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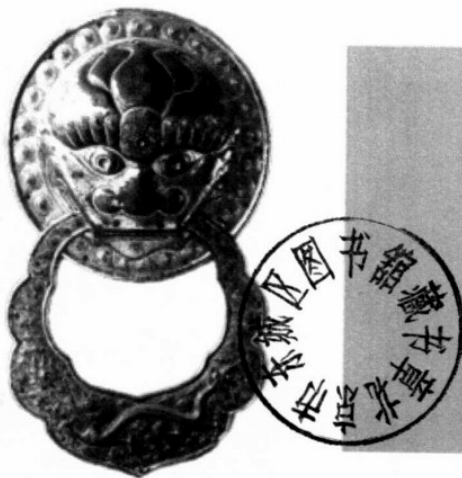
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Chinese-English

三国演义

Three Kingdoms

III



罗贯中 著

罗慕士 译

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第四十九回

七星坛诸葛祭风 三江口周瑜纵火

却说周瑜立于山顶，观望良久，忽然望后而倒，口吐鲜血，不省人事。左右救回帐中。诸将皆来动问，尽皆愕然相顾曰：“江北百万之众，虎踞鲸吞。不争都督如此，倘曹兵一至，如之奈何？”慌忙差人申报吴侯，一面求医调治。

却说鲁肃见周瑜卧病，心中忧闷，来见孔明，言周瑜卒病之事。孔明曰：“公以为何如？”肃曰：“此乃曹操之福，江东之祸也。”孔明笑曰：“公瑾之病，亮亦能医。”肃曰：“诚如此，则国家万幸！”即请孔明同去看病。肃先入见周瑜。瑜以被蒙头而卧。肃曰：“都督病势若何？”周瑜曰：“心腹搅痛，时复昏迷。”肃曰：“曾服何药饵？”瑜曰：“心中呕逆，药不能下。”肃曰：“适来去望孔明，言能医都督之病。现在帐外，烦来医治，何如？”瑜命请入，教左右扶起，坐于床上。孔明曰：“连日不晤君颜，何期贵体不安！”瑜曰：“‘人有旦夕祸福’，岂能自保？”孔明笑曰：“‘天有不测风云’，人又岂能料乎？”瑜闻失色，乃作呻吟之声。孔明曰：“都督心中似觉烦

Chapter 49

On Seven Star Altar Kongming Supplicates the Wind At Three Rivers Zhou Yu Unleashes the Fire



After Zhou Yu had been carried to his tent, the southern commanders came inquiring about his condition. Agitatedly they said to one another, "A million-strong host, set to pounce and devour us, holds the north shore. With our chief commander stricken, how can we cope with Cao Cao's army?" They sent a report to Sun Quan and called for a physician to treat Zhou Yu.

The turn of events caused Lu Su great anxiety. He went to Kongming, who asked, "What is your view?" "A blessing for Cao, a catastrophe for us," was Lu Su's reply. Kongming smiled and said, "Such an illness even I could cure!" "What a boon that would be!" Lu Su responded, and the two men went to see Zhou Yu. Lu Su, entering the tent first, found the chief commander on his back, bedclothes pulled over his head. "Commander, how is your condition?" Su inquired. "My insides feel unsettled and tender, and the fits return from time to time," he answered. "What medicines have you been taking?" Lu Su wanted to know. "I reject everything, can't keep the medicine down," was his reply. "I have just seen Kongming," Lu Su said. "He says he can cure you, Commander. He's outside now. Should we trouble him to try his remedy?" Zhou Yu ordered Kongming admitted and had himself propped up to a sitting position on the bed.

"It is many days since we last met, my lord," Kongming began. "But I never imagined that your precious health was failing." "A man may have good luck when the day begins, bad luck when it ends. Who can tell beforehand?" Zhou Yu replied. "And the winds and the clouds above come when least expected," Kongming said, smiling. "You never can tell." At these words Zhou Yu lost his color and moaned. "Commander," Kongming continued, "do you seem to feel vexation gathering inside you?"



