

## **Scholar 201**

### Chapter 201

Professor Ma Changan sat down.

Lu Zhou then looked at the crowd and asked, "Any other questions?"

No one stood up, and no one spoke up.

Professor Ma Changan had ruined this report, so the vibe was no longer the same.

No one was motivated to ask questions after hearing Professor Ma Changan's bullsh\*t.

As for the bomb that Professor Xiang just dropped, all of the number theory mathematicians sitting in the crowd could not wait to check Annual Mathematics to confirm this matter.

Solving two conjectures within a year, even if they were related, was terrifying impressive!

When Lu Zhou saw that no one was going to ask any further questions, he looked at the staff member next to him and cleared his throat.

"The content of "Group Structure Method" has been covered in detail in this report."

"Thank you for coming!"

The crowd erupted in applause.

Lu Zhou lightly bowed and left the stage.

...

The report finally ended.

As Professor Ma Changan quickly left the venue, he nearly tripped on his way out.

Thankfully his student, Wei Siyang, was next to him and saved him. Otherwise, he would have embarrassed himself again.

Professor Ma Changan stood still and looked at his student.

“Why didn’t you remind me just now!”

Wei Siyang was muddled as he thought, “How can you, as a professor, expect me to remind you?”

Of course, he did not say this out loud.

“Professor, I’ve been busy with your tasks these few days, I didn’t have the chance to read Annual Mathematics...”

“Shut up!”

Wei Siyang shut his mouth and did not speak.

He knew that his boss was only trying to find a punching bag. It would be better if he did not speak.

But this Lu Zhou guy is pretty nutty. Winning the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award at 21 years old, and made significant research results in the field of prime numbers...

If he did not have to follow his boss, he definitely would not give up the opportunity to speak to Lu Zhou.

Unfortunately, his graduation was more important...

On the other side, Professor Wang Yuping sat in the venue and when he saw Professor Ma Changan leaving, he laughed happily.

“Hahaha, I knew that this old guy is full of sh\*t. What an embarrassment to Aurora University!”

“Ah, he’s just that kind of guy. He’s only embarrassing himself,” said Professor Xiang Huanan as he shook his head. He added, “The 2017 academician elections are going to be pretty hard for him.”

Professor Ma Changan could not create his own academic results, yet he tried to vilify other people’s scientific research results. In the end, he became a laughing stock.

Not to mention, the Chinese Mathematics Society had just awarded Lu Zhou the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award. He, for some reason, decided to doubt the judges.

On the other hand, Lu Zhou just finished his report and did not linger around. He left Beijing Normal University and took a taxi back to his hotel.

He did not care about Professor Ma Changan at all. He only cared about his mission rewards. What could it be?

He had waited very long for this reward.

Lu Zhou laid in bed and went into the system space.

He then walked up to the translucent mission panel.

[Congratulations, User, for completing the reward mission!]

[Mission completion details are as follows: Solve the Polignac's conjecture.]

[Final mission evaluation: None (Reward missions have no evaluation)]

[Mission reward: 100k Mathematics experience points! 1000 general points! One lucky draw ticket (50% sample, 50% blueprints)]

100k mathematics experience points!

Lu Zhou was excited when he saw this reward.

If he recalled correctly, the twin prime conjecture was only worth 50k!

He only needed 100k to level up!

Without hesitation, Lu Zhou ordered the system.

"System, open my characteristic panel!"

[

Core science:

A. Mathematics: Level 4(54,000/200,000)

B. Physics: Level 3 (53,100/100,000)

C. Biochemistry: Level 1 (4,000/10,000)

D. Engineering: Level 1 (0/10,000)

E. Materials science: Level 1 (3,000/10,000)

F. Energy science: Level 1 (0/10,000)

G. Information science: Level 1 (2,900/10,000)

General points: 2,975 (one lucky draw ticket)

]

Unsurprisingly, with the completion of the reward mission, his mission level jumped up.

However, when Lu Zhou saw the level five requirements, he calmed down.

The Polignac's conjecture was probably in the third category, but it was only worth 100,000 experience points.

From that logic, 200,000 experience points would be worth two Polignac's conjectures, or one higher-level conjecture.

If he wanted to level up, he might have to solve some Langlands program or Hilbert 23 conjectures.

Fortunately, the experience requirement only doubled.

If it added a zero like last time, Lu Zhou would kill himself. He would never reach Level 10 in mathematics.

He took a deep breath and looked at the screen.

Finally, the exciting part came.

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Lu Zhou's expression did not change while he waited patiently for the system to give the award.

[Acquired: Nitrogen shield (Stores 100 units of energy. Can shield against kinetic weapon effectively for five minutes. Can also release energy at once. (one-time use))]

Lu Zhou: "..."

What's this?

It was not as if he was Ironman. He had a normal life. What was the use of this thing?

Lu Zhou looked at the watch-shaped item in his inventory and he was confused.

The only purpose of this thing he could think of was a car accident.

However, given that he did not even have a car, there was a low probability of getting into a car accident.

Lu Zhou finally gave up on trying to find a purpose of this thing. It was not as if this was the first time the system screwed him over.

At least it was not garbage.

Furthermore, if he received another scanner gun in the future, he could scan this thing.

He was curious what exactly was "100 units of energy". What was the principle of this thing, and how does it create a shield with nearby air molecules?

It would be amazing if he could reverse engineer the technology.

He placed the prize aside and looked at his mission panel.

The reward mission ended, so he had three new refreshed missions.

Lu Zhou prayed and read the missions.

[

Mission 1: Science is more than mathematics

Description: User is obsessed with mathematics and physics, which is respectable. But, there are non-theoretical problems that are worth studying. There are many more topics that are worth exploring.

