

All R. Artist 591

Chapter 591:

"You've really let yourself go..."

Whenever "Our Song" features Xian Yu, the family would tune in to watch.

After watching these recent performances, Lin Xuan was left dumbfounded like many netizens.

How did her brother's songs become more and more cheerful?

First, there was "Most Dazzling Ethnic Style", dubbed as the "Plaza Dance Anthem"!

Then "Good Luck Come" was called by everyone the "Market Song"!

Now "Dadalabengba" has become what netizens recognize as the "Second-dimension Divine Song"!

All three songs, none of them follows the conventional path.

All three songs, all are ominously catchy.

"You're not thinking of writing a song like these when you collaborate with Fei Yang, are you?"

His sister curiously looked at Lin Yuan.

His brother's style has taken a serious detour recently.

Lin Yuan shook his head.

His recent songs were indeed merry, but that's because "The Masked Singer" had become a bit too heavy.

So for "Our Song", Lin Yuan didn't want it to be that heavy again.

But...

Everything has a degree.

Lin Yuan doesn't plan to make it quirky in the next round, though he doesn't think there's anything wrong with these songs.

He quite likes them.

Indeed, many people on the Internet have concluded that after encountering Wei Haoyun, Xian Yu has completely let himself go, but no one has said that there is any problem with Xian Yu's music.

They are just kidding that he is increasingly mischievous.

This is also related to "The Masked Singer".

That show has made Lin Yuan realize some truths and become aware of some problems.

So he has changed some.

He's become more flexible.

And more entertaining.

Even though to the outside world, Xian Yu still speaks very little, and always has that calm and composed expression.

But through his music.

The changes in Xian Yu can be felt by many people.

The next day.

The competition broadcast continues.

But this round of competition has nothing to do with Lin Yuan.

Including the drawing round, Lin Yuan did not appear. He and Fei Yang had already been paired---

Fei Yang returned three days later.

Knowing that Fei Yang was coming back, Lin Yuan went to the production team to prepare for the next music assignments with Fei Yang.

Time was a bit tight.

However, upon meeting Fei Yang, Lin Yuan could clearly sense something off about Fei Yang's state.

Fei Yang is a very vibrant male singer.

He is one of the younger group in the King of Singing.

The man is brawny, tall and strong, seems very powerful, his spirit has always been full, he always speaks with full breath whether he is talking or singing.

After all, he is the Overlord in "The Masked Singer".

But now.

Fei Yang's face looked a bit waxy yellow, and his eyes were bloodshot, giving a feeling of heaviness, as if he had recently suffered a major blow.

Upon seeing Lin Yuan, Fei Yang forced his spirit up and proactively explained:

"I'm sorry, Teacher Admirable Fish, I missed the last round of competition because something happened at home."

Fei Yang and Lin Yuan, have already met in "The Masked Singer".

But this kind of face-to-face interaction, was their first time.

Lin Yuan nodded, "No problem."

He could see that Fei Yang's condition was not good.

Fei Yang seemed worried that Lin Yuan might misunderstand, he paused briefly, and added an explanation: "My father fell ill and was hospitalized for emergency care, so I rushed over to take care of him for a week....."

At this point.

Fei Yang managed a smile: "Fortunately, the emergency care was successful, his condition has stabilized. It's just that I have been under great mental stress lately, so I look a bit off. I will do my best to adjust before the competition."

Lin Yuan understandingly nodded.

If his own family had problems with their health, he would also put down the competition. This is just human nature.

"Follow me".

Lin Yuan went to his Pink Room.

Fei Yang glanced at his manager.

The manager patted Fei Yang's shoulder: "Teacher Admirable Fish should not be upset, but you definitely have to adjust your state, don't delay Teacher Admirable Fish's competition."

Fei Yang nodded silently, then followed Lin Yuan's steps.

Entering Admirable Fish's dedicated room.

Lin Yuan was flipping through his songbook in the cabinet.

He'd prepared more songs for "The Masked Singer" and they hadn't been used yet.

Also.

He'd prepared quite a few songs for "Our Song".

The number of these songs was enough for Lin Yuan to handle all the partnered singers on this stage.

And he was currently looking for one of them.

He felt that this song should suit the current Fei Yang very well.

Fei Yang sat on the couch, somewhat awkward.

Reality can be quite surreal.

He never expected that one day he would be in the same room with Xian Yu, who was the reason he became the Perennial Runner-up.

Just like he never thought that his normally healthy father would suddenly have to be hospitalized due to high blood pressure.

"Where is it....."

Lin Yuan continued to dig through his little song library.

Fei Yang curiously asked: "Is it a song prepared for me?"

While still flipping, Lin Yuan replied: "There happens to be a song that suits you quite well. Strictly speaking, nearly half of the songs here you can sing, because you have a wide range of singing."

Fei Yang laughed, suddenly feeling very happy.

Actually, he had heard similar compliments countless times before and his ears were almost numb.

But the same compliment coming from Xian Yu's mouth gave him a sense of indescribable achievement, as if it was some sort of terrific recognition.

Immediately afterwards, Fei Yang quickly collected his thoughts and scolded himself in his mind:

"Shameless!"

Admirable Fish only casually complimented him once, and he became so happy-

Wait a second!

Xian Yu wouldn't prepare a song similar to "Most Dazzling Ethnic Style" for him, would he?

In this show, Xian Yu has played those kinds of songs quite a few times!

Including the most recent "Dadalabengba" performed by Xian Yu himself, Fei Yang saw that too.

Right now, Fei Yang suddenly felt a bit nervous.

He could certainly sing this type of song, but Fei Yang always felt that these songs were not compatible with him, too discordant.

Of course, Lin Yuan had no idea what Fei Yang was thinking.

After flipping for half the day, he finally found what he was looking for: "It's this one!"

He took out the sheet music and handed it over to Fei Yang: "If you don't want to sing this one, I can find another one."

This song was a bit special, not what Lin Yuan originally prepared for Fei Yang.

Because of Fei Yang's words, he thought about this song.

But Lin Yuan wasn't sure what Fei Yang was thinking, he also respects the singer's thoughts.

"Oh, okay..."

Fei Yang nervously took the song handed over by Lin Yuan.

Before he even looked at it carefully, just seeing the title of the song in front of his eyes made Fei Yang stunned.

Several seconds later, he finally moved his gaze down to the lyrics below.

The lyrics were very simple.

Simple to the point of being straightforward.

Yet, these simple, straightforward lyrics stirred up immense ripples in Fei Yang's heart, so much so that he suddenly tightened his grip on the sheet music!

"It's this one!"

Before even checking the melody, he blurted out without a moment's hesitation, his voice trembling slightly, the bloodshot eyes seemed to be even worse ——

The song is called, "Father".

Chapter 592 Thank You for Being with Me

Following Fei Yang's return, the production team of "Our Song" announced the news that very night, emphasizing that the Fei Yang and Admirable Fish duo will perform in the next episode. The internet community instantly erupted with excitement——

"King Fei is back!"

"I'm so looking forward to the performance of Admirable Fish and King Fei!"

"I thought King Fei was going to withdraw from the competition altogether to avoid performing with Admirable Fish."

"King Fei would never do such a thing."

"Hasn't anyone seen the news? Fei Yang's absence last time had nothing to do with Admirable Fish. It was mainly because his father suddenly got sick with high blood pressure and was hospitalized. The reporters even captured Fei Yang caring for his father in the hospital!"

"So that's why."

"Will King Fei's condition be affected?"

"Hard to say, but it's understandable. Right after hearing of his father's ill-health, King Fei immediately took a leave from the show's production team. He spent a long time caregiving by the bedside, the stress must have been enormous."

"..."

Although the production team and Fei Yang himself did not explain the reason for his absence in the previous episode, his movements were still discovered and reported by journalists.

This dispelled the rumor for many that Fei Yang's absence was due to his reluctance to cooperate with Admirable Fish.

It should be noted.

When it was first announced that Fei Yang would be missing an episode, many people speculated that Fei Yang was trying to avoid Admirable Fish, leading to some controversy.

"At this point in Fei Yang's return, isn't his rehearsal time a bit short?"

"From what we can tell, his preparation and rehearsal time is certainly not as sufficient as the other singers."

"I wonder what kind of song Teacher Admirable Fish will prepare for Fei Yang."

"Could it be another brainwashing kind of song?"

"Fish Papa seems to be going all out."

"Pfft!"

"I can't possibly imagine King Fei singing a song like 'Most Dazzling Ethnic Style!'"

"..."

Admirable Fish's recent songs in the competition have all been very catchy.

Completely different from his previous style of composition.

As a result, many viewers were wondering if Admirable Fish was going to continue his hypnotic style and potentially skew Fei Yang's performance...

In the subsequent days.

Various discussions about this matter were circulating online.

During this time, Fei Yang also made every effort to rehearse.

Finally.

The time came to enter October!

The composers and singers welcomed the newest edition of the competition.

