

## **Superstar 1621**

### **Chapter 1621: Kelp that entangles submarines!**

At this moment.

The whole world did not know whether to laugh or cry!

...

Japan.

“Damn!”

“What kind of person is this!”

“This fellow is such a hooligan!”

“This program is being broadcast all over the world!”

...

Korea.

“How bold of him to say something like that!”

“What sort of a Peace Prize recipient is he!”

“The Nobel Prize Committee is probably in tears right now!”

...

India.

“Your grandpa!”

“Who are you thinking of attacking!”

“How can he speak so recklessly!”

“This Zhang fellow is too shameless!”

...

The UK.

“Quick, go and watch China’s CTV International!”

“What’s the matter?”

“The Peace Prize recipient is encouraging violence!”

“Ah?”

...

China.

“Pfft! I’m cramping up from laughing!”

“What a brilliant answer!”

“Hahahahaha!”

“Well said, just attack them!”

“This is indeed Zhang Ye’s style!”

“Seeing Zhang Ye still behaving like the old times is really reassuring for me. I had thought at first that this fellow would start behaving cautiously after winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Who could’ve thought that he’d still be as reckless as ever? He said it really well! Who cares about negotiations and protests? Just get them! Attack them!”

...

The interview went viral the moment it was broadcast.

It started spreading on the Web.

More and more people came over to watch when they heard about it. They switched over to the Central TV International Channel, wanting to see what kind of shocking words the Nobel Peace Prize laureate would say. Which of the Nobel Peace Prize recipients in history were not presidents or heads of large organizations? Which of them did not have a graceful demeanor to them and would speak prudently? So it wasn’t like they had ever seen a Nobel Peace Prize recipient like that before! In this world, it wasn’t only the Chinese who loved watching entertainment.

Very quickly, they knew they were right in coming to see this!

Because Zhang Ye was about to say something that would dumbfound people around the world!

...

On TV.

Yu Yingyi hurriedly changed the subject.

The three of them began conversing about the current military strategy of China.

Zhang Ye drank his water and did not cut in at the beginning.

Yu Yingyi and Chi Xue probably did not dare to ask him any further questions in fear that this fellow would say something staggering. As such, the two of them only talked between themselves.

Yu Yingyi said, “If a war starts, will the Yellow Sea <sup>1</sup> become a crucial spot of contention?”

Chi Xue said, “Of course it will. This is a very important location where the situation of the neighboring countries is very complicated, so the Yellow Sea will become a key strategic location to battle for. I was involved in a military project related to nuclear submarine data processing, so I know about the threat

and terror they pose. Its technology has advanced greatly these days. For example, America has nuclear submarines that can sneak into the Yellow Sea without getting detected at all."

Yu Yingyi asked, "Then what weapons does China have to take on such threats at the moment?"

Chi Xue gave a bitter smile. "According to what I know, we don't have any measures against such threats yet. And even if we do detect such threats occasionally, we don't really have a quick response to strike back."

Yu Yingyi said, "Perhaps there are some new weapons systems that haven't been announced yet?"

Chi Xue shook her head. "I'm not in the field of weapons research, so I don't really know." She then turned to look at Zhang Ye. "But Fellow Zhang is in this field, so maybe he can analyze it better?"

Only then did Yu Yingyi ask, "Fellow Zhang, can you give us an analysis of this?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "We definitely have new weapons systems, but it's not convenient for me to talk about them. However, about the Yellow Sea..." He looked at the map and pointed it out. "The situation here is rather complex. If a war really does break out, China is still fully capable of finding ways to not let the enemy's nuclear subs in."

Chi Xue said in surprise, "What ways?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "The Yellow Sea is relatively shallow, so it's very dangerous for a submarine to enter into the territory. There's no way to dive deep, and they would need to surface to be able to pass into it."

Chi Xue nodded. "That's true."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm not sure if you two have seen how they cultivate kelp in the countryside?"

"Ah?" Chi Xue was taken aback.

Yu Yingyi was also dumbfounded. "Kelp?"

Zhang Ye gestured. "Yes, kelp, in the Yellow Sea area, how do the villagers grow them? Nylon ropes this long are thrown into the sea, where the kelp slowly grow to several meters long after being planted. If we scale up the planting, without even needing to cover the entire area and planting them at several key locations in a linear fashion, which submarine can enter the area? If they dare to come in, you know what the nylon ropes with kelp will do, right? Once they get entangled with the submarine's propellers, the submarine is as good as scrap. Every submarine they send in will get sunk. There won't be a need for any strategic weapons at all. In the Yellow Sea, kelp is the most strategic weapon we can employ against the nuclear submarines."

Yu Yingyi stared blankly at him!

Chi Xue nearly spat out a mouthful of blood!

The entire recording studio felt silent!

Kelp?

Strategic weapon?

Entangle the submarines?

Yu Yingyi stated, "Well, we have reached the end of our program today. Please join us tomorrow at the same time, and we will continue to hear about Fellow Zhang and Fellow Chi's views on military affairs."

The first episode ended.

Then the entire world blew up!

...

China.

"I'm gonna faint!"

"When did kelp become a fucking strategic weapon!"

"Aiyo, I'm dying of laughter!"

"Kelp that entangles submarines?"

"What the heck! Only Zhang Ye would dare to raise a viewpoint like that!"

"Misleading! This is fucking misleading!"

"This is a military show? Military, your sister! Even kelp can become a fucking strategic weapon?!"

"I've been looking forward to hearing Zhang Ye's views on military affairs! But what is this shit about kelp? Teacher Zhang, do you have to be so funny!"

"Kneeling to Face-smacking Zhang!"

...

America.

"What kind of military show is this!"

"Kelp?"

"Why doesn't he just die!"

"This guy is too good at bullshitting!"

...

Japan.

"I have to take my hat off to him!"

"I really have to take my hat off to him too!"

"Can kelp really entangle a submarine?"

“Like hell it can! You actually believed him?”

...

Korea.

“What the hell!”

“Why does he dare to speak so recklessly!”

“Don’t you know Zhang Ye? Whatever he says, even the punctuation marks are not to be believed!”

“I’m cramping up with laughter!”

...

The UK.

“W-What kind of a military expert is he?!”

“Kelp that entangles submarines? He should go to hell!”

“This is bullshitting on a whole new level!”

“China’s kelp industry could soon become an asset in its strategic warfare!”

...

The entire world was shocked!

“Kelp that entangles submarines” soon became a trending phrase!

The various countries’ media were all rushing to report about this!

But to everyone’s surprise, amid the laughter of people around the world, the matter got a shocking reversal!

America: “China’s latest weapon: Kelp?”

Russia: “Would entangling a submarine with kelp really work?”

Canada: “China’s CTV International’s interview attracts controversy!”

China: “There have been similar cases of kelp entangling submarines in the past!”

Germany: “Incidents of kelp entangling submarines have happened before!”

Many people around the world were doubling over with laughter. A lot of them nearly passed out at this revelation, while others cursed at it. They had thought that this was pure bullshit, but surprisingly, this was refuted by the various countries’ media outlets that dug up cases of similar incidents happening in the past. Entangling submarines with kelp was really a workable strategy!

Countless people were horrified!

Even this can be done?

Damn! It really can!

People around the world found themselves going crazy at this discovery!

...

Meanwhile.

Back at home.

Zhang Ye's phone was exploding with calls.

Yao Jiancai was on the other end of the line, laughing. "Kid, are you trying to kill me with your jokes?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "I was being serious, alright? That was not a joke."

Soon after, General Li called.

General Li said in a speechless manner: "You really went all-out to mislead foreigners, huh?"

Zhang Ye replied: "Didn't you ask me to feel free to mislead them?"

General Li was floored. "I said to throw them off, not bullshit them with such outrageous claims!"

"Actually, this isn't really misleading either." Zhang Ye smiled and said: "There's a basis to it."

Of course, the people of this world hadn't heard of it before. But back in Zhang Ye's previous world, a lot of people knew of a saying that was very popular across China: kelp that entangles submarines!

Zhang Ye had also been thinking of what to say on his first appearance on a military show. What should he say? What topics would arouse the interests of everyone? As a result, he suddenly remembered the chief of the "Strategic Fool You Agency" in his previous world, Zhang Zhaozhong, <sup>2</sup> and ended up bringing out his famous words onto the program!

### **Chapter 1622: Smog that stops lasers!**

In the span of a night.

The phrase "kelp that entangles submarines" went viral.

By the next day, products bearing this phrase started appearing in online stores.

[Kelp that entangles submarines totes]: 10 RMB each.

[Kelp that entangles submarines T-shirts]: 35 RMB per top.

[Kelp that entangles submarines caps (Black)]: 15 RMB each.

[Yellow Sea Kelp (Chinese strategic weapon)]: 7 RMB per 500 grams.

All kinds of products.

A variety of choices.

Most crucially, they were all selling very well too.

Even the merchants on the streets and alleyways started hawking the same products.

A lot of people were very amused by what they saw. There were also countless people sharing their purchases on Weibo.

“Hahahaha!”

“Check out my new cap!”

“LOL, that’s so cool!”

“I bought a bag too! The ‘kelp that entangles submarines’ typeface is too eye-catching. Everyone keeps staring at me when I’m carrying it out on the streets. The double-take rate is 200%!”

“Face-smacking Zhang is too damn comical!”

“Hasn’t that fellow always been this way? Haha!”

“Quite a few media outlets around the world are reporting about this.”

“He’s too good at misdirection.”

“Will the interview be on today?”

“Yes, the second episode will be broadcast at 8 PM. There will still be a third episode tomorrow.”

“I’m so looking forward to it.”

“I can’t wait either.”

“Yeah, let’s see what he’s going to come up with tonight.”

“I think it will be a more serious talk today. They can’t possibly keep having nonsense on a program like that.”

...

At Central TV.

The International Channel.

It was time to record the second episode.

When Zhang Ye arrived, the program team went up and surrounded him.

“Fellow Zhang!”

“The viewership ratings have totally blown up.”

“Our domestic viewership ratings have increased by over tenfold!”

“It’s the same for our overseas viewership ratings as well. It’s increased from our usual ratings by a few times. The viewership numbers for the overseas audience has broken a record!”

“Our International Channel has never seen such viewership ratings before!”

Everyone was very excited.

The Central TV International Channel was the only international channel in China. It might sound like the channel was very important and one of a kind, but in reality, they did not get much attention as very few people watched it. Whether it was domestically or overseas, the viewership ratings had always been rather embarrassingly low. When did they ever get such a good result before? All of this was brought to them by Zhang Ye—China’s one and only international celebrity!

Zhang Ye himself had not expected the broadcast to attract such a great reception. Not only did it blow up in China, but it also gained the attention of the overseas audience as well?

Yu Yingyi coughed and said, “You’re here?”

Zhang Ye smiled. “Yeah.”

Yu Yingyi said, “The clips from yesterday have already gone viral. It’s also viral overseas.”

Zhang Ye chuckled and said, “Then wouldn’t you also become rather well-known on the international scene?”

Yu Yingyi rolled her eyes and said, “I’ll have you to thank for that.”

“You’re welcome,” Zhang Ye said.

Chi Xue came over reluctantly and sat down. “Shall we start?”

Yu Yingyi said, “Counting down to recording in one minute.”

Zhang Ye said, “OK.”

The second episode’s recording began.

...

That same night.

On the Web.

An American netizen: “The Chinese show is starting!”

A Dutch netizen: “It’s starting, it’s starting!”

A French netizen: “This program is too funny. I didn’t get to watch it yesterday, so I must have a look today.”

A Japanese netizen: “I invited a few friends over to watch as well. I would like to see what kind of outrageous claims this Zhang fellow will make today.”

A Korean netizen: “It’s starting.”

