

## Superstar 531

Chapter 531: People across the country were stunned again!

The news first originated on Weibo.

A verified user from a certain internet company with the Weibo handle @IAmZhangTao posted: "You all would never believe what I just saw! Holy sh\*t! One of the math problems which had troubled the Mathematics world for several decades now, Dale's Conjecture, has been solved! It was solved by Zhang Ye! It's not someone else with the same surname and given name, yes! It's that Zhang Ye that many of you know about! The whole place is in chaos now! It was too awesome!"

Following that, a few others also posted onto Weibo.

@BrotherFengIsInvincible: "What the f\*\*k! It really has been proven!"

@AhMianAhYu09: "Teacher Zhang Ye is too awesome!"

SUHDKF: "It's Dale's Conjecture that we're talking about! I'm going to faint right here in Summer Palace! If I didn't witness this myself, I would not have believed it! In the past, I heard that this Zhang Ye person was really smart, but I could never have expected him to be this f\*\*king smart! Is this person even human? How does he even know math!"

When the news spread, a lot of people thought they were just spreading fake news.

"Get over it."

"Haha, don't come up with such ridiculous nonsense."

"You all should just go and write some novels instead. How could you all come up with such crazy news and speak as though it really happened."

"Hur hur, ever since Zhang Ye started scolding people everywhere, he has been marked by many of them. Now, he's getting marked so bad that a celebrity like him who dabbles in liberal arts is even being called out as someone who solved Dale's Conjecture? Why don't you say that he has built a spaceship instead!"

"Such utter rubbish! Even a fool wouldn't believe it!"

"Even if you all want to spread rumors, at least put some effort into the technical details. Although I did read news of Zhang Ye being at Summer Palace and even reciting an essay called 'On Horses' or something to scold those Chinese mathematicians. Oh, just because Zhang Ye was present at the International Math Olympiad, you all can claim that he solved a math conjecture? Hur hur, I can only say that you guys are too naive!"

Many netizens began laughing at these claims.

The few posters of those claims were also enraged by this!

"It's true!"

"F\*\*k, why does no one believe!"

"Your sister! Why would I lie about this! I've got photo proof!"

"I've even got video proof! Let me post it!"

Suddenly, when some pictures and videos of Zhang Ye writing equations on whiteboards were uploaded, including the shocked faces of many local and foreign mathematicians, it fueled the unfounded rumors that no one had paid any attention to a new high!

"What?"

"Ah!"

"Are you sure?"

"F\*\*k! I'm uncultured and have never been to school. Don't lie to me!"

As more and more people concerned themselves with this news, many of them still had deep reservations about the veracity of this news. They still did not believe it until some news media websites and evening newspapers published reports regarding the matter. Only then did they finally know....

Dale's Conjecture had really been solved!

It was even f\*\*king Zhang Ye who had solved it!!

.....

Beijing Television Station.

At Zhang Ye's old unit, the Arts Channel's office.

"Brother Hu! Brother Hu!" Dafei came running towards him with a newspaper in hand.

Hu Fei looked over and said, "What's the matter? What happened?"

Xiao Lu and Hou Ge were also in the office. They looked over not knowing what was going on and why someone was shouting so loudly in the office. Was it an earthquake or a flood?

Dafei, looking aghast, opened up the day's Beijing Evening Newspaper and pointed to the headlines.

"Look at this! Teacher Zhang has stirred up something big again!"

"What big matter?"

"Who did Teacher Zhang offend this time?"

They made their way over while asking all kinds of questions. When they saw it, Xiao Lu nearly choked on her on breathing while Hu Fei and the others could only stand there staring with their eyes bulging!

"What?"

"Mathematical conjecture?!"

.....

Peking University.

School was reopening soon, and the young teachers of Peking University were having a gathering. Teachers from all the different departments were all attending this gathering. They had assembled at a restaurant to have a meal together and were seated, chatting and waiting for their food to be served. A television which was switched on and tuned to the news channel but with its volume turned down hardly received any attention from them.

"Teacher Su, will Zhang Ye still be teaching at the Chinese Department next semester?" a thirty-something-year-old male teacher asked curiously.

"Why won't he be teaching?" Su Na asked.

Another female teacher asked, "Isn't he a banned artist now? The SARFT had already banned him, surely that would affect his teaching appointment as well, right?"

Su Na wasn't too sure either, so she said, "The SARFT is the SARFT. Peking University is Peking University. There's no relation between these two institutions so it shouldn't affect Teacher Zhang's teaching appointment. Peking University couldn't possibly stop Teacher Zhang's lessons just because of something like that, right? Besides, if it were done that way, the students would surely have none of it." As she was saying that, Su Na took a sip of water and noticed something. She said loudly, "Turn the volume of the TV up!"

"Ah?"

"What's the matter?"

A few people were startled by this.

Su Na said impatiently, "Turn the volume of the TV up!"

A male teacher who was currently wooing Su Na and seated closest to the TV immediately raised his hand to turn up the volume. When he heard the sound coming from Central TV's news, he was shocked!

"...At the International Math Olympiad held at the Summer Palace. According to sources, Zhang Ye has already made an initial proof for Dale's Conjecture. Fellow Wan from the Chinese Academy of Sciences has also formed a team to verify the details and sent out invitations to the top mathematicians around the world, inviting them to send their representatives to our shores."

The room suddenly turned quiet!

Then, people started exclaiming one after another!

"Ah?"

"What the heck!"

"What?"

There were even some Peking University teachers who were dumbfoundedly sitting down not knowing exactly what was happening. They could not understand how a celebrity from the entertainment circle who taught elective classes at Peking University's Chinese Department could possibly have anything to do with one of the most difficult math problems that this world had ever seen!

.....

There was also a meal gathering for members of the crosstalk world today.

It was organized by Tang Dazhang, and many newcomers and old veterans had been invited. As he was considered one of the top people in the crosstalk world right now, many of those invited had also come for the gathering.

They were all enjoying the food and drinks.

"Come."

"Have another."

"How's that Zhang Ye person doing now?"

"Him? He's probably just sitting around at home. He created such a mess in the crosstalk world and even scolded and messed with so many people online. I guess his reputation is in tatters now. He won't be able to stir up any attention in the future anymore."

"Hur hur, he deserves it."

"That Zhang Ye is really despicable. Because of him, a proper crosstalk competition had to be stopped even before Old Tang could appear on the live broadcast as a judge! Just...what the heck!"

"Alright, let's stop mentioning that now."

"Right. Let's not bring it up again. Have a drink. Let's eat."

Tang Dazhang did not say anything and it was obvious he did not want to talk about it ever again.

Dong dong. Someone knocked on the room's door and came in. A young crosstalk actor had arrived late and was holding a newspaper in his hand. "Sorry about that. I was caught in a jam."

An old crosstalk actor glanced at him and said, "Little Sun, it's not that I want to pick on you, but how many times have you been caught in a jam already?" Looking at his hand, he said, "You even have the time to buy newspapers?"

The young crosstalk actor clearly looked embarrassed, saying, "This newspaper...sigh. I saw it on the way here and the headlines were really too shocking, so I just bought it."

The old crosstalk actor laughed and said, "Let me take a look then. What headline could it be that it is more important than our gathering?" As he said that, he took and unfurled the newspaper on the table.

The headlines stood out.

—"Zhang Ye Solved a Global Mathematical Conjecture"!

The old crosstalk actor was stunned on the spot!

Tang Dazhang and the people around were also shocked!

A mathematical conjecture? He could even solve a mathematical conjecture? Holy sh\*t! This person is really too flexible with what he can do! He had just created a mess over in the crosstalk world. Tang

Dazhang and company had thought that that would be the last they heard from him as he would definitely be totally banned without a chance left for him to come back. But it had only been a day since then! Just in the blink of the eye! And this grandson had already gone over to the mathematics world and gained such attention!?

He even made it onto the news?

And a headline at that?

.....

The same scenes were playing out throughout the country!

Especially over at Zhang Ye's parents place. It was even more lively!

His mother had gone onto Weibo for a short while in the afternoon to check out her son's activities. By afternoon, she was already taking a nap with her husband to replenish their sleep on their day off.

They were awoken later by someone pressing their doorbell.

"Who is it?" his mother got up and asked.

His father was also awoken by this and said, "Is it Little Ye? Did he come back already?"

His mother left the bed and changed clothes. Still yawning, she said, "I'll go take a look."

Ding dong, ding dong. The doorbell was still echoing, each time sounding more urgent than the last.

His mother nagged as she went to answer the door, "What are you rushing for?! Wait a moment, I'm coming." Then she opened the door and said, "Who is it?"

Outside the door, more than a dozen people had gathered. They were all reporters and had somehow gotten Zhang Ye's parents address and made their way here!

"Auntie!"

"Hello Auntie!"

"Is this Teacher Zhang Ye's house?"

His mother got a fright as more than a dozen men and women holding some items stood at her door. She did not have a close look at them and thought it was a robbery, so she hurriedly went back into the house and shouted, "Old Zhang!"

His father also thought that their house had been broken into and headed straight for the kitchen to get the cleaver!

The first person to come in hurriedly explained, "Uncle, Auntie, we are from Beijing Television Station. We're ex-colleagues of Zhang Ye. I even met him once before in a meeting!"

"I'm from Huadong Daily News!"

"We're from Weekly News Net!"

"Auntie, will you accept an interview from us?"

His mother and father could finally see clearly that the items they had in their hands were just recording pens and video cameras. They heaved sighs of relief but wondered what was going on. "What interview? Hasn't my son already been listed as a banned artist? They've already banned him!"

A female reporter quickly spoke, "Don't you know about it?"

His mother blinked and said, "Know about what?"

A middle-aged male reporter said excitedly, "Teacher Zhang Ye solved a global mathematical conjecture two hours ago. We even reported it on Central TV Department 1's News Simulcast!"

His father who was confused by this asked, "What conjecture? What are you talking about?"

That reporter said, "A global mathematical conjecture!"

His mother also did not understand this, "Say that again?"

"It's a ma...the...ma...ti...cal... con...jec...ture." That person repeated it syllable by syllable. "It's call Dale's Conjecture and when it has been fully validated, it will be renamed to Dale's Theorem!"

His father was so shocked that he could not react. A father knows best, and knowing his son's character, even if others did not know, how could the two of them not know? He continuously waved his hands and said, "Did you all get it wrong? My son majored in the liberal arts. Since junior high, he had never passed in mathematics. Even if you gave him an addition-subtraction-multiplication math question, he wouldn't be able to solve it, let alone a global mathematical conjecture!"

"But he really did solve it!"

"Why would we lie to you!"

"Teacher Zhang Ye really managed to do something that no other mathematician from anywhere in the world could manage to achieve in several decades! He really won honor for our country!"

"Right! If you don't believe it, switch on the TV or check the news online. The whole country is heatedly discussing this topic right now, yet you claim that Teacher Zhang Ye had never done well in math when he was still in school? Could you let us know in detail about this matter? We are extremely interested to know more and would line up several weeks of airtime for this special report!"

"Zhang Ye was not good at math when young?"

"Does he really not have any talent in math?"

"Then how did he manage to solve a global mathematical conjecture?"

The reporters were clearly intrigued by this declaration from his parents and were already starting to recording the interview either with their recording pens or the video cameras.

The neighbors around were also attracted by the goings-on over here and had all come out of their houses to gather outside Zhang Ye's parents' house. What happened? Did Old Zhang's son get into some sort of big trouble again?

His father just stated matter-of-factly, "I'm wondering about this myself. That's why I'm asking if you all got it wrong."

But his mother quickly stopped him and cleared her throat. "Let me do it instead."

"Yes, you explain it to the reporters," said his father who was still scratching his head. "Hasn't our son always performed poorly in math in school?"

His mother nodded and looked at the reporters, then at the neighbors who had gathered around, and finally said, "Little Ye's math results had always been bad in school."

His father said, "See, you all must have gotten it wrong."

In the end, his mother added a twist by saying, "But why was his result bad? Hur hur, that was because...he was keeping a low profile!"

His father was confused by this explanation.

