

Superstar 1471

Chapter 1471: A phenomenal Chinese animation!

At night.

At Zhang Ye's Studio.

Sun Xiaobei was crying.

Chen Xiang was crying.

And Hu Kebang was crying too.

They hugged each other excitedly, sometimes laughing, sometimes howling, and sometimes crying. They did not know how to express the excitement they were feeling!

"It's a success!"

"We did it!"

"We won against the Japanese cartoon industry! It's the first time that we've won!"

"How many years have we been waiting for this!"

"Director Zhang, you're amazing! You're so amazing!"

"We finally did it!"

"Ahhhhh! What are we going to do! I'm going crazy with excitement!"

"D-Did we really achieve this result?"

"We did! Of course we did!"

Seeing their joy, the eyes of the Zhang Ye's Studio staff also lit up. They were not in the industry, so they didn't really understand much about Chinese animation or comics. It was only when a light bulb had lit up in Director Zhang's mind that they joined this industry with him. Frankly, they did not have that deep a feeling for the Chinese animation industry, but after interacting in recent days and gaining an understanding of it, Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the rest all felt a sense of admiration for Sun Xiaobei and the other Chinese cartoon industry workers. They really admired their persistence and belief to wholeheartedly create a Chinese animation. Few young people were like them.

Sacrifice.

Hard work.

Training.

Waiting.

And now, this day had finally come.

They deserved to be happy. This glory belonged to them.

Sun Xiaobei went to give Zhang Ye a hug. "Director Zhang, thank you!"

Hu Kebang and the others also came over to give Zhang Ye a hug, talking loudly and laughing happily.

Sun Xiaobei wiped away her tears and said, "Be quiet, the neighbors are all sleeping. Don't cause trouble for Teacher Zhang."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "It's alright, today is a proud day for us people of the Chinese cartoon industry. It's only right that we celebrate this achievement."

Us people of the Chinese cartoon industry?

Can you stop elevating your status like that?

The staff of Zhang Ye's Studio rolled their eyes at this.

People like Sun Xiaobei and company are the true people of the Chinese cartoon industry, alright? But you're not. You castrated seven comics and dropped all your work in Japan before coming to meddle in the Chinese animation field, so how does that make you someone from the Chinese cartoon industry? All you're doing is switching places to slap people in the face after you're done elsewhere. Everything you do is based on your whims and impulses!

Zhang Ye said, "Everyone must be hungry, right? Let's go, I'll treat everyone to supper!"

"Thanks, Lord Zhang!"

"Wow, we're gonna have a meal!"

Everyone went for a celebratory feast.

Indeed, there should be a celebratory feast.

When the "report card" for the day was published, The Legend of Qin's first episode reached a final figure of 130 million views. This was a frightening figure that would scare anyone silly. Not only did it break the best result in the history of Chinese animation, it even matched the number of views that the most outstanding variety shows or television dramas had. Further, this was only the first episode. It was only the premiere!

Two of the most popular Chinese television dramas and a variety show had been affected by this as well. Their number of online views had dropped by more than 20% compared to their usual traffic, which alarmed the studios and production teams. At the same time, they didn't know whether to laugh or cry. The number of views for the television dramas and variety show had actually been divvied up?

When did a Chinese animation have such power!

When was any Chinese animation able to compete with the Chinese television dramas and variety shows?

...

Japan.

Several companies were holding a meeting late at night.

“Martial King’s performance has been greatly affected!”

“It’s the same for our Murder of Angels, the number of clicks has dropped by a lot!”

“They’ve all been taken by The Legend of Qin!”

“What on earth is it with this animation?!”

“Who would’ve thought that the down in the dumps Chinese animation industry would suddenly come up with an animation like that!”

“Hai, this Zhang Ye has messed up our plans!”

“But this is only the first episode. Zhang Ye is extremely famous, and they’ve spent a lot of money on the publicity as well, so it’s quite normal that the first episode’s results are better. The later episodes will definitely not be able to continue this run. If all the episodes keep achieving over 100 million views, there won’t be anything left to play for. It’s impossible for it to continue like that!”

“Good point!”

“Right, we cannot panic.”

However, what the Japanese comics and animation world was waiting for did not come to pass!

...

The next day.

The Legend of Qin’s second episode was released.

“Wow!”

“It’s a consecutive broadcast?”

“One episode a day? That is so exhilarating!”

“It’s so fun to watch! The second episode is good too!”

“Hahahaha! It’s Yao Jiancai’s voice!”

“Old Yao’s voice is so funny!”

“I can recognize it too. I knew it was him the moment I heard it!”

“Splendid!”

On the same day, the statistics of the second episode were published!

140 million views!

It did even better than what the first episode had achieved on the day of broadcast!

...

On the third day.

Another new episode of The Legend of Qin was released!

"It's another episode!"

"Awesome, awesome, awesome!"

"This lineup of voice actors is so impressive!"

"That's right. In the entire industry, who can command such an impressive lineup of S- and A-listers!"

"This is so good. The more I watch it, the more addicted I become!"

"The plot is so coherent!"

"Right, and the art is so beautiful that I don't think I'll ever get sick of watching it!"

"I've already watched it three times!"

"This is the pride of our domestic animation productions!"

"Zhang Ye, well done! Miracle Animation Studios, well done!"

On this day, the statistics for the third episode were published!

It got 150 million views!

Meanwhile, the first episode of The Legend of Qin had reached 200 million views!

...

Martial King was left kneeling!

Murder of Angels was left kneeling!

All the Japanese cartoons that came to the Chinese market to grab money were left kneeling!

When the Japanese companies saw the results, they broke down!

"Motherfucker!"

"What's there left to play for?"

"It has stabilized at over 100 million views per episode? Is this Zhang guy on steroids!"

"How can it possibly be so high!"

"This Zhang Ye is clearly getting involved in animation for the first time!"

"The Legend of Qin? This should be considered a national cartoon, right?"

"China has such a backward cartoon industry, but it can still come up with a national cartoon?"

Despair!

There truly was a sense of despair all around!

If their opponent only had tens of millions of views, they might be able to chase after it or take action to remedy the situation so they could challenge it. But it was over 100 million views! It was 200 million views! How the fuck could they still challenge it? Even if they gave it their all, they still wouldn't be able to catch up to it!

They had lost!

They had been utterly defeated!

They had come to the Chinese cartoon industry in high spirits this time before being slapped back to where they came from!

At this time, some of them started thinking about One Piece, Naruto, and Detective Conan. If they still had those cartoons, would they have ended up in such a situation? They could have somewhat competed with the opponent, right? And maybe even win? But when they suddenly remembered that those cartoons were drawn by Zhang Ye, they sunk into even greater despair. In the duration of a short few months, eight national cartoons had appeared in Asia. Seven of them originated in Japan, while one of them was from China. And the best thing of all? All of these cartoons had actually been created by one fucking person?

Just how terrifying was this!

Chapter 1472: One last step from reaching the top?

One day.

Three days.

Five days.

The Japanese side was no longer saying anything.

The attention surrounding the Japanese cartoons showing in China had become very low-key. It wasn't that they didn't want to be high profile, but that this had become a solo by The Legend of Qin. There was nothing more they could do to regain the attention of the people.

On the streets.

In the alleys.

Online.

There was no longer any talk about the Japanese cartoons.

Instead, the discussions were now focused on their own Chinese cartoon.

A lot of people were worried that The Legend of Qin would get canceled. After all, Zhang Ye had a very notorious history. He had a record of doing this, and it was even an extreme case where seven of his comic series got castrated and went on hiatus! Many people were ill at ease. But their worry did not come to pass. On the contrary, it felt as though Zhang Ye felt fired up like a warrior. His average release rate hit almost five episodes a week. Miracle Animation Studios were also working around the clock to achieve this output. The employees were clocking so much overtime their eyes turned red. No one took

a break as they invested all their time into the production of this animation. Everyone was giving the project their all!

200 million views!

250 million views!

300 million views!

A video game adaption was announced!

Plans for a movie version were initiated!

The animation was nominated for all the Chinese animation awards!

The Legend of Qin kept growing stronger as it became very popular. It was so popular that it was brutal. It was so popular that it was earth-shattering. The popularity and exposure of the animation in China had soared to the extreme. What did it mean by soaring to the extreme? It meant that there was nothing else beyond that. All of the websites, forums, and news outlets in the country were flooded with the mention of this unprecedented domestic animation. Miracle Animation Studios had truly created a miracle this time!

In the end, even the citizens of the other Asian countries were alarmed.

Japan.

“Nani?”

“China has a national cartoon?”

“Even Martial King could not win against it?”

“How is that possible!”

“Zhang Ye is the director of that cartoon?”

“Why is he everywhere!”

“Motherfucker, is he planning to go against us all his life?”

“This damned eunuch, he’s so infuriating!”

“Let’s fight back!”

“The problem is that we can’t fight back!”

Korea.

“Did you hear? The Japanese cartoons are getting thrashed in China!”

“Are you for serious?”

“Yeah, just have a look at the news in China and you’ll know.”

“Aren’t Japanese cartoons the leader in Asia?”

