

Superstar 1461

Chapter 1461: Zhang Ye's latest popularity ranking!

On this day.

In the morning.

From the day Zhang Ye announced that all seven of his comic series were canceled, the crusade against this "great eunuch" continued for a whole week. The people of China, Japan, Korea, and many other countries all volunteered to join the campaign, launching a devastating personal attack on him.

According to incomplete statistics:

Zhang Ye was scolded 20 million times on China's Weibo.

Zhang Ye was scolded 32 million times by those in Japan.

Zhang Ye's Studio was surrounded 11 times.

Zhang Ye's car was soaked with the urine of dogs peeing on it a total of 53 times.

Right now, his BMW was emitting such a pungent smell that it could be smelled from ten meters away!

Castrating!

Dead cat bounce!

Castrating again!

Everything this fellow did caused the people to grind their teeth in hatred!

There had never been a celebrity who got scolded by so many people. Furthermore, it was a denunciation that lasted an entire week like a bombing run. This was truly unprecedented and unheard of!

Online.

"Hai, stop scolding already."

"I'm getting tired too."

"Save your energy, everyone. This fellow will never update the comics again!"

"This fellow's skin is too thick, and he's totally unaffected by our scolding!"

"I really want to cry. My One Piece, my Naruto, my Detective Conan!"

"Wash up and get some sleep. I know this Zhang Ye fellow too well. Who knows, he might find his conscience someday and get back to drawing the comics. It's impossible right now because he's challenging the Japanese and Korean authorities on the restriction order. Since they've banned him over there, he's even more unwilling to publish any new chapters. This fellow has always had such a temper."

“Oh yes, how’s his Asian popularity doing?”

“Let me see—”

“Eh, why isn’t he there?”

“His name isn’t there? Haha, could his popularity have dropped?”

“He deserves it! Let him die!”

“What’s going on? Is his name really no longer on the rankings?”

“Did you guys just notice? This has been the case for several days.”

“Could he have gotten banned on the rankings index?”

“Could it be that he is no longer on the rankings because of the wrath of the people?”

There were all sorts of differing opinions.

Everyone was coming up with all kinds of wild guesses.

...

Elsewhere.

At Zhang Ye’s Studio.

Everyone had been really busy with this matter for the past few days.

“Where’s the contract? Where’s the contract for One Piece?”

“It’s here!”

“Aiya, who left it in the drawer?”

“Is Detective Conan’s contract there too?”

“It’s with me. The original manuscript is here as well!”

“Alright, send it over to them then.”

A few days ago, they received a call from the staff overseeing the Asian Celebrity Rankings, requesting that they present evidence proving that Zhang Ye was Aoi, Ozawa, and all of the other cartoonists. They also informed them that Zhang Ye’s Asian popularity ranking would temporarily be suspended. Only after the verification process could they recalculate and reinstate his popularity score on the rankings index. The studio’s staff naturally understood this.

Were the comics done by you as long as you claimed so?

That wouldn’t do. It had to be backed up with evidence.

Only after the verification process finished could the accumulated popularity of those seven cartoonists be redirected to Zhang Ye’s popularity score.

Zhang Ye asked, "Will it be settled by today?"

Ha Qiqi said, "It should be. It's more or less done."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright then, let's keep a lookout for tonight's rankings."

Little Wang was a little nervous. "Will this really work?"

Little Sun was also unsure about this. "I'm just afraid that our reputation is not too good, and it might affect the popularity score."

"How is it only not too good?" Little Zhou corrected, "We have no reputation left at all!"

Zhang Ye was amused to hear this. In reality, he had estimated his popularity score. But there were still too many uncertain factors, so he couldn't be sure of it either. He had caused the wave he wanted to, so they would have to see today's results to know how successful it was.

A little more!

Let's increase our popularity a little more this time!

At the very least, let us get closer to the top ten of the Asian A-list rankings. If we can't even make it into the top ten, then all these months of hard work would have gone to waste!

...

Not only Zhang Ye.

China.

Japan.

Korea.

The industry.

The media.

Everyone was extremely concerned about the changes in his Asian popularity!

"Has Zhang Ye's Asian popularity gone up or down?"

"According to a report, Zhang Ye's popularity score is currently being evaluated!"

"Zhang Ye's popularity ranking to be revealed tonight?"

"Would he ascend to the altar or he fall from grace?"

"According to industry insiders: Zhang Ye's popularity score is impossible to predict!"

"An unprecedented example in history!"

There were those who were bullish.

There were those who were bearish.

Everyone was debating this to no end.

...

Japan.

"Let him fucking drop from the rankings."

"Yeah, let him drop out of the A-list rankings!"

"What are you saying? He should fall off the B-list too!"

"That's right! This fellow is too hateful. Hopefully, he won't even earn a place on the Asian C-list!"

"Hahaha, let's wait to see Zhang Ye's impending doom tonight!"

"Drop! Drop! Drop!"

"Let him understand what will become of him when he incurs our wrath!"

...

China.

"I've already bought the firecrackers."

"Hehe, we're waiting to celebrate tonight!"

"Here's wishing Lord Zhang a great failure!"

"He will definitely fail! Otherwise, the Heavens will be outraged!"

"Since Teacher Zhang is trying so hard to fail, it wouldn't be justified if he doesn't at least drop down to the C-list rankings!"

"We're in for a show!"

...

Korea.

"Go on, cancel the comics!"

"Let's see if he can still smile after tonight!"

"Keep being arrogant! You'll be crying soon!"

"Ahem, what if this fellow's popularity goes up instead?"

"Fuck, surely not, right?"

"There are so many people scolding him. How can it rise?"

"But hasn't it always been this way?"

"Eh!"

...

Lee Anson's team.

"What will happen tonight?"

"I don't know."

"Let's wait and see then."

"It will definitely drop, that's for sure!"

...

At Yao Jiancai's house.

"Dad, is Uncle Zhang's Asian popularity score going to be updated soon?"

"I think so."

"Will it drop?"

"Who can predict that? Common sense can never be applied when it comes to that kid!"

...

In China.

At a gathering of several celebrities.

"Anyone wants to make a guess about the changes to Zhang Ye's popularity ranking?"

"This is really hard to put a finger on."

"Yeah, we can make a guess for anyone but Zhang Ye. His popularity ranking is fucking impossible to guess."

...

An hour.

Two hours.

Three hours.

It was finally midnight.

Countless Asian media outlets, industry insiders, celebrities, and citizens started checking the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index. Everyone was refreshing the rankings index. It wasn't that they had nothing better to do, but that everyone was very curious about Zhang Ye's current popularity ranking!

They refreshed it once!

Nothing!

They refreshed it again!

Still nothing!

When most of the people refreshed it for the third time, the rankings index was finally updated!

Several days prior, Zhang Ye was last seen at around the middle of the Asian A-list rankings. It wasn't considered the front, but it was slightly ahead of those ranked in the middle. But upon seeing this latest Asian Celebrity Rankings Index today, many people were stunned! A lot of them were so shocked that they nearly vomited blood. They were all tongue-tied!

"Holy fuck!"

"How could this be!"

"This can't be, dammit!"

"How does this make any sense!"

"How could it be like this!"

"This great eunuch is too heaven-defying!"

"It doesn't make any sense at all! It doesn't make any fucking sense at all!"

Zhang Ye's name had impressively appeared on the rankings index. It did not drop down to the B- or C-list rankings. Zhang Ye's popularity ranking was still in the A-list. Not only that, he had actually advanced from his middle ranking!

It advanced by a lot!

It was really a lot!

The Asian people couldn't believe their eyes. They saw Zhang Ye's name appear at fourth place on the Asian A-list!

Fourth place!

This couldn't even be considered the front anymore!

This was the fucking top of the Asian A-list!

Compared to his previous place in the middle of the rankings, he had advanced by 16 or 17 spots!

This was skyrocketing!

Japan was dumbfounded!

Korea was dumbfounded!

Zhang Ye's Studio's staff were dumbfounded!

The Asian media outlets were dumbfounded!

The Asian entertainment industry was dumbfounded!

All the Asian people were dumbfounded!

At the moment the popularity rankings index was revealed, all of Asia blew up!

“Does it have to be so ridiculous!”

“Does it have to be so unexpected!”

“Fuck your sister!”

“It can even be fucking achieved this way?”

“Not only did his ranking not drop, it even rose? And it even rose by so much?”

“My titanium dog eyes are blinded!”

Chapter 1462: Moving up the ‘Reach the Summit’ plan!

The next day.

It was a weekend.

Zhang Ye drove his BMW to a nearby car wash.

“Yo, Teacher Zhang, you came here?”

“Yes.”

“Washing your car again?”

“Wash it a few extra times.”

“Sure, I’ll definitely get rid of the pungent smell for you.”

“Thanks.”

“You’re welcome. Hai, dog owners these days are too inconsiderate.”

While the car was being washed, Zhang Ye strolled over to the newspaper stand and bought a few copies of newspapers. Traditional paper media was on the decline these days, but Zhang Ye still had the habit of reading a physical copy of a newspaper. Compared to online media, paper media was more official, and the news was more factual. At least he wouldn’t have to worry about seeing too much fake news and rumors.

Today’s front page was taken up by news of him again.

“Zhang Ye’s popularity skyrockets!”

“An unexpected outbreak of popularity!”

“Zhang Ye’s path to the Asian summit!”

“Will Zhang Ye become the next Chinese artist to step up to the summit of Asia?”

“Zhang Ye is promoted to a top Asian A-list celebrity!”

“Zhang Ye may be only a step away from becoming an Asian Heavenly King!”

“Will Zhang Ye be able to reach the summit of Asia within a year?”

Zhang Ye smiled as he flipped through the papers. He was in a very good mood. His foray into the comics industry went even more successfully than expected. Not only did it meet Zhang Ye’s expectations, it went way beyond that. He had initially just hoped to get a place within the top ten of the Asian A-list rankings, but who could have thought that he would end up heading straight to the top in fourth place. This was indeed an unexpected gain. The sleepless nights and hard work these several months had not been for nothing. Thinking about those days when he had to release three or four chapters a day, it felt so unbearable and tiring!

