

All R. Artist 421

Chapter 421: When will the lyricist be able to stand up

Describing Jiang Kui as a ‘small singer’ is actually a bit harsh.

Even if she isn’t an A-list artist right now, Jiang Kui can be at least considered a borderline A-list singer who could easily attain a higher rank with a little push from her company. In terms of her status within the music industry, she’s already very high –

If anyone doesn’t understand, we can use Chen Zhiyu as a unit of measurement for comparison.

The current Jiang Kui is almost on par with four-fifths of Chen Zhiyu before he became the perennial runner-up.

She’s got the fame.

She’s got the talent.

But to some extent, it’s not wrong to categorize Jiang Kui as a “small singer”.

Because the point of comparison for Jiang Kui isn’t Chen Zhiyu, it’s the leading singers represented by Fei Yang!

Xian Yu and Maestro are worthy of comparison. The Battle of the Gods competition in December last year was the perfect proof.

But what about Jiang Kui?

How does she compare to the leading singers?

So when the industry saw Starlight’s official announcement, they were collectively dumbfounded, and metaphorically, their glasses shattered all over the ground.

Something must be wrong.

How could Jiang Kui be on the list for the mighty Battle of the Gods?

With all the top singers present, who could Jiang Kui's petite figure possibly hold her ground against?

Suddenly, discussions started brewing within the industry:

"Who the heck is Jiang Kui, can't the top-tier music company field a top singer?"

"What clout does Jiang Kui have to be this brash?"

"Is there some shady background stuff with Starlight?"

"If Xian Yu was kidnapped by Starlight, blink twice."

"Stop guessing, nobody would dare force Xian Yu to do anything in Starlight, unless they've gone completely bonkers. Given Xian Yu's status, he could cherry-pick any top singer within or even outside Starlight. The only plausible assumption for choosing Jiang Kui is that Xian Yu himself wanted to play this way!"

"Has he gone mad?"

They are crazy for involving Jiang Kui in the Battle of the Gods. This is as absurd as involving Sun Yaohuo in the Battle of the Gods, even though I concede that Jiang Kui does have strong singing skills."

"The big shots of the Battle of the Gods might be shocked too."

"..."

Blunt words, sound argument.

Unless every senior executive of Starlight has water in their brains, no one would force Xian Yu into anything.

If they dared to play this way, in less than an hour, countless music company executives, even chairmen, would personally invite Xian Yu to their companies!

With offers of courtesy and respect beyond measure.

That is beyond doubt.

So, it must be Xian Yu's own decision.

Starlight might even be the victim.

Because they don't dare to dictate Xian Yu's actions, they ended up allowing Jiang Kui, a somewhat out-of-place singer, to be listed on the roster for the Battle of the Gods. Otherwise, which company would arrange such a unreliable lineup?

When Starlight announced this news, netizens also began discussing:

"What is Xian Yu trying to do?"

"He's not collaborating with top singers for the Battle of the Gods?"

"I only realized today why they say Xian Yu loves to promote newcomers – he's using even the Battle of the Gods to promote people!"

"He's really going all in to promote newcomers."

"Could this be Xian Yu's subtle way of providing himself with an escape route? Arrange for Jiang Kui in the Battle of the Gods – if he wins, it shows how capable Xian Yu is; if he loses, Xian Yu can easily pin the blame on Jiang Kui, claiming that he didn't partner with the top singers, and hence had an inherent disadvantage."

Some speculated maliciously.

The fact is, from the moment Starlight announced a collaboration between Jiang Kui and Xian Yu for December, such malicious conjectures were bound to arise.

But such conjectures are destined to be unpopular.

Immediately, people began to retort:

“Though the movie ‘Hachiko’ directed by Xian Yu the old rascal is truly a love-hate experience, the Battle of the Gods is not necessarily about winning the top spot. Even Maestro doesn’t have that much pressure, let alone Xian Yu.”

“Xian Yu isn’t that petty.”

“Why don’t you interpret Xian Yu’s move as absolute confidence? Because he has so much faith in his new song, he believes that he can achieve good results even without collaborating with the King of Singing or the Queen of Singing.”

“But this is the Battle of the Gods.”

“So what if it’s the Battle of the Gods? Xian Yu has been champion once before, and last year’s win was undisputed. It’s understandable if he wants to ramp up the challenge this year.”

“...”

Jiang Kui’s appearance was too strange.

There were all sorts of interpretations.

However, just as some industry insiders had imagined, the big players who were participating in the December Battle of the Gods were shocked by the news from Starlight.

Huh?

Normally, those who could participate in the Battle of the Gods were experienced warriors who had seen far more trials and tribulations than ordinary folks. After so many seasons of ups and downs, what haven't they seen before?

But this, they had not seen before.

It was like everyone was already rubbing their hands in anticipation of savoring a big, delicious fish head soup, but the kitchen ended up serving up a tiny fish fry.

Where's the fish head soup we were promised?

Even a cat would find such a small fry too little, okay?

We didn't even need a single shiver of excitement, because we could already taste the blandness in advance!

Pfft!

Glamorous Entertainment Company.

Fei Yang saw Starlight's announcement on the Tribal activity feed. He initially intended to slam his fist hard on the desk, but the force ended up taking a twist, landing on the soft leather of the chair:

"What's the meaning of this, Xian Yu!"

Despite the thud on the chair's cushion being far less authoritative than it would have been on a desk, Fei Yang's anger was plainly visible: "Is he belittling me, by selecting Jiang Kui for the challenge?"

"Who knows what composers are thinking."

Neon, also at Glamorous Entertainment today, casually said.

She glanced at Yin Dong, with a hint of double entendre.

Neon was considered a top-tier lyricist in the industry, but her collaboration with Yin Dong this time was full of hiccups. She had submitted countless revisions of lyrics, all of which Yin Dong didn't like, which further pushed back her hairline due to endless nights of work.

This was indeed a silent expression of discontent.

Why are music composers so highly regarded?

I am a lyricist, too!

When will lyricists finally raise our head high!

Make these composers beg for us lyricists to intervene!

Yin Dong appeared oblivious to Neon's discontent, he casually said:

"You have become overly fixated on Xian Yu. Of course, I also want to defeat Xian Yu, but my ultimate goal is not so much him as it is the December championship."

Fei Yang paused, then nodded vigorously:

"No matter what Xian Yu is thinking, as long as I win the December championship, I'll be happy. Xian Yu will pay the price for his rashness and arrogance!"

"Mmm."

Yin Dong, as always, was poker-faced.

Neon at the side shrugged: "Composing and singing are your matters, decisions I can't make. The only thing I can guarantee you both is that the lyrics I write will not be the weak link. They will be the finest lyrics at the December Battle of the Gods!"

“I have complete faith in Teacher Neon’s songwriting.”

Fei Yang showed a smile: “Of course, I also have utmost confidence in Teacher Yin Dong’s composing as well as my singing.”

Fei Yang made a slight adjustment to the script in his mind.

He was still going to take first place, but Xian Yu probably wouldn’t be able to secure second place.

This made Fei Yang feel regretful.

He even felt a pang of loneliness.

A fist that had been wound up for nearly a year ended up punching a ball of cotton. Naturally, Fei Yang would feel both lonely and regretful. In fact, many major figures in the upcoming December Battle of the Gods had the same feeling—

Where was the glory in such a victory!

Chapter 422: Official Release of ‘May We Live Long’

Those crowned the King or Queen of Singing, and the Maestros behind them, chose to collaborate with one another to ensure the flawless execution of the Battle of the Gods.

Obviously, the lineup of Music Kings, Queens, and Maestros would form the strongest group!

Jiang Kui’s existence would undoubtedly hamper Xian Yu’s progress, a fact that was clear to anyone with eyes.

So everyone thought:

Even if Xian Yu won the Battle of the Gods, it would feel somewhat like a hollow victory.

But the situation was irreversible.

As for the upcoming Battle of the Gods, Xian Yu's significance in everyone's eyes had dropped to mere participation.

He was no longer everyone's imagined nemesis.

There was no helping it.

The industry gradually accepted the fact that Xian Yu had semi-given up on the Battle of the Gods and turned its attention to another group:

"Fei Yang is pretty strong this year."

"With Maestro Yin Dong composing, top lyricist Ni Hongwu penning the lyrics, and the best music producers and arrangers in the field, their strength on paper was indeed the greatest."

"The combination of Long Die and Yin Li should not be underestimated, I favor this pair!"

"Fei Yang is clearly going all out against Xian Yu, but who would've known that Xian Yu wasn't planning to go all out."

"Fei Yang must be quite upset, the opponent he valued most doesn't seem to care much for the Battle of the Gods."

"Unless something unexpected happens, the person who can defeat Fei Yang next month will grab the championship song."

"Speaking of which, Xian Yu is the defending champion, but Fei Yang was also the runner-up last year. As the defending champion chooses to perform subpar, for many significant figures, defeating the runner-up might be a source of pleasure and motivation."

