

Scholar 131

Chapter 131

“Wake up.”

Molina was surprised as she said, “This doesn’t sound like you. I thought you’d be more courageous.”

“Courageous enough to solve Riemann’s conjecture?” said Lu Zhou as he laughed.

Researchers around the world all wanted to solve this question. Anyone that could solve it would undoubtedly become one of the most influential mathematicians in history. The one million dollar award paled in comparison.

And how difficult was the question?

With his current Level 3 in mathematics, the system would not even give him a price to solve the problem. In the system’s eyes, the question was far beyond his current mathematical level.

The most cutting-edge research result was from the American mathematician, Kanguri. His “40% of the zero points is on the crucial line”.

It was insanely difficult to push this 40% to 100%.

Of course, many people also tried to kill this method, but without any exception, they had all failed.

The most famous case was probably Mr. De-Branges when he announced in 2003 that he had proved Riemann’s conjecture. In the end, he became a laughing stock.

De-Branges had not even fully understood the problem before he announced his solution.

Mr. Zhang Yitang reduced the “70 million” number down to “246”, it did not even take him a year.

Lu Zhou knew that Riemann's conjecture was on another level.

It was not that he was afraid of this challenge, but it was because he had no reason to challenge this nightmarish level kind of questions right away. He could wait for his mathematics level to rise before challenged questions of this difficulty.

Molina took a deep breath as she tried to make a final attempt at persuading him, "Actually, you might be too pessimistic. In fact, I've achieved some results... Although it seems trivial, I'm confident that within three years, I can push this 40% number to 50%. This could be my doctoral thesis! Of course, if you're willing to help me, I can co-sign the thesis with you..."

"This is one of the reasons why number theory is so fascinating," said Lu Zhou. He sighed and said softly, "Everyone thinks that they are about to succeed, but when the results come out, they find out that they have failed."

Over the past six months, there had been countless times when he thought he had solved the twin prime number conjecture, when he, in fact, did not.

Who knew how long it would have taken him if he did not have the inspiration hours from the system.

A year?

Ten years?

No one knew.

After all, mathematics itself was a quantitative subject. 10 years of work could be summed up in ten pages.

Lu Zhou looked at the time on his phone and said, "It's getting late, I've got to leave. Thanks for sending me to the airport. I'll treat you to dinner when I get the chance."

“... I’ll wait here for you. The world is your stage!” said Molina as she looked at Lu Zhou walking away.

Lu Zhou heard her and paused for a second before he smiled.

He then waved his hand and said, “See you later!”

He continued to walk and he soon disappeared amongst the crowd.

As Molina stared at the airport entrance, she started to think deeply and for a long time, she did not speak at all.

In the sky, white trails were left behind by airplanes.

“See you later... I guess?”

She felt a little empty in her heart.

She then shook her head and went back into her car.

Suddenly, a well-dressed man walked over and smiled. He then asked, “Hey there, sweetheart, I’m not from around here. Mind giving me a ride?”

“Go call a Uber.”

Molina closed the car door and slammed the gas pedal.

The man looked at the taillights and stood there.

He then raised his middle finger.

“Sh*t...”

...

After a twenty hour flight, the plane finally landed at the Shanghai airport.

Without wasting any time, Lu Zhou immediately transferred onto a flight to Jiangcheng.

Jiangcheng International Airport...

Lu Zhou finally landed and he dragged his suitcase behind him as he tried to look for the subway. However, he was blocked by two people.

A beautiful lady and a man in a suit quickly walked up to him.

“Hello there. I’m from Suzhou TV station. Are you Lu Zhou?”

When Lu Zhou heard that she was from Suzhou TV, he was shocked. He immediately looked around.

I didn’t take the wrong flight, this is Jiangcheng International Airport...

Wait a minute, the news of me solving the twin prime number conjecture has already reached China?

But I hadn’t even officially published the thesis...

Lu Zhou looked at the reporter and asked cautiously.

“Is there a problem?”

Wu Ping smiled and said, “Here’s the thing. There’s the strongest genius student program on our TV station, don’t know if you have heard of it?”

I guess it’s not about the twin prime number conjecture...

Lu Zhou was disinterested and he shook his head as he answered: “...”

He had not been watching television for many years, so he had no idea what programs were on TV.

He was too busy for TV.

His roommate used to watch TV, so at most, he would glance at it occasionally.

Wu Ping had an awkward expression on her face. She coughed and said, “The thing is, the strongest genius is one of the most popular shows on our platform. There are six teams, four people each team, and each team has an expert in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biochemistry. The teams have to compete to become the strongest team! We heard of you solving Zhou’s conjecture, so we want to ask if you’re interested...”

“Not interested,” said Lu Zhou as he shook his head and tried to leave.

The female reporter was worried, so she quickly stopped him.

“Oh, wait a minute! There’s pay.”

Lu Zhou stopped walking and said, “How much?”

Wu Ping had a charming smile on his face.

“Fifty grand.”

“...”

Lu Zhou was speechless. He then turned and left.

“Pretend like I didn’t ask.”

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When Lu Zhou got off the high-speed rail train, he was too lazy to take the bus. So he called for a taxi outside the station.

When he arrived at his house, he looked at the familiar willow trees outside his house, and it was like he never left.

As Lu Zhou dragged the suitcase to the doorsteps, he felt both excited and nervous. He took a deep breath before he pressed the doorbell.

Ding...

Immediately after, footstep sounds came from behind the door.

Soon after, the door opened, and a familiar face appeared.

“Who is it... Son?”

When Fang Mei saw her son, her face lit up. She said, “You’re here already? Come in! Why didn’t you tell me you were coming?”

“I wanted to surprise you!”

Lu Zhou smiled and dragged his suitcase inside.

Fang Mei grabbed the suitcase and shouted toward the bathroom, "Honey, hurry and go buy some fish, we're making fish for your son tonight."

"What? My son's back?"

Dad's voice traveled through the bathroom, followed by the sound of the toilet flushing.

