

F. University 991

Chapter 991: Give Them a Chance to Apologize

Ding Yue helplessly shrugged his shoulders and said.

At first glance, it seemed like a sheer misfortune for Mist City Arts and Science University.

However, since the fire broke out in the dormitory of Mist City Arts and Science University, it's definitely impossible to say it has no relation.

"These students, they truly lack any sense of safety awareness. I wonder how Mist City University of Technology conducts its campus safety education!"

Upon hearing this, Director Xiao Wenxing started rebuking Mist City University of Technology in his remarks.

After all, the truth was that a student from Mist City University of Technology had violated rules by smoking in the dormitory and caused the fire by not extinguishing the cigarette butt properly.

"Director Xiao, we at Mist City Arts and Science University have always taken this very seriously. There's no such thing as a small matter when it comes to campus safety. But, Director Xiao, you really should probe into how Mist City University of Technology handles this."

Ding Yue rolled his eyes and muttered.

"I will talk to the principal of Mist City University of Technology about this," Director Xiao Wenxing said somberly.

After the truth about the fire incident becomes clear, responsibility will definitely be pursued, something the Mist City Education Department will take seriously.

Otherwise, without a wake-up call, what if a greater fire happens next time, resulting in student casualties? Then what?

"Principal Ding, did you come across that incident with the bus on the bridge on your way back? And Big White?"

Director Xiao Wenxing leaned in a bit closer and asked curiously.

Just a while ago, Director Xiao Wenxing had learned about the incident near the bridge, where a bus nearly fell off, potentially leading to tragedy. Fortunately, it was saved by a robot.

And that robot was Big White.

Director Xiao Wenxing didn't need to think twice to know it had to be Principal Ding's Big White.

He had witnessed the capabilities of Principal Ding's Big White before.

"Yes, the situation was urgent, so I let Big White try to save the bus. Thankfully, it was successful; otherwise, the consequences would have been unimaginable," Ding Yue nodded and replied, "As for Big White, it fell into the river and was damaged, rescued by the river police rescue team. It should still be on its way here."

At that time, Ding Yue drove straight back to Mist City Arts and Science University from the bridge, obviously in a hurry.

The river police rescue team, on the other hand, needed to transport Big White to the shore and then find a specialized transport vehicle to bring Big White to Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Big White is really something, no, to be precise, Mist City Arts and Science University is really something. To have developed a robot that can save lives, Big White is definitely going to become a hero of Mist City now," Director Xiao Wenxing couldn't help but give Ding Yue a thumbs up.

Previously, he had not seen any significant use for Principal Ding's artificial intelligence robot, which seemed more like a personal toy for Principal Ding.

But now, it didn't seem so simple.

The robot managed to save a bus carrying over twenty people, over twenty precious lives; it was truly remarkable.

"Uh."

Ding Yue chuckled awkwardly and scratched his head. At that moment, he hadn't thought too much about it.

The most important thing was to save lives.

Nonetheless, being able to stop the bus and save lives was certainly praiseworthy, and Big White did a great job.

And the recent praise from Director Xiao Wenxing for Mist City Arts and Science University was not misplaced, given that the robot Big White was manufactured by them.

After all, Big White had once won a grand prize in a robot competition.

Now, two years have passed, and Big White from Mist City Arts and Science University, besides becoming a household robot figure, will likely gain even more fame due to today's bus incident on Mist City bridge.

This was not necessarily a bad thing.

"Principal Ding, we at the Education Department will definitely reward you for this. Besides, I reckon that the City Government will also give an award. However, whether Big White will be granted the Medal of Righteousness, that remains to be seen, after all, Big White is a robot, and..."

Director Xiao Wenxing chuckled as he said.

"Hahaha, indeed."

Ding Yue couldn't help but laugh as well.

Speaking of which, a bus driver from Mist City Arts and Science University once received the Mist City Medal of Righteousness. Was that last year or the year before?

Ding Yue still remembered some details.

At that time, the driver was driving Ding Yue and his team to the airport for a business trip and on the return trip, the bus faced an emergency. To avoid hitting pedestrians, the driver decisively flipped the bus on its side, thereby saving many sidewalk pedestrians from disaster.

This incident had also trended on the news at the time, and Ding Yue had rewarded the driver. Once the driver had recovered from his injuries and was discharged from the hospital, he continued to work at Mist City Arts and Science University, responsible for the management and dispatch of the campus vehicles.

"Your Mist City Arts and Science University has been quite lively today, what with a fire and a robot saving people. This could all make it to the trending, oh right, I almost forgot, the fire incident did trend, it's just that the rumors have gotten quite out of hand. Had I not personally called you and then come to see for myself, I think even I would have been blinded by the misinformation spreading online."

Director Xiao Wenxing said earnestly, "Principal Ding, don't you plan to take care of it?"

"Are you referring to the tweets about our school's fire on Twitter, Director Xiao?"

Ding Yue frowned slightly and muttered, "Those who spread rumors are indeed hateful. As the saying goes, 'A rumor can be started by one lying mouth, but dispelling it requires exhausting effort.' That's exactly the situation here."

Online rumors concerning the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University are, to put it mildly, incredibly exaggerated.

What with tales of a whole building missing and numerous students injured, it's simply unbelievable.

"Huang."

Ding Yue turned around promptly and looked at his friend Huang Youjie, who was following behind him.

"Yes?"

Huang Youjie took a step forward and said.

"Have our Law School draft a lawyer's letter and issue it online, telling those who spread and forwarded rumors beyond 500 times that they must apologize by today, or else we'll sue them directly!"

Ding Yue said with resolute eyes.

"Another lawsuit?"

Huang Youjie was taken aback for a moment. The faculty and students at the Law School were still busy with the last lawsuit, and now, if they were to sue another batch of netizens, that would mean even more work.

"It's giving those rumor-mongers a chance to apologize, isn't it?"

Ding Yue shrugged his shoulders and said with a smile, then turned to his secretary Wen Ruohan, "Xiao Wen, contact our publicity department. Based on the facts, draft an announcement about today's fire at our university and release it through our school's official account."

"Understood, Principal Ding."

Wen Ruohan nodded in response.

At this time, Director Xiao Wenxing also looked towards the person next to him and said, "Have our department draft an announcement about the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University, sticking to the facts."

"Certainly, Director Xiao."

Now, with official announcements coming from Mist City Arts and Science University, Mist City Department of Education, and inevitably the Mist City Fire Department, netizens would soon know the true details about the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University.

If rumors continued to spread after that, then Mist City Arts and Science University would have no choice but to take legal measures to protect its reputation.

"Director Xiao, I need to head back to the office to take care of the students from the dormitory affected by the fire. Would you like to stay and look around more, or?"

Ding Yue knew that Director Xiao Wenxing was busy and didn't need to accompany him the whole time.

"I came to check out the site of the fire, which I've already seen. However, we at the Department of Education must keep an eye on the situation with Big White. I'll accompany you, and later, after Big White is brought over, I'll take a look at it," said Director Xiao Wenxing with a smile.

"That sounds good."

Chapter 992: Public Apology!

Mist City Arts and Science University, Administration Building.

Inside the Principal's office.

The four students from dormitory 325 stood nervously in the office, waiting for Principal Ding to arrive.

The arrival of Principal Ding would mean that their "trial" was about to descend upon them.

After all, a fire had occurred in their own dormitory, which was no small matter. The four students were very clear in their minds that the severity of a fire in the dormitory was far more serious than getting into a fight or something of that nature.

