

## F. University 501

Chapter 501: The Social Status of Private Universities

Boom! Boom! Boom!

On the west side of Mist City Arts and Science University, various construction site equipment is running at full capacity.

Workers are busily beginning their tasks.

Among them are students from the School of Architecture at Mist City Arts and Science University, some conducting on-site construction measurements, others acting as on-site construction officers.

This large construction site is the internship battlefield for the sophomore students from the School of Architecture at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Since the National Day holiday, the second phase of expansion project at Mist City Arts and Science University has been ongoing in full swing.

This phase is essentially the main expansion of Mist City Arts and Science University, utilizing the remaining over 4000 acres for the construction of various buildings and venues that the university needs.

"Principal Ding, are you going to use all of the 5000 acres for educational purposes at once?"

After hearing Ding Yue's introduction about the Mist City Arts and Science University expansion project, Principal Xu Dongcheng from Westlight University couldn't help but show his amazement.

After all, 5000 acres is indeed massive.

Xu Dongcheng's own Westlight University only has a total area of over 4800 acres, while the current campus of Mist City Arts and Science University covers 2500 acres. With an additional 5000 acres, the total comes to 7500 acres. With such a large campus, walking from the east gate to the west gate is basically an equivalent to a long-distance relationship.

"Yes."

Ding Yue nodded and answered, "We have already built the Bookship Library and several dormitories, using several hundred acres."

In fact, the ongoing second phase expansion of Mist City Arts and Science University no longer has 5000 acres, but just over 4000 acres, as the Bookship Library, the Elegant Garden Apartments, and the Quiet Night Dormitory Building, being part of the first phase expansion project, had already used several hundred acres from the initial 5000 acres.

"Principal Ding, the campus of your Mist City Arts and Science University would really be huge. If all 7500 acres were to be fully developed, the number of students could exceed 100,000, right?"

Xu Dongcheng exclaimed.

One hundred thousand students!

This is significant exaggeration, as there are no universities nationwide with over one hundred thousand students at the present stage.

Xu Dongcheng once wished to develop his Westlight University into a private university with more than one hundred thousand students.

Unfortunately, this aspiration was never realized by Xu Dongcheng.

Not only that, but the number of students has not continued to increase, but has started to decline gradually.

In Westlight University's most glorious days, the number of students exceeded fifty thousand, with each grade having over ten thousand students and thousands of postgraduates.

But now.

Westlight University has begun its decline, with only over thirty thousand students in four grades and less than five hundred postgraduates.

"I believe reaching one hundred thousand students should be achievable, considering we already have over thirty thousand students now."

Ding Yue confidently said.

Ding Yue has never been worried about enrollment.

Because the independent enrolment scheme of his Mist City Arts and Science University does not require grades. In other words, students who did not perform well in the College Entrance Examination and don't want to retake it or whose families won't allow them to retake it, but still have the wish to attend university, can all study at Mist City Arts and Science University.

These would be current year students. However, people who had attended university but were not satisfied with their current university, or even those who missed the chance to attend university and had been working for one or two years, if they also have the dream to continue to university, Mist City Arts and Science University would in principle not reject them.

As long as you can afford the tuition fee, this is a crucial point for those young people who missed out on university.

Because the poverty alleviation student loan of Mist City Arts and Science University, in principle, only applies to current year College Entrance Examination students.

And these current year students are in fact the main body of the newly enrolled students of Mist City Arts and Science University each year, accounting for more than ninety-five percent!

"I have to say, Principal Ding, you are really doing a remarkable job with your private university!" Xu Dongcheng's tone was full of envy, and then he said: "At our Westlight University, we only have slightly over thirty thousand students across four undergraduate grades and postgraduate programs."

In comparison, Westlight University's student enrollment is falling behind Mist City Arts and Science University, given the latter already has over thirty thousand students just in their freshman and sophomore years.

However, the advantage of Westlight University over Mist City Arts and Science University is its domestic social status and the number of university talents it has nurtured.

People don't regard Westlight University as just another private "diploma mill", because the teaching strength of Westlight University is decent. Besides, the university has a long history and rich heritage, having nurtured generations of university students, with undoubtedly a notable number of talents among them.

Therefore, in the eyes of the general public, while Westlight University is a private university, it is considered "key" among private universities. Many people even think that Westlight University is stronger than some very ordinary undergraduate universities.

On the other hand, Mist City Arts and Science University does not yet enjoy such a social standing as Westlight University, as it is quite young. Although it's well known, its recognition of social status is still very low.

A university needs not only a good reputation, but also social recognition.

Mist City Arts and Science University has gained a reputation because it often makes the trending spots due to various events. While these are all positive events, this merely makes the general public aware of this private university.

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Social status involves achieving public recognition for this private university!

The only things at Mist City Arts and Science University that can gain this recognition are the Medical Kang Robots and the third-generation gallium nitride semiconductor materials.

Moreover, the third-generation gallium nitride semiconductor materials were researched and developed in collaboration with Jiangnan University of Science and Technology.

"Principal Xu, your Westlight University has a higher social status. Many people think that your Westlight University is stronger than the general public undergraduate universities. Our Mist City Arts and Science University does not have such social status."

Ding Yue said to Xu Dongcheng with a helpless smile.

This is also what Ding Yue envies about Xu Dongcheng.

Ding!

"Congratulations to the host for receiving the University Task--[University's Social Status]."

Suddenly, a system notification sounded in Ding Yue's mind.

There is a new task.

In the past two days, Ding Yue has received two system tasks.

This system task also appeared with Ding Yue's thoughts, which is that when chatting with Principal Xu Dongcheng about the social status of private universities, the corresponding university task naturally appeared.

"Task--[University's Social Status]: The host strives to improve the social status (social recognition) of Mist City Arts and Science University. Whenever a stage is reached, corresponding task rewards are available."

"[University's Social Status] stages: Preliminary Recognition, Public Recognition, Comparable to Public, Key Private, Domestic First-class, World-renowned."

[University's Social Status]—

Stage: Preliminary Recognition (95%)

After the system task notification in Ding Yue's mind ended, a task panel for this task appeared before his eyes.

Currently, the [University's Social Status] stage is at Preliminary Recognition at 95%, meaning it is about to achieve this stage.

And this [University's Social Status] task has six stages in total, which is somewhat similar to the university level of Mist City Arts and Science University.

However, it's clear that upgrading the university level is more difficult. This [University's Social Status] task should be simpler.

Despite this, Ding Yue looked at these six stages. Perhaps the stage of Preliminary Recognition is easier to achieve.

The stage of Public Recognition should not be very difficult. However, the Comparable to Public stage would require Mist City Arts and Science University's social status to match the level of a typical public undergraduate university in people's perception.

This could be somewhat difficult.

And to become a Key Private university, it requires reaching the social status of Westlight University, which is under Principal Xu Dongcheng's leadership, not to mention reaching the levels of Domestic First-class and World-renowned.

The difficulty can be imagined.

Ding Yue estimated that this [University's Social Status] task wasn't something that could be completed overnight. Who knows how many years it would take to achieve a world-renowned status?

So Ding Yue decided to take it one step at a time, aiming first for Preliminary Recognition and Public Recognition, and then see what rewards there are.

In fact, Ding Yue felt that this [University's Social Status] task and the university level of his own Mist City Arts and Science University have some degree of overlap.

Because improving the university level of Mist City Arts and Science University would obviously help improve the university's social status.

"Principal Xu, how can our private institutions like ours better improve their social status?"

After receiving this system task, Ding Yue asked Principal Xu Dongcheng of Westlight University for advice.

After all, Principal Xu Dongcheng's Westlight University, whose social status is likely in the Key Private stage, must have a wealth of experience.

"Well, people generally look at the employment rate of graduates from a university. The employment rate of our Westlight University graduates has always been very good, so we have accumulated social trust over many years, leading to our current social status."

Principal Xu Dongcheng was quite straightforward and told Principal Ding the main method to improve university social status.

"Oh, I see."

Ding Yuren seemed thoughtful as he nodded his head.

It seemed that what was happening was not far off from his expectations.

When Ding Yue believed that the ["University Social Status"] task couldn't be completed overnight, he knew that it would most likely depend on the university's graduate employment rate, which was indeed very important.

The public recognition stage of this task, or equivalent to the public institution level, or even the private key level, would probably take at least two or three more years to complete.

Because it would still be two or three more years before the first batch of students from Mist City Arts and Science University graduate on a large scale.

Even though some students with outstanding academic achievements graduated early, the increase in social recognition that this could bring is limited.

This social recognition, granted by the general public, centered more on whether the university graduates, after four years of study at the university, could have good employment opportunities, rather than on outstanding achievements and honors created by a few excellent students.

"It's actually an accumulation of time," added Principal Xu Dongcheng.

"I see."