But his mother kept making up stuff and even boasted, "Ever since he was young, I've always taught my son to keep a low profile and not appear too smart as it would attract unwanted attention. As my son is a very filial boy, he always listened to my teachings. This was the reason why he didn't do well in exams, sometimes even failing on purpose. He was afraid that if his math talent was discovered, he would no longer be able to live in peace and get along well with his classmates. He just wanted to live like a normal person. Actually, Little Ye's math talent already started showing when he was just a few months old. He takes after me in regards to this and I feel that it's because he inherited my brains that he was able to solve that Dal...Dal something conjecture. Everything that is happening now, I'm not really surprised by it. If I didn't tell my son to keep a low profile, he would probably have solved that Dal something conjecture during his secondary school days!"

Dad: "..."

The neighbors: "....."

Many of the neighbors had watched Zhang Ye grow up. They all knew very well the children of the neighborhood and had never known Old Zhang's son to have such talents. They were all very amazed at what was happening now.

The reporters were also skeptical of this and were at a loss of whether to laugh or cry. They were all dumbfounded by Zhang Ye's mother's explanation!

Chapter 532: People across the country continued to be stunned!

At the resort.

Zhang Ye received a call from his mother.

"Mum," Zhang Ye said.

His mother spoke loudly: "Why did you take so long to answer? What are you doing?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I'm taking a bath. Did you watch the news? Were there reports of me on the newspapers and TV? What did they say about me? Was it good or bad?"

His mother laughed and said: "Who would still dare to speak badly about my son now? It's all praise, but let's not talk about the news. A group of reporters came to our house to interview your dad and me, and even interviewed some of our neighbours." His mother was clearly enjoying her 15 minutes of fame. "Wait a minute. I'll let your dad speak to you."

The person's voice on the other end changed. "Little Ye, tell me honestly. Your math results have never been that good. How did you suddenly solve that whatever conjecture it's called?"

Zhang Ye responded in a bragging manner yet also not forget to flatter his father by saying, "Who am I? I am your son! That talent was inherited from you and mom. As for how I got the enlightenment, I can't explain it, but it was just a moment of brilliance."

His father was almost rendered speechless but managed to say: "But both your mom and I do not have any talent in math at all! So what on earth did you inherit exactly?"

On the other end, his mother said: "Alright, alright, why do you care about talent or no talent? Our son has solved a global mathematics conjecture and brought glory to our country and our people. That is the result, and as the hero's parents, you should be letting our relatives know about this good news instead!"

After he had finished with his parents call, his cell phone rang again.

Zhang Ye looked at Old Wu, showing her his phone. "See, I told you? They're calling again."

Old Wu smiled and said, "Answer it."

Zhang Ye answered, "Old Yao, I knew you'd call."

Yao Jiancai's voice came through and sounded a little startled: "Bro, are you crazy or what! You've just lowered the curtains on the crosstalk world and now you're creating a storm in the Mathematics world already?"

Zhang Ye said, "Sigh, it just happened."

"So that Dale's Conjecture was really solved by you?" Yao Jiancai asked doubtfully.

"How could it be fake? This bro just tried it out and who'd have expected this conjecture to be so easy anyway?" Zhang Ye was in a good mood as he was touching Old Wu's leg while boasting to Old Yao.

.....

The third call came from Peking University Chinese Department's teacher Su Na.

"What is your brain made of, Teacher Zhang?"

"Hur hur, Teacher Su. My brain is of course made of human tissue."

"We young teachers from Peking University were having a meal together when we saw the news on TV. You've really surprised us all. When we found out about the news, all of us were dumbfounded!"

"Thank you everyone for your concern."



"It seems like you are preparing to leave the Chinese Department next semester to go teach at the Mathematics Department! You didn't even mention anything about it, but your math knowledge is too damn good!"

.....

The fourth call came from the landlady auntie's house.

When Zhang Ye saw the caller ID, he swallowed his saliva loudly and glanced over at the direction of Wu Zeqing. He did not know if he should answer it as they were too close to each other but he was afraid that Old Wu would hear the conversation.

Old Wu smiled and said, "It's from a woman?"

Zhang Ye coughed and said, "No."

Old Wu looked at him as she continued to wash herself. "It's alright, answer it."

Zhang Ye smiled but had a guilty conscience. He couldn't show it, so he quickly answered as though it was nothing and said, "Hello?"

It wasn't Rao Aimin.

Chenchen voice sounded: "Zhang Ye."

Zhang Ye felt relieved. "Oh, it's you, Chenchen."

Chenchen's signature unfeeling voice said, "I watched the news together with my Aunt. From now on, you will do my math homework for me."

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes and said, "You want me to do your second grade math assignments for you? Do you know the status of your Uncle Zhang now? I'm an internationally recognized mathematician! Aren't you making little use of great talent then?"

Chenchen let out a cold laugh. "Hur hur."

Then the line got cut off.

Zhang Ye could not help laughing and saying, "What a wretched kid."

Following that, a wave of calls came in from his friends and relatives. He answered them all and after nearly 20 minutes, decided to silence his phone and put it aside.

As expected, it was a national sensation!

The websites of major newspapers in the country, Youth Daily, Huabei Daily, Beijing Times, even People's Daily had all posted news about Zhang Ye and most of them had reserved their headlines in regards to his news. Videos taken the park visitors in the afternoon that were posted onto Weibo, Tieba, forums, and some streaming websites, and had all reached the top-ranked list. This news had also already gone viral more than 30 minutes ago and risen all the way to the top post on Weibo!

The excitement!

The craze!

Those two words were more than suitable to describe the current situation in the country!

Even the foreign media had given this a great deal of coverage!

For example, a math magazine in the United States!

A few mainstream media outlets in the United Kingdom!

The news channels in Korea!

Many netizens had screen-grabbed the videos of news reports from the different countries in different languages and posted them online. Some of them even came with translations. Although Zhang Ye's name did not cause that much of a sensation on the international level as every country only reported the news with regards to Dale's Conjecture, there was still a simple introduction of Zhang Ye's name and his nationality. For Zhang Ye, this was a key step that had never happened to him before. Before he had risen to the top domestically, he had already gained some fame on the international scene. This suited his goal of become an international superstar really well! A math superstar was still a superstar! They were the same and people would start paying attention to him and know about him. This had always been Zhang Ye's goal all along, so he didn't care what industry it was as he knew that his path towards superstardom was destined to be different from the others!

When Zhang Ye heard the good news, he said, "What a bustle of activity!"

A description like bustle was really not enough to describe the situation. It should be called a great reception instead!

Countless people on the internet were screaming!

"Teacher Zhang Ye, well done!"

"That was too f\*\*king awesome!"

"You added a lot of pride and glamor to our country's mathematics community on the global scene!"

"Hahahaha! I heard that Teacher Zhang Ye had slapped a few more faces again when he was there! This really makes me happy! Teacher Zhang Ye seems to have worked hard all his life on one of two things—either slapping faces or getting ready to slap faces!"

"Pfft! Laughing out loud!"

"Solved Dale's Conjecture? That is basically the real thing when it comes to such knowledge! Although Zhang Ye's words might be a bit lacking at times, always offending and scolding people, but this guy's knowledge is real! Unlike other people who only know how to speak about boycotting this or that and not taking any action!"

"You can say that I've been totally surprised today! When I bought the newspaper while on my way home today, what I read left me unable to find my way home! What a shock! It's unbelievable!"

"Everyone's feeling the same, hahahaha. Teacher Zhang Ye has really caused an uproar this time! I love him too much! Do you all know what I like best about Zhang Ye? What I like most about him is...you'll never know what that person will come up with the next time!"

"Mathematical conjecture...it has totally nothing to do with Zhang Ye at all, right?"

"I was shocked too. All I can say is...a wonder, he's really such a wonder. Being able to mess around in the entertainment circle until such a level, I am totally bewildered! He's totally going off the beaten path!"

"After creating a new style of crosstalk, Teacher Zhang Ye is now carrying the banner of the Chinese Mathematics world! When I imagine such a scene, I find it full of comic relief!"

"Teacher Zhang has even snuck into the Mathematics world! To the friends in the Mathematics world, please be careful! Zhang Ye's fan club is currently sending out a red alert to the whole Mathematics world! It's every man for himself from here!"

"Hahahaha!"

"Did Zhang Ye really solve Dale's Conjecture? What's wrong with the world? Is it April Fool's day today?! How could something so bizarre happen! How dramatic even! Teacher Zhang Ye, knock it off. Please, knock it off for real. Continue writing your Legend of Wukong novel and don't keep us waiting around any longer. Why did you even go to the Mathematics world? Damn! Come back and write your novel quickly! Mass updates! And I will let you live!"

The people were abuzz with discussions about him.

Old Wu was browsing through the comments and Weibo.

When she saw a post by a fan of Zhang Ye on Weibo, she showed it to Zhang Ye and the both of them were tickled by it!

It was written as such:

ZhangYeNumber20Fan: "In the past, I thought that Zhang Ye was a radio broadcast host, but later on I found out that I was wrong. He's actually a poet. Then when I had accepted his status as a poet, I found out that I was wrong again. He turned out to be an author. When I accepted his status as an author, I realized that I was wrong again. He was actually a television host. Then when I had accepted his status as a television host, I found out I was wrong again. He was really a musician. When I accepted him as a musician, I got it wrong again. He had now become an advertiser, so I accepted his new status as an advertiser. But who knew, it turned out to be wrong again, he was now a calligrapher. When I accepted him as a calligrapher, I was once again wrong. He had now become a crosstalk actor. When I once, once, once more accepted this new status of him being a crosstalk actor, I realized that I was f\*\*king wrong again. He was really a mathematician! Fact!"

The post got reposted countless times!

"Hahaha!"

"Aiyo, this really hits the sweet spot of what I also think!"

"Pfft! Teacher Zhang is such a tease!"

"I've never seen such a jack-of-all-trades celebrity before! Teacher Zhang, can you not be so multi-talented? I've become so numb from all of these! A mathematician? If you are a mathematician, so be it. Whatever surprises Zhang Ye still has in store, I'll be damned if I'm even surprised by them anymore!"

Chapter 533: People across the country...are alright now!

The sun was almost setting.

The two of them had already been soaking in the bath for an hour now.

Wu Zeqing put her cell phone on a rack beside the bath where it would not get wet, laughing gently and saying, "The way your fans talk is really quite funny. It's just like your style."

Zhang Ye laughed, having had his hands on Old Wu's thigh from before she browsed the news until now, slowly moving them upwards. He said, "That's only natural. Since my debut, these friends have been following me all around in my scolding battles. Honestly speaking, sometimes I am really grateful to them because if it weren't for them accompanying and supporting me, I might not have been able to endure through this arduous path. I wonder where I would be now if not for them. To me, I no longer see them as just fans, and I'm not lying because this is what I really feel. It's like they're all my friends, occasionally having some amusing exchange of words. Our relationship is really quite good."

Old Wu said, "That's good. It looks like your reputation will grow again after this."

Zhang Ye also thought so. He said, "Hopefully. I'm still far from becoming a B-lister."

"It's not far anymore." She smiled and said, "In the whole of the entertainment circle, there are many who can sing, act, or host, or know martial arts, but to be able to solve a global mathematical conjecture...Only you, Little Zhang, could do it. Hur hur, other people's celebrity path can be replicated or mimicked, but your path to fame can only be walked by you alone. That is also the reason why so many fans love you. You are unique."

"Heh, I love to hear this," Zhang Ye said, as his hand under the water had already moved up further on Old Wu's right thigh. It was even meatier and had a better feel as his hand was kept busy.

She laughed. "I think we're about done here?"

Zhang Ye nodded. "I'm already sweating all over."

After soaking in the bath for a long time, they were feeling a little tired.

"Yes." She stretched her arms a little. "Big Sis has also had enough of soaking now. Don't massage me already. You've been doing it for quite a while now. My legs feel much better now, thank you."

"Why are you so polite?" Zhang Ye slowly and reluctantly took away his hand from her thigh.

She asked, "Do you want to shower first or should I go first?"

Zhang Ye rubbed his nose with the back of his hand and said, "About that...why don't you go first."

She nodded. "Alright then."

Ah?

You are really going ahead to shower?