"Brother Ping, do you think we could be expelled?"

Zhang Heng from dormitory 325 asked Liu Yuanping, who stood beside him, with great concern.

"This, I'm not too sure, but I guess we can't escape responsibility," Liu Yuanping said helplessly.

Although the fire was not caused by their fault, the fire had indeed occurred, and it caused a sensation throughout the entire campus, even having a huge impact on the internet.

So, the four of them definitely couldn't shake off their involvement in this matter.

At least, that's what Liu Yuanping thought.

"Brother Ping, I don't want to be expelled. I really like our school, and if I'm expelled, I don't know what I'll do in the future," another roommate, Li Wenkai, said tremblingly.

Li Wenkai truly loved Mist City Arts and Science University and liked the learning atmosphere within the university.

He used to be a student who didn't like studying, and after failing the College Entrance Examination, he came to Mist City Arts and Science University. But when Li Wenkai arrived at Mist City Arts and Science University, he found that learning the knowledge of the major he liked was actually so joyful.

Now, due to the fire caused by the dormitory, he might face being expelled by the university, and Li Wenkai felt very upset.

"I don't want to be expelled either,"

his roommate Chen Wei also said with concern.

"When Principal Ding comes later, we must sincerely admit our mistakes, understand?"

Liu Yuanping reminded his three roommates.

"Yeah, I know, and we really are at fault. We should have stopped Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang when they were smoking,"

Chen Wei nodded and said.

"Hey, by the way, where are Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang?"

Liu Yuanping asked curiously.

"Don't know, they were probably called over for questioning," Zhang Heng said, shaking his head.

Just then, footsteps were heard outside the office.

Judging by the sound of the footsteps, it was probably Principal Ding and his party arriving. The four students from dormitory 325 suddenly became more anxious, silently praying in their hearts not to be expelled, not to be expelled, not to be expelled!

Meanwhile, on the internet.

The incident of the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University had once again grown hotter due to the official announcements from Mist City Arts and Science University, the Mist City Department of Education, and the Mist City Fire Department.

Because the follow-up had arrived.

Previously, the internet was full of messages about a building being burned down at Mist City Arts and Science University and dozens of students being injured or killed, leaving netizens infuriated and severely criticizing Mist City Arts and Science University for their inadequate fire safety measures.

However.

Mist City Arts and Science University had now issued an official announcement, as well as the Mist City Department of Education and the Mist City Fire Department. The announcements stated that the fire incident at Mist City Arts and Science University was not as severe as described on the internet, and because the university had responded promptly, no students were injured or killed.

When netizens saw the official announcements revealing the truth, they were stunned.

Well, well.

What happened to an entire building being burned down?

What happened to the dozens of students being injured or killed?

How come the messages circulating online are so different from the official announcements released by Mist City Arts and Science University, the Mist City Department of Education, and the Mist City Fire Department?

Compared with the messages spread online, most of the netizens who were somewhat rational knew that they had to listen to official announcements for the facts.

Mist City Arts and Science University's own announcement might not be trustworthy.

But the official announcements from the Mist City Department of Education and the Mist City Fire Department, authoritative agencies, are certainly not going to be fake.

Which means.

The fire incident at Mist City Arts and Science University was actually not as bad as what had been spreading on the internet, with rumors of an entire building burned and dozens of students injured or killed.

All those were rumors!

"Damn, I knew we should let the bullet fly for a while."

"Goodness, those who spread rumors of a whole building burned and dozens of students injured or killed are now being slapped in the face."

"Glad the students are okay, and it doesn't seem like the fire was all that serious."

"People who spread rumors are truly detestable."

"But still, a fire did occur at Mist City Arts and Science University, that's a fact, right?"

"Look at the announcement from Mist City Arts and Science University. The fire was caused by two students from another university who came to the dorm to watch a game and started smoking,"

someone commented.

"Huh? It was caused by college students from another university who were smoking?"

"This is a serious matter that deserves deep reflection."

Netizens expressed their thoughts one after another, feeling sorry for Mist City Arts and Science University. Before the official announcements were made, it suffered from various rumors about a bone

buildingbeing burned and dozens of people getting injured or killed. Now, it turned out that all of that was just groundless speculation.

There were no injuries or casualties; all the students were safe and sound, and even the fire incident was caused by college students from another university who were smoking.

Chapter 993: Public Apology!

Not only that.

Mist City Arts and Science University also issued a new announcement.

This new announcement was specifically aimed at those netizens who spread rumors.

[Mist City Arts and Science University]v: This afternoon, a dormitory fire was accidentally started by a student. Our university promptly dealt with it, extinguishing the fire in time, evacuating students, and no injuries occurred. However, nonfactual statements about this fire at our university have been spreading online. Our Computer Science Department and Law School, among others, have notified the involved netizens and issued legal letters, demanding that any netizens who have spread rumors about our university's fire incident and have shared it more than five hundred times, to publicly apologize immediately after seeing this notice. Otherwise, our university will take legal measures to protect our reputation. Please be informed!

Retweets (2.4w), Comments (1.9w), Likes (6.1w)

[Comment Section]—

"Damn, Mist City Arts and Science University doesn't play soft when it comes to internet rumors."

"Remember the last time Mist City Arts and Science University sued a bunch of netizens for defamation and rumor-mongering?"

"Sigh, why can't netizens learn their lesson? Of all the people to mess with, they have to go after Mist City Arts and Science University."

"666, I bet those who spread the rumors are shaking in their boots right now."

"Hahaha, the rumor-mongers are hastily editing their apology posts overnight."

"Waiting for a massive wave of apologies."

"Is there any kind-hearted netizen who will collect those rumor-mongers' apology tweets later to make a highlight reel?"

"Waiting for the highlight reel of apologies!"

"Other people's legal letters are just that – legal letters, but the ones from Mist City Arts and Science University are not so simple; one wrong move and you can get sued."

"To be fair, you can still see the court cases from the last time Mist City Arts and Science University sued for defamation and rumor-mongering on the Internet Court."

"Mist City Arts and Science University is really strong; their Law School is truly impressive!"

"I knew it, which is why when the news was chaotically spreading at the beginning, with claims of an entire building burned down and many people injured, I didn't believe it, and now it turns out I was right, the turnaround came so quickly."

After Mist City Arts and Science University released this announcement, those netizens who had been spreading the rumors quickly fell silent.

Netizens who had initially disbelieved that the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University was that serious, now reflected on the university's iron-fisted approach.

However, this time, Mist City Arts and Science University did not directly sue the rumor-mongering netizens but instead gave them a chance to publicly apologize.

Most netizens could actually understand this point.

Mist City Arts and Science University had already been involved in quite a few defamation lawsuits before, and with so many additions now, wouldn't their Law School be overwhelmed?

Of course.

It wasn't that Mist City Arts and Science University was unwilling to sue the rumor spreaders; everyone had already witnessed their iron-fisted approach before.

This time, if those who perpetuated the error and spread rumors did not apologize publicly, it's likely that Mist City Arts and Science University would definitely sue them.

At this moment, an increasing number of netizens who spread the rumors about Mist City Arts and Science University's fire incident saw this announcement.

And now, fear was in their hearts.

Would Mist City Arts and Science University really sue?

To apologize or not to apologize?

And how could Mist City Arts and Science University have known that my post about the fire exceeded five hundred shares?

