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## 水浒传 OUTLAWS OF THE MARSH



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LIBRARY OF CHINESE CLASSICS

Chinese-English

# 水浒传

## Outlaws of the Marsh

### III



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## 第四十一回

### 宋江智取无为军 张顺活捉黄文炳

刘唐、朱贵先把宋江、戴宗护送上船。李俊同张顺、三阮整顿船只。就江边看时，见城里出来的官军约有五七千：马军当先，都是顶盔衣甲，全副弓箭，手里都使长枪；背后步军簇拥，摇旗呐喊，杀奔前来。这里李逵当先轮着板斧，赤条条地飞奔砍将入去；背后便是花荣、黄信、吕方、郭盛四将拥护。花荣见前面的军马都扎住了枪，只怕李逵着伤，偷手取弓箭出来，搭上箭，拽满弓，望着为头领的一个马军，飏地一箭，只见翻筋斗射下马去。那一伙马军吃了一惊，各自奔命，拨转马头便走，倒把步军先冲倒了一半。这里众多好汉们一齐冲突将去，杀得那官军尸横野烂，血染江红，直杀到江州城下。城上策应官军早把擂木、炮石打将下来。官军慌忙入城，关上城门，好几日不敢出来。

众多好汉拖转黑旋风，回到白龙庙前下船。晁盖整点众人完备，都叫分头下船，开江便走。却值顺风，拽起风帆，三只大船载了许多人马头领，却投穆太公庄上来。一帆顺风，早到岸边埠头。一行众人都上岸来。穆弘邀请众好汉到





## Chapter 41

### Song Jiang Cleverly Takes Wuweijun Zhang Shun Captures Huang Wenbing

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CLASSICS



1219

Liu Tang and Zhu Gui escorted Song Jiang and Dai Zong on board. Li Jun, Zhang Shun and the three Ruan brothers put the boats in order. From the river's edge they could see the government troops advancing from the city, six or seven thousand strong. The cavalymen in the van wore helmets and armor. They were equipped with bows and arrows and carried long lances. Behind them hordes of foot soldiers, shouting and waving banners, surged fiercely forward.

Li Kui, stark naked, dashed towards them, brandishing his axes. He was closely followed by Hua Rong, Huang Xin, Lu Fang and Guo Sheng. Eyeing the bristling lances of the cavalry ahead, Hua Rong feared for Li Kui's safety. He quietly pulled out his bow, fitted an arrow, stretched the string to its utmost, and let fly at the commander of the horsemen. The whistling shaft brought him tumbling to the ground. Startled, the cavalymen pulled their mounts around and fled for their lives, knocking down half the infantry in the process.

At this point, the bold gallants charged. They slaughtered the government troops till bodies littered the plain and the river was dyed red with blood, and fought to the city walls of Jiangzhou. From the ramparts the defenders flung down logs and bombarded them with ballista stones, covering the frantic retreat into the city of the last of the government troops. Then the big gates were barred. For several days no one dared to come out.

The bold fighters, pulling Black Whirlwind back with them, returned to the boats before the White Dragon Temple. Chao Gai reassembled his forces and ordered all men on board. The three craft shoved off. Sails were raised to catch a favorable wind. Filled with fighters and commanders, the boats headed for the manor of Squire Mu. An uneventful journey brought them to his dock, where they disembarked.

庄内堂上，穆太公出来迎接。宋江等众人都相见了。太公道：“众头领连夜劳神，且请客房中安歇，将息贵体。”各人且去房里暂歇将养，整理衣服器械。当日穆弘叫庄客宰了一头黄牛，杀了十数个猪羊，鸡鹅鱼鸭，珍肴异饌，排下筵席，管待众头领。饮酒中间，说起许多情节。晁盖道：“若非是二哥众位把船相救，我等皆被陷于纆细！”穆太公道：“你等如何却打从那条路上来？”李逵道：“我自只拣人多处杀将去，他们自要跟我来，我又不曾叫他！”众人听了都大笑。

宋江起身与众人道：“小人宋江，若无众好汉相救时，和戴院长皆死于非命。今日之恩，深于沧海，如何报答得众位！只恨黄文炳那厮，搜根剔齿，几番唆毒，要害我们，这冤仇如何不报！怎地启请众位好汉，再做个天大人情，去打了无为军，杀得黄文炳那厮，也与宋江消了这口无穷之恨，那时回去，如何？”晁盖道：“我们众人偷营劫寨，只可使一遍，如何再行得？似此奸贼已有提备。不若且回山寨去，聚起大队人马，一发和学究、公孙二先生并林冲、秦明都来报仇，也未为晚。”宋江道：“若是回山去了，再不能够得来：一者山遥路远；二乃江州必然申开明文，各处谨守；不要痴想。只是趁这个机会，便好下手，不要等他做了准备。”花荣道：“哥哥见得是。虽然如此，只是无人识得路径，不知他地理如何。先得个人去那里城中探听虚实，也要看无为军出没的路径去处，就要认黄文炳那贼的住处了，然后方好下



Mu Hong invited them into the inner hall of the manor. Squire Mu emerged and greeted Song Jiang and his companions.

