

## Superstar 481

Chapter 481: The first preliminary round has ended!

The applause lasted for more than ten seconds!

Everyone was still clapping like there was no way to stop!

This scene, where the audience gave such a passionate response, surprised Yao Jiancai. He found it unexpected. Were they f\*\*king giving this applause to us?

Previously, when he matched lines with Zhang Ye, they had only picked a few lines to practice. The both of them did not have the time to do any systematic practice. Actually, Yao Jiancai did not have a good idea of "I am a Scholar". Some of the joke segments were added on by Zhang Ye in an impromptu fashion. The work was produced by Zhang Ye from beginning to end. Yao Jiancai was just going along with it. He felt that the crosstalk wouldn't be bad, and that the jokes were fresh, but he never expected the response from the audience to be this passionate!

"Alright!"

"The both of you are the absolute best!"

"Teacher Zhang!"

"Teacher Yao!"

What a great feeling!

So exhilarating!

Yao Jiancai felt excited too. In the past, he never had this sort of excitement when he did crosstalk. As he was in an artistic group in the past, he would follow the group to do shows for elderly folks. If not, it would be a performances in the rural villages or at some random school. They were all small stages and the performance fees were not a lot. There were no tickets either and he just received a fixed salary. His performance at crosstalk with his previous partner was average too, so naturally he did not enjoy much popularity. The audience's reaction wasn't good either, which made him lose his confidence. Hence, he had abandoned crosstalk, and embarked down the path of acting. This had always been a regret in his heart.

But today, Yao Jiancai had once again found the excitement and confidence he once felt when he stood on stage for the first time, doing his first crosstalk performance more than a decade ago!

F\*\*k, so I can actually do so well!

So there were so many people who liked listening to my crosstalk!

Yao Jiancai found it difficult to find himself as he clasped his hands and said, "Thank you, thank you everyone."

Zhang Ye also smiled and thanked the audience. He was pleased with the audience's reaction. It also indicated that he had made the correct bet. It showed that the crosstalk works that led years ahead of this world would still work even in this world! This was one of the most mature works of Guo Degang in

a small theater, "Scholar". The main subject was this, but Zhang Ye had added a few things in, and changed bits of it. For example, the joke about "Biting Materials" came from Zhang Ye's own wisdom.

"I can't wait to ask this question." The female judge did not sit down and instead, stayed standing as she picked up her microphone.

The moment she spoke, the applause from the audience began to slowly die down.

The female judge said, "I want to know who produced this work?"

Yao Jiancai chuckled. "Do you think I have that sort of literary talent?"

The female judge looked at Zhang Ye, "It was all created by Teacher Little Zhang?"

Yao Jiancai patted Zhang Ye on the shoulder. "Idea, theme, packaging, and pacing were all done by my old brother here in a single night."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's mainly thanks to Teacher Yao being able to carry me well."

Yao Jiancai said, "Haha, it is also partly that."

Zhang Ye said, "We have an agreement that it's 30% of the main character, and 70% the fall-guy."

Yao Jiancai said, "Indeed, there is."

Zhang Ye said, "To do good crosstalk, the main character and fall-guy have to have conflict, so lacking anything would not work."

Yao Jiancai said, "That's right."

Zhang Ye said, "There are four things to do in crosstalk, lie, cheat, steal, and fool."

Yao Jiancai said, "Hey, why did you change it? It's speak, learn, amuse and sing."

Zhang Ye said, "Right, firstly, the thing about 'speak' isn't simple."

Yao Jiancai said, "Tell me about it?"

The audience were stunned for a moment before they laughed again. The competition was over! The judge just asked you a question, but why did the both of you begin another round of crosstalk!?

The female judge was extremely delighted. "Well done, I can't even cut in. Teachers, let me interject. This year's crosstalk competition has twice the number of recording venues as last year's, so the second preliminary will begin tomorrow at its earliest. Will we be able to hear from you tomorrow?"

Zhang Ye said yes with a smile.

He and Old Yao were just playing a joke.

The female judge looked at them and said, "It should be an evaluation period after this, but I really have no idea how to comment on your work. Teacher Qu, do you have any comments?"

The third judge sitting beside her shook his hand. "You do it."

The female judge looked at Teacher Qu and said, "I'm not a professional crosstalk actress, but as a gala's director, I frequently come into contact with crosstalk works. I've heard at least a hundred, if not two hundred crosstalk performances. I can't say much about the technical angle of your works, but from a personal point of view, this is the best crosstalk performance that I have ever heard since I was born! There is no match!"

This evaluation was too high!

The audience gave their applause once again!

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai said, "Thank you Teacher."

For some reason, the head judge did not give any comments. The other two professional crosstalk actors also remained silent and did not comment. They did not comment on the work from any professional point of view, allowing the female judge to do so for them. This was unprecedented.

It was the same offstage too.

Tang Dazhang remained silent.

Tang Dazhang's fellow seniors and juniors all turned silent!

One could tell that these crosstalk actors all had ugly expressions. Who knew that not only Zhang Ye could do crosstalk, he could even do it so superbly and in such a wonderful manner? Although they never laughed from beginning to end, they knew in their hearts that the burdens Zhang Ye threw out were stunning. Many of them had been in crosstalk for decades, but only today did they learn that crosstalk could be done in such a f\*\*king manner!?

In fact, many people from crosstalk knew, and had communicated this in private that the crosstalk world had reached a bottleneck. They were walking in place for many years, and although the symptoms weren't obvious, it was already a declining trend. However, Zhang Ye's "I am a Scholar" had given all these crosstalk actors a taste of a new "post-modern" flavor!

Post-modern did not mean that it had transcended reality, but instead meant that it had exceeded the standards of this era. It was leading this era's standards!

Everything was linked!

One burden after another!

It was different from their traditional methods of delivery. It had attained maximum entertainment for commercial viability. It had pushed the highlight of crosstalk, humor, to the forefront. From the reactions of the audience, regardless if Tang Dazhang and company liked it or disliked it, the audience liked it. This was the greatest award that a crosstalk performance could receive. This could be also said that it had broken through the bottleneck for the future crosstalk industry, known as commercial crosstalk!

What was a bit ironic was that this commercial "post-modern" crosstalk work was thrown out by a television host who had never learned crosstalk? A layman had taught so many crosstalk seniors a lesson? This was something they could not accept. Furthermore, the usage of a few terms and packaging in the work felt tawdry, and felt disdain for it!

However, Zhang Ye didn't care what they thought or how they evaluated it. In fact, Zhang Ye had never thought highly of a person like Tang Dazhang.

The performance was over.

The next group of contestants went onstage.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai bade farewell to the audience. As they disembarked the stage with arms over each other's shoulders, they walked out of the recording studio.

"Old Yao, your reaction was pretty quick." Zhang Ye said with a smile.

Yao Jiancai chuckled. "Although a few lines were improvised on the spot by you, I am a professional after all, so I could match you well." Saying that, he laughed again. "Hey, but when comparing the two of us, it is as if you are the professional crosstalk actor. I'm even wondering how you got all the basics down so well? How is that mouth of yours made?!"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Don't forget I earn a living using this mouth! I never practiced crosstalk in the past, but this mouth of mine is my forte after all. I don't dare to speak about other things, but when it comes to scolding and trampling on others, I have never lost!"

"I can tell." Yao Jiancai said, "Your wickedness is all over your mouth. Well done, after you trampled on me, you even trampled my wife! Don't you run. We agreed previously that you have to go home with me this afternoon. You need to talk to her!"

Zhang Ye said in exasperation, "Don't. I'm not going."

Yao Jiancai grabbed onto him without letting him go. "Haha, that won't do."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm afraid she will beat me up."

As the two of them chatted, there were a few anxious shouts in front of them.

"Has it been halted?"

"It's already halted!"

"Aiyah, but it's already too late!"

"Do you know what happened? Something big has happened!"

"What's the matter?"

"The two banned celebrities were broadcasted live on the internet by the station! I heard our head of this segment misheard the instructions of the higher-ups and made a mistake!"

"Ah? Wouldn't that be big trouble?"

"That's right. The station leaders are infuriated!"

"I believe he will be held accountable eventually. After all, Decree #43 has just been announced, yet our Department 11 immediately went against it? Man, this is going to be a huge mess!"

"That Teacher Zhang fellow is still a god of plague! He leaves destruction in his wake everywhere he goes!"

"But you don't say. Zhang Ye's character might be a bit wicked, and his temper is a bit like a hooligan, but did you hear his 'I am a Scholar'? It was truly awesome!"

"Really?"

"Go watch it. He's completely on a different level than those other contestants. I was listening outside and was laughing in stitches!"

Everyone in the program team were discussing it!

When Yao Jiancai heard this, he was stunned. "What? It was broadcasted live? Holy sh\*t! Is this reality or fantasy? A mistake? Could there be such a coincidence? Hahahaha! Old bro, God is helping us!"

God?

That esteemed person isn't so free!

Zhang Ye was amused upon hearing this. Maybe amongst everyone who knew of this matter, he was the only one who knew the true reason. This was f\*\*king all due to the five times difficulty reduction from the dice! He was initially worried how to let everyone see this work of his, but now, Zhang Ye was completely relieved!

Chapter 482: First!

The live broadcast ended.

There were only positive comments from the netizens!

"That's freaking classic!"

"The sword of a hero doesn't age, the madam's beauty never wanes? Ah hahahaha!"

"That brain of Teacher Zhang Ye is really too quick witted. He's worthy of being labeled as a treasure of humanity. I didn't expect that 10 short minutes of crosstalking could be done in such an extraordinary way?"

"That was too fun!"

"I got goosebumps listening to that! That was very satisfying!"

"But that was bordering on the line of controversy, haha!"

"It's acceptable since the preliminaries are only broadcasted over the internet, so the censors would have less stringent standards for it. If it were broadcasted live on TV, then Zhang Ye would have to modify quite a few of his joke segments. They would definitely not have allowed him to say that."

"I believe you shouldn't even think about a live broadcast on TV. Take a look at the official website. The live broadcast has been halted. 'I am a Scholar' was there a moment ago, but now it has been deleted!"

"What? Deleted?"

"Then why did they air it live?"

"I heard that it was aired erroneously due to some unexpected complications with communication!"

"Which means the ban on Teacher Zhang and Teacher Yao remains indefinitely?"

"Damn it! I was happy for nothing. I thought Central TV ignored the ban! So it was just a mistake?"

All traces of 'I am a Scholar' had disappeared from the competition's official website. Many netizens, who had not watched the live broadcast, had rushed in to take a look at the crosstalk deemed as a classic by so many. They immediately began to rouse as some even began cursing!

"Why is it gone?"

"We haven't watched it yet!"

Numerous people began lodging complaints with the official website. However, Central TV's Department 11 remained indifferent to them. They were completely ignored.

However, just as everyone was feeling a great sense of regret, a small video website posted a video of 'I am a Scholar'. It was obvious that it had been recorded straight from the live stream, as it was identical. Furthermore, it was also a high resolution version. Following that, numerous video websites and discussion forms also posted Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's crosstalk performance. Of course, they were not posted by the websites, but were uploaded by netizens.

Everyone was amused!

"It is so timely!"

"Nice, I can watch it again!"

"Haha, empowering!"

"F\*\*k! I finally got to see it! No wonder so many people gave their kudos! This crosstalk is absolutely wonderful!"

At this moment, a heritage of intangible culture, that was passed down from China's Song dynasty, revealed its power once more—Piracy!

A few videos of 'I am a Scholar' were taken down from several video websites. It was unknown if it was the website's doing or because they had received orders from higher management. Clicking on the video would return a "Video does not exist" error, but immediately following that, there would be more pirated copies appearing on other video websites. Deleting one, sprouted two. Deleting two would sprout ten. There was no way of completely deleting them all. Even on mainstream video websites, the views on 'I am a Scholar' had risen so much that it was in the trending rankings. In a short moment, it had reached the top 20!

