

## Superstar 321

### Chapter 321: Unprecedented!

“Ha? What?”

The Redologist, Old Yang, immediately refuted, “Nonsense!”

Teacher Yang’s voice was very loud. The venue quickly quieted down!

The students all looked to see who had spoken. As the voice was output from speakers through the microphone, they could not tell the source of the voice. They could look around with their eyes. Finally, they found the person who spoke. Everyone looked towards the first row, where all the figures from the literary world were sitting.

“Who’s that?”

“There’s a recording. How can you shout like that?!”

“That’s a Redologist, his surname is Yang. I’ve previously seen his lecture materials.”

“I also know this Teacher Yang. He has been studying ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ all his life. He’s pretty famous.”

The Peking University students all knew that the literary world was beginning to dismantle Zhang Ye.

Meng Dongguo also spoke. He was one of the people who held a microphone. He looked at Zhang Ye and said in an impolite tone, “What makes you say that? To study Redology, one needs to talk about evidence. Even though you provided a Qing dynasty poet’s poem yesterday, with a note saying ‘Chapters after the eightieth were all supplemented by Lanshu’. Ignoring the note, even if that were the case, it only mentioned ‘after the eightieth’. How did this number 108 appear? Is there information recording the chapter titles of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’?”

Zhang Ye said calmly, “There are no records.”

The Writers’ Association’s Vice President Yan Yu said, “Then how do you know?”

Zhang Ye smiled and was not bothered by their refutes and doubts. He said, “I previously mentioned that I would not be analyzing them from a historical standpoint with information today. I only want to use the original text to analyze and explain. Sometimes, the information can be a lie, or in various ways, indeterministic. However, we are studying the book, ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’, so we need to study its contents. That cannot be a lie. It’s also the most irrefutable evidence. Why do I dare say that ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ has 108 chapters instead of 120? The proof is in the book!”

He took out the information.

This time, there was a Peking University staff member off stage who helped Zhang Ye sort the documents. According to Zhang Ye’s request, he would project it on screen.

Everyone frowned upon seeing it.

“What is that?”

“Isn’t this the original text of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’?”

“What’s there to see? I’ve seen it numerous times!”

Zhang Ye leisurely pointed to the screen. “This is the most authoritative 120 circulated chapter version of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ that one can buy on the market. I believe many amongst you have already read it. Some of you have read it more than once, and might have even read it eight or ten times. Some might have dissected it in various ways to research it. Then why would I take this out today? The reason is to help everyone recall something. This is because everyone has overlooked important information and missed the great secret hidden within ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’. According to my research, I can tell everyone that Cao Xueqin’s ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ has an internal textual structure. It is a book with a nine by twelve format!”

“Nine by twelve?”

“How can you tell?”

“Why have I never discovered such a rule?”

The students were surprised. The people from the literary world looked unconvinced.

Even Redologists, like Yan Yu and Teacher Yang, had never researched or proved this rule. The people of this world didn’t even think of it. This was because they had always believed the 120 chapters of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ were all written by Cao Xueqin. Naturally, their thinking was restricted as a result. It was not that this world’s people were not as intelligent as those from Zhang Ye’s world, but rather it was due to certain objective factors.

This conclusion was suggest by Mr Zhou Ruchang from Zhang Ye’s world. Liu Xinwu’s “The True Ending of the novel ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’” also mentioned it.

Zhang Ye said to the audience, “Cao Xueqin’s ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ is very strict. In general, every nine chapters is one unit. The book has a total of twelve, nine-chapter units. ” With a slight pause, he continued, “I can tell many do not believe this. Then shall we discuss this in depth? Yes, let’s look at the first 80 chapters of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ that we all can read together. It can be clearly seen that the first chapter to the ninth chapter is a unit. And the ninth to the eighteenth chapter is another unit. Two times nine is eighteen. Let’s first look at the first unit. Does everyone remember what the eighteenth chapter is about? What is stated in the book? It writes about the Imperial Concubine’s paying a visit to her family!”

The screen changed to Chapter 17 and 18 of “Dream of the Red Chamber”.

Most people had basically seen the original, so a scan of the screen made them easily recall. No one said anything, as they waited to hear Zhang Ye’s explanation.

Zhang Ye carried on. “Redology research today has already come up with a conclusion. They have decided that the Jia family’s fate was a result of two very important woman. One is Qin Keqing, while the other is Jia Yuanchun. I agree with this conclusion and strongly agree with it. Then in the first eighteen chapters, it also shows how important these two women are to the Jia family. Qin Keqing died in the thirteenth chapter. Who is she? The results of Redology studies say that she is Prince Yizhong’s daughter. She was hidden in the Ningguo Mansion. Her true identity was not that of an abandoned

infant that he had adopted from an orphanage. This also laid the foreshadowing of the tragic ending. However, the Jia family carried on their plans concurrently and sent Jia Yuanchun into the Imperial Palace, obtaining the favor of the Emperor. She was conferred the title of highest-ranking imperial concubine and granted her the rights to pay a visit to her parents. Hence, in the eighteenth chapter, the Jia family reaches a state of 'oil scorched on a violent fire, or fresh flowers decorated with brocades'. Hence from Chapter 1 to Chapter 18, Cao Xueqin has presented to us with these important characters' relationships and an important part of the story! Then from Chapter 19, it begins to write about romantic amours, and writes about Jia Baoyu's emotional life. Do you see that? The structural distinction is very clear!"

One wouldn't know without thinking, but the moment they thought about it, they were shocked!

Senior Song was stunned. It seemed, it seemed like that was the case!

The other Peking University students took it with a grain of salt, and waited for him to continue.

Zhang Ye glanced at the audience's reaction and said, "Then, Three times nine is twenty-seven, and four times nine is thirty-six. The general plot here is where Cao Xueqin focuses on Jia Baoyu's emotional life in Prospect Garden. As well as his love with Lin Daiyu and his delicate relationship with Xue Baochai. When we reach the thirty-sixth chapter, Cao Xueqin ended all these emotions. Do you remember what he wrote?" He then pointed to the screen. "Learning hard facts at Pear-tree Court!"

The first row finally produced the sounds of discussions.

Yan Yu had a quiet exchange with Teacher Yang with his eyebrows frowned. Meng Dongguo and Ma Hengyuan were either pondering or discussing with their surrounding friends. They were all very quiet.

Zhang Ye said, "As for the specific plot, I will not talk anymore about it. The general idea is that Jia Baoyu thinks that all the young girls should love or like him, but the performer did not act that way. Jia Baoyu had an important sublimation to his understanding of emotions. He knew he could not force things that did not belong to him, and that everything was fated. This is another way that Cao Xueqin uses to express his understanding of life through the novel. See, this is another division."

The crowd did not respond.

It was unknown if they were pondering or shocked.

Zhang Ye laughed. "Everyone should already have a feeling. You can carry on thinking. Ponder over it and listen on to my lecture. The next plot's unit is Chapter 54. Five times nine is forty-five, and six times nine is fifty-four. Since I said 'Dream of the Red Chamber' has 108 chapters. Then as the middle divisor at chapter 54, clearly it is an extremely important divisor. And indeed, that is the case. What was written here? It writes about the golden era of the Jia family. It reaches a position that could not be any higher. They celebrate New Year's Eve and have a feast. They enjoyed all forms of splendor, and what happened after the opera? Just a shout of rewards, and they would take a basket to pour money for the performers. Their riches reach an extreme point. However, great pleasure brings about sadness. A cup will overflow when it's full. By chapter 55, Cao Xueqin begins to write how the Jia family experiences internal and external difficulties. In the first 54 chapters, it writes about the Jia family's flourishing growth. In the last 54 chapters, it begins to write about the decline of the Jia family, eventually leading

to nothing. Hence, everyone can see that the division is very clear. Cao Xueqin's textual structure is very strict!"

Yan Yu turned silent. This...

Teacher Yang also pondered with a gloomy expression.

Senior Zhou raised his hands to ask, "Then why is it twelve?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Why nine times twelve. Why would this constant twelve be used? Actually, it is very obvious. You can understand just from reading the first five chapters. Jia Baoyu dreams of entering the Land of Illusion, where it is led by the Fairy of Disenchantment to the Board of Ill-fated lives. There he secretly read the records. In the records, it recorded the fate of the women in Jinling. Then how were these pages split? I would like to know how many people were there on that list?"

Yao Cui immediately stood up. "There were twelve! Twelve Beauties of Jinling!"

"Yes." Zhang Ye asked again, "Then what about the secondary records, and what was inside the secondary records?"

Senior Zhou exclaimed, "It was also twelve."

Zhang Ye said, "Then the Fairy of Disenchantment entertained Jia Baoyu and got the fairies to sing songs. How many songs were there?"

Senior Song blinked her eyes and took over the microphone to answer, "It's the twelve songs of 'Dream of the Red Chamber'!"

"Yes, then about the performer I previously mentioned, how many of them were there?" Zhang Ye asked again. "Did anyone pay attention to them?"

Many students could not answer for they could not remember. They did not read it in such detail.

However, Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Twelve. They were collectively called the Twelve Performers of the Red Chamber."

Zhang Ye smiled. "Yes, see everyone. Cao Xueqin had been using the number twelve throughout the whole book. Together with how chapter 54 being such an important divisor, I believe it's obvious now? Hence, I cannot accept the 120 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' currently circulated. This is because Cao Xueqin's original 'Dream of the Red Chamber' only has 108 chapters! So, only the first 80 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' were written originally by Cao Xueqin. The last 40 chapters were written by Gao E, or some anonymous writer. And that person continued it unreliably. This is because what follows the first 80 chapters is not supposed to be 40 chapters, but rather 28 chapters!"

With this, those people from the world of literature could not sit still any further!

You can say it this way?

You can even explain it this way?

It can be analyzed this way?

Teacher Yang, who had been studying 'Dream of the Red Chamber' all his life, was stunned upon hearing this!

Zhang Ye's analysis from this angle was unprecedented!

Chapter 322: I can explain it all!

"Reasonable!"

"It really has such a structure!"

"Nine by twelve?? Old Cao is too particular about it!"

"Teacher Zhang Ye, well done! So mighty and domineering!"

Yao Mi clapped her hands, giving him her kudos. A small number of Peking University students also nodded their heads. The class was too interesting! It was just the same as the first lesson. Just listening to Zhang Ye's first few sentences made them yearn for more. All their attention was on Zhang Ye. This lecturing method of throwing a shocking statement at the beginning and then slowly explaining it through logical arguments had been used by many lecturers before. However, there were few who could do it as well as Zhang Ye!

The point of view was too refreshing!

The angle was also very different from the norm!

A few Redology experts looked at one another. They were unable to refute him, and were in a daze. They were here to dismantle him, but they ended up falling into Zhang Ye's rhythm. Before coming, they had indeed done a lot of preparatory work. They thought Zhang Ye would carry on providing evidence and talk from there and then slowly guide people with his "chicanery". Hence, a few Redologists and people from the world of literature had decided on how to refute him. They had even thought of how to force Zhang Ye into a dead end, causing himself to be trapped in a corner, with no way of justifying what he said. It could be said that these people, from the literary world that brought animosity with them, were prepared, but they were rendered speechless because Zhang Ye had completely ignored their discourse!

Documentation as proof?

In the end, this fellow didn't talk about that!

He started on another footing, and began talking about the structure of "Dream of the Red Chamber"!

Meng Dongguo only wanted to curse out loudly: You aren't f\*\*king dealing out your cards in a routine fashion!

This made the Redologists simmer their words that they could not vent. Regarding the structure, and the nine times twelve, they had never studied it before. The entire Redology world had never explored this piece of content, what was there for them to say? They were not prepared at all! They could only listen helplessly to Zhang Ye talk! They were originally planning to lead Zhang Ye into a trap so that he would fall into their hands, but who knew that they were the ones who got caught up in Zhang Ye's rhythm!

He was not simple!

He really had skills!

Yan Yu looked at Zhang Ye, and no longer held contempt towards him in her heart. She began considering Zhang Ye's theory from an academic perspective for the first time.

Elder Qian smiled and said to Yan Yu, "Little Zhang isn't bad, is he?"

Yan Yu remained silent for a moment before commenting, "Brilliant, but his views are too radical." In the end, she still did not believe Zhang Ye's theory.

Elder Qian said, "Let's carry on listening then. Hur Hur."

A Historian from another school said objectively, "What Teacher Little Zhang said really makes a lot of sense. One has to know that the cultural beliefs in historical heritage, the ancients valued tradition a lot. They paid attention to structure. Such as five-word poems, seven-word poems that required them to rhyme. This can all be seen."

Professor Zeng also nodded slightly while stroking his beard. Teacher Little Zhang had really lived up to the expectations of Peking University!

Wu Zeqing, at another side, still had that mild expression. She never gave a look of doubt from beginning to the end. It was as if she always believed Zhang Ye would be able to lecture well.

The Chinese department's Dean and Department Secretary were different. When they heard Zhang Ye boldly claim that the number of chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' was incorrect, they began to worry. They were worried he would shame the name of their Peking University's Chinese department. There were so many expert scholars and insiders present who had been studying 'Dream of the Red Chamber' for nearly all their lives. If they managed to refute him until he was speechless, then that would be a great spectacle. Hence these department leaders and teachers of Peking University were all worried. Only when they saw this scene, did they realize that not only was Zhang Ye not stumped, he had dumbfounded the literary experts and Redologists instead. As a result, they were relieved. They were also overjoyed!

Nice job Little Zhang!

Your speech has already knocked that bunch of Redologists unconscious?

Zhang Ye carried on speaking. He exploited his victory in one fell swoop. "So according to this structure, with nine times nine equals eighty-one, chapter 82 of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' should be another major divisor. It should be a turning point in the major plot." As he said this, he gestured to the staff member in charge of the projector. The projector immediately jumped to Chapter 81. "However, in the 120 circulated chapter version of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', that isn't the case. This is the reason why I have always been saying that Cao Xueqin's original writing is limited to the first 80 chapters on the whole!"

The text of chapter 81 appeared.

When everyone saw this, they were curious.

"It doesn't feel wrong?"

"That's right. It looks like it was all written by one person."

"I think so too. It's quite smooth and very reasonable."

"If it's continued on and just imitated, it wouldn't be imitated so well, right?"

The Peking University students were all speaking in hushed tones.

A few Redologists did not speak out so easily. They were put into a passive state by Zhang Ye's opening. Now, they did not want to speak up on unfamiliar structural problems that they did not research on. They wanted to watch silently and see if Zhang Ye would make a mistake, so they could find an opportunity to refute him.

However, Zhang Ye clearly did not plan on giving them a chance. He looked down from the stage and said, "Everyone might not feel uncomfortable after reading chapter 81, but in my view, the person who carried on the story in chapter 81 has fallen short of Cao Xueqin's original intent." He emphasized, "It's completely unbearable!"

Senior Zhou found it strange. "Is it that serious?"

"Unbearable?" Senior Song also felt Teacher Zhang Ye's words were too harsh. She found it quite matching.

Zhang Ye said, "Because in chapter 81, the content began a fresh start. According to the structure, chapter 82 should be a brand new unit, but here, we begin a new unit from chapter 81. It ignores the previous unit's foreshadowing from chapter 72 to 80. This is quite a terrifying plot. And what's written in there? Without elaborating, just think, was there any raid of Prospect Garden? Did Skybright die and was Fangguan chased out? Did You-shi say she was going upstairs, but someone below told her not to do so, because that was where they were helping the Zhen family hide their wealth!?"

The students all nodded their heads. That all existed.

