

The Thirteen Ming Tombs Special Tourism Zone Association
for the Study of the Imperial Ming Tombs

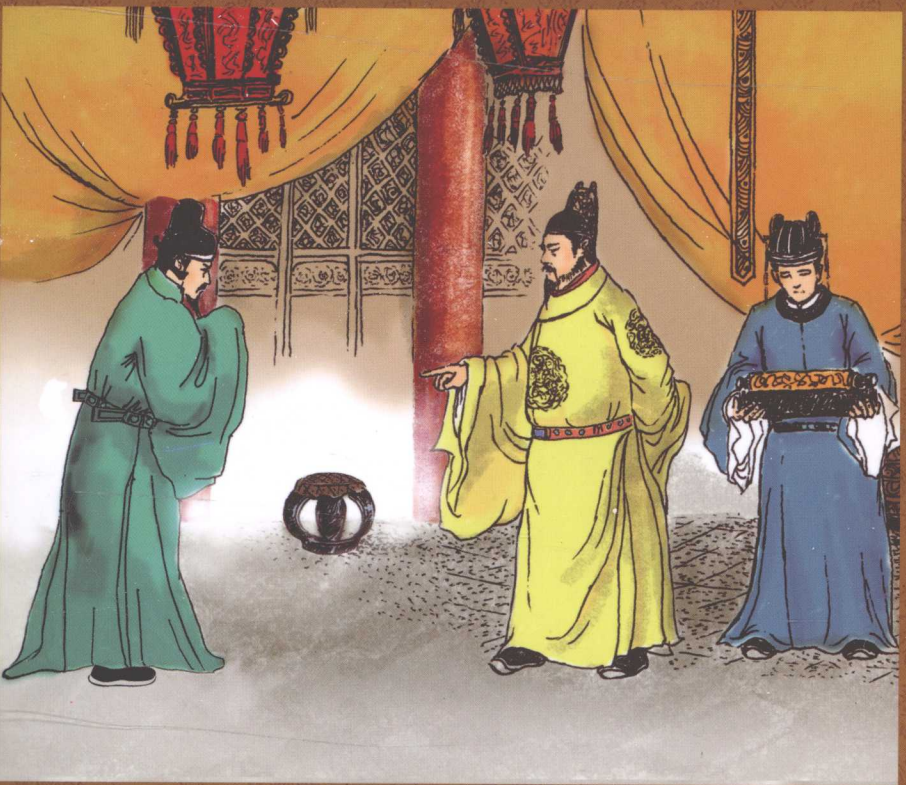
十三陵特区明代帝陵研究会 编

北京燕山出版社

廖均卿卜吉天寿山

Liao Junqing and the Thirteen Ming Tombs

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

廖均卿卜吉天寿山/十三陵特区明代帝陵研究会编. —北京: 北京燕山出版社, 2010. 9
ISBN 978-7-5402-2450-9

I. ①廖… II. ①十… III. ①连环画-作品-中国-现代 IV. ①J228.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2010) 第 189285 号

责任编辑: 马明仁 陈赫男

责任校对: 杨富丽

出版发行: 北京燕山出版社

社 址: 北京市宣武区陶然亭路 53 号 (邮编: 100054 电话: 010-65240430)

经 销: 新华书店

印 刷: 小森印刷 (北京) 有限公司印刷

开 本: 787mm × 1092mm 1/32

字 数: 70 千字 插图: 57 幅 印张: 4

版 次: 2010 年 9 月第 1 版 印次: 2010 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 18.00 元

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【内容提要】明永乐五年（1407年）永乐皇帝朱棣的皇后徐氏病故南京，礼部尚书赵珣与江西术士廖均卿等人奉命到北京郊区卜选陵地。他们历尽千辛万苦，终于选到了北京昌平的黄土山这一风水吉地。永乐皇帝亲临阅视，非常满意。下旨封黄土山为天寿山，并在山前修建了陵寝，这就是明十三陵中的第一座陵园——长陵。