“How can there be anyone challenging them?”

“There is, and it’s that Zhang Ye who’s doing so!”

“Pfft! Why is it him again!”

Although the restriction order on Zhang Ye was still active, a lot of things could not be hidden from the public. Zhang Ye’s social relations weren’t that good, nor did he have much of an appeal and influence in Asia. A lot of people might even get furious at the very mention of him, but the attention on him was at such a level that not even most of the Asian S-listers would come close to it. There was just too much attention given to him. Upon hearing this shocking news, the Asian people were speechless. They had never seen someone who could cause this much trouble before. And this guy was also way too capable as well. Some people might not be able to cause a commotion even if they wanted to, but Zhang Ye? Just a simple move from him was enough to stun the world!

He had sneaked behind enemy lines!

Messed with the Japanese cartoon industry!

Canceled his comics!

And now, he was targeting the Japanese cartoons again?

Who could think of something like that?

Who could do something like that?

This was also a fucking skill of some kind!

...

The animation was broadcast to the anticipation of everyone.

Zhang Ye’s popularity was growing higher by the day.

The majority of his popularity came from within China. Although his popularity in China had peaked and he was already at the top, it was still possible to churn out a little bit more of it. Moreover, this was another one of Zhang Ye’s crossovers into a different field where he could freely try out something entirely new. With a larger crowd of people learning about him, the amount of popularity it brought was naturally not little. And with the rise in Zhang Ye’s domestic popularity, it subsequently boosted his Asian popularity a little.

There was still a bit more to go!

Just a bit more to surpass the person in front!

The staff of Zhang Ye’s Studio kept an eye on the Asian popularity rankings update every day!

He was getting closer and closer to the Japanese celebrity in third place on the Asian A-list!

...

Today.

It was the last episode of The Legend of Qin.

This was the first season's finale of The Legend of Qin.

"Has it ended?"

"Not yet!"

"Why did it finish so quickly!"

"Keep airing it!"

"I really want to watch the second season now!"

"It's so good! This is a milestone production of the domestic animation industry!"

The people, the industry, and the media were all praising it!

At this time, Miracle Animation Studios announced a piece of news. The second season of The Legend of Qin would start production at the end of the year and be broadcast next year. But when the second season's production team was announced, the eagle-eyed fans immediately noticed that the director for the second season was not going to be Zhang Ye!

"Ah? Where's Face-smacking Zhang's name?"

"Why isn't he directing the animation anymore?"

"Pfft, he ran off again?"

"I knew it! This fellow is always going around doing things haphazardly. He's dipped his toe into a dozen different fields, but when has he ever stayed for long in any of them?"

"This fellow has always fled after the fight is over! He never hangs around for long!"

"But it's also true. How will Zhang Ye have the time to keep making the animation every day? Now that our domestic animations have gained traction, and the sponsors have turned their attention back here, Zhang Ye has completed his mission."

"No matter what, it's all thanks to him this time."

"Yeah, the people of the Chinese cartoon industry have got him to thank for this."

"Teacher Zhang is indeed talented. He can even save an industry in the doldrums!"

"Damn, look, Zhang Ye's Asian popularity score is almost catching up to the person ahead!"

"Ah? He's almost in third place?"

"Yeah, he's unknowingly closed in!"

"Yeah, I remember that he was still quite far behind previously."

"I wonder if he can leapfrog that celebrity by today."

“This cartoon has won Zhang Ye quite a few fans. No matter what, it blows off so much steam! China should be where our own animations flourish, after all. That’s only logical.”

“Teacher Zhang has done us proud this time!”

Zhang Ye’s mission ended here. It was not because he had quit, but that he really had no time to do it. As for the rest of the plot, story, and characters of The Legend of Qin, he had written them out in advance for Sun Xiaobei. This was the last thing he could do for them. The rest was up to themselves. Whether Chinese animation productions could make a name for themselves would have to be an effort on the part of the entire industry. The only thing that Zhang Ye could do was to start the initiative and bring over the successful experiences from his previous world to them.

...

That same night.

The celebratory feast was held.

Everyone from the production team attended.

Yao Jiancai, Xu Meilan, Xiaodong, Fan Wenli, and the other big names were also invited by Zhang Ye. It was a lively party and everyone was eating together.

The animation came to a conclusion.

The celebratory feast ended.

Zhang Ye “retired” after completing his mission.

...

At night.

The Asian Celebrity Rankings Index was updated.

Zhang Ye’s popularity rose again.

And with this rise, he surpassed the Japanese celebrity who was in third place by taking his spot after jumping from his original fourth place on the Asian A-list. Zhang Ye had finally advanced to the top three to become one of the top celebrities in Asia and reached his highest career ranking up until now!

Two people were still ahead of him!

He was another step closer to reaching the summit in Asia!

Chapter 1473: Pulling off one last job!

On this day.

News spread.

“Zhang Ye accompanies his wife to the hospital.”

“Zhang Ye’s wife’s due date approaches!”

“Zhang Ye’s Studio reveals: Zhang Ye to bid a temporary farewell to the entertainment industry.”

As an influential figure in the Asian entertainment industry, the media and the public were paying close attention to the latest developments surrounding Zhang Ye. There was even greater attention on him, especially now he had sailed into the top three spots of the Asian A-list based on his heaven-defying domestic animation production.

On Weibo.

“Face-smacking Zhang is taking a break to care for his child?”

“That’s in about two months, right?”

“This fellow is really going to be a father!”

“Congratulations in advance. I’m waiting to see the birth of little Zhang Ye.”

“Haha, I’m just afraid that he’ll turn out to be a troublemaker like his father.”

“He should be gone for at least a year with this farewell, no?”

“There’s not enough time for him to reach the summit of Asia.”

“It’s highly unlikely. His popularity is not strong enough, and there’s too little time left.”

“Come on, give us something before going away.”

“Yeah, @ZhangYe hold a concert.”

“Right, right, I want to attend Zhang Ye’s concert. He’s never held one before!”

“It’s coming to the end of the year. Hold a concert please!”

“I want to hear some new songs!”

All of a sudden, the people responded to this and started requesting that Zhang Ye hold a concert.

...

At the studio.

Zhang Ye’s parents had come to “spot-check” him.

“Where’s Zeqing?” his mother asked.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “She’s started her maternity leave in advance, and Mother-in-law insisted that she go over to stay for a few days. I just dropped Old Wu off over there.”

His father gave him an ultimatum. “It’s about time you start preparing yourself too.”

His mother nodded. “You should be tying up your work.”

"I understand." Zhang Ye took out his cell phone and looked at the date. "I'll settle everything within these two months and then get prepared for what's coming. This bro is going to be a full-time dad in the future."

His mother was amused. "You? Come off it. I still trust Zeqing more. If we leave the child to you to take care of, I can't imagine how it would end up with all the things you'll teach to it."

The studio staff were all secretly chuckling in the office.

Zhang Ye didn't like hearing that. "And what's so bad about my teaching? Surely I can teach it how to write? No matter how good Old Wu's calligraphy is, is she be better than me? I doubt it."

His mother curled her lips. "Stop bragging. I'm afraid that the child won't learn how to write its own name before learning how to write the word 'fighting'!"

Zhang Ye was speechless.

The studio staff laughed, "Hahaha!"

After his parents left, Zhang Ye started throwing his weight around.

Zhang Ye harrumphed, "Who were the ones who laughed just now? Huh?"

Everyone pretended to know nothing. "Did we?"

Zhang Ye said, "Can't you guys also think of something regarding what we discussed earlier?"

Ha Qiqi said helplessly, "All of us have given it some thought, but there's nothing much that we can do. There's practically no hope of us reaching the summit of Asia within this year. What we lack is the popularity and attention of the Koreans. Although your comics have also made their way into their market, not many Koreans like reading Japanese comics, and most of the people there are not convinced by them. Furthermore, the restrictions on you are still in force over there, so your works can't enter their market either. There's also a certain level of control over the news surrounding you. There's no way we can do anything about that. We've already thought of all that we could."

Zhang Zuo blinked. "Director Zhang, why don't we forget about it?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "But we're only a step away."

Wu Yi said, "But this is too great a step."

Ha Qiqi said, "Auntie also told you to tie up all your work just now. I reckon that we can only take one more job assignment."

Korea?

All that was left was Korea?

Zhang Ye pondered it for a long time and could not come up with any good ideas either. He found it a pity that he was lacking this one final step, but there was no other way of achieving it. Furthermore, he was going away on a long break from the entertainment industry soon, so it would be difficult for him to maintain his popularity after that. If he did not take advantage of this moment to make a bid for the top,

he would have to slowly catch up and start all over again when he got back. So this was really quite regrettable for him. If he could reach the top of Asia in one breath, then even if his popularity dropped by a little in the future, it wouldn't matter much. If he could reach the top in both China and Asia, that would go into his list of honors and he wouldn't have to go through this journey all over again. When the time came for him to make a comeback, he could simply aim for the international entertainment circle without any worries.

Filming movies?

Making an international variety show?

Singing global pop songs?

He could do all kinds of things!

But now it seemed like that was going to be very difficult to achieve.