If I just play dead, surely I can get away with it, right?

That's what Xiao Zhang thought.

When he first saw the news about the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University, he'd got carried away and began criticizing the university.

Moreover, his tweet had been retweeted over a thousand times.

Now Xiao Zhang knew that what he had tweeted was "rumor-mongering," and that spreading any rumor more than five hundred times would lead to being held responsible.

Xiao Zhang had just seen the announcement from Mist City Arts and Science University and was now hesitating whether he should apologize.

Thinking about the matter, Xiao Zhang hurriedly called his good friend Xiao Wei.

"Buddy, I'd advise you to publically apologize, or you really might get sued by Mist City Arts and Science University. Once you're sued, it'll be tough to handle,"

his friend Xiao Wei urged.

"Damn, really? Will Mist City Arts and Science University actually sue, and how did they find out that my tweet surpassed five hundred shares?"

Xiao Zhang still harbored a sliver of hope.

At this point, Xiao Wei spoke with utmost seriousness and gravity, "Dude, didn't you see what happened last time? Last time, Mist City Arts and Science University directly sued those netizens who defamed and spread rumors about them. Loads of people got sued. And the computer science department at Mist City Arts and Science University has such powerful technology, not to mention their cooperation with the Mist City police. It would be too easy for them to find you, okay? This time, Mist City Arts and Science University has been lenient, they didn't sue right away but gave you a chance to publicly apologize. Seize it, man. Honestly, I couldn't figure out why you'd spread rumors about Mist City Arts and Science University in the first place?"

Xiao Wei really appreciated the private institution that was Mist City Arts and Science University.

When he found out his good friend Xiao Zhang was one of the rumor-mongers, he instantly urged him to publicly apologize, or else the consequences would be quite severe.

Upon hearing all this, Xiao Zhang immediately firmed up his stance, "Okay, then, I'll draft an apology right away. I guess I just wasn't thinking straight at that moment, sigh."

And so,

Xiao Zhang quickly drafted an apology for Mist City Arts and Science University and posted it on Twitter.

In no time, it received several hundred shares, likes and comments. Xiao Zhang didn't dare to look at the comments anymore; after sending out the apology tweet, he closed the Twitter app.

Many other netizens, just like Xiao Zhang, after much inner conflict and struggle, ultimately made the right decision to apologize immediately.

Otherwise, they were going to be greeted with a lawsuit from Mist City Arts and Science University.

On Twitter, within just half an hour, one after another apology tweets appeared under the #MistCityArtsAndScienceUniversityFire topic.

It must be said.

This time, so many netizens apologized promptly, largely because of Mist City Arts and Science University's strong-arm tactic last time in suing those who slandered and spread lies, which had a significant deterrent effect.

In the past, netizens mostly scoffed at the thought that cease-and-desist letters were ineffective, but now Mist City Arts and Science University really woke them up to the reality of such legal warnings.

Once Mist City Arts and Science University actually delivered a cease-and-desist letter to you, you'd better brace yourself for a lawsuit.

Mist City Arts and Science University in safeguarding its rights was invariably firm and clear-cut.

Wen Ruohan sneaked out her phone to check the online public opinion about the recent fire incident at Mist City Arts and Science University while Principal Ding was "educating" the students of dormitory 325.

As a result, Wen Ruohan saw many of the "rumor-mongers'" public apologies.

When Wen Ruohan saw these public apologies, her heart was wonderfully elated. She couldn't wait to immediately share this joyful news with Principal Ding.

But at the moment, Ding Yue wasn't available.

Because he was in the midst of a thorough discussion with Liu Yuanping and the other three students from dormitory 325.

"So, you must pay attention to the matter of dormitory fire safety. The school hasn't neglected safety education, and you can't just think about yourselves. Even if it's your friends, you must remind or even stop them, you understand?"

Principal Ding earnestly educated the four students from dormitory 325.

"We understand, Principal Ding. We realize our mistakes,"

the attitudes of Liu Yuanping and the others were indeed sincere and earnest.

Principal Ding saw this.

Thus, he turned to Director Qi Chunsheng, then said, "So, I'm going to inform you about the school's punishment for you guys."

As Principal Ding spoke about punishment, Liu Yuanping and the other three became tense all of a sudden.

Not expulsion, right?

It shouldn't be, right?

What if they were expelled, what then?

"In light of your negligence, which led to the campus fire, an incident with very serious repercussions, the school has decided to follow a principle of educative discipline and has thus decided to..."

Principal Ding's each and every word was listened to intently by Liu Yuanping and the others.

Chapter 994: This is a Key Engineering University

"After careful deliberation by the school, you have been given a warning and the matter will be announced throughout the school for criticism,"

Ding Yue looked at the four students from Room 325 and issued the school's punishment.

The decision to only issue a warning was made after discussions between Ding Yue and Director Qi Chunsheng of the Academic Affairs Office, and there were reasons for this.

After all, the fire in Room 325 wasn't caused by these four students but by two students from Mist City University of Technology who carelessly started the fire while trying to put out cigarette butts.

In other words, in this fire incident, the four students from Room 325 bore only secondary responsibility, not primary responsibility.

So, after some consideration, Ding Yue and Director Qi Chunsheng decided to give a warning to the four students and then simply announce a criticism throughout the school.

"Principal Ding, are you really just giving a warning?"

Liu Yuanping almost thought he had heard wrong and specifically asked again.

Ding Yue naturally nodded, "What? You think a warning isn't enough? Do you want to be put on probation?"

'No, no, no, Principal Ding, that's not what I meant, thank you, Principal Ding.'

Liu Yuanping quickly shook his head, his expression immediately becoming flustered, afraid that a careless question could lead Principal Ding to actually hand down probation as a punishment.

Being put on probation could affect his graduation smoothly.

A warning, however, was different. It was the lightest punishment in college, and as long as they followed the school rules and made no further mistakes, it would essentially be as if there was no punishment at all.

"You all weren't primarily responsible for the fire incident this time, but you must still be constantly vigilant, understand?"

Director Qi Chunsheng said to the four students.

"We understand,"

The four students said in unison.

Ding Yue saw that the four students from Room 325 had a fairly sincere attitude in admitting their fault, and they had never violated school rules or disciplines in the past.

So.

Ding Yue certainly wanted to give them a chance and not simply condemn them at once, especially since they were not the cause of the fire incident.

"Alright, you may go back,"

After notifying the four students from Room 325 of their punishment, Ding Yue let them leave, "Oh right, your room was damaged in the fire, has the school arranged temporary housing for you?"

"Yes, it has been arranged, thank you, Principal Ding,"

Liu Yuanping immediately nodded.

Director Qi Chunsheng had already talked to them about this.

Since Room 325 was burned, it was currently unfit for occupation. It needed a renovation team to repair and redecorate thoroughly.

During this time, Liu Yuanping and the other three from Room 325 would have to live elsewhere temporarily.

As the school authority, they certainly couldn't ignore this issue.

Therefore, Director Qi Chunsheng arranged temporary apartment rooms for the four individuals from Room 325 until Room 325 in Peach Garden dormitory was repaired, after which they could move back.

"Principal Ding, about the damages from our room being burnt, do we need to compensate?"

As Liu Yuanping and the others turned to leave the office, Liu Yuanping suddenly turned around and asked Principal Ding.

"Since you didn't cause the fire, it's not your turn to compensate,"

Ding Yue replied.

