

Superstar 1141

Chapter 1141: Playing all three of the most complex josekis!

With the Magic Sword out!

The board state became a quagmire!

Online, many Go players felt as though their heads were about to explode!

"Holy shit!"

"I can't look at this anymore!"

"This is too confusing!"

"My brain fucking hurts!"

"How on earth do you solve something like this?"

"Where does Zhang Ye get so many weird moves from!"

"If I were Peter, I would definitely fucking want to kill him!"

The Great Slant Joseki had exhausted countless people as they tried to make out its depth. Those endless possibilities and variations would perhaps even confound top players like Xiang Rong, Li Yi, and others. In the end, Peter had a hard time climbing out of it before immediately coming face-to-face with the Magic Sword Joseki. Just what kind of an experience was this? What was for sure was that this was definitely a "fuck my life" kind of moment! It was fortunate that Zhang Ye was facing a machine with no emotions. Otherwise, if a human were sitting across from him at this time, that person would probably fight him physically after the game, regardless of whether they won or lost. This was too fucking mean!

The Magic Sword Joseki: one of the three most complex josekis to play in Go back in Zhang Ye's previous world. Compared to the other 3-4 point josekis 1, the Magic Sword Joseki was the most complex and difficult one to play against!

After Zhang Ye's large knight's move, Peter became unresponsive!

Chen Ying said in surprise, "Peter has gone into the tank again. It has already been 15 minutes and no move has been made yet. Is this Professor Zhang's strategy? Will it really work?"

Xiang Rong was also a little speechless. "What a strange game this is!"

Chen Ying agreed, "Yes, this joseki might not look like anything much at first glance as there are only four stones in the corner. But it is similar to the large slant from earlier. On a more detailed look, it seems like there's no solution to it! With this joseki played, it is truly time for these two players to have their skills tested. We simply can't predict how this will end!"

The time left on Peter's clock was dwindling!

Its clock displayed just over an hour!

The Americans were getting anxious. They were all screaming inside their heads.

Get him!

Fuck him up!

Increase your advantage!

Everyone was waiting. They were waiting for Peter to make a choice and respond to the move. But as they could not see any expression, nor was there any expression to show, no one really knew the status of Peter!

However, they could all see Zhang Ye's expression. He looked very comfortable even though he was behind by more than a dozen points. He was looking unexpectedly calm!

The Americans clenched their teeth!

But everyone else was feeling reassured!

Zhang Ye's calmness had given them a lot of confidence!

Li Qinqin said, "Can he make a comeback?"

Hu Liang said, "Professor Zhang seems confident of it!"

Xu Han gave a wry smile and said, "We must think of it that way!"

Everyone wanted to see how this joseki would be played out. As it was too complex, many of them had already given up on analyzing it, so they quietly waited as they watched!

Peter had 58 minutes of left on the clock.

Finally, it made its move!

Peter cut across Zhang Ye's large knight's move and began open battle!

Zhang Ye smiled and placed his stone, playing a "reach around" on the outer side!

Peter went silent once again!

Five minutes later, Peter played a stretch above Zhang Ye's stone!

Zhang Ye didn't even think and went straight for a corner position!

Peter went deep in the tank again!

Chen Ying applauded and said, "How wonderful!"

Yu Yingyi was dizzy. "I can't understand anything that's going on!"

Xiang Rong explained, "Professor Zhang has more of the initiative. Although it might look like he did not think much before playing his moves, all of his moves are quite beautiful. It seems like he is coming up with the best responses to every move that his opponent is making in the complexity of this joseki. He's truly a strong player!"

Chen Ying said worriedly, "But the board state that's about to unfold looks like it's going to be a matter of choices. And the choice to be made here is very important, so I wonder how Peter is going to handle it!"

Peter moved again!

Zhang Ye blinked and replied!

Chen Ying cheered, "Good move! Professor Zhang, what a good move!"

But Xiang Rong said, "That's a joseki trap 2 ."

Chen Ying was startled. "A joseki trap?"

Xiang Rong nodded.

After a slight analysis, Chen Ying broke out in a cold sweat. "It's really a joseki trap! Professor Zhang is trying to lure Peter in!" She thought to herself how he could be so crafty!

However, Peter did not fall for it. It played an extension!

Zhang Ye bumped.

This time, Peter was obviously faster in processing and retreated with its move, purposely staying away from it!

Zhang Ye narrowed his eyes. He went for a push-through move against Peter's expectations!

They were engaged in a closely fought battle!

It was thrilling!

This was not a real battle, and there was no smoke and fire. But on this small Go board, it felt like two grandmasters were crossing swords and spilling blood!

Xiang Rong said, "Peter has no way out. It can only face the fight! It's even more so for Professor Zhang, but this should be what he wants and probably why he played that joseki in the first place! The circumstances are the same as the large slant joseki from earlier. Only one can survive, so unless the other falls, no one can get out. The only thing is we don't know who will remain standing at the end!"

In the spectator room, people were shouting and cheering!

"You can do it!"

"Charge!"

"Professor Zhang, go for it!"

But very quickly, their expressions changed!

Just as Zhang Ye's white stones were bashing his opponent, Peter played a wonderfully magnificent move!

After three minutes of thinking, Peter applied pressure in the corner and cut off Zhang Ye's momentum straight down the middle!

Zhang Ye frowned. His expression of helplessness was captured by the cameras.

The Americans applauded Peter's move!

Alright!

Beautiful!

That was very well executed!

Meanwhile, those who were siding with Zhang Ye could only sigh in unison!

Zhang Ye made his next move!

Peter attacked again!

Zhang Ye played a horizontal stretch!

Peter chased after him!

When Zhang Ye knew that nothing would come out of this, he gave up and got out of the entanglement.

Xiang Rong sighed. "Peter has broken through again!"

Yu Yingyi asked anxiously, "How is Professor Zhang doing then?"

Chen Ying answered, "Professor Zhang has suffered another great loss. The series of exchange in the upper corner has led him to lose at least another ten or more points. Then, there is another group of five or six stones that have been surrounded and are dead!"

Dead?

Another group was dead?

Yu Yingyi despaired!

When the television viewers heard that, they also lost all hope!

They had been down by over a dozen points. And now, they were down by yet another dozen points? Adding them together, wouldn't they be at around a 30-point deficit? What else was there left to play for!

They were going to lose?

There shouldn't be a way to play on, right?

Chen Ying 7-dan said sadly, "Professor Zhang is very much so in danger. Although I'm also rooting for him to win, based on the board state, there's almost no hope."

Xiang Rong also felt the same. "If it were me, I would've resigned by now."

Resign? That would mean conceding the game!

Even Xiang Rong was saying this, so it could be seen just how hopeless things was for Zhang Ye!

However, Zhang Ye did not do so!

Not only did he not concede, Zhang Ye still looked as calm as ever as he continued playing. This time, he played his move right in the third corner where there were already some stones setup!

Peter immediately replied with a cut!

Zhang Ye pushed deeper!!

Peter did not allow it!

Zhang Ye forced his way in!

Peter pushed him back!

With the Magic Sword Joseki cracked, the remaining computation for the moves weren't that difficult for Peter. It was starting to play efficiently again and almost did not waste any time. Every move was completed within a minute, while it was Zhang Ye's turn to be deep in the tank.

The board state proceeded to the middlegame!

The two sides exchanged another eight moves in that corner!

Although Zhang Ye was still fighting, everyone else thought he was just trying to hold on!

The Americans were confident of their victory. Some of them had already looked away from the play. They didn't think that there was any need to watch as the result had been determined!

The Great Slant Joseki?

The Magic Sword Joseki?

Peter cracked them one after the other and showcased how strong its Go skills were!

They believed, in fact, everyone believed, that Zhang Ye was at a dead end. They didn't think that he had any moves left to play!

But right when Peter played a move at what everyone thought was a great position, Zhang Ye suddenly laughed!

It finally happened!

I knew that you would play this move!

Without any hesitation, Zhang Ye pushed!

At the beginning, no one saw anything particular about it.

But when Peter went deep in the tank again after the Great Slant Joseki and the Magic Sword Joseki, everyone suddenly felt that something was wrong. A bad premonition hit them!

Xiang Rong was startled as he shouted, "It's here again! Professor Zhang is doing it again!"

Chen Ying looked dumbfounded as she just stared in shock at the board!

What in the world!

Again?

You're doing it again?

Hu Liang's legs wobbled!

Xu Han was floored again!

Wu Changhe and Dan Donghe were speechless.

When they noticed the fearsomeness and shamelessness of Zhang Ye's move, everyone silently put that bastard Zhang Ye onto their blacklists!

They knew that they would never want to play against him in the future!

They would absolutely not do something like that!

If they played him, they would probably end up vomiting so much blood that they would die of blood loss!

What kind of move was this?

What kind of playstyle was this?

Americans were only average at Go and were barely seen in international tournaments. Even if there were any, they would have Chinese or Korean ethnicity. But that did not mean that Americans did not know Go. Since the team members could issue a challenge to all humanity on behalf of Peter, they definitely understood Go! When they saw that move by Zhang Ye, and Peter going deep in the tank yet again, the reactions of the Americans could only be described as "what the fuck!" In their heads, they were cursing at all 18 generations of Zhang Ye's ancestors!

Why don't you just die!

Are you finished yet? Fuck!

After the first one, you still had a second?

After the second one, you're now playing a third?

What is this?

Just what the hell is this?

All of the American team members were raging, but Zhang Ye maintained his calm.

The Avalanche Joseki 3 —the third of the three most complex josekis from Zhang Ye's previous world!

Chapter 1142: You're done here, it's my turn!

The Go players were all stunned!

The netizens were jumping for joy!

"Aiyo, I'm dying of laughter!"

"Pfft!"

"Requesting to view Peter's 'phobias' stats!"

"Did PeterGo crash?"

"How does Zhang Ye come up with such complex josekis at the snap of a finger!"

"It's already the third one! This is already the fucking third one!"

"Just how many does he have left?"

"Who knows!"

"Could he possibly make a comeback?"

"There shouldn't be anything left to play for in this game, right?"

"Is Teacher Zhang spiting the Americans on purpose?"

Five minutes!

Ten minutes!

Fifteen minutes!

Peter seemed to have crashed!

Zhang Ye smiled and looked at the screen. Ever since the start of the game, he had not shown any trace or acceptance of a loss. He was either just very calm or wore a smile on his face that no one could understand. No one knew what Zhang Ye intended to do and felt that he was just trying to mess up the board state on purpose. But they all had to admit that Zhang Ye really knew how to make trouble for Peter. Just with those three extremely complex josekis that no one had ever seen before nor replicable by anyone in the Go world, Zhang Ye had done something to Peter that no one before him could manage. Let alone being able to make Peter "vomit blood," they could not even cause it any trouble. Further, Zhang Ye had won yesterday's game fair and square!