积否？”瑜曰：“然。”孔明曰：“必须用凉药以解之。”瑜曰：“已服凉药，全然无效。”孔明曰：“须先理其气；气若顺，则呼吸之间，自然痊愈。”瑜料孔明必知其意，乃以言挑之曰：“欲得顺气，当服何药？”孔明笑曰：“亮有一方，便教都督气顺。”瑜曰：“愿先生赐教。”孔明索纸笔，屏退左右，密书十六字曰：

欲破曹公，宜用火攻；万事俱备，只欠东风。

写毕，递与周瑜曰：“此都督病源也。”瑜见了大惊，暗思：“孔明真神人也！早已知我心事！只索以实情告之。”乃笑曰：“先生已知我病源，将用何药治之？事在危急，望即赐教。”孔明曰：“亮虽不才，曾遇异人，传授奇门遁甲天书，可以呼风唤雨。都督若要东南风时，可于南屏山建一台，名曰‘七星坛’：高九尺，作三层，用一百二十人，手执旗幡围绕。亮于台上作法，借三日三夜东南大风，助都督用兵，何如？”瑜曰：“休道三日三夜，只一夜大风，大事可成矣。只是事在目前，不可迟缓。”孔明曰：“十一月二十日甲子祭风，至二十二日丙寅风息，如何？”瑜闻言大喜，矍然而



Zhou Yu nodded. "You must take a cooling tonic to dispel it," Kongming advised. "I have," was Zhou Yu's reply, "to no effect." "You must first regulate the vital ethers," Kongming explained. "When the vital ethers are flowing smoothly and in the proper direction, then in a matter of moments your good health will naturally be restored." Zhou Yu, sensing that Kongming must know his unspoken thought, tested him by saying, "What medicine would you recommend to get the vital ethers flowing in the proper direction?" "I have a prescription to facilitate this," said Kongming, smiling still. "I shall benefit from your advice," said Zhou Yu. Kongming called for writing brush and paper and, waving away the attendants, wrote sixteen words for Zhou Yu's eyes alone:

To break Cao's back
With fire we attack.
Everything is set, save
The east wind we lack!

Kongming handed the note to Zhou Yu, saying, "This is the source of the chief commander's illness." Zhou Yu was astounded and thought, "Truly beyond all belief. He realized my problem at once. I'll simply have to tell him the truth." And so with a chuckle he said, "Master, since you already know the cause of my suffering, what medicine shall we use to cure it? The situation is moving swiftly to a crisis, and I look for your timely advice." To this appeal Kongming answered, "Though I myself have no talent, I once came upon an extraordinary man who handed on to me occult texts for reading the numerology of the heavens. Their method can be used to call forth the winds and rains.² If the chief commander wants a southeast wind, erect a platform on the Southern Screen Hills, call it the Altar of the Seven Stars.³ It should be nine spans high, three-tiered, surrounded by one hundred and twenty flag bearers. On the platform I will work certain charms to borrow three days and three nights of southeast wind to assist you in your operations. What do you say?" "Never mind three days and three nights," Zhou Yu cried, "with one night's gales our endeavor can be consummated! But time is of the essence. Let there be no delay." "On the twentieth day of the eleventh month, the first day of the cycle, we will supplicate the wind," Kongming said. "By the twenty-second day, third of the cycle, the winds will have died away."

起。便传令差五百精壮军士，往南屏山筑坛：拨一百二十人，执旗守坛，听候使令。

孔明辞别出帐，与鲁肃上马，来南屏山相度地势，令军士取东南方赤土筑坛。方圆二十四丈，每一层高三尺，共是九尺。下一层插二十八宿旗：东方七面青旗，按角、亢、氐、房、心、尾、箕，布苍龙之形；北方七面皂旗，按斗、牛、女、虚、危、室、壁，作玄武之势；西方七面白旗，按奎、娄、胃、昂、毕、觜、参，踞白虎之威；南方七面红旗，按井、鬼、柳、星、张、翼、轸，成朱雀之状。第二层周围黄旗六十四面，按六十四卦，分八位而立。上一层用四人，各人戴束发冠，穿皂罗袍，凤衣博带，朱履方裾。前左立一人，手执长竿，竿尖上用鸡羽为葆，以招风信；前右立一人，手执长竿，竿上系七星号带，以表风色；后左立一人，捧宝剑；后右立一人，捧香炉。坛下二十四人，各持旌旗、宝盖、大戟、长戈、黄钺、白旄、朱幡、皂纛，环绕四面。孔明于十一月二十日甲子吉辰，沐浴斋戒，身披道衣，跣足散发，来到坛前。分付鲁肃曰：“子敬自往军中相助公瑾



Elated, Zhou Yu sprang to his feet. He ordered five hundred hardy soldiers to begin work on the altar, and he dispatched one hundred and twenty guards to hold the flags and await further instructions. Kongming then took his leave.⁴