"..."

After Xian Yu, it was Fei Yang's group that became the most significant obstacle in many people's eyes.

At this time in Starlight Entertainment.

Jiang Kui in the recording studio, looking at the comments about her online, felt a surge of energy building up within her –

There was a fire in her eyes.

How dare everyone look down on me?

Why does everyone think that I will hold back Teacher Admirable Fish?

When Ninth Floor chose to cultivate Yao Huo and me, that's what people in the company thought;

When Xian Yu chose to collaborate with me on a new song for the Battle of the Gods, that's what people in the industry thought.

Even netizens don't understand at all.

Am I really that terrible?

Do they think I'm an easy target?

Jiang Kui bit her lip, her fists clenched under her sleeves, with the nails digging into her flesh.

She wished she could shout at everyone, "Don't despise the youth when they're poor. The east and west of the river may change over thirty years!"

"Prepare to record."

Lin Yuan suddenly walked into the recording studio.

This was the day he had chosen for recording.

Jiang Kui's strong empathy as the lead actress in her interior drama abruptly disrupted, standing in front of the microphone, with a more cautious look at Lin Yuan, she tentatively said:

"Alright then."

Lin Yuan nodded his head, greeted the staff in the recording studio, was evidently planning to complete the task of recording that day.

About ten minutes later.

The official recording began.

Having rehearsed for some time beforehand, coupled with Lin Yuan's days of coaching, Jiang Kui had achieved a perfect grasp of the song.

Seemingly the criticisms from the outside world did indeed stir up Jiang Kui?

Her recording status today was surprisingly good, the whole song was recorded very smoothly, both emotions and singing techniques, all met Lin Yuan's standards.

"That'll do."

Two hours later.

Lin Yuan took off his headphones and declared, "Recording complete."

Speaking of the performance result, today's recording by Jiang Kui was the best version she had sung these days.

Lin Yuan was very satisfied.

It was not in vain that he had spent so long with Jiang Kui preparing for the official recording.

...

Though Xian Yu was no longer the hot topic for the Battle of the Gods, this did not affect his musical status in the hearts of numerous netizens as the season ended.

In the following days, news about the Battle of the Gods was ubiquitous online:

“The Battle of the Gods is coming soon!”

“Fei Yang’s exclusive interview: This year I am participating in the Battle of the Gods not to show off, but to let everyone know that what I lost must be reclaimed by me!”

“King and Queen of Singing are ready!”

“December’s war beacon, six Maestros have arrived!”

“Yin Dong leads the Maestro line-up in the Battle of the Gods, who will be crowned new king!”

“Maestro Long Die exclusive interview: My only competitor has always been myself.”

“...”

The news bombardment of this level was even more exaggerated than that in November!

At the end of November, netizens’ anticipation for the Battle of the Gods had reached its peak, almost overflowing!

On November 30th.

There was a countdown for the Battle of the Gods on the Music Association's official website. Even the official platform was attaching great importance to the Battle of the Gods:

"Ten hours until the official start of the Battle of the Gods!"

"Nine hours until the official start of the Battle of the Gods!"

"Eight hours until the official start of the Battle of the Gods!"

The countdown on the Literature and Art Association's official website kept updating in real-time. All major music platforms followed suit, exacerbating the nerves of netizens and music fans to an exceedingly sensitive degree.

"It's about to start!"

"Why am I so excited?"

"After all, it's the annual celestial battle!"

"Which song to listen to first is a problem. I'm really looking forward to several songs!"

"In comparison with the battle at midnight, the competition among the top singers in November is like a younger brother."

"Black Bull is ready, brothers, charge tonight!"

"I'm so damn excited. I, who never stay up late, can't help but plan to stay up till midnight."

"The Literature and Art Association even set a countdown, it feels like New Year's Eve, hahahaha."

"Apparently, the rankings will be released directly tonight, no need to wait until tomorrow. Gods are battling in groups online, which Maestro will top the songs?"

“...”

A multitude of eyes were glued tightly to the ticking countdown.

In the wait, the sky slowly darkened, and the moon gently rose into the sky.

As the prompts of “One hour left until the official start of the Battle of the Gods” were published by various music platforms and the Music Association’s official website, waiting netizens’ spirits abruptly intensified!

Inside the bedroom of a certain mansion.

Fei Yang had already sat in front of the computer early. He brewed a cup of instant coffee and quietly waited for midnight to arrive.

The wind gently swirled outside the window.

The moonlight drifted faintly inward.

Excitement and nervousness were intertwined within Fei Yang, causing his legs to fidget restlessly.

Unknown time passed.

Fei Yang’s phone suddenly vibrated.

Fei Yang picked up his phone and saw it was a message from Ni Hongwu in the group: “In the lyrics section, I can crush the gods. I hope someone doesn’t drag us down. If we don’t win the championship, it’s definitely not my fault.”

This was a small three-person group.

Only Fei Yang, Yin Dong, and Ni Hongwu were in the group.

This was a small group that Fei Yang had created specifically for the Battle of the Gods collaboration.

Seeing Ni Hongwu's message, Fei Yang chuckled, and his nervousness dissipated quite a bit.

Of course, he knew that Ni Hongwu was taking a jab at Yin Dong.

The two had quite a lot of friction during the lyrics and composition collaboration process, which left Ni Hongwu very dissatisfied.

"Don't worry."

Then Yin Dong appeared, seemingly in response to Ni Hongwu: "There is no problem with my composition."

"And there will be no problem with my singing."

Fei Yang confidently replied, typing with forceful fingers. He wanted to continue the chat, but the alarm he had set on his phone suddenly rang.

Fei Yang glanced at the time.

It was precisely midnight right now!

Fei Yang hastily put his phone down, put on his headphones, and clicked open the music player right away. His expression was as serious as a soldier in uniform, ready to rush to his battlefield.

"It's time!"

"Battle of the Gods!"

Fei Yang clicked open the music special on his player.

Meanwhile!

Within the merged three continents, countless hands were moving their mouse at the same time and forcefully pressing down the confirm left button...

Chapter 423:

Fei Yang was the first to open the broadcast player focused on the Battle of the Gods. But when a myriad of new works, sung by the kings and queens of song and personally produced by the maestros appeared before his eyes, Fei Yang was suddenly overcome by a sense of bewilderment and pause—

The list was indeed full of bigwigs.

The work of a certain maestro in Qin land, the work of a certain queen of song in Qi land, the work of a certain maestro in Chu land, and so on, all of them were considered Fei Yang's powerful competitors in this Battle of the Gods.

But with so many works, whose song should I listen to first?

The sense of solitude that had arisen some time ago when Xian Yu chose Jiang Kui to perform his work suddenly resurfaced.

Fei Yang was somewhat astounded to realize that he never thought of anyone other than Xian Yu as a competitor in his eyes.

Even though this was the Battle of the Gods.

Even though everyone else was pretty insane too.

And even if someone could be stronger than Xian Yu.

It seemed to Fei Yang, beating Xian Yu was far more critical than securing a champion track from the Battle of the Gods!

“So, I really came straight for you.”

The mouse wheel rolls slightly as Fei Yang muttered to himself. His gaze quickly skimmed across the songs lined up in the front row, eventually unable to resist and locking onto Xian Yu. It seemed like this was the only reason for him to participate in the Battle of the Gods.

“How Long Will the Full Moon Last.”

Subconsciously, Fei Yang murmured this song’s title, a song by Xian Yu.

Without much hesitation, he clicked play amidst sighs and regrets.

Due to certain objective reasons, even though Xian Yu was not his opponent this time, the feeling of punching into the void was too overwhelming. So much so that Fei Yang, even knowing that the opponent’s piece posed no threat to him, still chose Xian Yu as his first punch-out target in the Battle of the Gods.

“Lyrics: Xian Yu”

“Composition: Xian Yu”

“Performed by: Jiang Kui”

This seemed to align well with Fei Yang’s current feelings.

As the introductory text for the song gradually faded, the prelude to “How Long Will the Full Moon Last” began with a cello, then seamlessly transitioned to piano.

The mellifluous music carried a subtle melodrama and a vague sense of loneliness.

“Oh?”

While adjusting his headphones to a more comfortable position, Fei Yang couldn’t help but grumble:

“Is this going the sentimental route this time? Seems like he’s given up on the charts. The song ‘Red Sun’ last year was much more fitting for topping the charts, with its strong rhythm, soaring melody, and an intro that pulls listeners into the melody, making them feel like grooving along. Winning the championship was well deserved. Compared to that, this sentimentality, how could it compete with me...”

Suddenly!

Fei Yang’s voice came to an abrupt halt.

The motion of him adjusting his headphones froze as well.

This left him in an extremely awkward pose.

Through the ultra-comfortable foam cover of the headphones, echoed a woman’s voice—it was enchantingly smooth and sophisticated, yet laced with a languid loquacity, slowly magnifying all the unidentifiable emotions:

“How Long Will the Full Moon Last...”

“I drink to the Moon...”