Wu Changhe sighed, "This kid, what's the point of constantly playing those josekis? Even after taking all that trouble to play them, he was still killed off by that P-whatever its name was thingy! Does he even know the difference in scores? He can't catch up!"

Hu Liang thought so too. He yelled at the screen, "Professor Zhang, why don't you at least try to catch up! This kind of joseki is too complex! You might find yourself getting entangled in it!"

"Is he going to lose?"

"Aiyo, I'm dying from the anxiety!"

"Professor Zhang, show your might!"

"Do something like that Hand of God you played yesterday!"

With this Avalanche Joseki played, everyone felt like they were breaking down. But there was nothing that they could do since he had played it!

Zhang Ye could understand why they felt that way. He had brought out all three of his previous world's most complex josekis, all of them within just one game. This was not even seen before in his previous world at any of the official tournaments, and it was practically impossible for something like this to happen. How would most professional Go players react when they saw the Magic Sword Joseki? The Avalanche Joseki? The Great Slant Joseki? They would all be pissing their pants already! It was certainly not something that they would play, and if any one of these complex josekis made an appearance in a game, it would be a feat! So for three of them to appear within one game? That would surely be the death of them!

If that was how a world with these three josekis already in existence would react, then it wasn't necessary to speak of just how a world that had not seen them before would react!

The three complex josekis have all been played!

This was a fucking hell game!

There shouldn't be another Go game as complicated as this one, ever!

Of course, the appearance of these three josekis was a result of Zhang Ye's deliberate guidance. It was easier to accept that the Magic Sword and Great Slant Josekis had been played as the conditions to form the patterns were simpler. But the Avalanche Joseki was much more complicated and would rarely appear due to being much more conditional than the other two. After Zhang Ye's failure with the Magic Sword Joseki, he had to purposely bring the game over to the structure in the other corner. Relying on a bit of experience and luck, as well as his slight understanding of Peter's cognitive principles, Zhang Ye was finally able to lead Peter into the trap!

Come on!

Have a taste of this!

The time left on Peter's clock was slowly dwindling!

The live broadcast camera zoomed in on the digits of the clock as they counted down—there weren't even 30 minutes left on its clock. Only 26 minutes were showing on the clock! Even though they were in the middlegame, and though Peter was leading by quite a bit, it had very little time left on the clock!

In contrast, Zhang Ye still had an hour and thirty minutes left!

When there were just 25 minutes left on Peter's clock, it made a move!

Peter played a push 1 !

Zhang Ye went with the flow and fought it!

Peter countered!

Zhang Ye called an atari!

Peter gave up on the stone!

Zhang Ye captured a black stone!

Two moves later, Peter called an atari on the side of the board!

Zhang Ye did not allow it!

Peter thought for a good five minutes before placing a stone, which was a crucial move!

Chen Ying could not help but say, "Beautiful!"

Yu Yingyi said, "Peter seems to be playing much faster!"

Xiang Rong said, "Yes, compared to earlier, it's much faster!"

Zhang Ye did not have a good way to deal with this move yet, so he had to retreat from there.

But Peter pressed on!

That resulted in Zhang Ye countering with an atari on his next move!

This move of his was welcomed by applause and cheers from those in the commentary booth, as well as everyone else who was watching the match!

Chen Ying said, "Good! Great!"

Xiang Rong was taken aback as he realized that Zhang Ye did not suffer a loss this time. Not only did he not suffer a loss, he even captured a stone and regained a few points against all odds!

The Qiyuan's people were astonished!

This was the first time that Zhang Ye had made Peter taste defeat in a fight in the corners. But whatever this meant, they were not in the mood to think about it. Neither did their attention deviate to that as the battle on the board was so intense that no one was considering other things!

Only Zhang Ye eyes shifted as he kept smiling!

Perhaps due to its earlier mistake, Peter went deep in the tank for another four minutes before playing its next move, then thought for another 3 minutes for its next move!

Zhang Ye did not seem to need to think and played spontaneously!

Peter played a horizontal stretch!

Zhang Ye preemptively grabbed a position!

Peter hesitated for a moment before rushing to fight for it!

Zhang Ye then played a very unusual ghost move 2 !

Peter considered its moves for another three minutes!

Chen Ying suddenly said, "Peter is about to break the joseki!"

Xiang Rong did not say anything.

Sure enough, Peter's next move attacked straight in. With that, the deadlocked battle in the corner came a temporary end, and Peter successfully escaped. But unlike the previous two times, perhaps due to its internal configuration for time rules, many of its moves were hastily played without much thought at all. This led to Peter escaping the fight in the corner only after taking a loss of four or five points!

Yu Yingyi quickly asked, "How are things?"

Chen Ying smiled and said, "This time, Professor Zhang has played the joseki successfully!"

"What?" Yu Yingyi was pleasantly surprised. "That's great!"

Xiang Rong continued and immediately poured cold water on that by saying, "But Peter still has an advantage in the other territories. There's also still a 25, 26 point difference in the score!"

Yu Yingyi fell silent!

25 to 26 points?

The game was entering the latter half!

Chen Ying sighed. "It won't be easy to catch up. It's almost impossible!"

The mood dipped a little. This corner fight might have been won, but it was unable to affect the entire battle. Professor Zhang might have played splendidly here, but it did not affect the overall board state much!

The Americans heaved a sigh of relief.

They've finally won!

A loss of four or five points? That was fine, it was totally acceptable. As long as they could break the joseki, it was all fine and they would definitely be able to take this game! Subtracting the compensation, they still led by 25 to 26 points? There was still more than half the game left to be played, so it would be very difficult for them to throw the game! Their advantage was clear as day!

The Americans representative smiled as he looked at Zhang Ye.

Come!

What other moves do you have left?

Huh? What do you have left?

However, one of the Caucasians in the group got startled. He looked shocked as he tugged at the representative and pointed at the computer in a fluster!

Chen Ying also realized it!

She shouted, "Something's wrong! Something's off!"

Yu Yingyi was taken aback. "What is it?"

Chen Ying excitedly pointed at Peter's clock. "Take a look at that! Look at Peter's remaining time!"

Yu Yingyi exclaimed, "Two minutes and twenty-two seconds?"

Xiang Rong's eyes lit up. "Peter only has two minutes left!"

The Americans could feel their hearts dropping. This was bad!

Meanwhile, the Qiyuan's people blew up!

Li Qinqin said in shock, "Two minutes! Two minutes more and the main time will end. Every move after that will have to be played within one minute! Peter is out of time!"

Hu Liang said, "Even two hours are not enough?"

Dan Donghe exulted. "It was all spent on dealing with Professor Zhang's three josekis!"

Xu Han gasped, "What is Professor Zhang trying to do?"

Everyone looked at one another and could see the shock in one another's eyes!

The three josekis were played, but Zhang Ye's plan was not to use them to win the game. It was not so that he could fight against Peter. His objective since the start was to make Peter run out of time! But would that still be possible? With such a great deficit of points, could he catch up? What moves did Zhang Ye have left?

In an instant, the atmosphere chilled!

The home viewers were also looking at their television screens in shock!

The American representative panicked but quickly forced himself to calm down. Impossible! He couldn't catch up! Even if Peter did not have much main thinking time left and could only use one minute for the overtime after the main time was over, it could still control the overall board state. Besides, with two of the corners already lost, how can you play on? It was too late for that!

A comeback?

Not even God could achieve that!

Chen Ying's voice was getting very loud. "The board is in a very delicate state! Peter has the advantage and is almost in a winning position, but it has used up most of its main time! It won't be able to make any more in-depth decisions! Is there a way to play on? Can Professor Zhang turn things around? Has this been what he was waiting for all along? What killer moves does he have left that he hasn't shown us? Right now, the entire pride of the Go world is in his hands!"

That's right!

Zhang Ye had been waiting for this moment!

He looked at the computer and smiled. We Chinese have a traditional saying called "You're done here, it's my turn." After hogging the limelight for so long, I guess you should be done here?

It's my turn!

This bro will give you a lesson today!

I'll show you another famous playstyle from my previous world!

Chapter 1143: Go can be played this way?

At the Xuanwumen Go Club for the elderly.

A group of elderly people was getting impatient.

"He has fallen behind by too much!"

"Yeah, so what if he has more time?"

"I'd rather he exchange some of that time for points. He's behind by 25, 26 points as we enter the middlegame. Even a miracle can't save him!"

"Agreed."

"It will be very difficult to continue playing!"

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Back at home.

His father was getting very anxious. "What should he do? What should he do now?"

His mother said loudly, "Aiyo, keep quiet and sit down! Keep watching!"

His father said, "How can I stay seated? He's losing by so much!"

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At Old Rao's house.

Yang Shu said eagerly, "Why isn't Senior Bro getting anxious?"

Rao Aimin glanced at the television. "Him? He's just trying to act cool and mysterious."

Chenchen asked, "Aunt, will Zhang Ye win?"

"How can he win?" Rao Aimin pursed her lips. Although that was what she said, Old Rao's eyes were still glued to the game on the television.

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The state of the board was approaching the most crucial period!

The board was also in a most dangerous state!

China Qiyuan's people were all waiting to see just what Zhang Ye was planning. Some of them were clutching their chests with racing hearts. They were simply unable to watch any further!

A professional 5th dan female Go player covered her eyes. "I'm can't watch!"

A 6th dan youth player next to her turned his back to the screen, moaning as he did, as if it would help to ease the tension. But in the end, it wasn't useful at all. So he stuck both his index fingers into his ears, afraid that he would hear Zhang Ye suddenly resign!

"Come on!"

"Professor Zhang, you can do it!"

"Come on!"

"May God bless you!"

"Heavenly Father, please let us win! I beg of you!"

The people at the Qiyuan started shouting. This might well be their final cries!

At present, whether it be the Americans, the Qiyuan's people, or the home viewers, nobody believed that Zhang Ye stood any chance of winning. But none of these people knew that they were about to witness a sensational game!

On the live broadcast.

Zhang Ye smiled and made a move. He placed a white stone in the corner which Peter had taken with a move after he had played the Magic Sword Joseki!

This move was very surprising!

So surprising that even Xiang Rong was taken aback!

Xiang Rong 9-dan said, "What?"

Chen Ying even shouted, "Oh my God, what is Professor Zhang trying to do?"

Yu Yingyi did not dare to speak. She just stared blankly at the screen!

Chen Ying felt incredulous. She could not understand Zhang Ye's intent. "This corner was where that fight took place. Professor Zhang has clearly lost the area, with his stones mostly surrounded by Peter's black stones. Not too many of Professor Zhang's white stones are still alive! But we're seeing Professor Zhang's white stone has once again rushed in for an attack. What's the meaning of this? Suicide? A sacrifice? Or has he made a mistake!"