Requirements: Obtain at least 10 system for any three subjects in materials science, engineering, biochemistry, energy science, and information science. A time limit of 1 year. Ways to earn credits: Publish theses (1-3), academic conference reports (1-5), complete research projects (1-?).

Reward: 1000 experience points per credit. 500 general points. One lucky draw ticket (85% garbage, 11% sample, 4% drawings).

]

[

Mission1: Health is everything

Description: The body is a temple. User needs a good body to achieve greater things.

Requirements: Rank runner-up in a national sporting event.

Reward: 10k experience points (100% champion) (50% runner-up). 500 general points. One lucky draw (90% garbage, 7% sample, 3% blueprints).

]

[

Mission 3: Climb new peaks

Description: The solution of the infinite prime numbers is solved with Polignac's conjecture. However, the research on prime numbers is far from completion.

Requirements: Solve a mathematical conjecture related to prime numbers.

Reward: 1-??? experience points, 500 general points. One lucky draw (50% garbage, 30% sample, 20% blueprints).

]

Lu Zhou knew that his health was important, but it was a bit unrealistic to compete at a national level sports competition.

Unless he somehow obtained a physical strengthening drug. Even then, he would need two. One to enter the competition, one to win it.

Lu Zhou excluded Mission 2. He was deciding between Mission 1 and Mission 3 when he finally chose Mission 3.



One one hand, it was because the latter had better lucky draw chances. On the other hand, the latter's experience was more imaginative.

The first mission sounded tempting, but the total experience points that were given only added up to 30k.

The third mission had much higher potential.

Coincidentally he was going to Princeton next year. He could just use this prime number requirement for his graduation thesis!

...

A lot of people went on trending, but few went on trending twice within a week.

A 21-year-old winning Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award was enough to surprise people. Now, another news story broke out. This Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award winner solved a world-class mathematics problem; The Polignac's conjecture.

The journalists behind the articles did not know what the Polignac's conjecture was. They only knew that it was harder than the twin prime conjecture.

Which was true.

The twin prime conjecture could only be regarded as a weaker version of Polignac's conjecture. If the Polignac's conjecture was established, then the twin prime conjecture was also established.

Multiple media outlets quickly reported this story. It even overwhelmed the reports on the 12th Chinese Mathematics Society anniversary conference.

China's mathematics circle was unremarkable, but this sudden breakthrough brought China into the spotlight.

This rising mathematics star was bursting with light.

Although Lu Zhou did not pay attention to the news online, he knew that the media would report on this matter and that the media would probably title it something like [Shook! A world-class problem has been solved by a Chinese master's student!...]... or something along those lines.

This story would have blown up even without the clickbait titles.

Lu Zhou was pushed to number one on trending.

However, Lu Zhou did not care much for it.

There was a greater honor waiting for him.

The fifth day of the mathematics conference, with help from Professor Lu, Lu Zhou met with Professor Qiu again.

This time, not only did Lu Zhou and Professor Qiu discussed mathematics problems, but Lu Zhou also heard a piece of news.

The Federal Mathematics Society decided to award him the Cole Prize!

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"... The nomination award was completed in September, and the selection was done in October. The official documents will be sent to your school in December. The award conference will be held 2 days after Christmas. I think it's at the University of California. The organizer will send you more details, so just check your email. Also, take this time to prepare your acceptance speech!"

Lu Zhou smiled.

He was a little embarrassed.

The official documents haven't arrived yet, but you're already telling me. Isn't this a bit strange?

He also wanted to ask how much was the Cole prize money, but then he thought that academics should not care too much about money.

Therefore, he did not ask.

"I will prepare!"

"Just remember not to miss the award ceremony," said Professor Qiu as he nodded. He then changed the subject when he casually said, "The end of the year conference is pretty high level. Once you presented your Group Structure Method there, a lot more people would know about your research."

"There's a presentation after the awards ceremony?" asked Lu Zhou.

"Of course, this is the convention. The awards are actually the second part of the conference. It would be very beneficial for you to report at that conference," said Professor Qiu. He smiled and said, "But there are only two months left. I'm guessing you won't have much else to publish. Just take this time to rest, and maybe go to California for a vacation. Also, take this opportunity to think about where you want to develop next... Do you have a general idea?"

Lu Zhou said, "I want to dive deeper in prime numbers. I still haven't found a goal yet. Do you have any good suggestions?"

The Polignac's conjecture and Twin prime conjecture took him almost a year to complete. His mind was still in the space of prime numbers.

He wanted to choose a problem that would fill in the gap about prime numbers, but he did not know what to choose.

The 100-year-old Jebof Conjecture sounded interesting, it was similar to Polignac's conjecture. However, while one was the study of the difference between prime numbers, the other was the study on the existence of prime numbers between squares.

There was also the Brocar proposition where it proposed that there were at least four prime numbers between the squares of two prime numbers. This also had a high research value.

Although neither of these conjectures was as famous as Polignac's conjecture or twin prime conjecture, it had a higher position in the mathematics world.

These were only some of his options.

"Prime number research is a good area and it is highly respected in the field of number theory. The distribution of prime numbers applies to many fields, such as cryptography and information technology," said Professor Qiu as he nodded. He then added, "Although I don't do much research on number theory, from my understanding, most people think the sieve theory has been pushed to its limit. However, I think that there is room for development."

The old man suddenly looked at Lu Zhou and proposed a bold idea.

"How about you challenge Goldbach's conjecture?"

Goldbach's conjecture?!

Lu Zhou was stunned.

This...

This jump is too big!

Lu Zhou cautiously replied, "I think... This conjecture is a bit too hard for me. Maybe I'll try to attack it when the timing is right."

