

凡尔纳科幻探险系列

英汉
对照
全译本

Robur the Conqueror



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征服者罗比尔

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(四)

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征服者罗比尔

(四)

Chapter 18

Over the Volcano

The sea was as rough as ever, and the symptoms became alarming. The barometer fell several millimeters. The wind came in violent gusts, and then for a moment or so failed altogether. Under such circumstances a sailing vessel would have had to reef in her topsails and her foresail. Everything showed that the wind was rising in the northwest. The storm-glass became much troubled and its movements were most disquieting.

At one o'clock in the morning the wind came on again with extreme violence. Although the *aeronef* was going right in its teeth she was still making progress at a rate of from twelve to fifteen miles an hour. But that was the utmost she could do.

Evidently preparations must be made for a cyclone, a very rare occurrence in these latitudes. Whether it be called a hurricane, as in the Atlantic, a typhoon, as in Chinese waters, a simoom, as in the Sahara, or a tornado, as on the western coast, such a storm is always a gyratory one, and most dangerous for any ship caught in the current which increases from the circumference to the center, and has only one spot of calm, the middle of the vortex.

Robur knew this. He also knew it was best to escape from the cyclone and get beyond its zone of attraction by ascending to the higher strata. Up to then he had always succeeded in doing this, but now he had not an hour, perhaps not a minute, to lose.

In fact the violence of the wind sensibly increased. The crests of the waves were swept off as they rose and blown into white dust on the surface of the sea. It was manifest that the

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在火山上

海面上始终波涛滚滚，各种迹象显示将有灾难来临。气压表又下降了几毫米。帆船在这种情况下往往会落下两张主桅帆和一张前桅帆。一切表明风向将转向西北。气候变化预测管开始混浊起来，情况更加令人担忧。

凌晨一点钟，刮起了大风，风力异常猛烈。尽管如此，“信天翁号”仍以每小时 12 英里到 15 英里的速度逆风飞行。不过，这也是极限了。

显而易见，一场风暴正在酝酿之中，这在如此高的纬度上是罕见的。在大西洋上把这风叫作飓风，在中国海叫台风，在撒哈拉叫西蒙风，在西部海岸叫陆龙卷，不管人们怎么叫它，肯定是一场可怕的风暴。对于任何被回旋运动裹住的轮船来说，这风太可怕了，越靠近旋涡中心，风力就越猛。只有这个空气旋涡的中心是惟一平静的地方。

罗比尔深知这一切。他也知道升到高空，离开旋风吸力范围以躲避它是最好的办法。迄今为止，他这样做总是成功。但必须快，他一个小时也不能耽搁，恐怕连一分钟都不行！

事实上，风力一直在加强。被风削去浪尖的波涛在海面翻腾，泛起一片白沫。显而易见，旋风将以惊人的速度向南

cyclone was advancing with fearful velocity straight towards the regions of the pole.

"Higher !" said Robur.

"Higher it is," said Tom Tumor.

An extreme ascensional power was communicated to the aeronef, and she shot up slantingly as if she was traveling on a plane sloping downwards from the southwest. Suddenly the barometer fell more than a dozen millimeters and the "Albatross" paused in her ascent.

What was the cause of the stoppage? Evidently she was pulled back by the air; some formidable current had diminished the resistance to the screws. When a steamer travels upstream more work is got out of her screw than when the water is running between the blades. The recoil is then considerable, and may perhaps be as great as the current. It was thus with the "Albatross" at this moment.

But Robur was not the man to give in. His seventy-four screws, working perfectly together, were driven at their maximum speed. But the aeronef could not escape; the attraction of the cyclone was irresistible. During the few moments of calm she began to ascend, but the heavy pull soon drew her back, and she sunk like a ship as she founders.

Evidently if the violence of the cyclone went on increasing the "Albatross" would be but as a straw caught in one of those whirlwinds that root up the trees, carry off roofs, and blow down walls.

Robur and Tom could only speak by signs. Uncle Prudent and Phil Evans clung to the rail and wondered if the cyclone was not playing their game in destroying the aeronef and with her the inventor- and with the inventor the secret of his invention.