Summary

In the 5th year of the Yongle's (Zhu Di) reign (1407), in the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Yongle's wife, the empress Xu Shi, died of disease in Nanjing. The Director of the Board of Rites, Zhao Hong, and a Fengshui geomancer from Jiangxi, Liao Junqing, received an imperial decree to find a burial ground in the outskirts of Beijing. After all kinds of trials and tribulations, an auspicious site, the Yellow Earth Mountain, situated in Changping District and in line with the Fengshui principles was eventually chosen. Emperor Yongle came in person to examine this propitious site and pronounced it be very satisfactory. He issued an imperial edict renaming the Yellow Earth Mountain as the Heavenly Longevity Mountain, and ordered an imperial tomb to be built at the foot of the mountain. This is how the Changling Tomb, the earliest of the Thirteen Ming Tombs, came to be.

永乐皇帝（朱棣）



Emperor Yongle

Zhu Di

礼部尚书赵昶



Director of the Board of Rites

Zhao Hong

廖均卿



Liao Junqing

曾文政



Zeng Wenzheng

知县王侃



County Magistrate

Wang Kan

杨筠松



Yang Yunsong

廖三传



Liao Sanchuan

曾文辿



Zeng Wenchan

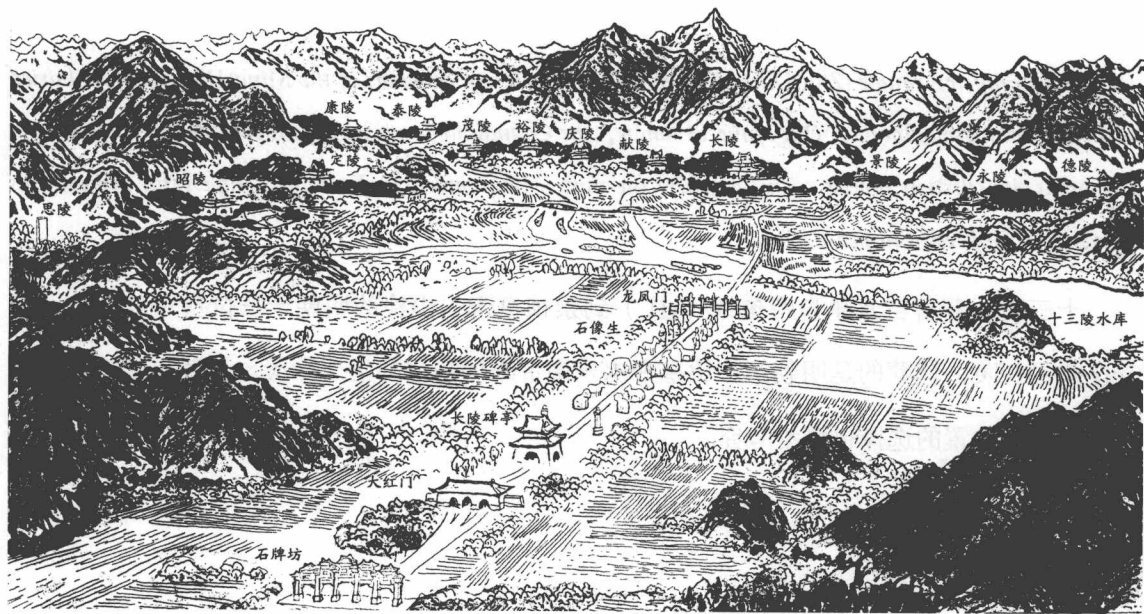
山寿天吉卜卿均廖



At the foot of the Heavenly Longevity Mountain in the north part of Changping District in Beijing, there lies a group of grand imperial tombs from the Ming Dynasty, known as "The Thirteen Ming Tombs". Because the traditional Chinese geomantic theories of Fengshui were employed by the ancient intellectuals when selecting the tomb site, each tomb complex is well situated in a beautiful environment surrounded by mountains, ringed by rivers, shielded from the bitter winds and pervaded by the flow of Qi¹.

