

Guan Yu from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and his portrayal in *Smite*



Connor Blunt

Professor Margaret B. Wan

Spring 2023 Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium

Introduction

- What is *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*?
- What is Smite?
- Importance of Adaptations
- Findings in Smite
- Conclusion

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

- Peach Garden Oath
- Cao Cao's betrayal
- Guan Yu's surrender to Cao Cao
- Battle at Red Cliff
- Guan Yu's death

What is Smite?



ANHUR

SLAYER OF ENEMIES



GUAN YU

SAINT OF WAR



AH MUZEN CAB

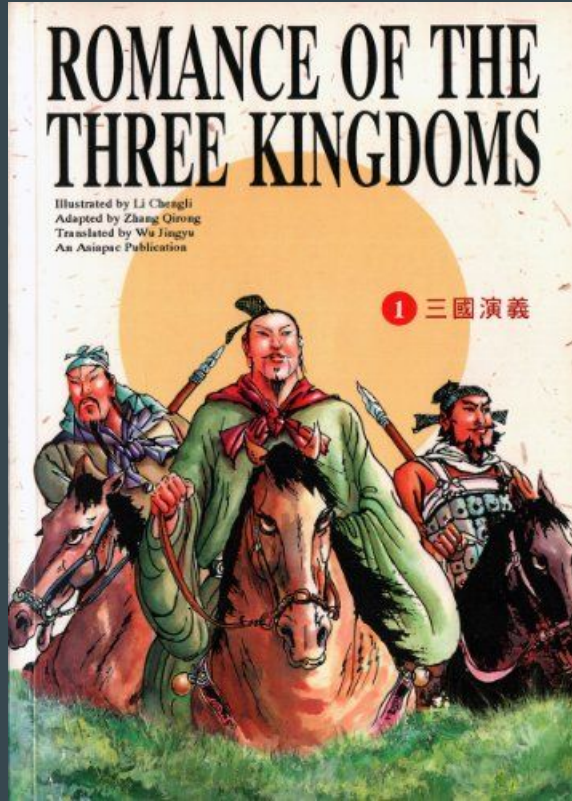
GOD OF BEES



OLORUN

RULER OF THE HEAVENS

Why study this



Importance of Adaptations

- Adaptation across Mediums
 - Book to game
- Translation
 - Chinese to English

Character Design



Passive: Painless

“Each time Guan Yu takes or deals damage he gains stacks. At max stacks Painless becomes active and all of Guan Yu's abilities gain boosted effects. Once active, stacks will reset if Guan Yu has not taken or dealt damage in the last 5s ”
(Smite by Hi-Rez)



Ability 1: Conviction

“Guan Yu's courageous leadership is infectious and, when focused, heals himself and his allies ” (Smite by Hi-Rez).



Ability 2: Warrior's Will

“Guan Yu charges forward, his Green Dragon Crescent Blade extended in front of him ” (Smite by Hi-Rez).



Ability 3: Taolu Assault

“Guan Yu spins his blade in a controlled but furious display, slicing enemies for damage every .3s for 3s ” (Smite by Hi-Rez)



Ability 4: Cavalry Charge

“Guan Yu mounts his warhorse and charges for 4s. While mounted, he can steer and attack and is immune to Crowd Control. Enemies hit take damage and are Slowed. Each hit increases damage from consecutive hits against that target by 20%. Enemies hit on the dismount are Stunned ” (Smite by Hi-Rez)



Lore

“As a man, Guan Yu was the embodiment of loyalty, honor, and strength. As a God, he is a guardian of justice, a hero to the downtrodden, the Saint of War. In the ancient times of the East, a great war between Three Kingdoms raged. The warlord Liu Bei, and his friends, Zheng Fei, and the mighty Guan Yu swore an oath of brotherhood in a mystical peach garden, vowing to create a new, righteous world. Together, they fought countless battles against the warlords Cao Cao and Sun Quan, and Guan Yu grew famous for his combat prowess and unwavering honor. During the war, Cao Cao captured Guan Yu. At the time, Liu Bei’s fate was uncertain, so he agreed to fight for Cao Cao under specific terms, chiefly that he would abandon Cao Cao if ever he learned the whereabouts of his sworn brother. Despite Cao Cao’s gifts and promises of wealth, when Liu Bei resurfaced, Guan Yu immediately went to his side. **Years later, Guan Yu again faced Cao Cao on the battlefield as the warlord fled from his defeat at Red Cliffs. Guan Yu cut off Cao Cao’s retreat and obliterated his forces. Cao Cao, however, he spared and released, as a matter of honor.** After his death, Guan Yu’s spirit remained at a holy shrine, coming to the aid of nearby villagers in need, battling the cruel and selfish. From all over the East, worshipers came to the shrine and burned incense to honor him. Such popularity led to Faith, and thus Guan Yu was raised as a God, deified a few hundred years later. Now, he embodies the virtues he lived by. His statues, wielding a massive guan dao, ward against evil. Red faced to represent loyalty, his likeness is carried by merchants as proof they can be trusted. If their cause is just, he leads armies to victory. Among the Gods of any Pantheon, there are few as deadly and none as righteous as Guan Yu” (Smite by Hi-Rez).

Conclusion

Character Design : Good

Ability Design : Good

Lore : Needs some work

Sources

Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation*. New York: Routledge, 2012. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utah/detail.action?docID=1016075>

Kwon, Hyuk-Chan. "Historical Novel Revived: The Heyday of Romance of the Three Kingdoms Role-Playing Games." In *_Playing with the Past : Digital Games and the Simulation of History_*, edited by Matthew Wilhelm Kapell, and Andrew B. R. Elliott, Bloomsbury Academic & Professional, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.utah.edu/lib/utah/detail.action?docID=1561309>

Luo, Guanzhong. *Three Kingdoms: A Historical Novel*. Translated by Moss Roberts, Foreign Languages Press, 1999.

Ruhlmann, Robert. *The Confucian Persuasion*. Edited by Arthur F. Wright, Stanford University Press, 1960.

Smite. Atlanta, Georgia, United States: Hi-Rez Studios, 2022.