Since this was the case, Ding Yue decided not to be in a rush to complete this task.

He should prioritize completing the ["Provincial Key Major Level"] task as its reward was readily available and it could be completed within a year or even half a year.

Ding Yue, with Principal Xu Dongcheng, continued to tour around the under-construction campus of Mist City Arts and Science University, while sharing each other's experiences.

Xu Dongcheng hoped to learn from Ding Yue how to better manage a university and ensure a continuous growth in student enrolments.

And Ding Yue, just like earlier, could also learn from Principal Xu Dongcheng during their exchanges.

In fact, before Ding Yue invited Principal Xu Dongcheng to visit Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue had taken care of another matter.

That was, after meeting with Liu Ping in his office in the morning, Ding Yue learned about Liu Ping's family situation, so he asked Huang Youjie to organize a team from Mist City Arts and Science University Law School to provide Liu Ping with legal assistance.

He hoped that Liu Ping's father could regain his freedom as soon as possible.

Liu Ping was truly grateful for the help provided by Principal Ding.

At this moment, Huang Youjie had already started investigating the situation.



Huang Youjie suspected that there must have been negligence on the part of the officials involved in the case, or that those who had misjudged the case in the past were trying to get by without taking responsibility.

However, this seemed impossible because the suspect in the case had been caught, but Liu Ping's father, who had been wrongly sentenced, had not been released.

It was preposterous!

The legal team would have three tasks.

The first was to secure the release of Liu Ping's father as soon as possible.

The second was to hold accountable those who were negligent in their duties.

The third was to apply for the state compensation that Liu Ping's father deserved for all these years.

Besides the legal team of Mist City Arts and Science University, Huang Youjie made another suggestion, which was for the students of the School of Media and Communication to cover this classic case as a story. This could be a potential collaboration with television stations.

Due to previous achievements and recognitions of Mist City Arts and Science University, NTS Television Station had some connections with it.

After pondering over Huang Youjie's suggestion, Ding Yue thought it was worth a try.

Because there were numerous benefits.

The first was to present the process of this case to the public through impartial reporting.

The second was to enhance the ability of Mist City Arts and Science University's journalism students, which also counted as a practical experience for them.

Furthermore, if the students of the School of Media and Communication had good potential, Ding Yue could even consider establishing a media platform for Mist City Arts and Science University.

Creating a voice in the media seemed like a great idea.

Chapter 503: The Aces of the Mechanical Department

Mist City Arts and Science University.

Outside the Energy Chemistry Research Laboratory.

Ding Yue brought Xu Dongcheng over. Aside from touring and learning, Xu Dongcheng also wanted to inspect some of the education and research results of the Mist City Arts and Science University.

Indeed, Xu Dongcheng greatly admired the research results of Mist City Arts and Science University in the field of technology.

Ding Yue had mentioned at the previous National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference, with Principal Sun of Qinghua University, that Mist City Arts and Science University was also involved in precision machinery processing related to photolithography machines, in addition to their intelligent robot, Big White.

This was simply unbelievable.

Despite its prestige, even Westlight University, where Xu Dongcheng worked, did not dare think of photolithography machines, such high-tech equipment.

The fact that Mist City Arts and Science University was conducting research on this field indicated its untapped potential and hidden talent.

"Principal Ding, apart from your sister, does Mist City Arts and Science University have a lot of overachievers?" Xu Dongcheng couldn't help but ask.

At Mist City Arts and Science University, the most famous overachiever was undoubtedly Ding Yue's sister, Ding Xiaoyou.

This year's college entrance examination science topper chose Mist City Arts and Science University after being pursued by Qinghua and Yancheng Universities.

"Principal Xu, truth be told, many students at Mist City Arts and Science University are very diligent, which has resulted in a group of students who perform exceptionally well in their studies," Ding Yue said confidently. "Perhaps when they first came to Mist City Arts and Science University, they were underperforming, but after arriving, their transformation was tremendous. Perhaps this is the charm of a good university."

As Ding Yue spoke, he didn't forget to praise himself.

From an outsider's perspective, the fact that Mist City Arts and Science University is able to produce excellent students, like Tong Yihang and Liu Tiefei, is a result of survivor bias.

But in reality,

Mist City Arts and Science University's success in producing excellent students in various specialties is not due to survivor bias.

It's because Ding Yue has given the students various learning buffs, including specialized technical knowledge.

Furthermore, under the influence of these learning buffs, the students developed a love for learning and began to diligently study their respective disciplines, thus becoming excellent students.

"So Principal Ding, how did you manage to make the students love learning?" Xu Dongcheng curiously asked again.

"If a school nurtures a good study environment and atmosphere, many students will naturally fall in love with learning. Additionally, at Mist City Arts and Science University, most students chose areas of study based on personal interest and passion. Maybe the hard work they put into their chosen fields is what truly brings out their potential," Ding Yue explained meaningfully.

While the two of them were chatting, two female students walked out of the Energy Chemistry Research Laboratory.

One of them was ordinary-looking, and the other was Ding Yue's attractive sister, Ding Xiaoyou, who turned heads with her stunning looks and figure.

"Brother, what brings you here?" Ding Xiaoyou asked, puzzled to see her brother Ding Yue.

"I'm showing Principal Xu around, and we happened to pass by here. Principal Xu expressed interest in meeting the genius overachiever," Ding Yue explained with a laugh.

He then introduced Xu Dongcheng to his sister. "This is Principal Xu Dongcheng from Westlight University."

"Westlight University... isn't that the well-known private university?" Ding Xiaoyou asked curiously.

She had heard about this university before; it was one of the few private colleges that she knew of.

"Correct," Ding Yue confirmed.

Thus, Ding Xiaoyou politely greeted the man in his forties standing in front of her. For the sake of her brother, at least.

"Xiao You, remember that issue you mentioned to me yesterday? Have you thought of a solution yet?" Ding Yue asked his younger sister, wearing a knowing smile.

Without having to guess, he knew his sister must've been unable to come up with a solution.

Ding Yue, however, could help his sister solve the difficult problem.

It was about what method to use to effectively strip and prepare the production of graphene!

"No,"

Shaking her head, Ding Xiaoyou replied sombrely, "Ding Yue, did you come here just to make fun of me? Hmm."

"Good heavens, I'm coming over here to help you come up with a solution!" Ding Yue replied, pretending to be aggrieved.

"You?"

Ding Xiaoyou frowned.

"Why not! Xiao You, if we're walking into walls with the chemical methods for graphene stripping, then let's just try a different method," said Ding Yue, nodding confidently, his face full of it, as if telling his sister that he'd found a solution.

At that moment,

Tong Yihang and a few top-performing students from the Department of Engineering, as well as Luo Peng and Su Beilin, two mechanical engineering graduates from Qinghua University, were on their way to the Energy Chemistry Research Laboratory.

Ding Yue had spent a wincing 500 reputation points in the system mall yesterday to exchange for the [Graphene Mechanical Stripping Preparation Technology], which he was planning to transfer to his sister, Ding Xiaoyou, Tong Yihang and other students from the Department of Engineering, and Luo Peng and Su Beilin today.

Then, with the help of his sister Ding Xiaoyou and Tong Yihang, they launched another project: the graphene mechanical stripping preparation machine.

Compared to the photolithography machine project, this project requires less investment in terms of funds, technology, and time.

So, Ding Yue thought, since the photolithography machine experiment project has just been initiated and is in its startup phase, why not focus our efforts on solving the efficient stripping preparation method and technology of graphene for his sister first.

If they can achieve efficient preparation of graphene, Ding Xiaoyou can smoothly proceed with the research on graphene battery technology.

With graphene battery technology, the battery issue of robot Big White can be perfectly resolved.

Moreover, there are far too many uses for graphene batteries. Once it's developed, it will be nothing short of a revolution in the field of batteries.

By then, sister Ding Xiaoyou will also gain tremendous fame!

Of course, this process is expected to be quite lengthy. How long exactly, Ding Yue is unsure of and will have to depend on his sister's experimental research progress.

"A different method?"

Ding Xiaoyou furrowed her brows: "But, my speciality is chemical engineering."

Concerning the stripping preparation method of graphene, Ding Xiaoyou indeed only has a profound understanding of the chemical vapor deposition method.

She'll need some time to deeply study the other methods.

"Sister, you can't fight alone. There often needs to be cooperation among different specialities," Ding Yue smiled and said.

"Huh?"

Ding Xiaoyou still doesn't quite understand what her brother means.

Ding Yue decided not to beat around the bush and said directly: "I've called over some students from the mechanical engineering department, including Luo Peng and Su Beilin. Let's all think it through together, and see if we can make some breakthroughs in the mechanical stripping preparation method. After all, when the Nobel Prize was awarded, it was because the mechanical stripping preparation method discovered the material graphene."

