

Superstar 621

Chapter 621 Heated discussions about the wondrous math problem on the Internet!

At the same moment.

A math problem had suddenly caused a stir on the seemingly calm Weibo!

A Weibo verified user whose account belonged to a Beijing No. 2 Experimental Primary School teacher had posted an elementary math problem online: "Who can answer this? Everyone, come and give a try!"

At the beginning, no one really thought anything about this. On seeing the call for a challenge to solve the question, at most some people would come and take a look at it, thinking that an elementary math problem couldn't possibly be too difficult. Even secondary level math questions were not a problem for them, besides, who hadn't studied in primary school before? And so, someone began with an attempt to answer the question but just as they seriously started reading the question, they found that it was basically different from what they had expected!

"Damn! What the heck! F**k!"

"What kind of math question is this?"

"There's music?"

"Is this an elementary math question?"

"Can someone tell me what is the meaning of the question?"

"Is the first answer 1×3 ? Is it correct? F**k, I don't know."

"Are primary school students learning how to defy logic these days? It's impossible to answer the question! Which teacher was so wicked to set such a wicked question?"

"Pfft, I've already given up!"

"Same here, my head is swelling!"

Then, the No. 2 Experimental Primary School teacher followed up with a post again: "Please note that this elementary math problem was set by our China's famous mathematician, Professor Zhang Ye, today. And to give everyone an additional blow, the math question was for our students in the second grade at No. 2 Experimental Primary School. 93.2% of the students answered correct. Only two students in the whole class got it wrong while the rest of the students got it right!"

With that, the Weibo post was attracting a lot more attention and was getting livelier than before!

"What? Zhang Ye set the question?"

"Is it really an elementary math problem?"

"Since it was Zhang Ye who set them, then it must not be simple or straightforward."

“It was needless of you to say that. How could a world-class mathematics expert set an ordinary elementary math problem? There must surely be many layers of profundity in it. I’m getting interested now, watch me solve it!”

“The percentage of right answers by the primary school students was more than 90%? I wouldn’t believe it even if you threatened to kill me! I don’t even know the meaning of this question! Primary students can’t possibly answer it! Even if they were elite students from a key focus primary school, they couldn’t possibly be smarter than an adult?”

“Watch me do it!”

“I’ll give it a try too!”

“I’m sure it can be solved, let me think…”

“I still won’t believe it!”

Gradually, the netizens’ kept posting their answers, with each one becoming weirder than the last!

Suddenly, some celebrities also showed up, some of them being Zhang Ye’s friends.

Yao Jiancai posted: “What lousy question did Little Zhang set!”

Peking University’s Teacher Su Na posted: “I’m so angry! *flips table*! I better continue teaching my Chinese language. The mathematics world is way too scary.”

Xiao Lu from Beijing Television: “Pfft, this question is really amusing, Ding Ding Ding? Ding Ding Ding? But I have to say, this is exactly what Zhang Ye’s style is like!”

Finally, the No. 2 Experimental Primary School teacher appeared again and revealed the correct answers. Needless to say, a few of the netizens really could answer it correctly, but the rest of the people, numbering in the thousands, got it wrong or did not manage to answer at all. This ratio left everyone in disbelief as they all wondered if those children from No. 2 Experimental Primary School students, who were more than 90% correct, were all f**king aliens. They adults were not as good as a group of primary students??

“What’s going on?”

“Isn’t this absurd?”

“Was that teacher from No. 2 Experimental Primary School just spouting nonsense?”

“Are the children these days all abnormal like that?”

The netizens were all expressing their denial of this!

At this moment, Dean Pan of Peking University’s School of Mathematical Sciences, whether told by some students or had happened to chance upon this math question, also posted on Weibo—knowing that this was a trick question—and told everyone: “Hur hur, only Professor Zhang Ye can think of such devious questions. I can say for sure that this is really an elementary math problem but with a hidden catch somewhere in it. For a primary school student, it may not seem like a trap, however this is a trap that was specifically laid for an adult to fall into!”

When they saw that, everyone began to shout and clamor!

“Huh?”

“This was a trap for us?”

“Zhang Ye is really too wicked!”

“This guy has always had a character like that!”

“Pfft, I knew it! Teacher Zhang himself is already a trap! A trap of great proportions! Whoever gets involved with him will fall into it!”

“What kind of trap is it?”

“Dean Pan, can you kindly explain it?”

Dean Pan replied on Weibo: “The principle of this trap falls on the different thought process of an adult and a child. Adults easily complicate simple things, and this complication probably starts right off at the reading of the question. It is a subconscious thought process that children do not employ. Whether it is a musical note or an onomatopoeic word, it’s the same thing to them. These onomatopoeic words are basically meaningless to them, so they can easily see the essence of the question and solve it. From a certain perspective, a majority of adults might really be inferior to a primary school student at this and so would be unable to answer the question right.”

“So that’s how it is!”

“Holy shit, so that’s the reason!”

“I was still wondering!”

“Zhang Ye, this son of a bitch!”

“If he doesn’t con someone in a day, he will not feel comfortable!”

There was a wave of condemnation flung from everyone at Zhang Ye, as they laughingly scolded his wickedness!

Dean Pan posted: “It might look to be just an elementary math problem, but behind it lies some philosophies and reflections which are definitely not of the elementary level. Professor Zhang Ye is no doubt a rare genius in the mathematics world. This question is indeed very interesting. I have already copied it down and will prepare to use it for our Peking University students to try, and also to analyze it. For some problems and questions, if we change our perspectives and view it from a different angle, we may somehow get an unexpected result! Professor Little Zhang has let everyone know to never underestimate a simple-looking question at any time or any place! Because they might not be as simple as you think, but at the same time, they might also not be as complicated as you thought it to be!”

Ah?

Let the Peking University students try out the elementary math problem? And even analyze it in detail?

Dean Pan's words were no doubt a very high appraisal of both this elementary math problem as well as Zhang Ye himself.

After seeing Dean Pan's explanation, everyone began to understand and see the trick to this math question. Upon deeper reflection, everyone had no choice but to admire Zhang Ye's talent, knowledge, and different way of thinking. An elementary math problem stuffed with many tricks—including philosophy, psychology, and even the importance of mathematics—with the key point being that it could also produce such a mass face-slapping effect on others? Perhaps in the whole of China, only someone like Zhang Ye, who could make something out of nothing, could come up with a question like that!!

Chapter 622: Ticked off by the elementary school teachers!

Online, the netizens who had been left scratching their heads at that elementary math problem were all denouncing Zhang Ye in waves.

Offline, at No. 2 Experimental Primary School, in the second grade teachers' office, Zhang Ye was also surrounded by several male and female teachers, listening to their complaints.

"Chenchen's too naughty."

"Yes, in so many years of teaching, I've never seen any child as mischievous as her."

"Teacher Zhang, you've been too lax in the caring of your kid."

"In all the tests that I have arranged for the class, Chenchen has never passed even once."

"The previous time, during P.E. classes, she even fought with a boy. When we learned of it, we rushed over to check on them. Thinking that Chenchen had been bullied, we scolded the boy without a second thought but later realized that nothing had happened to Chenchen at all. Instead, she left the boy lying on the ground with just a push, giving him a gigantic bruise on his arm. When the boy's parents came to school to question the teachers and found out that it was a little girl who did it, they did not take it up any further, possibly embarrassed by the fact that their boy had been pushed by a girl."

"Class one is not easy to handle because Chenchen always leads some of the students to cause trouble together with her. Teacher Zhang, you have to talk to her a little when you return later!"

"Even though she is not your own daughter, as a guardian, you have have to help educate her. After all, you're also a teacher of the people."

The second grade teachers were full of gripes.

Zhang Ye could only constantly reassure them, "Alright, I will definitely tell her off when I get back....Yes, what you said was correct....Aiyo, you're really tolerant....I will speak to her when we go back....Yes, yes, yes...sure, sure, sure!"

This devil of a child!

How worrisome can she get!

Only when the teachers continued with their grieving did Zhang Ye realize how much trouble Chenchen had actually caused. She was already the gang leader of No. 2 Experimental Primary School, giving the teachers all kinds of complaints!

Luckily, because the teachers knew of Zhang Ye's status as a literary master and an internationally recognized mathematician, they still gave him some face and did not lash out too harshly at him. Of course, there were two female teachers who were just laughingly "criticizing" Zhang Ye for his neglect in disciplining the child, but did not actually have any bias against Chenchen at all. In fact, they really liked the child who appeared like a "porcelain doll" that was more beautiful looking than any others. Besides, Chenchen did not make any trouble for them in their classes anyway, so they just playfully scolded Zhang Ye a little as it was a rare opportunity! A big shot B-lister, a well-known person in society, when put into the hands of these teachers, it would be a wasted opportunity if they did not make use of the chance to say a few words!

As they were there talking.

A soft singing voice floated in from outside.

"When will the moon be clear and bright? / With a cup of wine in my hand, I ask the clear sky..." It was "Wishing We Last Forever," but sang in a very odd way. The voice belonged to a woman, but sounded very hoarse and strained. This was not a pitch and tone that most women would be able to sing in and it made anyone who heard it feel very strange.

The singing was getting closer and closer.

A music teacher threw up her hands and said, "Raspy Luo is here."

An art teacher gently rubbed her ears and said, "It sounds so unpleasant."

"This Little Luo, why does she always have to sing every day." A teacher who was much older said, "I wouldn't mind it if she sang well, but just listen to that."

Zhao Mei, the form teacher of class one, laughed, "I think it's not too bad, just that Teacher Luo's voice isn't that nice to listen to."

Beside her, a female teacher nodded and said, "Teacher Luo must not have taken good care of her voice when she was going through puberty, and that must have caused her voice to sound like the manly voice she has now."

Zhang Ye asked curiously, "Who is this Teacher Luo?"

Hearing Zhang Ye's question, Zhao Mei said, "It's Teacher Luo Yu, our school's physical education teacher. Because Teacher Luo likes to sing a lot, she's always humming a song wherever she goes. But as her voice sounds really rough, everyone gave her the nickname of 'Raspy Luo.'"

Raspy Luo?

Physical education teacher?

Zhang Ye nodded, but his ears perked up and listened carefully to this singing voice that was getting nearer and nearer. There was no music accompaniment or rhythm, just pure singing. However, this

singing stirred up a very different kind of feeling in Zhang Ye, but he did not know how exactly he felt about this Raspy Luo's singing. In any case, it was just a very weird feeling.

Suddenly, the singing stopped.

The teachers' office door was pulled open by someone from outside and Luo Yu appeared standing at the door.

Zhang Ye looked over and saw a woman who was built quite muscularly, at a height of about 1.6 meters tall, probably weighing around 160 pounds or heavier. Her face looked pretty normal, not pretty but not ugly either. To use a description from his previous world, she would be called a "tough girl" and probably be known as a tough girl among tough girls. Anyone who saw her would be pretty in awe of her appearance.¹

Zhao Mei said, "Teacher Luo, your class has ended?"

Luo Yu's speaking voice also sounded very hoarse. She said, "Yes. Eh?" She noticed Zhang Ye standing there and asked, "Is this a new teacher? Or someone's parent?"

Zhang Ye introduced him, "This is Zhang Ye, Chenchen's guardian."

When Luo Yu heard that, her eyebrows immediately narrowed as she exclaimed, "So you're Chenchen's guardian!" She said to Zhang Ye, "That child of yours is really incorrigible. Every time during P.E. class, she just tries to sit it out. When she has to do any running, she doesn't run properly; it's also the same for the aerobic exercises. She just doesn't want to learn them properly. Then there was this incident in which she even fought with someone during my class! She pushed the boy down and left him sprawled out on the ground! Her strength was really too much! In the end, I was called up to see the school leaders because of that and even got a bad scolding from them!"

Zhang Ye thought to himself, knowing that the child had been taught some basics by a certain someone. Chenchen's aunt had taught her the Eight Trigrams Palm from a young age, letting her learn the basic movements and making her do the horse stance for training. Even if her physical conditions as a child now restricted her from learning the true form of the Eight Trigrams Palm, the basics and foundations were still not something that anyone else her age would be able to match. Zhang Ye felt that even if another kid were to gang up together with that male classmate, Chenchen could still handle them, being such a brawny child!

Zhang Ye humbly said, "You're right, I will most definitely tell her off!"

Luo Yu wasn't finished. She continued telling him off, "You parents and guardians are always like this! You all spoil the child at home too much, not beating or scolding them, making these children harder and harder to teach these days. They're not obedient to the teachers at all...." She continued chirping, airing all her grievances.

The math teacher, Li Jiaying, interrupted and said, "Teacher Luo, that's enough. It's not easy being a parent these days, the problem of children's education is a subject of national importance and would change in accordance with the changes in society. It's not something that just a few people can have influence over."

