

Scholar 41

Chapter 41

This news actually affected [Everyone Daily], which he did not expect. However, when all of this was happening, he did not feel too surprised.

Smelling out politics was a must for any businessman.

The meaning was clear from the meeting two years ago.

The Internet was not exempt from laws. Freedom of speech did not mean that one could be unscrupulous. Zhu Fangcai relied on trending topics, used arrogant words, and shamed people for no reason at all. His days would get harder and harder.

Not to mention, he had negatively impacted society.

Without any concrete evidence, he used his own status and tarnished the reputation of an ambitious student. He used groundless phrases like “ten theses a month” and “academic cancer” to increase his popularity.

He was no different than a noisy child.

Now that Zhu Fangcai was scared, he stopped screwing around. He wanted to stay low-key, but it was not that easy to stay low-key.

The hand had already been raised and it was about to slap. It was a matter of how hard the slap was going to be.

If that big mouth was smart, he would slap himself and recognize his mistakes. Maybe then, this hand would not slap him.

However, the guy obviously was dumb...

Wang Wei thought for a bit and laughed. He touched his phone screen and re-posted the Everyone Daily's article. He even added a caption.

[Young boy, half a million per year salary. How about you come to work at Shunfung? (dog face)]

Press.

Send.

His comment section and messages blew up.

...

It had only been a week since the beginning of this controversy and it was already posted in the Huaguo Youth Daily.

Lu Zhou did not expect to win so dramatically.

Everyone Daily's re-post completely changed the direction of the public's opinion. The public saw the government's clarification and instantly jumped on the train of condemning Zhu's big mouth.

An undergraduate student that received recognition from New York University and the Swiss' Paul Scherrer Institute, whose computer science thesis got attention from a billion yuan enterprise, such a great student was called academic cancer?

Outrageous!

[Do you still get likes for insulting, Old Zhu?]

[I already said that the theses had no problems. Old Zhu loves to abuse people.]

[I have to kneel to this genius. I can't even write two theses in a year.]

[Everyone sits down and pray to study god (dog)]

[I feel like I wasted my four years in university...]

[As an international student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, this phenomenon is very common in US. We generally call these people curve-wrecker, meaning curve destroyers, because their performance is always at the extreme ends of the normal distribution curve.]

[If the youth is strong the country is strong, like the Everyone Daily post! (fist) (fist)]

[...]

What made Lu Zhou hysterical was that he did not know who leaked his Weibo as he had received over two hundred thesis writing requests.

He had only recently registered this account and did not expect to amass fifty thousand followers.

On the other hand, Zhu Fangcai was attacked by the public. He was like a scared kitten. He did not release a statement nor did he go on Weibo.

He would never apologize.

But what was the point of being a turtle?

Even if one had a turtle shell made of metal, a person could still stomp you to death from above.

Zhu Fangcai never thought that his third insulting blog post would become the last blog he would ever post.

He opened his computer and logged in to see how many followers he had lost. He was astonished.

His Weibo account had been banned...

When Zhu Fangcai saw the news, he felt like he was surrounded by darkness and he nearly passed out.

He laid in his chair and stared blankly at the computer screen.

Over three million followers...

Gone in an instant.

What he was sad about was not only the fans that followed him, it was his five hundred thousand per month advertisement income.

His account was worth more than ten million yuan!

It was like his heart was bleeding. It was unbearable. Zhu Fangcai picked up the telephone and called Weibo's customer service.

As soon as someone picked up the phone, he started to shout: "Why did you guys ban my account? What did I do wrong! I'm warning you, if you don't explain this to me, I'll file a complaint!"

The customer representative heard his complaints calmly and said politely, "Hello sir, are you asking about your Weibo account?"

Zhu Fangcai was still angry. He remembered that he did not say his name and quickly calmed down, "My name is Zhu Fangcai."

“Please wait.” After a while, the customer representative continued, “Hello sir, we suspended your Weibo account due to the posting of harmful information. You have violated [Weibo’s user license agreement]...”

Zhu Fangcai was furious. He interrupted and angrily asked, “Which clause had I violated?! I’m using my freedom of speech. What gives you the right to stop me! I’m warning you. Unblock my account immediately or I’ll take you to court...”

The customer service representative remained calm as he said, “My apologies. The violation was administered by the government’s security network supervision department. We cannot unblock it. Please appeal through judicial channels.”

Public security network supervision department...

We cannot unblock it...

Please appeal through judicial channels...

It was like every sentence ruthlessly mocked him.

Zhu Fangcai nearly started to bleed on the keyboard.

However, his streak of bad luck did not end. Just as he hung up the phone, he received another phone call.

When he picked up, Zhu Fangcai said depressingly, “Hello...”

“EMS parcel. Come downstairs can get your package.”

Package?

I didn't buy anything online recently...

Zhu Fangcai paused for a second. Confused, he asked, "What package?"

"It's a document. Let me look at it for you. It seems to be a folder or something," said the delivery man. He stood next to his van and his phone was lodged between his neck and shoulder as he turned the package around and said, "Jin Ling's City... Court? It's definitely your package, come get it!"

Zhu Fangcai quietly hung up and threw his phone on the table.

He sprawled out in his chair and took out his pack of cigarettes before igniting one.

Through the smoke, he could see his own reflection in his phone's screen.

Suddenly, he realized that he looked like he's ninety years old...

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He had already received half a million yuan offer in his first year. Imagine if he graduated!

As for those students that had already graduated, they felt like they had wasted their four years at university. They studied the most popular majors, received a bunch of certificates, worked a couple of years, jumped a couple of ships, and even then, they only earned 20-30 thousand yuan per month.

When they looked in the mirror, they could only see themselves as a nearly retired middle-aged person.

A half a million yuan salary was something that most people could only dream of.

