

## Superstar 1521

### Chapter 1521: PeterGo has lost?

Before noon.

On the Go Server.

The global chat was full of talk.

“Zone 3, Table 56, looking for an opponent.”

“Are there any amateur 5-dan players available for a match?”

“I’m not playing anymore today. I Am a Singer’s fourth season is rerunning and I want to watch it again.”

“Are there any professional players in a match right now? Looking to observe.”

“I think 9-dan Chen Ying <sup>1</sup> is online at Table 17 in the pro zone.”

“Has anyone challenged PeterGo these past few days?”

“Why would anyone do that? They’ve been losing for over two years.”

“How many wins has that ‘computer’ racked up?”

“7000-plus wins, should be. Don’t really remember.”

The chat was constantly scrolling with messages. But unbeknownst to everyone, at this very moment, a match worthy of going down into the annals of the Go world’s history books was about to begin!

Zhang Ye clicked on the button to challenge PeterGo with a smile. “It’s starting.”

Sisi’s small fists were clenched, and her face was tense with nervousness.

However, Zhang Ye appeared very relaxed as he clicked to confirm the match.

The battle began!

Zhang Ye picked white and was to go second.

Peter went first and placed a stone in the corner without calculating.

Zhang Ye clicked and placed a white stone.

Peter followed up.

Zhang Ye smiled as the white stones’ framework got set up.

For a battle of such level, a three-year-old child like Sisi who had just started learning Go would definitely not be able to comprehend what was going on.

However, Zhang Ye still patiently explained to his daughter as he played his moves. “The first step is to create the opening. On the surface, this is a very regular way of playing, but there exist many

variations.” He then placed another white stone on the board. He smiled and said, “For this move, your grandpa is actually very good at it. He really loves using it.”

Sisi said disappointedly, “But Grandpa still lost to the computer.”

Zhang Ye smiled and said, “Even if your grandpa lost, it doesn’t mean that Daddy will lose. Though it’s the same move, it becomes different when he uses it and when I use it. Your grandpa definitely does not know how to play the variations that follow after this move, nor do the professional Go players of this world know it either. You’ll see what I mean later.”

Sisi was feeling confused. “Oh.”

But two moves later, Zhang Ye exclaimed, “That’s interesting.”

Sisi said, “Huh?”

Zhang Ye said, “It has predicted my intentions and is beginning to remedy things.”

Sisi said, “Ah?”

Zhang Ye laughed and said, “PeterGo really seems to have been upgraded. It’s much more astute than before. Actually, the performance of such AI can be pretty iffy. Those years ago, the Americans were so confident when they declared that machines had already surpassed humans. In actual fact, PeterGo’s basic principle only lies in its processing power. It depends on an extremely powerful computer to make calculations that humans are unable to make within a short period of time. As such, be it your grandpa or Little Tian, all of them would lose to it no matter what. They didn’t lose because of their playstyles, but because of the difference in computing power and computing speed. The dozens to hundreds of variations that can be played after a move cannot be predicted by them, but PeterGo can do just that. That’s its advantage.”

Sisi was getting anxious. “What about you?”

Zhang Ye said, “I’m naturally an exception.”

Sisi asked, “Why?”

Zhang Ye gently patted his daughter’s little head and said with a smile, “Because your daddy does not only know how to play Go. I’m also a mathematician.” He added, “The most outstanding mathematician in the entire world, and that is where Daddy is different from them.”

It was hard to tell if Sisi understood.

...

Yalong Bay.

In the hotel the Qiyan’s people were lodging in.

Quite a few newcomers had gathered together and were ready to start training.

“Who wants to go first?”

“Definitely not me.”

“Old He, you’re the eldest here, so you go first.”

“Get lost, I’m only 21, and I’m also just two months older than you.”

“Niannian, you’re the most skilled; you go first.”

“No.”

Everyone was pushing the responsibility around as they did not wish to play first. The training schedule the Qiyuan had planned was to let everyone play against PeterGo by the batches. They had a total of over a dozen people, so everyone would likely get a game each throughout the day. After that, they would discuss the experience and write a research report about it before continuing the same process on the next day.

Chen Qiqi exclaimed, “Aiya, hurry up, we don’t have much time.”

A girl said, “Yeah, Teacher Tian will be coming to check on us later.”

Suddenly, Chen Niannian said, “Eh? There’s someone playing against PeterGo?”

Chen Qiqi ridiculed, “Hah? There are still people who want to play against the AI these days?”

A teenager asked, “Is it someone from our Qiyuan?”

Chen Niannian shook her head. “No, it’s someone called ‘HEOR.’”

Chen Qiqi giggled. “It must be some amateur who wishes to play against the famous PeterGo. With so many Go enthusiasts around, it’s not surprising even if PeterGo is challenged by someone. Haha, this means we’re free to do whatever we want.”

A teenage girl rolled her eyes. “Free from what? When this match is over, it’ll still be our turn, won’t it? It’s just a matter of playing earlier or later. There’s no difference.”

Chen Qiqi said, “Then let’s just chat for a while. We’ll let Niannian go first afterwards.”

Chen Niannian complained, “Sis, why should I be the one playing first?”

Chen Qiqi harrumphed, “That’s what you get for being a 5-dan.”

Half an hour.

An hour.

Everyone was chatting happily and had lost track of time.

“It should be over soon, right?”

“Is that person done playing yet?”

“Damn, why is it taking so long?”

“There’s someone who can play for an hour against PeterGo?”

“Yeah, PeterGo plays really quickly and practically doesn’t need any time to think through its moves. It must be that amateur who’s dragging the game out by taking a long time to consider every move.”

“But the time rules should apply as well.”

Someone clicked into the match room and had a quick glance to confirm that the game was not over yet, then closed it without paying any attention to how the game was going.

Another twenty-odd minutes went by.

Chen Niannian impatiently went onto the Go server again. “Why is it still not over? Let me see. Eh? It’s done, it’s over, they’ve finally finished the game.”

Chen Qiqi laughed and said, “Little Sis, you can do it!”

Chen Niannian gave a bitter smile. “Alright, I’ll be playing first then. Please pray for me, everyone.”

A teenage girl said, “The rest of us will go outside then? We don’t want to disturb you.”

But at this moment, they realized that Chen Niannian had frozen!

“Sister Niannian?”

“What’s the matter?”

“Why aren’t you responding?”

“What’s with you?”

Everyone found this strange.

Chen Niannian’s jaw dropped, as if she had seen a ghost. She stared at the computer screen and shouted, “What the fuck!”

Chen Qiqi went over. “Little Sis, what’s the matter?”

Chen Niannian was so shocked that her hands were trembling. She reached out and pointed at the computer monitor while yelling, “Oh my God! Look at this, quick! Quickly come and see this!”

A teenager wondered, “Look at what?”

A teenage girl said, “What are you rambling about?”

Everyone went up to her.

All of them were dumbfounded by what they saw!

Chen Qiqi was so shocked that she screamed!

Two of the teenagers almost fell to the ground!

Three of the teenage girls were staring with wide eyes just like Chen Niannian!

They were all stunned. Because in this very moment, what they saw on the monitor was making them utterly doubt their eyes. They could see the match records clearly showing two lines of data.

PeterGo’s Record:

—7451 wins!

—1 loss!

“Oh my God!”

“Something has happened! Something big has happened!”

“How is this possible!”

“What the hell is this?”

“PeterGo has lost?”

“Fuck! PeterGo has lost?”

Screaming rang throughout the room!

### **Chapter 1522: The world is shocked!**

Astonishment!

Disbelief!

Chen Qiqi was scared silly. “What exactly has happened?”

Chen Niannian said, “Who the hell is this guy?”

A teenager said anxiously, “Hurry, tell the teachers!”

A teenage girl shouted, “Right, go and tell everyone!”

“The Go world will be shaken by this!” Everyone stopped caring about the training regimen and rushed out of the room to go look for Tian Weiwei.

...

In a room.

Tian Weiwei and several 8 and 9-dan professional Go players were watching 9-dan Chen Ying’s match. Her opponent was a professional Korean 8-dan Go player who was also their rival in recent years.

8-dan Li Fang smiled and said, “This push through that Sister Chen made is such an interesting move.”

Tian Weiwei said, “This is a 2-5 approach <sup>1</sup> that Sister Chen has mastered superbly.”

But Chen Ying said, “What’s so superb about this move of mine? The best 2-5 approach that I’ve ever seen played was made by PeterGo. It can only be described as impeccable.”

“But it’s not human,” 8-dan Zhou Zhen said.

Li Fang said, “Yes, PeterGo has a large computing platform to support its decision making. Strictly speaking, that’s considered cheating. It’s the same if this were a math competition with everyone doing

their calculations using pen and paper while someone else makes use of a calculator or computer. It would be a wonder if we could win against it. What is it if that's not cheating? Technology these days has become too advanced. The computing efficiency and processing power have gotten much more powerful than before. There isn't anyone who can beat Peter anymore."

At this moment, there was a flurry of knocking on the door!

Knock knock knock!

Knock knock knock!

Li Fang said to the outside, "Who is it?"

He went over, opened the door, and saw Little Chen and the others.

Tian Weiwei said, "What's the matter? Didn't I arrange for you all to practice?"

Chen Qiqi was panting from running over here. "Master Tian! Something big has happened!"

Tian Weiwei was startled. "What happened?"

Chen Ying's game was more or less already won. She couldn't help but turn her head. "What's all the fuss about?"

Chen Niannian took a deep breath and said, "You'd never believe what happened if we told you!"

Zhou Zhen laughed. "Is there anything that we wouldn't believe?"

A teenage newcomer said loudly, "PeterGo has lost!"

Chen Ying was stunned. "What?"

Tian Weiwei's eyes widened. "What did you say?"

Li Fang said dumbfoundedly, "It lost?"

Zhou Zhen straight-up said, "That's impossible!"

Chen Qiqi pointed at the computer and said, "Have a look for yourselves! It's true!"

