

Superstar 461

Chapter 461: Notions of the People!

Afternoon.

Phone call after phone call came in.

The SARFT's decree #43 had rippled further than anyone had thought. This decree had to be executed within the day and there was no grace period given. This gigantic bombshell had landed too quickly and too harshly!

Ring, ring, ring.

It was from the CEO of Brain Gold's company, Wu Mo.

"Hello, Brother Zhang, It's me, Wu Mo." Wu Mo sounded a little off.

Zhang Ye wasn't really focused, "CEO Wu."

Wu Mo noticed his tone and said, "I heard about your matter. I don't know what to say. You've been dragged into the trouble caused by others. This shouldn't really affect you, but.... hai..."

Zhang Ye said, "Will it affect your business?"

Wu Mo pondered before saying, "It shouldn't have a big effect, but the authorities called earlier and the television station also sent us a letter saying that our company's commercial would need to be re-approved. They have stopped airing it for the moment as..... they want us to delete your part in it. Otherwise, it would definitely not pass the censors. I heard that they are being very strict about this. My aunt also knows some of their people there, but after asking around, she said that nothing could be done about it. There's basically no leeway at all, so we can only take down the commercial for now."

Zhang Ye said apologetically, "I'm sorry about that, CEO Wu. This time, I've dragged you down as well. Don't worry about it, just cut my part out of the commercial and continue to use the original footage sans my part. It doesn't really matter if I'm in it or not. This commercial's core was never me anyway." The original Brain Platinum advertisement in his previous world did not have a spokesperson endorsement in it anyway, so it didn't matter if it were cut there as well.

Wu Mo said, "You don't have to apologize. Sure then, I will just follow what you said and handle it that way for now. When everything dies down....we'll talk again."

Zhang Ye said, "I've caused a great loss to your company, so just send me a bill afterwards. We'll go according to the contract and I will compensate you no matter how much it is. After all, this issue was caused by myself and no one else."

Wu Mo hurriedly said, "Brother Zhang, what you've said makes no sense. The contract is just a contract, that is but something that's dead. Do you think our friendship can't compare to that piece of paper? What compensation are you even talking about? Please do not bring this up anymore in the future. Ever since your campaign for us was launched, our Brain Gold's sales have soared like a rocket. Just based on the sales during this new year's period has already surpassed the sales of our company for the past two years multiple times. Right now, we're basically sitting on top of every other health product and are the

leaders in this industry. For our company to have such a day, for me to be standing where I am now, it's all because of this commercial of yours. Otherwise, our company would have already been bankrupt instead of it being where it is now! So why do you need to mention compensation? You're ridiculing me this way. Please don't bring this up anymore. Our company didn't even suffer a loss!"

When Zhang Ye heard that, he did not insist anymore and said gratefully, "Thank you, CEO Wu."

Wu Mo said, "I know that you're having troubles at work now and I can't help you with that, but if you need my help in any other way, just say the word. If I can do it, I will definitely help you. Our contract will still go on as per normal until your ban gets lifted next year. We can continue working together and maybe even extend your endorsement of our products." After say all that he needed to convey, Wu Mo hung up.

Wait for the ban to be lifted?

Both of them knew that wasn't likely to happen!

Regardless, he was still very grateful to Wu Mo for saying those words cause him to feel warmth in his heart. Whether it was in his previous world or this world, he had seen too many cases of celebrities and companies falling out because of endorsement contracts. How they were forced into a settlement by the companies would make one cringe, but Wu Mo did not do this. Not only did he refuse to talk about compensation, he even expressed that he would like to continue working with Zhang Ye. Zhang Ye could only accept his kindness as Wu Mo did not need to do this for him, but did so anyway.

Following that, he received another call.

It was Weiwo WebTV's Director Feng Guiqin. Usually, any communication between the company and Zhang Ye would be handled by Director Wang Xiong as he was also Zhang Ye's direct supervisor, but this time, it was Feng Guiqin who made the call, so Zhang Ye probably understood the meaning of it.

"Director Feng." Zhang Ye picked up the call.

Feng Guiqin stayed silent for a moment, not speaking at all.

Zhang Ye laughed, "Director Feng, just say it directly to me. I'll be fine."

Only then did Feng Guiqin said, "The episodes of 'Zhang Ye's Talk Show' have all been taken down. Luckily, we finished broadcasting it a few days ago and the WebTV station did not suffer any losses, but regarding your next program, I guess there's no way we can have it anymore. You've already seen the SARFT's decree, right?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes, I know about it."

Feng Guiqin said, "The decree has already been passed and the relevant departments have already issued an order to us. They're asking us to take down your programs and to stop all broadcasts of your current programs. We even wanted to enter productions for a new program, but it will have to be forgone now. You're our station's hero and the reason for our increase in market share is all because of your talk show. If you are willing to stay on in the company, we can arrange for you to help out with program planning and we will still give you the same salary. To be honest, with this decree passed, it doesn't seem like you'll ever have a chance to host again."

Now that it had happened, there was no reason to avoid it. Zhang Ye was starting to feel much calmer now. He laughed a little and said, "Director Feng, thank you for your kindness, but I have no interest in planning a program for others. Besides, if the SARFT were to pick on me again, the program might even suffer because of me. I don't wish to create more trouble for the company, so I will take the initiative to submit my resignation."

Feng Guiqin felt it was a pity that it had to come to this, so she tried to persuade him, "There's no need for you to resign. Why don't we just freeze your duties for now and leave it until later to decide. We will still be paying your salary during this time."

Zhang Ye felt that he could not take advantage of the situation. He did not need the money anyway, "Director Feng, let's just decide it my way. I will submit the resignation letter to you as soon as I can. Help me to process it and I will sign off on it."

Feng Guiqin took a deep breath and sighed, "This is really an unexpected calamity. Honestly speaking, the whole company is feeling bad for your unfair treatment!"

"There's no way around this, it has caught up to me."

"For a person of your capability and talent, sigh!"

"Thank you for taking care of me all this while, Director Feng."

"That's what we should say to you instead, Little Zhang. Take care."

Thereafter, a person from Beijing Television Station, that Zhang Ye did not know, called. He told Zhang Ye about his "Zhang Ye's Analysis of the Three Kingdoms" and some of his fairytale stories on Beijing Radio Station, which had been scheduled for a rebroadcast would all be suspended immediately. He did not say much as he was no longer a staff of the Beijing Television Station. He did not have a contract with them, so they were only informing him out of courtesy.

After hanging up these calls, Zhang Ye's mood became a little heavy. He was a broadcasting major graduate. Even though he dabbled in poetry and also became a teacher, he had always been a host first. This time, he had lost his job as a host and his programs had all been suspended as well. This made him feel like a part of him had died. He felt empty. From the beginning, throughout all this time, his dream was only to be a famous person. He wanted to be in the spotlight and stand on the world's greatest stage. Therefore, he placed a lot of importance in fame and reputation. That was the reason why he kept climbing with all he got to where he was, but now, when it came to him losing all of that, Zhang Ye suddenly felt that he had not only been trying to gain fame and reputation all this while. He was surprised to even admit that he might have really liked what he did. Even if he ended up with no results to show for or unable to gain fame, he would have wanted to continue on doing what he did!

To stand on stage!

To live on stage!

To die on stage!

But now, this little request of his had become a dream once more. Right now, he would not even have a chance to stand on stage anymore!

His heart was dead cold — that was what he was feeling now.

Then, another three work related phone calls came in. Zhang Ye was already in no mood to answer.

The first call was from the Peking University's website webmaster. He called to inform Zhang Ye that his public lectures on 'Dream of the Red Chamber' had already been taken down under the orders of management.

Zhang Ye did not feel anything, but asked, "What about next month when school reopens? Do I continue to give my lectures? Am I still going to serve as a Chinese department's teacher?"

The webmaster vaguely answered, "Oh, I don't know about that. I'm only in charge of the website. You could ask Dean Chang of the Chinese department."

Zhang Ye nodded, but did not bother asking Chang Kaige. He did not even make a call to Wu Zeqing, who had a good relationship with him. Because he did not want to bother others about whether they would continue to use his services. He'd just go with whatever happened. In his current situation, Zhang Ye was ready to accept any outcome!

The next call was from the Beijing Education Publishing Firm. They had worked with Zhang Ye on "Ghost Blows Out the Light" before as well as his other fairy tales.

The person said, "Is that Teacher Zhang Ye?"

Zhang Ye said, "It's me."

That person was a youth. He said, "Hello. I am from the Beijing Education Publishing Firm's legal department. Regarding your 'Ghost Blows Out the Light', 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', and 'The Wizard of Oz', they have all been taken down by the major bookstores and returned to our publishing firm. According to your agreement with our firm, you have breached some of the terms of the contract. As this was due to your misdemeanors, you have caused great financial loss to our company. Now, the firm is about to terminate this contract and we will be requesting compensation. I'm calling to inform you of this first. As for further details, our lawyers will contact you again."

Zhang Ye's eyes narrowed, "How much compensation is your company seeking?"

The youth replied calmly, "According to your simplified Chinese edition's buyout price and the breach of contractual terms, we are seeking a compensation of 3.5 million. I'm not in charge of the issue here, so our lawyers would be handling it instead. If the matter can't be resolved, then we will appeal to have this resolved through civil action."

But Zhang Ye was even calmer than he was, "Don't activate your lawyers. There's won't be a need for civil action either. 3.5 million, right? OK, send me the contract. I will transfer the money to you immediately."

Chapter 462: Only so much!

What?

It was settled?

The compensation was agreed upon? And he would immediately send the money?

Upon hearing Zhang Ye say that, the youth from the publishing firm was momentarily stunned. "Ah? Oh, alright."

He really had not expected Zhang Ye to agree to pay the compensation so easily. He didn't even bargain at all. It was something beyond his imagination. He had handled so many copyright disputes and lawsuits while working in the publishing firm, and he never encountered such an easy case like today. He had even spoken with a tough voice when he made the phone call, and even made it clear that things weren't looking good. He had even mentioned things like lawyers and suing him in court. He was guessing that Zhang Ye would not give any compensation, and wanted to take a forceful stance from the beginning, but who knew the outcome would be as such. The youth could not help but shudder!

Could this be some scam?

Could it be a perfunctory act?

The youth immediately reported it to his publishing firm's leader.

Zhang Kui, the Editor-in-Chief of Beijing Education Publishing Firm, was personally responsible for this matter himself. When he heard the youth say so, he felt disbelief. "Zhang Ye really said that?"

The youth gave a wry smile. "Yes, those were his original words."

Zhang Kui frowned. "He did not even bargain at all?"

The youth acknowledged. "He asked how much it was and immediately agreed to it. He didn't even hesitate for a second."

"Alright, then go make up the contract. List the line stating the breach of contract and then send it to Zhang Ye." Zhang Kui was not sure of it too, and was full of doubt.

There was a female assistant editor in the room. "Our publishing firm has offended Zhang Ye this time. Actually, we did not lose money from 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' and those fairy tales, and in fact, made a lot for our publishing firm. Although all of Zhang Ye's books are to be taken off the shelves, and there will be losses from future sales while the printed books can't be dealt with, but those books like 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' were sold last year. The market is pretty much saturated, and even if we kept selling it, we would only earn a little bit. It won't hurt us at all."

Another person-in-charge of the publishing firm said, "Even if it wouldn't hurt us, it is still considered a loss. It is all the public's money, and with the contract, there has to be someone answering to it."

The female assistant editor said, "I thought Zhang Ye would not agree to it, so we had proposed a high amount of compensation, so as to give room for it to be bargained in court. If we were compensated for a million eventually, it would be pretty good, but what was Zhang Ye thinking? He immediately agreed to it? In this way, it made it seem like our publishing firm is the wicked one."

She was more sensitive, and did not feel good about this. Back when Zhang Ye chose their publishing firm, the buyout price was only 6 million. Excluding tax, it was only about 5 million. And now, Zhang Ye had to compensate them 3.5 million? After this exchange, it was equivalent to Zhang Ye's novel and those fairy tales being given to their publishing firm nearly for free. The sales of "Ghost Blows Out the

Light" had rapidly hit a million and then two million. There were numerous peers in the industry who envied them. Those publishing firms failed to obtain Zhang Ye's rights even if they wanted it. As they were the first to contact Zhang Ye, they had been working together all along. Zhang Ye also trusted them greatly.