Luo Yu did not like what she heard and said, "If there's a problem with the children, then it has to be the responsibility of the parents or guardians. Why should it be blamed on society? Besides, is Rao Chenchen just your usual kind of mischievous kid? Let's not mention her relationship with the other students, just based on her attitude to the teachers, she has never known how to respect others. She always says things here and there that drives us crazy!" She turned to look at Zhang Ye again. "We've already called for her guardian to come to school many times to discuss this. It was a Big Sis last time, and this time, it's you. No matter how many times we call you over, it has not been effective in the slightest! Do you really wish to raise the child properly? Are you just going to neglect this matter like that?"

After brooding for a long time.

Luo Yu finally said all that she wanted to. She drank water from her thermal flask in large gulps before she finally settled back down at her desk, ignoring Chenchen's guardian from then on.

Zhang Ye was feeling really helpless. When had he ever been talked to like this before? First it was a group of teachers who grumbled to him non-stop, then came a P.E. teacher lecturing him for not properly caring for the child, but Zhang Ye could not and should not talk back to any of that since it was really Chenchen's fault for being disobedient and always causing trouble. Ai, what a huge loss of face this was.

Zhao Mei quickly eased the situation by saying, "Teacher Zhang, Teacher Luo was just saying that for the good of the child, so she might have been a little harsh, but don't take it to heart. Teacher Luo is a good person and very meticulous towards the children."

Zhang Ye said, "I understand. So then, if there's nothing else, I should be leaving now. I will go out for a smoke and then wait for Chenchen to finish school before picking her up. As Chenchen's actual guardian is not around and has gone to handle some matters, I will be watching over her temporarily. If there's anything, you can just contact me."

"OK, let me see you out then," Zhao Mei said.

Zhang Ye quickly said, "Don't worry about it."

Li Jiaying immediately said, "Teacher Zhang, take care, take care." He wanted to see Zhang Ye out as well, but was stopped by Zhang Ye who insisted that he not.

The other second grade teachers also waved happily to Zhang Ye to signal their farewells.

After Zhang Ye left the teachers office, Luo Yu looked at them in some confusion and asked, "What are you all up to? What Teacher Zhang? Why are you being so polite with him? You guys even wanted to see him out?"

The fine arts teacher said in a speechless manner, "You're really a thick one. Don't you know who that is? If you knew who he was, would you have criticized him so harshly?"

The music teacher laughed and said, "Little Luo's still the gutsiest."

Luo Yu was a little taken aback when she asked, "Who is he?"

Li Jiaying glanced at her and asked, "You don't even know who Zhang Ye is?"

Luo Yu, still not knowing what was going on, said, “What Zhang Ye or Li Ye? I don’t know them at all.”

Zhao Mei didn’t know how to react. She said, “The song you were singing just before you came into the teachers’ office just now, wasn’t that song written and composed by Zhang Ye based upon his poem Shuidiao Getou?”

When she heard that, Luo Yu’s eyes immediately widened as she froze in her seat. After being stumped for a second, she rose from her chair and said, “Ah? That was Zhang Ye??”

Li Jiaying said, “How could he not be?”

Luo Yu nearly fainted right there, but continued, “He—he was wearing sunglasses and I couldn’t recognize him at all! Holy shit! I’ve been singing that song that was written and composed by him almost everyday!”

Li Jiaying said with a belittling attitude, “Come now, why would a P.E. teacher like you not do something else but just sing that song everyday. When you were coming into the office earlier, Teacher Zhang Ye already heard your singing. That lousy voice of yours probably left the original writer and composer feeling frustrated!”

The language teacher giggled, “Before you came in, we had already spoken to Teacher Zhang Ye for a long time about Chenchen, but we were just talking in general and letting him know what the problems were. But you, you were really unforgiving, you even accused Teacher Zhang Ye of being negligent in properly caring for his kid! No matter what, he’s still a Peking University associate professor.”

Luo Yu exclaimed, “I—I really did not know it was him! How could he be Chenchen’s guardian? Aiyo, I’ve heard rumors that Zhang Ye’s temper is really bad. Do you guys think that I’ve gotten myself into trouble now?”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“That’s for sure.”

“You’ve made a huge mess this time!”

All of the teachers were gleefully quipping at Luo Yu’s troubles.

Luo Yu vomited blood right there!

Chapter 623 Zhang Ye’s wondrous math lecture!

In the evening.

The rippling rays of the evening sun shone as it set.

At Jiaomen East, Zhang Ye’s rented apartment.

Standing in the open kitchen, Zhang Ye sandwiched his phone between his shoulder and cheek while his hands prepared dinner. He placed the processed fish-flavored pork slices which he had bought from the

supermarket into the pan, added some seasoning, then mixed and stirred it all about with the spatula. This person did not know how to cook, but he made do with whatever he could anyway.

Zhang Ye said: "Mom."

"I was still waiting for you to come home for dinner," his mother said.

"Didn't I already send you a text?" Zhang Ye asked.

His mother said: "I just saw it. So you won't be back for a few days?"

Zhang Ye said: "Yes, I'll be staying in Jiaomen for now as my landlady needed to go away for some time. And I have to help her take care of the kid. Ugh, don't bring it up. Just talking about it makes me angry. The kid's school called me up to ask me to make a trip to the school today. When I was there, a group of teachers criticized me about her behavior. What a loss of face I suffered! Hmph, seeing kids behave in this way these days has given me mental trauma and severely impacted this bro's passion for children should I get married in the future. If my children turn out to be so naughty and uncontrollable in the future, I would totally get tired out."

His mother said: "You don't even have a partner yet, and you're already thinking about children?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "Don't force my hand, or else I might just suddenly bring someone home on one of these days as your daughter-in-law. If she turns out to be too beautiful for you, don't be shocked. You'd better be prepared for it."

His mother happily said: "Yes, continue bragging all you want."

Zhang Ye said: "Whether I'm bragging or not, you'll find out in the future."

His mother said: "Alright, alright, your mom will wait and see."

"I need to stop talking now. I still have to prepare dinner." Zhang Ye used the spatula to stir the food in the pan.

His mother said: "Whoa, you even know how to cook now? Make sure the food is well-cooked. Don't let the little one get a stomachache."

"Got it." Zhang Ye hung up and put his phone onto a clean area on top of the refrigerator before he did a taste test on the saltiness of the dish he was preparing.

Chenchen, sitting on the sofa and looking very glum, said, "Zhang Ye, I'm hungry."

Zhang Ye grumbled under his breath, "What are you in a rush for? Just wait."

Chenchen's stomach had already been rumbling for quite some time now. After she had the argument in the afternoon with the teacher, she did not eat much of her food either. She shouted, "Zhang Ye! I'm hungry! Zhang Ye! I'm hungry!"

"What are you rushing for? It's almost done!" Zhang Ye turned off the heat, put the food onto a plate, and brought it to the table.

Chenchen did not wait for him and picked up the chopsticks and began eating. When she had eaten a mouthful, she inadvertently gave a look of dislike. She said, "Zhang Ye, it's not good."

Zhang Ye said, "Oh, is that so?"

"It's not good," Chenchen insisted.

Zhang Ye gave it a taste and said, "It's not bad." Then he scooped out two bowls of rice and sat back down at the table. Picking up his chopsticks, he started eating happily and said, "Your Uncle Zhang's standard is just that. It's good enough that you have something to eat. It's definitely cooked, so don't worry about getting food poisoning." Saying that, he picked up a large portion of the food for Chenchen and put it into her bowl with his chopsticks. "Quickly eat. Your aunt definitely won't be back this week, and I don't know if she will be back next week either. You'll be sticking around me for a while, so let's just make do with whatever we can. If this is not good enough, then we'll order takeout or buy frozen dumplings tomorrow."

Chenchen thought about it for a long time before unwillingly picking up her chopsticks to continue eating.

Zhang Ye spoke as he ate, "These next several days, I will be taking care of you, so you have to listen to me. Let's have an agreement beforehand. First, you have to eat your meals at the right time and in the right quantity every day, so that when your aunt comes back, she will not see that you have lost any weight and blame me if you do. Second, you have to do your homework after dinner, if you don't have any homework or have finished it already, then you have to do your own revision until 8 PM. Your form teacher gave me a dressing down today; I don't even know how to face her. You'd better buck up so that it doesn't become necessary for me to make another trip to your school again. Oh, then third and last point, you have to go to bed by 10 PM, so no late night of watching cartoons. Did you hear all of that?"

Chenchen did not say anything.

Zhang Ye looked at her and asked again, "I'm asking you. Do you understand?"

Chenchen eventually voiced her acquiescence.

Only then was Zhang Ye satisfied. With the landlady auntie not around, the full responsibility in taking care of the child rested on his shoulders. Not only did he have to take care of her meals, he had to oversee her learning and extracurricular activities as well. Hai, it was only after taking charge that he knew of the responsibilities; taking care of a child was really tiring to the soul.

After the meal.

"Shoo, go and do your homework."

"OK."

"Don't just say OK, you have to do it physically as well."

"—OK."

Chenchen sat herself down on Zhang Ye's sofa, opened her schoolbag and took out a book, pencil, and eraser. She slowly started to do her homework and paused every so often.

Zhang Ye sluggishly dragged his feet to the kitchen to wash the dishes. After a long time of not doing chores, he really did not have any motivation to move at all. Laziness was a kind of habit; once you got into the rhythm of this habit, it was extremely difficult to get out of it. This was the situation Zhang Ye was in right now. Old Wu had taken great care of him—and when he was at his parents' house, they would not let him do any chores either—so having not stayed alone for a very long time now, it was really difficult to get accustomed to this life again.

After washing all the dishes, Zhang Ye went to take a look on Chenchen. However, when he saw that she had only written a single line in her workbook, he angrily said, "What have you been doing here for so long?"

Chenchen said, "Doing my homework."

Zhang Ye said, "Why did you take so long just to write almost nothing?"

"Zhang Ye." Chenchen pushed her workbook to him and said, "Help me write."

Zhang Ye stared at her and said, "Write it yourself. If you don't finish it, then I won't let you watch cartoons later. When it's time, you will go directly to bed." After that, he ignored her and went to lie down on his bed while watching the news on TV.

Central TV news...

Entertainment news...

He was watching it with enjoyment. In the past, Zhang Ye was never too interested in the news as he found it really dry. But after he had become a celebrity, he took a liking to it, part of it being that keeping up with the news was necessary for his career. He had to be updated about the social topics and current affairs so that he could be in step with the times.

Chenchen looked up with the pencil with her hands. "Zhang Ye, you're disturbing me."

Zhang Ye impatiently grabbed the remote control and said, "I'll lower the volume, continue doing your homework."

Chenchen said, "It's still noisy."

Zhang Ye lowered the volume even more and said, "It should be alright now."

"It's still noisy, Zhang Ye. Turn it off," Chenchen said unhappily.

Zhang Ye smacked his lips and turned off the television in annoyance. He said, "You've been working for quite a while now but that's all you've written? You're so troublesome. Alright, alright, the television's off now."

Chenchen continued to work on her homework.

Zhang Ye looked around and decided that he could only use his cell phone to browse Weibo for now. After a short time browsing, he noticed the math problem he had given at No. 2 Experimental Primary

School this afternoon was posted onto Weibo. It had even attracted a heated discussion in the afternoon as it received a lot of attention from the netizens. This was something Zhang Ye had not expected. But after thinking a bit about it, when this wondrous math question was brought out in his previous world, it had also created quite a stir from many people on the internet. It was widely discussed at the beginning. Not until when everyone had gotten used to the existence of this problem did the hype die down. And so, when this wondrous “brain teaser” math problem that had not existed in this world largely filled with traditional and regular math questions appeared, it naturally attracted a lot of interest and attention from people since it was a “new style” of a math question.

They were also denouncing him?

On Weibo, many people cried out with anger, as though Zhang Ye’s elementary math question from the afternoon had inflicted damage to the self-esteem of these adults. They were all calling for him to give them a chance to make up for their loss of face!

“@ZhangYe!”

“Teacher Zhang, you better appear right now!”

“Zhang Ye, you’re so wicked and mean!”

“Give us another question! I refuse to believe that I can’t solve it!”

“Right, this time we’ll definitely get it right!”

“If you’re so good, give us another elementary math problem! I was just too careless before! It ended up with my girlfriend making fun of me for the whole afternoon! She even said that my IQ is lower than a primary school student’s! I’m so furious!”

“That question was made to trick people, it was phrased to baffle us. But if we knew what was going on beforehand, then no matter what questions you posed us, we wouldn’t have any trouble with it for sure as long as it is really just an elementary math problem.”

“Right, as long as it’s restricted to elementary math questions, we’ll solve them in a glance for sure.”

Some were calling for a challenge while others were making a scene.

Peking University’s Teacher Su Na also came forward to comment: “I suggest that Teacher Zhang start a class on Weibo and post some elementary math problems for everyone to try out.”

Since Zhang Ye was not busy with anything, he immediately replied to Su Na: “Sure.”

And so, Zhang Ye posted a separate Weibo post: “Due to popular demand and requests for a challenge, in today’s ‘Zhang Ye’s Classroom’, I shall share several questions for discussion. The same rules apply. I guarantee that it will be an elementary math problem that is meant for second or third grade students. We will see who can answer them. The time limit is an hour after I post the problem. If someone can answer all of them correctly, then I will even add a prize as a reward. If there are too many people, the prize will be given out as a lucky draw. If there aren’t that many who can answer correctly, then all those who get it right will get a prize. It can be my autograph or my calligraphy pieces, we can always discuss that later, hur hur.”