However, Lu Zhou was slightly upset.

He was stuck. What should he do with this offer?

He had read the offer multiple times since he received it yesterday. Shunfeng's offer was extremely attractive, half a million yearly salary, stock compensation in three years, etc.

Honestly speaking, when Lu Zhou looked at the salary, he was excited.

Of course, he was excited. He could work for a few years, then buy a house and a car. Then he just had to find a beautiful wife that could be worthy of him and his life would be set!

However, he thought about the system and became silent.

Although the system screwed him over countless times, the system still made him more valuable.

At least more valuable than a half a million salary...

"Zhou... Brother Zhou, have you decided on your offer?" asked Liu Rui. He wanted to shout Lu Zhou's name, but for some reason, he felt buried under Lu Zhou's popularity and changed his words.

Lu Zhou looked at Liu Rui. He paused for a second before saying, "Are you jealous right now?"

Liu Rui was stunned and he replied, "No sh*t! Who wouldn't be jealous?"

Was this question necessary!

Lu Zhou sighed, "But I... Want to reject the offer."

Liu Rui: ? ? ?

Even though he knew that Lu Zhou was pretending, he still could not help but ask.

“Why? It’s such a good opportunity.”

Lu Zhou looked at the sky and said, “I don’t want that type of lifestyle.”

When he saw Liu Rui’s expression, he finally decided.

A half a million yuan salary was enough for many people to look up to, but it still was a goal for average people. Even a million yuan salary was the same.

He had the system, so why should he have to work for other people?

Lu Zhou decided.

He would never work for other people.

Liu Rui was silent for a while before asking, “Did you think about that kind of lifestyle? The life with that kind of money?”

“I want to be a scientist.”

Liu Rui: “...”

I want to fight this guy...

...

After all, they sent the offer through an actual letter.

Lu Zhou felt that if he replied using his email, it might be a little disrespectful. Therefore, after a moment of consideration, he decided to call the phone number printed on the offer and gently reject them.

They listened to his speech and went silent for around ten seconds before saying, "Too little? Come to Shenzhen. We'll buy a plane ticket for you. We can discuss face to face."

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

Why is the human resource so overbearing?

The other end of the phone did not hear Lu Zhou speak and so, they coughed before saying calmly, "Let me introduce myself, I am Wang Wei."

The f*ck?

The phone number on the offer isn't for human resources?

This CEO has so much free time...

If Wang Wei knew what Lu Zhou was thinking, he would be furious.

Lu Zhou was not shaken by the guy who was in the Forbes' rich list. He took a deep breath and said, "It's not about the money. I think I haven't learned enough. There's so much more to learn. Therefore, even though your offer is attractive, I don't have the intention of working right now. I'm really sorry."

The other end of the phone did not give up. In an old man's tone, he continued to say, "A lot of things can be learned in the school of society and work. I believe that if you come to us, you'll learn many things that will interest you. And to tell you the truth, if you can write an algorithm like this, the university cannot offer you much help. What you need is opportunity and money that the school cannot give you but I can."

He talked until this point before pausing. He then laughed before continuing, "If you're worried that your education will be an obstacle for promotions, then you shouldn't be worried. Education background is more used to screen talent for normal people, not for talented people like you. I think that ability is more important than education and achievements."

Lu Zhou sighed in his heart while he secretly admired this guy.

No wonder this guy is on the Forbes list. His attitude of thirst is insane. If this was two months ago, I probably would've been worshiping this guy.

But now I realize I still have a lot to learn.

"Sorry," said Lu Zhou as he shook his head. He said with a clear voice, "Although I appreciate that you are looking at me so highly, right now, I don't have the plan to start working. I'm hoping that the next time we meet, it would be as business partners."

The other end of the phone paused before the sound of laughter came through.

"Hahahaha, I really look forward to that."

He was rejected so there was not much left to talk about.

Wang Wei hung up the phone, shook his head, and threw his phone on the table.

"This kid is pretty interesting."

Become a business partner of Shunfeng? Quite ambitious.

You better get some angel financing first!

There are too many entrepreneurs that have failed. Without capital, there is no chance to actualize technology.

He had seen too many people resigned in the name of entrepreneurship.

Chapter 43

“Really? Then I think Student Lu must be a genius of some sort,” said the reporter with a smile. She continued, “From our interview with other students, we heard that you still work part-time. I would like to ask, how are you able to study and work at the same time?”

Lu Zhou laughed and said, “I work mostly because of my family’s financial situation. I think that if you manage your time well, you can study and work at the same time.”

Meanwhile, in his heart, he was thinking about the opposite.

Work didn’t affect my studies?

Bullsh*t!

The reporter asked, “I heard that you have a younger sister in high school?”

Lu Zhou replied, “Yeah, she’s about to be in Grade 11 after the summer.”

The reporter smiled and continued to ask, “For your sister and other students preparing for the university entrance exam, do you have anything to say?”

Lu Zhou looked into the camera and smiled brightly, “I support you!”

Done.

The interview was already over.

The last question was a type of “hidden advertisement” that the school requested. Lu Zhou answered all of the other questions honestly.

The interview ended and the Huaguo Youth Daily reporter packed up the equipment with the help from the school staff. They still had to write reports from other students.

For the University of Jin Ling, this debate could be said to be a great victory. Not only did they cleared up their own grievances, but the media also praised their name.

Which university could train such a talented undergraduate student?

Even though the school did not necessarily cultivate the student, it still brought honor to the school!

At the last school leader meeting, Principal Xu Jian said Lu Zhou's name twice, which made the mathematical department seemed very respectable. Especially Dean Lu, his face was full of smiles for half of the meeting.

What counts as a good achievement for the mathematical department?

This counts as a good achievement!

