

Chapter One

1. Great Ancestor, the Heaven-Opening, Way-Implementing, Dynasty-Founding, Pinnacle-Standing, Greatly Worthy, Most Holy, Benevolent, Cultivated, Righteous, Martial, Refined, Virtuous, and Successful Exalted Emperor: his personal name was Yüan-chang and his surname was of the Chu clan.*

2. Earlier generations of the clan made their home in P'ei.^b They moved to Chü-jung and moved again to Ssu-chou.^a T'ai-tsu's father, Chu Shih-chen, finally moved to Chung-li *hsien* in Hao-chou. He had four sons of whom T'ai-tsu was the youngest. When his mother, whose surname was Ch'en, was pregnant with him, she dreamed of a divine spirit who gave her a medicinal pill that glowed when it was placed in her palm. She swallowed it and when she awoke, a fragrant essence lingered in her mouth. When she gave birth, a red glow filled the house. From this night on, the glow appeared repeatedly. The neighbors, on seeing this, were frightened and mistook it for a fire. They hastened to give aid, but when they arrived there was no fire.

3. When he was grown to manhood, his presence was wonderfully heroic and superlatively strong and his purposes were wide-ranging. No man could take his measure.

4. Drought, locusts, and pestilence came in 1344. T'ai-tsu at that time was seventeen years of age. His father, mother, and eldest brother all died in succession. The survivors were too poor to be able to provide a proper burial for the dead. A villager, Liu Chi-tsu, gave them a burial-place and they were then able to complete the rites. This was the origin of the Feng-yang Tomb.

5. T'ai-tsu was now alone with no one on whom he could lean. He entered the Huang-chüeh Temple to become a monk. A month later, he journeyed to Ho-fei begging for his food. On the road, he became ill. Two men dressed in purple fell in with him and treated him with the utmost solicitude. When his illness had ended, the

*For other titles, see par. 832 below.

two men were nowhere to be seen. Altogether, he passed through the subprefectures of Kuang-chou,^a Ku-shih, Ju-ning, and Ying-chou. After three years of this, he returned to the temple.

6. At this time, the Yüan government was no longer in control and bandits rose up on all sides. Liu Fu-t'ung acknowledged Han Shan-t'ung as ruler of the so-called Sung (Empire) and then rebelled at Ying. Hsü Shou-hui also usurped the title of emperor (of T'ien-wan) and revolted at Ch'i, while Li Erh,^a P'eng Ta, and Chao Chün-yung rebelled at Hsü. They amassed armies of several myriads each and they all appointed generals and commanders who slaughtered the officials and invaded the prefectures and districts. Moreover, Fang Kuo-chen had already rebelled on the seacoast and still other bandits collected their swarms of soldiers and took possession of various places. The world was in chaos.

7. In February-March of 1352, Kuo Tzu-hsing of Ting-yüan, together with Sun Te-yai and other confederates, began an armed rebellion at Hao-chou. The Yüan general, Ch'e-li-pu-hua, was afraid and dared not attack them, but every day, he seized respectable people (and presented them as bandits) in order to obtain a reward.

8. T'ai-tsu was then twenty-four years old. Hoping to find a way to escape the fighting, he divined the will of the Buddha as to whether he should run away or remain where he was. The reply on both possibilities was that it would be inauspicious. He then asked, "Can it be that I am supposed to begin a great undertaking?" He divined the answer, which was: favorable, great success. Then in the month April-May, he entered Hao-chou. He was introduced to Kuo Tzu-hsing who thought his manner and bearing extraordinary and retained him as a soldier in his personal guard. In battle, he was always quickly victorious and Kuo Tzu-hsing gave to him in marriage his foster-daughter, the lady Ma, who later became the Exalted Empress.

9. Also at about this time, Kuo Tzu-hsing and Sun Te-yai locked horns (over which of them was to be in command). T'ai-tsu repeatedly tried to restore harmony between them. In September-October, 1352, Yüan forces recovered Hsü-chou. Li Erh^a fled and was killed, but P'eng Ta and Chao Chün-yung took refuge in Hao-chou where Sun Te-yai and the others took them in. Kuo Tzu-

hsing treated P'eng Ta with courtesy, but slighted Chao Chün-yung. Chao resented this and Sun Te-yai (took advantage of this circumstance) to involve him in a conspiracy. They lay in wait for Kuo and when he came out they seized him, shackled him in Sun's home, and were about to kill him. T'ai-tsu, meanwhile, had gone north of the Huai. When the trouble was reported to him, he galloped back to Hao-chou where he informed P'eng Ta of what had happened. P'eng was angered and called his soldiers out. T'ai-tsu, also, put on his armor. Together, they broke into the house, took Kuo Tzu-hsing out, struck off his shackles, and had their men carry him home. After this, Kuo was left alone.

10. This winter, the Yüan general, Chia Lu, laid siege to Hao-chou. T'ai-tsu helped Kuo to defend it strongly. In the spring of 1353, Chia Lu died and the siege was lifted. T'ai-tsu then recruited soldiers from his village, obtaining some seven hundred. Kuo was pleased and rewarded him with appointment as adjutant.