"This unit's plot is very terrifying." Zhang Ye then pointed to the screen and said, "But do you see what happened in chapter 81? It did not end the development of a unit. It starts all over again, and is called 'Four young ladies go fishing and divine the future'. They are completely laidback. The beauties are in Prospect Garden fishing, as if nothing had happened." He then laughed. It was a helpless laugh. "The matters of the raid were not written. The death was not mentioned. It was as if the tragic events completely disappeared. Not only was the plot not further developed, Jia Baoyu even became a good child. 'Baoyu received a homily and was re-enrolled in the Family School'. Well, although it wrote that Jia Baoyu was initially reluctant, and after the teachings of the private tutor, Jia Baoyu not only began to study the books of the Sages, he even began to learn eight-legged essays. Hur Hur, I want to ask you. Is this still the Jia Baoyu from the first 80 chapters?"

Some students said, "People do change."

"That's right. This passage seems alright?" Senior Zhou said.

Zhang Ye shook his head. "People do change, but the changes can't be that drastic. Furthermore there was no foundations foreshadowing this. Jia Baoyu was a person very opposed to wealth gained through

official means. That was expressly written! He was willing to break decorum with a young female who he had good ties with, just because of his values. He clashed with Xue Baochai and Shi Xiangyun and this was all written clearly in the first 80 chapters. Jia Baoyu only respected Lin Daiyu, why? This was because Lin Daiyu never encouraged him to take the Imperial Examinations to make a name of himself ever since he was young. Because of this, he deeply respected Lin Daiyu. However, after chapter 80, Jia Baoyu completely changed. He diligently entered a private school and studied eight-legged essays. He went from never liking it to liking it somewhat. What's even more odd is that Lin Daiyu also changed. What do you see Lin Daiyu say in the chapters after chapter 80? She was very supporting of him doing eight-legged essays!"

The projected screen changed.

Lin Daiyu's original words appeared.

She said the following eight-legged essay: "Remember thinking that some were quite well thought out and sensibly written. One of the two were even quite subtle and had a certain delicate charm. They were rather above my head at the time, but I still enjoyed reading them. It's silly to run them all down. Anyway, I think if you want to get on in life, this is quite an admirable way of doing it."

Zhang Ye shook his head and said, "Is this Lin Daiyu's words? So it's not really me having nothing better to do. Upon seeing this, I find it totally unacceptable. This should not be Cao Xueqin's text for chapter 81. Of course, after chapter 81, it becomes even more ridiculous. Does everyone remember the part where Baoyu extols feudal virtues to Qiaojie. Does anyone have an impression? Isn't it frightening? Qiaojie is his paternal cousin's daughter. She was reading 'Lives of Noble Women Present and Past' at that time. What sort of book was that? It is a book that is filled with dregs that extol feudal virtues. What about Jia Baoyu? Not only did he not object to her reading such a book, he even begin reviewing the content of the book as an elder to her. I'm not sure if you have an impression of a certain passage. It talks about 'Lady Cao Cutting Her Nose'. In the period of the Three Kingdoms, there was woman who was married to Cao, so she took on the surname of Cao. After her husband's death, she wanted to maintain her chastity. That is good and all, but she went one step further. She wanted to express it. Hence, she cut her hair, becoming ugly. As such, she would deter suitors. She said she was determined not to remarry. Was it enough to cut her hair? Nope! This woman was very strange. She even used a knife to cut off her own ears!"

"Aiyah!"

"Man!"

"Is it that tragic?"

The students present found it horrendous.

"This gruesomeness should be frightening enough. So, this should be enough, right? Will you call it a day? No, she thinks it's not enough. She was determined to demonstrate her chastity. She used a knife to cut her nose off." Zhang Ye said, "I see some people closing their eyes. Right, closing your eyes shut is right. If you want to imagine it, you need to close your eyes."

Many Peking University students laughed out. "Hur Hur Hur."



Zhang Ye threw his hands up, “But this event was recorded down and was taken as a role model, and recorded in ‘Lives of Noble Women Present and Past’, but what about Jia Baoyu? In the book, Jia Baoyu was very touched. In the book, Jia Baoyu was very touched. He even praised ‘Lady Cao Cutting Her Nose’ in front of Qiaojie. I do not know what everyone feels when reading this, but it gives me the chills! Is this still the same Jia Baoyu that was written by Cao Xueqin? This is a far cry from Cao Xueqin’s writing of chapter 81!”

No one refuted.

The logical errors in here had been mentioned before by this world’s Redologists.

Zhang Ye said indifferently, “In Redology research, people have questioned this part. This is also why ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ isn’t easily discussed. Due to all sorts of issues that cannot be avoided or explained, however...” Zhang Ye boasted, “I can explain it all!”

Everyone burst into an uproar.

You can explain it all?

Weren’t those words too absolute in manner?

You really can boast without shame!

Those from the world of literature were at a loss as to what to say. Too arrogant!

Zhang Ye said, “For example, the problem with Jia Baoyu I just mentioned. According to my explanation, it makes sense, right? As after the first 80 chapters on the whole, be it the version currently sold on the market, or ancient manuscripts, they are no longer Cao Xueqin’s original intent. It was continued by someone else! Hence, Jia Baoyu presents two personalities before and after. This is no longer a surprise because it was written by two different authors!”

Silence!

Utter silence!

According to Zhang Ye’s line of thought, this logical problem could indeed be explained!

Everyone was lost in thought, especially those from the world of literature. Their faces did not look good and were silent for the time being. The information Zhang Ye provided was too much! No one could digest it immediately!

Translators’ Notes: Both CKtalon and I are in South Korea now, and you might be wondering why we are in Korea. We are there to support a Kpop girl group, Crayon Pop! :P Every 500,000 views accumulated, we’ll release an additional chapter, which means from now till the end of October, it will be another period of free chapters beyond the 1 guaranteed a day. So help us F5 sect! Thanks!

We are not sure how YouTube collates their views, but you need to finish ‘watching’ at least the whole video to count. Also, if you want to mute it, don’t use YouTube’s muting abilities. Do it from Windows or use the ability to mute the particular tab on your browser.

Chapter 323: Answering Every Logical Error!

It was a bit quiet.

Many people were still digesting and trying to make sense of Zhang Ye's words.

Zhang Ye said, "Everyone, take a moment to ruminate over it. I'll drink a mouthful of water. Hur Hur."

Zhang Ye had brought a water flask here. After opening the thermo-sealing lid, there was Pu'er tea inside. He had brewed it in the teachers' office before coming. The water was still warm, and as the tea leaves entered his mouth, it was not that fragrant, but had a mellow taste. He liked the taste of ripe Pu'er. Not only did it warm the stomach during the Winter, it also helped him relax and organize his mental processes. Of course, Zhang Ye had been relaxed since he stepped on stage. On-stage, in a venue with thousands of people, so many reporters and cameras, so many students, teachers and peers from the literary world that were here to discredit him, he was in no way stunned or nervous. That expression of leisure that he gave while drinking tea seemed like he was lying in bed at home. From the look of it, if a bed was placed on-stage, Zhang Ye would really dare to lie on it.

Few could attain that level of serenity.

If it were any other Peking University lecturer, or instead of lecturers but rather professors who give public lectures all year round, against such a big fuss, they would be a bit tensed or nervous.

However, Zhang Ye wasn't.

This was the basic standards of a professional host.

Most of this could be explained because of Zhang Ye's personality. He was always a person with a heartless attitude. The Heavens did not give him good looks, nor a good body, but where there were losses, there were also gains. This level of calmness and lack of stage fright was probably his compensation.

After he finished drinking.

The class carried on.

Zhang Ye held the microphone and asked, "Just now, I explained some structural problems of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' and its analysis. Students, do you have any other questions?"

No one spoke.

"Little Song?" Zhang Ye named.

Senior Song stood up and said, "I still need to digest it for a little longer."

Zhang Ye named a person who loved to speak, "Little Zhou?"

Senior Zhou said with a wry smile, "I also need to carry on listening. I'll temporarily refrain from speaking."

With a smile, Zhang Ye said, "Alright then. Next, I'll be talking about..."

"Hold on." Redologist Teacher Yang from the first row finally spoke up. He had been holding it in from the beginning, so he could not remain silent any further. Because it would appear that they, as a bunch

of seniors and experts, had been dumbfounded by a junior. They would be greatly ashamed if that was the case. Hence, even though Teacher Yang did not study the structural problems of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' in the past, he had to use his own methods to refute. By avoiding the structure, he switched to another method. He lifted the microphone to his mouth while sitting down. "I cannot readily subscribe to your so-called nine times twelve structure of 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. The structural divisions you mentioned might be a coincidence, and might not be able to prove that the chapters after the eightieth were not written by Cao Xueqin. The Redology world has already decided that Mr Cao Xueqin made mistakes while writing his book due to his illness in old age or other similar reasons. This is also the reason behind Jia Baoyu's change in personality."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "How the Redology world studied it and came to such a conclusion, I have no idea, nor do I agree. My point of view is actually opposite from all of you. Mr Cao Xueqin was completely fine. The logical errors in the book were not a result of him being sick. The 108 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' also existed. Cao Xueqin had whole finished writing it on the whole. This can be seen from Fucha Mingyi's poem I mentioned in class yesterday."

Teacher Yang was waiting for him to say that. With a chuckle, he retorted, "Alright then. Since you say so, then I want to ask this. You said that only the first 80 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' presently circulated was written by Cao Xueqin, and Mr Cao did not make low-level mistakes because of physiological problems. Alright then, let's follow this line of thought and only talk about the first 80 chapters. You previously mentioned that you could explain them all?"

Zhang Ye said surely, "Of course."

Another young Redologist said, "Are you sure?"

"Hur Hur, I'm very sure. You can go ahead and ask." Zhang Ye did not mind as he said, "But I need to make it clear first that it's the first 80 chapters on the whole, and not the first 80 chapters."

Teacher Yang snorted and said, "Alright, then how do you explain the time of death of Lin Ruhai?"

A young Redologist also added fuel to fire by saying, "I also want to ask. Qin Keqing died from an illness contradicting the Registers. How do you explain that?"

Zhang Ye did not answer and instead said, "Are there anymore questions? I can talk about all of them together."

Yan Yu, who held an esteemed status in the literary world, also spoke. "Grandmother Jia's birthday problem, as well as the problem of Jia Baoyu's age."

A bunch of questions were thrown at him!

These were all the problems that the Redology world could not explain to date!

Fine, didn't you boast saying you can explain everything? Then explain it to us!

At this moment, the people from the literary world launched their first attack on Zhang Ye. Initially, due to the structural problems, they could not find an opportunity to attack Zhang Ye, because Zhang Ye had caught them by surprise. He had explained the structural divisions perfectly, and could be said to be incisive. It had once again caused a major breakthrough in Redology. Hence, they could not find an

excuse to attack him, but now, Zhang Ye was too overbearing. He dared to say that he could explain all logical problems. As such, the people from the literary world could now speak!

There were about seven or eight questions, all with major logical errors. And it was those dead-end problems. There were no solutions after many years of study. They wanted to see what Zhang Ye had to say!

The Peking University students also began to stir.

“Things are going bad!”

“That bunch of Redologists have attacked!”

“Can Teacher Zhang explain it? That’s impossible!”

“Only by going head-to-head would it be interesting!”

“Will Teacher Zhang Ye make it?”

Some students were very excited and waited to watch the bustle. Yao Mi and other students were all downcast. They looked at Zhang Ye with worried expressions. As for Senior Zhou, who always asked questions and tried to refute Zhang Ye, he also began to worry for Zhang Ye. Truthfully, Senior Zhou was still doubtful of Zhang Ye’s point, but ultimately, this was a matter of their class. It was an exchange between teacher and students. It was a literary debate happening with Peking University, and that bunch of people from the literary world were outsiders. They were here to “cause trouble”, so be it Senior Zhou or Zhang Ye, they were all from Peking University. As such, they had a feeling of uniting against a foreign attacker.

Zhang Ye looked at them. “Is that all?”

Professor Ma Hengyuan sneered, “First answer those questions.”

Zhang Ye nodded. “Alright, then I’ll answer them. However, I’ll put aside Vice President Yan’s question for the moment. I’ll first answer the first few questions.”

Yan Yu glanced at him.

Teacher Yang said, “Alright, we’ll listen to what you have to say.”

No one believed that Zhang Ye could explain it!

They did not know that Zhang Ye had long anticipated their questions. After all, research in Redology was limited in its ways. There were only a few logical errors, so they couldn’t ask anything new. It was easy to guess. “Everyone, please take a look at the screen. Take a look at the information I provided first.” Zhang Ye and the Peking University staff had a short exchange before the other party immediately found the document, and projected it on screen.

The second daughter?

Jia Yingchun’s information?

Zhang Ye scanned the crowd and said, "Jia Yingchun is very familiar to everyone. The problem with origins should also be known by everyone. However, I believe anyone who really studies 'Dream of the Red Chamber' will discover that a few ancient manuscripts, that were passed down, described Jia Yingchun's origins differently. The information I have here are the records of a few ancient manuscripts. Please take a look."

She is the second daughter of Sir Jia She by his former wife.

She is the second daughter of Sir Jia She by his wife.

She is the second daughter of Sir Jia Zheng by his former wife.

She is the second daughter of Sir Jia She by his concubine.

She is the second daughter of Sir Jia She, adopted by Sir Jia Zheng as his own.

A few Redologists frowned. Firstly, they did not understand why Zhang Ye provided this information. Secondly, this was another field they were not familiar with. They had indeed seen such things. This included Yan Yu, Teacher Yang, and even Ma Hengyuan knew of it, but as it was more abstruse, Jia Yingchun was considered a side character that was not very important. Hence, there was not much research on her from the world of Redology. Furthermore, as there were too many logical inconsistencies in 'Dream of the Red Chamber', there were many errors that were available for them to discover and research on, so why would they discuss the birth origins of a side character who did not matter? Why does this Zhang Ye keep producing things they were not familiar with?

After finishing, Zhang Ye said, "The five ancient manuscripts describe it differently. We all know that every manuscript of the 'Dream of the Red Chamber' has a validated source. Is this a mistake during the copying process? Clearly not. If the first four manuscripts were copied wrongly due to an error, then the fifth manuscript can't be a result of erroneous copying, considering that it's such a long line. That is impossible. The only explanation that results in this confusion is that Cao Xueqin was repeatedly under deliberation. He kept modifying it, because he had not decided on it nor finalized it. This resulted in several completely different manuscripts. I believe this is without a doubt unquestionable!"

Professor Zeng nodded slightly.

Teacher Yang and Ma Hengyuan remained expressionless as they sat there quietly.

Zhang Ye said, "Then with this foundation and knowledge, the questions posed by everyone can be easily solved. Wasn't Cao Xueqin writing improperly after he fell ill? But the so-called logical errors everyone mentioned are all at the beginning. Was he seriously ill right from the beginning? His brain was in a mess? Hence, this is actually because Cao Xueqin was not done with his editing. He had not fully finalized his manuscript. The problems with Lin Ruhai's time of death, Qin Keqing's death from illness and the fifth chapter's Register, to put it bluntly, are just side issues. It is a result of tweaking the ending of individual characters, as well as some simple text changes!"

Teacher Yang refuted, "Didn't you say that the 108 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' was done writing?"

"It was finished, roughly." Zhang Ye said, "But finishing it doesn't mean it was finalized. I believe any friend who has written a book will have some experience in this. There are quite a number of authors

present, and I happen to be an author as well, so I know very well the things that go on behind the scenes. Let's not even talk about authoring books. The students present probably have experienced it themselves. When you write your essays or theses, is it finalized once you finish writing?"

The Peking University students all shook their heads.

"No."

"That's right, it still needs editing."

"Yes, we definitely need to read it a few times and modify things again."

Zhang Ye smiled. "Cao Xueqin was the same too."