"You chieftains have had a hard night," the old man said. "Please avail yourselves of our guest house and rest."

The visitors retired to rooms provided, where they rested and mended their clothing and weapons. Mu Hong instructed his vassals to kill a yellow ox, a dozen pigs and sheep, as well as chickens, geese, fish and ducks, and prepare rare and tasty dishes for a feast in honor of his guests.

During the drinking, many details were recalled. Chao Gai said to the two Mu brothers: "If you hadn't come to our rescue in your boats we'd surely have landed in their net."

"What made you choose that road out of the city in the first place?" Squire Mu queried.

"I went to fight wherever people were thickest, and these fellows followed," Li Kui explained. "I didn't ask them to."

Everybody laughed.

Song Jiang rose and addressed the assembly. "Superintendent Dai and I would be dead now if you hadn't come to our rescue. Our gratitude is as deep as the sea. We don't know how to thank you. I hate only Huang Wenbing. That villain did nothing but pick fault and spread slanders. He tried to ruin us. I must have vengeance. I beg you bold gallants to do me a great favor once again and attack Wuweijun, kill Huang Wenbing and slake Song Jiang's burning hatred. What do you say?"

"We can't get away with another sneak raid," mused Chao Gai. "How shall we proceed? Those treacherous scoundrels will be on their guard. Perhaps we should return to the mountain stronghold and muster a larger force. We'll get Wu Yong, Gongsun, Lin Chong and Qin Ming to join us. There's still time."

"If you go back, you won't be able to come again," Song Jiang said. "In the first place, it's too far. In the second place, the Jiangzhou Prefecture will surely warn all districts to be on the alert. We have to strike now, before they have a chance to get ready."

"You're quite right," said Hua Rong. "The problem is we have no one who is familiar with the roads and terrain. We'll send a man into Wuweijun first, to reconnoiter. We've got to know how to get in and out of there



手。”薛永便起身说道：“小弟多在江湖上行，此处无为军最熟。我去探听一遭，如何？”宋江道：“若得贤弟去走一遭，最好。”薛永当日别了众人，自去了。

只说宋江自和众头领在穆弘庄上商议要打无为军一事，整顿军器枪刀，安排弓弩箭矢，打点大小船只等项，提备已了。只见薛永去了两日，带将一个人回到庄上来拜见宋江。宋江便问道：“兄弟，这位壮士是谁？”薛永答道：“这人姓侯名健，祖居洪都人氏；做得第一手裁缝，端的是飞针走线；更兼惯习枪棒，曾拜薛永为师。人见他黑瘦轻捷，因此唤他做‘通臂猿’。见在这无为军城里黄文炳家做生活。小弟因见了，就请在此。”宋江大喜，便教同坐商议——那人也是一座地煞星之数，自然义气相投。宋江便问江州消息，无为军路径如何。薛永说道：“如今蔡九知府计点官军百姓，被杀死有五百余人，带伤中箭者不计其数，见今差人星夜申奏朝廷去了。城门日中后便关，出入的好生盘问得紧。原来哥哥被害一事倒不干蔡九知府事，都是黄文炳那厮三回五次点拨知府教害二位。如今见劫了法场，城中甚慌，晓夜提备。小弟又去无为军打听，正撞见这个兄弟出来吃饭，因是得知备细。”

宋江道：“侯兄何以知之？”侯健道：“小人自幼只爱习学枪棒，多得薛师父指教，因此不敢忘恩。近日黄通判特取小人来他家做衣服，因出来遇见师父，提起仁兄大名，说起此一



and where, exactly, Huang Wenbing lives. Then we can make our move."

Xue Yong stood up. "I've been around a lot. I know Wuweijun better than any of you. Why not let me go in and see what I can find out?"

"If you would, brother," said Song Jiang, "that would be fine."

Xue Yong took his leave that same day, and departed.

Song Jiang and the brigand leaders remained in Mu Hong's manor and discussed the attack on Wuweijun. They put their lances and swords in order, arranged their bows and arrows, accumulated boats large and small, and made preparations. Two days later, Xue Yong returned, bringing with him a man he presented to Song Jiang.