His mathematics level was at Level 4 now. This meant expanded system database access and enhanced mathematics understanding and analysis ability.

The Goldbach's conjecture was one of the three major modern mathematics problems.

Even though people had nearly solved it, laying down that last brick was not easy.

Otherwise, this conjecture would have been solved long ago.

"You have misunderstood me," said Professor Qiu as he shook his head. He said, "I'm not asking you to solve it immediately. I'm just saying, try to hack at it for a bit..."

"... A lot of mathematics conjectures don't have to be proved in order to gain significant research results. For example, when we studied Riemann's conjecture, we unexpectedly proved a prime number theorem."

"Similarly, the sieve theory is only a sophisticated mathematical tool. Since you polished the twin prime conjecture, you might as well try the Goldbach's conjecture. I think you could be inspired by it," said Professor Qiu. He suddenly smiled and said, "Professor Qiu, this is only my suggestion. The decision is still yours."

After hearing Professor Qiu's answer, Lu Zhou started to give it a consideration.

The old man's logic was reasonable. In addition, Goldbach's conjecture had the potential of receiving high experience points.

Lu Zhou thought for a moment before he solemnly said, "I will take your suggestions into consideration!"

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"Bro, take care!"

Lu Zhou felt a little weird, "Take care... I'm just going back to Jinling, it's not like I'm going somewhere far away."

Yan Xinju said, "You're going to California in December, right?"

Lu Zhou nodded, "Yes."

Yan Xinjue sighed and said with a voice full of emotion, "The Cole Prize for number theory was won by Mr. Zhang Yitang who is Chinese by ethnicity, but there hasn't been a Chinese citizen who had won this award. You winning this award will fill the gap in our country's medals. I'll be waiting for your good news in Belgium!"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Thanks for your kind words."

The two men did not linger around. Once they said their goodbyes, Yan Xinjue got back into his car while Lu Zhou dragged his suitcase and walked into the terminal.

After a two hour flight, the airplane landed smoothly on the runway.

Outside of the airport, Lu Zhou planned on calling a taxi. Before he could even take out his phone, someone went up to him.

He saw two first-year looking students carrying a banner.

[Congratulations to Lu Zhou for winning the 15th Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award!]

Jesus, why are you guys here?

Do you know how embarrassing you two look!

The pedestrians passing by could not help but look. There were also reporters from Jinling Daily who were waiting to take his photo.

Lu Zhou tried to be low-key as he dragged his suitcase and kept walking. Before he could get far, he was recognized by a girl.

“Lu Zhou!”

Lin Yuxiang’s eyes lit up and she skipped over while waving her hand.

Lu Zhou was embarrassed, but he could not ditch her. He stopped walking and turned around with a forced smile.

“Lin... President Lin, hello.”

Lu Zhou nearly forgot that she was promoted to the student union president.

He only had one complaint.

It’s already autumn, but your skirt is a little short... Aren’t you cold?

Lin Yuxiang smiled and played with her hair as she said, “What president... Just call me Lin Yuxiang, Zhou.”

Why is this chick calling me Zhou?

I’m not even close to you.

Sigh...

“Zhou, let me help with your suitcase!”

“No, it’s fine!”

Suddenly, he heard a familiar and loud sound.

“Lu Zhou, congratulations!”

When Lu Zhou looked up, he was surprised.

“Dean Lu?”

He saw Dean Lu and the student union teacher standing together. They smiled and walked over.

Dean Lu Fangping shook Lu Zhou’s hand and said, “Dean Qin has a meeting, so he told me to pick you up!”

Lu Zhou said, “Thanks... It’s not that far anyway. I could’ve just called a DiDi.”

“Haha, no way! You’re the model student of our school, and there are countless professors who are envious of you,” said Dean Lu. He smiled and continued, “The car is right there. Come on, get in.”

Lu Zhou agreed reluctantly.

There were more and more people watching, and some even started to record with their phones.

Lu Zhou wanted to get out of there as soon as possible.



He sat in the car and chatted with Dean Lu and the young professor who was responsible for the student union. He thought, "This is only a Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award, and you guys are so welcoming. What would happen if I win the Cole Prize?"

He made up a decision in his mind.

Lu Zhou decided that when the time comes, he would not return to Jinling. Instead, he would return to his hometown.

They soon arrived at the school.

Lu Zhou thought that the attention would be over but he was too naive.

An even bigger banner hung on the school gate.

This was even more embarrassing.

However, it made sense. Any professor that won a national award would get this type of treatment, much less a master's student that won a major mathematics prize.

Of course, the school did this to promote themselves as well.

After all, Lu Zhou was going to Princeton soon. He did not have a family, nor a partner. Once he experienced the Western lifestyle, it would be hard for him to want to come back.

It was appropriate to give him some honor. It would make him miss this place and want to come back.

When Lu Zhou got off the car, he did not get the chance to touch his suitcase at all. Two guys from the student union came over and took his suitcase directly to Dorm 201.

As for Lu Zhou, he was greeted warmly by Principal Xu.

The principle was an old academician. He had the characteristics of a scientific researcher. His words were short and concise. Although he was in the computer science field, he knew the importance of mathematical tools.

After all, University of Jin Ling was strong in physics and one could never get far in physics without mathematics.

...

At night, the top floor of the cafeteria...

Lu Zhou thought that his welcoming was already grand enough. Never had he expected that the school would host him a "Congratulations Banquet".

Well, it was mostly hosted by the department of mathematics. All of the professors that were there were mathematics professors.

Lu Zhou's popularity in the school was good, and he was close to many old professors.

