



HAPPY IDIOM

cǎo chuán jiè jiàn 草 船 借 箭

sān guó shí qī cáo cāo dài bīng gōng dǎ wú guó
三 国 时 期 曹 操 带 兵 攻 打 吴 国

During the Three Kingdom period, Cao Cao leads his troops to attack the state of Wu.

shǔ guó pài jūn shī zhū gě liàng dào wú guó
蜀 国 派 军 师 诸 葛 亮 到 吴 国

The state of Shu sends its strategist Zhuge Liang to Wu,

xī wàng néng lián hé liǎng guó de lì liàng gòng tóng kàng cáo
希 望 能 联 合 两 国 的 力 量 共 同 抗 曹
in the hope of forming an alliance to jointly fight Cao.

wú guó de tǒng shuài zhōu yú
吴 国 的 统 帅 周 瑜

Wu ' s commander Zhou Yu

fēi cháng jí dù zhū gě liàng de cái néng
非 常 嫉 妒 诸 葛 亮 的 才 能
is very jealous of Zhuge ' s talent.

yú shì jiù yào tā zài shí tiān nèi zào shí wàn zhī jiàn
于 是 就 要 他 在 十 天 内 造 十 万 支 箭

So he asks Zhuge to make 100,000 arrows within ten days

lái wéi nán tā
来 为 难 他

as way to baffle him.

kě shì zhū gě liàng yì diǎn dōu bù jīng huāng
可 是 诸 葛 亮 一 点 都 不 惊 慌

But Zhuge Liang does not look astounded at all.

wǒ zhǐ yào sān tiān jiù kě yǐ le
我 只 要 三 天 就 可 以 了

“ I only want three days for this. ”

yú shì zhōu yú pài shǒu xià lǔ sù qù tàn tīng xiāo xī
于是周瑜派手下鲁肃去探听消息
Zhou Yu sends his subordinate Lu Su to spy on Zhuge.

nà hái yào kào nín bāng máng le
那还要靠您帮忙了
“ I would rely on your help.

qǐng bāng wǒ zhǔn bèi 20 zhī chuán
请帮我准备20只船
Please prepare 20 boats,

yòng hēi bù zhē shàng měi chuán 30 gè shì bīng
用黑布遮上每船30个士兵
all covered with black cloth and each manned by 30 soldiers.

zài zhā xǔ duō cǎo rén lì zài chuán xián zhōu wéi
再扎许多草人立在船舷周围
Then make many straw figures to be erected on the sides of each boat.”

dì sān tiān de yè lǐ tū rán qǐ le dà wù
第三天的夜里突然起了大雾
On the third night, a big fog appears suddenly.

zhū gě liàng yǔ lǔ sù dài zhe zhè zhī chuán duì
诸葛亮与鲁肃带着这支船队
Zhuge Liang and Lu Su lead the flotilla

xiàng zhe cáo jūn dà yíng shǐ qù
向着曹军大营驶去
toward the Cao army camp.

chuán duì jiē jìn cáo jūn dà yíng de shí hou
船队接近曹军大营的时候
When the flotilla is nearing the Cao camp,

zhū gě liàng ràng shì bīng men léi gǔ nà hǎn
诸葛亮让士兵们擂鼓呐喊
Zhuge Liang asks the soldiers to beat drums and cry,

zào chéng yào gōng dǎ cáo cāo de jiǎ xiàng
造成要攻打曹操的假象
feigning an attack on the Cao army.

jiāng shàng dà wù mí màn wǒ men bú biàn chū jī
江 上 大 雾 弥 漫 我 们 不 便 出 击
“ In this thick fog, an offensive wouldn ’ t be good.

jiào shì bīng men fàng jiàn
叫 士 兵 们 放 箭
Order the soldiers to shoot arrows! ”

yì shí jiān jiàn rú yǔ xià shè xiàng chuán duì
一 时 间 箭 如 雨 下 射 向 船 队
All of a sudden, arrows rained on the flotilla.

zhè shí lǔ sù huǎng rán dà wù
这 时 鲁 肃 恍 然 大 悟
Now Lu Su realizes what is going on.

zhè xiē chuán shàng de jiàn yīng gāi yǒu shí wàn zhī jiàn ba
这 些 船 上 的 箭 应 该 有 十 万 支 箭 吧
“ There might be 100,000 arrows on the boats now. ”

jiù zhè yàng zhū gě liàng yòng zhā mǎn cǎo de xiǎo chuán
就 这 样 诸 葛 亮 用 扎 满 草 的 小 船
Thus with these straw boats

dài zhe xiàng cáo cāo jiè lái de jiàn
带 着 向 曹 操 借 来 的 箭
carrying arrows borrowed from Cao Cao,

huí dào le jiāng dōng
回 到 了 江 东
Zhuge Liang returns to the east bank.

cǎo chuán jiè jiàn
草 船 借 箭
“ cao chuan jie jian ”

zhè zé chéng yǔ de yì sī shì yùn yòng zhì móu
这 则 成 语 的 意 思 是 运 用 智 谋
is a set phrase, meaning to use one ’ s wisdom to

píng jiè tā rén de rén lì huò cái lì
凭 借 他 人 的 人 力 或 财 力
take advantage of other ’ s manpower and resources

lái dá dào zì jǐ de mù dì
来 达 到 自 己 的 目 的
for his own purposes.