After yesterday’s farce, a lot more people around the world who had heard about this matter from the news started tuning in to the Central TV International Channel.



10 million people.

20 million people.

30 million people.

The overseas viewership numbers continued to soar!

There were even people from the various countries' media outlets and their military personnel watching.

This was the first time that a Chinese program had attracted such attention overseas!

...

On TV.

The show had already started.

Yu Yingyi smiled and said, "Good evening, everyone. We meet again. Welcome to Central TV International Channel's Army Day Special. I am your host, Yu Yingyi."

"I am Chi Xue."

"I am Zhang Ye."

Both of them also looked into the camera and greeted the global audience.

"Yesterday, when we talked about the nuclear submarine threat, Fellow Zhang suggested a plan that caused a heated debate and questioning by people around the world. Actually, I know what Fellow Zhang meant to say was that victory in war does not depend on who has the more advanced technology or weapons. A battle is determined by a comprehensive mix of factors, and there are a lot of variables and tactics involved. Even an ordinary thing like kelp might stop a nuclear submarine's advance. Hence, we can say that no matter how advanced a weapons system is, it will still not determine the outcome of a battle."

Zhang Ye nodded. "That's right."

Yu Yingyi asked, "What is Fellow Chi's view on this?"

Chi Xue shook her head and said, "I only agree partially with this opinion. I have a different view on the other portion of it. Technology, arms, and weapons determine the military strength of a country. I am a scientist, so what matters more to me is data. Against certain strategic weapons, battlefield tactics don't mean much at all. For example, a guided missile's range is only so long. It will either hit its target or not. That's all there is to it."

Zhang Ye smiled but did not say anything.

Yu Yingyi said, "I heard that a country has already developed laser weaponry."

Chi Xue acknowledged, "Yes, and that's indeed a very real threat."

Yu Yingyi said, "Is there a way we can handle it then?"

Chi Xue said without thinking, "No, and it's not only us who can't handle it. Right now in the world, no country has the capability to deal with laser weaponry. We can intercept guided missiles, we can fend off aircraft carriers, but we can't do anything about lasers. This is a very powerful weapon we have no answer for. No technology yet exists to stop such tactics."

Zhang Ye spoke up, "That's being too absolute."

Chi Xue said helplessly, "It's not being absolute; rather we really have no way to handle it."

"Laser weaponry are not invincible," Zhang Ye said bluntly.

He was starting to stir up Chi Xue. "Oh? So being unstoppable doesn't mean it's invincible?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Who says it's unstoppable?"

Yu Yingyi said in surprise. "Ah? There's a way?"

Chi Xue rolled her eyes. "That's impossible. No country has the means to deal with it."

Zhang Ye said calmly, "But China does."

China said startled, "China does?"

Then Zhang Ye said something astonishing.

He said, "Smog can stop lasers."

Silence!

Dead silence!

It was all quiet in the recording studio and in front of the televisions!

Smog?

Stopping lasers?

Chi Xue vomited blood. "Ah?"

Zhang Ye looked at the shocked Yu Yingyi and Chi Xue and smiled. "Laser weaponry is very powerful, but they also have their weaknesses. Furthermore, this weakness is very obvious. Fellow Chi should know quite well that conventional weapons cannot stop lasers, but what about smog? The largest diameter of a smog particle is 80 microns, with the majority of them between 1 micron and 10 microns. A laser wavelength is smaller than 1000 nanometers, which is 1 micron, so it will be difficult for a laser to bypass these smog particles."

Yu Yingyi didn't understand at all.

But Chi Xue was dumbfounded. "That—"

Zhang Ye said, "A lot of metal particles exists in a smog. If we magnified them, they would all be metallic balls. Once the smog reaches a certain density, tell me, how will the laser weaponry penetrate it?

Alright, even if it does manage to penetrate it in the end, the original range of over 10 kilometers would

have now shortened to less than a kilometer. It wouldn't be able to hit anyone or touch any targets. With its intended targets so far away, tell me what use would laser weaponry be then?"

Chi Xue was speechless.

The audience watching TV was speechless.

Yu Yingyi was truly shocked. "The smog even has such an effect?"

Zhang Ye said indifferently, "I'm not saying that the smog is good. I've even made a documentary called 'Under the Dome,' though I'm not sure if you two have watched it before. I am purely analyzing the effects of the smog from a military and scientific perspective and saying that the smog can stop a laser attack. In fact, it can even stop guided missiles from reaching its intended targets." He said something astonishing again!

Damn!

It can even stop guided missiles?!

Yu Yingyi said in shock, "How would it stop that?"

Zhang Ye said, "Currently, the majority of the world's guided missiles are guided visually, with lasers, through infrared imaging, or using GPS. The first two types of guided missiles are more affected by smoggy environments. Smog, for example, can make visual-guided and laser-guided missiles less effective in combat. Although they can still be launched, the hit-rate is not high. Of these, the visually guided missiles have a similarity to optical reconnaissance radar. It requires an operator to see the target before they can aim, lock on, and execute the attack. If this happens in a smoggy environment, they can't lock on to the target if they can't see it. In that case, they can't hit it."

Chi Xue said in a speechless manner, "Fellow Zhang, according to what you say, wouldn't the smog also be able to prevent paratroopers from landing?"

Zhang Ye solemnly nodded in agreement. "Of course it can. Smog can indeed prevent paratroopers from landing. Without being able to see their ground target, how would the paratroopers be able to parachute down? Isn't that obvious?"

Chi Xue was floored!

Yu Yingyi was also looking truly dumbfounded!

The second episode of the interview ended.

However, the outside world was already blowing up again!

...

China.

On Weibo.

"The smog can stop guided missiles?"

"The smog can stop lasers?"

“The smog can stop paratroopers?”

“Stop your sister!”

“Misleading! This is fucking misleading!”

“Hahahahahaha!”

“Aiyo, I’m dying of laughter! I can’t take it anymore!”

“Face-smacking Zhang just doesn’t fucking give up on saying astonishing things!”

“Fellow Chi has been totally confused by him!”

“This fellow is too good at bullshitting! Yesterday, he claimed that kelp can be turned into a strategic weapon. Today, he’s fucking saying that smog can also become a strategic weapon!”

“Teacher Zhang, enough! This is really enough!”

“I’m not convinced by anyone other than Zhang Ye!”

“How can he be so comical!”

...

On the Web.

“Oh my god!”

“Smog?”

“Just what is he thinking!”

“W-Would this really work?”

“Scientifically speaking, it really seems plausible!”

“\*faints\*”

“That’s clearly nonsense!”

“Do you guys really believe him?”

“This is even more ridiculous than submarines getting entangled by kelp!”

“This guy even calls himself a military expert?”

“This is the most misleading military expert in history!”

“I’ll admit it. This Chinese guy has really succeeded. He has succeeded in bringing me such joy!  
Hahahahahaha!”

“In the future, I will really not trust anything that a Chinese person says!”

...

The whole world was in heated discussions!

The whole world was laughing hard at this!

On this day, another phrase went viral!

Smog that stops lasers!

### **Chapter 1623: Meteorites that destroy carriers!**

The next day.

In the morning.

At a US Department of Defense press conference.

The press conference was being held to answer questions on the recent public concerns about defense budget overspending and weapons exports. But before they could even answer a few questions, a female reporter from one of the well-known American media outlets raised her hand and stood up to ask a question.

The female reporter asked, "Is America's latest laser weaponry really ineffective against a smog-ridden China?"

The DOD official was clearly taken back. "Huh?"

The female reporter asked again, "Is China's kelp really the nemesis of our nuclear submarines?"

The DOD official was stunned. "What?"

The female reporter raised yet another question. "With China so smoggy, can our paratroopers parachute onto the mainland?"

Smog?

Kelp?

Parachute?

The entire venue was quiet!

The reporters at the press conference were speechless.

The American people were speechless.

People around the world were speechless.

In the end, that DOD official did not answer the female reporter's questions during the live broadcast. This was because he did not know how to answer her. He probably had not seen the interview on the Central TV International Channel. However, from the laughter of the reporters present, it could be seen that many of them knew what this was about. The program that Zhang Ye was on had attracted a lot of discussion in many countries around the world. Some people thought that he was talking nonsense, but

others felt that Zhang Ye's claims were reasonable. Whether it was the smog or kelp, they all had a scientific basis to them.

This was also why a lot of people didn't know what to do.

Because even though they knew this guy was fucking bullshitting, there was no way they could refute his nonsense!

...

In China.

The online stores were selling their products like hotcakes again.

["Smog that stops lasers" cup]

["Smog that stops guided missiles" cell phone case]

["Smog that stops paratroopers" mask]

And so on and so forth. All of these products were sold out.

On Weibo.

"I've had such a good laugh these past two days."

"Me too, the entire world has been tickled funny by Zhang Ye!"

"The funniest thing to happen was the DOD's press conference. Did anyone see it?"

"Hahahaha, I watched that!"

"Zhang Ye's bullshit has arrived in America!"

"They really took it seriously?!"

"The US DOD officials were probably stunned by those questions!"

"That's right, these new strategic weapons have all been made kaput by Face-smacking Zhang with a single sentence. This guy's bullshitting skills are astonishing!"

"There's still another episode tonight!"

"Right, it's the final episode!"

"I'm really anticipating it!"

"Let's see what he will say today! Hahaha!"

"I love Zhang Ye!"

"I love him too! This fellow is always able to bring laughter to people!"

...

In the morning.

At Central TV.

Zhang Ye was on the phone with General Li.

“As I was saying, Professor Zhang.”

“What is it, Old Li?”

“It’s the last episode. Can you stop fooling around?”

“I wasn’t fooling around.”

“Can’t you be more serious at the appropriate times?”

“I’ve always been serious.”

A distance away, the Central TV International Channel’s staff were all exuberant. This was due to the fact that their viewership ratings achieved yet another high. It was so high that it was shocking!

Domestically!

Abroad!

The viewership ratings had exploded!

Actually, in China, a lot of people just treated this as a passing matter that amused them. They did not care about what Zhang Ye said, nor if his methods were feasible. They only knew that due to the Zhang Ye effect, the world was becoming more and more receptive towards China. This was something that no celebrity in the history of China had achieved before, as even the US DOD had been confused by Zhang Ye’s claims. Who else could do something like that?

...

That same night.

The show started.

Parties gathered from all over.

The entire world was watching.

...

At Zhang Ye’s parents’ house.

His father said, “It’s on.”

His mother said angrily, “If this kid spouts nonsense again today, I’ll beat him to death!”

His father also felt somewhat helpless.

...

At Spring Garden’s place.

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

"Hahahaha, it's finally beginning!"

"Let's see what strategic weapons will fall to Zhang Ye's claims today!"

...

At Zhang Ye's Studio.

"I really have to take my hat off to Director Zhang."

"Director Zhang has been pushed into the global limelight these few days!"

"It's a good thing. Our popularity is going to grow again."

...

India.

"It's starting!"

"Let's see how this fellow is going to bullshit today!"

"Who cares about submarines and lasers? The greatest combat strength in the world is the aircraft carrier!"

"Yeah, build an aircraft carrier if you're so capable!"

...

America.

"Nothing the Chinese say makes any sense."

"That's right. As long as we have aircraft carriers, any theories they come up with are hogwash."

"The Chinese do not have any aircraft carriers yet, right?"

...

On TV.

Yu Yingyi had put on a heavier makeup today, while Chi Xue who hardly put on any makeup usually was requested by the program team to dress up a little more. This was because they knew that it wasn't just the locals who were watching CTV International. The overseas viewership numbers had exploded to a new high. Therefore, just by sitting there, they were responsible for portraying the image of China. Of course, Zhang Ye still kept to his usual look. He didn't put any makeup on, and he was still dressed in those clothes. He rarely bothered about his appearance. However, in the current situation, this fellow probably did not have much of an image to speak of anyway.