A mistake?

Everyone paled!

He was behind by so much, and he made a mistake?

Peter probably did not expect that Zhang Ye would venture an attack here. Perhaps due to a lack of time, Peter played its move at the very next second!

Peter played a stand against the attack!

Zhang Ye bumped!

Peter called an atari!

Zhang Ye did not allow it!

Then Peter went with a horizontal stretch!

Chen Ying was despairing. "The white stones are sinking deeper and deeper. Professor Zhang is also falling further and further behind in points. That mistake was a fatal one and has put him in a worse state than before!"

Wu Changhe lambasted, "What the heck is he doing!"

Li Qinqin said in surprise, "That isn't like Little Zhang!"

Xu Han remarked, "What is he doing? Why'd he go for that corner?"

Hu Liang shouted, "Those white stones are practically dead! How can he prevent it?"

At this point, Peter had run out of main time, his clock reaching zero!

Zhang Ye played a cut!

Peter's overtime period began!

In these types of competitions, one wouldn't lose after their main time was used up. Instead, the game would enter into play that was similar to "blitz." This meant that every move Peter played would have to be made within one minute. Otherwise, if it exceeded this duration and used up the three allocated one-minute overtime periods, the referee would automatically give Peter the loss based on the rules!

10 seconds.

30 seconds.

50 seconds.

Peter hurriedly played a reinforcing move.

Zhang Ye played a descent!

Chen Ying said loudly, "Why is he still attacking over there?"

Yu Yingyi said sadly, "He's basically giving away his stones for nothing!"

This was where Peter had marked out its territory, and though Zhang Ye's stones hadn't been fully captured, they weren't far from it. But now, Zhang Ye was playing more and more stones at this location, sacrificing them with every move he made. This was something that even a laywoman like Yu Yingyi could understand, but why did it seem like Zhang Ye could not?

The home viewers were also appalled!

"We're done for!"

"This time, we're utterly done for!"

"Teacher Zhang has lost it!"

"Damn, he's almost 40 points behind now, isn't he?"

Zhang Ye was seemingly unaware of it all, and after thinking for five minutes, he played again. He still had time left, so much time that he could play at ease.

Peter played its next move with three seconds left in its overtime period!

The Americans looked at one another with smiles on their faces!

The two international referees were somewhat speechless!

But a miracle happened at the very next second!

Without any warning, Zhang Ye suddenly countered with a white stone that landed on a position no one had expected!

Things instantly became tense!

Peter was stunned!

The timer counted up very quickly!

Peter was forced to play!

Zhang Ye smiled as he lightly clicked the mouse—atari!

With that, many people looked shocked!

Xiang Rong cried out, "He's pressing to capture those live stones with a ladder 1 !"

Chen Ying looked like she had seen a ghost!

The Qiyuan's people and Go players watching the TV were also dumbfounded!

Forcefully trying to capture the live stones through a ladder?

This was too crazy!

This was too overbearing!

As it turned out, Zhang Ye's earlier series of "blunders" were all made to kill off this black stone of Peter's. In their eyes, this was something only a madman would attempt! The price to pay was too great! If anything went wrong, it would lead to doom! It would lead to a very bad end!

Peter couldn't do anything but give up on that stone!

Zhang Ye captured it!

Then Peter played!

Zhang Ye attacked from the outside!

Peter was taken aback and hurriedly retreated!

Then the most critical stone landed on the board!

Zhang Ye smiled as he clicked the mouse again and called for atari once more. The Magic Sword Joseki that had almost been surrounded by Peter's white stones had now been used by Zhang Ye against the AI. This took Peter by complete surprise!

The Americans were stunned!

Chen Ying was dumbfounded!

Everyone watching the game was shocked!

Zhang Ye captured yet another stone. Normally, the loss of this stone should have been acceptable since Peter was so far ahead. It shouldn't have mattered much at all!

But that was not the case this time!

This stone was different from the others!

When Zhang Ye took that second black stone for himself, even the international referees were shocked to the point that their jaws dropped. They stared fixedly at Zhang Ye as though he was a god of some sort!

Hu Liang exclaimed, "Holy shit!"

Xu Han shouted, "What the fuck!"

Wu Changhe was shocked!

Dan Donghe looked astounded!

They had all witnessed an unbelievable sight!

The stones came alive!

Zhang Ye's dead group in the corner had been revived!

Countless people were looking at the Go board, but none of them could believe what they were seeing!

Sacrificing stones?

Suiciding them?

Forcefully trying to capture live stones using a ladder?

And the dead group got revived!

This...this was a divine miracle!

This...this was pure sorcery!

They were all overwhelmed by Zhang Ye's offbeat playstyle!

Even many of the top pros were seeing this for the first time. It could be played this way? Go can even be played this way?!

Chapter 1144: Humanity wins!

The living group 1 died!

And the dead group got revived!

This was the famous "Zombie Style" from Zhang Ye's previous world. The playstyle was the claim to fame of the representative figure of the Go world, Lee Sedol 2 !

There was no such playstyle in this world, and no one has ever seen something like it before. So you could imagine the shock they received when they saw Zhang Ye's dead group get revived. The Zombie Style was a very different playstyle and strategy that players would resort to in times of adversity. This sort of strategy required a higher standard of play than the Cosmic Style. It not only required the player to have an awareness of the overall board state and ability to force an attack, but also required a strong understanding of dead groups, a strong concept of thickness and thinness, as well as have good control of the pace of the game. A player would need to be exceptional in all of those areas to be able to play the Zombie Style. This sort of extraordinary playstyle was also practically unwieldable even by those top players who had studied the Zombie Style!

Chen Ying could feel herself going crazy. "He has captured two living stones with a strong ladder! Professor Zhang's white stones in the corner have come back to life! Oh my god! This is truly a stroke of genius!"

Xiang Rong said excitedly, "That was quite beautiful!"

Chen Ying shouted, "Peter did not foresee this move! It didn't see it coming at all!"

Yu Yingyi asked, "What's their score difference now?"

Xiang Rong did a quick calculation. "Including the compensation, he's only behind by about 17 or 18 points!"

After Xiang Rong spoke, Chen Ying remarked, "This is a miracle! It's truly a miracle!"

From a difference of over 30 points, he had caught up to just being slightly behind by a little over a dozen points. Calling it a miracle was quite right, as this was truly unbelievable!

The Americans were panicking!

Why?

Why hadn't Peter prevented that?

This shouldn't have been the case! It was impossible!

Peter was running on an upgraded version of the program! There shouldn't have been anything that it couldn't predict! Suddenly, the American representative glanced at Peter's clock. He blanched and understood what was going on! Peter was out of time! It didn't have any time to do an in-depth analysis before playing its moves!

Shit!

They'd been had!

The Americans only understood at this moment how important time was for Peter. They only just realized that they had all fallen for Zhang Ye's trickery right from the start. Ever since the Great Slant Joseki appeared, they had slowly been walking into Zhang Ye's trap! Zhang Ye had been waiting for just this moment. The three josekis he played had only one objective: to make Peter use up its time!

Watching from home, many viewers stood up!

China Qiyuan's people were also shouting in excitement after being surprised!

Li Qinqin said anxiously in a loud voice, "Can he catch up? Can he really do it?"

Wu Changhe said, "I don't know! I just don't know!"

Dan Donghe was staring hard at the screen while his palms were sweating profusely!

Hu Liang's heart was pounding. "Just about a dozen more points! There are only about a dozen points left to catch up on!"

"Keep going!"

"Go Professor Zhang!"

"You can do it!"

"Yeah! You can do it! You can do it!"

"Get after it!"

"Quick! There's almost no time left!"

Some professional Go players were even shouting at the top of their lungs!

Peter went deep in thought again!

Two...

Three...

At the last second, Peter played a move straight down the center!

Zhang Ye replied with a checking extension!

Peter retreated!

Zhang Ye did not let up and continued attacking with his next move!

Then Peter played a good move. A stone was placed squarely at a critical position and helped the black stones gain a lot of influence in the center of the board where it could advance or retreat easily!

But Zhang Ye did not bother responding to that move and instead played a move near the bottom left corner. He set his sights back on the almost dead Great Slant Joseki!

The American representative shot to his feet!

Hold it off!

Peter!

You have to hold it off!

Chen Ying immediately yelled, "It's back!"

Yu Yingyi felt fired up just watching. "Professor Zhang has started another fight!"

"Will there be another miracle?" Chen Ying's voice was getting louder and louder. "Can it happen again? We can see here that Professor Zhang has begun a siege! What is he planning?"

Peter ignored him and continued taking control of the center!

But Zhang Ye's next stone penetrated behind the enemy lines!

Peter was taken aback and rushed back to cut!

Then Zhang Ye cast a stone away by placing it inside the dead group!

Chen Ying was surprised. "What?"

Yu Yingyi was panicking badly. "Why did he do that?"

Peter did not hesitate and captured Zhang Ye's white stone!

The Americans cheered on the inside!

Alright!

Well done!

However, Zhang Ye just smiled and calmly played on.

Peter played a strong horizontal stretch!

Zhang Ye played a descent!

This descent shocked a lot of people!

The Americans broke out in cold sweats!

Peter retreated!

Zhang Ye went for the kill!

Although he had one of his stones captured, little did anyone know that Zhang Ye's objective was not in that position at all. It was a joseki trap played to open up a position elsewhere. Besides, Zhang Ye only had one objective in mind: to force the living stones into a ladder 3 ! He wanted to swallow all of the black stones over here!

By the time Peter reacted, it was too late!

Zhang Ye called an atari and captured a stone first!

Peter counterattacked!

Zhang Ye brushed it aside and played a hard bump!

Peter reinforced the empty positions!

Zhang Ye called an atari again and took another stone!

A lot of people could feel their blood racing as they watched!

The Qiyuan's people were shouting in shock and surprise!

"Good!"

"Well played!"

"Heavens! Very beautiful!"

"Professor Zhang, attack!"

They would enter to the endgame soon. The Go board was getting very crowded as the positions to play on lessened!

Peter wildly counterattacked around the perimeter, seemingly without any considerations!

Zhang Ye blocked!

Peter struggled and went all out with its next move!

Zhang Ye smiled as Peter played a hard attachment 4 from above!

Right after, Zhang Ye countered with an atari!

If Peter were a living person, it would surely look wan and pale!

When Peter's third stone in the great slant area was captured, those at the venue and watching on TV were so shocked they could not speak!

They came back to life!

About seven white stones came back to life within the dead group!

...

On the Online Go Server.