11. At this time, the followers of P'eng and Chao were violent and undisciplined and Kuo was irresolute in dealing with them. T'ai-tsu judged them to be unfit for any common undertaking. He therefore turned his soldiers over to other officers and, retaining only Hsü Ta, T'ang Ho, Fei Chü, and a few others, struck southward into Ting-yüan. By a stratagem, he obtained the surrender of the three thousand militiamen of the Lü-p'ai fort. Marching eastward with them, he made a surprise attack by night on the Yüan general, Chang Chih-yüan, on Heng-chien Mountain. (Again victorious), T'ai-tsu now took command of Chang's twenty thousand soldiers. Continuing on his way, T'ai-tsu met Li Shan-ch'ang, a native of Ting-yüan, talked with him, and was favorably impressed. Together, they proceeded to attack Ch'u-chou^a and took it.

12. This year (1353), Chang Shih-ch'eng took Kao-yu and assumed the title *Ch'eng Wang*. In October-November of 1354, the Yüan chief councilor, T'o-t'o, inflicted a great defeat upon Chang Shih-ch'eng at Kao-yu and detached a force to besiege Liu-ho. T'ai-tsu said that if Liu-ho fell, Ch'u-chou would not escape. With Keng Tsai-ch'eng, he garrisoned the Wa-liang Fort in order to assist (Liu-ho). They fought hard for a time and then returned to Ch'u-chou with a large number of the old and infirm under mili-

tary escort. The Yüan army, following them, came up in great strength and attacked Ch'u-chou.^a T'ai-tsu prepared an ambush and defeated them. However, he guessed that the Yüan army, mighty as it was, would attack again. Accordingly, he returned the horses that he had captured in the ambush and sent the elders out with meat and wine to mollify the Yüan leaders. The elders said to them, "We have simply been defending our city against the bandits. (If you and we continue to fight each other), what is to prevent the bandits from slaughtering innocent people?" The Yüan soldiers then moved away. The city remained intact.

13. Reports of T'o-t'o's victory over Chang Shih-ch'eng's army had created a great stir. Just then, however, T'o-t'o was hurt by slanders and was relieved of his command. The rebellions in the Yangtze and Huai valleys then burned more fiercely than before.

14. In January-February of 1355, Kuo Tzu-hsing adopted a plan proposed by T'ai-tsu and sent Chang T'ien-yu and others to seize Ho-chou.^a He then commissioned T'ai-tsu to take charge of their forces (in the fallen city). T'ai-tsu, however, worried about whether he would be able to get along with the generals. He therefore kept his commission a secret, at first, and set a date for a morning conference. At this time, the right side was honored in seating arrangements. The several commanders went in ahead of him and filled up all the seats on the right side. T'ai-tsu, coming in later, had to take a seat on the left. He then proceeded to the business of the meeting and made decisions as though nothing were amiss. The assembled officers simply stared at him without being able to utter a word. Now, for the first time, they began to give way. They discussed the division of the work required to re-tile the city walls and set a time limit of three days for its completion. T'ai-tsu's work was done on schedule, but the generals were all late. Only at this time did T'ai-tsu produce his commission. Taking his seat facing toward the south he said, "I have orders to take charge of all your forces. Now, the wall-tiling is behind schedule. What kind of military discipline is this?" The commanders were all frightened and asked his pardon.

15. T'ai-tsu then sought out the wives and daughters of Ho-chou who had been seized and held by the soldiers and allowed them to return to their families. This pleased the people greatly.

16. A Yüan army of a hundred thousand attacked Ho-chou.^a After three months' stubborn resistance, the food supply was exhausted. Moreover, the Yüan heir apparent, T'u-chien, Assistant Military Commissioner, Pan-chu-ma, and Militia Commander Ch'en Yeh-hsien, encamped at Hsin-t'ien and on the Kao-wang and Chi-lung mountains in order to cut off the supply routes (to Ho-chou). T'ai-tsu at the head of his troops defeated them. All the Yüan forces in that place then crossed the Yangtze.

17. In April-May of 1355, Kuo Tzu-hsing died. At this time, Liu Fu-t'ung had placed Han Shan-t'ung's son, Lin-erh, on his throne at Po-chou with the dynastic name of Sung and the reign-title *Lung-feng*. (On Kuo's death), they commissioned his son T'ien-hsü to be the new Commander in Chief and Chang T'ien-yu and T'ai-tsu to be the Left and Right Lieutenant Commanders.* T'ai-tsu then angrily exclaimed, "Ought the man with the big stick to be able to accept the authority of others?" Subsequently, in fact, he did not accept it. However, he considered that Han Lin-erh's great strength might be relied upon and decided to use his reign title as a means of maintaining control over his own followers.

18. In May-June, Ch'ang Yü-ch'un came and gave his allegiance to T'ai-tsu.

19. In June-July, T'ai-tsu made plans to cross the Yangtze. He had no ships, but just at this time the Ch'ao Lake commanders, Liaq Yung-an and Yü T'ung-hai, came to him to offer their fleet of a thousand vessels. T'ai-tsu was greatly pleased and made a goodwill visit to their forces. Yüan Vice Censor in Chief Man-tzu-hai-ya, however, held the passes at T'ung-ch'eng Lock and Mach'ang River so the Ch'ao Lake fleet was unable to get through to the Yangtze. Suddenly, there was a heavy rain. T'ai-tsu was pleased and said, "This is Heaven helping me!" They then took advantage of the rising water to get their ships through a small outlet and back to Ho-chou.^a T'ai-tsu then attacked Man-tzu-hai-ya at Yü-hsi *k'ou* and badly defeated him.

*This reverses the order given in the *Veritable Records* and makes it appear that T'ai-tsu outranked Chang T'ien-yu. The Mongol practice of honoring right over left was continued until Oct. 1367 (see paragraph 112 below).

