

Scholar 401

Chapter 401: Balance In The Heart

Once Lu Zhou got in the car, Wang Peng drove him to Xianlin University City.

When they drove past the school gate, Lu Zhou suddenly noticed a banner on the school gate.

[Congratulations to honorary professor Lu Zhou for winning the first-level State Natural Science Award!]

Lu Zhou looked at the white text on the red banner and felt nostalgic.

Speaking of which, how many times had his name been on a banner?

He remembered that the first time was because of the Higher Education Society Cup where he competed in the mathematical modeling competition.

Box..

Wang Peng also noticed the banner and said, "This is your school, right?"

Lu Zhou said, "Yeah."

Wang Peng saw Lu Zhou's nostalgic expression and asked, "Professor Lu, do you plan on returning to Jinling?"

"That's right," Lu Zhou said. He then continued, "Education resources in Suzhou are pretty good, plus I have a soft spot for this place. With my experience at Princeton, I plan on building an Institute for Advanced Study at this place. I want it to be the best institute in Asia."

Lu Zhou was obviously bragging.

He wasn't sure if he could do it.

However, Lu Zhou didn't expect Wang Peng to believe him.

Anyone else saying this would have been considered to be bullsh*tting.

But this was Lu Zhou...

Wang Peng couldn't help but believe it!

After a while, Wang Peng finally spoke.

"... Professor Lu is an ambitious person, I admire you!"

"Haha," Lu Zhou smiled and said, "don't take it seriously, I was just saying."

Academia was one thing, education was another.

Old Qiu tried for many years to recreate a Harvard-like mathematics department at Shuimu University, while Lu Zhou's Institute of Computational Materials was still in its early stages. It would take a while for him to see the results.

Wang Peng didn't say anything, but he quietly memorized Lu Zhou's words. He planned on reporting back to the higher-ups.

If Lu Zhou could stay in China...

It undoubtedly would be a good thing for the country.

The car stopped at the laboratory building, and Lu Zhou got off. He looked back at Wang Peng.

“I might stay here for a few hours, why don’t you go hang around for a bit?”

Wang Peng said, “Hang around?”

Lu Zhou said, “I mean, find a way to kill some time.”

Wang Peng smiled. “No need, I can just wait in the car.”

Seeing that Wang Peng was willing to wait in the car, Lu Zhou didn’t say anything else.

Lu Zhou took out a box of tea from the car trunk and walked toward the laboratory building.

Now that the exams were over, the students on campus had gone home. The entire laboratory building was deserted, and it seemed like no one was there.

Lu Zhou walked up to the familiar office and knocked.

A voice came from inside the office.

“Come in.”

Lu Zhou pushed the door and walked in.

When Tang Zhiwei saw Lu Zhou, a smile appeared on his face.

“Didn’t I tell you last time, that if you want to see me, just come. To bring gifts is too tacky.”

“I’d rather feel tacky than come empty-handed,” Lu Zhou said with a smile. He then placed the tea on the table before he said, “Cigarettes and alcohol are unhealthy. I couldn’t think of anything else to bring, so I brought some tea.”

Old Tang shook his head and looked at his graduate student.

“Xiao Wang, go boil some water and make some tea.”

“Okay!”

Xiao Wang, who was sitting at the other side of the office, stood up and walked toward the office cabinet.

The water in the electric kettle started to boil.

Xiao Wang then placed the tea set and electric kettle on the coffee table.

Lu Zhou looked at Xiao Wang and couldn’t help but say, “Brother Wang, you still haven’t graduated?”

Xiao wang was embarrassed as he smiled and spoke.

“I’m graduating this year... I’ve already received an offer from Shuimu, and I plan on going there in May.”

“PhD?”

“Yeah.”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Congratulations."

Xiao Wang was happy when Lu Zhou congratulated him. However, he couldn't help but feel a little depressed.

Xiao Wang stared at the steam coming out of the kettle and sighed before he said, "Ah, not as good as you. When I was studying my master's, you were an undergrad. Now that I'm about to finish my master's, you're already a professor at Princeton."

Lu Zhou didn't know how he should comfort Xiao Wang.

Receiving an offer from Shuimu University was already extremely impressive.

At least, it was better than 99% of people.

Lu Zhou didn't understand why Xiao Wang seemed down.

The teacups were filled, and the office was soon filled with the fragrance of the tea.

Old Tang took a sip and said, "This is nice tea, where did you get it?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "I got it from the hotel at the conference. I don't think it's branded."

The story of this tea was interesting.

Lu Zhou thought that the tea in the hotel tasted nice, so he asked the manager of the hotel about the tea.

However, the manager didn't tell him where the tea came from. Instead, he immediately sent a few boxes of tea to Lu Zhou's room. Lu Zhou originally wanted to buy the tea, but the manager wouldn't accept his money. The manager only said the tea was unlicensed and couldn't be bought with money.

Therefore, Lu Zhou accepted the tea without paying for it.

There was no way Lu Zhou could finish all of the tea. Therefore, he decided to bring it back to Jinling and give it to others.

Especially his dad.

Lu Zhou remembered that his father told him that his biggest joy in life was drinking tea while fishing.

Old Tang shook his head and said, "Then I won't ask about it. Even if you told me, I wouldn't know anything about the tea."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "If you like it, I can bring more to you next time."