The online commentator was dumbfounded. "Incredible! What an incredible way of playing! What beautiful captures! Professor Zhang has captured three black stones in a row with ladders! These captures have allowed a portion of the white stones to be revived! Oh my God! This playstyle has to be described as a fantasy! It's literally unheard of!"

...

Beijing Television.

The host said in shock, "What's the difference now?"

The commentator looked even more shocked than the host. Due to the fact that he was a pro Go player, this situation unfolding before him felt impossible. "There's no difference anymore!"

The host was taken aback. "No difference?"

The commentator gasped and said, "There isn't a difference anymore! Zhang Ye is only down by a point or two!"

The host was stunned. "What?"

...

A female Go player screamed, "Ahhhhh!"

Wu Changhe exclaimed, "He has caught up! He's really caught up!"

Dan Donghe's shouts were even littered with curses. "Great showing! That was a fucking great showing!"

"Professor Zhang!" Hu Liang roared.

Li Yi shouted, "We're nearly there!"

Liu Hong 9-dan said, "You're only two points behind! Only two points! Catch up!"

Xu Han led the cheering. "Let's go!"

Everyone responded with cheers!

"Let's go!"

"Let's go!"

"Catch up!"

"Professor Zhang, make a comeback!"

Li Qinqin's eyes were reddening!

Could he do it?

Could Little Zhang really do it?

...

In the game room.

The game was in its closing stages!

Without making any sense, after Zhang Ye revived that small area of white stones, he no longer battled over there. Instead, he went for the center and attacked right away!

Peter played a push-through!

Zhang Ye forcefully attacked!

Peter reinforced its structure!

Zhang Ye attacked again!

Chen Ying stood up. She could no longer sit still!

Xiang Rong's breathing was getting more rapid!

The Americans were staring straight at the board with wide eyes!

It was almost ending!

It was going to finish soon!

Peter made use of its advantageous opening framework in the center to surround two of Zhang Ye's white stones!

Zhang Ye neither panicked nor rushed as he started fighting back from the inside!

Peter played a stone to reinforce its attack!

However, Zhang Ye bumped it back. Next, he played a knight's move and the Zombie Style reappeared. It had unexpectedly revived three white stones in the right corner this time as he continued his attack from the opposite direction!

Peter's reinforcing play was too late!

Zhang Ye continued attacking as the revived white stones started to surround the black ones!

Peter fell silent!

It was too quick!

It was way too quick!

Chen Ying finally reacted after three seconds as she looked at the Go board in shock. All of a sudden, tears flooded down her cheeks and she could not stop herself from crying!

Yu Yingyi got frightened. "What's the matter? Teacher Chen, what is it?"

Xiang Rong's hands were trembling!

Yu Yingyi said in panic, "Teacher Xiang? Teacher Chen? What's happening?"

Chen Ying sobbed, "We've won!"

Yu Yingyi was startled. "What?"

Chen Ying cried, "We woooooon!"

Yu Yingyi froze!

Chapter 1145: A hero is born!

We won?

We really won?

When they heard that on the Central TV Sports Channel live broadcast, all of the television viewers sprang up from their seats and stared at the screen in shock, watching as Zhang Ye and Peter played out the endgame 1 . It wasn't over yet, and many people were still unsure whether Chen Ying 7-dan's claims were true!

One stone.

Five stones.

Ten stones.

Zhang Ye kept smiling.

But Peter's moves were getting more and more pathetic as it started making more and more mistakes!

The moment the match ended, the two international referees fast walked over to verify the game!

The Americans were pale as a sheet of paper!

The room fell eerily silent!

...

Japan.

"The game's over!"

"It's ended!"

How was it?"

"Who won?"

...

Korea.

"What are things like?"

"How did it go?"

"Hurry up and announce the result already!"

...

Over in China, people were even more interested!

"Has he won?"

"Quickly announce the result!"

"Damn, what exactly is the result?"

...

In the game room.

As this was a very crucial match, the international referees had to verify the game several times before finally giving each other a look. The older referee of the two gave a slight smile.

The camera focused on him!

Thousands and thousands of people were watching him on their televisions!

They heard the older referee announce, "In this game, Zhang Ye is victorious!"

2-1!

Zhang Ye had won!

Humanity won!

And he even won by more than 20 points!

In the endgame, Zhang Ye took an overwhelming victory by making a comeback from more than 30 points down to win the game by over 20 points. It was truly a miracle!

Yu Yingyi shouted, "We've won! We've won!"

Chen Ying was still sobbing. "Congratulations, Professor Zhang! This is a historic victory for the Go world! Professor Zhang has helped the Go world safeguard the honor of humanity! He is amazing! Professor Zhang was amazing today! This has got to be the highest level of Go achieved by humans! This has got to be the most unforgettable match of the entire international world of Go! After three days of competition, Professor Zhang has defeated the AI by a score of two to one! Professor Zhang has used the most practical of actions to show machines and those arrogant Americans that humans are unbeatable in Go!"

Arrogant Americans?

The director quickly cautioned Chen Ying through her earpiece!

But Chen Ying was already feeling so fired up that she could no longer contain herself. How could she be bothered with using the proper courtesy? She could only use shouting to express herself!

...

At the Xuanwumen Go Club for the elderly.

A middle-aged man threw the game record in his hands into the air!

An old man looked at the screen all atremble. He was crying!

"We've won!"

"Zhang Ye has won!"

"Victory is ours! It's ours!"

...

At home.

His mother let out an excited shout!

His father couldn't contain his excitement either!

"My son won!"

"Little Ye defeated the computer!"

...

At Old Rao's house.

Yang Shu shouted so loudly that the entire apartment complex could hear her!

"Senior Bro woooooon!"

Rao Aimin rolled her eyes. "That kid really won?"

...

At the SARFT.

Wu Zeqing called Secretary Bai over with a smile.

"Chief Wu?"

"I'll be treating everyone for lunch."

"Ah, alright."

...

At Old Yao's house.

Yao Mi yelled, "He snatched victory from the jaws of defeat! Oh my God!"

Yao Jiancai's wife said, "Little Zhang really did it!"

"He's ascending!" Yao Jiancai's jaw dropped!

...

The live broadcast was still filming!

Chaos reigned at the venue. The moment the result was announced, someone pushed open the door to the game room from outside. Then China Qiyuan's people started streaming in. Wu Changhe, Li Qinqin, Dan Donghe, Li Yi, and Liu Hong were all looking pleasantly surprised!

Zhang Ye stood up and waved at everyone.

He was instantly surrounded by the group of excited people!

Wu Changhe asked loudly, "What are those Josekis called?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "They're the Great Slant, Magic Sword, and Avalanche Josekis."

Dan Donghe asked, "What about that playstyle at the end?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It's called the Zombie Style."

"What a great Zombie Style! What a great Zombie Style!" Wu Changhe's voice was trembling with excitement. No one could stop laughing. "Hahahahahaha!"

Li Qinqin said, "Little Zhang, you're the best!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It was quite a close call; I nearly lost the game. Fortunately, I did not disgrace everyone."

All of a sudden, in the focus of the live broadcast camera.

Hu Liang took a step forward and grabbed Zhang Ye!

Xu Han swiftly followed!

Tian Weiwei also rushed over!

Over a dozen young people lifted Zhang Ye up at once. No one knew if they had discussed this beforehand or thought of it spontaneously.

Zhang Ye was startled by this. "Hey, hey, hey, take it easy! Take it easy!"

But they ignored him and suddenly tossed him high!

Zhang Ye was scared out of his wits, but everyone was cheering!

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

They threw him into the air!

Then they caught him!

Then they threw him into the air again!

Many of the pro players expressed their excitement in their own way!

"We've won!"

"We've really won!"

A few female players off to the side were wiping their tears away as they cried with joy. They felt too emotional and did not know how to describe their feelings. Perhaps only by crying could they show their most sincerest of feelings. It was probably also the most direct response they could muster! A lot of people were crying!

Even Dan Donghe couldn't help but tear up a little when he saw this!

No one could control their emotions!

Because it was so incredible they couldn't control themselves!

Shinji 9-dan!

Park Yuhee!

Xiang Rong!

All of the top Go players had fallen to this artificial intelligence. Just as humanity was staring at a crushing defeat, Zhang Ye stepped forward and single-handedly saved the Go world after much difficulty. Witnessing this scene, not only did the blood of those in the Go world race, even the television viewers felt fired up and passionate!

The netizens started flooding the servers with their comments!

The flood of comments was so great that it could even turn the Heavens upside down!

"This is so awesome!"

"Zhang Ye, you're so cool!"

"Damn, I didn't like him that much in the past, but today, I've turned from passerby into fan! I'm even going to be a diehard fan!"

"Face-smacking Zhang has shown his prowess again! I knew he wouldn't be pushed around so easily! Who is Zhang Ye? When has this fellow ever been at a disadvantage?! An AI? And it's even an upgraded version? So what if it has been upgraded! Didn't it still get its face smacked swollen by Face-smacking Zhang all the same! Look at the faces of those Americans!"

"This release feels so good!"

"This is so fun!"

"No one else could do something like this! Zhang Ye is amazing!"

"There hasn't been anyone like Zhang Ye in showbiz for the past 500 years, nor will there be another person like him in the next 500 years!"

"Face-smacking Zhang has left Peter in tears in China!"

"Zhang Ye is indeed the better of the two!"

"My idol! Zhang Ye is definitely going to be my idol for life!"

"I want to learn Go!"

"Me too, I'm suddenly very interested in it!"

"Although I don't know how to play Go, tears were inexplicably rolling down my cheeks from watching the game and listening to the commentary on TV! It was so exciting! Teacher Zhang is a real blessing to mankind. Everyone, please don't criticize him in the future! Otherwise, if we encounter this kind of situation again in the future, who would want to step forward for us? Who could turn things around like Teacher Zhang has done? Other than him, no one's capable of doing so! Don't you guys agree?"

"Agreed!"

"Well-spoken! There's nothing wrong with it!"

"Right, let's not criticize him in the future!"

"Just based on this war between humans and machines, I will support all of Zhang Ye's future works!"

"Teacher Zhang was really fucking cool today!"

"Today, Zhang Ye is the hero of the Go world!"

Chapter 1146: How lonely it is to be invincible!

Outside the Qiyuan.

Firecrackers popped. Nobody knew who had lit them, but several strings of firecrackers went off one after another. It sounded like the new year had come again.

Faint shouts could also be heard.

"Face-smacking Zhang is almighty!"

"Face-smacking Zhang is almighty!"

"Face-smacking Zhang is almighty!"

"Go back home, you Americans!"

"Hahahahaha!"

The crowd waiting at the entrance were in a celebratory mood!

Inside.

Zhang Ye's phone was blowing up with calls!