Similarly, the votes for Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai were rising!

The National Crosstalk Competition had been going strong for about six or seven hours now. The competition was intense. A few excellent crosstalk works were very well-liked, and their fans rushed to vote for them. They wished that the excellent crosstalk actors would be pushed to the top. Before the

end of the voting, the first to third place votes were enjoying a stable position. The third ranked group was a black horse. No one had heard of these two new crosstalk actors in the past. Second place was a somewhat famous pair of crosstalk actors. The person who currently in first place was the crosstalk actor who had to pull out last year's competition due to health complications. Although he had yet to perform, the amount of popularity he enjoyed was just too high, so he had already received a large number of votes. Some people evaluated that, if not for his pulling out due to health reasons, last year's champion would definitely have been him. Hence, this Teacher Peng was temporarily in first place with 8300 votes.

As for Tang Dazhang's two disciples in Division C, they were ranked fifth. They were, however, ranked first within Division C.

Of course, these numbers were from ten minutes ago, before Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai had gone onstage. Now, the rankings of the preliminaries had undergone a groundbreaking change!

And it was one that made everyone burst out with laughter!

Why? That was because in the voting options for the competition, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's names were not written at all! It was as if these two banned contestants were not participating in the competition. The listings of the contestants from Division C were on the second page, and they were densely packed with text, but on the eighth line, Division C, Team #8 was empty. There was no name on it, but there was a voting radio button on the right, similar to every other contestants.

There was no name, but they could still receive votes!

Anyone who paid a bit of attention could guess who the blank name belonged to!

Hence, during the live broadcast, the voting numbers began changing!

A 100 votes!

A 1000 votes!

2000 votes!

When the live broadcast ended, when 'I am a Scholar' began to go viral on the internet, the values had paused slightly before instantly exploding!

10,000!

50,000!

100,000!

Finally, under everyone's unbelieving gaze, in just half an hour, Teacher Peng, who was previously first with over 9000 votes, was now second! And first place belonged to the two crosstalk actors with blank names. Yes! The names were blank! And the votes amounted to 110,000! It was more than ten times higher than Teacher Peng, who was now in second place! There were even people who did some calculations, and realized that the total votes received by these two blank crosstalk actors was...more than the votes received by the first fifty contestants in the crosstalk competition combined!

"Holy f\*\*k!"

"That's too fierce!"

"This is crazy!"

"My eyes!"

It was a total wipe out!

It was an inhuman gap!

At this moment, Central TV's Department 11 was stunned. The audience, that was paying careful attention to the competition, was stunned. Those crosstalk competition contestants were also stunned!

Many people had yet to understand what was happening!

A Division J contestant exclaimed, "What's this? Why are there so many votes? And there's no name? Did the system make a mistake? "

A Division G contestant even lodged a complaint. "What's up with first place? There's a problem! Someone must be faking votes!"

Someone from Division I shouted, "It's a conspiracy!"

To increase so crazily to 110,000 votes in half an hour? Are we seeing a freaking ghost? That's impossible! In the preliminaries from previous years, the first place, after three rounds of preliminaries, would only have votes that numbered in the tens of thousands, but now? This was just the first day of the preliminaries! How could there be such a heaven-defying vote counts?

This was a complete wipe out!

Then what the hell are we here for? Just do it yourself. All of us can pack up and go home! The difference was too great!

However, many of the audience, who were in the know, were amused seeing these people lodging complaints and shouting about conspiracy theories. They began replying below in volumes as if they had agreed on it earlier.

"Hur Hur, person below, maintain formation."

"Hur Hur, person below, maintain formation."

"Hur Hur.."

A whole series of Hur Hur's appeared with more than a hundred replies!

Finally, a 'kind person' explained to them. "As to what happened, go take a look at 'I am a Scholar', and you'll know. Oh right, it's not on the official website. You can only watch a pirated copy on another video website. Well, as for it being a conspiracy, all of you can probably guess correctly. There is indeed a conspiracy, but it is one of banning. Take a look at the votes for the two 'nameless people'. They actually received that many votes while under a complete ban. If they were not banned, the official website



would have written their names. If their videos could be put up, I believe the number of votes they receive would be even higher!"

Number one on the rankings was just too eye-catching!

110,000 votes was too eye-catching!

Even though there was no name, with Central TV's Department 11 concealing it somewhat, how could anyone who had voted for "Nameless" not know who they really were? Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai had really conquered all the members of the audience with their crosstalk performance. This was why they received such an overwhelming number of votes! It was because after watching 'I am a Scholar', the audience found it hard to swallow any other crosstalk performance, even if they had liked them in the past! It was like the difference between a scud missile and a nuclear bomb! They were both bombs, but there was a qualitative difference! The latter led the former by leaps and bounds in terms of technology! Zhang Ye's crosstalk was similar!

"First place!"

"Everyone is truly supportive!"

"Hahaha, there are so many people supporting Teacher Yao and Teacher Zhang?"

"That's because everyone's aesthetic standards are about the same. This first place is truly well deserved. There is no other way besides it. There is no room for doubt either!"

"I think some people's faces are already swollen!"

"Those people who shouted daily, saying how Zhang Ye was doomed. Come on out and shout for me again! Despite being banned, Teacher Zhang Ye has been able to turn the tides and appear back in the eyes of our nation. He accomplished whatever needed to be done. What sort of heaven defying act is this!? So what if he's banned? Teacher Zhang's popularity still grows! He can still carry on dazzling in the entertainment industry!"

"Well said!"

"Zhang Ye won't go down!"

"Teacher Zhang did not do anything wrong to begin with! Him being banned was unjustified! Now, all is fine. I'm really happy for Teacher Zhang Ye! Finally, he can vent the pent up anger in him!"

"Old Yao also suffered from injustice."

"Haha, I'm giving a Like to both Teachers!"

"Hold unyielding! No matter where the winds blow from! Just thinking of Teacher Zhang's line in that poem, it's uplifting! Teacher Zhang has not disappointed us! Well done!"

"The two of them were still tough despite knowing they were in a powerless situation. Even though they knew it was hard to go against the tides, they still shouted on stage, shouting their voice out for everyone to hear. Don't you think it's admirable? No matter how the outside world evaluates Zhang Ye, in my heart, Zhang Ye is a heroic warrior!"

"Heroes never fall!"

"Teacher Zhang, hold on!"

The tenacious "fight" Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai had performed touched many people. People began leaving messages and cheering for them!

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In the overall rankings of the preliminaries, the votes for the nameless team kept soaring!

Even on the Celebrity Rankings, the situation where Tang Dazhang, who was nearly about to surpass Zhang Ye, was reversed. With this explosive increase, from the numbers in the detailed page, Zhang Ye's rankings shot up in a straight line by three or four rankings. He was no longer the third from the bottom amongst C-list celebrities. As for Tang Dazhang, he was still hovering amidst the D-list celebrities. Every time he was about to catch up to Zhang Ye, no matter what, he would fail to do so. Now, with 'I am a Scholar' released, Tang Dazhang's hope for climbing into the C-list rankings was slim. As for thinking about surpassing Zhang Ye, it was probably much more realistic for him to surpass the lowest person on the C-list celebrities. After Zhang Ye's crosstalk performance, the distance between him and Tang Dazhang increased even more!

Chapter 483: This is what a man of God is!

Afternoon.

A little past 2.

This was probably the warmest point of the day. While under the winter sun, Zhang Ye's BMW X5 slowly drove into an upscale residential district with Yao Jiancai.

"There, I've brought you here." Zhang Ye stopped the car.

Yao Jiancai tugged at him. "Cut the crap. Go up with me."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "You are insisting on pulling me to be your shield?"

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "If you don't come, my wife probably won't even open the door for me. Hurry, how can you not help your brother out?"

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "I'm mainly afraid of her beating me to death."

After a long period of heckling, Zhang Ye finally went up together with Yao Jiancai.

Upstairs.

Yao Jiancai rubbed his hands together before pressing the doorbell nervously and gently.

A moment later, footstep could be heard approaching the door. It was the pitter-patter of slippers. Then, the door's peephole went dark. Clearly, someone was leaning over to look out at them.

Yao Jiancai hurriedly said, "Dear, it's me."

There was no movement inside. The peephole brightened once more. It was as if the person had walked away.

Yao Jiancai anxiously knocked on the door. "Dear, open the door. Let me in first. We can talk. Daughter? Where's my daughter? Open the door for Dad!"

With the door in between them, they could hear a vague conversation between women, but they could not make out what was being said.

Yao Jiancai could not do a thing. He could only move back and stretch out his hand to gesture towards Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye had no choice but to walk forward and knock on the door. "Sister, it's me, Zhang Ye. I happened to drop by with Old Yao to say hello to you. I brought you some fruits too."

With that, Zhang Ye received a treatment completely different from Yao Jiancai. In less than two seconds, the door was unlocked, revealing a middle-aged woman's face. She was slightly plump, and had a couple look with Yao Jiancai. She hurriedly opened the gate and said with a warm smile. "It's Teacher Zhang! Come on in."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Nice to meet you Sister. I was in such a rush that I didn't buy anything much except this bit of fruit, as well as some of the Brain Gold that I'm endorsing." Wu Mo had given Zhang Ye many boxes of Brain Gold. He kept it in his car, and could use it at any time. Since Brain Gold was meant to be given as a gift, it was very apt.

Fan Yi exclaimed, "You are too kind. You don't have to bring anything when you come here. You are our Mi Mi's teacher. I was wondering when to pay you a visit, but it ended up with you coming first."

Yao Mi also jumped out of the room with bright eyes. "Teacher Zhang!"

Zhang Ye greeted her.

Fan Yi sat Zhang Ye down. "Teacher Zhang, how's our Mi Mi's studies? Is she especially naughty in school?"

"Not at all. Yao Mi is serious and hardworking. She is also very motivated and often asks if she's unsure of something. It's a good thing that she likes to get to the bottom of things." Zhang Ye said politely.

Fan Yi poured a cup of water for him, and then made some tea. She said with a chuckle, "This child isn't very obedient, so please give more attention to her at school. If she's naughty, feel free to punish her. You don't have to give us face."

Yao Mi couldn't stand for this as she said, "Mom, I'm already a college student! How can you talk like I'm still a young child. Furthermore, I'm so obedient at school. I've never played truant when it comes to Teacher Zhang's class."

Fan Yi said, "So that means you play truant for other classes?"

The three of them began chatting.

Yao Jiancai was left hanging in the corner. He coughed again and again, but other than Zhang Ye glancing at him, the mother-daughter duo ignored him.

Zhang Ye could tell that they needed a way to ease into the situation. Fan Yi probably already knew that Old Yao had been a victim in all of this, so he said, "Sister, for the matter previously, I can vouch for Old Yao that there was truly nothing going on. Give me some face and don't fault him."

Yao Jiancai said at the appropriate time, "Yes, yes. There truly was nothing. I can swear to the heavens!"

Fan Yi looked at Old Yao and tsked. She then turned her head back at Zhang Ye and changed into a kindly expression, saying, "Teacher Zhang, it is because you came and I gave you face. If not, I would not have let him enter. I don't believe a single word of his, while your words...I believe them."

Yao Jiancai said, "Yes, yes. A teacher of the people doesn't tell lies!"

Fan Yi ignored him and said, "Has he been staying at your place for the past two days? Sorry for causing you trouble."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "You are welcome. It's fine."

At this point, Fan Yi leered at Old Yao. "Sit. What are you standing there for?"

Yao Jiancai exclaimed and immediately leaned towards the sofa in high spirits. He then poured a cup of tea for himself while smiling. He knew he was going to be fine.

Yao Mi was never angry, but had been going along with her mother's song and dance. Seeing her mother turn soft, she went out to cross her arm around one of Yao Jiancai's arm with a grin. "Dad, I watched the internet live broadcast. Your crosstalk performance with Teacher Zhang today was wonderful! It was so humorous!"