While eating, Professor Tang drank with Lu Zhou and said with a voice full of emotion, "For major conjectures like Polignac's conjecture, you would normally have to wait five or ten years to see the results. You being able to solve it within a year is really admirable! I didn't expect you to be so talented in number theory!"

Lu Zhou smiled and said humbly, "Professor, you're exaggerating. The inspiration just randomly came to me."

"Be humble in front of Principal Xu if you want, but why are you humble in front of me?" said Dean Lu. He smiled and said, "Oh yeah, prepare your report. Try to do it before the December annual review. If you're still at University of Jin Ling and if you submit the research, there's a \$100,000 yuan cash prize waiting for you."

Although Lu Zhou got a million yuan when he proved the twin prime conjecture and Zhou's conjecture, this time the school did not give him that much.

The reason was simple. The first time was because his name was heard overseas, so each of the school gave \$500,000 yuan. As for the second time, the money came from a company-sponsored research fund.

The school could afford giving more awards, but there was no point. At most, they could give Lu Zhou some travel expenses or research funds.

Lu Zhou understood this. He could not rely on the school prize money for the rest of his life. Not to mention that he was about to graduate.

However, when Dean Lu mentioned this matter, he suddenly remembered something.

When he applied for his research topic, he applied for the Polignac's conjecture.

Now, his results were published and he had to write the conclusion report.

The problem was...

He had not spent his \$1.6 million research grant yet...

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Lu Zhou did not think too much at that time. The government granted the \$1.6 million yuan, so he agreed. He had not expected to complete this project within a year.

According to the expenditure process of the initiative, the money would go to the school first. Then, the school would apply for a bank account for him to store the money in. When he needed the money, he would send the school an invoice.

The government already sent the money and if he did not use it all, the audit would ask, "Why did you apply for that much?"

Lu Zhou did not know how to deal with this huge research fund balance.

Suddenly, he thought of one person.

Professor Li Rongen seemed to have some experience in this area.

After dinner, Lu Zhou went back to his dorm.

As soon as he entered, three pairs of eyes looked at him.

Lu Zhou was a little embarrassed as he coughed and said, "Why are you looking at me? Go and do your own thing."

Huang Guangming raised his hand, "Zhou, can I touch your medal?"

Lu Zhou said, "Go ahead, it's in my suitcase. Do whatever you want to it."

Huang Guangming quickly got up and walked to the suitcase.

Shi Shang walked over and patted Lu Zhou on the shoulder as he said with a voice full of emotion, "Not bad Zhou, another award... Also, when do you graduate? Let's go drinking!"

Liu Rui nodded in agreement.

Hurry and leave!

It's so hard having you around.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "... I'm going to graduate next semester. But after going to the states in December, I probably won't come back. So, around the end of November?"

Liu Rui asked, "Going to America? Another academic report?"

Lu Zhou shook his head, "No, not a report this time. I'm going there to get an award."

Huang Guangming was taking photos of the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award when he asked, "What award is it this time?"

Lu Zhou said, "The Cole Prize in Number Theory."

Liu Rui froze when he heard this.

Huang Guangming and Shi Shang looked dumbfounded as they obviously did not know about this prize.

After all, they were in applied mathematics, not pure mathematics. Most people would not know of the Cole Prize.

Shi Shang did not want to sound oblivious, so he curiously asked Liu Rui, "This award... How significant is it in China? Do people respect it here?"

"Don't know," said Liu Rui as he shook his head. He then said, "I don't think any Chinese person has won it before."

Shi Shang: "..."

Huang Guangming: "..."

What...

Why aren't you guys talking?

...

The next morning, Lu Zhou woke up early as usual. However, he was a little tired, so he laid in bed for a while.

Then, he accidentally slept till noon.

He got up and went to eat breakfast at the cafeteria. He then walked straight to the carbon nanomaterial laboratory located in the corner of the campus. He found Professor Li Rongen who was doing an electrode material experiment and asked him about the research fund issue.

"How to deal with leftover research funding?" said Professor Li Rongen when he heard his question. He then said, "How much do you have left?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Around \$1.6 million yuan..."

The University of Jin Ling waived the management of the account and placed all of the money into Lu Zhou's personal account.

When Professor Li Rongen heard this number, he nearly choked on his own saliva.

"F\*ck! So you didn't use any at all? You're too frugal."

He looked at Lu Zhou in surprise.

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "The main thing is that there's nothing to spend it on."

The only expense he had was the submission fee for the Annual Mathematics. His Switzerland expenses were paid by Professor Lu, and he did not have an opportunity to spend money in China.

“Let me think... Having so much left, they might criticize you,” said Professor Li Rongen as he rubbed his chin. He then said, “Then... How about you get yourself a new printer or computer? Why did you leave this thing until now! What were you doing two months ago?”

Lu Zhou immediately asked, “Could I get a more expensive computer?”

Professor Li Rongen smiled and said, “Computers are fine since it counts as equipment. It’s not like you’re buying a house or a car. Buy the most expensive computer you want!”

Professor Li did not know how expensive computers could be.

He thought it would cost five figures at most.

His equipment all cost 7 figures, so a computer was nothing to him.

Lu Zhou then asked, “Can I pay for some of it? For example, buy a computer with the research fund as well as some of my own money.”

“Using your own money for the computer?” asked Professor Li Rongen. He then asked, “How much is your computer?”

“Not too expensive,” said Lu Zhou. With a smile, he said, “Around 2 million.”

Professor Li Rongen: “...”

Chapter 206: 2.8 Million Yuan Computer

Lu Zhou would not dare to buy a \$2 million yuan computer online.

First of all, it was not insured. Second, he had to find a professional to assemble it. He had to speak with someone in person.

Thankfully, Professor Li Rongen gave him a phone number. Professor Li said that many professors in the school used this computer store.