Zhang Ye had subconsciously thought that, as he was a little embarrassed to shower in front of Old Wu. In order to shower and wash off the foam bubbles from the hot spring bath, they had to get out and head to the shower area. It would be strange if he just got out of the bath and wiped himself dry with a towel. Zhang Ye did not expect Old Wu to be so open and agree so readily. From this alone, their difference in age and maturity was immediately clear and evident. With regards to these situations, it seemed that she had thicker skin than him.

As he was fantasizing, the sunset was already casting shadows onto the balcony through the full length windows. Old Wu had her back facing Zhang Ye as she stood up gracefully from the bath. She swung her hair back and turned on the shower located two meters away from him. The water came gushing out and splashed all over Old Wu's shapely body.

Zhang Ye sat there appreciating the sight, not even blinking. The flowers in his heart were blossoming at the sight of this.

In front of him, Old Wu's back was still covered with foam bubbles and as she showered sprayed, it slowly revealed her fair and smooth skin. The foam bubbles on her neck also flowed down her back with the shower down towards her waist and gluteal cleft. From there, it split into two streams and continued down her fleshy thighs, dripping and splashing into the shower area.

This scene was truly too touching!

It was too enticing!

Zhang Ye sniffed and could feel the heat with each breath he took.

Even after a few minutes of this scene, Zhang Ye felt like it had only been a few seconds. At the next moment, Old Wu had already elegantly stepped out of the bath and into the area outside. She bent over slightly to pick up a clean towel and dried her hair in front of Zhang Ye. Then, she wrapped the towel around her body and stepped into a pair of slippers.

She looked over and said, "You should have a shower too. Don't soak in the bath for too long."

Zhang Ye said, "Yeah, I will be out in a bit."

He saw her walking into the bedroom which Zhang Ye had chosen and stopping in front of the bed. She bent over to retrieve her clothings—the flesh-colored stockings, her bra, panties, and qipao—, hung them over her left arm, and then knelt down to hook her high heels up with two fingers. Old Wu's figure was very voluptuous, not plump where she should be slim, but plump and full of flesh where she ought to be, like her chest and hips. When she knelt down, the towel looked like it was about to split apart. From the back, with her slim waist contrasting her wide hips, it emphasized her curves with maturity and gentleness at the same time.

The door closed and she was no longer in sight.

The fragrance still lingered and the bath was still filled with the foam bubbles that had been washed off of Old Wu's body.

Zhang Ye finally stood up and headed towards the shower to wash himself clean. After that, he wiped himself dry with a towel, wrapped it around his waist, and went back inside to change into proper clothing.

When he exited the bedroom, the fragrant smell of tea attacked his nostrils.

Wu Zeqing, who was in her qipao again, waved him over. "Come here, I made tea, some, have some."

"It's fine, I don't need it." Zhang Ye went over and sat down on the oddly-sized sofa.

But Old Wu had already brought it over. "You've got to have it no matter what. After sweating so much, you need to hydrate yourself." She pushed the cup of tea into his hands. "Slowly drink it. It's hot."

"OK, I will listen to you." Zhang Ye could only force himself to take a few sips.

Across from him, Old Wu was holding something in her hands. "Apply some moisturizer."

Zhang Ye waved his hands. "I'm a man. I don't need this. I've never applied something like that before."

Old Wu gave a demure smile and said, "You've just finished a bath so now's the best time for your skin to absorb nutrients. You're still young and have good skin naturally, so you don't know about such things. When you're older, even if you try your best to maintain your good skin, it will be too late. Listen to Big Sis and put some on. It's just going to be on your face."

Zhang Ye said, "It's really not necessary."

"It's just normal skin care products, hur hur. You're a celebrity. Surely you ought to pay attention to such details. It's dry in the winter. The skin on your face will crack easily." Old Wu was already seated down beside him as she used her hand to push his hair back before squeezing some moisturizing cream onto his forehead, cheeks, and chin. Then, she spread it uniformly on his face with her hands in a very caring manner.

"Umm, let me do it."

"Don't move."

"...OK."

"Done. Feels better, right?"

"Uh-huh, it feels fine."

"In the future, always remember to apply some moisturizer after you've washed your face. It's good for your skin. If you don't have any at home, get some from Big Sis. I have a lot."

"Alright."

Chapter 534

Not long later.

It was gradually getting darker outside.

It was a little stuffy in the room so Zhang Ye suggested that they go downstairs to hang out for a little while. It was well-lit downstairs, and he was also feeling a little hungry by now. Wu Zeqing did not say anything. She just put on a coat and they left their suite to go downstairs together. Zhang Ye was wearing a large pair of sunglasses. He looked to his side, then grabbed Old Wu by her hand and held it tightly as they headed to the area behind the resort.

The aroma of grilled fish could be smelled from where they were.

The charcoal stoves glowed with a bright orange fire as many guests, mostly couples, were gathered here. There was a Valentine's Day promotion going on, and as long as they were guests of the resort, they could try the specialty dish of grilled fish for free. There were not many types of fishes available, but they were expensive due to its freshness. It seemed that there was a fish pond around here and the fish were freshly caught for grilling.

Zhang Ye swallowed his saliva and said, "How about we get a couple?"

"Big Sis might not be able to finish one by herself," Old Wu laughed and said.

"That's OK. If you can't finish it, I'll finish it for you." Zhang Ye went ahead holding the key card to their suite and showing it to the staff there before collecting two plates of freshly grilled fish.

One for him and one for Old Wu. They headed for a less crowded seating area, finding a dimly lit corner so that they could have some privacy from the others.

Not far from there, a conversation could be heard.

It seemed like it came from the table of a big family group.

The son said, "Did you all hear about Zhang Ye's incident?"

The mother said, "Yes, your dad and I just watched the news in our room."

"That Zhang Ye is really quite capable," the father said. "He even solved a global mathematics conjecture? He's definitely going to be famous this time!"

The daughter-in-law said, "I've only gotten to know about this Zhang Ye from the news today. Before this, I had not even heard of him. I didn't expect there to be such a smart person in our country!"

The son said, "That's because you've only been interested in following those western celebrities and always think that they're superior to our country's celebrities. You don't even know Zhang Ye? I've known about him for a long time. See it now? Our country also has such great people, and compared to those foreign stars, he is so much more awesome. Even if I let you pick from among the whole world's stars, could you find one that could solve Dale's Conjecture? Haha, he's really gone and won pride for our country!"

Farther away, a young couple was seemingly discussing this matter as well.

Zhang Ye smiled a little. Hearing all these people who knew of him, he was definitely happy. At the same time, he was also enjoying his food as a whole fish had already been eaten. "Huuu, it's quite hot, but so nice!"

But Old Wu was slowing down as she ate. "Its taste is alright."

"What's wrong? Can't finish it?" Zhang Ye asked.

Old Wu smiled and said, "I can't eat any more. I'm not feeling too hungry."

Zhang Ye took her plate. "It's OK if you can't finish this. Don't force yourself. Let me eat it instead." He did not mind Old Wu's saliva. After he took the plate, he directly bit into the fish.

Old Wu patted him lightly on his thigh while seated beside him. Her hand just naturally rested on his thigh after that.

A short while later, a performer started singing followed by a lucky draw event held by the resort. But Zhang Ye and Wu Zeqing were not too interested in the events and simply proceeded back upstairs to their suite after finishing their meal.

As it was quite cold outside, they had put on warmer clothes to go downstairs. After they returned to their suite, Wu Zeqing went back to her bedroom and changed. When she came out, she had changed out of her qipao into a light flesh-colored bathrobe, tightened around the waist with its attached belt. Her hair was done up in a bun and it made her look even gentler. When Zhang Ye saw this, he also decided to get changed into the resort-supplied bathrobe like Old Wu.

It was still early.

Looking at his watch, it wasn't even 8 PM yet.

"Are you sleepy?" Zhang Ye asked her.

"It's still early. I'm not tired yet," she replied.

Zhang Ye looked around the room and asked, "Then what should we do? Watch TV? Go online?"

Old Wu smiled and said, "If you're still up for it, you should continue your novel."

"I could do that. But if I were to write, then what would you do?" The two of them had planned to come out to enjoy themselves today. Surely he could not leave Old Wu by herself?

She said, "You write. I'll look on from the side."

Zhang Ye's eyes brightened. "Alright then. Let's check out the resort's computer." He walked over, switched it on, and tried it out. It wasn't bad. It was quite fast and came with a new keyboard which felt fine as well. He pulled out the chair and then cocked his head at her. "OK. Then I'll start writing?"

Old Wu also took a chair and pulled it to his side. She raised a leg from under the bathrobe and crossed it over her other leg, revealing a fair bit of her smooth legs. "Come on, Big Sis is waiting to see you work." After saying that, she asked, "Will Big Sis affect your writing by sitting here?"

Zhang Ye quickly said, "Of course not."

"Hur hur, then that's good." Old Wu nodded her head.

With a beauty by his side, Zhang Ye's spirits were raised. He felt like he was on steroids the moment he touched the keyboard. He created a new document and immediately began typing.



.....

Chapter nine.

In the beginning.

500 years ago.

"Did you know? The sky is but a desert," said Zixia. "It might be made up of exquisite and beautiful things, but the moment it became a part of the celestial heavens, its soul was taken. Did you know?"

No one answered her, because there was no one beside her.

.....

His condition today was really good.

The main reason being because Wu Zeqing was at his side. Knowing that everything he wrote was so anticipated by Old Wu, Zhang Ye felt a sense of tension and did not wish for her to wait too long to see the developments. This was the reason for his speedy typing, as his fingers tapped away on the keyboard as though they were alive. He felt as though he were possessed by the Holy Spirit as he completed the chapter within 15 minutes. Never before had he done a chapter so quickly!

When he finished typing, Old Wu had also finished reading.

"How is it?" He asked.

"Great." Old Wu enjoyed what she had just read.

Zhang Ye was very satisfied as well and proceeded to post the chapter on his blog. He did not wait for any comments and continued to write on after closing the browser so that he would not be distracted.

.....

Chapter ten.

"What thing rules over all under the heavens?" Monk Tang asked.

"Monkey!" said Sun Wukong.

"No! It's pig!" Pigsy yelled out.

"You're both wrong. It is I," Monk Tang said. "When Buddha was born, with one finger pointing to the heavens and another pointing to the land, he declared so."

.....

Chapter 11.

Chapter 12.

Chapter 13.

Without rest, he wrote five or six chapters straight.

After finishing, Zhang Ye did some stretches to loosen his muscles and was about to continue writing. Suddenly, he heard a soft, quiet breathing sound beside him. He looked up and saw that Wu Zeqing had already fallen asleep, still sitting in the position with her legs crossed and one hand supporting her head. Looking at his watch, it was already past 10 PM. Only then did he realized that he had been writing for more than two hours, so he decided to stop and just look at Old Wu sleeping, unsure if he should wake her up.

Chapter 535: Unbanned?

The next day.

The sun had risen.

Outside.

Entertainment star Zhang Ye's preliminary proving of a global mathematical conjecture was still being actively discussed. Following the Central TV Department 1's News Simulcast and several major evening newspapers' report on the matter, the major morning newspapers, online media, and even People's Daily were also reporting on the news. This was already Zhang Ye's second time appearing on People's Daily newspaper. Even though it wasn't on the headlines, it still featured prominently on the second page.

The news had shocked everyone!

It was as though the news had been given a pair of wings and made its rounds across the country!

Some news had more of a lasting effect than others. For example, when Zhang Ye went around scolding and picking on people a few days ago, he had created a big stir. But after less than half a day, it had died down and no one discussed it any further. Then, there was the time when Zhang Ye posted his poems. Those had also caused quite a commotion and heated discussions followed, but after a day or two, it too had died down. It did not continue on for long. But this time, it was different. This time, Dale's Conjecture was a different matter compared to previous times because this was really so sensational that it was unbelievable. It also involved national pride which pushed it further up the list of trending topics. From yesterday afternoon, since it got published in the newspapers until now, it had not cooled down at all and was even becoming more and more heatedly discussed among the people. The number of people who had been shocked by this news was also increasing, and if the trend continued, it looked like the news would still be the subject on everyone's lips for at least three or four more days!

