

Superstar 1501

Chapter 1501: The Chinese Academy of Sciences' conundrum!

Several days later.

In the morning.

Somewhere.

This was a research institute ¹ under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

While Zhang Ye was resorting to math formulae to study the success rates of obtaining those rare items due to his prolonged boredom in prison, the researchers and scholars from the Chinese Academy of Sciences were worrying over a major matter. They had such an expression on their faces for about a month now.

A research fellow raged, "So can we solve it or not!"

A male researcher gave a bitter laugh and said, "Give us a little more time. We will seek help from more people."

The research fellow said, "It's almost been two months already. We must overcome this difficulty; there are no two ways about it! I don't care what ways you all resort to, and I don't care who you all find, as long as it is someone who can design the algorithm, I am even willing to ignore my position and beg them for help. Mathematics is the foundation of all sciences. If we can't get past this stage, we won't be able to do anything else! This algorithm is too important! Even if we can wait, the country can't!"

A female researcher said, "It's no use getting mad at us."

Another research fellow rapped the table and said, "Old Chi, why are you getting angry at the kids? You can't blame them. Aren't you yourself also at your wits' end?"

Fellow Chi said, "Old Zhou, my main research area is not in mathematics."

A young man nervously said, "We've already approached all of the professors that we could think of and tried asking them."

Fellow Zhou considered things. "There are still a few we haven't asked though."

Fellow Chi asked, "Who?"

"Like Dean Pan of Peking University's School of Mathematical Sciences?" a researcher said.

Fellow Chi, who was almost 80 years old, curled his lips and said, "Are you serious? Little Pan might be good enough in education, but he has lost touch when it comes to math research. I can't imagine him being the answer."

The female researcher said, "How about Professor Xin from the Tsinghua University alumni?"

Fellow Chi shook his head. "I've never even heard of her."

Fellow Zhou asked, "You mean Xin Ya, right? Hai, she's rather popular among your younger generation. However, she won't be able to design the algorithm."

Everyone fell silent.

Then they sighed.

People from the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science ² of the Chinese Academy of Sciences came over, then left. Many of the well-known mathematicians had been invited to come and take a look at the problem, but even they left. They had basically assembled all of the mathematicians in the country, but all of them were confounded. A few famous Chinese mathematicians did not get sit down before picking up the document to have a look and turning around to leave. It wasn't that they did not want to give it a try, nor that they were unwilling to do their part for the country, but that this algorithm was too difficult to come up with. An old research fellow who had retired from the Chinese Academy of Sciences was even asked to come back to take a look at it. But after having a look, he simply said, "There can't be more than five people in the entire world who can design such an algorithm, and all five of them are in America."

But some people did not believe that.

For example, Fellow Chi. For example, Fellow Zhou.

They refused to believe any of that!

Who says that our people can't do it?

If the Americans can do it, then what logic dictates that we can't do the same?

Fellow Chi clenched his teeth and said, "Think of someone, let's all think of the possible candidates!"

Someone suggested, "Will Professor Bai be able to do it?"

Fellow Chi firmly said, "Don't mention him. He's changed nationalities and is a Chinese American. He's no longer a Chinese citizen, so why would you expect him to come back to help? Would that be possible?"

Someone said, "Then, is Old Chu still around?"

Fellow Zhou sighed. "Old Chu is still alive, but his health is failing."

One by one.

One after another.

Names were thrown out but none of them were reliable choices.

Fellow Chi's expression grew gloomier. "In this great country of ours with over a billion people and several thousand years of history, surely there can't be no mathematician capable of designing this algorithm, right? Ah?"

At this moment, a middle-aged woman entered from outside. "Dad, are you talking bad about us mathematicians again?"

Fellow Chi frowned. "Little Xue, why haven't you left yet? Also, don't call me Dad when we're at the research institute. Address me as Fellow Chi. How many times have I told you that already?"

Chi Xue smiled. "Alright then, Fellow Chi, please don't address me as Little Xue here either. Please call me Fellow Chi, Jr. I am one of the managers of this project, so before this math algorithm is solved, I won't be going anywhere. Let's all work on it together."

This research institute used to have only one Fellow Chi around, but the Chinese Academy of Sciences had sent over Fellow Chi's daughter from the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science due to a recent major difficulty coming up in a national research project that involved the formulation of a mathematical algorithm. The people at the research institute were seeing the father-and-daughter pair bicker almost every day. The father had a bad temper while the daughter was mild-mannered, so the contrast between the two couldn't be more huge. With the two of them as research fellows of the Chinese Academy of Sciences as well, this made them a really unique pair at the academy.

Fellow Zhou asked, "Little Chi, have you made any progress yet?"

Chi Xue shook her head. "I've spent a month's time and come up 20% of an algorithm, but I don't know if it will work yet. Because no one will know if the algorithm is correct until we get to the final step. There's even a possibility that we get to the final step and still find ourselves unable to produce a formal verification ³ .

Fellow Chi said, "Then wouldn't that be all for naught?"

Chi Xue said, "Dad, I know that you're not in the best of moods recently. Everyone is also feeling frustrated over how the algorithm is still not produced. But don't vent your anger on us mathematicians. I can't design this algorithm because I'm not capable enough and am limited in my abilities. However, there are still many talented people in our world of mathematics."

Fellow Chi said, "Who else is there? Didn't we already approach everyone we could? All of them said that it couldn't be done! It's not like I have something against mathematicians. I'm just very anxious."

Chi Xue smiled. "Let me recommend someone to you all then."

Fellow Zhou's eyes lit up. "You have a candidate?"

Chi Xue smiled and said, "I thought of someone. Other people might not be able to design this algorithm, but he should be able to."

Fellow Chi immediately said, "Such a person exists? Why didn't you say so earlier?"

Chi Xue said, "I didn't say because I was afraid that you all wouldn't be able to get that person."

"Why wouldn't we be able to get that person?" Fellow Chi said, "Is he in America?"

Chi Xue said, "Well, that's not it. He's in China, and he's a Chinese citizen through and through."

Fellow Zhou laughed and said, "Little Chi, then you're underestimating us. With your dad and my status at the academy, as well as our influence, how difficult could it be to ask for any academic or professor from anywhere in the country? Just say it! Whoever it is, your dad and I will go and ask for them to be transferred here!"

Fellow Chi also started talking big. “That’s to be expected. As long as there’s someone who can produce this algorithm, I can invite them here even if they’re hiding in the desert, soaking in the sea, or locked up in a pris—” Fellow Chi’s words got stuck in his throat!

Fellow Chi froze!

Fellow Zhou froze!

When all of the researchers present heard this, they were also stunned!

But Chi Xue just smiled and spread her hands, saying, “There, it’s on the two of you now.”

Fellow Zhou said startled, “What? Are you talking about him?”

A female researcher said dumbfoundedly, “D-Didn’t he get sentenced?”

Chi Xue said, “But he’s the greatest mathematician that we have in China.” She added, “And no one else comes close.”

Chapter 1502: Requesting Zhang Ye’s help!

On this day.

In the morning.

In a prison.

Zhang Ye stretched after waking up in bed. He had no events, and no one to entertain, so he could sleep until he woke up naturally every day. After getting up, he paced around the cell with his hands behind his back, occasionally practicing his horse stance and martial arts, occasionally singing a few verses of “Tears Behind Prison Bars.” He had gotten used to the life in here.

“When can I return home again?”

“When can I return home again?”

“All of these shackles that locked me up.

“Dear friend, won’t you listen to me sing—”

He heard the thuds of approaching footfalls.

The young prison guard walked up to the door and said with a smile, “Teacher Zhang, you’re singing again?”

“Yeah,” Zhang Ye said, “I’m exercising my vocal cords. Can’t forget the basics, y’know.”

The young prison guard said in admiration, “You’re such a professional. Oh yes, please get ready. You have visitors coming.”

Zhang Ye snorted. “Why are they here again?”

The young prison guard said, "It's not your parents. This visit was arranged through the prison administration. I think it's some people from the top, but I'm not too sure of the details."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "People from the top? Then I won't see them."

The young prison guard said, "It might be a leader."

"Whatever!" Zhang Ye waved it off. "Reject the visitation request."

The young prison guard didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Then let me go and ask if that's possible."

He left.

Soon after, the prison warden came over personally.

The warden was a fat man. "Teacher Zhang, the visitors are waiting."

Zhang Ye waved his hands. "I'm not going."

The warden said in a speechless manner. "They're people from the Chinese Academy of Sciences."

Zhang Ye smacked his lips and said, "Old Qian, I will definitely go and see them if it's my family. But I'm not gonna meet anyone else. I couldn't care less if they're from the Chinese Academy of Sciences or wherever. If anyone just comes in here and asks to see me, does that mean I have to go obediently? Anyone who comes, I have to go? Then how will this bro have any face left?"

The warden was amused. "So that's the reason?"

Zhang Ye said, "Of course. Although I don't have much of a status anymore, I must still have a style of my own."

The warden said, "They really have something urgent to see you about. The head of the prison administration gave me a call last night and got me to arrange a meeting for them with you. They had made an appointment to see you urgently, but how could I come looking for you in the middle of the night? Surely I couldn't come and wake you up for that, right? That wouldn't be very nice."

Zhang Ye finally relented. "Well, alright, I'll give you face this time, Old Qian."

Ten minutes later.

In the visitation room, Zhang Ye met with the visitors.

There were two people, a man and a woman. The man looked to be in his 60s and was wearing a pair of reading glasses, while the woman looked to be in her 40s and was neither pretty nor ugly. The moment Zhang Ye entered the room, the woman noticed and gave him a smile. Then she nudged the old man next to her and told him that Zhang Ye had arrived.

The two of them stood up courteously.

Fellow Zhou looked at Zhang Ye. "Hello, Professor Zhang. Let me introduce myself. My name is Zhou Shi and I'm from the Chinese Academy of Sciences." He pointed to the person beside him. "This is Chi—"

“Chi Xue, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science,” Zhang Ye finished.

Chi Xue smiled. “Professor Zhang knows me?”

Zhang Ye said, “There are only so many people in our country’s mathematics field. Even though we haven’t met before, I still know a little.”

Fellow Zhou smiled and said, “Since you two know each other, this will be easier. Come, let’s sit down and talk.”

The three of them sat down.