Zhang Ye.

Bullshit king.



These two words had been associated with him by many of the audience members both at home and abroad.

Yu Yingyi smiled and said, "Welcome to this episode of our Army Day Special. We meet again. I read some news this morning about the US DOD's press conference that took place recently. Did you hear about it, Fellow Chi?"

Chi Xue gave a wry smile. "I saw it too."

Yu Yingyi laughed and said, "Fellow Zhang's battle tactics have astonished a lot of people, and many netizens around the world are debating about them. Fellow Zhang, what is your opinion on this?"

Zhang Ye said nonchalantly, "It's good to debate over such things. Being involved in the military and weapons development, there are times when we cannot just confine ourselves to technology. A battle can be fought in many ways. I am only offering everyone something to think about. Some might agree, while others would disagree. All of this is to be expected."

Chi Xue shook her head. "I think I still have my reservations regarding Fellow Zhang's conjectures."

Yu Yingyi said, "Looks like Fellow Chi and Fellow Zhang's debate will continue today."

Chi Xue nodded. "That's right, I still insist on sticking with technology."

Zhang Ye said, "It's not wrong to stick with technology, but there are times when it would take time to catch up with technology. Let me offer you an example. Take for example that China has been embroiled in a war and our technology is as-is. The weapons and equipment that we have are just what we have, with only that many fighter jets and tanks available. How will we fight the war? How are we going to use the existing weapons to effectively attack the enemy? I think this is what we have to consider."

Chi Xue said, "These words are quite sensible."

Yu Yingyi said, "Speaking of war, there is a term that we cannot avoid: aircraft carriers."

Chi Xue acknowledged her and said, "We still can't build our own aircraft carriers at the moment. This is where there is a difference in technology levels and we have to admit it."

Yu Yingyi said, "An expert once said, 'Whoever has aircraft carriers shall rule the world.'"

Chi Xue said, "In modern warfare, under the circumstances of not resorting to nuclear weapons, I agree with that statement."

Yu Yingyi asked, "What about Fellow Zhang?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "I disagree."

Chi Xue started bickering with him again. "I also would like to see our Chinese military growing stronger and have the most advanced weapons in the world. But based on our current technology, we still can't do that. There's no way to avoid the issue that our weakness is in not having any aircraft carriers. I also know that our military has been sparing no efforts in this area of research. I didn't have a chance to

participate in this project, but I believe Fellow Zhang should have, right? You definitely know how important an aircraft carrier is to a country's military."

Zhang Ye said, "An aircraft carrier is indeed very important, but it is not invincible. It can still get blown up."

But Chi Xue said, "How would it get blown up? With guided missiles and bombing? But have you considered the presence of the carrier's destroyer escort? Do you think they're there on a sightseeing tour? There are jamming systems, interceptor missiles, and a large array of defense systems aboard an aircraft carrier, and this is not taking into account the aircraft on the carrier yet. If an aircraft carrier is so easily sunk, it wouldn't be called an aircraft carrier."

Zhang Ye shook his head. "I feel that you have deified the aircraft carrier."

Chi Xue said in annoyance, "What ways do you have to deal with them?"

Yu Yingyi had a bad feeling about this. "Fellow Zhang has thought up another new strategy?"

Zhang Ye thought about it for a moment before saying, "Of course I have."

Chi Xue wasn't convinced. "What method do you have?"

Zhang Ye said shockingly, "Meteorites!"

In this moment.

In this instant.

The world fell silent again!

Countless people around the world felt their jaws drop!

No one could have expected this fellow to blurt out something like that!

Yu Yingyi said in a stunned manner, "M-Meteorites?"

Zhang Ye continued, "It is the nemesis of an aircraft carrier. For example, I'll provide a train of thought here. We can create a massive meteor shower to do it. But how do we create something like that? We can use rockets to transport a large number of rocks or similar materials into space. Then, with great planning, we can determine the direction that the aircraft carrier is traveling in to determine the target's location. By detonating the rocket, we can create a dense meteor shower that will strike a devastating blow to the aircraft carrier and its aircraft!"

Chi Xue said in shock, "Impossible!"

Zhang Ye smiled and asked, "Why is it impossible? What are meteors? They're just rocks. Its biggest advantage lies in the fact that it is not a guided missile and does not react to electromagnetism. So what if the aircraft carrier deploys its jamming systems? An EMP? Go ahead and try! They're just rocks, so how are you going to jam them? If they send out their destroyers to intercept the attack? Those are rocks, hundreds of thousands of rocks. Try intercepting those. Even if you can intercept 10 or a 100, could you intercept 10,000? A 100,000? In the face of a meteor shower, what is the use of technology? It's basically useless."

Chi Xue said, “This—”

Yu Yingyi said, “Does a meteor shower have such power?”

Zhang Ye said, “Of course it does. When the rocks fall, they do so at speeds of Mach 10 to Mach 30. What does that mean? It means that even if an egg-sized rock were to fall down to earth, it would penetrate a 15 to 20 cm-thick steel plate!” He gestured with his hands. “What would that mean for an aircraft carrier? Even if just five rocks were to hit the carrier, it would immediately sink!”

...

The final episode ended its broadcast!

The entire world was thrown into disarray as a result!

Nobody knew how to react to Zhang Ye’s bullshit!

First, he talked about kelp that entangled submarines!

Then, he talked about smog that stopped lasers!

And now?

He’s fucking talking about meteorites destroying carriers?

Teacher Zhang! Would you die if you don’t bullshit like this?!

**Chapter 1624: China’s spiritual military strategist!**

On the Web.

Countless netizens from countries all over the world were criticizing like crazy!

A Japanese netizen: “That Chinese guy is so full of bullshit!”

A Korean netizen: “He really dares to talk big! Even an aircraft carrier is unable to escape his viciousness!”

An Indian netizen: “Meteorites that destroy carriers? Why don’t you just die!”

A French netizen: “After the nuclear submarines and laser weaponry, aircraft carriers have now been given the death sentence by the Chinese as well!”

An English netizen: “I can’t stand to look at the tactics that the Chinese come up with. They’re so powerful that even a carrier is not a threat to China anymore!”

A German netizen: “\*faints\*”

A Canadian netizen: “I’m fucking kneeling to China!”

A Pakistani netizen: “How impressive, my Chinese bro! You’re all so powerful!”

An American netizen: “Based on your arguments, nuclear submarines would not be able to enter your waters because of the kelp, the smog would prevent laser weaponry from hitting you, affect the visualizations of guided missiles, and prevent paratroopers from parachuting down. And now, even aircraft carriers have become paper tigers? Using a meteor shower to destroy them? Fuck you! Doesn’t that make China invincible to the entire world? Who else could beat you that way!”

A Russian netizen: “Hahahahaha!”

A Dutch netizen: “Zhang Ye—China’s spiritual military strategist!”

A Pakistani netizen: “How impressive, my Chinese bro! I’m so proud of you all!”

An Egyptian netizen: “There’s no one who can stop the rise of China!”

An Australian netizen: “This is the first time I’ve seen a military expert who can speak so well!”

An Italian netizen: “That’s right, I actually thought that what he said was very reasonable, even if I know that he’s just bullshitting!”

A Brazilian netizen: “I had thought that the Indians were the best at talking big, but it looks to me that they’re nowhere near Zhang Ye.”

Countless Indian netizens scolded: “Get lost!”

A Chinese netizen: “You guys know too little about Teacher Zhang, so here’s an introduction of him again. He is China’s most amazing celebrity whose ability entirely hinges on his mouth. He’s someone who can even play soccer and dribble the ball with his mouth alone. So you guys should be glad that this program only ran for three episodes. If it were thirty episodes long, all of the world’s weapons systems would get taken apart by Face-smacking Zhang’s mouth. Not a single one of them would make it out intact!”

The Pakistani netizen: “How impressive, my Chinese bro! You guys are so impressive!”

The American netizen was speechless.

America.

Japan.

Korea.

Russia.

The UK.

The entire world was criticizing Zhang Ye.

Only the Pakistani brethren gave him their full support.

...

On the same night.

In the international news.

“China’s television program gets the attention of many!”

“China’s latest military strategies?”

“An aircraft carrier or a paper tiger?”

“China’s battle tactics shock the world!”

“Seven American-linked OEMs <sup>1</sup> withdraw from China. What is the reason for this?”

“Is America’s reason for withdrawing its OEM factories to help reduce China’s smog?”

...

At Zhang Ye’s Studio.

After recording the episode at the Central TV International Channel in the morning, Zhang Ye spent the rest of the day at the studio where he and his studio’s staff watched the show together. When it ended, they went online to have a look, only to discover the Web filled with complaints about him. He chuckled but did not take it seriously.

Little Wang sprawled out on a table. “Hahahahaha!”

Ha Qiqi burst out laughing as well. “How long are you going to laugh?”

Little Wang clutched her belly. “Aiyo, I can’t take it anymore. Let me laugh a little while more!”

Tong Fu laughed until he cried after seeing the comments left by the world’s netizens and reading the international news.

“Director Zhang is amazing!”

“Director Zhang’s eloquence is unmatched in the world!”

“Pfft...hahahaha!”

“I was really tickled today!”

“Yeah, I nearly died laughing over the past three days!”

“We’re gonna get really popular again!”

There was laughter all around the studio.

At this moment, Zhang Ye received quite a few calls on his cell phone from his family and friends.

His mother.

His eldest younger sister.

His mother-in-law.

Yao Jiancai.

Ning Lan.

Zhang Xia.

And so on and so forth. His phone was blowing up with calls from everyone.

It was at this moment that something major occurred!

It was a totally unexpected incident that nearly made everyone vomit blood!

Ha Qiqi was looking at the news when she suddenly shouted, “Ah! Quiet! Everyone, quiet down!”

Zhang Zuo jogged over. “What is it, Old Ha?”

Little Wang stopped laughing. “What happened this time?”

Ha Qiqi spun around and looked at them. “This year’s Global Military Rankings Index <sup>2</sup> has just been published!”

“So what if it’s published?” Zhang Ye said indifferently, “What’s the big deal?”

Ha Qiqi said in astonishment, “China’s military is ranked second in the world!”

The studio fell silent!

Zhang Ye eyes widened!

Little Wang was stunned!

Tong Fu was so shocked that his legs turned to rubber!

“What?”

“Second?”

“This is impossible!”

“H-Haven’t we always been in third place?”

“We’ve surpassed Russia?”

“Holy shit!”

“This—this—”

At the next moment, all of the studio staff turned to look at Zhang Ye in unison!

Zhang Ye nearly fainted. “Damn, what are you all looking at me for? What the heck has this got to do with me!”

It was a coincidence, a fucking coincidence that this year’s global military rankings had to, unfortunately, be published at this time. Further, perhaps due to the decommissioning of Russia’s only aircraft carrier, it had caused Russia’s military ranking to slide and be overtaken by China for the first time. Logically speaking, this should be quite normal. But somehow, it just had to happen at such a critical point in time. Of course Zhang Ye knew it had nothing to do with him, and the studio staff also knew that it had nothing to do with him either!

But this was not what the people thought!

It was not what the world's netizens thought either!

Therefore, when the military rankings were published, the entire world blew up!

...

India.

"What?"

"China is in second place?"

"Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!"

...

Japan.

"Oh my God!"

"Zhang Ye has brought China to second place in the world with his big talk!"

"Th-This doesn't fucking make any sense at all!"

...

Korea.

"What does China have!"

"How can they possibly be second?"

"Comparing their military, and the number of nuclear submarines they have, Russia has nearly double of what China has. China only has how many subs?"

"But China has kelp."

"Ah?"

...

The UK.