His eldest younger sister's call:

"Brother! You were so awesome!"

"Haha, that's of course!"

"I would like to learn Go too, teach me."

"Man, you don't have the talent, so you should forget about it."

B-list singer Xiaodong's call:

"You were incredible!"

"Haha, I guess I wasn't too bad."

"Damn, who could have thought that you would really win against the AI! The group of us were all watching the live broadcast. Amy, Xiaoxian, and I were dumbfounded from watching!"

He received over a dozen calls!

His friends and relatives each took turns to bombard his phone with calls!

After hanging up on the last call, Zhang Ye was feeling quite happy. He was suddenly overcome with emotion and sang.

"How lonely it is to be invincible.

"How empty it feels to be invincible.

"Standing alone at the summit, the cold wind continues to blow past.

"Who can understand my loneliness!"

The more he sang, the more excited he became.

"How lonely it is to be invincible.

"How empty it feels to be invincible.

"She who hides beyond the horizon, can you hear what I have to relate!

"My loneliness!

"Endless loneliness!"

Zhang Ye did not even notice that there were still some reporters and cameras nearby. He just sang a song from his previous world called "Invincible 1"!

The reporters were dumbfounded by what they heard!

A cameraman nearly burst out laughing!

How arrogant!

This fellow was too good at putting on a show!

A middle-aged reporter suddenly looked to the cameraman and asked loudly, "Did you get that? Did you record the singing?"

That cameraman was stunned and quickly checked the camera. "Oh, it was recorded!"

"That's great!" The reporters were all excited!

No matter what conduct that was, it was still Zhang Ye's new song!

...

At the press conference venue.

Everyone had arrived.

Zhang Ye was led over together with the Qiyuan's people, as well as the American team members.

The press conference was about to begin, and it was the largest one held over the span of the three games. Almost all of the media outlets that could attend were present. The mainstream Chinese media, television stations, and quite a number of Japanese and Korean reporters, along with some Caucasian reporters from either Europe or America, were all gathered here.

The sea of reporters took to their seats and stared in anticipation as they waited to ask their questions. Some of the reporters could not wait anymore and shot off a barrage of questions!

Dan Donghe pressed both hands down to quiet the crowd. "Can you please ask one by one?"

An assistant from the Qiyuan pointed at a reporter whose hand was raised.

That person stood up and asked the American team, "Peter has lost, so the AI you claimed would surpass the wisdom and intelligence of humans couldn't win in the end. So then, will your side admit that the AI is inferior to the wisdom and intelligence of humanity? Or do you all still insist you are right?"

The American representative said, "I firmly believe that it will be the era of AIs from now on. Today's loss was just a minor setback to the long road ahead. It's not that big a deal at all. We're also very grateful to Professor Zhang for showing us that humans are that skilled. We hadn't believed it was possible. Moving on, we will continue to work on and develop our research on Peter's artificial intelligence! Peter will only get stronger and stronger from here on out!"

Another reporter asked, "Will you all try to challenge Professor Zhang again?"

The American representative said with a sunken expression, "Yes, we will certainly challenge him again. For example, we are currently developing Peter's Xiangqi functionalities and believe that it won't be too long before everyone gets to see it. Compared to Go, Xiangqi is also a rather difficult type of strategy board game. If Peter can defeat humanity in that, then..."

He no longer mentioned anything about Go!

The Americans had changed the subject to Xiangqi!

The reporters were surprised by this. Just as they were about to continue questioning, Zhang Ye spoke up!

Zhang Ye undoubtedly lived up to his nickname of Face-smacking Zhang. He interrupted with a laugh, "Sure, I can actually play Xiangqi too."

The American representative almost fainted!

Several of the American team members nearly vomited blood!

Fuck your second uncle!

How the fuck do you know everything!

Why don't you just die!

Why don't you just go and die!

The Americans were left speechless in the end. They no longer mentioned anything about Xiangqi!

The reporters burst out laughing in their heads

Yu Yingyi was amused in the audience!

Li Qinqin and the others were also in stitches. There was really no one else like Professor Zhang! But there was indeed nothing wrong with what he said. Everyone had witnessed Zhang Ye's Xiangqi skill before and it was really quite advanced!

In the cheerful and light-hearted atmosphere of the venue.

A female reporter stood up. "Hello, I'm a reporter from Xinhua News. Teacher Zhang, you have represented the Go world today and protected its honor by unwaveringly playing out a wonderful game to turn defeat into victory. It left a lot of people covered in cold sweat from watching, but everyone is happy for you. You are indeed worthy of being called the smartest person in the world now!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "Thank you, but you think too highly of me."

A female reporter asked, "What do you think of everyone proclaiming you as a hero?"

Zhang Ye immediately waved it off and kept his smile. He said, "I'm not a hero, I'm really not one. There are many heroes in the Go world, some you can see and others that you don't know about. Everyone here has a dream and has a sincere passion for Go. It's a feeling that most people probably wouldn't understand. I couldn't understand it either in the past, but after being around the Qiyuan's people over the past few days, I've gained a deeper insight." He looked at the Go players from the Qiyuan and said, "There are some people here who retired many years ago but still have the Go world's considerations at heart. They would step forward the moment the Go world faced any trouble. Some of the young players here even studied game records at the Qiyuan until 1 AM. Some of them have had glorious pasts, while others have stayed unknown to those outside the world of Go. But it is these people who have supported the Go world to this stage step by step, so if there are any heroes to speak of, it should be them!"

Many of the reporters were stunned.

Zhang Ye pointed to a man. "Dan Donghe. He made his debut at age 16 and became a world champion in 1984 at the International Go Tournament!"

Applause thundered!

Dan Donghe teared up as he stood and bowed.

Zhang Ye pointed at a second person. "Wu Changhe, once the world number one in Go, led the national team to achieve a historic first in claiming three successive championships. He retired in 1995!"

Wu Changhe gave a soft sigh as he stood up and bowed.

All of the audience was applauding!

Zhang Ye said, "Zhao Hui, an 8th dan Go player. With his teammate seriously sick and absent from an international match, he took it upon himself to step up and face the Japanese team and won the match decider. He retired in 1998!"

Zhao Hui was starting to cry, but he held back his tears and stood up ramrod straight!

Zhang Ye said, "Li Qi, a 7th dan player, previously ranked in the top 20 of the world, and retired in 2005. After his divorce, he volunteered to assist in training the national team for over a decade. In that time, he trained many batches of pro Go players who have gone on to excel in the world stage from behind the scenes! Even now, he has not remarried!"

Li Qi slowly stood up with pride!

The audience kept applauding!

Li Qi's ex-wife cried as she watched the television.

Li Qi's daughter was choking back her tears. "Dad!"

Li Yi.

Xiang Rong.

Chen Ying.

Zhang Ye introduced them one by one.

The reporters were moved. All of them stood up and gave their loudest round of applause! There were many names they had never heard, nor did they know who those people were. But when they listened to Zhang Ye introduce each of their stories, none of the reporters interrupted him nor showed any signs of impatience. They were all very touched, and a few young reporters felt fired up as their emotions surged. There were even two female reporters who could not help but wipe the tears from the corners of their eyes. Their hearts were filled to the brim with emotion!

After he finished introducing them.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I'm only a layman who has played three games, so I'm really nothing much in comparison. They are the true heroes of the Go world. Please give them a round of applause!"

The reporters gave another thunderous round of applause!

When the viewers watching TV saw, they were all moved!

Well said, that was really well said!

They are the heroes!

No, all of you are the heroes!

Chapter 1147: The eternal line of defense for humanity's wisdom!

Half an hour later.

Zhang Ye's speech ended.

With that, the press conference was also done.

The press conference this time felt more like Zhang Ye's oratory ceremony. The reporters had only asked him one question, but what followed was a long talk by Zhang Ye. He knew what to say and knew what the reporters wanted to know, so he just said everything in a single breath. After all, he and the media had been in such regular contact that they understood each other perfectly. Sometimes, there was even a tacit understanding of a common enemy, such as right now.

Applause was sounding for the umpteenth time. Not counting those domestic reporters, even China Qiyuan's people and the foreign reporters were standing up to applaud Zhang Ye!

Chen Ying was feeling some admiration for him.

Dan Donghe was very pleased.

Yu Yingyi learned quite a lot from Zhang Ye's speech.

Everyone was pretty convinced by Zhang Ye. They knew that it wasn't accidental that he could arrive at where he was today and could sense it from the speech that he had just given. On the contrary, they rather disliked the American team who spoke pompous words and had a condescending attitude toward the wisdom of humanity and Zhang Ye, insisting on their belief that Peter would win for sure. However, even after the results were confirmed, they still seemed like they were not accepting their defeat. Not being able to compete in Go, they shifted their talk to taking on the Xiangqi world instead and tried to justify why Peter had lost during the entire press conference. Compared to Zhang Ye's speech, it was really on a different level. Zhang Ye had not spoken about himself at all and never once took credit for the outcome. Instead, he talked about the veterans and novices of the Go world, as well as the staff working behind the scenes, hailing them as the true heroes!

He was good at speaking?

His emotional quotient was high?

That was absolutely untrue!

The foreign reporters might not know him well, but which Chinese reporter did not understand what kind of person Zhang Ye was? Who would dare to claim that Zhang Ye had a high emotional quotient? If anyone did, they would be the first to get spat on by the others! Zhang Ye's emotional quotient was definitely not high, but the words he spoke all came from his heart. In these days, he had really taken a liking to these lovely people who gave their heart and soul to Go.

Humans were emotional beings. This was unlike machines and perhaps the reason Zhang Ye could win against Peter. And on this point, even if the artificial intelligence were to get developed further and have its computational ability increased and sped up, it would still not be able to learn a thing like emotions.

Everyone dispersed.

The media gradually left to head back to their office to quickly prepare for the news release!

Dan Donghe brought along some people from the Qiyuan and found Zhang Ye. "Professor Zhang, thank you!"

Zhang Ye smiled. "It's what I should do; don't be so courteous."

Dan Donghe tried for the umpteenth time to invite Zhang Ye. "Are you interested in taking up Go? From today onward, your world Go ranking should be number one!"

Hu Liang 7-dan said, "Come join us, Professor Zhang!"

Xu Han said, "Yeah!"

Xiang Rong 9-dan also sincerely invited him. "I've been thinking of retiring for some time now too. I'm already getting old and starting to lose focus whenever I play. pBut our country's young players are not fully mature yet. Tian Weiwei still lacks experience and his playstyle is not stable yet. He can't stand up on his own yet, so I must hold the fort for now. If you do join us, I'll be able to take a step back at last."