It was still broadcast live!

Just as the program began, countless viewers tossed out their comments—

"Looking forward to the performance of Admirable Fish and Fei Yang!"

"How is King Fei's condition?"

"Fei Yang is at a bit of a disadvantage as he didn't have as much preparation time as the other singers."

"That's not the point, the point is that Fei Yang has to sing a catchy song!"

"Given Fei Yang's current state, it's not appropriate, right?"

"Even if Fei Yang came second in this round, it would be understandable..."

"Fish Papa: in the end, I still lost to the will of the second place."

"..."

Fei Yang's father had just escaped a dangerous situation.

Most of the audience had heard about it.

Under such circumstances, if Admirable Fish were to have Fei Yang perform an upbeat and catchy song, it would feel somewhat inappropriate.

Meanwhile, on stage.

An Hong wore a smile:

"As everyone knows, due to the absence of Teacher Fei Yang in the last episode, Teacher Admirable Fish took the stage to perform a song himself. Teacher Fei Yang has returned for this episode, so our first performance today will be the collaboration that could not take place during the last episode. Please welcome our Teacher Admirable Fish and Singer Fei Yang with warm applause!"

Below the stage.

Applause erupted.

Lin Yuan sat in the composer's seat.

Fei Yang appeared on stage.

Yet when they saw Fei Yang, the audience noticed that his energy didn't seem quite right.

"Fei Yang looks a little out of it."

"He must be worried about his father."

"Being a singer is a job, it's always very busy, constantly running around for promotions and such. This leaves no time to stay with parents."

"I'll support him even if he doesn't perform well for this round."

"It would feel somewhat enforced if Admirable Fish made Fei Yang sing a catchy song this round."

"Indeed."

"A singer's state of mind really affects their performance."

"..."

Although everyone didn't mind Admirable Fish's catchy songs, this round, they all felt Fei Yang was not suited to sing that kind of song.

That being said.

Even if Fei Yang was in a good condition, him performing a catchy song would still have a bit of a deviation.

Just then.

Fei Yang nodded at the band.

The band began to play.

The soothing sound of the piano gently flowed forth.

At the same time.

Details of the song appeared on the big screen.

Song Title: Father

Lyrics: Admirable Fish

Music: Admirable Fish

Singer: Fei Yang

The audience was stunned.

This song was indeed about "Father".

Based on the prelude, this song didn't seem to follow the catchy style of Admirable Fish's previous three episodes.

At this moment, everyone felt a surge of emotions.

This was Admirable Fish.

Everything that we could think of.

Of course, Admirable Fish thought of it too.

The issues people were worrying about did not occur.

Judging from the song title, Admirable Fish's creation this time was obviously prepared for Fei Yang.

When seriousness is called for, Admirable Fish would never make jokes about others' pain.

Many people believed that this song was composed by Admirable Fish specifically for Fei Yang.

...

At the center of the stage.

Fei Yang gently picked up the microphone, singing:

"I've always taken from you, yet never said thank you,

It wasn't until I grew up, that I came to understand your hardships."

..."

Many from the audience were whispering, discussing whether this song was written by Admirable Fish in light of Fei Yang's experiences.

Chapter 593 Thank You for Being With Me_2

But when Fei Yang's voice aired, the venue fell silent in an instant!

In front of countless screens.

The audience was shaken, abruptly falling silent. For a moment, even the comments were much fewer.

This performance had no explosive high notes or fancy techniques.

Simple lyrics, yet they instantly invoked countless memories of fathers.

"Every time we part, you always pretend to be relaxed

Smiling and saying 'go home', then turning around with tears in your eyes.

..."

Lyrics describing the most common incidents in life.

But in Fei Yang's heart was a flood of deep sorrow.

The year he left home with a guitar on his back.

The father secretly put 2,300 yuan into his bag, bills crumpled terribly.

He could almost imagine the hardship his father faced when he withdrew this amount of money-

He's the King of Singing, standing at the pinnacle of glory!

But he is also a child from the countryside.

Without a wealthy family, without a comfortable life.

Those 2,300 yuan came from a farmer's hand, earned through hard labor on the fields.

He once thought proudly:

His current success was all due to his hard work and perseverance.

His life, filled with inspiration, epitomized the rise from rags to riches!

His pictures, featured on the cover of numerous magazines, surrounded by throngs of people!

But it was not until he took care of his father in the hospital recently that he realized how much pressure his father bore to let him pursue his dreams.

It turns out that in those agonizing years, a man had been carrying heavy burdens for him all along.

Was he really successful because he was good enough?

No.

The flowers and applause should not belong to him. Without his father's support, he, Fei Yang, is nothing!

So, Fei Yang blamed himself:

Why did it take so long to realize?

Perhaps because the man who propped up his sky had always been so silent.

"I wish I could, just like before

Hold your warm hand

But you're not by my side

Entrust the gentle wind to send my blessings

..."

The venue was getting quiet.

Backstage.

The singers wore heavy expressions.

Some of them were biting their lips slightly.

Composers were also silent.

All of them felt the song in their hearts.

The refrain hadn't started, but the warmth of kinship, accompanied by a faint sourness, was already lingering in everyone's hearts.

All of a sudden.

Fei Yang let out his voice.

The tone of the song rose, and the faint emotion had its first explosion:

"Time, could you slow down

Please don't let him grow older

I am willing to trade all I have for his perennial youth

Father who has always been strong in life

What can I do for you

Please accept my insignificant attention..."

Music swirled around.

The band played with abandon.

In front of Fei Yang, it seemed like the image of his father in the hospital bed flashed by again.

That day.

He peeled an apple for his father.

Only when his father struggled to take a bite did he realize his father's teeth were showing signs of aging.

The apple was too hard.

He couldn't eat it.

So he peeled an orange for his father.

It was the first time he saw his father eat so joyfully as he popped a segment of an orange into his mouth.

His father said, "It's sweeter than the ones we grow at home."

At that moment, all Fei Yang felt was acidity in his heart.

Sourer than an unripe orange.

At that moment, he just stared at his father.

He noticed the gray hairs at his father's temples.

He finally realized.

The father, who once stood as tall as him...

Had gotten old.

His eyes finally welled up.

...

Not only Fei Yang.

Some of the singers backstage had quietly started wiping away their tears.

People passed tissues around.

Some pretended to blow their noses forcefully, but they were actually wiping away tears.

Even the usually cold and serious composers were moved at this moment.

In one room.

Yin Dong tilted his head slightly, seemingly reminiscing about something.

His face remained expressionless, but there was a trace of murkiness in his eyes.

Next door.

Ye Zhi Qiu let out a deep sigh, didn't say anything, just took out his phone and looked at a photo he hadn't had the courage to open for a long time.

His father had been gone for many years.

Before he had achieved success.

But why was he so cowardly that he didn't even have the courage to write a song for his father?

What use was this title of "Maestro"?

In the next room.

Yang Zhongming was like a frozen statue, only his eyes seemed to lose focus.

Perhaps women are more sentimental.

Zheng Jing, who was in the same room as Yang Zhongming, was covering her face with her hands, but tears seeped out from the gaps between her fingers.

Engulfed in emotion, she couldn't control herself.

Most of the composers are no longer young.

Their fathers were either no longer in this world or were in their twilight years.

Time is always fair to humanity, but it is also always cruel.

This song allowed everyone to confront their regrets.

...

Meanwhile, underneath the stage...

More and more people began to choke up.

In front of the monitors...

The barrage of comments reappeared—almost explosively!

"I miss my dad."

"I am actually crying."

"I feel so suffocated."

"I would rather have Xian Yu keep acting strangely than be reduced to tears."

"My dad has cancer, and I've recently quit my job to stay with him in the hospital every day, but I haven't cried until now."

"Xian Yu really went too far. He made us laugh for three segments, but only took one to bring everyone to tears."

"I must return home for the New Year this year, regardless of what my boss says!"

"Dad, I love you—I will definitely say this to your face."

"Who else would dare say Fei Yang's singing lacks emotion!"

"I've been a long-time fan of Fei Yang. I think this performance is probably the best he has ever had—not in terms of technique or voice."

"He has put his heart into this song."

"..."

Everyone could no longer hold back their tears.

And on stage...

Fei Yang could no longer hold back either.

It's not so much that he was singing the song as he was expressing his deepest feelings:

"Thank you for everything you've done

Our home was created by your two hands

You always did all you could to give me the very best

Am I your pride?

Are you still worrying about me?

The kid you cared so much about has grown up

..."

An outpouring of intense emotions!

Fei Yang nearly cried out in pain!

His voice trembled as he sang, his thick, choked-up voice ringing with a runny nose, and tears streamed down his face!

As a King of Singing, he was unable to control his voice and emotions professionally, which was really unprofessional.

Just like his unprofessionalism as a son.

But please believe...

This is my most sincere emotion.

Father.

Did you hear it?

This song is sung for you!