Teacher Yang sneered, "If you want to explain it this way, then the logical errors after chapter 80 can also be explained this way. How then are you proving that it was written by two different people?"

Zhang Ye shook his hand and said, "That's different. It's completely different in concept. The logical errors after the eightieth is not something you can explain away by modifying a few words or paragraphs. That involves the entire book's layout. It involves an error with the core thinking process. We will find it very hard to believe that Cao Xueqin's original intent of causing the Jia family to be 'left the landscape desolate and bare'. Yet, he suddenly changed to allow the Jia family to be revived. Grandmother Jia was originally a loving grandmother, but the author suddenly changed her into a heartless family elder. Jia Baoyu was originally 'for uselessness the world's prize he might bear; his gracelessness in history has no peer', but the author suddenly made him want to bring glory to his ancestors. We find it even harder to believe that Cao Xueqin went from a person who had seen through the ephemeral nature of life, to suddenly a person who was passionate about fame and glory!"

Zhang Ye's mincing of words with the parallel sentences made those Redologists speechless!

Zhang Ye said, "When people write their theses, they will go back and change some minor details. They can also change some text. They would adjust some typographical errors, but will you change the core idea of your theses and central point of view? Impossible! So using this to explain it away doesn't make sense either!"

He really managed to explain it!

And his explanation was reasonable!

Teacher Yang's face was a bit sunken. Meng Dongguo's eyes also turned cold. Once again, they never expected Zhang Ye to not talk using the book's content once again when explaining this unsolvable errors. He had changed perspectives once again, and had managed to explain it using the logical workflow of an author!

What eloquence!

What articulation!

Yan Yu squinted his eyes. "Then how do you explain the problem with Grandmother Jia? I don't understand why you would single out my question."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "If I were an ordinary reader, or an ordinary researcher, the problem with Grandmother Jia's age could be explained this way. The author did not edit it in time, and everyone would definitely be able to accept this explanation. There would then be no need to come up with more superfluous explanations, but, I can't do that. This is because my role now is that of a teacher. I have to be rigorous in academia. The reason why I singled out the problem with Grandmother Jia is because her situation is more special. It cannot be explained using the same generalizations as before. If I were to lecture in that manner, then that would be me being irresponsible to my students!"

"Special?"

"What's special about it?"

"It feels the same?"

"That's right. Grandmother Jia's problem is just with her birthdate and age?"

The Peking University students began talking about it.

Zhang Ye began to speak in detail. "If no one mentioned it, I was not planning on talking about it, but since we are on the topic, I'll briefly talk about it. About Grandmother Jia's birthday problem, is it Chapter 71's 'third day of the eighth month'? Or is it Chapter 62's 'the fifteenth of the first month is Aunt Xing's birthday and also Cousin Chai's'? These two original texts are conflicting. However, according to my research, according to matching with Baochai's birthday, I deduce that chapter 62's 'the fifteenth of the first month' is a birthday that will agree with the plot. The other reason is because of Grandmother Jia's words in chapter 39. "Now, old kinswoman," said Grandmother Jia, "and what would your age be?" "Seventy-five this year," said Grannie Liu. Grandmother Jia turned round to the others present. "That's several years older than me. Fancy still being so fit and lively! Heaven only knows what I shall be like at that age!" This also indicates that Grandmother Jia's birthday does not exceed 74 years of age, but Chapter 71's words were 'the third day of the eighth month was Grandmother Jia's eightieth birthday'!"

Everyone recalled it!

Indeed, there were the exact words!

Zhang Ye summed up his conclusions and said, "So I can be certain that the third day of the eighth month is fake. 80 years old? This age is a giant leap. No matter how you arrange it or fictionalize it, it is clearly not Grandmother Jia's true birthday and age. Hence, the text in chapter 71...was post-edited. This is also why when everyone raised their questions, I had specially emphasized that I can only explain the logical errors of the first eighty chapters 'on the whole'. This is because the text and original manuscript of the first 80 chapters of Cao Xueqin were also lost or tampered with, or could also be erroneously copied. Grandmother Jia's birthday problem is a result of that. This passage might have been lost along with the chapters after the eightieth. It might be Gao E or some other anonymous writer who continued the story, that took the liberty of modifying it! This resulted in such a major flaw. Hence, this flaw is different from the other flaws. Naturally, I need to single it out!"

It was reasonable!

It was well explained!

Zhang Ye once again stunned everyone!

Those reporters could not understand a thing. Even if they had read 'Dream of the Red Chamber', they still could not react to the various things Zhang Ye mentioned. They found it extremely profound and intricate. Their not understanding did not mean they could not observe others. When they saw the expressions of the literary scholars and Redologists in the first row, no matter how dumb they were, they could tell that Teacher Zhang Ye's explanation and analysis was very convincing!

"It's reasonable!"

"So it can be smoothly explained in this way!"

"Could it be that the chapters after the eightieth were really authored by another person?"

Yao Mi was very happy and began giggling. Her Uncle Zhang was too domineering!

The hearts of the brothers, Li Ying and Li Li, who were sitting beside her, were racing. Teacher Zhang Ye's viewpoint was impacting their existing understanding in an increasing fashion!

Wu Zeqing smiled without a word.

Chang Kaige and Professor Zeng kept nodding their heads.

The other Peking University lecturers and other external historical experts were deep in thought!

Zhang Ye did not fail to answer any of the logical problems that had plagued the Redology world all this while. He explained all of them in one go!

The people from the world of literature just kept looking at one another.

Yesterday, while watching the video lecture on Peking University's official website, they didn't feel much, but now, only at the venue, did they know that this person, Zhang Ye, was so good at explaining. A few of them had indeed been stunned by the points raised and explanations given by Zhang Ye! Zhang Ye had opened up a new line of thought they had never thought of!

Furthermore, what made these people from the literary world shocked was not Zhang Ye's explanation from various levels of interpretation, but his deep understanding of 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. He was more familiar with it than them, who had studied 'Dream of the Red Chamber' for years to decades! Did he memorize the entire 'Dream of the Red Chamber'? Zhang Ye's thorough analysis and quotations of the original text were said on the fly. He did not use an outline. What he said was all off-script! None of them had appeared on the screen or documentation! Such a large amount of evidence and information were all read out by Zhang Ye ad verbatim!

Which chapter.

Which line.

The exact paragraph.

He spoke it without thinking. He did not even stammer. This was such an exaggeration in their opinion! Ignoring those Redologists who came today, no one from the entire Redology world could achieve Zhang Ye's standard! Regardless if Zhang Ye's perspective was right or wrong, it was certain that he knew



'Dream of the Red Chamber'. Furthermore, he had probably researched more thoroughly than experts, like them, in many areas!

With the facts before them, half of these people from the world of literature had even uglier faces!

But after the embarrassment, Redologist, Teacher Yang was still confident. In his opinion, from the moment Zhang Ye said that he could "answer it all", Zhang Ye had pushed himself into a corner. This was because in Redology studies, there was a logical problem no one dared raise for it was unsolvable!

Typographical errors?

Unfinalized manuscript?

No! That problem could not be explained in any way!

Chapter 324: The Students Refuse to End Class!

Zhang Ye drank a mouthful of tea because his throat had turned dry from all the speaking.

"My explanations and analysis still isn't enough to convince you, right?" Placing down the thermos flask, Zhang Ye looked at everyone, and focused on the people from the literary world, who sat in the first row.

A few Peking University students gave a faint acknowledgment.

Ma Hengyuan got a microphone from someone beside him and said, "But that is just an analysis, and includes your own personal inference. It can be considered as an answer to the questions, but it is still insufficient to explain the problem. It has already been determined by academia and the historical world that 'Dream of the Red Chamber' has 120 chapters. So how can it be overturned by a few words from you? In my opinion, I believe that the 120 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' are complete. Although there are some small flaws of different varieties, it's not major. The change in character, like Jia Baoyu and Grandmother Jia, after the eightieth chapter might have been intentionally done by Cao Xueqin. He wanted to convey some information or hints to the reader that we may not have discovered. At least, the endings of all the characters in 'Dream of the Red Chamber' have a beginning and an end."

"Does it really have a beginning and an end?" Upon hearing such chicanery in his refute, Zhang Ye laughed. To use such rhetoric meant that Zhang Ye had already caused their heads to spin from his lecture.

Ma Hengyuan said coldly, "Of course. Is there a problem with that?"

Meng Dongguo also said, "The 120 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' is complete. There are flaws, but what needs to be said has been said. What needs to be written has been written."

Zhang Ye shook his head. "I can't agree with that."

Meng Dongguo exclaimed. "You have doubts on that?"

These people clashed with Zhang Ye once again!

The Peking University students did not understand why Zhang Ye raised doubts with its completeness. Did the 120 chapters of "Dream of the Red Chamber" lack completeness?

Zhang Ye chuckled. "This is actually something I wanted to talk about later on, but since it has been brought up, I can talk about it now. All of you think that the 120 circulated chapters gives us a complete plot and character development, but I do not agree. The plot and characters were not complete, and this is also the reason why I doubt that the chapters after the eightieth were written by Mr Cao. I will not use the nine times twelve structure to analyze it, nor would I use historical information to prove my point. Let's just look at the 120 chapters. I want to ask you, what happened to Drunken Diamond after the eightieth chapter?"

Drunken Diamond?

Who was this person?

The Peking University students did not study this classic too deeply, so they had forgotten.

However, Redologist, Teacher Yang's expression changed slightly. He glanced at Ma Hengyuan and Meng Dongguo, but did not say a word.

Yan Yu was also frowning in silence.

Meng Dongguo was stunned. What Drunken Diamond? Was there such a person? His research on 'Dream of the Red Chamber' was shallow, and had never read it too deeply.

Ma Hengyuan, who was a professor in Literature, knew this person. He paused before saying, "This person isn't important, nor..."

Zhang Ye interrupted him. "Not important? This person's name has appeared once in a title during the first 80 chapters—This Drunken Diamond shows nobility of character when handling his money! Hur Hur, could Cao Xueqin let such an unimportant person appear in the chapter title? A person whose name previously appeared in a chapter title suddenly mysteriously disappeared?"

Ma Hengyuan insisted, "This sort of side character does not need to be explained."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Alright then, what about Crimson? Where did Crimson go?"

"Crimson? That..." Ma Hengyuan was stumped.

Regarding Crimson, whose original name was Lin Yuhong, there were a lot more people who knew her.

In the beginning, no one paid too much attention, but with Zhang Ye mentioning it, everyone begin to think. Right, what happened to Crimson?

Zhang Ye said to everyone, "If you insist that Drunken Diamond is an unimportant side character, then I'm sure Crimson isn't? Everyone can try recalling her. Crimson's name had previously appeared in chapter titles, and she was an important character that not only appeared once in previous chapter titles. Chapter 24's 'the Quiet-voiced Girl provides material for fantasy by losing her handkerchief' and Chapter 26's 'A conversation on Wasp Waist Bridge is a cover for communication of a different kind'. In Chapter 27, it was written that Crimson was eloquent and interesting in her speech, resulting in her being appreciated by Fengjie." Zhang Ye had prepared this in advance, and immediately got the staff member to take out the information and project it on the screen. He pointed at it, "It is clearly written in black and white how important she was as a character. It can be seen from the first 80 chapters.

Although Cao Xueqin did not use much to describe her, he mentioned this character more than once, but after the eightieth chapter, why did a character like Crimson disappear?"

No one could answer!

Zhang Ye continued to pursue this matter. "Can you still consider this a complete plot with complete characters? If the currently circulated version's chapters after the eightieth were written by Cao Xueqin, then no matter how muddleheaded Mr Cao was, no matter how sick he was, or how many slip up he had, he would not have forgotten an important character he previously established, right?"

People kept questioning Zhang Ye, but Zhang Ye explained each and everyone of them!

Now, it was time for Zhang Ye to pose his question, but none of them could explain it!

Zhang Ye was not done. He took out another piece of information. "If people want to insist that Crimson was not an important character, or that Cao Xueqin had forgotten her, and forgotten to write a plot regarding Crimson at the end, then fine. Everyone, please take a look at Zhiyanzhai's comments. I have already mentioned Zhiyanzhai in my lecture yesterday. I also mentioned that the entire book did not mention 'The Temple of Prison God', but I didn't provide this information. Alright, now take a look. These are Zhiyanzhai's comments. It clearly states that Crimson would appear in 'The Temple of Prison God' later on! She even saved Jia Baoyu! Even if the world of Redology does not recognize Zhiyanzhai's ancient manuscript, you can never deny its existence forever. Was Zhiyanzhai shooting his mouth wantonly? Impossible! Even if he were spouting nonsense, he would not have spun a story and place, that had never been mentioned before, in the past, right? Besides, if Zhiyanzhai can remember a person like Crimson, how could Cao Xueqin forget her? No matter how anyone explains, or tries to make it compatible, it does not make sense! Through a character like Crimson, it perfectly proves that my view is right! It is not Cao Xueqin who had forgotten an important character, but the continuer who had forgotten this character!"

"Such an explanation..." Ma Hengyuan stopped his sentence midway. Finally, he remained silent with a gloomy face. He realized that he could not refute this statement!

It was already unknown what the people from the literary world were feeling.

Zhang Ye sure was impressive. He had really researched 'Dream of the Red Chamber' right to the bone. Not a single problem could stump him. He actually managed to answer all of them. While answering with an explanation, he even used it to prove his point! Could it be that...what he said was the truth?

It can't be!

This was too hard for them to swallow!

This was a viewpoint that would subvert history!

However, they did not know that Zhang Ye could naturally justify himself. This was nothing to him, for Zhang Ye was not fighting alone. He was fighting alongside all the literary scholars and Redologists from his world against them!

Senior Song raised her hand up high. "Teacher Zhang."

"Little Song, please speak." Zhang Ye answered.

Senior Song stood up and said solemnly, "Can you give a few more examples that prove that the chapters after the eightieth were not written by the same person? Is there any more proof?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Of course there is, but..." Looking at his watch, he said, "The time for today's class is almost up. There's only three minutes left."

Senior Zhou hurriedly said, "Aiyah, just carry on talking!"

Senior Song also immediately said, "If you end it here, many people will definitely not be able to sleep well tonight. Can you extend it a bit longer? Just extending another ten minutes would do!" She was thirsty for knowledge.

"That's right!"

"Keep talking!"

"Don't end the class! You are right in the middle!"

"Teacher Zhang, you are too good at tantalizing us! You are inhumane!"

"You have to carry on lecturing! Don't end today's class yet! We can listen all the way till night time!"

When the other Peking University students heard that class was ending, they all suddenly started buzzing. The venue turned chaotic. Man, we just f\*\*king got a kick listening to you, and you want to end class already!?

Zhang Ye was rendered speechless as he said, "But quite a number of you still have other lessons in the afternoon."

"Not going!"

"Right, we're skipping classes!"

"We just want to listen to you!"

"I wouldn't have the mood to listen to other classes anyway!"

The Peking University students were all carefree. They shouted right in front of so many Peking University leaders and lecturers, who were seated at the front rows.

Zhang Ye did not decide on it and looked towards Wu Zeqing. "President Wu?"

Wu Zeqing turned and looked at the students before having a slight exchange with the Vice President beside her. Finally, she picked up the microphone and said, "You can extend it for another twenty minutes."

Many reporters were at a loss whether to laugh or cry when they saw this scene. Back when they were in college, they only looked forward to ending class early. When was there ever a dispute over not ending the class? They disallowed the teacher from not speaking on? This was too much! However, they had to admit that Zhang Ye's public lecture was indeed very exciting!

Zhang Ye did not turn corny. "Alright, since everyone wants to listen, I'll carry on for a bit longer. Hur Hur. Since you are not in a hurry to end class, I'm won't be either."