The car was washed.

Zhang Ye drove back to the studio.

When he got upstairs, he discovered that quite a few of his friends had come to visit.

Yao Jiancai.

Amy and Li Xiaoxian.

Grandma Zhang Xia was here as well.

Li Xiaoxian waved and greeted, “Teacher Zhang.”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “You’re all here? Where’s Sister Dong?”

“Sister Dong went on a date. Since the two of us had nothing better to do, we dropped by to visit.” Amy harrumphed, probably because Slam Dunk was still on her mind.

Zhang Xia was looking around. “Your place looks pretty good.”

Zhang Ye smiled. “It’s Grandma Zhang’s first time here, right? Please, take a seat.” He turned his head and said, “Little Wang, quickly make some tea.”

“Coming!” Little Wang went to brew the tea with a giggle.

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, “Kid, you’re on fire again! So how about it? Your treat this afternoon?”

Zhang Ye said, “So you guys are here only because you want to scrounge a meal off me?”

Amy said, “Of course, we’re only here for the free meal from you.”

Zhang Ye said in amusement, “Sure, sure, I’ll treat.”

Zhang Xia said with a grin, “Your Asian popularity score has increased by a lot this time. This wasn’t expected by many people, but even those who did couldn’t have imagined that it would increase by this much.”

“What’s crucial is still how you fought your way up there.” Amy said dispiritedly, “Gaining an increase in popularity through fighting and scolding, our Lord Zhang has really had easy when it comes to being a celebrity.”

Yao Jiancai laughed. "Yeah, it looks like I have to head in this direction as well. I won't have to act anymore in the future, nor perform crosstalks. All I need to do is stay at home and practice scolding people. I'll just lie down in bed and do nothing other than scolding everyone once over, then I can become an Asian superstar as well. Where else can I find such a good thing?"

Everyone laughed.

The staff at Zhang Ye's Studio were also amused to hear that.

Of course, everyone knew that this was just a joke. Zhang Ye had indeed relied on scolding and fighting others to advance in the rankings. All this while, his popularity had increased every time he scolded or fought someone. But even though it sounded simple, to scold and fight others in the way that Zhang Ye did—

How many people could do what he did?

He was the only person in the world who could do it!

No others could copy this style of his, absolutely no one!

In all of Asia, and even in the entire world, this was a highly difficult "skill" that was unique to Zhang Ye. Only he could pull it off. Anyone else who attempted it would die trying!

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "It was just a coincidence this time. Who could've thought that comics would have such a big impact? Those seven comics of mine mainly received maximum exposure in Japan. I wasn't really popular or even popular at all over there in the past, so there is naturally some room for growth. It's still a little bad over in Korea, though. Even if they are always fiercely vocal about the comics, there aren't that many Koreans who actually read them. So the popularity that I gained this time was still mainly from Japan."

Li Xiaoxian grinned and said, "There's quite a bit from the other Asian countries as well."

Amy said, "That's right, I was following Slam Dunk as well. Who could've thought that you would stop drawing it? With the comic canceled, the cartoon has also stopped showing. Ahhh, just thinking about it makes me so depressed!"

Zhang Xia looked at Zhang Ye and said with a smile, "You're not playing nice."

Zhang Ye laughed. "I really don't have the time to draw them."

Zhang Xia asked, "Judging by this momentum of yours, are you really thinking about taking a place amongst the Asian Heavenly Kings this year?"

Zhang Ye smiled and replied, "If I can reach the top, that would be for the best, of course."

"Your popularity is growing so fast that it's like you're riding on a rocket." Amy said, "Take it slow and consolidate your position. What's the rush?"

But Zhang Ye said, "That won't do. My child will be born in another few months. When the time comes, I'll definitely have to divert my attention back to my family. I can't just leave everything to my wife to take care of. I'll definitely have to play a part too. Then there's the issue of raising my child, so I won't

have much time left for anything else. I'm already prepared to take two or three years off work for that. From my debut until now, other than those scattered few days, I have basically not taken any time off to rest. It's about time I do so as well, so I would like to ascend to the top of Asia before my child is born. If I can achieve that, I won't have too much to worry about in the future. I can go on a break for a few years before coming back to challenge the international entertainment circle!"

International?

When they heard this, it sounded far away.

Zhang Xia said with a sigh, "The international arena is a stage we don't stand a chance on in our lifetime."

Amy also said, "Right, it's not somewhere we can dream of. You might be the only one who can challenge it."

"It's still too early to say. I'm not confident either." Zhang Ye said with a laugh, "I better think about reaching the summit in Asia before anything else. I'm still quite a bit a ways from achieving that."

Yao Jiancai said, "It's not far anymore."

Zhang Ye shook his head. "It might look very close, but it's actually very difficult to move up."

There were still several more months to go.

He was still four places away.

On the Asian A-list, it got harder to advance the higher up you were. There was just too much competition up there. Back when Zhang Ye was promoted from the Chinese A-list to the Chinese S-list, it looked like he just needed to advance one spot. But in reality, how long did it take him to achieve it? It took him several months, working on variety shows and directing the Spring Festival Gala, before he barely overtook the person in front and move up the rankings. Meanwhile, the competition in the Asian rankings was clearly more intense. To move up in the rankings was conceptually easy; it was in fact a very large step to take.

At this moment, calls from Zhang Ye's family and friends arrived.

Chen Guang.

Zhang Yuanqi.

Xu Meilan.

Zhao Wuliu.

And so on. Everyone was congratulating him.

So Zhang Ye decided to gather all his friends and book a restaurant to treat everyone. They haven't had a gathering in a long time, so it was time they had one to enjoy themselves.

At the dinner table, everyone was giving toasts.

"Congratulations, Zhang'er!"

“Cheers!”

“Come, come, we won’t go home until we’re drunk today!”

“Zhang’er, I wish you an early ascent to the summit of Asia!”

Chapter 1463: Zhang Ye wants to create a Chinese cartoon!

In the following few days.

The Asian Celebrity Rankings Index was updated several more times.

Zhang Ye’s popularity had risen again, but he still remained in fourth place on the Asian A-list. There wasn’t any change in that since all the popularity he received recently was accumulated from before. From the looks of it, Zhang Ye’s Asian popularity ranking had stabilized by now. It wouldn’t be easy for him to advance further, but it was also impossible for him to experience a drop in ranking in the short term.

...

In the morning.

At the studio.

After dropping Wu Zeqing off at the SARFT’s compound, Zhang Ye came to work. He was the first person to arrive today since the other staff were not here yet. As there was nothing to do, he paced around the office. Seeing Old Wu’s stomach growing bigger and bigger by the day, his sense of urgency grew stronger.

Popularity!

Where else could he earn more popularity from?

He was thinking of making a push for the top, so he started flipping through the work proposals that had been sent recently.

Commercial appearances?

No.

Variety shows?

Not gonna take them for now.

Hai, isn’t there any suitable work that I can do?

All of a sudden, he saw a document that startled him for a bit.

Eh, this is?

Soon after, the staff arrived at the office.

Everyone sat down for a meeting to discuss the upcoming workflow.

Ha Qiqi said, "Director Zhang, the rankings index has been updated again."

Zhang Ye smiled. "I've seen it."

Ha Qiqi said, "Your popularity score has increased by a little bit. But I also took a look and realized that we're not that far from the Japanese celebrity who's in third place on the Asian A-list."

Zhang Zuo added, "Right, I've noticed it as well. When we shot up to fourth place overnight, we started pulling far ahead of the Korean celebrity who is now in fifth place. As a result, we closed in on the Japanese movie star who is in third place. I think we should be able to surpass him if we make a greater push this time?"

Little Wang urged, "Right, let's get him."

Little Zhou also said, "Bring him down."

Zhang Ye said, "Sure, there's only a few more months left to do it. When my child is born, I won't have any time for this, so I'll have to speed up the ascension process. Since I'm in fourth place on the A-list rankings, let's set our next goal a little shorter term. We'll aim to surpass the person in third place before we make our next move."

One was in fourth place?

The other was in the top three?

The values of the rankings were on entirely different levels!

But for now, there were still some problems.

Ha Qiqi rubbed her forehead and said, "The restraining order is still in place, and all the tricks and strategies that we had have already been used. We don't have many ways left to increase our popularity. The popularity that we can get from Japan has been maxed out, and we won't be able to penetrate the Korean market for a while, so let's not think about that either. No matter how I think about it, if we want to make a push in the short term to advance our ranking, we can only look to return to the domestic market."

Zhang Ye smiled. "Wherever we go to, there's still no place like home."

Ha Qiqi laughed. "That's right, our homeland is always going to have our back. No matter where we go, we still have to come back here in the end. This is where home truly is."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Well said."

Zhang Zuo said, "Then how are we fighting our next battle?"

Zhang Ye looked at everyone and said with a smile, "Why don't we do something to repay our homeland?"

Repay our homeland?

How are we going to repay it?

Nobody understood what he meant.

This was also a spontaneous decision by Zhang Ye. He started flipping through the documents on the table in front of him. Finally, he found a work proposal letter and pushed it forward.

Everyone read it and were startled!

“Ah?”

“Wasn’t that the letter sent to us by an animation company several days ago?”

“What are you planning?”

“This—surely not, right?”

“You want to make a domestic cartoon?”

“You’ve got to consider this carefully. A domestic animation is very difficult to handle.”

Everyone put forth their opinions as they disagreed with this move.

But Zhang Ye said, “The more difficult it is, the more it should be done. Otherwise, why would we call it repaying the homeland?”

Ha Qiqi gave a wry smile. “It’s not a matter of it being difficult, but that it’s way too difficult.”

Zhang Zuo wiped off his sweat and said, “It’s fine to repay the homeland, but we can’t throw ourselves into something like that. The domestic cartoon industry is a deep pit. Do you know how many people have fallen into it over the years?”

Zhang Ye said, “I know.”

The Chinese cartoon industry in this world was like a pool of stagnant water. There wasn’t even foam, much less any scenery to admire. Countless companies in the country were optimistic about this industry. But after coming into it, all of them ended up dying, one after the other. As for the Chinese companies that survived, their numbers could be counted on one hand. Not only that, but they were not profitable at all. All of them were stubbornly struggling under the pressure from the Japanese companies, and their days were extremely difficult to bear.

