

# The Dream of the Red Chamber

*Cao Xueqin*

Download now

Read Online ➔

## **The Dream of the Red Chamber** Cao Xueqin

Cao Xueqin (Chinese: 曹雪芹; (1715 or 1724 – 1763 or 1764) was a Chinese writer during the Qing dynasty. He is best known as the author of *Dream of the Red Chamber*, one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature.

Cao was born to a Han Chinese clan that was brought into personal service (as *booi aha* or bondservants) to the Manchu royalty in the late 1610s. His ancestors distinguished themselves through military service in the Plain White Branch (???) of the Eight Banners and subsequently held posts as officials which brought both prestige and wealth.

During the Kangxi Emperor's reign, the clan's prestige and power reached its height. Cao's grandfather, Cao Yin (??), was a childhood playmate to Kangxi while Cao Yin's mother, Lady Sun (??), was Kangxi's wet nurse. Two years after his ascension, Kangxi appointed Cao's great-grandfather, Cao Xi (??), as the Commissioner of Imperial Textiles (??) in Jiangning, and the family relocated there.

When Cao Xi died in 1684, Cao Yin, as Kangxi's personal confidante, took over the post. Cao Yin was one of the era's most prominent men of letters and a keen book collector. Jonathan Spence notes the strong Manchu element in the lives of these Imperial Household bond servants. They balanced the two cultures: Cao Yin took pleasure in horse riding and hunting and Manchu military culture, but was at the same time a sensitive interpreter of Chinese culture. By the early 18th century, the Cao clan had become so rich and influential as to be able to play host four times to the Kangxi Emperor in his six separate itinerant trips south to the Nanjing region. In 1705, the emperor ordered Cao, himself a fluent poet, to compile all surviving *shi* (lyric poems) surviving from the Tang dynasty, *The Complete Poems of the Tang*.

When Cao Yin died in 1712, Kangxi passed the office over to Cao Yin's only son, Cao Yong (??). Cao Yong died in 1715. Kangxi then allowed the family to adopt a paternal nephew, Cao Fu (??), as Cao Yin's posthumous son to continue in that position. Hence the clan held the office of Imperial Textile Commissioner at Jiangning for three generations.

The family's fortunes lasted until Kangxi's death and the ascension of the Yongzheng Emperor to the throne. Yongzheng severely attacked the family and

later confiscated their properties, while Cao Fu was thrown in jail. This was ostensibly for their mismanagement of funds, though perhaps this purge was politically motivated. When Cao Fu was released a year later, the family, completely impoverished, was forced to relocate to Beijing. Cao Xueqin, still a young child, lived in poverty with his family.

Henry Bencraft Joly (1857-1898) was British Vice-Consul in Macao and translator of Ts'ao Chan's *Hung Lou Meng: The Dream of the Red Chamber*, a Chinese Novel in Two Books. He had three brothers. His only daughter, Vivien, married Hugh David Beddington, son of Keith Lionel Beddington CBE.

 [Download The Dream of the Red Chamber ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Dream of the Red Chamber ...pdf](#)

# The Dream of the Red Chamber

*Cao Xueqin*

## **The Dream of the Red Chamber** Cao Xueqin

Cao Xueqin (Chinese: 曹雪芹; (1715 or 1724 – 1763 or 1764) was a Chinese writer during the Qing dynasty. He is best known as the author of Dream of the Red Chamber, one of the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature.

Cao was born to a Han Chinese clan that was brought into personal service (as booi aha or bondservants) to the Manchu royalty in the late 1610s. His ancestors distinguished themselves through military service in the Plain White Branch (???) of the Eight Banners and subsequently held posts as officials which brought both prestige and wealth.

During the Kangxi Emperor's reign, the clan's prestige and power reached its height. Cao's grandfather, Cao Yin (??), was a childhood playmate to Kangxi while Cao Yin's mother, Lady Sun (??), was Kangxi's wet nurse. Two years after his ascension, Kangxi appointed Cao's great-grandfather, Cao Xi (??), as the Commissioner of Imperial Textiles (??) in Jiangning, and the family relocated there.

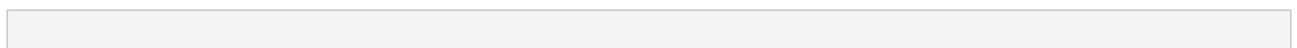
When Cao Xi died in 1684, Cao Yin, as Kangxi's personal confidante, took over the post. Cao Yin was one of the era's most prominent men of letters and a keen book collector. Jonathan Spence notes the strong Manchu element in the lives of these Imperial Household bond servants. They balanced the two cultures: Cao Yin took pleasure in horse riding and hunting and Manchu military culture, but was at the same time a sensitive interpreter of Chinese culture. By the early 18th century, the Cao clan had become so rich and influential as to be able to play host four times to the Kangxi Emperor in his six separate itinerant trips south to the Nanjing region. In 1705, the emperor ordered Cao, himself a fluent poet, to compile all surviving shi (lyric poems) surviving from the Tang dynasty, The Complete Poems of the Tang.

When Cao Yin died in 1712, Kangxi passed the office over to Cao Yin's only son, Cao Yong (??). Cao Yong died in 1715. Kangxi then allowed the family to adopt a paternal nephew, Cao Fu (??), as Cao Yin's posthumous son to continue in that position. Hence the clan held the office of Imperial Textile Commissioner at Jiangning for three generations.

The family's fortunes lasted until Kangxi's death and the ascension of the Yongzheng Emperor to the throne. Yongzheng severely attacked the family and later confiscated their properties, while Cao Fu was thrown in jail. This was ostensibly for their mismanagement of funds, though perhaps this purge was politically motivated. When Cao Fu was released a year later, the family, completely impoverished, was forced to relocate to Beijing. Cao Xueqin, still a young child, lived in poverty with his family.

Henry Bencraft Joly (1857-1898) was British Vice-Consul in Macao and translator of Ts'ao Chan's Hung Lou Meng: The Dream of the Red Chamber, a Chinese Novel in Two Books. He had three brothers. His only daughter, Vivien, married Hugh David Beddington, son of Keith Lionel Beddington CBE.

## **The Dream of the Red Chamber** Cao Xueqin Bibliography



 [\*\*Download\*\* The Dream of the Red Chamber ...pdf](#)

 [\*\*Read Online\*\* The Dream of the Red Chamber ...pdf](#)

## **Editorial Review**

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Mary Todd:**

Throughout other case, little individuals like to read book The Dream of the Red Chamber. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important some sort of book The Dream of the Red Chamber. You can add information and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can know everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we could open a book as well as searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's learn.

##### **Terri Wiggins:**

The book The Dream of the Red Chamber can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why then must we leave the great thing like a book The Dream of the Red Chamber? Several of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim that book can give many data for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you can give for each other; you may share all of these. Book The Dream of the Red Chamber has simple shape however, you know: it has great and large function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

##### **Patricia Nebeker:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this The Dream of the Red Chamber e-book written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation The Dream of the Red Chamber as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

##### **Joseph Rankins:**

That e-book can make you to feel relax. This book The Dream of the Red Chamber was bright colored and of course has pictures around. As we know that book The Dream of the Red Chamber has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it offers up

you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading this.

**Download and Read Online The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao  
Xueqin #LVN8WG5K4QY**

# **Read The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin for online ebook**

The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin books to read online.

## **Online The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin ebook PDF download**

### **The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin Doc**

### **The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin Mobipocket**

### **The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin EPub**

### **LVN8WG5K4QY: The Dream of the Red Chamber Cao Xueqin**