But now, with the current situation, she felt quite helpless about the publishing firm's decision. She felt that they were stabbing Teacher Zhang Ye in the back in his most difficult times. It was adding injury to insult!

As Editor-in-Chief, Zhang Kui did not feel too good either, but after some thought, he stopped worrying over it. If it were any other authors, they would definitely not offend them in such a manner. A publishing firm depended on authors to survive, especially those authors who produced best sellers. They were competed for by publishing firms, but Zhang Ye was different. With the SARFT's #43 decree out, everyone knew Zhang Ye was completely finished. His books could no longer be published. Even changing his pen name would be useless. No matter how good his works were, it would be useless. With the ban in place, the news and publication board had merged with the SARFT a long time ago. Although there were some divisions internally after the two boards merged, they were still considered a team. With the highest authorities in the publishing industry announcing it, as subordinates, they had to act upon it. Hence, it resulted in this compensation incident.

However, 3.5 million was indeed a bit too much.

But after an hour, after the contract was done, Zhang Ye's 3.5 million compensation for the breach of contract was punctually transferred into the publishing firm's account.

The female editor turned silent.

Zhang Kui and the other person-in-charge of the publishing firm also did not feel good for some reason. 3.5 million could do a lot for the publishing firm. It could buy the rights to many books, yet for some reason, they could not smile.

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A similar scene happened at another publishing firm.

This was the headquarters of North Chinese Youth and Children Publishing House. Back then, Zhang Ye had published a literature compilation with them, titled "Zhang Ye's Compilation". The price wasn't that much, but neither was it low. At this moment, the compilation was naturally also ordered to be pulled from shelves. Various large bookstores were taking them off the shelves and asking for a refund. Only a few smaller bookstores did not receive notice of the policy. There were delays, but it was expected that by that afternoon or the following day, they would take "Zhang Ye's Compilation" off the shelves as well.

The person who called Zhang Ye was not the leaders that he had met back when he went to the publishing firm. It was an editor that he had never met before. Those, who had seen Zhang Ye, were probably too embarrassed to tell him.

The male editor told Zhang Ye of this matter and hesitated all day. Just like Beijing Education Publishing Firm, he also broached the topic of compensation for the breach of contract.

Zhang Ye said, "How much?"

The male editor stammered, "About that..."

"It's alright. Tell me." Zhang Ye said.

The male editor said, "Actually, we were out of options. It's public money, so we have to answer to the public. If the higher-ups were to pursue this matter, someone has to be responsible for it. Then, Teacher Zhang, I do feel a bit embarrassed raising this issue. About that, the compensation is about 70,000. Actually, it is also not compensation for the breach of contract. It's just the money for the books that were returned. It's not the sales price, but the cost price of the books. The leaders have said that if you aren't agreeable to it, the compensation can be forgone. It's not that much money, and isn't a big deal. We are just going by business, and will make up the numbers on our accounts. It shouldn't be a problem. Uh, anyway, that what the leaders intend. I'm just a messenger."

Compared to the Beijing Education Publishing Firm, the North Chinese Youth and Children Publishing House did not go too far. They did not push the matter to the point of no return.

Zhang Ye did not say a word. "Alright, I'll send you the money immediately."

The male editor hurriedly said, "Thank you Teacher Zhang. The words that I'll be saying does not represent our publishing firm. It's just me saying to you personally. I have always been your fan and especially liked your novels and poems. This matter is way too f**ked up. Anyway, I support you! I believe this will not be the end of you!"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Thank you, friend."

When the male editor heard this, he recalled how the staff were throwing down copies of "Zhang Ye's Compilation" at a huge bookstore. It made his heart suddenly turned sour. That was the literature compilation that he liked the most. He would bring it around every day and give it a read. "Teacher Zhang Ye, it should be us thanking you. Thank for giving us such classic and great pieces of work!"

After that, in the movie, "The Great Pugilistic World" Zhang Ye previously acted in, a corresponding personnel gave Zhang Ye a call telling him that although the movie had ended its run in the theaters, if it was ever aired on television, the scenes related to a side character like Zhang Ye would be appropriately deleted, and wanted Zhang Ye to be mentally prepared for it. Zhang Ye was naturally mentally prepared for it, and just told them he understood.

His programs were deleted!

His novels were taken off the shelves!

His scenes in the movie were cut!

His advertisements were edited!

His video lectures were removed!

All of Zhang Ye's works failed to escape the calamity!

Using the phrase "being on the breadline" was undoubtedly very appropriate for describing Zhang Ye's current situation!

The more he was pushed into a corner, the more Zhang Ye's character turned abnormal. He chuckled as the anger in his heart turned in depression, and from depression into calmness, and then calmness into relaxation!

Delete them all!

Take them all off the shelves!

The most difficult despair was only so much!

Chapter 463: Where is the way out?

In one afternoon.

Many friends worried over Zhang Ye. Some called him while others sent him a text message.

Di Di.

Dong Shanshan's text message was very simple: All the best!

Zhang Ye replied. "Don't worry. Your old classmate is doing fine.

Dong Shanshan: That's good. You gave me a fright for nothing. It's just the entertainment industry. Don't put it to heart. With your capabilities, what else can't you do?

Zhang Ye: Hur Hur, we'll see.

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Big Saber Bro's phone call.

"Teacher Zhang."

"En, Officer Fan."

"Do you want me to help you mess with them?"

"Don't. I accept your kind intentions. I'll handle this matter myself."

"Alright then. You sound alright, so I'm relieved. If you have anything, tell me. Your Sis Fan's large saber can no longer endure its thirst!"

"Thanks a lot."

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His old leader, Zhao Guozhou called from his office.

"Little Zhang, I helped you inquire. This governmental policy is too strict. There is no news of the ban being lifted for the time being. If there will be one in the future, you will definitely be the first to be removed from the list of artists of misconducts. This is because your situation is much more minor than the people on the list. It's nothing, so you have to hold on. Don't think pessimistically. Who knows, in a year or two, you might be fine."

"Thank you for your comforting words. Hur Hur."

"For you to be able to laugh, not bad."

"What else can I do besides laugh? I have experienced all sorts of situations. Over the past year, what have I not seen? I'm already used to it. It's only so much."

"It's great that you can think this way."

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Singer, Grandma Zhang Xia also called him.

"Little Zhang, I have some work here. It has to do with music production. Come over, and I'll make you a deputy director with an annual salary of 800,000."

"Grandma Zhang, thank you. I know you are truly concerned about me, but I'm not too interested in working behind the scenes. Truthfully, I do not know much music, so I won't be able to help you."

"You don't necessarily need to be on a stage to shine."

"For me, I just haven't considered it."

"Don't let your thoughts go wild. Since the matter is set in stone, then you can only accept it. For the next few days, go out and have some fun. Don't stay cooped up at home."

"Alright, I got it."

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Then, it was famous skit actress, Ci Xiufang.

"Hur Hur, Auntie Ci. I'm fine. I feel quite ashamed making so many senior artists concerned over me."

"Are you really fine?"

"Do I sound bad?"

"You sound okay, but I'm still worried. The two of us happened to meet each other once and only chatted once, but I understand you very well. You are too stubborn. Now with such a large matter happening, I'm afraid you can't pass this snag. So after deliberating all day, I decided to give you a call to ask on you, if not I'll keep worrying over you. Well, alright then, since that's all I can say, I want you to think positively and look towards the future. That is all. Make sure to take care of your health."

"Thanks Auntie Ci."

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The door suddenly opened.

Rao Aimin entered uninvited using the keys to the apartment. She did not even ask before opening the door. She did not even mention the SARFT document and told Zhang Ye, "The dishes are ready. Have dinner at my place!"

Zhang Ye said, "I won't be going, Landlady Auntie."

Rao Aimin leered at him. "Heh, in the past, you would be crying and screaming to have meals at my place. Kid, you even have a sense of integrity this time? You really aren't coming?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm really not going. I'm not hungry."

Rao Aimin left with a fling of her arms. "Got it."

Zhang Ye knew that the landlady was also worried about him.

Friend after friend called him!

All of them contacted him out of concern!

He found it quite heartwarming that so many people thought of him and remembered him. Compared to the Beijing Education Publishing Firm's adding insult to injury, Zhang Ye thought of another phrase—a friend in need is a friend indeed. That afternoon, nearly every person Zhang Ye considered a friend called him without exception. Even Wang Xiaomei, who was out on business in the West, or Zhang Yuanqi, who was filming a MV in Australia, had given Zhang Ye a phone call. Wu Zeqing had done the same, including Zhang Ye's relatives. Although they exchanged only a few words, it was sufficient.

Alright, there was an exception.

Yao Jiancai never called.

Zhang Ye gave him a call, but it never went through. His phone was constantly switched off. Thinking of how Old Yao was also on the list of deplorable artists, Zhang Ye knew that something had happened to Old Yao. Furthermore, it was a situation that happened out of the blue. As brothers, they sure suffered bad luck at the same time!

However, Old Yao was definitely not as miserable as him. Zhang Ye was now pushed into a dead end, and reduced back to his original form. He had compensated Beijing Education Publishing Firm 3.5 million as well as the 70,000 to the other publishing firm, so now he was penniless. The 3 million endorsement fee he received previously had been reduced greatly after tax, leaving him with about 2 million. The remaining 1 million was the salary and bonuses Zhang Ye received back when he was working. In this one swift move, Zhang Ye's savings were wiped dry. He became broke, and his programs had been halted. Whatever had to be taken off the shelves were taken off. Saying that he was reduced back to his original form wasn't an exaggeration. In some sense, he was in an even worse position than he had previously been in. At least back then, he had just graduated from college and could start from scratch. He could accumulate popularity bit by bit, beginning from nothing, but now? There was no chance to even go on camera!

At that moment in time, Zhang Ye sat on a stool in his home and lit up a cigarette. He ruminated for a long time. Should he create a pen name to write a novel? However, he needed his identity card to sign a contract and publish. His identity card was now on the publishing firms' blacklist, so it was impossible for him to have a pass on that. If he changed a pen name and became a ghost writer for someone else? That wouldn't do too. That way, no one would know it was a book he wrote. He would not gain any popularity as a result!

Singing?

Filming movies?

Produce a program?

There was no need to think about these as they were impossible now!

Should he develop himself overseas? After a bout of deliberation, he also overthrew that choice!

It was not that he could not develop himself abroad. It was not like he did not have the ability to work in the foreign entertainment industry. With the ban still in place, even if he were to produce a program overseas, the show would not be permitted to air domestically, nor would there be any publicity. Then the outcome would still be the same, he would not gain any popularity. Furthermore, Zhang Ye's roots were in this country. His fans were all domestic. He couldn't just abandon them and run away, right? That would be unacceptable! Now was still not the time to develop himself overseas. It was not like there were mountains of gold everywhere internationally. Without a foundation, how could he develop himself? Who knew if the list of deplorable artists were sent over, those foreigners might reject him upon seeing it. A celebrity banned in China would not be welcomed overseas either! Those celebrities, who did well overseas, basically did so with the Chinese market. Foreigners only looked up to the celebrity because of China's influence. With China's market so huge, yet you were a banned celebrity, who would give you a second look? This was equivalent to being sentenced to death before he began!

A dead end!

Everywhere was a dead end!

Zhang Ye studied the situation all day till his head hurt. He did not see a way out. It seemed like there was not a single way out!

No!

There definitely was something!

Where was the way out?

Who can f**king tell me where the way out is?

Chapter 464: Zhang Ye does not dare show his face?

That night.

On TV, the news was reporting about the SARFT's decree #43 and the initial list of celebrities who had been banned. It would have been okay if this was just a normal terrestrial channel, but it had to be Central TV's News Simulcast, which was being aired on many terrestrial channels throughout the country at the same time. It was needless to say how large the viewership and outreach it had. All over the country, the evening edition newspapers and local news channels were also giving a lot of coverage to this matter. As such, the commoners, who had not paid attention to this piece of news in the day, had now found out by the evening!