在北京市昌平区北部的天寿山脚下，有一处规模宏大的明代皇帝陵墓建筑群，人们称之为“明十三陵”。因为古人在卜选陵地时，采用的是传统的风水理论，因此每座陵园都处在山环水抱、“聚气藏风”的优美环境中。

1 Qi is a core concept of Chinese Fengshui, it is believed to be the vital energy for every life. —Tr.



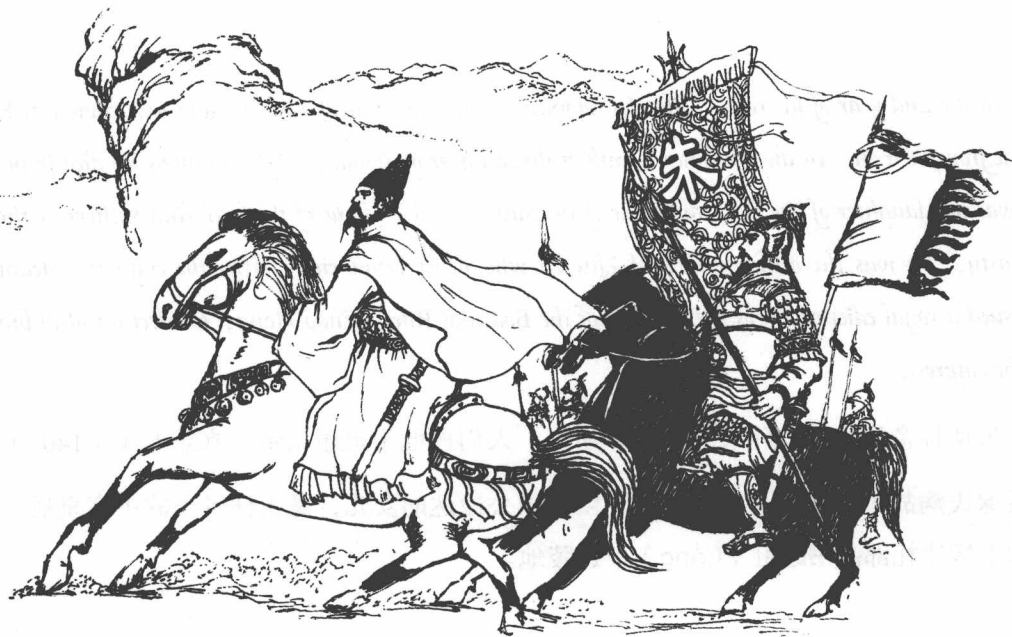
From Emperor Yongle (Zhu Di) to Emperor Chongzhen, 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty were buried in the Thirteen Ming Tombs. Out of the 13 tombs, the Changling Tomb was the first to be built, following a rigorous site-selection process. This is where the third Ming emperor, Emperor Yongle (Zhu Di) and his empress (Xu Shi) rested in peace.

十三陵埋葬着自永乐皇帝朱棣（dì）到崇祯皇帝朱由检的明朝十三位皇帝。其中，第一座陵是长陵，埋葬的是明朝第三位皇帝永乐皇帝朱棣和他的皇后徐氏。长陵在十三陵中营建得最早，位置的选择也最为考究。



