

F. University 1611

Chapter 1611: Xia Super League, A Great Start!_2

Ding Yue, Huang Youjie, and Xu Bin, three men who were quite fond of football, were all eagerly anticipating tonight's match.

"We definitely need beer, right?"

"Peanuts!"

"Get more snacks to pair with the drinks!"

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin were already excited and looking forward to it.

"Big White, what's the weather like tonight around Dao City?" Ding Yue asked his AI assistant, Big White.

"Clear skies, a starry night, and temperatures slightly cold," Big White replied.

During the day, the weather had been excellent, and by night, it was expected to be ideal for stargazing—a vast array of stars, a rare sight in a city.

As for the cold, being in a high-altitude area, cooler temperatures were to be expected. No big deal, just wear a bit more to stay warm.

Nightfall arrived in no time.

On a grassy patch, Ding Yue had Big White set up a projection screen. This kind of task was easily handled by Big White, ensuring everything was done perfectly without errors.

A few meters from the projection screen, a large picnic mat was spread out on the ground.

In the middle of the picnic mat were all sorts of food—snacks, drinks, beer, fruit, and even barbecue. It couldn't get any better.

Ding Yue, Xu Bin, Huang Youjie, Wen Ruohan, Lin Zhirou, and Zhang Yu—two stunning women—all dressed warmly, sat around the picnic mat, fully prepared to watch the Xia Super League live stream.

"Ladies and gentlemen, tonight's Xia Super League match will see Mist City Feiyue facing off against the Lu City team. Many of you have been eagerly awaiting this showdown! As Mist City Feiyue's debut match in the Xia Super League, let's see what kind of performance they deliver tonight!"

"But as I've heard, one of Mist City Feiyue's key players, our hero Wang Shun, has not yet fully recovered and isn't included in the lineup. While that might be a disappointment to fans, there's good news—reliable sources report Wang Shun is in the final stages of recovery and will soon return to the field. Let's wait with anticipation!"

The live stream had started, and the commentator was in place, delivering a pre-match analysis that included special mention of Mist City Arts and Science University's Feiyue Football Club's hero Wang Shun.

Currently, Wang Shun was indeed still in recovery. After his discharge from the hospital, he needed another six months of recuperation before he could rejoin the football field and compete again, making him unavailable for all Feiyue Football Club's Xia Super League matches at the moment.

It truly was a shame, as Wang Shun was a core player of the Feiyue Football Club.

However, this wasn't a huge setback. Fans believed that Feiyue Football Club's other players would carry Wang Shun's football dreams and charge forward in the Xia Super League until his triumphant return, when he could once again take the field alongside his teammates.

Big White stood obediently behind the group, using its built-in projection feature to stream tonight's Feiyue vs. Lu City football match.

It even displayed real-time comments, as Big White was using Feiyue Home Streaming Media's platform software for projection, which naturally included a comment section.

"Ahhh, the Xia Super League has finally started!"

"Go Feiyue!!"

"It's such a pity Wang Shun couldn't play."

"Looking forward to Wang Shun's heroic return!"

"Crush Lu City for me!"

"Lu City's strength has actually been decent in recent years."

"I wonder how Feiyue will perform tonight without Wang Shun on the team."

"Wang Shun is definitely one of Feiyue Football Club's key players."

"I'm so optimistic about Feiyue Team. Hope they make it all the way to the Xia Super League finals."

"Hey everyone, are you all Feiyue fans too?"

"Feiyue is the hope for the revival of our national football—such a big hope. We must support Feiyue wholeheartedly!"

"Quiet, let's just watch the match."

As the number of online viewers increased, Ding Yue saw the supportive comments from netizens and Feiyue Football Club fans, and a smile subtly crept onto his face.

This type of positive football online environment hadn't been seen in a long time.

Previously, whenever Ding Yue watched a football match involving domestic teams, it was almost always filled with criticism. No surprise, given how poorly domestic football had been performing.

But Feiyue Football Club's meteoric rise had brought a glimmer of hope to many football enthusiasts.

Football fans love the game, the excitement of a brilliant match, rather than being blindly loyal to any particular team. Whoever plays well wins the fans' hearts.

Before this, domestic football teams generally hadn't performed well.

That's why most Chinese fans supported global stars like Ronaldo and Messi instead.

But now, with a promising domestic football team to root for, the fans' excitement was palpable.

"Ladies and gentlemen, tonight's match between Mist City Feiyue and Lu City is officially underway!"

The game kicked off on the field.

"Xiao Wen, isn't this match an away game for us? This doesn't look like Mist City Arts and Science University's Central Sports Ground." Ding Yue asked.

"Yep, this match is Lu City's home game," Wen Ruohan replied.

That meant the match was currently being played at a football stadium in Lu City, with Feiyue Football Club traveling there to compete against Lu City. Lu City had a slight home-team advantage.

However, this didn't matter much. The home-team advantage wasn't a significant obstacle. For Feiyue Football Club, the real challenge lay in their on-field tactics and battles against their opponents.

"Wow! Feiyue Team launched a fierce attack right from the start—this ball... It's in! It's in! Yes, you're not seeing things—it's in! Feiyue Team leads 1–0! Scoring within the first three minutes of the game!"

The commentator instantly became animated.

Even Ding Yue, Huang, and Bin couldn't help but cheer loudly.

"Holy crap! A goal in just three minutes?"

"This was an amazing shot!"

"Catching their opponents off guard!"

"It was like a lightning strike!"

Not only Ding Yue, Xu Bin, and Huang Youjie, but Wen Ruohan, Zhang Yu, and Lin Zhirou also became incredibly thrilled after seeing Feiyue Team score.

The live stream's comment section instantly exploded with excitement.

The audience had been ready to see how Feiyue and Lu City would face off tonight.

But nobody expected Feiyue Team to begin with a lightning-fast offensive, executing superb coordination that left Lu City a bit dazed, leading to a goal.

"That was stunning!"

"Lu City can't complain about losing this one."

"After an intense moment of competition, Feiyue Team still managed to outshine Lu City."

"That sideline pass was pure brilliance."

"I won't criticize Lu City here, but I must say Feiyue Team is absolutely fantastic!"

"With this kind of strategy and gameplay, Feiyue Team has a bright future ahead."

"Feiyue Team always brings us surprises."

"This Feiyue Team truly lives up to expectations as the most promising domestic football team."

Scoring within the opening three minutes was indeed a delightful surprise.

Ding Yue hadn't even opened his beer yet, and they were already celebrating.

Without hesitation, Ding Yue opened his beer can and clinked glasses with his friends!

Under the brilliant starlit sky, on the high plateau, the group joyfully watched the match, occasionally bursting into cheers—an utterly idyllic scene.

At the 20-minute mark, Feiyue Team scored another goal!

At the 41-minute mark, yet another goal—finishing the first half with a comfortable 3–0 lead. Ding Yue, his buddies, and the two women were all thoroughly enjoying the match.

As for the online viewers, the excitement couldn't be contained—declaring this an incredible match!

Chapter 1612: Arousing the Opponent's Fighting Spirit

In the first half, Mist City Arts and Science University's Feiyue Team took a commanding 3-0 lead, sending their fans into ecstatic celebration.

The faces of every Lu City Team player reflected a stark change—from initial passion to utter disappointment.

Even after halftime, the Lu City players still seemed incapable of regaining their form. Despite the coach instructing them to adjust their mindset and fight to even the score in the second half—in addition to preventing Feiyue Team from scoring again—the players appeared unconvinced.