Yao Jiancai began bragging, "Of course. Who do you think your Dad is? A professional crosstalk actor, and having debuted for so many years. Although I haven't performed for some time, all my basic foundations are still there!"

Fan Yi deflated him by saying, "What are you bragging about? It was all Teacher Zhang carrying you."

Yao Jiancai smiled and said, "That's true. My old brother's creative genius was absolutely wonderful. There was not a single fault to pick for the dozen or so burden jokes in the crosstalk performance from start to finish!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Sis, I came here to offer my humble apology. That joke was a joke and nothing more, so I hope you won't mind it."

Fan Yi said with a laugh, "Do you think I'm so petty? Don't forget Old Yao was previously in the crosstalk line. As a family member of a crosstalk artist, if I couldn't take such a small joke, then what else can I do? Besides, that 'the madam's beauty never wanes' sentence really amused me greatly."

Yao Mi yelped, "I was laughing in stitches when I heard it! Hahaha!"

Yao Jiancai raised his chin. "Little Zhang, isn't my wife magnanimous?"

Zhang Ye gave a big thumbs up, "Magnanimous!"

Fan Yi stared at Old Yao and said, "Stop trying to flatter me. When Teacher Zhang is gone, I'll have it out with you."

"Old bro, then you are prohibited from leaving today," Yao Jiancai said with a laugh, "Stay for dinner. Taste my wife's cooking. She previously nagged me to invite you over for a meal, but you were busy, and I was busy, so we never had the time. Now that the both of us are free, and have no work to do, you must eat this meal. Let's have a good drink together. Giving you a treat sure isn't easy."

Fan Yi invited him. "Yes, I'll go buy groceries in a while."

Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony. "Alright, then I'll be in for a treat today."

Following that, the four of them began to talk and laugh together.

It was obvious that Fan Yi thought highly of Zhang Ye. Firstly, he was a Peking University lecturer, and could take care of Yao Mi in school in certain ways. Secondly, Zhang Ye and Old Yao's crosstalk performance had awed her greatly. Their working relationship would tighten as a result. Thirdly, Yao Jiancai had many disreputable friends, but none of them were his true friends. Zhang Ye was a true friend, so Fan Yi naturally treated Zhang Ye as a VIP. A short while later, she had finished grocery shopping and preparing dinner. There were about nine dishes and was quite a sumptuous meal.

On the other side.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai also became busy as they began receiving quite a few phone calls.

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Mom's phone call.

"Son."

"Mom, did you see my crosstalk?"

"Of course! You Dad even smacked his thighs and cheered! Your sisters were at our place this afternoon too. They praised you to the moon. Nice going! You weren't an embarrassment to me!"

"Of course, how could I be an embarrassment?"

"What are you going to do for the next preliminary round?"

"I haven't thought of anything yet. I'll think about it in a while."

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Former leader, Hu Fei's phone call.

"Haha, Little Zhang."

"Boss."

"I just learned that you can do crosstalk!"

"Hey, it was all nonsense."

"If that was nonsense, then few people in this world can do it well. Back then, I thought you were a layman. Who knew that you are really more professional than those professional crosstalk actors!"

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Big Saber Bro, Fan Yingyun's phone call.

"Teacher Zhang, nice luck. Central TV actually gave you a live broadcast?"

"That's right. I was just lucky."

"This seems like the precursor of you causing a stir in the crosstalk world! I support you! Fight it out with them! My large saber can no longer endure the thirst!"

"Man."

.....

Many friends came calling.

There were well-wishes, congratulations, and some were that of shock. Some of them craved to see the world burn. Everyone said something different, but all of them basically supported Zhang Ye. They also gave a very high evaluation of Zhang Ye's performance. They were once again convinced by Zhang Ye's capabilities!

A few days ago, when the ban was issued, everyone believed that there would be no way for Zhang Ye to rise up again, that he would no longer be able to continue staying in the entertainment industry. They believed that he would only be able to switch careers to do something else, but who knew, that in just a few days, Zhang Ye managed to open up a path in the crosstalk world that no one expected despite an all-out ban placed on him. It was too shocking!

His popularity was increasing by the day!

Was this even a ban? Why was he gaining momentum!?

Many people could not help but laugh. What was a man of God? Maybe this was what it meant to be a man of God! The type of person that could never be understood or sized up using common sense!

Chapter 484: Second Work is Decided!

That night.

'I am a Scholar' went completely viral!

The votes for the two "Nameless People" continued to soar!

130,000...

150,000...

200,000...

It had long since broken the historical records for the National Crosstalk and Skit Competition's preliminaries. Furthermore, it broke the record every second, creating new history. If one did not have

an intuitive concept of the number of votes, then a simple tabulation of the votes would be enough to explain it. According to the numbers, from the beginning of the competition in the morning to this point in time, more than a thousand contestants had received a total of 286,000 votes. That was to say, the netizens had nearly voted 300,000 times in total, and the crosstalk team, "Nameless People" had obtained more than half of the votes!

One vs more than a thousand!

200,000 vs 86,000!

This was absolute victory through an overwhelming number of votes!

This was a disparity so dazzling, that no one could look at it straight. Nearly every commoner praised it. They had never experienced a completely new form of commercial crosstalk. The reviews were very good!

However, in contrast with the delight of the commoners, some others had extremely polar reactions!

The media remained silent. Not many media outlets published any comments on this. The title "I am a Scholar" was not even mentioned, let alone the names, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. It was as if they lived in a different dimension from everyone else. A few media outlets even scrambled to report about a few crosstalk artists who did pretty well in the preliminaries, such as Tang Dazhang's two disciples. Two newspapers even praised them to the heavens, saying that they had inherited Tang Dazhang's mantle, and that their performance in the preliminaries was extremely outstanding. There was also the person ranked second in the preliminaries, which the media reported as a branch of a tree that thrived and outshone others!

After seeing this, many netizens laughed in ridicule!

"What a joke!"

"Are we living in the same world?"

"If Tang Dazhang's disciples are considered extremely outstanding, then what would you consider Teacher Zhang and Teacher Yao? Wouldn't they be stunning the entire universe!?"

"It's too fake!"

"What sort of news is this?"

"Even if the criminalized artists have been banned, shouldn't news be about seeking out the truth?"

"Is it right for these newspapers to report it in such a way? Aren't they trying to mislead the public!?"

"Since they have to write it this way, let's just wait and see. Anyway, any wise person knows what is going on. They really think the commoners are stupid!"

"The media is such a bully!"

"Do you even believe the sinister reports that you put out yourself?"

If Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's work had not been aired live, or if they did not caused such a stir, everyone would probably have been fooled by the media's coverage. However, anyone who paid any attention to this year's National Crosstalk Competition would know about the underlying conspiracy! This was no longer something that could be covered up. Everyone knew what was going on, so the more the media covered it up, the more the commoners felt disgusted!

Then, on Weibo, a self-titled "Critic" stepped forward.

This person was an internet celebrity. His true name was unknown and no one knew what his job was. He was quite loud mouthed and often attacked celebrities and famous people on the internet. After a series of scoldings, the number of Weibo fans he reached was more than 200,000. He would often give his take on anything that recently happen.

His nickname was Alexander. "After watching the 'I am a Scholar' crosstalk, I really do not understand what sort of madness Central TV's Department 11 fell into. They even dared to stream such a worthless crosstalk live? There was an internal mistake? I think the relevant personnel should resign. To not do their jobs while receiving their wages, what are you doing? This crosstalk has really amused me because it was so bad. Crosstalk is an art, so why did it become so morally degrading when it was produced by the two of them? Is this still considered crosstalk!? Are you just going to focus on humor? I can't even see the most basic artistic flair of a crosstalk in their work? Showing this work is embarrassing! And there were so many joke segments that were jarring to the ear. This was only an internet live stream, so the boundaries could be pushed a bit further, but no matter how much you push, you can't destroy crosstalk in such a manner. For the both of them, I only have a simple evaluation — vulgar, base, and philistine!"

Then another famous critic spoke out on Weibo. "Decree #43 was just issued. The document explicitly states that playing to the gallery through indulging in vulgar jokes or works with the 'three vulgarities' (sex-obsessed, mindless, and tasteless culture), including crosstalk are not allowed. Now, decree #43 has yet to even lose its warmth, yet Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai have already committed an offense despite the headwind? Aren't they a bit too arrogant? I don't even want to evaluate this 'I am a Scholar' piece of work. It's completely vulgar inside and out. It is impossible for it to enter the sacred halls of elegance. I suggest that the Central TV's Department 11 and the National Crosstalk and Skit Competition's organizers disqualify Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!"

Following that, Tang Dazhang from the crosstalk competition issued a statement. He even named names on Weibo: "I am very disappointed and distressed that a work that insults the art of crosstalk can be so well received. Whether 'I am a Scholar' is funny or not, I would not comment on it, but the art known as crosstalk doesn't have humor at its core. Since my trade is considered an art, then it has its mission and values. It shouldn't be something that denigrates things left behind by our ancestors. No matter what crosstalk work it is, it has to have the most basic depth and scope. If it's full of vulgar joke segments, that isn't crosstalk. We from the crosstalk world will never acknowledge this as a form of crosstalk!"

Subsequently, another famous critic from China appeared. "Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's crosstalk had great commercial value to it. When I watched it, there was indeed a few things worthy of ruminating over, but it was just a few things. If crosstalk wants to break its current limitations and bottleneck, it has to rely on the most core artistic values. By losing that, then that's attending to trifles to the neglect of essentials. Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai have crossed industries and have gone astray and have gone down



the wrong path. It is a great pity. If a crosstalk master were willing to guide them, these two people might have a chance on returning to the orthodox path. It would prevent them from going too far astray. I suggest that Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai watch Teacher Tang Dazhang's crosstalk works. That is true crosstalk art, and so, it's best you learn more from your seniors. Don't make your work be filled with the Three Vulgarities!"

The moment this bunch of people appeared, many official institutions stood forward too!

For example, Beijing Writer's Association's Vice President Meng Dongguo, or the leader of the Folk Art Association, or a few crosstalk artists from crosstalk organizations. There were even many contestants, who were participating in this year's crosstalk competition. They shouted on the internet, publicly denouncing Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!

"Extremely vulgar!"

"Is this still considered crosstalk!?"

"How can such vulgar crosstalk receive so many votes? It is definitely fake votes. Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai have many fans to begin with since they are entertainers. It is normal for their fans to fake votes for them. Compared to them, how are we crosstalk contestants to compete evenly with them? They didn't win using their work, but their massive fanbase. They did not win fair and square! I suggest that their votes and qualifications be removed!"

"Right, letting Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai participate in the competition is already unfair to us crosstalk actors. He is a C-list celebrity, so how many fans does he have!?"

"Supporting Teacher Tang!"

"The critics said it so well!"

"That's right. They voiced out what I wanted to say. Everyone should collectively resist such crosstalk that are filled with the Three Vulgarities! I was wondering why there are people that like such vulgar crosstalks? Do you even have a tiny bit of appreciation for art? Can't you tell what's elegance and vulgar?"

"I don't understand either. What's up with the audience these days? There were so many outstanding crosstalk artistic works they did not like, yet they ended up liking such a vulgar crosstalk performance? Hai, now crosstalk is really getting tough. We've studied and practiced so hard, performing in earnest, yet we failed to get a tiny bit of recognition. Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai just came up with some crappy performance and they received the praises of numerous people? Can't the audience appreciate things at all now? I'm actually quite depressed. I'm mourning over our crosstalk, as well as our generation. Hai!"

"Boycott Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!"

"Right, boycott vulgarity!"

"They only focus on humor! This kind of crosstalk can't even be considered crosstalk!"

Numerous people from the literary world, the crosstalk world, celebrities, and relevant artists came out to denounce Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!

The normal populace were all applauding it, but the official organizations and relevant artists were cursing at Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai incessantly. This contrast was too great. They were both watching the same piece of work, yet it produced two completely different voices. When neutral people saw this, they could not understand the situation. They had seen controversies, but they had never seen such a huge controversy before!