"Heavens!"

"The Chinese are defying the Heavens!"

"China's spiritual military strategist has somehow pushed China into second place with his big talk!"

"Russia must be crying! Their military strength is not inferior to China's! It's even more painful that they lost due to that mouth of Zhang Ye's!"

...

America.

"I'm gonna break down!"

"How can it even be like this?"

"Bullshitting can increase the ranking of a military too?"

"If Zhang Ye recorded a few more episodes of the show, China would probably overtake America and become the world's leading military power. It would just be a matter of time!"

...

China.

"Hahahahaha!"

"I'm dying of laughter! I'm really dying of laughter!"

"Face-smacking Zhang is so fearsome!"

"That mouth of his is too fearsome!"

"Kelp, smog, meteorites, these three new killer weapons of China have pushed China into second place in the world!"

"The world's leading military duper—Zhang Ye!"

"This rankings index doesn't make sense at all! We should have already overtaken America and be ranked first! With a single Face-smacking Zhang, we can fucking take on ten of their aircraft carriers!"

"Pfft! That's enough, alright!"

"Teacher Zhang is gonna get mocked beyond recognition soon! Hahahaha!"

...

The Chinese military.

Several of the generals were on the verge of a mental breakdown!

"This can even fucking happen?"

"It shouldn't have anything to do with Zhang Ye, right?"

"Even if we say that it has nothing to do with him, no one will believe it!"

"This fellow is too good at inciting controversy!"

...

China was stunned!

The world was shocked!

Countless citizens around the world were in stitches!



Zhang Ye's cell phone was blowing up with calls again!

Wave after wave of family and friends were calling!

Yao Jiancai was laughing like crazy on the other end of the line. "Hahahahahaha! Don't stop doing the show! Keep going at it. Whether China can ascend to the top of the military world rankings is all up to you now!"

Zhang Ye chided him with a laugh. "Get lost!"

Right now, Zhang Ye was a little confused!

Of course he knew that he didn't have a talent for military affairs. All of what he had said was just nonsense and only done for the program's effect. He was still putting entertainment as his main priority, so he didn't expect that the matter would get blown up so big.

...

"China has realized its dream of becoming a superpower!"

"China reaches second place on the Global Military Rankings Index for the first time!"

"Zhang Ye's divine assist!"

"China's second place was all down to misleading claims?"

The media also joined in the buzz.

...

Zhang Yuanqi had briefly stepped onto the international stage before, and other Chinese celebrities had also appeared on the international celebrity rankings before. Without an exception, their first task after breaking onto the international stage was to take on film projects or release an English song in order to stabilize their positions on the international rankings. Although they had all failed in the end, and no one managed to gain a foothold, one could tell just how much they valued their position on the international celebrity rankings. The first assignment after stepping onto the international stage was an extremely important one. A lot of people also thought that Zhang Ye would attach great importance to this.

But in the end, it was the complete opposite!

The first task that Zhang Ye did after getting onto the international celebrity rankings was to talk! Bull! Shit!

He did so to an earth-shattering effect!

He bullshitted until the world was stunned!

To be able to bullshit to such an effect?

Throughout the ages, only one person had succeeded!

On this day, Zhang Ye's name once again resounded throughout the world!

On this day, Zhang Ye had truly gained a foothold on the international stage for the first time!

Moreover, he also gained a new nickname.

—The spiritual military strategist of the global military career field!

### **Chapter 1625: Rising in rank on the International Celebrity Rankings Index!**

The next day.

The outside world was still in disarray.

At this moment, the International Celebrity Rankings Index was suddenly refreshed.

On the Web:

“The celebrity rankings have been updated!

“Are there any changes?”

“There are!”

“Wow, the French celebrities are going very strong!”

“But the popular stars are still the American celebrities.”

“An American celebrity has advanced a spot again!”

“It’s another newcomer yet again.”

“The competition is too intense.”

“What about that Chinese?”

“Ah, that Chinese celebrity is coming up too!”

“What?”

In the latest rankings index, the rankings of the international celebrities had changed yet again. An international B-list celebrity’s popularity dropped, and he was downgraded to the International C-list Rankings, while the top international C-list celebrity was promoted to the B-list. Two international A-listers kept swapping places as well. Furthermore, many people around the world also noticed that the ranking of the Chinese celebrity who had caused such a great commotion in recent days had moved as well!

International C-list Rankings:

Zhang Ye (China).

C-list ranking: #59!

His previous international ranking was only #67 on the C-list. After this recent incident, he had shot up by eight places. There were only a 100 celebrities on the C-list rankings. Being ranked around 50th meant that Zhang Ye was truly considered a middle-tier C-list celebrity! To note, the international celebrity rankings were similar to the Chinese celebrity rankings. This meant that the upper ranks would require a higher popularity score to reach, almost to the point of exponentially doubling as it went further up.

From this, it could be seen that the rise in China's military ranking and Zhang Ye's spiritual battle strategies had a great impact on his international fame and popularity.

Many of the world's netizens were amazed.

"Incredible!"

"The Chinese celebrity has affirmed his position!"

"You can even increase your popularity by bullshitting?"

"Who was it that said the Chinese celebrity couldn't go far in the international celebrity rankings?"

"He's reached the middle of the C-list!"

"It was an Indian who said that."

"What a dark horse he is."

"With just his mouth alone, he forcefully increased China's global military ranking from third place to second place. He deserves all this popularity."

"This is such an unorthodox celebrity."

"Impressive, my Chinese bro! I'm proud of you!"

The Japanese people rolled their eyes.

The Indian people were scolding and cursing!

The American people were speechless.

The Chinese people were poking fun.

Only the Pakistani brethren behaved as always.

...

In China.

Noon.

Zhang Ye's house.

"I'm smiling proudly.

" I'm smiling proudly <sup>1</sup> ."

In the house, Zhang Ye was humming and singing.

Ring ring ring, ring ring ring. The phone rang continuously.

Zhang Ye couldn't answer it as he was preparing lunch in the kitchen. He said to Sisi, "Dear, help Daddy to answer the phone. Tell them I'm busy."

Sisi clumsily picked up the phone.

"Hello, Zhang'er, congratulations."

"Hello?"

"Eh? It's Sisi?"

"Mhm."

"Where's your daddy?"

"Daddy is making lunch for Mommy."

"Haha, your daddy is such a good husband. This is Auntie Shanshan. Tell your daddy that our old classmates are all congratulating him again on his rising international popularity."

"OK, Auntie Shanshan."

"Come to Auntie's house to play when you have time. Have you worn the clothes that I bought for you the last time?"

"Yes. Mommy says it's very pretty."

Zhang Ye overheard part of the conversation and said smilingly to his daughter from afar, "Thank your Auntie Shanshan. Tell her not to buy so many clothes in the future. If she really wants to, just gift money instead."

Sisi replied in a childish voice: "Thank you, Auntie Shanshan."

On the other end of the line, Dong Shanshan laughed. She clearly heard what Zhang Ye had said. "You're welcome. Tell your daddy to stay out of this!"

The call ended.

Sisi went over to pass the message to her father. "Auntie Shanshan says congratulations to Daddy."

Zhang Ye more and less knew it was a congratulatory call as he had also seen the latest international celebrity rankings. This was the thing that he had been waiting for today. Zhang Ye had not expected that his international popularity would surge by so much. He was so happy that he even started humming a tune as he prepared lunch.

Working on the show for the past few days.

And bringing out the chief of the Strategic Fool You Agency.

Wasn't all of that just for this little bit of international popularity?

Some people had thought that Zhang Ye's first assignment after reaching the international stage was decided a little too hastily. But now, no one was saying such a thing. This was because everyone knew very clearly that the job he had chosen was actually perfect for him. It was an assignment that only Zhang Ye could handle. No one could imitate him. How could they? Could international superstar Lillian start talking nonsense on a program like that? No one would accept it if it were any of the other international celebrities who did something like that. Only Zhang Ye was an exception. They could all accept this fellow who had tripped an Indian writer at the Nobel Prize award ceremony and still brazenly

called for world peace to bullshit like he did on the program. From a certain perspective, this was a “demeanor” that only Zhang Ye exuded. This demeanor wasn’t found on any of the other international celebrities.

Lunch was prepared.

It was packed into an insulated lunch box.

“Sisi, let’s go. We’re going to bring lunch to Mommy.”

“OK!”

The father-daughter pair got in the car and headed straight for the Central Publicity Department.

...

At Old Wu’s workplace.

When Zhang Ye entered the compound, there was a huge reaction.

Quite a few people working at the Central Publicity Department crowded over in surprise.

“Aiyo, if it isn’t Teacher Zhang?”

“What is Teacher Zhang doing here?”

“Sending lunch to Minister Wu?”

“Aiya, Sisi has grown taller again. She’s getting prettier and prettier!”

“Fellow Zhang, congratulations on your rising international popularity.”

“You’ve really done us Chinese people proud!”

Zhang Ye also chatted a little with everyone.

At this moment, Wu Zeqing and another deputy minister came out of the office building. They were talking as they headed in the direction of what seemed to be the cafeteria. It was lunchtime, after all.

That deputy minister immediately spotted Zhang Ye. He said with a smile, “Your husband is here.”

Wu Zeqing smiled. “What are you doing here?”

Zhang Ye said, “I brought you lunch. I just made.”

“Mommy, Mommy.” Sisi ran over excitedly.

Wu Zeqing picked her up dotingly. “You’re such a good girl? Bringing lunch to Mommy?”

Sisi nodded enthusiastically. “Daddy said that the food at the cafeteria here isn’t tasty.”

The deputy minister beside them smiled and said, “No? I think it’s pretty good?”

Then Zhang Ye said, “About that, Minister He, don’t mind me saying this. This is a pretty big organization. Surely there can be more varieties of food being served? It’s always those few dishes

getting rotated through the menu, and they're not easily digested food either. My wife has been suffering from some stomach discomfort lately and gets gastric reflux at night. She's only been eating from the cafeteria here."

Minister He didn't get angry. He smiled and said, "Sure, I'll speak with the cafeteria management later and get them to change the menu from tomorrow onwards. Minister Wu will surely enjoy the food tomorrow."

When a nearby employee heard, he smiled and said, "I'll go and let them know immediately."

Zhang Ye instructed, "Make sure they add more greens."

The employee said, "Sure."

Everyone laughed.

All across the country, which official's family at the Central Publicity Department would dare to speak in such a way? Only Zhang Ye dared to do this. This was because Zhang Ye wasn't just the family of an official, he was also China's first Nobel Prize laureate and a Two Academies research fellow who had won China's Highest Science and Technology Award. He wouldn't go as far as to direct their work, but complaining a little about the food here and getting the canteen to tweak the menu was still something that everyone here would listen to and follow.

#### **Chapter 1626: The practical usage of spiritual tactics!**

Upstairs.

Wu Zeqing's office.

"Mommy, Sisi is hungry."

"You two haven't eaten either?"

"Mhm."

"Let's quickly eat lunch then."

"Daddy, I don't want to eat these carrots."

"That won't do. Carrots are full of nutrition. Eat them."

"OK."

"Haha, how is Daddy's cooking?"

"Daddy's cooking is delicious."

"Old Wu, how does it taste?"

"Mmm, it's quite delicious, hur hur."

Usually, it was either Wu Zeqing or Zhang Ye who would work overtime at the office. That left the family of three with very few opportunities to eat together, so Zhang Ye did not like to be disturbed whenever they could eat together. However, after only taking a few bites, someone knocked on the door.

Wu Zeqing called out while eating, "Come in."

Secretary Ci entered. "Minister Wu, the people from the Supreme Court are here."

Four people walked through the door.

Wu Zeqing smiled. "Old Qian, you're this early?"

Old Qian was startled. "Oh, you're having lunch?"