Why was the Chinese cartoon industry so bad?

No one knew!

They couldn’t think of a reason for it!

Perhaps it had gone down the wrong path somewhere along the way?

Or perhaps their standard wasn’t good enough?

Or perhaps this path had always been a dead end since the beginning?

An industry that everyone had been optimistic about many years ago was now struggling to make a name for itself in China. No one would have thought that the Chinese cartoon industry would be so desolate!

From hope!

To disappointment!

And then to despair!

Some people gave up while others left.

The Chinese cartoon industry's people had gone through a lot. They were once full of dreams and thought that the world was their oyster. But now, they had become the first and foremost people, economy, and market to be abandoned by the world. Everyone was choosing to avoid this place out of fear. Having gone through such an experience, how could it only be described as a tragedy?

The proposal that Zhang Ye had placed on the table was from a small company. There were no big companies in the Chinese cartoon industry. Rather than calling it a proposal letter, it was more like a consultation letter sent by a Chinese animation team. In the letter, the animation team sincerely sought Zhang Ye's advice on three issues.

One: Is there a way out for China's cartoon industry?

Two: Where is the way out?

Three: If there is a way out, please help us.

This letter was the most sloppy and unconventional work proposal that Zhang Ye had ever seen. It was so bad that even after the proposal was faxed over, it did not make it past the filter to the upper management of Ha Qiqi and Zhang Zuo. It was thrown aside by the staff below them. It was only because Zhang Ye was bored and browsed through the recent work proposals that he saw it. For some reason, he was quite moved by the letter. So at today's meeting, when Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others mentioned the homeland, Zhang Ye immediately thought of this letter.

Where was the way out for Chinese cartoons?

This was probably a question that no one in this world could answer, but Zhang Ye felt that he might be able to do it. It wasn't because he felt that he was capable, but that there were already countless corpses and bones of others in his previous world lining up into a bloody trail of a path.

Perhaps this was meant to be Zhang Ye's responsibility?

He felt duty-bound to do something about it.

Ha Qiqi asked, "Have you decided?"

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "I have."

Zhang Zuo said, "Are you confident?"

Zhang Ye humbly said, "Let's give it a try."

Ha Qiqi gave a wry smile. "Alright then, let's battle together again!"

Repay the homeland.

Increase their popularity.

And gain some karma along the way too.

If he could kill three birds with one stone, why not go for it?

Thus, Zhang Ye picked up his pen and wrote a reply to the letter.

Chapter 1464: Zhang Ye gets another brain fart!

On the same day.

In the morning.

Miracle Animation Studios.

The company was located in a not too ideal location in the Tongzhou District. On the third floor of an old office building, there was an inconspicuous sign with the words “Miracle Animation” written on it. If anyone said that this was the office of an animation company that ranked top five domestically, no one would believe it.

In the office.

The six shareholders of the company were seated together.

They had all been university classmates. After their graduation, they had pooled their money together to form this company and had always fought their battles in the animation field. Their past productions of Monkey and Parrot and Records of the Pugilistic War had helped the company to shine. The team constantly grew and the company developed until they became one of the most outstanding animation companies in the country. However, with the arrival of the slowdown in the Chinese animation industry, the company fell from grace and hit rock bottom as they started losing money on their projects one by one, the company staff also leaving one after another. That sort of despair was indescribable with words. When the company was first named, everyone unanimously voted for “Miracle” in hopes that they could create a miracle in the Chinese animation industry. But now, this name they had chosen sounded very ironic.

Today, there was silence in the conference room.

This was because one of their shareholders had decided to leave the company. It was someone they co-founded the company with, a long-time friend and fellow comrade.

They had originally thought that they would be used to such a situation since they had experienced so many parting moments over the years. However, each time it happened again, they would find themselves unable to accept it.

Chen Xiang said, “Xiaokai has left.”

Li Zhi said, “Of the twenty classmates we started with, there are only the six of us left.”

Han Bin said, “What’s with Xiaokai!”

Sun Xiaobei said, “Didn’t we all agree to keep fighting til the end?!”

Chen Xiang said, "The company is losing money every day, and he couldn't endure it any longer. His girlfriend found him a programming job in Shanghai, so he went there to further his career."

Hu Kebang said, "Which animation company in the country has it good these days? It's the same for everyone. I've always believed that there is a future for our domestic cartoon industry, there must be!"

Chen Xiang said, "I used to think the same, but I'm starting to doubt it now."

Hu Kebang said, "Xiang'zi!"

Chen Xiang replied, "Let me finish speaking. It has been so many years, so I'm sure you all know which direction the market is headed towards. There's no sign that anything will improve. Moreover, with the popularity of Japanese comics like One Piece and Naruto spreading throughout Asia, the domestic cartoon industry has deteriorated even more and leaves us with an even smaller market to survive in. Japanese comics have more than a 95% share of our domestic market and everyone is reading them. Besides, we have to admit that we started off too late compared to them. In terms of company size, the scale of our domestic companies doesn't even come close to the size of a single one of their companies. In terms of production level and the specialization of their teams, we are lacking by too much as well. Both sides are animating, but if it were you, which one would you rather watch?"

It didn't appeal.

Nor was it praised.

The current situation of the Chinese animation productions was just too awkward.

Then, Sun Xiaobei said, "Opportunity does not wait for us."

Chen Xiang said, "I know that. To open up the market, we have to depend on ourselves. But the problem is, how do we do it? In all these years, how many domestic animation companies have tried? And how many have succeeded? Even if there were the occasional one or two domestic animations that did quite well, the response to them was just lukewarm. They can't even hit 5% of the popularity of One Piece! Can that even be considered a success? What is the point of having such success?"

Sun Xiaobei said, "But I still want to try."

Chen Xiang sighed. "Right now, we don't even have a project on hand, so what can we try?"

Sun Xiaobei had a determined look in her eyes. "I don't believe that we can't achieve what others have achieved. Domestic cartoons can't possibly always be suppressed by the Japanese cartoons." With a pause, she asked, "Has Zhang Ye's Studio replied to us yet?"

Zhao Chengfei said, "Not yet."

Chen Xiang shook his head. "We're just a small company. Why would he bother with us?"

Li Zhi also said, "That's right. That work proposal letter of yours was absolutely unnecessary. Teacher Zhang is an Asian superstar with so much work to handle every day. It's impossible that he would come to fight our battle with us. Who doesn't know that the domestic cartoon industry is a bottomless pit where one has to have the capital, take high risks and get low returns. Don't mention a superstar, even a director with a little bit of fame would not jump into this pit. He has stopped drawing One Piece, Naruto,

and Detective Conan, so why would he come to meddle in our domestic cartoon industry for? To come here and wade in these murky waters?"

Sun Xiaobei clenched her teeth. "Then I will go over to their studio to invite him to join us."

Chen Xiang said, "They won't let us in."

Sun Xiaobei said, "Then I'll wait at the door until Teacher Zhang agrees to see me. Teacher Zhang is the only Chinese person to have wielded an influence on the cartoon industry. He is the only person to have done that!"

Li Zhi said, "We won't be able to see him."

Chen Xiang smacked his lips. "Hai, unless Teacher Zhang suddenly gets a brain fart or something."

Hu Kebang harrumphed and said, "That might not even help. Lord Zhang is someone who always relapses and gets brain farts very often."

Everyone shook their heads at this. Other than Sun Xiaobei and Hu Kebang, no one else was expecting a reply from Zhang Ye.

All of a sudden, the conference room door opened.

An employee ran in anxiously. "Boss Sun!"

Sun Xiaobei looked at him. "What's the matter?"

That person stammered while holding a fax in his hands, "L-Look at this! Quick, look at th-this!"

Sun Xiaobei gave a bewildered look and took the fax to read it. Then she was dumbfounded!

"Xiaobei?"

"What is it?"

"What's the fax about?"

Sun Xiaobei stared at them in astonishment and waved the fax in her hands. "Old Hu, you were right! Teacher Zhang really relapsed again!"

When everyone heard that, they were shocked!

"What did you say?"

"It's a fax from Zhang Ye?"

"But that's impossible!"

"Holy shit!"

"Show it to me, quick!"

The five of them were yelling as they rushed forward to have a look!

Sun Xiaobei laughed. She laughed until tears rolled down her cheeks. "It's Teacher Zhang's handwriting. I've seen the Preface to the Orchid Pavilion at least 50 times. These words cannot be written by anyone else!"

She was crying.

The moment she saw the fax, she cried.

The fax also had three lines in answer to the three issues they raised.

One: China's cartoon industry definitely has a way out.

Two: The way out lies right before our feet.

Three: Sure, I'll join you guys and give it a try.

—Zhang Ye.

The six shareholders went crazy!

"It's Zhang Ye!"

"It's his signature!"

"Oh my God!"

"Teacher Zhang has replied to our letter!"

"Xiaobei! You're awesome!"

"It's a success! He has really agreed!"

"Zhang Ye! It's really Zhang Ye!"

"How amazing! We actually managed to invite Zhang Ye to join us?"

They were simply unable to believe their eyes. Every one of them was embracing each other in excitement!

At this moment, their almost extinguished hopes for the Chinese cartoon industry were suddenly blazing into an uncontrollable flame again!

Chapter 1465: The deepest of the deep pits!

The next day.

In the morning.

At Zhang Ye's Studio.

Little Wang had sorted out a stack of documents related to the Chinese cartoon industry and placed them on Zhang Ye's desk. It was a very thick stack, and Zhang Ye was flipping through it page by page.

Since he had decided to enter this industry, he had to understand it beforehand by reading up on the relevant materials. Zhang Ye would never fight any battles without preparing for them.

Industry situation.

Business model.

The past years' works.

He had all the information he needed.

Little Wang said in a bind, "Director Zhang, do think about it again."

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "Hasn't it already been decided?"

