The Rocket Man Reckoning

How China Mocked Elon Musk...
And Why They Are Now Panicking..



The Rocket Man Reckoning

How China mocked Elon Musk — and why they are now panicking

by Courage Garikai

Published by Coldcode SI Labs
First edition, 2026

Copyright © 2026 Courage Garikai. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in reviews.

Coldcode SI Labs Library · couragegarikai@atomicmail.io

The Rocket Man Reckoning

How China Mocked Elon Musk… And Why They Are Now Panicking

The Arrogance of a Rising Superpower, the Collapse of Its Myths, and What Musk's Success Reveals About the Future of Innovation and Civilization

Chapter 1

The Age of Arrogance

For nearly a decade, mocking Elon Musk was something of a national sport among China's aerospace experts, business leaders, and academic class.

They didn't merely disagree with him. They ridiculed him. They laughed at him on television, in academic lectures, and in boardrooms. They called his ideas naive, his engineering crude, and his vision delusional. To them, Musk was not a serious industrialist — he was a showman, a fraud propped up by American capital and media hype.

This was not fringe commentary. It came from established voices inside China's most respected institutions.

In one widely circulated clip, a senior rocket expert declared with absolute confidence, "Reusable big rockets are a dead end." He claimed to have worked in rocketry for two years and said he knew "many inside details." He scoffed at Musk's promise that reusability would slash launch costs, calling it little more than cheap bravado. "Little Musk," he said, "don't take it personally. Harsh words can be motivating."

Another expert, appearing on state-affiliated media, lectured that while many people thought Musk was a technology innovator, "he has no innovation in communications technology." He added dismissively, "Let me tell you first, Musk doesn't understand communications."

Even China's business elite joined the chorus. Major CEOs and chairmen openly declared their superiority. One stated bluntly, "I already have what Tesla has. I could do what Tesla does, and there are things I have that he can't." Another claimed, "Compared to Tesla, we are far ahead."

Perhaps most telling was the 2026 public statement by academic Wong Chiian, who asserted that the United States was dangerously dependent on Chinese-made transformers.

He argued this single point would be enough to "break Musk's defense." In a moment of supreme confidence, he declared: