

Superstar 491

Chapter 491: Whatever goes!

Central TV.

Along the corridor.

"What shall we eat tonight?" Zhang Ye asked rather happily.

Yao Jiancai laughed, "You still care about eating? Why do I feel that we are going to be in some sort of trouble? Two days of being broadcasted live. The two of us are going to end up poking a hole in the sky."

Zhang Ye said, "What has that got to do with us?"

Yao Jiancai said, "Even if it was Central TV's mistake, the ones who gained the most from this was us. We were the ones who were shown on broadcast, so how could the authorities ignore that? Not only Central TV Department 11 would be in trouble, I think even the two of us would be implicated."

But Zhang Ye, being a carefree soul, said, "So what? We've already been banned anyway, what more could happen to us? Will they tie us up? Will they stuff our mouths and make us shut up?"

Yao Jiancai smiled at this, "That's rather true too."

"We will still say whatever we have to say and not care about anyone!" Zhang Ye said.

At this time, a person walked up to them. He looked familiar, probably a member of the competition program team.

The youth took a look at them before saying, "Teacher Yao, Teacher Zhang. I'm from the program team. Can I have a minute of your time? Let's chat somewhere else?"

They proceeded to an office.

Zhang Ye said, "What's the matter?"

The youth did not beat around the bush, "There were some instructions from the station just now. We also had some discussions among the program team. It is our wish that your crosstalk be cleaner and less vulgar."

Zhang Ye laughed, "Is the station criticizing me now?"

The youth said, "We wouldn't dare."

Yao Jiancai shot a glance at him before saying, "This is a crosstalk competition and what we performed was within the acceptable limits. How did it become unclean to you all? Where are the unclean parts?"

The youth said, "There are profanities and innuendos!"

"Which were the profanities?" Zhang Ye asked.

The youth said, "Don't butt in."

Zhang Ye laughed sarcastically, "What I said was Dont Buttin. How is that a profanity? Point it out for me. I would like to know too!"

The youth frown, "We both know what you meant."

Zhang Ye waved his hand, "Don't say that, I really don't know!"

The youth clenched his teeth, "What about badmouthing Teacher Tang Dazhang? Teacher Tang came to us after the recording with a lot of the other crosstalk artists."

"They're complaining?" Yao Jiancai rolled his eyes.

Zhang Ye lighted a cigarette, "Yo, heh, I've heard of people picking up money, but never heard of them picking up a scolding. I was talking about Tang Dade, yet someone wants the scolding to be about him. If he chose to be scolded, why do I have to be blamed? If by your saying, then Tang Dazhang's disciples who scolded me by using my name should be spoken to as well? Or maybe you mean to say that they can scold me or whatever, but me and Old Yao here can't even say a thing? We even have to be warned? What sort of crosstalk competition is this! Was it specially organized for Tang Dazhang? Then you should have told everyone earlier! You should have written a notice telling everyone that only Tang Dazhang's disciples are allowed to take part in this competition. If that were the case, we would not have registered at all!"

The youth was piqued, "How can you say that? Regarding your crosstalk, everyone else discussed about it and the organizers also studied what you said. Nothing of it represents what crosstalk should be."

Zhang Ye asked, "Then tell me what is the art of crosstalk about?"

The youth said, "At the very least, it cannot be so vulgar. This sort of crosstalk performance is not suitable for the stage and would negatively affect the audience. Crosstalk is a form of culture, a classy and elegant culture!"

Zhang Ye laughed. He patted the youth's shoulder and said, "Alright, don't talk nonsense with me anymore. I have no time for that. I know how to do crosstalk better than you, so why would I listen to your explanations?"

"You....", The youth had not expected this sort of behavior from Zhang Ye.

Yao Jiancai also couldn't be bothered, "Let's go, old bro."

Zhang Ye stood up, "Let's go. Shall we have dinner at my parents' place tonight?"

"Sure." Yao Jiancai agreed happily, "I've never been to your place before, so it's about time I visited."

The two of them joked as they stepped out of the office. They did not bother about the program team's youth staff at this point in time anymore.

The youth looked at their backs and was angered. He had no choice, as he was also timid in the presence of Zhang Ye. He was someone who had scolded the SARFT, beaten up a leader, fought off hijackers, and even landed a hijacked plane. That was the sort of person he was, so it would be best not to offend him. In any case, he had already passed on the message that the station wanted him to pass on. However

they planned to do their next performance would be up to them since they couldn't blame it on him for not warning them beforehand!

Well then, it was time to go back to report this to the leader.

The youth tried to pull the door to leave the office, but with a twist of the door knob, it broke off from the door, "Ah?" He immediately knocked on the door saying, "Open the door! Please help me to open the door! If you can't get it opened, help get someone here to help!"

Outside.

The duo heard the knocking and plea.

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "What do you think?"

"He's trapped inside?" Zhang Ye was also cheered by this.

Peng peng peng, "If anyone is outside, please help me open the door!"

Zhang Ye nearly wanted to do so, but thinking about how coincidental this was, he remember that it was probably the Difficulty Adjustment Die doing its work. Since Zhang Ye did not feel much for these bunch of people, maybe it was the Die giving it to them?

Sure enough, it seemed that within these 6 days, no matter who came at him would be killed off immediately!

He smiled and said, "Let's go."

Yao Jiancai said, "Go?"

"Don't bother about him, let him knock all he wants." Zhang Ye said.

The youth heard them from behind the door!

He nearly vomited blood!

He still had some urgent matters to attend to later! He had to go supervise a program!

He immediately took out his cellphone and tried to make a call to a colleague to ask for help, but as he took out the phone, he dropped it and the cellphone was smashed to pieces when it hit the ground!

The youth was dumbfounded for a moment. What the f**k!

Did his luck have to be this bad?!

What was going on in the station these past two days!

Was there a ghost?

The two of them who were outside nearly went crazy from laughter.

Yao Jiancai said, "I've heard of your temper before, but I've never witnessed it first hand. This time, however, I've finally seen this side to you. Now I understand why you offend so many people with the

things that you do. People with a bad temper, heh, this old bro has seen it a few times before, but never have I seen someone as quick tempered as you."

Zhang Ye said, "I've already suppressed myself. That bunch of people deserved a scolding. That Tang guy incited a group of people to step on me and go against me. As a judge of the competition, he's abusing his powers to backstab me. Now he's even trying to make us lose our qualifications to take part in it? His disciples criticized us on their program, but I have never seen a program team deal with such bullshit like that? Central TV has not even issued a statement? Tang Dazhang is also a part of the program team. Isn't that the same as the magistrates being free to burn down houses, while the common people are forbidden to light their lamps? Only they can step on others, but others may not step on them? F**k their grandpas!"

Yao Jiancai said, "You rascal. You never allow yourself to be on the losing end! Hehe, but your old bro likes it this way. Since the fuss has already been kicked up, let's just go all the way!"

As they were prepared to walk on, another person was headed towards them again. It was an old man.

Seeing that person, Yao Jiancai immediately recognized him. It was a veteran artist of the crosstalk performance world.

Chapter 492: Voices of everyone!

They looked at each other.

Bumping into and also knowing one another, it would be awkward to not say anything at all.

Yao Jiancai greeted, "Master Xu."

Xu Wenxiang looked at him, "Oh, Little Yao."

"You still remember me?" Yao Jiancai asked, "How's your health been lately?"

Xu Wenxiang nodded, "It's just as it is. I can't compare to young people like you."

Yao Jiancai laughed, "I've already past forty, how can I still be considered young?"

Xu Wenxiang spoke with hidden meanings, "From your crosstalk performance. I wouldn't have guessed your age. The work was like that of a child's, speaking however you wanted. That doesn't reflect well on your teacher, don't you think?"

Yao Jiancai did not answer that as this old man was fellow disciples with his late teacher. They had both learned under an old master in crosstalks before, so it wasn't appropriate for him to say too much. He could only change the topic as he turned to Zhang Ye to introduce him, "Old bro, let me him introduce to you. This is Master Xu Wenxiang, the Mount Tai and the Big Dipper of the crosstalk world."

Zhang Ye replied without pressure, "How are you doing, Master?"

"This is....." Yao Jiancai was about to introduce Zhang Ye.

But Xu Wenxiang gave a wave of his hands and spoke directly, "You don't need to introduce us, I know him. The two of you have really caused a ruckus this time. It's time to take a step back."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "We, a ruckus?"

You must be kidding!

You people are causing a ruckus even more than us!

Xu Wenxiang looked at him, "Crosstalk isn't as you said it is. What you're doing will not glorify crosstalk, but destroy it. Crosstalk is a heritage that must be carried forward one generation after another. If crosstalk is as you said it is, then what difference does it have from a punk on the streets? For crosstalk to get to where it is today hasn't been easy. After passing it down for so many generations, it has to be conserved and have some meaning to it."

Yao Jiancai said, "Little Zhang and I are both doing this very seriously. We feel that crosstalk has many ways to it and doesn't only have to have an educational aspect to it....."

"Do you know better or do I?" Xu Wenxiang interrupted.

Yao Jiancai was beginning to dislike what he heard. Heh.

Xu Wenxiang glanced at them as an artist and said, "Stop speaking with less tawdriness and add more content that would let others reflect on after listening. You should put more positive energy into it rather than scolding this or that. What's the use of that? Even if you scold, you won't be able to scold the folk arts world. Every job has its rules, so since you're in the folk arts circle now, you'd have to follow the rules here. You can't just go about doing anything you wanted."

Zhang Ye started to speak up, "I can't pretend I never heard what you just said."

"Little Zhang." Yao Jiancai made a pass at him to signal to him to stop.

But Zhang Ye did not listen and instead spoke to Xu Wenxiang as an equal, "We're just two small time actors who like to do crosstalk, talking about topics that we like and doing the things we feel are right. That has nothing to do with the folk arts world at all, so whether the people up there recognize us as crosstalk actors or not, it does not matter to us. We do not need their recognition. I know very well whether or not I know how to do crosstalk, and so does the audience. We do not need others to waste their energy to validate us. Master Xu, I respect you as an elder, as a veteran of crosstalking, and your contributions to the crosstalk world, but the issue here is that all of you should not have stepped on me first. Why is it that anyone that sees me must step on me once or twice? They just gather everyone together to scold me for no reason? I won't take that lying down! If they want to step on me, then I will step back on them! If they scold me? Then I will scold them back as well! I don't give a damn about anything! This is my temper!"

"OK, you're great!" Xu Wenxiang was clearly irritated by this, "Who is your teacher?"

Was this an interrogation?

He was going to use seniority to pressure me?

Zhang Ye smiled, "I don't have a teacher. I'm a self taught master myself. Master Xu, don't try to scare me. My guts are really small."

Xu Wenxiang saw that he was not giving him any face at all and was even getting disrespectful, so his anger also rose. He took a breather and nodded, "OK, since you've said that, the two of you may do whatever you want. Don't look down on the crosstalk world. If they want to fix the two of you, they'd find a way for sure."

Zhang Ye said, "Yo, then I would like to find out for myself what they can do."

Xu Wenxiang made a gesture with his hand and turned to leave, "There will be a conference for the crosstalk world members tonight in which they would discuss this matter." As he said that, he disappeared into the walkway. Then, a loud 'pu tong' was heard followed by Xu Wenxiang furiously scolding, "Who threw that banana peel!"

Yao Jiancai, "....."

Zhang Ye knew that it was the Difficulty Adjustment Die helping him out once again.

"There's going to be a conference for the crosstalk world members again?" Yao Jiancai said, "And it's to discuss about how to handle us?"

Zhang Ye said, "Surely they did not have to go that far for us? Are the two of us really so influential?"

Yao Jiancai replied, "That may be somewhat true. The two of us have really caused a big ruckus today and offended a majority of them."

On their way out, they heard many people exchanging whispers. They overheard some of them and through it, they found out that the crosstalk conference was organized some time ago and would be attended, not only by the heavyweights of the crosstalk world, but also some of the rookies who were participating in the crosstalk competition were invited, except for Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. Clearly, even if the conference was not about denouncing them, they would still allocate a fair amount of time to discuss about how to 'kill' Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai.

Regarding this, Zhang Ye only laughed it off.

As for Yao Jiancai, he also took it as it was. There was no other choice since he had already boarded Zhang Ye's pirate ship. Having already reached this stage, there was no point in holding back!

Just scold on!

Let's see who can scold better!

.....

That night.

At Zhang Ye's parents place.

The door opened to reveal Zhang Ye's mom smiling, "You're back, son?"

Yo, isn't that Teacher Yao? Little Ye, why didn't you inform us beforehand that you were bringing a guest home!"

"He's not an outsider anyway." Zhang Ye said.

Yao Jiancai greeted, "Big Sis."

His mother said, "Come in quickly."

His father also came out when he heard the commotion, "This is....Teacher Yao?"

"Big Bro and Big Sis, please don't address me as Teacher. You can just call me Old Yao or something."
Yao Jiancai had brought some gifts along and placed them on the table.

"You're so courteous to have bought something." His mother was very happy as she said to Yao Jiancai, "Little Ye's father and I both always watch the dramas that you act in. You're really good in them. When we found out that you and Little Ye knew each other since some time ago, we've always told him to invite you over for a meal, but this rascal kept ignoring us."

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "I've been wanting to visit you all for some time now. I've always been curious who brought up such a talented person like my old bro."

His mother grinned from ear to ear, obviously liking what she had heard, "We didn't do much. We've always just let him be since he was young. I guess it's just Little Ye having that talent all along."

Ring, ring, ring.