But if the "Albatross" could not get out of the cyclone ver-

极地区移动。

“上升！”罗比尔说道。

“已经上升了！”汤姆·特纳说。

在一个极其强大的上升力推动下，飞行器开始上升，就像是在一个向西南方倾斜的平面上移动。突然，气压表急速跌了12毫米，“信天翁号”停止上升了。

因为什么原因停止的呢？显然是由于一股空气，一股由上往下的强大的气流减弱了螺旋桨的力量。轮船在水中逆流行驶时，由于水流从螺旋桨翼间通过，螺旋桨就会作一些无用功，船会大幅度倒退，甚至会改变航向漂流。此刻，“信天翁号”正是处在这种情况下之中。

然而，罗比尔并没有放弃。同步转动的74个螺旋桨都达到了最高转速，它逃不脱的旋风的引力是不可抗拒的。有片刻的平稳时，飞行器又上升起来，但紧接着沉重的气流又把它压下来。它像一条沉船那样落下去。

很明显，如果旋风风力继续加强，“信天翁号”就会像一段随风飘零的麦草，被这能拔起树木、掀掉屋顶、推倒城墙的旋风卷去。

罗比尔和汤姆只能用手势互相说话。普鲁特大叔和菲尔·埃维思则紧紧抓着栏杆，怀疑飓风会真的把这架飞行器连同它的发明者及其所有的秘密统统毁掉。

但是如果说，“信天翁号”虽不能垂直摆脱旋风，它就没

tically could she not do something else? Could she not gain the center, where it was comparatively calm, and where they would have more control over her? Quite so, but to do this she would have to break through the circular currents which were sweeping her round with them. Had she sufficient mechanical power to escape through them?

Suddenly the upper part of the cloud fell in. The vapor condensed in torrents of rain. It was two o'clock in the morning. The barometer, oscillating over a range of twelve millimeters, had now fallen to 27.91, and from this something should be taken on account of the height of the aeronef above the level of the sea.

Strange to say, the cyclone was out of the zone to which such storms are generally restricted, such zone being bounded by the thirtieth parallel of north latitude and the twentysixth parallel of south latitude. This may perhaps explain why the eddying storm suddenly turned into a straight one. But what a hurricane! The tempest in Connecticut on the 22nd of March, 1882, could only have been compared to it, and the speed of that was more than three hundred miles an hour.

The "Albatross" had thus to fly before the wind or rather she had to be left to be driven by the current, from which she could neither mount nor escape. But in following this unchanging trajectory she was bearing due south, towards those polar regions which Robur had endeavored to avoid. And now he was no longer master of her course; she would go where the hurricane took her.

Tom Turner was at the helm, and it required all his skill to keep her straight. In the first hours of the morning-if we can so call the vague tint which began to rise over the horizon-the "Albatross" was fifteen degrees below Cape Horn; twelve

有别的办法了吗？它可以到旋风中心去。那里较为平静，它也许可以控制自己的运动。正是这样，但这需要冲破挟着它旋转的环形气流，它是否有足够的动力穿过去呢？

突然，云层上端绽裂开了。蒸汽凝结成了瓢泼大雨。这时正是凌晨两点钟。气压表上下浮动，压差为 12 毫米，现在只有 27.91 毫米了。当然，这么低的部分原因是由于飞行器在海面上所处的高度造成的。

其实飓风在这里出现颇为奇怪。因为它通常肆虐横行的地区是北纬 30 度和南纬 26 度之间的区域。这种现象可能恰好解释了这场旋转风暴怎么会突然变成垂直的暴风雨的。多么猛烈的暴风雨可！只有 1882 年康涅狄格州的那场大风可以和它相比，那次大风的风速是每小时 300 多公里。

“信天翁号”要么在风暴来临之前躲开，要么被气流带走，既不能上升也不能摆脱。然而，沿着这条通畅的轨道，它会向南飞，会飞到罗比尔不愿靠近的南极。罗比尔现在已经无法控制航向，只好听凭它被飓风带到任何地方去。

汤姆·特纳把着舵轮，他使出全身本领保持飞行器平稳。黎明时分——如果可以这样来表达那在地平线上升起的模糊的颜色的话——“信天翁号”已经飞过了合恩角以南 15 度，即将进入南极圈。这里，7 月的黑夜仍然长达 19 个半

hundred miles more and she would cross the antarctic circle. Where she was, in this month of July, the night lasted nineteen hours and a half. The sun's disk without warmth, without light-only appeared above the horizon to disappear almost immediately. At the pole the night lengthened into one of a hundred and seventy-nine days. Everything showed that the "Albatross" was about to plunge into an abyss.