"Yeah, Professor Zhang. You are so skilled at Go, it would such a pity if you don't join the national team!" Chen Ying said with a laugh, "If you join us, our national team would dominate everyone else for the next ten years at least!"

This was not drivel. In fact, dominating for just ten years was at the lower end of the estimates. If Zhang Ye were to lead the national Go team, together with Xiang Rong and Li Yi 9-dan, there probably wouldn't be any opponents who could match them. Be it Japan or Korean, be it Shinji 9-dan, Park Yuhee, or anyone else, even if Xiang Rong 9-dan were to retire suddenly, Zhang Ye alone could carry the team and not let them fall.

Zhang Ye quickly waved it off. "I'll pass. But if Peter makes a comeback in the future, just give me a ring. I'll come right over."

Everyone was disappointed.

A Go genius who only came along once a century, the only person who was capable of taking over Xiang Rong 9-dan's position, had actually turned out to be an amateur? He wasn't even considered a professional Go player. This made them all feel a little frustrated. Comparisons really were torturous, and this was certainly the first ever such case in the history of Go!

Dan Donghe knew that Zhang Ye's heart was in a different place, so he didn't try to persuade him any further. He said, "Wherever you might end up in the future, you will always be part of our Qiyuan. If there's anything you need, just let us know!"

Zhang Ye laughed, "Sure."

"Let's go to my place for a meal then." Dan Donghe still remembered what he promised earlier.

Zhang Ye grunted and did not know how to reject his invitation.

As a result, Wu Changhe, who had been silent all this while, suddenly rolled his eyes and said, "Old Dan, what do you mean by going to your place for a meal?"

Dan Donghe said, "Didn't we already agree on that?"

"Who agreed with you?" Wu Changhe harrumphed. "This kid is coming with me. I still have something to settle with him afterwards."

Dan Donghe was having none of it. "I said it first, I asked him to come over first!"

Wu Changhe said, "Who said that you asked him first? I arranged it with him 800 years ago!"

Dan Donghe said, "Were you even born 800 years ago?"

"Why do you care when I was born?" Wu Changhe bickered, "I was born before you, in any case!"

The two of them started arguing.

Everyone else didn't know whether to laugh or cry. They hurriedly tried to calm them down.

In the end, it was Li Qinqin who took Zhang Ye by his hand with a smile. "Let's go, Little Zhang. Come to Auntie's place for a meal." Then she looked at Dan Donghe and said, "Old Dan, I already made food at home."

"Alright then, Sister-in-law," Dan Donghe had to agree. "Professor Zhang, I'll treat you to a meal another day then."

"Sure." Zhang Ye did not say anything else. "I'll be heading off then."

Hu Liang said, "Let's play a practice game some other day."

Zhang Ye said, "No problem."

Xiang Rong said, "Let's have an exchange sometime. We never finished the game game we started."

Zhang Ye smiled, "Sure, at a later date."

"Take care, Professor Zhang!"

"You did a great job!"

"Thank you!"

"If you need any favors in the future, just let us know!"

Everyone waved goodbye to Zhang Ye. Having spent time together over the past few days, Zhang Ye had taken a liking to this group of people who loved Go so deeply, so how could they not change their opinion of him? The rumors regarding Zhang Ye had painted him in a bad light as someone with a bad temper and a vile person who liked scolding people. So they had initially stayed a distance from him even though they respected him. At times, they would even feel uneasy in his presence. But the short time they had together allowed them to understand Zhang Ye better and realize that those rumors were just that, rumors. To those he considered his own, Zhang Ye always treated them very nicely and with a good temper. As a superstar, he never put on any airs around them and could also play Go very well. This made them unable to feel jealous even if they wanted to be jealous of him. They thought of Zhang Ye as a friend now.

...

On the way to Old Wu's parents' place, the newspapers and news reports were starting to appear all over the place!

"Zhang Ye trashes Peter!"

"In the war between humans and machines, humans have prevailed!"

"The ultimate explosion of humanity's wisdom!"

"AI still inferior to wisdom of humanity. Zhang Ye proves the point once again!"

"The savior of the Go world: Zhang Ye!"

"The American team has been sent packing!"

"Zhang Ye's press conference speech: The unsung heroes of the Go world!"

"Zhang Ye says, 'I know how to play Xiangqi too!'"

"Peter will suffer from a phobia of 'Zhang Ye' from here on out!"

"We have reason to believe that as long as Zhang Ye is around, the last line of humanity's wisdom will never be broken through! We should be grateful that a genius like Zhang Ye exists in our world!"

Zhang Ye was once again on fire!

Just a short half a month after King of Masked Singers, Zhang Ye's popularity was once again off the charts!

There were only cheers in the media!

The citizens were also full of praise!

"How awesome!"

"This is Face-smacking Zhang!"

"Hey, Americans, I just want to ask if you have conceded defeat yet?"

"Hahahaha!"

"Zhang Ye was so godly today!"

"I just like the absurdity of Zhang Ye!"

"Yeah, Teacher Zhang's talent and intelligence are really too fucking absurd!"

"If I were those Americans, I would be crying myself home! And I probably won't ever be returning back here ever again!"

Chapter 1148: Love comes to fruition!

Later that afternoon.

At a courtyard house in Xuanwumen.

When they entered the northern building, Li Qinqin asked him warmly, "Little Zhang, what would you like to drink?"

"Anything is fine, Auntie," Zhang Ye smiled and said.

Li Qinqin said, "Please don't say that. We have all kinds of drinks here at home that you can choose from."

Zhang Ye replied, "I'm really fine with anything."

Wu Changhe glanced at his wife. "Just get him a cup of hot water."

Li Qinqin stared at him. "How can we serve him hot water?" She then turned to Zhang Ye and said with a smile, "That's right, we actually do have some good tea at home. I heard that just a single gram of it can fetch a price of 10,000 yuan. I don't know if it's true or not, but it's what everyone is saying. Besides, you can't get this tea from anywhere. My daughter brought it back some time ago for us to have a taste. Why don't you have some!"

Wu Changhe put out his hand to stop her. "Hey, that Da Hong Pao is for us!"

Li Qinqin rolled her eyes at him. "You've almost finished all of it already, so why don't you let Little Zhang have a taste."

Wu Changhe's eyes twitched. "We still have some superior Longjing around! Use that!"

Li Qinqin did not listen to him. "I'll just make tea with Da Hong Pao."

Wu Changhe reminded her, "Don't use too many tea leaves! We don't have much left!"

What?

Da Hong Pao?

Zhang Ye was a little taken aback but did not say anything.

Li Qinqin went off to brew the tea, leaving Zhang Ye and Wu Changhe to stare at each other in awkward silence.

Zhang Ye tried to strike up a conversation. "Uncle, is this courtyard house part of your family's property?"

When they were at the Qiyuan, Wu Changhe acted rather chummy with Zhang Ye after he had won the game. But after they returned home, he went back to his uncaring attitude, probably because he still bore a grudge from when he was utterly demolished by Zhang Ye in online Go. He said, "Who else could it belong to if not my family?"

Li Qinqin said as she boiled the water, "Changhe earned some money back when he was playing Go competitively. The value of money at that time was much better and property prices were not expensive, so we bought this courtyard house, as well as a few apartments, some antiques, and

calligraphy works. Your uncle is very interested in collecting things like antiques and the such. In recent years, with antiques and property prices rising, we've managed to make quite a bit of money. We're actually just your average family."

Wu Changhe asked, "Is our daughter not back yet?"

"I called her already." Li Qinqin said, "She said that she would knock off earlier today, so she should be back soon. Since you two have some free time, why don't you play a game of Go?"

Zhang Ye was fine with that. "Sure."

But Wu Changhe said in a speechless manner, "Who wants to play him!"

Li Qinqin laughed and said, "Are you afraid of losing?"

"Me? Afraid of losing?" Wu Changhe let out a furious laugh. "I'm telling you, Li Qinqin. It's just that I'm getting on in years. Thinking back to when I, Wu Changhe, was dominating the world of Go for over ten years, was there anyone who dared to challenge me? It's not that I'm bragging, but even I myself would be afraid to face the Go skill that I had at my peak. If I were to return to that era, would a mere AI be a threat to me? Who knows who would win and who would lose!"

Li Qinqin pursed her lips. "Say what you like."

"What do you mean?" Then Wu Changhe looked at Zhang Ye and said, "You just haven't witnessed how good I was back then, you know?"

Zhang Ye hemmed and hawed as he listened to the boasting.

At this moment, the door in the courtyard creaked and footfalls rang out.

Wu Changhe smiled and said, "My daughter is back!"

Zhang Ye stood up and turned around.

Wu Zeqing, who was dressed in a skirt, stepped lightly into the house. She looked at Zhang Ye and smiled. "How about it? I said that you could do it, right? You won today's game beautifully. It was even better than yesterday's game."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I had to."

Wu Zeqing asked in concern, "Have you eaten lunch yet?"

"Not yet. The interview got dragged on into lunch time," Zhang Ye said.

Wu Zeqing said, "Let's eat now, I'll cook." Then she pointed at Zhang Ye's attire and said with a smile, "Don't wear such light-colored clothes when you go on camera next time. It doesn't look good on screen. You'd look better dressed in black."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright."

Wu Changhe fumed at that. "Daughter, you didn't even say a word to me or your mother after stepping into the house. Is this kid your world?"

Wu Zeqing smiled. She was holding something in her hand and waved it around to her father. "How can that be? I bought edible bird's nest for you and Mom. I got someone to help me bring it over from Indonesia by air."

"That's more like it." Wu Changhe took it from her.

Li Qinqin walked up, taking short strides. "Come, the tea is ready. Come and have a taste."

Wu Zeqing asked, "What type of tea?"

Wu Changhe said angrily, "Your mother is such a wasteful woman. She brewed tea using the Da Hong Pao tea leaves that you gave me that time. Whoa, didn't I say not to use so many tea leaves? Are you crazy? Why did you put in so many tea leaves? Isn't that a little too much?"

Li Qinqin pouted and said to her daughter, "Look at how stingy your dad is. He wouldn't allow others to touch his tea leaves. When I said that I wanted to let Little Zhang try some, he became unhappy."

"But it's so expensive!" Wu Changhe said in distress.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Auntie, I can just have some other tea."

Li Qinqin wouldn't allow it. "That won't do. You definitely have not tried this before. Try it, it's a really good tea. I heard that even those CEOs and celebrities couldn't get their hands on it. This tea is even more valuable than gold."

Wu Zeqing laughed helplessly and said, "Mom, how can he not have tasted it before."

Li Qinqin was taken aback. "Did you give some of it to Little Zhang too?"

Wu Zeqing smiled gently and said, "I didn't give him any. In fact, he was the one who gave me the tea leaves. Those Da Hong Pao parent trees on Wuyishan are all his private property. You can only find two types of Da Hong Pao in the market at the moment, and they are either fake or gifted by Little Ye."