When the netizens saw this, they all gathered together over at Zhang Ye's post!

"Wah! There's even a prize?"

"Zhang Ye's calligraphy works sound really good!"

"That's great! Give us the question then! I can't wait!"

"Count me in!"

"Me too, I'm here as well!"

At this moment, the long unseen Big Saber Bro also made an appearance: "My large saber is again again again again again again unable to endure the thirst! Give us the problem quickly! Mathematics happen to be my forte!"

Yao Jiancai also appeared and said: "What's up again?"

A Peking University teacher who was verified on Weibo joined in too. He could be considered Zhang Ye's colleague, but as Zhang Ye had not officially been given any classes before at the Math Department, he wasn't too familiar with this teacher. He didn't even know him by name, but would probably know him if he saw him. The teacher said: "Let me give it a try too."

Even a Peking University teacher had been forced to make an appearance??

In the end, many other Peking University students—whether they were Chinese Department or Math Department—also joined in. They were all eager and ready to solve the question as they were not in time this afternoon to catch the first question and had only seen it for the first time when Dean Pan's Weibo discussed it. As such, they already knew the answer to it before they saw the questions, so there was no chance for them to even think about it. As such, many of them did not find the question to be difficult at all. After all, this was just an elementary math problem!

People from everywhere started popping up!

With the momentum from the previous wondrous math problem—and the addition of gimmickry, goading, as well as prizes as encouragement—, many Weibo users had already arrived at this post of Zhang Ye's in no time. Everyone wanted to see what kind of an elementary math problem Zhang Ye would pose to them, and if it was really going to another wondrous question. Surely it couldn't be more baffling and trickier than that earlier question, right?

1000 people...

5000 people...

10,000 people...

More than ten thousand netizens had arrived to join in the fun here. Before the questions were even given, the post had already been forwarded 3000 times. The scene was very grand as everyone went crazy, wanting to give the questions a try for themselves! No one believed that they could not do it!

Chapter 624 Question after question, the math questions that made everyone vomit blood!

The were countless people waiting.

“Where are the questions?”

“Teacher Zhang, hurry up!”

“We’re all waiting for them!”

“I’m going to get Zhang Ye’s calligraphy for sure!”

“Haha, if all of us answer correctly, then with tens of thousands of us winning the calligraphy prize, Teacher Zhang might not be able to complete them even after his 30th birthday!”

“Hehehe, we can finally get something out of Zhang Ye!”

“Yeah, he has always been the one winning against others. Looks like the tables have finally turned. He will lose this for sure. The wisdom of the crowd is infinite. Everyone, let’s work together to finish off Teacher Zhang!”

“Let’s shake hands.”

“Let’s build an alliance!”

“Right, if one of us cannot win against him, then let’s stand together to deal with Teacher Zhang. Even if Teacher Zhang has superhuman powers, he can’t compete with the essence of everyone’s wisdom combined together. Besides, he has already stated that it will be a second or third grade type of math question, so this time, we must show Zhang Ye how good we are!”

“Agreed!”

“Seconded!”

“Let’s get ready, everyone!”

“We even have a Peking University Math Department teacher taking part, hahahaha. That means he’s Zhang Ye’s colleague, a fellow math teacher from the country’s best education institution. Zhang Ye must not have expected a fellow colleague would join in the fun, otherwise, how would he dare to boast and even put up prizes for the correct answer. Come on, let’s all follow the Peking University math teacher’s answer! Since the answers are all publicly shown and Zhang Ye’s rules don’t forbid copying either, shouldn’t it be alright?”

“Right, there’s also support from the Peking University students. These students are all the most straight-A students among the straight-A students. I don’t believe that, with so many of us, we can’t crack some elementary math questions!”

Everyone felt confident. Along with Zhang Ye’s teasing antics earlier to fan up interest, everyone was stoked and took up the challenge. If they could make Zhang Ye—who had an unblemished record in online battles—taste defeat this time, everyone would surely be delighted to see it. Even Zhang Ye’s hardcore fans did not mind this outcome. You could even say they couldn’t wish more for this outcome as they were the ones who were shouting and belittling Zhang Ye more than anyone else. Faced with

such a scene, many people were overwhelmed. They wondered just how damn unlikeable Teacher Zhang could get!

However, Zhang Ye kept his calm and was tickled by all that was happening. He understood that this was actually how an entertainment star should be. Being belittled like this by the fans and people was actually not a reflection of them disliking you. Just like what was happening here right now, it meant that everyone actually really liked Zhang Ye.

It was time for the question!

Watched by tens of thousands of pairs of eyes, the first question was released!

The first problem of Zhang Ye's Classroom: Little Zhang is the owner of a shoe shop. A pair of shoes cost ¥20 to buy and sell for ¥30. A customer pays with a ¥50 bill, but as Little Zhang did not have any spare change, he takes the ¥50 to a neighboring shop to change for five ¥10 notes. Finally, he gives ¥20 of change to the customer. Later, when the neighboring shop discovers that the ¥50 note is counterfeit, Little Zhang has no choice but to pay them ¥50. All in all, how much money did Little Zhang lose?

"It's just this question?"

"It looks pretty simple!"

"Haha, come on, this looks like a very normal question."

Many people had posted their comments immediately when they saw this question. After doing some calculations, they also posted their answers onto Weibo and felt that they had answered it correctly. However, after they had posted their answers online, they were in for a shock when they discovered that even in their group, people had different answers to the question!

Some answered 20 RMB.

Some said it was 30 RMB.

There were also those who answered with 50 RMB.

They all nearly got into an argument over this.

"It's obviously 20 RMB!"

"No, it has to be 50 RMB, do you all know how to math at all?"

"It definitely has to be 30 RMB, if it's not, I'll run into a wall!"

"It's 60!"

The first question had already stumped most of the people who participated. Only then did these people realize how that was not some damned normal question at all. There was surely some trick to it somewhere, otherwise, why would they all arrive at different answers?

However, what left them truly shocked were the next set of questions!

After reading the next few questions, everyone suddenly felt that the first question was indeed just a very normal and typical elementary math question!

.....

The second problem was next.

From 1 to 10, these numbers have been divided into four groups:

1, 3, 7, 8;

10;

5, 9;

2, 4, 6.

Please explain the pattern that was used to separate them into their groups.

“Ah?”

“What is this?”

“Pattern? How is there any pattern in that ass fart of a sequence!”

“Permutations and combinations? It isn’t that either! Besides, this topic shouldn’t be covered in the syllabus for elementary school math, right? Aren’t these numbers just randomly arranged? There’s no pattern at all!”

“Your sister, what kind of questions are these!”

“I’m going crazy!”

The netizens began to be stunned by what they were looking at.

.....

Followed by the third problem.

7111=0. 8809=6. 2172=0. 6666=4. 1111=0. 2222=0. 0000=4. 5555=0. 8193=3. 8096=5. 4398=3. 9475=1.
9038=4. 3148=2.

Derive the following:

2889=?

“Holy f**k!”

“I’m gonna faint!”

“2889?”

“Is this an addition-subtraction equation? Using the above established answers to do addition and subtraction!”

“Let me check which two figures when subtracted would give 2889.”

“That’s not right, there’s no way to do add or subtract with those numbers to get 2889 at all!”

“Ahhhhhhhh!”

.....

Question 4:

This was a picture-based problem.

In the first row: The images below are aliens—followed by four pictures of organisms

In the second row: The images below are not aliens—followed by four pictures of organisms

The question came at the third row where five pictures of organisms were shown: Please circle which of the following are aliens.

“...”

“None of these pictures are the same!”

“How can we deduce anything like that?”

“In my opinion, these are all f**king aliens!”

Finally, Zhang Ye said: “Alright, it’s just these four questions for now, so everyone please give them a try. There are still 40 minutes left. If you can answer all of them correctly, there will be a prize. There are no rules; you may copy other peoples’ answers too. Just collate all of the answers and comment with a Weibo account and that is enough. Finally, I would like to assure everyone that these are really just elementary math problems for primary school students. I won’t set a question for everyone if it exceeds the level of fifth grade students.”

When everyone saw this, they went even crazier!

“I’m so shocked that I have pissed my pants!”

“Heavens! Is the world of a primary school student really so terrible and scary??”

“Primary school students! You guys win! I kneel to you!”

“Kneeling as well!”

“I’ve knelt!”

“Firmly kneeling down!”

“I’ll no longer look down on primary school students!”

Those Weibo users who were still confidently trying to show Zhang Ye earlier what they could do were now all either dumbfounded or vomiting blood!

Only at this moment did they realize just how much of a bastard Zhang Ye could be. How wondrous and terrifying could Zhang Ye's math problems get? They were basically more wondrous and more terrifying than the most wondrous and most terrifying math questions!!

"No way, I need to give this some thought!"

"There has to be a way to answer these. Let's put our heads together, everyone!"

"Who has the magical being known as a 'primary school student' in their homes? Quickly bring them out to help solve these questions!"

"Right, find a primary school student!"

"Pfft, you guys are too cute!"

"I give up! I've already fried my brains thinking!"

"I've finally realized that we're not going to be able to enjoy ourselves seeing Zhang Ye lose. This person is a f**king psycho! He's a psycho and so are his questions!"

"+10,000!"

"Zhang Ye, you cheat!"

"I've totally never seen such wondrous questions before!"

Chapter 625 The Peking University math teacher also genuflects!

[collapse]

Evening, 8 PM.

Chenchen put down her pencil and held her workbook, then said, "Zhang Ye, I've finished my homework. I want to watch TV."

Zhang Ye, who had been browsing Weibo all this while with a smile on his face, looked over when he heard her voice. He said, "Did you really finish your homework? Alright then, go and watch for a while."

Chenchen grabbed the remote control and then went to turn on the television and sat down on the sofa. She switched channels until she found the channel airing a recent, popular local cartoon and sat there watching expressionlessly. This cartoon was not about some big bad wolf or little white bunny type of child-oriented cartoon. It was one that was targeted more at male teenagers and even men in their twenties. Because the premise of the cartoon was about wuxia, there were fighting and romance spun into it. So even for someone at Zhang Ye's age, if he wasn't too picky about it, he could watch it if he wanted to give it a try.

"Zhang Ye."

"What now?"

"The new episode has finished airing."

"Then that's all you get to watch today."

“I want to watch it from the start. Help me to do that.”

“Do it yourself.”

“I don’t know how, Zhang Ye. Do it for me.”

Zhang Ye could not take the nagging and forced himself to get out of bed to take the remote control to play back the episode from the beginning. Task completed.

Chenchen started watching her cartoon and did not bother Zhang Ye anymore.

Zhang Ye was happy and continued to nonchalantly interact with the netizens on Weibo. In a short period of time, those questions of his had also gone viral like the wondrous math problem from the afternoon. More and more Weibo users had gathered wave after wave to try the question, not believing that they could not solve it, vowing that they had to do so to differentiate their IQs from the primary school students.

“I’m here!”

“How many more minutes are there?”

“There’s still about five minutes left, hurry up!”

“I’ve solved one of the questions, but I don’t know if it’s the right answer.”

“Hurry, hurry, hurry, we’re almost out of time! Everyone, don’t give up, let’s draw on the wisdom of the masses and try together. If not, we can just copy that Peking University math teacher’s answer, but we must not let Zhang Ye have the last laugh!”

“Agreed!”

“Brothers and sisters, let’s attack!”

“Slay Teacher Zhang!”

Zhang Ye thought that this was really fun, and on top of that, his objectives were also met. He had started “Zhang Ye’s Classroom,” first, due to everyone’s request. Second, for fun. Third, it was because Zhang Ye noticed the situation was just right, so he used this chance to increase his popularity as well. He took every opportunity he saw that could help him increase his popularity as a celebrity. After all you could never have enough and there was really no need to nitpick on how to get more.

He had already risen up to B-list celebrity now, but to put it plainly, he was just the last place celebrity in the B-list rankings, the weakest one of all. Together with the person chasing him, Central TV’s Spring Festival Gala host Chen Ye—who was in the top spot of the C-list ranking, still eyeing to get his position back with a lot of news and updates—, it showed that he was not letting Zhang Ye have it easy. And so, Zhang Ye’s online math class this time would definitely play an important role in helping him pull away from Chen Ye in the popularity rankings. He had to firmly grab hold of his position in the B-list celebrity rankings.

In this world, the Celebrity Rankings Index was an aggregation of data from many outlets, like the search rankings of a celebrity on various websites, number of Weibo followers, number of screen appearances,

comments, and reviews of works, etc. Combining all those data, a popularity score would be derived and thus rank the celebrities accordingly. Whether it was really an objective way of collecting data, Zhang Ye did not know, but he knew that the people of this world all depended and watched this Celebrity Rankings Index very closely and recognized it as the authoritative aggregator. As for why each tier of celebrity rankings had limited spots in them, Zhang Ye had already read up on the explanation given by the official website which said that people follow a limited number of public figures, as each person's attention span was limited. For example, Xiaoming might like 20 celebrities, and to him, they all had a different ranking, some higher, others lower, some that he liked more than the others and also some that he would soon forget about. This was what was meant by a person's attention span was limited. So when he suddenly notices and likes a new celebrity, then the celebrity that was ranked last in his mind would probably be forgotten. Unless there were some new works or news about them, Xiaoming was unlikely to ever pay attention to them anymore.