“Not knowing the Celestial Palace up high...”

“What year is it tonight...”

Fei Yang’s hand abruptly dropped.

A crisp sound abruptly echoed, as if a silk cloth being torn.

All the loneliness and melancholy tangled in his heart were instantly shattered.

It’s like a bolt of lightning from the sky piercing through the black mist, much like a dazzling lightning bolt shooting through the heart of the sky!

Bang!

Fei Yang suddenly snapped back to reality!

He felt that everything around him had changed.

The computer and the headphone wires started distorting, and he seemed to be standing in the middle of a vast emptiness filled with darkness, the high heavens and the lonely moon hanging above him, while the corner of the celestial palace loomed in and out of the mist, and the faint celestial music was heard.

The ethereal scene was devoid of any earthly aura.

Fei Yang forgot everything and he felt more insignificant than ever.

In the vast universe, he was just a speck of dust, drifting along with the waves.

The piano continued resonating.

The cello continued setting the tone.

The coffee by the desk hadn't been touched.

In the not-so-flamboyant arrangement, only the slightly lifted tail of every line of the song was reminding Fei Yang:

He was listening to Xian Yu's new song, not contemplating something profound about life.

He jerked into reality once again.

The darkness and emptiness disappeared.

What's in front of me is still the computer and long headphone cord.

It seems that a momentary clarity shifted the sound back into focus, the song came in phases, as dazzling as fireworks, as peaceful as a gentle breeze.

"I wish to ride the wind back home..."

"But fear the porcelain tower, the jade mansion..."

"The high places are bitterly cold..."

"Dancing with the clear shadows..."

"What is it like in the mortal world..."

No longer the faintly divine sounds from the celestial palace, but one step in reality of the mortal world, yet still having an unavoidable meaning of refinement.

At this moment.

Fei Yang's pupils contracted to the extreme, almost to the point where even the tip of his heart was trembling.

If the computer screen was off at this moment, a face with an extremely exaggerated expression would surely reflect from the screen.

When the song reached "Turn the vermilion tower, lower the lovely door, light up the sleepless, there should be no resentment, who always turn full at times of parting," Fei Yang was already out of sorts.

Who am I?

Where am I?

What am I doing?

The performance was still going on, but Fei Yang's brain began to blank out bit by bit, almost incapable of thinking, as if entering a strangely philosophical state.

Then, his face grew increasingly pale.

The sound in his headphones gradually became meandering and undulating, going back and forth a thousand times, like a sigh from a thousand years ago, or even from another time and space.

"People have joys and sorrows, and moons have ebb and flood, this is anciently tough to make perfect..."

The music spreads in a calm transition, like regret, or more like a kind of relief.

When Fei Yang, who was listening to the music, regained a bit of consciousness, he was already sweating, and in shock, he felt a tingling sensation from his scalp.

His brain still wasn't responding.

But the voice from Jiang Kui was not hoarse, even suppressed at times, yet carried a kind of overpowering force:

"May we all be blessed with longevity, sharing the beauty of this graceful moonlight even thousands of miles apart."

Click!

Fei Yang suddenly stopped the playback.

He stood silent under the light for a moment, then began to breathe heavily, finally picked up the now-cold coffee and gulped it down.

"Ah!"

Cold coffee sliding down his throat, freezing and yet sweet, sour, bitter, spicy, he had not expected this hastily brewed instant coffee to have such complex tastes.

Not until then did he feel a slight circulation in the stifling atmosphere surrounding him, he couldn't help but cry out loudly.

His thoughts slowly returned.

He could finally speak properly.

“What the hell!”

He screamed with his mouth open, seemingly more desirous to express himself to the air, but after opening his mouth for a long time, he couldn't utter a single superfluous word.

Thunk.

While speaking, Fei Yang put down his cup.

His hand seemed to shake slightly.

The trembling grew bigger and bigger until it couldn't be controlled.

In the end, he accidentally knocked his phone to the floor.

The phone fell onto the floor, the screen suddenly lit up, a few cracks spread on it, obviously from just now.

But Fei Yang isn't focusing on the need to replace the phone screen at this moment——

It was a group chat screen.

The chat history stopped exactly at Ni Hongwu's sentence "I can kill all gods with the part of the lyrics".

Ding dong.

There were message notifications in the group chat, from Yin Dong, there was nothing specific, just a simple punctuation mark:

"?"

Fei Yang struggled to breathe again, he tried to control his shaking hand, pressing on the screen that was already less sensitive, the content was basically the same as Yin Dong, just longer:

Chapter 424: Su Immortal Descends

"Long Die's new song is really not bad, whether it's the melody or the singing, it all has a charm that moves one's heart. The only flaw is that the lyrics are a bit plain. These lyrics aesthetics of the Maestro really gives one a headache..."

Around the same time, in Chu land.

Inside her own office, Ni Hongwu was listening to the new song composed by Maestro Long Die in The Battle of the Gods, with headphones on, feeling somewhat regretful for the imperfect lyrics as she listened.

After listening to Long Die's song, Ni Hongwu looked at her phone, and immediately saw the question marks sent by Yin Dong and the thirteen question marks sent by Fei Yang in the small group chat.

Such an amount of question marks also involuntarily put a lot of question marks in Ni Hongwu's mind.

What do you two mean?

Ni Hongwu was somewhat puzzled. Coincidentally, as Ni Hongwu looked at this group chat, suddenly came a song from the headphones:

“How long will the full moon appear, I raise my wine and ask the blue sky, no one knows, in the celestial palace, what year it is tonight...”

This was a coincidence triggered by the shuffle play.

As it turned out, Ni Hongwu, like Fei Yang, didn't know who's song to listen to first, so she chose to shuffle all the songs from The Battle of the Gods. Now it's just shuffled to Xian Yu's new song, “Hope for Eternity”.

Only a few lines were sung.

But Ni Hongwu's gaze suddenly focused on the computer on the desk.

The screen was still on the player's lyrics interface. The distilled lyrics of “Hope for Eternity” suddenly appeared in front of Ni Hongwu. So, this moment became a memorable one for Ni Hongwu.

Crack!

Even though the moonlight outside the window was still quietly flowing, and there was neither wind nor rain between heaven and earth, Ni Hongwu felt as if a thunderbolt had appeared above her head in the clear sky, instantly blowing her brain into chaos.

“Whoosh!”

Ni Hongwu almost tried to retrieve her chat saying “I could destroy the Gods with my lyrics” at the fastest speed in her life, but time had already passed by nearly five minutes—

Failed to retrieve it.

Looking back at the question marks from Fei Yang and Yin Dong, Ni Hongwu suddenly had a sense of social death.

Even though everyone couldn't see each other's faces across the network, Ni Hongwu was already feeling incredibly uneasy, as if a thousand fingers were pointing behind her.

Like a fishbone stuck in the throat.

Like sitting on a bed of needles.

Ni Hongwu's thoughts cleared within the chaos.

Her first clear thought was surprisingly, would that message have been safely retrieved if she had listened to "Hope for Eternity" first?

Could she pretend to be all tranquil, as if she had never said such words?

Unfortunately, it's too late.

And even if that message was really withdrawn, her previous evaluation of Xian Yu's songwriting ability in the interview with Literature and Art Gazette was also similar in terms of description and expression.

Ni Hongwu totally gave up her struggle.

She simply listened to the song several times over.

With these repeats, it seemed that she had a new insight each time.

Every time the song sang "People have their joys and sorrows, and the moon has its periods of waxing and waning," she could clearly feel her heart beating faster.

And when the song sang "Hope for Eternity, a thousand miles share the beauty," she could always feel a resonance coming from the depth of her heart.

After countless replays, Ni Hongwu finally removed her headphones.

The lyrics she finally focused on were not the ones just mentioned, but a five-character phrase interspersed therein:

“Lonely at the top!”

These five characters represented all of Ni Hongwu’s feelings, it encapsulated all her shock from this song!

Lonely at the top...

Taking a deep breath, Ni Hongwu looked at the songwriter’s column and expectedly saw the name “Xian Yu”.

Xian Yu...

She couldn’t help but give a bitter smile.

What is the furthest distance in the world?

Is it me standing on the 18th floor, proud of myself, while you are looking at everyone from the stratosphere?

It’s not a matter of inferior skills.

There is simply no comparison.

We’re not even on the same plane!

Leaving aside the embarrassment and humiliation of getting bitchslapped, what Ni Hongwu is most certain of now is that she could never in her life write lyrics like this—

So she surrenders!

She sincerely concedes defeat!

No, this is no longer a song lyric; it has reached the realm of ancient poetry!

Her command of literary language is renowned in the lyrics-writing world, and having been well-versed in poetry and literature since childhood, she would never consider “How Long Will the Full Moon Last” to be some low-quality, melodramatic ancient-style song—

That would be a blasphemy against these lyrics!