Fellow Zhou and Chi Xue both placed a great deal of importance on this meeting. However, Zhang Ye looked quite uninterested.

Fellow Zhou spoke, “Little Chi and I came here today with an important mission. It has to do with a very important national project. We are not allowed to reveal the details to you at this moment. However, in the process of this project, we’ve encountered a very difficult problem. We were stuck trying to design an algorithm.”

Zhang Ye said, “Then get someone to solve it.”

Fellow Zhou sighed. “No one could solve it.”

Zhang Ye said, “What about Fellow Yuan?”

Fellow Zhou said, “We’ve asked; he can’t do it.”

Zhang Ye came up with another name. “Professor Hu?”

Fellow Zhou shook his head. “Professor Hu did calculations for half a month and still couldn’t come up with anything.”

Chi Xue said at this time, “Let’s put it this way, Professor Zhang. Anyone that you can think of, we’ve already approached them. All of them couldn’t do it, including me.”

Zhang Ye was groaning on the inside and did not answer them.

Fellow Zhou gave him a look and said, “There was a retired research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences who took a look at it and said that there are no more than five people in the world who could solve this algorithm and that they’re all in America. But Little Chi’s father and I were both unconvinced. In the end, it was Fellow Chi, Jr., who reminded us that not all of the top five mathematicians in the world were from the States. At least one of them was in China!”

Zhang Ye hurriedly said, “Whoa, don’t you put me on such a high pedestal. I’m not worthy of such a status.”

Chi Xue said, “It’s not like that. We do have quite a lot of Chinese mathematicians too. But if we really want to find someone with the title of world-class mathematician, I’m afraid that you’re the only one at the moment. We really can’t solve this algorithm. We’ve tried countless methods, but it just doesn’t

work out. Therefore, we would like to request your help. Help us, and help our country overcome this major difficulty. Would you be interested?"

Zhang Ye looked at them. "Nah, I'm not interested."

Chi Xue and Fellow Zhou were speechless.

A clean rejection!

Without hesitation!

I'm! Not! Interested!

What else was there to say? There was absolutely nothing else left to say!

Fellow Zhou said anxiously, "This is a big deal for China and our people. Professor Zhang, can you not have such a low conscientiousness? You didn't used to be like that."

Zhang Ye spread his hands and said, "Yeah, I've never hesitated when it comes to doing my duty for the country and our people. For example, when the Korean hackers attacked our country, it was me who chased them off, right? Wasn't that for the country and our people? But look at where that has landed this bro. So I'm no longer interested in anything. You two should go seek help from some other expert. I'm fine staying here and reforming myself for the better."

Fellow Zhou said, "You're just saying things out of spite. What's so good about being in here? If you agree to come with us, I'll immediately contact the higher-ups to communicate with the relevant departments to bring you to our research institute. Although there will definitely still be some limitations on your freedom, and we can't allow you to return home or contact your family, you can still move about freely as you wish at the research institute. It will be unlike here where you're restricted to staying and moving about in your cell—"

A prison guard knocked on the door. "Teacher Zhang, are you still talking?"

Zhang Ye turned around. "Ah, yes, we are."

The prison guard smiled and said, "It's time for breakfast. We're still having it at the cafeteria today. Since you guys are still talking business, I'll leave the door unlocked. You can head over by yourself."

Zhang Ye asked, "The chow hall in which zone?"

The prison guard said, "Zone 2."

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "Got it."

Fellow Zhou was taken back. "Ah? Are people allowed to move around freely in here?"

The prison guard smiled and said, "Not others, but Teacher Zhang is, of course, an exception."

Fellow Zhou's eyes twitched. When the prison guard left, he immediately told Zhang Ye, "We don't have restrictions on smoking at our research institute either. Of course, you can't smoke in the rooms, but you can go out to the yard to—"

The door reopened and the prison guard came back in. "I nearly forgot. The prison warden brought you cigarettes." Then he handed Zhang Ye a stick. "Smoke in here if you want. No one will say anything."

Zhang Ye said, "Aiya, is that appropriate?"

The prison guard said, "It's fine."

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, thank Old Qian for me."

A storm was brewing on Fellow Zhou's face. He spoke again, "The most important thing is, our research institute does not implement hard labor or the likes for rehabilitation. You won't have to—"

The door hadn't closed yet.

It was opened again.

The prison guard stood outside and said inside, "Oh yes, Teacher Zhang. After breakfast, it will be labor time. We'll do it as usual. You don't have to worry about it and may return straight to your holding cell."

Zhang Ye said, "Hai, but is it really alright for me to keep falling out from the squad?"

The prison guard laughed and said, "I wouldn't dare make you break a sweat! Are you taking a shot at me?"

This time, the prison guard really departed.

Zhang Ye turned back and said, "What did you say just now? I didn't hear it clearly."

Chi Xue and Fellow Zhou were speechless again.

What did I say?

What else could I have fucking said!

Fellow Zhou nearly vomited blood!

How is this fucking prison life?

I don't even get to relax as much as you do back at home!

Chapter 1503: Zhang Ye transfers out of prison

In the visitation room.

The atmosphere was a little awkward.

The scene that unfolded in front of him was totally different from what Fellow Zhou had imagined before he arrived. He thought that Zhang Ye would have a tough time in prison, huddling together with a bunch of other people, with not enough to eat, not enough to keep warm, suffering from mental torture, and still having to go through hard labor for rehabilitation. Fellow Zhou thought that as long as he extended an invitation to Zhang Ye, he would definitely agree to it. What normal person would be willing to stay in prison?

But in fact?

He had a single cell all to himself!

He could roam around freely within the prison!

He could smoke and drink as he liked, and he didn't need to perform any hard labor!

Fellow Zhou had even prepared what to say beforehand. However, he did not have a chance to say any of it!

Zhang Ye said, "Why don't the two of you head back? I'm doing pretty well here, and all I want is to keep a low profile and have some peace. I don't wish to be involved in anything else."

Fellow Zhou said bitterly, "Professor Little Zhang, the country really needs you. You're the only person in the entire country who can produce the algorithm, so why don't you—"

Zhang Ye waved it off. "Please don't address me as Professor Zhang. I've already stepped down from my roles at Peking University and Media College, so I'm no longer a professor. I'm just an idler right now, a prisoner." He stood up. "Well then, the chow hall will be closing soon, so I'll be off to have breakfast. I can't help you with what you want, so please go back. I can't get out of here, so I won't be seeing the two of you off," he said as he made his way out.

Mathematics?

Algorithms?

He was not the least bit interested in any of that.

Fellow Zhou was getting a little anxious.

Zhang Ye had already reached out to open the door.

At this moment, Chi Xue spoke up, "What if it could reduce your sentence?"

Zhang Ye's hand froze. He turned around, stunned. "Reduce it by how much?"

Chi Xue looked at him. "Whatever the maximum is allowed by the government. A year? Two years? The Chinese Academy of Sciences can apply for the reduction on your behalf and push for it to go through with all that we have!"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Damn, why didn't you say so earlier!"

Chi Xue gasped, "Huh?"

Zhang Ye said righteously, "Could I refuse to help at a time when my country needs me the most? I can't! For something that will affect our country and its people, how could I, Zhang Ye, possibly refuse to help? It's just an algorithm that you need, isn't it? How difficult could that be? I'll go back to my cell and pack my things. When do we leave? Quickly get someone to pick me up!"

Fellow Zhou nearly fainted!

What?!

Kid, you didn't speak like this a minute ago!

Chi Xue said, "So you're agreed?"

Zhang Ye said, "Of course. When the country is in trouble, everyone has a role to play."

Only then did Fellow Zhou heave a sigh of relief. "OK, I'll immediately inform the higher-ups to arrange for it."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright, I'll be waiting for your news then."

This fellow then happily marched off to breakfast.

A sentence reduction!

Only an idiot would refuse that!

After he left, both of the people in the room gave bitter laughs.

Chi Xue laughed and said, "So? He's worthy of his reputation, isn't he?"

Fellow Zhou said with a sigh, "Yes, that temper of his is indeed real. If I didn't know about Professor Little Zhang's background and just spoke with him in normal circumstances, I really wouldn't feel like he has any great ability."

Chi Xue smiled and said, "Professor Zhang is quite different from us traditional academics and researchers. However, his skill is not written on his face."

Fellow Zhou said worriedly, "We'll still have to see whether Professor Little Zhang can create this algorithm or not. If even he is unable to do it—Hai, actually, I'm not exactly that confident that he can do it either."

Chi Xue said, "Let's just let Professor Zhang have a shot at it."

Fellow Zhou looked in the direction Zhang Ye had headed off toward. "Hopefully, the help that we came to seek can turn the tides."

...

The next day.

In the morning.

The prison received a document from the higher-ups related to Zhang Ye's transfer from the prison. The document was passed very urgently and hastily. It was stamped with the seal of the highest administrative authority. Furthermore, the transfer was to be carried out the same day the document was received. The prison he would be transferred to wasn't specified in the document.

Many prison guards came over to bid farewell to Zhang Ye.

"Teacher Zhang, why are you leaving so soon?"

"Yeah, you've only been here a few days."

“Hai, I can’t bear to see you go.”

“Why don’t you stay a day or two longer? I won’t be able to get up from bed now that you won’t be singing us a few verses of ‘Tears Behind Prison Bars’ each morning.”

“Which prison will you be transferred to? We don’t know a lot of people, but we’re familiar with the people in the prison system. We can inform them ahead of time so that they take care of you.”

Everyone was sad to see him leave.

Zhang Ye was quite touched. “Thanks! I thank you all for your care these past few days.”

Only the prison warden was slightly better informed, but even he did not know much. He thought that it might have something to do with the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ research fellows that came over yesterday, but that was still a guess. He didn’t want to jump into conclusions about such matters.

“Alright, the people who are here to pick him up have arrived. It’s not like we won’t get to see him again in the future. When Teacher Zhang completes his sentence and is released, he still has to treat us to a round of drinks. When the time comes, we won’t have to coop up in here to chat and can enjoy ourselves at a better place outside the walls.”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “That’s for sure. I’ll treat everyone to enough drinks to last us for three whole days and nights!”

“Sure!”

“See you on the outside!”

“This is a place of misfortune, so we won’t wish for your return!”

They hugged.

They said their farewells.

After being handcuffed, Zhang Ye strode off and left.