It was an earthquake!

An earthquake in the entertainment industry!

On the internet, on Weibo, a few celebrities had posted their statements regarding this issue. Overtly or covertly, they all criticized the banned artistes and hailed the new policy as a good move. Some critics and bloggers also posted their views about it, mainly claiming the move to be a good one and how this would be beneficial to the future development and health of the entertainment business. No one criticized it. Even the implicated artistes and their management agencies, along with companies that worked with them, did not issue any statements. It was as though they had discussed it earlier to stay quiet on the issue!

"Director Sun's new movie is going to suffer a huge loss!"

"It's even more than that! There won't be anything left to lose!"

"The supporting male lead has been banned. I heard that the producers and director have already started editing and deleting some of the footage, but if they were to delete the affected portions, there wouldn't be much left to watch. The storyline would definitely be incomplete."

"Then why don't they protest?"

"The decree has already been announced, so what use is protesting!"

"The people up there are heartless. It wouldn't matter who protests this time, it's useless."

"Old Uncle Wang can forget about going back to singing again. It's such a pity, I kinda liked his songs."

"He can only blame himself for having abused drugs in his earlier years. There's always a price to pay. The policies aren't too bad overall, but how did Zhang Ye end up in there as well!"

In this list of 29 names, the people mentioned were not too famous overall. Most of them were public figures with 7-8 of them considered to be E-listers, a few D-listers, while Zhang Ye had newly entered the C-list. On the name list, Zhang Ye was ranked 3rd overall. Only Li Qiang and another singer were considered to be more well known than him. Those 2 were also C-listers, but were ahead of Zhang Ye by a lot more. Especially that Li Qiang, who was anticipated to break into the B-list with this new movie, but now, that chance was ruined. This was why Zhang Ye being one of the top stars in the list had attracted so much attention!

On Tieba.

Zhang Ye's numerous fans could no longer stay quiet. They were all very angry!

"Give us back Teacher Zhang Ye!"

"For what reason are you using to ban him!?"

"How can beating someone be considered a serious misdemeanor? That's not fair!"

"They're just settling old scores! Do they really think we're stupid? It's really as Teacher Zhang Ye said! Debasing is the password of the base! Nobility the epitaph of the noble! Reading 'The Answer' again after so long, it really touches your heart!"

"It's too humbling! Are we really never going to see Teacher Zhang again in the future?"

"This result is something I cannot accept. I believe that is the same for all of Teacher Zhang Ye's fans too!"

"Ban your sister! There are so many celebrities who have beaten others or scolded people, and yet they didn't get on the list. Yet you all had to ban Teacher Zhang Ye who had stood up for the commoners?"

"Ah Ah Ah!"

"I'm so mad!"

At this time, someone posted a screenshot of a post that Lee Anson had posted on a platform similar to Weibo in Korea. With a translation of the original Korean text, it said without pointing out a name — 'I've always believed that the evil will get their just deserts.'

With that, Zhang Ye's fans became even angrier!

"Holy f**k!"

"Who's the evil one?"

"He's explicitly accusing Zhang Ye!"

"That grandson is too much! Didn't the Panda Burning Incense incident teach him a lesson?"

Lee Anson's words had poked a sore spot in everyone. The incident that time had started because of him. It was him who had pushed down a fan first and Zhang Ye had only stood up for her, to ask for an apology. Yet, the end result was Lee Anson being not affected and Zhang Ye being banned? What sort of logic was this! At least if they banned Lee Anson as well, everyone wouldn't be feeling as frustrated as they were, but that did not happen. There were no foreign names on the list at all. Even if Lee Anson was not a Chinese national, the SARFT still had the power to ban them in China. Yet it was still only Zhang Ye's name on the list!

Suddenly, another Korean celebrity, who had a run in with Zhang Ye before a long time ago on Zhang Ye's talk show appeared. That person was Lee Parkwoo. He used his verified Weibo account to post a message, specifically singling out the person -- "@ZhangYe I knew such a day would come. A person like you is just a clown. The policies passed this time were really timely. You better reflect upon yourself!"

That tone was one of gloating and patronizing attitude!

Seeing how these two Korean celebrities appeared to make fun of them with such rudeness, Zhang Ye's fans were now furious!

But before any of them could retort, other people began to follow up with even more gloating!

Lee Anson and Lee Parkwoo's braindead fans were the first to appear. Whether it was Lee Anson or Lee Parkwoo, both of them had suffered greatly at the hands of Zhang Ye. They had almost lost all their face back then, so naturally their fans would hate Zhang Ye to the bone. After going through so much incidents and sticking with their idols, there was no need to question the loyalty of these braindead fans. They were definitely all hardcore!

"Heehee, I'm so happy!"

"Zhang Ye is finally done for!"

"Still dare to hit our Anson-oppa? Now look who's the stupid one!"

"I doubt that Zhang fella would dare to show off anymore in the future! Are you very good at fighting? Aren't you good at scolding? Come on then. Fight us, scold us. Why are you so quiet all of a sudden?"

"Haha, what else can he make noise about? He's already too afraid to step forward!"

"There will not be a Zhang Ye anymore in the future of entertainment business!"

"It's time to celebrate!"

"That's the outcome you'll end up with for offending our Parkwoo-oppa!"

Then, another person came out on Weibo. It was Deputy Station Head Jia, who had been dismissed by Beijing Radio Station. He posted a long message saying, "There are many cases in the entertainment circles where one can become famous overnight, but it is not that simple. There are rules and regulations in all of this. A person who defies the rules will never be able to enjoy success in the entertainment industry for long, nor would they ever be able to rise to the rank of A-list. Zhang Ye is now eating the bitter fruits of his actions. You should be happy. To reach this point is already a miracle. You were already too lucky!"

Soon after, the Beijing Writer's Association's Vice President, Meng Dongguo also spoke out, "The messed up entertainment industry should have already been cleaned out a long time ago. Those messed up people should have been banned long ago!" Without a doubt, he was definitely referring to Zhang Ye!

Three!

Five!

Ten!

Zhang Ye had offended countless people in the entertainment, literary, and educational circles! Now that he was in trouble, trouble that he could never recover from, all of these 'enemies' and people who disliked him had all appeared!

They stabbed at him!

Laughed in derision!

Everything poured out at once!

It immediately turned lively on the internet. There were more and more people joining the army that derided Zhang Ye. In the past, some people, as well as his peers, feared Zhang Ye, since he had such a vicious mouth. He also seldom dealt out his cards in a routine fashion. He was quite an asshole, so they had to be careful when they targeted him, but now, with decree #43 out, his enemies had no more concerns. All of them started pointing their spear heads at him!

Professor Ma Hengyuan: "A short-lived negative example of the entertainment circle!"

A WebTV host, whose program suffered due to Zhang Ye's talk show: "Unorthodox means can never go far!"

Numerous war of words began!

"F**k, why are so many people dismissing Teacher Zhang Ye?"

"Who said Zhang Ye is finished!? I refuse to believe!"

"Upstairs, you sure are dumb. It's already set in stone. What fantasies are you harboring?"

"I just receive a bit of news. Zhang Ye's programs and works have all been taken off the shelves and deleted. And after his novels were taken off the shelves, Beijing Education Publishing Firm requested compensation, and even wanted to sue Zhang Ye in court for 3.5 million. In the end, Zhang Ye just paid up without a single word!"

"3.5 million? F**k!"

"Do these publishing firms have any humanity left in them? How much did 'Ghost Blows Out the Light' earn for them!? Yet they still want to suck that last bit of blood from Teacher Zhang Ye? I can't believe it! It's something humans are capable of, right? Are they really trying to force Zhang Ye to his death?"

"Is that true?"

"100% true. I think news of it has been revealed on the news. North Chinese Youth and Children Publishing House also wanted Zhang Ye to pay a sum of money. As for the online television station, Zhang Ye resigned from it. Everyone hits a person who is down! That is the coldness of humanity, and indeed it is disheartening to see that. Especially that Beijing Education Publishing Firm. 3.5 million. How much has Teacher Zhang Ye earned since he debuted? He was made penniless when he paid for his fan's illness, and probably his source of income was from that tiny bit of wages. He even had to borrow money from his colleagues, and at most earned some pretty good income from his advertisement endorsements, but this time, it's all gone with him paying for damages. An estimate would be that Zhang Ye has no money left!"

"The other celebrities on the name list are still alright. They are veterans and have earned quite a bit in their early years. You can consider them as earning enough, but Zhang Ye has only debuted for around six months? He even paid for that fan, Yang Lian's, treatment and never took part in commercial performances. For this ban, Zhang Ye is the one who suffered the most! He is the greatest victim!"

"Indeed!"

"I really feel like I can't bear to watch this any further!"

"I'm wondering what's wrong with Teacher Zhang Ye? What did Teacher Zhang Ye do wrong? Why do they hate him to the bone? Why are so many people kicking him while he is down?"

"Hai, it's because there's no way for Zhang Ye to make a recovery."

"This bunch of people really are ugly!"

But now, Zhang Ye had received a fatal blow. The SARFT had sentenced him to death. His hardcore fans also felt seriously affected by this. Without any forceful stance, those who supported Zhang Ye, saying indignant words were quickly drowned out by his enemies or enemies' fans. In the end, in the Weibo discussions regarding Zhang Ye, all the comments below it were all cursing Zhang Ye!

"Serves him right!"

"He should have been banned a long time ago!"

"This person is too wicked. He has offended so many people, so it's his just desserts!"

"Look, he doesn't even dare show his face now, right? I'm waiting to see how Zhang Ye does his emergency PR. Who knows, if he does it well, he might be released from the ban list in a few years time!"

In this mess of denouncing or condemning Zhang Ye, a girl's voice suddenly appeared on Weibo. The person's registered name was "Xiaoli799". She did not post a text message, but rather an audio clip. It was her own recording that she uploaded.

Many people clicked to open it without much thought and were then stunned.

That was because the girl's voice was sobbing!

Xiaoli799 said while crying, "All of you...stop scolding Teacher Zhang Ye. Why...Why are you doing this!? What has Teacher Zhang done wrong!? What are you basing these things on to say such bad things about him!? Previously, my boyfriend wanted to go overseas and we would not meet for many years. I once thought of committing suicide and gave a call to Beijing Radio Station. Back then, Teacher Zhang Ye was still a new broadcasting host. He gave me two poems, one was 'Flying bird and fish' and the other was 'A Generation'. It was because of these two poems that I did not take my life. It was because of Teacher Zhang Ye's enlightening and reprimanding of me that woke me up. That is why I am alive. Teacher Zhang is my life saver. He is also the benefactors of many others, such as a fan just like me, Yang Lian, as well as those on the plane in Shanghai! Also, that girl who was pushed after the Spring Festival Gala, many people have received Teacher Zhang Ye's kindness! What about you? What did you do? What have you ever done? What are you basing your words on to blame Teacher Zhang!? You have no qualifications to reprimand Teacher Zhang!"

The voices turned more furious. Before you knew it, the girl's voice behind the audio slowly stopped sobbing!

The moment this audio file was released, many people turned their attention towards it.

Xiaoli799's second audio clip was posted. It was meant for Zhang Ye. "Teacher Zhang, I believe you will not be defeated by this bit of difficulty! Do you still remember? Back then, you promised my boyfriend and I, that once my boyfriend returns from his studies, you will be our wedding host! You must tide this through! Let those people who doubted you see! Zhang Ye cannot be defeated!"

This audio clip did not cause any major impact. The people who wanted to curse were still cursing.

However, at home, Zhang Ye felt greatly moved upon hearing this audio clip. He naturally remembered Xiaoli. She was the girl he had encountered during his first live broadcast with a colleague that wanted

to commit suicide, causing quite a major live broadcasting incident. Back then, the radio station's leaders and colleagues received quite a shock. Despite Zhang Ye feeling the same, he managed to recite two poems with his wit, successfully settling the issue.

Scenes of the past began to come to mind.