Old Tang stared at Lu Zhou for a while before he suddenly said, "Before this, I knew that your future will be extraordinary, but I didn't expect your ability to exceed my expectations. Back then, I could still talk about mathematics with you, but now, it seems that you are my teacher."

"No way," Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I'm still using the applied mathematics knowledge that you taught me."

Old Tang didn't only teach Lu Zhou mathematics; he taught him more than that.

Before Lu Zhou went to the Princeton conference, he was a no-name in the academic world. What made him famous among the academic community was the Princeton report.

And Professor Tang Zhiwei was the one that told him to attend the report.

Good professors were rare in this world.

Lu Zhou was grateful to have met Old Tang.

No matter where he was in life, Lu Zhou would never forget the people that have helped him.

“Okay, stop embarrassing me...” Old Tang waved his hand and said, “I’m well aware of my strength and level.”

Old Tang paused for a second before he continued, “You’re not a little kid anymore, you’re a national level genius. I can’t teach you anything academically related anymore. However, I can teach you something a little outside of it... But I don’t know if you want to listen.”

Lu Zhou put on a serious face and said, “Professor, please go ahead.”

Old Tang didn’t look at Lu Zhou. Instead, he looked at Xiao Wang.

He then said slowly, “The first level Natural Science Prize is the highest state-recognized honor. With that red certificate, you can do what most scientific researchers dream of.

“No one else has more say than you in your field. No one will constrain you as long as you don’t break the rules. But you also have to remember, honor is a double-edged sword. Be careful when using it.

“If you want to climb to a higher academic level, you have to have a balance in your heart. Know what is worthwhile and what is not.”

Xiao Wang was being stared at by Old Tang, and he couldn’t help but complain in his mind.

F*ck sake!

I would never have to worry about these things.

Don’t even think about the state award, I can’t even get a provincial award...

However, Lu Zhou, who was sitting across from him, had a thoughtful expression.

He had been pondering about this over the past few days.

“Don’t be so serious,” Professor Tang said. He then picked up the vacuum flask and took a sip of tea before he said, “Oh yeah, I have to ask you something else.”

Lu Zhou looked up and said, “What?”

“How’s that Luo Wenxuan kid doing? Has he graduated yet?”

Luo Wenxuan heard Luo Wenxuan’s name and couldn’t help but smile.

“That guy finally finished his graduation thesis. He’ll probably receive a PhD from Professor Witten in a few months.”

“Oh really? That’s good!” Professor Tang was happy to hear his students doing well. He smiled as he said, “I’m happy to hear that!”

Chapter 402: You Grew Taller

Translator: Henyee Translations Editor: Henyee Translations

Old Tang had been working as a professor for many years. Even though his academic achievements might not be outstanding, but he had taught many talented students. Other than his kids, the people he cared the most about in life were his students.

Lu Zhou left Old Tang’s office and pondered about what Old Tang said.

He walked around, and soon, he arrived at Academician Lu’s office.

Other than Old Tang, Lu Zhou respected Academician Lu more than anyone else in Jin Ling University.

However, when Lu Zhou arrived, the old man wasn't here. There was only a young master's student with glasses sitting there. The student was painfully reading through research documents.

Lu Zhou remembered someone telling him that Academician Lu didn't take on master's students.

Box..

But now it seemed that the old man changed his rules and started training some high potential master's students.

Lu Zhou looked at the student who was working hard before he knocked on the door.

The master's student noticed Lu Zhou and asked, "You're looking for Academician Lu, right? Academician Lu isn't in Jinling these days; you're a step too late."

Lu Zhou asked, "Where did he go?"

Guy with glasses: "He went to Daya Bay for a meeting."

Although this was unfortunate, Lu Zhou had expected something like this to happen.

Normally academicians were very busy, especially ones that did theoretical physics. There were countless conferences around the world for them to attend.

"I see... Then can you tell him that his student came to visit him."

Lu Zhou placed the box of tea on the table.

“Okay, I will tell him, but I can’t promise you that Academician Lu will accept your gift.”

The master’s student looked suspiciously of Lu Zhou. Lu Zhou was stunned by the student’s reaction, and he could tell what the student was thinking of.

“It’s fine... Just tell him that it’s from the student called Lu Zhou; he will be happy to accept it.”

Giving gifts during exam time could be misunderstood. The master’s student probably thought that Lu Zhou was an undergraduate student.

Lu Zhou turned around and started to walk out of the office.

Suddenly, the guy in glasses yelled.

“Wait a minute!”

Lu Zhou stopped, and he turned around before asking, “What?”

The guy in glasses tried not to sound overly excited, but he still stuttered as he asked, “You, you’re really God Lu?”

Lu Zhou said, “... Just call me Lu Zhou.”

It was fine when people called him God Lu on Weibo but to call him that in real life...

It was a bit weird.

The guy’s eyes lit up.

He quickly opened the drawer and took out a letter. He then walked up to Lu Zhou and said, "Before he left, Academician Lu told me to give you this letter!"

Lu Zhou took the letter and nodded as he said, "Thank you."

"You're welcome..." The guy smiled and scratched his head while he said, "Uh... Can I ask you a favor?"

"What's up?"

"Can you sign something? Just sign here on this book."

Oh, that's it?

Lu Zhou smiled and readily agreed.

He took the textbook from the guy and flipped over to the first page. The guy's name was written on the page.

Song Xuewen

Not bad, good name.

I wonder why Academician Lu accepted him as his student.