The goal seemed arduous, but no matter how difficult, it had to be pursued.

Unfortunately, the players didn't seem to have the confidence.

Because in the first half, Feiyue Team showcased a level of skill that had already instilled "fear" in them. This was a formidable opponent; losing to them would still be considered a worthy defeat.

The audience, however, didn't see it that way.

A worthy defeat? Is that how it works?

After halftime, the second half began.

Right from the kickoff of the second half, Ding Yue could clearly see that Feiyue Team's players were still in excellent condition, whereas Lu City Team appeared listless.

"Yue, do you think Lu City has any chance to make a comeback in the second half?"

On a patch of grass near Dao City, beneath a sky full of stars, a group of people sat together watching the match.

Huang Youjie posed the question to Ding Yue.

"Highly unlikely."

Ding Yue shook his head. First, he had absolute confidence in Mist City Arts and Science University's Feiyue Team. Second, with such a massive 3-0 lead, it would take a life-or-death effort from Lu City to stage a comeback—and even then, the odds weren't good. Besides, Lu City's actual strength was only so-so. To expect miracles would simply be wishful thinking.

Furthermore, Feiyue Team wouldn't let their guard down in the second half. They would surely continue exerting full pressure on Lu City.

To put it bluntly, there was still a clear disparity in strength between Feiyue Team and Lu City Team.

Sure enough.

Seven minutes into the second half.

Feiyue Team spotted another great opportunity, launched an attack, and scored again!

"GOAL! Congratulations to Feiyue Team!"

The commentator erupted with excitement over the goal, though inwardly he had already grown somewhat indifferent.

After all, this was Feiyue Team's fourth goal of the match, while Lu City hadn't managed a single one so far. From the first half until now, they had only managed two or three close attempts at Feiyue Team's penalty area and goalpost, but no actual goals.

"Looks like Lu City might end up being shut out completely by Feiyue Team."

"The strength gap is obvious."

"Feiyue Team is undeniably strong."

"Lu City Team used to be a Xia Super League giant, but what are they now?"

"Watching domestic football clubs just makes me angry (except Feiyue Football Club)."

"Feiyue Team has real potential this year."

"As a loyal Lu City fan, I think I'm jumping ship. I'll support Feiyue Team instead."

"Only teams with actual skill like Feiyue deserve our support."

"Lu City Team has fallen from grace."

"I mean, when did Lu City turn into such trash?"

"Wow, isn't this Luneng? Since when did they become this bad?"

"Go, Feiyue Team, go all out!"

Fans watching the live broadcast expressed their disappointment with Lu City Team's performance while becoming increasingly excited about Feiyue Team's performance.

Still.

Lu City Team was, after all, a professional team in the Xia Super League. Would they really leave without any pride after being down 4-0?

Hence.

Lu City's players rallied, organizing several aggressive attacks. Most were neutralized by Feiyue Team's defenders.

But one particular effort saw a Lu City attacker find an excellent angle and seize a rare opportunity.

Shot!

"GOAL! What a sneaky angle! Congratulations to Lu City Team on scoring a point!"

The commentator remained impartial, enthusiastically calling out every goal. This one, in particular, was exceptionally brilliant—the sharp angle made it impossible for Feiyue Team's goalkeeper to intercept, ultimately giving Lu City their first point of the match.

"Ugh!"

Feiyue Team's goalkeeper slammed the ground in frustration after failing to save the shot.

"Not bad, that was a solid goal."

Watching the match, Ding Yue wasn't overly critical of the goalkeeper. Even the world's best goalie would have had a low chance of stopping that particular shot.

Moreover, the goal reflected Lu City's excellent timing, exceptional strategy, and flawless angle of attack. Ding Yue mused that the opportunity likely wasn't planned through coordination—it seemed more like the shooter sensed the chance at that moment, took a gamble, and remarkably made it happen.

"True, that shot deserves some praise. The timing was spot-on."

"Yeah, it was a pretty good strike."

"Our players need to stay focused. The opponents have clawed back a point, and only ten-something minutes of the second half have passed."

Chapter 1613: Inspiring the Opponent's Fighting Will_2

Ding Yue, Huang Youjie, and Xu Bin were discussing that goal while hoping their Feiyue Team could maintain its form and avoid a performance dip after conceding the goal.

Meanwhile, the Lu City Team clearly experienced a massive boost in confidence and morale. In such scenarios, even the slightest drop in Feiyue Team's morale could lead to a shift in advantage, giving their opponents a chance to create more opportunities.

"I believe they'll definitely adjust their state of mind."

Ding Yue said confidently.

Ding Yue had no doubt about this. He knew his Feiyue Team inside out.

Sure enough.

Despite conceding a goal, Feiyue Team's offense and defense remained as tightly coordinated as before, leaving little room for their opponents to capitalize on any openings.

Opportunities as rare as the previous one were unlikely to happen again.

Not only that.

Feiyue Team launched a relentless offensive. Although such aggression left small gaps in their defense, their opponents couldn't mount an effective counterattack. Each time the ball reached midfield, Feiyue Team's control dominated the possession.

Feiyue Team initiated multiple consecutive attacks.

These attacks were meant to score, but Lu City Team's defense was commendable. They concentrated all their energy on defending, so even Feiyue Team's strongest attempts turned into probing strikes without much effect.

"Pass left, pass right, confuse the opponent!"

Feiyue Team's coach observed the heated, deadlocked state of the game and had a tactical idea, shouting instructions to the winger.

The winger seemed to catch the coach's direction. After receiving the ball, they executed a long pass directly to the winger on the opposite side.

On the other side, the ball landed at the striker's feet. At this critical moment, the team's synergy and understanding of the coach's tactical plan came into play. The striker passed the ball with one touch, sending it back to the other side.

The ball was passed between both sides cautiously, minimizing any chance for opponents to steal possession.

In this manner, Feiyue Team persistently passed left to right, right to left, weaving a web to outwit Lu City Team.

Lu City Team's players were stretched thin, putting all their energy into meticulous defense.

Before long, Lu City Team's defensive focus was drawn almost entirely to the left and right wings.

At this crucial juncture, Feiyue Team suddenly changed their passing angle and targeted the middle, delivering the ball to the feet of their central offensive player.

This player had been waiting for this moment.

This was a tactic the coach had drilled countless times in training—while the forwards on the wings were busy passing, this central player acted as the hidden dagger, ready to strike alongside his teammates for an unexpected blow.

"Now's the time!"

Once he received the ball, he took an immediate shot!

The opponent's backline defense had no time to react—or rather, even if their attention briefly focused on this attacking player, they hadn't committed their full defensive resources.

Thus, Feiyue Team seized the perfect angle, the perfect moment, and in this instant, the ball was fired toward the goal!

"It's in!"

The commentator shouted excitedly.

This was yet another stunning goal, no less impressive than Lu City Team's earlier strike. Both goals showcased exceptional judgment in finding shooting angles and opportunities, leaving the opposing goalkeeper utterly defeated. Though the shot seemed effortless, the teamwork and precision in finding that opening were truly outstanding.

"Nice!"

Upon seeing the goal, Ding Yue snapped his fingers and took a sip of refreshing beer, followed by a bite of duck frame. Life couldn't get better.

"Five-one! We've got this in the bag, haven't we?"

Zhang Yu asked excitedly.

"The win is definitely secure. Now it's just a question of the final score."