During the day an observation, had it been possible, would have given $66^{\circ}40'$ south latitude. The aeronef was within fourteen hundred miles of the pole.

Irresistibly was she drawn towards this inaccessible corner of the globe, her speed eating up, so to speak, her weight, although she weighed less than before, owing to the flattening of the earth at the pole. It seemed as though she could have dispensed altogether with her suspensory screws. And soon the fury of the storm reached such a height that Robur thought it best to reduce the speed of her helices as much as possible, so as to avoid disaster. And only enough speed was given to keep the aeronef under control of the rudder.

Amid these dangers the engineer retained his imperturbable coolness, and the crew obeyed him as if their leader's mind had entered into them. Uncle Prudent and Phil Evans had not for a moment left the deck; they could remain without being disturbed. The air made but slight resistance. The aeronef was like an aerostat, which drifts with the fluid masses in which it is plunged.

Is the domain of the southern pole a continent or an arctic pelago? Or is it a palaeocrystic sea, whose ice melts not even during the long summer? We know not. But what we do know is that the southern pole is colder than the northern one-a phenomenon due to the position of the earth in its orbit during

小时。一轮既不发光，也不发热的太阳在地平线上几乎刚一露出来，就又马上消失了。在极地，这漫漫长夜要持续 179 天之久。一切都表明，“信天翁号”来到这里就如同坠入了万丈深渊。

如果可能进行观测的话，这天将会测得纬度是南纬 66 度 40 分。飞行器离开南极点只有 1,400 公里了。

它身不由己地被吹往地球上这个人迹罕至的角落。可以说，它的速度“吃掉”了它的重量，尽管地球两极略扁，使后者轻了稍许。似乎可以关掉提升螺旋桨了。暴风雨越来越猛烈，罗比尔感到推进器也应降到最慢速度以避免损伤，目前情况下，只保持足以控制舵的速度就够了。

在这一系列危险情况中，工程师一直从容冷静地指挥着，全体船员也都心领神会地执行他们指挥的命令。普鲁特大叔和菲尔·埃维思一刻也没有离开平台，呆在那里也没有什么不舒服。空气的阻力很小，可以说几乎没有。飞行器在空中飘荡，就像是一只浸在流动的液体中跟着走的小艇。

南极地区是一个大陆？是一个群岛？还是一片结成冰的、在漫长的夏季里也不曾融化的海洋？没人知道。所知道的只是南极比北极还要冷——这是由南极冬季里地球在它

winter in the antarctic regions.

During this day there was nothing to show that the storm was abating. It was by the seventy-fifth meridian to the west that the "Albatross" crossed into the circumpolar region. By what meridian would she come out-if she ever came out?

As she descended more to the south the length of the day diminished. Before long she would be plunged in that continuous night which is illuminated only by the rays of the moon or the pale streamers of the aurora. But the moon was then new, and the companions of Robur might see nothing of the regions whose secret has hitherto defied human curiosity. There was not much inconvenience on board from the cold, for the temperature, was not nearly so low as was expected.

It seemed as though the hurricane was a sort of Gulf Stream, carrying a certain amount of heat along with it.

Great was the regret that the whole region was in such profound obscurity. Even if the moon had been in full glory but few observations could have been made. At this season of the year an immense curtain of snow, an icy carapace, covers up the polar surface. There was none of that ice "blink" to be seen, that whitish tint of which the reflection is absent from dark horizons. Under such circumstances, how could they distinguish the shape of the ground, the extent of the seas, the position of the islands? How could they recognize the hydrographic network of the country or the orographic configuration, and distinguish the hills and mountains from the icebergs and floes?