Outside a vehicle to escort the prisoner. There wasn’t anything too special about it.

When Zhang Ye got into the car, he reached up and waved goodbye to the prison guards. After the vehicle exited out of the main gate, the escorting guards beside Zhang Ye took out a key to uncuff Zhang Ye. Then, without saying a word, they looked forward again. Four people were in the car, and none of them said anything.

The car drove for over an hour until it reached a military airbase.

The four of them alighted from the car. In the distance, a helicopter was standing by.

A group of people was waiting across from them. The two groups of people came together to complete some formalities and paperwork.

Eventually, a young man who was dressed in a military uniform came up to Zhang Ye and gave him a military salute. He spoke articulately, “Teacher Zhang, my name is Zhou Xiaohe. From today onwards, I

will be the guard responsible for ensuring your safety. You can look for me if there's anything that you need."

Zhang Ye understood the situation completely. "Can I go home?"

Zhou Xiaohe was taken aback. He said, "No."

Zhang Ye said, "Can I call my family?"

Zhou Xiaohe was taken aback again. "No."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Then what is the use of looking for you?"

Zhou Xiaohe was speechless.

Zhang Ye understood. Yes, some of the very important research fellows at the Chinese Academy of Sciences would also be paired with a guard to ensure their safety during critical periods. But this guard assigned to him was clearly not for that purpose. The research institute that he was going to was a military zone and would have military protection, so he would never be in any danger. Putting it nicely, this person was a guard assigned to ensure his safety. But frankly, it just meant that Zhang Ye's freedom was still going to be limited. This guard was probably going to keep a watch on Zhang Ye for all 24 hours of the day to ensure that he wouldn't get close to a computer or communicate with the outside world, as well as making sure he wouldn't escape.

It was obvious that Zhou Xiaohe was an elite of the Central Security Bureau ¹. He even seemed to be carrying arms.

However, Zhang Ye thought to himself, If this bro wishes to escape, not even ten of you with ten of your guns would be able to stop me!

What a joke!

Besides, why would I escape?

This bro is aiming for a sentence reduction—I mean, I'm here for the sake of research!

Chapter 1504: This algorithm is too difficult!

Somewhere.

At a research institute.

Rotor blades were slicing through the air. A military helicopter slowly descended as it swung left and right while executing its landing on an open field behind the research institute. Zhang Ye swept his gaze around the location while in the aircraft but couldn't be sure of what place this was. In any case, it was definitely in a very remote area since it looked deserted within several kilometers. It seemed like this was a research institute isolated from the world. The area that it was built on was also very big, and there were several blocks of buildings and large yards within it. Among them were also some facilities that Zhang Ye didn't know how to describe. From time to time, heavily armed soldiers could be seen patrolling the area. There was a very high level of alert here.

What place was this?

Why was the security so tight in here?

Only now did Zhang Ye realize that this research institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences was a little different. There were a great deal of research institutes in China, with up to several thousand of them, but this was the first time that Zhang Ye had seen a research institute with such a high level of security. It was virtually unheard of.

They got out of the helicopter.

Chi Xue was waiting for them.

“Professor Zhang.”

“Professor Chi.”

“I’ve been looking forward to seeing you again.”

“You’re too polite, too polite.”

The personnel on both sides completed a simple handover.

Zhang Ye saw Chi Xue sign, for over half a minute, a dozen documents that the other party had brought along. They were likely some kind of guarantee documents or something like that. After all, it was the Chinese Academy of Sciences who borrowed him. It sounded easy but was in fact a very troublesome process. This wasn’t as simple as transferring a professor over from a university. It was loaning someone out from a prison! It entailed so many issues. Who should be held responsible if anything happened? Someone would have to answer for it.

The formalities were completed.

Chi Xue then brought Zhang Ye into the research institute.

No one from the helicopter detail besides “guard” Zhou Xiaohe followed him in. The other people were only responsible for transferring Zhang Ye over here in secret.

Chi Xue knew Zhou Xiaohe. “Little Zhou, you’ve worked hard along the way.”

Zhou Xiaohe gave a smile. “Sister Chi, it was nothing.”

Zhang Ye said without much of a care, “You know each other?”

“Yeah.” Chi Xue said, “Little Zhou is a guard here at our research institute. We had spent a great deal of effort to get you here on loan. However, the higher-ups were still worried. After all, your reputation as the world’s best hacker is too well-known. Besides, you’re still serving your sentence, so they were afraid that something would happen. So we got Little Zhou to—”

Zhou Xiaohe quickly said, “I’m here to ensure Professor Zhang’s safety.”

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes.

Chi Xue laughed. She looked at Little Zhou and said, "Alright, when Professor Zhang came out into society to work, you were still in the army and didn't have any societal experience yet. Professor Zhang already understands what's going on. You don't have to hide it from him."

Zhou Xiaohe was very embarrassed.

A female researcher happened to pass by and hurriedly stopped in her tracks. "Professor Zhang."

Zhang Ye was taken aback but nodded at her.

Over there, another researcher stood still and said respectfully, "Professor Zhang."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Hello."

"Professor Zhang."

"Professor Zhang!"

Some people greeted him respectfully.

Others were visibly excited to see him.

As long as it was a researcher who passed by, all of them stopped in their tracks to greet Zhang Ye.

Zhou Xiaohe found this a little strange. He had been in the army for most of the year and basically did not watch television, nor chased after any celebrities. Of course he had heard of Zhang Ye's name before, but that was only from the mouths of others. He could never have expected that all of the researchers at this highly secure research institute would be so respectful to a criminal who was still serving his sentence. This was a scene that he could never have imagined.

Up ahead, several of the institute's top brass came out.

Fellow Zhou said with a smile, "Professor Zhang, you're finally here."

Zhang Ye said, "You're too polite."

Fellow Zhou said, "Let me introduce to you." He pointed to an old man beside him who looked like he was in his 70s. "This is Chi Xue's father, and also the head of the institute, Fellow Chi."

Fellow Chi looked at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye looked right back at him.

Fellow Chi put his hand out. "Sorry to trouble you, Professor Little Zhang."

Zhang Ye smiled. "I'll try my best."

Seeing this, Zhou Xiaohe felt even more startled. He knew who Fellow Chi was, of course. Usually when he saw him, Fellow Chi would have a straight face and be in a bad mood. He did almost nothing other than participate in the various research projects and probably wished to stay at the research institute for all 365 days of the year. No, make that 366 days. As such, his temper was naturally more rigid. Zhou Xiaohe felt that it would be great if Fellow Chi addressed Zhang Ye as Little Zhang. But to his surprise, he also addressed him as Professor Zhang.

Zhou Xiaohe was an outsider in this field. He had absolutely no idea what Zhang Ye's status in the academic world was. Let alone the ordinary researchers, not even Fellow Zhou and Fellow Chi could compare to Zhang Ye's status in the academic world. After all, Fellow Chi and the others were basically just Chinese scientists, albeit great ones. But Zhang Ye was different from them. His status as a mathematician was a world-class one. He was one of the best mathematicians in the entire world. This was two completely different concepts.

One person.

Three people.

Five people.

Everyone was introduced.

Zhang Ye also noted who they were.

Fellow Chi could no longer wait. He said, "We're in urgent need of an algorithm right now. We've sought help from all of the best mathematicians in the country, but none of them was able to do it. Professor Little Zhang, can you—"

"Dad, you're in too much of a hurry," interrupted Chi Xue.

Fellow Zhou added, "Yes, Professor Zhang has just gotten off the helicopter. At least let him catch his breath and get some rest first. We can talk about it after he has settled down."

But Fellow Chi said, "We're in crisis mode. How can we have any time left for that? Do you know how many people are waiting for this algorithm? Do you know how much work has been delayed because of this?"

Fellow Zhou sighed.

All of the researchers frowned when they heard this.

In recent days, there had been too much pressure on them!

Zhang Ye smiled. "Let me have a look at it first."

Fellow Chi immediately said, "Alright, come with me."

In Building 1.

In a research laboratory.

Chi Xue brought the information to Zhang Ye to have a look at. "This is the one."

The atmosphere tensed up.

One minute.

Two minutes.

Three minutes.

No one said a thing. There wasn't even any coughing as everyone had their eyes fixed on Zhang Ye. Some of them looked rather nervous, while others seemed like they were anticipating his response. Some people were pacing back and forth anxiously.

Zhang Ye was still looking at it.

Fellow Chi said impatiently, "How about it?"

Chi Xue tugged at him. "Dad, don't be so anxious."

"Let Professor Zhang finish looking at it first," Fellow Zhou added.

Another few minutes passed.

Zhang Ye looked up with a deep frown.

Fellow Chi's heart skipped a beat. "Can you do it?"

Chi Xue also stared intently at him.

Everyone's attention was on Zhang Ye. They were all terrified that they would hear the same words that they had heard from all the other mathematicians who had come before.

Indeed, Zhang Ye's first words were: "This is too difficult."

Chi Xue sighed lightly. "Yes, it is."

Fellow Chi smacked his forehead. "I knew it!"

Fellow Zhou was also stunned. "Even you can't do it?"

Even Zhang Ye couldn't do it?

Then there wouldn't be anyone else in the country who could do it!

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "What kind of a research project are you all conducting? That you'd have to resort to using such a complex algorithm? To create this algorithm, even the most famous mathematicians in the world might not be able to do it, much less the mathematicians in our country."

Everyone was very disappointed.

It's over!

It's still the same!

Even Zhang Ye cannot do it!

Chi Xue sighed and said, "I understand. Sorry to have troubled you, Professor Zhang."

Zhang Ye hesitated for a moment and then said, "How about this? Give me three days, and I'll get it sorted out within three days at the latest."

At this instant, everyone froze!

Chi Xue said startled, "What?"

Fellow Chi yelled, "Did you say three days?"

Fellow Zhou said dumbfoundedly, "So you mean you can do it?"

Zhang Ye said in surprise, "I didn't say that I couldn't do it."

"But didn't you say that it was too difficult?" Fellow Zhou said with wide eyes.

Zhang Ye said, "It is too difficult. That's why I'll need three days."

Chi Xue said excitedly, "You can really do it? You can really solve it?"

"Pretty much." Zhang Ye shrugged. "But I need to get some sleep first. I can't think properly if I don't get enough rest. I won't be doing it today, so I'll start on it tomorrow."