.....

9+PM.

Jiaomen, Zhang Ye's house.

After Zhang Ye had dinner at Old Yao's house, he returned home with Yao Jiancai. They had to rushed their preparations for tomorrow's second preliminary round.

Instead, just after returning home, they saw the scene on the internet. A bunch of people from the literary world, critics, and internet celebrities were discussing them and full of condemnation. It was as if Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai had a blood feud with them! All of them hated them to the bone!

Yao Jiancai cursed, "A bunch of mad dogs!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "They even said the audience doesn't know what crosstalk is? Your performance isn't well received and you blame the audience? Beijing has a saying, it says don't blame the toilet when you can't shit. I think it's pretty appropriate to giving them that. Oh, that Tang Dazhang also stepped forward? I ignored him, but he still doesn't know his bounds? He comes time and time again to trample on me? Alright, I've remembered you. And those few people. Internet celebrities? Critics? Alright?"

Yao Jiancai said, "Ignore them. Let's just focus on doing a good job!"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Old Yao, I've already decided on what to we will do tomorrow."

Yao Jiancai was stunned. "Hur, you said you haven't thought of it when I asked you on the way back. You already have an idea so quickly?"

Yes, after seeing their criticisms, a piece of work flashed in Zhang Ye's mind. He made the decision immediately. They had taken the initiative to give him the materials for the work! These people had tried to ride over him a few times. If he didn't take a bite out from them, that clearly wasn't Zhang Ye's style!

Chapter 485: I will reject the Three Vulgarities!

The second day.

Around noon.

Central TV's Department 11's program team began contacting every contestant to inform them that the preliminary round had been completed. They asked them to gather for the recording of the next round of competition rules by 2PM.

This year's rules and competition progress were slightly different from the previous years. The pace of this year's competition was much faster than before, with the preliminary rounds, which had taken 3-4 days before, now shortened to only one and a half days. This was because Central TV had approved the usage of many more recording studios, so even with over a thousand groups of contestants and 10 minutes per performance, the recording progress moved very quickly.

At the venue.

The contestants were all gathered before 2PM.

In front of them was a large screen where the votes for each contestant pair were flashily updated in real time. It still wasn't time for the polling to be closed yet, so the numbers were still constantly changing.

"Aiya, I'm dropping off!"

"Damn, I can't make it into the top 500 either."

"I heard that the competition has started eliminating contestants from the preliminary rounds and only 500 teams will be able to advance to the second round. Then from there, only 100 teams will make it through to the 3rd round."

"I'm currently in 488th place. This is cutting it too close."

"Old Zhang, you did well this time! At 231st place, you will definitely advance to the second round."

"Teacher Wang, congratulations on being placed so high!"

"Oh, my ranking is too low. I guess I can only come back and try again next year."

In their discussions, many of them naturally talked about the team that was in the lead far above. Everyone knew who the 'nameless' team was!

Suddenly, 2 people walked into the venue.

"Ah, here they come!"

"Be quiet. Stop talking about them already."

"It's Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. The leading team has arrived."

When Zhang Ye and Old Yao came into the studio, the crowd toned down their discussions about the 2 of them. Many of them looked over at them and some even pointed at them as they talked about them in hushed whispers.

Amongst these people, there were those who had denounced Zhang Ye on Weibo the previous night. They scolded Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, calling them tasteless, but now that the two of them were standing before them, no one dared to mention it anymore. They couldn't say anything as Zhang Ye's reputation was so terrible. Wasn't Lee Anson famous as well? Still, Zhang Ye had beaten him like it was nothing! Let alone small timers like them, which was why, even if many of them had something against him, they wouldn't dare clash directly with Zhang Ye! Zhang Ye was famous for his bad reputation and violence!

At this moment, the hosts went onstage.

When it was time, the 1st round of voting came to an end!

The cameras were now switched on and recording as the event was broadcasted live all over the internet. An event like the announcement of rankings would definitely be allocated a live broadcast slot since it would definitely attract good viewership and high ratings.

The host, Wang Ge'er, smiled and said, "My dear friends of the audience and contestants, I hope you're all doing well. The technical team has already closed the first round of polling. Only the top 500 teams will advance to the next round." With that, the host began to announce the results of who had qualified. Some people were beaming, while others fell into lonely silence.

This announcement program progressed very slowly for about an hour.

In between, the host also invited several popular crosstalk actors to give speeches on stage and asked some of the eliminated contestants to give their reflection speeches. It was a program designed to invoke people's innermost feelings.

The live broadcast ended.

The second round of competition was about to begin.

A dozen or so staff members, who were in charge of the teams, brought their laptops over looking for qualifying teams. They recorded the titles of their performances for the next round and informed them of their estimated timing for their team's performance. Those who were queued further back and not scheduled for recording today were allowed to go home. Their performances would be recorded on the following day instead.

In front.

Division C's staff team walked over to Tang Dazhang's two disciples, "Hello."

Zhang Xiao smiled, "Hello."

The staff member said, "What is the title of your performance?"

Liu Yuan said in a clear voice, "'The Current State of Crosstalk'."

The staff member recorded it down, "Your recording time is scheduled for around 4PM. That will be coming up pretty soon, so please begin preparing for it." After that, he took a look at his laptop and his eye twitched a little. He looked left and right to see where the next group -- Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai were standing before going up to them as well.

Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan did not move, but looked over at them.

The staff asked, "What about your performance title?"

Zhang Ye calmly replied, "'I Will Reject the Three Vulgarities'."

What?

You want to reject the Three Vulgarities?

What sort of performance was that!

The staff member panicked for a moment and then looked at them in surprise. He thought that it was a joke, but Yao Jiancai repeated it once more upon seeing that the staff member had not written it down. Only then did he realize that this was a serious reply. What was the meaning of this? After the netizens had called them tasteless and said that they did not understand the art of crosstalk, were they thinking of turning over a new leaf today? Were they planning on doing a performance closer to the accepted mainstream crosstalks? They took the initiative to become a team that advocated positive performances? Or were they planning to use crosstalk to do some self-criticism? Reflect upon their own selves? The two of you were such spineless people?!

Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan also looked at each other, at a loss of words when they heard the title. Were those two going to perform as the prodigal son who returns home, but the two of you had already angered so many people! Even if you wanted to salvage your reputation now, it was too late!

They finally succumbed to the pressure?

Ah, it's too late anyway!

Around them, other people, who overheard it, also had a glimmer of doubt in their eyes.

But Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai did not say anything else. The two of them had already gone to prepare at the recording studio's waiting room. They were even laughingly practicing with each other as they made their way over.

After an hour.

The studio's staff came to get them.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai both went along with them into the recording studio to have their makeup touched up and for a change of clothes.

Yao Jiancai looked at Zhang Ye and said, "Bro, are you really planning on saying that?"

Zhang Ye laughed, "What do you think?"

Yao Jiancai was at a loss of whether to laugh or cry, "Isn't it too face smacking?"

"If it wasn't face smacking, I wouldn't have chosen this performance." Zhang Ye said frankly.

Yao Jiancai sighed in acknowledgement, "I've finally understood that, with my involvement with you in crosstalk, I shouldn't expect my future to be stable anymore. Right now, the way we're going would make us everyone's enemy."

Zhang Ye did not seem to mind. Instead, he even felt it was the norm. He said, "Since my debut, this has been happening every step of the way. I'm already used to it."

"This old bro is not used to it though!" Yao Jiancai nearly fainted.

After a few minutes, the both of them had gone backstage to do some preparations. They could hear Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan, who were on stage performing their joke segments and the particular one they were doing right now was.....

Zhang Xiao, ".....It's getting more and more low class."

Liu Yuan, "Yes."

Zhang Xiao, "The crosstalk circle these days are in such a mess. It even attracted some people who do talk shows to come and earn their keep here. Some professional crosstalkers have also stooped to an all time low!"

That was obviously targeted at Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!

When they finished the segment, the viewers and audience did not react. There was no cheers at all!

But at the studio, there was quite a bit of laughter from the crosstalk actors who had come to watch and from the crosstalk judges. It felt as if they had just heard an extremely funny joke segment and were especially tickled. There were even some who clapped!

The audience was left completely speechless and could only stare at each other. What was so funny about that? Did all of you people become crazy? F\*\*k, your sense of humor was too low!

Zhang Ye looked at Old Yao, "So are we gonna say that or not?"

Yao Jiancai cursed out loudly, "F\*\*k! We must definitely say it! We have to say this 'I will reject the Three Vulgarities'!"

Chapter 486: Arrival of the Jinx!

Central TV.

In a particular break room.

"Hey, Old Tang, you were smoking in here?" A crosstalk actor in his forties walked in. As he spoke, he lit a cigarette for himself.

Tang Dazhang laughed and said, "Smoking is prohibited outside, so I had to sneak in here to have a smoke or two."

The person said, "You aren't going to watch your disciples' performance?"

Tang Dazhang said, "I've already vetted them once, so they should do just fine."

"Next round will be Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's performance. I just asked the staff, and guess what they're performing? Haha, I'm certain you won't be able to guess it." The crosstalk actor roared with laughter. "The work that the two of them are performing is called 'I will reject the Three Vulgarities'. They must be in fear after all of the controversy. Now, the crosstalk world, the Folk Art world, and even the Writers' Association are denouncing them, so Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai can no longer take it. They want to turn over a new leaf!"

Tang Dazhang asked, "Is it true?"

"Definitely. The name has already been submitted." He had also taken interest. "Let's go. It's going to begin soon. After our smoke, we should gather some people to watch them perform."

Tang Dazhang said, "They must have enjoyed themselves too much by going overboard, incurring the wrath of the masses. So what if the commoners like his crosstalking style? If our industry doesn't recognize it, then it's completely useless!" Saying that, he felt a great sense of anticipation, so he stubbed his cigarette butt and said, "Let's go and take a look."

That person said, "There's no way our industry will acknowledge that kind of crosstalk which is full of the Three Vulgarities!"

.....

Upstairs.

Live broadcast control room.

The person-in-charge of the crosstalk and skit competition decided to hold the ground and monitor things personally this time. He was afraid that another accident or mistake similar to yesterday's would happen.

"Is everything fine?"

"Definitely."

"Oh, after this live broadcast is halted, cut off Division C's signal, and air Division F's performance."

This was overall control, which controlled many of the live broadcast signals across many of Central TV's channel websites. Amongst them were Central TV's Department 11's crosstalk competition's official website. The live broadcast signal was currently provided to Tang Dazhang's disciples' 'The current state of Crosstalk'. Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan were mocking Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai in it, and their program was about to come to an end.

Suddenly, an overhead light flashed!

The equipment experienced an outage for a moment!

"What happened?"

"There was a blackout for a second?"

"Why is there another problem!?"

"The signal has been cut!"

"It's alright. The machines have backup power, so just reconnecting them would do!"

The control room began to busy themselves. Many employees were hurriedly adjusting the equipment and reconnecting the signals. They were not only in charge of Department 11's crosstalk competition, but they were also responsible for the entire Central TV's channels and signals. If something happened here, the other Central TV channels would also be affected, so they naturally had to fix things as soon as possible!

30 seconds ....

One minute...

Finally, the signal was re-established!

The person-in-charge hurriedly said, "Our Department 11's competition website, switch it to broadcast Division F."

The technician said, "Hold on. We'll do it one by one."

The person-in-charge said unhappily, "Ours is a live broadcast, so do ours first!"

After hearing his tone, that person was a bit irritated. After smacking his lips, he still gave priority to Department 11's signal. "F...F...Alright, I connected it."

The person-in-charge heaved a sigh of relief and nodded. Only then did he walk away relaxed. He went to the recording studio to monitor the filming as he could not stay here to stare at things all day.

As for the other people left in the control room, they were in a hurry to adjust the other signals!

.....

On the web.

Numerous gazes were gathered on the crosstalk competition!

"Hey, who are these two?"

"Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan. Tang Dazhang's disciples."