A little after midnight an aurora illuminated the darkness. With its silver fringes and spangles radiating over space, it seemed like a huge fan open over half the sky. Its farthest electric effluences were lost in the Southern Cross, whose four

运行轨道上的位置决定的。

这一天，暴风雨没有一丝要减弱的迹象。“信天翁号”将在西经七十五度进入南极区。它将在什么经度上出来？——如果它还能出来的话。

随着它继续向南飞行，白昼越来越短。用不了多久，它就会进入只靠月亮和南半球黎明的早霞带来一点微弱的光明的不尽长夜了。可是，此时正值新月，罗比尔和伙伴们可能在这个好奇的人类至今仍然一点也不知道其中秘密的地区什么也看不到。这时的气温并不像想象得那么低，船上的人因而还可以忍受。

暴风雨好像是空中的墨西哥湾暖流，带来了一些温暖。

最遗憾的莫过于，整个这一带地区都沉浸在一片漆黑当中！即便是满月，进行观察的可能性也微乎其微，因为在这个季节里，整个南极表面都蒙着一张宽阔的雪帘，一层冰甲。人们连冰雪的“映光”都看不出来，那光是一种淡白颜色，一点也反射不到黑暗的天际。在这样的条件下，何以辨认陆地的形状、海水的面积和岛屿的位置？何以辨认这里的水道网？又何以辨认和冰山、浮冰混在一起的山峰？

将近午夜时分，南半球的黎明驱散了黑暗。被光线照亮的地区呈现为巨大的扇面形，银色光线的光班在太空中闪耀，发出的光芒消失在闪烁在天顶的南十字座的星光中。这

bright stars were gleaming overhead. The phenomenon was one of incomparable magnificence, and the light showed the face of the country as a confused mass of white.

It need not be said that they had approached so near to the pole that the compass was constantly affected, and gave no precise indication of the course pursued. Its inclination was such that at one time Robur felt certain they were passing over the magnetic pole discovered by Sir James Ross. And an hour later, in calculating the angle the needle made with the vertical, he exclaimed: "the South Pole is beneath us!"

A white cap appeared, but nothing could be seen of what it hid under its ice.

A few minutes afterwards the aurora died away, and the point where all the world's meridians cross is still to be discovered.

If Uncle Prudent and Phil Evans wished to bury in the most mysterious solitudes the aeronef and all she bore, the moment was propitious. If they did not do so it was doubtless because the explosive they required was still denied to them.

The hurricane still raged and swept along with such rapidity that had a mountain been met with the aeronef would have been dashed to pieces like a ship on a lee shore. Not only had the power gone to steer her horizontally, but the control of her elevation had also vanished.

And it was not unlikely that mountains did exist in these antarctic lands. Any instant a shock might happen which would destroy the "Albatross." Such a catastrophe became more probable as the wind shifted more to the east after they passed the prime meridian. Two luminous points then showed themselves ahead of the "Albatross." There were the two volcanos of the Ross Mountains-Erebus and Terror. Was the "Albatross"

个景象真是无比豪华壮观，放出的光芒照亮了混浊的白色地区的面貌。

不用说，在这个距离南磁极只有咫尺的地区，罗盘的指针不停地摇摆，再也不能作出任何与航向有关的明确的指示。然而有一刻，指针偏转，使罗比尔确信他正在飞越詹姆斯·罗斯先生发现的南极点。一个小时以后，他计算了一下指针和垂直线的角度，喊道：“南极点就在我们脚下！”

一个白色的大盖子映入眼底，但谁也看不到冰层下面是什么东西。

南极的黎明很快就结束了。这个地球上所有经线的相交点还有待将来去发现。

不用说，如果普鲁特大叔和菲尔·埃维思想把这架飞行器和它载着漫游世界的人埋葬在最神秘偏僻的地方，这时机是再合适不过了。他们没有那样做，无疑是因为还缺少必需的炸药。

暴风雨仍然很猛烈，风速非常高。如果“信天翁号”这时遇上一座大山，一定会像船撞在礁石上一样碰得粉碎。事实上，它不仅已无法控制水平飞行，而且连上下移动也难以自主了。

南极陆地上确实矗立着几座山峰，飞行器随时有可能在山上撞毁。风向西转，经过零度经线，使得这种事故更有可能发生。这时，“信天翁号”前方出现了两个亮点。那是雄伟的罗斯岛群山所属的两座火山，艾勒布斯和泰罗尔。难道

to be shriveled up in their flames like a gigantic butterfly?