Lu Zhou quickly waved his head, "Mom, it's fine. I don't care what we eat, so you don't have to work so hard."

Fang Mei smiled and said, "What do you mean, I'm in great shape! I want to cook!"

Lu Zhou's father washed his hands. When he came out of the bathroom, he shouted, "Son! Let's see if you grew taller!"

"Taller taller... Come, dad, I bought you a gift, I bought some for sis and mom as well," said Lu Zhou. He then opened his suitcase and took out two bottles of red wine and two boxes of skin care products before giving them to his parents.

His father said, "... You bought wine? Didn't I tell you not to waste money? How much is this?"

"It's not expensive, a couple of hundred USD, and they're not luxury brands. It's not my money anyway. It's leftover money from the trip funding," said Lu Zhou with a smile.

He could not keep the money from the school anyway, he might as well spend it.

"USD?" asked Old Lu. He added, "You... bought this from America?"

“Yeah,” said Lu Zhou. With a smile, he said, “I went to Princeton to attend that conference, right? I bought it over there.”

Old Lu looked at Fang Mei and smiled as he said, “I thought you were talking about some hotel called Preston or something... You went to America? Why didn’t you tell us?”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

...

There was no tutoring during the winter vacation, so Xiao Tong came back home at half past six.

When she saw Lu Zhou sitting in the living room, her eyes lit up and she shouted “Brother!” before she rushed over excitedly.

She had not seen him in a long time.

Lu Zhou did not remember her ever being so attached to him.

However, they had not seen each other in a year.

At night, Fang Mei cooked up a table of dishes as if it was Chinese New Year.

Old Lu took out some alcohol from the cupboards and placed it on the table.

“Come, drink with dad.”

“Cheers!”

As Xiao Tong looked at the two guys drinking, she said, “Dad, don’t drink so much. Same with you, bro. Dad finally quit drinking, and you brought two bottles of wine back.”

“It’s fine. It’s the holidays. Come, eat,” said Fang Mei as she smiled and placed food into her son’s plate.

“Mom, it’s fine. You don’t have to take care of me,” replied Lu Zhou.

His family was so enthusiastic that he was almost a little embarrassed.

Xiao Tong said, “Oh, I see. Once my brother comes back, he’s the favorite child. No, I have to get into a good university as well.”

Lu Zhou knew her competitive personality too well, so he did not reply. He grabbed some fish and placed it into her plate.

“I wish you the best. Here, eat some fish. It’s good for your brain.”

“Haha, bro, you’re too kind to me.”

“Haha, you’re welcome.”

“...”

Dinner was very lively.

The joy of a long-awaited reunion lit up the dining table.

Lu Bangguo drank a lot that night.

It was rare for him to get that drunk.

After dinner, Lu Bangguo sat on the sofa and watched the news. He spoke with emotion.

“Son, the biggest wish in my life is to see you become better than me. I didn’t even graduate high school, I’m uneducated. You’ve already done that! From now on, your life is yours, you have to make your own decisions!”

Lu Zhou did not drink much, but he was slightly intoxicated as well. He smiled and replied, “What do you mean you’re uneducated? You’re a mathematician’s father, that makes you educated as well.”

“Hey, when you put it like that... It makes sense? Does that mean I’m educated as well?”

Soon after, Lu Bangguo started to snore on the sofa.

Lu Zhou picked up the remote and lowered the TV volume.

Once Xiao Tong finished helping her mom with the dishes, she ran to the sofa and eagerly asked her brother.

“Bro, you really went to America?!”

Lu Zhou rolled his eyes, “Of course I did. Don’t tell me you don’t know what Princeton is either?!”

Xiao Tong suddenly grabbed his arm and smiled as she asked, “Then brother, where is my gift?”

Lu Zhou was well aware of her tricks. He sighed and said, “Your gift is in my suitcase, but should I give it to you?”

Xiao Tong said pitifully, “What do you mean by should? I’m your dearest sister.”

Lu Zhou replied, "Because I'm afraid that you won't study well after getting a new phone."

Xiao Tong's eyes lit up and she asked, "New phone? Is it Apple?!"

Lu Zhou replied, "What did you get for the mathematics exam?"

"145!" replied Xiao Tong quickly. She added, "I'm not lying!"

Lu Zhou replied, "Are you sure?"

Xiao Tong, "Yes, yes, I really did!"

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "Fine, it's in my suitcase. Go and grab it yourself."

"Wow! Brother, you're the best!"

Xiao Tong pecked Lu Zhou's cheek before she climbed down from the sofa.

As Lu Zhou watched his sister jumped, he smiled.

Home is the best.

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It was getting boring staying at home.

Lu Zhou could not find anything to do other than play League Of Legends. He would chat with his parents, help his sister with homework, play around with Xiao Tong, and read the news...

Lu Zhou logged into the US Competition website and looked at the questions for fun.

Hm, these questions are weird.

Question A was about eradicating the Ebola Virus. Question B was about searching for the Malaysian plane MH370. Question C was about human resources. The questions alone took five pages, and the last question was about solving the population growth problem.

Lu Zhou: "..."

F*ck, thank god I didn't enter the competition!

Are these questions even related to mathematical modeling?

Fortunately, these questions had to be solved by other people at the University of Jin Ling, and it had nothing to do with Lu Zhou.

Quickly, the new year arrived. There was a festive atmosphere around the community.

Same as always, everyone was in a festive spirit.

The only difference was that instead of asking "How are your grades?", people started asking Lu Zhou, "Have you found a girlfriend?" or "Do you want me to introduce someone to you?".

Lu Zhou was annoyed by the questions.

The second day after the New Year, Lu Zhou's phone was ringing non-stop. People were calling him to wish him a happy new year.

Surprisingly, Lu Zhou received a call from Luo Wenxuan at Princeton.

"Happy New Year! Also, I have to thank you!"

“Thank me?”

Luo Wenxuan said excitedly, “Yes, about the seven results from a six-sided dice! The inspiration you gave me was very important. I’ll buy you drinks next time.”