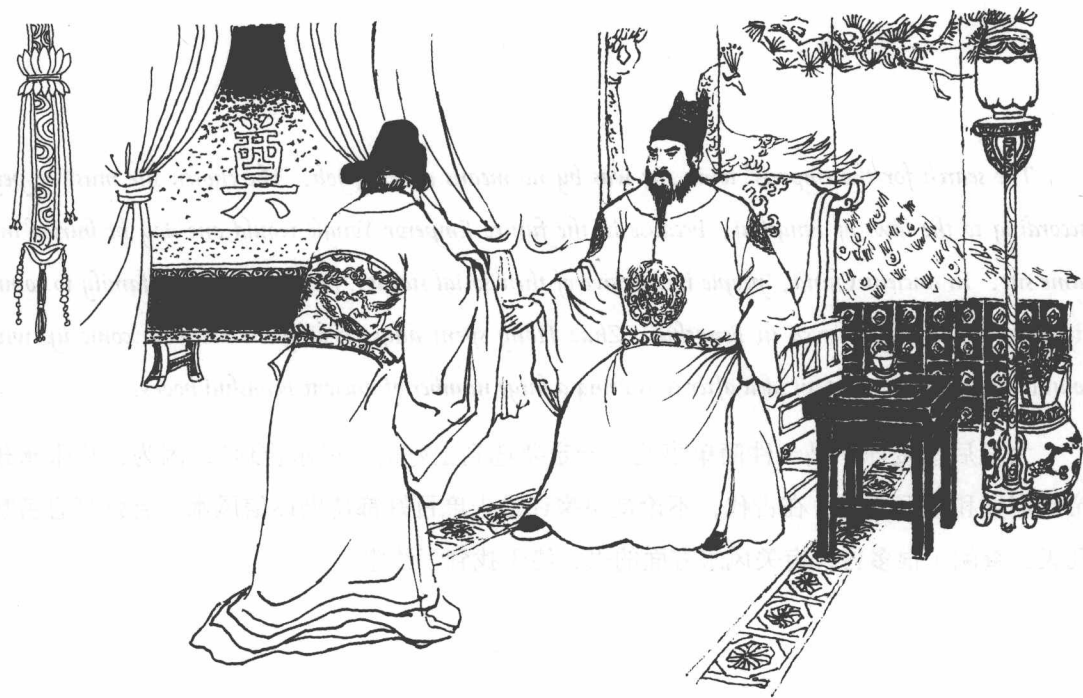
Emperor Yongle, Zhu Di, was the fourth son of the founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang. He had been earlier conferred the title of the Prince of Yan and was designated to guard Beiping, present-day Beijing. After Zhu Yuanzhang's death in the 31st year of Hongwu (1398), his eldest grandson, Zhu Yunwen, ascended the throne, because the Crown Prince, Zhu Biao, had died earlier. In the 4th year of Jianwen (1402), Zhu Di ousted his nephew by force and proclaimed himself the Ming emperor in Nanjing.

永乐皇帝朱棣，是明朝开国皇帝朱元璋的第四个儿子。他早年封燕王，镇守北平，就是现在的北京。朱元璋在洪武三十一年（1398）去世，因为皇太子朱标死得早，所以皇太孙朱允炆继承了皇位。建文四年（1402），朱棣通过武力手段，把侄子赶下台，在南京称帝。



In the 2nd year of his reign, Zhu Di adopted a new reign title of Yongle, and was known as Emperor Yongle from then on. In the 7th lunar month of the 5th year of Yongle (1407), Empress Xu died from illness. She was the daughter of Xu Da, the Duke of the State of Wei and one of the founding fathers of the Ming Dynasty. Xu was the only empress of Zhu Di who never remarried. After the empress's death, Zhu Di issued a royal edict ordering the Director of the Board of Rites, Zhao Hong, to select an ideal burial site for the empress.

朱棣称帝后，第二年改元永乐。所以，人们称他为永乐皇帝。永乐五年（1407）七月，皇后徐氏病故了。徐氏是明朝开国功臣魏国公徐达的女儿，是朱棣唯一的中宫皇后，所以，朱棣下旨让礼部尚书赵瑄（hóng）卜选陵地。



The search for the empress' tomb site was by no means an easy job. The chosen site must be perfect according to the laws of Fengshui, because in the future Emperor Yongle would one day be buried in the same site. In ancient China, people irrespective of their social status, from the imperial family to common citizens, all firmly believed in Fengshui. Zhao Hong spent days racking his brain to come up with a solution, and finally got an idea after consulting a large number of ancient Fengshui books.

为皇后选陵地不是一件简单事儿，一定要选到上好的“风水吉地”，因为，将来永乐皇帝驾崩要和皇后合葬。在古代，不论是皇家还是士庶百姓都特别迷信风水。赵珰冥思苦想了几天，查阅了很多古代有关风水方面的书，终于找到了线索。