An hour of intense excitement followed. One of the volcanoes, Erebus, seemed to be rushing at the aeronef, which could not move from the bed of the hurricane. The cloud of flame grew as they neared it. A network of fire barred their road. A brilliant light shone round over all. The figures on board stood out in the bright light as if come from another world. Motionless, without a sound or a gesture, they waited for the terrible moment when the furnace would wrap them in its fires.

But the storm that bore the "Albatross" saved them from such a fearful fate. The flames of Erebus were blown down by the hurricane as it passed, and the "Albatross" flew over unhurt. She swept through a hail of ejected material, which was fortunately kept at bay by the centrifugal action of the suspensory screws. And she harmlessly passed over the crater while it was in full eruption.

An hour afterwards the horizon hid from their view the two colossal torches which light the confines of the world during the long polar night.

At two o'clock in the morning Balleny Island was sighted on the coast of Discovery Land, though it could not be recognized owing to its being bound to the mainland by a cement of ice.

And the "Albatross" emerged from the polar circle on the hundred and seventy-fifth meridian. The hurricane had carried her over the icebergs and icefloes, against which she was in danger of being dashed a hundred times or more. She was not in the hands of the helmsman, but in the hand of God-and God is a good pilot.

The aeronef sped along to the north, and at the sixtieth parallel the storm showed signs of dying away. Its violence

“信天翁号”要像一只大蝴蝶一样效仿飞蛾扑火吗？

这时候，每个人都担心到了极点。只见艾勒布斯山仿佛冲着无法逃出暴风风床的“信天翁号”直扑过来。一簇簇火焰迅速变大，大网挡住了飞行器的去路。炽烈的火光映彻了天空，船上被火光映红的人影仿佛来自另一个世界。所有的人都无法动弹，没有一声喊叫，也没有一点动静，他们在等待着被这大火炉的烈火吞没的可怕时刻。

然而，卷着“信天翁号”的暴风雨把它救出了这场灾难。艾勒布斯的火焰被风雨压低了些，给飞行器闪开了一条通道。幸亏“信天翁号”螺旋桨的离心运动排开了雹子般稠密的熔岩物质，它才得以安全通过了正在喷射的火山口。

一小时以后，在漫长的极夜里照亮这世界尽头的两支大火炬，消失在地平线上。

凌晨两点，飞行器越过了位于德古威尔特海岸边缘的巴勒尼岛，然而，极难辨认它，因为冰把这小岛和南极大陆连接在一起了。

“信天翁号”从东经 175 度飞出了南极圈。此后，暴风雨把它带到了浮冰和冰山上空，有多次它差点撞毁在上面。它不是掌握在舵手的手里，而是掌握在上帝手中——幸好上帝是一位出色的导航员。

飞行器继续向北飞，在飞过 60 度纬线之后，暴风雨显

sensibly diminished. The "Albatross" began to come under control again. And, what was a great comfort, had again entered the lighted regions of the globe; and the day reappeared about eight o'clock in the morning.

Robur had been carried by the storm into the Pacific over the polar region, accomplishing four thousand three hundred and fifty miles in nineteen hours, or about three miles a minute, a speed almost double that which the "Albatross" was equal to with her propellers under ordinary circumstances. But he did not know where he then was owing to the disturbance of the needle in the neighborhood of the magnetic pole, and he would have to wait till the sun shone out under convenient conditions for observation. Unfortunately, heavy clouds covered the sky all that day and the sun did not appear.

This was a disappointment more keenly felt as both propelling screws had sustained damage during the tempest. Robur, much disconcerted at this accident, could only advance at a moderate speed during this day, and when he passed over the antipodes of Paris was only going about eighteen miles an hour. It was necessary not to aggravate the damage to the screws, for if the propellers were rendered useless the situation of the aeronef above the vast seas of the Pacific would be a very awkward one. And the engineer began to consider if he could not effect his repairs on the spot, so as to make sure of continuing his voyage.

In the morning of the 27th of July, about seven o'clock, land was sighted to the north. It was soon seen to be an island. But which island was it of the thousands that dot the Pacific? However, Robur decided to stop at it without landing. He thought, that he could repair damages during the day and start in the evening.