Ding Yue calmly replied to Zhang Yu.

For someone like Zhang Yu and Lin Zhirou, their understanding of soccer was basic at best. They didn't fully grasp the current dynamics, but anyone could tell from the score that unless something wildly unexpected happened, Feiyue Team had this match firmly in hand.

As the game headed into its final phase, both Feiyue Team and Lu City Team brought their best efforts to the field.

Admittedly.

The tenacity shown by Lu City Team was commendable. Even with the five-one score that almost guaranteed defeat, they continued fighting to the end, trying to claw back a few points in the remaining twenty or thirty minutes.

And so, the teams remained locked in an ongoing struggle that stretched into the last ten minutes of the match.

"Huff, huff."

Every player was gasping for breath, their shirts soaked in sweat, their stamina nearly depleted.

After spending the entire match under immense pressure, running up and down the field passing the ball and applying continuous pressure, the situation now hinged on each player's ability to endure.

"Guys, let's give some respect to the opposing team. They know they're going to lose, but they're still fighting to the bitter end!"

During Feiyue Team's defensive pullback, one of the players near a cluster of teammates voiced his sentiment.

"Hold strong!"

Feiyue Team's players decided against pressing for more aggressive attacks. With their current physical state, pushing forward would not only risk failing to score but also leave gaps that Lu City Team might exploit.

Instead, Feiyue Team focused all their energy on defense, denying Lu City Team any chances to score. At this point, the contest wasn't about winning or losing—it was about seeing who could hold out longer before the final whistle.

On one side, Lu City Team fought desperately to score a consolation goal and settle the score at five-two.

On the other side, Feiyue Team refused to let them secure that goal, determined to finish the match with a five-one victory.

The final ten minutes became a fierce and ultimate showdown between the two teams!

It was during this moment that Lu City Team truly revealed their strength as a top-tier team in the Xia Super League.

"Damn! Even if we lose, it's been ages since we've had such an exhilarating match!"

A star player on Lu City Team thought to himself with satisfaction.

In past matches against other Xia Super League teams, it was rare for their fighting spirit to be stoked like this. Those games often felt too formulaic.

But today was different.

That thrilling sensation of pushing themselves to their limits—it was so addictive.

This felt like rediscovering why they'd started playing soccer in the first place—the unbridled joy and purity of the sport.

The outcome of victory or defeat seemed less significant now.

Sure, Feiyue Team was leading five-one, and Lu City Team would undoubtedly lose, but in these last ten minutes, all they wanted was to play wholeheartedly, showcasing their style, their spirit!

"Wow, did Lu City Team just get a sudden burst of energy?"

Huang Youjie exclaimed in surprise as he watched the situation on the field.

In these final ten minutes, Lu City Team's coordination visibly improved. Their attack strength intensified, and several players elevated their performance significantly, displaying an impressive final surge.

"Maybe they've rediscovered the true meaning of playing soccer during these final minutes. Also, it's our Feiyue Team that enabled them to find this feeling."

Ding Yue analyzed with a smile.

Not only had Huang Youjie, Xu Bin, and Ding Yue noticed.

Many soccer fans in the audience also picked up on Lu City Team's transformation.

"In these last ten minutes, Lu City Team seems to have stepped up their game."

"This is how soccer should be played!"

"They've got real spirit."

"This final struggle—pretty exciting, actually."

"What was Lu City Team even doing before? They looked lifeless like a limp chicken."

"These last ten minutes have earned my respect for Lu City Team."

"Notice how Lu City Team never showed this kind of energy in the past, even in their victories—it always felt half-hearted. But against Feiyue Team, they've unlocked their potential."

"What does this prove? It proves Feiyue Team's overwhelming strength inspires other teams to pour everything into the match!"

Amid these online discussions, the referee's whistle finally blew.

"Alright, viewers, the match is over. Feiyue Team held strong in the final stages and secured the game with a five-one victory. Let's congratulate Feiyue Team!"

Chapter 1614: Fantasies Under the Starry Sky

We won.

As expected.

But it also felt a bit unexpected.

Ding Yue lay on the picnic blanket, hands behind his head, in a cheerful mood as he gazed at the vast expanse of stars before him.

Every star was so dazzling.

Only in the highlands could one witness such a pristine night sky. In the big cities, if you look up, apart from the faint glow of the moon, it's nearly impossible to see other stars.

"Ah! I knew the Feiyue Team would take this easily."

Beside him, Huang Youjie also lay down, hands cushioning the back of his head.

Quickly following were Xu Bin, Zhang Yu, and Lin Zhirou, all lying down as well. At this moment, everyone was together, staring up at the star-studded sky. The beautiful and radiant stars held a timeless allure.

"What a stunning night sky."

Zhang Yu couldn't help but sigh. "In the city, I've never seen such pure, clear stars."

"Exactly."

Ding Yue added, "The pollution in cities is still too severe. Only places like Gaozang's highlands, with air so clean, can show you such clear and magnificent starlit skies."

"Yue, don't you think it'd be amazing if there was some futuristic tech to solve pollution and purify the air?"

Huang Youjie once again let his "extraordinary" imagination take flight.

"Isn't there already an air purifier?"

Xu Bin responded calmly.

"Air purifier? What good is that? It can only clean the air in one room. Are we supposed to design a giant air purifier for the entire city?"

Huang Youjie shot back with a retort.

In his mind, the revolutionary technology for air purification had to be far beyond a simple air purifier.

However...

Ding Yue suddenly chuckled and said, "It's not entirely impossible. Huang, what you just mentioned—installing giant air purifiers in cities—could actually purify urban air."

"How big would it have to be? There are so many cars in the city."

Zhang Yu couldn't help but start imagining.

Just how large would an air purifier need to be to cleanse a city's air and allow its citizens to see a sky full of sparkling stars?

"Actually, with the gradual adoption of Feiyue New Energy Vehicles in the future, and more people abandoning fuel-powered cars for electric ones, I think the air quality in cities will improve significantly over time."

Lin Zhirou spoke with hopeful anticipation.

This was indeed a major trend. More and more people were choosing to leave behind traditional fuel vehicles. Nowadays, it could be said that except for those who already owned fuel cars and lacked the financial means to buy a second vehicle, the vast majority of car owners had chosen Xia Country's domestically produced electric vehicles—Feiyue · Future.

"The creation of our Feiyue · Future New Energy Vehicles is precisely in line with the goal of carbon neutrality."

Ding Yue smiled and said, "But the concept of a city purifier is genuinely intriguing. If there's ever an opportunity, I'd like to try building one."

"In Mist City or Shu City?"

Xu Bin inquired.

Ding Yue understood why Bin had asked. Mist City got its name precisely because, for most of the 365 days of the year, it was shrouded in mist. And now, thanks to severe urban pollution, the mist issue had grown far more complicated.

Shu City, however, spoke for itself, being infamously known for its smog. It had trended online numerous times because of its air quality issues.

"Either works."

Ding Yue grinned as he spoke.

For now, it was just an "idea." A massive urban air purifier would require unknown technology, but that wouldn't be a problem for Ding Yue.

All he needed to do was research the necessary technology, then either discover it himself or directly exchange for it in the system marketplace.

But that was for another time.

Ding Yue wasn't in a rush to develop some urban air purifier just yet. First, he wanted to enjoy this road trip. After that, he would return to Mist City Arts and Science University.