Song Xuewen spoke while Lu Zhou was signing the book.

"Um, God Lu..."

Lu Zhou said, "Just call me bro."

“Yes, bro!” Song Xuewen smiled and said, “Then let me ask you something, when you received the first-level State Natural Science Award, what did it feel like?”

Lu Zhou stopped writing and looked at his neatly written signature as he began to think.

After a while, he replied, “Quite nervous.”

Song Xuewen thought Lu Zhou would have a long answer.

“That’s... it?”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “That’s it.”

Song Xuewen: “...”

...

Lu Zhou came out of the laboratory building and wandered around the campus.

He walked around and without knowing it, he was near the Institute of Computational Materials.

He was about to talk toward the research institute when he suddenly heard a voice from behind.

“Teacher?!”

Lu Zhou heard the familiar voice and looked back.

He saw Han Mengqi wearing a white coat, standing ten meters away. She was holding a sample box as she looked at Lu Zhou with surprise.

She had her long black hair tied in a ponytail, and her petite chin was covered in a black scarf. Her tiny nose and small lips perched under her eyes.

The little girl did seem to grow a bit compared to last summer, but she was still petite compared to her sister.

Lu Zhou looked at Meng Qi and asked curiously, "What are you doing here? Are you not going home for the winter?"

Xiao Tong previously had posted a picture of her hanging out with her friends on her friends' news feed.

Han Mengqi looked at Lu Zhou and said, "But my home is in Jinling..."

Oh...

She's right.

Lu Zhou realized that he had asked a stupid question, and he quickly looked away. He then changed the topic of conversation while he looked at the sample box in her hand.

"What is this?"

Han Mengqi said, "This is the material sent from the Carbon Nanomaterials Research Institute. The laboratory teacher told me to get it back."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Oh, an experiment sample. I'm going the same way, let's go."

Han Mengqi nodded happily.

The Institute of Computational Materials was nearby.

Along the way, Han Mengqi chatted with Lu Zhou about things that were happening at her school.

Lu Zhou could tell that she had had a very fulfilling year and that she had matured a lot since last year.

They were walking on the stairs when Han Mengqi suddenly called out to Lu Zhou in a sad tone.

“Teacher.”

Lu Zhou: “What?”

Mengqi gently pulled her scarf and said, “Um, long time no see...”

Lu Zhou said, “Yeah.”

“Do you not have anything to say to me?”

When Lu Zhou heard this question, he suddenly became quiet.

He thought for a moment. Meanwhile, Meng Qi’s cheeks had turned bright red, and she couldn’t help but think back to a few years ago when he was teaching her mathematics...

Her heart rate increased.

Lu Zhou finally said, “... You’ve grown taller?”

Han Mengqi: ???

Chapter 404: Letter From Germany

For scientific researchers, having experiments to do alone was a fortunate thing. However, they still ultimately craved for a higher quality of life.

Lu Zhou didn't want mindless researchers. He wanted a team of researchers that was efficient, experienced, and teamwork-oriented.

While experience could be gained from working on research projects, compensation was what retained talents.

Lu Zhou felt like because he had earned more money than he could ever spend, he might as well give his fellow researchers some welfare.

After all, scientific research couldn't be done by one person. Especially when it came to the creation of the HCS-2 material, his research team was of great help.

Lu Zhou planned to take out 20 million RMB as a bonus for the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials. The compensation for each person would depend on their contribution to the theses.

Box..

It wasn't just the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials; Lu Zhou would also take out a few million USD for the Sarrot Laboratory.

Once Lu Zhou left the Institute of Computational Materials, he had dinner with Wang Peng. After that, they found a hotel nearby and booked two rooms.

Lu Zhou finished unpacking his luggage. After that, he turned on his computer and sent Star Sky Technology manager, White Sheridan, an email.

He was about to turn off his computer when he received an email.

The email was from Professor Lazerson in Germany.

[... Dear Professor Lu, I have to tell you a piece of exciting news. Our He3 atom probe technology was successfully deployed on Wendelstein 7-X! The results from the first experiment were quite satisfying, and the He-3 particles emitted under the constrained electromagnetic field successfully pierced through the plasma and successfully hit the target material.

[At first, Keriber had doubts about our equipment as he believed that the high-temperature plasma would produce unpredictable consequences. But it turned out that his worries were redundant!

[We have successfully collected important parameter information such as the plasma temperature, density, etc. This information is more accurate than any information obtained by previous plasma observation techniques. If only you were here in person, you would have experienced the excitement behind what I just described!

[I have attached the relevant data in the email. If you can wrangle the data and find useful things, please contact me. I look forward to you bringing us an even bigger surprise. But if you can't, that's fine as well since we've already made huge progress on our technology.

[Regarding the He3-probe-technology thesis, my suggestion is to submit it during the ITER conference. If you have any suggestions, please reply to me ASAP...]

When Lu Zhou read the email, he smiled.

This worrying research project finally made some progress. The ability to accurately collect information on high-temperature plasma would help drive the progress of the entire international controlled nuclear fusion field.

However, for Lu Zhou, this was only the beginning of the plasma turbulence research project...

[I agree with your proposal.]

The ITER conference was an open exchange meeting that involved plasma physics experts from all over the world. It was equivalent to the CERN of theoretical physics.

There didn't seem to be a better place to submit the thesis than at this conference.

Lu Zhou typed up a reply and pressed "Send". He then reopened the email from Professor Lazerson.