It wasn't about not needing to compensate; after all, a dormitory room was burned. But the matter of compensation would naturally fall to those who started the fire.

That is, the two students from Mist City University of Technology, and on Mist City Arts and Science University's part, there was also a need to communicate with Mist City University of Technology about how to properly handle the situation.

After all, it wouldn't do to just let it go because Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang were not from Mist City Arts and Science University, right?

After the four students from Room 325 left,

Ding Yue turned to Director Qi Chunsheng from the Academic Affairs Office and said, "Director Qi, next we need to deal with the matter concerning those two students from Mist City University of Technology. How's the communication going with their side?"

The fire incident that occurred at Mist City Arts and Science University was caused by two students smoking from Mist City University of Technology.

Mist City Arts and Science University had no authority to punish these two students, so naturally, communication with Mist City University of Technology was needed.

"I've called their side, but I haven't been able to reach Principal Fu yet,"

Director Qi Chunsheng replied.

"They haven't been informed of the incident yet?"

At this moment, Director Xiao Wenxing from the Educational Department, who had been silent up until then, spoke up.

"That's correct,"

Director Qi Chunsheng immediately nodded.

"What about those two students?"

Ding Yue suddenly asked.

"Principal Ding, do you want to summon them for questioning?"

"No need for that," Ding Yue shook his head, "Continue to contact Mist City University of Technology. This matter must be resolved through discussion with their side."

"Alright, Principal Ding,"

Director Xiao Wenxing thought for a moment and then instructed his assistant to take out a phone, saying, "I'll give Principal Fu of Mist City University of Technology a call to inquire."

This matter should naturally be resolved as soon as possible.

Hence, Director Xiao Wenxing, considering his status as the Director of the Educational Department, resolved to facilitate a quick discussion between Mist City University of Technology and Mist City Arts and Science University for the proper handling of the aftermath. This was also something he ought to do.

Chapter 995: This is a Key Engineering University

After all, both high schools were under his jurisdiction.

Moreover, Mist City University of Technology was a key institution, the leading polytechnic university in the Mist City region.

It might be that Mist City University of Technology and Mist City Arts and Science University differed by only one character in their names, but the two institutions were not the same, one being a key public university.

While Mist City Arts and Science University was a private university.

However, Director Xiao Wenxing pondered that it probably wouldn't take more than two years for Mist City Arts and Science University to become a key-level private university in the Mist City area.

At least in people's perception, they would gradually start to think this way.

After all, in the past two years, the fruit of Mist City Arts and Science University's labor in the fields of scientific research and teaching achievements had been exceptionally abundant.

It wasn't long before Director Xiao Wenxing's assistant dialed Principal Fu of Mist City University of Technology.

"Hello, Principal Fu, this is Xiao Wenxing."

Xiao Wenxing said after taking the phone.

As Mist City University of Technology was a national key university, Principal Fu's party position was actually quite high, on par with the principals of Qinghua University or Yancheng University. Their positions were equivalent to that of a vice-ministerial level, as they were all vice-ministerial level institutions.

"Director Xiao, why are you personally calling me?"

In the principal's office of Mist City University of Technology, Principal Fu was very courteous upon receiving the call from Director Xiao.

As the top official in the Mist City Education Department, Director Xiao Wenxing was in charge of the education sector in the Mist City area, and rumors said he was doing quite well. Perhaps in a few years, he would rise higher, directly entering the department in Yancheng. Therefore, Principal Fu was exceedingly polite upon receiving Director Xiao's call.

"Two students from your Mist City University of Technology have caused some trouble. Are you unaware of this matter, Principal Fu?"

Director Xiao Wenxing was a straightforward person and immediately brought up the issue to Principal Fu.

"What?"

Principal Fu was confused and asked somewhat dazedly, "Director Xiao, what happened with my students? I haven't received any news here?"

Principal Fu wasn't pretending; he genuinely did not know about the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University, let alone that the fire had been caused by two students from his own Mist City University of Technology smoking carelessly.

That afternoon, Principal Fu had been in meetings at the university, mainly because the workload was just too heavy.

"It seems you are not aware then. Let me tell you, a fire broke out at Mist City Arts and Science University. After investigation, it was determined that the fire was caused by two of your Mist City University of Technology students smoking in a dorm room at Mist City Arts and Science University."

Director Xiao Wenxing straightforwardly informed Principal Fu of the incident's details.

"Oh no!"

Upon hearing this, Principal Fu was shocked, "How could such a thing happen?"

His own students were smoking in a dormitory of another university's campus and had caused a fire.

"The fire incident at Mist City Arts and Science University has already become trending, and they have contacted your Mist City University of Technology several times without any response. What exactly is going on?"

Director Xiao Wenxing questioned.

Logically speaking, Mist City Arts and Science University had previously contacted Mist City University of Technology. If they had been reached in time, the issue might have already been resolved by now.

"Director Xiao, I truly am not clear about the situation, since I've been in meetings at the university this afternoon and nobody informed me about this incident. I only learned of it after you mentioned it to me. I will definitely handle this matter properly."

Principal Fu said hastily.

"Good. I'm currently at Mist City Arts and Science University, and your Mist City University of Technology isn't far away. Come over now, and let's resolve this matter today."

Director Xiao Wenxing stated.

"Okay, Director Xiao, I will come over right now!"

After hanging up the phone, Principal Fu immediately reprimanded his assistant for not informing him about the incident.

This time, the assistant really took the blame.

Because the assistant had also been busy with Principal Fu with the meeting matters of Mist City University of Technology all afternoon.

"Prepare the car, to Mist City Arts and Science University."

After scolding the assistant, Principal Fu immediately set off, ready to head to Mist City Arts and Science University.

Over at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Ding Yue, feeling rather embarrassed, said to Director Xiao Wenxing, "Director Xiao, this matter should have been something we ourselves communicated and negotiated with Mist City University of Technology, I apologize for troubling you."

If it hadn't been for Director Xiao's phone call, it's likely that Mist City Arts and Science University might not have been able to get in touch with Mist City University of Technology for quite some time.

Maybe by the time they got in touch, the negotiation process might have been delayed due to the matters being discussed; after all, the other institution is a key University of Science and Technology, and they might simply look down on a privately-run university like ours.

"This is part of my job, after all,"

Director Xiao Wenxing replied with a faint smile.

Just at that moment.

Ding Yue's phone rang, and upon checking, he saw it was Director Jian Zihao calling him.

"Principal Ding, has Big White been transported over?"

Seeing Principal Ding had a call, Director Xiao curiously inquired.

Ding Yue shook his head, "No, it's a call from the competition side."

Having said that, Ding Yue answered Director Jian Zihao's call, "Hello, Director Jian, what's the situation? Did we win or lose?"

Principal Ding had been watching the LPL Summer Season postseason championship final today and had seen up to the fourth game, but due to the sudden fire incident at the school, he had to leave and rush back to deal with it.

He had been busy with school matters, and with the bus incident on the bridge happening mid-way, Ding Yue hadn't had the chance to ask Director Jian Zihao about the competition.

Now that Director Jian Zihao was calling him, naturally, the competition had concluded.

And since the call came in now, Ding Yue guessed it was possible that their FY team's match against Dragon City LC had gone to the full five games, which meant they had lost the fourth game?

"Principal Ding, we won, we took the deciding fifth game," said an ecstatic Jian Zihao, "We were careless in the fourth game and let the other side seize an opportunity for a comeback, but we secured the fifth game, and the champion is our FY team!"