The people's attention span was limited, there was only so much of the pie that celebrities could get.

—This was the official reason why the spots in the Celebrity Rankings Index were limited.

Of course, if the market expanded in the future, be it due to rural urbanization, a rise in living standards, or increased spiritual fulfillment of people—leading to an increase of people who used to be unconcerned with celebrities from the entertainment circle becoming concerned—then the pie would become bigger as well. When that happened, the authorities would also take it into consideration and update the design of the Celebrity Rankings Index. They would likely increase the number of spots available in each tier accordingly. However, such occurrences were rare, not even likely to happen once in two years, so it was pointless to depend on such events. Rather, it was safe to depend on yourself. Zhang Ye understood very clearly his plan and knew that it was a priority for him to stabilize his popularity score at this moment. As long as he could do that, then he could consider his next step to chase after the other big shots in the B-list. Otherwise, all that he had done so far would be for naught. But looking at the current situation, it seemed that the effects were far-reaching and had even over-fulfilled his objective.

It was time, the deadline was over.

It was time to announce the answers.

Zhang Ye posted on Weibo: "OK, question time is over. Those who have not submitted their answers yet, you have one more minute to do so."

"It's already been an hour?"

"Ah!"

"Wait, wait, wait!"

"I'm almost done!"

"Just wait for a while more! Let me do a few more calculations!"

Zhang Ye's colleague—the Peking University math teacher—also submitted his answer at the last moment. Suddenly, countless netizens went to look and copy his answers and used it as their own.

When Zhang Ye saw this, he dismissed it with a laugh. Then he began to give out the answers to the question one by one. Of course, he had to also include the explanation and solving process, as all these questions he had set were very tricky. If he did not do that and just gave an answer, the people who could not understand would not know why it would be the correct answer. They would not take it just like that, so Zhang Ye would have to help them to the end by giving the answer along with explanation.

The first question...

The second question...

The third question...

One by one the answers were revealed!

After everyone saw them, they fell over like ninepins!

“Pfft!”

“Oh god!”

“So that’s how it is!”

“It really turned out to be elementary math problems?”

“The question that needed us to count the closed loops has left me kneeling!”

“Damn, how could this question turn out to be so simple? I even f**king thought it has to do with permutations and combinations! What a rip-off! Teacher Zhang, you’re really too much of a rip-off!”

“...”

“I finally understand why Teacher Zhang has made so many enemies! Teacher Zhang, if you keep scamming people this way, you won’t be left with any friends soon! I’m gonna cry!”

“F**k! All the questions are such scams! They’re all so deceptive!”

When they saw the questions an hour ago, they were already cursing at their mothers, but when they saw the answers now and realized it was so simple, they felt even more aggrieved. They started throwing a tantrum as one by one everyone started cursing at Zhang Ye hoping that he would get constipation or step on a banana peel and slip! How on earth did he come up with so many extremely wondrous questions!?

“Who got them right?”

“Let’s see who got them right.”

“I got them wrong.”

“I got them wrong too.”

“The questions are really not difficult, but it was really too tricky!”

Many of those who had copied the Peking University math teacher's answer had realized now that he had also gotten one of his answers wrong. It was the answer for the second question that asked to explain the pattern that the numbers were separated by.

1, 3, 7, 8—1st tone.

10—2nd tone.

5, 9—3rd tone.

2, 4, 6—4th tone.

This was a question that combined the testing of language and math!

The netizens were utterly defeated.

“Even a Peking University math teacher could not get them all right?”

“We were totally defeated with no survivors?”

“It really seems like no one got them all right at all!”

“We were really wiped out? Oh my god!”

Those Peking University Math Department scholars were also downed. None of them got all four questions correct. The most they had were three questions correct.

Yao Jiancai said: “I think it's better that I just go to bed. When the answers were released, I realized that I could not even understand what two of the questions were asking when faced with the answers!”

Peking University's Su Na: “I didn't even get one...”

Big Saber Bro was the same. Fan Yingyun had only gotten one question correct. Zhang Ye knew about Big Saber Bro's math standard. As a world-renowned hacker and someone who was proficient in programming and code cracking, her math standards shouldn't be bad at all. With things like 010101, they often deal with binary, however having a good standard in math did not mean that they would be good at math problems. When it came to answering math questions, what was most important was the way they interpreted the question.

This was an outcome that Zhang Ye had predicted. The first question had already filtered out 90% of the people who took part, the second question continued to attack them, while those who could do the third question were already considered non-existent. Back in Zhang Ye's previous world, when people saw these questions, they would be able to answer them almost immediately. But that was because most of those people had already seen the answers before, or had encountered the questions before, so they knew the trick to answering them. As such, a small group of people could solve the questions. However, it was different in this world. Everyone's learning and mindset of testing over here were all considerably more traditional and rigid. They had never encountered such questions before, so they did not have the fundamentals or flexibility of thought to deal with them. Being wholly wiped out this way was not an unexpected outcome at all.

The people were utterly defeated!

Zhang Ye took home a flawless victory.

The Peking University math teacher stood forward to humbly say: “When I saw these questions, together with this afternoon’s question, I suddenly broke out in a cold sweat and couldn’t help but think about something. It’s lucky that the primary school test, secondary school exams, or even the national college entrance exams did not have Professor Zhang Ye taking part in the setting of papers. If that were the case, then without a doubt, it would be a total nightmare for those test and exam candidates!”

“That’s right!”

“Damn, I’m taking my national college entrance exam this year, please don’t scare me like that!”

“Surely that won’t happen, right? Please don’t ever look for Zhang Ye to set the exam papers! If this person set a paper, then the straight-A students from Peking University and Tsinghua University might not get more than 20 points. They might even end up with 0!”

The netizens were also shocked by this. Many of them were students. If someday they faced such questions in their exams, then it would really be unimaginable. And besides, not to forget that Zhang Ye had only posed these elementary math problems, if he really set a few junior high, high school, or university level questions, then wouldn’t that make everyone unable to do anything? Who would dare thump their chests and say for sure that they could answer Zhang Ye’s questions?

No one would dare do that!

Look at how the Peking University math teacher was left genuflecting in the face of these questions!

On Weibo, an authoritative person in the field of education was also attracted by these elementary math problems. He appeared and said: “After the answers to these questions were revealed, it showed that they were really not difficult at all in the first place, but the people who could really answer them correctly were just too few and far between! Zhang Ye’s brain is truly a treasure of the mathematics world. These exciting and wondrous questions have also taught the education world something today. I have a feeling that in future exams and tests, we might be headed towards this new direction of development. In the past, our tests and exams were too corrupt and obsoletely structured. They’re no longer able to keep up with the times. But Zhang Ye has now shown us a new direction that we could head towards!”

Chapter 626 Playing the Lottery Draw again!

A few professionals and industry insiders had very high praises as well.

These few math problems were widely discussed among the netizens.

A few forums even stickied a post that included Zhang Ye’s elementary math problems onto their front page, letting forum participants who did not know about the Weibo “class” that Zhang Ye had held earlier to try it out for themselves as well. All of them also fell for the trap of the questions and were complaining in frustration, sending mentions to @ZhangYe and denouncing him for the nth time today!

“I’m so angry right now that I could cry!”

“These problems are really too frustrating!”

“It’s not the questions that are frustrating, it is Teacher Zhang!”

“Teacher Zhang, show yourself. We promise that we won’t beat you to death!”

“You can’t cheat us like this!”

Zhang Ye had enraged the masses, and his crimes were too numerous to mention.

However, when Zhang Ye saw this, he was already laughing and getting off Weibo. It was time to go. He looked at his watch and saw that it was already 9:50 PM. Having had some fun with the netizens, he did not know that it was already this late, so he turned back and had a look at Chenchen, only to see her sitting on the sofa and still watching the cartoon, not blinking at all.

“Switch it off, now,” Zhang Ye got out of bed and said.

Chenchen did not move but just said, “Let me watch a little more.”

Zhang Ye said with a straight face, “We already agreed that you’d go to bed at 10 PM. Don’t think that just because your aunt is not around, no one will make sure of that. Quickly, go wash your face and then go to bed.”

Chenchen continued staring at the television screen and said, “OK.”

Zhang Ye simply turned off the TV and then carried her, saying, “Let’s go.”

Chenchen’s little face showed her unhappiness.

Zhang Ye carried her and walked casually to the bathroom. Chenchen was too short, so Zhang Ye turned on the tap for warm water for her to wash her face and got a new toothbrush and put on some toothpaste for her to brush her teeth. He told her, “There, brush your teeth. Heh, look at me, do you think I have it easy taking care of you? When your aunt gets back, I’m going to make sure she gives me a year of rental for free.”

Chenchen, who was brushing her teeth, gave a faint ‘hur hur’ to that.

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes and said, “Do you want to go back to your aunt’s place to sleep or do you want to sleep here?”

Chenchen spat out the toothpaste and said, “Sleep here.”

“Alright then, I’ll let you have the bed temporarily while I’ll sleep on the sofa.” Zhang Ye was still very considerate like an adult should be and did not make Chenchen sleep on the sofa.

When she was done washing up, Zhang Ye also washed his own face. When he came out, Chenchen had already crept into bed, pulling the blanket over herself with both hands and lying down, looking rather cute while doing that.

“Do you feel comfortable with that pillow?”

“Yes.”

“Is it cold?”

“Not cold.”

“OK, go the sleep then, good night.”

“—OK.”

Zhang Ye conveniently turned off the lights and only left a desk lamp on since he was not intending to rest so early anyway. In recent days, as he did not have any work, the time he went to sleep was also getting later and later, so he was still feeling quite awake at the moment as he lay on the sofa.

What should he do?

Without landing a job first, it felt quite meaningless to do anything else!

What Zhang Ye needed urgently right now was a stable television program that could let him shine on stage. His initial goal of turning into a B-list celebrity this year had already been achieved before the middle of the year, so needless to say, his next goal was definitely to aim for the A-list rankings. To this end, he definitely needed a stable program that could let him achieve a large increase in popularity. However, a good job would be great to have but unable to be sought. Zhang Ye knew that this was not a matter that could be rushed; all he could do was increase his capability to compete and raise his level. When that happened, even if his potential employer felt that his character had shortcomings, his flaws would not belittle his potential.

For example, Zhang Ye’s recent hard work was all for that moment. Filming a movie, selling a program, throwing out wondrous math problems and rising into the B-list rankings—all of these made him feel that a job wasn’t that far away anymore and a lot of television stations were probably already assessing and measuring his worth. It’s not that he was blindly confident about himself. In fact he was being very objective in his own assessment, knowing that a B-list professional host like him with a large and stable fan base would surely move a lot of television stations. You should know that in the current industry the number of hosts able to reach the level of a B-list celebrity were readily countable with the fingers of both hands, probably numbering at around eight or nine only. Anyone in this group of hosts could easily be considered in the class of being pillars for their employers.

Well, it was time for a lottery draw then.

He was going to try his luck and also do it in preparation for his new job.

As no one but him could see the game ring’s virtual screen, he wasn’t afraid that Chenchen would discover it, so he brought it up directly there to check how many reputation points he had available to use.

—31 million reputation points.

Just some days ago when he was trying to look for some work, Zhang Ye had activated his upgraded Lucky Halo and spent all of his reputation points, so these 31 million points were all gained after that. Come to think of it, his reputation points had gone up really quickly. As Zhang Ye was not the host for Do You Remember and also did not make an appearance on that show, the reputation points he would gain from it were definitely quite limited. Most of these 31 million reputation points were probably gained from the movie Grandmasters. As a supporting cast member and taking on the antagonist role, Zhang Ye felt quite satisfied that he was able to gain so many reputation points from the job. If he ever took on a

lead role some day in a movie that could surpass 300 million in box office earnings, wouldn't he be able to gain a crazy amount of reputation points??

Hai, I guess there's no point in thinking that far. Just concentrate on what's in front of my eyes.

Zhang Ye knew that he should not bite off more than he could chew. Whatever was in the future, he could talk about that later. What mattered most was what was before him.

Come on!

He opened up the Lottery Draw (Two) interface.

This was the lottery draw that was unlocked after the system update, with each attempt at the slot machine costing 10 million reputation points. Zhang Ye did not hesitate at all here and just went ahead to purchase a pull.

It began!

The icons on the slot machine window spun at a very fast speed!

Stats Category...

Empty...

Empty...

Consumption Category...

Empty...

Skills Category...

The icons kept changing as it rolled by in a dazzling blur!