Once he downloaded and unzipped the attached data, he couldn't wait to open the various graphs and pictures.

Half an hour passed by.

Lu Zhou finally finished reading the data in its entirety. He then lay back in his chair and stretched.

Difficult!

Very difficult!

This was a thousand or even ten thousand times more complicated than any previous mathematical model that he had built before. The difficulty increased exponentially.

Even with his Level 6 mathematics and Level 4 physics, he could feel the difficulty.

"Should I use inspiration hours?"

Lu Zhou looked at the computer screen for around five minutes. In the end, he shook his head and gave up the idea.

The system's system inspiration hours couldn't be paused.

The Navier–Stokes equation was a higher priority for Lu Zhou than the plasma turbulence phenomenon problem. He couldn't use his secret weapon on the less important task.

Lu Zhou closed his laptop.

Suddenly, he remembered that he had an unread letter from Academician Lu.

He took out the letter and ripped open the envelope. He then discovered that it wasn't an ordinary letter paper, but rather a folded piece of red square paper.

He unfolded the paper and saw two lines of words.

[Discard fame and fortune, obtain a higher ideal of life.]

Lu Zhou looked at the two lines and smirked.

"Good advice."

Lu Zhou didn't expect the old man to be proficient in both theoretical physics and poetry.

Lu Zhou didn't know anything about poetry.

Even then, the old man was able to charm Lu Zhou with the power of poetry.

"I'll hang this up for Chinese New Year."

It was getting late. Lu Zhou folded the letter and stuffed it back into the envelope. He then pulled out some clean clothes from his suitcase before he went into the bathroom.

...

The next morning at the Institute of Computational Materials.

Although there were still a few weeks until the Chinese New Year, the research institute already had a festive atmosphere.

Because today... was bonus day.

The team had spent a month looking forward to this.

Qian Zhongming looked sluggish, while Liu Bo was excited when he asked, "How much was your bonus?"

It wasn't appropriate to ask about other people's bonuses in the workplace, but they were close friends and there was no rule against it. Not to mention, this was a laboratory where some people were even willing to work for free. Therefore, usual workplace rules didn't apply.

Qian Zhongming looked at his text message quietly as he murmured, "I got 880,000... It's not a mistake, right?"

"F*ck? Eight..."

Liu Bo was shocked by his number; his entire body was frozen.

After a while, he received a text message as well.

He looked at his phone screen as he replied, "I can confidently say that it's not a mistake."

Qian Zhongming then asked, "How much did you get?"

Liu Bo gulped.

“I... got 660,000.”

Qian Zhongming: “...”

Liu Hong, who was sitting in the corner of the office, looked at his 100,000 RMB bonus and nearly started to cry.

He had never even seen this much money when he was working for Wang Haifeng.

He could finally rent a better place now.

Yang Xu was undoubtedly the quietest person in the office.

His bonus was undoubtedly the highest.

1.5 million RMB...

His hands started to shake when he saw this figure.

His original plan was to save for two years and buy a house in Jinling, but now, it seemed that he didn't have to wait for two years.

This bonus was too scary!

Especially for the material science field...

Yang Xu remembered what Lu Zhou said to him, and suddenly, he felt like the burden on his shoulder had just become heavier...

Chapter 405: Long Time Reunion

Lu Zhou had been hanging around Jin Ling University over the past few days.

He'd either visit his old professor friends or study the Navier–Stokes equation in his hotel room.

He had many social events to attend in China. Therefore, he didn't have much time to work on mathematics problems.

But now, he finally had some time to continue focusing on his math problem.

Other than studying the math problem in his hotel room, Lu Zhou would go to the library at Jin Ling University and feel what it was like to be a student.

That feeling gave him a mindset to tackle problems from a different perspective; it often gave him an unexpected inspiration.

Box..

A week quickly passed by, and it was soon January 18th.

His friends from Dorm 201 decided to gather together two days before the wedding.

The gathering spot was obviously the fish restaurant.

They ordered a pot of grilled fish and some beer.

The boys began to brag while drinking beers.

“Zhou, let me give you a toast...” Liu Rui tapped glasses with Lu Zhou and said, “I saw you on the news a few days ago, and I bragged to a chick and said we slept together before. She didn’t believe me until I showed her a photo. Congratulations on winning another national-level award, also thank you for letting me brag in front of a hot chick.”

Lu Zhou nearly choked on the beer. “... You’re welcome, next time don’t make it sound so weird.”

Lu Zhou had to admit that Liu Rui’s mentality matured after graduating from Yan University.

If it was before and Liu Rui saw Lu Zhou on the news, he would have turned off the TV.

But now, he could calmly read the news without being bothered by it.

In the beginning, Liu Rui didn’t know what Lu Zhou was researching, but now, he didn’t even know what prize Lu Zhou was receiving. The difference between the two was becoming bigger and bigger.

Of course, was Liu Riu jealous?

Of course he was!

Lu Zhou said, “Oh yeah, who is your supervisor at Yan University?”

Liu Rui said, “Academician Wang Yuping. I’m studying partial differential equations under him.”

“Wang Yuping? He’s also studying partial differential equations?”

Lu Zhou didn’t expect to know Liu Rui’s supervisor.

Liu Rui nodded and said, "That's right, but his research is more applied than pure mathematics. You haven't been studying number theory recently. Are you studying partial differential equations as well?"