Blue Star has many niche ancient-style music pieces. Although Ni Hongwu admits there is indeed a great portion of these ancient-style songs that are excellent, the vast majority of them, in her view, are pieces of garbage penned haphazardly just for the sake of rhyming, often rendering the lyrics meaningless.

What about lyrics like, “Her eyebrows, as beautiful as a painting”?

What about terms such as “elegance”, “youth”, and “time of one’s life”?

What about words like “cinnabar”, “hoarse”, and “fight to the death”?

What about expressions like “Tears fell like rain, then, white hair abound”?

Do they believe using several words they think are romantic, enhancing them with some rhymes, could make them ancient-style songs?

If the purpose is not to consider connotations and art, she could also casually think of dozens of simple rhyming words ending in ‘a’ and piece them together into rhyming sentences while she’s taking a dump.

But what would be the point?

She has nothing but pure disdain for these types of lyrics.

Ancient-style music should be one of the most complex forms, but in the hands of some self-professed ancient-style musicians, it's been proliferated to the point of being a disaster. It's as if they are all cut from the same template, with even the accompanying musical instruments remaining the same.

Those lyrics are not even worthy of shining the shoes of "How Long Will the Full Moon Last".

Thinking about this, Ni Hongwu's eyes again fiercely focused on the lyrics of the song:

"It must be written according to the format of a certain classical verse, and moreover, it's a poem about mid-autumn moon appreciation. I'll have to study the specifics later. But the most amazing part is the lower part of the verse; it's completely on the level of the timeless classic lines ..."

The more Ni Hongwu tasted it, the more startled she was!

The more she considered it, the more shocked and impressed she felt!

Only such verses can be called truly mesmerizing!

At this moment.

Another message appeared in the three-person chat group.

It was Yin Dong who sent the message, responding to Fei Yang's thirteen question marks saying:

"On par with the melody."

Fei Yang then replied: "On par with the performance."

Ni Hongwu's face instantly darkened!

Aren't you two funny?

Is that my fault, huh?

It's easy to nitpick when you're not the one doing the work, isn't it?

Forget about me, you pick anyone from the current lyric-writing world, or even the entire Blue Star, and have them challenge "How Long Will the Full Moon Last" on lyric writing!

If they dare not to kneel, I will take your surname!

Ni Hongwu initially wanted to reply with something along the lines of: it's not that I can't, it's that the opponent is too unfathomable. But she suddenly realized that digression was meaningless. — What do these composers and singers know about poetry? So, she could only slowly type a question mark:

“?”

As this question mark appeared, the internet was going wild due to more and more people finishing their first listen of "How Long Will the Full Moon Last"—.

Immortal Su has arrived!

Chapter 425: A Mountain in the Lyric Writing World

"Following the 'Song of Water', all other verses are abandoned!"

This is a later evaluation of Su Dongpo's 'Song of Water', and Su Immortal is another alias many people have for Su Dongpo.

Here, the 'Song of Water' is just a verse title.

In fact, there were many prominent figures in the ancient Celestial Dynasty who wrote the series 'Song of Water,' but Su Dongpo's is the most famous. It also has broad public appeal and the highest literary praise, its glory outshining all other works with the same verse title!

Unfortunately, Blue Star does not have this work.

So when the people of Blue Star heard the song ‘May We All be Blessed with Longevity’ and saw this ancient verse gradually unfold like a picture scroll, their first inner feeling was shock. Even without Ni Hongwu’s literary background, they could intuitively appreciate the grandeur of this verse!

“Damn, these lyrics are explosive!”

“What kind of divine lyrics are these, anyway!”

“My mom asked me why I’m listening to the song on my knees!”

“Listen to the first sentence, ‘How Long Will the Full Moon Last,’ well, quite straightforward. Listen to the second sentence, ‘I raise my wine glass and ask the blue sky,’ hmm, interesting. Keep listening, ‘In the heavens I see, what is the year tonight,’ I can’t close my mouth already...”

“You can’t close your mouth just listening to this? Then wouldn’t your jaw dislocate when you hear the rest?”

“I know Xian Yu is a great lyricist, but I didn’t realize he was this brilliant!”

“I no longer have the courage to call him Xianyu the old thief...this is not an old thief, it’s clearly an ancestor!”

“Damn, your ancestor is your ancestor!”

“My grandpa just entered the room and asked what song I was listening to, and had me write down the lyrics for him...”

“Why do I feel that this verse is in no way inferior to some of the poems that have been passed down in history?”

“Upstairs, you are not alone!”

“Our Chinese teacher has just @ everyone in the group to recite the entire lyrics of ‘May We All be Blessed with Longevity’!”

“Whether Xian Yu is a maestro or not I don’t know, but he’s definitely a master lyricist!”

“...”

The song comments area of major streaming apps first exploded!

Following this, the hashtag #MayWeAllbeBlessedwithLongevity made it to the top of the Tribe’s hot topic chart in less than an hour, as if it was on a rocket!

Then right after,

Hashtags starting with #MayWeAllbeBlessedwithLongevity also made it to the top of the blog’s topic chart around the same time!

The lists of hot topics in both Tribe and Blog were set off by this song!

At the same time, ‘May We All Be Blessed with Longevity’ shook countless literary youths’ circles with its lyrics——

“The most brilliant lyrics in the history of the music scene have been born!”

“If Blue Star has a master lyricist, it would definitely be Xian Yu.”

“Fish Papa, are you intentionally not letting other lyricists sleep in the middle of the night?”

“Xian Yu, always a god!”

“What a battle of gods, watch Xian Yu dominate with one verse!”

“...”

Not just the public, the shock from the lyric world at ‘May We All Be Blessed with Longevity’ is even more unspeakable, their reaction is even more extreme than that of Ni Hongwu!

“These are not just lyrics, this is art!”

Famous lyricist Rabbit Two, who has often discussed Xian Yu’s songwriting, voiced his opinion and his admiration was clear.

“After listening to ‘May We All Be Blessed with Longevity,’ my first reaction is, does such a song really need a melody? It was only when I listened to it for the second time that I realized, this verse doesn’t even need a musical tune to express itself, it is still art when considered in isolation. This is the first time I have rated lyrics as ‘art’, and probably the only time.”

Not just Rabbit Two.

Many lyricists of the same caliber within the industry, and even some lyricists close to the level of Ni Hongwu, were bombarded out of nowhere. No one can remain calm in front of such lyrics.

Lyricist Daoist Monk commented as followed:

“I don’t dare speak for other aspects as they are not my areas of expertise, but in terms of lyric writing, ‘May We All Be Blessed with Longevity’ eclipses everything, including Ni Hongwu’s lyrics this time, as well as all the works I have published and will publish. I hope everyone will not continue to regard Xian Yu as just a songwriter, he is also a top-notch lyricist.”

Lyricist Easygoing then posted a status update: “Ni Hongwu’s lyrics this time have reached the peak of her ability, which I originally thought highly of, but seeing the lyrics of ‘May We All Be Blessed with Longevity,’ I find my initial thoughts laughable. If I can write such a work in my lifetime, I would be content.”

Lyricist Dengguo stated bluntly: “Letting Easygoing to write such a work would satisfy him in his lifetime, allowing me to write such a work, I would be willing to die instantly. From today onward, Xian Yu has become a towering mountain in the world of lyrics.”

Lyricist Phantom Wing: “The popular music circle has always had no clear division between lyrics and melody, but the generally recognized model is the melody leading the lyrics. However, Xian Yu’s work this time will become a rare piece that can be driven by the lyrics for song promotion, even if everyone forgets the melody, they won’t forget this verse. Anyone who disagrees with this can look back in ten years.”

“...”

Everyone came out along the way!

All the experienced lyricists were blown out!

Note that lyricists like Daoist Monk and Easygoing are actually a step above Ni Hongwu.

Even they gave such evaluations, even going so far as to belittle themselves to elevate Xian Yu, isn’t that enough to illustrate how amazing the lyrics of this song are?

This took the shock to the netizens to a whole new level!

“I thought I had already highly appreciated this verse, but the maestros in the lyricist circle can even praise it more. Hasn’t Xian Yu become a huge mountain in the lyricist circle?”

“Why do I feel that everyone’s praise for Xian Yu’s lyrics is higher than their praise for his songwriting?”

“If it’s the lyrics of ‘May We All Be Blessed with Longevity,’ I feel the lyricists’ evaluations are entirely justifiable.”

“All I can say is, Xian Yu, please accept my knees.”

“Even if Xian Yu has a mansion, it can’t hold that many knees.”

“...”

And when the sun rises and the next day comes,

Someone in a high-end literary exchange group posted the lyrics of ‘May We All be Blessed with Longevity.’

Please note, this group is not for the petty literary elite.

This is a genuine literary exchange group. Each member is a heavyweight in the literary world, including some top-tier cultural figures who have written authoritative books. Ordinary people simply cannot enter.

Still, this group was also stirred by the lyrics of ‘May We All be Blessed with Longevity’ at this moment.

“May I ask... who wrote this masterpiece?”

A famous professor from a university’s literature department couldn’t help but join the discussion in the group.