Didn't you always say:

Your son sings the best songs, didn't you?

...

In the face of this emotional onslaught, the audience was as fragile as paper.

The stirring melody pierced their hearts, evoking memories and sorrow buried deep within many others.

The unstoppable pain, helplessness, and bitter sweetness freely flowed in their hearts with the music.

During the performance...

The tears of countless individuals had long turned into a raging sea!

Everyone could hear it.

Fei Yang's trembling voice was tinged with guilt—a guilt every child felt towards their father.

...

The Lin family...

Lin Xuan and Lin Yao looked towards their mother.

She chuckled, "This song is nice."

But while saying so, she felt a lump in her throat, and her eyes began to tear up.

Lin Yuan never experienced paternal love growing up.

That's because his father passed away when he was very young.

So Lin Yuan's mother had to play the roles of both mother and father.

This song, although about a father, is in truth a song for every family member.

...

In a certain hospital...

In front of the screen...

Fei Yang is singing...

An elderly man, who bears a striking resemblance to Fei Yang, wipes away his tears.

The old companion next to him hands him a slice of oranges.

The old man tastes a few bites and shakes his head, "It's not as sweet as the ones Little Yang bought last time."

The companion responds, "This was also bought by your darling son."

The old man looks surprised, tries a few more bites, and queries, "Different kind?"

His companion retorts, a tad exasperated, "Different person peeling it."

...

The song envelops the stage...

An Hong suddenly takes off his headset...

A staff member looks at him.

An Hong murmurs, "I need to make a phone call."

The staff member silently nods in approval.

Soon...

He connects the call.

The voice on the other end sounds surprised, "Aren't you in the middle of a show?"

"You're watching it too?"

"Of course, it's my son's show. As his father, how could I not..."

"Dad."

"If you have something to say, say it quickly. I'm watching the show." He feigns impatience.

"Nothing much, just wanted to call..."

"I heard you, just hang up already. Don't you have to go on stage to host soon? Be careful or the director will dock your pay!"

"Okay."

An Hong replies with a smile.

At this moment, the phone on the other end and the stage are filled with the last line of the song in near-perfect synchronization:

"Thank you for being there every step of the way!"

Chapter 594 Father

Fei Yang's performance ended.

Many people seemed unable to recover from the song.

No one spoke.

Fei Yang's tears, unnoticed, had stealthily dried.

Suddenly.

Someone clapped.

A few seconds later, thunderous applause erupted on the scene!

Lin Yuan was also clapping.

But after only a few claps, Lin Yuan suddenly felt his face was moist.

He subconsciously touched it, it was wet and cold.

Only then did Lin Yuan realize that he, at some point, had also begun to cry.

He himself did not know why he was crying.

Was he moved by Fei Yang?

The camera happened to capture this moment.

There were also audience members who noticed this scene.

"Don't cry!"

"Keep going!"

"Xian Yu, keep going!"

"We will always love you!"

"Fish Papa is the best!"

"..."

More and more people were cheering!

The applause seemed to be even louder!

Lin Yuan waved to the audience, then took a tissue from An Hong to wipe his tears.

He didn't think anymore about why he was crying.

Although he didn't know that the word "heartache" was filling up the entire screen in the comments section.

Perhaps this scene would provoke countless speculations.

Fei Yang: "..."

I also cried!

Not until An Hong went on stage and his first words caused the applause and discussion to quieten down a bit:

"While you comfort Teacher Admirable Fish, in fact, we all need comfort. Personally, maybe I won't listen to this song again without hesitation."

Yes.

Xian Yu needs comfort.

Fei Yang also needs comfort.

And why wouldn't the audience need comfort?

We all share the same sadness.

Even though for some their fathers are still alive, for others, their fathers are long gone.

But who doesn't harbor the same emotions towards their father?

We are all characters in this story.

An Hong turned to Fei Yang: "Does Teacher Fei Yang have anything to say?"

Fei Yang had already composed himself.

He picked up the microphone and said sincerely, "Only for this song, I would be content with second place."

The audience laughed.

For Fei Yang right now, this song must have a very special meaning.

Especially after his father's emergency rescue.

That feeling of having something lost and then recovered, will make people realize the value of certain things even more.

Fei Yang continued, "Thank you to my father for his support all these years. I always say that my fans have made me who I am, but actually, these are clichés. I feel that I created myself with my own perseverance, effort, and talent. I know this might upset many people, but I am sorry, this has always been my genuine belief."

"Oh?"

If Fei Yang had said this in another occasion, it would have been inappropriate.

But in this situation and this moment, An Hong laughed, "Your understanding is correct, fans support you because you have various merits. While we thank the fans, we must also remember to thank ourselves."

"But my thinking has changed."

Fei Yang took a deep breath and said: "Actually, my hard work and persistence are not as important as my father's support. Without his encouragement, I wouldn't be where I am today. The money I earned from my early music endeavors was largely given to me by my father. Without him, I wouldn't even have money for my first performance outfit. So before I thank myself, I want to thank my father first."

The applause sounded again.

In the midst of the applause, Fei Yang turned to Lin Yuan: "Also, I want to thank Teacher Admirable Fish, who has taught me a great deal. During the finals of 'The Masked Singer', he made me understand that music needs emotion to touch people's hearts. It was then that I realised I was headed in the wrong direction."

Lin Yuan nodded.

Everyone couldn't help but smile bitterly.

You actually admitted it.

Truly worthy of the Prince of Lanling.

Fei Yang continued, "When Teacher Admirable Fish gave me this song, I learned something new. I realised that music needs emotion to touch people, but this emotion must come from the heart."

Fei Yang's finals song in 'The Masked Singer' was sung for himself.

But today, Fei Yang sings for his father, the emotions this time are more sincere than ever before.

For the first time, he sang until he cried.

And for the first time, he sang until he lost control.

His voice lowered: "I would like to share a childhood story with you all. Once during a house move, I came across my father's diary unintentionally. As a child, that diary was like a treasure, as if it had a magic power that drew me to open it."

The audience nodded.

That diary must have recorded a father's love for his child.

But...

Fei Yang shook his head, "The diary didn't write about how much my father loved me, his diary only recorded his work schedules."

The audience laughed.

And then, everyone fell into silence again.

This is also a form of love, a heavier kind of love.

Fei Yang smiled, "I know singing this song will make the atmosphere heavy, but Teacher Admirable Fish has made everyone happy for three seasons, it's time you all paid a little price."

The audience laughed again.

This show made everyone both cry and laugh.

An Hong spoke up, "How about I share another story with everyone? It's a plot from a novel I read once. A son takes his Alzheimer's afflicted father out for dumplings. The father picks up the dumplings and stuffs them into his pocket. The son, feeling embarrassed, asks urgently, 'Dad, what are you doing?' The father whispers, 'My son...he likes to eat.'

He forgot everything else, but still remembered you.

The audience was stunned into silence.

Tears began to flow again.

Some people even started cursing in the bullet comments:

"Damn it An Hong, you've tricked me into crying again!"

Of course.

The competition must go on.

Although, for the other singers, the competition was pretty much over at this point...

This song was just too "explosive"!

Not in terms of how amazing the song itself was, but because of the emotional atmosphere it created!

Especially knowing what Fei Yang has been through before singing this song.

Now, no one can follow up after this song.

The next performer can't, the performer after him can't, all the performers today will struggle.

"Anything else you'd like to say?"

Finally, An Hong asked Fei Yang.

After a moment of silence, Fei Yang said: "If you have time, hold his hand more often. If you have time, peel an orange for him. If you have time, just accompany him and have a chat. Even a video call or a phone call is good... Just squeeze out some time from playing with your phone or gaming."

With that said, Fei Yang bowed and exited the stage.

There were some things Fei Yang didn't say.

Because they are too cruel.

What if he has time now and you don't?

Because of work, games, various reasons——

When you finally have time, he's no longer around.

This is what Fei Yang has experienced in real life, so he feels it more than anyone else.

Never forget.

He doesn't have as much time as you...

Chapter 595 Shadow Old Rascal

[Xian Yu and Fei Yang finally collaborate, their song 'Father' moves countless to tears!]

[Xian Yu and Fei Yang's performance of 'Our Song' touches the entire audience!]

[Fei Yang performing Xian Yu's new song 'Father' wins the most recent round, Shu YuE Luo Yi ranks second!]

[Thanks to Xian Yu's new song, Fei Yang finally clinches first place!]

[Has Fei Yang's curse of being the 'Perennial Runner-up' been broken?]

[The problem solver is the one who got into trouble. Xian Yu congratulates Fei Yang on ranking first in 'Our Song', breaking a record of more than a hundred million audience support for the first time!]

[Xian Yu, who made the audience laugh for three rounds, finally made everyone cry.]

[An Hong: 'Father' is a song that one dares not listen to lightly for the second time.]

Swipe, swipe, swipe!

The game results were immediately reported by all major media on the same day!