Once back at Mist City Arts and Science University, if the right moment came, Ding Yue would certainly consider dedicating some energy to developing that urban air purifier.

"Yue, I remember you once said that our journey is to the stars and the seas. Do you think, within our lifetime, we'll have the chance to explore the vast cosmos?"

Xu Bin suddenly posed the question with unrestricted imagination. "I really want to see the grand, magnificent universe out there."

"Who wouldn't?"

Huang Youjie muttered, "The true romance of a man is in the stars and the seas."

Zhang Yu had heard before that men often dreamed of the boundless stars and seas. Now, it seemed to be confirmed. Both Director Huang and Director Xu deeply yearned for the stars and the seas.

But what about Principal Ding—did he, too, dream of the stars and seas?

"Of course."

A faint smile appeared at the corner of Ding Yue's lips as he said, "Within our lifetime, we will undoubtedly leave the solar system to pursue the vast universe."

Wow!

Principal Ding, too, loved the stars and seas. He even wanted to leave the solar system to experience the infinite universe—what an incredibly romantic ambition!

Zhang Yu didn't know why, but perhaps under Principal Ding's influence, she, too, found herself inspired with an endless yearning and fascination for the infinite cosmos.

"Really now."

Huang Youjie teased. "If we want to leave the solar system, first we'll need to build a spaceship. And the spaceship's engine can't be weak. At the very least, it'll need nuclear power to start with. But not nuclear fission—only nuclear fusion, which is the safest and most efficient. The only problem is that humanity doesn't yet have mastery over nuclear fusion. If we're waiting for that... the odds seem pretty slim."

Chapter 1615: Fantasizing Under the Starry Sky_2

Xu Bin is quite familiar with the current state of human energy and propulsion.

Nowadays, humanity's space missions, whether it's moon landings or sending probes to Mars, primarily rely on conventional fuel energy—chemical energy. Rarely do we see rockets using nuclear energy.

Due to energy limitations, humans are stuck navigating just the Moon and Mars. Venturing further out to Saturn, Jupiter, and their moons is currently impossible.

"As long as we humans keep striving, there will come a day when we break through, won't there?"

Ding Yue was rather confident.

After all, Ding Yue had access to the University System, and within that system, there was the breakthrough black technology of controlled nuclear fusion. The only issue was that Ding Yue hadn't yet managed to unlock controlled nuclear fusion.

With a bit more effort, Ding Yue believed he could unlock controlled nuclear fusion. At that point, Mist City Arts and Science University could take the lead in developing the technology.

When that time comes, humanity will enter into a brand-new era of civilization—the Interstellar Navigation Era.

Exactly.

Once humanity possesses controlled nuclear fusion technology, it will undeniably mark the beginning of the Interstellar Navigation Era.

What does the Interstellar Navigation Era signify?

It signifies a brand-new era of exploration, a fresh epoch of cosmic pioneering is about to unfold—a time of grand, sweeping changes, full of allure and contemplation.

Even Ding Yue couldn't help but anticipate the arrival of this era.

"Huang, nuclear fusion can indeed kick off the Interstellar Navigation Era, but the cosmos is so vast. Just our own Milky Way galaxy has a diameter of 100,000 light-years. Can fusion engine technology get a spaceship's speed up to even 0.5% of light speed? Even if it could achieve that, leaving the Milky Way would still be an impossible feat."

Xu Bin, taking a semi-professional stance, explained the realities of interstellar travel.

Because the universe is unimaginably expansive, humanity and Earth are minuscule within it. The distances between stars far exceed the human lifespan, precluding exploration on such a scale.

Thus, Xu Bin argued that while nuclear fusion could kickstart the Interstellar Navigation Era, it would still be limited to interplanetary travel or, at most, interstellar voyages between neighboring stars.

"Aren't wormholes supposed to be a way to swiftly traverse the universe?"

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin engaged in a direct discussion about the vastness of the cosmos and how interstellar travel across broader ranges might be achievable.

"Wormholes?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue chimed in: "Theoretically, sure, wormholes can shorten the distance between two star systems. But for humans to master wormholes—or even artificially create them—that would require some incredibly advanced technology. It's likely to challenge existing scientific theories immensely."

"In this boundless universe, everything is possible."

Huang Youjie remarked with a philosophical air.

It sounded plausible, yet from a scientific perspective, such ideas lacked any foundation. However, human science and technology as it stands remain confined to what humanity observes in the universe. Much of the vast cosmos remains beyond our observation.

"Come on. It's just something to think about. Do you really think our real-world universe is like a sci-fi movie?"

Ding Yue rolled his eyes.

When things seemed too far-fetched, Ding Yue chose not to dwell on them. The black technology provided through his University System was already enough for him to lead human civilization into the space age—that was plenty exciting.

Even that would require years of hard work managing Mist City Arts and Science University effectively.

"Principal Ding, hypothetically—just hypothetically—if humanity discovered an uninhabited but highly suitable planet for human settlement in the universe, would you choose to live there?"

Zhang Yu posed this dreamy question to Principal Ding, despite her limited knowledge of astronomy.

"Wow, if such a planet were really discovered, it wouldn't just be me moving there. It would become humanity's second Earth."

Ding Yue shrugged and casually replied, "Human civilization's development definitely won't just stay limited to Earth. Expanding into the stars is an inevitable trend for the future."

"So exciting!"

Zhang Yu, wide-eyed, stared at the vast starry sky, eagerly anticipating the arrival of the space-exploring era that Principal Ding described.

Earth is humanity's first home, but if a planet resembling Earth that's suitable for human habitation is ever found, it would become the second home. Won't there eventually be a third home? A fourth? A fifth?

That grandiose, unfathomable era—it's so captivating. Even someone like Zhang Yu, a young woman, felt her heart throb at the thought.

Lin Zhirou had been silent the entire time.

Still, she listened intently to Principal Ding and the others chatting, and she enjoyed listening very much.

Although Lin Zhirou didn't speak, in her mind, she was already imagining a serene life on a new planet alongside Principal Ding.

Wondering silently, are others thinking the same thing?

"Alright, folks—soccer match watched, stargazing done. It's getting late; let's head back and rest early. Tomorrow we'll explore the scenic spots of Dao City, and then continue our journey afterward."

Ding Yue rose from the picnic mat and smiled at the group.

Tonight's experience gave Ding Yue a sense of reclaiming his youth.

Indeed, he had never felt something quite like this before—enjoying food outdoors, watching a soccer match (particularly the game involving Mist City Arts and Science University's Feiyue Football Club), lying on the grass, gazing at the stars, and envisioning the future of interstellar exploration. The feeling was truly wonderful.

"Let's go; time to head back."

"Big White, gather up the stuff. We're heading back now."

The group began packing, helping Big White clean up and collect all the garbage into bags to take away.

Once everyone departed, the grassland under the starry sky looked as untouched as if no one had ever visited.

After returning to the hotel, Ding Yue enjoyed a hot shower and prepared to sleep.

You have to admit—in Gaozang's high-altitude region, taking a hot shower is no easy feat. Hotels here are generally more expensive compared to other areas.

Given the limited conditions.

However, for Ding Yue, as long as he could solve an issue with money, it wasn't really an issue. Moreover, once Feiyue Technology's graphene solar power stations were widely deployed across Gaozang, the region's energy shortage would undoubtedly improve.

...

The next day.

Ding Yue slept in and woke naturally.

When he went to find Huang and Bin, he discovered that Huang seemed to experience a slight case of altitude sickness. Thankfully, it wasn't severe and wouldn't disrupt their plans to continue the trip.