The next day, Lu Zhou rode Shi Shang's bicycle and found the computer store.

When the computer store owner saw Lu Zhou's computer configuration list, he asked, "Who wrote this configuration for you?"

The owner's name was Li Jun. He was tall, skinny, and looked around 30 years old. One could tell from his glasses that he used to code.

Box..

Lu Zhou replied, "A friend."

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Li Jun pushed his glasses and placed the list on the table, "CPU and GPU aren't good for mining anymore. If you want a mining machine, I suggest you get some mining cards."

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

What are you talking about?

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "I'm not using this computer to mine."

"Then why is the configuration is so high?" asked Li Jun as he looked at Lu Zhou. He then asked, "For league of legends?"



Lu Zhou: "..."

Using this for the league, are you kidding me?

When Li Jun saw that Lu Zhou did not speak, he said, "Fine, I don't care what you use it for. Anyways, how do I send the invoice?"

Lu Zhou explained the requirements for his invoice, "Just write it normally, then divided into two..."

When Li Jun heard his strange request, he did not say anything. He started to calculate the price according to the configuration.

The whole machine costs \$2.8 million yuan. It was only slightly more than the price online.

Lu Zhou did not care too much about the price difference.

He would use \$1.5 million yuan from the research fund and the rest with his own money. He had around \$2.5 million yuan in his bank account which mostly came from the prize money.

Lu Zhou did not even realize that he was so rich.

However, he was not so rich anymore.

When Lu Zhou saw the string of numbers disappearing from his bank account, he could not help but feel a faint sorrow.

He had not even bought a house for himself but he bought one for Xiao Ai.

He felt a little sad.

Lu Zhou silently prayed.

Xiao Ai, please don't let me down!

I've changed the server for you, so you can't be retarded anymore!

When Li Jun gave Lu Zhou the invoice, he said, "The machine isn't in stock right now, but I can give you the invoice first."

It was expected that the store did not have a \$2 million yuan server in stock.

Lu Zhou asked, "How long would it take?"

Li Jun thought for a moment before saying, "Around a week at the latest. Give me an address and I'll send someone to set it up for you."

Lu Zhou replied, "I'll give you an address in two days. I'll call you."

Li Jun nodded, "Sure."

...

Getting this server was more troublesome than Lu Zhou had thought.

He was caught up with this matter for a whole week.

First of all, he could not put the server in his dorm as it would take too much power. Furthermore, Lu Zhou was uncomfortable about leaving something so expensive in his dorm.

He heard that some unlucky kid got his computer stolen over the summer.

His entire setup including the monitor, computer, and even the mouse was gone.

Lu Zhou thought for a long time before he decided to rent a house first and place the server there temporarily.

Originally, he planned to wait for the patent to be approved. After that, he could use the patent authorization money to build a laboratory near the school.

Now, it seemed that he would have to wait for his PhD to finish before he could build his laboratory.

The house that Lu Zhou selected was small. It had a bedroom, a bathroom, and it cost \$1500 yuan a month.

Lu Zhou had to agree that money really changed a person.

Before, Lu Zhou would be against this kind of wasteful behavior. However, when he signed the two-year lease, he did not feel like he was spending anything at all.

I bought a \$2 million yuan “house”, what’s a \$2000 yuan rent?

It’s nothing!

Not to mention, I’m the only one with an artificial retard in this world... No, I mean artificial intelligence!

After Lu Zhou signed the lease, he called Li Jun and gave Li Jun the address.

After a whole day, the staff member finally installed the server.

Once the computer staff left, Lu Zhou did not even bother to eat dinner. Instead, he immediately took out his laptop and transferred Xiao Ai into the server.

When Lu Zhou saw the space in his hard drive increased, he finally felt at ease.

Only Xiao Ai's command line operating system was still on the laptop. This way, he could use remote operation on the server.

In the lower right corner of the laptop, Xiao Ai's dialog box popped up.

[Master, thank you! QvQ]

When Lu Zhou saw the message, he smiled. He then typed a line of words.

[Are you happy with your new home?]

Xiao Ai: [Super happy!]

Xiao Ai: [Happy.jpg]

When Lu Zhou saw the image pop up, he smiled.

However, soon after, he stopped smiling.

He did not know if it was an illusion or what... but he felt as if he had just spent two million yuan on an emoji chat bot...

## Chapter 207

Compared to the core technology subjects, technology branch had a higher degree of freedom. It was similar to branch missions.

The experience translated between core technology and technology branch was a 1:1 ratio.

Lu Zhou did not understand how the technology branch upgrade would affect Xiao Ai, but he was looking forward to it.

The system did not specify the requirements for advancement. Lu Zhou would have to figure this out himself.

...

Xiao Ai's problem was solved. Over the next few days, Lu Zhou packed his stuff into his suitcase. He started to move into his new apartment.

Professor Lu already said that he should prepare to go overseas.

If all else goes well, he could leave the country next year.

After all, since he already got the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award, Professor Lu was ready to let him graduate. Not to mention the fact that there was a Cole Prize in Number Theory that was waiting for him across the Pacific Ocean.

Liu Rui was the happiest to hear that Lu Zhou was moving out.

Over the past two years, he had been comparing himself to Lu Zhou non-stop. He could finally take a break now.

Of course, when he saw Lu Zhou packing his things, Liu Rui could not help but feel sad.

The opponent he had been competing with for two years was so far ahead of him. However, he had been improving.

Originally, he was only kind-of a genius student. He had decent grades.

Now? He was top five in his entire cohort.

With his opponent leaving, he felt a little unmotivated. Like there was something missing. He could not feel the drive anymore...

The day finally arrived.