"They can do crosstalk all they want, but why must these two grandsons ridicule Teacher Zhang and Teacher Yao? Are they sick?"

"Their master and the entire artistic world is denouncing Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. As his disciples, they naturally have to support him. This is an all-round attack!"

"Ha, those two sure have guts!"

"Ridicule Zhang Ye? Have they never heard of Zhang Ye's infamy?"

"That Tang Dazhang and his bunch of critics, or those from the artistic world or crosstalk associations sure are f\*\*ked up. Zhang Ye has never offended them before, right? There was never any conflict with them from the beginning, yet they sure are good. It's as if Zhang Ye has killed their entire family? They insist on biting Zhang Ye for no reason without letting go? They want to send him to his death? What sort of f\*\*king people are these so-called artists and artistic associations!? What's wrong with Zhang Ye?"

"Those bunch of people keep having the arts hang off their mouths. What is art? What commoners like is called art! A 'I am a Scholar' is well-liked by all the commoners. All of us are indulging in it, and Teacher Zhang Ye has entertained the masses. Then I think his work is art, but I wonder, why has the standard measurement of artistry become the exclusive right for a particular group of people? Some people keep insisting that this isn't art, that this isn't crosstalk, then that's all there is to it? The commoners or the audience's take doesn't matter? F\*\*k, then what value is there for the existence of art!? You might as well say and do whatever you want!"



"Nicely said. Those bunch of people have overstepped their boundaries. I also admit that not everyone will like Zhang Ye's works. No single form of art can accomplish that. But now, Zhang Ye's work has been highly acclaimed by nearly 90% of the people. They like it greatly, but only you so-called professionals are angrily stamping your feet and roaring. This scene sure is a wonder. Yesterday, I helped speak up for Zhang Ye, and in the end, a crosstalk senior came on Weibo to scold me, saying I was just a child and do not know anything about art. He told me to study a few more years. At that moment, I felt like ten thousand strings of "f\*\*k you" overwhelming me. What sort of person was this? Must crosstalk be educative to be considered crosstalk? Is it that we as commoners do not even have the right to like something? We can't even have the right to our own aesthetic preferences? We can only like those works highlighted by so-called experts? And I can't not like it?"

"That's right!"

"Those bunch of people must be mad!"

"They are really sick! It's just a few crosstalk actors and critics, but they think of themselves as gods? They even want to summon the wind and rain so as to rule the world!"

"Unconditional support for Zhang Ye!"

"Endure it, Teacher Zhang!"

"Right, we all like you! Don't listen to that bunch of people spouting nonsense!"

"Teacher Yao, Teacher Zhang, we will go through thick and thin with you!"

"Zhang Ye, I really didn't like you in the past. You went around scolding people and even scolded my idol. Of course, I have cursed you in all sorts of places, but for this matter, I'll support you! Fight it out with them!"

Currently it was the most difficult period for Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. Being banned was a humbling experience to begin with, and with them being out of options, they had attempted to find a new path by participating in the crosstalk competition. Now, having produced a piece of work, they had been condemned by so-called professionals. Everyone seemed insistent on their deaths. For this, the commoners could no longer watch this without doing a thing. On this matter, a majority of commoners stood on Zhang Ye's side, including those who had previously warred with Zhang Ye's fans. It also included people who did not like him in the past, but they now came to support him.

In such times, the charm of art was this. An excellent piece of work could make a person like another person, completing changing his views. Of course, it might also be that those people believed that despite Zhang Ye being despicable and immoral, compared to those professionals who wanted to destroy him, Zhang Ye was considered a relatively kind person. At least, he had fought for commoners more than once. This fellow's personality was a bit bad, and did things or cursed people that rendered others speechless, but his moral standing and character were flawless! As for those so-called professionals? What did they do? What have they done for the commoners? They only knew how to reject others and use their mouths. When commoners left comments, they would be scolded by them. They were told off as lacking the morality their ancestors had, that they did not know art or were were just plainly ignorant? F\*\*k! Based on what!? Do we owe you!?

"I wonder what Zhang Ye and his bro will talk about this time."

"We won't be able to see it."

"I'm waiting to see if there will be a pirated version."

"Forget it. During the recording, it seems cellphones are confiscated."

"Will there be a live broadcast?"

"You sure hope too much. Yesterday's live broadcast was a mistake by the staff. It's impossible for it to happen again today."

"Ah, why did the signal cut off?"

"Tang Dazhang's disciples are done?"

"They weren't done. It's not cut off. Eh, Central TV's other websites also seem to be experiencing problems. Department 1's website can't be opened. Same for Department 5."

"The signal has been restored. They are now airing Division F's crosstalk!"

"Indeed. They really want to ban Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!"

At the same time, Zhang Ye's friends and relatives, as well as numerous people were staring at the live broadcast signal. Maybe they were hoping for a miracle to happen, but they were finally disappointed. Yesterday's miracle did not repeat itself.

"Sigh."

"Let's disperse."

"Without Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, there's no point watching."

But at this moment, a sharp-eyed netizen suddenly shouted on a message board, "Holy sh\*t! Quick look at Department 11's official website! Not the crosstalk competition's official website! Go one level up, on Department 11's main official website!"

"Why?"

"Go see for yourself!"

"Let me see."

As people saw him screaming, they clicked over in wonder. And with that, everyone's expressions became the same as what they had yesterday. All of them stared with widened eyes!

Live broadcast!

It was Division C's live broadcast signal!

Many people found it unbelievable. The crosstalk competition's live stream videos and advertisements were on a subdomain of Department 11. There was a live broadcast page on Department 11's official website, but that was for the entire station, and was linked to the television broadcast. It meant that in

the semi-finals, only during the live broadcast on television would Department 11's official website air the crosstalk competition live. At other times, what aired on this page was synchronized with what was aired on television. For the crosstalk competition's preliminaries, the battleground was still on the internet. It had yet to reach television. At this time, Department 11 was airing crosstalk and skits from past year's Spring Festival Galas, but now, during that one minute of technical difficulties, what appeared was the live signal from Division C's crosstalk competition!

"Heavens!"

"Am I seeing wrongly?"

"Haha, Yao Jiancai and Zhang Ye are going onstage!"

"Awesome. To think that there's a live broadcast signal here. Did they make a mistake?"

"Hush, everyone spread it amongst yourselves and don't publicize it or lodge any complaints. Hehe. Let's finish watching the performance first. I was looking forward to this so much!"

"Right, I'll tell others!"

"A miracle has happened once again!"

.....

Control room.

Everyone was done busying themselves as they heaved a sigh of relief.

As there were too many things to operate and there were too many things to restore, everyone was in disarray, so there were a few mistakes. They also did not discover it, as they were only hoping to restore the signal as soon as possible.

"That was tiring."

"Finally it's done."

"Why are there so many problems these two days?"

"Who knows. Our shift is ending. Let's prepare to go home."

.....

Central TV did not realize this at all.

Many netizens had discovered this secret early on, and spread by word of mouth, telling their friends and family. Immediately, there were more and more people watching!

"Ah!"

"It's really a live broadcast!"

"Holy sh\*t, I even thought Old Han was bluffing me!"

"Heavens, how small is the probability of this happening?"

The signal was messed up!

The signal was messed up again!

After yesterday, everyone already felt that Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai had gotten some dogshit luck, and was too heaven-defying. They had managed to enjoy an event with such low probability, but after seeing this scene again today, no one could say a thing anymore. This was no longer about low probabilities!

Jinx!

That Zhang Ye was indeed a jinx!

How can such unbelievable and amazing things happen on this fellow!? And how f\*\*king unlucky is Central TV's Department 11? Why did they encounter this time and time again!?

Chapter 487: Disparaging Begins!

At the venue.

In the recording studio.

No one knew what had happened. After Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan's crosstalk ended, there wasn't much applause from the audience.

This was because they did not find Tang Dazhang's disciples' crosstalk funny at all. Maybe it was because their standards had been raised after watching Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's performance yesterday. It was also possible that Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan's performance today was indeed bad. There wasn't much laughter from beginning to end. Furthermore, when the two of them were ridiculing Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, it was extremely jarring to the audience's ears. In their opinion, Zhang Ye's crosstalk was excellent. In some aspects, it had already reached the crest of perfection, exceeding all the crosstalk works that currently existed, but the duo was ridiculing how Zhang Ye engaged in the Three Vulgarities? You ridiculed how they couldn't do crosstalk? What sort of qualifications do you have? Take a look at what crap you are performing!

The audience did not like it.

Bba Bba Bba. There was still applause though.

Why? This was because Tang Dazhang and a group of crosstalk actors and other judges for the preliminaries had entered in droves and sat down. They did not get to listen to it from the beginning, but managed to hear the last segment that the duo did. They found it especially good and clapped while smiling and nodding their heads!

A crosstalk senior commented, "This is what art looks like."

Another Folk Art Association cadre said, "Yes, Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan are not bad."

"Old Tang took into two good disciples. It makes me green with envy." Another industry peer praised.

Tang Dazhang said modestly, "The two are still young and aren't up to the mark yet."

The judges below the stage were no longer the same three people as there had been a change. The three were all seniors of the crosstalk world. All of them were in their forties or fifties. After listening to the performance, they gave high praises to Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan's crosstalk performance. "It was very artistic and, compared to the previous work, it is one step higher. The final drive at the topic was very forceful and well done. It also analyzed the current situation of crosstalk very clearly."

Another old judge nodded his head while stroking his beard and said, "Very profound. Not bad."

Audience: "..."

Do you have eyes? This crappy crosstalk wasn't humorous at all. It nearly bored us to sleep, and you f\*\*king said it was not bad? It was art with profoundness? Are we even in the same world? Are we even listening to the same crosstalk performance?!

Zhang Xiao smiled and said, "Thank you to the judges for your affirmation."

Liu Yuan said, "We will continue working hard."

The third judge hesitated and said something fair. "There were a few burdens that were not stirring enough and were relatively weak."

Tang Dazhang frowned and gave that judge a cold glance. It was unknown what he was thinking about.

In a blink of an eye, the two of them disembarked from the stage. While they passed by Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, Tang Dazhang's two disciples leered at them with a taunting look.

The announcer said, "Next up. Zhang Ye, Yao Jiancai. They will be performing 'I will reject the Three Vulgarities'. May we invite the two contestants on stage."

What?

Reject the Three Vulgarities?

The audience burst into laughter. Compared to the other crosstalk actors, the audience here clearly understood Zhang Ye better. I will reject the Three Vulgarities? They knew that it was possible if it came out from the mouths of others, but if it was said by this fellow, Zhang Ye? Definitely and absolutely impossible! He wanted to reject the Three Vulgarities? Then a female ass can climb up trees! For some reason, the audience immediately felt an overwhelming sense of anticipation as their appetites were whet!

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai stepped onstage.

The first judge leered at them. "You can begin."

The judge was not interested in speaking to them. On the web, their Folk Arts world had lost all decorum with Zhang Ye. They had boycotted and denounced him. They believed that if they kept this going, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai would very likely be disqualified from the competition shortly after. When that happened, so what if their performances were good? So what if you had more votes? You still couldn't enter the semi-finals!

However, Zhang Ye did not take them seriously at all. Without even looking at them, he chuckled and began. "Hello everybody."

Yao Jiancai smiled. "Hello everyone."

Zhang Ye: "This round, it's our turn."

Yao Jiancai: "Yes."

Zhang Ye stretched out his four fingers. "Crosstalk is an art, and it focuses on four subjects."

Yao Jiancai smiled and said, "Yes."

Zhang Ye said, "Drag, Shoes, Then, Sing."

This kind of burden situations was already considered trite in the crosstalk world, however, the contents of the burden had never been said before in this world, hence the audience burst into laughter upon hearing this!

Audience: "Hahaha!"

Yao Jiancai stared and said, "It's Talk, Learn, Humor, Sing!"

Zhang Ye blinked. "You changed it?"