Wu Changhe was stunned. "What?"

Li Qinqin was stunned too. "Those tea trees belong to Little Zhang?"

Zhang Ye said in embarrassment, "I bought them while I was on vacation there a while ago."

"Heh, and I was even showing off in front of Little Zhang." Li Qinqin was amused. "So these are his tea leaves. It's really a very good tea! Your dad could never bear to drink it!"

Wu Zeqing said, "If you like the tea, get Little Ye to bring some more over."

Li Qinqin waved her off and said, "That's not necessary, this tea is too expensive. It's just like drinking gold."

But Wu Changhe looked at Zhang Ye as his eyes lit up. "Why would we not want it! Bring a few more cattles 1 over. He can't drink all that by himself anyway, so don't let it go to waste."

Zhang Ye was speechless.

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "Why are you so rude?"

Wu Changhe got angry at the very mention. "My daughter has already been duped by him, so why do I have to be polite with him? Even if we uproot his Da Hong Pao parent trees and plant them in our yard, it still wouldn't be enough to appease my anger!"

Zhang Ye cleared his throat. "Uncle, what do you mean by dupe?"

"You are a dupe!"

"How have I duped her?"

"In any case, just bring a few catties over!"

"A few catties? A few catties? Even I don't have that much of it!"

"I don't care!"

"I'll bring you half a catty."

"Two catties!"

"300 grams!"

"1.5 catties!"

"350 grams at the most!"

The two of them started bickering again!

Wu Zeqing and Li Qinqin were smiling off to the side.

Even though they were arguing, things felt completely different from the first time Zhang Ye came to their house!

It was obvious that Wu Changhe had silently approved of the relationship between Zhang Ye and Wu Zeqing from the way he spoke, even though he wasn't exactly willing to accept it.

An hour later, lunch was ready.

As they were eating, Wu Zeqing tested the waters by asking with a smile, "The two of you already know about Little Ye and I. So then, I guess that's how it is?"

Wu Changhe groaned as he ate lunch without saying a word.

But Li Qinqin was very happy. "Little Zhang is quite good, I rather like him."

Wu Zeqing said, "That's great then."

Li Qinqin probed further, "When are you two getting married? Have you decided on a date yet?"

"Not yet. Aren't we seeking both your opinions right now? I haven't visited Little Ye's family either. I think I'll have to make a trip there soon," Wu Zeqing said.

Li Qinqin said happily, "You aren't young anymore and have been single for so many years. Your dad and I are also pretty anxious about you. You two can just decide on a date; there's no need to seek our opinions. Your dad and I will not have any objections."

Wu Changhe rolled his eyes.

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Dad, you don't have any objections either?"

Wu Changhe said angrily, "Of course I have objections! But would that matter to you!"

"Then that means there are no objections." Wu Zeqing nodded and said, "Alright, I understand. I will discuss this later with Little Ye."

Zhang Ye was overcome with happiness!

It had not been easy!

It really had not been easy!

The love between this bro and Old Wu has finally come to fruition!

Chapter 1149: The Celebrity Rankings Index is updated!

After lunch.

Zhang Ye insisted on clearing the dishes.

"Little Zhang, take a break."

"Auntie, let me do it!"

"Just leave it there, I'll clear them."

"No, no, leave it to me!"

"Aiya, why are you being like that!"

"Where's the sink?"

"There's one in the house and another in the yard."

"Alright, you can go rest for a bit. Leave it to me!"

He stood in the yard and did the dishes. Zhang Ye was not one to usually do chores at home as his mother handled all of that. Old Wu also did not let him touch any pots and pans when he was at her place. But now that he was visiting Old Wu's parents' place for the first time as Wu Zeqing's official boyfriend, Zhang Ye definitely had to impress them a little. It didn't matter if he could clean them properly or not. It was the least he could do to show his sincerity and bearing. He was slow at washing the dishes, but he did it very seriously.

Li Qinqin nodded slightly in approval beside him.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Auntie, in the future, if you need any chores done or have anything you need, just give me call. I'll be at your service immediately."

Li Qinqin smiled and said, "OK."

Suddenly, the wind outside picked up.

Li Qinqin looked up. "It's going to rain soon. Let's get inside."

Zhang Ye quickly finished washing the dishes. "OK."

Back in the house, Wu Changhe and Wu Zeqing were chatting as they watched the news.

Wu Zeqing said, "This turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the Go world."

Wu Changhe said, "Yes, what a close call. It was almost like we were caught between life and death at that moment!"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "It was really quite dangerous. If the AI had won, Go would start going downhill as a sport. But the Americans clearly never thought that there would really be a person in this world who could face the AI. After Little Ye's win, it's likely that Go will start thriving and get better from here. The news just reported that Go classes for children have been filled up for summer break. This is the start of something new."

Wu Changhe grunted, "That kid has at least done something human for once."

Even Wu Changhe had to admit that it was Zhang Ye who saved the Go world this time!

On the TV, they were replaying Zhang Ye's win against Peter. Suddenly, it switched to a different scene and a song came on.

"How lonely it is to be invincible.

"How empty it feels to be invincible."

Wu Zeqing was startled!

Wu Changhe and Li Qinqin were startled as well!

Pfft!

What kind of song was that!

Zhang Ye said dumbfounded, "Damn, when did they record this?"

Wu Zeqing smiled and said, "Did you sing it?"

Zhang Ye was floored and replied, "I was just singing it at the Qiyuan after winning the game. Why did they record that? And they're even broadcasting it on TV now?"

This song made a lot of people laugh hard!

Everyone was rolling on the floor laughing on the Internet!

"Teacher Zhang released a new song!"

"Quickly watch TV!"

"Hahahahaha!"

"What lousy song is this!"

"Aiyo, I can't take it!"

"How lonely it is to be invincible?"

"What a great song!"

"Pfft, this song is indeed Teacher Zhang's style!"

"What a jokester! He's so cocky!"

"What's the title of this song? I've been brainwashed by it!"

"Requesting review of the Americans' phobia!"

"Teacher Zhang is indeed invincible! Who can understand him!"

"Now that Zhang Ye is at this level, it really does get a little lonely!"

"She who hides beyond the horizon? Who is 'she'?"

"Yeah, who was Teacher Zhang singing the song for?"

When the video clip was released, it got forwarded countless times. "Invincible" went viral and became an instant hit. The lyrics that went "she who hides beyond the horizon" also got discussed by countless people. Everyone was trying to guess who "she" was!

Watching the television.

Wu Changhe grunted, "What a show off!" Go is not a game that is particular about employing masterful moves, but focuses on the strategy, stability, and intense discipline of one's behavior. That was why Wu Changhe and many of the Qiyuan's people couldn't understand why a rash and showy person like Zhang Ye could play the game so well. That in itself didn't make any sense! But Wu Changhe did not seem to realize that his own temper was not any better!

Wu Zeqing chuckled. "I don't think it's a bad thing. When it's time to keep a low profile, he keeps a low profile. But when it's time to let loose, he does so."

Zhang Ye liked what he heard. "Old Wu knows me so well!"

Li Qinqin looked at him and said, "Little Zhang, what's your popularity ranking now?"

"Uh, I didn't pay attention to it." Zhang Ye said, "I've been so busy playing Go for the past few days that I forgot to check."

Li Qinqin laughed and said, "Since you won the game today, there'll definitely be a large increase in your popularity."

Zhang Ye immediately checked the Celebrity Rankings Index. He still found himself in third place on the A-list rankings, sitting close behind Ning Lan, who was in second place. Although there were no changes in the rankings, Zhang Ye's popularity score was almost even with Ning Lan's. He had almost caught up to her. Needless to say, there was a boost to his popularity yesterday after he won against Peter in the

second game of the final battle between humans and machines. And today, Zhang Ye won again to defeat Peter by a score of two to one. No one knew if there would be any more changes to the popularity ranking!

Thinking of that, Zhang Ye started to greatly anticipate how it would turn out. His original intent was only to help the Go world, and also to gain the acknowledgment of the Wu family regarding his relationship with Wu Zeqing. The matter of how much his popularity could increase by was not even on his mind as Go was just a niche sport, while Go players were only considered small-time celebrities. For example, Xiang Rong 9-dan, the Go world's number one who was also a public figure to speak of. He should be the most glamorous celebrity in the Go world at the moment, but was only an E-list celebrity in the popularity rankings. As for the rest of the professional Go players, they were even less popular and famous. They probably wouldn't even rank among the E-list celebrities!

But Zhang Ye was clearly an exception. Just a single victory in Go had brought him such a massive increase in popularity. That was because many people paid attention to the war between humans and machines!

Would his popularity soar again?

This was really such a pleasant surprise!

...

At night.

The moment he reached home, it started raining.

His mother greeted him. "Son, did you get caught in the rain?"

"No." Zhang Ye smiled.

His father strode out from the bedroom. "Little Ye, you played well! You played really well in today's game!"

Zhang Ye said with a laugh, "I guess so. Whoa, did someone come over? Why is it so messy?"

His mother said, "It was our neighbors. They came over in the evening, and everyone was praising you. They said that you were going to get popular again and might even overtake Ning Lan this time!"

Zhang Ye shrugged. "Who knows."

His mother asked, "Are they refreshing the rankings at midnight?"

"Yes."

"OK, I will wait for it then!"

"Hey, you better hurry off to bed. It's late."

"I'm so happy today that I can't sleep!"

Ring, ring, ring.

Speak of the devil and he will call.

It was Ning Lan. Zhang Ye answered.

Ning Lan immediately said when the call connected: "Hey, Teacher Zhang, you didn't play fair!"

Zhang Ye asked: "What's up?"

Ning Lan laughed and said: "Just look at your popularity score. You claimed you were going on a two-week break. How did I fall for your lie! All of us have been slogging so hard every day and night, yet our popularity only creeps up by a little bit. But when it comes to you, you have it so good. You take a two-week break from work and your popularity is still going up every other day. The way it is increasing really makes no sense at all! I'm about to be overtaken by you!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "That might not necessarily happen."

"Today's rankings haven't been updated, but I think it will be difficult for my popularity score to increase by much." Ning Lan said sadly, "I've been cast in three movies this year, but my gained popularity is not even close to what you've gained by playing Go in the past three days. You are really doing things differently, huh? I can only take my hat off to you. Do you know what the people in the industry are saying about you? They say that your luck is so good that you can get popular even without doing anything."

Zhang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "What do they mean by without doing anything? It's just that you don't know this, but I was nearly annihilated by that Peter. I was this close to losing!"

Ning Lan said: "I will congratulate you first then, although I'm still clenching my teeth in hatred, haha!"