After all, Big White had already performed a physical check-up on Huang. The altitude sickness was minor and had no major impact.

That day, Ding Yue and the group spent their last day touring Dao City before departing at 4:30 PM to head toward Highland City.

On the way, Feiyue · Future's electric vehicle cruised along the 318 Highway, crossing one towering mountain after another. From the car, Ding Yue and his companions witnessed breathtaking landscapes along the way.

There were mountain-top lakes, distant snow-capped peaks—it's no wonder so many people dream of visiting Gaozang for its majestic scenery and want to experience the 318 Highway themselves. It's clearly well worth it!

The group continued their journey with frequent stops.

Thus, it took them three full days to arrive at Highland City.

It was Ding Yue's first time visiting Highland City, and the city thoroughly astonished his senses.

Although it didn't rival Mist City or Shu City in prosperity, the air quality was undoubtedly far superior—without question.

Chapter 1616: Inspecting the Solar Photovoltaic Power Station

Neatly arranged solar photovoltaic panels, bathed in sunlight, collect green and environmentally friendly solar energy.

kilometers northwest of Gaozang City.

Here lies the largest solar power station in the Gaozang region. The solar panels used are all graphene solar photovoltaic panels produced by Feiyue Technology, and the efficiency of collecting solar energy is extremely high.

Therefore.

This solar power station was named "Feiyue Solar Power Station Base 02," jointly operated by Feiyue Group, Mist City Arts and Science University, and the National Grid. The power station is responsible for collecting solar energy and converting it into electricity, while the National Grid ensures the electricity is delivered to every place in the Gaozang region that needs it.

Moreover, due to its massive scale and high energy conversion efficiency, there is surplus solar energy converted into electricity that can be transmitted to farther locations.

For example, Tianfu, Hanzhong, and the Guanzhong Plains.

"Principal Ding, we have professional personnel here who perform daily maintenance on all the solar photovoltaic panels to ensure their proper operation. In addition, over there, we have established residential, rest, and recreation areas for the staff. Our cooperation with the National Grid is also extremely close."

The project manager responsible for this solar power station enthusiastically reported to Principal Ding.

For him, it was truly unexpected that Principal Ding would come here for an inspection. He was excited and thrilled because this location is situated on the Gaozang Plateau, and the value of this

graphene solar power station is relatively insignificant in the grand operation of Mist City Arts and Science University and Feiyue Group under Principal Ding's leadership.

But Principal Ding actually made the effort to inspect this site and held high expectations for the graphene solar photovoltaic power station.

How could this not make people feel excited?

"Hmm, I can tell that you've been maintaining everything very well."

Ding Yue nodded in satisfaction and then asked, "Are the maintenance personnel from our Mist City Arts and Science University?"

"Yes, one team, totaling five people."

The project manager, Zhang Jianfeng, replied.

"Hmm... Do you all feel that working here is challenging?" Ding Yue asked again.

This question is one that many people working in the Gaozang region could relate to. The conditions here are tough, and it would be dishonest to say it isn't challenging.

"Principal Ding, I'll be honest. It is indeed quite challenging working here. The environment is completely different. However, we are compensated with higher wages for being here, so everyone feels it's worthwhile."

Zhang Jianfeng answered honestly.

Ding Yue glanced at the project manager in front of him, Zhang Jianfeng. He couldn't help but appreciate his candor. The fact that he spoke openly without holding back was something Ding Yue liked.

"After a few more years of work, salaries can be increased again. Annual benefits, year-end bonuses, and other provisions from the company will certainly be in place. Thank you for your hard work—you are the guardians of energy on the plateau!"

Ding Yue spoke with great respect to Zhang Jianfeng.

This was indeed true. Zhang Jianfeng and his team were safeguarding this solar power station, delivering clean, efficient, and green solar energy to the Gaozang region. Their significance was monumental.

Hearing Principal Ding's affirmation of his and his colleagues' work, Zhang Jianfeng felt elated.

He had always heard that Principal Ding was an excellent leader. Even though Ding Yue did not directly participate in the operations of Feiyue Group, he was known for his exceptional care for the employees. Previously, Zhang Jianfeng had only heard of this reputation, as he had been working in the Gaozang region and had little opportunity to interact with Ding Yue.

Now, meeting Principal Ding in person solidified Zhang Jianfeng's belief in the rumors he had heard.

Afterward, Ding Yue asked Zhang Jianfeng to take him to meet the other staff members of the solar power station, as well as the personnel working in collaboration with the National Grid. After extensive conversations, Ding Yue developed an even deeper understanding of the challenges faced in the Gaozang region.

Thus, Ding Yue decided that starting next month, every staff member working here would receive a salary increase.

Their current wages were already high, so the raise couldn't be too large; otherwise, it would cause dissatisfaction among other employees in the company. It had to be reasonable.

So he decided to start with a small increment. There would be plenty of opportunities to give them further raises in the future!

"Thank you, Principal Ding, and thank you for recognizing the efforts of all the staff on this project."

Expressing his gratitude, Zhang Jianfeng said sincerely.

"Keep up the good work."

Ding Yue extended his hand and patted Zhang Jianfeng on the shoulder.

In the future, the solar power stations in the Gaozang region would still rely on this group of people to keep them operational. The road ahead was long, and the responsibility heavy; they had to be treated well.

In fact, every employee under Feiyue Group carried the burden of the company's and Mist City Arts and Science University's future development. Ding Yue resolved to never let any of them down.

After spending half a day at the graphene solar photovoltaic power station, Ding Yue gave instructions to Zhang Jianfeng and the other employees and then departed from the site.

Although this location could be considered a beautiful landmark in the Gaozang region, half a day was enough time to visit. Staying any longer would be unnecessary and might even disrupt the work routines of the staff at the station.

Chapter 1617: Inspecting the Solar Photovoltaic Power Station_2

After all, being both a university president and the behind-the-scenes boss of Feiyue Group, staying here would undoubtedly distract them from their work as they tried to accommodate me.

After leaving the graphene solar photovoltaic power base, Ding Yue and his group drove toward the Bian-Tibet Highway. This road serves as the main route connecting the northwest borderlands to the Gaozang Plateau region. Simply following the highway straight ahead, they would leave the Gaozang Plateau and reach the desert areas of the northwest borderlands.

The northwest region was also one of the planned routes for Ding Yue's self-driving trip this time.

Firstly, although much of the northwest region consists of desolate deserts and gobi plains, there are still many areas with stunning scenery. Additionally, there was another graphene solar photovoltaic power base of Feiyue Technology here—Base No.01.

Since they had already visited the solar photovoltaic power base in the Gaozang Plateau, they couldn't skip the one in the northwest, could they?

Otherwise, people might say that as a president and a boss, I was playing favorites. How awkward would that be?

However.

The road leading out of the Gaozang Plateau is very long, so it would take quite a while to reach the vast desert in the northwest. Moreover, once they reached the northwest desert, Ding Yue's group planned to explore several cities, experience the local culture and cuisines, and then proceed to their target destination according to their route.

The graphene solar photovoltaic power base in the northwest region was positioned relatively later in their itinerary. Due to the route plan, Ding Yue and the group would start in the southern part of the northwest borderlands, follow the highway northward, pass through the famous viral Duku Highway, then travel eastward along snowy mountains before finally arriving at the power base.