"Hahaha, good, congratulations to you all!"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue finally received some good news that day.

Otherwise, it had been all bad news today – the fire at his school, the damage to the robot Big White.

Now, with the FY team claiming the Summer Season postseason championship trophy, they would advance to the S World Championship as the number one seed from the LPL.

And the S World Championship was to take place at the end of September or the beginning of October. His Mist City Arts and Science University FY team must prepare well to compete on the world stage.

In the past two or three years, the LPL region had basically missed out on the S World Championship title, but this year, if the young men from the esports program of his Mist City Arts and Science University FY team could win the S World Championship, then the esports gaming department would truly make a name for itself with a single battle.

"Principal Ding, today truly is a day worth celebrating for the FY team. We secured the championship for both the Spring and Summer seasons, and we will work hard in the upcoming S Series World Championship as well. Oh, by the way, Principal Ding, I saw online that there was a fire at our school. You left abruptly because of this incident, didn't you? How's the situation now?"

Jian Zihao then shifted to the fire incident at the school.

Being part of Mist City Arts and Science University, after the competition ended, the first news he saw upon checking his phone was about the fire at the school, which had even become trending.

"It's nothing serious, it's nearly all taken care of. As for the celebration for the FY team students tonight, I won't be coming over. You take Xiong Jiahao and the others to have a good celebration. The school will cover the expenses, and we will also arrange for their prize money,"

Ding Yue responded.

According to the plan, had they won the championship today, Principal Ding would have definitely celebrated with the FY team.

But today was indeed an exceptional case.

Chapter 996: Three Trendings, This is Too Much

"Principal Ding, good to see you."

In Ding Yue's office, he met Principal Fu of the Mist City University of Technology for the first time.

This man was the head of a nationally renowned university—his status far surpassed Ding Yue's as the leader of a private institution.

However.

Today, Ding Yue had the upper hand.

While a principal of a key national university undeniably had high social status, Ding Yue believed that in a few years, his own status as head of a private university might not lag behind.

The reputation and standing of Mist City Arts and Science University were surging exponentially within Xia Country.

That was until the National Science and Technology Award was confirmed.

Should Mist City Arts and Science University secure this award, it would become the most prestigious private institution in Xia Country. Its fame and societal influence, as well as its status, would naturally skyrocket.

"Hello, Principal Fu."

Ding Yue greeted the Principal of Mist City University of Technology with enthusiasm, and they shook hands warmly.

After all, Director Xiao Wenxing from the Ministry of Education was present, and it wouldn't do for two university principals to appear less than amiable.

"I'm truly sorry, Principal Ding. The fire at your school was started by two of our students at Mist City University of Technology, so naturally, we will take responsibility," Principal Fu said with an apologetic tone.

After all, the blaze had been kindled by two students smoking in a dormitory, a fact confirmed by both the Ministry of Education and the fire department. As the saying goes, when you take a hit, you stand to attention.

"Principal Fu, although the fire was caused by two students from your university smoking, our students are also responsible for safety lapses," Ding Yue said, not shifting all the blame onto Mist City University of Technology.

Doing so would seem mean-spirited.

Ding Yue was pragmatic. Whoever bore responsibility should accept it. The fire had indeed involved some fault on part of the four students in Dorm Room 325 at his university, but they were not the main culprits.

Principal Fu nodded slightly on hearing Ding Yue's remarks.

In his view, Principal Ding was quite reasonable.

Before coming, he had worried that Principal Ding might try to pin all the blame for the fire on Mist City University of Technology, especially with Director Xiao Wenxing present. Principal Ding certainly didn't want to lose face in front of the Ministry of Education over this incident.

But to his surprise, Principal Ding hadn't shirked the share of responsibility that should be borne by Mist City Arts and Science University.

"In light of this, our university has dealt with the students involved, and we will shoulder part of the losses caused," Ding Yue said calmly to Principal Fu.

He couldn't afford to appear petty at a time like this, especially given that Principal Fu seemed a decent person and Director Xiao Wenxing was also at hand.

"It is indeed our responsibility to bear most of the blame. Moreover, regarding those two students, Mist City University of Technology will also mete out severe punishment. You can rest assured of that," said Principal Fu, his voice earnest.

"In that case, can the two of you manage the follow-up to this matter?" asked Director Xiao Wenxing, stepping forward and speaking with a smile.

"Director Xiao, rest assured, I will actively cooperate with Principal Ding to address this issue," Principal Fu stated his position.

"I was concerned there might be some disagreement between you two about where the responsibility lies, but it seems I worried needlessly," Director Xiao Wenxing chuckled, and then addressed Ding Yue, "So, Principal Ding, discuss the specifics with Principal Fu. Should we also call those two students in?"

"Yes, Principal Ding, call over those two students from our school," said Principal Fu, nodding.

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue glanced at the Office Director of Academic Affairs, Qi Chunsheng, and softly instructed, "Bring them over."

Not calling Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang, the two students from Mist City University of Science and Technology, would seem as though he were detaining them.

At the same time, Principal Fu spoke to his assistant, "Release a statement regarding the fire at Mist City Arts and Science University, immediately."

"But Principal Fu, how exactly should we draft the announcement?"

The assistant asked in confusion.

Although he had a rough idea of what had happened, to write the announcement, he needed to understand every detail.

"Principal Ding."

Frowning slightly, Principal Fu turned to Ding Yue.

"Oh? Is there something else you wish to say, Principal Fu?" Ding Yue asked.

"It's like this: we at Mist City University of Technology must issue an announcement, so I want my assistant to fully understand the specifics of the incident," Principal Fu replied.

"Of course, that's no problem," Ding Yue agreed, nodding, then turned to his secretary Wen Ruohan, saying, "Xiao Wen, please explain the details to Principal Fu's assistant."

"Sure."

After receiving her instructions, Wen Ruohan approached the assistant of Principal Fu. They went over to a desk, where she began to recount the particulars of the fire incident at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Chapter 997: Three Trending Topics, This is Too Much

It included details on how the fire happened and the specific causes of the fire determined by the investigation of both Mist City Arts and Science University and Mist City Fire Department, as well as the admission by the two students from Mist City University of Technology that their careless smoking ignited the fire.

It was quick.

After Principal Fu's assistant got a clear understanding of the situation, he made a call to the public relations department of Mist City University of Technology, instructing them to draft a public announcement.

When the announcement from Mist City University of Technology appeared on Twitter and other platforms, the voices of "doubt" were completely silenced.

After all, Mist City University of Technology itself admitted that the fire was caused by the careless smoking of two of their students—what more was there to say?

At this point, Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang from Mist City University of Technology had also been brought over.

Principal Fu, upon seeing these two students from his university, didn't say anything.

However, his gaze was clearly not friendly.

Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang, who had made a mistake, now hung their heads in shame.

"Principal Fu, we know we were wrong," the two apologized to Principal Fu.

"What's the use of apologizing to me?"

Principal Fu said irritably.

"Oh, the two students have also apologized to us and acknowledged their fault. Principal Fu, the incident has already happened. After you take the students back, educate them well. As for the punishment, I actually hope you won't be too harsh on them,"

Ding Yue somewhat pleaded on behalf of the two students.

It wasn't that he thought the students shouldn't be punished.