Zhang Ye mumbled to himself, "There's only enough time to pull off one last job?"

Pull off one last job?

Only Zhang Ye would use such a phrase to describe his work in the entertainment circle. However, when the studio staff thought about it carefully, this statement couldn't be more appropriate. At least in Zhang Ye's case, this phrase was evocative.

Ha Qiqi said, "Right, we can still pull off one last job."

Zhang Ye smacked his lips. "Then what should we do?"

Little Wang said, "A lot of people are hoping that you'll hold a concert."

"That's right, that's right." Little Zhou said excitedly, "A lot of people are saying that they hope to hear you in concert before you go on hiatus."

Zhang Zuo nodded and said, "That's pretty good. First, we've never organized a real concert before. Be it a small one, or a big one, we've never done it. Second, this can be a farewell to the people. These are the people who have supported you all these years since your debut, so you should definitely show some appreciation to them."

Ha Qiqi smiled and said, "And who knows? If the concert turns out successful enough, the songs might even spread to Korea and instantly gather all of the popularity and attention from over there too."

Zhang Ye said, delighted, "There's even such a possibility?"

Ha Qiqi said, "Of course not."

Zhang Ye was speechless.

Zhang Zuo was at a loss. "Director Zhang, we shouldn't just focus on popularity."

Zhang Ye nodded at the words. "Brother Zuo is right. Alright then, for our last job, let's hold a concert. We'll make it as big as we can and finish with a bang!"

“Alright!” Ha Qiqi said with a smile, “I’ll go and take care of it and start the preparations today!”

Zhang Zuo asked, “Where should we hold it? This is the first thing we have to settle with the organizers. Some venues are hard to get, but with our popularity, I believe that we can choose from any of the biggest venues in China.”

Zhang Ye asked, “What’s the best place we can hold it at?”

One, two, three, four.

Everyone suggested a venue.

In the end, Zhang Ye was not satisfied with any of them.

Ha Qiqi said, “But that’s all there is?”

Zhang Zuo said, “Right, there are no other places to choose from.”

But Zhang Ye’s next words were alarming. “There’s one more place—I want to hold the concert at the Bird’s Nest¹!”

Everyone had a confused expression on their faces.

Bird’s nest?

What bird’s nest?

Zhang Ye was startled before remembering that there wasn’t a Bird’s Nest in this world. So he put it differently. “Let’s hold our concert at Olympic Stadium². I’ll go find someone to liaise with!”

“What?”

“Olympic Stadium?”

“A-Are you sure?”

“Damn, that place doesn’t allow concerts, right?”

“No one has ever held a concert there before!”

“It’s a venue for at least 100,000 people!”

Everyone was stunned!

If they managed to secure this venue, then this matter would definitely blow up!

It was only now that they realized that Zhang Ye had still not given up on the idea of reaching the summit of Asia. This last job that he was going for was still aimed at making a break for the Asian S-list!

Chapter 1474: Setting the Olympic Stadium venue!

The next day.

Early in the morning, Zhang Ye rushed off to the Ministry of Culture.

There were also different tiers when it came to holding concerts. The easiest way to identify the scale of a concert would be its venue.

For the C- or D-list singers who were holding an experimental concert to gauge their popularity, a venue that held a thousand people would be good enough, especially in a place like Beijing. Many of the better venues required the organizers to line up and get approval to use them. Otherwise, they wouldn't even be considered for the venue. Meanwhile, the chance to perform at the bigger venues were only given to A- or B-list celebrities who were also professional singers. Only Heavenly Kings and Queens like Zhang Ye, Zhang Yuanqi, and Xu Meilan would be qualified to hold a performance at a venue which could hold tens of thousands of audience members!

10,000 audience members?

15,000 audience members?

That was already the highest, the peak!

Any higher than that? A venue that could hold 100,000 audience members?

No one had ever pulled that off before! It was virtually unheard of!

Olympic Stadium had only been completed a year ago. There were no cases of it being rented to a celebrity to hold a concert, nor did any celebrities even get such an idea. It was only Zhang Ye who dared to think of something like that. This fellow was already toying with the idea of holding his concert at Olympic Stadium. It was not that he was brave, but rather, many precedents had been set in Zhang Ye's previous world. The Olympics had taken place many years earlier in his previous world, so it was not as though there had not been celebrities who held their concerts at the Bird's Nest. Although the two worlds were different, whatever worked there should logically work here as well, so it should be worth a shot.

So he rushed over.

Others wanting to pass through the gates to the Ministry of Culture would not find it easy, but it wasn't so for Zhang Ye. He was the executive director of the previous Spring Festival Gala and had come across many executives in his work. He also knew a lot of people, so there wasn't a need for Old Wu's influence on this matter. Zhang Ye had his way around here just like he did at the SARFT.

At an office.

Zhang Ye knocked on the door and entered. "Supervisor Hu."

Supervisor Hu looked up. "Aiyo, Director Zhang, what brought you here?"

"I came to visit you," Zhang Ye said with a smile.

Supervisor Hu was a shrewd man. "Come off it. It can't be anything good since you had to come here. Speak." He got him to sit down, then called his secretary over to pour Zhang Ye a drink.

Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony and said with a laugh, "Then I'll be straight. The ministry is in charge of the approval for cultural and music performances, right?"

Supervisor Hu nodded. "That is correct."

Zhang Ye said, "Well, I would like to hold a concert."

"Yo, that's a good thing." Supervisor Hu smiled and said, "So why are you looking for me? With your influence, Boss Zhang, wouldn't it be easier to handle it through the SARFT?"

Zhang Ye smacked his lips and said, "The issue is not with the approval of the performance but the venue's approval."

Supervisor Hu understood. "The venue? That won't be a problem. It's just a simple matter." He picked up his phone. "So, which location do you have your eyes on? I'll get it approved for you immediately."

Zhang Ye directly said, "O-lym-pic! Sta-di-um!"

Thud. The phone in Supervisor Hu's hand dropped. "What?"

Zhang Ye repeated himself.

Supervisor Hu was stunned. He reached out to touch Zhang Ye's forehead.

Zhang Ye asked, "What are you doing?"

Supervisor Hu replied, "I wanted to check if you have a fever!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I don't have a fever. So can I hold it there?"

"Can you hold it there!" Supervisor Hu said, "How dare you even think about using the Olympic Stadium!"

Zhang Ye said, "If sports can be held there, or a large-scale event can be organized there, why not a concert? Isn't the schedule for that venue quite free recently? Let me book it. I'll help generate some revenue for them. The place would be empty otherwise."

Supervisor Hu nearly fainted. "This isn't about generating revenue. Sports are sports, large-scale events are large-scale events, but what you have planned is something very different. You intend to hold a commercial performance there!"

At this moment, someone entered from outside.

Supervisor Chen was taken aback. "Eh, Zhang Ye is here?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Hi, Brother Chen."

Supervisor Chen said with a smile, "What's up? You here on business?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yeah, I came to look for Old Hu to approve a venue for me, but he's acting all bureaucratic with me."

Supervisor Chen was amused as he looked at Supervisor Hu and said, "Old Hu, you're at fault if you do that. We fought closely with Zhang'er during the previous Spring Festival Gala. Surely you can't refuse to

help him over such a minor matter, right? That's terrible of you." He then thumped himself on the chest and said, "Zhang'er, your Brother Chen is here. I'll approve it for you. Just say the word. Which venue are you eying? I have no jurisdiction in Hong Kong, but as long as it's a place in the Mainland, feel free to choose wherever you like!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Brother Chen is still the best. I'm looking to book Olympic Stadium."

Supervisor Chen immediately turned around and went off in the opposite direction. "—Good! Bye!"

Zhang Ye hurriedly pulled him back. "Where are you going?"

Supervisor Chen said in a speechless manner, "Old Hu is indeed unable to help you with this. Who would dare to approve that venue for you? You're really bold, huh? Do you know what kind of a place Olympic Stadium is? Why don't you choose another venue?"

Zhang Ye went over to the sofa and sat down. He shook his head and said, "But I already have my eyes on that place."

Supervisor Hu spoke up, "But we really cannot approve that. There hasn't been a precedent for something like this yet."

Zhang Ye said, "If I start the ball rolling, then there would be a precedent for future cases, right?"

Supervisor Chen rolled his eyes and said, "This is really something that only you dare to think of!"

An hour.

Three hours.

Five hours.

Pulling strings.

Logical reasoning.

Highlighting the pros and cons.

He stayed at the Ministry of Culture for the entire day!

When the Ministry of Culture found out that Zhang Ye had his eye on Olympic Stadium, everyone broke out into a cold sweat. Initially, nobody thought this could possibly go through. If you were organizing a large-scale Asian charity event, it would be fine to let you book the venue. But how could that be allowed for a concert?

Then, the situation took a turn.

One of the executives at the Ministry of Culture could no longer watch on.