Fellow Chi immediately instructed, "Alright, quick, bring Professor Little Zhang to his room! Oh yes, find the quietest place in the research institute! Let Professor Little Zhang get a good night's rest!"

There was finally hope!

They had finally found someone who dared to say that they could produce the algorithm!

When Zhang Ye left, everyone blew up.

A female researcher said, "This is awesome!"

A supervisor said, "There's hope now!"

Some people were doubtful. "Will it really work?"

Some people did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Professor Zhang claims that it's too difficult but only asks for three days to do it? We've sought the help of so many mathematicians and they couldn't make any progress even after working on it for a month or two, so how could it be difficult if it will only take three days? I was so scared. I really thought that Professor Zhang could not do it."

Chi Xue was smiling. She said, "Professor Zhang's mind isn't the same like ours. To him, taking three days to create an algorithm is considered difficult. Do you all know how long it took Professor Zhang to solve one of the most difficult mathematical conjectures?"

"How long?"

"Yeah, how long?"

The few researchers who were not from the mathematics field pressed for an answer.

Fellow Zhou answered on behalf of Chi Xue. He held up three fingers and said, "Three hours."

Chi Xue nodded and said with a chuckle, "For one of the most difficult mathematical conjectures in the world, Professor Zhang only took three hours to solve it."

Chapter 1505: The algorithm is complete!

The next day.

Early in the morning.

Zhang Ye stretched and got up from bed.

This was officially his first day at the research institute. As he had gone to bed soon after arriving yesterday, he woke up very early today after getting a good night's rest. Out of habit, he turned to the window and opened it. Then he sang out the window a familiar tune: "Tears Behind Prison Bars."

In the opposite building, Chi Xue sat up from under the covers.

Fellow Zhou, who was living in the same dormitory block, was also woken up in surprise.

Many researchers, professors, and doctors were similarly awoken by this singing voice at 5:40 AM.

Iron gates?

Iron bars?

Iron manacles?

Where the heck are there any iron manacles at this place!

"Who's that causing a commotion so early in the morning?"

"It must be Professor Zhang."

"Uh, can someone go tell him to tone down? Does he know what time it is?"

"Why don't you go?"

"I'm not gonna go."

"So you know too? The entire research institute and Chinese Academy of Sciences' only hope of solving that algorithm lies with Professor Zhang. Surely you can't stop him from singing, right?"

"Can't we get Professor Zhang to change to a different song?"

"Hai, hearing this makes me feel like I'm living in a prison too."

"Professor Zhang is treating us like his prison mates."

A lot of people could no longer go back to sleep, so they might as well get out of bed.

In the cafeteria.

People were gradually arriving for breakfast.

Fellow Chi was also here. "Where's Professor Zhang?"

Chi Xue was also looking for him. "I didn't see him. Didn't he already wake up early in the morning?"

At this moment, Zhou Xiaohe jogged in. He said to the cafeteria worker, "A set of breakfast, to go."

"Little Zhou," Fellow Chi called out to him, "where is he?"

Zhou Xiaohe turned around and said, "Professor Zhang has already started working. He's over at the lab, so I came over to pack his breakfast."

Chi Xue said in surprise, "He has started already? This early?"

Fellow Chi said, "OK, OK, let's go and take a look!"

"Dad," Chi Xue said helplessly, "Finish your breakfast first."

Fellow Chi waved her off. "I'm not eating any more."

The group made their way to the lab at once. The moment they entered it, they saw the situation in the lab. It wasn't big, but it was segregated into an inner and outer room. This was the place that the research institute had specially arranged for Zhang Ye to work in. Inside bookshelves, a blackboard, rulers, a writing desk, pen and paper, and everything else with the exception of a computer. There weren't even any calculators as all electronic items had been carried away from here. Zhang Ye was busy working at the moment and did not even turn around. He also did not notice that this group of people was behind him. He was very focused on writing out a formula on the blackboard, occasionally doing some calculations on a piece of paper.

Five pages.

Ten pages.

Twenty pages.

In just one morning, Zhang Ye's writing had filled up twenty pieces of papers.

"Fellow Chi—" a researcher began to say.

Fellow Chi put a hand up and cut him off, signaling for him to keep quiet.

No one dared make a sound. They stood there quietly watching Zhang Ye, looking at those formulae and drawings that didn't make any sense to them. They realized that today, Zhang Ye was totally different from when he had just arrived yesterday. This person he was right now really felt like a world-class mathematician working.

Soon after, everyone quietly exited the room.

A female researcher said, "Is Professor Zhang really not allowed to use a computer?"

Another young researcher said, "Yeah, it's too tiring to calculate mentally and on paper like this. It increases the time required as well as raises the difficulty of solving the problem."

Zhou Xiaohe quickly said, "That's not allowed!"

Fellow Chi said, "If Professor Zhang needs any assistance, he can pick any of our people at the research institute. However, he definitely isn't allowed to come into contact with any forms of electronic devices. This was the only requirement that the higher-ups mandated on our Chinese Academy of Sciences."

Everyone gave bitter smiles.

That's right.

There was actually nothing scary about hackers.

And neither were mathematicians scary.

But the world's best hacker who was also a world-class mathematician, that was way too scary. This was because he could do many things that no one could ever achieve in their lifetimes.

For example, the CIH virus!

For example, the Panda Burning Incense virus!

They had both left the entire world shivering in fright!

So who would still dare let Zhang Ye get near a computer? To let the world's most dangerous hacker in a hundred years touch a computer?

Time slowly passed.

Problems started surfacing.

...

Noon.

Zhang Ye's shouting suddenly rang out from the lab.

"It's too difficult!"

A lot of people were waiting outside the room. If Zhang Ye couldn't finish the algorithm, they wouldn't be able to continue their work. So this shout alarmed Fellow Zhou and the others who were waiting outside. Everyone came running into the room.

Fellow Chi said anxiously, "So how is it?"

Fellow Zhou said worriedly, "What problems did you encounter?"

Zhang Ye sulked, "There's a big problem."

"Which part are you stuck at?" Chi Xue asked in a hurry.

Zhang Ye said, "Everything's stuck. Forget it, you all wouldn't understand anyway. I'll just continue with my calculations."

Everyone's hearts sank a little.

...

The next day.

Banging on the table came out of the lab.

Everyone reacted like frightened bunnies as they rushed into the room.

Chi Xue asked anxiously, "Professor Zhang, what is it?"

Zhang Ye said angrily, "There's no way to do this! It's too difficult!"

Fellow Zhou was unable to help too and could only say, "Then what can we do? What can we do?"

Fellow Chi encouraged, "Professor Little Zhang, give it another shot. Try it once more and don't give up. If even you can't do it, then no one can get it done!"

Zhang Ye sighed. "I'll try it again then."

Everyone looked at each other and sighed.

...

On the third day.

It was bad news again.

Early in the morning, Zhang Ye was already cursing up a storm in the lab. "Who the fuck can solve an algorithm like this!"

Chi Xue encouraged, "Try calculating it again. You can definitely do it. You can do it!"

However, Zhang Ye asserted, "Let me tell you guys this. Even if all of the other top mathematicians in the world were here, they wouldn't be able to validate it!"

Fellow Zhou paled.

Fellow Chi sighed deeply.

Everyone was looking at one another and disappointment was written all over their faces.

No one could do it?

Not even the top mathematicians of the world?

Then what could they do?

How were they going to carry on with the research for the country?

We're done for!

Everything's over!

All of a sudden, a female researcher turned around. She covered her mouth and started weeping.

Beside her, a female doctor sniffed and started crying as well.

Everyone was instantly infected.

Even Chi Xue's eyes started reddening

When Zhang Ye saw that, he coughed hard and said, "However!"

Everyone looked at him in shock. "However what?"

With a loud clap, Zhang Ye slapped a piece of paper onto the table and said, "However, I did it! There, it's the algorithm that you all wanted. Have a look."

Everyone was dumbfounded!

Chi Xue said in shock, "What did you say?"

Fellow Zhou's jaw dropped. "You did it?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yeah."

Fellow Chi said exasperatedly, "Didn't you say you couldn't do it?"

Zhang Ye corrected, "I'm saying that the other top mathematicians couldn't do it, but I did it."

Everyone nearly spat out a mouthful of blood!

"Why did you sigh so loudly then!"

"Professor Zhang, were you trying to scare us?"

"Aiyo, you scared me to death!"

"I really thought that you couldn't get it done!"

"Professor Zhang, you're so awful! You made me cry!"

"For the past few days, you've been shouting about how difficult it was and how you were stuck, as well as cursing and banging tables, so we thought that you hadn't made any progress at all! So how did it suddenly end up getting completed?"

They had seen Zhang Ye run himself ragged for the past few days.

He would complain, he would shout in anger, he would bang on tables. So any normal person would think that no progress had been made on the algorithm. But Zhang Ye? When everyone was feeling hopeless and crying, this fellow suddenly took out a piece of paper and told them that the problem had been solved? And it didn't even take three days? At most, it had only taken him two full days to complete it!

Then why were you banging on tables every day?

Why were you cursing and swearing every day?

Wasn't it proceeding great?

It was maddening and funny at the same time, so everyone was at a loss for words.

Chi Xue burst out laughing. "Professor Zhang, I think I finally know why you've got such bad relationships with others."

Chapter 1506: Zhang Ye's path to science stardom!

At the front yard of the research institute.

Someone shouted from a window above.

“It’s out!”

“What’s out?”

“The algorithm! That algorithm!”

“What?”

“Are you serious?”

“That’s impossible!”

“Wasn’t Professor Zhang not making any progress at all?”

“Holy shit! Let’s go and have a look!”

“Is it really true? Has it really been solved?”

Several people who were doing morning exercises ran into the compound without even changing!

Some twenty researchers who were eating breakfast dropped their chopsticks and ran out of the cafeteria!

At the same time, everyone from the research institute came running over in disbelief. The lab that had been Zhang Ye’s dedicated workspace was now packed with over 80 people!

Everyone was saying something.

“Fellow Zhou, is it really out?”

“How did Professor Zhang do it?”

“It has only been two days!”

This news had come as a surprise and was shocking as well!