20. After this, T'ai-tsu laid plans for a crossing of the Yangtze. His generals all wanted to race on directly to Chi-ch'ing. T'ai-tsu said, "When we take Chi-ch'ing, we must start from Ts'ai-shih. Ts'ai-shih is an important strategic point and its defenses must be strong. However, the Ox Island Barrier fronts on the Yangtze and is difficult to defend. From that vantage we could certainly take the town." On July 10, his fleet set sail and proceeded to Ox Island. Ch'ang Yü-ch'un led the way in the scaling and capture. The Ts'ai-shih garrison fled and the Yangtze forts all fell to T'ai-tsu's army.

21. Since Ho-chou^a was hungry, the generals vied with one another in seizing treasure and food and laid plans to return. T'ai-tsu then spoke to Hsü Ta, saying, "Our crossing the Yangtze was an auspicious victory. If we quit now and go home, the lower Yangtze will never be ours." He thereupon cut away the ropes and allowed the boats to drift away in the swift current. He said to the generals, "T'ai-p'ing is very near. With your support, gentlemen, I ought to take it." He thus followed up the advantage gained at Ts'ai-shih by taking T'ai-p'ing. Here, he captured Myriad Commander Na-ha-ch'u, but Regional Commander Chin I drowned himself. T'ai-tsu said, "This was a righteous gentleman," and buried him with due ceremony. Here, too, T'ai-tsu displayed a notice prohibiting plunder. A soldier who disobeyed the order was beheaded in order to move the rest of the troops to an attitude of respect. T'ai-tsu made T'ai-p'ing Circuit a prefecture and established here the T'ai-p'ing Hsing-kuo Wing Commandery. He himself assumed the responsibilities of commander and appointed T'ao An to be his aide in the affairs of the commandery and Li Hsi to be the prefect.

22. At this time, T'ai-p'ing was entirely surrounded by Yüan forces. Right Vice Administrator A-lu-hui, Vice Censor in Chief Man-tzu-hai-ya, and others marshalled their forces to block the mouth of the Ku-shu River (*Ku-shu K'ou*) in order to cut off their line of retreat. Ch'en Yeh-hsien's naval commander, K'ang Mao-ts'ai, then attacked the city with several tens of thousands. T'ai-tsu sent Hsü Ta, Teng Yü, and T'ang Ho to go and fight him. Other officers secretly moved to his rear and made a surprise attack. Yeh-hsien was captured and surrendered to T'ai-tsu to-

gether with his army. A-lu-hui and others escaped.

23. In the ninth month, while Kuo T'ien-hsü and Chang T'ien-yu were making an attack on Chi-ch'ing, Ch'en Yeh-hsien changed sides again and the two men were killed in the battle. Kuo Tzu-hsing's former generals now gave their allegiance to T'ai-tsu.

24. Yeh-hsien was killed by some militiamen soon afterward. His nephew, Chao-hsien, then inherited command of his following and encamped on Fang Shan. With Man-tzu-hai-ya, he formed a pincers in order to press T'ai-p'ing. On the third of January 1356, Myriad Commander Na-ha-ch'u was released and went back to the north.

25. On March 27, 1356, T'ai-tsu inflicted a great defeat on Man-tzu-hai-ya at Ts'ai-shih and on April third went on to attack Chi-ch'ing. He seized Ch'en Chao-hsien, who surrendered his following of thirty-six thousand. Because the soldiers were suspicious and frightened now that they were defenseless, T'ai-tsu selected five hundred of their strongest and ordered them to stand night watch in his private quarters. He slept soundly until dawn and the prisoners' minds were finally at ease.

26. On the tenth of April at Chiang Shan, T'ai-tsu renewed the attack on the Yüan forces. The Yüan censor in chief, Fu Shou, fought hard and was killed. Man-tzu-hai-ya fled and gave his allegiance to Chang Shih-ch'eng while K'ang Mao-ts'ai surrendered to T'ai-tsu. When T'ai-tsu entered the city (Chi-ch'ing), he summoned all the officials and elders and instructed them, saying, "The Yüan government has grown vexatious and the shields and spears come swarming out like hornets. I have simply come here on behalf of the people to put an end to these disorders. Every one will now carry on in his usual occupation. Men of excellence, I shall use with all due courtesy. Incompetents in the old administration, I shall remove from office. Officials will not do injury to my people." The people were happier when they heard this than they had dared to hope. T'ai-tsu reorganized the Chi-ch'ing circuit as the Ying-t'ien Prefecture. He appointed Hsia Yü, Sun Yen, Yang Hsien, and others, ten men in all, to offices in the city, and rewarded Fu Shou for his loyalty (to Yüan) by giving him an honorable burial.

27. At this time, the Yüan general, Ting-ting, held Chen-chiang,

Pieh-pu-hua and Yang Chung-ying were encamped at Ning-kuo, and Chang Ming-chien of the Green Uniformed Army had possession of Yang-chou. Pa-ssu-erh-pu-hua was quartered in Hui-chou,^a Shih-mo I-sun was guarding Ch'u-chou^b and his younger brother, Hou-sun, guarded Wu-chou.^a Sung Pai-yen-pu-hua was guarding Ch'ü-chou while Ch'ih-chou was already occupied by Hsü Shou-hui's general. From Huai-tung, Chang Shih-ch'eng had overcome P'ing-chiang and then changed course to seize Che-hsi. Now that T'ai-tsu had secured Chi-ch'ing, he feared that Chang Shih-ch'eng and Hsü Shou-hui would compel the prefectures south of the Yangtze and west of the Che to join forces with them. He therefore sent Hsü Ta to attack Chen-chiang. Hsü Ta took the city and Ting-ting was killed in the fighting. In June-July, Teng Yü then subjugated Kuang-te.