As reported by the media, 'Father', sung by Fei Yang, won first place in this round!

The audience's voting support rate created a new record:

A full hundred million votes!

In addition.

The White Swan Shu Yu and Samurai Illaoi, ranked second together.

This result has led to countless discussions and ridicules on the Internet—

"The problem solver is the one who got into trouble. Fei Yang finally let go of his runner-up complex with Xian Yu's help, only to be struck back by the "runner-up" complex, with two singers claiming second place this round!"

"This song is a bit of a smoke breaker."

"As soon as the first few lines of the lyrics came out, I knew King Fei had it in the bag."

"The summary of netizens and media is too damn accurate, Xian Yu brought joy for three rounds, everyone listening to the catchy and hilarious song was almost laughing crooked, but 'Father' really caught everyone off guard, all the audience collectively shed tears!"

"Xian Yu: Had enough of laughter? Now it's time for tears."

"Fei Yang: Everyone, damn it, cry for me!"

"Chen Zhiyu's way to break free from perennial second place is to join the opposition when you can't beat them. Fei Yang has learned from this experience, and he did even better than Chen Zhiyu. He not only joined Xian Yu, he even recognized the thief as his father!"

"Damn, acknowledging the thief as father, I was crying and you suddenly made me laugh."

"Fei Yang: Father? Xian Yu: Hmmm."

"One must admit, Fei Yang really did sing this song well. As soon as this song came out, first place for the season was essentially secured."

"It's a pity that Fish Papa won't be showing up in the next few episodes."

"..."

As everyone discusses this.

Just as this episode of "Our Song" was ending, the production team announced the new competition format.

The next few rounds will be a singer's knockout battle.

In this stage of the competition, composers don't need to participate, all singers will compete amongst themselves.

But the song selection has been fixed.

The singers can only choose the works of these composers in the program.

This rule not only reduces the number of singers but also gives the composers a break.

After all, the creation process of composers takes time.

Compared to the singers, composers are actually more fatigued.

Although Lin Yuan doesn't need to worry about this aspect, he has enough songs, it's still nice to have a break.

He will take this opportunity to write "Journey to the West".

He will definitely publish this novel by the end of the year.

Lin Yuan is already mentally prepared for this.

...

Also.

Fans of Shadow's manga 'Death Note' should also be prepared for the end.

Because.

In the most recent plotline, one of the two main characters of 'Death Note', "Lin", bought the farm.

Everyone knows 'Death Note' has two main characters.

One is Yagami Light, the other is L.

L, was changed to "Lin" by Lin Yuan.

In this mental battle-themed manga, Yagami Light and Lin compete in wisdom and bravery, both are super smart, so their popularity is explosive.

Both have countless fans!

However, Shadow killed off "Lin".

This has opened a can of worms!

When readers saw "Lin" dead, the comment section for 'Death Note' erupts!

"Lin is dead, really!?"

"I do not accept this plot!"

"Shadow is too partial to Yagami Light!"

"Lin represents justice!"

"Damn, Shadow really is an old rascal!"

"Shadow, you actually killed my beloved Lin!"

"Birds of a feather, flock together! None of the Three Bros are good people, I used to think Shadow was harmless!"

"Now it seems, the three bros are all full of tricks!"

"Why did you have to kill off Lin?"

"Without Lin, 'Death Note' loses its soul!"

"When I call Shadow an old rascal, no objections right?"

"Agreed!"

"No objections!"

"Shadow is an old rascal!"

"..."

The readers, upset at Shadow for killing off Lin, turned their anger onto the Three Bros!

Netizens have seen it all!

All three of these bros have a nasty habit of tormenting fans!

Take Chu Kuang for instance.

He's infamous for his countless misdeeds. From the death of Biyao to Poirot's suicide, he is rightly called an old rascal!

At the time, everyone thought Chu Kuang was the worst of the Three Bros!

At least Xian Yu and Shadow were better.

But then Xian Yu went and made 'Hachiko', directly driving the audience into existential crisis!

Because of this movie, Xian Yu also became the "old rascal" in many people's mouths.

At this point, lots of people thought:

Among the Three Bros, Shadow was the only decent one.

This was the only consolation they had.

Then Shadow orchestrated Lin's death.

In that moment, everyone lost hope in the Three Bros.

These three!

All villains!

Not a single good one among them!

Shadow too, is an old rascal!

He just hides it deeper and only now shows his pointed fangs!

However,

Perhaps it is because Chu Kuang and Xian Yu set the bar so low that Shadow killing Lin did not cause a larger uproar.

There's also another reason.

That's because Shadow posted on social media, explaining to the readers:

"The subsequent plot won't disappoint you all."

Even though that was not much of an explanation, it did offer some psychological comfort to some people.

Many even expected the story to have some twists.

In 'Death Note' with its theme of wits and strategy, plot twists were aplenty.

However,

When the readers, clinging onto their remaining hopes, finally got to the climax of 'Death Note', everyone's psyche shattered!

Because...

At the climax of the comic, the male protagonist Yagami Light also dies!

"This is the plot that won't disappoint us?"

"Killed off Yagami Light!?"

"I'm freaking done with this!"

"Shadow is truly a crafty plotter!"

"Shadow: Lin was killed by Yagami Light, and you guys are not happy, so I'll kill Yagami Light, to avenge Lin!"

"My God, what kind of thinking produced such a genius ending?"

"Shadow, the old rascal should just drop dead!"

"No wonder this comic is called 'Death Note', all the main characters are dead!"

"Died on the spot after seeing the ending!"

"..."

From anger, resignation to eventual acceptance, this was the final conclusion 'Death Note' left to its fans.

Luo Wei looked at Lin Yuan somewhat dumbfounded: "This is your solution?"

Lin Yuan nodded.

Lin died, and the readers were dissatisfied.

Those dissatisfied readers must be Lin fans.

The person they hated was Yagami Light, because he was the one who killed Lin.

So let Yagami Light also die. Lin fans will certainly be satisfied then.

Yagami Light fans unhappy?

That couldn't be. An eye for an eye, Yagami Light killed a lot people and even caused Lin's death. Letting him survive to the end would give off a wrong message.

So...

They all had to die.

Balancing the scales on both sides.

What a perfect ending!

Chapter 596 Sword Points to the Supreme God

Lin Yuan really believed there was no fault in his logic.

Otherwise, he wouldn't bother explaining it to the readers.

When he previously killed off Biyao or Poirot, Lin Yuan felt that explanations were pointless.

But this time, Lin Yuan was very confident.

Lin died, and you weren't satisfied;

Yagami Light is dead too, aren't you satisfied now?

So Lin Yuan didn't understand why the readers were still making a fuss.

This was clearly a "happy ending".

In any case.

Once he discovered he couldn't handle the situation, Lin Yuan simply stopped paying attention.

People might not believe this:

For situations like this, Lin Yuan had a wealth of experience in dealing with them.

If he just ignores it, the readers will eventually come to terms with it on their own, and even analyze the ending in detail.

Sure enough.

After the readers made some noise for a while, they finally quieted down.

Online.

A reader analyzed:

"Lin's death is actually inevitable because Yagami Light has the Death Note as a trump card, while Lin only has a high IQ. When watching this comic everyone should have felt that, if Yagami Light wanted to hide himself, Lin might never be able to find out Yagami Light's identity. However, Shadow portrayed Yagami Light as a character with an IQ not lower than Lin's.

Therefore, if Lin didn't die, it wouldn't make sense logically."

Two characters, both with full IQs.

One of them even has a trump card.

If the one with the trump card can't win, then their equal IQ with the opponent is really a waste!

As for Yagami Light...

"Yagami Light's death is also inevitable, otherwise this comic would be too dark. Shadow killed off Yagami Light to express a concept: no one can rise above the law and conduct private judgment, even if it is for so-called justice. Private judgment comes with a cost, so Poirot committed suicide. Shadow's values are in line with Chu Kuang, so Yagami Light eventually died."

It's hard to accept emotionally.

But logically speaking, everyone could only accept this ending.

After this analysis, the readers begin to rationalize -

Just as Lin Yuan had anticipated.

Although, as a result, Shadow had an additional title of "old rascal".

Lin Yuan, who had finished his comics, then continued on writing "Journey to the West", this novel was almost completed.

At the same time.

Jin Mu passed on the news to Silver Blue Books.

Silver Blue Books.

Fantasy Department.

Chief Editor's Office.

Once Ol' Xiong received the call from Jin Mu, he suddenly stood up from his seat!

His face was filled with excitement!

Chu Kuang was finally back!

Chu Kuang was finally going to continue writing fantasy novels!

God knows how long Ol' Xiong had been waiting for this day!

Ever since Chu Kuang started writing detective stories, he hadn't touched fantasy novels for a very long time!

He would rather write fairy tales than continue writing fantasy novels!

And today, he finally received the news of Chu Kuang's return to the fantasy genre, how could he not be excited?