“I’ll remember that. Also, congratulations,” said Lu Zhou. He smiled and said, “Speaking of which, aren’t you coming back for New Year?”

Luo Wenxuan replied, “I already went back for Christmas, and the experiment has entered a critical stage, so I can’t leave. I’ll have to spend New Year at Princeton.”

He was a little sad, but he was used to living abroad.

They chatted about mathematics and physics for a bit before they ended the call.

After Lu Zhou hung up, Xiao Tong who was playing on her phone suddenly asked, “Bro, when are you planning on finding a wife?”

Lu Zhou smiled and replied, “Good question.”

As she laid bare feet on the sofa, she sighed and spoke with a pained voice, “As your dearest sister, I’m sad that you replied like that. How about I introduce you to some? There are a few students in my class that really respect you.”

Lu Zhou did not know that people in her class knew of him.

Lu Zhou replied, “Introduce my ass. What do you know about dating? Trying to find me a partner. Who do you think you are... Like I would need help finding a partner.”

She replied, “Hey, why can’t I? Why does it have to do with my age?”

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "Let me give you an example. If I found a girlfriend younger than you, what would you call her?"

She replied, "I'll just call her sister-in-law?"

Lu Zhou: "..."

What?

She makes sense...

Dammit.

In the end, Lu Zhou said something like "stop talking about dating when you're so young" and ended the conversation.

Another few days passed by fleetingly... Happy times were always short.

The little princess at home carried a backpack and went back to her daily high school life.

Lu Zhou had to return to school because of Ten Thousand People Initiative, so he said goodbye to his parents and left.

Lu Bangguo took a day off and sent Lu Zhou to the train station. He patted his son's shoulder and said, "Take care."

Lu Zhou had to transfer from train to high-speed rail.

After he left the subway station, he carried his suitcase to his dorm.

The graduate entrance exam had just finished, so the school was empty.

There were only a couple of students on campus doing research.

Lu Zhou returned to his dorm and promptly unpacked before he laid in his bed.

He had taken such a long break that it was time to see what missions the system had cooked up for him.

When Lu Zhou entered into the system space, he saw pure white.

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Also what the hell is debris?

The system did not respond to him, nor did it even give him any instructions.

Lu Zhou guessed that the debris was something like a “sample”, but broken? Maybe he could fix it and make it useful.

Lu Zhou was slightly confused.

He had always wanted to get something like a starship, but this time he prayed that the debris was not a broken starship. He did not know how to fix a starship...

Lu Zhou looked at his characteristic panel.

At the moment, he had 5100 physics experience points, so the additional 8000 was enough for him to level up. He was about to take physics as a second degree anyway, so the timing of this was convenient.

As for the 4000 biochemistry experience points, it was better than nothing.

Before exiting the system space, Lu Zhou looked at the book list. The list mainly contained physics books and a few materials chemistry related books.

Lu Zhou also briefly looked at the experiment. It was about “Real-time observation of lithium dendrite formation in lithium-ion battery electrodes”. It also contained a description of the experiment and the experimental data that needed to be collected.

Lu Zhou took out a piece of draft paper from his drawer and copied down the book list. He then wrote a tick beside “The Coming of Materials Science” book.

The book was written by Professor Robert W. Cahn, a member of the Royal Society and a foreign academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He was also a major player in the field of materials science. The most fascinating part of the book was that it contained almost all of the major materials science research problems.

Lu Zhou had wanted to study this book when he was in Professor Li’s research team last year, but he did not have the time.

However, now, he had the perfect opportunity to study it!

Lu Zhou put on his backpack. He then left his dorm room and went to the library.

When he walked into the library, he quickly found “The Coming of Materials Science” textbook.

Lu Zhou borrowed the book. He was ready to sit down and study. Suddenly, Professor Tang called his phone.

If it was not for Professor Tang, he would have forgotten why he returned to Jin Ling in advance.

...

Laboratory building, Professor Tang’s office...

The two graduate students were away, so the old gentleman was alone in his office.

The office desk was very clean.

A vacuum flask and a stack of materials sat on top of the desk.

“... I have some materials here, take it back and look at it. Then fill in the documents,” said Professor Tang. He picked up the stack of materials and placed it in Lu Zhou’s hands before he continued, “Take this opportunity seriously.”

“Thank you, professor,” said Lu Zhou when he received the materials.

Professor Tang nodded. He then noticed the textbook in Lu Zhou’s bag and asked, “Physics book?”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Yeah, I’m preparing for my double degree in physics.”

Professor Tang suddenly remembered something and he said, “I almost forgot about this. At the end of the year meeting, the school leadership team discussed your graduation.”

Lu Zhou, “Graduation?”

Professor Tang nodded and said, “Yes, in order to allow you to start researching sooner, University of Jin Ling has decided to issue an undergraduate degree certificate in advance. You’ll be enrolled as a master’s student, and you’ll join the Princeton PhD training program...”

Lu Zhou was stunned and he asked, “Training program? Master’s and PhD at the same time?”

“Not at the same time,” said Professor Tang as he shook his head. He said with a smile, “In short, you’ll take a year or two in China to get a master’s degree. After that, you’ll be directly sent to Princeton to do a PhD. The University of Jin Ling will give you a doctor’s certificate, but not a master’s certificate. This is

the plan that the school has tailored for you. If you're fast, you can get a PhD within three years, and the PhD will be issued by both University of Jin Ling and Princeton."

This talent development program was specially formulated for Lu Zhou, and no one else got this kind of special treatment.

However, Professor Tang did not mention that the University of Jin Ling already proposed awarding Lu Zhou a degree in advance last year. However, because of his age, the plan was not put in place.

This year, because of Professor Wang Yuping's suggestion, the program was given the green light.

The academician's recommendation held great power.

Professor Wang Yuping wanted to move Lu Zhou to the University of Yan to become his own student. Therefore, Professor Tang and his co-workers cooked up a plan to convince Lu Zhou to stay at the University of Jin Ling.

