to come.

Before obeying the call, Guan Yu went to say farewell to his sisters-in-law.

"You may get news of the Uncle on the journey," they said.

"Yes," said Guan Yu and left them.

Armed with his Green-Dragon Crescent Blade, riding on the swift steed Red Hare, and having only a few people following him, Guan Yu did not take long to arrive at Baima. He saw Cao Cao, who told him what had happened. Yan Liang was too valiant for anyone to face.

"Let me look at him," said Guan Yu.

Then wine was served for his refreshment, and while they were drinking, it was reported that Yan Liang once again offered a challenge. So Cao Cao and his guest and staff went to the summit of a hill where the enemy could be seen. Cao Cao and Guan Yu sat on the hilltop, and the commanders stood around them. Cao Cao pointed out Yan Liang's troops arrayed on the plains below. The flags and banners waving fresh and bright amid the forest of spears and swords made a grand and imposing spectacle.

"See how formidable these soldiers of the North of Yellow River are," said Cao Cao.

"I regard them as nothing more than a bunch of toys, clay birds and dogs," said Guan Yu.

Cao Cao pointed out Yan Liang, saying, "There under that grand canopy, in that embroidered robe and that silver breastplate and riding on horseback gripping that huge sword is Yan Liang."

"His head looks as though it was stuck on a pole for sale," said Guan Yu, just glancing over the army at his feet.

"He is very terrible. You must not underestimate him," said Cao Cao.

Guan Yu rose, saying, "I am a worthless thing, but I will go over and bring you his head if you like."

"Joking is not allowed in this army," interposed Zhang Liao. "Please be careful what you say, General."

Guan Yu quickly mounted, turned down his mighty weapon, and galloped down the hill, his phoenix eyes rounded, and his silkworm eyebrows fiercely bristling. He dashed straight into the enemy's array, and the northern soldiers opened like falling waves and dissolving storms. He made directly for the commander.

Now Yan Liang sitting there in comfort saw a horseman rushing toward him, and just as he began to ask who the rider of the red horse was, *look out!* the horseman was there. Taken utterly by surprise, the leader could make no defense. Guan Yu's arm rose and the mighty weapon fell—and with it fell Yan Liang.

Leaping from the saddle, Guan Yu cut off his victim's head and hung it to his horse's neck. Then

he mounted and rode out, just as if there were no army there.

The northern troops, panic stricken, put up no fight. Cao Cao's army attacked with full force and slew great numbers of them. They captured many horses and weapons and much military gear. Guan Yu rode quickly back up the hill and laid the proof of his prowess at the feet of the Prime Minister.

"You are more than human, General!" cried Cao Cao.

"What have I done to talk about?" said Guan Yu. "My brother, Zhang Fei, did the same thing in an army of a hundred legions, and did it as easily as picking something from his own pocket."

Cao Cao marveled at the statement and turning to those about him said, "If you meet this Zhang Fei, be careful." He ordered them to make a note on the overlap of their robes so that they should remember.

Chapter 27

After earning more victories for Cao Cao and learning of Liu Bei's whereabouts, Guan Yu, along with Liu Bei's wives, departs, leaving a note behind.

Guan Yu had two friends in Cao Cao's camp, Zhang Liao and Xu Huang. Moreover, he was generally respected by the other generals, with one exception—Cai Yang. But Cai Yang's offer to bring him back drew an angry rebuke from Cao Cao: "Guan Yu is a man of the highest honor, for his loyalty to his lord and for leaving as openly as he came. All of you would do well to emulate him."

"Your Excellency," Cheng Yu declared, "you treated that fellow with the utmost generosity, yet he departed without saying farewell. That scrap of nonsense he wrote insolently sullies your prestige—a great offense. If you permit him to give his allegiance to Yuan Shao, you lend your enemy new strength. Pursue and stop him, and spare yourself future troubles."

"At the beginning," Cao Cao said, "I granted his demands. Can I break my own promises? He acts for his own lord. Let him go!"

Turning to Zhang Liao, Cao Cao continued, "Guan Yu locked away his valuables and left his seal. Rich bribes seem not to move him, nor do favors and rewards affect his purpose. We cannot respect such men highly enough. He must still be within range. We might as well make one last effort to win him over. Ride ahead and beg him to stop until I can escort him off properly—provide some money for the journey and a battle robe—so he will remember me in future times."

Zhang Liao raced off, followed by Cao Cao and a few dozen riders. Guan Yu, on Red Hare, could not normally have been overtaken. But he was keeping to the rear to guard the carriage.⁴ Hearing a shout, he turned. Zhang Liao was pounding toward him. Guan Yu ordered the carriage guard to press on while he reined in and, hand on sword, said, "I trust you are not coming in pursuit?"

"I am not," Zhang Liao replied. "The Prime Minister, in consideration of the long road ahead of you, wishes to see you off personally and has sent me to request that you delay for a few moments. I have no other intent."



Bronze Ming Dynasty
sculpture of Guan Yu

⁴ carriage: the carriage carried Liu Bei's two wives.

“Even if he comes in force,” Guan Yu replied, “I will do battle to the death.”

He poised his horse on a bridge, surveying their approach. Cao Cao himself surrounded by a small contingent was racing up, trailed by Xu Chu, Xu Huang, Yu Jin, and Li Dian. In front of the bridge Cao Cao told his commanders to rein in and spread out.

Seeing they carried no weapons, Guan Yu became more relaxed.

“Why do you go in such haste?” Cao Cao asked.

Remaining mounted, Guan Yu bent forward to show respect and replied, “It is as I had requested upon arriving: now that my original lord is north of the river, I must not delay. Time after time I presented myself at your quarters but never succeeded in seeing you, so in all humility I wrote to announce my departure, stored away your valuable gifts, and hung up my seal for return to Your Excellency, who, I am confident, will not forget what we agreed to.”

“I seek the trust of all the world,” Cao Cao said. “Would I go back on my word? I was only concerned that you might run short on your journey, General, and so I have made a point of coming to see you off with something for your expenses.”

At this point one of Cao Cao’s commanders extended toward Guan Yu a plate heaped with gold.

“Time and again,” Guan Yu said, “I have benefited from your considerable generosity, of which much yet remains. Reserve this treasure to reward your officers.”

“This trifling recompense for your magnificent services,” Cao Cao responded, “is but one ten-thousandth of what I owe you. Why decline it?”

“My paltry efforts,” Guan Yu answered, “are not worth mentioning.”

“You are the model of the honorable man,” Cao Cao exclaimed. “I only regret that destiny deprives me of the opportunity to keep you. This damask robe is an expression of my good will.”

One of Cao Cao’s captains dismounted, carried the robe to Guan Yu, and offered it up to him with two hands. Cautiously, Guan Yu leaned down, lifted the garment on the tip of his sword, and draped it over his body.

“I am indebted,” he said, “for Your Excellency’s gift. Another day we may meet again.”

Turning, Guan Yu rode off the bridge and headed north.

“Insolent barbarian!” Xu Chu cried. “Why not seize him?”

“He was outnumbered, more than ten to one,” Cao Cao replied. “He had to be on his guard. I gave my word. Do not pursue him.”

Cao Cao led his men back to the capital, but the loss of Guan Yu weighed on him.

Assignment: *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* are both written in the 14th century but on two opposite sides of human civilization. Write a detailed response in complete sentences in which you compare this *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* excerpt with *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. What do you think are notable similarities between the two in terms of what happens and in terms of the principles that they followed? You should use at least two quotes from this *Three Kingdoms* reading (cite the page number of this excerpt).