28. On the twenty-eighth of July, T'ai-tsu was acclaimed Duke of Wu by his generals and he established the Chiang-nan Branch Secretariat. He assumed personal charge of its affairs and appointed officials to assist him and handle documents.

29. When T'ai-tsu had sent a letter to Chang Shih-ch'eng, he had not replied. Now Chang led his troops in an attack on Chen-chiang. Hsü Ta defeated him there and then went on to lay siege to Ch'ang-chou, but failed to take it.

30. On the twenty-fifth of September, T'ai-tsu honored Chen-chiang with a visit and presented himself at the Confucian temple. He also sent scholars out to address the elders on the stimulation of agriculture and sericulture. He then returned to Ying-t'ien.

31. In February-March of 1357, T'ai-tsu's officer, Keng Ping-wen, subjugated the city of Ch'ang-hsing. In March-April, Hsü Ta subjugated Ch'ang-chou and on the twelfth of May, T'ai-tsu in person led an assault upon Ning-kuo and took it. Pieh-pu-hua surrendered.

32. In May-June, the people of Shang-yüan, Ning-kuo, and Chü-jung presented auspicious stalks of grain.

33. In June-July, Ming T'ai-tsu's officer, Chao Chi-tsu, subjugated Chiang-yin. In July-August, Hsü Ta took Ch'ang-shu. Hu Ta-hai then subjugated Hui-chou^a and Pa-ssu-erh-pu-hua fled. In November-December, Ch'ang Yü-ch'un subjugated Ch'ih-chou and

Miao Ta-heng subjugated Yang-chou. Chang Ming-chien surrendered.

34. On January 29, 1358, T'ai-tsu ordered a general amnesty for all prisoners.

35. During this year (of 1357/1358), Hsü Shou-hui's general, Ming Yü-chen, occupied Ch'ung-ch'ing *Lu*.

36. On March 16, T'ai-tsu appointed K'ang Mao-ts'ai as Agricultural Commissioner. On April 19, he ordered reexamination of the cases of condemned persons with a view to reducing their sentences.

37. Teng Yu subjugated Chien-te *Lu*, also in April. In May-June, Hsü Shou-hui's general, Ch'en Yu-liang, had Chao P'u-sheng overcome Ch'ih-chou. In the same month, Ch'en Yu-liang occupied Lung-hsing *Lu*.

38. In May-June, Lin Fu-t'ung stormed Pien-liang and moved Han Lin-erh there to make it his capital. Before this, Liu Fu-t'ung's generals had taken different routes and gone out in every direction. They had stormed Shan-tung, raided Ch'in and Chin, and seized Yu and Chi. North China was in chaos. T'ai-tsu then planned, step by step, the pacification of the Yangtze Valley. Where he passed, he made manifest his avoidance of needless slaughter and he summoned to his service men of conspicuous talent. Consequently, more of the hearts and minds of men were drawn to him every day.

39. In December-January, 1358-1359, Hu Ta-hai attacked Wu-chou,^a but for a long time the city did not fall. T'ai-tsu, therefore, led an attack upon it. Shih-mo I-sun then sent a general with a relief force of troops travelling in wagons from Sung-hsi. T'ai-tsu said, "The roads are narrow and if the wagon force must fight, they will certainly suffer a quick defeat." He then ordered Hu Te-chi to engage them at Mei-hua Gate. Hu inflicted a great defeat on them. Wu-chou surrendered and Shih-mo Hou-sun was taken prisoner. The day before the surrender, people of the city saw in the western sky a rainbow in the form of a chariot and thought it strange. Now they learned that this was where T'ai-tsu's soldiers had been quartered. When T'ai-tsu entered the city, he distributed grain among the poor. He also reorganized the

subprefecture as Ning-yüeh Prefecture. At this time, he engaged Fan Tsu-kan, Yeh I, Hsü Yüan,^b and others, thirteen men in all, and divided them into groups to lecture him by turn in classics and history.

40. On the twenty-third of January, 1359, T'ai-tsu sent an emissary to invite Fang Kuo-chen to come for a discussion.

41. On the ninth of February, 1359, T'ai-tsu was planning to win those Che-tung circuits that had not yet fallen. He warned his generals, saying, "To subjugate a city, use military prowess. To put down disorders, use benevolence. Recently, when my army entered Chi-ch'ing they did not^o one autumn hair's worth of harm. In consequence, they achieved both purposes at the same time. Every time it becomes known that my generals have taken possession of a city without abandoning themselves to slaughter, the happiness of men is exceeded only by my own. Now, the armies move like a fire which, if it is not stopped, will rage on. To be a good general, one must be able to base his strategy on the avoidance of slaughter. Can this policy merely be one that will profit the state? Our sons and grandsons, indeed, will enjoy its blessings." Hu Ta-hai subjugated Chu-chi Chou on the twenty-fourth of February. Also in this month, T'ai-tsu ordered Wang Tsung-hsien, the prefect of Ning-yüeh Fu, to found a prefectural academy. On the thirtieth of March, T'ai-tsu pardoned persons guilty of crimes other than great rebellion.

42. On April 22, Fang Kuo-chen offered the cities of Wen-chou,^a T'ai-chou,^a and Ch'ing-yüan to T'ai-tsu and sent his own son, Kuan, as a hostage. Both the offered cities and the hostage were refused.