Little Wang said, "But we didn't know how shockingly complicated it was until we did our research. We all knew that the domestic cartoon industry was a struggle to navigate, but we didn't expect it to be so difficult. Look at the information. Our hearts turned cold when we were organizing what we gathered earlier. Sister Ha and Brother Zuo even walked off demoralized while covering their faces. The domestic cartoon industry is in a much worse situation than we expected. Do you know what the domestic animation companies are doing to ensure their survivability? They're all relying on animation targeted at young children to keep their companies afloat. There hasn't been any progress at all in the past few years, and it has been such a tragic situation."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "That's why it's time for us to take action now."

Beside them, Little Zhou let out a sigh. "No one is as bold as you. The more dangerous and difficult something is, the more you want to go for it."

Zhang Ye said, "Of course. I wouldn't care if it weren't something challenging. Hur hur, that's enough, stop talking with me. Have you dealt with the proper business yet?"

Little Wang replied, "We've already made an appointment with them."

Little Zhou looked at her watch. "I think they should be here soon?"

Zhang Ye said, "Go and pick them up then."

"Alright." Little Zhou went downstairs to wait for their arrival.

Zhang Ye continued looking through the information.

...

Downstairs.

Sun Xiaobei and the others were already here.

Li Zhi took a deep breath. "How should we put it when we get there?"

Chen Xiang was also feeling extremely nervous. "Yeah, why are my legs shaking?"

"Mine as well." Zhao Chengfei wiped off his sweat and said, "Why don't...why don't I stay downstairs instead of going up. You guys can go ahead. This is Zhang Ye we're talking about, the biggest hooligan in the Asian entertainment industry!"

Sun Xiaobei said in a speechless manner, "How can you speak like that? What do you mean by hooligan? He just enjoys scolding and fighting people sometimes, that's all."

Zhao Chengfei rebuked, "Isn't that what you call a hooligan?"

Sun Xiaobei was silenced.

Chen Xiang said, "Do you guys think that Teacher Zhang will really work with us?"

Hu Kebang said, "I also feel that it's a little unreal."

Sun Xiaobei said, "We'll know how it is when we meet with Teacher Zhang."

Chen Xiang clenched his teeth. "Alright, let's go."

...

A few minutes later.

They arrived.

The several of them finally met with Zhang Ye himself.

Zhang Ye smiled and shook their hands. "I'm sorry that I had to let you guys make the trip over. By rights, I should have brought my team to go over to look for you. But I've been attracting quite a bit of hate recently, so I'm afraid people will attack me with bricks if I go out. As such, I'm choosing not to appear in public too often. That's why I had to invite you all over instead."

How are you just attracting a bit of hate!

You're basically the target of everyone out there!

They laughed. A eunuch had no human rights.

But with these opening few words by Zhang Ye, it brought some relief to Sun Xiaobei and the others. They discovered that Zhang Ye wasn't that difficult to get along with.

Zhang Ye asked, "Who is the person-in-charge?"

Sun Xiaobei stood forward and said in a neither humble nor pushy manner, "We are all shareholders of the company and also university classmates. If there's any problems, we discuss it together. Thanks to everyone's trust, I'm usually in charge of the external communications for our company." Although she appeared very calm on the surface, Sun Xiaobei's heart was pounding in extreme anxiety.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Were you also the one who wrote the proposal and faxed it over?"

Sun Xiaobei nodded. "Yes, that was me."

Zhang Ye smiled. "I've already had someone find out more about your company, and I can say that it's pretty good. Be it the company size or your skill sets, you're one of the better animation teams in the

domestic cartoon industry. You were saying that you wished to seek my help in our cooperation, but I dare not accept that praise. I'm actually just a novice when it comes to the cartoon industry. I've only entered the industry for a few months so far."

Sun Xiaobei smiled and said, "But in these few months, you've already traveled to far more places than we've been able to in so many years. By coming here, we're actually looking to learn from you. You are the only Chinese person to have reached the top of the comics and animation field. We couldn't afford to invite anyone, so we could only come to look for you. We're hoping that you can show us a way to move the domestic cartoon industry forward and help our Chinese cartoons fight back and kill our way out of a market dominated by Japanese cartoons."

Zhang Ye joked, "Alright, I may not be good at other things, but I'm really an expert when it comes fighting and killing."

Ha Qiqi said nervously, "They didn't mean it in the same way as you did."

Zhang Ye laughed dryly. "It's all the same, it's all the same."

Everyone was tickled.

Zhang Zuo invited, "Please, take a seat."

Zhang Ye said, "Right, right, let's sit down and talk."

There was tea.

There was alcohol.

And there were even snacks served.

Sun Xiaobei sipped tea absentmindedly and got straight to the point. "Teacher Zhang, I've read all seven of your comics, and we've really learned a lot from them. All of them are outstanding works. But the more it's like that, the more hopeless we feel. Forgive me for saying this, but I feel that none of those seven comic series carry our domestic style of comics. They're all the typical Japanese style of comics."

Zhang Ye smiled. "That's of course."

Sun Xiaobei asked, "Do you think that this is the way out for our domestic cartoons?"

Zhang Ye said, "Do you mean to imitate them?"

Sun Xiaobei: "Yes."

Zhang Ye shook his head. "I don't think it's exactly that."

Chen Xiang followed up with a question. "When you say that you want to work with us, do you mean that you want to make another series like One Piece or Naruto?"

"Of course not." Zhang Ye laughed as he said, "A domestic comic will naturally need to have the flavor of our own local cartoons."

Sun Xiaobei heaved a sigh of relief. “Then I’m relieved. Before I came here, I was worried that you might be looking to make a sequel to One Piece and just change it to a Chinese name. If that were the case, it wouldn’t be a cartoon that we would want to do either.”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “Japanese cartoons have a style of their own, and this style is very successful in Japan. In fact, it can even propagate to the whole of Asia and still be very successful. But if this style were directly adapted for use in China, it might not necessarily work. For example in Naruto, how many people do you think will want to watch a domestic cartoon with the term ‘ninja’ in it? And if we changed the name, it would end up becoming neither fish nor fowl. As a further example, One Piece uses a pirate as its main character. Do you think the SARFT would approve of that? Would they pass it to be shown on TV? Even if my wife is the SARFT’s leader, even if I am the son-in-law of the SARFT, there wouldn’t be a chance of that happening.”

Sun Xiaobei giggled, “Pfft.”

The others laughed as well.

Zhang Ye continued, “And it’s not just a question of the subject matter. It’s also the method of delivery. Will China be able to accept weekly releases? I don’t think it will be easy in the short term, right? The Chinese market does not have a business model that is as mature as Japan’s. Therefore, the national conditions are different and the industry’s way of operation is different. A lot of things cannot just be brought over as is. We have to have something that we can call our own so that we can differentiate ourselves from the Japanese comics. That is the only way that we can create a path of our own.”

Sun Xiaobei sighed. “But a lot of people in the comics industry in our country have already tried and failed. We’re really not sure of where our own path lies.”

Zhang Ye laughed and then asked, “Have you all tried 3D animation yet?”

Ah?

3D animation?

Sun Xiaobei and the others were stunned for a moment.

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the rest were also slightly taken aback.

Li Zhi and the others were the professionals here. When they heard this, they got so scared they quickly said, “That won’t do. Japan has already tried out 3D animation a few times, and all of them have failed. There were a few comics with a good theme that got adapted into 3D animation, but their results were very poor. The fans only found it refreshing for a few days before starting to lose interest in them. The technicalities required for a 3D animation are not difficult, but Japan has proven that this model is not feasible.”

Chen Xiang kept waving his hand. “This won’t work.”

Hu Kebang also said, “Japan is the most developed country when it comes to the comics and animation industry. Since they have already proven that 3D animation does not have a future, then it will be even more so for—”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "They are them, and we are us. What they can't do does not mean that it won't work for us."

If it didn't work for others, why would it work for us?

How could that be possible!

Sun Xiaobei fell silent.

Zhang Ye looked at her. "Do you want to give it a shot?"

Sun Xiaobei said, "For a 3D animation, the production budget, capital, and personnel technical skill set required exceed that of a 2D animation production by many times over. Furthermore, no one has ever tried that in the domestic market before. If it were to fail, the losses would be astronomical. Aren't the stakes a little too high here, Teacher Zhang?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm not interested in a low stakes game."

Chen Xiang said, terrified, "Xiaobei, this—"

Hu Kebang kicked Sun Xiaobei's legs a few times under the table.

Everyone knew that a Chinese animation production was essentially a pitfall!

Everyone knew that doing a 3D animation was also a pitfall!

But as it stood?

Zhang Ye was actually thinking of a Chinese 3D animation production?

This was a fucking pit in a pit!

This was the deepest of the deep pits!

We mustn't touch this!

Otherwise, we might have to pay for it with our lives!

Hu Kebang, Chen Xiang, and the others all thought that there wasn't going to be a more rotten idea than what Zhang Ye had suggested!

But what surprised them the most was, after staying silent for about 30 seconds or so, Sun Xiaobei raised her head and looked Zhang Ye in the eye. After staring for a long time, she finally said, "If it were anyone else saying this to me, I would think that it was just a fantasy of that person's and something that the most amateur of laymen would say. I would turn around to leave without even thinking about it. However, it's different for you. I believe in your judgment! This is a pit that we're willing to jump into!"

"Xiaobei!"

"Uh!"

"This—"

Chen Xiang and the others were nearly crying!

Sun Xiaobei said, "We can come up with half of the funding."

Zhang Ye said, "I'll settle the rest of it."

Sun Xiaobei asked, "As for the director?"

Zhang Ye said, "I'll take it personally. How about the technical staff and support?"

"We'll take care of that."

Zhang Ye reached out his hand. "It's a pleasure working with you."

Sun Xiaobei took his hand and held it with a lot of strength and determination. With this shake of hands, it was as though she had placed all of her hope into the deal. "A pleasure."

She had said that the five people with her were all fellow shareholders of the company and that they would discuss any matters together as a team. But in the end, it was still Sun Xiaobei who made the final decision. After all, she was the director who held the largest share of the company. Sometimes, the resolution of a woman was much more stronger than that of a man's! Sun Xiaobei was also unsure whether her decision was the correct one, but she really wanted to take a gamble on it!