Zhang Ye's cellphone rang. It was from his eldest young sister.

"Brother, where are you at? I'm with Tongtong and Mengmeng outside now, why don't you give us a treat?" Cao Dan said, "It's been some time since we saw you."

Zhang Ye laughed, "I'm at my parents' place. Do you all want to come over?"

"Ah? Sure, we'll go over!" said Cao Dan.

After a while, the 3 sisters arrived at the house in excitement.

"Bro!"

"Idol! You're truly our idol!" The second sister shouted as she came into the house.

The third sister also said loudly, "Bro, you were really too suave on today's live broadcast! Hahaha! It was scolded in such a gratifying manner! That 'I will reject the Three Vulgarities' is just godly!"

The eldest sister laughed, "The key moments were when two of the judges were chased off by your scolding. I think only our brother has such an ability! You have such a glib tongue!"

Zhang Ye laughed along, "I guess it was OK."

The third sister suddenly noticed someone seated on the sofa and shouted, "Aiya, Old Yao!"

Zhang Ye's mother slapped her on her head and said, "Is Old Yao a name for you to call?"

"Hehe, that's what everyone calls him these days. It's more endearing anyway." The 3 sisters gathered around Yao Jiancai and started asking him about all sorts of questions.

The house had gotten quite lively.

When dinner started, the three sisters did not stop their chattering.

Zhang Ye's father asked, "Little Ye, will you two be alright after scolding them so harshly?"

Zhang Ye proudly said, "How big of a matter can it be? If they can scold me, then can't I scold them back? Those bunch of grandsons are exactly who I am scolding!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Right!"

At this moment, the third sister, who was browsing the news on her cellphone exclaimed, "Ah, the crosstalk world is having a conference? Look at this, look at this, they're saying that it's a discussion about the state of mess that the crosstalk world is in right now and how the art of crosstalk should be developing instead. They are also talking about how to resist those vulgar performance works and actors. Damn, aren't they basically referring to our brother! Did they even have to organize such a large conference of a few hundred people just to come up with a plan to take care of my brother? What the heck are they planning!"

Zhang Ye laughed it off, "Just let them do what they want."

The eldest sister said, "This is exactly a case of successful people having their haters. Those bunch of people have been performing crosstalk for so many years and even some of the older ones have been doing for several decades now, but they could only go so far in it and the audiences aren't that impressed at all, but when my brother, who has had no experience in crosstalk showed what he was capable of and attracted so much interest with his works, they became unhappy and jealous. Ah, really, those bunch of people really do not have the bearings of an artist at all!"

Following that, at 7:30PM.

The SARFT's official Weibo posted: "Control against the rise of vulgar culture. All television stations, sectors, and institutions have been cooperating closely to control the rise of vulgar works, but in recent times, some of these vulgar works have surfaced again. The control against such works of vulgar, base, and philistine tendencies must be tightened as to ensure that the positive energy of works can come through successfully....." It was an essay littered with hundreds of words in it.

The second sister's face changed, "They're targeting our brother again?"

Yao Jiancai had not expected the SARFT to reiterate the message with a post, "That is a warning for us."

Of course, it was not purely targeted at Zhang Ye. He did not have that much of an influence to command such attention. It was more likely due to the many new works that had overstepped the line and maybe also some of the other not so mainstream groups of crosstalk actors that made the authorities issue this warning.

Ring, ring, ring.

An unfamiliar number appeared on Zhang Ye's caller ID.

The other party introduced himself as the person-in-charge of the National Crosstalk and Skit competition. He said in a direct manner to Zhang Ye, "If your performance work tomorrow still involves any vulgar segments or satire, the competition will disqualify your team. There is no room for discussion on this!"

Chapter 493: Arrival of the 3rd Crosstalk performance!

At home.

"What's the matter?"

"Who called?"

His parents and sisters looked at Zhang Ye.

But Zhang Ye was smiling and said, "It was just someone from the program team. They said that if our performance tomorrow still involves the three vulgarities, then we would be disqualified from the competition without fail."

His third sister said, "Then how will you deal with this?"

His mother was furious, "Those people are forcing you into a corner! Why is it that when my son says it, it becomes disallowed! Who set the rules saying that a crosstalk can only be elegant! Aren't they poking their noses into everything?! Why are all the policies or regulations directed at my son? Did my son commit murder or arson?!"

The second sister slammed her hand down on the table, "This is too atrocious!"

His father asked, "Then you won't be able to say it anymore?"

Yao Jiancai also asked, "Old bro?"

"What do you think, Old Yao?" Zhang Ye blinked.

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "The crosstalk performance was written by you, I will say it however you write it."

Compromise might give us a chance of survival?

If we continue to do it as we did, then we might be disqualified?

Zhang Ye knew very well that someone from the crosstalk world had pushed this issue up to the authorities with a letter or report. Because of this, they were now given an ultimatum and forced into a corner once again.

.....

At the same time.

The news spread online!

The crosstalk competition program team had singled out Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's work and criticized it on their Weibo and the official site, giving them a stern warning!

Many of the netizens were discussing jubilantly about "I will reject the Three Vulgarities" with some of them having watched it several times already. Everyone was talking about it, but with the news of the criticism from the crosstalk world's conference, the decree passed by the SARFT, as well as the warning given by the competition's program team, many of these netizens were taken by surprise!

"What?"

"If they go on saying such things, they'll be disqualified?"

"Based on what!"

"F**k!"

"Numbed!"

"Is there still justice?"

"Aren't they just attracting anger this way?! Those bunch of crosstalkers are such grandsons!"

"It isn't easy for Teacher Zhang and Teacher Yao! After being banned, they barely found a way to stay in the public eye but now they still want to get rid of him once and for all? They don't even want to give him a chance?"

"I can't accept this!"

"Me neither!"

"Why is crosstalk only meant to educate people?! Based on what?!"

"I only enjoy watching Zhang Ye's version of crosstalking! Why does my right to like something have to be taken away? It hasn't been easy for our nation to produce two talented crosstalk actors like Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, so why did you have to do this to them? And you even claim that this was for the good of the crosstalk world? Why don't you all just go to hell!"

"Zhang Ye won't be able to perform crosstalks anymore?"

"He can still do it, but it will have to be done according to their mainstream rules and regulations, to educate the people!"

On the other end, the crosstalk world's members were getting arrogant once again. With the decree from the SARFT and the program team's official warning, they became more emboldened, especially those who had been scolded in today's "I will reject the Three Vulgarities". All of them jumped out once again!

Xu Wenxiang probably gave an interview after the conference ended and said some words, which had been reported by an online news agency. The words were as such: "To my knowledge, crosstalk is used to encourage others to be good and not used as a scolding tool. That kind of crosstalk won't last and will only cause the corruption of the culture behind crosstalks. If we allow Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai to continue like this, sooner or later it would create a mess that we can no longer control, so we must definitely rid the crosstalk world of such a person!"

Tang Dazhang posted on Weibo: "The competition program team should have handled it this way in the first place. This kind of work insults crosstalk and the vulgarity in it is akin to eating garlic raw!"

One of Tang Dazhang's disciples also said, "Teacher said it well. This is just like eating raw garlic, which would irritate your mouth and eyes. I've been wondering why the audience would even call it a good work? Hur!"

Another crosstalk artist said: "It's just like in the movies. Although we're fixated on the plot and content, a good movie should leave you thinking after you are done watching it. That would mean the work was a success and the message it wants to send to the viewers has been transmitted successfully as well. A crosstalk work is the same. It cannot just make people laugh but should instead do so and leave a little for the listeners to ponder upon. Using vulgar segments to tease and tickle the audience is as good as being worthless."

Countless crosstalk actors stepped forward to say their piece!

This time, it was even more than the number of people that had denounced Zhang Ye yesterday. It was clear that this was because of the momentum of things happening after the crosstalk conference had concluded!

A young crosstalk actor said: "I don't find Zhang Ye's work to be funny. I just felt that it was very vulgar."

A crosstalk competition participant said: "Is it that difficult to present a piece of work that is a little bit more elegant and meaningful? Why did he have to stick to the lesser, non-mainstream style? It really makes me despise them!"

An old veteran of crosstalking said, "I suggest that they be stripped of their qualifications to take part in the competition!"

During the afternoon at today's live broadcast, most people had already witnessed Zhang Ye's scolding prowess. They had seen his wit and knew that those bunch of people could not out-scold him. That Zhang guy had already scolded countless people and his mouth was well known to be venomous. This was the reason why no one was willing to step on his tail as the consequences would be really bad, but after tonight's crosstalk conference, the SARFT, and the competition program team's statements, they were riled up again. They knew that it was over for Zhang Ye and he wouldn't be able to last for more than a few more days. This led to everyone coming forward to laugh at Zhang Ye and denounce him!

Not only them, even some of Zhang Ye's old enemies found the courage to make some noise!

For example, those Korean undergraduates who knew of Zhang Ye's hatred for the Koreans!

"Boycott Zhang Ye!"

"Boycott him with all we got!"

"Let's keep Zhang Ye down forever!"

"What so good about his work! I also enjoy China's crosstalk performances a lot because there are so many joke segments that are memorable and thoughtful. It makes one feel full of emotions just listening to them, but what are the things that are said by Zhang Ye!"

"Disqualify them!"

"Ban them forever!"

"Haha, I will predict that they will last just one more performance, in which they wouldn't dare say anything about anything since the authorities have already made their stand! It's as good as pinpointing them!"

"Yea, let's see if he still dares to scold!"

"Unless he's mad!"

"This time, it's really over for Zhang Ye. How can he stand up against the whole crosstalk world alone? They have so many artists on their side, so surely they would be able to take him into control?"

"Hur hur, let's see what he talks about tomorrow."

"I suppose it will be his last performance tomorrow. No matter what he says, he'll end up disqualified. He has really offended too many people!"

There were countless voices!

Countless of denouncing voices!

On this night, the whole crosstalk world had declared war on Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai!

There were many comments on the internet regarding Zhang Ye's works. It was divided into who was for and against, with numerous netizens talking about the topic of whether Zhang Ye should be boycotted, whether crosstalk needed to be educational, and the difference between an elegant crosstalk and a vulgar one!

Chapter 494: A compilation of Guo Degang's crosstalks!

The next day.

That afternoon, at Central TV's competition grounds.

Today's recording location was a different set, not at the original, small recording studio they had previously been in. The location had been changed to a hall in the basement that took up two levels, or you could say that it was more like an auditorium. All in all, it could accommodate an audience of about 2000 to 3000 people. This location was usually reserved for smaller scale gala events, but it had been reserved for the National Crosstalk Competition today. As the competition had reached the third and final round of preliminaries, all the teams had gathered here for the live internet broadcast. Those who passed the first two preliminary rounds would draw lots to decide their order of appearance. This was why the last round would take longer than usual, as there were a hundred teams scheduled to perform. The estimated period of time for this final round was slated to last about three days.

The auditorium was filled to the brim with audience members.

Seated in the front row were some of the leaders from Central TV, the Crosstalk Association's President, members of the Folk Arts world, and even some of the judges. Tang Dazhang and Xu Wenxiang were amongst those seated in front.

"Little Tang."

"Master Xu."

"Your two disciples are quite good."

"Hur hur, they aren't quite there yet. They will still need a lot more practice."

Many crosstalk actors were chatting amongst themselves as well.

An area had been set off to the side specially for the qualifying 500 teams of the first round, in which Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai were a part of.

The seats behind them and on the second level were made up of random people, whether they were fellow crosstalk actors, media, or staff from other agencies. There were also some lucky winners from the Weibo-held lucky draw and others who had gotten the tickets, as well as employees from sponsorship companies. They made up 80% of the audience and numbered in the thousands.

"I'm so looking forward to this!"

"Who do you like the most out of everyone?"

"Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai of course!"

"Haha, I like their crosstalk too. It's really good!"

"But looks like they will have some trouble today. The authorities had already warned them and their fellow actors are also boycotting them. Even the organizers have issued an ultimatum against them, so I wonder how they will perform today."

"At yesterday's crosstalk conference, I heard they listed out Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's '7 Deadly Sins'. They also said that Zhang Ye kept using the term 'father' to insult Yao Jiancai and his constant use of swear words. That bunch of people is really good at distorting the facts. I think that they're just jealous!"

"Will they continue their vulgar style of crosstalk, or will they compromise with an educational one? Teacher Zhang Ye and Teacher Yao Jiancai have probably already made their choice."

In the middle row, Tian Bin had also gotten his hands on some tickets as a radio host of Central TV to watch his old colleague perform.

On-stage.

The hosts had appeared and they were a male and female duo.

"Leaders, guests, and members of the audience. Good afternoon to everyone of you!"

The first segment for today's show will be to reveal the second preliminary round's vote tally. Among the 500 teams, the top 100 teams would advance to the final round of preliminaries.

After a bunch of introductions and encouraging words, the results were finally revealed!

Coming in First Place: Team Nameless with a total of 1.28 million votes!

When this figure was shown, everyone in the auditorium drew in a cold breath of air!

Everyone was no longer interested in the vote numbers of the final 99 teams. The suspense had already been lost as the second ranked team had only garnered 31,000 votes, with the following teams getting 25,000, 9,000, 8,925 and 6,700....These figures were not noticed by anyone at all! The nameless team's votes had surpassed all of their votes added together by multiple times, so there wasn't anything to play for at all! Actually, in the past years, no team had gotten such low vote numbers before. They would at

least score 80-90,000 votes or even 100,000 votes for the good performances, but this year, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai were too good for the others. They hogged all the attention and votes for themselves and left almost nothing for their competitors to scrape off!