Chen Ying no longer cared about the ongoing game at this moment. She clicked on the mouse and exited the match, then went into PeterGo's dedicated match zone and got dumbfounded by what she saw! The top Go masters in China—Tian Weiwei, Li Fang, and Zhou Zhen—were all dumbfounded too!

Tian Weiwei gasped. "Who was it?"

Chen Qiqi quickly said, "We don't know. It's an unknown account!"

Chen Ying shouted, "Show me the game record!"

Chen Niannian said, "There's no record of it. We didn't watch the game!"

A newcomer said excitedly, "Awesome! This is so awesome!"

Zhou Zhen said horrified, "Is there really someone in the world who can beat PeterGo?"

Chen Ying clicked the mouse several times before saying, "It's still too early to say. I tried accessing the match room, but PeterGo is currently not available to play against. I believe that the Americans set it as a best-of-three format, so that person still has to play another game against PeterGo!"

Tian Weiwei said, "It's gonna get crazy in the Go world!"

...

Beijing.

At Old Wu's parents' courtyard house.

Li Qinqin was washing vegetables while Wu Changhe sat outside in the courtyard, looking at the sky.

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "Why aren't you studying that new style of play you just created?"

Wu Changhe said uninterestedly, "What's the point of that? We still can't win."

"It's the New Year, so don't put too much pressure on yourself." Li Qinqin said, "It's been two years, but still no one can win against it. I suppose we should just forget about it."

At this moment, a cell phone rang.

After Wu Changhe got off the phone, he looked stupefied. He put down his cell phone and suddenly felt a decade younger. He was so excited that he couldn't get a hold of himself!

Li Qinqin asked, "What's the matter?"

Wu Changhe replied, "PeterGo has lost!"

Li Qinqin said in surprise, "What?"

...

In America.

At the company where PeterGo was created.

When the alert data was transmitted back, the entire team was dumbfounded!

"This—"

"This is impossible!"

"Peter has lost?"

"What's going on? What in the world has happened?"

"Where's the game record? Send it over quickly!"

"It's a new account? There's only one record of it signing in?"

"The IP address points to China?"

"Goddammit!"

It was a state of chaos at the company, and the higher management had to call an emergency meeting. In their opinion, PeterGo couldn't have lost. There was absolutely no chance that it could have lost!

...

Korea.

At a Go circle party.

"Come, let's drink."

"Hai, let's not talk about the AI anymore."

"Right, let's just enjoy the food and drink up."

Then these people's cell phones started ringing.

"What?"

"Are you serious?"

"It really lost?"

"Holy shit!"

...

Japan.

At a Go club.

Some amateur enthusiasts were playing Go when this piece of news hit them without warning.

"Oh my God!"

"Are you serious?"

"How is that possible!"

"Someone beat it?"

"W-Who could this godly person be?"

...

China was shocked!

Korea was shocked!

Japan was shocked!

This news had set off a raging torrent across the entire Asian Go community!

The Go server that served all international players was suddenly bustling with activity. In the global chat, the various zones' chats, as well as PeterGo's dedicated match zone, netizens and Go players from all over the world were filling chat up with messages. For over two years, the human players had been



driven back in defeat one after another. Against the dominance of the artificial intelligence, the humans stood no chance of winning at all. This dominance even struck a devastating blow to the Xiangqi world along with the Go world, leading to more and more people leaving the game. The Go server's daily activity and number of users started dropping year after year. But right now, there was a flurry of activity on the entire server. It felt like the entire world's people had flooded into the server at this moment. It felt like the suppressed anger and gloom that had built up over the past two years had erupted at this moment!

—7451 wins!

—1 loss!

When many of the people saw this, they almost burst into tears!

"It's lost!"

"It's really lost!"

"Thank God!"

"Which godly player did that?"

"Yeah, could it be an alt account of Teacher Tian's?"

"Impossible! If Teacher Tian and the others could win, they would have already won at some point during the past two years. Why would it take them until now to do so? And why would he use an alt account to do it?"

"I also do not think that it's them!"

"Amazing!"

"There's finally a master who did it!"

"Does anyone have the game record?"

"No, no one was watching the game when it was being played."

"I saw that PeterGo was in a match with someone, but I didn't watch it, just logged off. When I came back, PeterGo had lost! My God, I should chop off my hands. Just what did I miss? I totally missed out on watching a Go match that is worthy of going down in the annals of Go history! Heavens, please strike me down with lightning! W-Why did I have to log out at that time! I regret this so much!"

"What's the username of the person who won?"

"HEOR!"

"This is a newly registered account. It has only 1 win and 0 losses? This was the only game played so far? In just one game, Peter was defeated? Damn, what kinda fucking person is that?"

"What does HEOR mean?"

"I don't know. It doesn't look like a word?"

“Uh, do you guys think it should have been HERO instead? And that the person just misspelled it?”

“Ptui, how can that be? That person is such an amazing expert, so how could they have misspelled a word like ‘hero’? Can you stop cracking jokes!”

“You’re right!”

“HEOR must mean something much deeper than that!”

“Right, it must definitely mean something that we’re unaware of!”

“What could it represent?”

Craze!

Exhilaration!

Jubilation!

The global Go world felt like they were celebrating the New Year!

Although based on the festivities in China, they really were celebrating the Lunar New Year right now.

Everyone was talking about and guessing the identity of this HEOR person. In the end, they started going off on a tangent and instead guessed the meaning behind the name!

Someone said that it was the English acronym of “Health Economics and Outcomes Research.”

Someone said that it was the pinyin abbreviation of a Chinese phrase.

And others claimed that this name carried a hidden barb at PeterGo, or said that it was something that critiqued the hegemony of America, etc.

In reality, everyone had overthought things.

This name was simply a typo by that fellow Zhang Ye!

**Chapter 1523: Please battle on behalf of mankind!**

Yalong Bay.

At the beach.

Zhang Ye’s parents and Old Wu were strolling back to the villa.

His mother laughed and said, “We bought too much again.”

Wu Zeqing said, “It’s alright, Little Ye has a big appetite.”

His father said, “Zeqing, let me carry it for you.”

“You don’t need to, Dad. It’s not heavy,” Wu Zeqing said with a smile.

Two hotel guests who were out swimming were talking excitedly. They were speaking so loudly that Old Wu and Zhang Ye's parents could hear what they were saying.

The husband said, "PeterGo has finally lost!"

The wife said, "Although I don't understand Go, this news really blows off steam."

"Yeah, humanity has finally clawed back a game. It's been more than two years, so it must not have been easy."

"I heard the rules call for two wins out of three. That person might have to win one more game before they can secure a total victory. I wonder when the second game will be played."

"We definitely have to watch it!"

"Yeah, this is mankind's counterattack. We definitely should give our attention to it."

When Zhang Ye's parents heard that, they were stunned.

What?

PeterGo has lost?

What was this about?

When did it happen?

His mother suddenly thought of something and drew in a sharp breath. "Surely not, right?"

His father also looked quite surprised. "Come, let's head back quickly!"

The three of them immediately picked up their pace and rushed back to the villa. But when they got back, they were all stunned by the sight before their eyes!

In the living room.

Sisi was in a very happy mood.

"Daddy, this is my writing."

"Ai, it's pretty good."

"Daddy, this is my toy. She's called Little Xi."

"How nice, come and show her to Daddy."

"Daddy, can you tell me a story tonight?"

"Sure, Daddy will tell you any stories that you wish to hear."

Sisi was overjoyed. She hung around Zhang Ye and kept calling him "Daddy" every time she spoke. Her little voice sounded so sweet to Zhang Ye.

His mother was dumbfounded. "What happened here?"

Zhang Ye looked to the door and said happily, "Yo, you guys are back?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "She's started addressing you as Daddy?"

Zhang Ye said excitedly, "Of course! Don't you know how charming this bro is?"

His father was convinced. "Kid, you're great."

They were thinking that it would be very difficult for Sisi to accept Zhang Ye since he had been away for so long. They believed that it would have to take some time for her to get used to his presence, but who could have thought that Sisi's attitude towards Zhang Ye had done a 180 after leaving them alone for less than two hours. This situation was the opposite of what they had expected.

Sisi ran over. "Mommy, what did you buy?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and crouched down to show her what was in the plastic bags. "There's seafood and some fruit."

Sisi looked down. Then she reached in and clumsily took out two large mangoes. As her hand was too small, she had to attempt twice before she managed to take them out of the bag. Then she turned around and hobbled to Zhang Ye. "Daddy, have some fruit."

Zhang Ye was on cloud nine. "Ai, thank you, my dear."

His mother said jealously, "You're only thinking of your daddy? What about Nana?"

Sisi blushed. Then she went over and took out another large mango. "Nana, for you."

Zhang Ye's mother teased, "Hey, you gave your daddy two mangoes, but only one to Nana?"

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "My daughter is implying that you need to go on a diet."

His mother rolled her eyes at him. "Get lost."

Everyone laughed.

At this moment, Sisi came looking for her mother. She was tugging at her mother's dress excitedly and saying, "Mommy, Mommy, Daddy is so great. Daddy played Go with the robot!"

Wu Zeqing patted her daughter on the head and asked, "Who won?"

Sisi said proudly, "My daddy won!"

Zhang Ye's father said in surprise, "Little Ye, it was really you?"

His mother also said, "You won against PeterGo?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "I guess so, but I only won by half a stone."

His mother said in disbelief, "You've not touched Go in so long. How do you still know how to play so well?"

Zhang Ye chuckled. "I'm not too bad."

His mother said, "I was wondering why my eyes kept twitching just now. I knew that something big must have happened."

"It's just a Go game. What's the big deal?" Zhang Ye said indifferently.

His father said, "If it were anyone else who lost, that would be easy to explain and wouldn't really mean a thing. But this is PeterGo we're talking about. It's called the most powerful Go AI in history. Just have a look online. It's become so chaotic. Your mom is right. You really can't rest on your laurels for a day. You started something big the moment you came back!"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Let's have lunch first. I'll cook."