In the past, it was possible to predict the where the needle would land as the needle spin was coming to a stop in Lottery Draw (One). But Lottery Draw (Two) was not the same, as it employed the sliding icon movement encased in a window and was much more precise, thus not allowing the player to predict where it would land. As he saw that the slot machine was slowing down, Zhang Ye did not blink at all and just kept staring hard for the outcome.

Ba da.

Ba da.

The icons slid past one at a time.

Suddenly, one of the icons looked as though it still had some momentum and was about to continue sliding downwards, but without a warning, it seemingly lost all that energy. With a da, it came to a stop!

Zhang Ye's eyes went blank!

The final icon indicated was: Empty!

The 10 million reputation points were flushed down the drain! He did not receive any prizes!

Zhang Ye felt a great pain and clenched his teeth disgruntled. He ran to the bathroom to wash his hands and then came back immediately to spend another 10 million to play the Lottery Draw (Two) again!

Again!

I won't believe this!

The slot machine began rolling again, spinning as the icons slid down very quickly, looking like a blur at first, before slowing down after a while.

Ba da—Consumption Category.

Ba da—Special Category.

Zhang Ye was calling out repeatedly in his mind, asking for it to stop right there!

Ultimately, the slot machine did not follow his will as it went ba da again and slid down once more and stopped!

Empty!

It was "empty" again!

Zhang Ye's face turned green. F**k, what's with this bro's luck today? It was 20 million! And he had just thrown it out like that? Without getting anything in return? He hated this to the core and was already cursing the Lottery Draw (Two) all the way to its 18 generations of ancestors! What a scam! A big fat scam! The update system's new Lottery Draw (Two) was different from Lottery Draw (One). For Lottery Draw (One), although there were chances that he would receive empty treasure chests, but in the one year of playing Lottery Draw (One), he had only received those treasure chests once or twice. However, for Lottery Draw (Two), it could be seen just from the previous draws that the "empty" icon would appear once after every consumption and stats category icons. There were even some cases where two "empty" icons appeared twice in a row. Based on what was observed, the chances of getting an "empty" reward was really too large. Just like today, with his luck, he had done everything in vain. A good 20 million worth of reputation points were gone just like that!

In the past, whenever Zhang Ye played the lottery draw, even though there were cases when he had failed to get anything, overall, his luck was still on the better side. For example, he had gotten the rarer Special Category items which allowed him to purchase items from the merchant shop quite a few times. The chances of landing on the Special Category was only a few percentage points. On top of that, even though he had not received any good prizes at the beginning, it would usually end up with him getting something that wasn't too bad. But today, Zhang Ye had finally made a huge loss, as luck did not seem to be with him at all.

It was time to stop! This experience left him with too much apprehension!

Zhang Ye clicked on the screen and went to Lottery Draw (One)'s menu instead. Although the prizes here were not as good as Lottery Draw (Two)'s items and were miles apart in quality, Lottery Draw (One) was much safer. The chances of not getting a prize was very low, so he could still get something from here and not just waste his reputation points. In times of poor luck, Zhang Ye did not hesitate and chose the lower grade Lottery Draw instead!

It cost 100,000 per play.

Soon, the needle on the wheel started spinning!

One round...

Five rounds...

Ten rounds...

It started slowing down and the likely outcome was also getting clearer.

When Zhang Ye saw the needle was slowing down at the Stats Category which was quite a large area, he considered for a moment, thinking about how he had hardly ever increased stakes for this category of prizes. His reputation points were mainly spent on the Skills Category of prizes and he had neglected the Stats Category all this while. Wanting to balance out his stats with the previous items like the Fruit of Charm or Fruit of Growth which weren't bad items, he decided and immediately put in the additional stakes!

How much should he add?

Why not a hundred stakes!

He confirmed his additional stakes and spent another 10 million reputation points!

Finally, the needle continued spinning at a very slow pace and eventually stopped in the Stats Category area. A rush of 101 Treasure Chests (Small) spilled out from the interface for him!

Zhang Ye was not too interested to know what he had received as he felt that anything would be good enough for him, as long as it wasn't empty!

Open!

Opening up the treasure chest, a glow emitted out from within!

[Fruit of Agility] x 101: Takes effect after consumption, increases agility of user.

It was this again?

The Fruit of Agility again?

Zhang Ye remembered that he had received this item previously just before he had decided to do the system upgrade. He had gotten 20 of it at that time, so if he "ate" the ones he got today, he would have increased his agility by 121 fruits? This item was not exactly useless, but it didn't seem to mean much either?

Zhang Ye's nearly cried. How terrible! Today's lottery draws were all really terrible, but what could he do about it? It's not like he could ask for a refund after playing it, so he just held back his tears and "ate" all of the Fruits of Agility one by one. He had tested this item before after eating it the last time. To be clear, this item did not really increase agility in the traditional sense of the word, but mainly increased a person's reaction speed instead. As it turned out, after eating these 101 Fruits of Agility, Zhang Ye moved his arm and felt that he was much more agile than before. His movements seemed lighter as his

body completed a move almost immediately after the brain had issued the command. Compared to a normal person, he was really much quicker, though the increase in speed was so minute that it wouldn't be noticeable to the naked eye.

Hai, forget it.

Every little thing mattered. Besides, who knew if this agility would help him some time in the future. Based on his experience and real world situations, every time after he had received an item in the lottery draw, no matter how trashy an item it was, it would always turn out to be helpful and practical for him. It was only a matter of knowing when to use it or whether it was used in the right situation or not.

Zhang Ye consoled himself and ended the lottery draw. Right now, he was only left with a miserable 1 million reputation points, so he decided he would probably keep it just in case of an emergency.

Chapter 627 The olive branch held out by Central TV!

[collapse]

It was pretty late.

On a moonless night.

Bored, Zhang Ye was busily clicking the mouse as he read the news online. He was feeling a bit unusual because he had eaten a hundred-plus Fruit of Agility. In the past, he was used to his old body's natural reaction speed but now his reflexes had increased by manyfold. In the split second after his brain gave orders, his body made the movements. The results were such that when Zhang Ye was probably just thinking of moving the mouse cursor, his hand already moved. He was still not used to the speed as it was much too fast and caught him off guard.

Around him, Zhang Ye felt that there were a few people who could reach this kind of fast reaction speed. For example, Big Saber Bro, Fan Yingyun, the world-class hacker. Zhang Ye had witnessed Big Saber Bro's reflexes before during the battle between her and the enemy hacker, so she could also likely achieve such fast reaction speeds. And then there was Rao Aimin, the Chinese martial arts expert. She could probably do it too. However, this was only Zhang Ye's assumption since he had not really seen Rao Aimin using her actual martial arts. Normally, Old Rao only caused a small ruckus and did not really reveal her true ability in front of outsiders. That was why Zhang Ye did not know what Old Rao's true abilities were, so he could only make a guess.

No matter what, the reaction speed of the two of them definitely surpassed many average people but they were used to their reaction speeds as they were naturally gifted or probably trained bit by bit in later days. But Zhang Ye was not like that. The agility skill that he learned in the blink of an eye needed some time to be digested.

There was movement on the bed.

"Zhang Ye." Chenchen suddenly sat up sleepily.

Zhang Ye looked over and said, "What's the matter why aren't you asleep yet?" After he finished speaking, he was a little stunned as even though he spoke like he usually did, his reaction speed had

increased multiple times. His speech also became faster just like his movements. He only used less than a second, or the blink of an eye, to finish his sentence. It was so fast that even he could not clearly hear what he had just said.

How inconvenient!

His mouth was moving way too fast!

His thoughts almost could not keep up with his mouth!

Zhang Ye tried very hard to slow down his speech. "What's the matter? What are you calling me for?"

Chenchen said as she fought her droopy eyelids, "Zhang Ye, go to sleep."

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "I'm not tired or in a rush to sleep yet. Let me read some more news for now."

Chenchen repeated, "Zhang Ye, go to sleep."

Zhang Ye said, "Just go to sleep. I didn't switch on any sound so it won't disturb you at all. Hurry up and go to sleep. You still have to go to school tomorrow!" Gradually, his talking speed increased again. Zhang Ye felt helpless at this and purposely tried to slow it down a bit. "Don't bother me. I'll sleep after midnight."

A moment later, Chenchen went back to bed and fell asleep again.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye continued to read the news and think about his own matters. After a while, as he was thinking hard about his career plans from here, he suddenly noticed a small figure walking wobbly toward him.

It was Chenchen.

Zhang Ye was surprised.

Zhang Ye saw Chenchen holding his down-filled pillow walking clumsily to the front of his computer desk. Her eyes were almost closed and she looked very drowsy. After that, she pulled a small chair over and climbed onto it to sit down. Then she placed the pillow just beside the laptop and fell asleep after putting her head down.

Zhang Ye was speechless, "What are you doing?"

Sleep-talking Chenchen let out a mutter.

"Heh, you should go and sleep on the bed." Zhang Ye said, "I've given you such a nice bed to sleep on but you still want to come here and lie on the desk? Get up, get up, don't sleep like that. When tomorrow comes, you'll suffer from back pains due to stiff neck." Saying that, he gave Chenchen a few nudges to wake her.

Chenchen sat up holding her pillow.

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "Take it that I succumb to you. Alright, alright, will it be fine if I turn off the computer? I'll also sleep now." He stretched out his hands and carried Chenchen over to the bed, then covered her with a blanket and said, "Go to sleep now."

He grabbed some blankets and coverlets, went to the sofa, and lay down on it.

Five minutes passed.

10 minutes.

Just as Zhang Ye was falling asleep, he felt the cushion beneath his legs moving and he sat up in shock. Then he realized Chenchen who was hugging the pillow had moved slowly towards him again. Zhang Ye had already occupied the whole length of the sofa as it was not big enough, and he could not even straighten his legs. Chenchen sat on the armrest of the sofa, and laid down while hugging the pillow with her back on the armrest. Her little head was like an eggplant dangling off the plant, and looked like it would fall off at any moment.

Zhang Ye was totally defeated by this sight, "What are you trying to do?"

Chenchen did not say anything as she was extremely sleepy.

"Didn't I already switch off the computer?" Zhang Ye said, "Why are you squeezing in when there is hardly any space left? If you're not going to sleep in the bed, then I'll take it."

Chenchen was still motionless.

Zhang Ye glanced at her, coming to a realization, and said, "Do you need someone beside you so that you can fall asleep?" Although the little kid did not reply Zhang Ye knew what to do. Heh, she should have said so. And here he was wondering why she kept asking him to go to bed or coming towards him, making Zhang Ye not know how to react. Previously, when Chenchen lived with her aunt, Old Rao would sleep with Chenchen on the same bed. Now that her aunt went out of town, she was unused to having no one beside her. After all, she was still only an eight-year-old child.

Zhang Ye carried her again and said, "Come, let's sleep on the bed. This time you should sleep properly and not wander around anymore." Walking towards the bedside, he pulled aside the blanket and covered Chenchen with it. Then Zhang Ye took off his slippers and laid down as well. He then muttered to himself, "Heh, the bed is the most comfortable place to sleep."

Chenchen rolled over and said, "Zhang Ye."

Zhang Ye yawned and asked, "What's the matter again?"

Chenchen said sleepily, "Tell me a story."

"Whoa, you acting like a lord now? Your Uncle Zhang is sleepy and almost falling asleep, and yet you still want me to tell a story? Besides, I thought you didn't like my types of stories and even said that they were childish before?" Zhang Ye grunted.

Chenchen said, "Zhang Ye, tell me a story."

Zhang Ye said, "I don't care."

"Zhang Ye."

"Fine, stop calling, what do you want to hear?"

“—anything.”

“I’m scared when people say anything. Let me think a little. Never mind, I’ll tell you a new story.” Zhang Ye patted Chenchen’s small head and then said, “The story is called Cinderella. A long time ago, there was a wife of a rich man. She had a serious illness. During her last moments, she asked for her only daughter to be by her side and told her, ‘Dear daughter, when I die, I will protect and bless you from the Nine Springs.’ Saying that, she closed her eyes and passed away.”

He didn’t know if she was asleep or listening.

Zhang Ye gradually slowed down his storytelling, and then fell asleep at some point in time as well.

.....

The next day.

Early in the morning.

Chenchen’s voice sounded in his ears, “Zhang Ye, wake up, I’m hungry.”

Zhang Ye pulled her away and said, “Don’t disturb me, let me sleep a while longer.”

Chenchen continued to push at him and said, “Zhang Ye, I’m hungry.”

Zhang Ye forced his eyes open and looked at his watch impatiently. Seeing that it was only 6:30 AM, he closed his eyes and covered himself with the blanket immediately and said, “Let me sleep for another ten minutes.”

Chenchen shouted at him in her childish voice, “Zhang Ye!”

Zhang Ye ignored her and continued sleeping soundly.

When he opened his eyes again, it was almost 7 AM. His nose caught a whiff of a fragrant aroma. He could make out that it was composed of two aromas with a quick analysis. It was the fragrance of soup dumplings and something else that smelled like egg drop soup? Yes, that must be it!

Gururu, a sound rumbled from his stomach.