43. In April-May, T'ai-tsu's general, Yü T'ung-hai, and others recovered Ch'ih-chou (from Hsü Shou-hui). At this time, Keng Ping-wen was guarding Ch'ang-hsing, Wu Liang was guarding Chiang-yin, and T'ang Ho was guarding Ch'ang-chou, and all of them were winning victories over Chang Shih-ch'eng's forces. For this reason, T'ai-tsu remained a long time in Ning-yüeh in order to oversee affairs in Che-tung. He finally returned to Ying-t'ien on the twenty-sixth of June.

44. In August-September, Ch'a-han T'ieh-mu-erh recovered

Pien-liang (for the Yüan), Liu Fu-t'ung then brought Han Lin-erh (from Pien-liang) back to guard An-feng.

45. In September-October, Ch'ang Yü-ch'un subjugated Ch'ü-chou and captured Sung-pai-yen-pu-hua.

46. In October-November, T'ai-tsu sent Hsia Yu to appoint Fang Kuo-chen to the office of Chief Administrator of the (Fu-chien) Branch Secretariat. Fang refused the appointment on the grounds of ill health.

47. On the third of December, Hu Ta-hai subjugated Ch'ü-chou,^b and Shih-mo I-sun fled. At this time, the Yüan defending forces were few and ineffective. Moreover, it had been reported that the north was in disarray and the minds of men were alienated from the regime. For these reasons, the Yüan cities between the Yangtze and Che rivers now were surrendering as soon as attacking forces arrived. After this time, Ch'en Yu-liang became T'ai-tsu's neighbor on the west.

48. In February-March of 1360, Yüan Vice Commissioner of the Fu-chien Branch Secretariat, Yüan T'ien-lu, surrendered the city of Fu-ning to T'ai-tsu.

49. On the eighteenth of March, the former Yüan officials, Liu Chi, Sung Lien, Chang I,^a and Yeh Ch'en, came in answer to T'ai-tsu's summons.

50. In May-June, Hsü Ta and Ch'ang Yü-ch'un defeated Ch'en Yu-liang at Ch'ih-chou. On June 14, however, Ch'en Yu-liang overcame T'ai-p'ing. The defending general, Chu Wen-hsün, the Chief Military Commission officials, Hua Yün and Wang Ting, and the prefect, Hsü Yüan,^a were all killed. Not long after this, Ch'en Yu-liang assassinated his ruler, Hsü Shou-hui, proclaimed himself emperor, and gave to his state the name of Han. He then held all of Chiang-hsi and Hu-kuang. Moreover, he now proceeded to make an agreement with Chang Shih-ch'eng by which both undertook to attack Ying-t'ien. The city was terrified. The generals discussed as a first measure the recapture of T'ai-p'ing in order to divert Ch'en Yu-liang. T'ai-tsu said, "This won't do. His territory is upstream from us and his navy is ten times the size of our own. If we act rashly, it will be difficult to throw them back." Someone then requested that T'ai-tsu himself lead an attack. He replied,

"This won't do either. He would engage me with one wing of his army while his main force raced on to Chin-ling (Ying-t'ien). Going with the current, he could get there in half a day. My infantry and cavalry would then in desperation have to return over a distance of a hundred *li* and rush into battle. This is what the military art avoids. It is no plan at all." T'ai-tsu then sent instructions post-haste to Hu Ta-hai to create a diversion in Ch'en's rear by attacking Hsin-chou. At the same time, he ordered K'ang Mao-ts'ai to give Ch'en a letter designed to trick him into coming to attack Chi-ch'ing.

51. As it happened, Ch'en Yu-liang did lead his army to the east. As he approached the city, Ch'ang Yü-ch'un secreted his force on the Shih-tan Mountain, Hsü Ta deployed his men outside the South Gate, and Yang Ching was encamped at Ta-sheng Harbor. Chang Te-sheng and others led their fleet out through the Lung-chiang Pass. T'ai-tsu himself took charge of a force at Lung Mountain. On the twenty-third of June, Ch'en arrived at Lung Bay. The defenders wanted to give battle, but T'ai-tsu said, "It is about to rain. Let us now quickly have something to eat and afterwards we shall take advantage of the rainstorm to make our attack on them." A short while later, it rained hard and the troops rushed out. The rain then stopped and the battle was joined. The naval and land forces came up and attacked them. The enemy were badly defeated. Ch'en Yu-liang abandoned his flagship and escaped aboard another vessel. T'ai-tsu subsequently recovered T'ai-p'ing and took An-ch'ing, and Hu Ta-hai subjugated Hsin-chou.

52. At the time when T'ai-tsu had ordered K'ang Mao-ts'ai to trick Ch'en Yu-liang, Li Shan-ch'ang questioned the wisdom of this. T'ai-tsu answered him saying, "The two bandits have combined against us. We have enemies at head and tail. If only we can induce Ch'en to come to us and then defeat him, Chang Shih-ch'eng will lose his nerve." As it turned out, Chang Shih-ch'eng's troops never did appear.

53. On the twenty-fifth of June, T'ai-tsu founded the office of Confucian Academies and appointed Sung Lien as Education Intendant. He then sent his eldest son, Chu Piao, to receive instruction from Sung in classical studies.