Zhang Ye rubbed his belly and said, "Right, let's eat, let's eat. I'm hungry."

Lunch was served.

Everyone got seated and Zhang Ye started wolfing down the food.

Sisi stared at him. "Daddy, I wanna eat those big crabs."

Only then did Zhang Ye react. "Look at me, all I cared about was eating my own share. Alright, Daddy will crack the shell for you. Come and sit on Daddy's lap."

Wu Zeqing picked their daughter up and asked, "Do you want to?"

Sisi murmured a yes.

Only then did Wu Zeqing carry her daughter over.

Zhang Ye grabbed hold of his daughter with one hand and used the other to crack crabs for her to eat.

Zhang Ye's mother shook her head. "Little one, you've forgotten all about your mommy now that your daddy is back."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Looks like I can take it easy for a few days."

Zhang Ye's father suddenly said, "Turn on the TV."

His mother facepalmed and exclaimed, "Oh right, I nearly forgot."

The five of them watched TV as they ate lunch.

Sure enough, the media outlets and television stations in the country had burst into uproar!

...

Central TV News Channel.

"We interrupt your regularly scheduled programming with breaking news. Just half an hour ago, the American created AI, PeterGo, had its unbeaten record of more than two years running broken. In a game that was played, it lost to an account that originated from an IP address in China. This has sparked an uproar in the Go world as countless netizens and Go enthusiasts guess the identity of this person. As for how this person won against PeterGo, that is still unknown as of yet. Some people guess that

PeterGo's program bugged out and resulted in its loss. Our reporters are still investigating this matter to find out more, so stay tuned for further updates."

...

Beijing Television.

"Which godly person could HEOR be?"

"Tian Weiwei?"

"Chen Ying?"

"Xu Haodong?"

"Park Hwaseon?"

"For now, no professional Go players have stepped up to admit that it was them."

...

Shanghai Television.

"Our reporter interviewed 9-dan Tian Weiwei of China Qiyuan over the phone. He expressed that he does not know who HEOR is and publicly clarified that HEOR is unlikely to be a Go player of China Qiyuan, or even an active professional Go player from China. As there was no game record saved on the Go server, there is a lot of debate over how HEOR won the game and what his identity is. Everyone is looking forward to the second match to be played between HEOR and PeterGo."

"Breaking news: The American team behind PeterGo has officially confirmed the news of PeterGo's first loss. They did not elaborate on any specific details as to its loss but have sent an official invitation to HEOR to take part in the second game of the match. The battle between PeterGo and HEOR is scheduled to begin at 10 AM tomorrow, but so far, there's been no response from HEOR."

...

There was a bombardment of news.

The media was going haywire.

The people got into heated discussions.

Zhang Ye's parents were watching the television in surprise. They hadn't expected there to be such a great reaction.

Wu Zeqing asked, "What does HEOR mean?"

Zhang Ye answered matter-of-factly, "It means hero of course. Our daughter wanted me to use that name."

Wu Zeqing laughed and said, "Your English has not improved at all."

"Ah?" Zhang Ye said nervously, "Did I spell it wrong?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Yes."

Zhang Ye sighed. "Who cares as long as it's close enough."

Wu Zeqing took a bite of her food and asked, "What do you plan to do?"

His mother said, "The Americans have thrown down the gauntlet, and you're leading one to nothing. If it's based on three games, you would have to win twice to truly be victorious, right?"

His father looked at him. "Can you win the second game?"

Zhang Ye shrugged. "Who knows?"

But Sisi looked up and said determinedly, "Daddy will definitely win!"

Zhang Ye's mother humored, "Right, right, your daddy is the best."

Sisi nodded hard. "You can do it, Daddy."

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "If you win another game, it won't be possible to keep the news of your return a secret."

His mother said, "Will they be able to guess that it's Little Ye?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Other than him, who can do that?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Then allow me to think it through first."

After lunch.

Zhang Ye played with his daughter for a while until she got tired. Then Old Wu took her to have her afternoon nap while Zhang Ye returned to his bedroom. He powered on the computer and logged in to his HEOR account again. The moment he got on, he saw that the inbox was almost exploding with messages!

He had received over 10,000 messages!

"Master, you're so good!"

"You're my idol!"

"Fucking kill PeterGo!"

"Master, please sign an autograph for me!"

"Awesome! Awesome! Awesome!"

Zhang Ye smiled while going through the messages one by one. Later, he even spotted many familiar names messaging him.

9-dan Li Yi: "Who are you?"

Xiang Rong: "Thank you."

Tian Weiwei: "Please help the Go world."

Chen Ying: "I don't know which old friend you are, but I know that we humans must not lose. If you also love Go, then please battle on behalf of Go and on behalf of mankind!"

As he went through the messages, a smile crept onto Zhang Ye's face. He made up his mind.

#### **Chapter 1524: That person and his story**

At night.

All the lights in the villa were switched off except for a bedside lamp in the bedroom.

Zhang Ye carried his blanket into the room. "Daughter."

Wu Zeqing smiled and asked Sisi, "Will you let Daddy come in?"

Sisi, who had already tunneled under the blanket, softly affirmed.

"Great." Zhang Ye was very happy to hear that. He walked over and got onto the bed, then kissed his daughter on her cheek thrice. "Alright, Daddy will tell you a bedtime story."

Sisi said, "I wanna hear a new one."

Zhang Ye said without hesitation, "Alright, Daddy will tell you a story that no one has ever heard before."

As he was speaking, Old Wu's cell phone rang on the other side.

Wu Zeqing took a look at her cell phone. "It's from my dad."

Zhang Ye put his index finger to his lips.

Wu Zeqing answered: "Dad."

On the other end, Wu Changhe said: "Sleeping yet?"

"Not yet."

"Haha, have you heard?"

"Heard about what?"

"About PeterGo losing!"

"Yes, I've heard about it."

"It's so satisfying! It's simply too satisfying! Hahahaha, what did I tell you, Zeqing? There are all sorts of capable people here in China, and someone was bound to beat it! Did you think that only your Little Ye knows how to play Go? Did you think that he's the only one who can play well? Just look, there are other experts around!"

Wu Zeqing smiled as she glanced at Zhang Ye who was beside her. "Yes, you're always right."



Wu Changhe said: "That rascal, just let him rot in there. Even without him, we have others raising the flag of our Go world."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes.

Wu Zeqing said: "Dad, I have a surprise for you and Mom when I get back to Beijing."

Wu Changhe asked: "What surprise?"

"Hur hur, you'll know when I'm back."

"Don't keep me guessing. Tell me right now."

Wu Zeqing looked to her side and said with a smile: "I'm afraid it'll shock you if I tell you now."

The call ended.

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "Is Dad mocking me again?"

Wu Zeqing smiled. "No."

"I heard it all," Zhang Ye harrumphed. "They can beat the AI even without me? If this bro didn't come back, did they really think that someone could win?"

Sisi cut in, "Daddy is the bestest!"

Zhang Ye said proudly, "Of course! Who do you think your daddy is?"

Wu Zeqing asked, "Have you thought it through yet? About accepting tomorrow's challenge?"

Zhang Ye shrugged. "I suppose I'll give it a try. Master Xiang, Little Tian, Sister Chen, and so many others have left me messages on my alternate account, so it's not like I can reject playing." He said with a laugh, "In the past, I couldn't because I wasn't around. But now that I'm back, there's no reason why I should allow that American-made AI to carry on winning like this. Otherwise, it won't be easy to explain when I meet my old friends."

...

The next day.

In the morning.

The outside world was flying off the handle.

On Weibo.

"What time does it start?"

"10 AM."

"There's still no response from HEOR?"

"Maybe he doesn't want to play?"

"I heard that PeterGo only lost because of a bug."

"Huh? Are you serious?"

"That's how the American newspapers are reporting it anyway, so who knows!"

"I suppose we'll find out what really happened in a short while."

"Eh, will there be a live broadcast on Central TV today?"

"Yes. Not only is it going to be on Central TV, it'll also be broadcast live on several other satellite channels. TV stations in Japan and Korea will also be covering the event live, and a large number of American journalists arrived in China overnight too."

"This is going to be interesting."

"Would it not be? The war between humans and machines this time is absolutely comparable with the one that happened several years ago."

"Speaking of that time, hai, what a pity it was."

"Yeah, time really flies by. There's a world of a difference now."

...

At Central TV.

"Are the hosts here yet?"

"Go and hurry them up. The rest of us, get into position."

"Yes, Producer."

"The guest has arrived. Go meet them and bring them over. I don't have to emphasize how important today's live broadcast is. The people of the nation have their eyes on us, so we must do well!"

"Understood."

...

At China Qiyuan.

Wu Changhe arrived.

"Teacher Changhe."

"You're here so early?"

"Yeah, it's just past 7."

"The president will be here soon as well."

Wu Changhe looked at everyone. "Whoa, you're all here already?"

Hu Liang, Li Yi, and many other familiar faces started showing up at the Qiyuan. Some of them had retired from the scene while others had turned to coaching. But whatever they were up to nowadays, all

of them descended upon China Qiyuan at the same time without prior arrangements. It was just like the day from four years ago.

...

Korea.

A reporter was interviewing a Korean Go master who was the current world number seven.

"Teacher Park, what do you think of the match that will be happening today?"

"I'm also waiting for it and am looking forward to seeing the game."

"Who do you think has a greater hope of winning?"

"I don't know, but I hope that HEOR will win."

"But isn't he Chinese?"

"At this stage where Go is on the verge of death, is there a need to differentiate between whether he is Chinese or Korean?"

...

Japan.

The highest ranked Go master in the country had been invited by a television station to appear as a guest on the live coverage of the game.

"Teacher Yamashita, whose chances are you more optimistic about?"

"Peter definitely has a greater chance of winning, but it's not going to be that straightforward either."