He got up and saw Chenchen standing on a wooden stool, in the process of cooking in the open kitchen. She was stirring something in the pot with a pair of chopsticks and adding what seemed like MSG into it. Zhang Ye got out from bed and exclaimed, “Yo, so it’s really egg drop soup? Did I still have eggs in my house? Good. Not bad, you did well. Oh right, there’s still soup dumplings on the table? Where did you buy them?”

Chenchen said unhappily, “Outside of the district.”

Zhang Ye asked, “Where did you get the money?”

Chenchen said with a sullen face, “I got it from your wallet.”

Zhang Ye hurriedly went forward to help out and said, “Look at that sullen face of yours. Are you angry?”

After turning off the heat, Chenchen took a towel and wiped her hands clean like a small adult. She started to serve the soup, and although her movement was clumsy, there were no spills. After serving her own portion, she ignored Zhang Ye's portion and jumped right off the small wooden stool. She said angrily, "Zhang Ye, you don't have the bearings of an adult at all."

Zhang Ye found an excuse and said, "Isn't it quite nice that we can share the chores like this. Generally, Uncle Zhang will take care of you, but when I'm tired, you will take care of me."

Chenchen shot a glance at him. "Hur Hur."

"Heh, this soup smells nice, let me have a bowl too." Zhang Ye did not stand on ceremony and ladled some soup for himself. Chenchen had previously cooked once before, so Zhang Ye knew that she could cook. Although she was still not good at it and even needed a stool to reach the stove, this little kid's cooking skills were still good enough. At least it was much better than Zhang Ye's, and could be considered that she had inherited Rao Aimin's cooking skills. "Come on, let's eat."

However, Chenchen was already helping herself to all those soup dumplings.

In the blink of an eye, three soup dumplings were already gone.

Zhang Ye anxiously said, "Leave some for me!"

Chenchen ignored him and continued stuffing the food into her mouth, saying, "I bought it."

"That was my money!" Zhang Ye also moved his chopsticks forward to snatch, but when he realized he was going to fail, he even resorted to using his hands to grab the last three soup dumplings.

Chenchen was ready to fight him for them. "Zhang Ye, give them to me!"

"Haha!" Zhang Ye chuckled heartily.

Such a big commotion during breakfast, as both of them nearly end up fighting each other for the food, was still considerably very "fun and enjoyable" on the whole.

After the meal, Zhang Ye was humming a song as he sent Chenchen to school. He parked his car on the road across from the school and said, "Alright, go to school now."

Chenchen opened the car door with a struggle and got out of the car.

Zhang Ye reminded her, "Don't be naughty, listen to the teachers!"

Chenchen turned around and asked, "Will you come to pick me up in the afternoon?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Yes, I'll be coming."

When Chenchen turned around, she saw two of her classmates and followed them. Together they crossed the road and went beyond the school gates. The little one's popularity was also getting better with each passing day.

When Chenchen's figure vanished from his sight, Zhang Ye suddenly had the thought that it was actually quite interesting to have a child at home.

Time to go home then.

It was time to go back home to continue this morning's sleep again.

When he was about to drive off, even before he could step on the accelerator, there was a dong dong dong sound. A middle-aged man was standing outside and knocking on the glass window with a smile.

Zhang Ye lowered the car window and asked, "What's the matter?"

The middle-aged man asked, "Are you Zhang Ye?"

"Yes, I am." Zhang Ye thought he was just someone who wanted his signature.

But it turned out that the middle-aged man had taken out a business card to give to him. He said, "My child is also studying in No. 2 Experimental Primary School but he is in sixth grade. I heard about the matter at school from my child yesterday, and thought that you would be sending yours to school today as well. So I actually waited out here and indeed saw you sending your child to school as I had expected. So, initially I was suppose to give you a call this morning during work, but it's even better that I managed to meet you here instead. That would save us a lot of time in coordinating a meeting together."

Zhang Ye took the business card to have a look.

—Jiang Yuan

Deputy Director, Central TV Department 1.

This person was one of the leaders of Central TV??

Zhang Ye was stunned with surprise as he opened the door and got out of the car. He formally shook hands with him and said, "So it's Deputy Director Jiang."

Jiang Yuan smiled and said, "Then I'll get straight to the point. Central TV Department 1 intends to invite you to join our television station. I wonder if you would be interested in joining us?"

Huh?

Central TV Department 1 inviting me to join them?

The first thought that came to Zhang Ye's mind was one of disbelief!

Chapter 628 Signing the contract with Central TV!

[collapse]

Beside the primary school.

A small coffee house along Nanxinhua Avenue. At this time, the coffee house was not in operation yet as their opening time was a little later in the morning. The staff were doing the accounts inside, but the door was left unlocked.

Jiang Yuan pushed open the door and asked, "Are you open?"

A waitress said, "Sorry, we're not open yet."

Zhang Ye followed from behind and went inside, saying, "We just need to borrow a place to sit and discuss something."

“That won’t do, we’re—” The waitress didn’t finish.

The coffee house owner who was behind her immediately recognized him and said, “Aiyu, isn’t that Zhang Ye! To what do we owe the honor? We’re open, we’re open, please have a seat inside with your friend.”

“OK, thanks so much, boss,” Zhang Ye said with a smile.

The boss answered with a big smile, “Don’t need to thank me. You’ve already graced our little shop with your presence. May we take a picture with you later? So that I can put it up on our wall and have a chance to brag to other people.”

Zhang Ye said happily, “Sure, no problem.”

The coffee was served very quickly.

The coffee house owner said, “I won’t bother the two of you then.”

The boss left. Zhang Ye and Jiang Yuan were seated at a quiet corner in the coffee house.

Jiang Yuan smiled as he drank his coffee and said, “Well, the coffee tastes rather good. If not for you, we wouldn’t have had a chance to have coffee here today.” Then he quickly changed the topic. “So how about it? Are you interested in the matter that I brought up earlier?”

Zhang Ye did not answer directly but instead asked, “Why did you ask me?”

Jiang Yuan also asked, “Why not you?”

Zhang Ye said, “Being invited to join your television station is an honor and of course I would be interested. Who hasn’t heard of Central TV Department 1’s name before? It is the big brother of the domestic television station industry and whether in terms of audience coverage, qualifications, or experience, it is the number one in the country, the mothership of all television stations, so why would I not be interested? But in the past, I created some issues at the crosstalk competition and caused my relationship with Central TV to become quite bad. I don’t suppose there are too many people there who have good impressions of me?”

Back then, Zhang Ye had created a storm at Central TV Department 11 where the crosstalk competition was held and caused a big mess of things. The Central TV staff should understand that matter the most, so why would they invite him to join them this time? Zhang Ye was desperate for a job this time and was hoping that a good television station would look for him to join them, but out of all the satellite channel television stations that he had considered as a possibility, it was the one he didn’t that came to look for him. The thought and idea of it never once crossed his mind as he had already identified it an impossible situation early on. However, no one could predict the unpredictable, and with most matters being so uncertain, the television station that Zhang Ye had not expected to make the move for him turned out to be the one that was offering him the olive branch now!

When Jiang Yuan heard this, he laughed a little and answered, “I’ve heard about the crosstalk competition at Department 11 before, but I’m not too sure of the details as Department 1 is independent of Department 11. We do not share the same team, and even our office locations are different, so we basically do not have any direct contact with them. As a result, how they view you is

totally not of any concern to us at Department 1. That is the first point. Second, the reason we want to invite you to join us is not because of anything other than that you're popular and capable. With those qualities, of course we would like to bring you into our ranks. It's really that simple, though honestly, your promotion into the B-list Celebrity Rankings and the Do You Remember program that you sold to Beijing Television were the key reasons for it. We are confident of your program planning abilities."

Zhang Ye gave a noncommittal nod at that.

Jiang Yuan said to him, "I don't know whether there are other satellite channels in contact with you at the moment, but if there are, then I urge you to seriously consider Central TV. Everyone who can see will know that satellite channels are definitely the best out there, especially on the forefront of variety and entertainment programs. The viewership ratings are all considerably very high, and if you just compare based on these ratings alone, then the ones who lead these statistics are all the satellite channels. But as that is only data on the superficial level. You should know this as an industry insider as well. Even if we do not look at the viewership ratings of those variety programs, if we judged them based on their influence and comprehensive strengths of one channel per television station, then our Central TV Department 1 is clearly the leader in our domestic market. That is without a question."

Zhang Ye did not doubt this. He too knew that it was true.

Central TV Department 1 had a monopoly of the viewership ratings just with News Simulcast alone. Its viewer rating was not something that could simply be described with a zero point rating. When it got a high enough viewership rating, it could even soar into a 10 point rating or more. Even if the viewership ratings of some of the satellite channels' programs were added up together, they still couldn't outperform the ratings of News Simulcast. As all the other satellite channels were required to broadcast News Simulcast as well, the program would be shown with the logo of Central TV Department 1 in the top right corner. From a certain perspective, Central TV Department 1 was just like an unresolved BUG1 living on in the system of all the other satellite channels. It even had ownership over the terrifying program that had the craziest viewership ratings, the Central TV Spring Festival Gala, which could easily hit crazy viewership ratings of over 20-30%!2

And then, Central TV Department 1 also had the most outstanding and one of the top-ranked interview programs in the industry, together with the most excellent team, resources, and the widest area coverage reaching to faraway places in the remote mountains that even Beijing Television or Hunan Television could not cover. As long as there was some sort of television signal, even if there were very few channels or a place with only one television set, the channel that would reach such places could only be Central TV Department 1! This was the effect of an overwhelming and superior policy making from the government, something that all the other satellite channels would never be able to compete on in their lifetimes!

Yes.

Even though Central TV had been going downhill in the past two years as it gradually lost some of the interest of viewers.

But the big brother would always be the big brother, it was something that no one could change, even after a hundred years. Why? There was no why, it was just so because its name was Central TV Department 1!

Jiang Yuan said, "Central TV is the largest platform in the industry and also your best choice. I believe you know that without needing me to explain further. Recently, in the past few years, Central TV Department 1's market share in the area of variety programs has been on a decline. The response to the programs has been tepid, so we would like for you to join us to help us create a program on Central TV that would recover its lost ground from the past few years. The program that you casually created for Beijing Television without much of your handling has already reached a viewership rating between 0.7% and 0.8%. Our team believes that if we give you a bigger platform to showcase your works on, then your new program will be sure to get a better reputation than Do You Remember which is already very well received by the audiences."

When Zhang Ye finished listening to him, he said, "Can I ask about something else? Did you all look for me to only handle the program planning?"

"Of course not." Jiang Yuan gave a wave of his hands at that and continued, "Although we have a lot of talented and elite hosts in Central TV, for example, the Spring Festival Gala hosts, every one of them are considered to be the top in the industry. Some are less popular than you while there are also others who are more well-known than you, but our Central TV hosts are generally more inclined towards galas, news, or interview programs, meaning that their style of hosting is more serious and formal. So if we wanted them to host in a funny and entertaining manner, it would not be done perfect or well at all. The audience's image of them has already been fixed, so not many of them can cross over to this style of hosting. But you're different. You can handle serious programs like Lecture Room or funny programs like Zhang Ye's Talk Show. This is your ability that we identified as what we liked. And you don't have any shortcomings when it comes to the switching of hosting styles either. That's why we not only wish for you to handle planning for a new program, but we would also like you to be the host or a guest celebrity on it."

Zhang Ye was actually already quite moved by the offer.

It wasn't anything that was explainable, but just based on the name of the satellite channel itself. "Central TV Department 1" was basically just too attractive!

Jiang Yuan continued, "Central TV Department 1 will soon have a program slot free for broadcast every Thursday at 9 PM."

"Thursdays?" Zhang Ye repeated the key word.

Jiang Yuan said, "Perhaps Thursday can no longer be considered a primetime slot in the traditional sense, but the Thursday evening variety slot still has a very large market and the audience base is still there."

Zhang Ye understood this. Central TV was just like a large ship with treasures, but that would naturally mean that they would not give a newcomer like Zhang Ye a share of it without seeing his performance. It was unlikely that they would give the Friday and weekend time-slots to him as that would be too much of a risk. However, a Thursday evening slot was still considerably good. After all, this was not some small-time television station but Central TV they were talking about. A Thursday evening slot would still be better than a weekend primetime slot at Beijing Television, so Zhang Ye would surely still be very satisfied with such an offer.

Jiang Yuan looked at him and said, "I believe you can see our sincerity in this offer. If you have any thoughts or requests, you can bring them up too and we can discuss them."

Zhang Ye nodded and said, "I do actually have two requests. The first is: if I join Central TV Department 1, then for this new program, I must be the executive director and have the final say on the operations and production of the entire program."

Jiang Yuan ruminated for a moment then said, "That would be fine, but we would want to have an executive producer from our side. Is that OK?"

"That shouldn't be a problem." Zhang Ye then brought up his second request, saying, "Second, I must be able to retain the copyright for the program that I create, including its name and format."

Jiang Yuan gave him a look and asked, "Why do you want the copyright? If the program's viewer ratings are good, then the program team would get bonus payouts too. We will put that into the contract, so how much are you looking at? Or perhaps we could bundle it together with your salary, that's fine too."