54. In July-August, Keng Tsai-ch'eng defeated Shih-mo I-sun at Ch'ing-yüan. Shih-mo I-sun was killed in the battle and T'ai-tsu sent a representative to sacrifice to him. In October-November, Ou P'u-hsiang, a former general of the late Hsü Shou-hui, surrendered the city of Yüan-chou.^a In January-February of 1361, T'ai-tsu again sent Hsia-yü with a communication for Fang Kuo-chen.

55. On the ninth of March, T'ai-tsu instituted salt and tea taxes and on the thirtieth,* he founded the Directorate of the Mint. On May 1, he reorganized the Bureau of Military Affairs as the Chief Military Commission.

56. Also on the first of May, the Yüan general, Hsüeh Hsien, surrendered the city of Ssu-chou.^a

57. On May 2, Fang Kuo-chen sent a messenger to express his thanks (for Hsia Yü's mission) and to present a saddle ornamented with gold and jade. T'ai-tsu refused the gift saying, "At present there is trouble everywhere. The times call for able men and there is need of grain and cloth. Such precious playthings are worthless."

58. In August, Ch'en Yu-liang's general, Chang Ting-pien, overcame An-ch'ing.

59. In August-September, T'ai-tsu sent an emissary to the Yüan chief administrator (of Ho-nan), Ch'a-han T'ieh-mu-erh. At this time, Ch'a-han had pacified Shan-tung and received T'ien Feng's surrender. The reputation of his army inspired awe. For this reason, T'ai-tsu wished to be on good terms with him. Even as the message was being delivered, Ch'a-han was attacking I-tu,^a which had not yet fallen, and T'ai-tsu himself was leading a naval force in a campaign against Ch'en Yu-liang. On the nineteenth of September, he [T'ai-tsu] captured An-ch'ing, where Ch'en's generals, Ting P'u-liang and Fu Yu-te, came out and surrendered. On the twenty-third, he reached Hu-k'ou, (inflicted a defeat on Ch'en's fleet there), then pursued him to Chiang-chou and defeated him there. When he subjugated that city, Ch'en fled on to Wu-ch'ang and T'ai-tsu sped separate forces to Nan-k'ang, Chien-ch'ang, Jao-chou, Chi-chou, Huang-chou, and Kuang-chi. All were taken. On the ninth of December, T'ai-tsu's forces subjugated Fu-chou.^b In

*Of April. T'ai-tsu *shih-lu* has March 24, which is probably correct.

January-February of 1362, Hu T'ing-jui, Ch'en Yu-liang's assistant administrator of the Chiang-hsi Branch Secretariat, surrendered Lung-hsing. On the third of February, T'ai-tsu visited this city, renamed it Hung-tu, presented himself at the Confucian temple, and announced to the elders that he would remove the oppressive officials of Ch'en's administration, terminate military supply requisitions, and attend to the friendless poor. The people rejoiced. Subsequently, Yüan-chou,^a Shui-chou, Lin-chiang, and Chi-an all surrendered, one after another. In February-March, T'ai-tsu returned to Ying-t'ien and left Teng Yü in command at Hung-tu.

60. On the third of March,* Chiang Ying, who had earlier surrendered to T'ai-tsu, assassinated Hu Ta-hai, the garrison commander at Chin-hua. The director, Wang K'ai, was also killed. After Chiang Ying revolted, he surrendered to Chang Shih-ch'eng. On the seventh of March, when Li Yu-chih, who had earlier defected to T'ai-tsu at Ch'u-chou,^b heard about the revolt at Chin-hua, he also rebelled and assassinated the Chief Military Commission official, Keng Tsai-ch'eng. In the revolt, the Branch Secretariat official, Sun Yen, the prefect, Wang Tao-t'ung, and the commander, Chu Wen-kang, were killed. On April 12, two other men who had submitted to T'ai-tsu, Chu Tsung and K'ang T'ai, revolted and overcame Hung-tu. Teng Yü escaped to Ying-t'ien, but the prefect, Yeh Ch'en, and the Branch Secretariat official, Wan Ssu-ch'eng, were killed.

61. In March-April, Ming Yü-chen assumed the title of emperor in Ch'ung-ch'ing. His state was designated Hsia.

62. On the twenty-eighth of April, Shao Yung recovered Ch'u-chou^b and on May 13, Hsi Ta recovered Hung-tu. On May 25, T'ai-tsu assigned the defense of Hung-tu to Chu Wen-cheng, Chao Te-sheng, and Teng Yü.

63. On the twenty-sixth of June, Ch'a-han replied by letter that he was holding our emissary and would not send him back. Ch'a-han was later assassinated by T'ien Feng.

64. On the third of August, (T'ai-tsu's) Provincial Chief Administrator Shao Yung, and Vice Commissioner Chao Chi-tsu, plotted rebellion and were seized and executed.

*Ming History has 辛未, miscopied from Shih-tu 癸未.

65. In December-January, 1362-1363, the Yüan sent Revenue Minister Chang Ch'ang by sea to Ch'ing-yüan with an offer to appoint T'ai-tsu as the Chiang-hsi chief administrator. T'ai-tsu refused. Also this month, K'uo-k'uo T'ieh-mu-erh, adopted son of the late Ch'a-han, sent T'ai-tsu a letter and returned his emissary. On the ninth of February, T'ai-tsu sent Wang Ho to acknowledge K'uo-k'uo's mission.

66. On the fifteenth of February, T'ai-tsu commanded his military officers to found agricultural colonies in order to provide grain.