Accompanied by Lu Su, Kongming rode to the Southern Screen Hills to take the lay of the land. He commanded the soldiers to build the altar of the ruddy earth of the southeast. It was a structure of some two hundred and forty spans all around, with three three-span tiers. On the lowest tier were twenty-eight flags representing the twenty-eight zodiacal mansions. Along the eastern face were seven blue-green flags for the eastern mansions—Horn, Neck, Root, Room, Heart, Tail, Basket—arrayed in the shape of the Sky-blue Dragon. Along the northern face were seven black flags for the northern mansions—Southern Dipper, Ox, Girl, Void, Rooftop, Dwelling, Wall—laid out in the form of the Dark Tortoise. On the western side flew seven white flags for the western mansions—Straddling Legs, Bonds, Stomach, Bridge, Net, Turtle, Triaster—in the menacing crouch of the White Tiger. On the southern side flew seven red flags for the southern mansions—Well, Ghost, Willow, Star, Drawn Bow, Wings, Axle—making the outline of the Vermillion Bird.⁵

The second tier was encompassed by sixty-four yellow flags, one for each set of oracular lines in the Book of Changes, divided into eight groups of eight. On the top tier stood four men, hair tightly bound and heads capped, wearing black robes of thin silk, wide sashes emblematic of the phoenix, vermilion shoes, and squared kilts. At front left, one man held up a long pole fledgeed at the tip with chicken feathers to catch any sign of the wind. At front right, another held up a long pole with the banner of the Seven Stars fastened to the top to show the direction of the wind. At the left rear, a man stood respectfully holding a prized sword; at the right rear, a man held a cresset. On the outside, the platform was surrounded by twenty-four men holding, severally, emblmed flags, ceremonial canopies, large halberds, long dagger-axes, ritual gold battle-axes, white yak-tail banners, vermilion pennants, and black standards.

On the twentieth of the eleventh month, an auspicious day, Kongming performed the required ablutions, fasted, and assumed the sacred vestments of a priest of the Tao. Barefoot, hair flowing behind, he came to



调兵。倘亮所祈无应，不可有怪。”鲁肃别去。孔明嘱付守坛将士：“不许擅离方位。不许交头接耳。不许失口乱言。不许失惊打怪。如违令者斩！”众皆领命。孔明缓步登坛，观瞻方位已定，焚香于炉，注水于盂，仰天暗祝。下坛入帐中少歇，令军士更替吃饭。孔明一日上坛三次，下坛三次。——却并不见有东南风。

且说周瑜请程普、鲁肃一班军官，在帐中伺候，只等东南风起，便调兵出；一面关报孙权接应。黄盖已自准备火船二十只，船头密布大钉；船内装载芦苇干柴，灌以鱼油，上铺硫黄、焰硝引火之物，各用青布油单遮盖；船头上插青龙牙旗，船尾各系走舸：在帐下听候，只等周瑜号令。甘宁、阚泽窝盘蔡和、蔡中在水寨中，每日饮酒，不放一卒登岸；周围尽是东吴军马，把得水泄不通：只等帐上号令下来。周瑜正在帐中坐议，探子来报：“吴侯船只离寨八十五里停泊，只等都督好音。”瑜即差鲁肃遍告各部下官兵将士：“俱各收拾船只、军器、帆橹等物。号令一出，时刻休违。倘有违误，即按军法。”众兵将得令，一个个磨拳擦掌，准备厮



the front of the altar and instructed Lu Su: "Return now and help Zhou Yu with the deployment. Blame me not if my prayer draws no response." After Lu Su's departure Kongming instructed the guards: "No one here is to leave his position without authorization. The men are forbidden to engage in conversation or to make any irregular remarks or react as if anything were out of the ordinary. Whoever disobeys will be executed."⁶ The men acknowledged the order. Having surveyed all stations, Kongming ascended with deliberate steps, lit incense, and poured water into a vessel. Staring into the heavens he uttered a silent incantation, after which he descended and entered his tent for a brief respite, allowing the soldiers to eat in shifts. That day Kongming ascended and descended three times, but of a southwest wind no sign was seen.