"Mechanical stripping preparation method..." Ding Xiaoyou muttered, "But isn't this method rather inefficient? The controllability is poor too."

Ding Xiaoyou has a basic understanding of the mechanical stripping preparation method for graphene.

"Yes, the mechanical stripping preparation method does have some obvious disadvantages. But as long as we solve these problems, and develop a machine that can efficiently strip graphene, then we're all set, right?"

Ding Yue shrugged and said.

"It's not that simple, you know." Ding Xiaoyou shook her head.

"That's why there's the concept of specialization. What if the mechanical experts can do it?" Ding Yue encouraged his sister when he saw her lack of confidence.

"Were you just talking about graphene?"

Xu Dongcheng felt like he couldn't keep up with the conversation. However, he became interested when he heard Principal Ding and his sister talking about graphene.

Xu Dongcheng has heard of graphene, and it is said to be a very promising material for the future.

"Principal Xu, do you know about graphene?"

Seeing that Xu Dongcheng was curious and interested, Ding Yue asked with a smile.

"I've heard of it. It seems to be a very powerful material, right?" Xu Dongcheng said cautiously.

He didn't want to appear ignorant in front of the two genius students, Ding Yue and Ding Xiaoyou.

After all, this brother and sister pair were top students in their respective fields of physics and chemistry. He, who only had a high school education, was way out of their league.

"Exactly, graphene materials are hailed as materials of the future. They can be used in many fields, such as electronics, energy storage, aerospace, energy batteries, composite materials, heat dissipation, ink coatings, and so on,"

"Then graphene is quite valuable. Aren't there any companies or research institutes studying this stuff?" Xu Dongcheng asked again.

"Yes, many technology companies and research institutes are researching graphene materials. However, because it is difficult to efficiently mass-produce graphene materials, many technologies related to graphene materials are difficult to implement."

Ding Yue gave a simple explanation to Principal Xu Dongcheng.

From what Xu Dongcheng said, it seemed that he wasn't very clear about where graphene came from.

That's why he asked that question.

"Oh, I heard that graphene is extracted from graphite, and graphite is quite common, isn't it?"

Xu Dongcheng asked curiously again.

Seeing that, Ding Xiaoyou was quite assured that Principal Xu didn't understand graphene very well.

Then Ding Yue smiled and explained again: "Yes, graphene is extracted from the graphite material, but the extraction method is a bit difficult, or rather, there are already many methods to strip graphene from graphite, but these methods all struggle with efficiency and mass production."

"Oh, I understand what you mean, Principal Ding."

Xu Dongcheng learned something new again.



At this moment, five people approached from not far away. Three of them were quite young, while the other two were a bit older.

It was Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, Yang Jie, and Luo Peng and Su Beilin.

These five can be said to be the best in the field of mechanical specialties at Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Principal Ding, you wanted to see us?"

After Luo Peng and his group approached, they asked in bewilderment.

#### Chapter 504: Young People Must Dare to Explore

"Principal Xu, of these five, the three are our finest students from the Mechanical Engineering Department of Mist City Arts and Science University, while the other two are the two graduates of the Mechanical Engineering Department of Qinghua University that I mentioned to Principal Sun of Qinghua University yesterday. They are the aces of our Mechanical Engineering field at Mist City Arts and Science University."

Ding Yue quietly briefed Principal Xu Dongcheng about Tong Yihang and the rest.

"Impressive!"

Xu Dongcheng realized that the Mechanical Engineering field should be nurtured as an ace field at Principal Ding's Mist City Arts and Science University.

"I've called you here for a new task. But before that, I have to ask whether you can temporarily put aside your current research on precision mechanical processing for photolithography machines?"

Ding Yue posed this question to Tong Yihang and Luo Peng and the others.

The group exchanged glances before Luo Peng nodded and said, "Principal Ding, as long as you instruct us to, we can do it at any time."

"Yeah, we'll listen to Principal Ding." Tong Yihang also chimed in.

"Good."

Ding Yue said, pleased, "Now, Xiao You has encountered a problem related to mechanics, and I don't know if you guys have any good solutions."

As Ding Yue spoke, he controlled his thoughts minutely to bring up the system inventory, and directly granted the [Graphene Mechanical Exfoliation Preparation Machine Technology] that he had redeemed from the system market, to his sister, Ding Xiaoyu, as well as Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, Yang Jie, Luo Peng, and Su Beilin--all six of them.

Ding!

"Congratulations to the Host for successfully granting the student Tong Yihang the [Graphene Mechanical Exfoliation Preparation Machine Technology]..."

Ding!

"Congratulations to the Host for also successfully granting the student Liu Tiefei the [Graphene Mechanical Exfoliation Preparation Machine Technology]..."

Ding!

"Congratulations to the Host for successfully granting Professor Luo Peng the [Graphene Mechanical Exfoliation Preparation Machine Technology]..."

...

In fact, Ding Yue had already granted himself this technical knowledge long ago. The reason he decided also to give it to himself was that he intended to establish this as a breakthrough point in the project.

Otherwise, it would probably be difficult for Tong Yihang and the others to come up with an efficient solution for the Graphene Mechanical Exfoliation Preparation method immediately after it was granted to them.

Since Ding Yue's discipline was physics, and this method was a physical preparation method, he could propose a breakthrough point. Then, Tong Yihang, Luo Peng and his sister Ding Xiaoyu, could conduct related research on the Mechanical Exfoliation Preparation machine based on this breakthrough point.

"Principal Ding, is there another new project?"

Tong Yihang, upon hearing this, asked with a hint of excitement.

For Tong Yihang, establishing more progress in the field of Mechanical Engineering was his ultimate pursuit.

Largely because they didn't need to worry about money, Principal Ding's compensation was indeed substantial.

Without the worry of money, Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, Luo Peng, and Su Beilin could freely exhibit their talents.

For them, Mist City Arts and Science University was like an expansive stage, with Principal Ding taking the helm, they could freely perform on this stage!

"Let's discuss it in the conference room."

Ding Yue nodded. Seeing everyone was already here, standing outside for a discussion would not be ideal. There was a conference room in their Energy Chemistry Research Laboratory.

However, because normally only his sister, Ding Xiaoyu and a student named Liu Yan were here, the conference room was seldom used.

"Student Wen Ruohan, please tidy up the lab." Ding Yue instructed Wen Ruohan.

"Yes, Principal Ding."

"I'll take you there." Upon seeing the situation, Liu Yan led Wen Ruohan towards the conference room first.

Ding Yue then led Tong Yihang and Luo Peng towards the Energy Chemistry Research Laboratory. Meanwhile, Principal Xu Dongcheng joined them just to see and learn, even though he might not understand a word of what Principal Ding and his elite students will discuss in the meeting.

Inside the conference room.

Tong Yihang and Luo Peng were attentively listening to Principal Ding, eagerly waiting for him to share the details.

To them, they were the soldiers of Principal Ding. They would follow any order he gave, executing it precisely without any hesitation.

"Here's the situation."

Seeing Wen Ruohan serving water for everyone, Ding Yue started, "Xiao You is planning a Graphene battery technology project in the field of energy chemistry. But at this stage, a big hurdle lies in the way of this project..."

Before Ding Yue could finish, Luo Peng asked, "Is it about Graphene exfoliation production?"

As expected!

Worthy of being a top graduate from Qinghua University! Even though he was specialized in Mechanical Engineering, he clearly had good knowledge about Graphene.

Xu Dongcheng felt impressed, Principal Ding just mentioned a Graphene battery technology project, and Luo Peng quickly guessed that the technical difficulty was the Graphene exfoliation production. If this isn't a genius, then what is?

"Correct."

Ding Yue nodded and continued, "Improving the efficient and mature application of graphene stripping technology is the premise and basis of graphene battery technology. Initially, Xiaoyou planned to optimize the stripping preparation efficiency of the chemical vapor deposition method, but the results were always unsatisfactory."

"So, Principal Ding, are you suggesting to use the physical mechanical stripping method?" Su Beilin asked.

"But isn't it said that the efficiency of mechanical preparation is very low?" Tong Yihang frowned, muttered.

"Yes, mechanical stripping is seen by most as costly with uncontrollable factors and low efficiency. However, we can try to resolve these problems gradually in manufacturing the equipment. I personally believe that improving the efficiency of mechanical stripping is feasible!"

Ding Yue confidently claimed.

Initially, Ding Yue also had doubts about the mechanical stripping method of graphene, but when he unlocked the [Graphene Mechanical Stripping Machine Technology] from the System Mall, these doubts and problems naturally found solutions.

"If we are to use the physical mechanical stripping method to make graphene, we have to focus on precision mechanics."

Yang Jie agreed thoughtfully.

Now, Yang Jie, Tong Yihang, Luo Peng, and Su Beilin all had the concept knowledge of [Graphene Mechanical Stripping Machine Technology] given by Ding Yue in their minds.