The follow-up reports were also constantly being published.

Fellow Wan from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and several domestic mathematicians had already formed a validation team, ready to start the final checks on Zhang Ye's proof of Dale's Conjecture. On the global stage, several famous mathematicians had departed in the middle of the night or the morning and were scheduled to arrive in China shortly to take part in the verification process.

Shanghai, in some coffee house.

"Did you hear? Zhang Ye has solved Dale's Conjecture."

"Ah? Which Zhang Ye?"

"Don't you know? Aren't you too behind the times!"

"I was sick yesterday, so I didn't watch the news. What's going on?"

"It's the Zhang Ye who used to host a talk show in Shanghai on the online television station, that one!"

.....

Some gym in Chengdu.

"Old Cheng, you're here this early?"

"Yes, I came for a jog."

"Did you watch the news? Regarding Zhang Ye."

"Look at you. How would I not know of such a big news? I've heard about it too many times just from watching the news. Each time they report about it again, I can feel my blood pumping faster and faster. Our country really has talented people! Hur hur, although I don't know who Zhang Ye is, but I think I've seen him on a commercial before. I've got to find out more about him when I get back!"

.....

In Beijing, at a breakfast stall in an alleyway.

"Brother Wang, you're going to work? Why are you so early today?"

"Haha, didn't Dale's Conjecture get proven already? A professor from Math department at the university had been sent to help out with the verification checks, and as the professor's assistant, I'll probably have to work overtime in the next few days. I might get so busy that I won't be able to come back at night and have to stay at work."

"Aiyo, that's so hard on you."

"In the past, working overtime would always leave me exhausted and bitter. But this time, I'm really in high spirits. I won't mind even if I have to work overtime everyday. Did you hear about it? Those foreign scholars have always looked down on our country's standards for mathematics, but now, they are all willingly flying over. Some even came with their students! Do you know why? They are here intending to see if we made a mistake because a global mathematical conjecture that no one had been able to prove for decades finally has proof to it. And it was even proposed by a Chinese person! If they cannot find any mistakes, then they will be here to learn from it, to understand how Dale's Conjecture can actually be proven."

"That Zhang Ye! He's really great!"

"That's right. Do you know where he is from?"

"Where?"

"You don't know? He's a Beijinger! A born and bred Beijinger!"

"Oh! Is that right?"

"Hur hur, how can this be faked?!"

.....

The topic was actively discussed all around the country.

Following the discussions, following Zhang Ye becoming the center of attraction, all the past incidents regarding this "Math Hero" were also uncovered. What got the most attention from people was of course in regards to the recent SARFT's Decree #43 listing of banned artists!

There was a big commotion on the internet.

"I really don't understand what the authorities were thinking!"

"A math hero like him, why would they even ban him?"

"Let's see how they will deal with this matter! I'm guessing the SARFT's panicking now! Ban? People's Daily and News Simulcast have already aired footage of Zhang Ye's news! They won't be able to suppress Zhang Ye after what he has done this time! I suggest they lift the ban on Teacher Zhang immediately!"

"Yes, the banned artist list should not have included Zhang Ye in the first place. When he beat someone up that time, he had done so to stand up for someone else. Using that as an excuse to ban Zhang Ye was really forcing it. Now that Teacher Zhang has brought so much honor and glory to our country and might even win an international math award, if he were to stay banned, then that'd really be unforgivable!"

"It's a little difficult to handle. Mathematics is an academic field while the SARFT oversees the publishing and entertainment fields. There's nothing in common in the first place, so even if they do not lift Zhang Ye's ban, no one can do anything about it."

"Although there's no relation, they are both governmental bodies. There should be some way to talk this out. Zhang Ye's has gained much credit, so they really shouldn't treat him this way. Whether it's the Chinese Academy of Sciences or the science and mathematics worlds, I think they would send a representative to communicate with the SARFT."

"That's right."

"I also hope that the ban will be lifted. I love Zhang Ye too much!"

"What an awesome person. Hahaha, I am also a big fan of Zhang Ye now! So cool!"

"Quickly let Teacher Zhang return! The entertainment circle cannot do without him! The entertainment circle without Teacher Zhang Ye should not be called the entertainment circle anymore! It will only be good with him around!"

"Pfft! Looking forward to the return of the hero!"

"Unban!"

"Unban!"

"Unban!"

The netizens were making an issue of this and were all wishing for the same thing!

.....

Morning.

At the SARFT.

In a certain department's meeting room.

"Sir, the incoming deputy chief is coming here today?"

"Yes, he should be here by the afternoon."

"Regarding the banned artist list, shouldn't we handle it first? Or should we wait until the deputy chief is here before we report it to him? This matter has blown up too much. The Letters and Complaints Department received more than a hundred letters protesting Zhang Ye's inclusion in the banned artists list. It's been a sea of scolding comments and doubts against us online as well. I heard that some leaders from other offices even called to check on this matter?"

"They have called us. Our department is responsible for this matter. Zhang Ye surprisingly proved Dale's Conjecture, considered to be one of the most difficult mathematical conjectures in this world, and has garnered a lot of support through this. I'd already anticipated this outcome yesterday. Let's discuss. How should we handle this matter?"

"Unban?"

"Are we really going to just unban him like that?"

"That won't do. The decree had only been passed a few days ago. If we were to unban him and take his name off, then our department's reputation..."

"The new deputy chief was assigned here from the CCPD. He's always been aligned to the party's ideology and I've heard that he doesn't have a good temper. His work style is also very tough, so if we were to lift the ban on Zhang Ye without any conditions, then wouldn't that mean that we have admitted our loss to Zhang Ye? When Zhang Ye wrote several of those poems and essay to scold at us, like 'Hold unyielding, no matter where the winds blow'? 'Why should I lower my face and bow for the influential and the rich, and take away my joyous smile'? I remember each and every word clearly. If we were to lift his ban, then when the new deputy chief takes over officially, wouldn't he be angered? Already losing our composure before we could stamp our authority? The authorities couldn't even handle a banned artist? We have to lift the ban after banning him? If we put it bluntly, doesn't that just mean we were slapping their own faces? If the new deputy chief is angered, then who could deal with him when the responsibility is pinned on our department!?"

"What can we do then?"

"Yes, Zhang Ye has already made such a huge contribution that even People's Daily reported on him. If we ignore this, the people would definitely not take it lying down. Then the management would surely..."

"I have an idea."

"Oh? Xiao Li, do tell."

"We cannot put the ball in the deputy chief's court. We have to handle this matter according to the new deputy chief's principals. So we can only do this, which is to use a roundabout way to lift the ban on Zhang Ye. There has to be conditions attached to this lifting..."

They were all trying to come up with plan!

Chapter 536: Never, ever compromise!

Around 9 PM.

Zhang Ye was writing something when the screen of his cell phone on the table lit up. As he had received too many calls from people last night, he had already switched it to silent mode. Zhang Ye glanced over without thinking of picking it up, but when he saw Yao Jiancai's name on the caller ID, he reached for the phone.

"Old Yao?" he said after accepting the call.

On the other side, Yao Jiancai said, "Get online."

Zhang Ye asked, "Go online for what? What's the matter?"

"You'll know when you see it." Yao Jiancai sounded very calm and relaxed. "There's an addendum to Decree #43 that SARFT previously announced. They posted some additional info."

Zhang Ye asked with interest, "What does it say?"

"Take a look at it yourself," Yao Jiancai answered merrily. "All thanks to you, half of this batch of banned artists have some hope of getting their ban lifted."

Zhang Ye asked, "What about you?"

Yao Jiancai answered, "I'm no longer on the list."

"Yo, that's great then, congratulations." Zhang Ye quipped, "Your 'prostitution' label can finally be put to rest. When will you be treating me to a meal?"

"After you settle your own issues."

"Sure, I'll go take a look now."

"When you have your ban lifted, we need to have a good drink together."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye went onto Weibo and directly searched for the SARFT's verified account. Indeed, a post titled "In regards to Decree #43's addendum clarification" was posted earlier and the updated banned artists list did not have Yao Jiancai's name on it. Another six names were also deleted, like the movie star who held a press conference apologizing for his actions and another singer who expressed regret for her past actions during an interview. Scanning through the list, Zhang Ye could still see his own name on it.

The lifting of the ban was beginning?

Base on what reasons do they lift the ban for?

It was only normal that Old Yao would be unbanned as his incident was just a case of misunderstanding. Because of the media reporting on unfounded truths, Old Yao was banned. But after clarification statements from the police that the case has been resolved with no charges pressed, Yao Jiancai would naturally be the first person to be unbanned when the ban list was refreshed, that was without a doubt. But how about the others? Why did they get unbanned? These artists' misdeeds were already set in stone, no?

Reading further, Zhang Ye finally understood.

Actually, this clarification was to announce the conditions to get unbanned. The artists who had committed misdeeds more than 3 years ago and had shown improvements in their behaviors without any further misdeeds or those who had committed minor misdeeds within 3 years but had apologized could all send in their applications to the SARFT for them to consider and approve before releasing the decision to the public!

The application form for the revocation of ban was also leaked.

Name: XX.

Gender: XX.

Age: XX.

Representative Agency: XX.

There was even blanks labeled "Previous Misdeeds" and "Self Reflection Statement" at the bottom of the page before an acknowledgment by signature and effective date ended the application form.

Other than Yao Jiancai, the names of those artists who had been removed had committed their misdeeds more than 3 years ago and were apologetic about their actions, hence the automatic exclusion of their names by the SARFT. Except for one artist who had committed his misdeed of soliciting prostitutes within the past year, considerations were made due to the fact that he was unmarried and the crime wasn't too serious, on top of which he had also expressed his regret in the events and so was given the chance to improve on his behavior. This was an example of the clarifications to Decree #43 regarding those who had committed minor misdeeds within the past 3 years and were given the pass to have their ban revoked.

This was what the clarification generally meant and after Zhang Ye had finished reading through the article, he had also fully understood it's meaning. No wonder Old Yao mentioned that it was due to him that he was able to get his ban lifted. But the timing of this clarification was still quite ambiguous as according to the current batch of banned artists, slightly less than half of them were covered by the conditions that would allow them to be unbanned, including Zhang Ye himself, involved in the minor crime of assault. Or it could be perceived as these conditions were actually made directly as a result of Zhang Ye's crimes, which he felt was the true reason behind it!

Why?

Because of the artists who had been unbanned of course!

This addendum clarification had only obviously been issued a short while ago and the application had also just been leaked. The few banned artists who had their bans revoked could not have possibly filled in the form and submitted it beforehand. Yao Jiancai had also not made any mention of this application in the phone call and if he did fill it in and submit it, he would have made any mention of it. From this, it could be said that the other banned artists were in the same situation, so why didn't they need to submit an application before getting their bans revoked while Zhang Ye's name was still on the ban list? Was it because Zhang Ye had not made any apology since the incident? It did not seem like it. If a public apology could replace an application form, then why did this addendum have to state the procedures of filling up the application form so clearly? They even explicitly stated that this would be a required step in the procedures? Yet, in the revocation of the bans on the other previously banned artists, this was obviously not the case. Old Yao and the others did not fill in any application forms and were quickly taken off the ban list!

Wasn't it illogical?

This showed that there was something fishy about it!

It was as though this document was screaming out to Zhang Ye for him to fill it in. It was definitely directed at him and the other names on the list seemed irrelevant.

Zhang Ye knew the reason for this. Why did it seem like it was targeted only at him? Logically speaking, on the list of banned artists, Zhang Ye was not the one with the most fans. There were others who had a few million fans, so Zhang Ye was not the most famous name on it as there were others who were previously B-list movie stars. Neither was his misdeed the most serious since there were drug abusers on it as well, so he should not have been so targeted if everything was considered. But it seemed it was happening because of one specific reason. The reason was that Zhang Ye was much better than any of these other artists at one, and only one thing—This wretch could really cause trouble!

That Bamboos on the Rocks!

That Li Bai poem!

Going to Central TV to cause trouble with his crosstalk performances and the incidents regarding the promotions of Legend of Wukong!