"Yes, my husband brought me lunch," Wu Zeqing said with a smile.

Old Qian looked at Zhang Ye and Sisi with a smile. "Teacher Zhang, you're around too? I suppose we arrived at the wrong time. Sorry to disturb your lunch."

Wu Zeqing stood up and tidied up a little. "It's fine. Come, let's head to the conference room to speak."

But Zhang Ye wasn't having any of that. He frowned and said, "But we just started eating."

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "I'll eat after I'm done here."

Zhang Ye said, "You haven't eaten all day. Can you bear it if you get gastric reflux afterwards?"

Sisi also tugged at her mother's sleeve. "Mommy, eat. Mommy, eat."

The people from the Supreme Court hurriedly said:

"That's right, that's right."

"Teacher Zhang is right. Eating is more important."

In the end, it was still the leader of the group, Old Qian, who said with a smile, "Why don't we just have the meeting here. We can discuss the matter while you eat."

Zhang Ye stood up and said, "Alright, you all go ahead. I'll head outside to eat."

"There's no need." Old Qian said happily, "Teacher Zhang, you're not an outsider. You're also one of us legal professionals, after all."

When the other Supreme Court people heard that, they realized it as well. Zhang Ye was a legend among legal professionals. In the history of the judicial examination, he was the only person to have gotten a perfect score on it! Others might not know about the difficulty of the judicial examination because they had never taken it before. But these people here were different. They had all gone through the judicial examination before, so of course they knew what that meant. As such, they were all in awe of Zhang Ye's perfect score achievement.

The meeting began.

As Old Wu discussed some matters with them, Zhang Ye and Sisi stayed out of the way and ate their lunch.

Listening to their conversation, Zhang Ye formed an idea of what they were talking about. The Supreme Court's people had come over the matter of some "deadbeats." What was a deadbeat? To put it simply, they were people who legally owed money. However, these people would avoid paying their debts even though they had the money to do so. This time, there were orders given from above to crack down on such behavior. As such, the Supreme Court's people came knocking on the Central Publicity Department's door in hopes of finding some practical ways to deal with this dishonest behavior and make them pay up, rather than pursuing them through the usual legal court notices.

Five minutes.

Ten minutes.

They couldn't settle on a solution even after discussing for a long time.

Wu Zeqing said, "What I can do on our side is to contact the newspapers, media outlets, and even Central TV and People's Daily to help publish a debtors list."

Old Qian sighed. "We've also tried those ways before, but the results weren't that great. The main issue is that not enough publicity is generated this way. If we were to publish the debtors' personal information in greater detail, their privacy will be infringed, and that's not a line we're allowed to cross. Therefore, these are the difficulties that we face, and they're not easy to deal with."

Wu Zeqing asked, "How many people are there on the list?"

Next to them, a female cadre of the Supreme Court said, "The list of such debtors has a total of 175 names."

Wu Zeqing acknowledged her. "That's quite a lot of them."

Something came over Old Qian as he looked at Zhang Ye, who happened to be scooping up some food for his child. He blinked and said, "Teacher Zhang, do you have any suggestions?"

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Ah?"

The four people of the Supreme Court asked:

"Yeah, why don't you suggest some ideas?"

"This matter is too difficult to deal with."

"You are resourceful with lots of ideas and tactics."

When they heard the word "tactics," the people in the room couldn't help laughing.

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "My tactics are basically just me blowing hot air."

Old Qian slapped his thigh. "Even so, we're open to hearing them!"

Zhang Ye looked at his wife. "I'm only a family member here. Is it really appropriate for me to take part in this discussion?"



“You’re not any ordinary family member.” Old Qian paused for a moment before saying, “You’re also a legal professional. When it comes to defeating these deadbeats, it’s better to come together and brainstorm.”

Zhang Ye nodded. “Alright, I’ll say a few words then. This situation that you mentioned is quite tricky, but at the same time, it is very simple as well.” He remembered the many effective ways that the people in his previous world had implemented to deal with such deadbeats. “Aren’t they just refusing to pay up? Then you don’t have to be courteous with them. If they wanna act shamelessly? Then you gotta be even more shameless than them. If they wanna be thick-skinned? Then you gotta be even more thick-skinned than them!”

The Supreme Court’s people said, “Ah?”

Compete on shamelessness?

Compete on being thick-skinned?

W-What kind of underhanded strategy is that?

Zhang Ye said, “How about this? You guys contact the relevant mobile telecommunications companies and get them to attach a customized incoming ringtone to the cell phone numbers of those deadbeats. Whenever someone calls them, a recorded message from the Supreme Court will play before the call connects. It can go like: ‘The person you are calling has been identified as a debtor by the Supreme People’s Court. Kindly urge the individual to fulfill their obligations under the legal documents as soon as possible,’ or something similar to that. This will let them know that the person they’re calling is a deadbeat.”

The roomful of people were amazed!

Damn!

This is indeed such a fucking spiritual tactic!

This tactic is too wicked!

Old Qian wiped at his sweat and said, “W-Will this work?”

Wu Zeqing laughed. “I think that it makes some sense to do it this way.”

“Th-Then let’s give it a try?” Old Qian said.

Zhang Ye lowered his head and continued eating. “Go on, it definitely won’t be a problem.”

...

Submission to the courts.

Getting the approval.

On the very same afternoon, the document was issued.

...

At a construction company.

Sun He was in his office smoking a cigar and waiting for a very important call.

His wife smiled and said, "Has the project been confirmed?"

Sun He laughed and said, "The discussions are complete, and we'll be signing the contract very soon."

His wife said excitedly, "This is a project worth tens of millions of yuan. There's a lot of money to be earned from it."

Ring, ring, ring.

Sun He's cell phone rang.

Sun He took a deep breath. "Haha, here it comes!"

But when he answered the phone, he was dumbfounded.

The CEO on the other end of the line said angrily: "Old Sun, what's with you?"

Sun He said in surprise: "Boss Zhang? What's the matter?"

The CEO said: "So you're actually a deadbeat? Let's forget about the project. I'll go and speak to another company and work with them instead. You—hai, you better act appropriately."

Sun He was panicking. "Boss Zhang! Don't! Boss Zhang!"

His wife panicked. "What happened? How does Boss Zhang know?"

After a while, they finally understood what was going on!

When Sun He picked up the office telephone to call himself on his cell phone and heard the pre-recorded message from the court, his face turned green with anger!

An angry roar rang out from within the office!

"Fuck your sister!"

"Whose rotten idea was this!"

...

Inside a luxury sedan.

Two people were in the middle of a conversation.

"Have you changed the registered owner of the car yet?"

"Yes, it's under my younger brother's name now."

"Hur hur, that's good. Those people from the courts are too annoying."

"Yeah, they keep coming in person to look for me. Don't they know that they're really irritating?"

At this moment, a call from his parents' house arrived.

The man hurriedly answered and said respectfully: “Mom.”

On the other end of the line, his mother did not say anything for a long time.

The man wondered: “Mom, what is it?”

His mother said coldly: “Little Fu, do you owe people money?”

The man said dumbfoundedly: “No, Mom, who told you something like that?”

His mother said: “Tell me the truth!”

The man said: “I really don’t!”

His mother lamented: “Little Fu, why have you become like this! Pay off whatever you owe immediately. Otherwise, don’t ever come back to our home!”

The man said in panic: “Mom! Mom?”

The line went dead.

Not long after, his elder sister also called.

The man hurriedly asked: “Big Sis, what’s with Mom? Did someone say something to her?”

His elder sister said angrily: “Would anyone need to tell our Mom anything? Call yourself on your cell phone and listen to it! You! You have totally disgraced our family!”

The man quickly used his chauffeur’s cell phone to call himself.

“—The person you are calling has been identified as a debtor by the Supreme People’s Court. Kindly urge the individual to fulfill their obligations under the legal documents as soon as possible!”

The man’s eyes darkened and he nearly fainted!

“Fuck your grandpa!”

“Who did this!”

“You’re too fucking wicked!”

...

At a villa.

A couple was having a conversation.

“Little Juan, I really like you a lot, so marry me.”

“My parents still have some hesitations, but they’re starting to relent a little.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll go visit your family today and convince your parents.”

“Alright. Oh yes, my cell phone has died. My mom to call your phone later. Let’s select a restaurant to eat at. She likes spicy food the most, and my dad loves drinking. Don’t forget that!”

“Sure, no problem.”

Ring, ring, ring.

A call arrived.

The youth hurriedly answered it with a sweet and polite voice. “Hello, Auntie.”

The woman on the other end said coldly: “Get my daughter on the phone!”

The young man was startled. He hadn’t expected the other party’s attitude to change so suddenly. He handed the phone to the girl.

He heard her mother railing at her: “Are you stupid or what? Don’t you know that he owes money?”

The girl was stunned. “Owes money? Impossible! His family is pretty well-to-do!”

Her mother said: “There’s a court notice linked to his phone! My foolish daughter! What kind of man did you find! You’ve been lied to by him all this while! Leave him immediately! Our family may be poor and average, but you must not find someone like that! And come home right now!”

The girl left.

Before leaving, she even gave the young man a slap across his face.

The young man was completely stunned, not knowing what had happened. When he used the villa’s landline to call his cell phone, he finally learned what had happened!

“Holy fuck!”

“Holy fuck!”

“Holy fuck!”

“Who is it!”

“Who the hell is so wicked to do something like this!”

...

On this day.

Countless deadbeats around the country were in a state of confusion!

They had thought that they were the most shameless people in the world!

But never could they have imagined that there was someone who was even more shameless than them!

The Supreme Court!

We were wrong about you!

Since when did you fucking become like this!

**Chapter 1627: A brilliant reputation!**

In a group chat.

Many of the deadbeats in here knew each other personally.

“Old Hu, did something happen to your cell phone’s incoming ringtone?”

“It got changed by the Supreme Court!”

“Old Qi, how about you?”

“Mine too!”

“Will it stop if we turn off our phones?”

“It doesn’t work that way; I’ve already tried it. Even after turning the phone off, people can still hear the Supreme Court’s message when they call in. Only after that will it say that the phone has been turned off!”

“Can we cancel the number then?”

“That doesn’t work either. Moreover, all the cell phone numbers, including our home landlines, have had their incoming ringtone changed by the Supreme Court via the telecommunications companies!”

“How fucking devious!”

“Aren’t they being too shameless by doing this!”

“Who the hell came up with such a rotten idea!”

“The business deal that I successfully negotiated has fallen through because of it! It’s worth over tens of millions of yuan!”

“What’s the big deal about that! I lost my fiancée because of it!”

“They’re totally out to get us this time!”

“When did the Supreme Court start behaving in such troublemaking ways!”

“W-What times do we live in! Even a government organization has started behaving like the mob!”

There was a wave of scolding in the group chat. Many of the deadbeats were driven crazy!

A lot of these people were not afraid of being called out in the public notices since not many people would look at them anyway. Who had the time to check the list of criminals on the television and newspapers every day? But it was different this time. It wasn’t a public notice, but something that was a million times harsher. These people also had relatives, friends, and colleagues. Some even had business partners too. But with this, the people around them were now aware of their situation. This sort of pressure was simply too overwhelming.

...

This also made the news in China.

“The Supreme Court clamps down hard on deadbeats!”

“The Supreme Court makes its move!”

“The ‘Deadbeat Incoming Ringtone’ is born!”

“Shock! The Supreme Court resorts to unorthodox measures!”

The news also did a detailed writeup on the “Deadbeat Incoming Ringtone.”

...

On Weibo.

The netizens were gobsmacked when they saw the news!

“Holy shit!”

“This—”

“The Supreme Court is so smart!”

“Hahahaha!”

“Aiyo, I’m dying of laughter! This is hilarious!”