Princeton was also interested in Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou asked, "But I didn't even finish my bachelor's degree. Is this okay?"

Professor Tang replied, "Principal Xu personally wrote to the Ministry of Education about you, so it'll be okay."

Emm...

It seems that this won't be a problem then.

Lu Zhou realized that his fears were redundant, so he smiled while feeling embarrassed.

Professor Tang continued, "I originally planned to tell you this in two days, but I heard you were planning on doing a physics double major so I thought I'd tell you now. Just get a double doctor's degree instead!"

He did not totally approve of Lu Zhou's physics degree, but he did not know what to say. He had no idea what this kid should do.

He thought that this kid's talent was in the field of functional analysis and applied mathematics, so he strongly suggested for him to develop in the direction of mathematical physics. However, Lu Zhou had revealed his talents in number theory as well.

This kid solved the twin prime number conjecture. Even though the thesis had not been published, it was basically guaranteed.

If Lu Zhou asked Professor Tang for his advice, he would have suggested him not to pursue physics.

However, Lu Zhou did not ask.

So Professor Tang did not say anything.

Professor Tang thought, "I'll let it go!"

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Of course, before the publication of his thesis on the twin prime number, he was the closest person on the planet to solving Polignac's conjecture.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Don't worry, Professor Tang. I already studied some papers about Polignac's conjecture when researching the twin prime number conjecture, but I'm lacking inspiration. I might use it for my PhD thesis, but I'll choose a functional analysis topic for my graduation thesis."

Professor Tang was pleased as he said, "It seems that you already have your own plan. Then say no more. Tell me when you've chosen a topic, and I'll help you with the question."

...

The Ten Thousand People Initiative needed household registration information, so Lu Zhou returned to his dorm with the materials.

When he found his registered residence from his drawer, he sat down in his chair. He began to carefully read and fill in the documents.

Suddenly, the door of his dorm room was pushed open.

"201, your king has come back... Wait, Zhou, you're the only one here?" asked Huang Guangming. He looked around before he placed his suitcase on his bed. He then walked over and asked, "What are you writing? Ten Thousand People Initiative? What's this?"

Lu Zhou said casually, "Nothing, it's just some activity that I'm participating in."

"Wow, I don't believe you," replied Huang Guangming as he whipped out his phone.

Lu Zhou sighed.

He did not want to make his roommate feel bad, that was why he downplayed the initiative.

Is he really going to get to the bottom of this?

As expected, Huang Guangming searched up the Ten Thousand People Initiative and sighed.

"Motherf*cker, you're becoming a national talent... Speaking of which, when are you buying us food?"

Lu Zhou could not help but say, "Fine, fine. I'll buy you food. All you think about is food."

Huang Guangming smiled mischievously and replied, "What else do you want me to think about?"

Lu Zhou sighed softly and said, "You've changed."

Huang Guangming smiled. "Of course, who wouldn't love free food?"

Lu Zhou replied, "Is the only reason you're friends with me is so that I can buy you food?"

Huang Guangming replied, "No..."

It was quiet inside the dorm.

Emm...

It seems that I've killed the conversation again?

The third day after the lantern festival, students began to return to campus.

Liu Rui came back first, followed by Shi Shang.

Compared to Huang Guangming and Liu Rui, Shi Shang returned to the campus filled with energy.

One would never guess why.

He brought a girlfriend back!

He was the first one in Dorm 201 to get a girlfriend.

Shi Shang held the girl's hand and said, "Let me introduce you guys. Wang Yajing, my girlfriend." Shi Shang then said to her, "This is nerdy Liu Rui, jackass Guangming, and boring looking Lu Zhou."

Huang Guangming and Liu Rui were unhappy.

What's this?!

Huang Guangming said, "Motherf*cker, why am I a jackass?"

Liu Rui said, "What do you mean nerdy!"

Lu Zhou was the only one laughing.

I mean Shi Shang has a point...

I'll take boring looking over a jackass any day.

What a sh*t show!

Wonderful!

Speaking of which, how did Shi Shang get a beautiful girlfriend anyway?

Lu Zhou stood up and spoke.

"Nice to meet you!"

When Wang Jingya saw Lu Zhou, she was stunned. She quickly smiled and replied.

“You’re Lu Zhou? You’re a god! Nice to meet you too!”

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, “I’m no god, haha. I just like mathematics. Even though Shi Shang is a bit of a d*ck sometimes, he’s a good guy, so take care of him!”

“Pfft!”

Wang Jingya could not help but laugh.

Liu Rui slammed his hand against the table and started laughing.

“Hahahahaha!”

This laughter made Lu Zhou confused.

Is it even that funny?

“Screw off, don’t take advantage of me,” said Shi Shang. He tried to change the subject by saying, “It’s a new year, so let’s all go out to eat! My treat!”

“Dorm leader is the best!”

“Too good, too good.”

Huang Guangming quickly grasped the moment to ask about an important topic, “Dinner? Jingya, are your roommates coming?”

Wang Jingya smiled and said, “Of course they are. I’ll introduce them to you.”

Shi Shang smiled and said, "That's right, didn't you guys want a group date? This is your chance, so grasp it tightly."

Lu Zhou thought.

I really don't want to go on this group date...

Oh well, since he's paying for it, I guess I'll go

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...

Shi Shang ordered a table at the fish restaurant.

The guys from Dorm 201 arrived, and soon after, the girls from Dorm 406 also arrived.

Everyone sat around the table. They were all nervous in the beginning. However, soon after, everyone opened up and started to chat happily.

Especially Huang Guangming and Shi Shang. They were getting more and more talkative as time passed by.

The quality of girls at the School of Foreign Languages was indeed high.

A girl with long hair named Xiao Yunyun sat next to Lu Zhou. Sitting next to her was a girl named Qian Hua. She had short hair and was watching something on her phone with her friends. Deng Le sat next to them, and she was wearing round-rimmed glasses. She looked very delicate.

Huang Guangming might have been interested in one of the girls, so he asked, "What are you guys looking at?"