Subsequently.

Ol' Xiong received the message behind Chu Kuang's return to the fantasy genre:

The Supreme God!

With this return, Chu Kuang must be coming for the position of the Supreme God!

Initially, he wasn't qualified enough.

But now, he is more than qualified.

As long as the quality of the work is good enough, he is fully qualified to aim for that position!

"This year's fantasy genre will be lively,"

Ol' Xiong laughed, very cheerfully.

...

It's now October.

Spring Festival is coming soon!

The Literature and Art Association's selection of the Supreme God of the fantasy genre will take place at the end of the year.

Therefore.

Many highly-qualified GOAT level fantasy authors often choose to release their new works at the end of the year to aim for the Supreme God selection.

There was some movement.

Within the fantasy genre.

Many small circles were discussing this year's Supreme God selection.

"The end of the year is approaching, the competition for the position of GOAT and Supreme God has entered its final countdown."

"Devil Child has already announced the news of his new book, he has high hopes of becoming the Supreme God this year."

"At the end of this year, not only Devil Child, but another person also plans to aim for the Supreme God."

"You mean Night South Wind?"

"Night South Wind attempted it once before, but that book's performance was slightly off, this year he is making a strong comeback, probably will be a strong opponent to Devil Child."

"There are four spots for the Supreme God this year."

"There are three spots that are more or less settled, those three are already 'almost' Supreme Gods, the last spot will definitely come from Devil Child and Night South Wind."

"..."

Night South Wind is also a highly accomplished fantasy author, his level is on par with Devil Child.

In terms of achievements, he even exceeds Devil Child by a fraction.

So, many people believe that this year's battle for the Supreme God would be between Night South Wind and Devil Child.

Then.

Someone sighed:

"When Devil Child initially aimed for the position of a GOAT, he ended up meeting Chu Kuang, which delayed his accomplishment of becoming a GOAT by a year. However, Devil Child's works have been of very high quality since he became a GOAT, and now he's even preparing to aim for the Supreme God. Conversely, Chu Kuang never wrote another fantasy novel after becoming a GOAT."

"The talent Devil Child possesses is, indeed, remarkable."

"Back then, there was also Mister Sea, who was competing for the position of a GOAT with Devil Child and Chu Kuang, but he lost miserably in that round. Up until now, he hasn't become a GOAT yet and seems to have some difficulties keeping up with his creative output, it's kind of regrettable."

"It's a pity that Chu Kuang no longer writes fantasy novels."

"If Chu Kuang hadn't started writing detective novels back then and had continued writing fantasy novels, he might have already become the Supreme God by now."

"Even if now, if Chu Kuang continues to write fantasy novels, he can still aim for the Supreme God. Even though the number of his works is a little less, the quality of his works can make up the difference. All three of his fantasy novels are groundbreaking."

"I'm questioning now, will Chu Kuang still write fantasy novels?"

"Having written detective novels and even fairy tales for so long, will he struggle with writing fantasy novels again?"

"Others may struggle, but I think Chu Kuang won't."

"Discussing this is pointless, as Chu Kuang hasn't written any fantasy novels recently."

"..."

As everyone was discussing.

All of a sudden.

Someone in the group exclaimed in shock: "Holy shit, speaking of the devil, take a look at the official announcement from Silver Blue Books!"

An official announcement from Silver Blue Books?

Authors and editors within the fantasy genre went to check it out simultaneously. When they saw the announcement contents, they were dumbfounded-

"[Great author Chu Kuang's latest fantasy novel 'Journey to the West' will be released soon, stay tuned!]"

Boom!

Many groups exploded!

"What the hell!"

"Chu Kuang is back!"

"Chu Kuang is going to write fantasy novels again!"

"Is he aiming for the position of Supreme God?"

"Oh my, it's hard to predict who will become the Supreme God this year!"

"Those three who were about to take turns for the position must be getting anxious!"

"The worst off must be Devil Child and Night South Wind!"

"Night South Wind is not the worst off, the worst off is Devil Child. When Devil Child aimed for the GOAT position, he was targeted by Chu Kuang. Now, he plans to aim for the Supreme God and he encounters Chu Kuang again!"

"..."

Instantly, the industry was in turmoil!

Chapter 597 On the Difficulty of Chu Kuang Becoming the Supreme God - 1

Meanwhile,

The readers' community has also become lively.

"Old rascal Chu Kuang is returning to the fantasy genre?"

"Finally, you're back, good thing I didn't give up!"

"After finishing writing 'Ghost Blows Out the Light,' the old rascal hasn't written any fantasy novel. I thought he was no longer going to write any more fantasy novels."

"Good, my youth is back!"

"I'm not interested in the old rascal's detective stories, not because they are poorly written, but simply because I'm not into detective genre. I still like his fantasy novels."

"Is old rascal's comeback aiming for the top?"

"If he succeeds, he will become the GOAT with the least number of works in history!"

"..."

Chu Kuang has actually written a lot of works.

But the evaluation criteria for GOAT and great authors are based on fantasy novels.

The performance of detective novels is not counted.

So to sum it up, Chu Kuang only has three fantasy novels at present.

The first one is 'King of the Net'.

The second one is 'Zhu Xian'.

The third one is 'Ghost Blows Out the Light'.

This is why Jin Mu tactfully said: Lin Yuan just barely meets the criteria for the evaluation of the GOAT. To successfully challenge, he would need one or two more works.

His number of works is still too low.

Fortunately, while he lacks in quantity, he makes it up in quality.

The sales and influence of these three fantasy novels by Chu Kuang are all there and cannot be dismissed lightly.

For the time being,

Both inside and outside the industry, everyone is discussing Chu Kuang's return to the fantasy genre.

Many people were taken aback when they suddenly heard the news of Chu Kuang's return to the fantasy genre.

But as everyone calmed down, many people realized that Chu Kuang's attempt to strive for the GOAT is not as simple as many people imagine.

An editor reasoned analytically:

"Perhaps Chu Kuang has been too successful since his debut, and the countless halo effects make everyone subconsciously think that if Chu Kuang wants to strive for the GOAT, he will definitely succeed. Even I subconsciously thought so when I first heard this news. It seemed as if the GOAT had already become something in the bag for Chu Kuang.

But everyone overlooked a fact!"

This fact is:

Chu Kuang's fantasy novels are still too few in number. Although he can supplement the quantity with quality, there is still a significant gap from the standard of the GOAT. He is just stepping over the threshold now.

Many people may not understand what I mean.

Isn't Chu Kuang so powerful that he doesn't deserve to be the GOAT?

Worthy, of course, Chu Kuang does have the strength of a GOAT.

But at the same time, everyone needs to understand one thing, having the ability and actually achieving it are two different things. Here, I can use Chu Kuang's good buddy Xian Yu as an example.

As we all know, Xian Yu is known as Maestro Junior.

Everyone has no doubt that Xian Yu has the strength of a Maestro!

But because Xian Yu is too young and doesn't have enough number of works, he has never received the official recognition of the Maestro honor from the Literature and Art Association. After all, he has not yet met some of the hard criteria of Maestro.

The same goes for Chu Kuang.

All Chu Kuang now has is the strength to strive for the GOAT, just like the current Xian Yu is qualified to strive for the Maestro, but they are facing the same problem:

They haven't met the standard criteria.

Both are equally excellent in their respective fields. Compared to Xian Yu, Chu Kuang is obviously much closer to the rigid criteria of a GOAT. After all, Xian Yu faces competition from the entire music world, whereas Chu Kuang's competition this time is not from the entire novel industry but only limited within the fantasy genre.

Still, Chu Kuang needs more than just one work.

So in conclusion, to become the GOAT, Chu Kuang need at least two works at the level of 'Ghost Blows Out the Light'!

Even with one, it's not enough.

Unless Chu Kuang's new book is equivalent to two 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' series!

But we all know that this is impossible. With regards to fantasy novels, 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' represents a peak.

Not to mention Chu Kuang's new book being equivalent to two 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' series, even surpassing 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' is not an easy task.

Therefore.

I think everyone is overthinking.

Chu Kuang's new book titled "Journey to the West" isn't actually meant to compete for the position of the Supreme God. Instead, it's preparing the way for his subsequent works to challenge for that title."

This analysis made many people understand.

Indeed.

Chu Kuang is indeed a strong contender for the title of Supreme God.

But because he hasn't written fantasy novels for the past two years, the number of his works is a disadvantage.

Becoming a GOAT with only three works is already quite terrifying.

Trying to reach the status of Supreme God with a fourth work?

That's too much of a stretch.

There isn't a single Supreme God in the industry who only has four fantasy novels to their name.

Chu Kuang will probably have to wait until his next-next fantasy novel is published before he can successfully challenge for the title.

Regarding this.

Someone gave an apt analogy:

"If this were a long-distance race, Night South Wind would have already covered 95% of the distance, Devil Child would have covered 93%, and Chu Kuang has only covered 80%!"