"You're the one who changed it!" Yao Jiancai said in a speechless manner, "You even said drag shoes then sing? Won't you suffocate the audience with the smell!?"

Audience: "Pfft hahahahaha!"

When the judges and the twenty crosstalk and Folk Art world people present heard this, their expressions turned ugly. Didn't you f\*\*king say that you want to reject the Three Vulgarities, but what you are saying is still the Three Vulgarities! There's no intention of you sincerely wanting to turn over a new leaf! This work of yours is nonsense once again?

Zhang Ye sighed. "I don't know much about it anyway."

Yao Jiancai: "If you don't know anything, then don't spout rubbish. Don't incur ridicule upon yourself."

Zhang Ye looked at Old Yao and said, "Crosstalk is good. One look at Teacher Yao, and it's obvious that you are a professional crosstalk actor, right?"

Yao Jiancai chuckled and said, "I don't dare to say so, but I did learn it for a few years."

Zhang Ye said with curiosity, "I heard that it hasn't been very peaceful recently the crosstalk world recently. It seems there's a lot of angst and fighting in it. Is that true?"

An uproar from the audience!

"Yi!"

"Yi!"

"Hahaha!"

The audience laughed. All of them knew Zhang Ye was asking the obvious. It was more than angst and fighting. Those bunch of people are boycotting you! They are against your Three Vulgarities!

Yao Jiancai coughed and said, "It's indeed true."

Zhang Ye: "I heard that everyone wants to reject the Three Vulgarities?"

The audience hissed again. "Hahaha!"

Yao Jiancai said, "I'm not really sure about that?"

Zhang Ye stared and said, "What? You don't even know about rejecting the Three Vulgarities? Hey, you are being abandoned by the era of the horse wagons!"

Yao Jiancai exclaimed, "Horse wagons? Yes, this era sure is going too slow!"

Zhang Ye: "You don't even know about the Three Vulgarities?"

Yao Jiancai: "I heard something about it. Why don't you introduce them?"

Zhang Ye immediately spread out his fingers. "What do the Three Vulgarities mean?"

Yao Jiancai: "Which are the three?"

Zhang Ye counted one by one. "Vulgar...Vulgar...Vulgar!"

Yao Jiancai exclaimed, "Why is it all vulgar!? What about base and philistine?"

Zhang Ye turned his head to look and pointed at Tang Dazhang's disciples, who had just walked offstage. "Didn't two of them go offstage just now?"

When Zhang Xiao heard this, he nearly planted his face into the floor backstage!

When Liu Yuan heard this, he nearly vomited blood. Zhang Ye! Your grandmother!

You are the one who is base!

You are the one who is philistine!

Tang Dazhang's face sank. The surrounding crosstalk actors were also enraged!

However, in contrast to their expressions, be it the live audience or the audience watching the livestream online, they burst out into laughter after a second of pause!

"Pfft!"

"I knew it! I knew it!"

"Hahaha! Zhang Ye's mouth is too disparaging!"

"Aiyah, I'm dying of laughter! Tang Dazhang's disciples just ridiculed Zhang Ye in their performance, and now, they have been struck back by Teacher Zhang! And they were only being sarcastic and did not even name names, but Teacher Zhang is calling them out directly! He named names to disparage them!"

"This will be good!"

"I knew Teacher Zhang would not be willing to let the matter go!"

"Haha, that's right! With so many people questioning and boycotting Zhang Ye collectively, if Teacher Zhang didn't strike back, then it clearly isn't his style!"

"The articulate Face-smacking Zhang!"

"Compared to Teacher Zhang's disparaging, they are still lacking much!"

Chapter 488: This is what Crosstalk is about!

He began disparaging the moment he went up!

He began scolding the moment he appeared!

And there was not a bit of foreshadowing. Zhang Ye's hooligan nature of bringing injustice upon himself was perfectly revealed with great gusto.

Be it at the venue or outside, the audience members were excited. They stared with their eyes widened as if they were on stimulants. Just this opening scene was already shocking enough. They had a feeling that, with Zhang Ye's rotten temper, what he was about to say would be even more face smacking.

Those at home, watching Department 11's live broadcast on the internet, immediately informed their friends and family. More and more people gathered to watch the internet live stream and were extremely excited!

"Quick, take a look!"

"Old Chang, come online, quick!"

"Face-smacking Zhang has returned!"

"Central TV's Department 11's official website is streaming it live! Quickly watch!"

"Yesterday, they collectively boycotted them, but now Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai are striking back!"

"Ah ha. Tang Dazhang's two disciples who led the front to disparage Zhang Ye are now covered in blood at the scene!"

"They were scolded!"

"I have a hunch that this 'I will reject the Three Vulgarities' will definitely be a work of God!"

.....

On-stage.

After revealing a burden, Zhang Ye looked at Yao Jiancai and said, "I really like this industry of yours. Do it well and serve the people. Bring laughter to the masses."

Yao Jiancai nodded. "That is as it should be."

Zhang Ye asked, "Why do so many people like crosstalk?"

"Why?" Yao Jiancai asked.



Zhang Ye said, "That's because crosstalk is an art from the people."

Yao Jiancai: "That's true."

Zhang Ye said, "It praises the commoners."

Yao Jiancai: "Yes."

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "So I really wish for you to engage in gang fights."

The audience laughed!

Yao Jiancai exclaimed, "Gang fights? Why would we engage in gang fights?"

Zhang Ye corrected him. "No, no. My meaning is that if you want one person to praise, then the group of crosstalk performers will praise collectively!"

Yao Jiancai chuckled, "Praise collectively? Why is it so weird?"

This burden joke had once again pulled the crosstalk performers in. The audience were delighted to see this as they laughed or hissed with "Pfft" sounds!

Zhang Ye said, "Anyway, I like crosstalk."

Yao Jiancai: "If you like it, that's good."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's laborious poems and songs."

Yao Jiancai asked curiously, "Why did it become poems and songs?"

Zhang Ye acknowledged. "I usually like writing poems."

Yao Jiancai asked with interest, "Do you have any works?"

"Not mature works." Zhang Ye said humbly.

Yao Jiancai: "Hur Hur, you can say some of it. We can listen to it."

Zhang Ye said, "Alright, then I'll hope everyone can correct me."

Yao Jiancai nodded. "Then let's enjoy it."

Clearing his throat, Zhang Ye pondered for a little while before empathetically reciting, "The skies of Xuanwu district are clear. Tongzhou District's people like it." He mustered up his hands and said emotionally, "Shouting out loud while looking at Fengtai in the distance...." His pitch went a little higher this time, "I love you.... Haidian!"

Xuanwu, Tongzhou, Fengtai, Haidian. These were the names of several counties in Beijing. When this poem was recited by Zhang Ye, the audience all broke out in laughter!

"Hahaha!"

"Aiyah!"

"Why did you shout out about Haidian when you were looking at Fengtai!"

Yao Jiancai was also at a loss for words. He could only muster, "What kind of poem is that?!"

Zhang Ye said, "You didn't understand the deep meaning behind it?"

Yao Jiancai said, "No, I didn't. What deep meaning was there?"

Zhang Ye said in a serious tone, "Although this poem does not sound like it, its meaning is actually very deep. It shows the close working relationships of the Beijing people and the friendship and solidarity between the counties!"

The audience was already laughing out loudly!

Yao Jiancai shook his head, "I didn't get that type of meaning from hearing it."

Zhang Ye said earnestly, "To welcome the National Sports Meet."

Yao Jiancai: "I don't see that either."

Zhang Ye: "To accomplish the four modernizations, to contribute to the success of the China-Africa Forum, this reflects the commoners contributions to all of those!"

Yao Jiancai said exasperatedly, "Where in that poem was there such a meaning?!"

Everyone in the audience were cramping up with laughter. There was really no relation to the National Sports Meet or even the China-Africa Forum!

The Folk Arts world was just talking about how your crosstalk was vulgar and superficial, yet this is what you came up with?

Hahahaha!

Everyone could hear that Zhang Ye was being sarcastic towards that bunch of people!

Zhang Ye stared at Yao Jiancai and said, "If I say there is, then there is! That if it is as such, then it will be that!"

Yao Jiancai couldn't be bothered by him, "Sure, sure, sure. Then I will just let it be so."

Zhang Ye said, "Remember, as an actor, you need to serve the people."

Yao Jiancai said, "Of course I know that."

Zhang Ye: "You have to be elegant!"

Yao Jiancai: "Elegant?"

Zhang Ye spoke in a lofty manner, "We definitely cannot engage in the Three Vulgarities. We need to have good taste. We need to go one level up with a 'stool'!" Saying that, he tip-toed!

Yao Jiancai hurriedly tugged at him. "You might fall, come down quickly. That's a completely different level!"

The audience burst into laughter!

Zhang Ye shook his head in a serious manner. "We can't fall for that again. We can only fall for it once, so we have to raise our level on a 'stool'!"

Yao Jiancai was once again almost at a loss for words, "Raise our level on a 'stool'. If it has to be a 'stool', then let it be a 'stool'!"

Zhang Ye looked at him, "You're getting chatty, aren't ya?"

Yao Jiancai said, "You're the one who is being chatty!"

A few of the audience members were laughing from beginning till the end until their mouths had gone numb!

Zhang Ye patted Yao Jiancai on his shoulder and told him in earnest, "Remember, what is the use of crosstalk?"

Yao Jiancai asked, "Please tell me?"

Zhang Ye said, "Crosstalk....is meant to educate people!"

When the audience heard this, they immediately went 'Yi'!

"Yi!"

"Yi!"

There was booing throughout the audience!

Zhang Ye pointed out to the audience in confusion, "Eh? They are calling out for you?"

Yao Jiancai said merrily, "That's to stop you from talking any further."

Zhang Ye said in profoundness, "That's what I feel though. Crosstalk was meant to educate people! You're not an actor!"

Yao Jiancai: "Then what am I?"

Zhang Ye said, "You're a teacher!"

Yao Jiancai: "Oh?"

Zhang Ye continued on, "You're 'an' professor!"

Yao Jiancai nearly fainted, "An professor? You don't use 'an' with professor!"

The audience were still laughing!

He's scolding again!

He's started his scolding again!

Zhang Ye was patting on him on the shoulders as he said, "Your job is to educate people, so you need to pay detailed attention to make sure that your work is of good taste. You also need to note what the people can learn from your work today. That's what your job is all about. You do not need to consider whether or not it will bring joy to others!"

Yao Jiancai: "Ah?"

Zhang Ye grunted, "They deserve it! Whether or not it will bring joy!"

At this point, the audience was slapping their thighs in laughter!

Yao Jiancai: "Ah?"

Zhang Ye: "Your job is just to educate others, so why do you care if they enjoy it or not! What's so bad about losing hundreds of millions of viewers? Your position will still be very stable!"

Yao Jiancai: "I don't even know where I'm standing now, so don't talk to me about stability?"

Zhang Ye instructed, "You must be elegant no matter what! Do you know what elegance is?"

Yao Jiancai said, "Tell me?"

Zhang Ye said, "An elegant person is one who goes against the people! Whether or not they listen. If they don't listen, so be it! They will get their just deserts! And die off!"

A few people in the audience could no longer take it. They were already tearing up from the laughter. They knew Zhang Ye's mouth was wicked, but they had not expected his sarcasm to be done in such a different way!

He was just doing a blanket bombing of sarcasm on those people!

Those who had criticized Zhang Ye for his crosstalk, saying that he had no depth or artistic points, were all being scolded at now!

Zhang Ye wasn't done yet as he said to Old Yao, "Remember, you're a teacher. As long as your works can cause a person to cry in agony, you'd have made it!"

The crosstalk judges' faces also turned dark!

Yao Jiancai: "Ah?"

Zhang Ye then said, "An outstanding crosstalk actor must surely reject the Three Vulgarities!"

Yao Jiancai made a sound, "Is that so?"

Zhang Ye said, "They must definitely reject the Three Vulgarities! That must be etched into the minds."