Then, other literature big names with a long line of titles also appeared in the group one after another...

Chapter 426: Twilight of the Gods

Experts reveal their mastery with just one move.

Each member of this literary exchange group is a prominent figure in the cultural circle.

Those who try to fish for reputation in this group must possess a certain level of literary accomplishment. Just a glance is enough for them to appreciate the ingeniousness of this poem!

Some have even picked up their phones and started reflecting on the content.

Their recitations strictly follow the rhythm and blend well with the artistic conception, so much so that it feels like it all flows naturally.

In fact, just the upper part of this poem already reveals the author's grand narratives!

It combines ethereal and grand atmosphere with a sense of ancient and solitary mood that seems to seep through the paper!

"How long will the full moon last..."

Initially, it poses questions in a straightforward manner, which seems very simple.

You must know, what the literary world pursues is a kind of implicit beauty, various poets tend to pursue complexity and infinite changes.

It seems show-offy, but at the same time more artistic.

In the eyes of some, a poem about the moon would be perfect if it doesn't contain the word 'moon' at all.

However, this author chose to go against the grain.

The poem starts with the question "How long will the full moon last", like a rebellious "you tell me not to do this, but I'm going to do it anyway" style.

But...

Combined with the subsequent reading, this kind of rebelliousness seems more like a reflection of returning to simplicity!

Still disagree?

Keep reading then!

Starting from "I wonder what the Celestial Palace above looks like", the poet's artistic conception has transitioned from babbling brooks to towering mountains and flowing rivers. When people read

the lines after “I wish to ride the wind and return”, they even feel the momentum of a long river flowing into the sea!

Yet, the text remains so ethereal.

Just a few lines depict an enchanting celestial scene.

By this point, denial is not an option!

Therefore, even such a high-level literary group is startled, this is almost inevitable. If a masterpiece like “Song of Water” can’t make waves in the literary world, it would surely be a display of incapability of the literary circle...

However, when that professor asked who the author was, the person who shared the poem didn’t reply immediately.

Instead, the discussion triggered by this work has been roaring.

“Excellent poem, almost the best example amongst all moon-chanting poems I’ve read!”

“Over the many years of development, poems with deep and grand moods are countless. But in our modern times, many works tend to exhaust all their linguistic resources and wander in complexity and variation. Of course, masters who could return to simplicity exist, but when it comes to moon-themed poems, only a scarce few have reached this level of artistic conception, this author is not ordinary.”

“Indeed.”

“As the poem changes, so does its artistic conception, even expanding on it but remaining so effortless...”

“What a great line ‘Wishing that people will last forever, sharing the beauty of the moon even miles apart’, it’s extraordinarily brilliant.”

“I like this line better, ‘People have sorrow and joy, partings and reunions, the moon has waxing and waning, completeness and lack’, the mutual analogy between the moon and humans is truly wonderful.”

“...”

The professor who first asked the question tagged the person who shared the poem again: “Little Wang, who is the author of this work? Don’t tell me it’s you, I know very well how much you’re capable of.”

“Professor Wang, don’t say that, can’t I make... alright, I really can’t write this kind of lyric.”

The person who shared the poem, nicknamed “Little Wang”, replied awkwardly.

However, the big shots in the group quickly zeroed in on the keyword in Little Wang’s words:

“Lyric?”

“Did you mistype?”

“This clearly appears to have the rhythm of an ancient poem. If I’m not mistaken, it should be a variant of ‘Song of Water’. This is natural considering that ‘Song of Water’ has been passed down for so many years and has undergone countless forms.”

“Absolutely, can a songwriter of a popular song compose such a masterpiece?”

“Little Wang, you must speak more precisely.”

“...”

Although the group is made up of big shots, their statuses vary.

This “Little Wang”, despite being a very famous literary figure outside, is still one of the juniors in this group of big shots. He is considered in the lower rank of the group, anyone can reprimand him:

“It truly is a song lyric!”

Little Wang quickly shared the song titled “Wishing that people will last forever” into the group, feeling a bit apprehensive.

This group has a lot of old fellows.

Something like the “war of gods” is for youngsters, old fellows wouldn’t care about that.

They just hold a book, read for an entire morning, then discuss it in the group in the afternoon. Occasionally, when there’s some movement in the academic circle, these old fellows would consider whether to voice out...

But when they do voice out, the literary world trembles.

The group chat temporarily quieted down.

Apparently, everyone has gone to listen to the song.

After a few minutes is enough for everyone to finish the song, the group started bustling again.

“Such a good poem is used as a lyric? Absolutely absurd!”

Some big shot seemed to be very unsatisfied.

However, differing views were quickly voiced:

“I think it’s quite good. Young people like to listen to music these days. The popularity of ancient poetry culture can’t compare with that of songs. The combination of the two might ignite more interest in ancient poetry culture.”

“Such a waste!”

Another big shot made his view known.

The opposing opinion followed closely: “Liu, why would you say that it’s a waste? Composing music for these words full of ancient charm wouldn’t conceal the poem’s excellency, rather it would contribute to its propagation.”

“...”

The old guys with differing opinions were increasing, even trends of quarrels emerged.

Little Wang cautiously made his statement: “I think... esteemed teachers, may I speak?”

“Speak!”

The professor who first asked the author spoken up.

Little Wang nervously typed out: “Old poems were made to be sung. It’s just that most of the old tunes haven’t been passed down. Setting a poem to music is actually something the ancients would do. Moreover, both the melody and lyrics of this song were created by Xian Yu himself, so of course he has the right.”

This statement sparked reflection within the group.

Although some elders were stubborn, they weren’t unwilling to accept correct opinions.

“There’s some truth in what you’re saying.”

“The combination of verse and music indeed has ancient origins.”

“Exactly, you old folks are simply outdated, I listen to pop music normally too, this song is sung incredibly, there’s also another pop song titled “Ten Years” that I love, you guys obviously haven’t heard it.”

“It was indeed sung well, the girl who sang it seems to comprehend the poetic imagery.”

“It’s just the ‘qi’ in Low Qi Door sounded like ‘yi’, it was unclear.”

“...”

Little Wang, looking at the group chat, didn’t dare to say that “Ten Years” was also written by Xian Yu.

Then.

Someone in the group asked again: “The author is Xian Yu, does anyone here know him?”

“Xian Yu eh, I know him.”

Surprisingly, one of the authoritative figures from the Literature and Art Association also appeared and sent a lengthy message:

“Didn’t you guys discuss a few poems last year? The line ‘Birds extinct as mountains stay, forest paths erased by none in the way’ is from Xian Yu. Also, he wrote the peach blossom poem ‘The world laughs at my madness’, it’s from his movie called ‘Flirting Scholar’. There are some other works that I can’t recall at the moment. I had someone investigate him, this Xian Yu is an ungraduated college student, young and yet so talented. I had considered inviting him to join the Association, but he’s too young right now. It’s not feasible.”

Upon reading this, Little Wang jumped with fright.

Blue Star’s Literature and Art Association was paying attention to Xian Yu?

This was a mouthpiece for the arts, an official body that manages artists!

From seasonal rankings to various novel awards and so on, they were all hosted by the Literature and Art Association!

The authority that countless people vied to get into was seriously considering the prospect of absorbing Xian Yu?

They didn't take him immediately because Xian Yu was too young?

If he continues to develop, what will become of this fish?

Shivering, Little Wang began to consider whether he could get in touch with this mysterious Xian Yu at some opportune moment later.

"He's Xian Yu?"

"A college student?"

"Now that you've said all this, I get it. The kid likes music, likes classical literature and culture, likes to fuse them together. There's nothing wrong with that."

"He's a good prospect."

"To write such poetry at a young age, he's a genius."

"I really love his line 'I urge you to drink one more glass, as past Yangguan pass, no more old friends will you find.' Just don't know which Yangguan pass? Is it the one in Chu land or Wei land?"

"In a few years, we should invite him into this group. Good prospects should be protected, understand?"

A user with gibberish as ID commented.

One of the representatives of the Literature and Art Association quickly responded, as this user with the gibberish ID was obviously not an ordinary member:

“Certainly, such a good prospect, we can’t let him grow up twisted. The Literature and Art Association will need talents like him in the future.”

“Also, about the textbooks being recompiled...”

“We have some other matters, let’s continue in private chat...”

This group chat, seemingly idle, has a tremendous impact on the outside world!

About two hours after the Xian Yu discussion, the Literature and Art Association’s official tribe suddenly shared the song “How Long Will the Full Moon Last”.

The accompanying text was:

“The lyrics are strictly based on the ancient poetic rhythm, named ‘Song of Water’, How long will the full moon last, consider this the pinnacle of the moon theme!”

Immediately after.

A community account with Blue Star as its profile picture shared it: “Excellent!”

The official seal was affixed, and the conclusion was made!

All debate about how excellent the lyrics of “How Long Will the Full Moon Last” were fell silent with the Literature and Art Association’s conclusion.