* * *

Cheng Pu, Lu Su, and other military leaders joined Zhou Yu in his tent, where they waited to start the offensive the moment a southeast wind arose. Zhou Yu also reported developments to Sun Quan, who was to direct the reinforcement. Huang Gai had already prepared twenty fireboats, whose prows were studded with nails. Each boat was packed with reeds and kindling soaked in fish oil and covered with an inflammable compound of sulfur and saltpeter. The materials were wrapped with black oilcloth. At the boats' prows, notched banners of the Green Dragon of the East;⁷ to the stern, light craft.⁸ Before the chief commander's tent Huang Gai and his men awaited the order to move. Gan Ning and Kan Ze kept Cai He and Cai Zhong snug and secure in their water camp and plied them with wine day after day, never permitting a single northern soldier on shore. The Southland guards made sure that not an iota of information got through to them. Everyone was watching for the command tent's signal.

Zhou Yu was with his advisers when a liaison man reported: "Lord Sun Quan's boats are moored eighty-five *li* away, ready for the chief commander's word." Zhou Yu sent Lu Su to inform all commanders, officers, and men under him: "Keep your craft, weapons, and rigging in readiness. Once the order comes down, the slightest delay will be punished with the severity of martial law." The troops prepared themselves, rubbing their hands in anticipation of battle. That day everyone watched

杀。是日，看看近夜，天色清明，微风不动。瑜谓鲁肃曰：“孔明之言谬矣。隆冬之时，怎得东南风乎？”肃曰：“吾料孔明必不谬谈。”将近三更时分，忽听风声响，旗幡转动。瑜出帐看时，旗舰竟飘西北，——霎时间东南风大起。

瑜骇然曰：“此人有夺天地造化之法、鬼神不测之术！若留此人，乃东吴祸根也。及早杀却，免生他日之忧。”急唤帐前护军校尉丁奉、徐盛二将：“各带一百人。徐盛从江内去，丁奉从旱路去，都到南屏山七星坛前，休问长短，拿住诸葛亮便行斩首，将首级来请功。”二将领命。徐盛下船，一百刀斧手荡开棹桨；丁奉上马，一百弓弩手各跨征驹：往南屏山来。于路正迎着东南风起。后人有诗曰：

七星坛上卧龙登，一夜东风江水腾。

不是孔明施妙计，周郎安得逞才能？

丁奉马军先到，见坛上执旗将士，当风而立。丁奉下马提剑上坛，不见孔明，慌问守坛将士。答曰：“恰才下坛去了。”

丁奉忙下坛寻时，徐盛船已到。二人聚于江边。小卒报曰：“昨晚一只快船停在前面滩口。适间却见孔明披发下船，那船望上水去了。”丁奉、徐盛便分水陆两路追袭。徐盛教拽

the sky intently as evening drew on, but the heavens held clear and no wind stirred. Zhou Yu turned to Lu Su and said, "How absurd are Kongming's claims! There can be no east wind in the dead of winter." "I can't believe Kongming would make absurd claims," replied Lu Su. Toward the third watch they heard, as if from nowhere, the sound of wind. The banners and pennons began to toll to and fro, and when Zhou Yu came out to look, the fringes of the flags were actually fluttering to the northwest. Within moments a stiff gale was coming up out of the southeast.

In consternation Zhou Yu said, "This man has snatched some method from the creative force of Heaven and earth, some unfathomable technic from the world of departed spirits. Why allow him to remain among us and cause trouble, when his elimination would save such great grief?" Zhou Yu immediately called two military commanders, Ding Feng and Xu Sheng, into his presence and told them: "Take a hundred men each—Xu Sheng on the river, Ding Feng on the shore—and go to the Altar of the Seven Stars in the Southern Screen Hills. Take Kongming's head—no questions asked—and bring it to me for your reward." The two commanders left to carry out their assignment. Xu Sheng embarked with one hundred swordsmen working the oars; Ding Feng rode to his destination with one hundred archers astride battle mounts. Both companies moved against the rising southeast wind. In the words of a poet of later times,

Sleeping Dragon stood on Seven Star Altar,
As all night eastern winds roiled the Jiang.
Had Kongming not devised his artifice,
Could Zhou Yu have played the strategist?

Ding Feng's land force arrived first. He saw the flag bearers on the altar, standing into the wind. Ding Feng dismounted, drew his sword and climbed the platform. Kongming was not there. Distressed, he asked a guard, who said, "He stepped down just moments ago." As Ding Feng descended the platform, Xu Sheng was arriving by water, and the two men met at the shore. A soldier reported to them: "Last night a light craft stopped at that shallow stretch ahead of us. I saw Kongming, his hair all unbound, get into it a short while ago. Then the boat sailed upriver."

Ding Feng and Xu Sheng gave chase by land and sea. Xu Sheng