The whole set was filled with discussion.

Everyone knew Team Nameless was Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's team.

But the hosts made no mention of first place and their introduction title only flashed for a second before disappearing. The hosts directly moved on to announcing the qualifying teams for the third preliminary round without mentioning Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's names. They had skipped past them without a second thought. They could take part in the competition, but Central TV Department 11 would not give them any promotions or airtime at all.

Half an hour later, the lottery draw for their scheduled appearances began.

On the right side of the seating area, Yao Jiancai turned slightly and whispered, "It'd be better if we get to go early?"

"Yes." Zhang Ye smiled, "For today's performance, I think it's the best if we can go first."

Yao Jiancai said, "Yea, if it happens too late, then I'm afraid we won't even have the chance to perform. If we get scheduled for the third day, the crosstalk world members might even try to create issues for us and cause the program team to disqualify us."

Zhang Ye squinted a little and said, "Let's leave it to luck. It's the best if we can go first."

His words had just stopped when the number on the big screen located on the stage came to a stop. Seeing the number it stopped left many people stunned.

The female host hesitated for a moment before announcing the number, "The first scheduled performance will be by Division C, #8."

They did not announce their names, but everyone knew. This was Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's team number!

Yao Jiancai slapped his thigh loudly and smiled, "Great one, old bro. We're starting the show? That suits me just fine. Haha, why do I feel that our luck has been extremely good these past two days?"

Zhang Ye knew that it wasn't exactly down to luck, but due to his activation of the "skill" -- Lowering of Difficulty.

Over on the other side, the staff quickly looked for the two of them, "Both of you, please go backstage and prepare." Although the lottery draw was still going until all 100 teams appearance orders were decided, the first team still had to start preparing beforehand.

And so, with everyone's eyes on them, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai proceeded to go backstage.

.....

At the side of the stage.

A meeting was being held in the studio.

The program team's in-charge said, "I will say it again! There must absolutely be no mistakes today! The SARFT has already given our crosstalk competition a very stern warning! If we continue to broadcast anymore footage of a banned artist, we will all be left jobless, so all of you better get serious!"

"Understood."

"Don't worry about it this time."

Someone said, "Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai will be appearing first, so shall we?"

The person-in-charge and the station had obviously had a discussion earlier on how to handle this, "Commercials will be shown for the entire 10 minutes of their performance. We won't be giving them any airtime at all. They will be cut off 1 second before their performance starts!"

Everyone nodded, "OK."

The in-charge repeated, "Don't ever, ever make any mistake this time!"

The previous two live broadcasts that Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai had received had already left the management scratching their heads in anger. If it happened again, none of them could bear the responsibility, and all of them would be fired!

Another 30 minutes had gone by.

The National Crosstalk Competition's final round of preliminaries had officially started!

Just before the host was about to announce the first performers, just backstage, the person in-charge gave his instruction, "Right now, air the commercials and cut off the feed from the studio!"

A staff member quickly changed the controls and said, "It's done!"

The person-in-charge was really afraid that things would go wrong again, "Check it again."

"The broadcast has already cut to the commercials." That same staff member confirmed.

The person-in-charge said, "All other positions, do a confirmation as well."

Seven or eight staff members busily adjusted their controls to check and confirm that the commercials were playing, "There are really no problems, leader."

Only at this point did the person-in-charge heave a sigh of relief.

But it seems that Central TV was destined to have strange happenings occurring for these few days. A staff member was just making use of the free time that they had now to eat something from their lunchbox when, without warning, a portable charger exploded with a loud noise. The youth received a great shock from it and threw the lunchbox out of his hand, scattering the contents all over the equipment. His elbow reactively smashed into two buttons on the control panel, bada.

The portable charger flew to the side, where everyone placed their clothing at and flames ignited from it, spreading very quickly!

"Ah!"

"It's on fire!"

"Put it out! Put out the fire!"

"Aiyah!"

Everyone was furiously trying to put out the fire since the live broadcast controls had already been set anyway. No one checked it, as putting out the fire had taken priority at this moment, otherwise, all the controls in the room would be affected!

.....

On the web.

Tens of thousands of viewers were waiting for the crosstalk live broadcast to start.

"It's Zhang Ye's turn!"

"Right, he's going first!"

"Haha, I can't wait any longer!"

"Eh, damn! Why did it cut to the commercials?"

"They're clearly not giving Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai any airtime?"

"Eh, no, the feed is back. Hahaha! Teacher Zhang and Teacher Yao are coming out soon!"

.....

In the auditorium.

The female host smiled as she announced, "Next, we have our first group of performers, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai." This time, she read out their names, as the hosts had already been informed earlier of the plan for Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's performance to not be broadcasted.

Yao Jiancai came onstage first, followed by Zhang Ye behind him.

When they saw them appear on stage, the folk arts and crosstalk world members did not show any reaction, but the thousands of audience members roared with cheers and applause for the two of them. They were already laughing loudly and slapping their thighs when they saw their faces, with some even whistling to cheer them on!

The crosstalk actors were all frowning.

Those crosstalk competition participants didn't look happy either.

Only some of the media people looked at each other and whispered about the on-goings. No matter how the others scolded Zhang Ye, no matter how they chose not to recognize him, just based on Zhang Ye's popularity alone, no one from the crosstalk world could compare to him. Crosstalk had always had a small following as a culture. Nobody had ever heard anything like Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's crosstalk performances! In the past, this was unthinkable!

And then, everyone stared at the stage as they thought.

Would they compromise?

Would Teacher Zhang seek amnesty with the crosstalk world?

Although everyone knew Zhang Ye's personality to be free spirit he was, at this moment, everyone could not be sure of anything. They weren't sure what kind of performance Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai would do, as they had been banned after all. The National Crosstalk Competition was their last resort, and if they were disqualified, there would be no road ahead for the two of them. They could join other competitions? With the crosstalk competition as an example, no other organizers would accept them anymore! Even if they would be criticized by name, they would never let Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai take part in their competitions. That was without question!

The microphone was set.

Zhang Ye stood on stage and looked up. He smiled and said, "There's quite a large turnout today."

Yao Jiancai nodded, "That is how it is. They're all here to listen to the crosstalk performances."

Zhang Ye said, "The opening performance will be performed by the two of us. Would everyone like to listen, or would everyone like to listen? I won't force you to choose!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Heh, and you call that not forcing?"

Just those few sentences, those few opening lines, had left thousands of audience members in tears from their laughter. With such a level of skill, Zhang Ye left those crosstalk artists with frowns on their faces.

Zhang Ye smiled, "Actually, we preferred going to places like the television station to perform our crosstalk."

Yao Jiancai asked, "Why is that so?"

Zhang Ye said, "Because it's really well led here."

"Ah?" Yao Jiancai said.

The Central TV program team members expressions all changed!

Zhang Ye pointed to the two sides and said, "There are people leading the applause on the sides. Sometimes when you watch those crosstalk performances on TV, the actors just come on stage or as they speak their first few lines, there is immediate applause."

Yao Jiancai wondered, "When they speak their first few lines?"

Zhang Ye grabbed hold of his throat and uttered, "Today..... hualalala....I will give.....hualalala.....everyone....hualalala.....a short crosstalk....hualalala....if it is not good...hualalala." Then he looked at the audience and said, "If it is not good, there would still be applause, but look at it today."

Yao Jiancai said, "What's the matter?"

Zhang Ye pointed somewhere off stage, "There's no applause at all."

The audience was stunned for a moment before everyone laughed and began clapping. They were giving the heartiest of applauses!

Firstly, they had really been amused by what was said. Secondly, it was because Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's opening lines had set the tone. Everyone knew by now what they were going to do. Teacher Zhang Ye was still going to do what he did usually. He had not taken the warning to heart, nor the ultimatum. He just continued on in his own way! He had begun his satirical jokes about those crosstalk artists, who frequently featured on TV the moment he came on stage. Like a hedgehog, he would prick whoever tried to catch him. He had already completely let go of himself!

Today's crosstalk performance was definitely not going to be simple!

Zhang Ye said, "Thank you for everyone's applause. It seems like there are many people who like us."

Yao Jiancai laughed, "Everyone's being so supportive."

Zhang Ye smacked his mouth and said, "Of course, there's still some controversy in that."

Yao Jiancai head turned sideways a little, "You can take away the 'some'. It's basically full of controversy!"

The audience: "Yi!!"

"Hahahaha!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "Some of the authorities mentioned to me saying. 'Zhang Ye, your crosstalk is very vulgar and you're always insulting Old Yao, referring to him as his father's son. That sort of style is incorrect and it will be a bad influence and lead the audience astray. All of that are negative influences!'"

Yao Jiancai could only helplessly reply, "Yes, someone did say that."

Zhang Ye narrowed his eyes and said, "I wonder then if the relevant departments are being too harsh on crosstalk? Aren't you all underestimating the intelligence of the viewers? Oh, those who shoot movies will often show someone stabbing another person to death, but you know it isn't real. Then in TV dramas, the actors who act as father and son are also known not to be related in real life. How about those novels? The main characters would fly about and walk on walls to save the world, but everyone knows it's exaggerated too, and so I really wonder! Why is it that when it concerns us, all of that suddenly becomes real?"

When the audience heard that, they all began to clap in unison!

"Well said!"

"That's right!"

Yao Jiancai smiled and said, "That's really a tall order for us."

Zhang Ye said, "Please, have mercy on crosstalks. We are just two non-mainstream crosstalk actors who aren't as capable as famous mainstream crosstalk actors. Oh, if the corrupted society is not capable of leading everyone astray, then surely our crosstalk won't be able to as well, right? Would everyone who

watches our performance go out to commit murder and become arsonists? Aren't you all overestimating what we can do?!"

The audience were laughing so hard, that they almost got cramps: "Hahahaha!"

Zhang Ye said, "Honestly if Teacher Yao and I had such capabilities, do we still need to be crosstalk actors?!"

Yao Jiancai also laughed along, "Yea, we really don't have such capabilities at all."

Bba Bba Bba!

The applause rang out once again!

Everyone was hungering for more by now. If yesterday's "I will reject the Three Vulgarities" was performed with an ironical sense, then today's performance would be direct satire! It was a totally different style of sarcasm, and Zhang Ye was about to showcase his diverse skills in scolding people!

The leaders of the related fields in the front row didn't look too good!

The bunch of crosstalk actors also looked terrible. No one had expected that Zhang Ye would still carry on this way after the SARFT's decree and the program team's ultimatum. It seemed like Zhang Ye even scolded them with more persistence now and all of this still seemed inconceivable to them!

Zhang Ye!

Are you mad!

You're even scolding the related fields? Do you really intend on not staying in the entertainment circle anymore?!

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai both knew that today would be their last performance in the crosstalk competition. This was the reason why they did not hold back as both of them just wanted to enjoy themselves during the performance. Why the heck should they care about who these people are! And so, Zhang Ye brought out a "Compilation of Guo Degang's crosstalks" for this. He wanted to put together the performances of Old Guo, such as "You want to be elegant", "The state of crosstalk for the past 50 years", and many others! Since it was their last performance, then these two bros must scold till their hearts were fully satisfied!

Chapter 495: Scolding and scolding. Scolding all the way!

On the web.

Those watching the crosstalk competition live stream were left stunned!

"Teacher Zhang is starting to become even more ruthless!"

"Haha, that bunch of people are really unlucky!"

"They really annoyed Teacher Zhang this time!"

"If Zhang Ye really starts to release the hooligan in him, no one can stop him!"

"Awesome! Well scolded! My frustrations are all vented now! There are so many terrible things in society and none of them have led the audience astray, so why would Teacher Zhang Ye's crosstalk do that? Aren't they really just making a big fuss?"

"Supporting Zhang Ye!"

"They've said what I'm thinking!"

.....

At the venue.

The audience was getting excited.

Zhang Ye said, "If crosstalk is so powerful, why are we still researching missiles for? Why are we researching nuclear weapons and using an army for? We should just send a bunch of crosstalk actors and destroy anyone in our path!"

The audience was cheering him on!

"Great!"

"Well said!"

Zhang Ye continued on, "Some people like to keep the word 'vulgar' hanging from their mouths to make themselves appear more elegant. The upper classes of society that say that others are vulgar are just pretending to be confused. The expert scholars saying that others are vulgar are just sad...But I am sadder than that!" Amidst the applause from the audience, he said, "When crosstalk actors say that others are vulgar, that is just a sign of jealousy! Jealousy! Hatred!"

The applause was ringing again!

"Hahaha!"

"Yi!"

The crosstalk artists nearly swore at this!

The crosstalk competition participants who had banded together to boycott Zhang Ye were also fuming!

Yao Jiancai smiled and said, "Only between fellow peers would it be pure hatred."

Zhang Ye said, "I have a poem that perfectly describes the state of the crosstalk world now."

Yao Jiancai said, "Why don't you recite it for us?"

Zhang Ye began reciting, "The frosty Winter looks forward to Spring." This poem was a work of Zhang Ye a while ago and was titled "Eight Things to Look Forward To". When he recited up to that part, many of the audience members also followed and recited along with him. Zhang Ye also slowed down his recital and allowed everyone to recite it alongside him!

Audience: "The beautiful looks forward to sugar daddies!"

Audience: "The leisurely mistress looks forward to hooligans!"

Audience: "The scholar studying at night looks forward to a female ghost!"

10 people.....

50 people.....

100 people.....

The audience chanted along, creating a spectacular scene!

"A single old man looks forward to an aunt!"

"A person in acting looks forward to awards!"