That executive called for a meeting and summoned Supervisor Hu, Supervisor Chen, and a number of other relevant personnel to attend. He asked them if they knew how greatly Zhang Ye had contributed to the national culture up until now. Literary novels, calligraphy pieces, Chinese heavy metal music, the revival of the Spring Festival Gala, and in recent times, the rise of Chinese animation were all started by Zhang Ye. To say that Zhang Ye was a leading figure of the new generation in Chinese culture would not

be too far-fetched, would it? How much glory had Zhang Ye brought to China? How great were his contributions to the cultural cause? Wasn't he just asking to hold a personal concert at Olympic Stadium? Was that too much to ask for? Just let him hold it! I'll approve it! If the venue isn't approved of, I'll go and settle it with them personally!

Zhang Ye still had quite the influence here.

Or perhaps Old Wu's influence played a part.

So things were settled just like that. This was a very big issue initially, but after the important leader had spoken, it soon became a triviality. With the Ministry of Culture taking the lead, the venue was secured on the afternoon of the same day. This was only possible for Zhang Ye. If it were Zhang Yuanqi, Xu Meilan, or any of the other Heavenly Kings and Queens, it wouldn't be possible for them to get this booking approved.

...

In the evening.

At the studio.

Zhang Ye returned and announced, "I've secured the venue!"

Ha Qiqi was dumbfounded. "What?"

Zhang Zuo said in a stunned manner, "How is that possible!"

Zhang Ye smiled as he handed Ha Qiqi a business card. "This is the contact for the venue. Go and liaise with him about the performance time. Get it done as quick as possible."

Only now did everyone believe it!

Loud screaming rocked the studio!

"Holy shit!"

"It's really happening?"

"We're going to hold a concert at Olympic Stadium?"

"Heavens, it seems like this concert will be rather big!"

Was it just rather big?

This was the largest performing venue in China!

And also the largest performing venue in the whole of Asia!

Chapter 1475: Dumbfounded!

The next day.

This news was made known.

Zhang Ye's Studio officially announced: "Around the middle of next month, Zhang Ye will be holding his first large-scale solo concert at the National Olympic Stadium.

Time to be determined.

Ticket prices to be determined.

Guests to be determined.

The only confirmed details were the venue and the show's name.

The concert was to be called "A Night in Beijing" ¹ "!

When this news was made known, a lot of people were dumbfounded!

"What?"

"He's really going to hold a concert?"

"But what's this with the venue?"

"Did I see it wrong?"

"What did he say? Olympic Stadium?"

"Fuck! Olympic Stadium?"

"That venue that can hold 100,000 people?"

"Zhang Ye must've gone crazy!"

"How could the authorities have approved that venue for him!"

"Can a national stadium like that allow him to host a commercial performance?"

"This has blown everything out of the water. There haven't been any singers who've received such treatment before!"

The people got into fervent discussion.

There was incredible shock, as well as great anticipation!

At the studio.

Zhang Ye also saw the discussions by the netizens and the media. Simultaneously, his cell phone was noisily ringing as calls came in one after another.

Xiaodong called.

Amy and Li Xiaoxian were also with her on the line.

Xiaodong immediately said when the call connected: "How did you manage to do it?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "Just like that I guess."

Amy roared: "Teacher Zhang, you can't be like this. Our Spring Garden just finished holding a concert, and it was held at the National Indoor Stadium. We had thought it was a huge affair, but you one-upped us by securing the National Stadium for your very first show? Can that venue even be applied for? Can we apply for it too?"

Zhang Ye said: "I suppose anybody can do it."

Amy said excitedly: "That's great then. We'll try to apply for it next year as well!"

On the other end, Li Xiaoxian poured cold water over her by saying: "Come on, don't listen to Teacher Zhang's nonsense. That venue can only be secured by him. Other people don't stand a chance."

Xiaodong also acknowledged: "I doubt Sister Zhang and Sister Lan can get it either."

Amy sounded discouraged at once. "I should've known. Hai, if we ever get to sing at Olympic Stadium just once, my life will be fulfilled."

At that, Zhang Ye said: "You can experience it now."

Li Xiaoxian said: "Ah?"

Amy asked: "What do you mean?"

Zhang Ye chuckled and said: "I was going to call you guys just now. This is the first ever concert of my career, so surely you old friends of mine would have to come support me, right? It's my first time holding a concert, and I don't have any experience at all. This is making me really nervous, so I'll need you guys to come and hold the fort down for me. I'm formally sending an invitation to you three right now."

Xiaodong said in surprise: "You want us to be your show's guests?"

Li Xiaoxian asked: "You didn't invite Sister Zhang and Sister Lan?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "Old Zhang has been really elusive this past year. I'm not sure what she's been busy with, but it has been really difficult to contact her. Sister Lan is not your traditional type of singer, and her singing style is pretty different from mine, so we can't match on stage. No matter how I think about it, I still find you to be the best match for me. Didn't we agree to work together on metal again back in Korea? It's time for our heavy metal group to get back together."

Xiaodong replied: "Haha, that won't be a problem!"

Li Xiaoxian said: "We will definitely go and support you, Teacher Zhang!"

Amy said: "Heehee, which dynasty will we be dreaming of this time?"

Zhang Ye said: "We can dream of whichever dynasty you wish to."

Then, Xu Meilan, Zhang Xia, Chen Guang, Fan Wenli, and several other people called to check with Zhang Ye if the news was true. Although the announcement had been made through Zhang Ye's Studio, everyone still found it very difficult to believe when they saw the name of the venue. After confirming the news, they were also very happy for Zhang Ye. Holding a concert at Olympic Stadium once in your life would be more than enough. This was a tremendous honor and affirmation by the people.

Of course, there were some doubts within the entertainment circle itself.

“Is he even qualified?”

“It should be the other Heavenly Kings and Queens who hold their concerts there instead, shouldn’t it?”

“Based on seniority and qualifications, the other Heavenly Kings are more suited for that venue.”

“Zhang Ye’s influence is pretty big.”

“Yeah, this concert venue has indeed shocked a lot of people!”

However, those who were grumbling and talking about such things were mainly the minor celebrities and singers.

Meanwhile, the truly qualified singers and groups who were worthy of performing in front of tens of thousands of people were delighted. This news made all of them very excited as they could clearly see that Olympic Stadium was a place that no others could secure even if they tried their best to squeeze themselves in for the consideration of it!

Popularity?

Prestige?

Contacts?

Relationship with the higher-ups?

All of that was absolutely necessary for consideration!

In all of China’s entertainment industry, only Zhang Ye fulfilled these conditions. Just by his status as the Spring Festival Gala’s executive director, no one would be a match for him. Furthermore, there was also his wife’s influence to consider, so Zhang Ye was really the only person who had a chance with this venue. And then? With this precedent, it would make things easier for everyone else. With him leading by example, it would become easier for other qualified singers to apply to perform at Olympic Stadium in the future. Therefore, this was definitely a good thing. Upon seeing this, many of the A-list celebrity teams quickly reacted and began preparing their applications for the next year.

Online.

Zhang Ye’s fans started requesting songs to be played at the concert.

“I want to hear ‘The King of Karaoke!’”

“I want to hear ‘I’m Just a Little Bird!’”

“Haha, I want to see him sing ‘Small Apple.’ That will definitely raise the atmosphere!”

“Will there be any new songs?”

“There will definitely be some. How can Zhang Ye’s concert not have any new songs?”

“I’m looking forward to it!”

“How do we purchase the tickets?”

“They’re not on sale yet.”

“There will be nearly 100,000 tickets available, so it shouldn’t be too difficult to get one!”

“Motherfucker, I’ve got to go to Beijing to catch Zhang Ye’s concert this time! I’m a hardcore fan of his!”

“A stadium with 100,000 people all listening to Zhang Ye sing solo. My God, just thinking about it is making my blood race! I wonder what kind of atmosphere it will be!”

At the studio.

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others went about settling their tasks.

As Zhang Ye sat there alone, he began pondering the concert’s setlist and the song arrangements. He also considered the requests of the netizens with regards to the songs they liked. As for the classic songs he had performed before, he would definitely have to sing a few of them too. However, he had no idea what new songs he should be performing, although there wasn’t any urgency and was something he could slowly consider. He wouldn’t want to choose anything unsuitable, after all. This would be his first concert and also his last outing before he bade a temporary farewell to the entertainment circle, so it would definitely have to be done well.

It would be best if he could use this to get into the Asian S-list.

But it wasn’t going to be easy since he was still quite a ways away from it.

Zhang Ye was very stubborn and still had his mind on this matter. He was someone who pursued perfection. He would always want to do the best he could and succeed in one try. If he could, he would spare no effort in taking one last shot at his goal. To a celebrity, the rankings index was essentially their battlefield!

So he kept thinking about this over the next few days.

His family was also very supportive of his work. His parents-in-law told him they would take care of Wu Zeqing in the coming days at their home so that Zhang Ye would have time to prepare his best for his concert. There would be plenty of time for him to take care of his wife and child in the future anyway.

Buying the equipment.

Setting up the venue.

Choosing songs.

Preparations for the concert were underway.

They had officially started the countdown to the largest concert in the history of Asia!

Chapter 1476: The difficulty adjustment die makes its appearance!

The days passed.

The preparations for the concert were already more than half done.

The promotions for it were in full swing.