She wanted to take a gamble for their Miracle Animation Studios!

And also a gamble for the Chinese cartoon industry!

Chapter 1466: Standing united against foreign enemies!

The next day.

An explosive piece of news was announced.

Martial King, Murder of Angels, and many other Japanese comics had signed an authorization agreement with Chinese video hosting sites and would be legally broadcast in China. At that time, the comic versions, Chinese dubbed animations, and licensed merchandise would gradually make their appearance in the Chinese mainland market. Furthermore, several Chinese companies had signed long-term deals with Japan's Shōnen Publishing, POO Studios, and several other major comics magazine publishers. With Martial King and a few other comic series leading the way, there would be even more Japanese cartoons making their way into China later on.

This news set off alarm bells in the industry!

This was the first time that Japanese cartoons were getting distributed legally in China. In the past, Japanese cartoons had always been provided free of charge illegally by various translation teams. But this time, the act of legalizing them had such an extraordinary significance that it was enough to shake up the entire Asian comics industry. This cooperation would likely help Japanese cartoons further expand their market share in the Asian region as well. Predictably, it would also signal the impending decline of their Chinese cartoons!

...

Japan.

Shōnen Publishing.

“This deal carries great significance.”

“That’s right, this is officially the first time we’re making inroads into the Chinese market.”

“Although we don’t have a killer weapon like One Piece, Martial King has had pretty good results all this time. In a market like China where the comics industry is almost dead, there are no series out there that can compare with Martial King.”

“It’s also thanks to Zhang Ye that the market has opened up for us.”

“After the loss of One Piece, we can finally claw back.”

...

POO Studios.

“If we still had Naruto, that would be our best weapon.”

“Murder of Angels is as good a choice too. Those seven cartoons of Zhang Ye’s have completely opened up the Chinese market for us. That place is full of buzz, so we can dominate with whatever works we bring over.”

“Right, this is a money-grabbing opportunity!”

“Yeah, it’s only a matter of who can grab the fastest. Hopefully, there won’t be any unexpected incidents again.”

“Haha, what could possibly happen?”

...

Korea.

“The Chinese market is done for.”

“Yeah, they’ve opened their doors and let the wolf in.”

“By allowing Japanese cartoons to get distributed officially in their market, China’s comics industry will end up a barren land soon.”

“Yeah, no one can stand in their way!”

...

China.

At an animation company.

“The wolves are here!”

“Dammit! This is becoming even worse than we thought!”

“What should we do? How should we handle this?”

“What else can we do? Fight back, of course! We should all join hands and rebuff the Japanese comics from eroding our share of the market! If that happens, the domestic comics industry is done for!”

“But what do we fight back with?”

“Surely we can’t do nothing and wait for our deaths, right?”

...

The media was fighting to get their first reports out.

“Japanese cartoons enter the Chinese market!”

“What does the future hold for the Chinese comics industry?”

“The wolves have descended. Who can stand up to them?”

“The Chinese comics industry might be dealt a devastating blow!”

“Who can save the domestic comics industry?”

For a moment, the comics industry was in chaos!

The Japanese comics and animation world was exhilarated!

The Korean comics and animation world was quietly observing the winds of change!

The Chinese comics and animation world was in a state of mourning!

This news had come at a really bad time. The Chinese comics industry had already been hurt badly and was on the verge of death. It couldn’t endure this setback.

The Chinese citizens started discussing this matter.

“Wow, they’re finally allowing the official versions to enter the market.”

“We’ll have all those cartoons to watch again.”

“What do you know? This isn’t a good thing!”

“Yeah, our domestic cartoons don’t stand a chance anymore.”

“Hai, when has our domestic comics industry ever been able to stand alone?”

“Stand alone? That’s no longer possible. The capital has already been redirected to the entertainment circle. Movies, TV dramas, web dramas, all of those are the favored choices of the sponsors. As for our domestic cartoons? The sponsors abandoned them long ago. It was actually our own fault since we couldn’t come up with any good productions. But with the incoming invasion of Japanese cartoons, that’s adding insult to injury. I’m getting less and less optimistic of our domestic comics industry’s future. It’s beginning to look like a dead end.”

“That might not necessarily be so. Sometimes, one can only find hope in the most desperate of circumstances. I believe that in a life or death situation like this, there will definitely be someone who will step forward!”

The people argued on end.

Meanwhile, the Chinese comics industry had gathered to discuss matters of utmost importance.

The experts gave their views on the matter one by one.

Media reports were being published one after another.

And it was at this time that a piece of news blew up again!

China’s Miracle Animation Studios suddenly made a sound. They announced that they would be partnering with Zhang Ye to create an unprecedented Chinese animation to stand up to the foreign competitors!

The industry was shocked!

The public was stunned!

“What?”

“Miracle Animation? I’ve heard of them!”

“Damn, they actually managed to get Zhang Ye to work with them?”

“What? Zhang Ye?”

“Why is he everywhere?”

“That fellow is going to make a domestic cartoon?”

“After dropping One Piece and Naruto, that fellow has come to meddle in our domestic animation productions?”

“Fuck, didn’t you say that you didn’t have time? Why am I not convinced no matter how I see it!”

On Weibo.

Right afterwards, a written call to arms appeared out of nowhere!

It was by Zhang Ye. He had written a very impassioned and vehement piece. “Someone told me that the market had no place for our domestic cartoons and that no one likes to watch them—but I don’t believe that. Someone told me that China cannot produce a domestic comic that has its own unique traits and that only Japan can do it—but I don’t believe that. Someone told me that the world belongs to Japanese cartoons now and that our domestic cartoons have no chance of survival—but I don’t believe that. I’ve never had my beliefs shaken before. If it’s something that others can achieve, then I believe that we can achieve it as well. Moreover, we can do it even better than them! Right now, the domestic cartoon industry has arrived at a life-and-death moment. Trouble is brewing within, and the enemy has infiltrated our market. There isn’t a more difficult time than now, there isn’t a more hopeless situation than this, yet this makes my blood race faster than ever. This is the time when we as Chinese citizens

must defend our honor and dignity. This is the time when we as the champions of communism must take action! Who wants to stand up to the foreign enemies together with us?"

Zhang Ye's words were fantastic at stirring the people's emotions!

Instantly, quite a few netizens were pumped up as they rushed forward in response!

"Me!"

"And me too!"

"Count me in!"

"Who says we can't do it?"

"That's right, we can also do a very good job!"

"Right, let's stand united against the foreign enemies!"

"Support our domestic cartoons!"

"Support our domestic cartoons!"

"Defend our honor!"

"Boycott Japanese cartoons!"

It didn't take long before everyone suddenly came around and realized something!

Eh!

This doesn't seem right!

This doesn't seem right at all!

It was you who went to draw Japanese cartoons in the first place!

It was you who started all of it!

Japanese cartoons were also very popular in the past. But upon giving it some detailed thought, it was absolutely not comparable to the current situation. Be it Martial King or some of the other popular Japanese cartoons in China, they did not really create any sort of sensation even though they were popular. This wave of pro-Japanese cartoons that was sweeping the world should have started with One Piece, followed by Naruto, Doraemon, and so on and so forth. If it weren't for those seven national cartoons, the domestic comics industry in China would not have fallen into the tragic situation it was in today. This pro-Japanese cartoons trend was mainly happening only because of you! It was obviously you who opened up the market for others! And you still have the cheek to call for a boycott against Japanese cartoons? You still have the face to stand up to foreign enemies?

Oh my god!

Thinking of this, the people puked blood!

"Pfft!"

“Zhang Ye, your sister!”

“We nearly got fooled by you!”

“Stop listening to his bullshit! This fellow is too good at talking big!”

“You’re the fucking biggest foreign enemy here!”

“Lord Zhang, don’t you feel embarrassed?”

“This fellow is making me so angry that I want to laugh!”

“If it weren’t for you, the domestic comics industry would never have descended into such a miserable state! If you didn’t go and start trouble, our domestic comics industry would still be doing quite well!”

“This fellow is too freaking shameless!”

“Hmph! When has Teacher Zhang ever cared about his face!”

“I really have to give it to him for being so thick-skinned!”

“This problem clearly started because of him, yet he’s here talking big about defending our honor and dignity in such an awe-inspiring manner? And claiming to be some champion of communism? Get lost! Fuck off!”

“Hahahaha!”

“This fellow can really turn his words around. In any case, he can always back his words up with his reasoning. There’s really no one else like him!”

The people started flaming him for it!

...

Meanwhile.

At the studio.

The atmosphere was a little awkward.

Ha Qiqi and the others were here, and so were Sun Xiaobei and company.

After Sun Xiaobei had announced the news that they would be teaming up with Zhang Ye to produce a Chinese animation, Zhang Ye volunteered to work on the publicity for it. After preparing for a long time, he had confidently posted that written call to arms. In it, he vowed to fight to the bitter end with the Japanese cartoon industry and stand up with the Chinese people against foreign enemies. As a result, once the essay was posted, it got criticized badly by the people.

Sun Xiaobei covered her mouth and coughed.

Ha Qiqi rolled her eyes.

Only Zhang Ye pretended to calmly clear his throat. “Look, look at this, the publicity is such a success!”

Such a success?

Which of your eyes is telling you that it was such a success!

Everyone was speechless.

Little Wang said without batting an eye, "But it looks like they're all scolding you?"

Zhang Ye smacked his lips and said, "That is what you don't understand. This is exactly what I wanted to achieve. Look, it's trending, right? Everyone knows that we're going to make a domestic animation now, right? So isn't that a success?"

Well, alright.

If you say it's successful, then it's successful.

You're always right anyway.

Chapter 1467: Come on out, The Legend of Qin!

At the studio.

After a few jokes, everyone got down to business.

