

## A History of the Zhao Clan in China (趙族史略)

More than 3,000 years ago in the Zhou Dynasty 周朝, King Zhou Mu Wang 周穆王 honored Zuo Fu 造父 by appointing him Earl of the municipality of the Zhao Cheng 趙城 in Shanxi province 山西省. Zuo Fu 造父 adopted the city's name as his surname, Zhao 趙. Thus he was the first Zhao and became the ancestral patriarch of the Zhao's 趙 in China.

In 597 B.C., during the Jin State (晉國) of the Warring States (戰時代), a high official of the court named Tu An Jia (屠岸賈) spread false rumors about Zhao Dun (趙盾). Based on these rumors, the King Jin Cheng Gong (晉成公) issued an imperial decree to execute all Zhao's 趙. Subsequently, Zhao Dun (趙盾), his household and relatives were executed. His pregnant wife, Zhuang Ji (莊姬), however, was allowed to take refuge in the palace because she was the daughter of the King. Soon afterwards she gave birth to a son named Zhao Wu (趙武).

When Zhao Wu 趙武 was 15 years old, during the reign of Jin Dao Gong (晉悼公), a general named Han Jue 韓厥 cleared Zhao Dun's 趙盾 record before the King. All members of the Zhao 趙 family were cleared of all charges and their citizenships reinstated. Tu An Jia (屠岸賈) was executed for spreading false rumors about Zhao Dun (趙盾) and his family.

Zhao Wu (趙武) had served the king honorably and was appointed as the Duke of Han Dan (邯鄲) in Hebei province (河北省). Posthumously, he was named Zhao Wen Zi (趙文子), probably because he was a scholar and a gentleman. (Translator's note: In the ancient times, people of noble blood were given new names and titles posthumously, befitting their accomplishments or characters.)

Therefore, Zhao Wu (趙武), also known as Zhao Wen Zi (趙文子), became the honored ancestral patriarch of all Zhao's 趙 in China. At all clanship meetings, the San Francisco Zhao Family Association traditionally pays homage to his memory with burning of incense with three bows.

Notes:

1. This story is derived from “A Brief History of the Zhaos” by Chew Ying Wing (趙英榮).
2. English phonetics of Chinese characters follows the phonetic systems of Pinyin (拼音).