"What do you mean?"

"China is a country of fascinating depth. Four years ago, a Chinese man beat PeterGo, so who can say that they won't win a second time four years later?"

...

Sanya.

Tian Weiwei and the others had booked a small conference room at the hotel.

Chen Qiqi said, "I tuned the signal."

Chen Niannian said anxiously, "Can we really win? Can we?"

Chen Ying looked at Tian Weiwei. "There's still no news from HEOR?"

"No, no response of any kind." Tian Weiwei gave a bitter laugh.

Chen Ying smacked her lips and said, "Tell me, who could it be?"

Tian Weiwei sighed. "I gave a call to Teacher yesterday, but he couldn't guess who it might be either. It's a problem because there was no game record made available from yesterday, so everyone can only make wild guesses for now."

Chen Ying said, "We should be able to find out today whether this person is a master or a fluke."

A former professional Go player turned coach said, "I hope that he'll stand forward and turn the tide just like how that person did back then."

Tian Weiwei started reminiscing.

Chen Ying also remembered that person from the past.

...

Beijing.

At a company.

Ha Qiqi was reading up on some Go-related news on her computer and started spacing out.

Over the past three years, Ha Qiqi had gotten more crow's feet. Her hairstyle had changed as well, and she was sporting short hair that made her look very capable. If Zhang Ye were here, he would probably not recognize her immediately.

Knock knock.

Someone knocked on the door and came in. "Director Ha, the script is ready. The boss wants you to have a look at it first."

Ha Qiqi didn't even turn her head and said, "Got it, just put it down."

That person peeked at the computer screen and said with a laugh, "Eh? You're getting ready to watch the live broadcast of the Go match too? Everyone says that PeterGo is very difficult to beat. The Go world is gonna be in for a disappointment again."

"That so?"

...

At another location.

Zhang Zuo sighed softly as he read the news on his cell phone.

He mumbled to himself nostalgically, "The war between humans and machines?"

...

In an apartment.

Yao Jiancai was watching television and drinking beer as he unwittingly started thinking of someone.

...

It was yet another battle between humans and machines.

On this day, and at this moment, a lot of people couldn't help but think of that person and his story.

## **Chapter 1525: What kind of playstyle is this?**

At the beach.

In the villa.

Zhang Ye sneezed twice in a row. "Hey, who's thinking of me?"

His mother said anxiously, "Don't overrate yourself. Hurry up and get ready. The live broadcast is about to begin."

His father also cared greatly about this matter. "Hurry up, all of Asia has their eyes on this game."

"I know," Zhang Ye said with a smile.

At this moment, Sisi brought over a slice of watermelon. "Daddy, this is for you."

Zhang Ye felt very happy. "Thanks, my dear."

His mother said, "Alright, Sisi, let your Daddy concentrate on his game. Let's leave the room."

Sisi nodded.

Zhang Ye called out to her. "Give Daddy a kiss before you go."

Sisi acknowledged and kissed Zhang Ye's face in embarrassment.

Zhang Ye smugly held out his face. "Another one."

Sisi hesitated for a moment before planting another kiss onto his face.

His mother said angrily, "Aiyo, kid, do you not know when to be anxious about something?"

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, "I've already waited for three years. Would I care about waiting a little longer?"

Finally, Zhang Ye booted on the computer without any sense of urgency. The room he was in was the best spot in the villa. It faced the sun, and there was a view of the sea as well. Cracking open the window, the sea breeze could blow in, which made the room's temperature just right while filling it with the salty smell of the sea. Munching on the watermelon that his daughter had brought him, Zhang Ye narrowed his eyes and felt very refreshed. He was in the best shape.

His parents brought his daughter into the living room.

Wu Zeqing had already turned the television on.

...

The live broadcast had already started.

The guest commentator Central TV had invited turned out to be 9-dan Xiang Rong, the former world number one in Go.

The host said, “Oh, we can see that HEOR’s account has logged on. Yes, HEOR has finally appeared. He has now entered PeterGo’s competition zone. Due to the official restrictions put in place, only HEOR is allowed to enter PeterGo’s competition zone. Although HEOR didn’t give any word after yesterday’s game, he has still appeared right on time at 10 AM today. He will now continue the match against PeterGo from yesterday!” Turning around, the host asked, “Teacher Xiang, do you have any clue as to who this person might be?”

Xiang Rong shook his head. “I can’t put a finger on it either.”

“Even you do not have any idea of who it might be?”

Xiang Rong smiled. “If I don’t see him playing, I can’t make any guesses.”

“Every player has their own playstyle, and that’s something that cannot be hidden. I believe that in the process of the game, Teacher Xiang will be able to notice some clues leading to HEOR’s identity.”

Xiang Rong said, “That’s right.”

“Alright then, the second game is about to begin.”

...

In the Online Go Server.

The chat was blowing up.

“HEOR, you can do it!”

“God HEOR, come on!”

“Fuck Peter!”

“Humanity will prevail!”

Tens of millions of people were watching online!

Wave after wave of cheers rang out!

That audience, that reception—it was overwhelming!

...

At China Qiyuan.

Li Yi shouted, “It’s starting!”

Hu Liang yelled, “HEOR has finally shown up!”

Wu Changhe stared at the big screen. “Quickly make your move. Let me see who you really are.”

...

Three.

Two.

One.

The game began.

HEOR was to go first with the black stones.

At his computer, Zhang Ye banged on the table in delight. He had used up most of the tricks he had yesterday, so he didn't think that there would be anything interesting left to play. This was also the reason Zhang Ye had not thought beforehand about how he would take on his old rival today.

The Cosmic Flow?

The Chinese Opening <sup>1</sup> ?

Play a few complex josekis?

Or try out a few unconventional openings?

A moment later, Zhang Ye shrugged and placed his first stone with the mouse.

...

At Central TV.

The host said excitedly, "He has placed his stone. After nearly two minutes of consideration, HEOR has played his first black stone. Teacher Xiang, what do you make of this?"

Xiang Rong remarked, "At least it shows that HEOR isn't another AI."

"Oh?"

Xiang Rong said, "There were rumors that HEOR was an AI made by another American company to play Go, possibly why Peter was defeated during yesterday's match. But from the looks of it, this rumor has clearly been refuted. If it were an AI, it wouldn't have taken so long to think of its move under the circumstances of having no stones on the board or any opening of any kind. HEOR is definitely human, and based on my deduction, he's a player with a very good mentality too."

The host asked, "Why is that?"

Xiang Rong said, "During the first game yesterday, they completed the guessing of stones to decide who would go first. If it were me, or even any other professional Go player, we would've gone back and pondered what opening strategies to play in today's game and what tactics to use. We would have planned out our strategy beforehand. However, HEOR didn't do that. The time that he used to consider his move shows that he hasn't made any preparation at all, and that his move was decided spontaneously."

...

Sanya.

Chen Niannian yelled, "Why did he take so long for the first move?"

Tian Weiwei said in a speechless manner, "Has he not planned this out at all?"

Chen Ying facepalmed and said, "What on earth is this fellow trying to pull!"

Chen Qiqi said, "This person can only be a grandmaster or a noob. This game is against the best AI in the world, so how can he be so casual about it!"

Beside them, a female professional Go player said, "Does this HEOR not understand the situation?"

Chen Niannian pointed at the screen and said, "He's placed another stone!"

Everyone looked and was a little stunned to see this move.

...

At Central TV.

Xiang Rong was also slightly taken aback.

The host quickly said, "About this opening—"

Xiang Rong fell silent for a moment before saying, "HEOR has played on a star point."

A star point?

Just the sound of it was impressive!

The host did not really understand Go, so he immediately said in anticipation, "What style of play is this?"

"...There's no such style."

The host's eyes gleamed. "Is this a new opening?"

"...No."

"Are there complex variations that can be derived from this move?"

"It's not complex at all."

"Huh?"

"This is the most common opening."

"Huh?"

...

In the Online Go Server.

The viewers were whispering to one another.

"A star point?"



"I often use this for my opening as well."

"Me too."

"The star point placement is a very conventional way of playing, and it belongs to one of the more simple openings, so why did HEOR use it as well? Shouldn't the experts use the rotating star point or an even more complex opening?"

"Yeah, only a newbie would play a star point opening, isn't that so?"

"What the fuck is this HEOR doing? Peter is the most outstanding AI in the world to play Go. It can even calculate the most complex of josekis, yet you played such a simple opening? How are you going to make things difficult for it? Can't you see that the entire Go world has been creating new ways to play precisely because of that? Everyone is trying to win against PeterGo. But you! Why would you play such a simple and clichéd move? Aren't you walking directly into the line of fire this way?"

"Could this person really be a newbie?"

"Ah?"

"It seems so to me."

"Fuck, could yesterday's game really have been won by HEOR due to a bug affecting PeterGo?"

...

At China Qiyuan.

Wu Changhe said angrily, "What is this HEOR doing!"

9-dan Li Yi could not understand either. "This is too common."

A coach said, "An opening of such level can easily be found in any amateur game."

"It's over, we've got the wrong person."

"If this is really a newbie, then we're gonna be screwed."

"Yeah, all of Asia is watching this game."

...

In the villa's living room.

Zhang Ye's father said dumbfoundedly, "This move?"

His mother said excitedly, "Did Little Ye win?"

His father said, "Win? The game has only just started, alright!"

His mother rolled her eyes. "Then why are you looking so surprised?"

"An approach and a star point." His father said, "Even I know how to play that way. Little Ye has played another stone and advanced again. Right, this over here, I can't be more familiar with this style of play."

His mother exclaimed, "Even you know how to play it? Then what good can this move be?"

His father looked at Old Wu. "Zeqing, do you understand this game?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and shook her head. "I don't understand it either."

His father slapped his thigh and said, "This Little Ye! What the heck is he doing? Why isn't he playing properly? Where's that Cosmic Flow he created? That Zombie Flow that he used to play? Doesn't he always have all kinds of different strategies?"