As he thought about it, a glint of remembrance surfaced in Zhang Ye's eyes. Quietly in his heart, he said, "thank you".

Chapter 465: About to Drop out of the C-list Celebrity Rankings?

All his works were pulled from the shelves!

There were more people adding insult to injury!

All of this was a fatal blow towards Zhang Ye's popularity and fame. From today onwards, his popularity would constantly fall. Of course, popularity and fame was not something visible, and seeing the buzz was inaccurate. However, this world's official rankings of the entertainment industry could create a proper numerical assessment. Although the latest ranking would be produced only at midnight, if one clicked on a second page, one could see the real-time situation of a celebrity's assessment, whether it was increasing or decreasing, or how much it increased or dropped. One could even compare two celebrities, so the fluctuations of one's fame would be known at a glance!

Many people discovered the effects that SARFT's decree #43 had on these celebrities with misdeeds. It was almost immediate with no delay at all!

"Look at the Celebrity Rankings!"

"Holy sh*t. All of them dropped?"

"Li Qiang's popularity score dropped by 50,000?"

"Chen Hong also won't make it! From noon, it has been dropping in a straight line. It's nearly a 90 degree angle drop!"

"The worst one is Zhang Ye!"

"What's the matter?"

"You'll understand once you see it. He's about to fall from the C-list ranking!"

"Ah? Why is it so fast?"

"How can it not be fast? All of his works are gone!"

"There's no need to ask. At midnight, when this ranking is updated, Zhang Ye would definitely fall back to a D-list celebrity. It was not easy for him to climb up to C-list, but now he has been reverted back to his original state!"

Zhang Ye had just been promoted to a C-list ranking a few days ago. Over the past few days, he had not done anything big, nor produced any new works, and so in the past, he was the last person on the C-list Celebrity Rankings. Every level had a limited number allowed. This meant that as long as your popularity

dropped below the person previously behind you, then your ranking would fall and you would be replaced by that person. If the last person on the C-list was exceeded by the first person on the D-list, then at midnight, when the rankings refreshed, the two would swap places!

This situation was currently the case. Some people linked Zhang Ye and the celebrity that was about to catch up. There was a detailed comparison of statistics on the second page. That person's popularity ranking had probably exceeded Zhang Ye's. That meant that once midnight struck, Zhang Ye would fall back to the D-list rankings!

"Who is coming up?"

"Tang Dazhang, a crosstalk actor."

"Him? His crosstalk have always been bad. Anyways, I just don't like it. It's not funny at all, but he keeps going on galas and programs. Right, at this year's Spring Festival Gala, what sort of crap was that crosstalk he and his partner performed? I nearly fell asleep hearing it."

"I think it was alright."

"It was just average. His crosstalk aren't good or bad, but he is an old artist of the crosstalk world. He has worked in crosstalk for decades. Even if his performance is a bit weak, his foundation and fame is all there. Well, don't you see the annual National Crosstalk and Skit Competition about to begin? Tang Dazhang is one of the main judges. Central TV is promoting it so much these days, and Teacher Tang appears on TV often as a result. With this exposure, his ranking will naturally increase. This crosstalk and skit competition is an important program. Last year's viewership ratings reached a record high, and it was pretty well-liked. There was an analysis that this year's viewership ratings might create another record. There are numerous people looking forward to it, so Teacher Tang's popularity also increased as a result."

"He's far inferior to Zhang Ye!"

"@TangDazhang."

"That's right, Zhang Ye's talk show is much more humorous than his!"

"Stop arguing. They each have their advantages. Talk shows and crosstalk aren't even the same art form, so there's no way to compare."

"Why do I feel my heart tearing from seeing this?"

"If this did not happen, Zhang Ye's popularity would definitely not drop!"

"How can Tang Dazhang compare with Zhang Ye!"

Suddenly, someone no one expected appeared on Weibo. He appeared because of a @. He was the crosstalk performer artist, Tang Dazhang himself, who was on the crest of popularity. He added on amidst the discussion amongst the people on Weibo with a satirical tone, "There is no way to compare me with Zhang Ye. Central TV's First Department's News Simulcast gave him free promotion, and his name appeared on mass media and newspapers, as well as provincial television stations. To speak the truth, I don't have that ability. As for talk shows, I don't consider that as art. It is what the industry has decided on too. It's just jokes put together and a bit more vulgar. At best, it makes people laugh, but

after that, there's no sublimation at all. Hur Hur, I suggest everyone listen to crosstalks more. I'll also do some advertising about the new National Crosstalk and Skit Competition that is about to begin airing in a few days."

The first half referred to the blacklist, and midway, he was already naming names as well as questioning and attacking Zhang Ye. Clearly, Tang Dazhang did not like hearing how many people felt Zhang Ye's talk show was more humorous than his, Tang Dazhang's, crosstalk!

However, maybe it was because Tang Dazhang felt the words he said were a bit lacking, or if it was because he was speaking in an official capacity, he deleted the Weibo post a few minutes later.

However, there were a few sharp-sighted people who had taken screenshots!

"F**k!"

"Are you done yet?"

"You got a kick out of attacking Teacher Zhang Ye? One after another! And then one more after another! Are you guys f**king doing a relay race!? All of you came to stab Zhang Ye?"

"Is Teacher Tang sick? Zhang Ye did not say a word from beginning to end. Only a few netizens made a few blind comments and it was like his tail was stepped on? Teacher Zhang did not even provoke you, and has no feud with you. What are you doing? Does everyone treat Zhang Ye as some soft persimmon?"

"Isn't that the case? Teacher Zhang has been banned. Now, any f**king person would dare to comment on Zhang Ye. I'm chuckling here. I want to ask, if this decree #43 was not released, would any one of you dare say that about Zhang Ye? I really don't believe!"

"I don't believe it too. They definitely wouldn't f**king dare to. Who doesn't know that mouth of Teacher Zhang? Anyone who scolds him will be cursed back the next second!"

"Enough, Zhang Ye's fans you can stop being so arrogant. Zhang Ye is finished, yet you refuse to give up hope? With Teacher Tang's prestige and age, so what if he said a few words. He is a veteran of the literary world. Even if he admonishes Zhang Ye, Zhang Ye will still have to obediently listen."

"Now that Zhang Ye can't even save himself, how can he dare to scold anyone!"

"Congratulations Teacher Tang!"

"Congratulations to Teacher Tang for rising to C-list. For a crosstalk actor to reach this stage can't be said to be unprecedented, but it's very rare!"

"Congrats!"

This sudden event also caused quite a stir, but eventually did not result in anything. Instead, Tang Dazhang's fans and some peers from the crosstalk kept sending their congratulations. As a crosstalk or skit actor had a disadvantage, as they were naturally not as popular as singers or movie actors, and so for a crosstalk actor to be promoted to the C-list rankings was extremely difficult. Tang Dazhang's Weibo was filled with congratulatory comments. It was as if Tang Dazhang were celebrating his sixtieth birthday.

Tang Dazhang appeared once again and said mischievously, "Hur Hur. Thank you to all my friends. Tomorrow, I, Old Tang, will be treating. I'll treat you to: steamed lamb, steamed bear's paw, steamed deer's tail, roast duck..." He posted the entire list of the Manchu Han Imperial Feast dishes. From his tone, it could be seen that Tang Dazhang was feeling very good.

These aspects of people was a bit ugly.

.....

At home.

Zhang Ye was browsing through the comments on the internet, as well as Weibo. He had no expression on his face, and did not say a word ever since the decree had been released. It was as if it had nothing to do with him. He turned a blind eye towards the attacks and criticisms of Deputy Station Head Jia, Meng Dongguo, Tang Dazhang, and company.

Ring Ring Ring, a phone call came in.

It was skit actress, Ci Xiufang. She had previously given Zhang Ye a call once, so it was unknown what it was this time.

"Auntie Ci." Zhang Ye picked it up.

Ci Xiufang immediately asked, "You offended Tang Dazhang before?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I have never heard of his name before. I don't even know him."

Ci Xiufang said, "To think you can still laugh. Did you see it on the web? Now everyone on Weibo is cursing at you. It seems you don't have any lack of enemies."

"Did you call me to ridicule me?"

"Switch on the TV."

"Eh?"

"Beijing News Channel."

Zhang Ye did as he was told and switched channels.

Immediately, a person appeared on screen. It was the movie star Li Qiang, who had appeared on the blacklist. He was sitting behind a long table, and on his left was his manager, and on his right were people from his management company. There were microphones on the table, and below the stage was a dense number of reporters.

It as a mini press conference!

Li Qiang said with a solemn face, "A few years ago, I made a mistake that I have regretted all my life. I have apologized in the past, but this time, I want to apologize once more. I have let my fans down, who have liked me and supported me all this time. I let my family and friends down, and have also let down the companies that have worked with me, causing them huge losses. A few years ago, I abandoned drugs. Today, a few years later, it is still the same. I will not repeat my mistakes, nor will I allow myself to

let down the trust of everybody. Please believe me, and I wish everyone would give me another chance!"

As he spoke, he stood up and bowed.

Li Qiang's manager also bowed towards the cameras.

On the phone, Ci Xiufang said, "Saw that?"

Zhang Ye asked, "Is this some emergency PR? Is it even of any use?"

"Nah, even if the people give him chance, even if the media gives him chance, the higher ups would not, however, it's better than doing nothing." Ci Xiufang suggested, "I think you should do something like that too. You don't have to set up a press conference. You can reveal your stance on the internet. The policy this time is unprecedented in its harshness, but it was not like it has never happened before. There might still be a chance."

"Thanks Auntie Ci."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye shook his head. Other people had not experienced this governmental policy, but he had seen it before in his world. Apology? Taking on a stance? Admitting one's mistake? Lower one's self? If this policy was not released, those were still useful. It was a standard method celebrities used in the event of a public relations crisis. It was common to hold a press conference to apologize, but with decree #43 implemented, all of that was useless!

Besides, why should he apologize? Why should he lower himself? Zhang Ye knew of his misdeeds. He shouldn't have beaten someone up. He was at fault in the first place, but he did not believe he should apologize to the commoners or media!

He did not let down the commoners!

He did not let down his fans!

Nor did he let down his country!

Chapter 466: No matter where the winds blow!

Past ten in the evening.

It was destined for the internet to be in a buzz more than usual today. Most people would be asleep by this time, but now, there were a countless number of people staying in front of their computer screens, with no intention to sleep.

Li Qiang had held a press conference to apologize!

Chen Hong also subsequently apologized while being interviewed by authors. "Sorry, I am deeply sorry for my past actions. I realize how my mistakes back then will be hard to be pardoned. I have let down many people who trusted in me, and also caused irreparable damage to the many of the fans who like me. I also want to thank those who showed concern for me. Thank you to all of you. I will not go down. I will use action to make up for the mistakes that I made in the past, bit by bit. I do not expect everyone to give me another chance, I just want everyone to accept my apology!"

There was Sun Ganyi and Zhao Wei.

The people from the first batch in the blacklist all subsequently apologized through the media or the internet. Although they knew it wasn't realistic, they still hoped the higher powers would show them mercy. Even if no mercy was shown, they also wished the ban would be cleared earlier. Who knew that in a year or a few years, they would be left with a chance to rise again. Hence, everyone's public apology was very sincere. A banned female celebrity, who had previously taken drugs, even teared up in front of the cameras!

"They have all apologized?"

"These people sure are unlucky."

"Hai, I think all of them should be given a chance. To die from this whack of the stick sure is a pity. There are celebrities I like on that list!"

"Who told them to make those mistakes? One should be prepared to bear the consequences for making such mistakes!"

"Haha, this bunch of people deserved it. I didn't like them for a long while now. Ban them all. When will the second name list appear? I already can't wait!"

"Why do that if you had known it would come to this!"

"You guys can keep saying that, but don't include Teacher Zhang Ye in this. Teacher Zhang did not take drugs or hire prostitutes!"

"But he isn't a good person either. Beating people is the same too. There is no fault to banning him. Who asked him to offend people everywhere!?"