1st of December.

At the fish restaurant outside the school, the friends of Dorm 201 gathered around to say goodbye.

This time, Lu Zhou carried his suitcase to the restaurant.

He had already returned his keys, and this was his last batch of luggage. After eating this meal, he would go directly to his newly rented house.

Perhaps it was because Lu Zhou was carrying the suitcase, the boss of the restaurant even gave them a half price discount.

Shi Shang raised his glass and sounded a little sad when he said, "Zhou, you're about to go to Princeton. I don't have much else to say. I wish you a good trip!"

Lu Zhou and Shi Shang toasted. Lu Zhou then said, "Thank you, I also wish you a successful and bright career!"

Huang Guangming also raised his glass, "Zhou, I'll reserve this position for you. Make sure to come back often."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "For sure!"

Liu Rui also raised his glass, but he only said two words, "Take care..."

Lu Zhou smiled and said sincerely, "You too, take care!"

The vibe during dinner was a bit heavy, and it was less rowdy than usual.

Even Huang Guangming stopped screwing around.

Lu Zhou had only finished half of his beer when he got up and stopped Shi Shang. Lu Zhou picked up the check.

"I'll treat you guys this time, so don't try to fight it. I can report it as a business expense!"

Actually, he had already reported his business expenses, so this was a white lie.

After dinner, the squad separated in front of the school gate.

Lu Zhou waved goodbye to the University of Jin Ling.

The parasol tree was gently swaying as if it was waving goodbye.

When Lu Zhou looked at the white clouds in the distance, he could not help but think.

Time passes so fast.

...

After Lu Zhou moved into his new home, he started to prepare for going abroad.

The preparations were mainly for Xiao Ai.

This server was massive. The power consumption alone was dozens of times more than an air conditioning unit. He had to use a 50A socket.

Fire protection, theft prevention, power outages, and regular maintenance. These were all issues Lu Zhou had to consider.

Even though artificial intelligence was intelligent, it did not come to life. Lu Zhou still had to use his own hands to do most of the stuff.

First, he bought some security cameras online and installed them in each room. After that, he downloaded a camera management system on his server and connected all the cameras via Bluetooth.

This way, Xiao Ai would have “eyes”.

He also bought a theft alarm.

The only problem left was power.

He could not leave the server on 24/7 as it would destroy both his electricity bill and the server hardware.

While Lu Zhou was studying the remote control power supply, he noticed that Xiao Ai had more features than he expected.

Xiao Ai could write some special programs.

Of course, these programs were not as useful as apps. They were programs that could only be understood by the machine.



This program was not written in any type of language, so there was no way to execute it. However, this program could control the security cameras and the theft alarm.

Of course, although only Xiao Ai could access the program, as Xiao Ai's owner, Lu Zhou could also use these programs.

Otherwise, if he installed an electric lock, Xiao Ai could lock him outside of his own home.

Xiao Ai's program solved the power issue. Once Lu Zhou tested the remote power function several times, he typed on his laptop: [I can't believe it, you've gotten smarter.]

Xiao Ai: [Everyone grows up~ (satisfied.jpg)]

Xiao Ai: [(Compliment me.jpg)]

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Isn't this because of my \$2 million yuan?

How could you search images so quickly without the new server?

Of course, Lu Zhou pointed out a problem.

[But you're not a human.]

Xiao Ai took a while to respond.

Xiao Ai: [QAQ]

What?

Lu Zhou was a little stunned by Xiao Ai's response.

Especially when he saw that Xiao Ai's progress bar in the lower right corner had slightly improved?

Chapter 208

He had tons of solid state storage space anyway, so he just let Xiao Ai do whatever it wanted.

After Lu Zhou moved into his new place, he would tinker with the server every day. Other than that, he would go online and see if there were any new theses submitted. If not, he would study the latest theories about Goldbach's conjecture. Most of his days were quite comfortable.

The third day before he was going to America, a piece of good news came.

The agent responsible for helping his patent called and told him that the patent document was processed. He could pick up the certificate at the agent's office.

...

"... The two documents are here. Check if there are any problems."

Han Tianyu was the agent who was responsible for it. He took out the certificates and handed them to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou looked at the two documents and asked, "Is it that fast?"

Honestly speaking, he was a little suspicious when he received the call.

According to his estimations, the patent process would take at least half a year, or maybe even a year.

It was a miracle that his patent was processed this fast.

Han Tianyu heard Lu Zhou's question and replied, "The recent National Knowledge Bureau patent process is very loose. Especially when it's the end of the year, they would only briefly look over it and pass it if there are no major problems."

Lu Zhou: "..."

Okay then.

There were two patent documents. One of them was on improving PDMS materials, and the other was on improving the use of PDMS materials in anodes.

The core of the battery technology was in these two parts. Actually, Lu Zhou could have further refined these two patents and come up with more patents. However, considering his limited budget, he decided against it.

Lu Zhou took the two patent certificates and read them carefully. He confirmed that his patent number, patent holder's name, and rights protection were all clearly written and that they were correct.

Also, his patent was valid for twenty years.

After twenty years, it would be free for all.

Lu Zhou asked Han Tianyu, "Is this patent valid overseas?"

Han Tianyu was a patent attorney, so he swiftly answered, "It's only valid in China. International patents require an additional application. The main route is to submit the patents to the Paris Convention or the PCT treaty."

"Depending on the country of application, there are different fees. Here's a price list. You can look at it if you wish."

When Lu Zhou looked at the price list, he was shocked.

This thing isn't cheap.

\$20k yuan for America, \$20k yuan for Europe... Even South Korea needs \$19k yuan...

It'd take \$400k yuan for all of the major countries.