When they first managed to bring Zhang Ye over to help them, they had very high hopes for him. But everyone knew exactly what this algorithm entailed as they had also been stuck on it for a long time. They had also seen so many of the famous mathematicians in China come here confidently and leave crestfallen. All of them returned to their institutions in low spirits. As a result, many of the people here understood things. Even if it were Zhang Ye who came to help, he might not necessarily be able to produce the algorithm they needed.

But what had happened?

Zhang Ye had only come to their research institute for two days, and the problem that had confounded the Chinese mathematicians and researchers was solved just like that?

Fellow Chi suddenly raised his hand. “Stop talking! Little Xue is leading a team to validate it!”

Everyone shut their mouths and nervously looked in the direction of the lab.

Chi Xue was fully focused while checking the feasibility of this algorithm with a few other researchers. This was the most important step of all. If it didn't get through this step, then everything would have been in vain. All of the work would have been for naught. So they needed to do this final verification.

An hour.

Two hours.

Everyone inside was busy calculating.

Everyone outside was anxiously waiting.

Some people closed their eyes and did not dare to watch.

Some people clasped their hands and prayed to God.

Fellow Chi and Fellow Zhou were even more anxious as they paced in the hallway. At times, they would look into the lab. At times, they would ask for an update on how the process was going.

"Are they done yet?"

"Is it completed?"

Zhang Ye was the most relaxed. He was leaning on the windowsill and tapping his fingers like he was calculating something.

Zhou Xiaohe was not standing outside the lab either. His mission was to stick with Zhang Ye and keep an eye on him.

He asked curiously, "Professor Zhang, what are you calculating?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm calculating my wife's due date."

Zhou Xiaohe said, "Ah, I thought you were still thinking about the algorithm. Although I don't know anything about research, I can still see that the work you're doing is extremely important for the country. If it really works, then your accomplishments would be enormous. When the time comes, you'll definitely be awarded an honor."

But Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I've already received so many awards in the entertainment circle."

Zhou Xiaohe said in seriousness, "But in my opinion, a celebrity scientist is a celebrity with the most glory."

Zhang Ye was amused to hear that. "I absolutely can't refute what you've just said. You're right, a celebrity scientist is a celebrity too. Looks like this bro will gain another accolade to his name."

Popularity!

All of this was going to his popularity!

Suddenly, there was some activity in the lab.

Chi Xue came out.

The researchers who were in charge of the verification also came out.

Fellow Chi asked anxiously, "How'd it go?"

Fellow Zhou strode up to them. "Tell us quickly, Little Chi!"

Everyone had their eyes on them.

Anticipation!

Nervousness!

Everyone's hearts were pounding!

Chi Xue was waving Zhang Ye's algorithm around excitedly, unable to say a word.

In the end, it was the female researcher next to her who cried as she shouted, "The calculations for the algorithm were a success! We did it! We did it!"

The entire hallway exploded!

"Ahhh!"

"It's a success! It's a success!"

"Oh my God!"

"Professor Zhang is so awesome!"

"I knew it! I knew Professor Zhang would be able to do it!"

"How impressive! It only took him two days! Two days!"

Screams!

Cheers!

Tears of joy!

Everyone was bubbling over with excitement!

The next moment, everyone rushed to Zhang Ye, startling him.

Fellow Zhou grabbed hold of Zhang Ye's hand and said, "Thank you! Thank you, Professor Little Zhang!"

Fellow Chi also said excitedly, "You've done us a great favor! You've done China a great favor!"

Chi Xue marveled, "You're amazing. You managed to solve such a complex algorithm in such a short time without the help of any computers. In the entire nation, no one other than you can do something like this. I am utterly convinced by you today."

They were convinced!

They were truly convinced!

Knowing how Zhang Ye was usually unreliable from the way he spoke, he did not screw up at all at this critical time. As one of the world's best mathematicians, he was indeed worthy of his reputation!

Zhang Ye did not think that they would be this excited. Seeing their ecstatic expressions, seeing them cry tears of joy, he was infected by the atmosphere. "It's no big deal. There's no need to stand on such ceremony, everyone. It's just a matter of good timing. If you all came to me a few days earlier, I might not have been able to solve it." Zhang Ye's mathematics skill level had indeed been very high. He had maxed out his basic level, as well as leveled up on the intermediate skill experience books. But to say that he was already at the top of the mathematics world? There had still been some way to go to be considered that. But it was different now. No one knew, but Zhang Ye's mathematics skill level had reached the cap!

What did it mean by reaching the cap?

Zhang Ye's understanding was: There wasn't another mathematician in this world who was better than him.

Zhang Ye said again, "But let me say this first. I won't be able to do another algorithm of such difficulty again. It's too complex and too stressful on the mind. Do you all know how many years of my lifespan I've lost just working on it these past two days? Don't look for me again when you encounter such problems in the future."

Seeing how Zhang Ye was washing his hands of the matter, they started feeling anxious.

Fellow Chi hurriedly said, "That won't do!"

Fellow Zhou also quickly said, "We will still need you to follow up on the algorithm's post-application usage. No one else can handle this!"

Zhang Ye waved them off and said, "I'm not touching it anymore. Look at how much hair I've lost. See for yourself."

Everyone tried coaxing and persuading him to no avail.

It was Chi Xue who knew what to say. She looked at her father and said, "Dad, since the algorithm has been worked out, why don't you report it to the higher-ups first? After that, you can quickly arrange for Professor Zhang's sentence to be reduced."

Fellow Zhou quickly said, "Right, right, this is a such a great feat! It should help reduce his sentence by half a year at least, right?"

Zhang Ye was taken back. "By how much?"

Fellow Zhou was startled for a moment. "Half a year?"

Zhang Ye repeated, "Half a year?"

Chi Xue explained, "We can only apply on your behalf, although it still remains to be seen whether the higher-ups will approve of it. But I don't think that it'll be too difficult to reduce your sentence by half a year?"

Zhang Ye's attitude changed in the blink of an eye!

This fellow slapped his thigh and pointed in accusation. "Are there any similar algorithms? I want to do ten of them!"

Everyone was floored!

Damn, didn't you just say that you couldn't do them anymore?

Chapter 1507: Zhang Ye's new project!

Meanwhile.

Beijing.

At the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In a conference room, several executives of the Chinese Academy of Sciences were holding a meeting. Just as everyone was frowning unhappily, a call delivering a piece of good news arrived.

"What?"

"The problem we had with the algorithm has been solved?"

"That's great! That's really great!"

"Good work by Old Chi and the others!"

"Beautifully done! We must award them for that!"

"This issue has dragged on for two months already! But it has finally been resolved!"

"Who was the one that came up with the algorithm? Didn't they say that even the most authoritative mathematicians in the country were stumped by it?"

"Old Xu, weren't you there on a work trip just days ago? Surely you should know, right? They brought Zhang Ye over to help them with it."

"Zhang Ye? No wonder. I was thinking of who could be skilled enough."

"Even within the management, this is a classified topic, so please watch what you all say."

"Then what about the honoring of his work with an award?"

"Let's note that for Professor Zhang first. We will award it to him when the time is right."

"Alright, that's that, then."

...

The next day.

In the morning.

There was a lively atmosphere at the research institute. With a breakthrough in the algorithm that had been stuck for two months, all of their work could finally carry on.

Zhang Ye was up very early, but as there wasn't any work for him to do, he went jogging, ate breakfast, and then sang his usual "Tears Behind Prison Bars." Afterwards, he began wandering around the research institute and dropped by the different departments. The reduction of his sentence was the only thing on his mind now. There was already an update from the higher-ups as they responded to Fellow Chi's application on the very same day it was submitted, and a draft of the documents was even faxed to the research institute. Regarding Zhang Ye's outstanding contribution towards an important national project during his sentence, the relevant authorities and leaders had specially approved of a reduction of six months and seven days on his sentence after verification.

There were even seven days in addition to the full six months of reduction, so he didn't really understand how it was calculated.

But to Zhang Ye, being able to leave even a day earlier was one more day earned for him.

In a lab.

Zhang Ye strolled in.

"Professor Zhang."

"Dr. Li, you're busy?"

"Yes, I'm currently working on a highway extension project."

"Did you encounter any problems?"

"Ah? No, I didn't."

"Is everything going well?"

"Yes, it's all going great."

Zhang Ye pursed his lips and nodded. "Alright then, that's all."

Doctor Li and a group of researchers looked at one another in confusion.

In the research office next door.

Zhang Ye arrived here after turning a corner.

"Professor Chen."

"Aiya, it's Professor Zhang?"

"Have you encountered any difficulties?"

"Ah? No, I haven't?"

"No?"

"Yeah, everything is going swell after completion of the algorithm."

“So there’s not even a little bit of a problem then?”

“Ah? Were you hoping that we would meet with some problems?”

Of course!

If nothing happens, how can this bro get another sentence reduction!

Zhang Ye smacked his lips. “That’s good then, I was just concerned about how everything was going.”

All morning, Zhang Ye made his rounds at all of the departments. The first thing he would say when he arrived was “Did something happen?” Many of the researchers did not know whether to laugh or cry, but they did not dare offend Zhang Ye as they knew he had a bad temper. He would always act on impulse, so no one could predict what he might do.

Finally, Fellow Zhou could no longer watch. He hastily summoned Zhang Ye to his office to have a talk with him.

Fellow Zhou said earnestly, “Professor Zhang, what are you doing?”

Zhang Ye curled his lips. “What’s wrong?”

Fellow Zhou said with a wry smile, “I understand that you wish to do more for the country, but we have only just overcome a difficulty—”

Zhang Ye corrected, “It wasn’t we, it was me.”

Fellow Zhou said, “Right, it was you who helped us overcome the difficulty, so everyone is really motivated right now. How can you keep going around pouring cold water on everyone and affecting the morale of our comrades? We have yet to officially begin the application of the algorithm, so you don’t have to put in so much effort. However, you can still do other things. For example—oh right, it’s almost the new year, and we won’t be able to go home this year either, so we’ll be spending it here at the research institute. Since we have the practice of holding our own gala here, why don’t you take charge of that this year?”

Chi Xue arrived at this moment.

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. “I don’t have time.”

Take charge of a gala?

Like he was in the mood to do that!

Chi Xue laughed and said, “Uncle Zhou, are you trying to get a Spring Festival Gala director to take charge of an internal gala here at the research institute? Aren’t you insulting him that way?”