These days, Zhang Ye was no longer that busy. He was sitting in the studio, studying the setlist and arranging the songs. The rest of the work was left to Ha Qiqi and Zhang Zuo to handle, and Zhang Ye only needed to make the final decision on them. He did not need to worry about the majority of matters. However, while he looked like he was having it easy, Zhang Ye was constantly thinking about how he could make this concert a little bigger and better. It would be good if he could stir up a commotion in Asia with it, and even better if it could get him into Korea. The best outcome would be if he rose to the top in one bound and rounded it off with a perfect ending before he bade farewell to the entertainment industry.

How should he make it even bigger?

He had already thought of everything.

This?

No can do!

That?

No can do either!

This path was blocked, and it didn't seem like there was any way of getting past it.

Finally, on this morning, Zhang Ye made a decision. If there was no way of getting through with brute force? Never mind! He still had one last trump card left to play, the game ring! There was still an item in Zhang Ye's game ring that he couldn't bear to use, and that item was the Difficulty Adjustment Die. Moreover, he only had one left. Although this die was drawn from the Lottery Draw (One), it did not seem to exist in the higher tier Lottery Draw (Two) and Zhang Ye could not obtain this item after many tries. As such, it was easy to imagine how precious the item was. Each one that he used would mean there would be one fewer. Zhang Ye had used it to help him get through some of the most difficult situations in the past, so it could be described as an immensely valuable item, and Zhang Ye would not resort to using it so easily. But it was different this time. If he didn't use it now, then when? This was the time he needed it the most!

Of course, he also had a love-hate relationship with this die. Thinking about the hijacking incident back when he had nearly lost his life, it was unforgettable to Zhang Ye and also one of the most terrifying moments in his life. If he hadn't received the Lucky Halo after that, Zhang Ye would never choose to bring out this killer move so easily. This was because if the item worked to great effect, he could kill someone with it. But at the same time, if he did not manage to use it well, it could also achieve the effect of suicide!

Come on then, it's time for you to take the stage!

Success or failure, it all depends on this roll!

On the second floor of the studio.

Zhang Ye washed his hands and face before opening the game ring. From it, he took out the die from the inventory.

[Difficulty Adjustment Die]: After it is thrown, it will randomly change the player's difficulty. The duration of its effects is random.

Reduce difficulty by 10×.

Reduce difficulty by 5×.

Reduce difficulty by 2×.

Increase difficulty by 2×.

Increase difficulty by 5×.

Increase difficulty by 10×.

There were six faces on the die, and on each face was a different difficulty level.

After that, Zhang Ye activated the Lucky Halo (Upgraded). When it took effect, he focused his mind and carefully took out that one and only die with some fear. The main thing was that he had experienced psychological trauma due to it, so even with the Lucky Halo supporting his attempt, he still felt panicky. This was because Zhang Ye knew that the Lucky Halo was not something that could ensure success in everything that he did. It would only help to increase his luck factor, and it would fail at times too. But he thought that he shouldn't be that unlucky since the Lucky Halo was rarely ineffective. There was probably only a 1% chance of failure.

Here goes nothing!

He kept mumbling as he pinched the Difficult Adjustment Die tightly in his hand. Then he took a deep breath and threw it up into the air. He stared at it as it arced upwards to its highest point before dropping back down.

Clack, clack. It fell onto the floor.

Once.

Twice.

The die bounced three times.

Zhang Ye's heart skipped three times along with it. He stared without blinking at the Difficulty Adjustment Die as it rolled around on the floor before finally coming to a stop. He hurriedly got up and chased after it with a look of anticipation. The next moment, he nearly spat blood!

The system notification came up:

[Increased difficulty by 5×!]

[Effective duration: 49 hours!]

Zhang Ye was stunned and swore!

“Fuck your sister!”

“Your grandpa!”

“Fuck your grandma!”

Zhang Ye was almost going crazy with hatred. The Lucky Halo had actually fucking screwed up. It had actually failed him at this critical and dangerous juncture! It wasn't that this had never happened before. Back when the Lucky Halo was still the ordinary version, there had been situations when it would barely be effective or fail totally. When it received an upgrade, such situations became very rare, although he did remember it happening once. That was when he was coming to the end of his employment at Central TV where he attended the Central TV annual party and won all of the prizes. At that time, there was a minor incident with the Lucky Halo (Upgraded), although that hiccup didn't result in any major incidents. But it was different this time. It had messed up big time, and this was a truly unfortunate time for it to happen!

Five times the difficulty?

A duration of 49 hours?

That's a little more than two days?

Isn't this as good as asking for my life!

He had hoped that the Difficulty Adjustment Die would help him create something big for his concert!

But as it turned out, his wishes came true. Something even bigger than what he wanted had happened!

Zhang Ye was cursing like crazy. If there was anything positive about this, it would have to be that he did not roll an “increase difficulty by 10×.” The hijacking incident was the result of getting a 10× difficulty from his die roll. If he really rolled that again this time and its effect was for 49 hours, then that wouldn't be any different from suicide. At least for now, there was still a chance of cushioning the blow. He could still be saved!

What should he do then?

Where could he hide for the next two days?

Zhang Ye's mind was racing. There was no use in thinking about anything other than how to take refuge. He entered into a state of extreme vigilance. Every now and then, he would turn left and right to look around like he was afraid of something suddenly exploding or a hand grenade suddenly flying in through the window. So he kept his Lucky Halo activated. He was hoping that the Lucky Halo could resist the increased difficulty from the die roll. But this was not a long-term solution as the Lucky Halo (Upgraded) was too expensive to keep in use. Every second that it was activated cost him 100,000 Reputation Points. That was 6 million Reputation Points per minute. He could keep it on for five minutes or ten minutes, but 49 hours? He couldn't afford that. It wouldn't matter how many Reputation Points he had, it just wasn't enough for something like that!

Someone knocked on the door.

“Director Zhang?”

“Director Zhang, what’s the matter?”

“Who are you arguing with this time?”

When they heard the cursing, Little Wang, Little Zhou, and several others who stayed behind in the office ran upstairs in a panic.

Then the office door opened and Zhang Ye came walking out in an even more panicky state than them. The first thing he said was, “Don’t say anything. Just stay far away from me. I’m going out to take refuge for two days, so I’ll leave you guys to hold down the fort during this time. If anything happens, don’t panic. Wait for me to come back to settle it!”

Little Wang was dumbfounded. “Ah?”

Little Sun was stunned. “What happened?”

Little Zhou said startledly, “Who are you taking refuge from?”

Taking refuge from who?

I’m taking refuge from everyone!

He was afraid that he would implicate other people, so he hurriedly departed from the studio after he finished speaking.

Walking on the street, he looked at the passersby around him. At this moment, everyone that Zhang Ye saw seemed like they were a terrorist!

Chapter 1477: Someone, help! Zhang Ye has fallen in a well!

Later that morning.

The studio was in chaos!

Little Wang and Little Zhou made a call in panic.

“Sister Ha, come back quickly!”

“What’s the matter?”

“Director Zhang has left. I think something big has happened!”

“What? Where did he go?”

“I don’t know, he didn’t say!”

“Wait for me! I’ll rush back immediately!”

Soon after, Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, Wu Yi, and the others all dropped their work to rush back to the studio. To them, there was nothing more important than Zhang Ye. This was Zhang Ye’s Studio, after all, so everything revolved around him. As such, anything could happen to anyone except Director Zhang!

They gathered together.

And made dozens of calls to Director Zhang. However, he did not answer any of them.

This had happened too suddenly, and everyone was mentally unprepared.

What on earth happened?

What snapped in Director Zhang this time?

...

On the streets.

Zhang Ye's eyes darted around with every step he took.

Zhang Ye stared warily at a passerby across the road whose hand suddenly reached into their pocket!

Is it you?

Are you gonna brandish a handgun or a hand grenade?

Then that person took out his cell phone.

Zhang Ye turned his attention to a woman whose hand reached into her handbag.

Is it you?

Which organization sent you?

Then that woman took out a compact to touch up her makeup.

Zhang Ye was in a state of panic. Even a pile of smelly dog shit on the ground would attract him to kneel down and ask, "Speak! Who sent you here!"

Everything was fine yesterday, yet it had all fallen apart today. Zhang Ye was going crazy. He wondered why he had to roll the Difficulty Adjustment Die for no apparent reason. Was he too bored? Thinking about what led to this situation, Zhang Ye analyzed it and came up with three possible reasons.

One: The Lucky Halo had coincidentally failed.

Two: The Difficulty Adjustment Die might be unaffected by the Lucky Halo's effects. During the crosstalk competition where he rolled a "decrease difficulty by 10x," that roll could have had nothing to do with the Lucky Halo's effects at all, with the results being a fluke. This time, the Lucky Halo's luck factor might not have had any effect either.

Three: The Lucky Halo might only be useful to Zhang Ye after it had judged the situation to be in an increased difficulty of 5x condition. That would mean to say that the Lucky Halo did not fail, but that its usage was dependent on the effects of the Difficulty Adjustment Die.

All three scenarios were possible.