Along the way, there would be great views to enjoy, delicious food to savor, and countless stories to experience. So, Ding Yue wasn't in any rush at all. He had set aside over ten days to thoroughly enjoy a self-driving trip around the vast northwest borderlands.

"What an endless stretch of desert, huh."

"What if we get lost in the desert?"

"Are you dumb? We're driving on a desert highway. Just follow the highway—how could we possibly get lost?"

The group started discussing a seemingly childish topic.

Ding Yue joined in with a laugh, saying, "With how advanced our Beidou Navigation Satellite System is nowadays, there's no way we'd get lost in the desert. Don't worry—unless, of course, you deliberately tempt fate, hahaha."

Ding Yue was quite familiar with the domestic Beidou Navigation Satellite System. In fact, the Beidou Navigation Satellite System had collaborated with the Internet of Everything initiative of Mist City Arts and Science University to create a relatively mature Internet of Everything system.

In other words, many things in Xia Country could now be directly interconnected.

For example, the transportation of fruits and cargo trains originating from the northwest borderlands could all be managed and operated with greater precision, safety, and sophistication through the Internet of Everything.

This was the charm of the Internet of Everything.

Connecting everything—real-world objects linked via networks, powered by advanced 5G technology and future 6G technology to unify everything.

This could also be considered another form of intelligence.

At least, that's how Ding Yue saw it. By connecting the Internet of Everything, it would be possible to use artificial intelligence to "smartify" real-world items, thereby managing and operating these complex things with minimal labor costs.

While passing through a region known for its jade production, Ding Yue and his group stumbled upon a jade auction.

What a coincidence.

Since they had already come across it, why not join the fun?

Although Ding Yue wasn't particularly interested in jade, since they were there anyway, participating to see how jade auctions operated made for a worthwhile experience.

And so.

Ding Yue brought along Huang and Bin, registering for three auction participant passes. Each person paired with another, making a total of six people entering the auction venue.

Ding Yue and the others chose VIP seats for the auction—after all, Ding Yue wasn't short on money.

"Ladies and gentlemen, our first item up for auction today is a finely carved Hetian Jade piece featuring the Dragon and Phoenix Bringing Prosperity motif, with a starting bid of 110,000 yuan!"

The auction host opened the event with this announcement.

The first auction item was an exquisite Hetian Jade piece with a Dragon and Phoenix motif.

It was undoubtedly made of authentic Hetian Jade. Genuine Hetian Jade is inherently valuable, and with such meticulous craftsmanship, the starting bid of 110,000 yuan suggested that winning this item would likely cost several hundred thousand yuan.

However, Ding Yue wasn't particularly interested.

It was indeed beautiful and had great collectible value.

But alas, Ding Yue simply wasn't interested. No matter how much money he had, he wouldn't spend it on something he didn't care about.

So, he decided to just watch the show.

"Yue, should we bid?"

Nearby, Huang Youjie glanced over and asked Ding Yue.

"If you like it, go for it," Ding Yue shrugged and replied.

Both Huang Youjie and Xu Bin weren't particularly interested in Hetian Jade. They were simply there to join Yue and enjoy the lively auction, so there was no need to spend so much money on such items.

Not that Huang or Bin were short on money either.

"Bidder No.6 has offered 115,000 yuan! Alright, ladies and gentlemen, such a delicate Dragon and Phoenix motif is not to be missed. Bidder No.18 has raised it to 125,000 yuan!"

"Bidder No.9 offers 130,000 yuan!"

"Any higher? Bidder No.2 offers 150,000 yuan—150,000!"

"And Bidder No.23 now at 160,000 yuan!"

The buyers clearly loved this Dragon and Phoenix Hetian Jade. In just a few quick rounds, the starting price of 110,000 yuan had surged past 200,000 yuan, and bidders were still actively raising offers.

"Bidder No.6 is at 275,000 yuan. Does anyone else have a higher bid?"

...

"310,000 yuan!"

...

"The current bid is 375,000 yuan—375,000 once, 375,000 twice, 375,000 three times—sold!"

In the end, this exquisite Dragon and Phoenix Hetian Jade was purchased by a bidder at a final price of 375,000 yuan.

Whether it was worth it depended on the buyer's perspective. Judging from the buyer's delighted expression, it seemed the purchase was worth it to them.

Ding Yue surmised that the buyer likely didn't acquire the jade for personal use or collection. The look on their face suggested it was meant as a gift for someone else.

"Next, we have another piece of Hetian Jade. While it's more ordinary, it is exceptionally beautiful."

As the host finished speaking, the curtain was lifted, revealing a jade stone the size of a thumb.

"Is this today's star piece?"

"Yes, yes, this is it!"

"The price will definitely be high."

"No matter the price, I have to get it!"

The crowd buzzed with chatter.

It seemed like everyone was determined to bid on this piece of jade.

Ding Yue gave it a glance. The jade was indeed stunning, and at certain angles, it appeared to emit a faint bluish glow. Upon closer inspection, it seemed ethereal—almost dreamlike.

"So beautiful," Zhang Yu gasped.

The small piece of jade immediately captured Zhang Yu's heart.

"Zhang Yu, you seem to really like this piece," Ding Yue smiled as he asked the young lady beside him.

"Yeah, I just think it's so beautiful," Zhang Yu replied with a cheerful smile.

"Hmm."

Ding Yue responded softly, his gaze now fixed on the jade stone.

It was clear that Zhang Yu really liked this piece of jade.

"This jade, numbered Hetian Jade No.0001, starts at 1 million yuan!" the host announced.

Just this small piece—for 1 million!

Clearly, its value wasn't tied to its size. There must be more to its story!

Ding Yue was instantly intrigued. And since Zhang Yu liked it so much, why not bid for it himself and gift it to her? Surely, she would be delighted.

Chapter 1618: Big White Makes a Move, Easily Takes on Five!

A small piece of jade stone with a starting price of one million.

Ding Yue speculated that there must be some hidden value behind this jade stone. However, since he wasn't familiar with jade or these kinds of things, he wasn't sure what trickery might be involved here.

Still, judging by how enthusiastically everyone was participating in the auction, it was clearly a valuable object.

Sure enough, in no time, the bidding price had jumped from one million to one million one hundred and fifteen thousand, and was still climbing steadily.

Ding Yue wasn't in a hurry to make a bid.

After all, bidding now wouldn't make much of a difference—others would just keep raising the price. Ding Yue decided to hold off until the critical moment; then, he'd place his bid. Regardless of how expensive it got, if he wanted to acquire it, he'd definitely take it.

"One million one hundred and nineteen thousand!"

"Mr. Number 6 bids one million two hundred thousand! Any bids higher than one million six hundred thousand?"

"Alright, Mr. Number 20 has bid one million two hundred and fifty thousand!"

Initially, everyone had been raising their bids by increments of ten thousand. Then one person suddenly jumped the price by fifty thousand in one go, seeming quite determined to win.

If they weren't set on winning, then perhaps they just wanted to stir up trouble.

Ding Yue hadn't expected that in a city in the northwestern frontier, so many wealthy people would gather here to bid millions for a piece of jade stone.

But upon careful thought, it made sense.

This region was famous for producing high-quality jade. Businesspeople passionate about rare and valuable jade came here to bid on its treasures. It was natural that this small piece of jade must be a rare gem.

Given this, Ding Yue became even more interested in acquiring this little item.

"Yue, it's over one million yuan—are you really going to buy it?"