Wu Zeqing laughed and said, "Dad, let's watch the game slowly and see what happens. The level that Little Ye is on, not even my dad can understand it, much less us."

### **Chapter 1526: I might just know who he is!**

One move.

Three moves.

Five moves.

Click, click, click. It was the sound of the mouse being tapped.

In the villa, Zhang Ye was leisurely playing his match on the computer.

...

In the Online Go Server.

The viewers suddenly exclaimed.

"The formation has changed!"

"Peter has made its move!"

"What a great move that is!"

"This move is amazing!"

"It's over, HEOR has been forced into passive play!"

"He was too lackadaisical during the opening. Since he didn't attack first, PETER will definitely take the chance to do so!"

"Let's see how he's going to deal with this."

...

On TV.

Xiang Rong zeroed in. "There it is."

The host said nervously, "How will HEOR respond to this?"

Xiang Rong said, "This move by Peter is marvelous. With it, the situation on the board has become much more complex. It played a push through over here to leave HEOR in a very awkward position. If he is a highly ranked professional Go player, he will likely go for a basic 2-5 approach strategy so that he can take Peter head on. By being a little more careful, he would at least not be pushed back by too much. Let's see how HEOR will handle—"

Very quickly, HEOR placed a stone onto the board as well.

There was almost no unnecessary hesitation from him.

But Xiang Rong frowned at this move.

What kind of move is this?

The host asked, "Has HEOR countered that move?"

"No."

With the next stone, Peter forced another move.

...

At China Qiyuan.

Hu Liang marveled, "What a strong killing intent."

Li Yi said, "Great move. This is the part PeterGo is really good at."

Wu Changhe got angrier the more he watched. "What is this HEOR doing!"

Hu Liang also said, "Why didn't he counter that move?"

Wu Changhe couldn't wish more for himself to play in HEOR's stead. "How would I know!"

At this moment, HEOR played another stone.

When everyone saw it, they couldn't be more disappointed!

A professional 7-dan player said, "What an amateurish way of playing. Doesn't he know that danger is right at his doorstep? He should've played the Little Qi Flow over here and taken Peter head on!"

...

Sanya.

Chen Qiqi said anxiously, "If it goes on like this, he will definitely lose."

Chen Niannian said, "He's totally not a match for Peter!"

Chen Ying said, "The difference in strength is too great. HEOR's playstyle is just at the level of the average amateur. There's no creativity and no strategy to his moves. Instead, Peter is playing so well with so many magnificent moves made. Little Tian, what's your opinion of this game?"

But Tian Weiwei frowned and kept quiet.

Chen Ying said, "What's the matter?"

Tian Weiwei wondered, "HEOR's first-move advantage seems to still be intact."

"Eh?" When everyone heard that, they took a look and froze.

Chen Qiqi said, "It's true!"

Chen Niannian was stunned. "What's going on?"

Tian Weiwei said, "Something isn't right."

...

Korea.

A few professional Go players were huddled together and watching the game.

"Why?"

"I don't understand what's going on."

"Is this a newcomer or an expert?"

...

At Central TV.

The host asked, "This?"

Xiang Rong said, "I don't understand either."

"Ah?"

Xiang Rong wondered, "If we look at it from the angle of a high-ranking game, HEOR's responses do seem a little mediocre. He didn't make any counterattacks and simply ignored Peter's provocations. Instead, he modestly continued playing his moves down here. The following few moves in response to his opponent also seemed to have been made very hastily."

"So those were bad moves?"

But Xiang Rong said, "No, it's not like that."

The host was taken aback. "It's not?"

Xiang Rong looked at the screen. "This is where it gets weird. These few moves are all very ordinary with nothing special about them. There's nothing new, yet look—HEOR did not lose his advantage."

...

Ten minutes later.

The game was getting intense.

Blood had already been "spilled" on the board.

PeterGo was pressing hard with every step, and every move that it made was out to kill. Every few steps, it would play an outstanding move that made the viewers marvel. But on HEOR's side, there was not even a single magnificent play by him since the very beginning of the game. The difference was too great, and it seemed like his board would collapse at any moment.

On Weibo.

"It's over."

"He's definitely going to lose."

"Hai, I don't want to watch anymore."

"I knew it. Other than that person, there's no one else who can beat PeterGo."

"Peter is playing too beautifully."

"Yeah, look at this cut, it's such a divine move!"

...

20 minutes later.

Japan.

In the Go world.

"HEOR won't be able to last much longer."

"I'm afraid he's going to have to admit defeat once it gets to the middlegame."

"His play is too simple."

"He's probably not a newcomer, but he's not an expert either."

"Yeah, he's just an average player, that's all."

"Hai."

...

Half an hour later.

America.

The team behind PeterGo.

"We're about to win, right?"

"Why haven't we won yet?"

"This HEOR is pretty stubborn."

"How did the board develop to such a state?"

...

And then, at some point in time, a lot of people fell silent!

On the Online Go Server.

“Holy shit!”

“What’s with this?”

“This—”

“How can the game still be playable?”

...

At China Qiyuan.

Wu Changhe was dumbfounded. “W-Who is this person?”

Li Yi was also shocked. “How can this be?”

Hu Liang stared with wide eyes like he had seen a ghost. “How did HEOR manage to keep his first-move advantage for so long? This is impossible! How can it be?”

...

Sanya.

Chen Niannian yelled, “My God!”

Chen Qiqi also said in disbelief, “What’s with this?”

The 9-dan players like Tian Weiwei, Chen Ying, and several others also looked at one another in shock.

Chen Ying gasped. “We were wrong in our judgment!”

“He’s already made it past the middlegame.”

“How?”

“What did he do?”

...

There was no change in the situation at all.

From the opening, to the middlegame, and even beyond that.

PeterGo kept coming up with all sorts of magnificent moves, while HEOR continued his ordinary style of play.

There were no magnificent moves!

There were no complex josekis!

There were no specific styles of play!

But a lot of people shockingly discovered at this moment that HEOR had not ceded his first-move advantage since the beginning. There was no point that he was shaken or surpassed by Peter. To say how much HEOR was winning by? That wasn't exactly it. He only had an advantage of about a point or half a point, yet no matter what, he still kept his lead!

At this point, even a fool would realize that something was not right!

...

On TV.

Xiang Rong, who had been quiet for some time, finally opened his mouth.

When he spoke, his words couldn't be more shocking!

Xiang Rong drew in a deep breath. "This is a master-level player. Furthermore, he is so skilled at Go that it would be unimaginable for everyone."

The host said in surprise, "What? A master? But there's nothing special about his playstyle at all, isn't that so?"

But Xiang Rong questioned back, "What do you think is worthy of being called a good game?"

The host said, "I only remember that during the war between humans and machines those years ago, I got such a shock when the Zombie Flow was played out of nowhere. It was only then that I knew that Go could even be played in such a way."

Xiang Rong asked again, "And why was there a need to use the Zombie Flow at that time?"

The host was stunned by that question. "There isn't really a reason for it, no? Maybe because it's strong?"

But Xiang Rong shook his head and said with a laugh, "If it was really such a strong move, the stones wouldn't have ended up getting surrounded by the opponent and dying. Then, there wouldn't have been a need to use the Zombie Flow to bring the stones back to life either, right? What is the Zombie Flow, really? It's just a strategy to bring dead stones back to life due to a player lacking the necessary skills in the first place and falling behind in a game."

The host froze.

Xiang Rong said, "Similarly, that holds true for the Cosmic Flow. If one isn't inferior to their opponent in territorial fights, then why not take the opponent head on, and at the same time, expand their influence in the surrounding area where the formation lies? Wouldn't planting more seeds around the board allow the flowers a better chance at blooming? Why would someone throw away an attacking opportunity and focus on the overall situation instead? It is only because they are not able to take on the opponent directly that a lot of people turned to playing the Cosmic Flow. This playstyle makes up for one's weakness in territorial fights by working on their influence on the overall formation. As such, that is how the different strategies and playstyles were created. They are all methods that a player has researched to increase their chances of winning based on their own weaknesses and the opponent's strength in a game. In a way, these are all pretty crafty tactics."

The host asked, "Then what style does HEOR employ?"

Xiang Rong said, "He doesn't have any."

"None?"

Xiang Rong said, "It's because he doesn't need any strategy or playstyle to cover any weaknesses. He doesn't need to resort to those bells and whistles or springing a surprise on the opponent." He pointed at the screen that was showing HEOR and PeterGo's match. "Don't you see? This is an absolute strength, a power so strong that it needs no hiding. Ever since the game started, HEOR has been suppressing Peter with every move he made. Regardless of whether it is the overall situation, the attacking or defending, or plugging any holes, HEOR did not play any special moves. But at the same time, you don't see any mistakes from HEOR either. Every move of his was played right where it should be. This is a truly terrifying technique and strength that he has. Of all the professional Go players in the world, no one is capable of something like this!"

The host exclaimed, "Not even you?"

Xiang Rong shook his head.

The host was extremely shocked to hear that.

HEOR is an expert?

An unprecedented Go master?

Who the heck could he be?

Where did this fellow pop out from?

Then Xiang Rong made two comments, two comments that would leave anyone who heard it in shock!

Xiang Rong thought for a moment before making the first comment in a soft voice. "Peter is about to lose."

The host was dumbfounded.

Peter was going to lose?

How do you know that?

Why are you so sure of it?

For the second comment, Xiang Rong laughed and said, "I think I might just know who he is."

### **Chapter 1527: Identity exposed?**

In the villa.

The gentle sea breeze was lapping against the windows.



Zhang Ye, who was seated at the computer, narrowed his eyes. Although it looked like he was spacing out, he had in fact become completely unaware of his surroundings. All of his focus and concentration was on this game. His brain was speedily doing calculations by the second and analyzing the situation.

Should he make a cut?

The black stones were in an uninteresting state of play.

Perhaps he could do a push through here?