However, Zhang Ye said, "I don't require a bonus payout clause. It's just like a program production company selling their programs to a television station. I'm sure you can understand that I want our deal to be done in this manner too, except that I will be using Central TV's resources and facilities to do the program, which is why I am willing to give this program to your station free of charge and not ask for a copyright fee. We will carry out the other aspects of the program like any other program without any additional differences in the handling, but the copyright must remain in my control. If there is a decision to do a second or third season, or if a foreign television station wants to buy its copyrights, then I will be the one to decide whether to sell or not."

Jiang Yuan was rendered quite speechless by this, so he said, "This is the first time I've heard of such a request."

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "This is always how I've been doing my programs. Since I planned the program, then naturally the copyright would belong to me. This is the most important priority for me, above other things like salary, bonus, whatever. As long as those aren't too little, I'm generally fine with it. Since I retain control of the copyright, I know that I will have to take a step back on the salary."

His programs were all very precious to him, as using one now would mean one less resource for him in the future. Zhang Ye would not accept it if he worked hard on replicating a successful program from his previous world and brought it to this world, and ended up being kicked off from the television station after they had gotten the copyrights to the format and went on to do the next few seasons without him. So he knew that he had to be clear about this from the beginning like he did with his Zhang Ye's Talk Show which worked on a similar contractual agreement. This was the reason why Weiwo Online Television Station did not get another host to continue working on the same show as that was impossible without the copyright. This was a program that only Zhang Ye could use, unless they bought it from him for a sum of money or if Zhang Ye allowed them to use it for free on the basis of friendship and past relationships.

As for Lecture Room, that was an exception since the program was first proposed by the people at BTV-Arts Channel. Zhang Ye had only used their framework and modified it a little, so there was no talk of

any copyright beforehand and neither could he talk about it. That was why BTV-Arts Channel had still continued making Lecture Room even though the show was essentially already a dead one.

Jiang Yuan said, "Please give it some consideration again. Our Central TV Department 1 has never signed this sort of a contract with a host before. It's impossible that the copyright would given to anyone other than the station itself."

Zhang Ye said, "Since I am the program planner, executive director, and host, this program can be considered as fully my work after it is completed, and so, the copyright should rightfully belong to me. Therefore, it's also impossible that I would give the ownership of the copyright to anyone else."

Jiang Yuan frowned and said, "But the production team is made up entirely of our staff, and besides the marketing and broadcasting fees also contribute to a part of the costs..."

"Which is why I am providing the program for free, without charging anything for the production and planning fees," Zhang Ye stated.

On this issue, the two of them had a disagreement. Jiang Yuan wanted to have a one time settlement with Zhang Ye on the program planning fees, but Zhang Ye did not want it except to retain his copyrights for the program.

Then, Jiang Yuan stood up and suggested, "How about this? Let me call my management first, since this is the first time something like this has been brought up. I'm unable to make a decision regarding this by myself."

"Sure." Zhang Ye nodded.

Jiang Yuan walked out of the coffee house.

Five minutes passed.

Ten minutes passed.

Finally, Jiang Yuan returned, sat down, and took a sip of coffee before saying, "The management has agreed, but have some requests too. The copyright can be yours, but any profits and generated benefits that the program makes during its course at Central TV—such as advertising fees, among others—will be retained by Central TV and not paid out to you. Since we will be using our resources, facilities, and funds to promote the show, we will surely need to get some form of compensation. This would include any types of benefits that occur as a result from its run on Central TV."

Zhang Ye considered for a moment and then raised up his head to say, "That will be fine!"

Jiang Yuan also revealed a smile as he stood up, putting his hand out. "So we have a deal then?"

"Yes! It's a deal!" Zhang Ye also put out his and shook his hand.

Jiang Yuan said, "Welcome aboard Central TV Department 1! We'll all be looking forward to your contributions!"

.....

Same day.

Central TV had quickly written up the contract.

This contract could be considered one of the most complicated ones that Central TV Department 1 had with a host before, and also one of the lesser-seen types in the industry. Within, it not only included the terms for a one year duration, planning and production responsibilities, it also included a list of the copyright and restrictions outside of the copyright, etc!

It was not that Zhang Ye wanted to be arrogant.

But it was better to be clear now than having disagreements later.

After all, Zhang Ye had been through quite a lot of troublesome situations in the past, so he felt that it was better to be blunt upfront to prevent unnecessary issues in the future.

After Zhang Ye went through the contract several times to check for any discrepancies, he finally put pen to paper and signed it!

—At the moment of signing, Zhang Ye had now officially joined Central TV Department 1!

Chapter 629 Return of the Jinx!

Later that afternoon.

Zhang Ye was waiting at Nanxinhua Avenue for Chenchen to out of school.

On the internet, a picture of Zhang Ye and Jiang Yuan—taken in the morning at the coffee house where the two of them had their meeting and were seen shaking hands—was leaked. Almost immediately, it caught people’s attention.

Several social media news blogs started to report about it as others picked up the news and reported a constant stream of updates.

“Secret meeting between Central TV Department 1’s Deputy Director and Zhang Ye?”

“Zhang Ye to join Central TV?”

“Shocking! Central TV Department 1’s ruthless move: joining hands with Zhang Ye!”

“Central TV’s ‘big move’. Is Zhang Ye going to join?”

Central TV, being the big brother of all domestic television stations, operated in a way that was traditional in style.

Zhang Ye was an oddity of the entertainment industry whose style did not abide by the rules.

This cooperation between the two who vastly differed in styles, akin to heaven and earth, had obviously left many citizens unable to imagine it, so when the photo and speculation of rumors came out, it immediately caught countless people by surprise.

“It can’t be?”

“They can still work together in that kind of situation?”

“Didn’t Zhang Ye offend Central TV Department 11 in the past? After the recent annual crosstalk competition was wrecked by Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai, I heard that many of the major satellite channels already blacklisted Zhang Ye from the industry and labeled him a ‘trouble-making master.’ He can accomplish many things and exceed expectations but at the same time also create trouble that is too much to handle!”

“Central TV Department 1 is not the same as Department 11.”

“I’m dumbfounded.”

“That can’t be true, right?”

“The picture doesn’t look like it’s been photoshopped!”

“Is Central TV really so gutsy? They dare to use Zhang Ye?”

“I feel it’s very good! Central TV has made an extremely wise move!”

“Likewise, I also think that way. Although Zhang Ye’s reputation isn’t too good within the industry, he is really capable and has real abilities too. Central TV’s variety programs have gradually grown worse beginning more than ten years ago just because they were too old-fashioned and refused to develop with the times like some other satellite channels. They even refused to follow those satellite channels that bought program copyrights from overseas at high prices to refresh the market. That is why they’re getting increasingly out of touch with the market trends and losing their viewers. If Zhang Ye really joins Central TV Department 1, it will surely be a breath of fresh air. And he can bring an outstanding program to them. At the very least, it should be similar to Do You Remember, right? As long as it can get a nationwide viewership ratings of about 1%, or maybe even less than that, maybe around 0.9%, Central TV Department 1 would surely be satisfied. How many variety programs these days can even exceed 1% viewer ratings? The market share is shrinking with all the television stations pitted against each other. The viewership share in the modern context is no longer as glorious as a decade ago.”

“Waiting for Zhang Ye’s joining!”

“I think Teacher Zhang doesn’t have a job currently, right? For him, there’s should be no better choice than Central TV Department 1. There’s no other platform bigger than this!”

“The main issue now is whether this news is real or fake!”

Rumors were flying everywhere, as many people and industry insiders paid close attention to this matter. Zhang Ye was no longer the nameless rookie without any experience. He was now a B-list celebrity and someone who had the ability to affect the pattern of a television station’s viewership ratings. His job movements were surely being looked at closely by countless pairs of eyes now, and even more so now that there was a rumor of him joining Central TV Department 1 where the quality of the hosts was the highest in the industry.

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The alarm bell for the end of classes had still not yet rung.

But Zhang Ye’s cell phone was already ringing in the car.

It was Zhang Ye's old colleague from Beijing Radio Station and the current Central Radio Station's DJ, Tian Bin. He was the first person to call him: "Zhang Ye, what's your current situation?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said: "Old Tian."

Tian Bin exclaimed: "Is the news that's being spread online real? Did Deputy Director Jiang go to look for you?"

As there was nothing to keep under wraps, Zhang Ye acknowledged: "Yeah, he came to find me this morning. I've already signed the contract too, so I'll be starting work formally tomorrow."

Tian Bin said: "So it's true?"

Zhang Ye said: "Yeah."

Tian Bin said: "Whoa, I'll have to congratulate you then."

Zhang Ye replied: "From tomorrow onwards, we will be colleagues again."

Tian Bin said: "Come on, I'm just a host at the radio station. You're the host of Central TV, and even a host at Central TV Department 1. So how can we even be considered colleagues? At most we can say that we work for the same corporation. Heh, seems like you have gotten some good success in this past half a year. You're getting more and more popular. I'm really happy for you."

Zhang Ye gratefully said: "All thanks to you, Old Tian. If not for the fact that we kept getting into arguments at Beijing Radio Station, I'd probably not have resigned yet and still be struggling at the radio station."

Tian Bin laughed: "Don't mention those trivial matters of the past. If we did not get into arguments like we did, we would not have this kind of a relationship now. This is called 'from an exchange of blows friendship grows.'"

Zhang Ye exclaimed and said sarcastically: "It's not considered from an exchange of blows friendship grows because you're the one who's always taking the beating. When did you ever beat me in an argument?"

Hearing those words, Tian Bin nearly vomited blood. He said: "How have I never beat you? I can't pretend that I didn't hear your words. Since you brought it up, we must talk about this thoroughly!"

"Hahaha."

The two of them bantered for a while more before finally hanging up.

After that, his mom called next.

His mother said: "Son, are you joining Central TV Department 1?"

Zhang Ye acknowledged: "I've just signed the contract and was about to inform you and Dad about it."

"Good! Good! Good!" His mother exclaimed consecutively three times. "Like I said, there are surely people who know what's good for them! Look at this, look at this, Central TV Department 1 has even

come looking for my son now! It's the biggest TV channel in the country! Alright, you go and do your own things, I won't disturb you. I'll quickly give your Dad a call to give him something to cheer about!"

The moment that call disconnected, the third call came.

This time it was Yao Jiancai: "You're going to Central TV?"

Zhang Ye said: "You know about it too?"

"I've just heard some news about it, have you signed the contract yet?" Yao Jiancai asked.

Zhang Ye said: "I did."

Yao Jiancai said: "What are the terms?"

Zhang Ye said: "Just the usual conditions but the contract is rather short. It's only for a year."

Yao Jiancai said: "That's already very good. I was wondering why you didn't choose to join Beijing Television. So it turned out that you've already found a better place. Beijing Television really does not compare with Central TV in any way."

Zhang Ye said: "I didn't have an offer before that. It was only today that someone from Central TV approached me. Since I felt that the platform wasn't too bad and they were also willing to give me quite a good extent of authority, I accepted it."

Yao Jiancai said: "The platform isn't too bad? What? It's better than not bad!"

Zhang Ye: "Haha, it's passable."

After hanging up from Old Yao's call, Zhang Ye thought for a while and simply decided to call up some of his close friends to inform them about this. For example, Dong Shanshan, Hu Fei, not to mention Wu Zeqing as well. Now that he had joined Central TV, he was considered to be back in Old Wu's territory as Central TV's direct higher authority was the SARFT. Heh, strictly speaking, as long as Zhang Ye was in the entertainment industry, then he would be under the overseeing authority of SARFT's Deputy Chief, Old Wu. Because the SARFT basically encompassed all areas of the entertainment industry!

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A bunch of phone calls were made and time passed very quickly.

The alarm bells for the end of classes rang out from the school. Shortly after, the main gates of No. 2 Experimental Primary School opened and the children gradually walked out as the parents piled forward to receive their children.

There were too many people and Zhang Ye certainly did not go forward immediately. He only wore his sunglasses and got out from the car, waiting by the side of the road. Suddenly, he saw Chenchen's figure and motioned for her to come over. He opened the door on the other side of the car. When the little kid came over, he lifted her onto the passenger seat, then said, "Fasten your seatbelt."

Chenchen fastened her seat belt.

Zhang Ye walked back to his side of the car and drove away. While driving, he said, "How was your performance today? Did you get criticized by the teachers?"

Chenchen said with a straight face, "No."

"Hmm, then your performance wasn't too bad." It wasn't known what metric Zhang Ye was measuring this by.

Chenchen: "..."

Zhang Ye recalled something and said, "By the way, I'm starting work at Central TV tomorrow. There's no school for you tomorrow, right? Don't you go running around by yourself at home."

Chenchen said nothing.

Zhang Ye looked at her and asked, "Are you going to be fine by yourself?"

Chenchen said, "Cook for me."

"I still have to go to work. Don't you already know how to cook?" Zhang Ye said.

Chenchen said, "My aunt told you to take care of me, so you have to cook for me, Zhang Ye."