The staff handed a water bottle to Lu Zhou and he was taking a sip when he saw Dean Lu walking over to him.

The dean patted Lu Zhou's shoulder and said with a smile, "Your interview was good. The school leader called and told me to tell you not to work part-time anymore and to quit jobs like sorting packages and handing out flyers. Try not to do them if possible. If there are difficulties in your life, the school has scholarships."

The sentence implied that the next scholarship was his.

Lu Zhou asked cautiously, "Then is tutoring okay?"

“Of course! I support with both of my hands up!” said Dean Lu with a smile. He continued, “The school does not want to prevent you from working. It’s just... When choosing a job, think about the type of work you’re doing and try not to choose a time wasting and difficult job.”

The dean was actually afraid of people gossiping.

What if someone tried to twist the story and asked why the school was forcing such an excellent student to go hand out flyers or dressing up as mascots? What if they asked where were the scholarships?

Lu Zhou heard Dean Lu and breathed a sigh of relief.

He was happy to be allowed to continue tutoring.

The scholarship would only be ten thousand yuan, plus it was only a one-time thing. He would earn more just by tutoring.

“Oh yeah, one more thing,” said Dean Lu as he cleared his throat. While laughing, he said, “Our school has decided to formally prosecute the person who affected your life a while ago. The prosecuting lawyer is Professor Wang Haihe from our law school. We won’t ruin him, but we’ll at least make him pay the price he deserves! You might have to testify in court. That’s not a problem, right?”

Inviting a law professor to court was pretty disrespectful towards the opponent.

There may even be a couple of students standing in the court.

Lu Zhou imagined this in his mind.

He stood up immediately and said, “I don’t mind! Please inform me to be present if necessary!”

A genius student has to use all his strength to defeat the opponent!

Sparing people? Impossible.

You have to kill an insect like this!

Lu Zhou did not mention that he did not have the time nor the energy to sue. Now that the school offered to help him, obviously he would not refuse them. He could not wait to go to court.

The interview finished and Lu Zhou went to the research building.

Earlier, he had told Professor Tang about the offer that he received. Professor Tang asked him to come to the office and wanted to talk about it with him.

“... Offer for half a million? You really rejected it?” asked Professor Tang when he heard Lu Zhou’s decision. He found it hard to believe because he knew that Lu Zhou was hungry for money.

Half a million.

Professor Tang heard two graduate students talking about this. They complained about how they did not get this lucky. They would have accepted the job if it was just 250k.

“Professor, I’ve already thought about it clearly. I want to dedicate my youth to scientific research. The money will not erode my dreams,” said Lu Zhou with a serious tone.

Professor Tang suddenly realized that not only was this kid hungry for money, he also had another bad trait.

It was dishonesty... He loved to brag...

But after all, this doesn’t seem too bad?

At least, he could back it up with his grades. It’s better than those arrogant people with no skill.

"I'm very pleased that you can make such a wise decision. Your future is definitely brighter than half a million salary. I originally planned to persuade you not to take the job, but now it seems that there is no need for that..."

Professor Tang paused before he continued, "Also, about the invitation from that New York University. As a professor from the University of Jin Ling, I wish for you to stay. But as a teacher, I have to tell you that the invitation from NYU is a huge opportunity for you. Think about it clearly."

If he was a good student, Jin Ling would not care about him. However, Lu Zhou was a student that produced stellar results. Naturally, the school wanted him to stay in the country and in school. After all, publishing SCI theses as an undergraduate student was impressive. He might even have an opportunity to win the Field Prize once he began to pursue his master's degree.

Studying abroad in the US?

It seems expensive.

Not to mention the problem of language and culture.

Lu Zhou thought for a bit and shook his head. He said with a smile, "I think I shouldn't. The University of Jin Ling is pretty good, I told my little sister that I'll wait here for her."

A smile emerged on Professor Tang's face as he said, "It's great that you think that. The school leader asked me to do an "ideological education" on you, but now it seems unnecessary. If you stay at University of Jin Ling, I promise you that you will receive a graduate spot and scholarships."

Lu Zhou smiled, "That's... Thank you very much!"

"This is our obligation," said Professor Tang with a nod. He smiled and added, "Okay, I've nothing else to say. Go and reply to New York University, then prepare for your modeling competition. I hope I can see your name on the the list of first prize winners."

Lu Zhou smiled and nodded, "Yes, for sure!"

Chapter 44

"Yeah, I can't just stop studying and work in Shenzhen," said Lu Zhou as he rolled his eyes. He added, "That would kill my father."

"Oh yeah, if you accepted the job, you can't continue with your studies," said Chen Yushan as she nodded. She poked her chin with a pen and said, "Then don't go. Getting a bachelor's degree is important."

Lu Zhou laughed.

From his perspective, the bachelor's degree was not that important.

It was just that the missions were easier to complete in a school. He could read all the books in the library, download all the research material for free, and he could even talk to the professors.

God knows what kind of impossible missions the system would give him once he left school.

He should stay in the school before he levels up. He wanted to start a tech business and there was no better place to do research than in a university.

Chen Yushan said, "Oh yeah, my auntie wanted me to ask if you are free tonight."

Lu Zhou replied, "I'm free, what's up?"

Chen Yushan said, "She wants to buy us dinner."

"Dinner? Why?" asked Lu Zhou as he looked at Chen Yushan curiously.

Why would she want to buy me dinner for no reason?

Of course, if someone insisted on buying him food, he definitely would not refuse.

Chen Yushan said with a smile, "You've been tutoring my cousin, right? This month's exams results came out and her maths score was better than expected. My auntie wants to buy you dinner as a show of appreciation. Of course, I'm the one that got you this job, so I should take credit as well. I'm going too."

Lu Zhou smiled and asked, "What did she get?"