Yao Jiancai said modestly, "Good, good, good."

Zhang Ye said, "Surely(shitty), people make progress with modesty. If shitty people can improve! Then sure, you, as someone made of flesh and meat, can too!"

With the audience laughing, Yao Jiancai touched his forehead and said, "You're being too dirty again! You must be the embodiment of the Three Vulgarities."

When Zhang Ye heard that, his eyes stared so harshly at him, "Do you think that I won't kill you?"

Yao Jiancai: "Heh!"

Zhang Ye puffed up his cheeks and rolled up his sleeves, "You've never been beaten up by a hooligan before, have you? A flower pot smashed upon your head resulting in a bloody splatter, even leaving your eyeballs in need of stitches! The Three Vulgarities are my means of insulting others. You can't say that about me, get it?"

Yao Jiancai laughed, "I can't say that about you?"

Zhang Ye dismissively said, "You dare say that I am an embodiment of the Three Vulgarities? Just someone like you would be shot immediately if you took a step forward. If you take a step backwards, you might be released on compassionate grounds!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Alright then, is there even anything good about me then?"

Zhang Ye said, "For just being caught like this is enough to execute you with gunfire for five minutes straight!"

Pfft!

Shot immediately?

Released on compassionate grounds?

Execution by gunfire for 5 minutes straight?

Aiyo, how did you even come up with such a segment!

The audience was once again tickled by the hidden meanings contained within the segments. They couldn't stop laughing as they had never heard such a novel joke segment before!

There was even wisdom and sarcasm contained in every part!

Zhang Ye sounded like he was talking about Yao Jiancai, but it was obvious that this scolding was meant for other people!

Zhang Ye pulled himself together before saying as he gestured, "From the moon looking down upon the earth, you'd first see the Great Wall, then followed by the bunch of us who are rejecting the Three Vulgarities!"

Yao Jiancai said in surprise, "Heh, did these bunch of people really make such a big deal out of this?"

Zhang Ye straightened his collar, "That's for sure." then he looked down at the bunch of crosstalk actors, "There are many present here today with us who are rejecting the Three Vulgarities just like we are!" He waved at them.

The audience roared with laughter!

"Yi!"

"Yi!"

"Hahaha!"

Below the stage, a crosstalk actor seated with Tang Dazhang could no longer sit around. He stood up with a darkened expression and turn around to leave. He wasn't going to listen to this anymore!

Zhang Ye saw him and said, "Why is one of our people leaving?"

Yao Jiancai laughed, "He might be getting excited by all this talk and needs to go to the restroom."

"Oh, I see." Zhang Ye waved at him and said, "I wish you success!"

When the crosstalk actor who had almost reached the door heard this, his legs fumbled and he nearly fell flat on his face. Zhang Ye, you b\*\*stard!

You're being too sarcastic!

Why would you wish someone success if they were going to the toilet?

Am I a simpleton?

At this moment, the audience burst out into laughter once more. The loudest one since the performance had begun!

"Hahahaha!"

"Absolutely!"

That's was a really good one!"

"It's still the most fun to listen to Zhang Ye scold others!"

"Yea, those bunch of people were doing veiled satire, boycotted, denounced, and even anonymously criticized, but look at Teacher Zhang, he's directly scolding them! And it was even in front of a national audience! Just this spirit alone is enough to one up those despicable people who had sour grapes!"

"One even ran away!"

"Aiyo, this is really tickling me so much!"

This scolding really relieved the anger!

It even felt good!

Everyone felt comfortable and felt great. This was what crosstalk was f\*\*king about!

Chapter 489: Judges chased off by scoldings!

The audience was spoiled by the humor!

The crosstalk actors, who were standing with Tang Dazhang, were getting angrier and angrier. The guy surnamed Zhang truly lacked eight generations of virtue! The person who had tried to leave was not only a crosstalk actor, he was also an administrator in the Folk Art Association. He even dared to criticize a teacher like that? He must really be mad! Actually, they wanted to follow him when he had left, as they did not want to listen to anymore of this, but because of Zhang Ye's "I wish you success", a few of those crosstalk actors and members of the Folk Arts Association, who was about to stand up and leave, sat back down almost immediately!

Why?

They were afraid that Zhang Ye would put his focus onto them!

They looked at each other and could see the hostility in each other's eyes!

But Zhang Ye's crosstalk performance was still not done. He stood on stage without any pressure since what he talked about was still within the limits of an online broadcast. He did not seem to care. Even if it did cross the line, he was not bothered by it. Zhang Ye was not the type to hold back due to considerations. He was the sort who lived for the moment!

He said to Old Yao, "If you don't reject the Three Vulgarities and join our team, then you are definitely not a good actor. And so, we will not acknowledge that you can do crosstalk!"

"Wu!"

"Yi!"

The audience understood the meaning of what was being said!

Yao Jiancai laughed, "Oh, really?"

Zhang Ye looked at him with the intention to teach and guide him, "In the dead of the night, you have a cigarette in your left hand, a bottle of beer in your right hand, and a piece of chicken hanging from your mouth. After taking two puffs from the cigarette, gulping down a mouthful of beer, and ravisly eating some food, ask yourself if you have rejected the Three Vulgarities!"

The audience was stunned and then broke out in laughter!

Yao Jiancai made a couple of gestures with his hands and said, "Heh! I don't know about rejecting the Three Vulgarities, but those three activities are enough to keep me busy! Look at me smoking while I enjoy my food!"

The audience roared with laughter once again!

Zhang Ye sighed and said, "Sometimes, while walking on the streets, I often think. Why do the people of this world refuse to realize the errors of their ways? Why do they not understand? Why can't all of them be teachers or educators..." Reaching his hand out, he grabbed a white cloth on the stage and blew his nose and threw the cloth on the ground and exhaled before sighing, "Only then would the world be so perfect!"

Yao Jiancai rolled his eyes, "Is that how an educator behaves?!"

"Haha!"

"Hur hur hur hur!"

Zhang Ye said, "Teacher Yao, I do not understand why there is a higher grade, even though all of us are just crosstalk performers?"

Yao Jiancai said, "That's because the others say it better."

Zhang Ye said, "Look at those 'mainstream' crosstalk actors, look at how well their crosstalks are!" He lay emphasis on the word 'mainstream'.

The expressions of the crosstalk actors offstage changed!

Yao Jiancai asked, "Which one?"

Zhang Ye said, "There's an outstanding crosstalk actor, I wonder if you know him?"

Yao Jiancai asked curiously, "Who is it? Give us his name."

The audience blinked in anticipation.

Zhang Ye said, "Tang Dade, do you all know him?"

Yao Jiancai looked stunned, "Tang Dade?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes, that one who does crosstalks really well."

Yao Jiancai touched his nose, ".....that name sounds really familiar to me somehow..."

At this moment, many of the audience reacted, first with a stunned expression, followed by laughing and clapping!

Pfft!

Tang Dade?

Tang Dazhang?

Tang Dazhang's expression sunk!

The expressions of the crosstalk actors around him also had a drastic change!

Zhang Ye said, "You don't know him? He's the one who is always wearing those long robes, with his hair combed back, big eyes, and large stature? Around 1.8 meters tall. That one!"

Yao Jiancai said, "He's that tall?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yea, after cremation, he'd fill up at least a box and a half!"

Cremation? I'll cremate your sister! Tang Dazhang nearly vomited blood when he heard that!

The audience members were all clapping in joy and laughing themselves into stitches. That mouth of Teacher Zhang was really so sarcastic all the way to your grandmother's house!

Yao Jiancai said, "Hai, who even asked about the cremated remains!"

Zhang Ye held out his hand with his thumb up, saying, "That guy's crosstalk prowess is really the best out there!"

Yao Jiancai asked, "Really?"

Zhang Ye said, "Did you hear about his new crosstalk performance yet? The crosstalk's title is called 'A New Countryside'."



Yao Jiancai asked puzzledly, "Was there such a crosstalk?"

Zhang Ye said, "It was good, it was really good. It was really passionate, fervent, and a pee-jerker!"

A woman, who had just taken a sip of water was not prepared for this and spat out the water all over the floor!

Yao Jiancai nearly fainted, "Pee? How did you even end up talking about peeing?"

Zhang Ye said, "Do you know how many people were cured of their prostate problems when they heard that crosstalk?!"

A few male audiences were pounding their thighs as they laughed extremely hard at this!

Then, Yao Jiancai said, "Heh, it was so miraculous? What did that work talk about?"

Zhang Ye said, "I especially liked 'A New Countryside' since it was so good. If it were up for auction, I guess it would go for around a few hundred thousand."

Yao Jiancai looked even more curious, "Yo, is it really that good, then you should tell us more about it?"

Zhang Ye looked at everyone and said, "The great crosstalk work, 'A New Countryside' says: Good day to all comrades and good day to our friends from all the different jobs and industries. Please support our 'A New Countryside'. We need to follow the words of our leaders, to sleep early and wake early, to not spit on the ground, so that we may build our countryside well." With that, Zhang Ye looked intoxicated and full of admiration.

But Yao Jiancai was confused, "Is that it?"

Then, he saw Zhang Ye smacking his thigh as he squatted down and said with his tone changed, "It's really too good! I'm laughing so much I can't control myself anymore!"

The audience was also laughing out loud!

Yao Jiancai said, "What about it makes you laugh uncontrollably?"

Zhang Ye was still squatting down and smacking his thigh!

"Hey, hey!" Yao Jiancai went to pull him up, "Get up, get up, what the heck is going on? Have you ever heard of such serious crosstalk? Why about it has made you laugh so uncontrollably?"

Seeing the state that Zhang Ye was in, the audience's laughter did not stop either!

Tang Dazhang rage was rising in his eyes and he turned to leave as well!

When the audience saw that another person had been chased away by the scolding, they laughed even harder!

Zhang Ye finally stood up after a long time, "What a great crosstalk."

Yao Jiancai rolled his eyes, "How is that even crosstalk?"

Zhang Ye gave a thumbs up, "A truly good crosstalk would move one deeply! This is what you must learn from. You need to learn from him and change your attitude. Don't be like some crosstalker who does

not love himself on or off stage and finally even (Diào'er Láng Dāng Rù Yù) half-heartedly went into prison!"

"Ah?" Yao Jiancai quickly corrected him, "That's called (Láng Dāng Rù Yù) chained up and put into prison."

Zhang'er said, "That crosstalk actor's stage name is called Diao'er."

Only then did Yao Jiancai made a chuckle and said, "What sort of name is that! How can he be named as such?"

Zhang Ye said, "People like us who reject the Three Vulgarities all have stage names like these."

Yao Jiancai asked, "Why? Why don't they use their real names instead?"

Zhang Ye glanced at him, "Nonsense, if you use your real names, you might get beaten up!"

The audience cramped up with laughter again!

Yao Jiancai said, "So, people like you are afraid of being beaten up?"

Zhang Ye said, "I'm not afraid, but those of us who have been studying methods to reject the Three Vulgarities are!"

"Yo, you even have a team?" Yao Jiancai asked.

Zhang Ye said, "Yea, I do. Our team is full of talents who are either crosstalk actors, folk arts world actors, reviewers or critics."

Reviewers? Critics? The audience's first thought was on Alexander and the few others who were denouncing Zhang Ye online last night! Their attention was jolted and they listened carefully!

Yao Jiancai blinked and said, "Can you introduce to us then? What their stage names are?"

Zhang Ye unreservedly said, "For example, one of our famous cultural reviewers is called 'Who's the dumbest'."

Yao Jiancai chuckled, "That person is so modest."

the Zhang Ye continued introducing the others, "And then there's our famous critic called.... 'I'm the dumbest'."

Yao Jiancai said again, "That one is even more modest!"

Zhang Ye said, "Then there's one of our Folk Arts expert."

"What's he called?" Yao Jiancai asked curiously.

Zhang Ye said, "He's called 'Dont'."

The audience and the judges did not understand what he meant.

Dont?

What's the punchline here?