At this moment, SARFT's officially verified Weibo account sent out the apology letters or videos of those banned stars. Other than those celebrities who had been arrested or were still serving a sentence, all of them had apologized.

Eh!

Wait, there was one person missing!

That Korean celebrity, Lee Parkwoo posted on Weibo: "Does Zhang Ye not plan on apologizing?" Very clearly, his eyes were fixated on Zhang Ye. The people, who paid the most attention to you, was never your friend, but your enemy!

Everyone realized this as a result!

"Zhang Ye hasn't said a word?"

"I wonder what Zhang Ye will do this time."

"What else can he do? He can only apologize and show a sorrowful stance. Only then would there be a shred of a chance. Besides, it's just saying 'I'm sorry'. Is that very difficult? Can't he lose that bit of face? Didn't all those twenty-odd celebrities publicly apologize?"

"That's right, even coming up with a haphazard and insincere statement would be enough. If not, once they have a fault to pick on, there will be no end to this matter. There will definitely be more people attacking him. His days will definitely be worse. However, Zhang Ye should be able to understand this. I guess he will be doing so soon."

At this moment, Zhang Ye's fans all remained silent. Everyone felt terrible, and could even be described as angry and humiliated!

There was no activity from them, but it did not mean Zhang Ye's opponents remained idle.

Deputy Station Head Jia posted on Weibo: "It is not that humans can't make mistake. One must have the courage to admit one's mistakes after making a mistake. If Zhang Ye really plans on hiding like a tortoise and not make a statement, that would truly be a great disappointment!" He was extremely vile, and his words were provocative. He was also leading the public's opinion.

Meng Dongguo said, "Where's Zhang Ye? Everyone has revealed their intentions, why is he the only one that remains silent? Why is he the exception? Does he not plan on answering this matter at all?"

Crosstalk artist, Tang Dazhang also appeared. "Hur Hur, just now when I casually commented with a Weibo post, I was cursed quite badly. Now, it seems all of them have turned silent." He insisted on how he did not say anything of importance, but there was nothing lacking in what he said. Clearly, he too was waiting to see Zhang Ye make a fool of himself.

"@ZhangYe!"

"Come on out!"

"Haha, Zhang Ye is finished!"

"We have sought revenge for Anson-oppa. I feel good, lalala!"

"Hurry up and say something Teacher Zhang Ye. If you don't appear, I'm going to bed!"

"I have never liked Zhang Ye. At such a young age without any qualifications, yet he dared to challenge the industry veterans. Based on what? Now he has turned silent!"

"In the future, the entertainment industry will no longer have this person known as Zhang Ye!"

"This ban is great!"

"This time it's a Category Ten typhoon. Finally, all those celebrities with misdeeds have been blown away!"

"It's far more than a Category Ten typhoon. I think to these banned artist, it's a hurricane!"

With these enemies of Zhang Ye leading the way, or people like Tang Dazhang, who had no grudge with Zhang Ye but still denounced Zhang Ye for unknown reasons, their fans surged over, and continued adding injury to insult. Not only did they scold Zhang Ye, they even scolded the rest of the banned celebrities. It was as if they did not want them to be able to rise again for the rest of their lives. It was unknown why this bunch of people hated them to the bone!

On the other side.

Zhang Ye also saw all these comments on Weibo. For some unknown reason, his calm face broke into a smile. This bro ignored you, but you thought I was afraid of you?

You want to me to show my intentions?

Sure, then I'll say a few words!

Zhang Ye immediately searched through image galleries on a search engine and found an ink painting. With a nod, he uploaded it straight to Weibo!

.....

"Quick, look!"

"It's Zhang Ye's Weibo!"

"Haha, I've finally waited for it!"

"Zhang Ye has spoken. Everyone go take a look!"

"It's finally his turn to apologize!"

A few people shouted, causing everyone to know nearly immediately. With the atmosphere at the moment, many people on the internet were paying close attention to Zhang Ye's Weibo. They would refresh it every few seconds, now that the thing they had been eagerly looking forward to had arrived. All of them rushed to see what Zhang Ye posted.

Deputy Station Head Jia clicked on it.

Lee Anson and Lee Parkwoo also came.

Tang Dazhang stared at the computer while sucking on a smoke pipe.

Ci Xiufang learned about it over the phone and immediately went to her computer to open Zhang Ye's Weibo, so as to take a curious look.

Nearly all of Zhang Ye's friends and enemies had yet to sleep. Now, they were all in front of the computer looking at his Weibo. Even some officials had come.

But this look made everyone puzzled.

What is this?

An ink painting? Bamboo?

No one understood what this was. As the ink painting in the image was a large ragged rock, with a bamboo growing alongside the rock. There was nothing else!

.....

Beijing Radio Station.

Wang Xiaomei, Big Sis Zhou, and Auntie Sun were working over time.

Big Sis Zhou shouted, "Look, Little Zhang posted on Weibo!"

"Eh? What's the meaning of this painting? Teacher Xiaomei, what is Little Zhang trying to say?" Zhang Ye's former colleague, Auntie Sun, who had good relations with him, asked.

Wang Xiaomei stared at it all day before saying, "...I don't understand."

.....

At a particular house.

Zhang Ye's colleague, Su Na at Peking University's Chinese department shouted, "Dad! Dad! Come over here quickly! Hurry!"

Father Su, who Zhang Ye met back during the Calligraphy Association's anniversary, came over impatiently from the living room to his daughter's room. "What's the matter?"

Su Na pointed at the computer. "What's the profound meaning behind this painting?"

"Oh, let me take a look." After focusing on it for a while, Father Su also shook his head in confusion. "I don't know."

Su Na said, "As a person in the arts, how can you not know?"

Father Su said, "This is Zhang Ye's Weibo, right? In terms of literary and artistic standards, this kid is much better than me. How will I be able to guess what he wants to say?"

.....

This scene happened at various places.

Be it Zhang Ye's fans, friends or enemies, they were all confused!

"What is this?"

"Is this an apology?"

"Who can understand this?"

"I think it's an apology. However, Zhang Ye can't tear down his face and is embarrassed to apologize, so he used this picture? Bamboo, rock, bamboo, rock..."

A few minutes later, Zhang Ye's Weibo released another update!

Below the picture, Zhang Ye had added a poem!

The moment this poem came out, everyone immediately understood the meaning of this ink painting. All of them were astonished!

Tang Dazhang stared with his eyes widened!

Deputy Station Head Jia was stunned!

Those higher officials were infuriated!

Ci Xiufang, who had just given Zhang Ye a call to remind him to present the proper intentions, was flabbergasted by Zhang Ye's actions. That darn kid! To think I said all those things to him for nothing!

Dong Shanshan, who was far away in Shanghai, saw it on her phone while in bed. She immediately sat up and smacked her forehead. She nearly fainted!

Zhang Yuanqi, who was in Australia, saw her manager, Fang Weihong looking stunned. She could not help but ask, as Fang Weihong immediately walked over with the cell phone in hand, and let her see Zhang Ye's Weibo post with a wry smile. Zhang Yuanqi took a glance and gave a terse acknowledgment. She did not say another word and carried on filming her MV.

Fan Yingyun, from the Internet Surveillance Bureau also saw this nearly instantly. With a snap of her fingers, she could not help but roar out with incessant laughter!

Peking University Vice President Wu Zeqing, who was resting at home, could only shake her head and smile kindly after seeing this poem.

Everyone had different reactions, but basically everyone was stunned. Just thinking of the person who said that "the Category Ten typhoon had finally blown Zhang Ye away", or the one who shouted, "Waiting for Zhang Ye to express his intentions", just thinking of the countless number of people who attacked and denounced Zhang Ye, as well as decree #43, and then looking at this poem, everyone felt their hearts tremble. They all knew Zhang Ye was expressing his voice using that poem!

It was not anger...

It was not depression...

It was a voice that laughed at all the heroes of the world!

"Bamboos on the Rocks"

Cling to the green mountain, never give up,

The bamboos take their roots in the cracks of the rocks.

Though they suffer, they are still strong,

Hold unyielding, no matter where the winds blow!

Under the watchful eyes of many, with him entangled in trouble, no one expected that not only did Zhang Ye have no intention to apologize, he even f**king cursed others again!

No matter where the winds blow!?

Chapter 467: Reputation actually grew!

With the introduction of "Bamboos on the Rocks".

It had surprised a number of people!

As well as made a lot of people laugh!

"Pfft!"

"Hahahaha!"

"I guessed it! I knew that this would happen!"

"I guessed it too! What kind of a person is Zhang Ye? He's the hooligan of the entertainment circle, so how could he possibly give in to the authorities?! Why anyone would anticipate an apology from Teacher Zhang Ye is beyond me! Aiyo, this is so funny that it's killing me! You all really don't understand what kind of person Zhang Ye is!"

"Teacher Zhang is impressive!"

"Haha, good poem! What a great poem!"

"That's our Teacher Zhang Ye!"

"When Teacher Zhang hasn't appeared for the whole day or even said a word, I was getting worried that something might have happened to him. Hehe, but looks like I was worried for nothing! Teacher Zhang is still the Teacher Zhang that I like so much! He's always different from others!"

"Zhang Ye, I love you!"

"Teacher Zhang, we will always support you!"

"Here's a Like for you!"

Having been suppressed for so long by those bunch of people who had been insulting Zhang Ye, his fans could finally muster up something to hit back at them!

This poem was immediately circulated by countless people!

Many of the online media outlets were dumbfounded. They saw an opportunity in this and hurriedly posted this news and the poem "Bamboos on the Rocks"!

All of the banned celebrities, except for Zhang Ye, had apologized. Not only did he not admit he was wrong, he even retorted with such a poem. Many of those who had seen it were still unable to believe it as they did not think that Zhang Ye had such guts. In the past, they knew Zhang Ye was extremely bold, but no one expected him to be this bold. This painting and that poem were something that was so dazzling that no one could look straight at it!

What was the meaning behind the poem?

It was too obvious. Everyone could understand it!

It looked like it was talking about the bamboo, but it was actually referring to Zhang Ye himself. Zhang Ye was making the analogy of him being the bamboo growing on the ragged rocks. He was telling all those who doubted him, criticized him and wanted to see him make a fool of himself:

Go ahead and ban me. Feel free to ban me!

Go ahead and doubt me. Feel free to doubt me!

No matter how he was battered by the wind and rain, no matter how sand was blown and how rocks tumbled, this bro would stand here fine and dandy, no matter where the winds blow!

The dominance and arrogance within the poem even had that bit of an aura that surged!

With such a huge matter happening, and such a severe banning incident, everyone knew Zhang Ye was finished. Some people thought he would lower himself, others thought he would collapse. Some people thought he would be furious with no way of being calmed, but now, with the attitude Zhang Ye showed, it was like he didn't care at all. He feared nothing!

Deputy Station Head Jia posted: "This kind of person is a hooligan. Thankfully, he has been banned. If not, a greater trouble would happen sooner or later!"

Meng Dongguo's Weibo: "Zhang Ye is so disappointing as a person."

Tang Dazhang's Weibo: "Hai, the young can't be taught."

Those people were still sparing no effort to denounce Zhang Ye, as they expressed their opinions as if they were all high and mighty.

At this moment, a person called "Big Saber Bro" appeared on Weibo. "Are you all retarded cunts? You are allowed to curse and denounce him, but you won't allow Teacher Zhang to retaliate? Who the f**k are you!? Each one of you thinks so highly of yourselves! You are just a bunch of jumping clowns. You are not as capable as Teacher Zhang, your popularity can't match Teacher Zhang, but all of you sure are experts at joining in on the fun. The moment Teacher Zhang gets into a snag, all of you would rush out. Another time, all of you would rush over again. If you have so much time, then go upgrade yourselves! Don't be f**king jealous of others all day!"

"Big Saber Bro, nicely said!"

"This bunch of people are deserving of cursing!"

"A bunch of people who only know how to kick a people when they are down. Their character is already lower than others by a grade. What's the point to talk to them for? In terms of popularity, Teacher Zhang's fame pulls ahead you by ten blocks. Don't even think of stepping on Teacher Zhang Ye to rise up! None of you have the qualification! Teacher Zhang said it well! No matter where the winds blow!"