Lu Zhou: "You could say so."

Interested, Liu Rui asked, "Oh, what research project?"

Lu Zhou smiled. "Let's not talk about that."

Liu Rui waved his hand and said, "It's fine, my mental health is strong now, just tell me."

Lu Zhou replied, "Navier–Stokes equation."

Liu Rui went silent for a while. He then said, "... The existence of a smooth Navier–Stokes equation solution?"

Lu Zhou nodded. "Yes."

Liu Rui: "..."

F*ck sake!

Millennium Prize Problem...

Why is the difference between us so big?

Huang Guangming saw that Liu Rui was feeling down, and so, he quickly said, "Let's talk about something else."

Shi Shang nodded. "Agreed."

The four bros didn't talk about academics for the rest of the night.

After all, they had different development paths in life, and so, they had nothing similar to talk about.

Huang Guangming didn't change much. The only change he had was that he gave a douche vibe even when he wasn't laughing.

Liu Rui looked more tanned and well-built than before. According to him, that was from playing basketball. When he was an undergrad student, he never played basketball. However, he started playing it after he went to Yan University.

As for Shi Shang, he changed the most among the squad. He went from a boy to a man and looked a lot more mature now.

According to Huang Guangming, Shi Shang could "grow a beard and become a director, put on a pair of glasses and become an insurance broker".

Shi Shang had an eventful year.

His life after graduation didn't go as expected. Rather, it completely deviated from his original plan.

He planned on working to save some money. After that, he wanted to open a little business, and then, to get married and buy a house. By then, Wang Jingya would have finished her master's degree, and they could seal the deal.

However, less than a year after he graduated, something big happened.

The fetus inside of Jingya's body completely changed Shi Shang's plans.

Not only that, but he wasn't able to save up enough money to open a small business in Jinling.

But fortunately, he was able to buy a house in the city.

However, that was with his parent's money...

"... I don't want to say anything else, I just want to say one thing to my bro. If you have a girlfriend, make sure to take safety measures. Don't make the same mistake I did."

Shi Shang lamented to his buddies.

However, Lu Zhou, Huang Guangming, and Liu Rui looked weird.

Huang Guangming was the first to speak.

"Shi Shang."

Shi Shang burped and said, "What?"

Huang Guangming: "Why do I feel like..."

Liu Rui ended it for him. "... You're humble bragging."

Lu Zhou quietly nodded.

Shi Shang rubbed his nose and smiled.

"... What do you mean humble brag... I'm not Lu Zhou, does it look like I would humble brag?"

Huang Guangming: "..."

Liu Rui: "..."

Lu Zhou: ???

They finished eating dinner at 8 p.m.

There was still a lot of food left but the alcohol was gone.

The three originally planned to get Shi Shang wasted. However, they had Liu Rui with them.

As usual, Liu Rui was the first to get wasted.

Like before, he slammed his head on the table and didn't move.

Huang Guangming and Liu Rui came here in Shi Shang's car, but obviously, no one could drive in this state.

Lu Zhou had to call Wang Peng and ask him to drive Shi Shang to the Purple Mountain Hotel.

Liu Rui and Huang Guangming had been living at the hotel for the few days prior to the wedding.

Before Shi Shang got in the car, he patted Lu Zhou's shoulder.

"The wedding is the day after tomorrow, thank you in advance!"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Don't worry, I won't let you down!"

Shi Shang said, "I'm talking about the best man."

Lu Zhou: "...?"

Of course?

What else could you be talking about...

Chapter 407: Life Isn't Only About Mathematics, There Are Physics And Chemistry As Well

This wasn't Lu Zhou's first time speaking on stage.

However, this was his first time speaking as a best man at his friend's wedding.

Lu Zhou took the microphone, but he remained speechless.

He was a loner that had never had a girlfriend before, what insight could he possibly give?

The guests saw that Lu Zhou wasn't speaking and began to whisper to each other.

Qian Hua looked at Lu Zhou. Shen then looked at her friend and whispered, "Does he have stage fright?"

Box..

Xiao Yunyun smiled and teased.

"He's a big scientist; he's setting the mood."

Qian Hua said, "Pfft, who cares about some mathematician. He understands mathematics, but he doesn't understand life."

“Okay, okay. Please stop arguing...” Deng Le interrupted the two and said, “Yunyun, how about you go on stage and save him?”

Normally, the maid of honor would speak after the best man.

If Professor Lu really couldn’t handle speaking at a stage like this, then the wedding host could easily rescue him.

Xiao Yunyun just had to give a beautiful speech and save the day.

Xiao Yunyun said, “I don’t mind, I’ve done my preparation...”

Just as the host was about to save Lu Zhou, he suddenly spoke.

“From the beginning of the universe to the evaporation of the last black hole, we know that the probability of birth is only a billionth of a billionth of a billionth...”

The wedding venue quieted down.

The young folks stopped chatting while the older folks put down the sunflower seeds.

Even the children stopped screwing around...

Everyone focused their attention on stage.

It wasn’t because of Lu Zhou’s opening. It was because they were curious about what this professor from Princeton had to say.

Lu Zhou looked around at the wedding guests, and he felt that he was in the zone.

It was like he was back in a Princeton lecture hall.

He continued in a monotonic voice, "As we know, the probability of two lives meeting is less than the square of a billionth of a billionth..."

He wasn't sure if the guests knew what he was talking about.