It's like the 'Tortoise and the Hare'.

In the end, the tortoise was the champion.

Why wasn't it the faster rabbit?

Because the rabbit took a nap halfway.

Chu Kuang is that napping rabbit.

For about two years, Chu Kuang has been immersed in the field of deductive reasoning and hasn't written any fantasy novels.

But Devil Child and Night South Wind have kept writing, with consistently excellent results.

Catching up with Chu Kuang's progress all at once isn't easy, even if he's a rabbit that's much faster than a tortoise.

Moreover, Night South Wind and Devil Child are stronger than a tortoise—

Even if compared to Chu Kuang, both of them can definitely be considered top-tier fantasy authors.

Suddenly.

A clear understanding of the situation emerged within the circle.

The editor at Night South Wind's publishing house couldn't help feeling relieved: "It gave me a scare. I thought Night South Wind was done for this year as soon as I heard that Chu Kuang was making a comeback."

The same sense of relief was shared at Devil Child's publishing house.

There's no helping it.

Chu Kuang's influence in the fantasy realm is ferocious!

So ferocious that many people get cold feet just at the mention of Chu Kuang's name.

Fortunately!

Chu Kuang is still a long way off the standards for the Supreme God.

One work isn't enough!

At least two works!

Unless Chu Kuang's new book entitled "Journey to the West" can count as two!

But everyone in the industry is fully aware of the difficulty in that.

Because "Ghost Blows Out the Light" was too hot when it was first published!

It was hard for Chu Kuang to even surpass it, let alone write a work that's twice as popular as "Ghost Blows Out the Light"!

For a time.

This kind of analytical voice spread widely, and even some of the media in the literary circle published similar reports.

"Chu Kuang Challenges for the Supreme God? Not so easy."

"Detailed Analysis of Chu Kuang's Odds of Becoming the Supreme God: Night South Wind and Devil Child Have Higher Hopes."

"Chu Kuang Challenges the Supreme God; One Work is Not Enough."

"Discussing the Difficulty of Chu Kuang's Challenge for the Supreme God: Nightmare Level!"

"Chu Kuang Returns to the Fantasy Realm, Possibly Preparing to Challenge for the Supreme God, but the Industry is Not Optimistic."

"A Certain Book Industry Expert Asserts: Chu Kuang's Challenge for the Supreme God This Year is Destined to Fail."

Chapter 598 Literature and Art Association Reads Journey to the West

At night.

The Yongning Village Entertainment Group.

Suddenly, my sister forwarded a piece of news: "Why Chu Kuang was destined to miss out on the GOAT award this year from a data perspective."

Then she tagged Lin Yuan: "Is Chu Kuang really planning on aiming for the GOAT title this year?"

Lin Yuan lifted his head and silently looked at his sister, who was messing with her phone on the sofa.

Why ask in the group chat?

Within the group.

Jian Yi showed up, and began bragging:

"Being too famous isn't good either. I've been so busy lately I haven't had time to read novels. Is that old rascal Chu Kuang already preparing to aim for the GOAT title? Hasn't he only written three fantasy novels so far?"

Xia Fan ignored Jian Yi's bragging and said, "But Chu Kuang became GOAT with just these three novels."

Jian Yi and Xia Fan are both fans of novels, so they knew Chu Kuang well.

Lin Yao, who wasn't into novels, knew of Chu Kuang through her sister, but lacked a clear grasp. She curiously asked:

"Is it impressive to become GOAT with only three releases?"

Her sister explained: "I'm not sure about Zhong Continent, and the places like Han, Zhao, and Wei, but among the four Provinces of Qin, Qi, Chu, Yan, only four fantasy writers have become GOAT with three releases!"

Lin Yao: "That doesn't sound scarce though."

Sister: "Indeed, it's not scarce, but in terms of quality, Chu Kuang is the best. His three novels are brief, while the other three's total word count is much greater with each book over three million words."

This is also what people found fascinating about Chu Kuang.

Other authors usually extend a successful novel as much as possible.

But Chu Kuang's fantasies were over a million words, with his longest, "Ghost Blows Out the Light," at around two million words.

Lin Yao seemed very interested in Chu Kuang and asked another question:

"And what would it mean to be GOAT with four releases?"

Her sister responded without hesitation: "It would mean becoming the first among Qin, Qi, Chu, Yan fantasy writers. No one has ever reached the top with just four fantasy novels, so I believe Chu Kuang needs at least five releases!"

This is also why the industry is not optimistic about Chu Kuang.

Reaching the top with three releases is already quite incredible.

But getting there with the fourth?

Too difficult.

At least it would take five, right?

There should be some buffering, right?

This is under the premise that everyone has high hopes for Chu Kuang.

That's why people say Chu Kuang's new book needs to be twice as good to top the fantasy genre.

Lin Yuan did not participate in the group discussion.

However, he did agree with these analyses.

He was indeed a bit away from becoming the GOAT.

Generally speaking, two more fantasy novels would do the trick.

But...

If it comes to "Journey to the West," common sense can't apply.

Not to mention, doubling the effort.

Even if all his previous three fantasy novels were combined, they would be dwarfed compared to this book!

Moreover.

Compared to his previous three fantasy novels, "Journey to the West" has not only a fascinating storyline but also unquestionably high literary quality.

This is a monumental piece of work!

In the current era where fantasy novels generally emphasize storytelling, suddenly there's a work that balances story and literary quality so well. Its influence can be anticipated!

But before the novel is written, these words don't make any sense.

Lin Yuan spent the next few days writing "Journey to the West."

By mid-October.

Lin Yuan had finally finished this grand piece!

He sent the two versions of the story directly to Jin Mu.

Jin Mu laughed: "I will send it separately to Silver Blue Books and the Literature and Art Association."

Lin Yuan was taken aback: "The Literature and Art Association?"

Jin Mu nodded: "Those aiming for awards need to register their works with the Literature and Art Association, because they need time for the selection."

"Okay."

Lin Yuan had no objections.

Half an hour later, Jin Mu had successfully sent the message.

...

Literature and Art Association.

The Fantasy Novel Department was currently holding a meeting.

A woman in her fifties, wearing glasses, sitting in the main seat, began to speak:

"The situation for this year's GOAT selection has pretty much been settled, and it shouldn't change by the end of the year. But there's still one slot for the ultimate deity that needs to be deliberated. Currently, we have three nominations."

The crowd was stunned.

"Three?"

"Isn't it two?"

"Devil Child and Night South Wind."

"Besides the three that have already been confirmed, these two have the strongest qualifications, so the fourth slot should emerge from between these two."

"Three people, are you counting Chu Kuang too?"

"I see great potential in Chu Kuang, but it seems like he still falls short of the standard."

"Even though Chu Kuang is releasing another novel at the end of the year, I fear one novel won't suffice to cover such a large gap."

...

The leaders of the department expressed their views.

Evaluations of the GOAT and ultimate deity were always topics of repeated discussions during their meetings.

The list for the ultimate deity was basically confirmed as well.

The last available fourth slot had always been debated between Night South Wind and Devil Child.

As per usual, the final decision would depend on how their year-end works performed, providing a more accurate judgment.

But in today's meeting, the leader mentioned that there were three nominations...

The sudden appearance of the third nomination could only mean Chu Kuang, who would be releasing a new book soon.

The female leader wearing the glasses said: "Yes, the third nominee is Chu Kuang. Don't rush to conclusions about anything. Since the selection is fair, Chu Kuang, who meets the threshold, should naturally be included. If his end-of-the-year work is good enough, he might just take the fourth spot."

Good enough?

The crowd chuckled, then shook their heads.

The Literature and Art Association had already studied Chu Kuang's case.

His previous work, *Ghost Blows the Light*, was good enough, wasn't it?

But even if Chu Kuang releases another work at the level of *Ghost Blows the Light* at the end of the year, it still wouldn't meet the standard for the fourth ultimate deity as much as Night South Wind and Devil Child!

However, the Literature and Art Association had a good impression of Chu Kuang.

It was said that the bigwigs above also paid close attention to Chu Kuang and had even praised him privately.

So, no one said much more.

At this moment.

An assistant came over and whispered something into the female leader's ear.

The woman's eyes lit up, and she smiled, saying: "Chu Kuang has just sent over the contents of his new book, Journey to the West. How about we take a look first? If it's not up to standards, we'll consider Devil Child and Night South Wind for this year."

"It's been sent?"

Upon hearing this, everyone nodded in agreement.

A few minutes later, the meeting assistant walked in with the manuscript.

When everyone saw the manuscript in her hand, they were taken aback, asking, "Why are there two copies?"

"Let me confirm with you all that yes, there are indeed two copies of Journey to the West."

The meeting assistant explained: "Teacher Chu Kuang has written two versions of the same story, one in Classical Chinese and the other in contemporary colloquial Chinese."

"Oh?"