Rather, Ding Yue was concerned that because of this incident, Mist City University of Technology would lose face and that Principal Fu would look bad in front of Director Xiao. Afterwards, Principal Fu might issue a particularly severe punishment for Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang.

Such as ordering them to withdraw from the university.

That actually wasn't necessary. After all, the fire had not caused any significant economic loss, nor had there been any injuries or casualties.

Ding Yue believed that "school probation" would be the most appropriate punishment.

Because, even if the fire had been caused by the careless smoking of the students in dormitory 325, given the severity of this fire, aside from a stern education, Ding Yue wouldn't issue such a severe punishment as ordering a withdrawal from the university.

Seeing that Principal Ding had said as much, Principal Fu immediately nodded and said, "Principal Ding, our university will deal with this justly."

Having said this, Principal Fu then looked towards Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang.

The two of them were already shaking.

They were the most afraid of being expelled by the university, especially since today's incident had supposedly gone trending on Twitter. If this became a bigger issue, their punishment could become even more severe.

Moreover, today Principal Fu had been summoned by Director Xiao and couldn't save his face in front of Principal Ding. How could Principal Fu let them off the hook?

"According to the regulations of Mist City University of Technology, we should give the two students a penalty of probation within the school,"

Principal Fu said to Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang, "Additionally, you two understand the losses caused by the fire, right?"

Mist City University of Technology would certainly not compensate for the students. Since the fire had been caused by Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang, it was only right that they be responsible for the compensation.

Ding Yue agreed with this point, because that was simply how things were.

"Principal Fu, we will actively compensate for the losses suffered by Mist City Arts and Science University,"

Wang Ming and Zhao Qiang said, with quite a good attitude. Hearing that they were given probation at school, they felt a sigh of relief.

At least it wasn't a direct order to withdraw from the university, so there was still room for manoeuvre, and continuing their education was naturally the best outcome.

Director Xiao Wenxing was quite satisfied with such a punishment and outcome.

Consequently, Director Xiao Wenxing looked towards Ding Yue.

Ding Yue made eye contact with Director Xiao Wenxing and nodded slightly.

This matter was essentially settled, and the follow-up implementation could be entrusted to subordinates. Two major principals definitely need not attend to everything personally.

"Principal Ding, I'm really sorry for the trouble our students have caused your university,"

Principal Fu once more expressed his apology to Ding Yue.

"Where is this coming from, Principal Fu? We are both prestigious institutions in Mist City and are quite close neighbors. This incident is not so significant that it should harm the relationship between our two universities,"

Ding Yue was also smiling as he spoke.

"On my way here, I heard that your university's robot saved a bus today, which is indeed a delightful occurrence."

Seeing that the fire incident had been almost dealt with, Principal Fu changed the topic.

Since he was there, Principal Fu also wanted to take the opportunity to communicate with the young and promising Principal Ding, and with Director Xiao Wenxing present, he could also demonstrate the friendly relationship between Mist City University of Technology and Mist City Arts and Science University to Director Xiao.

Principal Fu was very clear that for the past two years, Director Xiao from the Education Department had favored and supported Mist City Arts and Science University, treating it as the top privately-run university in Mist City.

Moreover, it was rumored that Mist City Arts and Science University and Principal Ding were also highly regarded by Governor Li at the Mist City Government building.

For such a popular figure and university, Principal Fu certainly intended to chat more and close the distance between them.

"Oh? Principal Fu, you also know about this matter?"

When it came to this incident, Ding Yue was quite proud.

After all, Big White was a robot developed by his own Mist City Arts and Science University. It had saved a bus full of people, which had become widely celebrated by the citizens of Mist City. As its owner, he had every reason to be pleased.

Although Big White had been damaged.

But it didn't matter, as long as the chip was still intact, Big White hadn't left him, and he could give Big White a new body.

"Yes, it's already trending, I saw it on my way over," said Principal Fu with a smile.

At this moment, Secretary Wen Ruohan leaned over to Principal Ding's ear and whispered, "Principal Ding, the matter of Big White saving the bus has indeed spread. It has now climbed onto Twitter trending; today our Mist City Arts and Science University has occupied three trending spots."

"Three spots?"

Ding Yue looked at Wen Ruohan with surprise.

This was simply amazing.

That three separate trending spots were not about the same incident showed how immense the influence of his Mist City Arts and Science University could be.

Of course.

The trending spot about the fire incident was somewhat less than favorable.

But the other two were definitely very positive and energetic.

One was about Big White saving people on a bus, which could very well become an inspirational story.

The other trending topic, if Ding Yue wasn't mistaken, must be about his Mist City Arts and Science University's FY team winning the championship of the LPL Summer Game, right?

Otherwise, Ding Yue really couldn't think of anything else from Mist City Arts and Science University that would be trending.

"Principal Ding, your university's robot is truly remarkable. If I may be so bold, may I visit and see this robot of yours?" Principal Fu asked earnestly.

Without delay, Ding Yue smiled and said, "Principal Fu, you can visit, of course, but Big White was damaged after saving the bus when it fell into the river. The river police department should be bringing Big White over soon."

"Principal Fu, wait with me later, and we'll take a look together."

It just so happened that Director Xiao Wenxing had yet to leave because he planned to see Big White, the robot. Since Principal Fu was interested too, it made sense to invite him along.

"Alright."

Principal Fu was delighted when Principal Ding agreed, and then with Director Xiao Wenxing also inviting him, he nodded happily in response.

Just at that moment.

Secretary Wen Ruohan received a phone call from the river police department.

"Yes, this is me, have you arrived? Okay, good, please wait a moment."

Wen Ruohan covered the phone and promptly said to Principal Ding, "Principal Ding, the river police department has delivered Big White. It's currently at the front gate, asking where to bring it."

"Send it to the Mechanical Engineering Department's laboratory,"

said Ding Yue immediately upon hearing this.

Chapter 998: A Special Medal of Righteousness

Mechanical Engineering Laboratory.

The robot Big White, salvaged from the water by the Mist City police department, was delivered here at Ding Yue's instruction.

In fact, as soon as Big White had been delivered to Mist City Arts and Science University by the police department, Ding Yue had already asked the students from the Mechanical Engineering Department to go "welcome" it.

Tong Yihang and Liu Tiefei could be said to be the creators of Big White's body, practically its "fathers." When they learned that Big White had saved a bus on the bridge, they couldn't have been happier.

But when they learned of Big White's damage, they were deeply saddened as well.

Whether Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, or other Mechanical Engineering students involved in the creation of Big White's mechanical body, they all had a deep emotional attachment to Big White.

"Principal Ding."

At the laboratory entrance, Tong Yihang approached Principal Ding to describe Big White's damage, "The mechanical joints are pretty much all damaged to varying degrees due to the excessive force they endured. The carbon fiber skeleton is particularly severely damaged. Furthermore, after being damaged, it fell into the river, causing the circuit board to be virtually paralyzed. However, thankfully, our chip is protected by a waterproof layer, and it should be undamaged."

After listening to Tong Yihang's introduction, Ding Yue nodded slightly.

Then, she turned to look at her artificial intelligence robot Big White lying on the experimental table, appearing to be at death's door, mainly because the polyvinyl alcohol fibers were damaged and now it seemed very deflated.

"And the chip?"

At this moment, Xu Bin asked anxiously.

After all, Big White's artificial intelligence chip was his own handiwork; who else would care about it but him?

If the chip were also damaged, that would truly be a pity.