Qian Hua looked at Huang Guangming like he was an alien before she said, "Haven't you seen Strongest Genius Student before? It's really popular! Geniuses form a team for subjects such as mathematics, physics, biology, and chemistry. You are obviously a dumb student if you haven't seen this before."

"... Then these six teams are from different countries?" asked Lu Zhou.

Qian Hua looked at Lu Zhou and asked, "You've seen it?"

"You could say so..."

Lu Zhou smiled and looked away.

He actually had not seen it before. The show's production team wanted to hire him, but he rejected them. He was disinterested in performing on stage, plus the pay was not enough for him to sell out.

Huang Guangming was unhappy to hear himself being described as an idiot student and he said, "What kind of a reality scientific show is that? I bet the students on the show aren't as smart as Zhou!"

"Pfft, no way he's smarter than Wu Yan!"

Huang Guangming asked, "Who is Wu Yan?"

"You don't even know Wu Yan? The youngest Chinese PhD student at the University of Auckland! MVP of his team! Genius mathematician!"

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Genius mathematician?

So me?

After that, the two started to argue whether or not Lu Zhou was smarter than Wu Yan.

Lu Zhou did not really care who was smarter. He just thought that these two were unexpectedly well matched as a couple.

Both the teasing type?

Suddenly, Lu Zhou realized a very serious problem.

Wait a minute. If this continues, the number of single guys in our dorm will become fewer and fewer?

What if I become the only guy without a girlfriend...

Liu Rui noticed that Lu Zhou was staring at him, so he asked, "What?"

"Nothing..." said Lu Zhou as he shook his head.

Thank god, he'll definitely stay single with me.

I don't have to worry.

Liu Rui: ? ? ?

Soon after, the food came.

The boys of Dorm 201 had not started eating yet, so they asked the waiter for some beer.

Huang Guangming opened two bottles of beer and placed them on the table. He then poured everyone a glass before raising his glass to the dorm leader.

Huang Guangming, "Brother Fei, thanks for remembering us, toast!"

He did not sound very sincere.

However, Shi Shang did not care. Instead, he raised his cup up and said, "Toast!"

Liu Rui went on and said, "I hope you two stay together forever!"

Liu Rui then said, "Toast!"

Up next was Lu Zhou, and the girls looked at him with interest.

Lu Zhou wanted to say "Toast" as well, but he realized something, so he stopped himself.

Shi Shang thought that Lu Zhou did not want him to get too drunk, so he said, "Zhou, you're too nice. I can still handle my alcohol!"

Wang Jingya said with a distressed voice, "Take it slow with the drinking."

Shi Shang waved his hand, "It's okay!"

Lu Zhou said, "Then... Toast!"

Shi Shang and Lu Zhou touched glasses.

Lu Zhou thought, "Why do the two girls next to me look disappointed?"

The food came and everyone was drinking and eating. Huang Guangming and Liu Rui had an agreement to attack Shi Shang, and they wanted to get Shi Shang wasted.

Xiao Yunyun poked Lu Zhou's arm and asked quietly, "Why do you guys call him Brother Fei?"

Before Lu Zhou could speak, Liu Rui asked, "Do you want to hear why?"

Liu Rui had a strange smile, so Xiao Yunyun quickly shook her head.

Lu Zhou said in his heart.

You can't converse for sh*t, you're going to be lonely forever.

Everyone was having a great time, especially Huang Guangming. He even got Qian Hua's number.

Even though nothing would happen, his gains were still greater than Liu Rui.

He looked at Lu Zhou and thought the same.

In the blink of an eye, the two bottles of beer were empty.

Lu Zhou was not worried about Huang Guangming, but he was worried that Shi Shang could not keep up.

Shi Shang was downing glasses left and right.

This was the first time Lu Zhou saw him drinking this much.

Lu Zhou was really worried, and he was about to discourage him.

However, at this moment, Liu Rui suddenly slammed his head on the table.

“F*ck, Liu Rui, what happened?”

Huang Guangming’s eyes widened and he stopped drinking to check up on Liu Rui.

Shi Shang was drunk. He smiled at his girlfriend and said, “See, I told you, I’m not going to be the first one to pass out!”

Three seconds later.

Shi Shang collapsed as well.

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“... What plans?”

Huang Guangming sighed and said, “Forget about it, I can’t talk with you.”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

They did not speak again that night.

The next morning, Shi Shang had not returned yet.

Lu Zhou climbed down the bed and went to wash his face.

When he came back, he saw Liu Rui and Huang Guangming climbing out of bed.

Lu Zhou asked curiously, "Why are you so diligent today? Studying?"

Huang Guangming yawned and replied, "Why not?"

Lu Zhou had a weird expression on his face.

I guess so?

...

Lu Zhou ate breakfast at the cafeteria before he slowly walked to the library.

By then, the main entrance of the library was already packed with people.

There was a new cohort of students preparing for the graduate entrance exam. Lu Zhou did not even have to do the exam. He was already considered a graduate student.

Ah, life is so difficult. Why are there so many people here?

Lu Zhou walked into the library and found a remote location to sit down. He then opened up a blank word document and started to write his thesis.

He had already prepared the topic for his thesis.

Mathematics was a scientific research tool, so it was useful to sharpen this tool. If one never used this tool, it would be a waste.

Lu Zhou had already decided to get into mathematical physics, so he decisively chose functional analysis as the direction of his graduation thesis. However, this time, it was not about Fourier's transformations. It was about the unpredictable Hilbert space.

In quantum mechanics, there was an infinite number of states. So the inner product space dimension was infinity. This created the problem of convergence. When some parameters were infinite, in order to prevent any physical states from running out of space, the mathematical limit of any sequence had to be completed.

The Hilbert space met the requirements needed for quantum mechanics.

A physics system could be represented by a Hilbert space, and the vector was a wave function that described the possible states of the system.

Although Hilbert space-related concepts had been introduced in undergraduate functional analysis, they only briefly touched on the topic. In the cutting-edge of mathematics, the Hilbert space was a greatly researched topic.