White advanced.

Black was able to play on and the stones' formation was good.

After some thought, another black stone was played.

It was still as uninteresting a move as it could get, yet the black stones did not lose its advantage!

No one had ever seen this playstyle of Zhang Ye's before. Today, he had schooled this world with a jaw-dropping lesson in Go. Compared to his previous world, this world's standard in Go was behind by too many years. They were too fixated on creating playstyles and strategies. The Zombie Flow? The Cosmic Flow? The Higher Chinese Opening? The Lower Chinese Opening? A lot of professional Go players were overly infatuated with such things and ended up neglecting the fundamentals of Go. In fact, for the competitive professional Go games back in Zhang Ye's previous world, especially in the higher-ranking matches, special playstyles were hardly seen unless very unique circumstances called for their usage. This was due to an elevation in standards as the level of Go developed.

In the past, Zhang Ye had also pursued the surprise element that playstyles had. During the war against machines four years ago, that was exactly how he had won. In the game against PeterGo yesterday, he had also done it this way. But now that four years had passed, PeterGo had improved by too much after receiving an upgrade to its system. Zhang Ye had used seven to eight different strategies that involved never before seen complex josekis to take on Peter to try to make it fumble, but he still won the game by just half a point. At that time, Zhang Ye knew exactly why this world's professional Go players were unable to win any games against PeterGo. That was because PeterGo was already ahead of them. Its massive computing system had already overcome the surprise element of all their so-called styles and strategies. As such, Zhang Ye thought it through before he started his match today regarding how he should handle this game. He considered everything before finally deciding to just compete on the most basic rules of Go.

Zhang Ye had only thought of giving it a try by tossing away all playstyles, tricks, and disguises. In this way, they would find out who was actually the one skinny dipping.

Without any playstyles.

Without any surprises.

Without any magnificent moves.

Zhang Ye was now suppressing PeterGo with just his level of play!

...

Japan.

Many of the professional Go players were dumbfounded from watching.

“How is Peter getting pushed around like this?”

“This is simply unbelievable!”

“This Chinese person is too skilled at Go!”

“Can Go even be played in such a way?”

...

Korea.

Several Go masters were gasping.

“Just who is this person that is playing?”

“Even 9-dan Wu Changhe and 9-dan Xiang Rong did not possess such great prowess at their peaks!”

“This is too scary!”

“This is absolute strength!”

...

America.

“Dammit!”

“What’s happening with Peter?”

“Why hasn’t it taken the game yet?”

“They’re advancing into the endgame!”

“There’s no time left! Hurry up and finish it off!”

...

On Weibo.

“Oh my God!”

“Can he win?”

“Can he really win?”

“Th-This is such a fucking unexpected situation!”

“How did they end up playing to such a state?”

The game had developed in an unprecedented way!

With the most common of openings!

With the most basic way of playing!

Yet as they got closer to the end, the more shocking it was for everyone watching!

Xiang Rong was very strong. As the former world number one player of the Go world, his playstyle was thunderous and he was good in both attack and defense.

Tian Weiwei was also very strong. As the current world number one in Go, his playstyle was highly varied and he was full of tricks and magnificent moves.

Thus, in the eyes of many, these two people were indeed both very strong. This strength of theirs was enough to make anyone exclaim in admiration. With just a look at how they played, one could tell that they would never be able to win against them in their lifetimes. But it wasn't until today that a lot of people finally understood the true meaning of strength after witnessing this game. This was a feeling that would make anyone tremble with fear. It was a feeling of not ever wanting to play against such a person!

...

At Central TV.

In the live coverage studio.

The host was exclaiming anxiously, "You can guess who it is?"

Xiang Rong said, "I probably can."

The host hurriedly asked, "But this playstyle of his hasn't been seen before?"

Xiang Rong said with a smile, "The way a person plays can always change. Their moves can change, and their playstyles can even be disguised. However, there's one thing that cannot be hidden."

The host asked, "What is that?"

Xiang Rong looked at the screen and said with a smile, "It's the level that one is at." With a pause, his eyes showed reminiscing. "In all of the world, there's only that person who could possibly reach this level in Go."

The host looked confused.

That person?

Which person?

...

At China Qiyuan.

Hu Liang said excitedly, "He has played another stone!"

Xu Han clenched his fists and said, "Peter has already been tested four times!"

A professional 5-dan player shouted, "How scary! This person is such a fearsome player!"

Wu Changhe even started swearing. “Who the fuck is this person?”

9-dan Li Yi stamped his feet and said, “Yeah! Who is this person? Who the hell could it be?”

A female Go player said, “When I played against Little Tian in the past, I could still see a chance of winning whenever I analyzed our games after my loss. If I didn’t make some mistakes or if I had played some moves at a different position, there would have been a possibility of me winning. At least, that’s how I feel. But this HEOR is really too scary. Watching up to here, I suddenly realize that even if I were to play a hundred games against him, even if I were to play to my fullest potential in all of those games, and even if I were to get a little lucky in them, I would still never be able to win a single game against him. This is the first time I’ve felt like that since my debut. He’s the most terrifying player I’ve ever encountered!”

Wu Changhe said in annoyance, “An expert like this would never have just popped out of nowhere. Think about it, everyone! We definitely know this person!”

Hu Liang gave a bitter smile. “I don’t know if I know anyone as strong as this.”

Xu Han said, “Yeah, a player of such a level is really unheard of. Even Master Xiang at his peak and the current level that Little Tian is at are still not as strong as HEOR.”

Hu Liang remarked, “Unless that person has come back, otherwise—”

All of a sudden, Hu Liang froze.

Then 9-dan Li Yi also froze!

Xu Han was so startled that his legs started trembling. Then he glanced at Wu Changhe.

Li Yi drew in a deep breath and said, “Teacher Changhe, do you...do you think that it could be—”

Wu Changhe said flatly, “Impossible!” Then, he took a look at the screen with every move that HEOR had made. Seeing that, he didn’t feel so sure anymore. “Damn! Surely not, right?”

...

Sanya.

Chen Qiqi cried out, “What a good endgame!”

Chen Niannian was nearly kneeling. “My idol! HEOR’s gonna be my idol for life!”

Chen Ying gasped in amazement. “This is what you truly call assuming formlessness <sup>1</sup> !”

Everyone was dishing out praise over and over again.

But off to one side, Tian Weiwei was looking visibly excited.

Chen Ying looked at him. “Little Tian, what’s the matter?”

Tian Weiwei looked at her. “Sister Chen, do you think—”

“Think what?” Chen Ying asked.

Tian Weiwei pondered for a moment. “Do you think that that person could be back?”

Chen Ying was instantly startled. “What?”

Tian Weiwei gave a bitter laugh. “Other than him, I can’t think of anyone at all.”

### **Chapter 1528: That person who can beat it has returned!**

In the living room.

Zhang Ye’s father said excitedly, “We’re still in the lead! Our son is still ahead!”

Wu Zeqing said, “The endgame is almost over.”

His father said, “Hang on! Keep hanging on!”

His mother said excitedly, “Are we really going to win?”

His father stared at the television without blinking. “We’re almost there. All that’s left is the endgame!”

Sisi clenched her little fists and said, “Daddy, you can do it! Beat the robot! Beat the robot!”

...

America.

The team was in chaos.

“There’s still a chance!”

“Peter can’t hang on for much longer!”

“Optimize the program’s operations!”

“It’s too late!”

“Dammit!”

“The endgame is all dependent on who can perform the calculations faster! To compete with an AI on such operations? How the fuck does this person do it? Are you guys sure that the opponent is a human and not some computer?”

...

In the Online Go Server.

The netizens were in an uproar.

“This is such a godly state for an endgame!”

“This is the most awesome endgame <sup>1</sup> I’ve ever seen. Nothing else comes close!”

“HEOR is playing so well!”

“What kind of brain does this guy have?”

“Fucking hell, even Peter can’t process its moves faster than him?”

...

At a company.

In an office.

Watching the game, Ha Qiqi froze. She picked up her cell phone and called up Zhang Zuo.

Zhang Zuo said: “Old Ha, what’s up?”

Ha Qiqi got straight to the point. “Are you watching the Go game?”

“You’re watching it too? I’ve been watching it for a while now. This HEOR is amazing!”

Ha Qiqi hesitated before saying: “Don’t you find it a little familiar?”

Zhang Zuo was taken aback. “Familiar?”

Ha Qiqi said: “HEOR’s aura, his strength, and especially that endgame’s playstyle!”

When Zhang Zuo heard this, he gasped. “Are you saying—”

...

At China Qiyuan.

A professional Go player called out, “He’s played another stone!”

9-dan Li Yi said in amazement, “That’s too fast. He’s too quick at calculating!”

“How can he possibly think faster than a computer!” Hu Liang could already feel goosebumps all over his body. “The endgame should be the most difficult stage of play. Every move made could change the entire board’s situation and lead to one losing or gaining an advantage in play. Furthermore, one has to predict the overall advantage three or five moves ahead, so how did he manage to consider all those factors so quickly and still continuously suppress Peter by one and a half points advantage after taking into consideration the compensation<sup>2</sup> rules? The few times that Little Tian lost to Peter, he only lost because of the endgame. Some experts and the media have commented that this is the difference that humans would never be able to surpass an artificial intelligence in. But how did HEOR do it?”

Xu Han was silent for a moment before saying, “If it is indeed that person, there’s a possibility that he could really do it.”

Everyone agreed. If it was that person, he could definitely do it!

Hu Liang said excitedly, “C-Could he have really come back?”

...

Sanya.

On the screen, the battle had entered its final stages.

Chen Ying said dumbfoundedly, "Could it be him? But the timing doesn't seem to be correct."

Tian Weiwei said, "Could he have returned early?"

Chen Ying said, "But if he did come back, why would Teacher Changhe not know about it? We were still discussing this matter over the phone yesterday, and Teacher did not seem to know anything about it."

Tian Weiwei said, "Teacher might not know."