He wasn't sure if they understood this astronomically low number.

He had never used sensational words like this.

He was never a dramatic person.

He probably would never be one.

But right now, he wanted to send his blessings to his friend.

"From a probability perspective, the greatest miracle in the universe is not the death of stars, the formation of galaxies, or the evaporation of black holes..."

"Rather, it's the miracle of two people meeting each other and falling in love on this billion-year timeline.

"Maybe because mathematics is too interesting, I'm rarely interested in anything other than mathematics. At most, I'll dabble in chemistry or physics... But even then, even though I don't understand the meaning of love, I can feel that you two truly love each other."

Lu Zhou paused for a second. He then looked at the groom and bride before he continued, "Hence, I sincerely wish you guys the best and that you can love each other like I love mathematics. Cherish... this miraculous moment."

The crowd erupted in applause.

The applause was louder than what Lu Zhou had expected.

He never thought that the speech he made up on the spot would resonate with the crowd to this level.

However, he noticed that it wasn't just the crowd that was cheering. Even the groom on stage was feeling quite emotional as well...

The handsome man who was in a tux nearly started to cry.

"Zhou..."

Would it be bad for Shi Shang to cry?

I guess it doesn't matter.

Lu Zhou smiled at Shi Shang and nodded. He then handed the microphone back to the wedding host.

Then, he walked off the stage...

Xiao Yunyun watched Lu Zhou walked off stage and said, "Wow, even though he's a mathematician... he's still good with words."

People used to say that mathematicians were the best at picking up girls.

She didn't believe it before, but she did now.

Deng Le said emotionally, "Yeah... I thought he was more of the introverted type and that he might have stage fright. I didn't expect him to own the stage."

With a proud expression on her face, Xiao Yunyun looked at Qian Hua.

"What do you think, Qian Hua?"

Qian Hua pulled herself together.

"Ah... What?"

Xiao Yunyun and Deng Le looked at each other.

Why do I feel like...

This chick...

Is acting a bit weird?

After Lu Zhou finished his speech, the bridesmaid went on stage and congratulated the newly-wed couple.

The wedding went into its most climatic stage.

Everyone watched as the groom put a ring on the bride.

From that moment, there were two less lonely people in the world...

...

The wedding came to an end.

Most of the relatives and friends that came to the wedding had finished their meals and were beginning to leave the venue.

Lu Zhou went to the bathroom to wash his hands. When he came out, he was stopped by someone.

He looked at the short-haired girl standing in front of him and said, "What's up?"

"Nothing," Qian Hua said as she shook her head. She then looked down as she continued, "I just want to say... sorry to you. I stepped over the line."

Lu Zhou was stunned, and when he replied, he spoke in a relaxed tone.

"It's fine, I didn't take it to heart."

That was three years ago, Lu Zhou had nearly forgotten about what had happened.

After all, everyone would get overwhelmed by emotions sometimes.

Not to mention, she never did anything to Lu Zhou other than defending her idol.

Lu Zhou wasn't easily offended, which was why he was still good friends with Liu Rui.

"If there's nothing else, I'll see you around."

Qian Hua saw that Lu Zhou was leaving, and she quickly said, "Wait a second..."

Lu Zhou stopped and looked back at her.

“Anything else?”

“When this is all over... Can I buy you a drink?” Qian Hua said while blushing. “As a payback.”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “Some other day then. I have to catch a train later.”

Qian Hua: ...?

Other than celebrating Chinese New Year, Lu Zhou had important things to do in China.

One was to attend the Science and Technology Award Conference, and the other was to attend Shi Shang’s wedding.

Since Shi Shang’s wedding was over, all he had to do now was to celebrate the holiday with his family.

This was his only time in the year to relax...

Chapter 408: Chinese New Year

At the parking lot of a high-speed train station.

Lu Zhou took his suitcase out from the trunk before he looked at Wang Peng.

“Just drop me off here.”

“Okay.” Wang Peng’s reply was simple as he opened the car door in a soldier-like motion.

Lu Zhou looked at Wang Peng as he got back into the car, and he suddenly remembered something.

“Wait a second.”

Box..

Wang Peng got out from the driver’s seat and asked, “Is there anything else?”

Lu Zhou said, “You won’t... drive all the way to Jiangling, right?”

Wang Peng nodded and said, “Of course, the higher-ups told me to make sure that your travel is convenient and safe.”

I knew it!

Thank god I asked him!

Lu Zhou immediately said, “It’s the holidays, and everyone is going to be on break. Go home to your family, and don’t follow me.”

Wang Peng smiled and said, “It’s fine, this is my job. I don’t mind working during the holidays!”

Lu Zhou was worried, and he said, “I can’t let you do this!”

Wang Peng smiled as he replied, “No, really. It’s fine.”

Lu Zhou said, “No, this is not about politeness. Listen to me. Drive home and have a great Chinese New Year. I don’t need a car during the holidays anyway. Also, if I bring you home, they...”

Wang Peng said, "They?"

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "My dad has been asking me to look for a partner. If I bring you home this year... I'm afraid it'll look bad."

Wang Peng: "..."

...

At last, Lu Zhou was able to convince Wang Peng to go back to Beijing for the holidays.

Spending Chinese New Year with one's family was more important than one's job.

Lu Zhou got on the high-speed train and headed east, and he soon arrived at Jiangling.

When he arrived at his hometown, Lu Zhou took a deep breath of air. Without wasting another second, he got into a taxi that was parked outside the train station and immediately went home.