But of course, the third one was the least likely.

The Lucky Halo would only be effective if there was increased difficulty in play?

I've been educated, alright! Who do you think you're trying to hoodwink!

The Lucky Halo (Upgraded) was still activated, and its consumption rate of Reputation Points had reached an alarming figure. Zhang Ye was feeling the pinch. He thought that this was a lose-lose situation no matter what, so it was better to just face the 49-hour increased difficulty of 5× sooner rather than later. There was no need to keep wasting his Reputation Points like this. Come on then, motherfucker, I'd like to see just how great you are! This bro ain't afraid of nothing!

It was just an increased difficulty of 5×, a far cry from an increased difficulty of 10×!

Zhang Ye went for broke and deactivated the use of the Lucky Halo on the spot!

There was heavy traffic all around.

The people on the streets were hurrying to and fro.

One minute.

Two minutes.

Everything was normal.

Zhang Ye stood on the sidewalk and looked up at the sky for a long time. Hey, isn't everything fine here?

All of a sudden, several girls across the road looked in the direction of Zhang Ye.

"Ah!"

"Look at that person!"

"It's Zhang Ye!"

"It's him, it's really him!"

"Oh my God!"

"My idol!"

The girls screamed as they rushed over.

Zhang Ye got startled and subconsciously fast walked forward.

They chased after him.

Zhang Ye went into an alley.

They continued chasing.

Zhang Ye kept walking.

He was paying such close attention to the events and people around him that he did not see where he was walking. All of a sudden, the ground below him disappeared and Zhang Ye shouted before vanishing!

The girls following him were dumbfounded!

"Where's Teacher Zhang?"

“Where is he?”

“Where did he go?”

“Wow, Teacher Zhang has superpowers!”

“He’s disappeared, he’s really disappeared!”

“Teacher Zhang is amazing!”

“He’s indeed worthy of being my idol!”

The girls were all stoked and started screaming excitedly while flattering Zhang Ye.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye, who was at the bottom of a well, was so angry that he was nearly senseless. He grabbed the leg that had hit the ground as he shouted up at the well opening that was four to five meters above him, “Superpowers, your sister! Hurry up and call 119!”

On the surface.

The girls were surprised to hear that.

“It’s Zhang Ye’s voice?”

“Where is he?”

“God, Teacher Zhang has turned invisible?”

“Face-smacking Zhang even has the power of invisibility?”

Zhang Ye was going crazy!

Invisibility, my ass!

Uh, although it’s true that I really can turn invisible!

These girls were the kind who were a bit adorkable. They followed the voice and searched around the place before discovering an inconspicuous well by the road. They rushed over in a panic, and one of the girls leaned over to look down into the well, while another girl used her cell phone’s flashlight to illuminate it. Only then did they see what was at the bottom of the well.

The several of them instantly panicked!

One of them, a plump girl, screamed the loudest and let out a piercing shriek in her startled state.

“Someone, help! The famous host, Zhang Ye, has fallen in a well!”

Zhang Ye nearly spat out blood!

Can you not give such a detailed introduction?

Very soon, quite a few people were alerted.

A lot of Good Samaritans came and gathered around the area.

“Who fell into the well?”

“Ah, Zhang Ye!”

“It’s really him!”

“Damn, Teacher Zhang, you must endure!”

“Bear with it, you have to bear with it!”

The passersby all gave a helping hand.

Soon after, a fire truck arrived.

The firefighters were also rather stunned when they saw the situation. They had not expected to meet such a big star in their lifetime, especially not in a situation where he had fallen into a well!

After five minutes of struggling, Zhang Ye was finally rescued.

The chief firefighter hurriedly asked, “Are you OK, Teacher Zhang?”

Zhang Ye panted, “I’m fine, I’m fine. Thank you, my firefighting comrades!”

Someone in the crowd also asked, “You aren’t hurt, are you?”

Zhang Ye smiled. “Thanks for your help, everyone. I’m fine. I’m not even hurt in the—”

Before he could finish speaking, a strong gust of wind blew a large wooden board on the roof of a building off. Of the hundred-plus people standing there watching and taking photographs, it did not crash on any of them, nor was anyone even aware that it had fallen. The wooden board was blown right at Zhang Ye’s back!

Clang!

Zhang Ye roared and disappeared again!

The firefighters and the crowd were scared out of their wits for a moment!

“Careful!”

“Ahhh!”

“Where’s Teacher Zhang?”

“Not good! Teacher Zhang has fallen in the well again!”

“Quickly, save him!”

“Aiyo, what’s with this!”

“He had just been rescued out of the well!”

“The ladder, where’s the ladder!”

A lot of people were watching this dumbfounded!

Many of the firefighters nearly burst out laughing!

Could he be any more unlucky than this! It was already very rare for a person to fall into a well once in their lifetime, but here was a person who had fallen into a well twice in a single day? And it was even the same well? Just how unfortunate did he have to be!

Everyone went all out with the rescue.

A few minutes later, Zhang Ye was rescued out of the well again.

Zhang Ye put on a brave front as he climbed out and waved while saying, "I'm fine, I'm fine, this is no big deal!"

This was what an increased difficulty of 5× could do!

Zhang Ye was finally getting a taste of it!

Chapter 1478: Lotte Mart, here I come!

Noon.

This piece of news exploded.

These days, news reports no longer relied on traditional print media. Whenever something happened, the news would be published online within a matter of minutes.

"Zhang Ye falls into a well!"

"Zhang the famous host, singer, and artist, falls into a well!"

"Rescued by the concerted efforts of the people, Zhang Ye fortunately escapes without a scratch!"

"Video of Zhang Ye's fall into a well!"

"Set of 56 photos detailing Zhang Ye's fall into a well!"

"A collection of 56 HD photographs of Zhang Ye's fall into a well!"

...

On Weibo.

WeChat Moments.

In the forums.

It was posted everywhere.

"Pfft!"

"That fellow fell into a well?"

"I heard that he fell in twice!"

"I'm cramping up with laughter. To think that Zhang Ye also has his unfortunate moments!"

“This fellow has done too many wicked things before!”

“Hahahaha, I don’t know why, but reading these headlines makes me wanna laugh!”

“Face-smacking Zhang has been slapping faces for so many years. It’s finally time he gets his retribution!”

“I laughed too. This is such a delightful piece of news!”

“Where is the well that subdued this evildoer? I oughta pay it a visit someday!”

“See! See what this is? It is what happens to eunuchs!”

“He deserves to fall in! This is such good news!”

“Damn, aren’t you guys worried if Teacher Zhang was injured or not?”

“He can even shatter the glass window of a bulletproof car with one slap. Like he would get hurt from falling into a well!”

“That’s right, this fellow is too hardy. He’ll still be skipping around even if he falls into a well eight times!”

The netizens did not have any compassion at all as they cheered at this news. This was such a delightful piece of news to them.

Very soon, the news spread overseas as well. Although the restriction order was still in place, the Japanese and Koreans were more than happy to report about such news.

...

Japan.

“Well done!”

“This is great news!”

“The Heavens also can’t stand seeing him always getting his way!”

“Hahahahaha!”

“There’s a Chinese saying: The wicked will get subdued by the Heavens!”

...

Korea.

“Great! Awesome! Very good!”

“This fellow is finally down on his luck!”

“Pfft, did he really fall into a well?”

“What a dumbass!”

“Hahaha! This feels great!”

...

At this moment.

In China?

Japan?

Korea?

Wherever it was, almost all of the Asian people were clapping their hands in glee!

There wasn't another person in the whole of Asia who had such bad public relations!

When Zhang Ye saw this news, he nearly vomited blood. This bro is suffering so badly, yet you all can laugh? And even cheer? Do you think that you're celebrating the new year?!

It was a good thing that some people were still concerned about him.

His family and friends all called.

When the call connected, Ha Qiqi said anxiously: “Why didn't you answer the phone?”

Zhang Ye said as he looked around warily: “I didn't hear the phone ring.”

Ha Qiqi said worriedly: “Were you hurt?”

“I'm fine, I can bear it,” Zhang Ye said.

Ha Qiqi said: “What happened? I heard from Little Wang and the rest that something has happened?”

Zhang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry. “This isn't something that I can explain in a few words. In any case, this bro is down on his luck. Just know that I won't be going back for these two days. I'll lay low outside for a bit. If anything happens, don't panic or be alarmed, just wait until I get back to the office.”

“But—”

“I have to hang up; my mom's calling.” Then Zhang Ye answered the other call.

His mother immediately said when the call connected: “Are you stupid? You couldn't see such a large well?”

Zhang Ye said dejectedly: “It's because there was something covering it. Some plastic somehow flew into the path and covered it, so I thought that it was just the ground and stepped into it.”

His mother said: “You're so dumb.”

Wu Zeqing also called.

Old Wu asked: “How are you?”

“I'm fine, don't worry.”

“Why were you so careless?”

“It’s not a matter of being careless. Hai, stop talking about it.”