Lu Zhou used this as a practice for his thesis writing.

He placed his hands on the keyboard and quickly typed a line of words.

[A viscous approximation method for equilibrium problems and finite non-extension maps in Hilbert space.]

Lu Zhou did not have to use general points to solve this thesis. He already had an idea of how to solve this.

Lu Zhou picked up his pen and started to write on the draft paper.

[H is the complex Hilbert space given to the inner product, and $L(H)$ is the bounded linear operator, $T \in L(H)$, then the numerical field of the operator T is defined as the following set: $W(T) = \{ \langle Tx, x \rangle \mid x \in H, \|x\| = 1 \} \dots$]

Time slowly passed by, but Lu Zhou's thought process was very smooth. Soon, the draft paper was filled with his writing. He then reached for another piece of draft paper.

It seemed that his guess was correct. The higher his mathematics level, the better he got at solving mathematics problems.

Did my brain develop further?

What else could it be?

In short, he could feel the changes that were happening to his body.

“I’ll finish this thesis in a couple of days before I bother with the system mission.”

He stretched and looked at the other students studying and gained motivation.

It feels pretty good to study in the library. I can level up my subjects, learn new things. I’m enjoying this.

Lu Zhou did not know since when he started to like studying...

...

Back at the dorm, unsurprisingly, Shi Shang was bulls*ttng again.

However, the guy was not talking about his “first time” or anything private like that... He was teaching the two loners about life experience and what the girls had... It pissed them off!

Huang Guangming turned on a reality show and Liu Rui wore his earphones as they both ignored Shi Shang.

“Hey, Zhou, you’re back from studying?”

“How did you feel about yesterday? My girl’s dorm room has some good quality meat, right?”

“Did you get their WeChat? Stop being so ashamed. Tell me if you’re interested, and I can help you.”

Lu Zhou sighed, “Brother Fei, you’re insane.”

Shi Shang asked, “Insane? Why?”

Lu Zhou, “You still think it’s the new year.”

Shi Shang, “New Year? Why?”

“Because what you just said sounded exactly like what my relatives said during the new year.”

Shi Shang: “...”

Lu Zhou placed his computer on the desk and was about to go wash his hands when he saw the reality show on Huang Guangming’s computer. He then asked, “Strongest Genius Student?”

“Yeah.”

Not bad, maybe I can finally have a conversation with this guy.

Lu Zhou looked at Huang Guangming and started thinking.

It seems that the loner squad of Dorm 201 lost another member.

Liu Rui stopped studying and came over to ask, “What are they doing?”

“Sudoku!”

Sudoku?

Lu Zhou saw a calm young man on stage and had a moment of realization.

That’s the genius called Wu Yan?

He did not know why, but he suddenly felt competitive against this genius.

Lu Zhou wondered if the guy was better at mathematics than him.

Suddenly, the people on the stage moved.

Lu Zhou was shocked.

“Blind Sudoku?!”

Huang Guangming smiled, “Not bad, right? Can you do it?”

Lu Zhou, “... I don’t know.”

Don’t the players have to look at how much time they have left?

This is too scary.

Next was the one hundred science questions. The topics were physics, mathematics, and biochemistry. Lu Zhou was able to understand most of the questions, but Liu Rui and Huang Guangming were muddled.

However, those two were still watching intently.

Liu Rui asked, "Zhou, do you understand this?"

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Basically."

He could understand the questions, but he could not solve them as fast as the contestants. Even some professors could not solve the questions that fast.

Is this the level of geniuses around the world? It's multiple-choice questions, so they can guess, but they still got all of them correct!

Lu Zhou subconsciously looked at the four people from the German team and did not see Peter Schultz. He looked at the China team and did not see any familiar faces.

Within 15 minutes, the 100 questions were answered by the contestants. The German team answered 83 questions, receiving 8.3 points.

The total score was 14:15, the German team "Tiger" was ahead.

A hostess wearing a dress spoke up.

"We all know that the great mathematician Euclidean proved the infinity of prime numbers, and the modern mathematician Hilbert used the method of topology to prove it again. The pursuit of mysterious prime numbers in the mathematics community is never-ending."

"The next question is a world-class problem."

"The great mathematician Polignac proposed a general conjecture. For all natural numbers k , there is an infinite number of prime pairs $(p, p + 2k)$. Our problem today is to make a guess about this conjecture."

“Whoever can reduce K to a smaller number will get 3 points!”

“Begin!”

The three guys in front of the computer were instantly shocked.

Huang Guangming, “F*ck? What is this?”

Liu Rui, “This dude will prove it live? B*llshit...”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Chapter 138

The vibe on stage was ignited.

The female hostess said, “I cannot believe that Wu Yan is going to challenge this world-class mathematics problem! Will he succeed?”

The audience was quiet.

Both the teammates and his opponents went silent as well.

The audience clenched their fists as they held their breath.

The background music started to be increasingly faster.

The live stream comments were going crazy.

[F*ck, is Dr. Wu going to challenge this conjecture?]

[My male god is so handsome~~~]

[Is Dr. Wu going to earn a Fields Medal?]

[I love smart boys~~]

[I want to marry a guy that's good at mathematics!!!]

[Wait a minute, why does this scene look familiar...]

This scene was exactly the same as the one from the Princeton Academic Conference.

The only difference was that Lu Zhou used six whiteboards while this guy only used one large whiteboard.

Some people started to notice.

A small group of people noticed the resemblance and posted Lu Zhou's video to the comment section.

A lot of people watched the Youtube video and started to complain.

[Is this plagiarism?]

[They just changed the person and added some background music, plain plagiarism.]

[How can they do this?]

[I'm a female PhD mathematics student at Berkeley. I've watched the video you linked. He was proving Zhou's conjecture in the video, not the twin prime number conjecture. The twin prime number conjecture is a lot harder than Zhou's conjecture!]

[Yeah you're right, it's not the same question. Don't you guys know that the twin prime is different than Mersenne prime?]

The comment section became more aggressive.