After he had been banned, Zhang Ye's protest had never stopped. Time after time, he took the bull by the horns and created a stir that got bigger and bigger each time. He was the proverbial thorn in the side as each and every move he made had a big detrimental effect to the authorities. This was exactly the reason why he was targeted and the hidden agenda of this addendum clarification!

They want to revoke the ban on Zhang Ye!

They want to pardon him for his offenses!

But before that, Zhang Ye had to compromise and fill up the application form to submit to the SARFT for approval. They wanted him to guarantee his behavior and admit to his offenses. As of yesterday, Zhang Ye had solved a global mathematical conjecture and his presence could no longer be suppressed, neither was it suitable to do so any longer. But to lift his ban directly would mean that the reputation of the



SARFT was at stake! They needed a proper excuse to do so and to protect their reputation so that people would not gossip. This was why they had come up with a reason like this to lift the bans!

.....

This addendum clarification had also caused a big reaction online!

"Wow!"

"Teacher Yao has had his ban lifted?"

"That's great. Looks like Teacher Zhang Ye will be unbanned soon as well!"

"Haha, this is so exciting. The SARFT has finally loosened their grip on this. I thought that Teacher Zhang would have been banned for life. From the looks of it now, we are not far from the day Teacher Zhang returns to the entertainment circle. All he has to do is submit the application? That's so simple. Teacher Zhang, quickly submit the form. Your misdeed was just a minor one. You merely beat someone up and that incident was already a thing of the past. The honor you have brought to our country's mathematics world cannot be argued with, so just quickly complete the form! The authorities will surely agree to lift the ban on you!"

"Hooray! We can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel!"

Many of Zhang Ye's fans were cheering at this because their Teacher Zhang was finally going to be able to return through sheer perseverance after so long. How could they not be excited by this?

But there were also those who understood the situation.

"You're all looking at this too simply!"

"There are some problems with this clarification. Why did they release this information at this time? It's too coincidental. Clearly, they are targeting this at Zhang Ye. They knew that they could no longer suppress him but still want to keep their reputation, so they made such a move to force Zhang Ye to compromise."

"I see it that way as well. But no matter what, his career should come first so he should just submit the form as a procedure. It shouldn't be a big deal."

"But Zhang Ye has never expressed that he was not wrong in the incident involving Lee Anson. If you want him to submit the application and admit that he was wrong before, it seems unlikely that he will do so. Zhang Ye's temper is well-known to all, so it might not happen as we want it to."

"That can't be? Teacher Zhang couldn't possibly be so rigid?"

"Yeah, it's just an application form and can't be considered as a self-review statement. Can't he just pretend to be sincere?"

At this time, a D-list celebrity that was also on the list of banned artists named Wu Shaoan posted on Weibo. He attached a picture of his application form and added the following: "The application has been sent. I recognize the seriousness of my misdeed and I promise to never commit them again. I hereby ask for a chance and the authorities to lift the ban on me."

The netizens commented.

"Ah?"

"He's already submitted it so quickly?"

"He acted so quickly."

A few minutes later, another banned artist also sent in his application. He did not post the application details but simply said so on Weibo.

The third...

The fifth...

The seventh...

All of these banned artists had been suppressed for so many days and could no longer bear the consequences. When they saw hopes of being unbanned, they grabbed at it. Even those celebrities who had considered retiring and moving into business reversed their decisions when they saw this clarification. They printed out the application and immediately filled it in before submitting it to the SARFT in hopes that they would be approved.

Eight people!

Ten people!

The number of applicants increased gradually.

The SARFT also posted a statement: "After receiving the applications, the relevant departments will handle them immediately. Principle decisions will be made in no later than seven working days."

Some of the artists who knew that they had no hopes of having their bans lifted also sent out the application form hoping for a miracle to happen. Even if they knew that it would not happen, they knew that they had to express the right attitude as they might have a chance should there be another round of applications. This was to leave a positive image on the authorities.

But only one person did not do anything!

Zhang Ye still did not show any signs of any actions!

"Where's Teacher Zhang?"

"F\*\*k, did Zhang Ye not see this?"

"It can't be! This is such big news, how could he not know!"

"Zhang Ye, come out of wherever you are quickly!"

"@ZhangYe don't mess around any longer, quickly write your application!"

"Yea, Teacher Zhang, don't be so unrelenting. It would do anyone any good. Get past this setback first and return to the entertainment circle first before you think of anything else!"

"Yea, don't try to fight them like this! It's more important to get your ban lifted!"

The SARFT was paying a lot of attention to this matter. So were the media and countless other people!

The news in the past two days had fully been focused on Zhang Ye. He was the talk of the town and any topics regarding him were highly publicized. So when this addendum clarification was published, some media outlets started hyping it up. All they lacked now was the main character showing himself as everyone waited for Zhang Ye to come forward with his application!

At 10:05 PM, Zhang Ye's Weibo finally saw some action!

"It's here!"

"Ah!"

"Zhang Ye has appeared!"

"Take a look, quickly! Is it an application form?"

Countless people swarmed to his Weibo page!

Then, all of the media outlets and netizens saw a sentence that left them in shock. It was a sentence that they had never seen before but was very well known in his previous world.

On Zhang Ye's Weibo, this was written:

"Fighting the Heavens."

"Fighting the Earth."

"Fighting men."

"What joy!"

Chapter 537: Zhang Ye's The Road Not Taken!

This poem had left everyone dumbfounded!

What did he mean by "fighting the Heavens, Earth, and men"?

What did he mean by "what joy"?

Did it mean that Zhang Ye did not care about the addendum? He was not even intending to submit his application to have his ban lifted? He would not admit that he was wrong to hold Lee Anson responsible for his actions? He would not compromise just because they offered him amnesty? He was seriously thinking of continuing the damn fight?

The netizens were shocked!

"Goddammit!"

"What the hell are you trying to do, Teacher Zhang!"

"Aiyo, why are you still picking a fight. There was a good chance of getting your ban lifted but now that has turned to dust again. Teacher Zhang, could you just compromise a little?"

"Compromise my ass! I support Zhang Ye's decision!"

"Yes, I will support Teacher Zhang Ye's decision no matter what!"

"Zhang Ye should never have been listed on the banned artist list in the first place. Now that he has gotten credit for such a big achievement, how dare you request that Teacher Zhang compromise to your agenda before lifting his ban? Based on what!? Based on what does Teacher Zhang Ye have to bow his head to you! Based on what reasons that could excuse the authorities from apologizing and accepting that they were wrong in the first place? Yet you want Teacher Zhang Ye to take a step back and let you have it easy? F\*\*k! Then who will let Teacher Zhang have it easy!"

"Hehe, seeing that from Zhang Ye really lifted my spirits. I can totally imagine it since it's his style!"

"Hahaha, I'm so happy to see those words of his. The other artists could only think of apologizing and admitting to their misdeeds after they had been banned, but look at Zhang Ye! Not only will he not admit it, he is even looking for a fight while doing so. What did he say in the end? 'What joy!' Pfft! You're even able to treat this like a game! I really have nothing to criticize when it comes to his attitude, it's just so refreshing!"

"F\*\*k, is that really a good idea?"

"What's bad about it! Just fight it out with them!"

"Hai, Teacher Zhang really gives me a headache. He always has me worried!"

"Hur hur, if he could let others not worry about him, then he wouldn't be called Zhang Ye. Many of us like him exactly because of this temper of his!"

"It's done for. This time, he's flipped the table on them and there's no longer any chance of getting his ban lifted!"

.....

SARFT.

At a certain department.

"That Zhang Ye!"

"Supervisor, he's such a hooligan!"

"We've already offered him an olive branch, yet he is refusing to reach his hand out? What sort of person is he!"

"What should we do now? If he won't accept this approach, then how are we going to get him unbanned?"

"Then we should just leave him be! The new Deputy Chief Wang will be arriving soon. We have already done all that we could, so we should just wait for Chief Wang's instructions from here on!"

"I suppose that's the only way now."

"When the new deputy chief arrives, that Zhang Ye will only have further sufferings."

"A newly appointed official will surely flex his muscles a little. Zhang Ye is already on the collision course since even though we stretched out our hands to reach out to him, he refused to grab on! I guess there's no other way then! It wouldn't help even if any of us calls Zhang Ye to clarify this about matter. We have our excuse regarding this matter since we've already tried to resolve it with him. As long as he submits the application form, his ban would be lifted. But since he does not want to do it, then we won't be held responsible for his own decisions!"

.....

When Zhang Ye posted the update, there were great effects everywhere.

Some of the media outlets had already planned to do a coverage on Zhang Ye's news about his mathematical conjecture proof and his past incidents, etc. Some of them even planned to release the news over several issues as they believed that he was about to have his ban lifted by the SARFT. As media workers, they had a keener sense to such news. But little did they know that although they had guessed that the SARFT would offer him an olive branch, they could not guess Zhang Ye's reaction to it! Zhang Ye had actually refused to compromise to the conditions stated by the SARFT and this had affected the plans of the media outlets greatly!

What should they do?

Should they report about the news or not?

If they were to continue reporting on Zhang Ye's news, then how much coverage should they give to it? What sort of way should the news be expressed in? All of these factors were highly debatable!

In the past, media reports were under the jurisdiction of the General Administration of Press and Publication until it had merged with the SARFT. They could not ignore the regulations put in place by their overseeing authority. Since the relation between the SARFT and Zhang Ye was now at its lowest, the media had to take this into consideration when it came to deciding which reports they should publicize and which not to. For the case of the mathematical conjecture, since it was such a high profile incident and news media all over the world was reporting on it, they could not possibly not mention a word in their publications as well. They would not be able to explain that!

All in all, they could only come to one conclusion.

The conclusion was that Zhang Ye was really a troublesome person!

.....

At the resort.

In the suite.

Zhang Ye was not affected by the on-goings of the outside world. After he posted on Weibo, he went back to concentrating on his novel writing. Beside him, his cellphone which was switched back to alert mode suddenly rang again. Ring ring ring, ring ring ring. He got a call from someone!

It was Yao Jiancai!

"Old Bro! What the heck are you doing!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I didn't do anything."

Yao Jiancai snappily said, "It was almost certain that the ban on you would be lifted, so why... Aiya, it's just an application form. Why don't I just write it on your behalf? I can even forge your handwriting."

"It's fine, Old Yao."

"Can't you just listen to me, your bro for once?"

"It's not that I don't want to." Zhang Ye said seriously, "But sometimes, if you bow your head once to them, you will find it hard to be able to raise it again. You know what kind of person I am, the word 'compromise' doesn't exist in my dictionary!"

"You! I've really given up on you!"

"Just stay out of this, Old Yao. You've already been unbanned, so do your job well and buy me dinner sometime. As for me, I will surely continued this with them!" Zhang Ye said optimistically.

"Alright, alright." Yao Jiancai sounded helpless as he hung up the call.

Following that, a text arrived on his cell phone as well.

It was a message from the songstress, Grandma Zhang Xia: "I've seen the news report and saw your Weibo post as well. The application form is not an apology letter. It's not as serious as you think."

Zhang Ye replied: "Grandma Zhang, I know."

Grandma Zhang Xia: "Then submit the application."

Zhang Ye replied: "I really can't do it."

Grandma Zhang Xia: "Alright then. Since you've already decided, I won't say another word."

Zhang Ye: "Thank you for your concern."

Thereafter, a call from Zhang Yuanqi's manager arrived as well.

The first thing Fang Weihong said when the call connected was "Why?"

Zhang Ye laughed. "No reason."

Fang Weihong said pitifully, "You have so much talent in writing lyrics and composing music and Sister Zhang has always wanted to work long term with you. If you are still on the banned artist list, we can't use your songs even if we wanted to. It would surely be held back if we tried to publish it, so speaking selfishly, I really want you to have your ban lifted. Think about your career and your future, there is really no need to do this, no?"

Zhang Ye laughed without saying a word.

Fang Weihong could only shake her head and said, "Forget it, I won't say any more."

Many of his friends had either made calls or sent him messages, mainly asking him "why?".

Zhang Ye could not continue writing because he had to reply to them, so he casually switched on the TV and channel surfed a little before finally stopping at Beijing Television Station's satellite channel, BTV-1. On it was shown Talking Point which was a live broadcasted program that was presided by a host who also acted as a commentator, discussing the talking points of the latest news with a few other news commentators. Zhang Ye had watched this program before but never paid much attention to it, but today, he did so because they were discussing none other than him.