A leader laughed: "People have been saying Chu Kuang needs to produce two more fantasy novels to become the ultimate deity, and he really did write two versions, huh?"

Another leader shook their head: "But if the story is the same, then no matter how many copies there are, it will still count as one."

Yet another member said: "I find it quite interesting. Not just anyone can manage to write in Classical Chinese. Chu Kuang's talent really can't be underestimated."

"Let's take a look first."

The woman with the glasses spoke up and picked up the Classical Chinese version.

Of course.

There were also those who began with the modern colloquial version.

It wasn't a matter of not understanding Classical Chinese, just a matter of preference.

For people at the Literature and Art Association, whether it was Classical Chinese or even a more obscure style posed no reading barriers.

If they couldn't understand the Classical Chinese version of Journey to the West, they would simply be padding out their resumes.

They would have to apologize to everyone on Blue Star.

Chapter 599 -The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal Sun Wukong

The woman over fifty, donning glasses, is named Ming Lan.

She is the official in charge of the Blue Star Literature and Art Association's Fantasy Novel Department.

Most official fantasy literature activities are led by her.

At this moment, Ming Lan began reading the first chapter of "Journey to the West."

The title raised her eyebrows slightly: "From Precious Root is Birthed, by Heart and Nature is the Way Acquired."

"Humankind rises to benevolence, the substances of creation molded into form. To understand the primal work of creation, behold the Journey to the West, the deliverance from hardship."

Journey to deliverance from hardship?

This seems to be the name of the classical version.

Whereas "Journey to the West" is the name of the popular version.

Why are there two versions?

Ming Lan continued reading with curiosity:

"It is said that the universe cycles every 129,600 years. Divide this cycle into twelve eras, thus the twelve earthly branches: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig. Each era lasts 10,800 years.

Considering a day: at the hour of the Rat comes the Yang energy, and the hour of the Ox begins with the cocks crow; the Tiger's hour is still dark, while the sun rises in the hour of the Rabbit; after eating at the hour of the Dragon, resting comes with the hour of the Snake; the sun is overhead at noon, in the Horse's hour, but it starts falling in the Sheep's hour; the Monkey's hour begins the afternoon, and the sun sets at the hour of the Rooster; the darkness of evening begins in the hour of the Dog, and people are settled for the night by the Pig's hour.

If you compare this to the grand cycle, when it reaches the end of the Dog's era, both heaven and earth will sink into twilight and all things cease to be..."

Just from the first paragraph, Ming Lan was sure of one thing:

The classical version is not suited for ordinary people.

The threshold for reading is too high.

Even the meaning of Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, etc., many people have no clear concept.

They only know these are different hours of the day.

Not to mention sentences like "If you compare this to the grand cycle, when it reaches the end of the Dog's era, both heaven and earth will sink into twilight and all things cease to be."

As Ming Lan continued to read, she became more and more astounded!

Classical writing and even the techniques of classical Chinese were all employed.

The profundity of Chu Kuang's classical literature was terrifying, discarding over ninety percent of fantasy writers!

Furthermore.

The book also contained a wealth of poetry.

For example, the description of the Waterfall Cave on the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit:

"A shelter from the wind, and safe from rain's harm. Fearless in frost and snow, deaf to thunder's alarm."

"Consistently bathed in misty glow, with auspicious signs that blossom and grow. Pines and bamboo that annually show, beautiful flowers that daily stow."

There were many more similar verses.

Among these various techniques, the story of the birth of Sun Wukong likewise emerged before her.

This is a naturally born stone monkey.

Reigned over the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit as the Handsome Monkey King, yet yearned for the cultivation of Tao.

He traveled across the sea, conquering difficulties and obstacles, until he met Master Bodhi, entering the mountain of miniatures, the cave of the crescent moon and three stars.

"The chaos of the beginning bears no name, shattering the obstinate void requires enlightenment."

Master Bodhi gave the Handsome Monkey King a name.

Sun! Wu! Kong!

At this point, the first chapter ended.

Ming Lan read very slowly, so slow that she was reading word by word, phrase by phrase. By the end of the first volume, her eyes were filled with waves of shock.

Though the opening story was actually rather simple.

Its literary value was too strong, with each sentence carefully chosen and composed!

There were several lines of verse, that left Ming Lan clapping in admiration:

"Mountains know not the lunar years, unknown is the quantity of the cold's severities!"

"Observing chess, firewood diligently chopped, by the valley's mouth move slowly. Selling firewood and selling wine, drunk with mirth and madness all the time. Autumn scenery high on the desolate road, with moon as the pillow and pine as the abode, waking with the dawn's glode. Recognizing the old woods, climbing cliffs and crossing ridges, cutting dry vines with the axe's smidge."

"..."

Not only its literary merit.

In just a short chapter, there were also some original sayings of Taoism, and even some non-original sayings of Taoism!

Its setting was extremely rigorous!

The world view was extremely grand!

An elaborately detailed, sweeping epic unfolds —

She continued reading.

...

To Ming Lan's side was a male leader of the Literature and Art Association. This man, named Chi Rui, was the deputy director of the department.

And what Chi Rui was reading was the popular version of "Journey to the West."

At some point, this high-ranking man turned bright red and started trembling slightly!

With the narration of the text.

A series of grand and magnificent scenes seemed to unfold before his eyes...

Sun Wukong obtains the Magic Cudgel!

He storms through the underworld and changes the Book of Life and Death!

All mountains and rivers are surrendered, all creatures in the nine underworlds and ten species are eradicated!

While the Heavenly Court welcomed him, he created chaos in the peach garden, eventually leaving Heavenly Court and attaining the title:

The! Great! Sage! Heaven's Equal!

Sun Wukong fights countless Immortals under the siege of Heavenly Soldiers and Generals in the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit.

From the Mighty Spirit God to the Heavenly King Li to Nezha, the Third Prince, and even Erlang Shen...

Even when captured, he shatters the Eight Trigrams Furnace and obtains Fiery Golden Eyes!

The popular version, unlike the classical version.

If the classical version focuses on literariness, the popular version gives importance to the description of the scene, whether it's the abilities of gods or their magical weapons, the scenes of these battles are described meticulously!

Here comes a point.

The original classical version of Journey to the West, because of its too many poems and songs, is actually weak in its depiction of scenes and plots.

If only the original Journey to the West is published, it definitely wouldn't be as popular.

But the popular version completely makes up for this deficiency.

Even disregarding its literary nature, just as a novel, Sun Wukong's experiences are breathtaking!

Just looking at the early plot, it's completely a showcase of the Monkey King's invincibility!

Even in online literature, these continuous climactic beginning chapters are enough to excite readers!

That's why when Sun Wukong comes out from under the Five Finger Mountain, it gives royal expectation and shock to countless people!

At this time.

Chi Rui is one of those thoroughly excited readers!

What Sun Wukong has done has shocked him tremendously, and the popular version's description of the plot let him lose himself in it as if he were there ——

This monkey is so goddamn domineering!

In addition.

The popular version also retains many features of the original.

For example, famous lines like "In the mountains with no sense of years, we do not know the years" and "Emperors take turns, and next year it will be my turn" were not removed but, against the exhilarating backdrop, are accompanied by bold and dramatic literary embellishment.

Clearly.

A novel of nearly a million words is not something everyone can finish quickly.

But you don't need to read the whole novel, just revealing the story in the first few chapters already brings about a shock that envelops the entire conference room!

"This novel..."

Ming Lan, reading the part where Sun Wukong thrice defeats the White Bone Demon, finally regretfully put the draft down.

However, when she started speaking, she realized her voice was slightly hoarse, and she subconsciously cleared her throat.

"A masterpiece!"

Chi Rui spoke softly, his expression extremely serious for the first time.

For a moment, everyone puts down the novel.

The conference room falls silent.

One could hear a pin drop.

Not until Ming Lan cleared her throat again, did everyone glance at each other and gradually start to speak:

"Chu Kuang is absolutely qualified to sit and discuss who will be the Supreme God with us this time."

"This novel, both literary and storytelling, is awe-inspiring when read in comparison with both versions."

"This is more than just a fantasy novel."

"Chu Kuang has broken the ceiling of fantasy novels by himself."

"This novel has the grandeur of The Primordial Chaos, but whether it's the refinement of the text or the author's layout, it surpasses that mythological work that's been passed down for so many years."

"This is what the mythology of Blue Star should look like!"

"The imagination is unique, it ranges from heaven to earth, it is absolutely ingenious. The characters' personalities are also extremely vivid, which moves away from the low-level humor

often seen in fantasy novels. I believe the Literature and Art Association should arrange for promotion."

"..."

Voices full of amazement.

After speaking, everyone looks at Ming Lan.

Ming Lan smiled bitterly: "I dare not casually comment on this novel, let's read both versions first, but to specifically state my feelings about reading this novel, I feel like I am reading a masterpiece of Blue Star."

Masterpiece!

Everyone was stunned, but after a moment of silence, no one in the meeting room disagreed.