Finally, the moderator banned some people and the comment section quieted down.

At the same time, the two judges stood up and looked at the whiteboard.

"He did it!"

"Unbelievable!"

Wu Yan quietly dropped the pen. He then turned around and left the whiteboard.

The audience exploded and they started to applaud loudly.

The audience could finally.

They released their tightened fists and released a sigh of relief.

However, not everyone was relieved.

...

Backstage of the Strongest Genius Student show...

The production team of the show was ecstatic at the ratings and popularity of the show.

They made it.

Wu Ping, who had just been promoted to planning team leader, was reporting to the director of the show.

“... Our platform search numbers have increased by 43%!”

Zhang Yuanjie frowned and said, “I know about the popularity... What’s up with the plagiarism?”

He was happy with the popularity of the show as it would probably result in his promotion.

He had successfully created the character of Wu Yan.

There was a debate within the production team if making a celebrity academician was possible. He had successfully ended the debate.

The only thing he was worried about was the plagiarism accusations from the comment section. However, the public relations department of the TV station managed to control the situation.

“Here’s the thing, we looked at the video from Princeton. The video was about Mersenne prime while the thing we presented was about twin prime numbers. They’re not the same thing. We specifically downloaded the Princeton conference presentation schedule and checked it.”

Wu Ping did not actually fully understand it, but he trusted the expert.

Director Zhang said, “Nicely done. But this Wu Yan guy is really impressive. I can’t believe he solved a mathematics problem of this caliber.”

The show did not care about the criticism too much. After all, there was no such thing as bad publicity.

Director Zhang was happy about his plan.

Who cared if he plagiarized? It was not as if Princeton was going to sue them.

The blind filled Sudoku and 100 questions were prepared beforehand, but the twin prime conjecture was not.

Therefore, when Wu Yan's manager proposed the idea of solving the twin prime conjecture on stage, Director Zhang immediately gave the go and modified the script.

As expected, the ratings of the show blew up.

The comment section also blew up.

Wu Ping said, "After all, he is the youngest PhD student at Auckland University, so he's pretty skilled."

Even the extras on the show were from prestigious foreign universities.

"Who said that science reality shows can't make stars famous? Looks at us!" said Director Zhang with a smile. He then added, "One more episode and this season is over! I'll pay the production team a bonus when this is over."

"Thank you, director!" Wu Ping said with joy.

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Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

I haven't even posted anything yet!

He saw these baseless accusations and nearly fainted.

What do you mean I'm shameless?!

Liu Rui noticed Lu Zhou was acting weirdly. He could not help but ask.

"Zhou, what's wrong?"

Lu Zhou said angrily, "Motherf*cker, I was plagiarized."

Shi Shang was playing the guitar when he asked, "What? Who copied you?"

Huang Guangming looked at Liu Rui, and he stopped looking at the show.

Huang Guangming was the last to speak, "Maybe... You also proved this twin prime number conjecture?"

What do you mean also!

I was the goddamn one that proved it!

Speaking of which, he did not tell his friends about his Princeton trip.

"... Nothing."

Lu Zhou had not expected that someone would have the balls to plagiarize his research results. This was blatant academic fraud!

How did someone like this get a PhD?

Does he not follow the academic conduct?

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and opened his laptop.

There was no use being angry.

What happened had already happened. Now, he had to collect evidence to protect himself.

Normally, in order to prevent someone from being plagiarized, that person would submit his or her thesis onto a website called arXiv, while his or her thesis was still in the review process. This way, that person could prove that he or she came up with the thesis first, and no one could plagiarize him or her while the thesis was in the review process.

However, Lu Zhou did not do it because he had already publicly published his research results in front of the public. He did not need to take preventive measures.

Also, at most of the academic conference, they had people recording the presentations.

Even though the reality TV show did not submit a thesis, they obviously violated the copyright of Lu Zhou's thesis.

Lu Zhou placed his hands on the keyboard and began to think. He wrote an email and sent it to Mr. Francis. In the email, he politely asked for a timestamped proof of his conference presentation.

The people at the Federal Mathematical Society were busy, so they might take a while to respond.

Lu Zhou hit "Send" and sighed in relief.

There was no reason for him to worry. As long as the proof of his conference presentation was sent over, everything would be cleared up. He just had to wait for his thesis to be published in Annual Mathematics and he would destroy the plagiarist.

Lu Zhou looked at the posts on Weibo. He was still furious. He then tagged the TV show and posted.

[Why are you guys so f*cking shameless?]

He felt better after insulting them.

Lu Zhou then placed his phone down and threw a towel over his shoulder before he went to take a shower.

...

Female Dorm 406.

“Wow, my husband is so handsome!”

Qian Hua held her phone and rolled around in her bed.

She missed the live stream last night, but when she watched the replay, she still felt excited.

She was shaking the bunk, so Deng Le spoke up.

“Stop saying husband all day. What did he do?”

“He solved a world-class mathematics conjecture on stage! He looked so handsome while doing it,” said Qian Hua with an exaggerated tone.

Xiao Yunyun sat beside them and asked, “He’s that good?”

Proving a world-class mathematics conjecture on stage?

He's too smart...

Qian Hua said, "Of course, he's a 23-year-old PhD genius! Even the guest judge from MIT was impressed at his talent! Damn it, I think I just raised my standards again. If I find a partner, he has to be at least half as amazing as Dr. Wu."

Wang Jingya smiled and said, "That's easy. The people from the group date yesterday was mathematics major, right? Just pick anyone other than Shi Shang. I'll get their WeChat for you."

Xiao Yunyun was scrolling through Weibo when she added, "Oh yeah, didn't that Lu Zhou guy proves some Zhou's conjecture? Just pick him."

Qian Hua said, "Him? He's not comparable at all! Didn't you hear the judge's comments? Zhou's conjecture is only a study of the distribution of the Mersenne prime. It's completely different than twin prime. Dr. Wu, who proved the twin prime number conjecture, is on the road to compete for the Fields Medal! But unfortunately, he's a New Zealander. Otherwise, he could be the first person in China to win a Fields Medal!"