The headline for this episode was about the matter of the mathematical conjecture. It gradually shifted its focus to the banned Zhang Ye and his latest Weibo post. Behind them on a large screen, many comments from the netizens could be clearly seen. All of these comments expressed puzzlement at Zhang Ye's decision!

A male commentator said, "I find it very strange too."

A female commentator added, "I am curious as I've been following many of the incidents regarding Teacher Zhang and it seems to me that many of his major decisions are made differently from other people."

The host said, "We have managed to get Teacher Zhang Ye's contact number here."

Zhang Ye's contact number was very difficult to get ahold of as most people did not know it and couldn't even contact him even if they wanted to. As Zhang Ye did not take part in any commercial events, he had never left a contact number publicly to anyone. But since Beijing Television Station was Zhang Ye's previous employer, it would be impossible that they would not be able to get hold of his contact number as this information was kept on his file. Besides, they could also have easily obtained it by making a visit to Zhang Ye's ex-colleagues to find out about it.

The second male commentator said, "Oh, really? We can contact Zhang Ye directly?"

The host nodded. "We do not know if the call will connect though." Then he spoke into his headset, "Could we trouble our director to help us link up with Teacher Zhang Ye via a call?"

Zhang Ye who was watching this had a bit of laugh when he heard that.

Then, he saw his cell phone screening lighting up in front of him and an unknown number appeared on the caller ID. Zhang Ye looked at it and finally decided to answer it.

Coincidentally at this moment, the bedroom door opened.

Wu Zeqing, dressed in a bathrobe, walked out holding her phone in her hand with its screen still lit up. She probably had already seen Zhang Ye's Weibo and knew that he had given up the best shot he had at getting unbanned.

Zhang Ye put a finger to his lips to let her know to be quiet.

Wu Zeqing nodded and went to get a drink for herself.

On the television, the host suddenly said, "It connected."

Zhang Ye heard this voice twice, once on his phone and a moment later, on television. Even though this was a live broadcast, there was still a lag time of about a little more than a second.

.....

On the internet.

Someone exclaimed!

"Damn! Quickly, tune in to BTV-1!"

"What's the matter, what's the matter?"

"Talking Point is on and they've made contact with Zhang Ye! It's a live broadcast! Everyone, quickly go watch it! Don't miss it! The hosts seem like they will be asking questions about Teacher Zhang's refusal to the SARFT's proposal!"

"Really? I'm coming!"

"Quickly inform the others! They need to watch this!"

Zhang Ye's fans and many other netizens turned on their televisions and tuned in to the program.

.....

At Yao Jiancai's house.

"Dad!"

"What?"

"Come quickly! The television program is interviewing Teacher Zhang!"

"Oh? I'm coming, I'm coming!"

.....

Hong Kong.

In a waiting room at the backstage of a television station.

Fang Weihong who was watching television made a curious sound, "Zhang Ye?" Then, she turned around and shouted, "Sister Zhang, do you want to see this? They're interviewing Little Zhang over the phone."

"Really?"

.....

The number of people who were paying attention to this program had increased crazily!

After all, this was the hottest topic currently and the live broadcast program was even able to contact the involved party, so naturally everyone was extremely curious about what Zhang Ye would say during the interview.

On television.



The host had not expected that they would really be able to get in contact with the man of the moment and so had his spirits raised by this. "Hello, how are you? Is this Teacher Zhang Ye? I am the host of Talking Point, Zhao Zhao."

Zhang Ye replied in a calm voice, "Hello."

The host verified again, "Is this really Teacher Zhang Ye?"

Zhang Ye laughed and replied, "I don't dare to be called a teacher, but my name is indeed Zhang Ye."

The host immediately continued, "I'm here with a few of our guest commentators at the live studio venue and we're discussing the matter regarding your application to have your ban lifted. We've also seen many of our netizen friends' comments, including the few of us as well, who have been left puzzled by your decision not to submit it. If you're still on the banned list, then wouldn't it be really difficult for you from here on out? Can you tell us why you made such a decision? Why you arrived at such an unfathomable decision?"

Wu Zeqing leaned against the wall, drinking her tea and watching the program on television.

Zhang Ye was also facing the television screen. Holding his phone still to his ear, he thought for a moment. He did not know how to answer them, nor did he know how to answer it properly.

Why?

Why?

This question was really not easily answerable.

Finally, Zhang Ye closed his eyes and said very calmly:

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / And sorry I could not travel both"

When they heard this, on the television screen, the host could clearly be seen looking a little stunned. The three guest commentators beside him were also a little taken aback as they looked at each other. Including those seated in front of their television sets, everyone was experiencing a similar reactions!

Two roads?

One was the path of compromise so that he could return to the entertainment circle? The other path was to not compromise and leave his future hanging?

Meanwhile on the broadcast, Zhang Ye's voice continued on:

"And be one traveler, long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,

And having perhaps the better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.”

This poem of course did not exist in this world and was only known to those in Zhang Ye's previous world. It was a work by the American poet, Robert Frost—The Road Not Taken.

With regards to the host's question as well as the netizens' and his friends question to him, Zhang Ye did not know how to tell them in his own words as to why he did what he did. He had no way to put it into words! This was why he chose to use a poem instead. He felt that this poem was the only one that could express what he was feeling at this moment!

In the paths that appear at different points of life, there can only be one decision. So Zhang Ye had chosen a path that was less traveled. Perhaps no one else had ever walked down this road and it could be full of difficulties and setbacks. But he would not regret it and he would never turn back! Because this was the path he chose!

What he needed to do was to keep going on and on.

On this path, there should not be any questions or reasons!

He did not want to know how incredibly beautiful and scenic the other path that he did not take would have been!

Chapter 538: Zhang Ye's retort!

On television.

The studio went silent for a second.

Then, the host quickly reacted by asking, "The name of this poem is....?"

Zhang Ye laughed a little and answered, "It's called The Road Not Taken."

The host praised, "Teacher Zhang can really come up with impromptu gems like that. Everyone could not understand your decision before, but after hearing your poem, I believe it is enough to make them understand."

The female guest commentator was so moved by the poem that she looked very emotional and had an expression of sadness as she said, "Teacher Zhang, in the past, after I've heard your poems and speeches or read your essays, my blood would always be surging with adrenaline. It's really rare to hear such a style of poem like today's."

The male guest commentator said, "Yes, we don't usually get that from you."

The other middle-aged commentator added, "I'm still getting used to it."

Zhang Ye said, "Yes, even I myself need to get used to this."

Having unexpectedly contacted Zhang Ye, interviewed him, and even received one of his newly composed works on the live broadcast of Talking Point, the host was already very satisfied. In his ear piece, the director's voice sounded and he stopped probing with further questions to Zhang Ye. He simply said a few words of thanks to Zhang Ye and hung up the call. Since Zhang Ye had refused to compromise and had already chosen his path, with the SARFT as their overseeing authority, it wouldn't do any good if they got too cushy with Zhang Ye. They did not continue to give him any more coverage and stopped right there and then.

.....

Talking Point was an above-average viewership rated program and was broadcasted live throughout the entire country via BTV-1's satellite channel. Today's broadcast was shown on many television screens in countless of homes.

Those who watched the live broadcast also heard this poem.

On the television station's forums and Weibo, the discussion about this topic started to heat up!

"Good poem!"

"What a great 'I took the one less traveled by'!"

"This is truly the depth of a master!"

"Yeah, Zhang Ye has really livened up literature!"

"Some literary people might not even be able to compose a poem with such an artistic mood in their whole lives, but when Teacher Zhang does it, he does it with little to no effort. It's just like cabbage being sold at the market. Whoever wants some will get however much they want!"

"The meaning behind this poem simply means to say that he is taking the path less trodden on! Since Teacher Zhang Ye debuted, every step that he took, his personality, his temperament, all of these could be interpreted from his poems!"

"Support Zhang Ye!"

"Right, no matter which path you choose to walk on, we will walk along with you!"

"Hah! F\*\*k them! Have any of us from Zhang Ye's fan club ever been afraid of anyone before!"

"Who's afraid of who! Come on! If you all don't intend to lift the ban, then don't! In the short life of a man, what's most important is that we live to the fullest! Even if Teacher Zhang Ye is unable to return to the entertainment circle, we will still wait!"

"Agreed! We will wait until we die!"

"+1!"

"Stubbornly waiting until Teacher Zhang, the King returns!"

Of course, there were also a lot of people who disagreed with his decision.

"What a thorn!"

"Zhang Ye's definitely finished this time!"

"Yes. With him proving Dale's Conjecture, he should already be enjoying the fame and limelight. But he ended up not grabbing his chance to get his ban lifted and pushed his luck instead? You might be unstoppable right now with all the headlines focused on you solving the mathematical conjecture, but surely you can't expect to ride this wave all your life, right? It will surely die down after some time, then what will you do? Do you really not intend to return to the entertainment business anymore? If you plan to do so, then at least show the right attitude? Even if you keep pressing it, will you be able to outdo the authorities? If they do not lift your ban, then what can you do?"

.....

At the SARFT.

"Supervisor, Manager Chen!"

"What are you running for?"

"The management wants me to inform you all that the newly appointed Deputy Chief Wang is headed here to inspect our department!"

"Ah? He's here so early? Didn't they say that it would be in the afternoon?"

"It's the welcoming banquet that would be held in the afternoon, but Deputy Chief Wang has already arrived in the morning. He has already reported officially to take over his duties. He intends to go around to understand more about the departments that he would be overseeing and is already on his way right now. He will be here very soon!"

"Alright, we understand!"

"Clean up the area a little!"

"Supervisor, should we report about Zhang Ye's incident?"

"If he asks, then we will report it. We won't be able to hide it anyway!"

.....

Soon after.

The SARFT issued another statement.

To begin, they issued the statement announcing the change of appointments, with Wang Changlei as the new Deputy Chief of the SARFT.

Then, very quickly, the next statement was issued as well. It's unknown under whose order this came from, nor whether if it was due to the live broadcast earlier on BTV-1 or because of the strong support for Zhang Ye on the internet, but the department responsible for implementing the measures of not airing any broadcasts involving banned artists was the one who issued this statement. First, it gave its approval to the banned artists who had submitted their applications online and processed it with quick efficiency. A total of 4 artists had their bans lifted with immediate effect. Next, it repeated and emphasized about the controls on banned artists and how all media outlets are to strictly enforce it without any letup!

Judging from the contents, it seemed like this statement was issued specifically with Beijing Television station's BTV-1 in mind.

The statement also mentioned that any banned artists who did not compromise or had intentions to revolt would be punished even more harshly, as if they were referring directly to Zhang Ye.

"It's beginning!"

"The battle is starting again! "

"The battle has become even more exciting now! It doesn't look like the end is in sight!"

Many of those netizens who were joining in to see the action were cheering on the excitement.

At this moment, the battle of the suppression of banned artists had begun again. It was building up to a climax and it seemed like Zhang Ye's future was looking dim.

.....

At the resort.

The air was clean and not as stuffy as the outside.

"Not a bad poem," Wu Zeqing said as she walked to the sofa and took a seat. She elegantly put down her tea cup and continued, "You're going up against them again?"

Zhang Ye coughed. "You saw it on Weibo?"

Wu Zeqing nodded. "I saw it."

Zhang Ye wanted to explain to her why he did that, but before he could say anything, Wu Zeqing had already moved on to another topic, not bothered by the issue at hand.

She smiled and said, "How much have you written for your novel already?"

"Oh, I've almost finished it," Zhang Ye said.

"You didn't get lazy, right? Let me check it." She sat down beside him.

Zhang Ye opened up the document for her with a smile. "I started writing since this morning. Other than updating Weibo and answering a few calls, I did nothing else. Why don't you take a look at it first?"

She said, "Big Sis will read it on the phone. You continue writing."

Zhang Ye was a little taken aback. "Write it right now?"

She asked, "Why can't you write it now?"

"....Alright." Zhang Ye nodded.