This novel contains numerous religious knowledge, and the text also contains many metaphors; those present would not fail to see this, which is why they could more easily feel the magnificent atmosphere of this novel...

This Chu Kuang.

Shocks the world!

Chapter 600 Paralleling the Primordial Chaos

Meanwhile, when the Literature and Art Association was reading Journey to the West.

Silver Blue Books had also started making specific arrangements and planning for the publication of this novel.

Of course, this included the official start of the promotional campaign for this novel.

Lin Yuan didn't usually care about such things.

Promotion was the company's business, and Chu Kuang couldn't really show his face.

But what Lin Yuan didn't expect was that there were problems with the promotion of this new book...

And the problems were serious ones!

When I say there were problems, it actually had nothing to do with the novel itself.

Nor did it have anything to do with Lin Yuan.

The main issue was Silver Blue Books' several promotional phrases for Journey to the West.

The promotional phrases were roughly:

"Chu Kuang's return to fantasy, on par with the mytho-epic of The Primordial Chaos series!"

"Chu Kuang's new book Journey to the West will be on par with The Primordial Chaos!"

"Who says Blue Star's mythology only has The Primordial Chaos series, check out Chu Kuang's new book Journey to the West?"

"..."

It was these few lines that stirred up the hornet's nest!

As mentioned before.

Blue Star has the foundation of The Primordial Chaos.

This novel's historical significance is probably similar to that of Investiture of the Gods on Earth.

Many people's understanding and familiarity with Blue Star mythology come from this work.

Its propagation for countless years has made The Primordial Chaos a masterpiece in the minds of many.

Its derived TV shows and animations, etc., have accompanied countless people's youth!

These people are hardcore fans of The Primordial Chaos!

Their number is terrifyingly large!

As a result, in Silver Blue Book's promotion, they compared Journey to the West with The Primordial Chaos series!

Can the fans of The Primordial Chaos tolerate that?

Of course not!

Therefore, many fans of The Primordial Chaos were outraged after seeing this kind of promotion!

"Did this Chu Kuang get so arrogant?"

"Nowadays, novel promotion is full of extravagant claims, we used to just laugh it off, knowing exactly how things actually are, after all, it's nothing more than the merchants mindlessly promoting their own products. But the publicity for Chu Kuang's new book directly hit on The Primordial Chaos, do they think we, the fans of The Primordial Chaos, don't exist?"

"Chu Kuang is indeed talented, but are you saying his new book is on par with the classic that has been handed down since ancient times?"

"Hehe, it's laughable."

"Retract these promotions immediately, and also, Silver Blue Books and Chu Kuang should apologize to all Primordial Chaos fans!"

"You want to be on par with The Primordial Chaos, are you worthy?"

"Because of King of the Net?"

"Because of Zhu Xian?"

"Because of Ghost Blows out the Light?"

"These few books of Chu Kuang's put together still don't qualify to be compared with The Primordial Chaos!"

"Although I really like the old rascal Chu Kuang's works, to say Chu Kuang's works are on par with The Primordial Chaos, that's indeed a bit presumptuous."

"I've got to say, in front of The Primordial Chaos, Chu Kuang's all books combined are not enough."

"..."

Countless fans of The Primordial Chaos launched a furious assault on Chu Kuang online!

It even included some readers who had read Chu Kuang's novels!

As a work from hundreds of years ago, the author of The Primordial Chaos has long disappeared into the river of history.

But...

The fanbase this work bred from its development over countless years, is undoubtedly huge!

To these people:

The Primordial Chaos mythology is unparalleled!

For a moment.

Chu Kuang and Silver Blue Books were lambasted by countless people!

The comment section of Chu Kuang's online forum was immediately drowned out by the tirades of The Primordial Chaos fans.

Chu Kuang's fans never expected.

That Chu Kuang, who had been having a smooth journey ever since his debut, and was even criticised by his own readers, was now under a collective attack from The Primordial Chaos fans?

Suddenly.

Chu Kuang's fans became enraged!

"Damn it, how dare they berate the old rascal?"

"Can these fans of The Primordial Chaos use their brains, the promotional phrases were conceived by Silver Blue Books, what does it have to do with the old rascal?"

"They want the old rascal to apologise? Shouldn't you be the ones apologising to the old rascal?"

"Do they really think that the old rascal has no fans?"

"Who gives a damn about you fans of The Primordial Chaos, the old rascal's readers are no fewer than yours if you really want to compare numbers!"

"I'm freaking angry, is the old rascal someone you fans of The Primordial Chaos can berate?"

"Brothers, arm yourselves!"

"Let's confront the fans of The Primordial Chaos!"

"You guys speak of The Primordial Chaos as so awesome, how come I've never seen the Literature and Art Association ardently promoting The Primordial Chaos?"

"Even if we don't discuss that this promotion was done by Silver Blue Books, even if it was the old rascal's own idea, so what?"

"I laughed too. The literary world's evaluation of 'The Primordial Chaos' hasn't yet reached the classic level, but the old rascal's fairy tales are mandatory reading materials for Blue Star students. They will still be read hundreds of years from now."

"..."

Don't be fooled by how Chu Kuang's fans call him the 'old rascal'.

In the hearts of these fans, Chu Kuang's status is extremely high!

They can criticize Chu Kuang for killing off Biyao and Poirot, but that's an internal affair.

The Primordial Chaos fans aren't part of the family!

When these people criticize Chu Kuang, his fans will not tolerate it!

For a moment, the internet turned into a battlefield for The Primordial Chaos fans and Chu Kuang's fans!

Forum discussions, posts, and countless social networking platforms were filled with the struggle between the two sides...

At the same time.

There's a lot of controversy among the spectators.

Furthermore, with the escalation of the conflict, finally, Xian Yu's fans couldn't take it anymore.

"It looks like Chu Kuang's side has started a fight with the Primordial Chaos fans?"

"I checked, and there seem to be a lot of Primordial Chaos fans."

"The Primordial Chaos series has been around for so many years, there are countless fandom culture, it's normal that there are so many fans. Because those people are not fans of a specific author, but fans of the culture of The Primordial Chaos."

"What are we waiting for?"

"Time to provide support for our allies."

"Considering the relationship between Chu Kuang and Fish Papa, it would be improper if we didn't help."

"We don't need to wait for Fish Papa to speak up. Fish Papa is a public figure and speaking isn't suitable, we should take the initiative."

"Deckling that matter, Chu Kuang and Fish Papa have always been protective of each other."

"..."

Several hours later, Xian Yu's fans surprisingly joined the argument on a large scale!

By that evening.

Shadow's fans came into action as well!

Don't forget, Shadow is the author of the comic 'King of the Net'!

Everyone knows about Shadow's relationship with Chu Kuang.

The Three Bros have collaborated more than once, who doesn't know their relationship is strong?

So even if Shadow didn't say anything, his fans voluntarily defended Chu Kuang.

Not to mention...

These Primordial Chaos fans slandered 'King of the Net' until it was worthless.

Shadow, the comic's author, was caught in the crossfire as well.

It was like a pile of dry gunpowder that suddenly met a spark, causing the entire internet to explode!

For a moment.

Silver Blue Books was caught off guard!

The person in charge of 'Journey to the West' promotion campaign was so scared that his face turned white...

The promotion for Chu Kuang's new book was always very domineering.

This is a consistent starting style for Chu Kuang's new book.

Who would have thought that this time it would anger the Primordial Chaos fans!

The person in charge was trembling when he found chief editor Lu Bei, and stammered: "Should we withdraw the promotional lines that mention The Primordial Chaos series?"

This is too serious!

This is the first time Chu Kuang has received such heavy criticism since his debut!

If this is handled poorly, it could severely damage Chu Kuang's reputation...

"Stand down for now."

Lu Bei's eyes were somewhat cold.

This situation isn't simple.

It's understandable that Primordial Chaos fans would feel dissatisfied seeing this kind of promotion.

But the fact that this has become a hot topic all over the internet in such a short time is definitely due to certain people stirring up trouble.

Most of the hot topics that have hit the entire internet in a short period of time are led by internet trolls.

There are people who don't want to see Chu Kuang succeed.

Nor do they want to see Silver Blue Books succeed.

But these trolls certainly didn't expect!

The reason behind Silver Blue Books' promotion was in fact related to the message from the Literature and Art Association...

After some quiet contemplation, Lu Bei called up someone.

Chu Kuang's number.

When the call was answered, Lu Bei said:

"Sorry, Mr. Chu Kuang, our promotion has unfortunately entangled you as well."

"It's alright."

Lin Yuan replied.

He had known about the uptick of activity on the internet a few hours ago through Jin Mu.

Lu Bei tentatively asked: "Should we alter the promotion?"

Lin Yuan said: "No need."

Lu Bei laughed: "I understand."

This is Chu Kuang.

The audacious Chu Kuang who dares to challenge the entire fairy tale world alone!