With his moves and reaction speed, he was confident that he could manage to avoid such a situation 99% of the time. But somehow, everything fell into place and he had to encounter that 1% chance of it happening. He was absolutely certain this wasn’t a problem with him but the fucking increased difficulty of 5× from the die roll. He also knew that only an hour had passed, and he would encounter many more of such incidents in the following 48 hours. Just thinking about it left Zhang Ye shuddering in fear.

He finished taking the calls.

Zhang Ye did not bother to explain things because he was in potential danger at every moment. He had to avoid this calamity first! What should he do until then? Where should he go hide? There were still 47 hours and 50 minutes left to go. Zhang Ye looked at the countdown timer in the game ring and ground his teeth in hate.

Go back home?

That definitely wouldn’t work!

Stay out on the streets?

But there was danger everywhere!

He had to find someplace to take refuge!

When he came to an intersection, he raised his head and saw a brand name. He was stunned and started narrowing his eyes in thought.

Lotte Mart ¹ ?

This sounded familiar?

Which Lotte was it?

Zhang Ye took out his cell phone to check online and discovered that this was actually a supermarket chain in China by Korea’s Lotte Corporation. It was exactly the same one as his previous world. So the Lotte Corporation that had been scolded and cursed at by the Chinese people back in his previous world also existed here? Was this what they called searching high and low only to find it where one least expects?

Damn!

It shall be you!

Zhang Ye was incredibly wicked. He crossed the road and went straight into the supermarket without a second thought. Right now, he was carrying misfortune with him everywhere and could easily get hurt even if he were standing there without moving. He was afraid of causing trouble for his family if he went home and afraid of implicating the people out on the streets. But in Lotte Mart, he wouldn’t have to worry about any of that. Even if this place were to collapse, he wouldn’t feel bad about it—this was just who Zhang Ye was. He couldn’t be blamed for having such bad luck since he could be really wicked at

times. Just look at what was happening. He was in such a state, yet he still didn't forget about dragging others down with him!

Inside Lotte Mart.

A bustling crowd was in here with customers walking up and down the aisles.

The hypermarket was very big and was likely one of the bigger branches in Beijing.

"The apples are on discount."

"Korean airfreighted fruits, come and have a look!"

"Our shampoo is buy one, get one free!"

Although Zhang Ye was wearing sunglasses and a face mask, he was still quickly recognized by the staff. A few customers were pointing at Zhang Ye from a distance and whispering among themselves. Two security guards rushed over while communicating on their walkie-talkies.

...

Upstairs.

In the staff area.

The general manager received this news very quickly. He was Kim Seongjae and was sent here by the Korean headquarters to oversee the operation of the branch. His Chinese was pretty good too.

"What? Zhang Ye came to our supermarket?"

"Yeah, the security guards have verified it."

"Didn't he fall into a well?"

"Uh, he was already rescued."

"This is a good thing, a good thing."

"But his relationship with Korea is—"

"He's basically giving free advertising to us. Quickly get someone to take a few photos and send them to the media. Tell them that Zhang Ye wants to come shop at our Lotte Mart after having just climbed out of the well and being injured from his fall. Our branch here is gonna become really popular soon!"

"That's right, that's right!"

The general manager was very excited.

However, he did not realize that he would soon be unable to smile.

Chapter 1479: A disaster at Lotte Mart!

In the afternoon.

At the Ximachang branch ¹ of Lotte Mart.

A loud explosion came from the food section.

Boom!

“Ah!”

“The fluorescent lamp exploded!”

“It’s falling, it’s falling!”

“Be careful!”

“Quick, run!”

The fluorescent lamp exploded, and a large tube cover fell down. Coincidentally, someone was standing right under it. Needless to say, it was Zhang Ye!

Zhang Ye also got quite scared. It was a good thing he was prepared for it as he hurriedly used his skillful and nimble moves to jump to the side. With a crash, the tube cover landed on the floor. If that had landed on Zhang Ye’s head instead, it might not be enough to give him a concussion, but he would still get a large amount of swelling on his head.

With that dodge, his face mask fell off.

The shopping crowd immediately recognized him.

“Zhang Ye!”

“It’s Face-smacking Zhang!”

“That gave me such a scare!”

“How dangerous!”

“The light fell down? Why did it happen to Teacher Zhang again?”

“Yeah, didn’t he just fall into a well?”

“Pfft, he’s too unlucky!”

The supermarket’s staff hurriedly came over to clean up the scene.

The general manager also rushed over upon hearing that something had happened. He was thinking that this was really bad timing for the accident to happen. Why did it have to drop on this bastard of all people? This guy was well-known throughout Asia for being unreasonable, and he was the biggest hooligan in the entire Asian entertainment industry. If this fellow were to insist on holding their Lotte Mart responsible, they would definitely have a lot of trouble on their hands. Hai, how unlucky!

But never could he imagine that Zhang Ye did not even seem to have any intention of pursuing the matter.

They only saw him wiping away his sweat before quickly making his way to the other sections of the supermarket.

The general manager was stunned. Eh, something didn't feel right. This wasn't Zhang Ye's style, was it? When did this fellow become so understanding and reasonable? This wasn't what his temperament was like.

A staff member came over. "Manager, this—"

The general manager said, "It's alright."

The staff member cautiously asked, "Do we have to compensate anyone?"

The general manager curled his lips. "No one was injured. What's there to compensate?"

The staff member replied, "Understood."

With this minor episode over, business went on as usual.

But when the general manager returned to his upstairs office, another incident happened in the supermarket!

An employee came running upstairs in a panic. "Manager! Something bad has happened!"

The general manager frowned. "What happened?"

The employee said anxiously, "The escalator malfunctioned. It suddenly moved in the opposite direction!"

The general manager was so alarmed he stood up. "What did you say? Was there anyone on the escalator?"

The employee said, "There was one person on it. When the malfunction happened, he rolled down the escalator—Zhang Ye!"

The general manager said in shock, "What? Why is it him again?"

On the second floor of the supermarket.

At this moment, Zhang Ye was dusting himself off with a lingering sense of fear. He had taken a bad tumble just now when the escalator that was going up suddenly changed direction and moved backward. Even though Zhang Ye had learned Taiji, he couldn't balance himself and fell backwards and rolled down twice. It was a good thing that he was agile and managed to recover by quickly stabilizing himself. Otherwise, he would have rolled all the way down from the second floor to the first floor. That was terrifying to imagine!

The crowd was at a total loss for words.

Falling into a well?

Getting attacked by a falling tube cover?

Falling down the escalator?

What kind of luck was this!

Did you check the almanac before coming out today?

From far away, the general manager shouted, "Teacher Zhang, are you OK?"

Zhang Ye waved it off.

The general manager exclaimed, "What's with this? Who is responsible for the escalators' operation? Quickly call their manager over!" He was very scared, but it was really lucky that nothing had happened to Zhang Ye. If anything bad happened to him, that would have been terrible. Then the general manager said, "Teacher Zhang, this has to be a malfunction. It might be due to the aging equipment, but rest assured that we will check it carefully, as well as that hanging light that fell earlier. This sort of thing definitely won't occur again. I guarantee it!"

Just as he finished speaking.

A several-meter-tall shelving unit gave way and crashed to the floor. All the goods placed on and on top of it plummeted off.

"Ah!"

"Run!"

"It's falling!"

"Run! Fuck!"

The surrounding people scattered!

The general manager also jumped aside and dropped to the ground in a very unglamorous action.

How quick was Zhang Ye?

How agile was Zhang Ye?

This guy could clearly run faster than the others, but he just had to choose the wrong direction to run toward. There wasn't anything wrong with the direction he made his escape in at the beginning, but then the falling goods crashed into the shelf across it, and a row of four or five shelves tumbled over in a domino effect. After making a circle, it came to where Zhang Ye was, and he had absolutely nowhere left to escape to. It ended up with him diving into a small space under the shelves that were falling, which saved him from being crushed under them. However, he was trapped underneath them and couldn't crawl out!

"This is bad!"

"Help!"

"Zhang Ye has been crushed again!"

"Hurry up and call 119!"

The general manager was almost in tears. What was going on! What the fuck was going on here!

The emergency response team arrived very quickly.

Because it was in the same area, the firefighters were the same group of people from earlier.

When the chief firefighter saw Zhang Ye browsing his Moments under the fallen shelves, he was floored.
“Teacher Zhang, why is it you again?”

Zhang Ye looked up. “Ah, yeah, it’s me.”

The firefighter wiped away his sweat. “We’re rescuing you for the third time today.”

Zhang Ye gave a dry laugh. “It’s been hard on you, but great work, my comrades.”

The firefighter sighed. Hai, it’s meaningless to say anything else. Just start the rescue!

After more than ten minutes of hard work by the firefighters, they finally managed to get the trapped personnel out.

At the same time, Lotte Mart was evacuating the customers from the premises. The falling light or even the malfunctioning escalator might not have affected anything too greatly, but for so many of the shelving units to collapse, there was clearly no way they could keep going on with their business operation. They immediately took the necessary measures and temporarily closed the store. The customers did not dare stay around either. How was this a place for shopping? They’d be risking their lives just by being in there! Luckily for them, all of the unfortunate things happened to Zhang Ye today. This scourge was very hardy and wouldn’t die that easily, but that wasn’t the case for them. They were all normal people who couldn’t smash a bulletproof car window with their bare hands.