Ha Qiqi said, "Actually, I don't advocate taking on the Japanese comics immediately after coming onto the scene. The opponent is too big and our enemy is too strong. The state of our comics industry is already in a relatively depressive state, and we have yet to find a good direction to make profits. We don't have a proper model to operate on either. We can't even stand on our own two feet, but we're already rushing to start a war against the Japanese comics industry. Isn't this too big of a first step to take? In the case that we lose, everything would've been for naught. Rather than that, shouldn't we do what is required of ourselves first? We can just compete with ourselves and stand out from the crowd of domestic cartoons, and it will be considered a success. Why do we have to insist on competing with the Japanese cartoons?"

Little Wang said, "Yeah, that's right."

Little Zhou said, "I'm afraid that we can't win against them."

Wu Yi said, "The opponent is coming on so strongly, but we're totally unprepared for it. It will be very difficult for us to win."

Other than Zhang Ye and Sun Xiaobei, everyone else was not feeling too confident about the situation.

Sun Xiaobei said, "Actually, we never wanted to compete with the Japanese comics in the first place. We also know that there's too great of a difference between the two countries' industries. But since our opponent has already arrived and even declared an unbridled war on us, driving us into a corner, there shouldn't be anything for us to be afraid of anymore. We just have to bite the bullet and take them head on!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "That's right, since they've come knocking on our door, what's the logic in not accepting their challenge?"

Ha Qiqi said, “We’ve already put out the word that we’ll be challenging them, yet we still do not have a proposal for the cartoon or any ideas to work with. In that case, what can we take them on with?”

Sun Xiaobei said, “We will definitely decide on something today. After that, we’ll immediately start work on production.”

Zhang Ye said, “I do have a few ideas here, but I haven’t considered them fully yet. Let me give it some thought first.”

Everyone started giving their suggestions and discussing together.

Zhang Ye was actually hesitating. Which one should he use?

This was a battle that had to be properly planned and fought. It had to sound the gong and also be won. Therefore, the choice of work was of the utmost importance. If there was any carelessness, the entire war would be lost, and Zhang Ye didn’t like losing at all. It was either he did it to his best, or he didn’t do it at all. If he had to do this, then it would have to be brilliantly executed so that no one could have any grumbings about it. There were some elite Chinese animation productions in his previous world, but some of them were already outdated, while others were not suitable for this world and the times they were in. As such, they couldn’t be used. After eliminating those, not too many other choices were left for Zhang Ye to choose from. He could only select from a few candidates.

3D?

Chinese production?

Something that could take on the Japanese cartoons?

And it would even have to ensure that it could win?

Zhang Ye’s eyes narrowed as he kept thinking about it. In the end, it seemed like there was only that one cartoon that would work. It was the only production that Zhang Ye had the most confidence would win and not lose—a milestone work among the Chinese 3D animations. Some of the plot and details might still need to be ironed out after bringing it to this world, but it shouldn’t affect it too much. After a long consideration, there shouldn’t be any other more suitable animation than this for their situation!

OK!

That’s the one!

Come on out, The Legend of Qin!

The uprising of this world’s Chinese cartoon industry also depends on you being at the front lines!

I’ll be troubling you! If it were any other work, I wouldn’t be able to rest easy.

In the end, Zhang Ye had to bring out this trump card to wage the battle for him!

...

Zhang Ye had returned to the comics and animation field!

This was still a very sensational piece of news. At the very least, the comics magazine publishers and animation companies in Japan were all quite alarmed by it!

...

POO Studios.

“What?”

“Zhang Ye has returned?”

“He has gone to meddle in the Chinese animation field?”

“Why is it him again!”

“Damn! Why is he like an inexorable ghost!”

“Can’t this fellow just die!”

...

Shōnen Publishing.

“What’s going on?!”

“He must be doing this on purpose!”

“You don’t have the time to carry on with the comics’ serializations, but have the time to engage in your Chinese animation productions?”

“Aren’t you deliberately challenging us this way!”

“This fellow is trying to start trouble again!”

“Why is he always going after us? Did we anger you?!”

...

Shūkansha.

“Why do I have a bad feeling about this!”

“Me too, nothing good ever happens whenever this fellow appears!”

“He’s trying to pick a fight with us!”

“But what has he got that he can pick a fight with us!”

“Chinese cartoons? He’s gotta be too conceited, right?”

“What good can any Chinese-made cartoons be?”

...

The Japanese side was full of scolding!

They had really been frightened by Zhang Ye!

When Zhang Ye announced the cancellation of his comics, it had nearly ruined the entire Japanese comics industry. Putting aside the economic losses, just the psychological blow alone was enough to scar them for life. This was a lifetime of pain for Japanese comics. Some Japanese citizens and industry personnel would even shriek whenever they remembered what happened to One Piece or Naruto!

All of their misery was single-handedly created by Zhang Ye!

And now? They were going to face Zhang Ye in battle again?

Thinking about this, a lot of people trembled in fright. They really could not understand why this Zhang fellow just had to keep finding trouble with them.

Can't you switch targets?

Can't you go look for trouble with someone else?

In reality, they didn't honestly think that any Chinese cartoon could truly pose a threat to them. Rather than a threat, it wouldn't even be an obstacle for them. The difference was just too great. If it were any other person who came forward to declare a challenge to them, they wouldn't care at all. But this person was Zhang Ye, that same Zhang Ye who had just thrown the entire Asian comics and animation field into chaos. Although they hated him and found the guy to be evil, they could not help but admit that Zhang Ye was indeed the most capable cartoonist in the whole of Asia. This was something they really could not help but be wary of.

As such, the Japanese side all had their hairs standing on end as they remained cautious of their opponent's movements.

The news from China was slowly spreading and being announced. It was only when the details of Zhang Ye's latest animation was made known that the Japanese comics and animation field could finally put their minds at ease!

3D!

This idiot was actually going to make a 3D animation!

The Japanese comics and animation world instantly gloated at this news!

"Hahahaha!"

"How funny is that!"

"A layman is indeed a layman!"

"He even dares to jump into the pit that is 3D animation?"

"That Zhang fellow is so stupid. Who doesn't know that there isn't any future for 3D animation!"

"I was so scared. I was still worried that he might do something to cause an upset, thinking that he would produce another piece like One Piece. That would have really put the pressure on us, but it looks like we can breathe a sigh a relief now. Hur hur, Zhang Ye must not know that 3D animation was

abandoned by the comics and animation field many years ago. Back when 3D technology was just emerging, we were also very excited by the possibilities and wanted to create something different. But what was the outcome of that? Countless experiments have proven that it doesn't work at all. The investment is too pricey and it gets almost zero returns. The audience isn't convinced by it, so no one even bothers with it anymore. For something that has already been abandoned by the comics and animation world, he's picking it out of the trash?"

"That dumbass!"

"That Zhang guy is going to be dumbfounded by the results!"

"Let's see if he can still skip around after this!"

"Hahaha! This will be very interesting to watch!"

Ridicule!

Derision!

Celebration!

The Japanese side went crazy with joy!

...

Over in China, the people were also stunned!

Many of those from the Chinese animation companies had seen some hope when they saw Zhang Ye stepping forward to produce a Chinese cartoon. Some of them were even stirred up by the call to arms essay that Zhang Ye had written and were wondering what kind of an amazing animation Zhang Ye and Miracle Animation Studios would come up with!

But as it stood?

A 3D animation?

It just had to fucking be this!

I'm gonna faint!

"We're finished."

"There's no hope anymore."

"This is a bottomless pit!"

"There are still people who dare to experiment with 3D animation these days?"

"They're gonna lose so much money!"

"Damn, Miracle Animation Studios is one of the best local animation companies in the industry. What are they thinking? Teacher Zhang is behaving on a whim, but why are they following suit?"

On Weibo.

The netizens were also dumbfounded!

“Does anyone even make 3D animation anymore these days?”

“The more no one does it, the more Zhang Ye will do it. Have you all forgotten about his temperament? This fellow has always had huge balls!”

“Teacher Zhang is looking for trouble again!”

“W-Will this work?”

“I have a feeling that Lord Zhang will castrate this project as well!”

“This fellow is too bold!”

“Yeah, and he’s even playing it bigger than the last time around!”

“I thought that he would be using something good to take on the Japanese cartoons. So that’s all that he has? Then what’s the point of taking them on? Even before we can challenge them, we’re already dead in the water!”

A lot of people didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. Almost no one was optimistic about this venture!

Chapter 1468: The voiceover talent for The Legend of Qin!

The battle began!

Right now, it was the calm before the storm in the animation field!

This was the first time in history that someone was directly challenging Japanese comics in the comics industry. Whether anyone held any hopes for it, it still did not deter the continued attention of everyone!

Who would lose?

And who would win?

Everyone was waiting to find out!

...

Preparations for several of the Japanese animation productions had already begun.

“Has the source footage been delivered?”

“We’ve already sent it over.”

“Hurry up and get everything done. Only the dubbing is a little tricky to handle.”

“We’ve already asked the best voice actors in China to work on our projects.”

“Alright, and don’t save on the promotions either.”

“Understood.”

...

Miracle Animation Studios.

Preparations were also in full swing.

One after another, all kinds of proposals were tossed out.

Sun Xiaobei said, “Teacher Zhang, have a look.”

Zhang Ye said, “This one won’t do.”

“How about this one?”

“This won’t do either.”

All of the proposals were rejected by Zhang Ye.

In the end, Zhang Ye took out one proposal himself and handed it out to them. “Let’s go with this. We’ll do it according to the specifications. If there’s anything that we don’t have the resources for, leave it to me.”

The people of Miracle Animation Studios were dumbfounded.

Chen Xiang said startled, “The investment for this is too much!”

Sun Xiaobei was also shocked. “150 million in funding?”

Zhang Ye added, “This is only the preliminary estimate. If it isn’t enough, we can still add to it. The publicity budget will be a separate figure.”

Sun Xiaobei gasped and said, “If we go ahead with this plan, the production fees could possibly go up to 200 million?”

“That’s right.” Zhang Ye smiled and said, “Since we’re taking on the Japanese cartoon industry, we definitely have to have a bigger budget. If we’re going to do this, we must do it to the best standards in the industry. Like I’ve said, I’m not interested in a low stakes game. We either go big or we go home.”

The people of Miracle Animation Studios broke out into cold sweats!

But this is way too big!

Whatever! Since it’s already like this, we’ll just go ahead and do it!