For the final line, everyone dragged out their words along with Zhang Ye and shouted, "A person in crosstalk looks forward to....the death! Of! His peers!" And then, everyone laughed evilly in unison. The timing and coordination of the audience and the duo were too good, thus everyone felt that they enjoyed it thoroughly!

Yao Jiancai said jubilantly, "Wow, that was in perfect unison!"

As Zhang Ye had used that poem to scold the literary world before, it was rather well known. On top of that, it was easy to remember. Anyone who read it once or twice before would be able to memorize it. All of these reasons had helped create the spectacular scene in the studio!

Zhang Ye and the audience members were enjoying themselves, but for those crosstalk world members, they were so angry that they nearly wanted to bite someone. Zhang Ye, you bastard! After scolding us, you even led the audience to scold us all together with you? Aren't you being too wicked?! This audience were really going too far as well! Why were they following suit?!

Zhang Ye said, "What is elegance? What is vulgarity?"

Yao Jiancai said, "There are many people on the internet discussing about this right now."

Zhang Ye said, "Our crosstalk actors have already proclaimed that listening to a symphony makes you elegant while listening to music on the internet is vulgar."

"Hai." Yao Jiancai shook his head.

Zhang Ye said, "If a celebrity lipsyncs, it is elegance, while self-promotional artists online are vulgar!"

Yao Jiancai laughed, "They must be joking."

Zhang Ye said, "Viewing the human body is elegant, but cracking dirty jokes is vulgar!" followed by, "Drinking coffee is elegant while eating garlic is....vulgar!"

"Yi!"

The audience was laughing out loudly. They had, of course, seen what Tang Dazhang and his disciple had written online last night, referring to Zhang Ye's works as raw garlic that was vulgar to the last bit!

Zhang Ye scolded, "The great man taught us to say...Go to hell, you little rascal son-of-a-gun!"

Yao Jiancai then said, "Which great man taught us something like that?"

"My second uncle." Zhang Ye said.

"Great!"

"Hahaha!"

"Go to hell, son-of-a-gun!"

The audience followed along in the scolding!

Zhang Ye said, "Let me reiterate on that. Elegance is not something that you can fake...." He emphatically added, "Only being a grandson is something that you can fake!"

Tang Dazhang was seething and so angry that he wanted to leave the venue!

The other crosstalk actors were also witnessing that crosstalk could be delivered in such a manner for the first time during this competition!

Zhang Ye continuously scolded, "If you have the time to criticize, why don't you all go and practice your basic tongue-twisters instead? That is something which would be relevant to crosstalk instead of what you all have been doing."

Yao Jiancai nodded, "That's very true."

Zhang Ye was getting more and more excited as he spoke, "Sometimes when I see them faking it, I get angry too. Why don't they just pass their days peacefully rather than finding trouble wherever they go? After getting onto the public buses, isn't it tiring enough to deal with the crowds? With a red face from all that squeezing, they still insist on taking out an English newspaper to read. Do you even know how to read English?!"

The audience laughed out, "Hahaha!"

Zhang Ye said, "And on the streets having a conversation, why do you need to speak half in Chinese and half in English!"

Yao Jiancai asked, "Really?"

Zhang Ye continued, "Even while buying apples. HELLO ah, Sir. I will LOOK-LOOK ah. Your APPLE is two dollars for 3.5KGs?" With a change in his tone, he said, "You're already buying rotten apples, why do you still need to show off! This is all I've got!"

Yao Jiancai smiled and said, "That's true."

Zhang Ye said, "And that person who is wearing the big yellow chain!"

Some people suddenly discovered that an experienced crosstalk actor in his forties who was sitting in the front row was wearing a big gold chain hanging around his neck. This person was one of the actors who had called for a boycott against Zhang Ye on Weibo and had a huge reputation within the crosstalk world. He was on equal standing with Tang Dazhang and was considered to be part of the Crosstalk Association's upper management.

Yao Jiancai asked, "Gold Chain?"

Zhang Ye seethed, "Don't sweat! If there's sweat, the vest would surely get dirty!"

Yao Jiancai realizingly said, "The color will fade? Isn't that made of gold?"

Zhang Ye sarcastically said, "That's made of plastic and plated with copper!"

Yao Jiancai finally lost it and laughed, "Great, that really looks like the real thing!"

The crosstalk actor who was wearing the gold chain had turned red in embarrassment! He nearly vomited blood! He had not expected Zhang Ye to call out on him!

Zhang Ye continued his scoldings, "And for some other people, aiya, to buy a bottle of shampoo, they even have to go all the way to Hong Kong's SaSa chain to buy it. Come on! You don't even have as much hair as Teacher Yao over here!"

As Yao Jiancai had shaved his hair off for a role whose filming had concluded a short while ago, he said in a speechless manner, "A baldy? Then why would that person wash his head for!"

Zhang Ye said, "That's what I'm talking about."

Below the stage, there were three crosstalk actors who had scolded Zhang Ye before and were bald as well. When they heard this, they nearly wanted to roll up their sleeves and go up on stage to beat him up!

Even the cameraman turned around to capture them on frame. Perhaps it was because they knew that this wasn't a live broadcast, so they just subconsciously did their basic duties as cameramen!

On the big screen in front, the faces of the three bald crosstalk actors appeared!

When the audience saw this, all of them burst out laughing!

"Hahahaha!"

"Aiyo, I can't take it anymore!"

Zhang Ye continued on indifferently, "Someone even got their pants wet and blamed it on spilling an abalone on it while eating....If you peed your pants, just say you peed your pants!"

Yao Jiancai: "Heh!"

The audience, "Pfft! Hahahaha!"

Zhang Ye said, "And that other one, after finishing his meal, he told the service crew to put it on his tab. When the service crew said it wasn't an available service... ..He said that he would pay by credit card then...." With a pause, Zhang Ye contemptuously said, "You're just having a bowl of wonton soup, what the hell are you using your credit card for!"

Yao Jiancai was tickled, "That is really rather inappropriate."

Zhang Ye said, "Trying to act like a know-it-all! Especially those of us who are in the line of performing crosstalks. All day long we seek elegance in everything we do. Wasn't it like this yesterday? When our country's crosstalk world held a conference."

Yao Jiancai blinked, "They were really diligent about it."

Zhang Ye laughed, "Yea, that group of people had no place left to perform their crosstalks, so all they can do is to attend conferences!"

Yao Jiancai said, "They went there to practice their basics?"

The audience laughed heartily!

Zhang Ye said, "Thereafter, there was a crosstalk expert, a certain Xu Doe."

Yao Jiancai, "An expert that doesn't dare leave their full name?"

Xu Doe?

Crosstalk Master Xu Wenxiang?

Many in the audience had their concentration jolted!

Zhang Ye said, "He told me to follow him home, telling me, 'Comrade Little Zhang, come with me back home. I will teach you about elegance and vulgarity. It wouldn't be right if you don't come along with me. Let's go.'"

Yao Jiancai said, "Then you must surely go with him."

Zhang Ye said, "When I went inside his house, I could see that there were couplets hanging from his walls. The air of a cultured person was very strong — Lying on the sandy beach for two and half years, my body would flip around when hit by the waves."

Yao Jiancai wondered and asked, "Oh?"

Zhang Ye reveal surprisingly, "When I saw it, I knew that it meant 'A tortoise bastard'!"

The thousands of audience members were laughing madly by now! So damaging! That scolding was so damn damaging!

When Xu Wenxiang, who was below the stage in his seat, heard this, his body swayed a little! His mustache was even curling in anger!

All the other crosstalk actors and artists were fuming in anger! Holy sh*t! Zhang Ye, you actually have the audacity to scold just about anyone! You even dared to set up a joke using Master Xu??

Yao Jiancai asked, "An expert is really good at solving riddles."

Zhang Ye said, "At his house, on the table were two books. It looked like they were really deep books and probably only suited for elegant people to read."

Yao Jiancai asked, "What kind of books were they?"

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers and said, "One of them was 'Xinhua Dictionary'."

Yao Jiancai nodded, "There's a lot of knowledge to be found in dictionaries. It would be difficult just to study everything in it. What about the other book?"

Zhang Ye replied, "The other one was called 'How to check a dictionary'!"

Yao Jiancai nearly fainted, "Well, this person doesn't even know how to use a dictionary?!"

The audience, "Wuahahaha!"

Zhang Ye said, "And then, the old artist began to teach me some lessons. He told me that we must be elegant and not vulgar. Even if we have to pay with our lives, we have to maintain the elegance and not bow to vulgarity. For almost the whole day, he did not say anything proper and only kept repeating that. Finally, he told me, 'Little Zhang, don't be unhappy. You can choose not to stay silent, but we will definitely be able to silence you. We will write anonymous letters, reports, and use all sorts of tricks, do you know?'"

Even resort to snitching?

Did Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai get issued with a warning because of them?!

The audience started booing, "Yi!"

The crosstalk world members' expressions changed again!

Zhang Ye continued to say, "The old artist even told me earnestly, 'You might not understand me, so you will scold me for now, but when you understand my intentions, then you will.....want to kill me!'"

Audience: "Hahahaha!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Heh, even he himself knows that he is hated that much!"

Zhang Ye said, "He even said that we should work harder to gain elegance. If we worked hard enough, there will be a day when anyone looking down at us from the moon would no longer be able to see Earth. All they would be able to see is a bunch of crosstalk artists floating in space and being elegant!"

The previous time, he had mentioned that the Great Wall could be seen!

But this time, not even Earth could be seen anymore?

In the studio, the thousands of people were already laughing helplessly!

Yao Jiancai also added, "They even managed to get rid of Earth? That bunch of people must really be causing a big mess."

Zhang Ye sighed, "After coming on stage, I kept thinking to myself about something. That if we were to execute one of every two crosstalk actors, there would surely still be no injustice done!"

Chapter 496: Wave after wave of destruction!

The mood of the audience in the studio was hitting a fever pitch!

On the internet, the viewers were also getting excited!

The audience were liking what they saw and couldn't help but applaud. They felt that Zhang Ye was really spot on with his scolding. Those who knew Zhang Ye well knew that his path to where he was now hadn't been easy. He had been detained in a police station before and had also been banned by the

Beijing Television Station, in Shanghai, and by the SARFT. Up till here, Zhang Ye was left with no choice but to partake in the crosstalk competition. He did not even offend anyone, yet a bunch of crosstalk actors were calling for his boycott and to get him banned. Were they not forcing him into a corner? If this happened to anyone other than him, they would probably not stand for it too, so of course he had to scold them back. He needed to turn everything upside down like a caught fish would attempt to break the net it was caught in!

Zhang Ye threw up his hands in resignation and said, "And so, whenever I see anyone scolding me or some expert trying to educate me, I will basically just ignore them. With all of this said, I have gained such penetrating insight that I can even use it to see past the mosaics in a censored, R-rated video!"

The audience roared together, "Yi!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Wow, so you've watched a lot of those videos?"

Zhang Ye nodded and looked at him, "I will return them to you soon."

"Ah?" Yao Jiancai stared at him and said, "I lent them to you?"

The audience laughed, "Hahahahaha!"

Below the stage, Tian Bin was also thoroughly enjoying himself and laughing till he cramped up!

Only a few male and female youths, whose hair were dyed with bright colors, did not laugh. They were trying to create trouble from where they were seated, not far from the stage.

A red-haired youth shouted, "Get down from the stage!"

Another youth with green hair shouted, "What the heck are you saying!"

"What kind of lousy crosstalk is this!" said the group of 6-7 people. They were all shouting and there was even someone who was clearly a Chinese citizen yelling something in Korean. He even put on a smug look after doing so as he knew only that group could understand while everyone else did not get it. He seemed to feel a sense of superiority in doing so.

The noise kept coming from the group of people and it was very high pitched and disturbing to the others. Many of the audience members looked at them unhappily, thinking who the heck they were and who invited them? Looking at their dressing, it definitely had to be Lee Anson or some Korean celebrity's fans. The audience knew that not only the crosstalk world's members were scolding Zhang Ye on the internet. The ones who were the most aggressive in scolding were the Koreans and their fans. All of these people hated Zhang Ye to the bone.

In front, Tang Dazhang, Xu Wenxiang, and some other crosstalk actors all turned around to check out who those people were. If they tried this during another group's crosstalk performance, they would definitely be unhappy. After all, someone was performing, the least you could do is give some respect, but as the current performer was Zhang Ye, these crosstalk actors felt rather good when they saw that some people were making trouble for him. It did not feel like they were being disrespectful at all.

On the stage.

Yao Jiancai heard the commotion and his eyebrows twitched.

Everyone became quiet for a moment as the atmosphere in the studio changed.

Zhang Ye looked at those people below the stage and smiled at them. He did not seem like he was affected at all and even spontaneously added a joke, "We will still need to get back to the topic on elegance versus vulgarity."

Yao Jiancai said, "Yes."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "What do some people think being elegant is about?"

Yao Jiancai was a little stumped, thinking why he did not follow the script? Still, he reacted very quickly and asked, "What is it about?"

Zhang Ye answered, "Being crazy about foreign things and obsequious to the foreigners!"

"Huh?" said Yao Jiancai.

Zhang Ye said sarcastically, "To act like foreigners, saying that foreign products are all good and elegant, there are those who adore the Koreans or Japanese, hur hur. To be honest, in the past those countries were all tribute nations to our country. Year after year, they would send tributes and pay homage to us. When their royal families had a child, they would send them here to be political hostages, but now, our people are putting them on a pedestal and worshipping their people?"

Tian Bin was clapping hard from where he was seated!