"116! She was ecstatic when she heard the result. So was my auntie! I haven't seen her that happy for a long time," said Chen Yushan. She pouted, "See I told you that you would be good at teaching mathematics."

High school mathematics...

Reviewing the outline, going over the mistakes, and the book "High School Exams Done In Three Years."

If you had these three things and some time, your results would not be bad. However, if you want high scores, then it would depend on talent. Some people were naturally gifted toward numbers. It was impossible to catch up with hard work if you were not gifted.

For example, Lu Zhou had a high school classmate that could do two-dimensional equations without a pen. He could just do it in his head. Every time the maths teacher would talk about losing easy marks in the exam, she would mention that genius.

Han Mengqi actually had some talent for science. Once you taught her something once, she would never get it wrong again. If she had the right attitude towards learning, she could easily catch up.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Maybe because your cousin and my sister are around the same age. Dealing with teenagers her age is mostly about communication."

"You have a sister?" asked Chen Yushan as her eyes lit up.

At the exact moment, there was a heavy cough coming from the front row.

The pair sensed a strong hint of a complaint and shut their mouth up.

The resentment was coming from the loner sitting near them.

Chen Yushan poked her tongue out. She took her exercise book and moved the chair back to her spot.

It was hard to chat and laugh in the library. Even if they were quiet, the people that were studying could still hear them. Lu Zhou knew this and smiled. He was embarrassed and he quickly stopped talking and started to read his book.

Yesterday, he finished the book [Topology]. He had finished all the mathematics on the book list. The next subject waiting for him was information science.

The system did not generate that many information science books on the book list. There were only three in total. One of them involved a new algorithm while the other two mainly contained advanced knowledge of C++.

What was annoying was that it would be difficult to learn advanced programming just from reading the textbook. He had to read a lot of other materials. It was also not easy to pick out a valuable thesis from the big sea of computer science.

It was also at this moment that Lu Zhou profoundly realized that the real “academic cancer” were those that submitted substandard theses. Disgusting.

...

In the evening, Lu Zhou packed up his things and walked to the school gate with Chen Yushan.

A white Maserati stopped at the side of the ride and a young girl in a dress stood outside the opened door.

When Han Mengqi saw the two, she waved in their direction.

Speaking of which, it was Lu Zhou's first time seeing Mrs. Yang's car. The high-end vehicle shocked him.

People that own a company are so rich.

This car is worth more than most people's houses.

Han Mengqi saw her cousin and hugged her with a smile as she said, "Sis, you finally came. I've been waiting for a long time."

She was very warm to her friends and family, but very shy towards strangers. Lu Zhou had never seen her so cheerful and relaxed.

Of course, it was because she did well in her exam last month. Since she was about to go on a month long summer vacation, obviously the little girl was very happy.

At this moment, Mrs. Yang opened the car door as well and walked outside.

When she saw Lu Zhou, she smiled and nodded at him.

"Teacher Lu, thank you for teaching Meng Qi mathematics."

"You're welcome. It's my duty," replied Lu Zhou with a smile.

Speaking of which, it was the first time he saw Mrs. Yang with a smile that was not a courtesy smile. However, it seemed that the tension between the mother and the daughter had not reduced. When Han Mengqi saw her mother, she dropped her smile and did not even look at her.

Mrs. Yang did not care for her daughter's coldness. She greeted her niece, smiled, and said, "Let's get in the car." She then went back inside the car.

Han Mengqi took one of the back seats. Chen Yushan and Lu Zhou exchanged looks.

Lu Zhou, "Who is sitting in the front?"

Chen Yushan, "Maybe... I'll go?"

Lu Zhou, "Okay then."

Chen Yushan opened the car door and sat in the front while Lu Zhou sat in the back with Han Mengqi.

The car started.

When Han Mengqi looked at Lu Zhou, she pouted her mouth, cleared her throat, and said, "Hey, I have good news for you."

Lu Zhou felt like the news was related to Mengqi and so, he smiled and said, "What news?"

Han Mengqi turned her eyes away and said, "I'm not telling you. Guess what I got for my monthly exam!"

"116?"

"Hey, someone told you! It doesn't count! My sister told you, right?!" said Han Mengqi as she looked up with a dissatisfied expression. Chen Yushan who was sitting in front was secretly laughing.

Who cares if it counts or not, it's not like we bet money.

Lu Zhou looked bored.

“Meng Qi,” said Mrs. Yang while driving.

Han Mengqi pouted but she did not speak.

It was obvious that she still hated her mother.

Well, her mother did installed dozens of security cameras at home. Who would not hate a mother like that?

It was slightly awkward inside the car because of the tension between the mother and daughter. Chen Yushan occasionally chatted with her aunt while Han Mengqi just stared outside the window and remained silent.

At this moment, Mrs. Yang asked, “I heard that you rejected the offer from Shunfeng Group?”

Lu Zhou paused for a second before he said with a gentle smile, “Yeah I did. How do you know about this?”

Mrs. Yang asked, “You want to start your own business?”

Lu Zhou replied, “I do actually have plans for that, but right now, I’m focusing on my academics.”

Mrs. Yang nodded her head and said, “If you have any good ideas and need funding, give me a call. Even though I can’t help you much, I can introduce you to some angel investors. Of course, whether or not you can get the funding is still dependent on how you shine and how your presentation goes.”

Lu Zhou sat. He was alert as he listened intently.

The words from a successful experienced person were something that he could not learn in a college class.

However, Han Mengqi did not seem to like her mother's lecture and she muttered, "You're already off work, can you stop talking about work..."

The daughter's words shocked Mrs. Yang slightly.

The car once again descended into silence.

Chapter 45

"Four people."

"This way, please," said the waiter as he made a gesture. He guided the group of people onto the second floor.

Han Mengqi refused to sit with her mom and so, she sat next to Lu Zhou.