Fellow Zhou suddenly thought so too. “Indeed, that might really be making trivial use of great talent.”

Chi Xue said, “But it’s true that there isn’t really anything much for mathematicians like me and Professor Zhang to do here at the research institute other than things related to the algorithm.”

Zhang Ye said, “I can do other things too.”

Fellow Zhou laughed. "We mostly handle physics research projects here. It's not that I am underestimating you, Professor Little Zhang, but there's really not much you can help us with here."

Zhang Ye said, "That might not necessarily be true."

Chi Xue gave a wry smile at that.

Fellow Zhou also laughed while shaking his head. He opened the drawer and took out a dozen or so stacks of documents. "Alright then, you can take a look at these. These are the projects that the research institute has piled up over the past few years, some of which have proven to be failures while others have been put on hold indefinitely. There are also some that are being worked on currently but have yet to make any progress. Why don't you take a look at which of the projects you think you can help out with? They're all physics or experimental research. Just have a look at them and you'll know what I mean."

Zhang Ye flipped through them.

"No. 23 (Unnamed) Gravitational Experiment"

"Quantum Mechanics Experiment (Test No. 58)"

"No. 5 Radar Measurement Project"

And so on.

What were all these!

Zhang Ye constantly rolled his eyes!

Fellow Zhou smiled and said, "So?"

Zhang Ye held up one of the documents. "How much can I reduce with this?"

Fellow Zhou was taken aback. "Reduce what?"

Zhang Ye said, "Reduce my sentence, of course."

Fellow Zhou said, "Ah? The hell would I know?"

Zhang Ye said, "Roughly by how much?"

Fellow Zhou said, "We won't be able to conduct the quantum mechanics experiment by ourselves. That will require the coordinated research efforts of many organizations. If you can get that done, the reduction will definitely be a lot."

Zhang Ye took out another one. "How much can this reduce my sentence by?"

"Pfft." Chi Xue burst out laughing. "Professor Zhang, this is the first time I've seen anyone try to categorize a project by asking how much time it can reduce a prison sentence. You really won't be able to take on any of these projects. Moreover, they're not projects that you can complete in a year or two."

Zhang Ye was not having any of it. "This bro just wants to make it back home quickly. I don't care what they are. I'm going to give it a try anyway. Which is the most difficult project that you all have here? The

type that can reduce my sentence by the most. The type that can shock the world if it gets completed and would allow me to get released the very next day!”

Shock the world?

Get released the very next day?

Fellow Zhou and Chi Xue looked at one another and could sense the helplessness in each others’ eyes.

Seeing how Zhang Ye was still unwilling to give up, Fellow Zhou said, “We do have the kind of project you mentioned. Alright, I’ll let you have a look then.” He rummaged through his drawers and found a thick project book that he placed onto the table. “Here it is. If you can get this done, they would definitely allow your sentence to be reduced by however many years you wish!”

Zhang Ye exclaimed, “Whoa, it’s that bad?”

Fellow Zhou laughed and said, “Yes, because this is something that the country needs the most right now. Moreover, no one in the country has managed to do this in all these years.”

When Zhang Ye flipped the book open and scanned through it, he was stunned.

Chi Xue smiled. “What’s the matter?”

Fellow Zhou also smiled and said, “So do you get it now?”

They had thought that Zhang Ye had been scared silly by it.

Actually, Zhang Ye’s reason for being stunned was that he found the title of this project rather familiar!

“New Generation Fighter Engine Manufacturing”

It sounded familiar!

It sounded too familiar!

Where did he hear this name?

Zhang Ye was stunned for a bit as he remembered. Didn’t he draw something like that from the lottery a long time ago? At that time, he still thought that this skill was pretty much useless and had grumbled about how he would have been better off with an excavator repair skill than this aircraft engine manufacturing skill. He had believed that this lousy skill would never come in handy in his lifetime, but who could have thought that after such a long time, there would actually be a place where he could put this skill to use?

He had this skill!

And he even “ate” a lot of the skill experience books!

Zhang Ye got a very excited look as though he were injected with adrenaline!

Zhang Ye said, “This is it!”

Fellow Zhou was speechless.

Chi Xue rolled her eyes.

They were thinking that Zhang Ye was ribbing them, but never did they expect that Zhang Ye would actually know how to do this!

Chapter 1508: Old Wu is almost due!

One day.

Two days.

Three days.

It was getting closer and closer to the Lunar New Year. Red lanterns were being hung up all over the place at the research institute. The decorations brought a jubilant mood as the researchers waited for the arrival of the new year.

“Put up the couplets!”

“Old Li, the couplet you wrote is too ugly.”

“Hahaha, I can’t help it. That’s just how skilled I am.”

“True, we’re all academics doing research day in and day out, so it’s not like there are many of us who have good calligraphy.”

“Hey, you better not say something like that. Have you all forgotten? The best calligrapher in the country is attached to our research institute.”

“Oh yes, we should be asking Professor Zhang to write some couplets for us instead.”

“Forget about that. Professor Zhang’s words are worth 10,000 taels of gold each. Who would dare to hang them up even if he wrote them? Would you bear to stick it up on the walls? Wouldn’t that be such a waste?”

“By the way, where is Professor Zhang anyway?”

“You’re right, I haven’t seen him in several days already.”

“If it weren’t for someone singing ‘Tears Behind Prison Bars’ every morning, I would have thought that Professor Zhang had already left.”

“It seems like he’s taken up some research project or something?”

“There’s nothing to argue about regarding Professor Zhang’s talents, but it’s just that he gets a crazy idea every now and then.”

In the dorm.

Zhang Ye had not left his room for several days. The interior was filled with all sorts of notes. A series of formulae filled a blackboard, and the walls were pasted with all kinds of incomprehensible drawings. On the table and on the floor were drafts and scratch paper lying all over the place. There were even

several scale models lying in the corner of the room that Zhang Ye had borrowed from who knows where.

He did research.

He made measurements.

He designed a model.

No one knew what Zhang Ye was doing, because no one at the research institute could understand the research that he was conducting. Besides, no one believed that Zhang Ye was doing anything feasible either. That was because the project that he was attempting was too frightening. There were tens of thousands of difficult projects in China, but even so, Zhang Ye still went ahead and chose the most difficult one of all! How many researchers had fallen in the face of this adversity? How many researchers had been troubled by it? Yet Zhang Ye as a mathematician was actually attempting to overcome this research void? Who could believe that?

Only Zhang Ye believed that he could get it done. It was just that he needed time, a lot of time, so for the past few days, he worked around the clock on it and did not get much rest at all.

Until some news arrived.

The news was brought to him by Chi Xue.

Chi Xue congratulated, "Professor Zhang, my early congratulations to you."

Zhang Ye asked, "What are you congratulating me for?"

"Your wife is almost due." Chi Xue continued, "We've just received news. Chief Wu has been admitted to the hospital while awaiting delivery. Her due date is estimated to be within the next few days."

Zhang Ye froze.

She was about to give birth?

She was going to deliver their child soon?

But of course!

Wasn't the expected due date supposed to be in these few days?

Zhang Ye immediately threw out all thoughts of his work and research. He was not in the mood for those anymore. All he could think of now was Old Wu and his child!

He sat down.

And stood up again.

Then he paced around several times and sat back down.

Zhang Ye paced around aimlessly. Finally, he stepped out of the room.

Zhou Xiaohe came up to him and said, "Professor Zhang, congratulations."

Several researchers also came over with congratulations.

“You’re going to be a father soon.”

“Congratulations in advance, Professor Zhang.”

“This is joyous news.”

“It’s happening just in time for the New Year. We must celebrate this!”

“Hahaha, Professor Zhang, you’ll have to treat everyone!”

Everyone had already found out about the news and were all feeling overjoyed for Zhang Ye.

But no one could understand how Zhang Ye was feeling at this moment. He was going through such complicated emotions. In his excitement, he was a little worried as well. He had no other thought right now than to head straight for the hospital. He wanted to be there to accompany Old Wu and witness the birth of his child with his own eyes. This thought was very intense. It was so intense that the moment Zhang Ye thought of it, he went to look for Fellow Chi and Fellow Zhou.

The moment he spoke, it exasperated the two elderly research fellows!

Zhang Ye said, “This bro here wants to go outside to seek medical treatment!”

Chi Xue was speechless.

Fellow Chi rolled his eyes. “And how are you sick?”

Zhang Ye said, “I’m feeling sick all over.”

Fellow Zhou said, “But you look like you’re in really good health.”

Zhang Ye pointed to the ground and said, “Do you believe that I could faint right here in front of you?”

Fellow Zhou said in a speechless manner, “Then which hospital do you wish to go to?”

Zhang Ye declared loudly without hesitation, “To the maternity hospital my wife is admitted to. I’m fine with staying there.”

“You’re a man, so how could there be any doctors for you at a maternity hospital?” Chi Xue was amused.

Zhang Ye harrumphed, “As long as you guys allow me to go out, this bro will even be willing to stay at a mental institution!”

Whoa!

You’re really going all out, huh!

Fellow Chi said, “Professor Zhang, we understand how you’re feeling. But you’re still in the midst of serving your sentence. Our Chinese Academy of Sciences put in a lot of effort to get you here. We were required to give a guarantee and also sign on the dotted line to ensure that we kept our word. Do you really think that you can just go out as you wish? Dutifully wait here for the news. How about this? We’re not unreasonable people, so I’ll allow you a special privilege. As long as there’s any news from the

hospital that your wife is admitted to, be it a laboratory test, or ECG, we will get someone to inform you about it. I guarantee that you can rest assured of everything that is happening, and we will also let you know about the latest news immediately.”

Zhang Ye smacked his lips. “Why would I want the laboratory tests!”

Fellow Zhou said, “Old Chi has given you a privilege. If it were anyone else, there wouldn’t be such treatment at all.”

“That won’t do.” Zhang Ye did not agree to it. “If anything, let me call my wife.”

Fellow Chi said firmly, “That is not possible.”

Fellow Zhou also said, “Yes, definitely not possible.”

But Chi Xue said, “Dad, can’t you just let Professor Zhang make one call?”

“No.” Fellow Chi shook his head. “Little Zhang’s transfer out of the prison has a confidentiality clause. He is not allowed to have any communications with the outside world; that’s the rule.”

