

臨時抱佛腳

Don't Hold on to the Buddha's Feet at the Last Minute

Character A: 馬萱寧

Character B:

Character C:

Teacher:

SCENE ONE

Synopsis: Character A is in Chinese class. The Teacher announces that in three days, there will be a test. A resolves to do whatever he can to do well on this Chinese test.

Teacher: 大家好。
dà jiā hǎo
Hello, everyone.

Class: 老師好。
lǎoshī hǎo
Hello, teacher.

Teacher: 今天是星期二。星期五的時候你們有一個考試。
jīntiān shì xīngqī'èr. xīngqīwǔ de shíhou nǐmen yǒu yī gè kǎoshì
Today is Tuesday. On Friday, you will have a test.

A: 我們都有一個考試，對不對？
wǒmen dōu yǒu yī gè kǎoshì, duìbùduì?
We all have to take the test?

Teacher: 對。
duì。
Correct.

B: 我不喜歡。
wǒ bù xǐhuan。
I am not happy.

C: 我也是。你呢？

wǒ yě shì 。 nǐ ne?
I am also. What about you?

A: 我也不喜歡，可是我一定要考好。我要一百份！
wǒ yě bù xǐhuan, kěshì wǒ yīdìng yào kǎo hǎo。 wǒ yào yī bǎi fèn。
I am also not happy. But I must do well on this test. I need 100%!

SCENE TWO

Synopsis: Character A meditates in a tree, trying to put himself into a mental state appropriate for testing. A friend, Character B, comes by and asks what he is doing. He explains that he wants to have good luck to pass the test.

A: (is in the tree, meditating, with incense, possibly chanting some sort of mantra)

B: 喂。你在做什麼？
wèi。 nǐ zài zuò shénme?
Hey, Character A. What are you doing?

A: 沉思。
chénsī。
Meditating.

B: 為甚麼？
wéi shénme?
Why?

A: 我有一個考試。
wǒ yǒu yī gè kǎoshì。
I have a test.

B: 沉思考試？
chénsī kǎoshì?
A meditation test?

A: 不。我有一個中文考試。我要一百份。
bù。 wǒ yǒu yī gè zhōng wén kǎoshì。 wǒ yào yī bǎi fèn。
No! I have a Chinese test. I really need 100%!

B: 沉思有幫助嗎？
chénsī yǒu bāng zhù ma?
And this meditating will help?

A: 對。我需要我沈思需要好運氣。
duì。 wǒ xūyào wǒ chénsī xūyào hǎo yùnqì。
Yes.. I need all the luck I can get.

B: 好好。再見。
hǎ ohǎ o。 zà iji à n。
Oh, okay. Goodbye.

A: (is meditating and quiet)

B: 再見!
zà iji à n!
GOODBYE.

A: 。 。 。 再見。
zà iji à n 。
Goodbye.

SCENE THREE

Synopsis: (The next day.) Character B stops by Character A's room with well-intentioned but silly icons. (Magikarp for carp, Batman mask/shirt for bats,) Character A is upset and throws Character B out of his room. Character B gives him a Buddha statuette before leaving. Character A decides to keep the silly good luck charms.

A: (is in his room, meditating again. Or maybe watching some cheesy video on qi focus.)

B: (knocks on his door)

A: 進來。
Jìnlái。
Come in.

B: (Enters room.) 你好!
nǐhǎo!
Hello.

A: 你好。你來做什麼？你需要什麼嗎？
nǐhǎo。 nǐ lái zuò shénme? nǐ xūyào shénme ma?
Hello. What are you doing here? Do you need something from me?

B: 我有東西要給你。
wǒ yǒu dōngxi yào gěi nǐ。
I have something for you.

A: 太好了！謝謝。

t à ihǎole! xièxie。
Oh, that's very nice. Thank you.

B: (Takes Magikarp picture and Batman mask from backpack.) 沒問題。
mé iwèntí。
No problem.

A: 這些東西做什麼? 有什麼用? 沒有幫助。
zhèxiē dōngxi zuò shénme? yǒu shénme yòng méiyǒu bāngzhù。
What are these things for? Are they useful? I don't think this is going to help.

B: 你說你需要好運。
nǐ shuō nǐ xūyào hǎoyùn。
You said you needed good luck..

A: 這些都不是會給中國人帶來好運氣的東西。我不想要。你請走吧。
zhèxiē dōu bùshì huì gěi Zhōngguó rén dàilái hǎoyùnqì de dōngxi 。 。 w
ǒ bù xiǎngyào。 nǐ qǐngzǒu ba 。
These are not Chinese good luck charms. I don't want them. Please leave.

B: (Hands him a pocket Buddha.) 。 。 。 好。 。 。 可是。 。 。 這裡。
hǎo。 。 。 kěshì。 。 。 zhèlǐ
Okay, but...here.

A: 為甚麼?
wéi shénme?
Why this?

B: 給你這是我幸運符。你要不要其他的?
gěi nǐ zhè shì wǒ xìngyùnfú。 nǐ yào bù yào qítā de?
He's my good luck charm. Do you want me to take the others?

A: 好吧。我會收著。謝謝。
hǎo ba。 wǒ huì shōu zhe。 xièxie。
...no. No, I'll keep them. Thank you.

B: 沒問題。祝你考一百分。
mé iwèntí。 zhù nǐ kǎo yī bǎifēn。
No problem. I hope you get a 100% 。
(leaves)

SCENE FOUR

Synopsis: Character A is meditating again with the Batman shirt/mask and Magikarp picture, holding onto the Buddha statue. Another friend, Character C, walks by and remarks that perhaps Character A should actually study rather than rely on good luck

charms. Character C warns Character A not to "hold onto the Buddha's feet." Character A promises to study in time.