“They can even fucking do this?”

“Whoever came up with such an idea?!”

“This move is the best! It’s so devious!”

“I’m laughing like crazy! Here’s a Like for the Supreme Court!”

“The Supreme Court is amazing today! Beautifully executed!”

“Pfft, hahahaha! Is this still the Supreme Court that I thought I knew? A wicked move like that couldn’t have been thought up by just anyone!”

“What a bright move by the Supreme Court!”

“All hail our country’s governmental organization!”

“When faced with such scum, there’s a need to use similarly scummy tactics to deal with them!”

“Well done! This should have happened a long time ago!”

“Those deadbeats have always thought that they were unscrupulous, but who could’ve guessed our governmental organization can be even more unscrupulous when they want to! The Supreme Court has played it really well. I just want to know now whose great idea this was! What a genius! They had better get a promotion and a raise!”

...

At night.

Zhang Ye's parents' house.

As he was too lazy to cook, Zhang Ye brought his wife and child over to his parents' place for dinner.

As soon as Zhang Ye entered the house, he called out, "Dad, Mom, I'm hungry."

His mother stared at him. "All you know is to eat!"

Sisi said listlessly, "Nana, I'm hungry too."

His mother dotingly said, "Aiyo, eat some grapes to tide you over, my dear. I'll get Pops to quickly heat up dinner!" Turning around, she said, "Go on now. Didn't you hear our granddaughter say that she's hungry?"

Wu Zeqing immediately said, "Mom, I'll go heat it up."

His father said, "You don't have to. You've been working all day."

It was time to eat.

His mother, who happened to have just watched the news, said to her daughter-in-law with a laugh, "Oh yes, there was news that really tickled your Dad and me. That incoming ringtone for those deadbeats stunt by the Supreme Court is so satisfying to hear about!"

His father also laughed. "That was a good idea! It was such a good idea!"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "The idea was suggested by Little Ye."

His mother was stunned. "What?"

His father exclaimed, "Little Ye suggested it?"

Wu Zeqing said, "The Supreme Court's people came by to the Central Publicity Department today when Little Ye brought me lunch, so he floated the idea to them."

"Son." His mother looked at him. "Why are you so wicked?"

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "I'm just doing a service to the people."

His mother said in amusement, "Those deadbeats have probably been done in by you!"

At this moment, a cell phone rang.

It was Wu Zeqing's phone.

She picked up a napkin and wiped her mouth before walking off to take the call. "Hello?"

On the other end, it was Old Qian from the Supreme Court. His tone sounded different from the afternoon as he spoke very excitedly, "Minister Wu, it's me!"

"It's Old Qian?"

"Let me give you a piece of good news. You absolutely can't imagine it, hahahaha. Of the 175 names on the latest batch of major debtors list, 103 of them have already repaid their debts. Furthermore, this

number is still increasing as we—" Another person could be heard talking to Old Qian. Then he said excitedly to Wu Zeqing: "Latest update, there are 108 people who paid up!"

Old Wu laughed. "That's good."

"Thank your husband for me. Thank Teacher Zhang. He has really helped out the courts this time. Let me find a day and I'll treat Teacher Zhang to a meal in my personal capacity! You must convince him to accept my gratitude!" He then repeated: "You must thank your husband for me!"

Old Wu smiled. "Alright, I'll let him know."

The call ended.

Old Wu came back to the dining table and said calmly, "That was from the Supreme Court. 108 debtors have already paid up, so Old Qian wanted to give you his thanks. He mentioned that he would like to buy you a meal someday."

His father was stunned. "It was that effective?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I knew it would be."

...

Meanwhile.

The various courts around the country received many calls.

The deadbeats they had been chasing for repayment were now all actively looking for the courts.

...

Beijing Municipal High People's Court.

"Judge Liu!"

"Yes?"

"I'm willing to pay up! Right now!"

"Ah? Sure."

"I give up, I really give up this time!"

...

Shanghai Municipal High People's Court.

"Judge Zhou!"

"Oh, it's Boss Li. How's the money coming?"

"I've already paid up. Can you all quickly retract the incoming ringtone!"

"Oh, I have to verify it first. There's no rush."



“You might not be urgent, but I am!”

...

Shenzhen Municipal High People’s Court.

“Judge Wu, you people are too extreme!”

“Hur hur, when it comes to dealing with you all, there’s a need to do so.”

“Alright, I give up, I admit defeat.”

“Can you pay up within this week?”

“—Yes! I can!”

“You should have done so earlier!”

...

On TV.

Central TV News Channel.

The host said, “Today, the Supreme Court, together with the Central Publicity Department and various telecommunications companies, launched a special crackdown against deadbeat behavior. The effect is very clear, and as of now, 111 people have paid their arrears to the government. About 10 people have promised the local courts that they will make up for their arrears within the week. According to our reporter’s understanding, the person who recommended this severe action that was undertaken by the Supreme Court was actually the Nobel Prize laureate, Teacher Zhang Ye. During the course of our interview with the Supreme Court, they repeatedly expressed their gratitude to Teacher Zhang Ye.”

When this news was broadcast.

The Chinese society blew up!

...

In the deadbeats’ chat group.

“Holy fuck!”

“It’s Zhang Ye?”

“That rotten idea was suggested by him?”

“Fuck! He’s too ruthless!”

“That hooligan! That fucking hooligan!”

...

Online.

The netizens were laughing like crazy!

“What?”

“Face-smacking Zhang?”

“Damn! So he was the one behind it!”

“I knew it! I was wondering who could have come up with such a despicable strategy!”

“Hahahahaha!”

“So it was the rotten idea of our spiritual strategist! No wonder it felt so familiar! Your sister! Zhang Ye’s spiritual tactics have finally found a practical usage! And it even succeeded!”

“So our spiritual strategist isn’t just talk!”

“It really succeeded!”

“Amazing job, Face-smacking Zhang!”

“This is the first time a spiritual tactic has been put into practice!”

“Would that meteorites that destroy carriers theory work then?”

“It just might!”

On this day.

The reputation of Zhang Ye as a spiritual strategist became even more brilliant than before!

### **Chapter 1628: Setting sights on Hollywood!**

The next day.

At the studio.

“Good morning, Director Zhang.”

Good morning.”

“You were all over the news again yesterday.”

“I saw it.”

“Oh yes, Sister Ha was looking for you just now.”

“Is there a new project?”

“I think so.”

The moment Zhang Ye arrived at the office, he had a quick chat with everyone.

Ha Qiqi also came down from upstairs at this time. She looked radiant. “Director Zhang, you’re finally here. I was just looking for you. Shall we talk in the conference room? There’s something big.”

Zhang Ye said, "Sure, let's have a meeting then."

Ha Qiqi said to everyone, "Come on, everyone, let's have a meeting."

In the conference room.

Everyone got seated.

Zhang Ye spoke first. He said with a laugh, "Our work has been smooth sailing recently. We've broken into the international celebrity rankings and stabilized our position there and fought hard to gain a certain degree of fame. It's now time for us to think of the next step, so I want everybody to think of which jobs we should take from here. The international entertainment industry is unlike the domestic one, with a lot more restrictions to it. For example, on the issue of ethnicity, the international scene is still not that impressed with Asians. So this is another problem that we must consider carefully when accepting a job offer. Let's talk about how we should feel our way forward towards the next step. Oh right, Old Ha mentioned a big matter earlier. Why don't you tell us about it first?"

Ha Qiqi and Zhang Zuo smiled at each other.

Ha Qiqi suddenly said, "What do you make of us going to Hollywood?"

Zhang Ye was startled. "Hollywood?"

Zhang Zuo laughed and said, "Yes."

Variety.

Music.

Television series.

Animation.

Comics.

Novels.

Zhang Ye had already dabbled in all the various forms of entertainment and industries except for the film industry, which he had basically still not touched yet. Although during his early years, Zhang Ye had acted in some supporting roles on one or two movies, he wasn't that different from an extra on the set. So those experiences couldn't be considered as having dabbled in film before. As such, Zhang Ye's résumé and achievements in the film industry were still a blank, nor had anyone ever addressed him as an actor before.

Ha Qiqi said, "Right now, it's only the film industry that we haven't dipped our toes in. Everyone should know that film is the largest industry in the entertainment circle, with nothing else coming close. Today, more than half of the international celebrities are movie stars, with all the other countries' celebrities still obsessed with getting into the film industry. This is because they have the greatest audience numbers, and it's also the fastest path to fame. So I feel that we can attempt to enter Hollywood now and open a path forward from there."

Zhang Ye asked, "Did Hollywood come forward with a project for me?"

“Yes.” Zhang Zuo smiled and said, “In fact, you wouldn’t believe which film crew approached us.”

Zhang Ye blinked. “Which one?”

Ha Qiqi said, “Commando 2!”

All of the studio staff were surprised.

“Commando?”

“Isn’t that a Hollywood blockbuster?”

“It was first shown two years ago, and the global box office earnings were around 500 or 600 million USD!”

“They’re going to film the sequel?”

“And they’ve invited Director Zhang?”

“Heavens!”

Zhang Ye said, “What role is it?”

Ha Qiqi said, “There are six lead characters in the show, with two of them being the main leads. The other four will be supporting characters, and one of them is a Chinese character that they’re inviting you to act as. It’s still considered a leading role, and I’m guessing they’re doing this in an attempt to expand into the Chinese market. Moreover, Commando 2 will be helmed by Director Wilson, a famous director in Hollywood. With him, and the fact that the first movie of the series is very well-known and performed very well at the box office, Commando 2’s box office earnings will definitely not be bad either.”

Zhang Zuo also said, “This is indeed a rare opportunity.”

Little Wang said, “Commando is one of my favorite movies of all time!”

Zhang Ye looked at all of them. “So does everyone think this will be fine?”

Tong Fu nodded. “It’s more than fine!”

Wu Yi also chuckled and said, “If we can increase our popularity and fame through this movie, it will be much easier to take on the international scene in the future.”

A movie?

Hollywood?

A blockbuster’s sequel?

Zhang Ye nodded. “Alright then. Old Ha, you’re in charge of the liaison.”

Ha Qiqi said excitedly, “Alright, I’ll go and speak with them!”

Instantly, the studio staff were basking in this pleasant surprise.

...

One day.

Two days.

Three days.

Negotiating the salary.

Auditioning.

Holding the contract talks.

All of the relevant processes were proceeding smoothly.

...

On the Web.

The news went viral.

“What?”

“They’re going to film Commando 2 soon?”

“A Chinese person will be joining the production?”

“Why did they get him?”

“Are they thinking of entering the Chinese market?”

“He’s already acting in a blockbuster film on his first foray into Hollywood? That Chinese guy is too lucky.”

“It’s a good thing that Zhang Ye isn’t the main lead. Otherwise, I would definitely not watch it!”

...

In the international news.

“The cast list of Commando 2 has been set!”

“A Chinese actor will be joining the cast of Commando 2?”

“Wilson to direct his tenth blockbuster film!”

“Hollywood has set its sights on the Chinese market?”

...

The outside world was bursting with excitement.

But just before the movie was about to start shooting, just as Zhang Ye’s contractual talks were about to be finalized, an unexpected incident happened.

At a press conference.

The famous American director, Wilson, bluntly said, "After negotiations with different parties, we have come to a decision to not hire the Chinese celebrity. The Chinese film market is still not mature and regulated yet. I don't wish to affect our film's production and quality just because of the overseas box office earnings in China. Therefore, after discussions with the production studio, we have arrived at a decision. The role that was originally planned for Zhang Ye will be taken over by the Japanese star Seta."

An American reporter hurriedly asked, "Then why did you choose to invite Zhang Ye then?"

Wilson shook his head and chuckled. "He was invited by the investors, but I have always been against it."