Huang Youjie turned to Ding Yue, asking deliberately.

"Yep."

Ding Yue smiled and nodded, replying, "I'll buy it for a friend. I think she'll love it."

Ding Yue did not explain too much, but Xu Bin seemed to have realized something. Yet Huang Youjie, slower on the uptake, didn't catch on so quickly.

On the side, Zhang Yu naturally didn't know that Principal Ding intended to gift the jade stone to her.

"Then Yue should go ahead and buy it. I was thinking about joining in too, but seeing so many people fighting for it, maybe I'll just let you win." Xu Bin shrugged and joked, "A gentleman doesn't snatch what others desire."

"Hahaha."

Ding Yue burst into laughter upon hearing this.

His friends really understood him. Both Bin and Huang showed interest in the tiny jade stone earlier, but when they learned Ding Yue wanted it, they immediately decided against bidding.

"Alright, the current bidding price is one million two hundred and ninety thousand yuan—one million two hundred and ninety thousand yuan, once!"

The auctioneer glanced at the audience and announced the bid.

This time, there wasn't anyone quick to raise their bidding paddle.

It seemed like one million two hundred and ninety thousand had become a threshold.

"One million two hundred and ninety thousand..."

As the auctioneer prepared to call it for the second time, a bidder from the VIP area raised their paddle—it was clear they had a significant social status or substantial wealth.

"One million three hundred thousand!"

The auctioneer, seeing the bids continue to rise, couldn't help but smile.

After all, the higher the final auction price for this small piece of jade, the larger the auction commission they'd receive. What a solidly profitable business!

"Yue, aren't you going to bid yet?"

Huang Youjie asked Ding Yue when the bidding had reached one million three hundred thousand.

"No rush."

Ding Yue remained composed. The competition was still in the phase where everyone wanted to take the item right away. There was no point in getting involved now. He'd wait until no one was willing to bid any higher, then strike decisively.

"The next few bidders will probably push the price up even more," Ding Yue added.

And sure enough.

Once the bidding hit one million three hundred thousand, some wealthy participants started raising the bids in increments of twenty thousand instead of the usual ten thousand. Some even went straight to fifty thousand per round.

In the blink of an eye, the price for the small piece of jade reached one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand.

"One million six hundred and sixty-five thousand—once, one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand—twice..."

When the jade stone reached this price, it seemed no one else was willing to go higher. The bidder who had offered one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand flashed a victorious smile, while the woman beside him happily planted a kiss on his cheek.

"One million seven hundred thousand!"

At this moment, Ding Yue made his move, just as expected.

After all, with bidding slowing at one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand, and the auctioneer about to call it for the third time, the transaction would have been finalized. Ding Yue's timing had to be neither too quick nor too late—this was the perfect moment.

Chapter 1619: Big White Makes a Move, Easily Takes on Five!_2

"Alright, we have a bid of one million seven hundred thousand from Boss Zhao."

The auction host said excitedly.

At this moment, the boss who had just bid one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand and was determined to win suddenly looked upset. He glanced over at Ding Yue's side, clearly furious and gritting his teeth in anger.

Adding another fifty thousand at this point — it was obvious that someone didn't want him to get this jade at all.

"One million seven hundred and fifty thousand once, one million seven hundred and fifty thousand twice..."

When the auction host reached this point, he purposely glanced at the boss who had bid one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand, waiting to see if he'd raise his bid again.

However, the boss ultimately chose to give up.

He understood full well that anyone stepping in to steal the deal at this stage likely had a high price expectancy. Competing further would only hurt himself. Frankly, the boss already felt one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand was exorbitant, but he was willing to pay it to please the beauty by his side. Yet, just then, this young man jumped in and ruined everything. It was infuriating!

"One million seven hundred thousand three times! Congratulations to the boss!" With a bang of the gavel, the auction host finalized the deal, confirming that Ding Yue had won the jade for one million seven hundred thousand.

Ding Yue remained calm. One million seven hundred thousand was nothing to him — mere pocket change. It was like a regular guy spending seventeen dollars and fifty cents. He wouldn't even blink at this kind of spending here.

The only slight downside was that the boss who had bid one million six hundred and sixty-five thousand now looked at him with a less-than-friendly expression.

Well, what could he do? Ding Yue had "stolen" the jade he was so desperate to acquire.

But Ding Yue didn't care about any of that.

"Dear, why didn't you fight him for it?"

The woman beside the boss wasn't happy.

The boss's face darkened as he said menacingly, "Just wait. No matter who this kid is, one way or another, a little punk dares to cross me?"

"Boss,"

The middle-aged man standing beside the boss had a look of fierce determination in his eyes.

"Wait until this is over. Follow him and find out which hotel he's staying at; I'll have a little chat with him," Boss Zhao ordered maliciously.

"Got it, boss,"

The middle-aged man nodded.

It was clear that Boss Zhao wasn't someone to be trifled with. His name held weight in Northwest China. He had connections with both the underworld and the business world, and his empire extended broadly. He was well-acquainted with all kinds of people.

So, naturally, he wasn't happy about being humiliated at this auction today.

After securing the jade, Ding Yue went backstage to sign the auction agreement, make the payment, and officially take possession of the jade.

The auction team even explained to Ding Yue why this small piece of jade was worth so much and was a collector's item.

It turned out...

Although the jade itself was just an ordinary piece of Hetian jade, its backstory was anything but ordinary.

According to rumors, this small piece of Hetian jade came from the ancient Loulan Kingdom in the Northwest desert. However, who exactly it had belonged to in ancient times was unknown. It was considered a rare relic from antiquity that had survived through the ages. Since it hadn't been carved into an artifact, its value didn't reach the level of a major "antique." Still, it was easily worth over a million yuan.

Ding Yue didn't pay too much attention to these details, though.

All he cared about was that the jade held its million-plus value.

After all, Ding Yue didn't buy it for his collection; he simply bought it because someone liked it — that's all there was to it.

Once he had the jade, Ding Yue placed it in the box prepared by the auction house, took it, and left backstage to return to the rest of the auction.

As for the rest of the auction items, Ding Yue wasn't particularly interested.

About two hours later, today's auction concluded successfully. As Ding Yue was preparing to leave, the Boss Zhao who had been undercut earlier walked over to him.

"Young man,"

Boss Zhao approached with Ding Yue as his clear target.

Seeing a man in his fifties coming up to talk to him, Ding Yue, who didn't recognize him, calmly asked, "What's up?"

"That piece of jade in your hand — would you consider selling it to me for the one million seven hundred thousand you paid?"

Boss Zhao asked bluntly.

And his tone wasn't especially polite — just plain and straightforward.

Ding Yue was perplexed. He asked immediately, "If you wanted this jade so badly, why didn't you bid for it during the auction?"

This was absurd.

At the auction, he hadn't raised his bid to secure the jade, but now that it was over, he wanted to buy it from Ding Yue? Seriously?

There was no way Ding Yue would hand over something he had already acquired, especially since the jade was meant to be a gift for Zhang Yu.

"Young man, it's clear you've got little experience. I simply didn't want to compete with a junior like you,"

Boss Zhao sneered.

Oh, wow!

Hearing this, Ding Yue instantly felt annoyed.

"Our boss spared you the effort; show some gratitude, will you?" barked one of Boss Zhao's burly henchmen.

"Hey now, don't talk like that,"

Boss Zhao shot a glance at his henchman, performing a little good-cop, bad-cop routine.