Zhang Ye quickly said: "Don't congratulate me yet. It might not increase by much."

"Don't worry, you will definitely overtake me," Ning Lan said.

That same night.

There were also reports in the foreign news.

The Japanese media: "Chinese genius defeats an AI!"

The Korean media: "The Go world could be welcoming a hundred years of glory!"

The American media: "The most advanced AI in history was dealt a shocking blow by humanity!"

On Weibo.

A lot of netizens were waiting.

"It's almost midnight!"

"Are the rankings updated yet?"

"Not yet!"

"Teacher Zhang's popularity has gone up way too fast. King of Masked Singers only just ended and his popularity is soaring again? I wonder how much his popularity will increase this time!"

"Well, Teacher Zhang is truly very capable after all!"

"Being invincible is indeed lonely!"

People were waiting to find out!

Zhang Ye's close friends and relatives were waiting to find out!

Everyone in the entertainment industry was also waiting to find out!

Everyone was concerned about how much Zhang Ye's popularity would rise by. This was because it was the first time in history that someone could gain popularity from such a niche activity like Go. For show business, this was rather refreshing. So the industry insiders wanted to see if they could learn a thing or two from Zhang Ye's success. Since they were all in the same industry, everyone had to keep learning from one another. But many of them also knew that Zhang Ye's success model was not replicable!

Midnight arrived!

The Celebrity Rankings Index was updated!

The netizens got excited.

"It's here!"

"It's time!"

"Has it been updated yet?"

"Quickly!"

"Is it out yet?"

"Did Zhang Ye overtake Ning Lan?"

After a delay of two minutes, the rankings were suddenly updated!

When they saw the A-list celebrity rankings, everyone online suddenly became silent!

The netizens were astonished!

The industry insiders were tongue-tied!

Even Zhang Ye and his parents couldn't react!

His popularity score had shot past Ning Lan's score. Not only that, Zhang Ye even overtook and replaced that A-list celebrity who used to be in first! The first and third places might only be two spots apart, but it was an entirely different concept altogether. Even the treatment of each one's status was an earth-shattering difference!

The top A-list celebrity!

—This was the result that Zhang Ye had achieved in the Go world over the past three days!

A lot of industry insiders were greatly shocked by how insane Zhang Ye's achievement was!

This is Go we're talking about!

This is only a fucking game of Go!

How does this make any fucking sense at all!

Chapter 1150: A global mathematical conjecture proved!

The next day.

Early in the morning.

In the Goof Group.

Xiaodong: "Ahhh."

Amy: "Teacher Zhang has reached number one in the A-list rankings already? Holy shit!"

Li Xiaoxian: "We just saw! Did something so serious happen in the night?"

Chen Guang: "Yeah, Zhang Ye's popularity score has shot him into first place."

Huo Dongfang: "Hur hur, I learned of it during the night."

A director: "Congratulations, Little Zhang."

A famous male actor: "Outside of the S-list, Zhang Ye has reached the top!"

Ning Lan also appeared, clenching her teeth in hatred. "@ZhangYe! Hurry up and show yourself, stop sleeping! Only a red packet can appease my broken heart!"

Xiaodong: "Hehe, Sister Ning has been overtaken."

There were red packets in this world too. However, they only became popular in recent months. Although the specific interface and functions were a little different from Zhang Ye's previous world, the concept was essentially the same.

When Zhang Ye woke up, he saw the messages in the chat group. He smiled and immediately sent out some red packets 1 .

"Wow!"

"Here come the red packets!"

"Snatch them!"

The chat group stirred with activity

Ning Lan has received your red packet!

Xiaodong has received your red packet!

Zhang Yuanqi has received your red packet!

So Zhang Yuanqi had been lurking all this while!

In just a few seconds, all the red packets were snapped up by them. Then everyone was furious!

Zhang Yuanqi: "Your sister!"

Ning Lan: "Your sister!"

Xiaodong: "Your sister!"

Huo Dongfang: "Your sister!"

Amy called out: "How can there be such a stingy person!"

Li Xiaoxian: "My data! I've suffered a loss this time!"

Everyone received a red packet of only one cent!

A smile on his face, Zhang Ye typed: "Thanks, everyone."

Zhang Yuanqi said: "You're at the top of A-list rankings and you're still unwilling to give out generous red packets? You're not going to have a bright future, hur hur. Ning Lan, finish him off and get back your spot!"

Xiaodong: "Sister Ning, finish him off!"

Amy: "Sister Ning, finish him off!"

Huo Dongfang: "Sister Ning, finish him off!"

They copypasted the same message as they thought that Zhang Ye was way too stingy!

After bantering a bit with them, Zhang Ye was in a rather good mood. These past three months had brought the largest ever boost to his popularity. When he had first entered the A-list celebrity rankings, he struggled to stay in them before finally settling near the bottom of the rankings. Then, he suddenly shot up the charts to reach the front spots after revealing his identity on King of Masked Singers. And now, after playing three games of Go, he suddenly found himself at the top of the A-list celebrity rankings. It was a very surreal experience for him. Initially, he had only set a target to get into the A-list rankings at the beginning of the year. Who could have expected that he could achieve this terrific a result? From the looks of it, it seemed like he was only a step away from the S-list rankings!

But of course, that was just what it looked like.

This next step up was really going to require a great effort to achieve!

Zhang Ye was still too far away from the coveted throne of the S-list. It was different from the A-list rankings and was a whole different world and battleground. For example, Ning Lan, who had once reached the top spot of the A-list rankings, only managed to hold on to that position for three months. She couldn't maintain her ranking or take another step forward. That was because even though it might seem like it was only a step away, this step was actually way too big. It was as though a cliff were separating these two ranking lists. There was once someone who remained stuck in the first place of the A-list rankings for several years. But in the end, that person was unable to advance forward. Now that

Zhang Ye was in this position as well, it would probably be the same for him too. He was still too far away from the S-list. Zhang Ye might not even be able to hold on to his first place in the A-list rankings during the next few days!

The previous first place celebrity of the A-list rankings was now in second place and was going to overtake him soon. Zhang Ye barely passed him with a microscopic difference in the popularity scores. He could probably catch back up with just a song, half a movie, or two Weibo posts!

His mother had made breakfast.

His father had bought a stack of newspapers home.

Zhang Ye said in a speechless manner, "Why did you buy so many copies?"

His father placed the newspapers on the table. "All these newspapers wrote about you."

His mother said smugly, "My son is at the top of the A-list celebrity rankings. Which newspapers would dare not report about him?! They'd have to dedicate the front page to our son!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "How could I possibly get on the front page? It would already be quite good if I manage to get on the headlines of the entertainment sections."

Almost all of the entertainment section headlines belonged to Zhang Ye today. Other than one newspaper firm that was probably not on good terms with him and had deliberately pushed his news further down, all the other newspapers published Zhang Ye's picture in full color, along with a distinct headline on the first page of the entertainment section.

"Zhang Ye Reaches Top of A-list Rankings!"

"Does Zhang Ye have any hope of breaking into the S-list within the next two years?"

"Zhang Ye takes unusual path on his journey of popularity!"

"'Invincible' Storms into Major Music Charts!"

"Getting to the top of the A-list rankings: Perhaps this might be a short-lived high?"

The family ate breakfast together while flipping through the newspapers.

When his mother finished reading the final copy of the newspapers, she seethed, "What do they mean by a short-lived high?"

Zhang Ye explained, "The person behind me has almost caught up. The gap between us is shrinking very quickly."

His mother said anxiously, "Then you'll have to come up with some new works quickly!"

Zhang Ye said, "I'll just see how it goes. You can't force new works out because of something like that, and neither can it be rushed. Getting to this to this level of popularity has already surpassed my expectations."

His father gave a deep nod. "Our son is right. He can't just mess around for the sake of increasing his popularity."

His mother said, "But what if they catch up to you?"

"If they catch up, so be it. At most, I'll just have to catch back up again in the future." Zhang Ye smiled.

These days, Zhang Ye was battle-hardened after going through so many ups and downs in the entertainment industry. He had grown from a newcomer into a veteran of sorts. Having seen so much and gone through so many experiences, he was now more composed than ever, although he would still let fly a curse or two at times and go into a rage. But that was something which was impossible to change since it was ingrained in his character. His temper had become much better as well. At the very least, he was no longer as impatient as before in the way he did and said some things. There were some issues he definitely would not back off on, but there were also some things that could not be rushed.

However, the more he wasn't anxious about it, the more things developed in that direction!

As Zhang Ye finished eating breakfast, his phone started ringing!

On the caller ID: The Dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences, Pan Yang.

Zhang Ye answered: "Hello, Dean Pan, you're looking for me?"

Dean Pan sounded a little excited. "Yes, that's right!"

"What happened?" Zhang Ye said in surprise.

When his parents heard that, they looked over.

Dean Pan said loudly: "It's a great piece of news!"

Zhang Ye: "Oh?"

"Professor Zhang, I now represent the Dale's Conjecture verification team to officially inform you that the proof you wrote has been fully validated after a year of checks by many of our world-class mathematicians!" Dean Pan was so excited that his voice went hoarse. "Dale's Conjecture has been solved by you! It has been solved by a Chinese mathematician! You're not just a world-class mathematician anymore! You can now be considered one of the smartest world-class mathematicians! You're just too fantastic! Professor Zhang! You've brought glory to us!"

It had been proven?

The verification was finally complete?

Zhang Ye could not sit still. "I'll be right over!"

"OK! OK! We are all waiting for you!" Dean Pan said: "We've already notified both the foreign and local media that we will be holding an official press conference this afternoon!"

Zhang Ye had waited for this day for too long!

Peking University had also waited for this day for too long, and so had China!

One of the most difficult mathematical conjectures in the world had been proven by Zhang Ye, a mathematician from China. It was an extremely meaningful day for the global mathematics world. And to Zhang Ye, this would definitely be one of the most memorable events in his life as well. Before Dale's

Conjecture had been verified and proven, he was approached to be a recipient of an international math award. That would mean to say that even if there were any mistakes found during the verification process that would displace the entire proof, they were still willing to give him the award. From that, it could be seen just how highly regarded and difficult Dale's Conjecture was to the global mathematics world. But after a year of work by an international team made up of dozens of mathematicians, the proof was finally validated. This contributed to a major increase in Zhang Ye's popularity and reputation. A world-class mathematician had now become a preeminent world-class mathematician!

Just by adding the word "preeminent," the difference in meaning between the two titles immediately became poles apart! All of those preeminent mathematicians of the world and those who came before were considered treasures of humanity 2 . They were all historical legends. And today, Zhang Ye had also stepped up to that most glorious throne of the mathematics world!

He was now coronated with honor!