Two patents, that means \$800k yuan?

Fortunately, this price was in RMB. If it was in USD, there was no way he could afford it.

Han Tianyu saw that Lu Zhou did not speak, so he asked, "Which one do you plan on applying for?"

Lu Zhou placed the price list on the table and said with a pained voice, "I'll apply for everything on this price list."

Just to be safe, it was easier to apply for all of them at once.

After all, Lu Zhou had high hopes for his invention.

Han Tianyu was stunned, "... All of them?"

Lu Zhou nodded and asked, "Is there a problem?"

"Nothing, no problem!"

Han Tianyu's face lit up as he looked at Lu Zhou with a smile.

\$800k yuan case!

The commission of this case would be more than his salary!

Damn this guy is rich!

Even companies that were used to applying for internationalization of patents would be shocked at the prices. Smaller companies would not even apply at all, and would usually play it off as a “trade secret”.

Smaller companies would only apply if it was absolutely necessary; like if they had a direct competitor.

It was rare to see such a generous customer like Lu Zhou.

The agent took Lu Zhou to the finance department to pay the money.

Before Lu Zhou left, the agent handed his business card to Lu Zhou and said, “If you have any patents to apply for in the future, come find me!”

The agent’s intuition told him that there would be many business opportunities in the future.

“Let’s talk about the future later, just take care of my case,” said Lu Zhou as he smiled. He then asked, “Oh yeah, how long would it take for all of them?”

Han Tianyu said with confidence, “Latest June next year! I promise I’ll give you a satisfactory result!”

He would be in Princeton by June next year.

Once the patents documents arrived, he would not have to worry about money.

Lu Zhou suddenly did not feel sad about the \$800k yuan that he just spent. Instead, he smiled as he said, "Then I'll wait for your good news."

"Okay! Take care!"

Han Tianyu was extra enthusiastic. He even walked Lu Zhou out the door.

He only left after seeing Lu Zhou get into a car.

## Chapter 209

However, the interesting thing was that a few days after the Nobel Prize was awarded, the official website of the National Knowledge Bureau published an article entitled "The Revelation of Artemisinin Patent" which told the story behind this Nobel Prize.

At that time, there was no establishment of an intellectual property system in China. Therefore, the publication of research results in international journals was the only option. However, the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences later developed the compound "artemether" based on artemisinin. The patent was not in the hands of the Chinese but was taken by the Swiss Novartis company to establish patent barriers.

There were many reasons for this, but it was mainly because of the neglect of patent issues.

Their patent was basically stolen.

What was even more embarrassing was that although Professor Tu Youyou was the one who won the Nobel Prize, not a single company hired her.

The highest reward for this hero was a 1979 national invention award of which she only received \$200 yuan.

In contrast, Omura, who had also won the award, accumulated nearly \$30 billion yuan in personal wealth. At the age of 80 years old, he no longer engaged in scientific research, but instead, he was fiddling with collectible art.

The importance of intellectual property protection was obvious.

Due to Lu Zhou's concerns about patents, he read this article on the official website of the National Knowledge Bureau.

This was like a warning to him.

...

The academic conference at the end of the year was set one week before Christmas.

On the morning of the 18th, a flight landed at California airport.

Lu Zhou dragged his suitcase out of the airport and got a taxi. He then went to the University of Berkeley.

The annual Federal Mathematics Society conference would be held at Berkeley.

The Cole Prize would also be announced at the ceremony.

Although the winner had been disclosed to Lu Zhou, he was still just as excited.

Lu Zhou got off the taxi at Berkeley and met Luo Wenxuan, who had been waiting for him.

Luo Wenxuan gave him a warm hug and said, "Why didn't you call me? I could've picked you up at the airport."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "It's fine, I can just take a taxi."

Before Lu Zhou came to America, he did not notify anyone. He only called Luo Wenxuan after he landed.

As a member of the Federal Mathematics Society, Edward Witten would not miss the conference. Since Luo Wenxuan was under Witten's wings, naturally, he would also want to join in on the fun.

Luo Wenxuan glanced at his watch and when he saw that it was getting late, he said, "Let's go. I'll take you to your hotel. The organizer prepared a five-star hotel... Well, it has a five-star rating, but I think that at most, it's around four-star."

Lu Zhou, "How does it compare to the Princeton hotel?"

Luo Wenxuan smiled and said, "Princeton hotel? The one across from Palmer Square? It's a bit better than that one, but the academic atmosphere is much less."

Berkeley was located in the San Francisco Bay Area, the second largest city in California. Compared to where Princeton was in, this atmosphere was undoubtedly more fast-paced.

On the way, the two started chatting about what happened in Beijing.

"Not bad, Lu Zhou. Bullsh\*tting again before the end of the year."

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "What do you mean bullsh\*tting? Is academic bullsh\*tting?"

"Wow, your tone is getting more and more like Old Tang," said Luo Wenxuan. He coughed and said, "So, as the winner of this year's Cole Prize in Number Theory, what are your thoughts, Mr. Lu Zhou?"

"No thoughts. It hasn't even begun."

Although the award ceremony was in a few days, the email said to keep it a secret. Thus, Lu Zhou felt necessary to keep this news confidential.

Although Luo Wenxuan immediately saw through his act, he said, "Fine, stop pretending. The written notice should be sent out one month ago, so you must already know."



Lu Zhou, "Fine... I actually already got the notice. But the email said to keep it confidential before the official award ceremony."

"Okay, I won't tell anyone," said Luo Wenxuan as he patted Lu Zhou's shoulder. He then said, "Just buy me drinks when you get the prize money!"

Lu Zhou remembered the unpleasant experience from last time and he quickly said, "Drinking is fine, but let's go to a normal bar this time."