67. Also in February-March, Ch'en Yu-liang's general, Chang Ting-pien, overcame the city of Jao-chou and Chang Shih-ch'eng's general, Lü Chen, stormed An-feng and killed Liu Fu-t'ung. On the sixteenth of March, T'ai-tsu in person came to the rescue of An-feng. Lü Chen was defeated and fled while T'ai-tsu brought Han Lin-erh back to Ch'u-chou.^a He then returned to Ying-t'ien. On June 5, Ch'en Yu-liang again raised a great army and laid siege to Hung-tu. On the eighth, T'ai-tsu's commander at Chu-ch'uan, Hsieh Tsai-hsing, revolted and defected to Chang Shih-ch'eng.

68. In June-July, T'ai-tsu established the Savants' Residence Hall in the capital.

69. Also in this month, Ch'en Yu-liang divided his forces and subjugated Chi-an, where the local commander Liu Ch'i,* and the prefect, Chu Shu-hua, were killed; Lin-chiang, where the assistant prefect, Chao T'ien-lin, was killed; and Wu-wei, where the subprefect, Tung Tseng, was killed. On the fifteenth of August, T'ai-tsu personally led an expedition to relieve Hung-tu. After passing Hu-k'ou (at the Yangtze outlet of the Poyang Lake) on the twenty-fifth, he immediately prepared ambushes at Ching-chiang K'ou and Nan-hu Tsui in order to cut off Ch'en's line of retreat and gave orders to his forces at Hsin-chou to guard the Wu-yang Crossing. When Ch'en learned of T'ai-tsu's approach, he broke off the siege and prepared for battle on Po-yang Lake. His forces, numbering six hundred thousand, were deployed with their great ships tied

*Liu Ch'i's title in *Veritable Records* was tsan cheng 參正. The text's *tsan-chiang* 參將 is in error. See Huang Chang-chien, *Ming-shih tsuan-wu*, p. 305.

together in formation, bow to stern. The ships' crow's-nests, rising more than one hundred feet, made a row several tens of *li* in length. With all their pennants, banners, spears, and shields, the enemy fleet appeared as a mountain to those who looked at it from a distance.

70. On the twenty-ninth of August, the fleets met off K'ang-lang Mountain. T'ai-tsu divided his force into eleven separate columns to oppose the enemy. On the thirtieth, they joined battle. Hsü Ta engaged the vanguard and Yü T'ung-hai used fire-catapults to burn several tens of their ships. Killed and wounded were about the same on both sides. Ch'en Yu-liang's able general, Chang Ting-pien, made straight for T'ai-tsu's ship which, having run aground on a sand bar, could not be backed off and was in great danger. Ch'ang Yü-ch'un came alongside and shot Chang Ting-pien. Yü T'ung-hai also came up and towed the ship forward into deep water and T'ai-tsu's ship was saved. On August 31, Ch'en Yu-liang sent all his great ships into battle. T'ai-tsu's generals, in their small vessels, thought they could not win and showed themselves to be afraid. T'ai-tsu personally upbraided them for failing to advance and executed more than ten of those who were hanging back. All the rest were now prepared to fight to the death. In midafternoon, a strong wind came out of the northeast and T'ai-tsu commanded a number of fearless soldiers to man seven ships filled with gunpowder and dried reeds. By this means, he set fire to Ch'en Yu-liang's ships. As the wind blew, the fire raged, the smoke and flames rose into the heavens, and the waters of the lake turned red. Ch'en's soldiers were thrown into confusion and T'ai-tsu's generals, advancing with a din of beating drums, made the most of their opportunity. They beheaded more than two thousand and those dead by fire and drowning were past counting. The spirit of Ch'en's army had been broken.

71. On the second of September, the battle was renewed and Ch'en Yu-liang was defeated again. He then gathered his ships together again and sought safety. He dared not fight again. On the third, T'ai-tsu sent troops north to control Tso-li Bay, but Ch'en fell back on the Chu-chi Islands. Here he stood watching T'ai-tsu for three days. His left and right generals of the Chin-wu Guard both made their submission to T'ai-tsu and Ch'en's power

was now more dissipated even than before and his hatred all the greater. Accordingly, he slaughtered all the soldiers whom he had taken prisoner. T'ai-tsu, on the other hand, treated with excellent medicines those of his captives who had been wounded and sent them back to Ch'en. He also had prayers said for members of Ch'en's family who had been killed in the fighting. On the third of October, Ch'en, his food exhausted, attempted to escape. Blocked at the mouth to the Nan-hu by the force that had been left there, he rushed northward through the mouth of the lake. T'ai-tsu intercepted him and they fought as they sailed down the Yangtze. When they reached Ching-chiang, the force that had been waiting there now joined in the attack. Ch'en was struck by an arrow and killed. Chang Ting-pien fled with Ch'en's son, Li, to Wu-ch'ang.

72. In October-November, T'ai-tsu returned to Ying-t'ien. When he arrived, he bestowed rewards for meritorious service on his followers.

73. Earlier, when T'ai-tsu had decided to go to the relief of An-feng, Liu Chi's objections had gone unheeded. Now he spoke to Liu Chi saying, "I ought not to have taken that measure regarding An-feng. Had that caused Ch'en Yu-liang to take advantage of my absence and strike directly at Ying-t'ien, our whole enterprise might have been lost. Instead of this, however, Ch'en encamped at Nan-ch'ang. Had he not done so, would disaster have been long in coming? Now Ch'en is finished and the world may be pacified without difficulty."