Yao Mi giggled and said into the microphone, "As long as you aren't tired."

Zhang Ye smiled. "If you all aren't tired, I'm definitely not tired. In the past when I recorded problems, the longest was from eight in the morning till nine at night. About six or seven batches or audiences were switched. I did not rest throughout those thirteen hours. After work, I went to eat a bowl of Lamian before going home. Hur Hur. I'm quite the workaholic. If you want to listen till tomorrow morning, I can also do that."

"Hahaha!"

"Teacher Zhang is too awesome!"

"Don't, we can't last till tomorrow morning!"

The students' mental processes had been stretched. They had been led everywhere by Zhang Ye. It was fun and interesting, but a person's attention span was limited. This was also why every class had a fixed length of time, as it was founded on scientific principles. Since he was carrying on, he naturally had to adjust his methods. Zhang Ye mentioned something off-topic to make them laugh, so as to wipe their weariness away. This also allowed the students to relax. This way, it allowed them to carry on listening more easily.

The people from the literary world did not understand.

However, those Peking University teachers, who engaged in education, knew Zhang Ye's intentions. There was tension, and there was relaxation. It was well-balanced. This newcomer, Teacher Zhang Ye really looked more and more like a teacher of the people. They affirmed Zhang Ye's abilities and lessened their prejudices against Zhang Ye!

#### Chapter 325: The Redologists Strike Back?

The students were all nicely seated.

A few students, who wanted to go use the bathroom, had rushed there and back.

Teacher Yang and the few Redologists also did not want Zhang Ye to end his class so early. They still had many important things to say. Hence, they were very pleased that there was an extension. They came with the goal of debunking Zhang Ye. How could they leave just like that? Their goal had not yet been met. If they were to return with their faces ashen, where were they to put their faces when the video was posted and the public lecture was reported on? When that happened, the citizens would think that this bunch of Redologists, who had studied all these years, were inferior to a junior. This was an outcome Teacher Yang, Ma Hengyuan, and company could not accept. Hence, no matter what, they had to win this round!

How were they to win?

They just needed to come up with a question that Zhang Ye was unable to answer!

Teacher Yang already had an idea. He had an exchange with a few Redologists in whispers. A few of them smiled, but did not say a word. They were planning on using the killer move right at the end. They would throw it out at the end of the class. If they asked it now, Zhang Ye definitely could not answer it, but he might be able to use his silver tongue to change the topic and begin a new round of analysis on

another problem. With Zhang Ye's eloquence as a professional host, he had such abilities. They had already had a taste of his eloquence prior. If that was the case, everyone's attention would be diverted and affect the results. They wanted to deal Zhang Ye a sure-kill strike. They did not want to leave Zhang Ye a chance to fight back, or change topics. In their opinion, this was also the price Zhang Ye had to pay for deriding their literary world!

A storm was brewing!

The people from the literary world began to gather their strength for the final battle!

Zhang Ye had also noticed the first row of Redologists whispering abnormally. However, he did not mind it at all. From the beginning, Zhang Ye had looked down on this world's Redologists. After drinking a mouthful of Pu'er tea, he smiled faintly. "Alright then. Shall we carry on?"

Silence resumed.

A few thousand people maintained their silence in the venue.

In the past, even if Peking University held a convocation ceremony or conference, it was impossible for there to be complete silence when President Wu went up to speak. They did not give her that much face, but when Zhang Ye, a new, ordinary teacher came to Peking University, he managed to do it. This showed that the students genuinely liked his class.

"Just now, my student Little Song asked me to put forth a few examples as evidence. I believe a lot of people have similar thoughts. All of you want to hear it and that is naturally not a problem." After an hour's class, a typical teacher would also begin to suffer from fatigue, and feel their energy decline, but Zhang Ye did not suffer from this. When he saw the yearning to learn attitude from his students' eyes, he became even more energized. "In yesterday's class, I used historical information and documents to validate 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. In today's class, I did it based on the content. I talked about the divisions and the novel's structure. The novel's characters and their personalities prove my point. Using them to dissect the 120 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' is problematic. Then up to here, a student may ask, today you analyzed the characters from the structure, and I can believe it for the time being, but other than that, can you tell us more from the plot? In the plot after the first eighty chapters on the whole, are there things that do not match the first eighty chapters on the whole?" With a pause, he said, "Of course. They exist!"

Senior Song had already taken out a notebook and pen. She looked unblinkingly at Zhang Ye. She was prepared to record it down. She no longer held a critical attitude, but began to have a learning attitude.

The other students were similar.

For example, Yao Mi, Li Li, and Li Ying were all taking notes.

After all, it was almost exam time. It might end up that the content Teacher Zhang Ye had mentioned were examinable. This credit could not be lost.

Zhang Ye showed the information. "There are many things to talk about regarding the plot. However, I do not want to talk about those logical problems that have been studied by Redologists. I do not want to repeat things that others have already talked about. I will talk about a major plot hole that no one has mentioned before."

The people from the literary world rolled their eyes. Plot hole that no one mentioned before? How could it be possible? Do you think those of us in literature research are fools? We have been doing this for decades. How could it be that no one raised this problem or flaw before? Aren't you being too bold?

Yan Yu was rendered speechless by Zhang Ye's defiant attitude. She could not help but ask, "What plot hole?"

Teacher Yang and Ma Hengyuan were also angered. From the beginning, this Zhang looked down on their literary research!

"Right, which paragraphs?"

"Say it, we are all ears!"

A woman and a youth spoke up. They were two of the few Redology researchers in the industry.

Zhang Ye said calmly. "The plot regarding the Jia family's conviction. The continuer's writing is comical and worthy of scorn!"

Yan Yu said, "Don't keep talking about the continuation. What's ridiculous about this plot?"

Teacher Yang also said, "Ignoring the problem of the characters' personalities, what's wrong with the plot?"

A problem with the Jia family being convicted was indeed something never mentioned before in this world's Redology research. This was because they did not find any problems with it!

However Zhang Ye knew. Not only was there a problem in it, it was a major problem. "Everyone thinks this plot adheres to logic? What about the students?"

The Peking University students also responded.

"Uh, it's alright?"

"I don't see any problems."

"This is a major plot point. There's nothing wrong with it?"

Senior Song stood up and said, "According to your argument and structural analysis, the first 80 chapters had hinted that the Jia family would decline. It was hinted that they would be raided. Isn't this following a rational line of thought?"

Zhang Ye lowered his hand to indicate for her to sit. He smiled and said, "It looks like no one has noticed this. Actually, what everybody thinks is a rational line of thought is just rational on the surface. Yes, I also admitted that the Jia family would decline. Mr Cao Xueqin had already foreshadowed this in the first eighty chapters on the whole. Cao Xueqin wrote that the Jia family would be raided, but the reason for being raided is definitely not the reason given after the eightieth chapter. The way the continuer wrote it is unacceptable personally. It is ridiculous!" As he pointed to the screen, he said, "Take a look everyone. In the plot after chapter 80, it writes that Rong-guo mansion, as well as Ning-guo mansion, were raided. We can explore this and see if that was the case. Those who are familiar should have an impression. After chapter 80, when the Emperor ordered the raid, how many charges did Jia She

receive? Two charges. One, he had entered into a conspiracy with provincial officials for nefarious purposes. About this, I have to say that the person who continued the story had quite the standard. He was able to carry on the foreshadowing written by Cao Xueqin in the first 80 chapters. Jia She's second charge was abusing his own personal influence to bully a defenceless citizen. This was also written according to the foreshadowing in the first 80 chapters. Although I'm not sure how Cao Xueqin would have written it, it would not have been written in this way. However, the continuer's writing is still acceptable to me."

"If it's acceptable, why is there a problem?"

"Can you stop saying continuer? It sounds so awkward!"

A few Redologists suggested.

Zhang Ye shrugged his shoulders. "Alright, I know many people still do not believe that the chapters after the eightieth are not the original work of Cao Xueqin. Then let's not talk about the continuer. Let's assume the 120 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' were written by Cao Xueqin, but there arises a problem. Later on, the reason why Ning-guo mansion and Jia Zheng were raided was only mentioned in passing. It was roughly accounted for, so almost no one noticed it, nor has anyone researched it. This is because everyone's focus was on more 'important' matters in this plot, but I want to tell everyone to not look elsewhere. Focus your attention on this. Here, I can prove that the plot was not written by Cao Xueqin!"

The students were all listening.

The people from the literary world all began to recall the content.

Zhang Ye ignored them and carried on speaking, "Cousin Zhen's first crime: forcefully took to his bed the fiancée of an innocent person and drove her to her death when she would not gratify his desires. It sounds serious, and is actually referring to Second Sister You's death. If you think right away, you might not find it problematic, but if you read it carefully again, who forcefully took Second Sister You? It was not Cousin Zhen, but Jia Lian. And was Second Sister You kept in Ning-guo mansion? No, it was a place called Little Flower Lane!"

Ma Hengyuan leered at him. "Don't you know that Second Sister You was later duped into Rong-guo mansion by Wang Xifeng?"

Zhang Ye looked back at him. "You are right, but even if Cousin Zhen had some responsibility in this, he was at most regarded as an accomplice. The main perpetrator was Jia Lian. This thing was all Jia Lian's problem, right? Later on, Wang Xifeng even directed a scheme to let Second Sister You's former fiancé indict on this matter. It caused quite a stir, resulting in Second Sister You's death. However, that is Wang Xifeng and Jia Lian's crime. What has this got to do with Cousin Zhen? However, 'Cao Xueqin', for some unknown reason, wrote that the first crime of Cousin Zhen was Second Sister You's death!"

Many people exclaimed.

Teacher Yang also loosened his eyebrows.

This problem had really not been mentioned in the Redology world. Zhang Ye was really the first!



Zhang Ye ignored their reactions and carried on speaking, "Then the second charge is even more ridiculous. What is it? Buried secretly and the facts of her death were concealed from the authorities. This is talking about Third Sister You's death. Following her suicide meant she committed suicide and that was finally buried." Zhang Ye could not help but laugh. "What sort of serious crime is this? Furthermore, Third Sister You committing suicide does not have much to do with Cousin Zhen. It was Jia Lian who paired Liu Xianglian and Third Sister You. The matching failed, causing Third Sister You to commit suicide. What did Cousin Zhen have to do with this?" Saying that, Zhang Ye pointed to the screen. "As for the third charge, it says for corrupting the sons of noble families, encouraging them to gamble. When I see this, I do not know what others may think, but I can't bear reading it further."

Meng Dongguo said coldly, "It was foreshadowed early on."

Another youth who studied Redology said, "Right, and it was in your so-called first 80 chapters."

"There was such a plot in front." Zhang Ye said, "In chapter 75, Cousin Zhen gathered a bunch of family members to gamble, but think about it, were they really gambling? Cousin Zhen had set up a shooting gallery below Celestial Fragrance Pavilion, allowing young men to compete there. Gambling was just a guise. If one had to insist, Cousin Zhen's crime is the shooting gallery. This is because it is a very dangerous behavior and signal, but for some reason, 'Cao Xueqin' decided that the third charge would be Cousin Zhen's gambling. Who can explain this to me?"

"This..."

"Was there such a passage?"

"Yes, they were indeed practicing shooting."

"I also recall it. This was written in an abstruse manner."

Without Zhang Ye mentioning, many people had not recalled it. They had never thought about it. Now, with him mentioning it, many of those who had read "Dream of the Red Chamber" recalled it!

It's really true!

There was a serious problem!

Zhang Ye questioned, "If this was really Cao Xueqin's original text, would Mr Cao make such a low-level error?"

A Redologist in his thirties grunted. "This isn't a crime, that isn't a crime. This has nothing to do with him, then from what you say, the Jia family is innocent. Why would their family be raided?"

Zhang Ye said, "The Jia family was naturally guilty."

Meng Dongguo said, "Jia She and Cousin Zhen were originally..."

Before he finished speaking, Zhang Ye had interrupted him. "No, actually Jia She and Cousin Zhen's crime existed, but that was not the true reason behind why the Jia family was raided! My point has always been based on the first 80 chapters. In the first 80 chapters, this matter was clearly indicated!"

Ma Hengyuan said to Zhang Ye as if he was not worth a single glance, "Then whose crime is it?"

Zhang Ye calmly gave a name. It was a name that shocked everyone. "The real reason behind the Jia family being raided was Jia Zheng!"

"Jia Zheng?"

"Did you say the wrong name?"

"It can't be Jia Zheng!"

"That's right! Anyone can be guilty except Jia Zheng!"

The Peking University students were the first to create an uproar. It was too surprising for Zhang Ye to give this name. They could accept whatever Teacher Zhang Ye had previously said as they found it very reasonable, but regarding Jia Zheng's crime? None of them believed! How can that be?

However, Zhang Ye ignored their discussion and said the next sentence. "Hur Hur. I can tell everyone that not only is Jia Zheng guilty, but it's a heinous crime!"

"Can it be that exaggerated?"

"Heinous crime?"

"He's the only good person in the Jia family!"

"That's right, where did it say Jia Zheng was guilty?"

The Redologists like Yan Yu and Teacher Yang all gave a look of shock!

Elder Qian and Professor Zeng, who were originally very supportive of Zhang Ye, looked at each other. They could see the doubt in each other's eyes. They did not know either!

Zhang Ye was indifferent. He said, "Everyone might not believe it, but I will still say it. If this was Cao Xueqin's original work... if this was Cao Xueqin's original 108 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', he would have written that the real reason why the Jia family was raided was because of Jia Zheng's crime. Yes, to many people here, Jia Zheng was a very decent man. And when the Jia family was raided, Jia Zheng seemed the most innocent. The way you came to this conclusion was the same as what the continuer of the chapters after the eightieth thought too. Hence, using this line of thought, he wrote it into the image that everyone sees today. Even when the Jia family was raided, it did not raise any problems with Jia Zheng. There was no crime, and through his hard work, the Emperor even forgave him, allowing the resurgence of the Jia family. Hur Hur. On these matters, you already have preconceptions about this, hence, you are subconsciously disagreeing with what I'm saying. However, I still have to say it. This is a major error the continuer made. He did not understand the foreshadowing and line of thought Cao Xueqin had in the first 80 chapters. This is also the reason why everyone has been misled!"

Senior Zhou could not stand for this anymore. He liked Jia Zheng the most in 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. "Teacher Zhang, where is the foreshadowing you mentioned?"

Senior Song asked, "Was it written earlier that Jia Zheng had committed a crime?"

Many students and people from the literary world could not accept it. In many people's hearts, Jia Zheng was a person of utmost bearing. They liked him a lot too. Was Zhang Ye trying to subvert their understanding again? Wasn't this subversion too much?

Zhang Ye smiled as he looked at everyone. "It's good that there is controversy. Everyone, listen to me first. See if what I say makes sense. Then, let us temporarily throw away the image of Jia Zheng in the chapters after the eightieth. Let's look at the first 80 chapters written by Cao Xueqin and how he described Jia Zheng's image. Where was the foreshadowing? In chapter 75, You-shi was angry and went to visit Lady Wang. At this moment, an old woman accompanying her told her something shocking. 'Some people from the Zhen family have just arrived there, madam, with a lot of things. I think it's something secret they've come about. It probably wouldn't be convenient for you to go there now.'"

On the screen.

The original text appeared.

Everyone looked at it, and indeed, there was such a passage.

"Who is the Zhen family? It's a close family to the Jia family. What was the situation back then? The Zhen family was convicted and raided by the Emperor." Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Then in the book, was You-shi very surprised when she heard this? No, she was not one bit surprised. You-shi said, 'Yes, I heard your master saying last night', and this master is Jia Zheng, 'that he had read in the Gazette that the Zhens had been attainted, and the family was being brought to the capital for questioning!'"