Just like back in the car, Chen Yushan sat next to her auntie.

The group sat down and the waiter brought four glasses of lemonade while placing two menus on the table.

Mrs. Yang flipped through the menu. With a gentle smile, she said, "This restaurant is quite good. It's very quiet and there's no city noise here. In a place like the City of Jin Ling, it's difficult to find such a restaurant. I recommend the steak here. If you don't fancy the steak, the paella is quite good as well. Today is my treat so order whatever you want."

"Then I'll order..." murmured Lu Zhou as he smiled cautiously. When he looked at the menu, his eyebrows jumped.

Mother f*cker, so expensive!

888 yuan for steak? What the hell is that? I'll order the fried rice... Hundreds of yuan for the rice?

This is a scam!

However, when he saw Mrs. Yang's expression, it looked like she did not feel that there was anything wrong with it.

Lu Zhou could not help but think.

Rich people's concept of money is on a completely different level than mine.

Han Mengqi did not mind. She took the menu from Lu Zhou and quickly flipped it over. She pointed to a picture and said, "I want the applewood steak! And this ice-cream..."

Naturally, Chen Yushan ordered as well.

It was Lu Zhou's turn.

Lu Zhou thought for a bit and eventually decided on the Spanish paella.

He did not want to waste their time. Besides, he had never eaten it before. Also, eating with a knife was too fancy for him. He did not want to embarrass himself.

As for Mrs. Yang, she only ordered a salad.

Lu Zhou looked at the picture of the salad and he wondered if Mrs. Yang would actually be full just from eating the salad.

Perhaps it was because there were not a lot of people in the restaurant, the dishes arrived quickly.

Lu Zhou looked at the steamy seafood risotto and could not help but drool over it.

Especially the green mussels and scallops sprinkled in garlic, it looked very delicious!

Lu Zhou had not even picked up his spoon when Han Mengqi stole a piece of mussel.

Lu Zhou's eyebrows jumped. He did not want to step down to the same level as her so he pretended like he did not see anything.

However, Han Mengqi's movement had not escaped her mother's watchful eyes.

Sure enough, Mrs. Yang said sternly, "Meng Qi."

Han Mengqi's smile faded and she looked towards the side.

"Mrs. Yang... I think there's no need to be so strict. Han Mengqi is just joking," said Lu Zhou with a smile as he tried to mediate the situation.

"This is about politeness," said Mrs. Yang seriously. She did not give in.

Lu Zhou looked helpless and did not say anything.

He really could not comment much on how to educate other people's children.

He just felt sympathetic towards her...

The vibe was quiet during dinner.

Lu Zhou and Chen Yushan sensed the cold war between the mother and daughter. When they glanced at each other, they saw the helplessness in each other's eyes.

Chen Yushan, "Sorry, I didn't know it would be like this."

Lu Zhou, "It's okay, actually I expected it..."

What?

Lu Zhou suddenly realized that he seemed to have mastered a new skill.

He could communicate with people just by looking in their eyes?

What is this?

Did I develop this from looking at her in the library?

Or is it the system...

Lu Zhou had to confirm this and so, he looked at Han Mengqi.

Emmm...

It seemed useless.

Han Mengqi saw that Lu Zhou was acting weird. Blushing, she asked, "Why, why are you looking at me?"

"Oh, nothing. It just looks like you're enjoying your food," said Lu Zhou. He realized what he was doing and quickly diverted his sight.

Fortunately, Mrs. Yang got up from the seat earlier to take a call. She did not pay any attention to the two.

It wouldn't be good if that strict woman saw this...

Anyway, Han Mengqi actually believed Lu Zhou's reason. She threw a small piece of steak into her mouth and said while chewing, "Well, it's okay, but it's not as good as your cooking."

Lu Zhou was embarrassed from the compliment and said, "There's no point in complimenting me."

"I never lie. You don't have to believe it," said Han Mengqi as she rolled her eyes.

"You cook as well?" asked Chen Yushan. She looked across at Lu Zhou and with a tone of being surprised, she said, "I didn't know..."

"Of course, he's very good! That... That mapo tofu is super delicious," replied Han Mengqi before Lu Zhou could even speak.

It was like she was showing off.

"It sounds spicy," murmured Chen Yushan as she shrunk her neck.

She was still feeling the spiciness from that time Lu Zhou took her to eat spicy hotpot.

At this moment, Mrs. Yang came back to her seat. Next to her was a man that looked very polished.

"Meng Qi, aren't you going to say hi to uncle?" asked the man with a smile.

"Uncle, hi. Uncle, bye," replied Han Mengqi awkwardly. She did not even lift her head.

"This kid..." sighed Mrs. Yang. She looked at the man apologetically as she explained, "I'm sorry. Meng Qi is like this towards everyone."

"It's okay," said the man with an awkward smile. He greeted Chen Yushan before looking at Lu Zhou. His eyes lit up as he asked, "You're Lu Zhou, right?"

Lu Zhou was surprised. He did not know he was famous enough to be recognized.

Even on campus, only a few people could recognize him.

Even though Lu Zhou was confused as to how the man knew his name, he still stood up and politely shook his hand, "Hello, and you are?"

"I'm the manager of this restaurant. I'm also Mrs. Yang's friend," answered the man with a smile as he shook Lu Zhou's hand. When he released his hand, he said, "You rejected an offer from CEO Wang, right? This boy is good."

"It's just that I'm busy with school and I think I don't know enough yet," answered Lu Zhou humbly. In reality, he was actually complaining in his heart.

Why are there so many people mentioning this? It's just rejecting an offer.

"I'm Du Haifeng. Let's talk again in the future," said Du Haifeng. He handed a business card to Lu Zhou and smiled as he said, "You guys can continue eating. I won't bother you anymore."