74. On the twenty-third of October, T'ai-tsu in person took charge of an expedition against Ch'en Li.

75. Also in October-November, Chang Shih-ch'eng assumed the title Prince of Wu.

76. On November 12, T'ai-tsu laid siege to Wu-ch'ang and sent detachments to invade Hu-pei, where the circuits all surrendered. On the fifth of January, T'ai-tsu started back to Ying-t'ien, leaving Ch'ang Yü-ch'un in command of the forces (at Wu-ch'ang).

77. On the first day of the first month of the twenty-fourth year of the Yüan Chih-cheng reign, February 4, 1364, Li Shan-ch'ang led the host of officials to urge upon T'ai-tsu an elevation

in rank. He refused it, but they repeated the request with increasing firmness until, at last, he allowed himself to be enthroned as Prince of Wu. He now established the "hundred offices" and employed Li Shan-ch'ang and Hsü Ta as First and Second Chief Councilors and Ch'ang Yü-ch'un and Yu T'ung-hai as Chief Administrators. He then instructed them saying, "The first thing that should be done when founding a state is to mend the cords of the law and the net-ropes of administration. The Yüan ruling house is unenlightened and feeble, its power and prosperity in decline, and by degrees, it has been brought to ruin. We ought to make of their example a mirror to our own imperfections." Also at this time, T'ai-tsu established his son, Chu Piao, as his principal heir.

78. On March 4, T'ai-tsu again took personal command of the Wu-ch'ang campaign. Ch'en Li surrendered on the twentieth and the cities of Han (Han-yang), Mien (Mien-yang), Ching (Ching-chou^a), and Yüeh (Yüeh-chou^b) all fell.

79. On the third of April, T'ai-tsu was back in Ying-t'ien and on the fifth, he established the Office of Rising and Retiring Secretary. On the eighth, he abolished the several wing commanderies and replaced them with the seventeen guard commanderies of the personal army. Also on this day, he ordered the Secretariat to appoint men of military and civil talents. In May, T'ai-tsu instituted sacrifices on K'ang-lang Mountain for the late Ting P'u-lang and others, and at Nan-ch'ang for Chao Te-sheng and others.

80. On August 13, Hsü Ta subjugated Lu-chou.^b The next day, (T'ai-tsu ordered) Ch'ang Yü-ch'un to invade Chiang-hsi. On the third of September, Ch'ang recovered Chi-an and then laid siege to Kan-chou. Meanwhile, Hsü Ta was ordered to tour Ching (Ching-chou^a) and Hsiang (Hsiang-yin). On the nineteenth of October, Hsü Ta took Chiang-ling. I-ling, T'an-chou, and Kuei-chou then also surrendered. On the twenty-fourth of December, Hsü Ta subjugated Ch'en-chou^a and sent a subordinate to take Heng-chou. On February 1, 1365, Hsü Ta took Pao-ch'ing. The Hupei-Hunan area was now pacified. Ch'ang Yü-ch'un subjugated Kan-chou^a and accepted the surrender of Hsiung T'ien-jui, then raced on to Nan-an, called on the Ling-nan circuits to surrender, and took Shao-chou and Nan-hsiung.

81. On the sixteenth of February, T'ai-tsu honored Nan-ch'ang

with a visit and seized Commissioner in Chief, Chu Wen-cheng and brought him back to Ying-t'ien. He then enumerated his faults and assigned him to T'ung-ch'eng.

82. On February 22,* the (Yüan) Fu-chien chief administrator, Ch'en Yu-ting, invaded Ch'u-chou.^b The local commander, Hu Shen, attacked and defeated him and went on to take P'u-ch'eng. On the tenth of March, when Chang Shih-ch'eng's general, Li Pai-sheng, attacked Hsin-ch'eng in Chu-ch'üan, Li Wen-chung inflicted a great defeat on him. On the twenty-third of April, T'ai-tsu ordered Ch'ang Yü-ch'un to make a tour of the circuits of Hsiang and Han. On June 7, he attacked and subjugated An-lu, and on the eleventh,** he took Hsiang-yang. On July 14, Chu Liang-tsu and Hu Shen attacked Chien-ning. Fighting beneath the city's walls, Hu Shen was captured and killed.

83. In July-August, T'ai-tsu ordered that officers and men who had been in his service when he crossed the Yangtze and had since been wounded or debilitated, should be cared for and that the wives and children of those who had died should be given stipends. On the sixteenth of September, T'ai-tsu established the State Academy.

84. On the twenty-eighth of October, the Emperor issued orders for the suppression of Chang Shih-ch'eng. At this time, the territory occupied by Chang reached southward to Shao-hsing and in the north included T'ung-chou,^b T'ai-chou,^b Kao-yu, Huai-an, Hao-chou, and Ssu-chou.^a Still farther north, it reached to Chining. Now T'ai-tsu ordered Hsü Ta, Ch'ang Yü-ch'un, and others first to make plans to win the Huai-tung area. In November-December, they besieged and subjugated T'ai-chou.^b In December-January, 1365-1366, Chang Shih-ch'eng raided I-hsing. Hsü Ta attacked and defeated him and then returned from I-hsing to attack Kao-yu. On the tenth of February, Chang Shih-ch'eng slipped into Chiang-yin. T'ai-tsu in person led an expedition in relief. Chang fled, but K'ang Mao-ts'ai pursued him and defeated him at Fu-tzu Men. T'ai-tsu then returned to Ying-t'ien.

**Shih-lu* has "Second month, 己丑, first day." *Ming Shih* has 己丑. According to Tung Tso-pin's tables, the first day is 庚寅.

***Ming History* has 乙卯, which is impossible for this month. *Shih-lu* 己卯.