Everyone present looked surprised.

One wouldn't know without thinking, but the moment they thought about it, they were shocked!

Zhang Ye asked, "Jia Zheng helped the Zhen family hide their treasures. I want to ask you, is this a severe crime?"

Senior Zhou ruminated for a while before saying in a convinced manner, "...Yes!"

The people from the literary world remained silent for a long period. They had an impression of this plot, but that was all they had. As the book did not write it in detail, and was just described with a few words, it was too superficial, and as a result, many people had neglected it. Even if they didn't neglect it, this plot just meant that Jia Zheng was a person who valued sentiment. They did not link it with how it would add on to the crimes the Jia family was convicted of later after the eightieth chapter. Only when Zhang Ye pointed it out did these people think about it. Yes, it was truly the case!

Was the crime severe?

It was too severe!

In the society of that era, that was a serious crime!

Zhang Ye looked at the crowd, "This was written in the first eighty chapters by Cao Xueqin. They were the original words, so I would like to ask, later when the Jia family was raided, what was the reason behind it?"

Many people turned quiet. They were rendered speechless by Zhang Ye's question!

The Redologists realized that things were not going well. Zhang Ye's momentum was rising. His point and theory was becoming more and more valid. If they allowed him to carry on, even they would be convinced. Hence, Teacher Yang picked up a microphone and switched it on. He had to speak!

Chapter 326: A Plot No One Dares to Touch in 'Dream of the Red Chamber'!

In the Grand Auditorium.

The Peking University students all revealed expressions of admiration.

Just as Zhang Ye's theory was increasingly taking the upper hand, and just as he was about to end the second class on a high note, a voice echoed.

"Zhang Ye." It was the Redologist, Teacher Yang.

Zhang Ye looked at him. "Teacher Yang, please speak."

Zhang Ye did not know him, but this person had doubted him on Weibo. His tone was not very polite, and he had used his picture for his Weibo picture, so Zhang Ye recognized him at a glance. This person was very authoritative and influential in the world of Redology. It was the same with Yan Yu. Previously when he was questioned, he had used "Vice President Yan". The Vice President of the nation's Writers' Association was naturally famous. Zhang Ye had already adapted to this brand new but slightly different world. He was no longer as unfamiliar to this world's celebrities. He was no longer like he had been in the past where he did not know anything. He was slowly learning and familiarizing himself with this Earth's people and matters.

Teacher Yang did not ask him directly, but deliberately paused for two seconds. Maybe it was to let the focus fall on him and for the cameras to train themselves on him.

He was in frame!

The Peking University students' gaze were on him!

Only then did Teacher Yang say slowly, "I have basically not talked from the beginning. I was listening to you speak and I have to admit that your analysis and understanding has reached a certain standard. However, I'm not sure if others have noticed it. You have been using counter examples. For example, how the Jia family was convicted of their crimes. You are using a method of denying the logical conflict that exists in the chapters after the eightieth and the first 80 chapters to prove your point. This is not comprehensive and just single-faceted. Hur Hur. Let us use the simplest method. We can actually use this method to prove that your theory is unreliable."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Sure. Please do tell."

Teacher Yang hissed in his heart. However, he said very casually, "You think you can explain everything? That's a bold claim! Let me tell you the secret and problem in 'Dream of the Red Chamber' that no one can fully explain!"

Zhang Ye only smiled and remained silent.

A young Redologist said, "Teacher Yang, since Teacher Zhang Ye has the confidence and knowledge, then why don't you ask him a logical problem in the first 80 chapters that cannot be explained?"

Teacher Yang said, "Yes, I'll ask that."

These two sang to each other's tunes and were quite harmonious.

Zhang Ye smiled without a word. He gave a posture of listening devoutly and respectfully.

Wu Zeqing turned her head to look at Teacher Yang before turning her head back.

Chang Kaige and Zhen Shuquan were all worried for Zhang Ye. This bunch of people had studied "Dream of the Red Chamber" nearly all their lives. At the least, they had studied for five to six years. Their logical reasoning and analysis might not be better than yours, but they were still experts at picking errors!

Little Zhang, can you do it well?

Don't stumble here!

Everyone had different expressions. All of them were thinking differently!

Teacher Yang spoke as he stared at Zhang Ye. "Since you said that only the first 80 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' were written by Cao Xueqin, and said that the problems in the first 80 chapters were minor errors that Mr Cao failed to modify in time, but a character's personality exists through the entire text, so there cannot be any mistakes. You gave an example of how Grandmother Jia had a change in personality after chapter 80, and how Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu changed personalities after the eightieth chapter. This was all what you previously stated, right?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes, of course."

"Alright." Seeing that he had taken the bait, Teacher Yang crossed his legs and said, "Since you just mentioned the matter of Jia Zheng's crime, then you must know that in this plot segment, there was another story. It's the problem with Jia Baoyu's poem. Why did you purposely avoid it?"

Jia Baoyu's poem?

Everyone gasped!

Holy sh\*t! Can you not be so ruthless!? You actually asked this?

Chang Kaige and the other lecturers of the Chinese department immediately turned blue in the face!

Yan Yu did not expect Teacher Yang to directly ask this question. This was the truly fatal question!

Senior Song was slightly stunned. Previously, when she met the Jinshi female reporter outside, she had said in her interview about her thoughts on this problem. She was wondering if Teacher Zhang Ye would avoid this logical error in today's class. Apparently, Zhang Ye did not mention this throughout the class, so Senior Song did not plan on asking. She was afraid that Teacher Zhang Ye would be shamed if he failed to answer it were she to ask, but who knew that someone else had asked the question!

Teacher Yang looked relaxed. "That is the question I wanted to ask. This is a major logical error. And this happened before chapter 80. What was written in chapter 78? Jia Zheng suddenly called his two sons and a grandson to compose poetry before him. And what was the topic? He got them to compose a poem to praise a woman, Fourth Sister Lin. She was also known as the Winsome Colonel. This was written clearly in the text. Jia Huan later wrote a poem. Jia Lan also wrote one. Jia Baoyu also did it. He

wrote a long ballad. He even went to great lengths to praise Winsome Colonel. During the process, some of Jia Zheng's guests also applauded him. Finally, Jia Zheng also praised him. Now, here comes the problem. What's the matter with Fourth Sister Lin? The story was in Qing-zhou. There was a Prince Heng, who recruited a large number of beautiful women to train in military arts. The leader was Fourth Sister Lin. Later on, when a horde of bandits started to rebel, the city walls could not hold. Many people wanted to surrender to the rebels, but Fourth Sister Lin led the female army out, but died in combat. Hence, Fourth Sister Lin was a leader who suppressed the peasant uprising!"

These was known by everyone. They listened quietly.

Teacher Yang was afraid there were people who did not understand, so he said, "But what kind of artistic image does Jia Baoyu have? He was very against the feudal system of that era! He was anti-Manchu, but here, Jia Baoyu actually praised the leader who suppressed a peasant uprising? At this point, this character's personality suddenly collapsed. Zhang Ye, don't you explain it away as Cao Xueqin not having edited this after he finished writing. That won't do. Besides, didn't you say that Jia Baoyu's artistic image had been destroyed in the chapters after the eightieth? He changed personalities, but you have to know, that the change in the chapters after the eightieth were at least described. There was a private tutor teaching him, that led him to study eight-legged poems, but what about the first 80 chapters? There was no foreshadowing or explanation, right? Since you boasted that Cao Xueqin did not make a mistake because of his illness, then I would like to hear your explanation about Jia Baoyu's poem!"

"Right. Tell us!" The young Redologist said with a sneer.

"That's right Zhang Ye. There's a problem here. How can you explain this?" Meng Dongguo said.

A woman said, "If you can't explain it, then your theory will be overturned. There's no use mentioning anything else! Be it before or after chapter 80, there are flaws. You can't use that to prove anything!"

Ma Hengyuan chuckled at the sight of this. "This problem is really unsolvable. Don't you say that this is not Cao Xueqin's original words, and that it was added on by someone later. These poems have been validated. It was Cao Xueqin's work. No one can imitate that. Hence, it can only be said to be Cao Xueqin's error and failure!"

The literary world's members had hit back and out in full force now!

Yao Mi said in a puzzled manner, "Is that such a difficult question?"

Beside her, Senior Zhou smiled bitterly, "This is one of the most mysterious problems in 'Dream of the Red Chamber'! There might not even be an answer! The Redology world has been researching this for decades and no one has been able to solve it!"

Yao Mi exclaimed, "Holy sh\*t! Are these people so wicked?"

Li Ying said in a speechless manner, "Right, they are trying to force Teacher Zhang onto a path of no return!"

"Teacher Zhang Ye's words were too bold to begin with!" Li Li said worriedly, "This is not good! He has been forced into a corner by his own words and can't explain it now!"

At the other side, Zhang Ye's ex-leader at the television station, Zhao Guozhou also broke into a frown, "Little Zhang has met a difficult problem this time. There's no way to solve this problem." He also knew a little about 'Dream of the Red Chamber', albeit not as deeply. He had read many commentaries before and knew that Teacher Yang's question was very difficult to answer as it was the greatest flaw in 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. Even if Jia Baoyu characteristics did change greatly later on, as did Grandmother Jia, all of these could still be swept under the rug without a lot of explanations. As for this poem by Jia Baoyu, it was impossible to sweep it under the rug. He could not even try to change the subject!

Wang Xiaomei looked up to Zhang Ye on stage, "Director Zhao, I don't think so!"

"Hmm?" Zhao Guozhou glanced at her, "What do you mean?"

Wang Xiaomei kept a still face, "I feel that Zhang Ye already has it all planned out." As she said that, she pointed to the stage, "Have you noticed that he is still smiling?"

Zhao Guozhou took a look, "He really is!"

Seated at the back was Hu Fei, who also knew Zhang Ye very well. When he saw Zhang Ye smiling, he knew that the rascal already knew what to say, but as to how Zhang Ye would explain it, he really would not!

Professor Zeng looked to the side, "Elder Qian, has this error been solved?"

Elder Qian shook his head, "I don't know about that. In the research of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', Little Zhang is far ahead of me. I definitely cannot compare to him, so let's see how he answers it."

One second...

Three seconds...

Five seconds...

Zhang Ye was listening all this while, without saying a word.

Teacher Yang mocked, "You can't explain?"

"Why aren't you speaking?" The young Redologist said.

Zhang Ye's expression looked casual. "It's not that I'm not speaking, but it's because it's too chaotic. There's too much discussion, so even if I speak, no one would be able to hear me."

With that, the audience immediately turned silent!

No one discussed further. They were all listening to Zhang Ye's voice.

Only then did Zhang Ye smile while holding his microphone. "Regarding the problem with Jia Baoyu's poem, it is a persistent problem in Redology. The reason why 'Dream of the Red Chamber' is not easily talked about is because of this. Typically, when 'Dream of the Red Chamber' is mentioned, 100% of people would skip this when they reach this point. They would pretend to miss this segment. No one dares to talk about this part. This taboo episode has stumped countless Redologists, but here, in this public lecture, I can tell everyone..." With a pause, he said, "I can talk about this part."

Everyone was stunned!

"You can talk about it?"

"Teacher Zhang you really can?"

"Impossible, there's no way to explain it!"

The Peking University students all had looks of disbelief.

Only Senior Zhou and Senior Song were extremely interested. They were invigorated. He could really explain it? If he could really explain it, then the entire Redology world would be overturned!

To Teacher Yang, it was not a matter of believing. He didn't even bother listening!

No one present believed Zhang Ye had the ability!

Zhang Ye stood there, as calm as ever. He maintained his smiling face and said, "And even if no one asked, I was just about to talk about it. Why? This is because this episode of Jia Baoyu's praising of the Winsome Colonel intertwines with the second charge against Jia Zheng that I did not finish talking about. Was hoarding the Zhen family's illegal fortunes a big enough crime? No, not at all! The development of this episode is Jia Zheng's biggest crime! This is the thing that I revealed through my words...Jia Zheng's heinous crime!"

Chapter 327: Applause. Everyone Stands Up!

There was a flurry of discussion!

"Heinous crime?"

"Jia Zheng again?"

"Why is Jia Zheng faulted?"

"Where did it write about Jia Zheng's crimes?"

"Isn't that nonsense? A bigger crime than hiding illegal fortunes?"

"For such a good man of the Jia family, other than the previous crime, what did he do?"

The people who had read 'Dream of the Red Chamber' could not remain silent. They began discussing with the people sitting around them, exchanging their opinions and views. All of them were confused by Zhang Ye's words.

A Redologist said, "Zhang Ye, don't change topics."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm not changing topics. I'm talking about the same matter."

The same matter? Which eye of yours sees that it is the same matter? Teacher Yang glanced at him, "Alright then. Explain to us Jia Baoyu's poem first. A plot no one can explain can be explained by you? I'm all ears."

Numerous pairs of eyes looked towards the podThere was a flurry of discussion!



“Heinous crime?”

“Jia Zheng again?”

“Why is Jia Zheng faulted?”

“Where did it write about Jia Zheng’s crimes?”

“Isn’t that nonsense? A bigger crime than hiding illegal fortunes?”

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The same matter? Which eye of yours sees that it is the same matter? Teacher Yang glanced at him, “Alright then. Explain to us Jia Baoyu’s poem first. A plot no one can explain can be explained by you? I’m all ears.”

Numerous pairs of eyes looked towards the podium!

There were now 5000-6000 people present, waiting for Zhang Ye’s answer!

Zhang Ye also said very seriously, “Sure, but let me be clear first. What I’m going to say is my personal opinion. If you think it’s right, you can listen to it. If you think it’s wrong, and have other conclusions or your own analysis, it’s alright. We can discuss amongst ourselves. Then, let’s return the problem from before. Why did Jia Baoyu write such a poem? Teacher Yang has mentioned it already, but let me add on a bit more. It’s still in chapter 78. It was written in the beginning that Jia Baoyu had praised Winsome Colonel and had composed a long poem. As for the second half, he laments Skybright. He wrote ‘The Spirit of the Hibiscus: An Elegy and Invocation’. In this poem, he pours out his feelings and his bitterness against the feudal system. Then is Jia Baoyu suffering from a split personality? This failure seems too serious. So what is going on?”

That’s right!

What’s going on?

We are asking you!

A few people from the literary world nearly died of infuriation from Zhang Ye’s “teasing” speech. Your sister, tell us! Stop teasing!

Despite them impatiently waiting for Zhang Ye to suffer, Zhang Ye was in no hurry. He took another sip of his Pu’er tea and moistened his throat. He placed the thermos flask down before he said, “Alright, then let me tell you what is going on. Everyone says this is one of the failures of Cao Xueqin, and it’s a stain of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’, but the reason why everyone thinks this way is because no one understands Cao Xueqin’s intentions. They did not see the hidden trick hidden in this passage. First, we

need to solve a few problems. Number one, the Winsome Colonel Jia Baoyu praised, did she crack down on a peasant uprising? If that was the case, then there really is no way to excuse Jia Baoyu, but what if it isn't?"

Meng Dongguo stared. "Is there any doubt?"

Ma Hengyuan also remembered clearly. "The book's text clearly wrote they were latter-day descendants of the Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows!"

"How can you say what if it isn't? If not, then it's clearly written in black and white that the peasants were forming a rebel army!" A literary author who came to cause trouble said. He was a fat man.

Zhang Ye looked at the fat man, "What was written in black and white was not a peasant rebel army, but the Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows. This is very important. Do not confuse them. Do the Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows really represent rebels? Then let us take a closer look. We all know history. After the Qing dynasty came into power, they caused a huge massacre. They pushed forward a harsh ruling policy. Only after everything was in place did they relax, allowing some concessions to the peasants. Hence in this dynasty, there was no large scale peasant uprising. You cannot make an analogy to the Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows as peasant rebel armies, which could bring down cities. So from a historical perspective, everyone's understanding of the Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows is problematic!"