Maybe because he sensed the coldness coming from Han Mengqi or he was busy. Regardless, he left.

Lu Zhou sat back down and looked at the business card as he thought, "Shareholder of Haifeng Capital?"

I have to take care of this business card.

Connections are always useful.

If Lu Zhou wanted to start a business in the future, he would need contacts in this area.

Han Mengqi saw Lu Zhou accepting the man's business card and seemed to be somewhat unhappy.

Lu Zhou noticed her change of emotion and analyzed.

Maybe Mr. Du has a relationship with Mrs. Yang?

They're all adults. One is a charming woman that has an unfortunate family while the other is a talented mature man. If some TV shows like drama happened between them, it is to be expected.

Emm...

This is a bit difficult to evaluate.

Once emotions are involved in the family, it complicates everything.

Lu Zhou did not want to intervene in other people's lives and he was very sure of it.

Han Mengqi glanced at her mom and lowered her voice as she whispered to Lu Zhou, "This guy isn't a good person. Be careful."

"Okay," said Lu Zhou. He misunderstood what Mengqi meant and so, he looked at her in a caring way. In fact, he felt sympathetic towards her.

Although she said she doesn't care about having a step-father, if the parents actually remarried, the child will create conflicts, right?

Lu Zhou obviously did not take what Han Mengqi said into account. She was anxious as she said, "I'm serious!"

Lu Zhou looked at her strangely as he said nonchalantly, "I believe you..."

"You!" Han Mengqi clenched her teeth. She looked left and right before lowering her voice to say, "I saw... Mr. Du likes men."

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

That last sentence was shocking.

He remembered him saying, "This boy is good."

Lu Zhou was so scared that he nearly threw the business card out the window.

Chapter 46

Lu Zhou smiled and said humbly, "I'm not working that hard. I'm not the only one staying at school. There's another one in my dorm."

Chen Yushan looked at the sky and sighed, "Are all new students like this?"

The two separated when they were near their dorms. Lu Zhou first went to the library to pack his stuff that was left on the table. He then went to Building A and when he found an empty classroom, he turned on the light.

Once he found a seat to sit down, Lu Zhou poured the contents of his backpack on the table. When he looked at the clock on the wall, it was exactly eight o'clock.

"If I take a focus capsule now, and the effective time is five hours, the drug effect would last until exactly one o'clock."

“From my previous test, at most I can maintain would be until around five o’clock .”

“I’ll wake up at twelve, eat lunch at the cafeteria... Then I’ll go to the school’s computer room.”

Lu Zhou unscrewed the mineral water bottle and took a deep breath. He then took a pill from the bottle, threw it in his mouth, and swallowed.

He felt the sensation of an ant climbing on him again. The ant crawled from the back of his head to the eyebrows and soon, everything in his field of vision became clearer than ever.

It was like he was cheating...

Wait no, he was cheating!

Lu Zhou did not waste a second. He quickly took out the [Python Language Introduction Tutorial] textbook and started to read from the first page.

There was a joke that said that if one wants lazy programmers to start working, the best thing to do was to ask them, “Which language is the best?!”

They would be divided into answers such as “C++”, “Java”, “Python”, etc. Then, they would work hard until they proved that their language was the best.

Therefore, it was actually meaningless to argue which language was the best. The most appropriate language was the best language.

A good programmer would need to master more than one language. It was like a general had to know more than commanding infantry. They had to command high mobile cavalries, long-range archers...

As for stuff like tanks, cannons, and airplanes, they might be stored in the system database, but Lu Zhou was unable to come in contact with them.

Functionally speaking, C++ was more like a swiss army knife. It had strong operability and could do anything. One could do small tasks with it, but for large projects, it was not that feasible.

For example, if one wanted to build a car, one would have to start from the wheel.

In contrast, Python was similar to Java. It was a higher level of language and a wheel in itself.

If one wanted to build a car quickly, Python was undoubtedly the best choice. It was simple and fast. It was the best code cavalry in the world! The code was also highly readable so the users would not have to spend so much time on syntax. It could realize the user's ideas in the shortest amount of time. For example, if one wanted to build a webpage, Python would be much easier and looked much more concise than C++.

Lu Zhou had already mastered the basic skills of C++. Therefore, it was easy for him to learn Python. He only needed the time to memorize the basics.

As for the actual operation methods of Python, he could learn it tomorrow. He believed that he could learn it well without help from the focus capsule.

...

The next day, Lu Zhou's head was on the table. When he opened his eyes, he was confused. There was a red print of his hand on his face.

Just like the previous times, when his brain was overloaded to the critical point, he would pass out. He did not even have to try to fall asleep.

This type of feeling was very enjoyable and it was better than drinking. On one hand, the brain was being filled with knowledge. On the other hand, his soul was being pushed to the limit to the point that it was almost like he was becoming immortal...

The only thing was that the after effects were obvious, especially his sleeping position. Half of his butt was in the air. When he stood up, he could not feel his right thigh and nearly fell on the ground.

"I think I need to request the school to put a bed in the classroom... Seems a bit unrealistic though," said Lu Zhou as he held onto the desk. His brain felt groggy.

[Mission progress 11/30]

He finished the entire [Python Language Introduction Tutorial] last night. While he was not proficient in Python, at least he knew the basics.

What time is it?

Lu Zhou looked at the clock on the wall and his expression changed.

Oops, it's almost two o'clock! The cafeteria is closed!

I'll die on the way if I try to eat outside of the school.

Lu Zhou changed his facial expression and sighed.

Oh well, I'll just eat some instant noodles for lunch.

Since he ate expensive food yesterday, he would just take it easy today.

Lu Zhou went to the supermarket and bought some instant noodles before heading back to the school building.