Once he arrived at the doorsteps of the house with his bags, he pressed the doorbell, and soon, he could hear the sound of slippers running on the hardwood floors.

The door opened, and when Xiao Tong saw Lu Zhou standing outside, her eyes were wide open as she asked, "Oh, brother, why did you buy so many things?"

"Some are gifts, and some are stuff that I bought at the airport duty-free shop. Your gift is in the suitcase. As usual, find it yourself..." Lu Zhou said while he dragged the suitcase and bags into the house.

Suddenly, he noticed Xiao Tong looking behind him, and he asked, "What are you looking for?"

Xiao Tong looked at Lu Zhou and sighed.

“Ah, bro, I’m sad...”

Lu Zhou patted his sister’s forehead and gently pushed her.

“Stop giving me this sh*t, let me go in!”

Lu Zhou gave his suitcases to Xiao Tong before he walked past the living room and into the kitchen.

Fang Mei was about to cut a live fish with a knife when she suddenly saw her son standing outside the kitchen door. Startled, she nearly dropped the knife.

For Lu Zhou who hadn’t seen his mother in a long time, he started to tear up.

He then took a deep breath and put on a bright smile on his face.

“Mom, I’m home!”

“Welcome, welcome home!” Fang Mei had a glistening smile as she said, “Why didn’t you tell me you were coming? I didn’t prepare any food.”

Lu Zhou rubbed his nose and said, “I wanted to give you a surprise.”

“What surprise? You nearly gave me a heart attack!” Fang Mei looked at her son. Grabbing the fish, she said, “Go chill in the living room first, I’ll grill some fish for you.”

Fang Mei picked up the knife and fiercely chopped off the fish head.

The fish twitched for a couple of seconds before it lay dead on the chopping board.

It was half-past five when Old Lu got off work and went home.

When he saw his son sitting on the sofa, he was just as surprised as Fang Mei. He then started to ask Lu Zhou a bunch of questions.

When Old Lu saw the box of tea on the coffee table, he said, "Why did you bring so much tea back? We have a ton at home."

Curious, Lu Zhou looked at his dad and asked, "Dad, did you finally start buying tea?"

Old Lu replied, "I didn't buy it myself, the office gave it to me."

Lu Zhou was even more confused, and he asked, "When did your office get so rich?"

Old Lu grinned.

"Long story... The higher-ups transferred me to the logistics team a while back, right? The compensation there is a lot better there. Anyway, you don't have to worry about us, so don't bring so much stuff back next time. These big bags of gifts are hard to travel with. Just bring a wife back next time."

Lu Zhou coughed and tried to divert the conversation.

"Oh yeah, dad, can I ask you something?"

Old Lu: "What?"

Lu Zhou squatted down next to one of the suitcases, opened the zipper, and took out a letter.

"I have a couplet paper here. See if there's any glue in the house and stick this on the front door."

Old Lu took the couplet paper and said, "Oh, this is well written. Did you write it?"

"Not me," Lu Zhou said. He then smiled as he continued, "It was written by Academician Lu. He was my supervisor during my master's degree."

"An academician wrote it? That's impressive! I'll stick it on right now," Old Lu said. He then stood up from the sofa and walked toward his toolbox.

Given that Old Lu had barely left Jiangling City during his lifetime, it was rare for him to meet an academician. He had heard that academicians were the top scholars of the country.

He was certain that the couplet paper would bring him good luck.

As Old Lu stood outside and looked at the couplet paper that he had just stuck on the door, he could not help but rub his chin with satisfaction.

However, after a while, he suddenly shook his head.

"Unfortunate."

Lu Zhou stood next to him and looked at him with a puzzled expression.

"Why is it unfortunate?"

Old Lu sighed and said, "It was unfortunate because Xiao Tong had already finished her exams. This luck is wasted."

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "Dad, your son is a scientist, can you not be so superstitious?"

“This isn’t superstition, everyone believes in it...” Old Lu made a hand gesture, but he couldn’t find a way to explain this feeling. In the end, he said, “Ah, forget about it, I can’t explain it to you! Go, your mother has finished cooking. Let’s go and help her set the table!”

Chapter 410: Town of Princeton

Lu Zhou didn’t end up writing the third line for the couplet.

However, he made some unexpected progress on his research on the Navier–Stokes equation.

“The Navier-Stokes equation on the Euclidean space R^3 can be expressed as $\partial_t \mu = \Delta \mu + B(\mu, \mu)$, where B is a bilinear operator on the vector field without divergence, and μ obeys elimination $\langle B(\mu, \mu), \mu \rangle = 0$...”

Lu Zhou quickly wrote it down on the draft paper while muttering to himself. Suddenly, he stopped and shook his head.

“I said I wouldn’t touch mathematics when I’m home, but I can’t control myself...”

Lu Zhou stopped writing. He shoved the draft paper into his suitcase, and he planned to continue with the research when he was back at Princeton.

Box..

He had an entire year to do all the research he wanted.

But he could only be with his family right now...

...

Lu Zhou didn't do any research at all for the rest of the holiday. Instead, he focused on having a great vacation.

Lu Zhou took a half a month break and felt full of energy; his entire soul felt resurrected.

The home-cooked meals had enhanced his appetite.

Unfortunately, he couldn't gain any weight no matter how much he ate.

The Lus had a relaxing and happy Chinese New Year.