Yan Yu was stunned.

Teacher Yang also frowned.

"The Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows in chapter 78 was not really talking about a rebel army formed from peasants, but just another name for invaders!" Zhang Ye explained.

A woman said, "Isn't this explanation too far-fetched?"

A young Redologist said, "Besides, Jia Zheng was just casually telling a story, it might not necessarily be true!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "This friend, I do not know how deeply you have studied 'Dream of the Red Chamber', but in my opinion, 'Dream of the Red Chamber' is not a romantic story. It has political and social intricacies, etc. Do you think Cao Xueqin, for no good reason, made Jia Zheng come up with a baffling fictitious story about the Winsome Colonel to let the juniors come up with poems to praise her for no good reason?"

The youth was stunned. His tongue was tied.

Indeed, the text in 'Dream of the Red Chamber' was very precise, or it would not have been so difficult to study it!

"Cao Xueqin's every word suffuses his intentions. For example, the characters in the book all have their prototypes. The story in the book have their metaphors. This episode is the same. Let us take a look at it again." Zhang Ye's gaze landed on the people from the literary world who sat along the first row. "The book says there was a member of the Imperial clan called Prince Heng, who had gone out to become Military Governor of Qing-zhou. Take note, in the Qing dynasty, there was an interesting feature. After

they decided the capital, the sons of the Emperor were not allowed to be considered kings of cities outside of the capital.” Noticing everyone was stunned again, Zhang Ye said, “When the Princes were canonized, their residences had to be established in the capital. They were all before the Emperor’s eyes. So in the Qing dynasty, there were Princes, but never a Qing-zhou Prince Heng! Hence, the character and story offered by Jia Zheng was not in the Qing dynasty era!”

A few teachers from the History department nodded.

Professor Zeng, who was a Professor who studied both Chinese literature and history, also give a deep, approving acknowledgment.

Zhang Ye deliberately paused for a moment. Seeing that everyone was still digesting this knowledge, he said, “Then what era was it, where an Emperor would send his sons to foreign lands to become a governor?” With another pause, he gave the answer. “In the Ming dynasty, that was exactly the case!”

“Ah?”

“Ming dynasty?”

“Why is it the Ming dynasty?”

“The other dynasties have similar situations, right? And it was very common!”

A few Peking University students said. Although they did not hold a microphone, their voices were quite audible. They all sat in the middle-front area.

When Zhang Ye heard it, he said, “Some people must be wondering why I’m saying that the time period in the book is the Ming dynasty?” His words were filled with surprises. “That’s because in the Ming dynasty, there was a place called Qing-zhou! In addition to this, in Ming dynasty history, there was such a Prince Heng!”

Teacher Yang immediately said, “Impossible!”

“How can that be? There’s no proof!” Ma Hengyuan said with a gloomy face.

The other Redologists also stared. They all looked confused. No one understood.

There had been no studies regarding this in the world of Redology, as of yet. They had not researched this, and there was no Prince Heng, right? If there was, wouldn’t it have long been discovered?

There were quite a number of History professors and lecturers present. Quite a number of History department students had come too. However, although they studied this field, even those who did it on a daily basis would not be so free as to memorize all the Emperors in the Ming dynasty, much less those princes that were not as famous. It was impossible to verify them. Hence, many people began searching online for the information on their cellphones. Those from the literary world made phone calls to friends to verify the information. They wanted to disprove Zhang Ye and make him suffer a crushing defeat!

In a while.

Professor Zeng was the first to come to a conclusion. He frowned, “There was no such Prince Heng.”

A few other Peking University students managed to come to a conclusion from their searches. "Yes, this prince doesn't exist. Teacher Zhang, you are wrong!"

When Yao Mi heard this, her face turned pale. Holy sh\*t that can't be. Did Uncle Zhang make a mistake? Uncle Zhang could actually make a mistake in academic issues?

Ma Hengyuan, Teacher Yang, and company were already smiling.

However, Zhang Ye also smiled. He chuckled without much worry. "Don't be so hasty to deny it. I know. You must be checking the word 'Heng', the character for 'eternity'."

Ma Hengyuan rebuked, "If it's not the 'Heng' from 'eternity', then what is it? Did you not see the original text?"

Zhang Ye was not mad as he said, "It is because too many people focus on the original text, which results in missing out on things that should not be missed out on. Hence, no one managed to solve this matter. Maybe no one noticed this metaphor, because the 'Heng' in Prince Heng of Ming Dynasty is the 'Heng' from the word 'balance'!"

What?

It was not the same 'Heng'?

At this moment, a person from the Beijing Writer's Association, who was making a phone call, put his cellphone down. He said in an awkward manner, "The Ming dynasty...does have a Prince Heng. And it's the 'Heng' from the word 'balance'."

Teacher Yang said, "That..."

Meng Dongguo said in a speechless manner, "He really existed?"

Only then did they realize that Zhang Ye had f\*\*king prepared for this. This fellow had already known beforehand that they would ask him about the problem with Jia Baoyu's poem!

Zhang Ye said calmly, with confidence surging through it. "When writing chapter 78, Cao Xueqin used Jia Zheng as a mouthpiece, hinting at this Prince from the Ming dynasty. The pronunciation is the same, but the word changed from the 'Heng' in 'balance' to the 'Heng' in 'eternity'. It was a deliberate change in this word! This is very common. These things could not be written blatantly at the time. For example, the words Cao Xueqin used to make a metaphor about the political powers with words like the 'Moon Faction' and the 'Sun Faction'?"

Teacher Yang said, "What can this prove?"

Ma Hengyuan said with a raised eyebrow, "Yes, it doesn't explain anything. It can only be said that Cao Xueqin's story has a source, and was not fictitiously spun."

Zhang Ye asked with a laugh, "Does it really not explain anything?"

The Peking University students were all confused from listening to this. This still could not explain the fact that Jia Baoyu praised a female colonel in a feudal era. Alright, you said the background has changed. It went from the Qing dynasty to the Ming dynasty. So what if it changed? So the Heng in

Prince Heng had changed, but even if Prince Heng changed into the President of the United States, that still wouldn't explain a thing!

Some still had not figured it out, but there were, of course, smart people in the crowd!

Professor Zeng suddenly froze. He froze without any warning!

After some thought, Elder Qian suddenly gave a look of enlightenment. He could not help but slap his thigh. "So that's the reason! So that is the reason!"

Zhang Ye looked over with surprise. "Hur Hur, looks like Professor Zeng and Elder Qian have figured it out."

Figured it out?

Figured what out!?

What are you talking about!?

The others were still baffled. What's this charade?

"If some one still doesn't understand, then let me give you a hint." Zhang Ye said as he straightened his back while resting his hands on the podium. "In the Ming dynasty, there was a Qing-zhou. Many things happened at this place. Did Prince Heng encounter an attack from attackers? I can tell you with certainty that he did. Then, who attacked him?"

An external History professor was stunned!

The Vice President of the Writers' Association, Yan Yu lost her voice. "Attack of the Manchurian forces down South!" Saying that, she gasped. She had been stunned by her own words!

Zhang Ye smiled. "That's right! It was the attack of the Manchurian forces down South! The Manchurian army had invaded!"

With that, the bunch of people from the literary world all understood. Their faces had looks of dumbfoundedness!

Amongst them was a thin Redologist in his forties who had not spoken a word at all. When he heard Zhang Ye's words, he could not help but stand up out of excitement!

It was the Manchurian army!

To think that it was the Manchurian army!

Senior Song smacked her forehead hardly, "Why didn't I think of it?!"

Senior Zhou exclaimed, "F\*\*k! So that's how it is explained!"

The Peking University students were all shocked by Zhang Ye's analysis. They were so shocked that their jaws nearly fell off!

Zhang Ye's colleague, Su Na clenched her fist and shouted with excitement, "Nice!" This new Teacher Zhang really lived up to his reputation! He was too awesome!

At this moment, no one believed that him saying that he was able to “explain all logical problems” was bragging!

He really explained it all!

The logical problems posed by everyone had all been explained by him!

Zhang Ye’s next sentence struck a chord in everyone’s hearts. “Hence, sometimes, the truth is not as simple as it seems on the surface. Take a look, just the Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows in the book was nearly ignored by everyone, right? If we just analyzed Jia Baoyu’s poem, and used his personality to probe, we would never be able to solve this mystery in our entire lives. We would not be able to study ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ well. By helping you in this analysis, the result is obvious, right? The attackers referred to as Yellow Turbans and Red Eyebrows were actually the Manchurian army! Hence, what sort of figure was Fourth Sister Lin? What sort of figure did Jia Zheng want Jia Baoyu to praise? It was during the collapse of the Ming dynasty, when Qing-zhou was in a time of distress. The male officials were advocating surrender, but she stepped forward, leading a female army against the Manchus. She was a heroine!”

Everyone was already dumbfounded listening to this!

Teacher Yang, Ma Hengyuan, and company were already shocked beyond words!

This...

This...

Zhang Ye spread out his palms. “Now the mystery has been unraveled. Everyone gives an ‘oh’, and you all understand. The reason is that simple? Yes, the answer to riddles are usually that simple. Did Jia Baoyu’s artistic image collapse? No, not at all. In chapter 78, Jia Baoyu’s long poem was in fact praising a heroine that resisted the Manchus! Jia Baoyu was anti-Qing to the bone! And what did Jia Zheng do? He was doing an extremely dangerous task. It was almost the crime of rebellion! This is also the second crime of Jia Zheng I mentioned. This is his biggest crime. This is the true reason why the Jia family was convicted! It had little to do with Jia She! This is also what Cao Xueqin foreshadowed and divulged in the first 80 chapters! He had nearly told us in a very clear manner!”

With this explained, Zhang Ye followed up on the problems with the plot in the chapters after the eightieth, which he left midway. He moved his attention back to it, and summarized it together. He had used Jia Baoyu’s praising of the Winsome Colonel to prove his point, and had also ended this at the perfect point. He said. “This is also why I cannot accept the chapters after the eightieth. We can see that the reason for the Jia family’s conviction was all due to Jia Zheng! It was Ning-guo mansion! So the plot happening in the chapters after the eightieth in the 120 circulated chapters cannot be written by Cao Xueqin! This is a fact that is without doubt, with no room for discussion! I have provided all the evidence today! I wonder if anyone still has any doubts?”

“...”

Silence!

No one dared to answer him!

Zhang Ye looked at the time. "There was an extension of twenty minutes. There's only two minutes left. If you have no doubts, you can also ask any question."

Still, no one responded!

The bunch of people from the literary world were shriveled up!

The students also did not make a sound!

A drop of sweat rolled down Zhang Ye's forehead. Come on guys, the last time after class, there were numerous people surrounding me. Just now, there were people who insisted for the class to continue. Why are you guys all silent when I request questions from you to alleviate any of your doubts? Alright, forget it. Zhang Ye began keeping his documents. "Then, let us end the class. That is all."

One page...

Ten pages...

Zhang Ye slowly arranged his documents. As he turned around, he was prepared to go off stage to go back home.

But at the instant that he turned around, the sound of someone clapping suddenly erupted from the silent audience. In a split second, a wave of applause that was like a flood nearly blew off the roof of the Grand Auditorium of Peking University! That feeling was like a bomb had exploded!

Bam!

There was a huge round of applause!

One person...

One hundred people...

One thousand people...

People successively stood up. In the end, all the 5000-6000 Peking University students present had all stood up. Everyone was clapping with all their might. No one left, but were just standing there giving a standing ovation to Zhang Ye!

Wu Zeqing also stood up and clapped along with them!

Chang Kaige, Zhen Shuquan, Su Na, Professor Zeng, and other Peking University Chinese department teachers all stood up. They gave a thunderous applause!

Teacher Yang also sighed.

Ma Hengyuan and Meng Dongguo remained in their seats without any grace. Many people from the literary world were the same. They pretended not to notice.

However, the National Writers' Association's Vice President, Yan Yu, who could be said to be the leader of this bunch of people, slowly stood up. She looked towards Zhang Ye and gave him a gentle applause.

Meng Dongguo was astonished, "President Yan!"

“This...” A few colleagues from the literary world looked at each other.

The Vice President was also applauding? They could no longer put on airs. They hurriedly got up one by one.

Before coming, Yan Yu had come with bias. However, after the lesson, after listening to Zhang Ye’s fantastic and heart-stopping analysis and lecture of “Dream of the Red Chamber” from different angles, Yan Yu had nothing better to say. Truthfully, she was still unhappy about Zhang Ye’s attack on the literary world with his limerick. She also did not like Zhang Ye’s temper and character, but in academics, Yan Yu was completely convinced by Zhang Ye’s talent and his research in ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’! This was the reason why she stood up and why she gave her applause. This applause was not for Zhang Ye, but her heartfelt thanks to Zhang Ye’s contribution to academia!

The reporters were all extremely excited. They began to take all sorts of pictures.

Before the public lecture, who would have expected Zhang Ye’s second lecture to be so one-sided? The people from the literary world had come with a forceful stance, in a bid to dismantle him, but all of them had been dumbfounded by Zhang Ye alone?

Chapter 328: The hope of Peking University’s Chinese department!

Applause!

It was applause throughout!

“It’s really too damn awesome!”

“Teacher Zhang! I love you!”

“Teacher Zhang’s too good! He’s peerless!”

“Well said! I’ve never been in such a wonderful lecture before!”

“Teacher Zhang, will you still be the teacher for ‘Appreciation of the Classics’ next semester?”

“I’ve decided! I will be signing up for Teacher Zhang’s elective class next semester!”

The students were all giving their kudos. Su Na and a few other Peking University lecturers were giving the thumbs up to Zhang Ye from below the stage.

The audience had given him a standing ovation and the scene looked phenomenal. For Zhang Ye, who had done so many programs up until now, it was also the first time that he had encountered such a large standing ovation.

Zhang Ye was already leaving the stage after packing up his research papers and thermos flask, but he stopped and gave a wry smile. Then he put down his belongings and picked up the microphone, “Thank you everyone, class has ended. Students, please go back, many of you still have classes in the afternoon.”

Bba Bba!

The Peking University students did not want to leave, they continued applauding.



Wu Zeqing, Chang Kaige, and company were also doing the same. They smiled as they clapped along with the students.

No one left the venue. The members from the literary world naturally also stayed. It would be too obvious if they walked off now as the cameras were still recording, so they could only stay behind with everyone else.

“Thank you, everyone, please take your leave.” Zhang Ye clasped his hands together gratefully.

Still, no one left. In fact, the students clapped even louder!

Zhang Ye had nothing else he could do about it, so he said a few more words, “In the 2 classes of yesterday and today, we have spoken in general about how the first 80 chapters on the whole of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ were the original words of Mr Cao Xueqin. I believe my conclusion will be able to convince many people, and even if there are questions or doubts, no one can deny the possibility of what I said. You may use my point of view and direction to go carry out your research and analysis, and I hope that this will help the students and everyone else to understand ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ better, but what I want to express has already mostly been expressed in these 2 classes, so from here on I will not be repeating these points anymore. If we come across it, I might elaborate a little, but it would not be explained in as much detail as it was today. There is no need for purposely repeat it to insist that it is proven and I will be going forward onto other parts.”

“Going forward?”

“What else is there left to talk about?”

“Right, how will the class be taught going forward?”

“If we follow Teacher Zhang’s point of view that another author had continued writing on after the first 80 chapters, it would still be riddled with inconsistencies and flaws. So what’s there to talk about?”

“Yea, there’s nothing to speak about anymore.”

“We are still 7-8 lectures away from the exams?”