Whenever Zhang Ye was involved in some trouble, his friends or relatives would always come and ask him about it. They always wanted to know what was going on before criticizing him a little. This had always been the case and everyone was the same, except for Wu Zeqing. She was clearly not the same as them as she did not ask anything regarding Zhang Ye's refusal to submit an application to get his ban lifted. Instead, she chose to supervise him as he wrote the novel and encourage him. This saved a lot of explaining on Zhang Ye's part, and with that, it also comforted him greatly.

With Old Wu, he never had to speak unnecessarily. No matter what he did, as long as he felt it was right, as long as he determinedly stuck with it, Old Wu would surely give her full understanding and support.

Write on!

Zhang Ye began to type away noisily!

Beside him, Old Wu, who had finished reading his latest post, stood up and went to use the suite's phone to make a call to the reception desk. She got them to send some food up, not cooked but raw food. This was also a service that the resort provided and Old Wu began cooking in the kitchen. Her well-honed culinary skills of washing then cutting the ingredients was done slowly and calmly. This was the charm of a mature woman.

One chapter!

One chapter!

One more chapter!

At 12:35 PM, Zhang Ye finally snapped his fingers and laughed out loudly as he posted the last chapter of the main story. Other than the spin-off, this novel had been completed!

Old Wu, who was preparing the soup, raised her head up when she heard this. "You're done with it?"

Zhang Ye stretched his body and said, "I've finished it! It's completed!"

"Are you hungry?"

"I'm very hungry!"

"Hur hur, alright, wait a little while more."

"Thanks for the trouble, Old Wu."

"It's no trouble."

Old Wu lit the stove and started frying some vegetables.

Zhang Ye rested on his chair relaxingly clicking on the mouse as he browsed through the comments online.

.....

On the blog's comment section.

"Wau!"

"Legend of Wukong is completed!"

"Old Zhang's really impressive today! I've already finished reading!"

"With so much happening in these past two days, it seems like Teacher Zhang was not affected by it and wrote his novel at such a fast speed. Just by this, I have to give Teacher Zhang my Like!"

"Teacher Zhang has such high productivity! Look at the other authors who take a few months at least to finish a book of a few hundred thousand words, some take longer and stretch it to a year or even a few years! But see how good Teacher Zhang is, coming up with such an elite piece of work in just a matter of days? And it is of such a high standard too?"

"I'm really very impressed with Zhang Ye. No matter how bad his temper is, he is still doing something with his pen, his mouth, his hands and can deliver elite pieces of work after work to the people. His poems can stir the people, giving them strength. His essays can move the people, making them think. His crosstalk and talk show performances can make everyone laugh and lift their moods, his novels can bring happiness and sadness to everyone, letting them forget their troubles. Regarding Zhang Ye, while many people have mixed feelings about him, it cannot be denied that he has always been serious about his work. But what about the others? Like people from certain authorities? What are you all doing? All you know is how to talk about how this is not allowed or that is not allowed, talking about how Teacher Zhang Ye should be banned because he is not correct about something. But I would like to throw the question back to you all. What are you all correct about? Eh? What do you all do everyday from morning until night? Eh?"

Then, someone began to compile a list of quotes from Legend of Wukong!

Quote 1: "I want for the sky to not cover my eyes! / I want for this land to not bury my heart! / I want for all living beings to understand me! / I want for all those Buddhas to vanish from my life!"

Countless people started replying to this.

"This one's good!"

"This phrase is great!"

"This is the most classic one! I love it!"

"Zhang Ye's temper could be seen clearly from this. He is exactly the type of person who would dare play a different tune to the heavens and earth! He was using his novel to let the people know about his intentions!"

Quote 2: "Even if the Heavens oppress me, splitting the skies, crumbling the earth beneath my feet, I was born free, so who dares claim dominance over me!"

"That was a great one too!"

"I loved that phrase!"

"Awesome!"

Quote 3: "If the gods aren't greedy, why do they not tolerate a little criticism? If the gods aren't evil, why do they put the fates of so many within their grasp?"

"There's so many hidden meanings in these quotes!"

"I've read this phrase a few times over! Zhang Ye's meaning was clear for all to see!"

"It's only Zhang Ye who dares to do something like that. Most people wouldn't dare write something like this at all!"

"These words are Zhang Ye's questions! Right, if you all had no greed, why would you not be able accept a little criticism? You just assume that it is disrespect? You take it as insubordination? If you were not evil, why do you always force people to obey your orders unconditionally? They can't even air any grievances?"

"Well scolded!"

"This is really satisfying! That's exactly what I'm furious about!"

"I can finally see it, that this Legend of Wukong has been Teacher Zhang Ye's roar of anger from the beginning till the end! This is his retort! Zhang Ye finished his novel right after the SARFT had just released their statement and made their stand. He is announcing his intention of warring against them!"

"Although it's not evenly matched, I will still support Zhang Ye with all I've got!"

"Right! I support Face-smacking Zhang!"

"Everyone, use your actions to support Teacher Zhang! Using a quote from Legend of Wukong: 'I might be a pig, but. I. will. not. let. you. freely. slaughter. me!'"

"Well said!"

"We won't let you slaughter us!"

With the statement issued by the SARFT, Zhang Ye had immediately begun his retort!

The battle had become even more exciting now!

The situation was headed for a deadlock!

Chapter 539: The Difficulty Adjustment Die's ultimate power!



In the afternoon.

They had eaten and drunk their fill.

Old Wu was leaning back on the sofa with her phone in her hand, reading the last chapter of Legend of Wukong.

Zhang Ye was holding a toothpick in his hand picking his teeth in a relaxed manner. With one hand satisfactorily on his belly, he mumbled, "I'm so full, the food was so delicious. Huh, I'm sweating just from eating." Looking to the sofa, he said, "Old Wu, you're about to go to the south for your new appointment. When I can't get to eat your home cooked dishes in the future, I'll surely die. Why don't you stay? Otherwise, I will really die."

He was bringing up the same topic again.

Although he knew that the appointment could not be changed, Zhang Ye was still unwilling to let Wu Zeqing go. He wished that she would stay on in Beijing and get posted to some other appointment even if she did not stay in Peking University. That would be the best since he could still meet her. But thinking about it, he also had his aspirations and Old Wu would definitely have hers as well. She had goals that she worked for to get ahead in her job. It wasn't easy working for the government, and even though Zhang Ye had never been an official or a civil servant before, he clearly understood this. For Old Wu to obtain her achievements up till now, it must not have been easy. This transfer should be rather important for her as even if it was a lateral promotion, it was still necessary to prepare her for her next upward promotion. She couldn't miss this chance.

When he thought of all these, Zhang Ye changed his tone. "Forget it, treat it as I did not say that."

She continued reading the novel, calmly replying, "If you really want to, you can fly over and come visit Big Sis."

Zhang Ye forced a smile and said, "Sure."

"Besides, it's still not confirmed yet. Didn't I mention to you that, as long as the appointment has not been given and if there are some last minute changes, I might still not be going?" she said.

Zhang Ye blinked. "Won't be going? How big are the chances?"

She did not raise her head up and just said, "0.1%."

"That's as good as going for sure. A 0.1% chance is no different from a 0% chance," Zhang Ye said, knowing that he should not talk about this anymore. They were going to be separated soon and only had these few extra days together. At such times, he should only talk about happy things.

Suddenly, she put down her phone and said, "I've finished reading."

Zhang Ye asked, "Not too bad?"

"Yes, the literary standard is still as outstanding as ever. It's like you can write anything quite well," Old Wu praised him and then looked at him. "You're worthy of being my little boyfriend."

Zhang Ye was a little speechless and said in annoyance, "What do you mean, 'little boyfriend'? Just boyfriend will do."

She nodded. "Alright, boyfriend."

Zhang Ye was very proud of this. He went over to the sofa and sat down, holding Old Wu's hand.

Old Wu naturally held his hand as well. "After Big Sis leaves, I won't be able to look after you everyday. Honestly speaking, I am a little worried about you."

Zhang Ye sighed. "It's not worth it."

"When I'm around, I can help you whenever needed. I can supervise wherever you need my supervision." She laughed. "When I'm gone, you just might get into some big trouble again."

Zhang Ye said, "You don't wish to go?"

Old Wu replied, "Yes, I don't really want to go to the south. Hur hur, but that can't be helped. If the organization has already decided, then I can only follow it. So when I'm not around for the next few years, you have to take care of yourself. If there's anything that you want advice on, you can always call me. Even though I'm older than you, I can't claim that I am smarter or more cultured than you. But at the very least, Big Sis has more experience with many things, so giving you some advice will definitely not be a problem."

"Alright, I understand."

"How do you intend to deal with the trouble with the SARFT?"

"I don't know, I will just take it a step at a time. That has always been how I dealt with things since the beginning anyway."

"Since you've already chosen a different path from the others, be determined. Don't be bothered by what others say of you and remember that I will always be supporting you."

"Thanks, Old Wu."

Old Wu's words left Zhang Ye feeling great and took away all his stress. With such a woman by his side, Zhang Ye felt that even if the whole world were scolding him, he would be alright with it!

Later in the afternoon.

The two of them didn't go anywhere and just stayed in the room to chat.

Perhaps it was because he knew that they wouldn't have much time left together, Zhang Ye spoke about a lot of things. He chatted with Old Wu about the news, about celebrities, and even gossiped.

He was unwilling to see her go!

They sat together intimately and affectionately!

But life is always full of surprises!

The way some things developed would always be unexpected to everyone. Zhang Ye wouldn't have believed it if you told him that the upcoming developments would be so dramatic! Even for someone like him who had witnessed all sorts of unbelievable situations, he was dumbfounded for a while!

At 1:15 PM.

Wu Zeqing's cell phone rang. She took a call from a department of the organization.

"Hello, President Wu."

"Secretary Chen."

"There's something I should let you know in advance. Regarding your appointment changes this time, I'm afraid that some problems have cropped up. The personnel over at the south did not handle the paperwork properly and there are no more open positions left. You might have to wait a little longer while I try to communicate and sort it out with the organization. Wait for my call. I will try to arrange something as soon as I can."

"Alright, sorry to trouble you, Secretary Chen."

"Don't say that. I had given you the guarantee for this job previously but somehow it did not work out. I should be the one apologizing, so anyway, just wait for my news."

After hanging up, Old Wu said to Zhang Ye, "It seems like your wishes had come true, heh heh. The 0.1% chance really did happen."

Zhang Ye was a little confused and asked, "What's the matter?"

She said, "There are some problems with the new appointment and they told me to wait for further news."

Zhang Ye said in surprise, "Wow, really?"

"Let's go." Old Wu stood up. "Big Sis needs to start contacting some people to find out more about this. I'll have quite a bit to do. Why don't you send me back home?"

"OK, this is more important." Zhang Ye quickly packed up and checked out of the resort with Old Wu.

Zhang Ye was actually feeling a little suspicious and wondered if it could be due to the five times reduced difficulty effect. Up until now, the Difficulty Adjustment Die's effect was still going on as there was a total of a little more than six days. Right now, there were a little less than two days left to go!

Old Wu might be able to stay after all?

That would be great!

Zhang Ye did not think much and could only be happy about it. But the developments of this event would once again leave him dumbfounded over and over again. It was seriously too shocking!

.....

That night.

An incident occurred at the SARFT!

The newly appointed deputy chief, Comrade Wang Changlei, had a welcoming banquet thrown for him after the issuance of the statements to warn Zhang Ye and the television stations. But as a result of overdrinking at the banquet, he suffered a stroke and had to be rushed to the hospital. In the evening, the medical report indicated that he would be unfit for his duties at the SARFT, and as such, had to step down from his post. It seemed that the procedures for his resignation were already being processed, and according to the online news outlets, the organization had also accepted Comrade Wang's resignation.

The netizens were very surprised at this outcome!

Many people also began ridiculing such an incident!

"Another incident at a welcoming banquet! Isn't this already the second time it had happened?"

"They were even drinking while on the job?"

"What the heck were they doing?"

"F\*\*k, something has already happened so soon after he had taken over?"

"Are they going to change to a new deputy chief again? Who would it be?"