Yao Jiancai bitterly smiled, "There's a rise in such behavior, yes."

Zhang Ye said, "Sometimes, I can't stand to see such behavior. Those children are all learning from these people and styling their hair in such atrocious ways. Like puffy updo's, pixie cuts, or bob cuts. Then they dye streaks of red and white and red and white, making it look like kimchi!"

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "Hai, they do that so that they can show that they're true Hallyu fans."

Many of the members of the audience were laughing hard at this!

Those Hallyu youths all stared up on stage. He was precisely describing the look of their hairstyles! After Zhang Ye was done scolding the crosstalk world, he came to scold them!

Zhang Ye kept on looking at them, "Their pants have leg openings bigger than the waist opening. They wear size 41 shoes even though their feet are only size 36. When they blink with those extended lashes, pa, even their hats would fall off!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Heh, the hat is too light."

The audience was enjoying it too much. They looked over to those Hallyu fans who were trying to make trouble, wondering if they still dared to mess with Zhang Ye. Don't you know that fella is the leader amongst Professional Korean Insulters!? Trying to provoke him? Aren't you guys asking for it! However, many of the audience members and viewers were very interested in seeing how Zhang Ye would continue from there. Because in his "Zhang Ye's Talk Show", a lot of them had already seen how Zhang Ye scolded Korea in a talk show format, but since crosstalk and talk shows were different forms of art,

the way of scolding would surely be different. Since they've never heard it before, they became really curious!

Indeed, Zhang Ye fulfilled everyone's wishes as he said, "I heard that there are many talented people in Korea."

Yao Jiancai said, "There are definitely quite a few."

Zhang Ye eyes brightened as he said, "I heard that all of the world's talented people are Koreans. People like Buddha and Confucius are their people. I even heard that Teacher Yao belongs to their country."

Yao Jiancai quickly gave a wave of his hand, "I'm definitely not."

Zhang Ye glanced at him, "It would be good if you were. Since they do not know how good we are, if we were to send a few of our crosstalkers over to them, they would certainly cause the country to perish!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Oh boy, can a crosstalker really cause that much damage?"

When this joke came out, the audience immediately went into a crazed laughter. This was so good! This was too damn f**king interesting! It seemed like Zhang Ye did not need to use a talk show style of scolding to insult the Koreans. He could do it in a crosstalk style as well! Not only that, he even managed to scold the crosstalk world together at the same time!

A few crosstalk actors hit their seat arms in anger!

Those Hallyu fans' faces also turned red in anger!

Zhang Ye was not done speaking, "I heard that Korea recently created a rocket which would carry some scientists and bring them all the way to the Sun."

Yao Jiancai stopped him, "Eh, wait a moment. To the Sun?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes."

Yao Jiancai said nervously, "But the Sun is so hot! It's a ball of flames!"

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "The Koreans said that they would go at night."

All of the audience laughed loudly!

Yao Jiancai said speechlessly, "I've never heard of such careless people. Does it seem right that they should go there at night?"

Zhang Ye continued to say, "Whatever. We'd never understand the people from that place anyway, so let's just agree on the fact that they're just a small nation."

Yao Jiancai nodded, "Yea, they're not big."

Zhang Ye said, "They can't compare to us. Just look at our weather reports, those take 15 minutes just to finish reporting."

Yao Jiancai nodded, "That's because we have a lot of different areas to report on."

Zhang Ye said, "The Korean weather report only consists of one sentence."

Yao Jiancai did not seem to understand, so he asked, "What do you mean?"

Zhang Ye pointed to the sky and said, ".....The whole country will experience rainfall!"

Yao Jiancai exclaimed, "Just a single rain cloud can cover the entire country? That's really too small!"

"Hahahaha!"

"Whole country will experience rainfall? Pu!"

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

"Hahaha! Teacher Zhang Ye still has it in him! His combat power against the Koreans is rocketing off the charts! Look at Teacher Zhang Ye's eyes. Whenever he speaks about this, his eyes are always gleaming! He's really making me laugh too hard!"

"Godly! He's divine! A god of scolding!"

"Tell me, how did Teacher Zhang Ye's brain develop in such a freaking way!"

"Is that a spontaneous act? I'm sure the script didn't have that. Didn't you see Yao Jiancai hesitate for a moment and nearly couldn't connect? This was a special joke segment meant for those Hallyu fans, a spontaneous joke segment? How awesome! Zhang Ye is truly Zhang Ye! He can do everything so effortlessly!"

"Look at those Hallyu fans! Their faces have all turned green from the scolding!"

Wave after wave!

The scoldings came at them wave after wave!

He killed them over and over again!

It was as though this question was posed to everyone: Who still wants a piece of Zhang Ye??

Those Hallyu fans could only stare in anger at Zhang Ye on the stage, but they could not muster up another word. They stopped their trouble making as they knew that even if all of them combined their scolding prowesses, they would still be outmatched by that single person on stage!

After the laughter died down, the audience became quiet.

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "I think we deviated a little. So right, where were we?"

Yao Jiancai said in frustration, "I don't know either. You totally went off script!"

The audience laughed again. Sure enough, as they had thought, this had been a spontaneous joke segment that was added in. Zhang Ye had confused even himself with it and couldn't get back on point!

Tang Dazhang and the other crosstalk world members were all waiting for him to fumble, but just one sentence from Zhang Ye was enough to disappoint them!

Zhang Ye retraced his words and muttered, "Whole country experience rainfall...experience rainfall....so! So, what really is elegance?"

Yao Jiancai acted as though he was about to fall backward, "Heh, is that how you retrace your words!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I had to go back to topic somehow."

"That is too great a transition." Yao Jiancai slapped his forehead!

"Hahahaha!"

"Ahahahaha!"

As there was an incident of several Hallyu fans trying to create trouble, Zhang Ye had gone off tangent and inserted a joke segment to deal with them. Naturally, that caused the topic to go farther and farther away and should amount to a flaw in the crosstalk, but with Zhang Ye's wit, he had turned this flaw and mistake into another joke segment. This caused the audience to laugh out loud at their words. To Zhang Ye, it seemed as though crosstalk was as simple as a normal conversation. This was the first time the audience had heard crosstalk presented in such a manner!

Yao Jiancai was also very impressed. To partner with Zhang Ye in crosstalking, he felt very at ease, like a fish in water. He was relaxed and only needed to support him with very little effort. All he needed to do was follow and the rest would be handled by Zhang Ye. Like the incident that had just happened, Yao Jiancai knew that if it were his old crosstalk partner, they would definitely have been blindsided. The audience would surely spot the mistakes. Rather than mentioning about inserting a new joke segment, he was pretty sure they wouldn't even be able to follow through with the original script, but when all of these problems were handled by Zhang Ye, they did not even seem like problems at all! With a little bit of wrangling and chatting, any flaw could transform into a joke segment. It made the incident look like it was preplanned to tickle the audience! Zhang Ye's basics in crosstalk had even embarrassed a professional crosstalk actor like Yao Jiancai.

A question also arose in the back of the audience's minds!

Zhang Ye was an amateur?

This was Zhang Ye's first time taking part in crosstalk? He had never learned this before?

Chapter 497: I don't know speed recital?

The studio's atmosphere was getting hyped up.

On stage, the crosstalk performance was still ongoing.

Zhang Ye looked at the audience and said, "There are people who doubt us and criticize us, both of which we can understand why. Any form of art style will find it impossible to appeal to everyone. Some of those who say that they like Zhang Ye's crosstalk, those people aren't wrong. While others who say that they dislike Zhang Ye's crosstalk, they aren't wrong either, but if the second group of people continues to insist that they are more elegant than the first type, then they are making a big mistake!"

Bba Bba Bba!

"Great!"

"Well said!"

The audience clapped loudly.

Zhang Ye added on, "That is also the reason why they are always considered '2nd'-rate."

"Hahaha!" the audience laughed.

Zhang Ye said, "Art is not something that can be classified as high class or low class."

Yao Jiancai nodded in agreement, "You're right."

Zhang Ye said, "Elegance might exist, or not, but vulgarity is something none of us can escape from."

"Can you explain?" Yao Jiancai asked.

Zhang Ye said, "It's easy to understand. For example, oil paintings, operas, or ballet... would you die if you don't view or watch those? You wouldn't die. Life would still carry on as usual, but to leave behind vulgarity, you would surely die. A garlic is vulgar? I don't believe that you can stir fry eggplant without adding garlic! Or are you going to use coffee in its place?"

Yao Jiancai laughed, "Have you ever heard of using coffee to stir fry vegetables?"

Zhang Ye said, "Shit, pee, farts are vulgar? If you are so capable, then don't ever go to the toilet in your lifetime!"

Yao Jiancai said, "Heh, then surely they would die from constipation!"

Everyone roared with laughter!

Zhang Ye tilted his head a little, "Isn't that true?"

Yao Jiancai nodded, "That is the truth."

Zhang Ye continued on with more momentum as the audience's mood heightened. He was letting loose his inhibitions as he said, "Some people scold me saying that I do not understand what crosstalk is about and accuse me of insulting this art form. Teacher Yao and I are different, he can be considered as a professional crosstalk actor and learned about it since he was young. I did not. Those who know me will know that I am in the profession of broadcast hosting. That is what I did for a living, so if we compare me to all those other competitors in this competition, then I am really considered as a layman, but even for a layman, if you accuse me of not knowing what crosstalk is, then that is unacceptable. If you say that about me, I will definitely bring it up to you!"

Layman?

But a layman who understands crosstalk?

Yao Jiancai asked puzzledly, "What do you mean?"

Zhang Ye looked at everyone and said, "I don't know what and where those people who are scolding me are coming from, but what exactly would you call understanding crosstalk? How would you know whether or not someone understands what crosstalk is really about?"

From the area where the hundred teams were seated, someone suddenly shouted, "Speed recital!"

At this moment, no one in the audience made a sound. Instead, it was all the other competitors who started to make a scene.

"Show us one!"

"Yea, do a speed recital for us!"

"That is one of the basics of crosstalk!"

"Since Teacher Zhang claims to know what crosstalk is about, you should show us what you can do!"

The crosstalk competitors who suggested that, were all harboring their own motives. What was a speed recital? It simply meant reciting a string of complex words and vocabulary inserted into a storyline in a continuous breath. In traditional crosstalk, they were often used as joke segments. This was no longer a question of it being a difficult task, as speed recitals were usually practiced and honed from a young age. Those who started learning crosstalk at an older age might not even be able to do it with several years of practice. Even for those who began from a young age and trained under a master, many of them might still find it difficult to do well. It takes a lot of concentration and they would easily commit mistakes or be slow in their recitation! That is the reason why speed recitals were considered to be difficult even for professional crosstalk actors, not to mention a layman.

The audience naturally knew this as well.

"Speed recital?"

"Damn, this bunch of people are messing around again!"

"Teacher Zhang, don't bother about them!"

This bunch of competitors who couldn't match Zhang Ye's abilities in crosstalking were riding on the wave of disgruntlement of the crosstalk world in calling for Zhang Ye's disqualification from the competition. This had already pretty much disappointed the audience, but at the studio, the same people were once again trying to cause Zhang Ye's downfall. Many of the audience members were getting angry and felt that those people were really ungrateful. Their abilities were not as good as Zhang Ye's and now they were trying to create trouble for him!?

Yao Jiancai pretended not to hear it. Speed recital? Even he could not do it. Perhaps if he tried, he could speed recite a small portion. As a supporting actor, he did not learn much about speed recitals. Rather than trying to help Zhang Ye out, he decided it would be better to just ignore their clamor.

But Zhang Ye did not ignore them, "Speed recital?"

"That's right!"

"Right!"

"If you are capable, show us one!"

The other competitors did not know that they were in a live broadcast at the moment. Thinking that the cameras were not switched to recording mode, they did not hold back at all. Earlier, they were bearing the brunt of Zhang Ye's scolding and keeping silent, but now was the time for them to gain back some

face! We can't outscold you? Fine, then let's decide it with a clash of abilities. A crosstalk actor's basic skills were honed over a decade or two. They wouldn't believe that Zhang Ye would be able to do a good speed recital, as even among rookies like themselves, only a handful could do it well!

Zhang Ye smiled, "Oh, so in your eyes, a person who can do speed recitals is someone who understands crosstalk?"

Yao Jiancai made a pass at him.

But Zhang Ye acted like he did not notice it, "Sure then, since there are so many people here today, I believe everyone is also anticipating something? Then, I will do one for all of you here. Is everyone willing to listen or are you all willing to listen?"

Yao Jiancai said, "There's only a choice of willing to listen?"

Tang Dazhang was stunned for a bit.

The other crosstalk actors were also slightly befuddled.

What did he mean by that? That Zhang guy was really going to do it? Does he even know how?!

When the audience realized what was going on, they were momentarily shocked. What? Does Teacher Zhang really f**king know how to do a speed recital? It can't be! They were beginning to have some expectations now!

Zhang Ye smiled, "What does everyone want to hear?"

A female audience shouted, "'The Imperial Feast List'!"