The Peking University students began to feel confused and stopped applauding, especially the students from Zhang Ye’s elective class. They were more concerned about how Teacher Zhang Ye would continue the class from here on.

The department dean, Chang Kaige, also thought about this problem. If there was a problem with the class schedule, it would be a big problem!

Zhang Ye smiled, “It seems like everyone still has some doubts. It is correct to feel doubtful, yes. So the question comes, for the repairing of excavators....alright, that is not it. How then shall we continue our class from here on?” He paused for a moment, and said, “Please stay tuned to my class tomorrow to find out!”

“F\*\*k that!”

“He’s leaving us with a cliffhanger again!”

"Teacher Zhang is so wicked!"

"Haha, but I'm really looking forward to it!"

"I need to get here early tomorrow to reserve a seat! I have to get a front row seats!"

Zhang Ye said, "Class dismissed! Everyone quickly go to your next class!" Then he looked at the others, "Leaders, thank you for your hard work. Reporter comrades, thank you for your hard work too."

The students finally began to leave the venue.

When Zhang Ye saw that the reporters were rushing forward for the kill, he quickly picked up his belongings and left from backstage.

But who knew, most of the reporters were not sprinting towards Zhang Ye. About half of them rushed forward towards the literary world members and pointed their large zoom cameras at them as they surrounded them.

That Jinshi female reporter shot a quick question out, "Teacher Yang, as one of the top Redology experts, what views do you have of the lecture by Teacher Zhang Ye today?"

Teacher Yang's face did not look too good, "Please make way.. no comment."

Another small Beijing newspaper's reporter also went over, "Teacher Yang, the question that you asked and those other difficult problems that have plagued the Redology world for a long time seemed to all have been answered by Teacher Zhang Ye. We saw that you and the other Redologists did not refute or speak anymore after that, is this because all of you agree with Teacher Zhang Ye's point of view? Does this mean that the author of 'Dream of the Red Chamber' after the first 80 chapters was indeed someone else? And not written by Cao Xueqin?"

Teacher Yang held on to his words for a moment, then said, "It's not that I agree with Zhang Ye's views, nor that he has explained it fully. His explanation and analysis was just from a different angle. As for the problem of the author of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', that would still remain an open question for now. It still needs everyone's input after discussion and further research."

A male reporter immediately followed up saying, "Then does that mean that the Redology world has now acknowledged that there is plausibility to what Teacher Zhang has proposed? And that the possibility is very high?"

Teacher Yang frowned, "I did not say that. I don't represent the whole Redology world. Please, let me through. You can go interview someone else instead!"

"Vice-President Yan, what do you think of this man, Teacher Zhang Ye?" Another few reporters had gone over to Yan Yu.

Yan Yu did not dodge and answered, "I will not comment on Teacher Little Zhang as a person, but his literary standard is something that I really admire."

He has talent?

But is not much of a person?

The reporters all understood the meaning of what she said. They got excited and continued to hound Yan Yu, “Will the Writers’ Association consider letting Teacher Zhang join your ranks?”

Yan Yu smirked and answered, “Elder Qian has recommended Zhang Ye before and the National Writers’ Association had previously sent Zhang Ye an invite too, but Teacher Little Zhang had posted a poem at that time— “Facing The Sea With Spring Blossoms”. This poem was very well written and was very artistic, but it basically carried a meaning of rejection. What you all need to know is that it is not us who do not want him, nor is it that the Writers’ Association is closed to accepting a disputed character. We welcome all kinds of talented people to join us, but Zhang Ye did not wish to join us. So it’s not like we can do anything about that. Maybe you should go ask him instead.”

A middle-aged reporter asked, “Vice-President Yan....”

Yan Yu motioned with her hand, “Alright, that will be all for now. I still have something to attend to.”

When a number of literary world members saw that from the side, they followed Yan Yu and Teacher Yang together out of the venue. They did not wish to be interviewed in any way. It was already embarrassing enough today that a bunch of seniors were outspoken by a junior. Their faces at this moment were burning with embarrassment and if they could have a chance again, they would not have come here. They had literally gifted themselves forward to have their faces stepped on!

Actually, many discerning people knew that what Zhang Ye had said today might not definitely be the correct, but it was only because he could explain it and a large part of his explanations were logical. Even when they felt that some of Zhang Ye’s views on certain details might not be the truth, they could not refute it for no other reason than simply because Zhang Ye could explain these logical inconsistencies. In the world of Redology, Zhang Ye was the only person who had given a reasonable analysis while no one else had. Because of this, they could not be sufficiently emboldened to speak up and thus became the victims of Zhang Ye’s killing spree!

Numbed.

How old was this Zhang even? How did he have such a deep understanding of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’? He alone could refute the entire Redology world? And he’s even more powerful than them?

The literary world members had all walked away with ashened heads and mudcaked faces!

Over there, department dean, Chang Kaige, was currently being interviewed by a reporter.

Chang Kaige said to the reporter with a smile, “Regarding Teacher Zhang Ye, we have always had high hopes for him, nor have we ever for a moment doubted our own lecturers. Everyone can see now that with Teacher Zhang Ye’s literary foundation, he is more than qualified to be a lecturer of the Peking University’s Chinese department. That he can come to Peking University to teach, it is also good for us, as well as a lucky outcome for the students who like classical novels. As for the doubts of our student’s parents that you mentioned earlier, and the doubts of the education and literary world, I believe that after today, they will all dissipate. Even if some doubt still remains, our Chinese department will fully support Teacher Little Zhang. We have reason to believe that from today onwards, Teacher Little Zhang’s elective class ‘Appreciation of the Classics’ would become a feature class of our Chinese department. It would become our Chinese department’s headline class!”

The department dean's words resonated powerfully.

Only the teachers from the Chinese department were smiling to themselves. It was obvious to them that, whether it was Secretary Zhen or Dean Chang, they had not taken to Zhang Ye with this attitude at the beginning. Had high hopes for him, my ass! Support him, my ass! If it were not for President Wu's opposition and insistence on bringing Zhang Ye on board into the Chinese department, how would it be possible that these department leaders would accept Zhang Ye. Then when Zhang Ye dropped the bombshell during the 1st lecture, the department wanted to throw Zhang Ye out as if he was a hot potato in their hands. When Zhang Ye cast doubt on the writer of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', it had scared the wits out of these leaders, but now, Zhang Ye had managed to solidify his academic accomplishments, making it impossible for those who opposed him to find a way through. It now felt like he was single-handedly going to change the history of Redology! Thus, the department's change in attitude was no surprise. Zhang Ye was in the limelight and had gained face for the Chinese department. He even caused a sensation in society and the literary world. In the eyes of the department leaders, Zhang Ye had, in an instant, transformed from a stink bug into delicious hot cakes!

.....

The Chinese department.

In the teacher's office.

Zhang Ye put down his research papers and turned to his computer to organize some files for tomorrow's class. He then printed them out on the printer.

Ga la.

Ga la.

Page after page of information slid out of the printer.

At this time, the Chinese department teachers also returned to the office.

A few other lecturers, who had just finished their lessons, heard about the news at the Grand Auditorium. They made their way back to the office and looked at Zhang Ye when they came in.

"Teacher Zhang!"

"Haha, Teacher Little Zhang!"

"You've brought us face today!"

"Well said!" Hur Hur, did you see that bunch of literary world members who were here to cause trouble? They all looked so crestfallen! My frustrations are all vented now!"

"They even wanted to come to the Chinese department to find fault with us? Are they sick in the head or something!"

"We are educators and it's a basic to teach our lessons very rigorously. They are in a different line of work, yet they want to compete with us on logic and rigor? That's like flaunting one's skills in front of a

master! They should have expected it. If Teacher Little Zhang did not have conclusive evidence, he would not dare to claim such things!”

Zhang Ye smiled, “Don’t. You’re praising me too much.”

Professor Wu looked at him, “It’s not that we’re over praising you. Just look at how the students applauded you at the end! Everyone recognizes you for what you are now.”

Another lecturer said, “That’s right. I’ve never seen students insisting on not ending a class, and strongly requesting for the teacher to give additional time. Nor have I seen students unanimously giving a standing ovation for two full minutes after a class. This also says a lot. Little Zhang, there’s no need to be so modest.”

Su Na chuckled as she gave him a thumbs up. “Nothing else to say. I’m convinced!”

“I’m convinced too. I plan on going back to read ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ once again. After listening to your lecture, only then did I realize that it contains such profound things!” A middle-aged female teacher said.

Professor Zeng also came in at this moment. He roared with laughter, “In a while, I still need to consult with Teacher Little Zhang on some things.”

Zhang Ye hurriedly said, “Please stop heaping praises on me. Hur Hur. I have only studied a bit more on ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’. In other fields, I still need to receive advice from all of you. In the future, I’ll definitely have a lot of academic problems I need to ask about, so please don’t think of me as irritating.”

“How can that be?”

“Go ahead and ask, we can have a chance to study the problem together.”

“Right, in the future, we will be seeking advice from you regarding ancient literature. History department. Hur Hur, as for History and text, you can ask Professor Zeng. Professor Zeng is even better than those professors from the History department. As for foreign literature and history, look for me if you have any questions. I teach that.”

Everyone expressed their friendliness and kindness.

Some people even shook hands with him and introduced themselves. Before Zhang Ye came, many of them had not gotten the chance to introduce themselves.

Before, other than Teacher Su Na and Professor Zeng, everyone else was a little biased against Zhang Ye. Even if they weren’t biased against him, they did not hold much hope for him, but after today’s class, Zhang Ye was finally accepted into the group of teachers and everyone was very enthusiastic towards him. It could be said that people of literature were scornful to each other, but it wasn’t so here. After all, Peking University’s Chinese department’s staff all came from different fields of studies. There were no crossovers in their work. In terms of classical literature study, they were no match for Zhang Ye, but in other fields and subjects, Zhang Ye was no match for them either. So there was really nothing to be scornful of. It was more important to have mutual respect and recognition of each other as colleagues.

It was different from the attitude that the department leaders had adopted towards Zhang Ye. The department leaders had a lot more to consider, possibly things other than academic factors — like the Nationwide Tertiary Institution Rankings for the Chinese departments that had already started, but the results were still unknown. Based on the previous two years results, it did not seem optimistic for Peking University's Chinese department and this was exactly what the department leaders were concerned about. Whereas for them as teachers of the Chinese department, a majority of them only recognized Zhang Ye because of his contributions to the study of 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. These people, who were also in the field of literature, were utterly convinced by Zhang Ye's knowledge and thus did not hold any more prejudices towards such an 'outsider' host. To be able to enter their field, it was actually very simple. All you needed was to show that you were up to it.

Zhang Ye started chatting with them.

In this teacher's office, any random pick would be a well-known and top person in their field. Zhang Ye took great care being around them.

Suddenly, someone came in from outside.

It was the Chinese department's Dean, Chang Kaige.

"Dean Chang."

"Hur Hur, Dean."

They greeted him.

Chang Kaige nodded in acknowledgment, then looked over to Zhang Ye. He said happily, "Teacher Little Zhang, you haven't gone home yet? Don't leave yet then. The reporters are blocking the way downstairs. I've gotten five security guards to go handle them."

Everyone's attention turned towards the commotion coming from downstairs. It was no surprise as Zhang Ye was a celebrity, so such treatment was normal for him.

Zhang Ye smiled, "Sure, I still need to prepare some information for tomorrow. I will leave once the reporters have left."

Chang Kaige had clearly come to the teacher's office to specially look for Zhang Ye. He did not summon Zhang Ye to his office, but rather personally personally came here. From this, it could be seen that Chang Kaige's attitude had changed, "I have sought permission from President Wu earlier, as well as discussed with the various department leaders and we have decided that for next semester, 'Appreciation of the Classics' elective class should have you as the lecturer, are you alright with this arrangement?"

Previously, the contract was a temporarily drawn up and had a lot of limitations to it. If Zhang Ye did not lecture well, or if the students' response wasn't good, Peking University could ask Zhang Ye to leave at anytime. They would simply not hire him and that was that. As a result, Peking University had a lot of internal disputes. After Zhang Ye gave his first lecture, a Peking University leader had suggested firing Zhang Ye, but after the second lecture, there was no longer such a pressure to do so. As an academic staff member, Zhang Ye's performance was outstanding. Therefore, Chang Kaige had actively suggested that they continue employing Zhang Ye for the next semester. Even to the rest of the Peking University

departments' leaders and professors, Zhang Ye was really the most suitable person to take over the 'Appreciation of the Classics' class!

Zhang Ye replied, "Of course I don't have a problem with that. The only problem is time to do my primary job as a host. I might...."

Chang Kaige smiled cheerfully, "That's alright. You can freely arrange the schedule of your lectures, as long as you set a time and do it, the Chinese department will give you the thumbs up."

Zhang Ye immediately said, "Thanks a lot then, Dean Chang."

Chang Kaige continued chatting with Zhang Ye for a short while more before leaving.

At this moment, Chang Kaige, Zhen Shuquan, and the other leaders could only admire President Wu Zeqing's talent for spotting new recruits. Even the most influential Professor Yan, who had not always liked Zhen Shuquan, no longer said anything about his employment.

This was because Zhang Ye's appearance had brought hope to many people in the Chinese department!

Peking University was a top ranked institution domestically and the Chinese department had also dominated the rankings for the longest time, but three years ago, Peking University's Chinese department had a setback. They were tied for first rank with Beijing Normal University's Chinese department. Just last year, it got even worse. Peking University's Chinese department was ranked second and was overtaken by Nanjing University's Chinese department, which took first place. Even Tsinghua University's Chinese department, which was usually not even considered a top tiered institution in Chinese had risen to third place and nearly overtook them.

Peking University was shocked!

The Chinese department's leaders had a lot of pressure!

This year, under Wu Zeqing's leadership, Zhen Shuquan and Chang Kaige had used many methods to try to improve and change the education environment of the Chinese department.

However, it was not very effective. If this situation carried on, the situation with the rankings would remain the same as last years. They might even be overtaken by Tsinghua University's Chinese department, and this was an outcome that Peking University Chinese department leaders and lecturers absolutely could not accept. How could the perennial top dog be suppressed by others? Who could stand for that?

It was at this critical juncture that President Wu had invited Zhang Ye. Chang Kaige and many Peking University Chinese department teachers and professors finally had some hope!

Could Zhang Ye's arrival turn the situation around?

Could the industry's best program host use his popularity and knowledge to bring Peking University and their Chinese department a miracle?

Chapter 329: How People Looked at Zhang Ye

At night.

It was already 8 by the time he arrived home.

He had returned to Caishikou this time, to his parents' place.

The moment he opened the door, he saw Mom applying a face mask in her pajamas. She looked creepy and nearly gave Zhang Ye a fright. Dad was watching TV in the living room.

"Dad, Mom." Zhang Ye greeted.

"Son, you're back? Why are you so late today?" Mom kicked a pair of slippers towards him.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Hai, I went to eat dinner with some of my colleagues. Have both of you eaten?"

Mom said, "We ate a long time ago. Son, how was your class today? Was it ideal? Those people from the literary world didn't cause you any trouble, right?"

Zhang Ye changed his footwear. "Hur Hur, you didn't watch the video of my open lecture?"

Mom said, "I wouldn't understand anyway. Your Dad watched it and said it was pretty good."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes and put his bag down. He said, "Hey, what do you mean 'pretty good'? It's far from pretty good. Didn't you see those bunch of people dumbfounded by my lecture? Not a single one dared to show off in front of me. Didn't you see the ending too? I was given a standing ovation that lasted for many minutes. I said class was dismissed, but the students simply would not leave. Hai, I really envy those college students. If I had such an excellent, legendary, charming and humorous teacher back when I was in school, I would have died of joy."