There were not many people who were too concerned about this news as it wasn't something that affected them. But people from the entertainment circle all paid close attention to this as any movement in the upper management of the SARFT would affect the celebrities and entertainment companies very directly. It's like how a soccer player and the soccer team are affected by the soccer associations as those were the authorities who had control over their livelihoods. An appointment like the deputy chief would surely attract the attention of countless entertainment circle members as even any changes in middle management would already be something that affected them. Including the bosses of the entertainment companies, the cadres of the television station, and those A- and B-list celebrities, all of them would surely have to pay attention to such matters!

A new leader of the overseeing authority, and you don't even know the name of the person? Then do you think you can survive in this field? Definitely not!

And so, everyone from the entertainment circle had their full attention on this matter!

.....

The next day.

A new appointment had been issued.

Comrade He Yi from the State Council Information Office would be taking over the duties from Comrade Wang Changlei.

A sense of surprise rippled through the entertainment circle.

"Deputy Chief Wang is really stepping down?"

"They've already chosen a new guy to take over the appointment?"

"So it really turned out to be Director He. I'd guessed so. Only Director He has the necessary experience and qualifications since he has been in the field of news and publicity for so many years. After the incident involving Deputy Chief Wang, the whole branch must be in a mess. Director He is the only one who can take hold of and control the situation."

Very quickly, a lot of people started reacting to the news.

Some staff from the entertainment companies immediately rushed to handle the public relations. Several bigwigs from the entertainment circle who had links to the SARFT's upper management also contacted Director He or his relatives directly to congratulate him, trying to make a good impression and improve their relations. Such ground work needed to be done early.

But ten hours later, on the evening of the day of his appointment, before Comrade He Yi had even received his appointment letter from the SARFT, a case that the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection had been investigating had a major breakthrough and important evidence was uncovered. As the top party members placed significant attention on this case, the commission sent out their operatives overnight to quickly gather the evidence to press charges against the involved personnel.

Late in the middle of the night, there were rumors of Comrade He Yi being taken away from his home.

In the morning, this rumor was verified by the relevant authority and the case was exposed, involving more than a dozen people of which Comrade He Yi was amongst.

The case caused a sensation!

The entertainment circle was once again shocked!

"What?"

"Damn!"

"How could something like that happen again?"

"How could the past two days be full of happenings like that? How absurd can it get?"

"The SARFT had just declared war on Teacher Zhang Ye and their internal department has already been thrown into chaos?"

"Teacher Zhang really deserves the title of jinx!"

This time, not only people from the entertainment circle had their attentions on this matter, even the commoners could not help but turn their attention to this in shock!

"They're changing people again?"

"..."

"Is there even anyone left to change with?"

"There shouldn't be many who are qualified enough, have done work in the publicity department, and can handle the mess right now, right?"

"Who will they switch to this time?"

"My guess is that they will promote from within the SARFT itself?"

"That can't be. Their department heads and leaders are still lacking in qualifications by far too much. If they were to be promoted to the deputy chief's position, that would be too forced. Although it is called a deputy chief position, the SARFT is a leading role in the ministry and its deputy chief ranking is of vice-ministerial level! If they were to promote from within, that would not adhere to the policies! How can that be right?"

Those who knew how the system worked were all discussing privately. It was not safe to talk about a leading role in a government ministry on the internet. Those who did so were probably just talking nonsense or bragging about their knowledge.

Time slowly ticked away.

The tension and pressing urgency was spreading!

The whole entertainment circle was now concerned about who this third appointee would be and how that person would affect the future of the entertainment circle.

.....

The sun rose.

The morning sun did not arrive until late morning.

Just when the five times difficulty reduction period was in its last minute of effect, the appointment statement was finally released to all in the entertainment industry!

"It's out!"

"Quick, take a look!"

"Who could it be?"

Statement issued in regards to change of appointments:

Comrade He Yi has been stripped of all duties and dishonorably discharged from the party.

Peking University's Vice-President Comrade Wu Zeqing will be appointed to the role of Deputy Chief of the SARFT in effect immediately!

When this news was released, the whole entertainment circle flew into an uproar!

Three seconds.....

Two seconds.....

One second.....

[Ding!]

[Countdown complete!]

[Difficulty Adjustment Die—Five times reduced difficulty effect completed!]

Chapter 540: Return of the.....Jinx!

On this day.

On the weekend.

The flowers were blooming for spring's arrival.

Zhang Ye had gone back to his parents' house last night. His parents were having a rest day today and his father was in the living room preparing meat fillings while his mother was making dumpling skins for the fillings.

Zhang Ye came out of his bedroom. "Dad, Mom."

His father looked over to him and said, "You're up?"

"Yeah, what's for lunch?" Zhang Ye glanced at them.

His mother turned around and smiled. "Dumplings with pork and leek filling."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Heh, dumplings are great, I will definitely eat more then."

"All you know is to eat. Why don't you help us a little instead?" His mother stared at him. "Go and get me some flour. I don't have enough for the dumpling skins here."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Yes, Ma'am! Edict received!"

The television was switched on and the news was being reported. On screen, a familiar figure appeared. It was Wu Zeqing in her new office being interviewed by the media. As Old Wu was now heading a department that dealt with important and sensitive issues, along with the recent problems that hit the SARFT in the past two days, the media immediately arranged to interview her. Her first day on the job was yesterday. They asked about some of the more pressing issues that the people had, and also asked about the direction of future policies that the SARFT would adopt from now on. For example, the current censorship rules for some television dramas or film productions and whether there would be any changes to them. Wu Zeqing spoke diplomatically and answered all the questions.

This was the interview from yesterday and it was just being rebroadcasted today.

His father who also watched it yesterday asked him out of concern, "President Wu has really been acknowledged this time. Did she get promoted by a rank?"

Zhang Ye nodded, "She's now a leading ministry's deputy chief."

His father also knew a little about politics and government, mainly from listening to others. "I heard that by qualification this appointment should not have been assigned to President Wu. After all, her age is still not there yet and having such a young deputy chief when there aren't even a few of them around in the whole country, not to mention that she's also a woman? That's even rarer than rare. Looks like your President Wu really has good fortune. This is a promotion by three ranks to a high-ranking official now."

Good fortune?

Maybe everyone would think so, but only Zhang Ye alone knew this fortune was not god sent but was a result of his use of the difficulty adjustment die. Of course he could not tell this to anyone and even if he did, no one would believe him as even he himself was still a little dazed by all this. The difficulty adjustment die had given him great help this time as its effects had been huge. At the start, it was just winning a lucky draw on his cell phone, then came being broadcasted live for his performance, not once, not twice, but thrice! Following that, his success at wooing Old Wu was a testament of just how great the effect of the die was. Everything went smooth sailing for him and when it had done more than what Zhang Ye could have expected from it, something even more surprising happened. Not only did it help the southbound Wu Zeqing stay behind, it even helped her gain a big promotion to the post of deputy chief of the SARFT. This was as good as meat pies falling from the sky!

It was simply unbelievable!

His mother turned to him and asked, "High ranking or not, I just want to know if she can lift the ban on my son. Son, how is your relationship with President Wu back at the university?"

How could it not be good?

We're talking about this bro's girlfriend here!

But Zhang Ye did not spill the beans as he has not yet thought of a way to break this news to his parents. After all, Old Wu was much older than him and he was a little embarrassed to say it at the moment. "It's not bad."

"Is that bad or not then?" his mother asked insistently.

His father said, "When Little Ye went to Peking University, it was because President Wu invited him to go. Even if their relationship was just so-so, at least they know each other. They still have some fate between them and Preside...I should be calling her Chief Wu instead now. To her, it's as simple as lifting her fingers. If she can help it, she would definitely help, right?"

His mother immediately said, "Son, then why don't you quickly make a call to Chief Wu and bring something over for her. Ask her how things are and see if you can quickly resolve the issue. Otherwise, if you continue being in a deadlock with the SARFT, when will you ever be able to head back into the entertainment business? With that terrible temper of yours, it wouldn't be strange even if they never lift the ban off you."

Zhang Ye casually said, "Don't bother yourselves with this matter, I know what to do."

His cell phone began to ring.

Looking at the caller ID, he saw that it was a call from Old Wu!

"I have to take a call," Zhang Ye said before quickly going back into his room and closing the door behind him. He went over to the window and answered, "Hello, Old Wu."

The gentle voice of a woman sounded on the other side, "You home?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes, at my parents' house."

"You couldn't get through to Big Sis's phone yesterday, right?"



"Yea, I tried calling for a whole day, but it was always busy. Later at night, I was afraid that you might be too tired, so I didn't call."

"The appointment arrived yesterday for Big Sis to take over with immediate effect, so I was a little caught up as many of my old colleagues and friends all called to congratulate me. I had so many calls to answer and my meal appointments are lined up fully as well. And there's also some people from the entertainment companies who came to see me, but I did not bother with them and just let my secretary handle it. My cell phone has been ringing nonstop the whole day too. After I took over here officially, I had to handle some work, attend meetings, stabilize the morale of the ministry, and thus, I didn't contact you because of all that."

"I have to congratulate you too."

"This promotion came as a surprise to me too, I would never have expected it."

"It has to be my credit this time."

"Why's it yours?"

"Because I kept nagging for you to stay behind in Beijing and look what happened? The heavens responded, right?"

"Hur hur, alright, it's because of you."

Suddenly, a young man's voice could be heard on the other side. He sounded very respectful as he said, "Chief Wu, the meeting documents for this morning, you..."

"Let's stop talking here, I have matters to attend to," Old Wu said.

Zhang Ye nodded and said, "Sure, go busy yourself then. I'll hang up now."

An official taking up a new post, and such an important post at that, would of course be busy with a lot of work. Zhang Ye understood this well and hung up. He hummed a melody as he walked out of his room and went back to helping his parents with preparing the dumplings.

.....

Afternoon.

An update from the Weibo account of the SARFT.

"They've issued another statement!"

"Aiyo, quick, take a look!"

Everyone rushed over with their full attention on this announcement as this was the first move that the new chief made after the incidents of the past few days. With this reason behind, it was no wonder that everyone focused on this.

The Weibo update was posted!

A message was also posted up on the SARFT's official website at the same time.

The published banned artists list was updated and no other additional documents or statements were made. It was simply just an update of the list. The policies did not change and the strict rules still applied as usual. But on this list right now, many of those artists previously on it were no longer there.

For example, a male celebrity who was previously involved in tax evasion.

For example, another female singer who had taken drugs two years ago.

And for example...Zhang Ye!

It did not mention anything about an application form and the banned artist list had automatically deleted the names of those artists with minor misdeeds!

Countless of netizens exclaimed!

Countless of industry insiders screamed!

"What situation is this?"

"I didn't see it wrongly, did I? Zhang Ye's ban has been lifted?"

"I can accept this for the other artists who were unbanned. Their cases happened so long ago in the past and the storm had already subsided for them, so lifting their bans were natural. But what about Zhang Ye? It's only been a few days since he posted those poems deploring the SARFT? Just what is going on? Why did they let him off? I can't understand why this is happening!"

"Hahahaha!"

"Great!"

"Isn't the newly appointed chief previously the vice president of Peking University? Teacher Zhang is also a teacher of Peking University, so with that kind of a relationship between them, what is difficult to understand about it?"

"Oh, that's right! What you said is true!"

"When Zhang Ye went to teach at Peking University, I heard that he did so because Chief Wu invited him to. Now that Teacher Zhang has solved a global mathematical conjecture, he has also earned honors for Peking University. Since Chief Wu has worked at Peking University for so many years, of course there are some sentiments for the institution. Even if she doesn't have a lot of dealings with Zhang Ye, she would definitely still be a little biased towards Teacher Zhang. After all, they were both involved in educational work and so it isn't really that difficult to see what's going on here!"

"Tossing flowers to celebrate!"

"How exciting! How exciting!"

"How could there be such a plot twist? Pu!"

"Haha, those who were waiting to witness Teacher Zhang's downfall are probably fuming mad now!"

"Aiya, How can Teacher Zhang's luck be so good! How did it even end up like this?"

On this day, the tremors spread throughout the whole entertainment circle!

With his ban lifted, Zhang Ye was back!

That fearsome jinx... was back again!!