The building had a hot water machine. One just had to swipe one's card and it was free as well. The only inconvenient part was the water speed varied and it was easy to burn one's hand.

Lu Zhou soaked his noodles and when he found a random classroom on the first floor, he sat in the front row and started to slurp on his noodles.

When he finished the cup of noodles, he was glad to finally had some food in his stomach.

He wiped his mouth and was about to throw out the trash when he suddenly heard heavy coughing coming from the back.

What?

There's someone in the classroom?

Lu Zhou's had an awkward expression. He failed to notice that there was someone when he came in earlier.

He turned around and looked.

What a coincidence!

It's Wang Xiaodong!

Lu Zhou walked up and greeted him before asking, "You didn't go home either?"

Wang Xiaodong did not say anything. He had an "of course" look that was plastered on his face.

After that, the conversation stopped.

Lu Zhou had wanted to say hello before leaving. However, when he was about to leave, Wang Xiaodong noticed a book in Lu Zhou's bag that he had read before.

Wang Xiaodong's eyebrows jumped as he asked, "You're reading a programming book?"

What?

Did this guy not go on Weibo or WeChat?

Lu Zhou looked at the genius.

He talked about his nine computer science theses in the [Huaguo Youth Daily] interview. Why would anyone be surprised that he was studying programming?

Lu Zhou felt weird but did not think that it was out of the ordinary.

Lu Zhou was a humble person and so, he smiled and said humbly, "Yeah, I've been interested in it recently, so I looked at it for a bit."

"Python language? It's a very excellent language, suited for beginner programmers. You're a first year, so you've already studied C++, right? If you want to learn code at a deeper level, Python is a great choice. Do you have a book list? A study plan?" asked Wang Xiaodong. His eyes lit up as this was a topic that he knew a lot about. He rarely spoke this much.

"Oh, I'm just looking at it casually. I don't have a plan..."

Lu Zhou felt as if the guy's enthusiasm was hard to deal with.

"No, you can't do that. Programming is an esoteric field. You have to use planned systematic learning to build up your foundation. I can recommend a few books for you. You can find them in the library. Go and look at them if you're interested," said Wang Xiaodong. Lu Zhou did not even reply but Wang Xiaodong took a pen and started to write a long list of books on a piece of paper.

Lu Zhou saw him writing the list of books and cringed. He could not help but think, "Is this guy also this annoying in front of Lin Yuxiang?"

It's amazing that she can tolerate him...

While Lu Zhou was very grateful for the book list by the genius, he probably would not use it.

"If you've something you don't understand, you can ask me," said Wang Xiaodong with an expressionless face while he pushed his glasses up.

"For sure..."

Lu Zhou talked for a while with him before he carried his empty instant noodle cup and left the room.

Chapter 47

However, the Linux system was different. It was mainly based on command-line operations. Everything had to be done through the keyboard. Fortunately, the school installed a distribution with a desktop environment. Thus, Lu Zhou could still use the mouse.

Of course, there were obvious advantages of the Linux operating system. It had superior customizability and security, making it more suitable for servers. Also, once one was familiar with the command line operations, one's efficiency would be several times higher than using Windows. Therefore, many companies would ask programmers if they could use Linux OS before recruiting them.

Lu Zhou was finally familiar with Linux's basic operations. He opened up a Python software, opened up the textbook, and sat in front of the computer.

"I heard one of the best uses of Python is to write a web crawler. If I want to take my knowledge to the test, this should be a good place to start. But what kind of crawler should I code?"

Lu Zhou fell into deep thought.

Crawl blogs on Weibo?

Crawl posts on Tieba?

Seems pretty boring.

The key is that the data crawled is useless and I can't even store them if it was too large.

Suddenly, his heart ached. He recalled the painful experience of buying a train ticket to go home. It was not because his computer was slow, but because the user interface of the railway website was horrible.

"Use crawler technology to crawl the stations, trains, and ticket information from the website [12306]... Seems to be feasible."

Lu Zhou thought that since he was here, he did not want to waste any more time and immediately began to work.

After all, the crawler program was mentioned in the textbook as it was a typical example of the application of Python. The book even provided different calculation methods for different situations.

Of course, 12306 was not an average forum website. Targeting this website as a beginner was quite difficult.

However, for a genius like Lu Zhou, who studied the entire textbook, it was not a big problem. Technically, the crawler itself was not too difficult. The entire program was less than 30 lines. It compiled perfectly with no bugs.

It was time for grabbing.

Lu Zhou copied the URL of the website into the code and ran the script. He downloaded the data into a spreadsheet file he created.

Immediately after, the computer fan began to hum. The computer was running with the lines of code flashing in the black terminal box. The data was automatically entered into the spreadsheet.

Lu Zhou looked at the spreadsheet being filled and leaned against the chair.

“Python is so convenient. No wonder so many experts recommend this language.”

Lu Zhou looked at the lines of data flashing and felt like a hacker.

However, that was just an illusion. This was completely different than actual hacking. It was not illegal to crawl public information from a server. At most, the server administrator would be pissed off that he was using the server’s bandwidth.

Therefore, many “selfish” websites had set up anti-crawling measure. One could not crawl any information from them. Even if one did, the information crawled would be garbage. Other less advanced websites could monitor the number of visits and block the IP address.

However, the 12306 website was unselfish. The giant monopoly did not even care about the user experience. Obviously, it would not care about the server’s resources. As long as one did not take down their server, no one cared!

Lu Zhou looked at the lines of data piling up in the spreadsheet. He started to wonder if he should do something else?

“Make a ticket-buying website? Seems kind of redundant...”

Suddenly, a light bulb went off in Lu Zhou’s head.

What if...

I make a ticket-buying app?

He thought of his idea and could not control his excitement.

Although there were many third-party ticket booking websites, there were not that many apps. If he could make an outstanding app, he could even make some money off it.