That chip was the first one in Mist City Arts and Science University to use gallium nitride semiconductor material technology, and it was specially customized, making it very costly.

What mattered most to Xu Bin, like Ding Yue, wasn't the cost of the chip, but the fact that the chip held all of Big White's 'memories.'

Instead of calling them memories, it would be more accurate to say 'data.'

All of Big White's data were inside that chip. Without it, it would mean the loss of the artificial intelligence robot Big White, that had been trained through countless pieces of human world knowledge and behavior.

"We haven't touched the chip; it's still inside."

Tong Yihang replied.

After Big White was brought in, Tong Yihang and Liu Tiefei immediately examined it, but they didn't remove the chip.

Upon hearing this, Xu Bin stepped forward and personally opened Big White's chip slot.

The chip slot is waterproof and even heat-resistant, as the chip is just too important.

After Xu Bin carefully examined the chip he had removed, a joyful smile appeared on his face, and he turned to Ding Yue and said, "Principal Ding, the chip is intact."

"That's great."

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue was also overjoyed.

An intact chip meant that Big White was not in serious trouble. The body could be rebuilt, but the artificial intelligence and thinking logic within the chip were not easily reproduced.

It was the product of the daily training Ding Yue and secretary Wen Ruohan had personally conducted in the routines of daily life, having spent a long time with such a cute and endearing robot, Ding Yue certainly had developed an emotional bond with it.

Secretary Wen Ruohan felt the same.

When she heard from Director Xu Bin that the chip was fine, Wen Ruohan also breathed a sigh of relief.

At this moment, Director Xiao Wenxing, who was standing to the side, asked curiously, "Principal Ding, so if Big White is damaged but the chip is fine, there's no issue?"

Not being very knowledgeable about the principles of artificial intelligence robots, Director Xiao inquired from Principal Ding.

"Yes, Director Xiao,"

Ding Yue nodded and answered, "This chip is Big White's core because, as an artificial intelligence robot, the chip essentially serves as its brain."

After hearing Principal Ding's explanation, Director Xiao Wenxing also understood and said thoughtfully, "Then Big White's body can be rebuilt."

"Correct."

That was the intent.

"Principal Ding, your robot Big White is quite popular and beloved in the country; I remember your university released the medical health robot Big White, right? The one you just mentioned is the artificial intelligence Big White?"

Principal Fu looked at Big White for a while, then turned to Ding Yue and asked curiously, "Because our Mist City University of Technology also has an artificial intelligence robot project."

"Yes."

Ding Yue smiled and nodded, "Principal Fu, this particular unit was custom-built for me personally by the Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science Departments of our Mist City Arts and Science University. Its cost is very high."

"Oh?" Principal Fu continued to inquire curiously, "How much does a Big White like this one cost?"

"At least over a million."

Ding Yue responded.

Both Principal Fu and Director Xiao Wenxing were stunned when they heard the cost, marveling internally at the extent of advanced technology being used.

In fact, Ding Yue was understating the cost at a million.

Even just the chip of Big White cost over a million, and that's why Big White was Ding Yue's personal robot and could not be commercialized—because of such high costs, how could it be commercialized?

Chapter 999: Special Medal of Righteousness

Moreover, Ding Yue didn't really have much desire to commercialize the artificial intelligence robot by his side; having it to himself was enough.

Another reason was that the current society just couldn't support the commercialization of artificial intelligence robots.

"Big White is, after all, the culmination of the combined efforts of the Mechanics and Computer Science departments at Mist City Arts and Science University. Its high cost is understandable, and Big White is truly impressive. It even managed to save a bus. What it has done can't be measured by value alone," summarized Director Xiao Wenxing.

"Director Xiao is right," Principal Fu added, echoing Director Xiao Wenxing's words.

A moment later, Principal Fu continued, "Principal Ding, considering such capabilities of Big White, has your university and company thought about when to start production? After seeing it, I find myself wanting one too."

"Ah, that..."

Ding Yue couldn't help but give an embarrassed smile and said, "I'm afraid that's quite far off."

"I can understand, I can understand."

Principal Fu was just asking casually. The difficulty of mass-producing such advanced artificial intelligence robots and bringing them to market was not something an ordinary company could solve.

And with such high production costs, commercialization was basically very difficult to achieve.

However.

Hadn't Mist City Arts and Science University and its backing entity, Feiyue Group, managed to mass-produce the medical healthcare robot Big White before?

It seemed that the artificial intelligence chip used in this one must be far behind the level of what was used in the medical healthcare robot Big White.

Principal Fu could imagine that the reason why Ding Yue's private Big White robot wasn't able to be mass-produced at this stage was mostly due to that smart chip.

While Ding Yue was showing Director Xiao Wenxing, Principal Fu, and others the damaged Big White.

Over at the Mist City Government building.

After finishing a meeting, Governor Li learned about the bus incident on the bridge right away.

"Such incidents again... We must investigate and punish the persons involved strictly!"

Governor Li was very angry upon learning about the bus incident on the bridge.

There had been similar cases around the country before, where passengers interfered with the bus driver's operation, leading to the uncontrollable movement of the bus and eventually resulting in irrevocable tragedies.

Today's incident on the bridge was just like that.

If this had turned into a tragedy, it's feared that the two to three dozen people on that entire bus would have fallen victim.

And if such a significant safety accident had happened in his jurisdiction, could he, as the leader of Mist City, really avoid any responsibility?

Luckily, the bridge bus incident did not lead to a tragedy.

"Xiao Chang, you just said that the bus incident on the bridge didn't turn into a tragedy due to Mist City Arts and Science University's involvement? How so?"

Out of curiosity, Governor Li suddenly asked.

"Governor Li, this is the detailed report of the bus incident on the bridge."

Secretary Xiao Chang handed the report to Governor Li.

As Governor Li read through it, Secretary Xiao Chang explained, "It was like this: just as the bus was about to lose control and plunge into the river, a robot appeared."

"A robot?"

Governor Li became even more confused.

What does this crisis of a bus plunging into a river have to do with a robot? And where did this robot come from?

But Governor Li quickly saw the main information in the report.

Turns out the robot belonged to Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University, and Principal Ding Yue was at the scene at the time.

"It was Principal Ding who had his robot try to stop the bus from falling into the river, and to everyone's astonishment, it succeeded!" Secretary Xiao Chang said excitedly: "This is truly unheard of."

A robot preventing a public safety incident was indeed unheard of before in Xia Country.

"There's something like that?"

Even Governor Li was somewhat surprised.

How could he have imagined that the reason the bridge bus incident didn't turn into a tragedy was because a robot had prevented it?

What kind of robot could actually stop a bus from plunging into the river?

And it belonged to Mist City Arts and Science University!

He was well acquainted with this private institution of higher learning in Mist City.

In the past two years, the entity that had stood out the most was this very university, and a significant plan Governor Li had been devising for a grand strategy related to the battle of Mist City was closely linked to it.

It involved the construction of a high-tech industrial park in Mist City; a plan that was virtually set in stone at the Mist City Government building. The future of Mist City would definitely include the creation of a high-tech development zone.

However, the question remained: What high-tech industries could be used as the underlying support?

Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University had previously mentioned to Governor Li the graphene industry, which he was looking forward to. But whether or not it would come to fruition depended on the performance of the university and Feiyue Group.

And it was due to this matter that Governor Li retained a very strong impression of the young Principal Ding Yue of Mist City Arts and Science University to this very day.