The peak of moon-themed songs!

The official conclusion is more impactful than any songwriter’s praises and any netizen’s heated discussion!

Meanwhile.

On the seasonal ranking chart.

“How Long Will the Full Moon Last”, which had led all songs from its release, saw its downloads surge again, leaving the second place far behind!

In the industry.

Many hadn’t time to react before they feel like their throats were choked. Still, it was a maestro who finally managed to voice everyone’s inner thoughts, in a moment of trance:

“Twilight of the Gods...”

This was the first time in history that a song reached the apex of the Battle of the Gods solely by virtue of its lyrics.

Chapter 427: Second Consecutive Championship

What dragon versus tiger?

What fairy fighting a deity?

The fierce battle that the industry had expected, the scenario where the music industry’s top bigwigs were locked in a tough fight, didn’t happen in the December season rankings.

This was only the first day of the Battle of the Gods...

All suspense was prematurely ended by Xian Yu’s lyrics!

After the industry regained its senses, there were surprised exclamations one after another, with many people having a surreal feeling:

“What the heck is this?”

“Did I time travel or did I open this wrong, how is this outcome different from ‘Ten Years’ dominating in September?”

“If you look at the result and not the intent, indeed there is no difference, both are Xian Yu wreaking havoc.”

“Now that you mention it, I really feel like I’m dreaming of September.”

“But the problem is, those who competed with Xian Yu in September were all underdogs, but those who competed with Xian Yu in December are all singing kings and queens and their corresponding music maestros!”

“All the big shots brought out their aces in December, only Xian Yu flipped the table!”

“This is totally against the rules!”

“Can you even play like this? In a competition for composing, someone eventually won the Battle of the Gods with lyrics?”

“If you say you don’t accept it, it’s normal for him to win given how he wrote the lyrics; if you say you accept it, the music and performance, although excellent, are not enough to create havoc, isn’t this a hard pill for other big shots to swallow?”

Someone couldn’t help but exclaim:

“Although Xian Yu won the Battle of the Gods a bit sneakily, the big shots didn’t lose in vain, the lyrics of ‘May We Live Long’ are simply a timeless masterpiece. The official review called it the pinnacle of moon-themed poetry. You must know that there are countless pieces of ancient moon-themed poetry after hundreds of years of literary development, and none has been universally acknowledged as the pinnacle of moon-themed poetry.”

“...”

The industry’s sighs also directly voiced the frustration of the kings, queens and maestros during that time.

A comparison of performance?

Everyone definitely admits that Jiang Kui sang very well, better than anyone could imagine!

So good that no one would doubt that Jiang Kui would officially step into the top ranks with this song!

But...

Even if Jiang Kui sang very well, he's just on par with the kings and queens of singing!

A comparison of composition?

Everyone also acknowledges that Xian Yu's composition is as good as always, in line with his usual output level.

But, the works presented by the maestros this time are also exceptionally well-composed!

We won't say they're much better than Xian Yu's.

But they're definitely not worse than Xian Yu's!

Even, Xian Yu's composition is a bit inferior.

Because Xian Yu adopts a lyrical style in his composition, but for a song to top the chart, it needs to have a stronger melody and rhythm, like Xian Yu's 'Red Sun' which topped the chart last year, is a good example.

In other words...

If everyone only competed in performance and composition, 'May We Live Long' could not possibly have won the championship without any suspense, Xian Yu might not even be able to secure his position as the champion.

Everyone admits this.

But the problem lies with the lyrics.

The lyrics written by Xian Yu this time are too extraordinary, to the point that they're impressive, and even more so, the audience downloaded the entire song just because of the lyrics of 'May We Live Long'!

It's a strong bundle!

Those who like this song, even if they're not that interested in the music, would also extend their love from lyrics to the composition!

In response to this, a certain queen could only laugh bitterly and say:

"Xian Yu has provided a new strategy for the competition for the season rankings, but this new strategy is not replicable unless there's another lyricist who can write a song with lyrics of a timeless classic like 'Song of Water'."

Yes.

Everyone is not convinced by the composition and performance, but they can also understand the audience's choice. 'Song of Water' is simply a work of art, everyone is willing to pay for the artistry of the whole song!

How can anyone complain?

Does Xian Yu cheat?

Xian Yu didn't cheat, lyrics are part of a song, and good lyrics naturally enhance the song.

Let's not go far, just take a song from Celestial Dynasty from a few years ago as an example.

Why did Mao Mao's 'Dissipating the Sorrow' go viral the moment it was released?

Isn't it because of the pleasant melody and superb lyrics?

If you're not convinced, why not write a 'Song of Water' level piece of lyrics?

Can't write it?

Isn't that it.

This is Xian Yu's unique advantage.

The music scene can't just obliterate Xian Yu's enormous advantage because others don't have it.

Are black people born to be good at running, so we should ban black people from competing in races?

Celestial Dynasty is unbeatable in table tennis, so should the Olympics remove this event?

That doesn't make sense.

Because if you maximize your talent and effort, you can do it too.

That's why Liu Xiang once dominated a certain event, even suppressing countless black athletes.

A certain king's summary of the Battle of the Gods was fairly objective: "All I can say is that in order to retain the title of this year's champion song in the Battle of the Gods, Xian Yu brought out his secret weapon that he had never used before and successfully achieved a one-hit kill."

Not just a one-hit kill, it's a fatal blow.

And when countless netizens witnessed these reactions from all sectors one after another, and saw the official review of 'Song of the Water', their shocked hearts added a bit more worship for Xian Yu:

“Two consecutive Battle of the Gods championships!”

“Xian Yu really defended his title, wasn’t someone analyzing Xian Yu’s chance of winning based on past Battle of the Gods data before, who could have thought that Xian Yu could seize such a low chance of defending the title.”

“With two consecutive championships, is a triple crown far away?”

“I was going to say you’re dreaming, but based on Xian Yu’s usual saying half of what he thinks, let’s just withhold this possibility for now, even though the chance of this happening is countless times lower than two championships.”

“I’m just a mindless fan, I just have to say, the day when the Yu Dynasty rules the music scene will come!”

“Stop talking about this for now, haven’t you guys noticed yet?”

“Noticed what?”

“I’ve already felt it, the will of the number two from the universe.”

“Wait a minute!”

“Don’t tell me?”

“King Fei...”

“Did he...”

“...come”

“Second????”

At this moment, almost everyone spontaneously opened the December season rankings, looking for the first figure under Xian Yu.

Then, all the netizens got shocked!

The song currently ranked second in the Battle of the Gods is a new song called ‘Leap’, and if one opens the details of this song, they will find...

Lyrics: Ni Hongwu

Composition: Yin Dong

Singer: Fei Yang

The eternal King Fei!

The will of the number two has quietly arrived!

Chapter 428: The Higher You Climb, The Colder It Becomes

“Two, two, two, two, two, two, two, two!”

When they perceived that the inscrutable will had descended, netizens instantly launched their most potent onslaught. The comments section on Fei Yang’s page was overrun in a flash, that flood of “Twos” was quite a spectacle.

“I am laughing so hard my stomach hurts!”

“I feel sorry for King Fei, please leave him alone!”

“Even though I am a huge fan of Fei Yang for a decade, I can’t help but laugh. This is classic. What is meant to come will always arrive. Boss, you can’t avoid your fate of always coming second whenever Xian Yu appears.”

“It’s trending at number one already!”

“Fei Yang: My songs may only be second, but my trends will always be first. Fellas, at what level am I on this wave?”

“If it’s two, dive deep into two.”

“Xian Yu: Bro, don’t be so polite, sit wherever you like. In September, someone tried to steal your second place, I didn’t allow that. I secured the second place for you with just one song and two words, and only you can sit at this position.”

“I used to be a skeptic, now I believe that there really is a will of two!”

“This wave of Xian Yu is also favored by the will of two, the two of consecutive championships, and the two of Perennial Runner-up, actually have the same origin!”

“...”

It’s not just the comments section.

A large number of ghostly video edits about Fei Yang have also started to appear on some original video websites, where netizens have rewritten lyrics according to the melody of “Long Life Wishes”.

For example, this one:

“When will there be first, I ask the open sky, who will inherit the will next year, today. I wish to ride the wind and return, but fear losing the hot search, too cold at the height, longing for Chen Zhiyu, second place in the mortal world...”

In the video, Fei Yang’s previous singing clips are edited together, without any sense of discordance.

The joy of the mischief makers on the Internet is always this simple.

This happiness, is all built on Fei Yang’s pain.

At this moment,

Fei Yang is staring at the comments section on his page, with a slight twitch at the corner of his mouth.

The assistant next to him gently coughs and says:

“Look on the bright side, Fei bro, you’ve topped the trending again, everyone is paying a lot of attention to you. Just now, we received a few activity invitations, they said they want to collaborate with you. These activities are sponsored by large brands, initially we couldn’t beat our competitors, but now these brands have unanimously named you as their desired guest!”