Chi Xue said, “Rules should be reasonable and special circumstances should call for special treatment. Professor Zhang has given so much effort to our research project already. Now that his wife is about to give birth, you won’t allow him to visit her, or even call her. Surely that’s too cruel, right? Uncle Zhou, don’t you agree with me?”

Fellow Zhou became a little hesitant after hearing the logic. “Well, that makes sense.”

Fellow Chi stared and said, “Old Zhou, what realization dawned on you?”

Fellow Zhou laughed and said, “It’s just a call. As long as Professor Zhang doesn’t reveal any information about our research institute or the research project, it will be fine.”

Zhang Ye said, “Aiyo, you guys are overthinking things. I haven’t seen my wife in several months, so why would I be talking to her about some research project if I only had a few minutes to talk to her? Do you think I have nothing better to talk to her about?”

Chi Xue said, “Isn’t that right, Dad?”

Fellow Chi frowned. “This is against the rules!”

Zhang Ye looked at him. “Isn’t plucking me out of a prison also against the rules? Can you borrow anyone from a prison like so? Which rule would that fall under?”

Fellow Chi had no answer.

He really couldn’t refute this.

Fellow Zhou also helped to persuade him. “His wife is giving birth. It’s the event of a lifetime.”

Fellow Chi frowned.

Seeing this, Fellow Zhou said, “Alright, alright, I’ll approve it. If anything happens, I will take responsibility.”

Zhang Ye was thrilled. He patted Fellow Zhou on his shoulder and said, "Old Zhou, you're still the righteous one!"

Who are you calling Old Zhou!

Fellow Zhou rolled his eyes.

Fellow Chi harrumphed. "You'll take responsibility if something happens? It's not like you're the head here, so how will you be able to take any responsibility?" He then pulled open his drawer and took out something. Then he wrote some words and signed off on it. He even stamped a seal on it before throwing it onto the table. "Take this with you. I'll only allow it this once. Three minutes is all you get, and there won't be another time."

Zhang Ye belly laughed. "Alright, thanks, Old Chi!"

...

In the telephone room.

Some security guards were standing guard at the entrance.

This was the only phone in the research institute that could make calls to the outside world. Zhang Ye brought the slip that Fellow Chi had signed off on and handed it to the security guard before entering. Chi Xue and Zhou Xiaohe also came along to supervise him.

Excitement.

Perturbation.

Zhang Ye picked up the old-fashioned telephone with a shaking hand.

Clack, clack, clack. He took a deep breath as he dialed the numbers.

Du du du...

Du du du...

Answer!

Quickly answer it!

Zhang Ye was very anxious!

Suddenly, the line went through.

On the other end, the familiar voice of a woman could be heard. "Hello? Who is it?"

When he heard this voice, Zhang Ye's heart fluttered. "Old Wu!"

"Little Ye?"

"How are you doing?"

"I'm waiting to give birth at the hospital. I'm feeling quite well. How about you?"

"I'm doing good too."

"That's good to hear. Are they not allowing any visits where you are?"

"Yeah, it'd be a bit of a problem."

"Where are you calling from?"

"I can't say."

"Alright, I won't ask any further then."

"I can only speak for three minutes. I know that you've already been admitted to the hospital while waiting to give birth. Actually, I have a lot of things that I want to say, but I don't know how to say them. In any case, Old Wu, don't worry about me. This bro will definitely do his best to get back home sooner. I will definitely go back as soon as I can!"

"Alright, I will wait for you."

At this moment, Chi Xue reminded, "There's still two minutes."

Old Wu probably heard it on the other end as well.

The people on both ends of the line turned quiet.

There was so much to say.

But how could it be conveyed in only two minutes?

"Little Ye."

"Yes?"

"Sing me a song."

"You want to hear me sing again?"

"Yes, I wish to listen to your singing."

"OK."

If you wish for that, I'll sing for you!

I'll sing for you all my life!

Zhang Ye brought the receiver closer to his mouth. He gazed out the window and looked at that blue sky.

Then, with a hint of tenderness, he started singing ¹.

"I wanna fly you everywhere.

"And enjoy the planet's sights as a pair.

"There's no worries and none of that woe.

"With our freedom, we're happy to go.

"Forget your pain and forget that place.

"Let's adventure at a roving pace.

"We may not have opulence or wealth.

"But we've got lots of hope in our hearts.

"We want to fly to that faraway place to see

"that this world really isn't that dreary.

"We want to fly to that faraway place to gaze

"at this world that still shines brighter than sun rays."

The three minutes were already up. At some point, the phone call had been cut off.

But Zhang Ye continued singing. He continued looking out the window and kept singing for a very long time.

"We want to fly to that faraway place to see

"that this world really isn't that dreary.

"We want to fly to that faraway place to gaze.

"at this world that still shines brighter than sun rays."

Chi Xue's eyes reddened.

Zhou Xiaohe reached out twice but did not have the heart to interrupt Zhang Ye.

They just listened quietly. They could feel his voice drifting out the window to a faraway place, carrying Zhang Ye's heart with it.

Chapter 1509: It's born! It's born!

Two days later.

It was the eve of the Lunar New Year.

"Where are the lanterns? Go and hang them up."

"Coming, coming!"

"Old Li, how's the program coming along?"

"Haha, it's all finished."

"Great, it's all on you guys now. I'm really looking forward to it."

"We're just a bunch of old people, so we're only going to be singing in the name of fun."

"The Spring Festival Gala will be happening soon as well, I wonder what it will be like this year."

"It's difficult to say since Professor Zhang is here at our place."

"Yeah, without Professor Zhang directing the Spring Festival Gala, I just can't seem to look forward to watching it."

"Hai, if only Professor Zhang hadn't gotten embroiled. The Spring Festival Gala this year would definitely have been headed by him. I can imagine just how wonderful it would've been."

"Haha, but Professor Zhang doesn't have time to worry about the Spring Festival Gala now."

"I heard that his wife has already gone into the delivery room."

"Yes, she was just brought in there a short while ago."

"Hopefully everything goes well."

It was almost the New Year and the mood at the research institute couldn't be more boisterous.

People gathered together and laughed in conversation.

Some were preparing for their night show in their groups.

Others were busy preparing the dishes for dinner, with the kitchen bustling with activity.

Only Zhang Ye was unlike everyone else. This fellow kept circling the research institute's yard in extreme anxiety. Sometimes, he would look up into the sky and let out a sigh; sometimes, he would stamp his feet in frustration; and sometimes, he would whisper something at the sky with his hands clasped together.

Please let everything go well!

Old Wu, you can do it!

May mother and child be safe!

Please let them both be safe!

Just then, Chi Xue passed by. "Professor Zhang, what are you still doing here? The gala is about to begin. Hurry up, let's head over together."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "How can I be in the mood to attend the event?"

Chi Xue laughed and said, "Chief Wu is a blessed woman, so she'll be fine. We will inform you once there is any news, so come along. Everyone has gone to the event premises already, and the Spring Festival Gala is about to start. Our self-organized gala will be held concurrently, and we're all waiting for a famed gala director to give us advice to improve."

Fellow Zhou also called out from afar, "Professor Zhang, we're all waiting for you. Hurry up!"

Zhang Ye answered absent-mindedly, "Coming."

The banquet hall was already packed with people.

There were over a dozen round tables with over a hundred researchers attending the event.

At the front, there was even a large TV display where an advertisement from Central TV Department 1 was showing. It was now less than five minutes until the Spring Festival Gala began. There was also a stage set up in front, and it was obviously going to be used for the later performances. Sniffing, he could smell the aroma of the food. Then he saw that the staff had already started serving the dishes.

Zhang Ye had been very worried about Old Wu and hadn't rested or ate well for the past few days. Hungry, he sat down and started eating immediately.

The Central TV Spring Festival Gala began.

Only then did Zhang Ye raise his head.

Zhang Yuanqi.

Zhang Xia.

Chen Guang.

Xu Meilan.

One after another, familiar faces started appearing before his eyes. They were so close, yet so far away. Were his old friends all doing well? Was Old Zhang still that fond of drinking? How did Old Xu's new movie do at the box office? Had Old Chen released any new songs? Was Grandma Zhang still going strong and healthy? Who was Old Yao partnering with for his crosstalks?

Zhang Ye lamented.

However, everything happening in the outside world no longer had anything to do with him.

A female researcher said, "The Spring Festival Gala this year isn't that good."

A young researcher said, "Yeah, it's much worse than the Spring Festival Gala Professor Zhang directed."

"That's right." Another person said, "That song from last year, 'Return Home Often,' really made me cry when I heard it. I haven't been home for the Lunar New Year in two years."

A middle-aged doctor said, "That's nothing, I've already been here for four years straight."

An old scientist laughed and said, "Are you comparing such things now? There's nothing glorious about that. Hai, this is all because of work. There isn't any choice for us."

At this time, the research institute's own shows started.

Several doctors had formed a choir and took to the stage, while the audience looked very excited.

"It's starting, it's starting!"

"Dr. Xu, you can do it!"

"Your singing went off-key last year, so hopefully it won't happen again this year!"

“Haha, can you not expose other people’s shortcomings.”

The self-organized gala began with a song that rang out within the banquet hall.

Singing.

Magic shows.

Dances.

Skits.

There were all kinds of programs.

Out of nowhere, Fellow Zhou asked Zhang Ye, “Professor Zhang, why don’t you go up on stage and give us a performance too?”

Chi Xue smiled and said, “That sounds great, Professor Zhang. Be it a skit, crosstalk, or even singing, you’re a professional at all of them. Why don’t you let us amateurs broaden our horizons?”

Zhang Ye waved it off. “Please spare me.”

Fellow Chi also said, “Come on, show us a little something.”

Chi Xue said, “You’re about to become a dad, so that’s definitely something worth celebrating!”

Just as a song finished onstage, the banquet hall’s main door was suddenly pushed opened.

A employee from the telephone room came rushing in. He shouted excitedly, “It’s born! It’s born!”

Everyone looked over to that person!

Zhang Ye shot to his feet. “What?”

The employee congratulated, “Professor Zhang, your wife has delivered your child! They are both safe and sound!”

Zhang Ye hurriedly said, “Is it a boy or a girl?”

That person said, “It’s a girl! She weighed 3.6 kilograms at birth!”

The banquet hall erupted with excitement!

“Great! Great!”