But this knowledge needed them to digest gradually. What Ding Yue aimed to do in this meeting was to give them a breakthrough, help them find a direction to manufacture the graphene mechanical stripping machine effectively.

As Ding Yue had already digested the [Graphene Mechanical Stripping Machine Technology] and done some preparatory work beforehand.

"Exactly, I'll give you a few ideas, you guys let me know if they're feasible."

Ding Yue said, pretending to be serious.

Among the several ideas Ding Yue prepared to provide, one was correct, which was according to the [Graphene Mechanical Stripping Machine Technology] he had acquired.

With the capabilities of Tong Yihang and Luo Peng, they should quickly be able to identify the correct idea from the ones provided by Ding Yue, and then they could begin their research on the graphene stripping machine.

Once this graphene stripping machine is successfully developed, the obstacle blocking his sister Xiaoyou would be perfectly resolved.

Xiaoyou was watching her brother earnestly.

Tong Yihang and Liu Tiefei were all looking forward.

Because they all knew that Principal Ding was also excellent in the field of physics, and the mechanical stripping method was a physical stripping method of graphene, so it seemed normal for them that Principal Ding might have some ideas.

In the following discussions between Ding Yue, only Tong Yihang, Luo Peng, and the other three could barely understand.

As Xiaoyou seldom had contact with the knowledge of physical mechanics, she could only vaguely comprehend Ding Yue's meaning.

After all, Xiaoyou was interested in astrophysics, such as planets and stars.

It's rare for a girl to be interested in the universe.

To say, it is strange that Xiaoyou likes physics, chemistry, and biology related knowledge. Her interest in physics is astrophysics, which is macroscopic physics while her knowledge in chemistry and biology are mostly microscopic.

In fact, besides chemistry-related knowledge, Xiaoyou also mastered a lot of knowledge in biology in the library.

For Wen Ruohan and Xu Dongcheng and Liu Yan, they were even more clueless.

They simply couldn't understand the various professional knowledge that Ding Yue discussed!

But Liu Yan knew that the knowledge discussed by Principal Ding and the academic elites in the Mechanical department must be related to the graphene stripping that she had prepared with Xiaoyou.

One was professional in mechanics, another was in the field of energy chemistry, and there was such a close connection between the two?

In fact, many energy chemical equipment is related to mechanical engineering.

The cooperation between disciplines will be a norm for seeking better research and development.

Just like the lithography machine experimental project of Mist City Arts and Science University, it involved many disciplines and required interdisciplinary cooperation to make progress.

Modern technology is the same, especially applied technology.

Time passed minute by minute.

With an in-depth discussion between Ding Yue, Tong Yihang, Liu Tiefei, Yang Jie, Luo Peng, Su Beilin, and Xiaoyou, two to three hours passed unknowingly.

Wen Ruohan was rather sleepy listening on the side.

For liberal arts students, science and engineering knowledge sounds like a heavenly book, dull and tasteless.

And for science students, listening to various thoughts, theories, and literature are also tasteless, making them sleepy.

"Principal Ding, based on the method you just provided, I think we can give it a try. Perhaps it really can improve the efficiency of mechanical stripping preparation of graphene..."

Suddenly, Luo Peng's excited voice came, making Wen Ruohan a little more awake.

"Are you confident about it?"

Su Beilin asked his friend Luo Peng in a low voice.

"Who could be confident about it? I just think the direction is worth a try." Luo Peng frowned slightly and shrugged.

"If you believe that it's worth a shot then go ahead and try it!" Ding Yue gave Luo Peng an affirming look and said, "Young people should dare to explore, just like falling in love, if you don't explore, how will you discover the wonders hidden deep in it?"

Chapter 505: Sending off the guest!

Different people had different interpretations of what Ding Yue had just said.

His sister, Ding Xiaoyou, felt that what her brother said made a lot of sense; young researchers in technological breakthroughs must be adventurous, they can't just coast along on the successes of their predecessors.

However, Luo Peng saw a different story unfold, as commonly termed, the lsp type!

Yes, after hearing Ding Yue's speech, he directly imagined the story in his head.

Take the analogy Principal Ding just gave for instance, saying that the exploration by younger generations is comparable to being in love. Without the courage to explore, how can one know about the wonderful things hidden deep inside?

This...



Luo Peng suspected that Principal Ding was implying something hidden!

"Principal Ding, we could attempt to develop a graphene stripping and preparing machine," Tong Yihang, buoyed by the encouraging talk given by Principal Ding, suggested with full confidence.

With Principal Ding backing them financially, having Liu Tiefei, Yang Jie, Luo Peng, Su Beilin, and others willing to work hard alongside him, Tong Yihang appreciated Principal Ding's assertion – young people need to bravely explore.

Whether it's the intricate machining in the photolithography machine experiment, or the graphene peeling and preparation equipment, both represent the strides Tong Yihang is making in exploration.

After Tong Yihang finished talking, he looked at his fellow students, Liu Tiefei, and Yang Jie.

Liu Tiefei and Yang Jie both eagerly nodded their heads: "We will give our best."

Seeing his three students prepared to dedicate their energy to research and development for the graphene stripping machine, Ding Yue felt quite satisfied. Then, Ding Yue shifted his gaze toward the other two people in the meeting room.

Namely Luo Peng and Su Beilin.

Tong Yihang and others followed Principal Ding's direction because they were students of Mist City Arts and Science University. Any results achieved within their specialities during school were their achievements.

But Luo Peng and Su Beilin were different. They're not students of Mist City Arts and Science University but employees who left Dingli Group. Although now they're at Mist City Arts and Science University's mechanical department as teachers, they've signed a contract, their circumstances are different from those of Tong Yihang and others.

However, Luo Peng and Su Beilin hold deep respect for Principal Ding.

Therefore, when Ding Yue's gaze fell on Luo Peng and Su Beilin, Luo Peng enthusiastically nodded and responded, "Principal Ding, in that case, I'll exert my fullest effort along with Tong Yihang."

Su Beilin also nodded, "Yes, I'll strive with all my might."

"Good!"

Upon seeing everyone united in their resolve, Ding Yue expressed his satisfaction: "I'm looking forward to your good news. So, from today, you will form a temporary graphene stripping machine research group. The technical aspects will be overseen by the five of you. As for manpower, equipment, funds, etc, just let me know what you need. Xiaoyou will coordinate your research."

When it comes to mechanical engineering, Tong Yihang and Luo Peng are the experts.

But his sister, Ding Xiaoyou, can coordinate between the energy-chemical research and mechanical development within their group.

For example, the graphene peeling machine that Tong Yihang and Luo Peng will develop; what standard of purity must the single-layer or multi-layer graphene meet?

This is a collaboration across different learned fields, and a grand feast for all these academic geniuses.

Ding Yue won't get involved directly.

Because this project might take some time, and Ding Yue has a lot on his plate.

There are two tasks at hand. One might take a longer time, but the groundwork for the other is already laid.

He is just waiting for the progress of the five professional tasks to reach one hundred percent, after which he can get the [Advanced Laboratory] and the [Level 3 University Treasure Chest] Prize.

Two of these tasks require inspections from Qinghua University and Yancheng University, as well as the implementation of cooperation between Mist City Arts and Science University and Mist City Medical University.

Aside from his current tasks, Ding Yue is also supposed to attend the NTS Award ceremony in November. He has a busy schedule indeed.

Ding Yue assigned the graphene stripping machine project and let Tong Yihang and Luo Peng go prepare actively for it.

His sister, Ding Xiaoyou, also needs to actively coordinate with Tong Yihang and Luo Peng.

After the meeting ended, Ding Yue checked the time and it was already past twelve in the afternoon.

"Ah, it's late. We've missed lunch. Let's go have lunch."

Ding Yue turned to Principal Xu Dongcheng, suggesting with a smile.

"Principal Ding, those things you mentioned sound amazing. If this graphene machine is successfully developed, will we be able to produce graphene efficiently?"

Xu Dongcheng had been rather confused throughout the process, but he had managed to catch some information.

Well.

Information unrelated to professional knowledge.

"Yes, our proposed graphene stripping and preparation machine, if successfully developed can solve the problem of efficient mass production of graphene."

Ding Yue affirmed his belief with a nod.

"Amazing! Amazing!"

Xu Dongcheng wasn't sure how to describe Principal Ding and his faculty and students of Mist City Arts and Science University. The only thing he could do was repeatedly give them a thumbs up and declared them simply amazing!

"Really? I wouldn't say we are that amazing. After all, we don't know if we can manufacture it yet."

Ding Yue said modestly.

After that, he and Principal Xu Dongcheng left the energy-chemical research laboratory to have lunch at the second dining hall.

Chapter 506: Sending off the guest!