Fei Yang is silent.

Ever since he landed second the last time, his career has been smooth sailing, welcomed everywhere he goes. But Fei Yang is fully aware of the reason behind his popularity.

He won in his career, but lost in his life!

Seeing Fei Yang still looking upset, the assistant continued:

“Initially, Chen Zhiyu continuously ranked second three times, and then it was your turn, Fei Bro. Now, you’ve consecutively ranked second three times too, the third generation should take the stage now.”

Fei Yang suddenly glared at the assistant.

The assistant got a scare, that’s when he realized that he was wrong to bring up the subject of the will of two in front of Fei Yang.

He thought Fei Yang was about to thunder, but to his surprise, Fei Yang raised his eyebrows and blurted out, as if he had seen a glimmer of hope:

“Really?”

Assistant: “...”

He was seriously considering whether or not to tell him that some fish product companies contacted him today, wanting to pay a sky-high price to invite King Fei as their spokesperson?

“...”

Of course, not all netizens are playing around this old joke “The will of two”.

Along with the success of “Long Life Wishes”, a lot of in-depth interpretation about this song has appeared on the internet.

Someone said:

“I’m curious as to why Xian Yu didn’t release ‘Song of Water’ during the Mid-Autumn festival, since it’s clearly a Moon-themed song, but instead waited until December?”

“That’s simple.”

Someone immediately answered: “Perhaps Xian Yu wrote this song in September, but didn’t have the music for it yet, so ‘Ten Years’ was released first.”

Another person was puzzled:

“It’s clear that ‘Song of Water’ is expressing the author’s longing for someone, who exactly is Xian Yu thinking about?”

No one could answer this question.

The line that most sparked everyone’s interest was “It’s too cold at the height”.

Some people assumed the literal meaning of this sentence, but more interpreted it as Xian Yu’s self-reflection:

“Think about it, how many times has Xian Yu ranked first since his debut?”

“There is no position higher than first, but because Xian Yu has always been the first, he would feel ‘It’s too cold at the height’, right?”

“If this is true, then Xian Yu is really arrogant.”

“Xian Yu is young, and it’s hard for young people not to be arrogant because of their talent. However, Xian Yu does possess the loud and arrogant capital.”

“I think Xian Yu might be expressing his feeling for his peers. Although he doesn’t hold the highest position in the music industry, he is on top among his peers. Such a person may not have friends because he is too good, so good that others can only look up to him.”

“Xian Yu surely has friends, but probably not many, just look at the number of people he follows on his personal page.”

“That’s true, Xian Yu only follows Chu Kuang and Shadow in his tribe, and these two happen to be very outstanding figures in their respective fields.”

“...”

The interpretation continues to escalate.

Someone even mentioned later, “Hoping longevity lasts and shares the beauty of this graceful moonlight over thousands of miles” is Xian Yu expressing hope for the future merger of Blue Star.

Everyone is separated by thousands of miles, but can still share the same round, bright moon.

“You have to know it’s impossible for everyone to share the bright moon, due to the time difference, when it’s daytime in Qin land, it’s nighttime for Yan People. Xian Yu, being a modern person, couldn’t possibly not understand this. However, he still wrote as such, which shows that he’s expressing a point of view: the geographical distances and cultural differences of each state are not

a problem. In the end, we all share Blue Star, so the ‘beauty’ probably not only refers to the moon, but also the entire Blue Star.”

This viewpoint was agreed with by many people.

As the analysis continued, netizens felt that the lyrics of ‘Song of Water’ were more profound than they had imagined, indirectly promoting the song’s further popularity.

Meanwhile, back at Lin Yuan’s home.

Even his elder and younger sisters were staring at Lin Yuan with gossiping faces: “Why did you write ‘Long Life Wishes’? Who are you missing? Do you have a sweetheart?”

Lin Yuan: “...”

Most of the stories in the songs are made up by lyricists and have no specific source.

However, it seems that everyone believes that ‘Song of Water’ was not created out of thin air, but was some sort of self-expression by Lin Yuan, and people loved to analyze it word by word.

Lin Yuan was caught off guard.

All he could do was attempt to answer: “Ziyu?”

“What?”

His sisters’ eyes widened, their faces looked a little odd. Ziyu doesn’t sound like a girl’s name.

“...”

Lin Yuan looked even more helpless: “Su Zhe.”

His sister was surprised: “Two people?”

His younger sister screamed: “Mom, Lin Yuan is a playboy!”

Chapter 429: They Started It First

For the chart-topping success of “Song of Water,” Lin Yuan was not surprised because the song deserved such recognition.

To be more precise, it’s “May People Always “... that deserves such recognition.

Some listeners in the Celestial Dynasty felt indifferent toward “May People Always ...” because everyone was so familiar with the lyrics that they could recite them instantly. Therefore, they would have preconceived notions about the melody based on the meaning of the words...

Cognitive bias was inevitable.

It’s somewhat similar to cognitive blindness. Many people overlook the key point that Blue Star people were seeing “Song of Water” for the first time. Observer with a good taste could intuitively feel the extraordinary quality of this famous verse.

However, Lin Yuan also knew that his championship song was indeed a clever use of lyrics.

But this use of cleverness could not be replicated by others; it was his unique advantage.

Of course, Lin Yuan also listened to the works of other “King of Singing” contestants by Fei Yang.

For Lin Yuan, listening to music was an enjoyable process, especially listening to good songs.

It must be said, when the maestros make a move, it is truly frightening.

Every song from these people was excellent, some even classic, worthy of the standard of the Battle of Gods.

If it was solely about singing and composition, Lin Yuan felt he might not have been able to rank first.

“I can’t use this strategy frequently.”

Lin Yuan thought.

Because Blue Star audience were so surprised by this new and shocking lyric, they naturally felt amazed.

But if it occurred again, this sense of amazement would be relatively weakened.

At least the lyrics would make a noticeable decrease in the song’s download rate.

Everything is most amazing the first time.

If it happens again or even a few more times, people may still like words, but may not necessarily like the song itself unless the song itself is also uniquely charming.

This charm should at least be at the standard of “May People Always...”.

And if this song is used as a benchmark, even the System might not have much inventory.

So, cherish it and take it slow.

Regarding the benefits derived from the song’s wildfire popularity, Lin Yuan naturally reaped a lot. As the singer of the song, Jiang Kui naturally also benefited greatly—

She finally made it to the top tier!

Her career was moving up another level!

In the next few days.

Beyond the discussions about the song itself, praise was also showered on Jiang Kui's singing skills.

The industry said she "held her ground on the stage competing with the King and Queen of Singing."

Many mainstream media gave the evaluation that she was "a new generation singer with the potential to become the Queen of Singing".

Even some magazines said Jiang Kui was "a pearl discovered by Xian Yu".

Interviews and notices poured in for Jiang Kui, just like when Sun Yaohuo stepped into the top tier, even at a higher standard!

"I thought you would need two more songs to break into the top tier, but it turns out one song is enough!"

Jiang Kui's agent was overjoyed.

But what the agent didn't expect was that Jiang Kui didn't seem as happy as expected.

"What's wrong?"

The agent was startled.

Jiang Kui said resignedly, "I don't know if I will ever encounter a song like 'May People Always...' again..."

The agent gave a start, and sighed:

"How many singers get to encounter such a piece in their lifetime, and you want to encounter another?"

There was something else the agent didn't say:

Even Xian Yu might have a hard time replicating the brilliance of “May People Always...”

This was a thought many people kept in their hearts, but didn’t verbalize.

Asking Xian Yu to produce another work of this caliber may be a bit too demanding. The poetic artistry of “May People Always..” has reached a kind of peak.

Who can always stand at the peak?

...

The Battle of Gods was the last chance of the year.

With “May People Always...”, Lin Yuan officially completed the tasks assigned by the company at the beginning of the year, with the highest completion rate among the floors!

“Your performance remains unrivalled.”

“You started in September and still made it in time, successively promoting two top-tier stars. Our company hasn’t seen such large-scale moves in years!”

“With one more step up, Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui would be Kings and Queens of Singing. If Xian Yu continues to succeed, won’t he directly become the next maestro announced at the musical event?”

“As expected, once Xian Yu makes a move, he turns the tide!”

“I actually feel that Xian Yu is already at the level of the maestro. Although he hasn’t met the hard criteria of the musical event, considering his creative energy and the quality of his work, he’s entirely at the level of a maestro!”

There was lively discussion among the different floors of Starlight.

The discussion between the floors spoke to a fact.

That is, although Xian Yu doesn't have the title of maestro recognized by the musical event, his strength and status already possessed the essence of a maestro!

Starlight couldn't possibly turn a blind eye to this fact!

A few days later,

There was a rumor circulating in the company:

The company was planning to elevate Xian Yu's contract to the level of a maestro, and in future, Xian Yu would enjoy all the revenues from song downloads alone...

The rumor turned out to be true.

Lin Yuan's contract level was indeed raised to the maestro standard.