Yao Jiancai also asked, "What kind of name is that? Is he a foreigner?"

Zhang Ye waved his hands in denial, "No, he's Chinese, a minority ethnicity. That is his name, but his surname is 'Buttin'."

Yao Jiancai asked suspiciously, "Buttin?"

Zhang Ye affirmatively nodded, "Dont Buttin."

When this joke was revealed, everyone erupted into laughter!

"Aiyo!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"Don't butt in?"

"This is really scolding! It's so good!"

"Haha, I can't take this anymore!"

"Those people were butting in for no reason!"

Zhang Ye cracked his fingers and said, "Just the few of us, Who's the dumbest, I'm the dumbest and Dont Buttin were discussing everyday about their research on how to reject the Three Vulgarities. Our goal is to make it so that when we look back at earth from the moon, we wouldn't even be able to spot the Great Wall. The first thing that must be seen is us, this bunch of rejectors of the Three Vulgarities!"

Yao Jiancai raised his head and chuckled again, "Do you all think that there's already a lack of commotion?"

The few technical staff members who had been holding back their laughter all this time could no longer hold back. The camera assistant and producers were all laughing out straight into their hands that they used to cover their faces with!

Then, a few more folk arts world members, including those crosstalk actors all stood up and walked out of the studio in rage. There were more than a dozen of them streaming out of the studio!

What was even more shocking was that among the three crosstalk competition judges, two of them had also left in anger. They did not want to see this anymore, so they left the last judge there speechless at the performance.

"What?"

"Even the judges got chased away?"

"Pfft! Why did the judges leave! This has never happened before in the history of the crosstalk competition! Aiyo, this is turning out to be such a joke! Teacher Zhang is such a wonder! He can even chase the judges away with his scolding!"

"Hahahaha!"

"Can he not be that funny!"

Before this, the folk arts world members had depended on their statuses and majority in numbers to continuously lash out at Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. They made use of the masses' voice to apply pressure on them. But now, at this moment, Zhang Ye had given them a taste of their own medicine. He had used the same tactic back on them! Including those online denouncers which included celebrities, critics and reviewers, Zhang Ye had carpet-scolded them all in this crosstalk! He had scolded with a penetrating coldness!

They were an army with a few hundred to a few thousand mouths!

But Zhang Ye only had one mouth, yet he was able to hit and push them back!

The masses' voice had now become a singular voice. When Zhang Ye opened his mouth, he could push back their thousands of mouths, he could even melt gold with just his mouth alone!

Just what sort of power was this!

What sort of savageness was this!!

Chapter 490: The Kings without a crown!

The performance was over.

They had finished their crosstalk performance.

At the scene, a tidal wave like applause rang out. Many members of the audience were still clapping as they laughed. Even though the crosstalk performance was over, they were still roaring with laughter, immersed in the godlike joke segments of Zhang Ye.

With internet technology being so advanced and the overload of information, there wasn't much that the commoners had not seen before. Clips of people being scolded or scolding people were all too common, but to be able to scold at such a level, to use sarcasm in such a playful way, and even bringing humorous punchlines across, this was something that they had witnessed for the first time in their lives. All of this was embedded deeply into their minds!

"Alright!"

"Hahaha!"

"Teacher Zhang, you're really great!"

"Teacher Yao is great too, he's supporting really well!"

"Aiyo, I've shedded more than a pound of water from just my tears alone today!"

The live studio audience were very flattering with their thunderous applause. It was even more passionate and louder than yesterday's "I am a Scholar"!

The preliminary round was a stage for Zhang Ye to show his style of crosstalking. In today's second round of performances, Zhang Ye had finally let loose by continuing the never before seen style of crosstalk by not only developing it, but actually bringing it to it's peak of development. He injected sarcasm, no, perhaps it was better to say that every of his sentences were made to be sarcastic from the

beginning till the end. When the audience saw this performance, they were all excited by it and were making a scene in the recording studio with their whistling!

Zhang Ye smiled, "Thank you everyone."

Yao Jiancai also said, "Thank you."

Zhang Ye had a good time scolding, while Old Yao was also very satisfied with what he said. The two of them were in high spirits.

Working together this time was really a sublimation of their artistic talents. In the past, a person from Zhang Ye's previous world had said -- The main and side character both try to seek out a good partner, but that is even more difficult than choosing the correct daughter-in-law. Zhang Ye fully agreed with this. Just like today's joke segments, only Old Yao could latch onto them as well as he did. If he were to have any other partner, even if Zhang Ye were to break down the script and reproduce it word for word, it would still be unlikely that they could hold the exchange so well. This not only required good basics and professionalism, but it also required mutual understanding, especially knowing each other's characters well. Besides, what kind of crosstalk would ever stick completely to script?

It would not be possible for the main and side characters to follow the script to a cue and while making subtle changes that required spontaneous wit. A little slip of the mouth would bring about changes in the script, making it hard to follow exactly the way it was planned.

This was why Zhang Ye felt that he was very lucky that Old Yao was the one beside him. It allowed him to talk freely and with ease, making it possible to do justice to the original work of "I will reject the Three Vulgarities" by Guo Degang!

The applause stopped.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai both looked towards the judges panel.

There was only one judge left sitting there, the one who evaluated Tang Dazhang's disciples' crosstalk performance to be lacking. It felt as though he wasn't that hostile towards Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai.

But he was also rather speechless now. Witnessing such an amazing performance by the two of them, he no longer knew how to evaluate their work, "Hmm, you guys...."

The audience were anticipating his comments.

Finally, with a slight hesitation, he said, "Let's move on to the next group." He chose not to say too much even if he was amazed by Zhang Ye's talent. After all, he was still a part of the crosstalk world. With the crosstalk and folk art world both labeling Zhang Ye as a heretic, it would be wiser not to say anything at all.

Zhang Ye smiled and prepared to go off the stage with Old Yao.

As they turned around to walk off, the audience stood up and gave another round of thunderous applause. It felt like they were cheering them on with their clapping!

"Go, Teacher Zhang!"

"Teacher Yao, you go too!"

"We will support the two of you!"

"Yea, if the crosstalk world does not recognize you both? There's still us around!"

"Who dares to say that the two of you were vulgar? Your crosstalk performance was truly an art form! Without some sarcasm or or an affable speaking tone, how could you call it art?"

"Haha! Let those mainstream crosstalk actors go become educators! We will listen to crosstalks by the both of you in the future!"

"If this is what being vulgar is, I'll choose to be vulgar!"

None of the judges affirmed their performance, with two of them leaving the studio in a rage, but at this moment, on almost all of the audience's minds, Yao Jiancai and Zhang Ye were the kings without crowns!

.....

At the same moment.

Those who were watching online exploded with excitement as well!

"Oh my God! Is Zhang Ye on steroids today!?"

"Hahahaha! Every time that Zhang Ye stands on a stage, his king's aura will always show! Competing on sarcasm or face smacking, who could match up to him?"

"He's the ultimate best!"

"The incident that made me laugh the most was when the judges were chased away by his scolding. Aiyo, I just kept laughing till my sides were in pain whenever I think of this! Hahahahaha!"

"The famous Alexander and the few other reviewers have all been scolded badly!"

"The one who got the worst was Tang Dazhang and those people from the folk arts world!"

"Dont Buttin! Aiyo, how did Teacher Zhang think of that! It's so sarcastic! It's too wicked! Didn't he smack the entire Folk Arts world and Crosstalk world with that?!"

"But they were really butting in! Zhang Ye did not offend or step on anyone's tail and even kept rather quiet after being banned by the SARFT, but those people still chose to stir up issues with him. Then, when Zhang Ye came to do crosstalk, he did not do anything to the folk arts world or the crosstalk world, but they still chose find fault with him, calling on the whole country to suppress him along with them! They even wanted to pressure Central TV into disqualifying Zhang Ye's participation rights? What dog shit was that! Why did they butt in for!"

"Zhang Ye's really outstanding!"

"Teacher Zhang been really outstanding in the entertainment industry without match!"

"Eh, the live broadcast has been cut off!"

"Hehe, Central TV Department 11 has finally realized their mistake!"

.....

At the same time.

A control room in Central TV.

Seven or eight leaders and staff of Department 11 had rushed over and some were even leaders of Central TV. Of course, there were also those who were involved as the organizers of the crosstalk competition!

"Are you all looking to be fired?"

"Ah?"

"Leader, we...we really did not know!"

"A total of 10 minutes had been broadcasted and none of you realized it?"

"There was a power failure in between and an interruption of the signal happened. After getting it back up, we might have made some mistake while readjusting the equipment."

"It was like this yesterday!"

"And it's still the same today?"

"It's a little too coincidental and we....."

In there, only the Central TV's leader's voice could be heard giving the staff a great scolding. Even Department 11 could not escape this great scolding!

The first time, it was a mistake!

But this was already the second time!

And there was still a mistake?

Two continuous days of mistakes?

And it even happened again with the same two banned celebrities?

What's the meaning of all these!

What the heck was going on!

The SARFT had just transferred one of their deputy chiefs out and an incoming leader from the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China was appointed. This would be the big boss that would be overseeing the entertainment industry as his role and responsibility. Even as a deputy chief, he would outrank their Central TV's party member leader by a head. With all these movements, the Central TV team still dared to go against the flow?

They even dared to broadcast banned artists' programs?

And it was even a live broadcast?

Wasn't that going against the authorities!

That SARFT Deputy Chief was about to step into his new role. A newly appointed official works hard to show his efficiency, so weren't they clearly lining themselves up before a 'firing squad'!?

Within the station, the management was so angered by this that they gave these people a great scolding!

Finally, the leader put down his stand saying that "this mishap must never happen again". He turned and went back to his office to make some calls to the authorities to explain that all of these were down to control mistakes and were not intentional.

In any case, this issue was a big mess!

Just one person, a minor artist like Zhang Ye, had managed to cause such a ruckus within these affected departments. The waters were getting murkier by the second!

Over at the control room.

Those who stayed behind all had the urge to curse and swear!

"That hooligan!"

"What the heck is he trying to stir up?"

"What a god of plague!"

"I've never seen someone so jinxed!"

"If we knew earlier, no matter how big of a controversy it would cause, we would definitely not have accepted Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's applications!"

.....

Outside.

After Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai came out from the recording studio, it was still unbeknownst to them what had happened. They were still discussing the details and mistakes of their earlier performance and summing up their experiences to each other so that they could learn from it for the later stages of the competition.

As they were talking, Yao Jiancai turned on his cellphone. Since their part was complete for today, he was turning it on when a call from his home arrived. From this call, he found out about what had just happened!

Yao Jiancai said in a damning tone, "Old Bro!"

Zhang Ye, who was also turning on his cellphone as well turned around, "Ah?"

"It was broadcasted live again! Central TV has made a mistake again! This time it was not broadcasted live on the competition home page but on Department 11's office homepage! There were even more audiences because of that! The platform was even bigger!"



Yao Jiancai was at a loss at whether to laugh or cry as even he wondered if Central TV's Department 11 had stepped on dog shit this year?

How did they end up being so unlucky!

How could they have continuously, on two occasions, made a mistake in live broadcasting their performances? Even if one were to think with their ass, they would know the implications from this would not be small. This was just too face smacking!

While they had been banned by the authorities, it felt like they did not suffer any loss from it and instead could still gloriously walk on stage and show their lively faces to the netizens of the whole country. It was as if no ban had been placed at all. Not only that, it did not even seem like it affected them, as their popularity kept increasing!

This was no longer just face smacking, this was basically face bashing!

Bashing once wasn't enough as they continued to bash them a second time!

But Zhang Ye was not surprised by this. He just acknowledged it and acted surprised since he had expected something similar to happen. These six days worth of lowered difficulty was no joke and it would probably make Zhang Ye invincible!

He felt unstoppable!

Di di, his cellphone sounded.

A message was received.

He took a look and saw that he had won a prize again. Looks like his phone bill for the month was going to be free of charge this time!