In the afternoon, Xu Dongcheng had a lengthy discussion with Ding Yue about the development and construction of private universities. Eventually, Principal Xu Dongcheng decided to leave Mist City that afternoon to return to Westlight University.

Upon seeing Principal Xu Dongcheng's preparations to leave, Ding Yue initially wanted to persuade him to stay a bit longer. However, Principal Xu Dongcheng had his own affairs to handle, so reluctantly, he decided to depart in the afternoon.

Given these circumstances, Ding Yue had no choice but to accompany Principal Xu Dongcheng to the gate of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Principal Ding, the biggest gain from my participation in the National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference was learning about the essence of our private universities from you. Once I return, it will be time for Westlight University to initiate some changes. I hope I can succeed!"

Xu Dongcheng sincerely approached Ding Yue and shook his hand.

"I wish you success. May our private universities continue to prosper!" Ding Yue also gave his blessings.

Principal Xu Dongcheng is a decent individual. Although his cultural knowledge is somewhat lacking, he is interesting for someone in his forties.

"Also, please send my regards to Mei Jia. Tell her that we at Mist City Arts and Science University are looking forward to her recovery. Not only will we treat her well when she visits, but we will also invite her to enjoy a campus-themed hotpot. We also welcome her to join Mist City Arts and Science University and become a part of us!"

Ding Yue suddenly thought of Xu Dongcheng's daughter, Xu Meijia, and sent her his blessings for good health.

"Thank you!"

After shaking hands with Ding Yue, Principal Xu Dongcheng patted his hand lightly with his other hand. It seemed like a mix of reluctance and an empathetic connection.

"Goodbye, Principal Ding. I look forward to our next meeting!"

"Goodbye!"

Ding Yue watched as Principal Xu Dongcheng's vehicle slowly left the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University, joined the public road, and gradually vanished from his sight.

After a while, Ding Yue could not help but sigh silently.

As the principal of a private university, his first friend who was also a principal turned out to be Xu Dongcheng, a man twice his age.

He hoped that Westlight University, under Xu Dongcheng's leadership, would gradually bounce back, and that his daughter could find a suitable liver donor for her surgery.

"Principal Ding?"

Seeing Ding Yue standing still for a long time, Wen Ruohan gently called out.

However, there was no response from Principal Ding.

Wen Ruohan thought her voice was too quiet and raised her decibel level to call out again,  
"Principal Ding?"

"Hmm?"

Hearing Wen Ruohan calling him, Ding Yue came back to his senses and looked at her.

"Principal Xu's car has already driven away."

Wen Ruohan reminded him.

"Then let's go back."

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue turned around and headed towards the school, with Wen Ruohan following him.

Ding Yue abruptly turned towards Wen Ruohan and said, "Oh right, notify Director Huang. Let their logistics procurement department actively cooperate with Xiao You's research team on graphene peel prep. Anything the team needs can be directly purchased by the logistics procurement department. For funds, they can apply from the finance department."

"Okay, Principal Ding, but Director Huang, he..."

"What about Huang?"

At her words, Ding Yue could not help but frown and ask.

"Principal Ding, Director Huang is no longer at school. He and the school's legal team left for Liu Ping's hometown this morning."

Wen Ruohan responded.

Oh right!

He had been so busy all day, Ding Yue had almost forgotten.

After providing legal assistance for Liu Ping in the morning, Huang immediately took his team to Liu Ping's hometown to investigate the situation. They also planned to file an appeal for Liu Ping's father, all of which required time for a thorough investigation.

"Alright, you can directly find the person in charge of the logistics procurement department then." Ding Yue nodded, instructing Wen Ruohan.

He then pulled out his cellphone and gave Huang a call to inquire about their initial understanding of the situation.

Because Ding Yue also wanted to know what was the exact reason behind why Liu Ping's father had not been released yet?

"Hey, Huang."

"Yue."

The call connected.

"Have you guys arrived at Liu Ping's hometown yet?" Ding Yue curiously asked.

"Yep, we got to the county of Liu Ping's hometown around three this afternoon, and we just tried to understand the situation from relevant departments, but things aren't progressing smoothly. Many of the staff in these departments are basically avoiding the issue or even refusing to let us know about it."

Huang Youjie briefly explained the situation they had found after arriving at the county of Liu Ping's hometown.

"How can that be?" Ding Yue wondered.

This case is clearly one that has been vindicated, so why are they still detaining Liu Ping's father?

Even the staff of the related departments are avoiding the topic?

"I suspect that this issue involves some negligence by the personnel working on the case back then. I've looked into it a bit. The person in charge of Liu Ping's father's case seems to have been promoted. You get what I mean, right?"

Once Huang Youjie said this, Ding Yue understood immediately.

So that's how it is.

Of course, this is just a guess by Huang Youjie and Ding Yue. They need to investigate the specific situation before they can tell.

"Why not go to the court?" Ding Yue suggested.

"Yeah, we were thinking the same thing. We're going to the court to find out more tomorrow. But what if there's still no news or result? Liu Ping's father was sentenced to life imprisonment. If this isn't clarified, it will be difficult for Liu Ping's father to get out!" Huang Youjie said anxiously.

"What about... further investigations in the city? Or inquiries in the province? Surely, they can't still hold Liu Ping's father when the actual suspect has been arrested, right?"

Ding Yue found it hard to believe that this could happen.

Even if similar cases happened on Earth in the past, the wrongly accused were eventually exonerated, right?

"Yue, if all else fails, maybe we should use some public opinion or get some heavy-weight news media involved. Make everyone pay attention to this case." Huang Youjie suggested.

"I see what you mean, but the media..." Ding Yue murmured, then his eyes lit up, "Got it, leave this to me!"

Ding Yue thought that Huang's suggestion was very useful!



Although their legal team has already gone, without more information or data, no matter how much they know about the law, it will be hard to push things forward!

After all, if the relevant department refuses to produce the required documents and the negligent staff can't be dealt with, it's like a dead end.

What Huang just mentioned about getting the media involved could increase the case's visibility, forcing the relevant department in Liu Ping's hometown to feel pressured and re-examine the case.

That would clear the deadlock!

"Alright, Yue, I'll go see what's happening at the court and the police station tomorrow, and then keep working on this. Regarding the media, can you figure that out?"

"Ok, wait for my word!" Ding Yue agreed.

A moment later, Ding Yue hung up the phone and began to ponder which media outlet to approach.

Should he ask his own journalism students at Mist City Arts and Science University to do it?

Obviously not. They're still too inexperienced, and this case directly impacts the freedom of Liu Ping's father, it's a serious matter.

"Mist City TV?"

Ding Yue immediately thought of Mist City TV, as he was quite familiar with them. He had been interviewed there when he and several professors from Jiangnan University of Science and Technology developed the third-generation dilution semiconductor material technology.

However,

He quickly thought of an even more authoritative media outlet than Mist City TV, and he knew someone there. He figured he could ask if they would be willing to help...

## Chapter 507: Help from NTS TV Station

Ding Yue checked the time and it was already 5:40 in the afternoon.

He was unsure whether the television station reporter he wanted to connect with had knocked off work, however, he thought that regardless of whether the media person had done so, a case like Liu Ping's father's should deserve media attention, shouldn't it?

So, Ding Yue turned to Wen Ruohan and said, "Miss Ruohan, could you call Director Liu Mei from the first channel of NTS?"

"Huh?"

Wen Ruohan was a little taken aback at first, but then she quickly took out her phone and began searching for Director Liu Mei's contact from the NTS's first channel in her directory.

The reason why Wen Ruohan was surprised was that Principal Ding's order was indeed quite abrupt.

A moment ago, he asked her to contact the head of the supply department, and then he made a call to Director Huang and now he wanted her to call Director Liu Mei?

After she gained her composure, Wen Ruohan guessed that this phone call was likely related to the call with Director Huang, which would in turn be related to Liu Ping's case.

As for the specifics of Liu Ping's situation, most of the students at Mist City Arts and Science University didn't know much about it. Nevertheless, Wen Ruohan was not an ordinary student, she was Principal Ding's personal secretary and she knew a lot of things, including the case regarding Liu Ping's home.

Soon, Wen Ruohan found Director Liu Mei of the NTS's first channel in her contacts and dialed her number.

The reason why Ding Yue chose to contact Director Liu Mei was mainly because she was from NTS and held a not insignificant position.

Ding Yue thought that even if this newsworthy event did not fall under Director Liu Mei's responsibilities, he believed that NTS could not remain indifferent after he reported it to her, could they?

Moreover, Ding Yue had a somewhat friendly relationship with Director Liu Mei.

Last time when Director Liu Mei urgently needed a documentary to fill in the NTS' schedule, it was the food documentary "A Bite of Xia Country," produced by the Film and Television Institute of Mist City Arts and Science University, which saved her day.