After Chinese New Year was over, Lu Zhou bade farewell to his family and went back to Princeton.

Lu Zhou got on the high-speed train. He then got onto the subway and headed to the airport.

While Lu Zhou was sitting in the terminal and scrolling through Weibo to kill time, he suddenly received a text from Chen Yushan.

Chen Yushan: [Little Brother, when are you going back to school?]

When Lu Zhou saw the message on his screen, he typed a reply.

[I'm about to board the plane.]

Ding!

Lu Zhou quickly received a reply.

Chen Yushan: [Ah, you didn't wait for me, how could you! 😞]

Lu Zhou: ...?

You didn't tell me that you wanted to fly together...

But speaking of which, when did Chen Yushan start acting cute?

Lu Zhou looked at the text message and almost thought it was from Xiao Ai.

He got on the plane to fly to Shanghai. From Shanghai, he flew over the Pacific Ocean.

After more than 20 hours of flying, Lu Zhou finally dragged his suitcase out of Philadelphia airport.

His student Jerick was in his Ford Explorer, and he was waiting outside at the airport parking lot. In fact, Jerick had been waiting for a while.

When he saw Lu Zhou walking out of the airport, he waved his hand excitedly before popping open the car trunk.

"Professor, you're finally back! How was your holiday?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "It was great, how about you guys? Are you guys doing okay during my absence?"

Jerick smiled. "Very good, but it feels like something is missing when you are gone."

Jerick started the car and drove Lu Zhou back to the quiet town of Princeton.

This town had a magical vibe, and Lu Zhou could feel himself getting back into the zone.

Lu Zhou rested at home for the day.

The next day, he woke up early and had breakfast before he went to the Institute for Advanced Study to look for Professor Fefferman.

When he arrived at Professor Fefferman's office, he saw some of Fefferman's PhD students there.

The moment Professor Fefferman saw Lu Zhou in front of his office door, he immediately stopped writing as he said in a cheerful tone, "How was your holiday?"

Lu Zhou replied, "Pretty good, I haven't had a long holiday in a while."

Professor Fefferman said, "Yeah? It might start to get busy from here on."

Lu Zhou smiled slightly.

"I'm prepared for it."

The two set up a Navier–Stokes equation research team a while ago and made quite a lot of progress on the Navier–Stokes equation. However, Lu Zhou had to return to China for the award, and the research was temporarily paused.

However, even though Lu Zhou was on holiday, Professor Fefferman didn't stop researching. In fact, he had been studying the problems they encountered during the research.

Professor Fefferman stood up from his desk and went to stand next to the window. He asked abruptly, "Do you smoke?"

Lu Zhou replied, "I don't, why?"

“Nothing, it’s good not to smoke,” Professor Fefferman said as he lit up a cigarette. He handed Lu Zhou the cigarette before he said, “But sometimes, it gives me inspiration when I least expect it.”

Lu Zhou took the cigarette from Professor Fefferman and looked at the smoke coming out of the cigarette.

The smoke from the cigarette slowly floated upward and gradually dispersed.

It was like a liquid with a low viscosity coefficient.

Lu Zhou stared at the burning cigarette for a while before he asked, “What do you want to tell me?”

Professor Fefferman smiled and said, “Often, the liquid we study is just like this. Its Brownian motion diverges, and it completely loses its predictability. Even mathematics can’t explain this chaotic state.”

Lu Zhou didn’t say anything. Instead, he patiently waited for Fefferman to finish.

“Recently, I’ve been thinking about the question you left behind,” Professor Fefferman said as he walked to the blackboard. He then smiled as he picked up a piece of chalk and said, “Last time, we got $P_{\mu i} := \lim_{(\Delta^{-1}) \cdot \delta_i \cdot \delta_j \cdot \mu_j} I$. I did some analysis on it and found something interesting...”

He then wrote on the blackboard.

$$[\langle B(\mu, \nu), w \rangle = -\pi i \int \wedge \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3 (\mu(\xi_1), \nu(\xi_2), w(\xi_3)) \dots]$$

This was Lu Zhou’s research result which he wrote on the blackboard last time.

But Professor Fefferman did some further research.

“Given a Schwarz non-dispersive vector field μ_0 , time interval $I \subset [0, +\infty)$, we define a generalized solution H_{10} of the Navier-Stokes equation as continuous obedience integral equation $\mu(t)$ Map $\mu \rightarrow H_{10}df(R^3)...$ ”

He wrote again on the blackboard.

$$[\mu(t) = e^{(t\Delta)} \cdot \mu_0 + \int e^{(t-t')\Delta} B(\mu(t'), \mu(t')) dt']$$

[...]

As the two PhD students in the office looked at the blackboard, they were confused by what they were seeing. They then looked away and focused on their own work.

Geniuses working on a problem...

I can't understand it...

Fefferman finished writing the last line of calculations and put the chalk down. He then looked back at Lu Zhou.

“What do you think?”

Lu Zhou stared at the blackboard for a while before he asked, “You constructed a partial differential equation that's similar to the Navier–Stokes equation?”

“That's right!” Professor Fefferman said in a relaxed tone, “I constructed an abstract bilinear operator B' , which has similarities to the Euler linear operator B in $\mu(t)$, but it is also different than B .”

“If we prove this stronger conclusion is true...”

Professor Fefferman smiled and said, “Then we can prove the original conclusion is also true!”