With an attitude like this, anyone would be irritated — not just Ding Yue, but also Xu Bin or Huang Youjie.

"Xiao Zhang,"

Ignoring Boss Zhao entirely, Ding Yue called out to Zhang Yu.

"Hmm?"

Zhang Yu turned to look at Ding Yue.

Since both Lin Zhirou and Zhang Yu were wearing masks, no one at the scene recognized them.

"Didn't you like this? It's yours,"

Ding Yue directly handed the jade, won for one million seven hundred thousand, to Zhang Yu.

And he gave it to her right in front of Boss Zhao — just to piss him off. So what?

"Young man, you—!"

Boss Zhao was infuriated by the move.

He had wanted to win the jade for the woman by his side, but this young man had swooped in and stolen the opportunity.

"What's the matter?"

Seeing Boss Zhao fuming but unable to do anything about it, Ding Yue felt an enormous sense of satisfaction.

"Young man, you're from inland China, aren't you?"

Boss Zhao asked.

In the Northwest region, locals often referred to people from the central or eastern parts of the country as "inland people."

"Do I know you or something?"

Ding Yue replied dismissively and led Zhang Yu, Lin Zhirou, and Huang out of the auction hall.

"Young man, don't forget — a powerful dragon can't suppress a local snake. Watch yourself,"

Boss Zhao warned. Though the words sounded threatening, his tone was oddly neutral.

It was clear to Ding Yue that the man was trying to intimidate him, relying on his local influence.

Hah, bring it on.

Sure enough...

After Ding Yue and the others left the auction hall, Big White reported to him.

"Principal, someone seems to be following us,"

Big White said.

"Big White, it's all yours," Ding Yue instructed, leaving the matter to Big White.

He was out here to have fun and preferred things to go smoothly. But if trouble came his way, it needed to be dealt with, didn't it?

That said, Ding Yue had no intention of handling it himself.

He left it to Big White.

Initially, only two people followed them; later, three more joined in, including the burly henchman who had been with Boss Zhao at the auction hall.

Now...

The five men were planning, per Boss Zhao's orders, to teach Ding Yue and his group a lesson.

But to their astonishment, this young man had brought a robot — an AI robot, no less!

Big White easily took care of all five, leaving them sprawled on the ground, completely incapacitated for a good while.

Big White showed restraint, ensuring they couldn't get up temporarily without seriously injuring them — practically a kindness.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yu, delighted to receive the jade as a gift from Principal Ding, couldn't help but feel a trace of worry.

She wondered if Boss Zhao might seek trouble for Principal Ding later on.

Chapter 1620: Documentary About the Hexi Corridor

The self-driving road trip along the northwest frontier allowed Ding Yue to experience the breathtaking landscapes of his homeland.

From the desert wilderness to snow-capped mountains and grasslands, then to canyons and lakes—every stunning scene was captured by Ding Yue. Earth truly is an extraordinary planet.

Not only has it nurtured an intelligent civilization like humanity, but it also boasts nature's awe-inspiring masterpieces.

Whenever confronted with such soul-stirring natural beauty, Ding Yue can't help but wonder: In this vast universe, could there be many planets like Earth as well?

Perhaps on one of those planets, intelligent life might have developed civilizations similar to humanity's.

Or maybe those planets are barren and desolate, awaiting human exploration instead?

After a dozen days of the self-driving road trip, Ding Yue gained a lot during his journey through the northwest frontier. Before leaving, he visited the "Graphene Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation Base No. 02" in the northwest region.

Here, he met employees just like those stationed at the photovoltaic power base in the Gaozang region—dedicated and remarkable in their work.

Just like those in Gaozang, Ding Yue increased their wages and promised that the company would do its utmost to improve their conditions and benefits.

In regions as challenging as these, even small efforts toward their comfort can bring immense joy.

"Goodbye, Principal Ding."

As Ding Yue was about to leave, every employee at the northwest photovoltaic base bade him an emotional farewell.

A boss as considerate and kind as Principal Ding is truly one of a kind, which is why every employee feels proud and honored to work under Feiyue Group.

Leaving the eastern end of the northwest frontier, Ding Yue and his team didn't enter a picturesque landscape—instead, stretches of barren desert wilderness lay ahead.

Only upon reaching the Hexi Corridor would verdant greenery reappear; on one side of the Corridor stood the Qilian Mountains, while the other side still consisted of desert wasteland.

Seeing the grand mountain rivers of the Hexi Corridor, Ding Yue couldn't suppress his emotions.

"Oh, this beautiful Earth!"

After pouring out his sentiment, Ding Yue's remarks quickly triggered emotional responses from Huang and Bin.

Taking out his phone, Ding Yue searched online for documentaries about the Hexi Corridor but found no exceptional works in this Parallel World.

"Huh?"

Trying to locate documentaries on NTS channels proved fruitless as well.

"What? There's no documentary on the Hexi Corridor? What a pity."

Ding Yue initially wanted to revisit one.

After all, back on Earth in his previous life, there was a documentary titled *Hexi Corridor*, which was truly captivating.

Since such a documentary doesn't exist here,

then the responsibility falls to the Film Academy at Mist City Arts and Science University to create one!

"What's the matter, Yue?"

Xu Bin, noticing Yue's muttered words and slight disappointment, asked curiously.

"Take a look—how beautiful the Hexi Corridor is."

Ding Yue gazed out of the car window and then said, "The disappointing thing, though, is that I just searched high and low online and couldn't find any formal documentary about the Hexi Corridor."

"A documentary, huh."

Huang Youjie scratched his chin, murmuring to himself, "Seems like there really isn't one."

"So Yue, why don't we make one ourselves? I remember reading in history class that the Hexi Corridor is actually quite historically significant," Xu Bin said casually without a second thought.

"Hmm."

A smile tugged at Ding Yue's lips as he replied, "That's exactly what I was thinking. If there isn't a formal documentary on the Hexi Corridor, why don't we create one ourselves? I'll fund it."

As for the production team, both Feiyue Media and Mist City Arts and Science University are more than capable of forming a documentary crew.

The remaining concern is funding.

After all, filming and producing a documentary require a decent budget.

However,

money? That's the least of Ding Yue's worries.

"Big White, dial Director Zhu's number for me—I want to discuss this with him." Ding Yue instructed Big White directly.

"Understood, Principal."

Big White responded promptly and dialed the phone number of Director Zhu Youzhao from Mist City Arts and Science University's Film Academy.

"Man, Yue, you really are a man of action."

Huang Youjie gave a hearty thumbs-up.

Here he was, having only just thought of the idea, and now he was already contacting Director Zhu from the Film Academy—ready to bring this plan to life?

"What did you expect? Yue is someone who acts on whatever he says—classic man of action, never one for empty boasts. Hahaha."

Xu Bin teased lightheartedly.

"Exactly!" Huang Youjie nodded enthusiastically.

Soon after,

Director Zhu Youzhao from Mist City Arts and Science University's Film Academy answered the call.

"Hello, Principal Ding, have you returned from your vacation?"

Upon answering, Director Zhu immediately asked.

Everyone at Mist City Arts and Science University—the department heads and teachers—knew that Principal Ding was away on a road trip. Affairs at the university were mostly being handled by the administrative department, and any projects connected to Feiyue Group were coordinated directly through Miss An Yujia, whereas before, they would always require Principal Ding's involvement.

So when Director Zhu received a call from Principal Ding, his first assumption was that the Principal had returned from his extended vacation.