Although it was only the lowest standard for a maestro, it was indeed at the standard of a maestro.

"The company doesn't feign ignorance of your strength as a maestro just because you haven't officially received the Maestro Trophy from the musical event."

These words came from Ol' Zhou.

The contract upgrade was also arranged by Ol' Zhou.

When Ol' Zhou handed the new contract to Lin Yuan to sign, his old face broke into a grin:

"In the next two years, you should consider getting the Maestro Trophy from the musical event."

At this moment.

Ol' Zhou couldn't help but reminisce about the day he brought Xian Yu to the composition department.

At that time, the young man was still naive, holding a few introductory books on composition, bringing surprise to the composition department time after time with the calmest demeanor!

But even then, Ol Zhou had never dared to hope that the boy who once calculated his custom music royalty with a calculator could show strength compatible with a maestro in a few short years!

“Hmm.”

Lin Yuan's way of speaking was as succinct as before.

But Ol' Zhou knew, while Lin Yuan's reply was brief, it had perhaps imperceptibly revealed a posture of aiming for the Maestro Crown.

“Also...”

Watching Lin Yuan sign the new contract, Ol' Zhou informed: “The preparation for ‘Life of Pi’ seems a bit time and labor consuming, so you may not be able to shoot it yet.”

“Can't it be shot this year?”

“At least, it can't be shot in the first half of the year.”

Lin Yuan nodded, it seemed like he still needed another movie as a transition.

“By the way.”

Just as Ol' Zhou was about to leave, he paused and couldn't help but ask a question: “You seem not to like the Chu people?”

Lin Yuan was surprised: “Why do you say that?”

Ol' Zhou laughed heartily: "Because you've bullied the Chu people too much. Not only did you crush them in composition, you even crushed Ni Hongwu, the top lyricist of Chu land."

Lin Yuan was stunned.

So it seemed, hadn't Shadow done the same thing?

If he were to tell Ol' Zhou...he probably wouldn't believe...

They were the first ones to start it.

Chapter 430: The Pitiful Chu People

They really were the first ones to take action!

The Chu artist initially kept using the inside joke about Shadow being invisible to everybody, causing quite a stir online.

Although Lin Yuan didn't use a pseudonym to combat them directly, the release of "Death Note" was indeed a spectacular victory for the Qin people in this territorial dispute.

The catch was that Lin Yuan had just acquired master-level painting skills at the time...

Everyone found out eventually.

The scene was incredibly cruel.

What Ol' Zhou said hit right where it hurt the Chu people.

The Chu music scene sincerely felt that Xian Yu was intentionally picking fights with them.

It wasn't enough for him to perform a dimensional reduction on Chu music with a piano solo at the beginning of the year. At the end of the year, he took advantage of the Gods' War, using a classic and timeless composition to strike at Ni Hongwu, one of the top lyricists in Chu, completing a double kill!

“There must be some kind of grudge,” someone muttered.

“I suspect our Chu media upset Xian Yu. At that time, many media outlets were stepping on Xian Yu to elevate the image of our Chu musicians, so Xian Yu held his grudge, slapping us not just once, but twice. Plus, Ni Hongwu herself once reviewed Xian Yu’s lyrics in the ‘Literature and Art Gazette’. Was she even qualified to do so?”

“Those media outlets should apologize. Out of everyone to pick on, why choose Xian Yu!”

“We complained about this at that time, but it’s too late now. After all, we’re Xian Yu’s target now!”

“Damn, I’ll stay away from him in the future, alright?”

“Why is this man so exceptional? Not only is he talented at composing music, but also at writing lyrics. Is he leaving any room for us to breathe?”

“Why can’t he be one of us Chu people?”

“You’re being too biased, insisting on this territorial dispute. Blue Star is still merging, we’re all family with Xian Yu, like a distant glow shared by all under the same sky!”

“Nice try, you were the one jumping for joy before, and now you suddenly remember we’re family?”

“Qin, Qi, Chu, Yan, Han, Zhao, and Wei are like a family. Thank you!”

“...”

People online actually had quite a bit to say about this.

Many people supported Xian Yu’s stance against the Chu, but the reasons they gave were different from the conclusions drawn by the Chu music scene.

“The real culprit isn’t the Chu media, instead it’s within the comics circle!”

“Exactly, Xian Yu took aim at Chu just because the Chu people had bullied Shadow!”

“Xian Yu, Chu Kuang, and Shadow are known as ‘Three Bros’ with a shared goal and destiny. Shadow was bullied so Xian Yu is helping to take revenge, isn’t that perfectly normal?”

“Hmm, it seems I misunderstood before. I thought Chu Kuang and Xian Yu were the closest among the Three Bros, but I never realized Xian Yu cared so deeply for Shadow.”

“But didn’t Shadow get revenge himself?”

“Indeed, Shadow did take his own revenge, but Xian Yu was still upset. What’s wrong with that?”

“Makes sense...”

This discourse left the Chu music scene dumbfounded.

Huh?

The problem originated in the comic circle?

Yet, the comic circle was unhappy about this. A comic artist immediately stepped out to refute: “We never provoked Xian Yu. The first ones to provoke Xian Yu were clearly from your music circle.”

“Nonsense!

We in the music circle are not happy: “It was the media!”

Even the Chu media started to get uncomfortable.

Some media people grumbled privately: “When dogs bite dogs, you just know how to shirk responsibility. Both old and new grievances are taken into account.”

The Chu people fell silent in an instant.

Old and new grievances, sharing the blame equally; what's important is to learn how to get along with the Qin people and be kind to the Three Bros.

...

After Ol' Zhou left, Lin Yuan looked over the new contract provided by Starlight again. He felt relieved, as if he had completed the majority of a journey.

According to the new contract:

In the future, when Lin Yuan collaborates with any singer below the status of "King of Songs" or "Queen of Songs", he will be the sole benefactor of the download revenue. Neither the company nor the artist will share this portion of the profit.

This includes first-tier singers.

The reason "Kings of Songs" and "Queens of Songs" were excluded is primarily because of their significantly high industry status. Therefore, if Lin Yuan decided to collaborate with artists like Lan Yan and the like, both parties would have to negotiate the profit-sharing, although Lin Yuan would still get the lion's share.

"In future collaborations, try to work with first-tier artists primarily," Lin Yuan decided on this strategic move. After all, the first-tier artists aren't splitting the profits any more!

He wasn't hung up on the "King of Songs" or "Queen of Songs". In fact, many first-tier singers were as capable, if not more so. The only thing they lacked was the additional push from excellent pieces. Take Jiang Kui, for example...

But Ol' Zhou was not wrong in his advice.

Lin Yuan indeed had to aim for the Maestro's crown.

Long before Ol' Zhou's advice, Zheng Jing had reminded Lin Yuan to consider competing for the Maestro's crown at the Music Gala. The approval of the most prestigious music award would interest even someone like Lin Yuan, who isn't after fame.

Of course.

This idea also appealed to him because achieving official recognition as a Maestro could lead to making more money.

The desire for wealth remained Lin Yuan's natural instinct, regardless of his current fortunes. This desire was deeply rooted.

So, how to aim for the Maestro?

This would depend on which standard was the easiest to meet.

Gu Dong had previously explained to Lin Yuan that there were three ways to become a Maestro.

The first method was to promote two "Kings of Songs" or "Queens of Songs". Whether the "Kings of Songs" or "Queens of Songs" were indeed promoted by the composer would be decided by the Music Gala.

The second method was to win the Music Sage Award specifically established for composers by the Music Gala. Again, the Gala made the decision.

The third method was continuous success. For twelve months in a year, one must win each month, leading to a grand slam over the year. This was the only way one could succeed without the Music Gala's adjudication. It was something like proving oneself through sheer force.

In terms of difficulty, the first method was the easiest.

Lin Yuan just had to promote Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui to be a "King of Songs" or "Queen of Songs", and his task would be accomplished.

The second method was relatively difficult.

Who knew what the standard for the Music Sage award was? But winning an award that the Music Gala had not given out for several years wasn't something just anybody could achieve.

The third method was akin to hell-level difficulty.

It was possible in the past because there were separate states.

Now that all the states have merged, the numbers of Maestros and "Kings of Songs" or "Queens of Songs" have increased two to threefold. How easy could it be to win every single month?

Lin Yuan didn't immediately choose any method.

Who knew that he might just suddenly be awarded the Music Sage Prize one day?

This might not be the easiest way, but it was undoubtedly the least laborious way.

Furthermore, Ol' Zhou had also mentioned that "Life of Pi" still needed some time for preparation.

With this in mind, Lin Yuan decided to shoot another film in the meantime.

But which one should he choose?

Lin Yuan decided to ponder on this for a while.

Anyway, it was almost the New Year. There would be a holiday then, and even if he picked a script now, it would be too late for the company to make any substantial preparations for it.

With these thoughts, Lin Yuan packed up and readied to leave work.

Don't ask why he is leaving early before the end of the workday. He claims it's to find inspiration.