This speed recital had been performed by Zhang Ye before on his talk show, albeit it being a shorter version. He had simply recited the names of a few dishes back then and those who had seen that episode of the talk show probably thought that Zhang Ye only knew the beginning portion of it. When he heard the request, Zhang Ye smiled and began reciting:

"I'll treat you to steamed lamb, steamed bear's paw, steamed deer's tail, roast duck, roast hen, roast green goose, stewed pig, stewed chicken, preserved ham, preserved egg, dried ham, sausage, assorted vegetables, smoked chicken with tripe, steamed pig with eight treasures, ducked brewed with glutinous rice, pot-braised pheasant, pot-braised quail, simmered chicken giblets in brine, simmered goose in brine, simmered prawns, braised shrimps, soy shelled shrimps, pheasant, dried hare meat, chives dumplings, whitebait, steamed wood frog, braised duck kidney, braised duck slices, cold dish with duck slices, stir-fried cattle aorta, braised white eel, braised finless eel, dace with black bean, pan-braised dace, stewed soft-shelled turtle, pan-braised Cyprinidae, stir-fried carp, soft-fried pork tenderloin, soft-fried chicken, assorted intestine in intestine, crisp rolls with pepper, quick-fried mushroom, quick-fried fish paste, quick-fried fish slices, quick-fried fish maw, Sautéed meat slices in vinegar sauce, braised white mushroom, braised three delicacies, stir-fried whitebait, braised sea eel, stir-fried white prawn, fried clams, stir-fried fish-like dough, stir-fried bamboo shoot, hibiscus jelly, stir-fried liver, southern stir-fried liver, stir-fried bamboo shoot with sirloin...."

When this large amount of dish names were recited, their fellow competitors were stunned!

Tang Dazhang, Xu Wenxiang, and the other crosstalk artists also looked at one another in surprise!

No one could have expected Zhang Ye to start without even thinking. He did not even bat an eyelid as the words rolled off his tongue without needing to stop for a breath. When compared to a professional crosstalk actor's speed recital, Zhang Ye had even done it faster and smoother than them!

The speed of his recital was like a speeding vehicle!

Zhang Ye continued, ".....Red meatballs, white meatballs, quick-fried meatballs, deep-fried meatballs, three delicacies meatballs, four happiness meatballs, Southern style meatballs onion meatballs, Su style meatballs, bean curd meatballs, stewed red meat, stewed white meat, pork stew, fatty pork, roast pork, pork in sauce, pork wrapped in lotus leaf, first class meat, cherry meat, Maya meat, Yuanbao meat, Fulu meat, red pork elbow, white pork elbow, crystal pork elbow, honey pork elbow, pork elbow stew, pulled pork elbow, steamed mutton, roasted mutton, five-spiced mutton, mutton in sauce, assorted boiled meat, assorted stirred-fried meat, braised assorted meat, simmered duck innards, three delicacies shark's fin, chestnut chicken, steamed live carp, salted duck meat, spring chicken!"

He had finished reciting!

Not a single dish name was missed out on!

The audience were still checking if he had gotten them all and were stunned to realize that he did not miss a single one!

Even his partner, Yao Jiancai could only look at him while looking a little confused. He did not know that Zhang Ye even had such talents. F**k, he could even do speed recitals? Not only could he do it, he even did it better than most professionals? That's impossible! When did this kid learn how to do this!

Actually, Zhang Ye did not need to learn it. With the memory search capsule, he had already memorized all the joke segments and speed recitals that he knew of. Being a broadcast host, being able to do this was second nature to Zhang Ye. Even after he had finished reciting, he did not need to catch his breath and still looked rather relaxed.

Some crosstalk competitors, who still couldn't believe what they heard, challengingly shouted, "The Geographical Map!"

Zhang Ye began immediately at the next moment, ""Rushing to the Northern Pass, walking to Hebei Main Street, Red Bridge, Yang Village, Cai Village, Hexiwu, Anping, Harbor Quay, Zhangjia Turn, through Tongzhou Bali Bridge, into Beijing Chaoyangmen, out at Beijing Deshengmen. Into the Qinghe, Shahe, Changping County, Nankou, Green Dragon Bridge, Kang Village, Huailai, Shacheng, Baoan, Lower Gardens, Xin Village, Xuanhuafu, Shalingzi, Yulin, Zhangjiakou, Chaigou Fort, Xiwan, Tian Town, Yanggao County, Jule Fort, Zhou Village, Datong, Gushan, Hongci Fort, Feng Town, Suji, Jining, Sanfenkou, Shibatai, Zuozi, Camp Sandao, Camp Qixia, Taoboqi...."

The audience was stunned once again!

But Zhang Ye was still not done, continuing like a speeding bullet this time, without losing his breath, "....walking into Qinhuangdao, Beidai River, Changli County, reaching Luanzhou, Guye, Kaiping to Tangshan. Lutai, Hangu, Tanggu, Xinhe 50th Street, Dongxin Village, Junliang City, Xinhe, Zhanggu Village, Second Cultural Palace, Qian Village, Dajiagu, Trolleybus Factory, Dawang Village. Past Liberation Bridge, Binjiang Way, Heping Road, Nanshi and finally reaching the Great Wall Movie Theatre!"

At this moment, a lot of the audience members stood up!

"Great!"

"Damn f**king great!"

"That was too awesome, Teacher Zhang!"

"You recited it too beautifully!"

The applause began to thunder throughout the studio into a deafening roar!

Chapter 498: Champions!

Not only was the live audience stunned from listening, those who were watching the live stream were also at a loss for words!

"Damn that!"

"This..."

"Teacher Zhang is really going against the heavens!"

"Hahahaha! Such domination!"

The moment was shown in its full glory online, even causing the live stream's comment section to blow up with comments!

Previously, Zhang Ye had shown his talents by cracking creative jokes and setting up jokes for later reveals. With his extraordinary wit, he had managed to perform his crosstalk in a flawless manner and tickled all of the members of the audience, but today, Zhang Ye once again caused everyone to be shocked. No one had expected that he would know how to do speed recitals and it even seemed like he could recite anything that anyone wanted him to. He was so familiar with these speed recital passages that every word just rolled off his tongue. He had an amazing foundation that left everyone dumbfounded. Who claimed that Zhang Ye only knew how to perform crosstalk with those vulgar jokes of his!? He knew how to do traditional joke segments too! And he even did them so much better than a professional crosstalk artist!

Tang Dazhang: "..."

Xu Wenxiang's expression also turned dark as he remained silent.

Over in the participants seating area, everyone was just staring with their eyes wide open. They could not make a sound at all. Those who had caused the most commotion earlier had now been slapped hard on their faces!

The audience were still clapping.

They only came back to their senses when Zhang Ye said, "Whether it's speed recital or traditional joke segments, it isn't that I don't know how to do them, but because I am not a professional crosstalk performer. However, I dare to make the claim that I can understand more about crosstalk than most crosstalk actors. Let me put this straight now, as long as you can point out a speed recital passage that

you want me to perform, I will not step down from the challenge! Anyone of you can randomly pick out something and if I get a single word wrong, then I will leave the crosstalk arena voluntarily. This is what I dare to promise!"

Yao Jiancai stood at the side applauding as he laughed.

The audience were also fully impressed!

"Dominating!"

"What a fierce person!"

"Teacher Zhang is so good!"

"Aiya! I love you, Teacher Zhang!"

"Hahaha! That's the spirit! Who still dares to say that you do not know crosstalk! Even they can't recite those speed recitals that you just did!"

There was nothing else left for all these crosstalk actors and rookie competitors to say anymore. Since Zhang Ye dared to claim so, they were sure he had the ability to do it. He had already shown them what he was truly capable of! At this moment, the dominating spirit exuding from Zhang Ye had fully suppressed these people!

Zhang Ye looked down from the stage and said, "If someone knows how to speed recite, then that means they're crosstalk actors? If they know how to use an elegant joke segment, that means they're crosstalk masters? If they can use a crosstalk performance to educate, that means they're crosstalk artists? I disagree and I am sure the that our audience members do not agree either! Using such sayings to differentiate between the upper and lower class is utterly savage!"

Yao Jiancai smiled, "Yes, it can't be differentiated in this manner."

Zhang Ye was getting angrier with each word, "A crosstalk performance is required to be educative? What do you want to propagandize with crosstalk? That is definitely the biggest mistake! What were the origins of crosstalk hundreds of years ago about? How did crosstalk start? Those actors were just fighting to earn a living, to feed their families. It was an art form that was meant for everyone! It was that simple, but why did it have to become an elegant art form as decided by you all? Why did it become an art form that had to be educative as decided by you all? Aren't you people forgetting your roots! Aren't you forgetting your ancestors?!" After a round of scolding, he came back around to scold the crosstalk world!

The audience applauded thunderously!

Everyone knew that this particular crosstalk performance was already coming to an end. They also knew that this would be Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's last time standing on stage to perform crosstalk. From here on, it wasn't likely that they would be able to witness their performances ever again. Suddenly, when the audience heard the words that resonated with them, they started standing up from their seats!

Zhang Ye said, "Especially now when our times are changing and society is progressing, there are people who lack money, a car, a house, moral values, all sorts of things. For me to be able to stand here today, I

can't do much about those issues, but I can guarantee all of you that after you listen to my crosstalk, you will forget all these troubles. You will go home happy and cheerful, so what can be more important than that? That is the meaning of crosstalk! I am doing all of this to build a righteous and harmonious society!"

The audience's thunderous applause filled the studio once again!

"Great!"

"Well said!"

Yao Jiancai laughed heartily and nodded.

Zhang Ye looked at the audience and stated loudly, "Whoever said so! That crosstalk needs to educate people? Whoever said so! That crosstalks need to have a moral lesson? After listening to this crosstalk, you need to feel like you have learned something? After listening to that crosstalk, you would want to go out afterwards to donate blood, money, or even your kidney? That is impossible! Are we in the act of crosstalking or are we the Red Cross? Are we artists or are we educators? Aren't some authorities asking too much from crosstalk!? Aren't some crosstalk actors thinking too highly of themselves?! Does calling it an art form mean that it has to be educational to others?"

The number of audience members who stood up gradually increased!

300!

500!

1000!!!

Zhang Ye was talking louder and louder, "Is Jīng Yǔn Dà Gǔ (story-telling in Beijing dialect with drum accompaniment) considered an art form? Then let me ask you this. After you have heard a performance of that, what did you learn!?"

Drums?

What can you learn from that!

The audience was cheering and clapping madly!

Zhang Ye said loudly again, "Is a symphony an art form? Then let me ask you this. After you have heard a performance, what did you learn!? After you finish listening to a symphonic orchestra perform, what did you learn!?"

Another 500 members of the audience stood up in applause!

Zhang Ye cheekily asked, "Are circus acts also an art form? Then let me ask again! When you watch a bear perform tricks! What did you learn!?"

The audience's applauses came wave after wave and were drowning out all other noise in the venue!

Zhang Ye said, "When 15 circus acts ride on a motorbike together! Did you also get educated by something like that? That they were in violation of traffic rules?! Educate my ass!"

Yao Jiancai laughed, "There's really some truth in that."

The audience were laughing loudly and applauding. At this moment, it felt like the whole auditorium of people had their blood pumping in excitement, including those on the second floor!

Zhang Ye took a white towel from the table and wiped the sweat from his forehead. Then, he threw it down back on the table roughly, "And so I wonder why other forms of art are fine doing what they were meant to do, but us crosstalkers somehow have to fulfill being elegant and educative at the same time! Based on what! We're just two small time crosstalk actors who have never committed any grave crimes. We just want to bring joy to our audience, so why is that so difficult to do? Why do the others hate us so much? Why do they insist on poking a hole in the sky? What is going on!?"

He breathed a sigh.

Zhang Ye pointed to the top of his head and said loudly, "I do not believe that a sky so vast will not be able to tolerate our crosstalk!" Then, he pointed to his feet and said, "I do not believe that the wide ground beneath our feet cannot accommodate the two of us!" This was not Guo Degang's words, but words from Zhang Ye himself. This was what he had always wanted to say!

Yao Jiancai clapped, "Well said!"

Off the stage, the time for the performance was already over. Some stage workers had already come onto the stage to clear it to allow for the next group to come on.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai did not say anything. They bowed deeply to the audience and turned around to leave the stage.

At this moment, the audience suddenly broke out into loud chants. Almost the entire audience, thousands of them, were shouting their names and sounding indignant!

"Teacher Yao!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye!"

Following that, someone took the lead with the chants and shouted a single word. It was a word that expressed what they felt Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai deserved!

"Champions!"

"Champions!"

"Champions!"

"Champions!"

With Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's performance completed, they knew that the two of them would surely be disqualified from the competition, but they also knew that only the two of them deserved to be the champions!

No one else deserved it!

Chapter 499: The crosstalk and skit competition gets called off!

Backstage.

After they went off stage, Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai did not bother making their way back to their auditorium seats as it was meaningless to go back. The two of them went directly to the makeup room to change out of their costumes. Even though they had already gone so far away, they could still hear the chants that emanated clearly from the auditorium.

"Zhang Ye!"

"Teacher Yao!"

"Champions!"

The next participants did not begin as the audience did not seem like they wanted to give them a chance to perform. They only had eyes for Zhang Ye's team!

Yao Jiancai sighed a little, "We've really scolded to our hearts' content today!"

Zhang Ye smiled, "I got such a kick out of it too! We really didn't come for nothing!"

Yao Jiancai laughed, "Yea, even though we don't have a chance to advance to the main matches or go on a live broadcast, after seeing so many in the audience support us this way, I know we were really right to come here!"

Zhang Ye stood up, "Let's go."

Yao Jiancai said, "It's just such a pity that our scolding segments were not seen by anyone else other than the live audience."

Zhang Ye did not say anything, but felt relaxed.

"Eh?" Yao Jiancai suddenly said, "Why is there a burning smell?"

Zhang Ye sniffed a little, "Yea, I smell it too, I hope it's not a fire."

Leaving the makeup room, they looked in the same direction and saw many staff members moving in and out. A few of them even had dark expressions of lingering fear. Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai looked at each other and understood something at this moment. Could there really have been a fire?