Furthermore, the good news delivered by Director Zhu Youzhao this morning, that "A Bite of Xia Country" had been nominated by NTS for documentary golden prize, was also informed by Director Liu Mei herself.

Beep beep beep~

The call went through, but no one answered.

Seeing this, Wen Ruohan looked up at Principal Ding and said, "Principal Ding, Director Liu didn't answer the phone."

"She must be busy then?"

Ding Yue murmured a little at her words, then planned to phone Director Liu later: "You send me Director Liu's phone number, I will call her later after I go back."

"Alright."

Wen Ruohan immediately copied the phone number and sent it to Principal Ding through WhatsApp.

"Let's go, time to go back."

It was already close to six o'clock and Ding Yue realized it was time for dinner. If they delayed any longer, they would miss the dinner serving time in both the first and the second cafeterias.

Because around six o'clock in the afternoon, the last class at Mist City Arts and Science University would end. This lecture alone would have more than 10,000, or even 20,000 students attending. A small group of students would either have finished their classes for the day or didn't have any in the first place, since the general schedule at the university only contained two or three classes per day, very few had a full four classes.

The course scheduling at Mist City Arts and Science University accommodated a maximum of four classes per day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. However, the arrangement depended on individual majors and the teachers' schedules. In most majors, there were only two or three classes a day, and some courses even had only one class a day, some days even had none.

The luckiest students were those who had more classes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, but only one on Thursday, and no classes on Friday.

That meant they had half of Thursday, along with Friday, Saturday, and Sunday off, and thus enjoyed one long weekend, which was simply delightful.

Most of the students whose last class on Thursday was in the afternoon would immediately head towards the first and the second cafeterias after class.

As for which cafeteria they chose, it depended on which one was closer to their classroom building.

If the first cafeteria was closer, they would go there directly because it would be ridiculous to go to the second one and line up for a long time, wouldn't it?

Without saying another word, Ding Yue took Ruohan directly to the second cafeteria.

Luckily, Ding Yue and Wen Ruohan arrived at the cafeteria right at 6:01 PM.

At that moment, throngs of youthful students were pouring out of each teaching building in Mist City Arts and Science University, flooding towards the first and second cafeterias.

If Ding Yue had been a minute or two later, the second cafeteria would've been swarming with people.

Meanwhile, far away in Yancheng city.

NTS headquarters.

In a broadcast room, Director Liu Mei was engrossed in preparing for a show with her team and thus failed to check her phone that was put to one side.

When she finally got a moment to breathe, Liu Mei picked up her phone and saw a missed call.

The missed call was labeled with 'Mist City Arts and Science University.'

If it was marked with Mist City Arts and Science University, Director Liu Mei knew it would be from the secretary of Principal Ding from the said university.

"What could be the reason for the call?" Director Liu Mei murmured to herself and immediately dialed back the number.

## Chapter 508: NTS's Help

At the university's second cafeteria, Wen Ruohan, balancing her tray, squeezed through the crowd to Principal Ding's table.

After six o'clock, the second cafeteria was always teeming with people.

Thankfully, Principal Ding had the foresight to come a bit earlier. Otherwise, queuing to get food in the crowded cafeteria would be a daunting task.

For many students, getting food in the cafeteria is truly agonizing.

Not because it's painful to line up among so many people.

But because it's uncomfortable being hungry and yearning to immediately get a taste of the cafeteria food, while the aroma of dishes wafts through the cafeteria, causing endless complaints from their rumbling stomachs. It's pure torture for the students.

Despite this, it is necessary to line up in an orderly manner due to the large number of people. As students of Mist City Arts and Science University, they all have this level of discipline.

Just as Wen Ruohan sat down, her mobile phone started vibrating in her pocket.

With so many people in the cafeteria making it too loud, Wen Ruohan couldn't hear her ringing phone. She only felt the vibration in her pocket and hurriedly pulled it out.

"Ah, Principal Ding, it's a call from Director Liu of NTS," Wen Ruohan said to Principal Ding immediately after seeing the caller ID.

"Uh..."

Caught mid-bite into his delicious food, Ding Yue found this a bit awkward.

He was in the middle of his meal, and with so many people in the cafeteria, it clearly wasn't an ideal place to answer the phone.

So Ding Yue thought for a moment, took the phone from Wen Ruohan, and got up to walk out of the cafeteria.

Finally finding a quieter spot, Ding Yue was about to answer the call, but because it had rang for so long without being answered, it hung up automatically.

"Sorry, the person you are calling is not answering, please try again later."

Liu Mei on the other end, couldn't help but frown.

What's happening?

Nobody answered her call?

Just as Liu Mei was puzzled, the call came through again.

So, Liu Mei answered, "Hello."

"Director Liu, hello, this is Ding Yue." After getting the call through, Ding Yue introduced himself.

"Principal Ding, are you looking for me?" Liu Mei had thought the call was from Principal Ding's secretary and was surprised to find that it was actually Principal Ding.

"Yes, I'm sorry about earlier. I was having a meal in the university cafeteria. It was so crowded and noisy, so I couldn't answer your call in time."

Firstly, Ding Yue apologized by explaining why he hadn't answered the earlier call.

Liu Mei also explained why she hadn't answered before, "I see, when you made the first call, I was busy with a breaking news story..."

After exchanging a few pleasantries, Ding Yue felt that he couldn't be too direct with Liu Mei. After all, he wasn't as close with Director Liu Mei as he was with President Jiang Zhongbo, with whom he could always speak directly.

In dealing with Director Liu Mei, being courteous and tactful seemed better. So, Ding Yue asked, "Director Liu, this morning, our College of Film and Television's Director Zhu mentioned that our food documentary 'A Bite of Xia Country' was nominated for an NTS Award? Was that thanks to you for submitting it on our behalf? I've been meaning to say thank you, but I've been busy all day and only now found the time to call."

Ding Yue began by expressing his gratitude to Director Liu Mei and NTS.

"About that, on the last day of the submission deadline, one colleague suggested we should also submit your 'A Bite of Xia Country.' We agreed and submitted it, and unexpectedly it got nominated," Liu Mei replied.

Liu Mei explained the situation at the time.

"Thank you, Director Liu, thank you NTS." Ding Yue expressed his gratitude.

"Haha, Principal Ding is too polite. Wait until the award ceremony on November 5th. If we really win the NTS Award for Best Documentary, we can thank you then." Director Liu Mei said with a laugh.

"Okay!"

Ding Yue felt that he and Director Liu Mei had almost finished talking, and could discuss the matter of Liu Ping's family: "Oh, by the way, I have something to ask. I wonder if it would be possible for you to ask your colleagues from the NTS news channel about it."

"What's it about? Please tell, Principal Ding." Director Liu Mei asked curiously.

Seeing that Director Liu Mei was indeed curious after hearing what he said, Ding Yue continued, "Actually, there is a first-year student at our Mist City Arts and Science University who is studying law. His father was sentenced to life in prison for a case more than a decade ago. However, the real suspect of that case has been arrested recently, but up to now, that student's father is still in jail. Although our university provided legal assistance for that student, when our university's legal team arrived there, they found the case to be somewhat complicated."

Ding Yue briefly explained Liu Ping's family situation to Director Liu Mei.

"Oh? Is it really so? You mean the father of that student in your school is a victim of a wrongful conviction?"

Director Liu Mei asked, frowning.

"Exactly, it was a wrongful conviction!" Ding Yue replied affirmatively.

The reason why Ding Yue answered so confidently was because he trusted Liu Ping, and believed that Liu Ping's father was innocent.



Unless Liu Ping was lying to him, which was highly unlikely.

Since Huang Youjie had looked into the case and found out that the real culprit of that case from years ago had been arrested, it indeed proved that Liu Ping's father was wrongfully convicted.

"Principal Ding, this is major social news, and it will undoubtedly cause a big sensation after it is reported. However, if this is true, I believe that NTS will not stand by idly!"

Director Liu Mei said firmly.

But as Director Liu Mei wasn't sure if it was true, therefore, this matter couldn't be reported temporarily. However, one could launch an investigation first, then after understanding the related facts and confirming their accuracy, a proper report could be released.

"Yes, I understand. In journalism, we aim for truth and authenticity. NTS definitely adheres strictly to this principle. Unlike many media outlets today that create sensational headlines and ambiguous stories for the sake of attracting attention and increasing traffic, or even feeding on other people's misery. Ah..."

Feeling assured by Director Liu Mei's attitude and intention, Ding Yue suggested, "How about this, Director Liu, could NTS maybe join hands with our university's legal team to investigate the specifics of the case. After confirming the truth, carry out the relevant report?"

"Principal Ding, that's exactly what I'm thinking. We will certainly pay attention to this matter. Let me immediately contact our colleagues from the news channel and set up a journalist team to investigate and interview the specific circumstances."

Director Liu Mei said sincerely.