If we die, we die. Come what may!

At the point the proposal was decided on, a lot of them put on a gallant face as they decided to gamble everything they had on it!

The animation production began!

Miracle Animation Studios started recruiting people to work on it!

Zhang Ye started storyboarding!

But the pressure on Zhang Ye this time was pretty huge. He understood how comics worked, and that was no longer a problem for him. But directing an animation production was different from making a comic. One required him to draw while the other required him to direct. That was already different. Zhang Ye had directed variety shows before, and even the Spring Festival Gala as well, but this was his first time handling an animation production, and it was even a 3D animation to boot! This was clearly something completely new to him. Zhang Ye was crossing over into a different industry again. So all of his decisions would have to be carefully considered, and he also needed the support of others.

For example, like the voice acting.

Voiceover talent was one of the major features in Japanese animation. Many voice actors were even more popular than some of the D- or E-list celebrities around. It had reached the point where voice actors had become an indispensable part of Japanese animation. Since he wanted to challenge the Japanese animation industry, this was something that he had to make up for!

But how could he make up for it?

There wasn't a proper network of voice actors to recruit from.

But of course, Zhang Ye had his own ideas. He brought out his next trump card!

He made a few calls.

...

Fan Wenli.

"Hello, Zhang'er?"

"Old Fan, I'm looking for you for something."

"Hur hur, speak if you need help."

"I'm making a domestic animation."

"I know that, it's all over the news. But I won't be able to help you with this. Your animation will contain only fictional characters, so it's not like I can guest star in it or something."

"But you can do the voice acting."

"Ah? Voice acting?"

"Your voice is very pleasant, and you're also a professional musician, so how about it?"

"Will I be good enough?"

"You're definitely good enough."

...

Xu Meilan.

"Sister Lan, it's me."

"Teacher Zhang?"

"I have a favor to ask."

"Yes?"

"It's about my new animation. Can you help me to do some voice acting for one of the characters as a guest star?"

"Me?"

"Yes, give your brother some support, won't you?"

"When?"

"In a fortnight. We can arrange a time based on your schedule."

"Alright. Since it's Teacher Zhang asking me, it's no problem. I still owe you one from the last time you helped me out with the SARFT."

...

Dong Shanshan.

"Shanshan, can I book you for an event?"

"What is it?"

"Help me do some voice acting for my animation. I'm giving you a good part."

"As if I know how to voice act."

"We both majored in broadcasting, so which of us have not learned how to voice act?"

"Alright then."

"Thanks."

...

One by one, he made the calls.

Zhang Xia.

Yao Jiancai.

Yu Yingyi.

Xiaodong.

And so on. He made appointments with whoever could help him.

Other than a few friends who couldn't do it due to scheduling conflicts, Zhang Ye settled things with almost all of them with one phone call. Everyone gave a lot of face to Zhang Ye.

This was the other trump card of his!

Couldn't recruit enough voice actors?

He would make up for that with celebrities!

A similar model ¹ did not exist in this world yet. But in Zhang Ye's previous world, this was something of a formula. There were multiple cases of celebrity guests starring in animations, so Zhang Ye was very familiar with it. But as this was unknown to the people here, it was still a very novel idea to them. No one had seen something like that before!

When Zhang Ye brought out this list to show the people of Miracle Animation Studios, he could see that Sun Xiaobei, Chen Xiang, and the others were all dumbfounded!

Chen Xiang was stunned. "What the heck!"

Li Zhi cried out, "Heavens!"

Han Bin said, "This lineup is way too impressive!"

Hu Kebang said in shock, "They're all at least A- or B-list celebrities? And there's even a Heavenly Queen amongst them?"

Zhao Chengfei said, "My God!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "In the past, our domestic animation productions have always had a shortcoming in the area of voice acting. We might not be able to make up for it in the short term, so we have to do it another way. My social relations in the entertainment circle might be a little lacking, but I still have a few friends who I can count on. Don't worry, this won't cost much money. They're all my friends and are more than willing to guest star in the production. Furthermore, there's no need to worry about their professionalism and standards. They'll definitely be good enough."

Everyone looked at one another. For the first time, they were starting to have some confidence.

With this lineup of voiceover talent, it could easily scare anyone to death. There was absolutely no precedent in history!

Xu Meilan!

Fan Wenli!

Dong Shanshan!

How many people could invite these big names to voice act for them?

No one! No one could do it! Even if you were to pay others to act in a movie, they would still have to look at the script and understand the character first. Furthermore, this was for a "role" in which they wouldn't even be showing their faces? With their status, why would they want to go behind the scenes to voice act! But Zhang Ye managed to convince them to do it?

In Zhang Ye's previous world, The Legend of Qin did not have such a grand lineup, nor did it have so much funding. But over in this world, Zhang Ye had a lot of resources to play with. Since he could make it better, he absolutely had to make it better. He was never afraid of hyping things up!

Funding?

Voice actors?

Production?

Publicity?

He used only the best for all of them!

He would make it the biggest for all of it!

What he wanted to achieve was to make The Legend of Qin astonish everyone right out of the gates!

Wasn't everyone pessimistic about a homegrown animation?

Didn't they all feel that a 3D animation wouldn't work?

Alright then, I'll broaden all of your horizons. An animation with our own style can also astonish Asia. It will sweep everything aside!

Chapter 1469: Zhang Ye's new cartoon is released!

One day.

Two days.

In the blink of an eye, half a month had passed.

Japanese animation Murder of Angels was officially released. It was followed closely by Martial King and several other cartoons that also made their debut in China. Even other animated series from Japan received same day releases in China. The days of keeping up with the latest episodes, waiting for the subtitling teams and video sources were over. The Chinese netizens were now able to view the latest official releases of the Japanese animated series in both Chinese and Japanese. If they wanted to watch the animation in Chinese, they could just select the Mandarin audio channel. If they wanted to watch it in its original language, they just had to switch it to the Japanese audio channel.

The industry paid close attention!

The people were in anticipation!

"It's here!"

"At last, we don't have to wait for the subbing teams to translate them anymore!"

"The dubbing is quite acceptable."

"This is really a full-scale invasion."

“The Chinese market is going to fall.”

“They’re coming in with unstoppable force!”

“The views are exploding!”

“Damn, what a high view count!”

“I knew it. Once the Japanese cartoons came into the Chinese market and officially began their money-grabbing attempts, they would sweep all competition aside. They have too many fans of their works already.”

“Didn’t Lord Zhang call everyone to stand united and boycott them?”

“Pfft, and you believe that his words would have any effect? How are we supposed to boycott the Japanese cartoons?”

“Do you guys really believe that the 3D domestic animation by Zhang Ye could take on those Japanese cartoons? Anyone who jumps into that pit will die!”

The view count kept climbing!

Martial King’s single episode views reached 20 million!

Murder of Angels was the most popular, gaining 31 million views!

The other Japanese cartoons that came to China also performed great!

This good start gave the Japanese side an assurance and also made those online video hosting sites and partners in China very excited!

Over the next few days.

Murder of Angels and the other series were getting more and more popular!

The Chinese cartoons were being forced back in defeat!

This was a massacre!

An absolute massacre!

During this period, a Chinese animation studio rushed out a production of theirs. It was called The Legend of Youth and was backed by a 20 million RMB investment. In terms of Chinese animation productions, this was a big project. But when the animation was released, the reviews for it were extremely poor. A lot of people were shaking their heads in disapproval. There were also those who really wanted to support the local animations and went to watch it in anticipation, but they were all disappointed!

“The production quality is horrible.”

“There’s nothing new about the plot.”

“It’s just imitating the Japanese cartoons. How boring.”

“Hai, it’s really over for the domestic cartoon industry!”

“With such a level of production, it’s not even good enough to be shown!”

The Legend of Youth had failed without a doubt!

Its single episode only gained a share of 550,000 views. It wasn’t even a fraction compared to the Japanese cartoons!

It was terrible!

The Chinese animation field mourned!

Meanwhile, Japanese animation was doing great!

“We’ve finally taken the Chinese market!”

“For the next 10 years, the Chinese cartoon industry will be ruled by us!”

“Aren’t you being too conservative by saying 10 years?”

“Right, for the next 20 years, the Chinese cartoon industry wouldn’t have any chance of making a comeback.”

“Hur hur, so where’s Zhang Ye’s new animation?”

“Who knows!”

“His animation production started off from nothing, so it will have to be slowly made. Furthermore, it’s a 3D animation, so the production process will be slightly more troublesome. Without a year or so, how could it be completed? By that time, the Chinese cartoon industry will have turned into a barren land. How could he still have any chance of fighting back against us then?”

The Japanese cartoons were sweeping the competition aside!

The Chinese cartoons’ future was bleak!

And Zhang Ye’s new production was still a long way off from being released?

But at this moment, Zhang Ye once again proved to the people with his actions what it meant to be the fastest shot in the world. Miracle Animation Studios and Zhang Ye’s Studio suddenly announced that The Legend of Qin would be officially released on the first of the following month. They vowed to take the fight with the Japanese cartoons to the bitter end!

The industry was in shock!

“What?”

“This—this—”

“Hey, this is way too fast!”

“Are you fucking on steroids?”

“How could you have completed it within a month?”

“The Japanese animations already have completed works that just need a little editing before having the voice actors dub over them. Even that had taken them half a month’s time to get ready, but you who started from zero has actually completed everything in just one month? And it’s even a 3D animation? How can it be a production worth watching? Just how shoddy will the animation quality be?”

“The voice acting should be something to look forward to.”

“How can it not be? There’s a Heavenly Queen in the cast!”

“But why am I so anxious about the content of this animation?”

“This fellow is such a fast worker!”

The Japanese side was laughing. They did not believe that the animation that Zhang Ye used a month to complete could cause much of a stir. They thought that Zhang Ye had forced it out in order to have something to fight them with.

3D animation?

With native elements?

Rushed out in one month?

Every point was suggesting it to be a failure!

There didn’t seem to be a future for this animation no matter how you looked at it!

Japan, Korea, the industry, the people, and even the media were all left with a big question mark over their heads regarding this new animation by Zhang Ye!