.....

The other side.

A group of people were continuously streaming in!

"What happened?"

"Leader, a portable charger exploded just now and the control room is on fire!"

"What did I say? Ah? What did I say yesterday? I said to ensure that there would be no problems, so how could this happen again! So why did this happen again! Ah!"

"We didn't want this to happen either, but....."

"No buts! Just take a look at the live broadcast signal now!"

"Live broadcast signal?"

"We already cut to commercials."

"Yes, there shouldn't have been a problem. The fire was not too big and was under control. Only a few cabinets and articles of clothing were damaged, but our control equipment was.....Ah! Why is the live broadcast signal showing the auditorium's feed! This....who switched the controls? Why is the white switched pointed up? Who did this!"

"Heavens! Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's crosstalk was live streamed again?"

"What the heck is going on here?! This is already the third day that something like this has happened!"

Everything was now a big mess. The person-in-charge quickly sought to cut off the video signal, while the angry Central TV's leaders looked on in furiousness. His heart had gone cold knowing the big trouble that they were in for. When it happened the first time, they had gotten away with it. The second time, they were forgiven as well, but this was already the third time that it had happened. The National Crosstalk and Skit Competition had given banned artists a live broadcast three times in as many days, so all of the consequences were now out of their control. Even Central TV's Department 11 might not be able to hold up against the authorities anymore. To everyone else, it was clearly an act of defiance towards the authorities!

But only their team's internal staff knew this. Of course they would not have gone against the orders of the management. Even if they had 100 lives, they would not dare to do so!

The first time was because of a misunderstanding!

The second time was due to a fault in the backup signals!

The third time had happened due to a fire causing a wrong control to be pressed!

Each time it happened was due to accidents and the program team no longer knew how to explain it without sounding like they were making up excuses. Their impression of Zhang Ye at the beginning was already not good, but after all these events, they even felt like they hated him. That fella was truly a jinx! He was even exuding a sense of weirdness from head to toe! It made everyone speechless!

Central TV's leaders did not bother to give them a dressing down. After giving them several tasks to do, they immediately went off to an emergency meeting to clear up the issues with the authorities.

.....

Outside the makeup room.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai also found out about this matter from the dialogs of several passing staff members.

Yao Jiancai: "....."

Zhang Ye was already smiling. Luckily for him, the difficulty adjustment die's effect duration was for 6 days. It was already the third day today and if the die roll only gave him 2 days of reduced difficulty, it wouldn't have been enough. Upon overhearing the passing staff, he knew it was the credit of the difficulty adjustment die again!

In front, the program team's person-in-charge had brought a few other staff and hurried over. When he saw Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, his face sunk as he said, "I was just looking for the two of you!"

Zhang Ye looked at him, "What's the matter?"

The person-in-charge said coldly, "I am officially informing both of you that you have been disqualified from the competition due to policy violations. With your performance containing elements of the three vulgarities that has caused disruption to the crosstalk competition, misleading the audience, conveying negative information, and negatively affecting other competitors. Right now, all votes towards your team will be voided, so we will need you to pack up your belongings and leave the premises immediately!"

Zhang Ye said, "If you want to disqualify us from the competition, I have no problem with that, but if you say that our performance violated policies by stirring up other competitors and misleading the audience, then I will not accept it." He blocked their path and continued, "When did I mislead the audience? When did you see me stirring up our competitors? They were the ones who tried to turn everyone against us, so did I affect them, or did they affect me? Old Yao and I were just performing our crosstalk and we did not offend anyone from the beginning, but somehow, these bunch of people started scolding me and now you claim that I was affecting them? I will affect your great-grandpa!"

A staff stared and said, "How dare you scold us!"

"Zhang Ye!" The person-in-charge nearly blew his top. He was the head of a National Crosstalk and Skit Competition program that was the top rated show every year, so he was quite famous in the industry. Whenever most celebrities or actors saw him, they would definitely treat him with a lot of respect. Who would have dared to speak to him in this manner? What did a celebrity depend on? They depended on popularity. How could they gain popularity? They'd definitely need a platform to gain popularity. Because of this reason, most celebrities did not dare offend people from the television stations, but this Zhang guy standing in front of him did not follow the industry's rules and just scolded as he liked. He totally did not treat him with any respect!

Of course, Zhang Ye would not treat him with respect. He had already hit rock bottom and had nothing to lose from being banned, so what was he afraid of? Even if he treated the person-in-charge with respect, it would not have helped him to get on TV anyway, so why should he be respectful at this point? Who the hell did that person think he is?

A commotion had started over here.

Yao Jiancai was trying to settle it peacefully by saying, "Forget it, old bro. Don't take it up with these bunch of people."

.....

On the web.

The Crosstalk and Skit Competition program's notice of Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's disqualification had been posted online. When it was released, many people got angry about it even though they knew it was inevitable!

"This bunch of grandsons! That bunch of grandsons!"

"I'll never watch the crosstalk competition ever again!"

"Zhang Ye spoke so well! Are those people blind? They can't even differentiate between what's good and what's bad!"

"The point of crosstalk is to entertain the audience, but those aren't people being dumb to insist that it has to be elegant and educative? Do we fucking need you to educate us? Who do you think you are!"

"They even used a reason like 'misleading the audience'? That's really laughable! I think it's the program team and the crosstalk world's people who are the ones trying to mislead us instead! The audience enjoyed Teacher Zhang and Teacher Yao's work, but it's only you people who dislike it, so you're forcing their disqualification by claiming that their work was disastrous and ruined the people! I would like to put out this question of who are the ones who are really misleading the audience!?"

"I like Zhang Ye too much!"

"If Zhang Ye is no longer participating, then I wouldn't bother with this lousy program anymore!"

"Yea, they want to boycott Teacher Zhang? Then we will boycott the crosstalk competition instead!"

"That's right!"

"Count me in!"

All of a sudden, countless people had gone onto the crosstalk competition's website to scold them!

.....

At the competition venue.

In the participants seating area.

A youth was holding his cellphone and waving it around saying, "Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai have been disqualified. An official notice was posted by the program team."

Another middle aged crosstalk actor nodded, "Hur Hur, they're finally being chased away."

A rookie crosstalk actor whispered to his partner, "With Zhang Ye gone, those people who were supporting him will come to us now."

His partner replied softly, "When the two of them were here, the audience was only interested in him. We know that from the vote statistics, but now that he's gone, those votes will come to us instead. Our popularity can only surge ahead now."

No one would do something if there wasn't anything to gain from it. These bunch of people had tried so hard to bring down Zhang Ye because there was something to gain from it. That was what most of them had in mind.

The next team had already gone on stage for their performance which was live broadcasted. It was Tang Dazhang's disciples, Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan, but what was surprising was that after the hosts had announced their team, there was barely any applause for them. The paltry applause that was heard was very sparse and mainly came from the front row where the crosstalk world's members were seated.

The duo began their performance.

But the audience members were no longer interested. Their craving had already been satisfied after listening to Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's performance. They did not want to listen to crosstalks by anyone else anymore. It was difficult to listen any further!

It was the same online and no one was watching the live stream anymore.

As Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan performed on stage, they could feel the disinterest from the audience. Many people had their heads lowered, checking their cell phones or chatting amongst themselves. There weren't many people who were seriously listening to them at all. When one of the joke segments that Zhang Xiao was very proud of was executed, he waited for their response, but there was hardly any laughter coming from below the stage and was abuzz with sounds of conversations. The competition atmosphere was getting very awkward and poor. When Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan noticed this, they were particularly affected by it and could not carry on with their performance!

"It's like this."

"So the moon....uh, so the sun...."

Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan's performance was full of mistakes.

When their master Tang Dazhang saw this, his face turned cold and his hands shivered. Why did it turn out this way? What was the audience doing! Do you all even understand what art is?! My two disciples are clearly better than Zhang Ye, but why was no one listening?

It was an extremely awkward scene!

The crosstalk world's veterans did not look too well either!

When the program team noticed this, they began to panic. Without any interest from the audience, the actors would be badly affected. How could the competition move on if that happened?!

After 10 minutes, it was time for another team's performance.

The third team.....

The 4th team.....

But the situation did not turn any better!

Many people from the audience were leaving early as they streamed out of the venue. They'd rather go home or go for a meal instead of watching this any further!

The program team's mood had totally changed by now. They had a very bad feeling about all of this!

Those competition participants who had boycotted Zhang Ye and called for his disqualification were now left cold in their hearts. They had initially thought that if their two strongest foes were disqualified, the rest would be able to get a share of their votes and would increase their chances of advancing, so when they saw that the crosstalk world's veterans boycotting Zhang Ye and with the encouragement from them, they had joined them in calling for Zhang Ye's team to be disqualified. If they could get rid of him, they would have gained a lot from it, but now, the outcome was totally different from what they had thought would be!

Indeed Zhang Ye had gone down, but they did not move up at all. Not only that, they did not even get any attention from the audience as they had chosen to ignore the competition. With Zhang Ye's scolding from today, he had all been brought down together with him!

Many of them finally realized that Zhang Ye's introduction of a new style of crosstalk was actually beneficial for the world of crosstalk. Zhang Ye had used his amazing talent to attract countless new audience members. He attracted those that did not watch crosstalk or those that had left due to being disappointed with the state of crosstalk and brought them back to noticing this art form and these crosstalk actors again. Zhang Ye had been trying to make the cake bigger so that everyone could have a share, and this would have been a good thing for crosstalk as it would have brought about progress for them!

Yet, this was not noticed by them while Zhang Ye was treated as a thorn in their sides. As for Zhang Ye and the crosstalk world's complete division, it had been noticed by the audience as well. Those who had actually enjoyed crosstalk had now given up on them as they chose to support Zhang Ye instead!

The disqualification had not affected Zhang Ye much, as his name had now been noticed by everyone. His work was now recognized by the masses! In fact, it was the crosstalk world which was hurt from Zhang Ye's disqualification from the competition. Zhang Ye had left having taken a large chunk of the crosstalk world's 'flesh' along with him. It had further reduced the number of loyal fans of the art form from its already small fan base!

Someone had checked on the Celebrity Rankings website and discovered another shocking truth. This was not a guess, but a fact that was backed up by real data!

Tang Dazhang's ranking had slid back down. For the past few days, he had been in first place on the D-list and he had nearly broken through into the C-list rankings, but now, he was ranked 5th place on the D-list, dropping 4 places!

Crosstalk artist, Master Xu Wenxiang rank had also fallen. He was an extremely experienced crosstalk veteran and was rather popular as well, but that was now a thing of the past as he was ranked at the front of the E-listers. After today's incident and Zhang Ye's crosstalk performance, Xu Wenxiang's ranking had dropped drastically and his name was now floating in the middle of the E-list rankings!

As for the crosstalk world's other mainstream actors, competition participants, and those rookies, all of their rankings declined at different rates!

The collective members of the crosstalk world had their popularity negatively affected!

This was something of a shock that none of them had expected!

But for Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai? After their first performance, their popularity had already started to increase. When the second and third performances were done, Zhang Ye was no longer in the last few positions of the C-list rankings but had moved into the middle positions instead. It wasn't even the lower half of the middle positions, but rather the upper half and that was just after 3 crosstalk performances! From the last position to the mid-top positions on the C-list. The increase in popularity was shocking! With this momentum, as long as he worked a little harder this year, he might even be able to reach the B-list rankings before the end of the year! It could even happen before the middle of the year, but of course, that would depend on whether his ban was lifted or not. Otherwise, he probably did not have a shot at all.

Zhang Ye's popularity had soared too much this time. The C-list was a completely different concept from the D and E-lists. The higher ranked lists had fewer celebrities and there was a fixed number of artist in each list, with the difficulty increasing the higher the list went. When Zhang Ye had risen from the bottom to the middle of the D-list previously, the difficulty level of that compared to him rising from the bottom to the middle of the C-list was totally different!

Why did his popularity increase so much?

It was because the audience and viewers liked him.

Back then, when Zhang Ye was lecturing about the Three Kingdoms, talking about the Dream of the Red Chamber, composing poetry and lyrics, writing couplets, writing supernatural novels, writing fairy tales, and many other things, all of these activities had helped him to gain some audiences and supporters. There were some people who started paying attention to him and his reputation grew, but he was still not watched by everyone in the country. Even when he did his Talk Show, not everyone would accept it. In his previous world, talk shows in the country were not exactly watched by everyone. What's more, in this world, Talk Shows were unheard of before he introduced it over here. For him to gain fame, he would have to slowly work his way up. This was why since Zhang Ye debuted, he had to fight for every bit of fame he could get. Becoming an overnight star did not happen to him, nor would it ever happen.

But the crosstalk competition this time allowed him to gain a lot of fame in a short time!

Decree #43's ban and Zhang Ye's participation in the crosstalk competition had laid out the infinite anticipation of the audience. He was attracting a lot of attention at the moment, as even this form of artistic performance had quite a good following as this art form had a very good audience base and the market had been built up for some time already. On top of that, the National Crosstalk and Skit Competition was a very well watched event and would be repeated on broadcast even after it was over. With Zhang Ye bringing over the works of Guo Degang into this world and his disagreements with the crosstalk world, it created discussions and attention that was unforeseen!

Thus, with all of that adding up, Zhang Ye's reputation grew rapidly and brought him a step closer to the B-list celebrity rankings. This was a case of being in the right place at the right time and not something that could be achieved just because of a good piece of work. For example, in his previous world, Guo Degang had to use over 10 years to go from being an unknown person to climbing to the top of the crosstalk world. Yet Zhang Ye only used three days and had already achieved some results. He knew that he was lucky this time.