A female reporter said, "Seta's clearly not as popular as Zhang Ye, so why did you make the decision?"

Wilson said indifferently, "This is a consideration we made based on a comprehensive number of factors. We have judged that Seta would be more suitable for this role, and his acting and image are also better."

The reporter followed up with, "Are you trying to hype up the movie using the name of a Nobel Prize winner?"

Wilson said disdainfully, "Is there a need to hype up our movie?"

...

The news got out.

A heated discussion followed on the Web.

A Japanese netizen: "This is great!"

Another Japanese netizen: "I like Seta!"

An Indian netizen: "As long as Zhang Ye isn't starring in it, I'll watch it."

A UK netizen: "Surely it's not good to go back on their word like this, right?"

A French netizen: "Does this mean they're giving up on the Chinese market?"

An American netizen: "That's not called giving up. With Wilson's reputation and the brand name of Commando, the Chinese people would still watch it all the same even without a Chinese star acting in it. Their country's film market has always been dominated by Hollywood productions since there aren't any outstanding domestic movies. The six months' box office earnings of their domestic movies combined wouldn't even match what a single movie of ours can earn. So the Chinese market is negligible."

A Canadian netizen: "Zhang Ye has failed in his bid to enter Hollywood."

An Australian netizen: "Hur hur. There's a saying in China that goes 'losing the first battle,' meaning 'getting off on the wrong foot.' I'm guessing he won't have an easy time in the future."

A Russian netizen: "The international entertainment circle is already a very difficult place for a Chinese celebrity to survive in. Zhang Ye has probably gone the furthest that he can."

A Korean netizen: “Although I don’t really like Zhang Ye either, I can say that he isn’t someone who can be bullied this way. I think Director Wilson’s behavior was too hasty.”

An American netizen: “Hur hur, since when did Koreans start speaking up for the Chinese?”

The Korean netizen: “I’m not speaking up for him. I’m just trying to tell you that you guys know too little about Zhang Ye. Trying to use him to hype up the movie? Going back on your word like this? Based on my understanding of Zhang Ye, he absolutely will not take this lying down. Director Wilson and Hollywood are behaving too carelessly. At least in Asia, no matter how much one might dislike Zhang Ye, even if they’re a Korean or Japanese director, no one would dare to make fun of Zhang Ye like this! Besides, you can’t imagine how united the Chinese are! You have absolutely no idea of what the name Zhang Ye means to their country. Wilson has cut himself off from the Chinese market.”

An American netizen mocked: “The Chinese film market’s box office earnings in recent years have indeed exploded. There are already movies that can reach earnings of around 700 to 800 million. But remember this: That is not in USD, but RMB. Besides, any of our blockbusters can already easily earn 700 to 800 million USD!”

Another American netizen: “That’s right. It’s too bad that Wilson is the director, so he can choose not to use him if he wants. If Zhang Ye is so capable, let him make his own movie!”

#### **Chapter 1629: Zhang Ye is going to make a movie!**

In China.

Be it the public.

Or the media.

Or even the entertainment circle.

It blew up everywhere in an instant!

...

On Weibo.

“Damn, what the hell!”

“Aren’t they purposely playing with us?”

“What’s so great about Hollywood! Do you guys think you’re that impressive?!”

“So you think that our Chinese market is negligible? Why don’t you die instead!”

“Don’t you believe that we’ll one day make a Chinese movie that will outperform your box office earnings? There’s nothing that’s impossible in this world!”

“Face-smacking Zhang didn’t beg to appear in your movie. If you had found him unsuitable during the audition, just leave it at that. Why would you need to announce something like that during the press conference? And you had to drag in the Chinese market by calling it unregulated? And even say that

Zhang Ye's acting and image are not good enough? That Wilson must have done it on purpose, right! And there was an American actor whose role had been confirmed earlier on like Zhang Ye but was later removed. Why was there a need for Wilson to bring it up during the press conference? It's not like that person provoked you, so why did you have to do it like this? This is tabloidization!"

"It's clearly hype!"

"Yeah, Zhang Ye has been really popular in the international scene recently."

"Motherfucker! I liked Wilson a lot in the past. He's a famous international director, after all. But by the looks of it, he's really not much of a person. I won't watch his movies in the future."

"Right, I won't watch them either!"

"Boycott Commando 2!"

"Let them earn nothing at the box office in China!"

"We'll fully boycott the movie! Fuck! This is so infuriating!"

"Is there a need to boycott? Those people from Hollywood are all so snobbish and think that we Chinese people would watch a movie just because it was made by them. They're way too overconfident. What's more, they probably don't know who Zhang Ye's wife is, right? She's the head of the Central Publicity Department. Whether or not Commando 2 will get published in China is still an unknown. The film crew of Commando 2 is really asking for it!"

"Pfft, that's quite true!"

"I've never liked Zhang Ye. However, I'm on his side this time!"

"Supporting Teacher Zhang!"

The citizens were furious and showing their solidarity for Zhang Ye.

Following, many of the entertainment circle's celebrities and directors also stepped forward.

Famous Chinese director Li Ke: "Don't be putting all the blame on China. We're not as weak as you think!"

Another famous Chinese director came forward and posted on Weibo: "The Chinese film market is rapidly growing, and Zhang Ye has always been one of the most dedicated celebrities in the Chinese entertainment industry. So please don't speak nonsense like this, and be careful of being caught out by your words."

Ning Lan's Weibo: "Despicable people are always trying to make trouble."

Heavenly Queen Xu Meilan's Weibo: "I hate people who disparage others to create hype!"

...

People's Daily.

Xinhua News.



Youth Daily.

Many of the news media started targeting Wilson.

“China’s film market is unregulated?”

“To respect and be respected!”

“The conceit of a Hollywood director!”

“Hollywood’s arrogance and prejudice!”

The incident blew up!

Zhang Ye and his studio were once again pushed into the headlines of the news!

...

At the studio.

The atmosphere was a little subdued.

Some people were angered!

Some people were frustrated.

Some people were cursing.

Some people were feeling bad for Zhang Ye.

Because of the offer from the Hollywood blockbuster production, their studio had turned down almost every job and worked hard to make it happen. Be it the audition or the contract negotiations, they had put in 200 percent of their sincerity, even asking for a very low salary, all this just to have a chance to show up in a Hollywood movie. For a time, they had thought it was a done deal. This was also the feedback given to them by the film crew of Commando 2. But no one could have expected that at the press conference, Director Wilson would take a vicious stab at them. Only now did they realize that the crew of Commando 2 had no intention of hiring Director Zhang at all. From start to finish, it had just been a plot to hype up their movie!

They first offered an olive branch.

Then they trampled it.

This would completely cut off Director Zhang’s future path in Hollywood!

Little Wang roared, “They’ve gone too far!”

Tong Fu said angrily, “Those bastards!”

But Zhang Ye wasn’t affected. He laughed and said, “That’s enough, it’s not even a big deal.”

Ha Qiqi took the initiative and admitted to her mistake. She said solemnly, “Director Zhang, the responsibility lies with me this time. It was my problem because I was too eager for us to go forward.”

Zhang Zuo added, "I'm also to blame. I should've known such a good opportunity wouldn't just fall into our laps. We were all too anxious to succeed."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "The decision was made by me. What has it got to do with you guys?"

However, Ha Qiqi and the others knew and could tell during the meeting when they were making the decision to enter Hollywood, Director Zhang did not seem to care much for it. It was only because of their insistence that he agreed to go for the audition. Perhaps Director Zhang already had a hunch about the offer at that time.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Alright, let's not try to take responsibility from each other over the matter. This incident has also taught us a lesson. We have never been the type of people to play by the book anyway. It's clear that we aren't suited to follow in the steps of other international celebrities, moving step by step into Hollywood by shooting one, three, or five movies and building up our popularity a little at a time. We still have to carve out our own unique path. That's the case for the domestic market, and also the case for the international scene."

"But now—" Ha Qiqi sighed. "—even Hollywood isn't an option anymore."

Zhang Zuo said, "With this negative impact, I'm afraid the Hollywood directors won't even invite us."

But Zhang Ye shook his head and said calmly, "It's just making movies. It's not like we can only do that in Hollywood."

Wu Yi was taken aback. "What do you mean by that?"

Zhang Ye smiled. "Isn't Wilson trying to act all high and mighty with me? Since he's issued the challenge, there's no reason for us not to accept it."

Ha Qiqi said, "Ah?"

Little Wang said startled, "What are you planning?"

What am I planning?

Zhang Ye only had two simple words: "Get him!"

Zhang Zuo said, "How are we going to do that?"

Tong Fu said, wiping his sweat, "That's a famous Hollywood director we're talking about!"

"I've already decided." Zhang Ye astonishingly claimed, "We will also make a movie ourselves. We won't go to Hollywood, but instead, stay in China to make a Chinese movie. I would like to see if we can end up with the bigger box office earnings, or would it be his *Commando 2*'s box office earnings that win. We'll find out who's the mule and who's the horse!"

What?

Film a movie?

Little Wang was floored. "W-We haven't even made a movie before!"

Tong Fu stammered, "Y-Yeah, we...we don't know how to do it."

But Zhang Ye questioned, "Wasn't the TV series we produced also the first time we made one?"

Zhang Zuo was already shivering in fear. "But a movie is a different matter! It's entirely different, alright!"

Ha Qiqi also said in panic, "Director Zhang, we shouldn't make a movie just to get even. We're really inexperienced in this field. And besides, the opponent is a Hollywood director who is directing the sequel of a Hollywood blockbuster. What are we going to use to fight them in the box office earnings? It's impossible to compete. The gap between our Chinese film market and the American film market is not just a small one. This will be too risky. We mustn't make such an impulsive decision."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Actually, when you guys mentioned Hollywood and making movies, I got some ideas. What Wilson said at the press conference has made me even more certain of it. Why is it that our Chinese-made movies cannot show their face to the world? We can't do it? Why can't we do it?! I'll present to our homeland a grand gift this time! Hollywood? Wilson? Commando 2? This bro is going head-to-head with them this time! I would like to see for myself whether a Hollywood blockbuster is really as good as they claim it to be! Hur hur."

The studio staff all looked at one another.

Everyone knew that they couldn't dissuade Director Zhang.

Ha Qiqi didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "What movie are we going to make then?"

Zhang Ye didn't even think. "A military-themed movie."

"Military themed?" Zhang Zuo blinked.

Zhang Ye said something astonishing again. "I've even thought of the movie's name already. It shall be called Wolf Warrior 2!"

Silence!

Dead silence!

Little Wang's eyes widened. "What?"

Zhang Ye said, "Wolf Warrior 2!"

Ha Qiqi was stunned. "What number?"

Zhang Ye said, "2."

2?

2?

Everyone nearly fell to the ground!

Zhang Zuo gasped and said, "Director Zhang, can you not joke with us?"

Zhang Ye said nervously, "I'm not joking with you guys."

Wu Yi said, "We know that you're taking it up with Hollywood, but, but you can't make a movie that ends with 2 just because they're filming Commando 2! The Commando series has a first movie, alright? Even if we want to film a movie, we cannot just call it Wolf Warrior 2 for the first movie of the series!"

But Zhang Ye said, "Whoever made the rule that the first movie in a series cannot be called 2?"

Wu Yi couldn't find any words to refute that. "Uh, it's true that there's no such rule."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Then it's decided. We'll call it Wolf Warrior 2."

Everyone was at a loss for words!

They didn't even know how to argue!

They'd never seen this before!

They'd never seen someone do things like this before!

Be it in China or in Hollywood, in all these decades of the global film industry, there had never been a person who did not play their cards according to the rules when making movies!

Director Zhang was indeed Director Zhang!

The way his brain was wired was totally unlike that of a normal person's!