"That's wonderful, Director Liu. I won't lie to you. When our university's legal team went to Liu Ping's hometown and contacted the relevant department, they kept avoiding the issue and were even rejected. I believe, once NTS arrives, there should be some progress."

Ding Yue, hearing Director Liu Mei's supportive plan, expressed his excitement enthusiastically.

"Alright, Principal Ding, please wait a moment. I'll contact the news team, and then give you a call back."

"Okay, goodbye Director Liu."

"Goodbye."

After hanging up the phone, Ding Yue clenched his fist and cheered himself up.

If NTS news journalists intervene in this investigation, could the relevant departments in Liu Ping's hometown still continue to evade and procrastinate?

However, this matter belongs to social news category, which is not under the jurisdiction of Director Liu Mei, as she is the deputy director of NTS's first channel, primarily in charge of various programs in the comprehensive channel. Therefore, Director Liu Mei needs to speak with her colleagues from the NTS news channel.

Chapter 509: Students Spreading Rumours

"Xiao Lu."

In the office of NTS News Channel, Liu Mei came to find the leader of the news channel journalist team, Lu Jianan.

"Sister Liu? What brings you here?"

Seeing the deputy director of the first channel, Liu Mei, coming towards him, Lu Jianan immediately stood up from his workstation and asked.

"There's something that I may need your help with."

Upon arrival, she promptly relayed to Lu Jianan the situation concerning the case of a student's father from Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Sister Liu, this incident is certainly worth interviewing for news," said Lu Jianan, his eyes full of anticipation.

For a journalist, such an incident is something they cannot ignore.

However, if the news channel of NTS wanted to interview and report on this case, it would require the approval of their superiors.

Lu Jianan was merely the person in charge of the news channel team.

"I have already discussed the matter with the director of your news channel. You can proceed with the interview."

"Alright, Sister Liu. Shall I immediately gather a team and rush over there tonight?" Lu Jianan asked rather enthusiastically.

If this incident turns out to be true, it would certainly make for big news, and Lu Jianan planned on personally leading the journalist team there.

"Exactly. First, go to Mist City, meet Principal Ding Yue from Mist City Arts and Science University and understand the general situation. Then, you can proceed to the student's hometown county to interview for more specific details," Liu Mei suggested.

"No problem, thank you Sister Liu for giving us such a news piece," Lu Jianan expressed his gratitude towards Director Liu Mei.

After all, news of this social nature had never appeared before, and if proven true and subsequently reported, it would certainly catch the attention of the public.

"No need for thanks. This case might even contribute towards developing our country's legal system process," Liu Mei said with a smile, then leaving Lu Jianan's office after giving him Principal Ding Yue's contact information and returning to her own office.

Immediately, Lu Jianan assembled a team from the news channel: "Xiao Liu, Xiao Li, Tong, get Wu. Be ready to rush out with me!"

Upon hearing this, the journalists in the office not only didn't complain about having to travel and work overtime again, but they were rather anticipating what big news came next. "Brother Lu, did another big news come up again?" the one asking was Xiao Li.

"Just follow me, and I'll explain on our way," Lu Jianan started packing his things.

Tonight, they would directly fly to Mist City. Heeding Liu Mei's suggestion, they would first go to Mist City Arts and Science University to understand the general situation.

The next day, they would proceed to the student's hometown county to delve deeper into the news.

"Alright."

The people Lu Jianan called started gathering their things as well. It seemed that this sudden call to interview news was not uncommon for them.

"I'll go get Wu."

Wu was NTS's news channel cameraman for field news interviewing. He had just returned from a task this afternoon and whenever Lu Jianan had to carry out any urgent news interviewing task, Wu was always called along.

"Cai, could you help us book the flight tickets?" Lu Jianan asked one of his office mates.

"Sure, sure!"

Cai was a newcomer at NTS News Channel, but since she was often tasked with booking flight tickets, among other things, everyone usually asked her to take care of these for them.

Cai was more than happy to help her colleagues with these tasks.

Soon, Cai had booked the flight tickets for Lu Jianan's team. Lu Jianan, Xiao Liu, Xiao Li, Tong, and Wu were all prepared and ready to leave for Yancheng Airport within an hour.

...

Meanwhile, at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Upon receiving another call from Director Liu Mei, Ding Yue learned that she had spoken with the director of the NTS News Channel and it was confirmed that a team would be dispatched to cover the incident.

"Wen Ruohan, please coordinate with the logistics department to prepare accommodation immediately. There will be a team of five journalists from NTS coming tonight," Ding Yue immediately instructed his secretary, Wen Ruohan.

"Alright, Principal Ding."

Upon hearing this, Wen Ruohan immediately contacted the logistics department.

Although the head of the logistics department, Huang Youjie, wasn't on campus, the few people in charge under him and his secretary were, so they could be notified to handle these tasks.

Half an hour later, Ding Yue received a phone call from the NTS journalist Lu Jianan. After brief introductions and a short conversation to establish rapport, Ding Yue would share with them the details of student Liu Ping's father upon their arrival.

By now, Lu Jianan and his team had arrived at Yancheng Airport and were preparing to board the flight.

The flight from Yancheng to Mist City doesn't take many hours.

Principal Ding Yue was waiting for the arrival of the team of journalist Lu Jianan, but unexpectedly, in his own Mist City Arts and Science University, the news about Liu Ping's family got spread by unknown means.

It initially circulated among a few student groups, but by the evening, it was widely discussed in all major and minor student groups, mainly concerning Liu Ping's family issues.

[Mist City Arts and Science University 2021 Communication Group 9] ——

"Did you hear that a student's father at our university was sentenced to life imprisonment?"

"From where did you hear that?"

"I saw it in a different group chat dedicated to a specific major, they say he was sentenced to a life imprisonment."

"What did he do?"

"Don't spread rumors, we still don't know whether this is true or false."

"I know about it, they say it's a law school student whose father got life imprisonment due to a case from more than a decade ago, but it seems he was falsely accused."

"Right, I heard that they came to our university to study law to clear their father's name."

"I see, I thought it was someone's father who recently did something and got a life sentence."

"You guys, stop spreading rumors. Things get distorted when they circulate like this."

"I heard he was falsely accused and the university is preparing to help the student clear his father's name."

[Mist City Arts and Science University 2020 Some Communication Group 5] ——

"The whole university is shaking with news about a student's father being a murderer and sentenced to death!"

"Did that student drop out?"

"What's going on? I heard so many versions, which one is real?"

"Don't just say anything, we all don't know what's really going on, stop spreading it!"

"That's one of our students you're talking about, don't pour salt on their wounds."

"Let's be rational and wait for the announcement from the school. I think the school will explain this."

"It appears to be a law student, who supposedly offended someone, and his father was put away because of it."

The rumors spreading among these student groups became more and more outrageous.

After Ding Yue took a shower in his apartment and came to the living room, he noticed several missed calls and Whatsapp messages from Wen Ruohan.

"What's she after at this hour?"

Ding Yue muttered, picking up his phone and checking the messages from Wen Ruohan.

Wen Ruohan: Principal Ding, our students are spreading rumors about Liu Ping.

Wen Ruohan: Principal Ding, what are you doing? Why didn't you answer my call?

Wen Ruohan: Principal Ding, what should we do? The students' rumors are getting out of control.

Wen Ruohan: Principal Ding, this won't get spread online will it? The rumors are absurd! If they go online, it will be really detrimental to us.

Wen Ruohan: Principal Ding? Are you going to answer the phone or not?

Looking at the messages sent by Wen Ruohan, Ding Yue was taken aback, it seems that Wen Ruohan was really worried about the situation.

So, Ding Yue picked up his phone and made a call to Wen Ruohan.

"Hello, Wen Ruohan, you said that our students already know about Liu Ping's situation? How did they find out?"

Right after the call connected, he asked directly.

"I don't know, Principal Ding. I saw many student communication groups discussing this matter. And none of them knew where the news came from. The rumor is getting out of hand and I can't stop it... I'm worried... what if it goes online? Won't it affect our reputation of Mist City Arts and Science University?"

Wen Ruohan explained it anxiously.

Understanding the situation, Ding Yue realized that since students of Mist City Arts and Science University already know about Liu Ping's family situation, the die was cast. It is impossible to keep thousands of students quiet.

However, Ding Yue believed that as a principal, he had a duty to guide students not to "spread rumors without verification."

"We haven't helped Liu Ping understand this matter yet, it's just a curiosity among the students, which led to the spread of unauthorized statements. We only need to give them a notice."

Once Ding Yue calmed down, he prepared to handle the current situation well.

Just as Wen Ruohan said, the students were spreading increasingly outrageous rumors. One could only guess what shape the rumors would take once it hits the internet, a situation Ding Yue did not want to see.

Ding Yue immediately called Director Liu Hongxia of the publicity department, telling her to prepare to post a notice on the school's official website and WeChat public account.