As for Yao Jiancai, his popularity had risen ferociously as well. Old Yao had already moved up to the top of the D-list rankings and wasn't too far from breaking into the C-list!

.....

A lot of people saw these rankings on Weibo.

"Wow!"

"Teacher Zhang's popularity is so high!"

"Holy sh*t! Why did his popularity increase so much?"

"He's headed for the B-list celebrities at this rate!"

"Old Yao isn't doing bad either. Those two old bros have surely increased their popularity by quite a lot this time. Even though they were disqualified, they gained a lot from this competition as well!"

"The masses eyes are clear to the on-goings of all that had happened. Look at Tang Dazhang and those other crosstalk actors, haha! Their popularity has dropped by so much! They totally deserved it!"

"The audience isn't stupid! They know how to differentiate between the good and bad!"

Suddenly, at this moment, the crosstalk competition's live broadcast was cut!

A lot of the viewers did not understand what was going on, "What happened? The live broadcast has stopped? Is there a problem again?"

Shortly after, a notice from the SARFT was released to explain that this year's National Crosstalk and Skit Competition would be canceled effective immediately and would not be broadcasted any further!

"It's being taken off-air?"

"What?"

"Hahaha! Well done for this halt!"

"That's what you get for scolding Teacher Zhang!"

"Well done for this halt! If Zhang Ye can't perform any further, then none of you will get to perform either!"

The netizens were gloating!

This hit the Central TV Department 11's program team and the whole of the crosstalk world like a lightning bolt. The program had only just begun and the preliminaries were still being held! Stop broadcasting? And stop immediately? They knew that this was the fallout from the authorities no longer being able to bear their continuous mistakes in airing footage of banned artists!

The program team's person-in-charge slumped back heavily into his chair!

Zhang Xiao and Liu Yuan, as well as the rest of the participants, were feeling saddened. After getting rid of Zhang Ye, not only did they not manage to get a share of his votes, they were now even unable to

take part in the competition anymore. This struck them like a bolt of lightning and they were going crazy about it!

The one who was most affected was probably Tang Dazhang. He had been about to gain the status as a C-list celebrity in the Celebrity Rankings, but each time, he was denied by Zhang Ye. The competition was about to begin the semi-final round where he was scheduled to appear on the live broadcast as a judge, but there wasn't even a chance to do so now? He wouldn't even get the chance to appear on a live broadcast?

Zhang Ye!

This was all because of Zhang Ye!

At this moment, everyone could only think of this jinx's name!

On this day.

The contestants were all feeling hurt!

The crosstalk world's members were all feeling hurt!

Chapter 500: Wooing Sis Wu!

Afternoon.

It was cold out on the streets, but hints of Spring could be felt.

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai emerged from the mess in Central TV's Department 11 and slipped out of the compound. Their mood was surprisingly good.

Behind them, some people also gradually made their way out.

One of the participants said, "How unlucky!"

A crosstalk rookie said, "How did it end up like this?"

Outside the compound, a few participants, who had been eliminated during the second round, were smoking when they saw them and asked curiously, "Hey, Old Wang, Old Sun, Teacher Chen, what are you all doing outside at this time? Didn't all of you qualify for the third round? It should be your turn to perform soon, right? Why are you all leaving?"

One of them replied, "Hai, don't mention it anymore."

A middle-aged crosstalk actor said, "Don't you all know? The live broadcast was stopped and the competition has been canceled. It's all over. The SARFT has already ordered this year's competition to be cancelled!"

The few eliminated participants were stunned and asked in surprise, "What? How could that happen?"

One of the young participants was almost on the verge of tears, "It's all because of the mess that was caused by Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai! Central TV's Department 11 continuously made mistakes and allowed them to get live broadcasted day after day. This angered the authorities and their patience finally snapped and handed down a heavy punishment. The targets were supposed to be Zhang Ye and

Yao Jiancai, but it has now even affected all of us while Central TV and the crosstalk world's reputation has suffered greatly. We were still discussing how Zhang Ye was such a jinx and whoever got in his way would surely suffer from bad luck. Everyone put in so much effort for the competition this time, but all of that has gone to waste now!"

The participants were dejectedly walking away when they suddenly saw Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai ahead of them. Their expressions changed as they looked like they just wanted to get out of compound quickly to avoid the jinx. These were the people who had called for a boycott of Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai. Some of them even sent out open letters denouncing them as they played along to the tune of the crosstalk world, which had been aggressively denouncing Zhang Ye, but now, their expressions were no longer arrogant like they had been before. Their body language showed a sense of defeat as their opposition to Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai this time had ended in complete and utter failure!

They gained nothing!

They did not become popular like they thought they would have!

They even got into trouble? How could this happen!

Behind them, the other mainstream crosstalk artists and members of the Folk Arts Association were all looking glum. They had been the partners and organizers of the crosstalk competition every year, but this year's cancellation left a very big dent in their reputations!

"This is too much!"

"That Zhang guy!"

This was a damn hooligan!

Countless of crosstalk actors were scolding Zhang Ye.

At this moment, Zhang Ye and the crosstalk and folk art world had completely parted ways!

.....

On the road.

Zhang Ye was driving while making a beat by tapping on his steering wheel. Yao Jiancai was in the front passenger seat where he was singing Peking Opera along to the beat. Their mood was extremely good.

Finally, Zhang Ye said, "Are you going home?"

Yao Jiancai stopped singing and said, "Yes, home. I've been overworked these past few days and I'm feeling so tired. I just want to get home and have a good sleep."

"Then I'll send you back home first." Zhang Ye asked, "What do you intend to do from tomorrow onwards?"

Yao Jiancai gave a wave of his hand and said, "What else can I do? The ban is still in effect and I can't do crosstalk anymore either. I guess there are no other things I can do for now, so I will probably stay home to rest and recharge my batteries. I can also accompany my wife more now and she wouldn't be able to

complain that I've been spending too much time outside doing filming. She can't make me go out and film now even if she wants me to."

Zhang Ye said, "That's not a bad thing, though."

Old Yao still sounded rather optimistic. Perhaps it was because he was still feeling good from the crosstalk performance earlier. On top of that, with the stoppage of the competition, the crosstalk world's reputation had also dropped and that made him very happy. All of these things had happened precisely because of him and Zhang Ye, "Because of your blessings, this old bro has finally gained a great increase in the celebrity rankings. The 10 odd, 20 TV dramas that I starred in, together with those 6 or 7 movies could not have brought me such a great increase in popularity like I experienced today. I guess after I've had enough rest, I will go and do some commercial performances. Earlier, someone from my company informed me that there have been people asking about my availability to take part in ribbon cuttings, weddings, and what not. They offered a very high price for it too, so what do you think? Are you interested? If you are interested, we can take up some commercial performances. They will definitely up their offer, so how about we do this together?"

Zhang Ye waved his hand, "I won't take up commercial performances."

"Are you for real?" Yao Jiancai asked.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "How can I not be for real? I don't even have an agent."

Yao Jiancai laughed, "I've heard that you didn't take up offers for commercial performances before as those interested parties could not even reach you. I didn't think much of it before, but I didn't expect you to be for real? This old bro here is not reaching for a target as high as you. I just want to earn enough money to support my family." Yao Jiancai's eyes focused on a long legged beauty sitting outside of a coffee place for the longest time before he turned back around, "So what's your plan?"

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "I don't know, I guess I will just stay at home."

Regarding the matter of crosstalk, Zhang Ye had, with the help of Yao Jiancai, caused a very big ruckus. Although they did not become the champions, they had gone much further than Zhang Ye had expected. As for which path he would now go on towards, Zhang Ye was still undecided. He was still thinking about how to get out of the artist ban list since if it didn't get lifted, Zhang Ye would basically have no way to move forward in the entertainment industry. The 5 times lowered difficulty would still be effective for the next three and a half days, so he should make use of this time to find a way around the ban. Otherwise, once the lowered difficulty effect was over, it would be extremely difficult for him to make his comeback.

.....

He dropped of Old Yao at the entrance of the district, turned his car around, and went back onto the road without a destination. He was just driving and wandering about in on the city roads.

Oh right, the cellphone was still switched off.

When he switched it back on, his cellphone rang immediately.

.....

"Son."

"Mom."

"Why did the competition get cancelled?"

"Hur hur, I don't know why."

"They got what they deserved. If you can't stay in it, then they should forget about being able to do it as well!"

.....

"Little Zhang."

"Hi, former leader."

"You're really great. A national crosstalk and skit competition can be thrown into a mess all because of you. Why can't you take some time to stay out of all these troubles? Hur hur."

"It's not my fault that this happened. You should know exactly what kind of person I am. I never like causing trouble."

"Haha, come on you!"

.....

"Zhang Ye."

"Old Tian, you went to the venue as well? I saw you."

"Heh, your eyes are really sharp then. I saw it all. Your crosstalk was really too godly. Listening to it live really left my adrenaline rushing, hahahaha! You're really the best! That bunch of crosstalk world members were probably crying after continuously being scolded by you for two days. Even the annual crosstalk competition has been cancelled and those crosstalk actors' popularity are all plummeting. They really lost it all this time! That mouth of yours is really the most vicious in the entertainment industry. You can kill someone with your scolding and even bring someone back to life with it! I doubt that they will dare to take you lightly from now on."

.....

His cell phone was constantly ringing with calls from his friends.

Some sent messages to congratulate him for being able to increase his popularity while he was still banned and for destroying the crosstalk competition, etc, etc, etc.

Zhang Ye replied them one by one and spent a whole day doing so.

Not long after, there was only one last message to reply to. It wasn't an SMS, but a message from a chat app. He focused on the message from "Water Lotus Moon", or better known as Wu Zeqing, the Vice President of Peking University. He had not had a chat online in a long time.

Water Lotus Moon: "You created a quite a wave."

Zhang Ye replied: "I was just talking nonsense."

After a few seconds, "di di" and a reply came in: "Just talking nonsense and you brought down an entire nation's top rated program?"

Zhang Ye stopped his car by the side of the road to reply: "I couldn't help it. They were bullying me and trying to get me banned, so I could only break through where ever I could find an opening."

Water Lotus Moon: "Your performance was quite good. I heard it. I never expected that you would know crosstalk."

Zhang Ye: "There's no use in that. The competition has been stopped and I can only stay at home now. Hoping for your consolation, big sis."

Water Lotus Moon: "Hur hur, how should I console you?"

Zhang Ye: "Cough, cough. With a picture?"

Water Lotus Moon: "Oh, what pictures do you want?"

Zhang Ye blinked and refrained from saying that he wanted nudes, so he sent over: "Whatever is fine, anything."

Usually, he wouldn't dare speak like this if he stood before President Wu in real life. Her authority and status was too high for him, but when he chatted online with Water Lotus Moon, Zhang Ye's tone became more natural and easy-going. Of course, no matter how easy going his tone was, Zhang Ye still had to put on a brave front to ask for a picture.

There was no response from the other end.

After about half a minute, a message came in.

Zhang Ye quickly checked the incoming message and saw a photo being sent over. When it was successfully downloaded, he clicked on it and the picture opened up on his screen. It was a landscape photo taken from shoulder level pointing downwards into the neckline of a coffee brown loose sweater. The neckline was revealed slight a deep cleavage, accompanied by the fair skin of her breasts. It was especially dazzling.

If there were three ways to describe Sis Wu's breasts, then it would definitely be:

Big!

Too big!

Too damn big!

Although this was not the first time viewing Wu Zeqing's photos — and he had even helped her take such pictures before in real life, but after viewing such a picture again, Zhang Ye was still amazed at how big they were. Yes, it was so fair that it left Zhang Ye feeling thrilled!

In the photos, a pair of slippers could be seen beside her left leg and in front of her was a chopping board and knife. It looked like there were freshly chopped mushrooms and pork ribs.

Zhang Ye swallowed his saliva and sent over: "Beautiful!!!"

Water Lotus Moon replied with a smiley face: "Thank you."

Zhang Ye: "You're preparing dinner?" She was at home?

Water Lotus Moon: "Yes, it's almost time for dinner. Have you eaten yet?"

Zhang Ye: "Not yet, I just left Central TV."

Water Lotus Moon: "Then the timing is just right. Come over to eat. It's more meaningful than me eating by myself."

Zhang Ye replied: "Is that OK?"

Water Lotus Moon: "Hur hur, what's there to stand on ceremony with Big Sis for?"

Zhang Ye immediately replied: "Then I will respect your orders. I will there immediately."

Water Lotus Moon: "Well, no need to rush."

Putting down his cell phone, Zhang Ye took two deep breaths and looked at the picture that she had sent over once more. He could no longer wait, so he quickly drove his car towards Taoran Pavilion!

At this timing, this place would usually have a traffic jam. The city's traffic junctions were very dense and close in intervals, but probably because of the difficulty adjustment die's effect, Zhang Ye did not get caught in a jam along the way. Not only that, from where he was to Taoran Pavilion Garden's East Gate, there were a total of 15-16 traffic junctions, in which all were showing the green light!

There was totally no obstruction!

The difficulty adjustment was too obvious!

When he was almost at the destination, Zhang Ye suddenly thought of something. How would he try to solve the matter of being banned? He did not know and had not started thinking about it yet, but since there were still three and half days left of the reduced difficulty effect, Zhang Ye was not going to meet with any obstruction of any kind for the next few days, so he decided that he could do something within his control for now. Something that he could never have achieved if it was not for the difficulty adjustment die, something like...wooing Sis Wu?