Many people were still cursing Zhang Ye.

"What are you saying!?"

"Teacher Tang is lesser than Zhang Ye in terms of qualifications?"

"To step on Zhang Ye to rise up? Bullsh*t! Back when Teacher Tang Dazhang began performing crosstalk, Zhang Ye wasn't even born yet. Now, Teacher Tang is also a C-list celebrity! What about Zhang Ye?"

"Haha, Zhang Ye is already a D-list!"

"Teacher Tang and Teacher Meng were trying to be nice to Zhang Ye as seniors. They wanted to guide a junior, to prevent him from going down the wrong path. That's why they commented, what do you know!?"

"Enough, let's ignore those bunch of Zhang Ye fans. That bunch of trolls never had much quality in character. Anyway, now Zhang Ye is doomed. It's already destined."

"Right, today he will fall into the D-list, and in a few days he will fall into the E-list. By next month, he will probably not even be seen on the rankings anymore!"

"It's make it or break it!"

"Haha, so what if Zhang Ye is indignant? There will be no way for him to survive in the entertainment circles for the rest of his life. He can't become a celebrity, so what if he composes a poem and croaks!?"

In a blink of an eye, it was midnight!

The Celebrity Rankings was updated!

Many of those who disliked Zhang Ye immediately rushed over to take a look with excitement. Many of Tang Dazhang's fans gathered together, preparing to take screenshots to celebrate this monumental event!

However, when they saw the rankings, everyone was astonished. At that instant, the entire internet and Weibo seemed to turn silent!

Zhang Ye was still a C-lister!

Tang Dazhang's ranking was still a D-lister!

Taking a look at their popularity statistics, Tang Dazhang, who had exceeded Zhang Ye originally, now trailed Zhang Ye by more than 4000 overall points! Not only did Zhang Ye's ranking not fall, it had even f**king rose up one place. He was no longer the last person amongst C-listers, and had now become second from the last. He had exceeded an extremely famous veteran author who had written 47 bestsellers!

This scene dumbfounded countless people!

This scene stunned the entire internet!

Many people, who were neutral, shouted out on Weibo!

"Holy sh*t!"

"Can he not be so powerful?"

"He has already been banned! How can he rise in popularity like some dowager?"

"I'm too bedazzled by this! This old woman's titanium dog eyes are blinded!"

"...Awesome!"

"Zhang Ye is indeed Zhang Ye!"

"His poems are always so full of potency! Just a short poem can turn the tide! Those who were waiting to watch him make a fool of himself really won't get to see it!"

Those people, who had just cursed Zhang Ye, saying how he was doomed, now all turned silent. They all disappeared. That night, the crosstalk actor, Tang Dazhang, who was on the front lines of Weibo

ridiculing Zhang Ye, turned silent. A few minutes later, someone noticed that Tang Dazhang's Weibo post that thanked everyone for their congratulations and how he wanted to treat everyone was deleted!

Tang Dazhang did not speak a word.

Tang Dazhang's fans were also extremely embarrassed!

Over here, when Zhang Ye's fans saw the situation, they also burst out into laughter!

"Hahahaha!"

"Aiyah, can things not be so funny!?"

"That was a godly reversal! That was absolutely a f**king godly reversal!"

"The horrifying Face-smacking Zhang has appeared once again!"

"Keep shouting! Why aren't you shouting anymore!? Why are you all staying silent?"

"Can they even make a sound? Their faces are already swollen from the face smacking! Take a look, Tang Dazhang's Weibo post about how he wanted to hold a feast for a celebration has been deleted!"

"Haha! Aren't you celebrating a bit too early!?"

"To think you said Zhang Ye was doomed? Your dog eyes are blind! Who do you think my Teacher Zhang Ye is!? Even if he is banned, Zhang Ye is still that Zhang Ye! A starving camel is still bigger than a horse!"

"That's right, a starving camel is still bigger than a horse! Even if Teacher Zhang is down, and won't be able to work in the entertainment industry, it is not a bunch of cats and dogs like you who can provoke him!"

"It's completely godly!"

"Teacher Zhang has always been so godly!"

From the updated Celebrity Rankings, out of the 29 celebrities on the blacklist, 28 of them had their rankings experience a drastic drop. Some of them instantly dropped by seven or eight placings, while others dropped lesser, by three to five placings. However, the drops were rather obvious. This was the most severe banning in history, so the effects were extremely fast. It was nearly instant how those banned celebrities dropped in popularity!

But there was one exception!

Only Zhang Ye did not drop in ranking, and not only so, his popularity had increased by a tiny bit, and had even gone up one placing!

This dramatic scene was witnessed by countless number of people!

Zhang Ye's enemies seethed with anger!

Zhang Ye's fans were roaring with laughter!

Zhang Ye's friends were all at a loss of whether to laugh or cry!

This matter was indeed quite a wonder! However, this happened to match Zhang Ye's nickname—A Wonder of the Entertainment Industry! This situation could only happen on Zhang Ye!

.....

In bed.

After posting the poem, Zhang Ye had washed up and tucked himself in bed. After checking the internet on his phone, he was also stunned. He did not expect that, not only had he not fallen into the D-list ranks, he had even gone up one place amongst the C-listers? Zhang Ye was amused seeing this too. He helplessly shook his head. It looked like even if he was banned, his poems were still quite well-liked, especially that poem. It had a very extraordinary history to it. This "Bamboos on the Rocks" was a poem on a piece of panting. The author was extremely famous and was named Zheng Banqiao. Although this poem was not extremely profound in terms of literary value, it stood out because it was simple and easy to understand. In Zhang Ye's world, Zheng Banqiao's "Bamboos on the Rocks" was nearly known by all. Very few did not know about it. Having used it in this world, it was unlikely to be any worse!

Chapter 468: Another masterpiece of Li Bai!

The next day.

Around 5 in the morning. The sky had not lit up yet.

Zhang Ye could not fall asleep, and after washing up, he went downstairs. He wore a scarf and sunglasses and went for a morning jog around his neighborhood. He ran one big circle around his neighborhood as vapor emitted from his mouth till he could no longer run. He had not exercised in a while, so he couldn't handle the sudden run. The breakfast stall on the opposite side of the road had already opened, so he went there to have breakfast. He also took the opportunity to buy a copy of the morning newspapers at a newspaper stand beside it.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Bean curd and two fried dough sticks."

"Alright, it will be here shortly."

"Thanks a lot."

Zhang Ye pulled out a chair and sat by the roadside. He rubbed his cold, numb hands and began to look through the newspapers. He was stunned after seeing a piece of news on the frontpage of the entertainment section.

Yao Jiancai's attempted prostitution?

Holy sh*t, could it be that Old Yao was detained by the police!?

Zhang Ye was quite lost. No wonder he could not reach Old Yao by phone. No wonder SARFT's decree #43 had his name on it too. So that was the reason, but what was this charge of attempted prostitution? The news said that in a police "raid" the day before yesterday at a particular nightclub, amongst the 40 prostitutes, pimps and clients included Yao Jiancai. However, after reading the article all day, Zhang Ye could not find any real evidence to pin on Yao Jiancai. It appeared as if the police had found a female

masseuse giving Yao Jiancai a massage in a room, and after investigations, the masseuse was a prostitute, hence the crime of attempted prostitution was slapped on Yao Jiancai. Of course, this was not written clearly on the newspaper, but Zhang Ye was no fool. He could tell from what he read.

KTV?

Nightclub?

That day, Old Yao had given him a phonecall, inviting him to sing karaoke with him. As Zhang Ye had to stay at home to take care of Chenchen for Rao Aimin, he had not gone. Could it be that it happened then?

Zhang Ye knew Old Yao as a person very well. Well, Yao Jiancai might not be some proper person, and also had the common problem of male lust, and would not shift his eyes away from young ladies, but he was a familiar celebrity that had appeared in many television dramas. Many people knew him, so even if he really wanted to hire a prostitute, he probably did not have the guts to do so. He was most likely just unlucky this time. It was as if his pants were stained brown, so even if it wasn't shit, people would think it was shit! Old Yao sure was unlucky. The newspaper said that he was detained for investigation, and with decree #43 issued, Yao Jiancai was used as an example.

Someone gave him a call.

Zhang Ye put down his newspapers. "Hello?"

It was Xiao Lu's cheeky voice. "Teacher Zhang, it's me. You sure are awesome. I only saw the Celebrity Rankings this morning when I came into the office and we were all discussing this matter!"

"Let me speak a word too." Over there, Hou Ge grabbed the phone over. "Teacher Zhang, everyone is missing you. Are you alright?"

Dafei's voice was there too. "That poem, 'Bamboos on the Rocks' was too well written! Teacher Zhang's literary skill remains the same!"

Hearing the voices of his former colleagues at the Beijing Television Station's Arts Channel, he smiled. "Thanks a lot. I'm fine and am pretty good. I just had a jog and am outside eating breakfast. After I'm done with my meal, so I'll be returning home to have some sleep."

Xiao Lu took the phone over again. "You sure are enjoying your life."

Zhang'er said, "Of course. I have no work to do, and only have time left. Let's meet one day and have a meal together. It's been awhile since we all gathered."

Xiao Lu said, "Sure."

Hou Di added on, saying, "Teacher Zhang, all the best. Hold on and don't drop down the rankings! We are waiting for you to create a miracle!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I was lucky yesterday. The people gave me face and circulated my 'Bamboos on the Rocks'. That caused me to enjoy an increase in popularity. I might not be so lucky today. What is my ranking now? Have I dropped back down to the D-list?"

Xiao Lu said, "Wait a moment, let me see!"

The sounds of the computer keyboard clacking could be heard.

Dafei took over the phone. "It's still not midnight yet, so the rankings haven't be updated. Your ranking is still where it was when it was updated yesterday. Second from the last amongst the C-listers. However, on the detailed page, the numbers have been dropping after midnight. It seemed like it shot up a bit before midnight and then started decreasing. Now you are last on the C-listers. Below you is still that Tang Dazhang, but he's still quite a distance away from you."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye finished his breakfast and paid up. He then went home to take a nap.

He had nothing to do after all. He slept after waking up and woke up after sleeping. He then looked at his watch before going back to sleep.

He slept all the way to night time until Zhang Ye could no longer sleep any further. Sleeping too much gave him a headache. After washing his face with cold water, he was momentarily more awake. He sat in front of the computer and switched on the television to watch the news and surf the internet.

The promotions for the National Crosstalk and Skit Competition were currently in full swing. One could basically see on television, newspapers, the internet news about this competition and its advertisements. Tang Dazhang's face constantly appeared on various media and television. He was probably not the most famous person amongst the judges, as the remaining judges enjoyed a greater esteem than him. For example, there was the oldest veteran artist in the crosstalk world, and a crosstalk artist who had participated in twelve Chinese New Year Galas. Of course, like previous years, the judges definitely had a movie star or singer. It was just not yet announced, and was left as a mystery to whet the appetite of others. In general, this year's Crosstalk and Skit Competition had quite an impressive jury lineup. Just this gold standard of judges was enough to receive the attention of countless number of commoners!

.....

On the web.

With the buzz from last night over, those people, that had been smacked in the face at midnight by Zhang Ye, did not relent. Especially Tang Dazhang's fans and his friends from the crosstalk world. It was as if they could not take this laying down. They had embarrassed themselves greatly yesterday.

A theater's crosstalk actor quipped on Weibo: "@TangDazhang, Old Tang, you will definitely be treating us tomorrow, right? Haha."

Tang Dazhang's disciple, a young crosstalk actor said, "Congratulations Master."

A critic said: "It had profound implications with Teacher Tang Dazhang rising up to the rankings of a C-list celebrity. It is another breakthrough and development for the crosstalk world . It proves that crosstalk has gone from a subculture to something mainstream. It is liked by more and more people!"

There were numerous congratulations.

"Congratulations Teacher Tang. Congratulations to the art of crosstalk!"

"Teacher Tang is creating a brilliant history."