"Who is this brave fellow?" Song Jiang asked.

"His name is Hou Jian, and his home town is Hongdu. He's a first-rate tailor. Needle and thread in his bands really fly. He's also good with lance and staff, a skill which I have taught him. Because he's dark and thin and agile, people call him the Long-Armed Ape. At the moment, he's doing some tailoring in the home of Huang Wenbing. I happened to run into him, and brought him here."

Song Jiang was very pleased. He invited the man to be seated. Hou Jian was one of the stars of Earthly Fiends. The loyalty between him and Song Jiang was immediate and natural. Song Jiang asked for news about Jiangzhou and the terrain in and around Wuweijun.

"Prefect Cai tallied his soldier and civilian losses. There are more than five hundred dead and countless wounded by arrows," Xue Yong said. "He's rushed a messenger off to report to the throne. The Jiangzhou city gates are shut every day from noon on. Anybody going in or out is questioned closely. The harm done to you, brother, is not Prefect Cai's fault. Each time he acted against you and the Superintendent, it was at the instigation of Huang Wenbing. Since our raid on the execution grounds, Jiangzhou has been in chaos. It's patrolled night and day. When I was inquiring in Wuweijun, I met this brother as he was coming out to eat. I got the details from him."

"How do you know all this, brother Hou?" Song Jiang asked.

"Since childhood I have loved jousting with lance and staff," said Hou Jian. "I owe much to Teacher Xue's instructions. That is something I shall never forget. The last few days I have been doing some tailoring



节事来。小人要结识仁兄，特来报知备细。这黄文炳有个嫡亲哥哥，唤做黄文烨，与这文炳是一母所生二子。这黄文烨平生只是行善事：修桥补路，塑佛斋僧，扶危济困，救拔贫苦，那无为军城中都叫他做‘黄面佛’。这黄文炳虽是罢闲通判，心里只要害人，惯行歹事：无为军都叫他做‘黄蜂刺’。他兄弟两个分开做两院住，只在一条巷内出入，靠北门里便是他家：黄文炳贴着城住，黄文烨近着大街。小人在那里做生活，却听得黄通判回家来说：“这件事，蔡九知府已被瞒过了，却是我点拨他，教知府先斩了然后奏去。”黄文烨听得说时，只在背后骂，说道：‘又做这等短命促掐的事！于你无干，何故定要害他？倘或有天理之时，报应只在目前，却不是反招其祸？’这两日听得劫了法场，好生吃惊。昨夜去江州探望蔡九知府，与他计较，尚兀自未回来。”宋江道：“黄文炳隔着他哥哥家有多少路？”侯健道：“原是一家分开，如今只隔着中间一个菜园。”宋江道：“黄文炳家多少人口？有几房头？”侯健道：“男子妇人通有四五十口。”宋江道：“天教我报仇，特地送这个人来！虽是如此，全靠众兄弟维持。”众人齐声应道：“当以死向前！正要驱除这等赃滥奸恶之人，与哥哥报仇雪恨！”宋江又道：“只恨黄文炳那贼一个，却与无为军百姓无干。他兄既然仁德，亦不可害他，休教天下人骂我等不仁。众弟兄去时，不可分毫侵害百姓。今去那里，我有一计，只望众人扶助扶助。”众头领齐声道：“专听



in the home of Huang Wenbing. Coming out, I ran into Teacher. He mentioned your great name and told me what has been going on. I've always wanted to meet you, so I took this opportunity to come and report in full.

"Huang Wenbing has an older brother, Huang Wenye. Both are sons of the same mother. Wenye is a good man. He repairs bridges and lays roads, builds idols and sustains monks, rescues the endangered and succors the poor. For this reason he is known in Wuweijun as Huang the Buddha. But Huang Wenbing, although he was once a deputy prefect, is vicious and cruel. In Wuweijun they call him Huang the Wasp. The brothers live in two separate compounds near the town's North Gate, but their entrances are in the same lane. Huang Wenbing's compound is right up against the town wall. Wenye's is due south, and borders on a large street.

"When I was working there, I heard Wenbing come home and say: 'They fooled the prefect. I exposed their trick and advised him to cut off their heads first, and then report to the imperial court.' Wenye criticized him behind his back. He said: 'What a disgraceful thing to do. It's none of his affair. Why should he want to harm them? If there's any justice in Heaven, retribution is bound to follow. He's bringing disaster down on his own head.' When the Wasp heard of the raid on the execution grounds he became very alarmed. Last night he went into Jiangzhou to see the prefect and make plans. He still hasn't returned."