"Director Liu, I'm going to send you a draft soon. Your department should post it on the official website of the school, in the official forums, and WeChat. At the same time, let counselors of each department and class send my notice to every class group. Make sure every student sees it."

"Ok, Principal Ding, I'll get on it right away!"

#### Chapter 510: No Right to Speak Without Investigation

"Everyone, please stop spreading rumors, thank you."

"Secretary Wen said the situation is not as you've heard!"

"@everyone, remember to check the school's official website for the announcement, or the push notification from the school's public Whatsapp account."

"You guys love gossip so much, and even spread it blindly."

In the student chat group of Mist City Arts and Science University, with over a thousand members, Wen Ruohan mentioned everyone to explain the situation.

But some people were still spreading hearsay and conjecture with phrases like "I heard," "Supposedly," "It seems."

At that very moment, the official website and public account of the Mist City Arts and Science University released an announcement from Principal Ding.

It was also re-posted in various student chat groups. The instructor in each department and major released Principal Ding's announcement, mentioning everyone as well.

[Mist City Arts and Science University]

"Hello, I am your Principal Ding Yue. Regarding the incident of our student's father, it is true. However, I hope everyone will remain sensible, think calmly, and not spread rumors. The school is currently investigating the incident and has provided legal assistance to the student involved, NTS news reporters are soon going to investigate this incident. Once everything is clarified, the school will release the announcement timely. As the saying goes, 'no investigation, no right to speak.' I

hope our students will not defame and discredit, to avoid causing harm to the student. To me, you are all the best students, let's wait for the situation in the student's family to be resolved."

Ding Yue's words were edited on the spot, mainly to tell the students of Mist City Arts and Science University to stay rational and not jump to conclusions.

After all, even the school needed to wait for the NTS news reporter team to investigate the student Liu Ping's hometown before they could know why Liu Ping's father hasn't been released yet.

The students were spreading all kinds of wild rumors, these were undoubtedly a form of invisible harm to student Liu Ping.

Ding Yue initially did not plan to make this matter public, at least not until Liu Ping's father was free and received compensation. Then with Liu Ping's consent, he would make it public.

But somehow, the news leaked.

Since it had come to this, Ding Yue could only do his best to make the students of Mist City Arts and Science University stay rational and stop spreading rumors.

Fortunately, the students of Mist City Arts and Science University quickly received Principal Ding's message and positively responded to his call.

"Got it, wait for the results of the incident."

"I think Principal Ding is right. Our indiscriminate talk about the issue is a kind of harm to the student."

"Remain rational +1!"

"Indeed, 'no investigation, no right to speak,' everyone, stop speculating, isn't waiting for the result a good thing?"

"Listen to Principal Ding!"

"You've even alarmed Principal Ding."

"NTS news reporters are going to interview?"

"Haha, everyone wants to get the scoop, but let's cool down since it involves one of our own."

"Exactly, have you ever thought about it? All of you are blindly spreading rumors, and once it goes online, who knows what version it would become."

Ding Yue was not sure if his words had any effect for the time being.

Whether it worked or not would be determined by the amount of discussion about the incident when he woke up the next morning.

If the students of Mist City Arts and Science University discussed it less, and there were not many related topics online, it would mean that the students were quite good.

Ding Yue also believed that the students of Mist City Arts and Science University would not disregard the reputation of the school and the personal feelings of student Liu Ping.

At around eleven o'clock in the evening, Ding Yue, accompanied by his secretary Wen Ruohan, arrived at the gate of the school.

About three minutes later, a car drove slowly up the street.

It was the news team of Lu Jianan from NTS News Channel.

The car stopped at the school gate, and several people got out. The car was a news van, which appeared to have lots of space and equipment inside, possibly even satellite broadcast equipment. It resembled the ones on TV, which can conduct real-time live broadcasts and rebroadcasts.

"Hello, you must be Principal Ding?"

After getting out of the car, Lu Jianan walked towards Ding Yue.

Although Lu Jianan had not met Ding Yue, Director Liu Mei had told him that the principal of Mist City Arts and Science University, Ding Yue, was a very young wealthy second-generation man.

After Lu Jianan arrived in Mist City by flight, he contacted Principal Ding at the earliest opportunity, and then contacted him again after arriving at University Town. That's why Ding Yue was at the school gate to greet him and his team.

"I'm Ding Yue, and you must be reporter Lu?" Ding Yue smiled, nodded, and reached out to shake hands with Lu Jianan.

Lu Jianan immediately replied, "Yes, I am the Deputy Editor of the News Department in the NTS News Channel."

"So, you're Editor Lu!" Ding Yue thought that Lu Jianan was just a reporter. He didn't expect him to be an editor, albeit a deputy one.

"I've brought a news team here. Director Liu informed me about the general situation. We would like to first understand the situation here at Mist City Arts and Science University. Then we will set off for the county where the student is from to investigate deeply. How does that sound?"

Lu Jianan looked at Ding Yue and asked.

"Alright, that was what I planned to do as well. However, it's already quite late tonight, and since you've all traveled long and hard to get here, why don't you rest for the night? We can discuss Liu Ping's father's situation tomorrow morning?"

Ding Yue suggested that they take a rest after their arrival.

After all, Lu Jianan and the others had set off from the NTS Building at around six in the afternoon, traveled to Yancheng Airport, flew from Yancheng Airport to Mist City Airport, and then traveled from the airport to Mist City Arts and Science University.

It was almost midnight following over five hours of weary traveling. Rest was a priority.

"Hmm, alright!"

Lu Jianan wasn't made of iron either. It was a great accomplishment to have made it to Mist City Arts and Science University smoothly within a day.

As for the interview at the university, it wouldn't be late to start in the morning. Therefore, Lu Jianan agreed to Principal Ding's suggestion.

"We've arranged the guest apartments for you. You can rest well tonight. Oh, and have you all had dinner yet?"

Ding Yue asked again.

"We had dinner on the plane, so don't trouble yourself, Principal Ding," Lu Jianan said, a little embarrassed.

They were here on official duty, for which they'd received approval from higher authorities. Principal Ding had already arranged accommodation for them. If they leech a meal off him too, it would be too embarrassing.

"No problem at all. If you get hungry at night, you can contact our secretary. Our university has a 24-hour canteen and restaurants."

Ding Yue said to Lu Jianan with a smile.

Afterwards, Ding Yue led Lu Jianan and his team to the Elegant Garden Apartment building. The administrative staff of the Accommodation Management Department guided Lu Jianan and his reporters' team to their prearranged apartments.

Mist City Arts and Science University had made arrangements in the Elegant Garden Apartment for guests since the hotel was not yet constructed and there was a demand for hosts sometimes.

After settling the journalist team in, Ding Yue went to sleep.

The next day, Ding Yue got up early in the morning.

Wen Ruohan woke up even earlier than Ding Yue and called Principal Ding early in the morning to ask if she should bring breakfast to the Elegant Garden Apartment for Lu Jianan's journalist team.

Ding Yue checked with Lu Jianan's team, who had also risen early, and they agreed to eat in the canteen.

So, Ding Yue led Lu Jianan and his colleagues to the second canteen. While they were walking and having breakfast, they could learn more about the situation of Liu Ping's father.

"Principal Ding, your university canteen's breakfast is delicious!"

At another table in the second canteen, Xiao Liu, a reporter from NTS News Channel, praised the school after biting into a fried bun.

"If you think it's delicious, eat more. You're not the first person to commend our school's breakfast," Ding Yue quickly recalled Principal Xu Dongcheng who had just left Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Principal Ding, so you're saying that Liu Ping's father, who has been in jail for over a decade, hasn't been released even after the real criminal in that old case was caught?"

After Ding Yue explained the general situation, Lu Jianan summarized.

"Exactly, this is what we don't understand either," Ding Yue nodded, "Our university has an excellent legal team. They have returned to the county city with Liu Ping, but they have been hindered from learning detailed information about the situation."

"What about reaching out to the city or provincial authorities? Or the courts?"

Lu Jianan asked, frowning.

"It's not that people didn't try, but either the relevant departments are inefficient or there are other issues holding the process up. By rights, he should already have been released,"

Ding Yue shook his head regretfully, "Also, our university's legal team is heading to the local city and court today for further inquiries."

"Well, in that case, let's get moving as soon as we finish breakfast!"

Lu Jianan said firmly.

This news story was a first for him. He might have experienced it before, but never had a chance to report on it.

"Wen Ruohan, have you purchased airline tickets for Editor Lu and his team?" Ding Yue asked Ruohan.

Wen Ruohan, who had just taken a sip of porridge, burnt her mouth when she heard Principal Ding. "Ya ya ya, they have been purchased."

"Editor Lu, there's another matter we're hoping you could help us with during your visit..." Ding Yue suddenly said.