"Back then, crosstalk master, Master Liu failed to reach this level of popularity. For crosstalk to compare with movies or music, it is naturally disadvantaged. It sure wasn't easy for Teacher Tang Dazhang to come this far. Congrats!"

"There will definitely not be a problem today. He will definitely enter the C-list rankings!"

"That's right. The figures on the detailed page shows that Teacher Tang has exceeded Zhang Ye, and has even exceeded him greatly. Today, those fans of Zhang Ye can't remain arrogant anymore! Those who have been banned should know their place. What's the point of popping out all the time? No matter how much you pop out, you can't escape the result of a sharp drop in popularity!"

The rankings had not changed as it was not time for it to be updated. However, from the figures, one could tell that Tang Dazhang had once again exceeded Zhang Ye, pushing Zhang Ye back down to the ranks of the D-listers. The reason why Tang Dazhang's numbers could rise so quickly was mainly because there were advertisements airing on television as well as news portal websites. This exposure constantly made Tang Dazhang rise in popularity. As for Zhang Ye, as he was banned, his popularity was decreasing. One was positive, while the other was negative, so there was naturally a clear difference.

The gap was widening!

It was getting more distant!

Zhang Ye had been overtaken by Tang Dazhang!

The second person on the D-list rankings was a singer who was quite popular. He was also about to chase up to Zhang Ye's ranking, and the difference wasn't that great!

Zhang Ye's fans were silent. They had cheered last night. That sure was a joyful event, as they kept stabbing and smacking the faces of others. Today, none of them said a word, as they still did not know the situation. Actually they knew very well that after Teacher Zhang Ye was banned, his ranking would fall sooner or later.

Seeing how they remained silent, the enemies became more aggressive in their attacks!

"Haha, why aren't they speaking?"

"Weren't all of you feeling powerful yesterday? Weren't you all very arrogant?"

"Zhang Ye is already doomed. Yet, you still can't accept the reality? Do you still not understand the situation? I'm really worried for your intellect!"

"The powers have already announced it. The decree has been passed, yet Zhang Ye still insists on going down his own path. To think he said how he would remain unyielding no matter where the winds blow from? Wasn't this a clear challenge? Then do you think you will enjoy anything?"

"Zhang Ye really doesn't understand the way the world works. When leaders indicate their stance, you have to listen. When the leaders say you are not right, you have to bow your head. What's so hard about that?"

"To survive in the entertainment industry, you have to understand that you have to bow at times, if not, how are you to survive? How can Zhang Ye not even know this?"

"It's make or break, so ignore him."

Actually all along, many people who knew of Zhang Ye's temper found it strange. They wondered why Zhang Ye never accommodated the situations he was placed in. Such a person clearly looked out of place in the entertainment industry!

At almost 11PM.

Suddenly, Zhang Ye's Weibo had an update!

Zhang Ye posted on Weibo: "I had a dream yesterday."

"Ah!"

"He has appeared!"

"Zhang Ye has come!"

"Hurry over! See what he has to say!?"

"Am I dreaming? What does this mean?"

Following that, a dream poem appeared!

Poem: "Ocean travelers talk of Yingzhou, yet its mist and waves are hazy - belief in it is hard to find; The people of Yue speak of Tianmu; its red clouds in bright light or darkness might be seen. Tianmu pierces the sky and stretches to the horizon, its power surpasses the Five Peaks and eclipses Chicheng Mountain...."

Dreamed of Mount Tianmu?

This was a poem about traveling immortals?

It was actually in a folk song poem format!

Poem: "On a thousand precipices and in ten thousand valleys, the path is not clear; infatuated by flowers, one leans on a rock; suddenly it is dark. Bears roar and dragons hum, rumbling over precipices and springs; trembling, the deep forests; frightened, the layered summits. Clouds, blackest black, are going to rain; from water most placid, mist rises. Thunder and lightning; hills and mountain ranges are shattered; the stone doors of paradise open with a crash; the dark blue sky is vast and mighty, one cannot see its end; the sun and moon shine brilliantly on gold and silver terraces. A rainbow for clothes, wind for a horse, the Cloud Immortals come down one after another. A tiger strikes the harp, a phoenix rides a chariot; the immortals line up like hemp."

The immortal paradise was vividly described!

Imagery began to open up in front of everyone!

Then the poem had a twist, "Suddenly one's spirit palpitates and one's soul shakes; startled one wakes and takes a deep breath. There is only the pillow and mat when I am awake; gone are the mist and red clouds from before."

The netizens marveled!

After waking up from a dream, so it was all a dream!

Poem: "All earthly pleasures are like this; since ancient times, the myriad things all like water flowing east. One leaves you, sirs - when will one return?"

Was this farewell?

Zhang Ye was bidding farewell with his past?

Then, it was the last two lines of the poem that caused numerous people to have their expressions change!

The final stanza was a nonchalant attitude, "For now, put me amongst white deer in green valleys; one must ride to visit famous mountains. Why should I lower my face and bow for the influential and the rich, and take away my...joyous smile!?"

Chapter 469: "If by life you were deceived"

"A Departing Song of Traveling to Tianmu in a Dream"!

This was a traveling immortal poem that was written by Zhang Ye's previous world's Li Bai. He did not write out the poem in its entirety, as it involved some things that did not exist in this world, so Zhang Ye only used the main portions of it. In comparison to Zhang Ye's previous poems, this one was a much more obscure type of poem. If one did not have a strong literary upbringing or had no experience with poems, it would be rather difficult to understand!

When the poem was posted!

Many of those who read it could not understand it's true meaning!

A lot of them were trying to take it in one word at a time!

Only some of the more well learned scholars in the literary arts, who had understood this poem at a glance, were stunned by Zhang Ye's poetry once more!

You really can write all these poems in an impromptu fashion!

And even as an impromptu composition, it still carried so much in strength of character?

It was even an ancient poem?

And not only that, it was in a more rare form of traveling immortal poems?

Are you on f**king steroids?

This poem immediately sparked some reactions from people!

A verified CEO of a certain trading company commented: "What a great 'traveling immortal' poem!"

A newly debuted female author's verified Weibo also posted: "What a great 'take away my joyous smile'!"

"I've finally witnessed Zhang Ye's literary talents today. I'm ashamed!"

"What does it actually mean?"

"Is this poem really that awesome?"

"Who can explain it to us? I really don't understand!"

"Begging for an explanation! I really want to know what it means now!"

"I regret not studying harder in my language courses!"

"I can't even understand my idol's poem!"

"I can understand the last sentence though!"

"Haha, I can understand that line too!"

"How domineering it is!"

"It's not only domineering!"

"That is also Teacher Zhang Ye's pride and strength of character!"

Then, an expert started to explain the full context of the poem with some hints and comments, which were listed out one by one to allow everyone to gain a better understanding!

"Heavens!"

"This poem is too good!"

"Awesome!"

"That's the Zhang Ye I like!"

"He dares to say, to do, to scold, and to beat!"

"I only found out about Zhang Ye when I saw the list of banned artistes earlier. I never noticed his works in the past, but seeing this poem of his now, I find him to be very good and likeable. Hehe, is the fanclub still recruiting?"

"Count me in!"

"I love such kinds of troublemaker celebrities!"

Those who had been insulting Zhang Ye suddenly did not look too good. No one expected after yesterday's comeback, Zhang Ye could come up with yet another poem!

What did the last sentence say!

Why should I lower my face and bow for the influential and the rich?

And take away my joyous smile?

With the explanation now posted, even the people who did not like Zhang Ye could not help but bow down to Zhang Ye. What the fuck!

Did you really dare to say all of that!?

Did you feel that the trouble you attracted was not enough?

The feelings expressed in this poem were really too proud!

You want me to lower my face?

You want me to do what is required of me?

You want me to bow and bend my principles?

I'm sorry!

That's impossible!

Why?

Because I am just not willing to do so!

.....

At home.

After he had posted the message, Zhang Ye read through it once more and nodded contentedly. He was very satisfied with this poem, but was he afraid of the trouble it might bring?

Of course not! Zhang Ye was already in big enough trouble at this point and he had already been banned. That was the worst it could get, so what was there to be afraid of?

So what he was really afraid of was not that the trouble he stirred up would be big, but rather that it would not be big enough!

If you don't want me to have it easy?

Sure, I won't make it easy for anyone else either!

I might not be able to do other things.

If you want me to do it correctly, I might not be good at that.

But when it comes to making trouble?

No one would dare make the claim that they are number 1 if I were to say that I was number 2!

Zhang Ye's temper was rising, but it was not temper that originated from anger, but that of a strong desire and adrenaline!

This temper would not be able to contain itself once it overflowed!

.....

On the web.

In an online chatroom.

As though they had come to an agreement, everyone who read Zhang Ye's poem changed their personal signatures to "Why should I lower my face and bow for the influential and the rich, and take away my joyous smile"!

The poem was going viral!

It was forwarded countless of times!

Even if the major media outlet had restricted the content of Zhang Ye's reports, there was still a limit to the censorship that they could implement due to the ban. They couldn't possibly ban Zhang Ye's Weibo too, as he had not been guilty of any crime. The ban was in terms of the media only, and not on Zhang Ye's rights as a citizen. Only a judicial organization could do that, not anyone else!

Even if they were held at knifepoint, this poem would still make its rounds on Weibo without regard for the ban. As a result, countless people saw it, which also led to countless commentaries about it!

Smash!

Smash!

When the clock struck midnight, everyone went to check the celebrity ranking page to see the latest update!

Tang Dazhang was still a D-lister!

Zhang Ye was third from last place in the C-list!

Seeing that, the netizens shouted in disbelief!

"It has risen again!"

"Zhang Ye's ranking has gone up again!"

"What the heck! This world can no longer stop Teacher Zhang Ye!"

"Hahahaha! @TangDazhang! @TangDazhangsFans! I'm dying of laughter!"

"At this moment, I feel embarrassed for Teacher Tang and his fans!"

They've already been embarrassed once last night and it had to happen again tonight! They've been face slapped by Zhang Ye again!"

"Teacher Zhang Ye, please have mercy on Teacher Tang Dazhang. It wasn't easy for him to climb to such a ranking and he has been trying to surpass you by criticizing you, so it really wasn't easy for him."

"Pfft!"

"Haha, please have mercy on Teacher Tang."

"Old Tang's fans' faces have probably turned green by now!"

"Teacher Zhang is going against the heavens!"

"He's riding against the waves of destruction! And stepping up towards the heavens against all odds!"

"Has Teacher Zhang really been banned? Because with him going up in the rankings each day, I don't see how he's banned at all!"

On this day, Tang Dazhang and his fans had been kept silent once again.

Even as the other banned artists had dropped in popularity and fame, with some suffering significant drops, Zhang Ye still managed to outshine them and rose in the rankings!

.....

The next day.

From morning till night, Zhang Ye's ranking was sliding down again. One poem was clearly less effective than a program or a song, as it wasn't something that people would keep watching or listening to. That was the reason why his ranking rose and dropped very quickly. With the national crosstalk and skit competition promotion and reports, Tang Dazhang was rising in rank once again.

"Surely this would be it?"

"Damn, if he doesn't surpass Zhang Ye and get into the C-list, I will go crazy!"

"No, tonight's definitely gonna be the night."

"Zhang Ye can't go against the trend all the time, because that's how trends work!"

Many of those who opposed Zhang Ye were still making their calls.

But this time, many of Zhang Ye's enemies had learned to be smarter. They did not make any calls, but instead decided to wait for the outcome to be set before speaking!

Finally at 11.30PM, Zhang Ye's Weibo was updated with a post again!

"If by life you were deceived"

If by life you were deceived.

Don't feel dismal, don't get mad!

Be at ease and don't feel sad:

The days of joy will soon arrive.

The heart can't wait for this to pass;

The present is depressing here:

All is fleeting rather fast;

That which passes will be dear.

Tang Dazhang: "..."

Deputy Station Head Jia: "..."

Tang Dazhang's fans: "..."

Zhang Ye's fans: "..."

At midnight, the Celebrity Rankings were updated again as usual!

Zhang Ye was still firmly on the C-list celebrity ranking, while Tang Dazhang still failed to rise!