Luo Wenxuan waved his hand and said, "Of course. This is near the university, so the bars are all very formal. Even the professors will come. Oh yeah, the chick you met last time, how is it? Are you still in contact with her?"

Lu Zhou was stunned. He did not know what Luo Wenxuan was talking about, "What chick?"

Luo Wenxuan said, "The one at CERN... It's only been half a year. Have you already forgotten about her?"

Lu Zhou was speechless.

"That one? I didn't do anything with her."

Luo Wenxuan said, "Wait a minute, I don't understand... You're saying you dragged her into your room, covered her up with a blanket, and left?"

Lu Zhou said, "Not a blanket, I pulled the curtains... What else would I do? Wait for her to wake up?"

Luo Wenxuan stared at Lu Zhou for a long time before he sighed.

"Bro..."

Lu Zhou, "What?"

Luo Wenxuan sighed and said, "I thought that there's nothing else I could teach you, but now it seems that you have to learn from the beginning..."

Lu Zhou, "...?"

Chapter 210

On the other table, an old Caucasian with slightly darker skin was on his laptop.

Luo Wenxuan walked over and greeted him before he said to Lu Zhou, "Let me introduce you to my bro, George Williams!"

When George saw Lu Zhou, he smiled and stood up. He then said, "Nice to meet you. I saw your report at the Princeton conference. Honestly, it made a lasting memory on me."

"Lu Zhou. Nice to meet you," said Lu Zhou as he shook his hand. He then asked, "Do you also study mathematical physics?"

George said, "No, I study economics."

"Economics? That's a promising profession..." said Lu Zhou. He then looked at George and asked, "But isn't your supervisor Professor Witten?"

Luo Wenxuan smiled and said, "Mr. Witten's field of study is not only in mathematical physics. His master's degree is in economics. Recently, he had also received a master's history degree from Stanford when he graduated last year."

Lu Zhou, "Nuts..."

I can't believe this Fields Prize winner has degrees in history and economics as well.

In comparison, Lu Zhou felt inferior.

George asked, "Are you reporting at this conference?"

Lu Zhou said humbly, "Not this time, I'm only here to listen."

Luo Wenxuan said, "Also to give an award speech."

"Cough!"

Lu Zhou gave him a death stare.

George said, "Hey dude, don't make me so nervous. We all knew that this award is yours. There's no doubt about it. The Federal Mathematics Society wouldn't give this award to anyone else."

Lu Zhou smiled and did not know what to say.

There really is no suspense. Even an economics guy knew that this award is mine.

...

Berkeley was a very nutty place, especially their mathematics department. Although it was not as good as Princeton, it was third in America and ranked top five in the world.

Professor Qiu had a PhD from here.

Even the "Mozart of Numbers", Tao Zhexuan, taught here.

Lu Zhou did not go anywhere else. He would spend all day wandering around the Berkeley campus. In the afternoon, he would go to the top floor restaurant to have his afternoon tea.

Although not many people would actively talk with him, he could still learn a lot from the few conversations he had.

Many big names were attending this conference. It was even more than the Princeton conference.

Everyone had been researching for a year. They finally had a place to brag and show off.

Of course, it was not just showing off.

The academic discussions created sparks and this led to the creation of new ideas.

For Lu Zhou, drinking coffee here was more useful than attending lectures.

After three quiet days, the conference finally kicked off.

The opening ceremony was held at the conference hall at Berkeley.

At the opening ceremony, the president of the Federal Mathematics Society, Mr. Francis, stood on stage and spoke in a slow and clear voice.

"This year is an extraordinary year."

"In the field of number theory, Lu Zhou, a master's student from the University of Jin Ling managed to solve the twin prime conjecture and the Polignac's conjecture. He had also added the topology principle to the sieve theory as well as created the group structure method."

"Algebraic field, Peter Schultz from Germany, solved the famous Weight-monodromy conjecture in abstract algebra through his own PS theory."

“Normally, for this year, the Cole Prize would be in algebra. However, the number of achievements in number theory this year cannot be ignored. Our committee members have debated about this for more than a month.”

The Cole Prize was divided into a number theory and algebra award. Normally, the awards would not be given in the same year.

For example, last year, the award was given to the field of number theory, so by convention, this time the award should be in algebra.

Even though this practice had been broken before, it was only for a very few times.

If it was only the twin prime conjecture, this award would have been given to the German god, Schultz, because his proof of the weight-monodromy conjecture proved that his own PS theory was a powerful mathematical tool.

No one thought that Lu Zhou would be able to solve Polignac’s conjecture. Not only that, but his “Group Structure Method” also had high research value in the field of number theory.

The contribution of both people was exceptional, so it was difficult to compare.

However, since Lu Zhou already knew the result, there was no suspense for him.

Mr. Francis paused for a second before he continued, “We made a bold decision.”

“The award winner is...”

Lu Zhou sat in the audience. He was adjusting his collar and was prepared to go on stage.

“Schultz from Germany!”

Lu Zhou was stunned.

WTF?

Clap clap clap...

The audience erupted in applause.

A thin, pale, tall man stood up and smiled. He then bowed as a show of thanks to the applause.

Lu Zhou: "..."

The F\*ck?

Where's my trophy?

Luo Wenxuan looked at Lu Zhou as he did not know what happened either.

The applause gradually subsided.

Mr. Francis stood on stage and coughed softly before he continued to speak, "And Lu Zhou from China!"

Lu Zhou: "..."

F\*ck sake!

Can you finish your sentence next time?

I nearly had a heart attack!

Wait a minute...

Lu Zhou suddenly realized something.

The Cole Prize for this year...

Is awarded to two people?!