### **Chapter 1630: The funding is in place!**

One day.

Two days.

Zhang Ye started getting busy with raising money for the production.

Call after call, he checked with everyone he could.

...

"Hello, CEO Zhou."

"Oh, it's Teacher Zhang, haha."

"I am going to make a movie, are you interested?"

"Ah? Make a movie? That's great. I'm quite interested."

"I would like to approach you to make an investment for it."

"Who are you working with this time? Director Li? Does Director Li still need to get investors for his films?"

"No, I'm filming the movie myself. I'll be acting and directing."

"What? Filming it yourself?"

“Yes.”

“This—”

...

“CEO Hu, there’s something I would like to discuss with you.”

“Please speak, Director Zhang.”

“Please give me some funding.”

“Funding? Are you making another TV series? Hur hur, why would you need to make pitches for investments for your TV series? Just a word from you, and we would send the money straight on over.”

“It’s not a TV series but a movie production.”

“You’re making a movie?”

“Yes.”

“Uh, if it’s that, then forget it. There has been a downturn in our domestic film market’s box office earnings these days, so we’re not dipping our toes into the industry for now.”

“Alright, I’ll ask someone else then.”

...

“CEO Chen, how about it?”

“Are you really going to make a movie?”

“Of course!”

“You want a 200-million-yuan investment?”

“I’ll need at least 200 million.”

“A 200-million-yuan investment, could you be thinking of making a 3D movie? You’re making a 3D movie as your directorial film debut? Teacher Zhang, it’s not that I don’t believe in your abilities, but that’s 200 million we’re talking about. Our company alone can’t fork out such a sum. Why not allow us to invest a few million instead? You can get a few dozen more companies and we can all bear the risk together?”

“Forget it then.”

...

One company.

Five companies.

Ten companies.

Zhang Ye had approached almost every investment company and movie studio that he knew in the entertainment circle, but he still did not manage to pull in any money in the end. Everyone was either

scared off by Zhang Ye's desire to be a film director, or scared off by the title of "Wolf Warrior 2," or if not, scared off by the huge investment amount needed for a 3D movie. Although some were willing to put in the money, they were at most willing to spend several million RMB as an investment sum. That would be totally useless as there would be too many investors required to raise the full sum. In that case, if every party were to point him in the direction they wanted the movie to be made in, Zhang Ye wouldn't be able to make the movie at all.

No money?

What could he do then?

Without any money, there was nothing he could do.

Back at home.

Zhang Ye paced around the house with his hands behind his back.

His parents and parents-in-law were also here today.

His mother said in astonishment, "Kid, are you really serious about making a movie?"

Zhang Ye said, "Of course I'm serious. I've even written the script already."

"You've never made a movie before, though." His father said helplessly, "Even if you're taking it up with that Hollywood director, you shouldn't be taking such a gamble."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Not only am I taking it up with them, I'm also trying to do a little something for our domestic film industry."

Li Qinqin asked worriedly, "No one is investing any money in the production yet?"

Zhang Ye acknowledged and said, "The main issue is that I have no connections with the entertainment companies. From the moment I debuted, I've been on my own. Moreover, this is my first time making a movie, so it's very normal for the investors to not trust me. Besides, most of the investors already have their own production studios and artists, so of course they would prioritize their own people when making movies. I'm also making a 3D movie that requires more funding, so they probably have their concerns."

His mother said, "Don't talk about them. Even I have my concerns."

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "Mom, aren't you too distrusting of me?"

His mother rolled her eyes. "You decided to make a movie at the snap of a finger, so who could trust you?"

"If you can't pull in funding, how are you going to film it?" Wu Changhe asked.

Zhang Ye threw up his hands. "I'll think of a way myself. At worst, I'll use my own money to make the movie." He did a quick calculation. "Gone With the Wind has sold very well and has earned a fair bit of royalties. Up until now, it should be around 30 million. Together with the bit of savings from last time, I should be able to take out more than 30 million yuan."

At this moment, Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others also came.

Ha Qiqi asked in concern, "Did you manage to pull in any funding?"

Zhang Ye shook his head and asked, "How much money does our studio have left?"

Ha Qiqi was taken aback and looked to Zhang Zuo.

Zhang Zuo was in charge of the studio's internal matters. He said, "There isn't much money left in the studio. I suppose we can take out about three to five million or so."

Zhang Ye said, "Then together with what I have, we should be able to raise close to 40 million."

Little Wang was startled. "You're thinking of putting in your own money?"

Zhang Ye said, "If not, what can we do?"

Tong Fu coughed and said, "Director Zhang, why not...why not forget about it?"

Zhang Ye gave him a look. "That's not an option. I must make this movie!"

Wu Zeqing was playing with their child. When she heard that, she calmly said, "I can fork out a little."

Zhang Ye immediately said, "No need!"

His father also said, "Your Mom and I also have around two million in savings."

"Aiya." Zhang Ye said, "You guys don't have to worry. Besides, that money wouldn't make a difference, so don't bother yourselves with my affairs. I'll think of something and definitely gather enough. I don't believe I can't do it!"

This was Wolf Warrior 2 they were talking about, the same Wolf Warrior 2 that broke the Chinese box office back in his previous world. Although Zhang Ye was taking a risk by skipping over Wolf Warrior to make Wolf Warrior 2, he had already planned everything properly. In his previous world, a lot of people went to watch the sequel without catching the original first, so it wouldn't really impact the experience. With some slight tweaking of the script, it was entirely possible to avoid any abruptness in the storyline and make Wolf Warrior 2 into a standalone movie.

But what was the current situation?

He couldn't even get any investors to fund the production?

Even Zhang Ye did not know whether to laugh or cry!

...

After lunch.

His parents-in-law went home.

On the way, Li Qinqin suddenly said, "Changhe."

"What?" Wu Changhe asked.

Li Qinqin said, "I have something to discuss with you."

...

Another two days went by.

On the Web, there were discussions of Commando 2 everywhere.

"Commando will start filming soon."

"Yeah, I'm looking forward to it."

"It surely won't do badly at the box office."

"Whatever is showing during the same period as Commando 2 is really unlucky."

"Director Wilson's commercial effect is becoming more and more pronounced these days."

"Haha, there's no news from that Chinese guy either."

"Yeah, his international path is probably going to end here."

"That's true. Hollywood has shut him out, so what else can he do? If he wants to develop in the international entertainment industry, movie productions are going to be a part of it, and no one can get around that."

...

On the road.

In the car.

Zhang Ye was also looking at a lot of world news. Commando 2 had already started filming, so this gave him an even greater sense of urgency. Of course, he had reason to believe that Wolf Warrior 2 could destroy the similarly themed military movie of Commando 2. But the problem was that other than himself, no one believed him. No one would dare to believe him!

A Chinese movie wiping out a Hollywood blockbuster?

A Chinese director destroying a Hollywood director?

However you put it, it sounded like pure fantasy!

Whoever heard that would also think that Zhang Ye was bragging!

As such, the investment that Zhang Ye was looking for just couldn't be secured.

How worrisome!

How worrisome!

Up ahead, he reached home.

Zhang Ye got out of the car and took out his keys to open the villa's door. The moment he stepped in, he discovered that his family members were all here. It was the weekend today, and his wife wasn't at work.



He washed his hands.

Then got ready for dinner.

The entire family sat together and started eating.

His mother asked, "You haven't secured the funding yet?"

Zhang Ye said in a dejected tone, "The potential funders are all too shortsighted."

Wu Changhe curled his lips and said, "It's because you're taking such a huge risk this time, boy."

His father said with a sigh, "That bold temper of his, I really wonder who he takes after."

His mother harrumphed, "In any case, he doesn't take after me."

"Oh, so does that mean he takes after me?" his father asked.

Everyone laughed.

Only Zhang Ye did not. This fellow was totally distracted thinking about the matter of the funding.

At this moment, his mother took out a card and placed it on the table. "Here."

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "What?"

His father said, "It's your mother and my savings. There's two million in it."

Zhang Ye clicked his tongue. "Aiya, I don't need it."

His mother harrumphed, "We don't have more than that. It's all we have."

Zhang Ye was about to say something.

On the other side of the table, after Wu Zeqing finished feeding their daughter, she suddenly reached into her pocket and took out a bank card as well. She pushed it towards Zhang and said calmly, "There's 90 million on it."

Exclamations rang out all around!

Zhang Ye was absolutely shocked. "What?"

His mother's jaw dropped. "90 million?"

Zhang Ye hurriedly said, "Damn, where did you get so much money?"

Old Wu casually said, "From the mortgage."

Zhang Ye jumped. "Y-You mortgaged the house?"

Old Wu nodded and said almost indifferently, "Use it. We can always pay off the mortgage when you earn back the money."

"But what if it doesn't make enough to pay off the mortgage!" his mother asked in panic. She said in an angry and caring manner, "Aiyo, why is my daughter-in-law so foolish? This is the only place you all have

to live, so how can you casually mortgage it? What if the movie fails? where will you all stay then? What about the child?"

Zhang Ye said anxiously, "Quickly go and cancel the mortgage and return the loan!"

Old Wu said, "It's already been signed."

Zhang Ye felt really touched, but he still said, "Oh, you! How could you not discuss such a big matter with me? Besides, even with this 90 million, it's still not enough to shoot the movie. You're just—"

All of a sudden, his mother-in-law next to him said something.

Li Qinqin also took out a bank card. "It should be enough with this."

Zhang Ye said in surprise, "Mom? What are you doing?"

Li Qinqin handed the card to him. "There's a 100 million on it, but the money hasn't been transferred yet. The bank will credit the amount by the end of the week. Take it."

His mother was dumbfounded. "A 100 million?"

Tears nearly fell from Zhang Ye's eyes. "Where did you get so much money?"

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "After we went home that day, I had a talk with Zeqing's father. At first, we wanted to go around to borrow some money for you. But after asking around, even though Little Mo and Zeqing's sister's businesses are doing alright, they don't have that much profit. so Zeqing's father thought that we might as well not trouble them. Since this is our son-in-law's career, we definitely have to support him. After that, we decided to mortgage the courtyard house to the bank."

His mother said anxiously, "That won't do!"

His father also hurriedly pushed the bank card back. "In-laws, you all absolutely mustn't!"

His mother said, "Even if someone needs to mortgage their house, it should be us doing it!"

Li Qinqin pushed the card back again. "Our courtyard house is larger and can get a greater mortgage. Besides, Little Ye is our son-in-law. We have always treated him as a son. Since we're all a family, what's there to differentiate? Just take it."

Zhang Ye said, "Mom, keep it. How can I take your money! This really won't do!"

Wu Changhe said coldly, "If we say that it's for you, just take it. What are you rambling for!"

Zhang Ye said, feeling moved, "Dad! But—"

Li Qinqin said, "Seeing you going out from early in the morning until late at night to pitch investors, we don't feel good about it. We're unable to help out with other things, but we can still fork out this bit of money. Don't bother yourself with anything else and just make sure to make a good movie. Show those foreigners and Hollywood that our Chinese movies can make a name for themselves."

Zhang Ye said, "Mom—"

His mother.

His father.

His father-in-law.

His mother-in-law.

His wife.

The entire family had somehow taken out their entire family fortune and gathered 200 million for him!

Right now, Zhang Ye really did not know what he could say!

With 190 million raised, and his own tens of millions of yuan, that would total over 200 million RMB in funding. It was enough for him to make Wolf Warrior 2!

In the end, Zhang Ye didn't refuse their help.

He gathered up all three of the bank cards and said earnestly, "Dad, Mom, Old Wu, I'll take the money. Don't you all worry. I will make a good movie. When the box office earnings are tabulated, I will return this money back to you all several times over. I'll consider this movie funded together by our family, so just wait, and see what I can do!"