When countless number of people saw this result, there was a moment of silence before they could not help but burst out, "Holy sh*t!!!"

"Zhang Ye is too fierce!"

"Each poem is more awesome than the other!"

"Teacher Zhang sure is calm and can be so optimistic. Yes, everything will one day pass."

"Previous poster, hahahaha, I dare to bet that your guess is wrong! It's not that Zhang Ye is optimistic. This is just him making trouble and nitpicking on issues! This poem was not about himself but a gift to Tang Dazhang! When Tang Dazhang had initially celebrated his possible rise in the celebrity rankings, he was foiled by Zhang Ye. The second time he did it, it was foiled by Zhang Ye again. Now this is the third time already! Tang Dazhang's people have been slapped again! This is why Zhang Ye was telling them.....If by life you were deceived. Don't feel dismal, don't get mad! Be at ease and don't feel sad! The days of joy will soon arrive!"

"Ah! That's true!"

"How amusing! Teacher Zhang is too sarcastic!"

"Hahaha, it really is a poem dedicated to Tang Dazhang!"

"I was wondering why this poem didn't carry the spirit of Zhang Ye! Your sister, that's because it was used to make fun of Tang Dazhang! Old Tang's probably feeling dead in his heart now! But why did he choose to offend Zhang Ye in the first place? Who in the entertainment industry does not know of that temper of his!"

"It's time for Tang Dazhang to be unlucky. He only has himself to blame. We can understand those who have grudges with Zhang Ye would try to get at him, but for you who has never ever crossed paths with Zhang Ye before? You were asking for it. When you saw that Zhang Ye had been banned, you chose to step on him from where you were! Stepping! And stepping! Look who's the one being stepped on now!"

We don't even need to mention how famous Zhang Ye's poems are? Everyone in the industry, even those from the education world, would admit that Zhang Ye's poems are all classics. A poem like this would definitely be passed down for the ages and when our future generations mention this 'If by life you were deceived', then Tang Dazhang would be mentioned as part of its origin story. He's going to be mocked for a long time to come now! A simple hit back at you would only have caused you temporary

pain, but this was not a simple hit back. This pain would last you for many generations, even after you have passed!"

"Tang Dazhang should have learned his lesson this time. To let Zhang Ye insult him to this state, it would surely cause him traumatic pain! Teacher Zhang Ye is also telling everyone that even if he were to be banned, his venomous mouth and pen still exist. Don't think that just because he's been banned, that Teacher Zhang is a good target for bullying! It's not necessarily him who would end up being bullied!"

"So hilarious!"

"I need to take a screenshot for remembrance! Hahaha!"

"I can feel the pain on Old Tang's face!"

"Comrade Old Tang, keep believing. Don't feel dismal, don't get mad! Be at ease and don't feel sad. The days of joy will soon arrive!"

Tang Dazhang's fans were all infuriated and they started scolding Zhang Ye, but faced with the experienced troll army of Zhang Ye whose morales were boosted by his latest post, they were clearly no match. When they had just begun to scold, they were pushed back and flooded by the troll army, who had learned the colorful scolding style from Zhang Ye himself!

Chapter 470: Fellow sufferers!

The internet was enjoying it.

Zhang Ye's fans seemed like they were all on steroids!

The neutrals who were simply observing, were completely amused by what was happening. They knew that Tang Dazhang had hit a brick wall this time by provoking such a hooligan!

"In poetry, there are obscure poems, symbolic poems, etc, etc., but Zhang Ye.....clearly belonged to the scolding type poet. A normal poem can be calm and gentle and expresses the thoughts of life, but when written by Zhang Ye, it becomes one that is full of attack power. He had taken this poem to scold others and that left everyone at a loss of whether to laugh or cry!

He was unique!

And one of a kind!

You couldn't find anyone else like him in the literary or poetry world!

—This was Zhang Ye's literature, this was Zhang Ye irreplicable style!

.....

Past midnight.

At 12:15AM.

There was still an ongoing heated discussion online. Zhang Ye's cellphone, which he threw onto his bed, suddenly rang. He wondered who would be calling this late at night, so he reached out to take it and was surprised to see Old Yao's number!

He quickly answered the call, "Hello, Old Yao!"

On the other side was the listless voice of Yao Jiancai, "My brother, where are you right now?"

"I'm at home. What's the matter with you? Did you get released from the station already?" Zhang Ye was holding back on poking around too much, "Are you OK? I've been trying to reach you for the past few days now, but there was no answer!"

Yao Jiancai sighed, "Don't mention it anymore. I just got released a while ago. Are you at home alone?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yea."

Yao Jiancai said, "Then wait for me there."

Zhang Ye blinked and asked, "You've just been released, why aren't you going home?"

"I've gone back there, but my wife chased me out. Hai, it's difficult to explain. Send me your address. Your bro needs a place to stay for the next few days. I can only depend on you now." Yao Jiancai's voice was very bitter and miserable.

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, come over then."

As soon as he hung up, he sent his address over to Old Yao.

After about 20 minutes, Old Yao called again, "Bro, I'm about to arrive. Can you come down and pick me up? Hurry up."

Hey!

He's already a grown man, but needs to be picked up?

Zhang Ye could only put on a coat before heading downstairs. When he got there, he saw a taxi stopped outside with its hazard lights on.

The car door opened and Yao Jiancai alighted with a bag full of beer. He waved to Zhang Ye and said, "I don't have enough money, so help me settle the bill first. The driver has been waiting for a while now."

Zhang Ye said, "What the heck! Are you that miserable?"

Yao Jiancai said in a melancholic manner, "What do you think? Let's hurry."

Zhang Ye took out a hundred dollars and handed it to the taxi driver before heading upstairs with Yao Jiancai.

Upon entering the apartment, Zhang Ye said, "Make yourself at home. My place is a little small, so make do with it for now."

Yao Jiancai looked around and said, "It's not bad. I don't think it's small at all. Your bro just needs a place to sleep at. Hai, I'm in such a miserable state!" Then he sat down on a chair and placed his beer on the table, "Is there anything to eat around here? I've not had a proper meal for the past few days and I even skipped dinner today. I'm hungry as hell."

"Are instant noodles okay for you?" Zhang Ye asked.

"Anything is fine." Yao Jiancai said.

Zhang Ye said, "Alright then, I'll have a packet too."

Yao Jiancai took out the beer cans one by one and placed them onto the table, "Alright, let's eat and have a drink together."

Zhang Ye went to prepare the noodles and asked at the same time, "What's going on with you? You can't even go home now? What happened at the karaoke that night?"

Yao Jiancai slapped his thigh and said, "Their grandmothers! Speaking of that night makes my blood boil! Don't you know me well? Don't you understand what kind of person I am? I am an upright person, so why would I go and hire a prostitute? Since you did not join us that day, we went singing and just had a few drinks. After that, I was going to go home as it was getting late, but those dumbasses wanted to get a massage no matter what. I would have felt bad if I didn't join them, so in the end I picked a female masseuse and went into a room. I had only just taken off my clothes and the masseuse had not even gotten started when the police rushed in. They brought a bunch of us back to the station and accused us of soliciting prostitutes. What the f**k! Don't you think I've been terribly wronged?! They put us there for about 4 days and only released us only after they had finished their investigation and we were cleared of the charges. That is such a ripoff!"

Zhang Ye said, "Then that means you're are going to be alright."

"What do you mean alright?" Yao Jiancai said angrily, "The shit has hit the fan now. The media has reported this, so even if the investigations cleared my name, other people will not believe me anymore. I've contacted the company and also wanted to clarify with my management on this matter, but I've not heard anything from them. Whether I can be removed from the banlist, a friend of mine, who is handling this matter in my company, has already informed me not to hold too much hope. As decree #43 has just been passed and the axing of the affected persons implemented, it is very difficult to remove my name from the list for now. At the quickest, I would probably still have to wait for at least half a year or more."

The water boiled and Zhang Ye threw in the instant noodle condiments, "What does your wife think?"

Yao Jiancai said angrily, "My wife doesn't believe me either. She insists that I went out to womanize and that I had arranged for my own release with the connections that I have. What the heck! If I had connections, then would I still have been detained for four days!? When I got home, my daughter didn't even look at me. The both of them refused to talk to me and I did not even get dinner. Thereafter, my wife even chased me out of the house. This bro only has 100 dollars on me after being chased out onto the streets. Speaking of this makes me teary, I really wonder who I offended to deserve this? This is a disaster totally uncalled for!"

Zhang Ye said happy, "Then who do you think I offended?"

When Yao Jiancai heard that, he took a can of beer and flipped open the tab. He said, "I've heard about your case too. You were really hit the hardest for nothing. The two of us are really unlucky, we're fellow sufferers!"

The noodles were prepared.

It was piping hot and smelled good.

Zhang Ye took both their shares out, "Here, a bowl for each of us."

"Have some." Yao Jiancai passed him a beer.

Zhang Ye took it over and heartily gulped it down, "Huuu, this feels great!"

Yao Jiancai took a mouthful of noodles and suddenly commented, "It's not too well done. The fire was too strong. If you let it cook slowly, it would have tasted much better."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes, "You're lucky you get any at all."

Yao Jiancai said with a pun, "Yea, we're lucky if we can even feed ourselves from now on. It won't be easy." Then he paused for a while and took a few more mouthfuls of noodles. He raise his head as he chewed, "Bro, we can't make a living in the entertainment industry anymore. Since we've lost our jobs now, what plans do you have for the future?"

Zhang Ye said, "I've not thought about it yet, but if there's a chance, I want to stay in this business. I don't really want to go."

Yao Jiancai sighed, "Do you think I want to leave? I've been doing well, so I definitely do not wish to leave, but with this ban, there won't possibly be anyone approaching me to film any dramas or movies anymore, so what choice do I have? It's the same for you. When I was released this evening, I heard that your novels have been taken off the shelves already? You even had to pay a few million in compensation? The copyrights were all returned to you?"

Zhang Ye waved his hands, "I've nothing to my name now. I'm basically bankrupt."

Yao Jiancai said, "Why did you pay them? If they wanted to bring it to court, just go. You wouldn't need to pay them that much at all. That bunch of grandsons at the publishing firm really have no loyalty!"

Zhang Ye laughed it off, "I was too lazy to go at it with them. If I did that, it would have lowered my status, so I just paid them what they wanted. I will take it up with them in the future when there's a chance."

Yao Jiancai said, "Don't bullshit me. You still think that you can take it up to them? The two of us can't even protect ourselves anymore. Don't tell me you still haven't accepted it after so many days? Let me tell you. After I was released from the station, I took a look at decree #43. When I saw the list of banned artists, I knew clearly that our future in the entertainment business were over. Even if I could have a second chance after a year, who would remember me then? Who would still invite me to act in their shows? I'd have to start from scratch again. With the reputation of being a banned artist and without fame or reputation, the audience would definitely not accept me again. It's the same for you. Hai, actually don't even talk about a year later. It's only been a few days and the people on the list have already fallen so much in the rankings. Didn't you take a look there?"

Zhang Ye laughed without a word.

Yao Jiancai took his cell phone and search for his ranking on the internet. He pointed to the screen, "See, see, my ranking has plummeted!"

He was one of the forerunners in the D-list rankings before, but after just a few days, he was now ranked somewhere in the middle of the D-list. He had dropped more than 10 places!

Yao Jiancai then pointed again, "Look at Little Li, Old Hong, and the others. They are all dropping down on the rankings one faster than the other. This ban is a killer to us and we can't do anything about it. Hai, everyone should just find a way out of this at this point." After he said that, Yao Jiancai continued to browse the list. "Let me check how many places you've gone down. Oh, here you are!" When he saw Zhang Ye's ranking, Yao Jiancai subconsciously showed Zhang Ye his phone before suddenly reacting with a "what the fuck"! He quickly retracted his phone to have a look again!

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye leisurely ate his noodles and drank his beer.

Yao Jiancai meanwhile was dumbfounded. He said, "That's impossible! Why didn't your ranking drop!" He looked like he was about to faint, "Not only that! You even f**king rose up in the rankings!?"

Old Yao could not believe his eyes at all!