Zhang Ye blinked and said, "Why don't I order delivery for you instead? You can open the door when the delivery person comes....That won't do, it's not safe for you as a child. Then I'll get a neighbor to take care of the meals for you? You can go to the house across the way, Sister Sun's place, tomorrow afternoon to eat? It will be fine since she is also renting your aunt's place. If not, I'll get my parents take care of you for a few days?"

Chenchen made a sullen face and said nothing.

Zhang Ye knew this little kid was getting angry at him, so he said, "Must I be always be by your side?"

Chenchen said, "Yes."

"Hai, let's see how it goes tomorrow." Zhang Ye was also feeling very helpless.

Chenchen suddenly said, "Zhang Ye, I will go to work with you."

Zhang Ye turned the steering wheel as the car swung greatly to one side, "Ah? I have to bring a child with me to work on my first day at Central TV? Won't the people there surely be gossiping about this then? No, no, that won't do."

Chenchen immediately said, "Then you will stay at home to accompany me."

"But I have to work." Zhang Ye stared at her.

Chenchen replied, "Then you will bring me along to work."

Zhang Ye didn't know how to react and said, "Good lord, you're totally putting the blame on me now. Alright, I'll consider it when I get back home and we'll talk about it tomorrow."

He drove them both home.

After entering the house, Zhang Ye carried Chenchen and gave her soap to wash her hands. After that, he made a call for delivery to be delivered. When Chenchen said that her school bag was dirtied today, Zhang Ye unwillingly took it into the bathroom to clean it for her—he was just like a full time nanny now.

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At night.

Central TV's official website has officially released the good news confirming that the famous host, Zhang Ye, had joined Central TV Department 1. Central TV Department 1's new program would be planned by Zhang Ye and was in the preparation and production stages, ready to take over Thursday's 9 PM slot soon!

The moment this news was released, it caused an uproar everywhere!

"So it's true!"

"Holy shit!"

"This really isn't a rumor?"

"Central TV has really invited Teacher Zhang Ye to join them?"

"Central TV takes a traditional position while Zhang Ye has always had a different way of thinking compared to normal people. Can he display his abilities over there? Or will he not be accustomed to the new place?"

"Chen Ye is also a pillar of Central TV Department 1. Are they going to come face to face with each other soon? They're going to have a real competition with their viewership ratings?"

"That is Chen Ye's territory. With Teacher Zhang still a newcomer to the station, his program's viewer rating will surely not be able to outperform Chen Ye's. Besides, Zhang Ye only has the Thursday evening slot and not some primetime slot. It will sure be incomparable to Chen Ye who is a senior at Central TV. Chen Ye has everything laid out for him already and has the advantage between the two of them."

"That may not be the case."

"Right, this is Zhang Ye we're talking about and that name of his already represents miracles!"

"Really looking forward to Teacher Zhang Ye's new program! You're finally making a comeback! You've made us fans wait for such a long time!"

"Congratulations to Teacher Zhang for advancing to Central TV!"

"Tossing flowers! It's the return of the jinx!"

"I've got a strong feeling that something interesting will happen soon!"

"Hahaha, there will always be drama wherever Teacher Zhang goes!"

"Let's see how big a commotion Zhang Ye will cause at Central TV Department 1 this time!"

Chapter 630 Executive Director Zhang Ye!

Saturday.

At Central TV Tower.

As this place was next to Yuyuantan Park—which was also known as Bayi Lake—the air here was noticeably much cooler and refreshing than other places. When the breeze was blowing, it felt most relaxing. Many tourists were buying tickets from the main entrance to go into the park. Some brought their children, some were here as a couple, and there was also many children from primary and secondary schools here for their field trips. The park was packed with people. The television station tower here was also a popular tourist spot in Beijing as well as allowing tourists to tour it. But of course, the Central TV office area where the staff worked at and the visitors' area did not overlap. The entrances for these places were also different, such as the places where programs were recorded and the smaller recording studios which were located underground beside the tower area and were not open to public.

In the tower.

A staff-only elevator was slowly ascending. Because the tower was constructed very early on and was considered a high-rise, the elevator's speed was also comparatively slower. In Beijing slang, this elevator was "meatier" than the common and smaller Beijing district buildings' elevators.

There were only two people in the elevator, a child and an adult.

Zhang Ye repeatedly badgered and asked, "Do you remember what I told you? Repeat it again."

Chenchen said impatiently, "No running around, no nonsense, listen to you, don't give you trouble, and greet others when I see them."

Zhang Ye nodded at this and said, "Today is Uncle's first day at work, be sure to earn some brownie points for me. Don't make me lose face. If you do well today, then Sunday tomorrow I can still bring you to work. We can see the whole of the city of Beijing and even further from the observation deck upstairs. But if you're not obedient and cause trouble for me, I will leave you at home alone tomorrow!"

Chenchen curled her lips and said, "I know. Zhang Ye, you nag even more than my aunt."

If Zhang Ye wasn't worried about leaving Chenchen alone at home, he would never have brought her to the workplace for sure!

"Alright, we've reached our floor," Zhang Ye said as he put out his hand in front of Chenchen.

Chenchen looked at his hand and then put her little hand in his.

When the elevator door opened, Zhang Ye pulled Chenchen by the hand and walked out. He proceeded to the HR Department to handle the joining formalities and saw Central TV Department 1's Deputy Director Jiang Yuan already waiting there for him.

Zhang Ye smiled and greeted, "Director Jiang."

Jiang Yuan nodded and said, "You're here?"

A few people working at the HR Department looked toward him. So this was the legendary Zhang Ye? Indeed, he was just like he looked on TV, really ordinary after all. If this person was seen on the streets,

no one would have batted an eyelid at him, nor would anyone think that this person would have the potential to become a celebrity. However, that couldn't be further from the truth, as this person standing before them right now was not just a celebrity, he was a B-list celebrity of the entertainment circle who was ranked a little higher than one of the pillars of Central TV, Chen Ye. This was exactly what people meant by not judging a book by its cover.

Eh?

Why is there a child beside him?

A few of the HR Department staff members were a bit taken aback when they saw Zhang Ye holding the hand of a little girl. Whoa, whose child is that, why is she so pretty?

Jiang Yuan also noticed her and asked, "This is?"

Chenchen automatically moved her mouth and greeted, "Uncle." She seemed to have taken Zhang Ye's instruction to heart.

Zhang Ye was a little embarrassed. He explained, "So, one of my relatives went out of town to settle some business and the little girl had no one to take care of her, so the task fell to my hands. As the child is still young, I am quite worried about leaving her at home alone."

Jiang Yuan acknowledged and said, "Oh, alright then."

The HR Department staff were all a little bemused by this. Bringing a child to work on your very first day? This was truly something they'd never seen before! If it wasn't a case of the talented being bolder, then this was surely something that only Zhang Ye, a wonder of the entertainment industry, would dare do! He was truly worthy of the reputation for taking the path off the beaten track!

Very quickly, the formalities were completed.

Jiang Yuan called for Zhang Ye to go to his office and then asked him to have a seat. He said, "Teacher Zhang, the paperwork is all completed. As of today, you're a part of Central TV Department 1. So let's skip the formalities and I'll talk about the new program first for you to have a little reference."

Zhang Ye told Chenchen to go sit outside on the guest sofa. Then he said, "Alright, please speak."

Jiang Yuan said, "I've already told you about taking over the current program slot, so you have a general idea of that already. What we need to discuss now are the details of the new program proposal. As you know, it's not easy to make something new in the variety program market now as all of the other satellite channels are also doing the same thing and churning out similar types of programs without any creativity. Even though there are several standouts, those are all programs that have been adapted from foreign programs brought in by the other satellite channels, especially the variety programs from Korea. But as Central TV, we cannot do that, as our station's theme comes from here, after all. There are some political factors as well. Generally, we are more restricted as we cannot buy the copyright of good foreign variety programs, but we are still looking for something innovative, not blind innovation or innovation for the sake of innovation, but innovation that fits the current market trends and practices."

Zhang Ye said, "I understand."

Jiang Yuan acknowledged that and said, "Among the number of innovative program producers in the country now, you are one of the better ones. In this matter, you're the professional and know better than me, so I will not go over the technicalities, but I will touch on our requirements. The station does not have any restrictions on the program, whether it is a traditional style variety program or reality television program or talent show program. We're fine with any of that. As long as the program is something new and has a market, we will do it!"

Zhang Ye asked, "How about the funding?"

Jiang Yuan said, "Let me first hear how much you need."

Zhang Ye spoke honestly, "I want however much you can give. But, to be honest, I will not think it is too much no matter how much you are going to approve, because in making a good program good funding is a must."

"The station does not have a lack of funds, but surely we won't be able to give all that funding to you, am I right? There must be a limit." Jiang Yuan said, "Let's talk about the funding at a later time. I need to see your program proposal before I can decide. If it really is a good program, then it will definitely get the funding it deserves. Even if it exceeds our budget, I don't have a problem, as long as it doesn't exceed it by too much. The station urgently needs to claw its lost market share back and have a good program that can compete with the other satellite channels. It's easy to talk things over; anything can be negotiated."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "With your promise, I feel reassured now."

Jiang Yuan also laughed, "I have to see your program proposal to feel reassured as well."

"Sure. I'll get it done before leaving work today," Zhang Ye bragged.

Jiang Yuan was taken aback at this, "So quickly? You don't need to rush as there's still some time before you take over the broadcast slot. Just give the proposal to me within the next few days and it should be fine. Haste makes waste. What we want is still the quality of the program."

Zhang Ye said, "Don't worry, I understand."

Hearing that, Jiang Yuan didn't say anything further, "Alright, then I'll await your project proposal. The new program's team has already been set up. They're all Central TV Department 1's elites and there's nothing to complain about in regards to their working capabilities. Well then, I still have a meeting later, so I won't join you there. Let me hook you up with one of the team's personnel, Fu Sihong. Old Fu is a veteran of our Central TV station and is very dependable. As your new program's executive producer, he is definitely the most suitable man for the job. When you meet him, take the chance to get to know him and then have a discussion with him regarding the new program."

After that, he made a call.

Soon after, a slightly plump middle-aged man knocked on the office door and came inside.

Jiang Yuan introduced the both of them, saying, "Old Fu, this is Zhang Ye."

Fu Sihong looked at him and reached out his hand, saying, "Hello, Teacher Zhang."

Zhang Ye shook his hand and said, "Hello, just call me Little Zhang."

Jiang Yuan needed to go as he had work to take care of, so Fu Sihong and Zhang Ye also left the office together. He heard Fu Sihong tell him, "Let's first go to the program team's office to have a look. I will introduce the team members to you."

"Sure." Zhang Ye turned around and called for Chenchen, "Let's go."

Chenchen was still leaning on the glass window and looking down at the outside, as though she did not hear a thing.

Zhang Ye called out again, "Chenchen, hurry up. We're leaving."

Chenchen acknowledged him and followed him unwillingly.

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They took the elevator down.

Downstairs, at the office area.

When Fu Sihong pushed opened a door that was emblazoned with the words "Central 1 Thursday 9 PM Slot (Program To Be Confirmed)", a bright light greeted them immediately as a warm ray of sun shone on them through a row of windows inside the office. The entirety of Beijing could be seen from here as they stood at a high place looking out, with a view that would no doubt infuse people with excitement. The office area was not small either, with just the tables alone numbering around 50 to 60. There were also quite a few standalone rooms which were clearly prepared for the program team's leaders. Each of these rooms were labeled with titles such as executive producer, executive director, host, etc. There was even a lounge, a small meeting room, as well as a nursing room (breastfeeding room).

It was completely kitted out!

There no need to scrutinize the environment and facilities!

There were not many people in the office area, just seven or eight people. Some of them were still busy packing and arranging things at their desks, clearly showing that it was their first day operating from this office as well.

"Producer Fu."

"Brother Fu."

"Teacher Zhang."

"Teacher Zhang Ye."

"Director Zhang."

Everyone started greeting them, addressing them by all kinds of titles.

Fu Sihong was not young, probably in his forties or fifties. He looked very calm and did not wear much of a smile either. He said, "This is Zhang Ye, but I don't think I really need to do any introductions about him here." Then he started to introduce the staff to Zhang Ye.

“This is Zhang Zuo, an assistant director.” —A thin man around thirty years of age.

“This is Ha Qiqi, also an assistant director.” —A woman in her thirties.

“This is Wu Yi, the technical director.” —He was a bespectacled man.

“This is...”

One by one, he made the introductions to Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye shook hands with them one by one as well, smiling and saying a few words to them.

In a big unit, at a big television station, the roles and responsibilities were more clearly defined. There were also more rules and regulations here, unlike when Zhang Ye was working at BTV-Arts Channel or the online television station. Overall, as the program team was just formed and meeting for the first time, although the roles of the team had not been fully filled yet and would have to wait until the program details were solidified, the main leadership roles of the program team had already been set. Fu Sihong was the executive producer appointed by Central TV Department 1 and would oversee the general administration of the team. Zhang Ye was the second-in-command as the executive director and would oversee the program planning, production, and other technical works.