Chen Ying said, "But Sis Wu would surely know, right?"

Tian Weiwei said, "That's right. If that person is back, he would surely want to meet with Sis Wu and Sisi first."

Chen Ying said, "That's why it can't be him, right? Sis Wu and her family are here in Sanya right now, and their plane tickets and hotel were all booked together with ours through the Qiyuan. They—" Chen Ying then froze. She suddenly remembered something, a matter that she hadn't taken to heart. "Wait!"

She shouted, "Qiqi, Niannian, come over here!"

The two of them were still watching the game and did not know what was going on when they heard that shout. They ran over.

Chen Qiqi said, "What is it, Aunt? The game is just getting exciting!"

Chen Ying grabbed her by the arm and said, "You told us the other day that you all met an expert who plays the Cosmic Flow?"

Chen Qiqi blinked and said, "Yeah, why?"

Chen Niannian added, "Didn't we already tell you about it?"

Tian Weiwei also saw the light and reacted. "What did that person look like?"

"He was wearing sunglasses, so we couldn't see his face clearly." Chen Niannian said, "In any case, he looked a little familiar and we might have seen him somewhere else before, although I can't remember where."

Chen Ying anxiously said, "Is he staying at the No. 1 Villa Hotel?"

Chen Qiqi said, "That's right."

Tian Weiwei pressed further. "Is it at Villa #1?"

Chen Qiqi replied, "I don't know about that. We bumped into him yesterday too, but I don't really remember where it was at."

Chen Ying said, "Did he say what he came to Sanya for?"

Chen Niannian thought for a moment. "I think he said he was here on vacation?"

Chen Qiqi nodded. "I think so too. He also mentioned that his wife and child were here as well."

They questioned them for a long time.

Chen Ying facepalmed and said. "Little Tian, what you said might really turn out to be true after all!"

The twin sisters were still confused by all that was happening. "Aunt, what are you all talking about?"

Tian Weiwei said with a smile, "Do you know who you played against the other day?"

Chen Qiqi said, "Who?"

Tian Weiwei said, "Come, I'll bring you guys to meet him."

Chen Ying clapped and called everyone over. "Stop watching the game! Let's go and see someone!"

Nobody understood what was going on.

"But it's almost ending."

"We still don't know who will win!"

"Don't do that, Sister Chen, Master Tian. Let's wait until the game has been won before we go."

Tian Weiwei shook his head and said, "There's no need to watch anymore. PeterGo will not win against that person!"

8-dan Li Fang said in a stunned manner, "You know who it is?"

Tian Weiwei smiled and said, "I think I do."

Chen Ying said, "But we still have to go and verify it for ourselves."

...

On Weibo.

"Who?"

"Master Xiang says he knows who it is!"

"Quickly tell us, Master Xiang!"

"Hurry up and tell us!"

"Yeah, where does this expert hail from?"

All over the country.

All across Asia.

And even the Go enthusiasts from all over the world were going mad with curiosity!

...

At Central TV.

The host stifled his excitement and said, "Dear viewers, it will soon be clear whether the Go world can turn a page in its history books. After four years, whether or not humans can defeat the AI, PeterGo, will all be up to the endgame moves that HEOR plays! It's almost coming to an end!"



Xiang Rong smiled. "Actually, it has already ended."

The host said in shock, "Huh?"

Xiang Rong said, "I believe a lot of people are now very curious about who HEOR is. In these two years since PeterGo's reappearance, he has defeated many human players, including me. Even though the situation was very one-sided, no one in China Qiyuan, the Go world, or the industry thought that humans could never beat an artificial intelligence in Go. Because we all know that there's someone out there who can win against it."

The host misunderstood and said, "Right, and that person has now appeared. There's always going to be a new generation of talent."

But Xiang Rong smiled and said, "It's not like that."

The host said in confusion, "Ah?"

Xiang Rong said, "The Go world has actually been waiting quietly all this while. They were not waiting for the new blood to surpass their teachers, nor were they hoping for some newcomer to suddenly appear and turn the tide. We were actually waiting for a particular person." Looking at the Go board, looking at the black stones, Xiang Rong was smiling again. "Right now, that person who can beat PeterGo has returned."

### **Chapter 1529: Return of the Heavenly King!**

Sanya.

On the beach.

A female tourist was lying down on a recliner and browsing the Internet on her cell phone. All of a sudden, she sat up in shock and shouted for her husband who was swimming in the sea to come over.

"Hubby!"

"Hm?"

"We've won! We've won!"

"Holy shit! Did we really win?"

"HEOR has won the game by one and a half points!"

"What an amazing person!"

"The legend of PeterGo's undefeated record of two years has finally been shattered!"

In reality, the two of them did not know how to play Go at all. They could not even understand the basic rules of Go and were complete laypeople. But just as how a lot of people in China and across Asia were at this moment, the war between humans and the artificial intelligence was something entirely unrelated to them not knowing how to play Go. This was a matter of human dignity, the bottom line of

human intelligence that must not be crossed. Be it the Go enthusiasts, professional Go players, or even the everyday person, everyone was paying very close attention to this “Battle of the Century”!

Tian Weiwei, Chen Ying, and the group of Go players happened to pass by at this moment.

He really won?

The game has ended?

Chen Qiqi’s eyes became a little wet.

Chen Niannian and several newcomers of the Qiyuan got so excited they couldn’t control themselves.

They had been waiting for this victory for too long. It had been far too long!

Chen Qiqi said anxiously, “Aunt, just who is that person?”

Chen Ying smiled. “Aren’t we bringing you guys over to meet him?”

Chen Qiqi exclaimed, “What did you say!”

Chen Niannian was also dumbfounded. “Y-You’re saying that HEOR is that folk expert we met on our way here?”

The dozen-odd newcomers of the Qiyuan in the group were dumbfounded.

Up ahead, they arrived at the No. 1 Villa Hotel.

Tian Weiwei and Chen Ying looked like they already knew where that person was staying. Without even looking or asking, they headed straight for the villa that was labeled “Villa #1.”

The newcomers followed behind in a daze.

How could that be possible!

How could a folk expert with an amateur background possibly win against PeterGo?

Somehow, they weren’t very convinced by Chen Ying and Tian Weiwei’s claims.

The gate at the villa’s yard wasn’t closed and was wide open. However, Chen Ying did not go in, and neither did Tian Weiwei. They courteously stood outside at the door and pressed the doorbell.

Ding dong.

Ding dong.

A middle-aged woman’s voice crackled through the intercom: “Who is it?”

Tian Weiwei hurriedly said: “Auntie, is Sis Wu around? I am Tian Weiwei.”

Then another woman’s voice came through the intercom. “Little Tian?”

Tian Weiwei said: “Sis Wu, it’s me.”

The woman asked: “What are you doing here?”

“Did he come back?”

“Hur hur, who are you talking about?”

Tian Weiwei did not know whether to laugh or cry. “Sis Wu, don’t try to fool us. If we can’t even recognize that, we’re better off dead!”

The intercom went silent.

A moment later, the villa’s door opened.

A young man wearing sunglasses came out looking annoyed. He leaned against the door with folded arms and said, “You guys are great, huh? You can even recognize that it’s me from a game?”

This was a face they had not seen in a long time!

It was a face that they had been waiting to see for far too long!

Tian Weiwei’s face was full of joy.

It was really him! It had been three years, but he was finally back!

When Chen Ying saw the young man, she also got a little excited. But she said, “Do you take us for fools? To have such a level of skill in Go, could there be another person in the world? We would know that it was you even if we had our eyes closed!”

Zhang Ye was delighted. “True that.”

Tian Weiwei couldn’t hold in his excitement and went forward to give Zhang Ye a bear hug. “We’ve waited for you for too long!”

Zhang Ye nudged his chin in loathing. “Shoo! I haven’t even talked to you yet. After so many years, why has your skill at Go still not improved? You got pushed around by a computer like that?”

Tian Weiwei was extremely embarrassed. “But that’s because the opponent is too strong.”

Zhang Ye said. “In my opinion, it’s all down to your skill not being good enough.”

Tian Weiwei laughed and said, “That’s right, how could I possibly compare to you?”

Zhang Ye looked at Chen Ying. “Old Chen, you’ve put on some weight, huh? Seems like age has finally caught up with you.”

Chen Ying said angrily, “Get lost, don’t you also have several more wrinkles?”

Zhang Ye touched the corners of his eyes. “Do I? I don’t think so.”

The group of newcomers, including Chen Qiqi and Chen Niannian, were all dumbfounded. Having known Tian Weiwei and Chen Ying for so long, they had never seen Master Tian and Sister Chen look like that before. That person dared talk down to Master Tian? And even said that Sister Chen had put on weight?

Wh-Who exactly was he?

Chen Qiqi said in surprise, “Master!”

Zhang Ye looked over to her. "Yo, Classmate Qiqi."

Chen Qiqi said in disbelief, "Did you really win against PeterGo?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Yes, that's right."

Chen Niannian yelled, "Damn, you lied to us!"

Zhang Ye said startled, "Ah? When did I lie to you all?"

Chen Niannian said angrily, "Didn't you say that you were an amateur?"

Zhang Ye spread his hands. "But I am an amateur. I was never a part of your Go world."

Those veteran 8 and 9-dan professional Go players had recognized who he was!

Li Fang had a stunned look!

Zhou Zhen was thrilled!

Only the newcomers looked totally confused.

Chen Ying glanced at her two nieces. "Have you guys managed to recognize who this is yet?"

Chen Niannian said, "No!"

At this moment, a woman who looked as pretty as a painting came out from inside the villa. "Don't make people stand out here. Invite them in."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Come on in then."

The newcomers were dumbfounded!

Chen Qiqi gasped. "Auntie Wu?"

Chen Niannian was also shocked silly. "Auntie Wu, what are you doing here?"

They naturally knew who Wu Zeqing was.

She was Teacher Changhe's daughter, so how could they not know?