Her advanced algebra mark was only 70 something, but she made sense.

Deng Le said, "And he's so young..." She sighed and continued to study.

She was not that fascinated by Wu Yan, but she did like him.

Xiao Yunyun was scrolling through Weibo when she said, "What a minute... The discussion on Weibo is weird. I saw someone comment that the Strongest Genius Student show copied a Princeton conference video."

Qian Hua said, "Pfft, they're just jealous."

Deng Le nodded and said, "Yes, definitely."

Xiao Yunyun had a weird expression as she said, "But someone said that the twin prime number conjecture was proved at a Princeton conference meeting one month ago. The Strongest Genius Student copied most of the proof process. The actual prover of the twin prime number conjecture is... Lu Zhou?"

The dorm went quiet.

10 seconds went by.

"What!!?"

Qian Hua was shocked as she said, "Must be fake, right?"

Xiao Yunyun replied, "Nope, the person that posted this is a PhD student from Princeton. He also added the timestamp of the presentation and a signature from the chairman of the Federal Mathematical Society..."

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It made sense. The Annual Mathematics journal was released every two months.

Calculating from the last publication date, his thesis would be published at the end of the month. So why did Francis say he would not need this?

Lu Zhou was muddled when his phone suddenly rang.

When he saw that it was from Professor Tang, he picked up and placed his phone to his ear.

Professor Tang spoke first.

"What did you do again?"

Lu Zhou was surprised by the sudden question and he asked, "You know?"

He had not wanted this to be a huge deal, so he did not talk about it with anyone from the university. He had not expected Professor Tang to find out.

Professor Tang replied with a smile, "Of course I know, do you think I'm dumb? I go on the internet as well!"

What?

It seems that Professor Tang isn't too angry?

Before Lu Zhou could respond, Professor Tang spoke again.

"Honestly speaking, this TV thing is getting big. Wang Yuping is unreliable. He spread your news around town, saying that the Cole prize was yours. Guess what happens next?"

Professor Tang smiled and continued.

"I don't know how the press got the news. The Cole prize is substantial! Everyone Daily already wrote up an article, and they were going to release the article when your thesis comes out. How unlucky."

It was not Lu Zhou that was unlucky, it was Everyone Daily's editorial department.

A TV show ruined their plans.

What if Everyone Daily reported the wrong twin prime conjecture solver?

Someone was going to be responsible for the mistake!

In any case, there were people that were going to get screwed.

Professor Tang could not help but say, "When something like this happens, tell me or Dean Qin! Don't try to solve it yourself! If it wasn't for Luo Wenxuan telling me, god knows when I would hear about it!"

Lu Zhou said, "Luo Wenxuan?"

Professor Tang, "Luo Wenxuan heard about this and immediately went to get the records from the Federal Mathematical Society. He then contacted a few Chinese media outlets and emailed me about this. Go call him later and thank him!"

Lu Zhou immediately said, "For sure! I'll call him later!"

He finally knew why Mr. Francis said he would not need the conference recordings. It turned out that someone had already sent the recordings to the Chinese media.

He owed Luo Wenxuan one.

Lu Zhou planned to buy him dinner the next time he was in Princeton.

Lu Zhou hung up the phone and opened up Weibo. He suddenly laughed out loud.

Shi Shang was on his bed playing the guitar and he was shocked by the sounds of laughter.

"Zhou, what now?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "Nothing, it's good to have connections. I don't have to do anything."

Liu Rui was studying when he asked, "What? Did someone solves a problem for you?"

Lu Zhou plugged his phone in to charge and said, "You could say so."

...

TV station, meeting room...

Wu Ping had an awkward expression on his face.

Actually, everyone in the meeting room had an awkward expression.

They had not expected the matter to escalate. Their "perfect marketing" plans were ruined.

Especially Wu Ping. He looked like he was about to puke.

When they looked at the video, they did not understand what the guy on the stage was doing, but they downloaded the thesis from the academic conference website.

Even though they could not understand the thesis, they understood the abstract. The conference presentation was clearly about Mersenne prime. They had even consulted an expert.

Therefore, Wu Yan's manager told Wu Yan not to worry about it, as there were no published twin prime conjectures online.

Now? The integrity of the show was lost.

Wu Yan sat at the meeting table. He coughed softly and spoke awkwardly.

"... Isn't this exaggerating? It's just a show, not a thesis submission. This doesn't count as academic fraud, right?"

Director Zhang was furious when he asked, "Why didn't you tell us that the proof process was copied?"

Yang Feng tried to appease him, "Director Zhang, we're on the same team. This is no time for arguing. I asked Wu Yan. He was inspired by the conference but he also added his own details. We can claim that they both solved the world-class problem."

Director Zhang's secretary said, "Saying that is useless. The key right now is how to solve this problem. My suggestion is to start repairing the damage immediately. Maybe we can find the mathematics journal and give them some money so that they would post our proof first?"

Director Zhang thought for a bit then nodded.

"Makes sense."

It was a pity to give up such a popular star on his show. Also, the other thesis had not even been published yet. What could a low-quality video prove?

Your thesis hasn't even been published yet!

I'll buy my way out of this!

Suddenly, the conference room door was pushed open. A man in a suit walked in.

Director Zhang Yuanjie raised his eyebrows and asked, "Which department are you from? Did I say you can come in?"

The guy ignored Director Zhang as he placed a document on the table.

"Notice from higher-ups. From today, your show is canceled."

The air in the conference solidified for a moment.

It was so quiet that they could hear a needle drop.

Director Zhang Yuanjie's eyes widened. He could not believe it and angered, he stood up.

"What happened? This is unreasonable! I'm going to talk to them!"

It was almost the finals, and they even did the rehearsal. Stopping the show now would cause great damage.

Director Zhang Yuanjie's face went white. He could not believe it.

The guy looked at Director Zhang Yuanjie with a blank face.

"Don't bother, no one can help you. This document is from the higher-ups."