A: (is once again meditating and burning incense, this time wearing the Batman mask and with the Magikarp picture hanging on the tree)

C: (notices A) 你好。你為什麼坐在樹上。
nǐ hǎo。 nǐ wèi shénme zuò zài shù shàng。
Hello. Why are you sitting in that tree?

A: 我準備一個考試。
wǒ zhǔnbèi yī gè kǎoshì。
I am preparing for a test.

C: : 沉思考試?
chénsī kǎoshì?
A meditation test?

A: 不是。為什麼大家都問我這個問題?
bùshì。 wèi shénme dàjiā dōu wèn wǒ zhège wèntí?
No. Why does everyone ask me that?

C: 那是什麼的考試?
nàshì shénme de kǎoshì?
Well...what kind of test is this?

A: 一個中文考試。
yī gè zhōngwén kǎoshì。
A Chinese test.

C: 你應該去圖書館看書。中國人說平時不唸書， 臨時抱佛腳。
nǐ yīnggāi qù túshūguǎn。 nǐ yào kànshū。 Zhōngguó rén shuō píngshí bù
ù niànshū, línshí bào fójiǎo。
You should be in the library. You must study. "Don't hang on to the Buddha's feet."

A: (looks at C; C looks back. They stare for a moment and C walks off. A resumes meditating for a moment.)。。。也許他是對的
yěxǔ tā shì duì de
Maybe he's right.

SCENE FIVE

Synopsis: Character A pockets the Buddha and heads to the library to study, books in tow. He studies through the whole day and falls asleep in the wee hours of the morning, still in the library.

Character A (in the library, repeating Chinese phrases to himself):

A: Wǒ diǎn yì bēi bīng hóngchá, yì píng kělè, yì pán chǎofàn, sānwǎn t
āng, hé èrshíge jiǎozi.

我點一杯冰紅茶，一瓶可樂，一盤炒飯，三碗湯和二十個餃子。

I will have one red tea, one cola, one plate of stir fry, three cups of soup, and
twenty dumplings.

A: Wǒ diǎn yì bēi bīng hóngchá, yì píng kělè, liǎng pán chǎofàn, wǔwǎn t
āng, hé èrshíwǔge jiǎozi.

我點一杯冰紅茶，一瓶可樂，兩盤炒飯，五碗湯和二十五個餃子。

I will have one red tea, one cola, two plates of stir fry, five cups of soup, and
twenty-five dumplings.

A: Wǒ hěn è...

我很餓。

I'm so hungry...

A: Wǒ diǎn yì bēi bīng hóngchá, liǎng píng kělè, wǔ pán chǎofàn, shíwǎn
tāng, hé wǔshíge jiǎozi. děng yíxià... wǒ diǎn jiùshíge jiǎozi.

我點一杯冰紅茶，兩瓶可樂，五盤炒飯，十碗湯和五十個餃子。等一下。我點九十個餃子。

I will have one red tea, two colas, five plates of stir fry, ten cups of soup, and
fifty dumplings. no wait... ninety-dumplings.

A: wǒ yào èrshí bēi bīng hóngchá, sānshíwǔ píng kělè, wǔshíqī pán ch
ǎofàn, qīshíwǎn tāng, hé jiùshíjiùge jiǎozi.

我要二十杯冰紅茶，三十五瓶可樂，五十七盤炒飯，七十碗湯和九十九個餃子。等一下。我點九
十個餃子。

I will have two cups of red tea, three colas, fifty-seven plates of stir fry, seventy
bowls of soup, and ninety-nine dumplings.

(talking to imaginary waiter)

A: Wǒ yě xiǎng yào yīgè hǎochéngjī. Nǐ yǒu hǎochéngjī ma? Wǒ diǎn y
īgè hǎochéngjī...

我也想要一個好成績。你有好成績嗎？我點一個好成績。

I also want a good grade... do you have good grades here? I will order one good grade.

A: Wǒ hěn lèi

我很累。

I'm so tired...

SCENE SIX

Synopsis: (The next day) Character A wakes up in the library, feeling disoriented. He
checks his watch only to find that he is late for his Chinese class. He runs to the

Chinese building, attempting to get back at a reasonable time. When he arrives, however, he finds a note on the door that says the class has been cancelled. He collapses in exhaustion. Someone compliments him on his Batman shirt/mask.

Wǒ zài nǎlǐ?

我在哪裡?

Where am I?

Shíjiān shì xiàwǔ shíèr shí sīshí fēn!

時間是下午12時40分!

It's 12:40!

(He runs to the classroom, stopping outside the door to catch his breath for a moment. Outside the classroom, C is sitting with his laptop. A walks into the classroom. The camera stays outside, on C. A moment later, A walks out, baffled.)

C: 今天我們沒有上課, 你知道不知道?

Jīntiān wǒmen méiyǒu shàngkè, nǐ zhīdào bù zhīdào?

We don't have class today. Didn't you know?

A: 我不知道。

Wǒ bùzhīdào。

I didn't know.

C: 你看他的電子郵件嗎? 老師要去看醫生。星期一我們有這個考試。

Nǐ kàn tā de diànzǐ yóujiàn ma? Lǎoshī yào qù yīshī. Xīngqī yī wǒmen yǒu zhège kǎoshì.

Did you read the email? Laoshi had to go to the doctor. We're having the test on Monday.