But what was she doing here?

Why did she appear beside the master?

Finally, these idiots realized and almost jumped in fright!

Chen Qiqi pointed at the young man in horror and stammered, "You! You! You! You are Zhang Ye!"

Chen Niannian roared, "Damn!"

A teenager's jaw dropped. "Lord Zhang?!"

Another teenager was nearly left kneeling. "Oh my God!"

Chen Ying said helplessly, "You guys are so stupid. You only just managed to recognize him?"

Chen Qiqi was almost going crazy. "Lord Zhang is my idol! He was my idol when I was a kid!"

Tian Weiwei said in amusement, "Your idol traveled here in the same bus as you, yet you couldn't recognize him?"

Chen Niannian shouted, "We weren't prepared! Who could have thought that something like that would happen! God! It's really Lord Zhang!" She suddenly rushed forward. "Lord Zhang, I love you! I'm a hardcore fan! I listened to your songs when I was growing up, and I also became a professional Go player because of that battle between you and PeterGo years ago!"

A teenager raised his hand. "Me too! Me too!"

A teenage girl shouted, "I'm also your fan! When I was in school, there were a lot of your essays and poems in my language textbooks. We were required by the teachers to memorize them!"

They were all very excited.

Although many years had passed, the memories and nostalgia were all pouring out at this moment!

Years ago, how many people had started liking poetry because of Zhang Ye?

Years ago, how many people had started liking music because of Zhang Ye?

Years ago, how many people had started liking Go because of Zhang Ye?

Zhang Ye: this was a name that could never escape being mentioned during that era!

Three years had gone by in the blink of an eye!

And the former Heavenly King had finally returned!

### **Chapter 1530: Shaking up the entire world!**

Meanwhile.

The outside world burst into an uproar!

Because of what Xiang Rong had said over the live broadcast, the entire world was stunned!

...

In the Online Go Server.

"What?"

"What did Master Xiang say?"

"That person who can beat PeterGo has returned?"

"Holy motherfucking shit!"

"Surely that can't be true?"

“Are you serious? Is that for real?”

“Ahhhhh!”

“What are you all talking about? Who is he referring to?”

“Damn, previous poster, are you dumb? Who else could he mean!”

...

At China Qiyuan.

Li Yi said in surprise, “Teacher Changhe!”

Wu Changhe insisted, “Impossible!”

Hu Liang said, “Even Master Xiang has said that it’s him!”

Wu Changhe said, “Would I not know if my son-in-law came back?”

Then a call from Tian Weiwei arrived.

Tian Weiwei said: “Teacher, Lord Zhang is back!”

Wu Changhe replied: “That can’t be!”

“He’s right beside me.”

“What?” He nearly flared up: “That rascal, get him on the phone right now! Immediately!”

“Ah, Lord Zhang says that he’s not around.”

Wu Changhe got very angry at that. “Little Tian, tell him he can stay at Sanya if he wants. If he dares to come back here, watch how I’ll punish him!”

Xu Han slapped his thigh. “I knew it! I knew it must’ve been him!”

Hu Liang laughed heartily. “Teacher, don’t chide Lord Zhang. Lord Zhang has done our Go world another big favor. If it weren’t for him, we would never have beaten PeterGo. We couldn’t beat it four years ago, and we still couldn’t beat it four years later!”

Wu Changhe harrumphed, “Bullshit! There are lots of talented people in the Go world! Would the Earth stop spinning without him?”

Li Yi chuckled. “I don’t know if the Earth would stop spinning or not without your son-in-law, but the truth is that the Go world has not been moving forward at all in the past few years.”

...

In the Korean Go world.

“That person is back?”

“I should have known it was him!”

“Yeah, how could an expert like that possibly pop out of nowhere!”

“It’s really him?”

“It’s almost definite!”

“That fellow isn’t a good character, but his Go skill is truly crazy. After four years, even the upgraded PeterGo can’t beat him?”

...

In the Japanese Go world.

“It’s him?”

“He hasn’t played Go in so long, but he can still play so well?”

“I wonder if this hooligan’s return should be considered a good thing or a bad thing!”

“When they arrested him back then, the whole of Asia was overjoyed, thinking that this hooligan would never be able to cause any more trouble. But seeing him back today, I don’t know why my blood seems to be racing with excitement. No matter what his reputation is, everyone still has to admit that the Go world could never have beaten the AI without his help.”

“I’m also thrilled today.”

“This hooligan can be so loved and hated at the same time!”

“Hai, the king has returned, and his ways are as glorious as ever.”

...

America.

PeterGo’s team.

That familiar name was ringing in their ears once again, giving everyone a sense of despair!

“Zhang Ye!”

“That can’t be possible! Wasn’t he sentenced to seven years in jail?”

“Yeah, why has he been released?”

“And why haven’t his skills regressed at all?”

“Even Peter could not beat him?”

“To think we’ve even upgraded the system too!”

Anger.

Despair.

Helplessness.

These were the emotions the team was experiencing

...

At Youth Daily.

Someone in the editorial department let out a shout.

“Something has happened!”

“What’s the matter?”

“Zhang Ye has come back!”

“Ah? How?”

“This piece of news came from the Go industry! It’s basically verified!”

“Hurry, follow up on the news! Be sure to get a firsthand interview!”

“God, has that fellow really returned?”

“How many years has it been?”

“It’s already been three and a half years.”

“Time really flies.”

...

At Beijing Television.

In the news department.

“Where is he currently?”

“We haven’t found out yet, Producer!”

“Quickly go and check then!”

“Right away!”

...

At Yao Jiancai’s house.

Old Yao, who was drinking beer at this moment, stared dumbfoundedly at the TV. The beer can in his hand had dropped to the floor and he hadn’t even noticed.

The door was pushed open.

Yao Mi, who had graduated from university, rushed in and exclaimed, “Dad!”

Old Yao’s wife also rushed over. “Old Yao! What’s going on?”

Yao Jiancai smiled. “That kid, he’s finally back.”



Yao Mi said excitedly, "Is it Uncle Zhang? Is it really him?"

Yao Jiancai said, "Who else could such a big stir other than him? This fellow has never been one to hold back. He's only just returned, but the entire world has already found out!"

Yao Mi belly laughed. "That's exactly what can be expected of my Uncle Zhang!"

Old Yao's wife said with a sigh, "It's been so many years. I wonder how Little Zhang is doing."

Yao Jiancai pointed at the television. "As you can see for yourself, he's still alive and kicking!"

...

At an old friend's house.

"Zhang'er is back?"

"That fellow is too much. He didn't even tell us that he's back?"

"He's still as capable of stirring things up as ever."

"Hahaha, quick, give him a call to ask if it's really him."

"It won't go through. His cell phone is off."

"Well, it's been almost four years. I suppose his number has been disconnected?"

"Let's wait til he gets back to catch up with him."

"The entertainment circle is gonna be lively again from now on."

"Yeah. An entertainment circle without him around always feels a little less exciting than it should."

...

At Zhang Xia's house.

Grandma Zhang was on the phone with someone.

"Yuanqi, Zhang Ye is back."

"I just heard about it."

"Aren't you going to make a comeback?"

"Forget it, I think it isn't too bad taking a break."

"Us old friends should hold a gathering sometime. I wonder if the kid will be getting back into the entertainment industry now that he has returned. Who knows? He might just have become tired of that place like you and decides to take a break from it as well."

"He's not the type who would want to take a break."

"Is that so? Then I guess we're probably going to see some interesting developments."

...

At a company.

It was very noisy in the office space.

"It's Zhang Ye!"

"What a nostalgic name!"

"Is he really back?"

However, Ha Qiqi, who was also in the office, started laughing. She was laughing so exuberantly she was tearing up. Then she took a deep breath and lowered her head to sort out the matters she had on hand. After that, she started typing out something on her computer and sent out an email. She stood up and walked towards the boss's office.

Knocking on the door.

Entering the office.

The boss looked up. "Director Ha."

Ha Qiqi said something stunning. "CEO Han, thank you for taking care of me these past few years."

The boss gave a wry smile. "I knew that this day would come."

Ha Qiqi smiled. "I've already sent my resignation letter to you."

The boss said, "What would convince you to stay?"

Ha Qiqi shook her head.

The boss sighed. "The entertainment circle is no longer the same as before. Times have changed, and a new generation has replaced the old. The fame that Teacher Zhang once enjoyed is a thing of the past. If you go back now, you'd have to start all over again. You—"

Ha Qiqi smiled and interrupted, "Then I'll just start from the beginning."

...

At a private clubhouse.

A dinner event.

Several rather popular B-list "young hunks" were holding a party.

"Did you hear? Zhang Ye is back."

"That name sounds like a blast from the past."

"Yeah, no one has mentioned him for the past three or four years."

"He was taken off the Asian Celebrity Rankings Index, as well as the Chinese Celebrity Rankings Index, since around that time too, right?"

“That’s right. Be it the Chinese or the Asian Celebrity Rankings Indices, he doesn’t have a spot on them anymore.”

“Even he’s a former Heavenly King, we still shouldn’t underestimate his popularity. If he decides to return to the entertainment circle, he will definitely have some appeal. But as for how strong his appeal is, I guess no can really be sure.”

“That’s not necessarily true. This is no longer the same era as when he left the industry.”

“You’re right. So what if a former Heavenly King has returned? The entertainment circle has been seeing a generational change every half a year to a year these days, so let’s not mention what changes have taken place in three years. Or four years. Who can remain popular forever? What’s more, he hasn’t appeared in front of the audience during this entire period. The young people these days won’t acknowledge him.”

“Speak softer. His wife is Minister Wu, after all. It wouldn’t be good if this conversation gets out.”

...

In China and abroad, heated discussions were going on.

The media and the citizens were all relishing it.

After more than three years, an almost forgotten name had once again shaken up the world!

That biggest hooligan of the entertainment circle and that greatest shit stirrer of the industry—he was back!