

Known as "Chinese funny face," Yao's facial expression was also the subject of a column in the Egyptian Gazette, an English-language daily established in 1880. Yao made the now famous expression during an interview after the 2009 Western Conference semifinals. Asked about how it felt to throw himself into the audience to catch the ball, Yao's teammate, Ron Artest, said the spectators had already prepared a beer for him. Upon hearing Artest's humorous quip, the popular expression appeared on Yao's face.

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Responding to his popularity online, Yao said he was pleased to bring joy to so many netizens.

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