"How far is the Wasp's house from his brother's?" Song Jiang asked.

"Originally, it was all one compound. It's divided into two, now, separated by a vegetable garden."

"How many people in Huang the Wasp's home? How many families are there?"

"Male and female, forty or fifty."

"Heaven has willed that I shall have my revenge and has sent me this man," cried Song Jiang. He turned to his cohorts, "I rely entirely on your support, brothers."

"We'll go through with it though we die! We'll destroy that deceitful villain and wipe your slate of vengeance clean."

"It's only the Wasp I hate. This has nothing to do with the people of Wuweijun. Since his brother is virtuous, you must not harm him, or people will revile us for lacking benevolence. And not the slightest injury may be



哥哥指教。”宋江道：“有烦穆太公对付八九十个叉袋，又要百十束芦柴，用着五只大船，两只小船。央及张顺、李俊驾两只小船；五只大船上用着张横、三阮、童威和识水的人护船：此计方可。”穆弘道：“此间芦苇、油柴、布袋，都有。我庄上的人都会使水驾船。便请哥哥行事。”宋江道：“却用侯家兄弟引着薛永并白胜先去无为军城中藏了；来日三更二点为期，只听门外放起带铃鹁鸽，便教白胜上城策应，先插一条白绢号带，近黄文炳家，便是上城去处。”再又教“石勇、杜迁扮做丐者，去城门边左近埋伏，只看火为号，便要下手杀把门军士。李俊、张顺只在江面上往来巡绰，等候策应。”

宋江分拨已定。薛永、白胜、侯健先自去了。随后再是石勇、杜迁扮做丐者，身边各藏了短刀暗器，也去了。这里自一面扛抬沙土布袋和芦苇油柴上船装载。众好汉至期，各各拴束了，身上都准备了器械；船舱里埋伏军汉。众头领分拨下船：晁盖、宋江、花荣在童威船上；燕顺、王矮虎、郑天寿在张横船上；戴宗、刘唐、黄信在阮小二船上；吕方、郭盛、李立在阮小五船上；穆弘、穆春、李逵在阮小七船上。只留下朱贵、宋万在穆太公庄上看理江州城里消息；先使童猛棹一只打鱼快船前去探路。小喽啰并军健都伏在舱



done to the citizenry. I have a plan. I hope you brothers will assist me."

"We await your instructions."

"If I may trouble Squire Mu, I would like eighty or ninety gunny sacks and a hundred or so bundles of reeds and faggots, plus five large boats and two small. I'd like Zhang Shun and Li Jun to handle the two small boats. Zhang Heng, the three Ruan brothers and Tong Wei will be in charge of the five large craft and man them with good swimmers. This is essential."

"We have here all the reeds, oil-soaked faggots, and sacks you can use. Every man in the manor can swim and handle a boat. Just take what you want," said Mu Hong.

"Brother Hou will first conduct Xue Yong and Bai Sheng into Wuweijun and conceal them there. The next day at the second interval of the third watch when they hear the tinkling of a belled pigeon which we'll release outside the town gate, Bai Sheng will mount the wall and stick a white pennant on a pole at a point nearest to the Wasp's house. That is where we'll climb the town wall."

Song Jiang continued: "Shi Yong and Du Qian, disguised as beggars, will also hide inside the town, near the gate. As soon as they see flames rising, they will kill the gate guards. Li Jun and Zhang Shun will patrol the river in their small craft and be ready for action."

Song Jiang finished making his disposition. Xue Yong, Bai Sheng and Hou Jian left first. Shi Yong and Du Qian disguised themselves as beggars, concealed daggers on their persons, and followed. The large boats were laden with sand-filled sacks, reeds and oil-soaked faggots. When the time came, each of the bold leaders girded up his clothing and readied his weapons. The fighting men hid in the holds.

Then the chieftains went on board. Chao Gai, Song Jiang and Hua Rong were on Tong Wei's craft. Yan Shun, Wang the Stumpy Tiger and Zheng Tianshou were on Zhang Heng's craft. Dai Zong, Liu Tang and Huang Xin joined Ruan the Second. Lu Fang, Guo Sheng and Li Li were with Ruan the Fifth. Mu Hong, Mu Chun and Li Kui went with Ruan the Seventh. Only Zhu Gui and Song Wan remained in Squire Mu's manor. Their job was to watch for possible developments in Jiangzhou. Tong Meng went ahead in a fast fishing craft to scout the town.