...

Miracle Animation Studios.

Everyone was gathered here.

Sun Xiaobei was very excited. “We’ve finally arrived at this moment!”

Chen Xiang’s heart was pounding. He had just finished watching five episodes of the cartoon that had been produced. “It’s hard to imagine it, but this animation is really unprecedented!”

Zhang Ye smiled. “It’s our time to make an appearance. We can’t keep letting them have all the limelight, after all.”

Hu Kebang anxiously asked, “Director Zhang, is this cartoon really going to work?”

Zhang Ye said, “As long as our production can keep up with the series release, it won’t be a problem. The animation might not be completed, but we can’t wait anymore. We have to release it immediately!”

Han Bin said, “At the moment, the hottest cartoon from Japan is Murder of Angels. Its single episode views have already reached an astonishing 30-plus million views, and the total series views have broken 100 million. So if we’re going to declare war, should we target Murder of Angels? Shouldn’t we aim to beat it?”

Aim to beat it?

Aim to beat it for what!

What's the use of aiming to beat it!

Zhang Ye waved his hands and said haughtily, "I want to challenge ten of their series at one go!"

Everyone was speechless.

Zhang Ye currently felt exceedingly confident. The Legend of Qin had finally been resurrected in this world by him. Furthermore, it was even resurrected as a more sophisticated version of the production by him!

Who else!

Just tell me, who else wants to have a go?

If it weren't someone from his previous world, they would never know just how awesome The Legend of Qin was!

But Zhang Ye knew!

So this fellow had an urge to stand on the rooftops and belt out the famous Qingzang Plateau ¹ !

...

On the first of the new month!

It was time!

The Legend of Qin shockingly debuted!

Due to a very strong publicity campaign, the hype was real. Countless people came to watch the video with the mentality of giving the animation a try. Some of them were doing so because of Zhang Ye's reputation, while others were here because of the celebrity voice actors. Up to this moment, there wasn't anyone who actually felt that this cartoon could shake off the curse of being a Chinese animation!

But after they watched the first episode, the whole of China was excited!

The narration came on!

It was Zhang Ye who did the voiceover!

"The previous dynasty of a thousand years has come to an end. A sense of desolation had set into the recesses of everyone's hearts. Memories of vast and splendid plains had turned to sand in the shadows of this new world. Resistance was futile. All who stood against the new empire were crushed under merciless horseshoes. The divided kingdoms were united into one empire. What used to be a deafening clamor has been silenced into one voice."

Golden dagger-axes!

Calvary!

Wasteland!

Massacres!

In one short minute!

The magnificent images shocked everyone into stupefaction. It caught a lot of people off guard, and they couldn't believe what they were watching!

...

The Chinese people were stunned!

"Holy shit!"

"This—"

"What's going on? Tell me, what's going on?"

"W-Was this produced by Zhang Ye?"

"Is this really our own cartoon?"

...

In the media.

"Oh my God!"

"This is too stunning!"

"Was this really done by us?"

"But it's impossible!"

"W-When did we have such quality!"

...

The Japanese side was also dumbfounded!

"This is a 3D animation?"

"Why is it like that?"

"This isn't right! This isn't right at all!"

"What is with the look of this animation?"

...

Stunned!

Shocked!

Dumbfoundedness!

Astonishment!

Only now did a lot of people realize that Zhang Ye's new animation was completely different from what they had imagined. How the fuck can this be a Chinese animation production?!

Fuck, this doesn't make any sense at all!

Chapter 1470: Sweeping the Japanese cartoons aside!

The imagery was amazing!

So amazing that a lot of people nearly went blind!

As for the plot?

Would the plot maintain a "local flavor"?

A lot of people were waiting in anticipation at their computers as they dumbfoundedly watched on.

Then, even more people were dumbfounded!

Many of those watching gasped as they continued watching!

...

In the video.

Ge Nie said, "Tianming, are you afraid?"

Tianming said, "No!"

"Do you know why none of them are attacking?"

"It looks like they're really afraid?"

"That's right."

"Are they that afraid of you?"

"They're not afraid of me."

"Then what are they afraid of?"

"They're afraid of the consequences of getting in my way. You must remember the look in their eyes. Do not forget it for the rest of your life."

Tianming asked, "Why?"

Ge Nie explained, "Because these are the eyes of the weak. You must not become a weakling."

...

Very quickly, the first episode was over.

A lot of people had finished watching it with wide eyes!

What was the impression that everyone always had of Chinese animation productions?

Low budget.

Poor technical quality.

Bad art.

Boring plot.

Bad voice acting.

There was almost no comparison between the Japanese cartoons and their Chinese cartoons. The difference was not just a little, but like that of Heaven and Earth. In all aspects, their Chinese cartoons were inferior to the Japanese cartoons. This was something that the people were used to. They never had any expectations for Chinese cartoons, thinking that they didn't have the technical quality, capabilities, and strength to compete. But on the day The Legend of Qin was released, everything changed. Everyone's mindset of Chinese cartoons was shattered. It was utterly broken to the point they had no doubts left!

Surprise!

Excitement!

Disbelief!

This is a Chinese cartoon?

This is our very own animation production?

...

At a school.

During recess.

"Xiaofang, have you watched The Legend of Qin yet?"

"What the heck is that?"

"Zhang Ye's latest animation!"

"I don't watch Chinese cartoons."

"You idiot! Hurry up and watch it! It's awesome!"

"Are you serious?"

"I'd be a dog if I'm lying!"

...

At a company.

“Goodness, who here has watched The Legend of Qin?”

“I’ve finished watching it!”

“It was amazing! I was so dumbfounded!”

“Me too, the art was so beautiful!”

“The plot was very interesting too!”

“The voice acting was even better. Zhang Ye’s voice was the best!”

“Yeah, I’ve been a fan of his narration since A Bite of China!”

...

At a Chinese animation studio.

“Holy shit!”

“How awesome!”

“This is too fucking awesome!”

“How did he manage to make the art so beautiful!”

“Just how much money did they spend on this?”

“This 3D imagery has got to be the most outstanding in the industry, right?”

“The script is a classic too!”

“What kind of a mind does Zhang Ye really have!”

...

On this day.

The country’s comics and animation fans went crazy!

They absolutely couldn’t have expected that Zhang Ye’s new animation would actually be like this! This was already beyond anyone’s expectations and had subverted the stereotype of Chinese animation productions that many people had. Be it the art, voice acting, or plot, there was nothing to nitpick. Almost everything was done to perfection!

It didn’t look worse than the Japanese cartoons!

It was definitely not any worse than their cartoons!

And more importantly, The Legend of Qin had one huge advantage that the Japanese cartoons did not have, and it was that the setting was in China. The story was based on Chinese history, so no matter how the Japanese cartoons were translated into Chinese, it wouldn’t be as immersive to the locals as an animation that had a local flavor!

A wave of good reviews instantly followed!

The Legend of Qin's reputation shot through the roof!

9.7!

9.6!

9.8!

—These were the scores that several of China's largest rating sites had given it!

In the blink of an eye, it became the highest rated animation in the history of Chinese animations!

Countless reviews were published!

"Crazily recommending The Legend of Qin!"

"The most outstanding domestic animation in history!"

"Zhang Ye has brought us yet another surprise!"

"Five-star rating! The domestic animation industry writes a new chapter!"

"Indescribable! Absolutely amazing!"

"Zhang Ye is still the same old invincible Zhang Ye we knew!"

"Analysis on the background of The Legend of Qin *Spoilers ahead*!"

A turnaround for domestic cartoons?"

A Chinese cartoon had unexpectedly set off a phenomenal wave of discussions. This was truly an unprecedented event in China!

More and more people read the reviews and recommendations, and they clicked on the animation to watch it. Many of those who didn't used to watch Chinese cartoons also joined in. They wouldn't know if they didn't watch it, but after they did, they were all very astonished as well. Everyone was calling it incredible!

The people applauded!

The media praised it!

The industry was cheering!

Although only one episode had been broadcast, this animation had given the people a morale boost!

Zhang Ye!

Sun Xiaobei!

Miracle Animation Studios!

They were all pushed into the limelight!

These reactions dumbfounded the Japanese comics and animation world!

“I thought that 3D animation productions didn’t work?”

“Yeah, didn’t someone say that this was a deep pit?”

“Why has The Legend of Qin become so popular?”

“This Zhang fellow is too good at stirring things up!”

“Surely Murder of Angels won’t be surpassed in views, right?”

“That’s not possible, right? Murder of Angels has already hit 30-plus million views for a single episode and is currently the most popular Japanese cartoon in China. It won’t be that easy to surpass it!”

“But—but The Legend of Qin’s first episode has already hit 15 million views!”

“What did you say?”

“15 million views?”

“It was only broadcast an hour ago!”

“Holy fuck!”

The statistics were constantly being updated!

The views for The Legend of Qin kept increasing!

20 million!

25 million!

30 million!

Under the dumbfounded gaze of everyone, and in only two and a half hours, views for The Legend of Qin surpassed Martial King and Murder of Angels. But this was still not the end. The momentum of The Legend of Qin did not slow down as it continued racking up views!

50 million!

60 million!

80 million!

And then, it actually hit 100 million views!

Furthermore, it was still increasing!

110 million!

120 million!

Everyone was dumbfounded!

The Japanese side was left kneeling!

Such momentum could only be described as invincible. Be it Martial King or Murder of Angels, the combined single episode views of all the Japanese cartoons until now could not even match The Legend of Qin's first episode views! Zhang Ye was right. He was really challenging ten of their series with one animation! With just The Legend of Qin alone, it crushed all of the other Japanese cartoons showing in China. Moreover, it wasn't just a close win, but an absolute thrashing!

Sweeping the competition!

None of them was a match for it!

The first day's broadcast of The Legend of Qin had achieved an astonishing result!

At this moment, a lot of the Chinese cartoon industry's people were in tears. How long had they been waiting for this day? They almost couldn't remember!

Sweeping the Japanese cartoons aside?

It had really been achieved!

A Chinese person really managed to do it!

Spring had finally arrived for the Chinese cartoon industry!