The customers left.

The fire department left.

The supermarket staff clocked out.

But now the general manager discovered Zhang Ye still strolling around on the first floor of the supermarket near the cashiers’ checkout area. It seemed like he couldn’t find the way out.

The general manager pointed. “The exit is over there.”

Zhang Ye acknowledged, “Oh, I’m not in a rush. I’m gonna stay around for a while longer.”

When the general manager heard that, he nearly fainted!

You still want to stay around for a while longer?

Get lost!

Hurry up and get lost!

Everything was fine before you came in!

Zhang Ye spent a long time strolling aimlessly around in the supermarket.

The general manager and the security guards nearly broke down. They were all trembling in fear while staying close to Zhang Ye, afraid that something bad would happen again. It wasn't until after they begged him to leave that he finally did so.

...

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Zhang Ye came out of the Ximachang branch of Lotte Mart.

What should he do now?

Was there anywhere else he could go?

Eh, were there other branches of Lotte Mart around here?

Zhang Ye remembered that and took out his cell phone to check. Whoa, there are a total of 13 branches of Lotte Mart in Beijing? Well, alright then! It's not like this bro is trying to rip you guys off, but that I really have nowhere else I can go to!

Chapter 1480: All 13 branches of Lotte Mart descend into chaos!

Later that afternoon.

At the Xuanwumen branch of Lotte Mart.

Zhang Ye was seen making an appearance there.

Several minutes later, all sorts of noise and screams rang out as chaos broke out inside the supermarket!

...

At a fire station.

The team of firefighters had just returned from responding to an emergency call.

"Captain Wang, you're back?"

"Yeah."

"Did you manage to rescue him?"

"We successfully rescued him. Hai, what a tiring day this has been."

"Yeah, we were activated for all the big assignments today."

"We've encountered at least seven waves of reporters."

"Fortunately, nothing has happened to Zhang Ye in our jurisdiction."

Everyone got out of their firefighting uniforms and sat down together while conversing when the phone suddenly rang.

It was a call from the command center.

Captain Wang hurriedly went to answer it. "Hello, Command Center, please go ahead."

On the other end of the line, the operator said: "We've just received a call for assistance. Teacher Zhang Ye has been trapped again. This time, he is trapped in the revolving door of Lotte Mart. There was a fault in the electrical system of the supermarket, and all of the power has been cut. Can you hurry over to provide assistance?"

Captain Wang was stunned. "What? It's Zhang Ye again?"

The operator said: "Yes."

"But Lotte Mart has already suspended their business operations for the day? He's already left the supermarket, hasn't he?"

The operator said: "It's not the Ximachang branch. He's at the Lotte Mart in Xuanwumen."

"Eh? But isn't that location not under our jurisdiction?"

The operator said: "Zhang Ye specifically asked for your team to go. He said that you have the necessary experience in rescuing him."

Captain Wang was floored!

The other firefighters saw red!

We have the necessary experience?

Oh yeah! How can we not fucking have the necessary experience?

We've already rescued him on three occasions today!

What the heck is going on here! Why does this fellow keep getting into accidents! Besides, why did it happen at Lotte Mart again? Does he have some sort of feud with this hypermarket chain? Why does he have to keep appearing at that place?

...

30 minutes later.

Zhang Ye was successfully rescued.

Another 20 minutes later.

Zhang Ye, who had just been rescued, appeared at the doorstep of Changchun Street's Lotte Mart.

"Ah!"

"Hurry up, let's get out of here!"

"The water pipe has burst!"

"The supermarket is flooding!"

“Aiyo!”

“It’s flooding! It’s flooding!”

...

2:30 PM.

At the Fuxingmen branch of Lotte Mart.

“There’s a fire!”

“A fire has broken out in the men’s room!”

“Holy shit! Put it out!”

“Is there anyone inside?”

“I think Zhang Ye is in there!”

“Damn, why is it him again? There was just some news about him appearing the Changchun Street Lotte Mart, which got flooded!”

“Hurry up and call 119!”

...

3 PM.

At the Xizhimen branch of Lotte Mart.

“Look at that person!”

“Isn’t that Zhang Ye?”

“Fuck! Why did he come to Xizhimen?”

“Did you see the news?”

“I saw it. This guy is such a jinx!”

“We better steer clear of him. Four or five Lotte Marts have suffered disaster by his hands!”

“Let’s get out of here quickly. He’s so unlucky right now. Anyone who stands near him will be affected as well!”

“Ah! The freezer exploded!”

“I knew it! I knew something would happen!”

...

The people at the Beijing Fire Department were going crazy!

They answered call after call!

“What? Him again?”

“Where is it this time?”

“He went to Dongzhimen?”

“It’s another Lotte Mart?”

“Damn, did he step in dog shit!”

“That plague!”

“He’s appeared at Xuanwumen, Changchun Street, Xizhimen, and Dongzhimen. Fuck his sister! Is he dropping by at the supermarkets based on the stations on Line 2 of the subway?!”

“Quickly send the fire truck there! That guy’s been trapped in an elevator this time!”

...

Meanwhile.

At the China regional office of Lotte Corporation.

Several of the managers nearly broke down!

“We’re finished! Something has happened at the Dongzhimen branch as well!”

“What’s this Zhang fella trying to achieve!”

“Goddammit! Is he doing this on purpose!”

“Those were not man-made incidents. The police have investigated and found that they were all accidents. It’s because there were issues with our facility management, and a lot of our equipment did not pass regulation, which led to the accidents happening. The relevant authorities have already begun their investigations into us!”

“This is bad, really bad!”

“Why can’t this jinx go elsewhere?”

“I don’t know. He’s visiting basically every Lotte Mart along the subway line!”

“Holy fuck!”

“He should just die!”

The people of Korea’s Lotte Corporation were furiously cursing at Zhang Ye!

...

In the span of a day.

From afternoon until night.

All of the Lotte Marts in Beijing received devastating blows. The 13 Lotte Marts in the main city of Beijing descended into chaos on this day!

Suspending business operations!

Suspending business operations!

Suspending business operations!

Not a single branch was spared!

All 13 branches of Lotte Mart were forced to suspend their business!

Due to too many major incidents involving the facilities at the supermarkets, the relevant authorities quickly got involved and opened investigations into the accidents. They found a lot of problems within the branches, and some of the authorities even issued a safety warning to the public, leading to many of the other Lotte Marts in China to be implicated as well. Right now, the entire country's citizens would "clench their buttocks" in nervousness at any mention of Lotte Mart!

It was too dangerous!

How could so many accidents happen in one day?

How was this even a supermarket!

It's more like a fucking war zone!

On Weibo.

"I'm never going into another Lotte Mart again!"

"Yeah, who still fucking dares to go shopping there!"

"Is Teacher Zhang alright?"

"He's fine. He's still alive and well."

"This fellow has made a round trip on Line 2!"

"I really have to give it to him. How unlucky can Zhang Ye get? How did he end up getting involved in every accident that happened?"

"How is this a matter of being unlucky? There's something sinister going on!"

"This fellow is such a legend. The things that happen to him always leave people speechless. I don't even find it strange anymore!"

"I've never met anyone unluckier than him!"

"Has anyone compiled stats yet? How many misfortunes did he run into today?"

"The media's already made a compilation."

Fell into a well twice.

Got hit by a car thrice.

Attacked by a tube cover once.

Caught in flooding twice.

Got trapped five times.

Rolled down an escalator once.

Slipped seven times.

Was he even a celebrity?

He felt more like the fucking God of Death ¹ !

On this day, Zhang Ye was all over the news. On this day, there was no other news in the entertainment circle. Reports of something happening to Zhang Ye kept popping up every now and then throughout the entire day!

The Japanese people were stunned!

The Korean people were also dumbfounded!

“Is this the Heavens trying to punish him?”

“Even God can’t stand his ways anymore?”

“I’ve come across unlucky people, but I’ve never met anyone as unlucky as this!”

“Why did every incident take place at our Lotte Corporations hypermarkets?”

“If you’re unlucky, keep the bad luck to yourself. Don’t drag our country’s enterprise down with you!”

“He got into so many accidents, but he wasn’t hurt at all?”

“Damn, does this fellow have nine lives!”

“Quickly take him away! Don’t let him bring harm upon anyone else!”

“Jesus! If you’re so unlucky, why don’t you stay at home? Why do you have to go out? You’re even purposely going to our Lotte Marts? Fuck off! Hurry up and get lost!”

“I wonder how many wicked deeds he committed to deserve this.”

“He must’ve destroyed the planet in his last life!”

All of a sudden, the Asian people were discussing this fervently!

Lotte Corporation.

Zhang Ye.

The God of Death

And so on. All these keywords were ranked at the forefront of Asia’s trending search terms.

And then, the most comedic scene played out. After midnight, the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index was updated, and Zhang Ye's popularity rose sharply again!

He was still in third place on the Asian A-list!

But his popularity score had gone up by a vast amount!

When a lot of people saw this, they no longer knew what to say!