"Flattery, like perfume, should be smelled, not swallowed!" Mom chuckled.

Zhang Ye looked towards his father. "Dad, you watched my lecture today?"

Dad acknowledged. "Don't be arrogant. You are still far from it."

At this point, Mom couldn't stand hearing this. She stared at him, "What's so bad about my son!?"

Dad said in a speechless manner, "I'm saying he still has much to learn and a long way to go. He shouldn't become arrogant just because he has a bit to show for. He should shun complacency and impetuosity."

"Learn my ass!" Mom was the classic mother that protected her child. She could trample on her child, but could not stand silently while others spoke badly of her son. It was the same even for her husband. "My son is already a Peking University Chinese department lecturer. What's there to learn? Others should learn from my son instead! Look at our neighbours and colleagues' children. Which one of them is doing better than our Little Ye? And look at those grandsons from the literary world! They were still inciting others over the internet to scold Little Ye yesterday, but today? They've all returned back to their conscientious selves!"

The old couple began squabbling.

Zhang Ye couldn't bear to watch and retreated to his room.



He had been busy the whole afternoon. He switched his computer on to check for updates and news on the internet. Regarding everyone's attitudes, Zhang Ye was still very concerned.

"A sensational public lecture!"

"Zhang Ye — A literary prodigy!"

"The shocking secret of 'Dream of the Red Chamber'! Watch Peking University's Lecturer, Zhang Ye expose the truth!"

"Redology research's major breakthrough! Logical errors that have plagued Redology studies for decades have finally been answered for the first time! Zhang Ye — The top Redology researcher!"

"The history of one of the Four Great Classical Novels — 'Dream of the Red Chamber' has it been rewritten?"

"Zhang Ye's public lecture reveals yet another shocking secret. Is this the truth or pure flubdub?"

Peking University's official website had already posted Zhang Ye's public lecture online. In the afternoon, it had already made its rounds and caused sensational reactions!

The netizens actively commented!

"What did I say! Zhang Ye's awesome!"

"Godly! It was really explained by Teacher Zhang Ye!"

"I did not believe Zhang Ye when it first started. How could it be that Cao Xueqin only wrote the first 80 chapters of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', but when I finished listening to the 2nd lecture, I really began to doubt what I had known all my life!"

"Yea, Teacher Zhang Ye might really be speaking the truth!"

"I think so too. His explanations are too logical!"

"That's right. From historical documents to character analysis and even plot logic, it was all explained fully!"

"No wonder no one dared to speak about 'Dream of the Red Chamber' in the past. No wonder it was not easy to speak about 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. That is because after the first 80 chapters, it had been continued on by another writer. So how could it be explained properly at all?!"

"If we follow Zhang Ye's analysis, 'Dream of the Red Chamber' should be the top among the Four Great Classical Novels, and not last!"

"I feel that Zhang Ye's arguments are still quite controversial. It has to be researched further."

"I don't know about 'Dream of the Red Chamber'. I have not even read it before, but seeing how Zhang Ye conducted his lecture left me with just one feeling. I believe that everyone had felt this too — Zhang Ye's too damn good!"

"Haha, of course he's good. That bunch of members from the literary world went to the lecture being all arrogant, but look how it ended for them? After the lecture, they all quietly ran off. They wanted to

argue with Teacher Zhang Ye? Debate? They think too highly of themselves! When has Teacher Zhang ever lost an argument with others before? Never!”

The public lecture footage had been posted on Peking University’s Weibo and forwarded around like the first lecture. This Weibo post even got pushed up as the trending hot topic of the day. Professor Zeng and the Peking University’s Chinese department teachers all forwarded it. Some fellow hosts also did the same. Some of these hosts were people that Zhang Ye did not even know or had ever heard of. All in all, there were quite a lot of people who had given Zhang Ye their Likes! A wonder of the broadcast hosting world had appeared to lecture and left the literary world’s Redologists hanging like outsiders of their own field. To many of Zhang Ye’s hosting peers, this was wonderful news. Some of them came to join the celebrations and gave their support. Zhang Ye had won glory for the broadcast hosting world and showcased the multiple talents that a broadcast host could have!

Yesterday, many people had surrounded and scolded Zhang Ye!

But today, the tides had turned. More than half of them had turned supportive!

Zhang Ye himself knew that he could only achieve this because of the collective wisdom of his previous world. They had already long since known the issues of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’. Then, there was also the matured Redology research that allowed him to hold out against ten thousand others with just him alone. The last factor was very important, the Fruit of Charm (Voice) that he had eaten quite a number of had contributed the most. As long as he spoke, he would be able to use his verbal charm to convince others. All of these together allowed his lecture to go smoothly!

Online, many Redology experts did not say a word. The literary world’s members also did not stir, as if they were all silent.

Zhang Ye triumphed?

The literary world had also recognized his point of view?

Of course not. Zhang Ye was very clear about this. Those who had scolded or doubted him before, were only temporarily silenced. This was because they still had not discovered a way to refute Zhang Ye’s argument, so it was not the time to issue any statements. Zhang Ye believed that the world of Redology was in a mess at this very moment. He guessed that they would be gathered in groups to study Zhang Ye’s public lecture videos to see if they could find any problems within before they issued their counter arguments!

.....

Somewhere

At a certain place.

“Brother Li, this video.....”

“Don’t speak, let’s watch it again.”

“We’ve watched this three times already! That Zhang Ye’s explanations are too perfect!”

“That’s impossible. In the area of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’, no one has been able to research fully about it. Keep looking, there’s definitely some problem somewhere, his explanations might not fully make sense!”

“Well, to be honest, I don’t have much confidence left in myself. After watching these public lecture videos, I am almost convinced by Zhang Ye’s explanations!”

“Little Chen, don’t laud his spirits!”

“Alright, then let’s watch it once more.”

“Old Song and the others are also doing their research. We have to hold out! We can’t let a layperson like Zhang Ye smack our faces in our own field of study! If that happens, how can we raise our heads next time! Even if we have to quibble, we must find fault with Zhang Ye’s public lecture content! This is not only for our own honor, but the honor and dignity of the whole Redology world!

.....

At another location.

“Watch it again!”

“Brother Yu, we’ve already watched it five times!”

“Play it again, especially the part where Zhang Ye analyzes the structure of ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’!”

.....

This sort of thing was happening everywhere.

Even those literary world members, who had returned from Zhang Ye’s live public lecture at Peking University did not admit defeat. They were looking for a way to fight back, to find where Zhang Ye may have mentioned something paradoxical! However, as time passed and the hard work put in by the Redologists, there was nothing to show for it in the end! This was a result that many of them were unable to accept. Could it be that the Zhang guy was really that good? That he could single-handedly take on the entire Redology world?

Impossible!

There must be a flaw in his arguments somewhere!

“Dream of the Red Chamber” could not possibly be continued by another writer!

Sometimes, conventional wisdom would be a community’s advantage, but it was meant that they were trapped in it and were unable to accept new ideas!

.....

As for Zhang Ye, of course he knew that he would be put under a microscope and studied from today onwards, but he was fine with that and did not mind. It was already an ironclad fact that the 120 chapter version of “Dream of the Red Chamber” was continued by a different writer. This was not up for

dispute. Even if someone wanted to find issue with Zhang Ye on this, he could still continue to argue and prove his point. He was not afraid.

As for other questions regarding 'Dream of the Red Chamber', Zhang Ye's lecture today may not necessarily be correct either. He knew clearly that even in his previous world, there were still many controversial points regarding this topic.

But coming back to this, even if there were problems with what he said, it still went back to his previous world's Redologists' many years of research. So how could it be refuted after just one day here? Impossible! When they finally found a reason to refute him, Zhang Ye's public lectures would have already been completed. His theory would have made its way into the minds of the people. By then, whether Zhang Ye wanted to continue the discussion with them or not would be irrelevant.

Because Zhang Ye's purpose this time was just to gain fame and popularity. Other than that, he also wanted to give this world's Redologists a new research direction. In the midst of this huge discussion, they might even be able to solve what his previous world's Redologists could not. And if they really managed to provide ironclad facts to refute Zhang Ye's theory to finally give the topic a conclusion, which might in turn lead to the discovery of the original remaining manuscripts of Cao Xueqin, then Zhang Ye would be more than happy to accept it. Because he himself was also an avid reader of 'Dream of the Red Chamber', he also wanted to know the truth behind 'Dream of the Red Chamber'!

Zhang Ye was not as noble as people thought.

But neither was he as despicable as others felt.

Chapter 330: The path of Peking University was the right one!

It was late at night.

These days, it started getting dark earlier, so it was actually only 9 PM.

His father knocked on his door, "Little Ye, your Mom and I are going to bed."

"OK, good night." Zhang Ye switched off his computer and replied his father through the closed door.

His father asked, "Do you want breakfast tomorrow morning? What time will you wake up at?"

Zhang Ye laughed, "Yes. I have to teach a morning class tomorrow, so I will definitely be up early. Wake me up around 7 or 8 AM. I want to have tofu pudding."

"Alright. I will get your Mom to buy some tomorrow morning." Dad replied.

Suddenly, Zhang Ye's cell phone rang. It was an unknown number.

Zhang Ye picked up, "Hello, who is this?"

"Teacher Zhang Ye, I'm a program producer from Beijing Television Station," said a man's voice. He could not decipher his age from the way he sounded, but he thought he might be 30 something or even 40 something.

Zhang Ye acknowledge him without changing his tone when he heard that he was from Beijing Television Station. He said in a smiling tone, "Hello, for what reason would you be looking for me for?"

That person replied, "A program slot was recently freed up on Beijing Television Station and we will have a new program up around the end February, so there's still one to two months of preparation time. We feel that Sinology has been a subject of interest recently, we would like to do a program similar to 'Lecture Room', but it would not be aired on the Arts Channel to test the market. Rather, we intend for it to premiere on the Beijing Television channel (Satellite Channel) itself. As for the lecturer, we have not yet decided on who yet. After much discussion though, we feel that you are the most suitable. Teacher Zhang, you are an ex-employee of Beijing Television Station and we hope you understand that we were forced to do what we did the previous time....."

Zhang Ye interrupted him saying, "I understand all of that, don't worry. I'm not that petty." Zhang Ye was very clear about this. What Beijing Radio Station did to suppress him was something that he would remember for life. He could never forget that, but regarding his sacking at Beijing Television Station, Zhang Ye did not actually care about it, because he had really disrupted a live broadcast. He had been prepared to get fired and understood that the station was just handling business as business. These two matters were clear to Zhang Ye. He wasn't someone who did not speak reason, but...."But I'm not intending to do such programs for now."

That person said, "You can speak about other things, that's fine. Like 'Water Margin' or 'Journey to the West', all that is fine. Hmm, let's put it this way, as long as you are the lecturer, we will agree to anything you want to speak about!" Putting it in this manner could be said to be the greatest acknowledgment to a host.

Zhang Ye thought over it for a bit, but still declined, "My schedule for the next few months are full, so I might not be able to afford the time. Let's talk about it in the future."

That person did not force it, "Sure, then let's keep in contact."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye was very clear. Beijing Television Station did not get Hu Fei to invite him, because it was clear that Hu Fei did not wish to be the bridge. Because of the incident of Zhang Ye's sacking, Hu Fei did not feel comfortable with it. This was why somebody else was given the task instead. Zhang Ye had not thought about his direction after this. After all, he was still a staff member of Weiwo Video and he did not plan for future programs, nor did he give it any thought, so it would be better to decline Beijing Television Station for now and leave that option open for the future.

At around 10 PM in the evening.

Zhang Ye was about to go to bed when he received another call. It was Wang Xiaomei from the Beijing Radio Station. She was also helping someone to contact Zhang Ye. Jinshi Television Station was hoping to invite Zhang Ye over to do a discussion forum-like program and even promised to give in to all Zhang Ye's demands should he come over. They would even pay for the breach of contract fee to Weiwo Video if he agreed to it!

"I've done my part." Wang Xiaomei said.

Zhang Ye replied, "Teacher Xiaomei, help me reject them."

Wang Xiaomei asked, "You aren't even considering their offer?"

Zhang Ye answered, "It's not that I'm not considering, but maybe at a later date."

“Alright, I’ll help you pass the message. You can discuss with them in the future.” Wang Xiaomei said.

Zhang Ye laughed, “Sure, don’t burn the bridges though. I still have to consider, but now is not the time. I’ve got a lot on my plate to handle at the moment.”

.....

He washed up and brushed his teeth.

Zhang Ye lay in bed preparing to sleep, but couldn’t fall asleep.

The things that happened in the past two days had caused his mind to be too active. He had also slept very well. As such, tonight he was tossing and turning in his bed, feeling wide awake.

Picking up his phone, Zhang Ye couldn’t help but look through his fan club’s Tieba. He saw several congratulatory messages from Big Saber Bro and a few other of his hardcore fans. Zhang Ye replied to them and then remembered something else, so he went over to take a look at the Celebrity Rankings of this world.

It was as follows:

Zhang Ye: D-List Celebrity.

D-List Celebrity Ranking: 59.

This time, he had managed to raise his ranking by several dozen spots. Thinking back to when there was no Talk Show, Zhang Ye had just been promoted to the D-List Rankings and hovered around the last spot, but as of today, after a few episodes of “Zhang Ye’s Talk Show” and two public lectures on ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’, his ranking had already increased by quite a bit. Then checking on Peking University’s official website, he saw that the first lecture had already garnered 19 million views and the second lecture was already at 11 million views after being posted this afternoon. Good God! This was even more popular than his Talk Show performance, but it wasn’t all that surprising since his Talk Show’s target audience was the younger crowd, whereas his lectures about ‘Dream of the Red Chamber’ could be enjoyed and watched by viewers of all age groups. As one of the Four Great Classical Novels, the attention it had was naturally also higher. Now that Zhang Ye’s ranking hovered around the middle of the D-List Celebrity Rankings, when his public lectures were completed, and with the broadcast of his already completed Talk Show, Zhang Ye felt that he might even get into the C-List rankings. Although it got harder as he went higher, it was not impossible.

As for his Reputation points.

Zhang Ye quickly brought up the interface of the game ring.

His total Reputation points: 16.28 million. This figure was still quickly increasing, visible to the naked eye.

When he saw this, Zhang Ye got off his bed. This time, it would be even harder for him to fall asleep. He lit up a cigarette and couldn’t help smiling to himself. He had not thought that it would accumulate to such a number. He had not checked it for the past few days at all. When he was doing his Talk Show, the Reputation points accumulated had all been spent on buying Memory Search Capsules. He did not have any points left after that, so the 16.28 million Reputation points now were all gained from his lectures of

'Dream of the Red Chamber' This was a surprise to him. When Zhang Ye first came on board as a lecturer in Peking University, he hadn't thought that something like this would happen. It looked like his choice to speak about 'Dream of the Red Chamber' this time had caused a commotion bigger than he had bargained for. Of course, he also understood that this was just because the information from the first two lectures was too shocking to everyone. Later on in the next few lectures, everyone's expectations would become higher and thus his Reputation points would not increase as quickly as they were now!

But this was more than enough!

He had gained fame and riches now. He felt that he had really made the right choice to develop himself at Peking University!

Who said that being a lecturer would require him to leave the entertainment circle? This was never the case. Like in his previous world, Yi Zhongtian, Liu Xinwu, and Yu Dan, didn't all of them gain fame by lecturing? Their names and reputation were more than comparable to any small time celebrity!

This path was right!

To other celebrities in the entertainment circle, this path would have definitely been a dead end because none of them had this sort of ability like Zhang Ye, who could cross over into the education world and still do what he wanted. To Zhang Ye, this was not a dead end, but a very suitable path that would aid his short term development!