"Yes, Governor, this incident has a broad social impact. Many citizens of Mist City, along with netizens, have praised the university's robot, Big White, even making it trending," said Secretary Xiao Chang, nodding.

"So it seems that Principal Ding's robot from Mist City Arts and Science University has indeed averted a tragedy. Such an act can be considered an act of righteousness. Our City Government must reward it accordingly," remarked Governor Li, after giving it some thought. Today, the bridge bus incident seemed to be still drawing a lot of attention.

Especially the fact that Big White, the robot from Mist City Arts and Science University, had saved a bus; Secretary Xiao Chang had just mentioned that it had made the trending list.

If the Mist City Government did not reward such a heroic act at this juncture, it would certainly be an oversight.

Only, there was a catch.

Governor Li couldn't help but chuckle ruefully; this act of righteousness was a bit "odd," as all previous incidents had involved humans performing the valorous acts.

But this time was different; it was a robot that had acted heroically.

Naturally, Governor Li had considered that the robot's owner was Ding Yue, so the accolade could be bestowed upon him.

Mist City's regulations for acts of righteousness stated that for those with significant impact, the Mist City Government building would award not just a certificate, but also the Medal of Righteousness, and the rewards would be much more substantial.

For acts of such caliber, the reward was less important than the Medal of Righteousness itself.

This was the highest symbol of honor for the citizens of Mist City who performed acts of valor!

"Governor, given the scale and significance of Big White's rescue, our City Government should award the Medal of Righteousness," Secretary Xiao Chang suggested.

"Good, let's award the Medal of Righteousness," Governor Li said, nodding. "If I remember correctly, it was either last year or the year before that Mist City Arts and Science University received the Medal of Righteousness, right?"

"Yes, yes, that was the driver of a campus bus at the university," Secretary Xiao Chang, recalling the incident, added hastily: "But Governor, this Medal of Righteousness – to whom are we awarding it?"

Seeing that Secretary Xiao Chang had left his sentence unfinished, Governor Li knew what he was implying.

"Indeed, that's a problem. It was the robot, Big White, that saved the bus, but are we to give the Medal of Righteousness to a robot?"

Governor Li furrowed his brows and murmured, "There's no precedent for that."

Throughout the nation, in every city, every region, the Medal of Righteousness is a cherished honor, but up to now, no place has ever awarded it to a machine.

This was to be a special Medal of Righteousness that the Mist City Government was about to award!

This posed quite a dilemma for those at the Mist City Government building.

"Call Principal Ding Yue of Mist City Arts and Science University, and inquire about his opinion," Governor Li decided after some thought, instructing.

"Certainly, Governor!"

Chapter 1000: Fiber Reinforced Ceramic Matrix Composites

Mist City Headlines—

[Passenger Disturbs Driver and Nearly Causes Disaster, Thanks to the Appearance of a Robot!]

[Close Call! Bus Nearly Plunges into River at Tianjiang Bridge!]

[Robot from Mist City Arts and Science University Successfully Saves Bus from Falling into the River!]

Today's Mist City News was dominated by the Tianjiang Bridge bus incident.

Since the incident occurred, it quickly spread on Twitter, followed by rapid coverage by Mist City's television stations and news media.

Besides that,

on platforms such as Twitter and TikTok, news and trending topics about the "Mist City Tianjiang Bridge Bus Incident" also quickly emerged.

After learning about the incident, netizens criticized the passenger who disturbed the driver's normal driving.

After all, this wasn't the first time such an incident had occurred in Xia Country.

And before this, there had even been tragedies—buses plunging into rivers or lakes causing the breakdown of countless families.

Fortunately,

this time the incident on Tianjiang Bridge in Mist City did not lead to tragedy, merely causing some passengers to sustain superficial external injuries due to the bus "losing control."

The police have already successfully apprehended the passenger who had disturbed the normal operation of the bus driver.

Netizens' public indignation and scathing critiques followed suit.

"Suggest a firing squad execution!"

"Sentence them. People like this have really gone too far."

"Do they never learn, after so many tragedies already? Isn't this kind of thing illegal now?"

"Fortunately, there was no tragedy this time or how many families' dreams would have been shattered?"

"Thank heavens for that robot from Mist City Arts and Science University."

"I heard it was a university robot that stopped the bus from falling into the river, is that true?"

"Isn't there a video?"

"I watched the video, and it really was that robot holding up the bus. Otherwise, it would've definitely fallen into the river, too close for comfort."

"It's Big White, right? The Big White from Mist City Arts and Science University."

"The medical healthcare robot Big White?"

"It's not the medical healthcare robot Big White. Rumor has it that it's Principal Ding's personal robot, a very expensive AI robot made by Mist City Arts and Science University."

"Yes, that's right, I've seen students from Mist City Arts and Science University posting on Twitter. Principal Ding often has that Big White with him."

Netizens had two types of reactions concerning this issue.

The first was, undoubtedly, to condemn the passenger who disturbed the driver.

There's no doubt that the passenger's actions were extremely dangerous and involved breaking the law, and the case has now been handed over to the relevant departments for action.

Justice must be served!

The second kind of response was to praise the AI robot Big White from Mist City Arts and Science University.

If not for Big White, the bus would surely have plunged into the river, causing disastrous loss of life. Big White saved the 27 passengers and the driver aboard that bus.

Netizens naturally distinguished good from evil regarding such heroic deeds and actions taken in the face of danger.

Big White was already very famous in Xia Country, thanks to the animated movie "Super Combat Team" made by Mist City Arts and Science University, which brought Big White a lot of popularity.

Now, Big White has become the "hero" who saved the bus, and people like Big White even more.

Of course,

this time's Big White is not the Big White of before.

The impression left by the previous Big White was that of a medical healthcare robot.

But this time's Big White is different. It's an AI robot, and it belongs personally to Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University.

The internet was abuzz with debates over the "Mist City Tianjiang Bridge Bus Incident."

However, Ding Yue wasn't paying too much attention to that, but together with his friends, he was concerned about his own AI robot Big White.

"Bin, keep that chip safe for now, and then, Yihang, you'll be responsible for making a new body for Big White," Ding Yue instructed Xu Bin and Tong Yihang.

The matter of the chip could be left to Bin, and it just had to be kept safe, as it hadn't been damaged.

As for the body of Big White, that naturally fell to the department of mechanical engineering and people like Tong Yihang.

"Understood, Principal Ding," Tong Yihang nodded and then asked, "So Principal Ding, should the new body for Big White still be made in the original style?"

When Ding Yue heard Student Tong Yihang asking this question, he suddenly remembered the idea he had on Tianjiang Bridge.

Should I give Big White a new body?

An upgrade, maybe?

Like usual, use polyvinyl alcohol fiber for the soft and cuddly Big White exterior because that original design is most appealing and adorable.

But, if faced with danger or emergency situations, wouldn't it be great if Big White could don a layer of protective polyvinyl alcohol fiber exterior armor?

Or in emergency situations, the polyvinyl alcohol fiber exterior could instantly retract, and Big White could "transform" into a safe form with water resistance, high temperature endurance, and increased hardness?

These were just Ding Yue's ideas.

To implement them, Ding Yue alone definitely wouldn't be sufficient; it would then be up to the talented students from the mechanical department and other departments at Mist City Arts and Science University to join forces.

The mechanical department could only complete the mechanical aspect of Big White's body, but to achieve what Ding Yue had in mind, they would need to use entirely new materials for Big White.