“Congratulations, Professor Zhang!”

“Your child has finally been born!”

“Professor Zhang, you can finally rest assured!”

Everyone was really feeling jubilant for Zhang Ye!

Zhang Ye was at a loss for words. He wanted to give a shout or two to express his joy, but he couldn’t push his voice out of his throat. He suddenly became quiet.

Fellow Zhou laughed heartily. "You're a father now. How does it feel?"

Chi Xue also laughed. "Professor Zhang, why don't you say a few words to everyone?"

Everyone echoed, "Yeah, say something!"

Zhang Ye was a little dazed.

Say a few words?

What should he say?

He didn't know. He really didn't know what to talk about.

Zhang Ye left without waiting for the gala to finish.

Everyone looked at one another.

Chi Xue said, "What's with him?"

Fellow Zhou said, "Heh, that kid, shouldn't he be screaming with joy at such a time?"

Fellow Chi watched Zhang Ye as he left and did not say a word.

...

Midnight arrived.

The New Year bell was rung.

After the gala ended, everyone headed back to their dorms to rest.

However, soft notes from a guitar suddenly thrummed in one of the dormitories at the research institute. It was accompanied by a low singing voice.

People were stunned to hear this.

Some of them pulled open their curtains.

Others leaned out onto their windowsills and listened ¹ quietly.

"What should I say? I just don't know.

"So much to say, yet they don't come out.

"Blue skies above, my lingering silence.

"With you by my side, I'm composed and serene.

"On lonely nights, I have prayed for you.

"I hope that I am a gift in your life.

"When the joy in my heart blossoms in an instant.

"I wish I could be by your side, to share it with you.

"An endless journey, an unbroken horizon.

"Years of burning passion, but what a long wait.

"When the joy in my heart blossoms in an instant.

"I wish I could be by your side, to share it with you."

It was a very light and gentle voice. It was a song sung by a man for his wife and child. In the singing, there was a hint of the man's joy, as well as his sadness.

His name was Zhang Ye.

Today, he had become a father.

Chapter 1510: A nation's dream for an aircraft engine!

The next day.

It was the first day of the Lunar New Year.

Early in the morning, the people at the research institute were once again woken up by Zhang Ye. This time, it wasn't "Tears Behind Prison Bars" that woke them up, but Zhang Ye's loud voice.

"I've become a father!"

"This bro is now a dad!"

"I have a daughter now!"

"Hahahahaha!"

Some people pulled their blankets over their heads.

Some people were rolling their eyes in bed.

They were used to being woken up by Zhang Ye every morning. This fellow was even more punctual than an alarm clock and would always cause some commotion at this exact time. They couldn't figure out what Zhang Ye was thinking either. Last night, he was singing sorrowfully despite his wife having just given birth. Instead of celebrating yesterday, why are you reacting to the news today? Aren't your brain circuits moving too slowly! Indeed, geniuses were really such oddities that most normal people would never be able to understand their behavior.

In the cafeteria.

A lot of people discovered that Zhang Ye was in charge of the cooking today when they arrived.

Chi Xue said, "Wow, Professor Zhang is cooking?"

Fellow Zhou was also amused. "Are you sure of your culinary skill?"

Fellow Chi and the others were also suspiciously eyeing Zhang Ye, who was busy cooking.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "But of course. But this is cooking for a crowd, so it's a little more complicated. This is also my first time cooking for so many people, so this is still what we will be having whether it is tasty or not. We're limited by what we can serve here. Otherwise, I would have brought you all out to eat at a Beijing restaurant if we were outside. Just make do with it, I guess."

Everyone sat down and tried it. It actually tasted quite good.

"Delicious, delicious."

"Professor Zhang's cooking is pretty good."

"Congratulations on the birth of your daughter."

Everyone congratulated him once again.

Zhang Ye thanked them one by one.

Chi Xue asked, "What was that song you were singing last night?"

A female researcher asked, "Yeah, what is it called?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "'The Gift.'"

Chi Xue nodded. "It's really nice."

A young researcher said, "That's right, I nearly cried listening to it."

Zhang Ye said, "That's why this bro's current goal is to find a way to go back home to my family!"

Hearing that, Zhou Xiaohe immediately turned and looked at Zhang Ye warily.

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "What are you looking at me for? This bro wants to leave this place with my head held high. Do you think that I would attempt to break out of prison? Anyone in China can break out of prison, but would that even be possible for me?"

Zhou Xiaohe was taken aback but felt that what Zhang Ye had said was true.

When everyone else heard that, they were left chuckling in amusement.

Yes, anyone could attempt to break out of prison except for Zhang Ye. Break out of prison? How was he going to break out? Other people could hide their identities after getting out and find a place where no one knew them to settle down at. But Zhang Ye? How was he supposed to hide his identity? In all of China, in all of Asia, was there anyone who did not know him?

For the entire morning, Zhang Ye remained in a very excited mood. The feeling of becoming a father was something that was very different and could not be described with words. And when Zhang Ye received a photo of his child, it became even harder to describe that feeling. It was like a sense of happiness filling up within him.

Those tiny arms.

Those little legs.

It was too adorable.

Zhang Ye could not bear to put the photo away.

Chi Xue smiled and said, "I asked someone to get it for you. I believe this was what you needed?"

Zhang Ye was grinning from ear to ear. "I need this more than anything!"

Then Zhang Ye went around the entire research institute and showed it off to everyone. As long as he met someone, he would stop them on the spot and start chatting with them.

"Little Liu, this is my daughter!"

"Aiyo."

"What do you think?"

"She's so cute!"

"Of course!"

"Old Li, come, come, come, have a look at my daughter!"

"Wow, not bad."

"Pretty, right?"

"Yes, she's pretty."

"Dr. Hu, have you seen my daughter's picture yet?"

"Not yet."

"Come quickly and have a look then. Doesn't she look like me?"

"Uh, no, she doesn't look like you at all."

"What? It's obvious that she looks just like me!"

"In what way? She clearly resembles your wife."

"Look at this fingernail. Isn't it exactly like it was made from the same mold as mine?"

"Damn, how can you base resemblance off of something like fingernails?"

He was loving his feeling.

In the afternoon, Zhang Ye even requested a photo frame from Fellow Zhou's office. He slotted his daughter's picture in and placed it on the study desk in his room. One moment, he would gaze at it with a smile. The next moment, he would hold it up and give it a kiss. It was as though he were mental.

With newfound motivation, he knew that he needed to get out of this place even sooner. My daughter is still waiting for me!

Thus, Zhang Ye closed his room's door, pulled up his sleeves, and took a deep breath. He went back to working again in high spirits and full of fight!

An hour.

Three hours.

Five hours.

At 11:30 PM.

A sudden shout came from Zhang Ye's room. "It's done!"

Then Zhang Ye knocked on the doors of every room!

"Fellow Zhou, come quickly to my room!"

"What is it at this time of the night?"

"Aiyo, stop sleeping. Hurry up!"

"Sister Chi, get up, get up!"

"What is it?"

"Come over and you'll find out! Hurry up!"

A lot of people were called up by Zhang Ye.

Everyone got out of bed and put on their clothes before heading to Zhang Ye's room.

Chi Xue was rather displeased. "It's the New Year. Just what is the matter?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "I've made great strides in my project!"

Fellow Chi said angrily, "What project? What project could you possibly have? Hasn't the algorithm already been produced?"

"That's right." Fellow Zhou was also wondering. "Why would you have any project to work on?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Have you all forgotten? About the project you passed to me?"

Fellow Zhou had truly forgotten about it. "Which one? When did I give you a project to handle?"

Chi Xue was stunned. "Y-You're talking about that new generation fighter engine project?"

An aircraft engine?

That project no one had managed to succeed at for the past few decades?

Everyone was dumbfounded!

Zhang Ye laughed. "That's the one! Come and have a look." He pointed inside the room at the walls, the desk, and even the floor and the bed where diagrams and equations were pasted on.

Chi Xue couldn't be more shocked. "You actually took it seriously?"

Zhang Ye said, "Didn't I already say? That I'll take on this project!"

Fellow Chi said, "You're a mathematician. Why would you be conducting research on an aircraft engine?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Mathematics and physics belong to the same family."

Fellow Zhou was quite shocked. "Did you really make progress on it?"

"I've made major progress!" Zhang Ye corrected him.

Chi Xue quickly looked down.

A group of doctors and professors also went up to have a look.

"What kind of a model is this?"

"It even looks somewhat like the real thing."

"Professor Zhang even has knowledge about physics and mechanical engineering?"

"Will this model work?"

"This is a little impractical, right?"

"Uh, I don't understand this."

"It doesn't seem like it would work?"

A lot of people were frowning, unable to figure out what was going on.

But if they could understand what Zhang Ye had come up with by just glancing at it, then the nation's dream for an aircraft engine would not have taken so many years and still not be realized. The details involved in this project were very complicated. If one didn't specialize in fighter engine research, it would be very difficult to understand anything here.

When Zhang Ye saw everyone's faces, he knew that there wasn't much hope. He curled his lips and said, "It's normal that you guys don't understand since you haven't reached the right level yet. Fellow Chi, quickly report this to the higher-ups for me. I'm sure there will be people who can understand this research. I'll need money, manpower, and equipment. As long as I have all of that, just give me some time and I can guarantee that our nation's dream of an aircraft engine will be fulfilled. I, Zhang Ye, will keep my word!"

An aircraft engine dream?

Was that really so easy to fulfill?

Everyone rolled their eyes. You're saying that we do not understand? Then are you saying that you understand? Couldn't you just be messing with us by randomly writing and making up some drawings?

Everyone was very skeptical.

Fellow Chi and Fellow Zhou also felt the same.

But as this matter was deemed too serious and Zhang Ye also seemed to be very sure of himself, they couldn't help but take it seriously as well. Although they felt that what Zhang Ye had done was still not

exactly reliable, the two of them still got someone to organize the documents and send them out on the very same night. It was a layman like Zhang Ye who started this entire matter anyway, so even if the authorities criticized them, Zhang Ye would shoulder the blame. They weren't going to be held responsible for this debacle.

After that, everyone headed back to their rooms to get some rest.

While lying in bed, they couldn't help but find this matter a little funny when they thought about it.

Manufacture a fighter engine?

Hai, aren't you thinking too highly of yourself?