Lu Zhou thought about money and he was suddenly interested. His mind started to calculate.

Technically, it was very difficult to independently build an app, full stack. It was far more difficult than writing a simple crawler program, but it was not impossible. He could use the system to solve difficult problems. After all, spending general points to buy knowledge was a part of learning.

Once he completed the mission and unlocked the artificial intelligence technology branch, it would definitely come in handy.

It was just that the servers could be expensive. Even the electricity bills and the various maintenance costs could be pretty expensive...

He had less than ten thousand yuan in his bank account and so, he could not do anything...

Lu Zhou bit his teeth and decided to overcome these problems.

If I can reject a half a million yuan salary, I can do anything!

Even if he failed, he could use it as a learning lesson.

Therefore, Lu Zhou terminated the program. He did not rush to change the code. He opened up a Word document and just like a thesis, he started to write an application development outline.

"I have to crawl real-time data of the train ticket. The server requirements are very high and so, the code has to be as efficient as possible!"

"The interface can be simple. But the information has to be accurate and comprehensive. I should look at third-party ticket booking apps as a reference, but I can't be completely similar... I have to come up with an original idea..."

Lu Zhou wrote until this part and his finger rubbed the keyboard gently. He thought for a long time and began to tap on the keyboard again.

“First of all, to automatically buy the tickets is not new. A lot of other browsers have this feature.”

“But to automatically buy the tickets offline... I haven’t seen that yet.”

Lu Zhou thought back to last winter vacation. He had to refresh the website in his dorm for nearly half an hour before he managed to book a couple of tickets. He felt that it was difficult for people to go home for the New Year.

To constantly refresh the official website would give one a low probability of getting a ticket as there might be some which might be tickets that were refunded from others. Lu Zhou did not know where the tickets could come from, but the function could be considered.

For example, setting a time period and several train times. The server would automatically refresh the data and submit the request the moment the ticket appears. He had used several ticket snatching software, and so far, this feature did not seem to be available.

Furthermore, the concept did not seem that hard to implement.

Lu Zhou thought until this point before he looked at the clock.

It’s three o’clock in the afternoon!

Lu Zhou saved the Word document. He then pulled up his sleeves and placed his hands on the keyboard.

“Work, work!”

Chapter 48

Liu Rui said that he was obsessed, but Lu Zhou disagreed.

He agreed that the learning process was boring, but acquiring the knowledge was joyful.

Even though it sounded contradictory, it actually was not.

After all, one could not acquire knowledge from study techniques. Sometimes, a person could read a book for hours but could not understand a single sentence. Even monk would find that boring.

When one could fully understand every word and every concept while at the same time, knew that one's knowledge was increasing, one would naturally be inclined to study without any prompting.

Right now, he had completed 25/30 of the reward mission. The final five books consisted of integrated circuit design and mechanical engineering books.

If it was two months ago, Lu Zhou would not be able to understand these textbooks. However, as he had the foundations of mathematics and physics, he felt confident in reading those textbooks.

On the other hand, Lu Zhou's main focus was still information science.

After all, it was so expensive for him to level up information science. It would be a waste not to utilize it.

He spent nearly a month to finish developing the app and it even passed the final bug check. The process was far more difficult than he imagined, but fortunately, he was eventually able to overcome them.

As a result, his app development experience was raised from zero to one.

The app name was called "campus train". From the name, the target demographic was students from major universities. He did not hire a front-end developer and so, the user interface of the app was very simple. All of the designs were found online for free and the style was simple and smooth.

In order to learn the development of an android app, Lu Zhou learned some developer tools and watched a lot of technical programming videos. He learned all of this in his free time.

Lu Zhou really did not have the energy to port to IOS. He wanted to do it later.

The question now was finding a server with good quality. If he did not have a server, forget about benefiting society, at most he could let his roommates use the app.

While Lu Zhou was worrying about the server, Professor Tang suddenly called him and asked him to come to the office.

...

When Lu Zhou entered the office, Professor Tang smiled and casually gestured him to sit. He then asked with a smile, "How are you recently?"

"I'm pretty good, professor. What's up?" said Lu Zhou with a smile.

Professor Tang smiled and said, "It's almost September. Dean Lu wanted me to ask you, how is your preparation going?"

"Preparation is going okay, I think I should be fine. It'll just depend on how my two teammates are doing," replied Lu Zhou with a smile.

"That's good. This competition is a good opportunity, I hope you can perform well. I won't ask you anything else. Professor Liu knows more than I do so you should go and ask him if you are unsure of anything," said Professor Tang before paused. He smiled and looked at Lu Zhou, "What have you been researching recently? Did you cook up another famous project?"

What?

How did you know?

Surprised, Lu Zhou looked at Professor Tang and asked, "How did you know?"

"I'm just casually asking! You really didn't let me down," said Professor Tang as he leaned back on his office chair. He then unscrewed his mug and took a sip before asking, "Tell me, what is it this time?"

"This time I didn't research anything worth mentioning..." said Lu Zhou as he smiled embarrassingly. He continued, "I just heard some students complaining about buying train tickets during the peak holiday periods. So, I wrote a ticket-buying app."

Lu Zhou's answer shocked Professor Tang. He frowned as he asked, "When did you start researching computer science?"

He originally thought that Lu Zhou was quietly researching mathematics. However, it turned out that he ran to computer science.

The last time they met, Lu Zhou was still studying Mersenne prime numbers.

Why is Lu Zhou so clumsy, he has no direction!

Lu Zhou was very puzzled as he thought, "Why is Professor Tang like this as well? Did my mathematical talent really surpass my computer science talents?"

Just half a month ago, Huaguo Youth Daily praised him for his "all around" talent.

"... Oh, I have always been researching computer science," said Lu Zhou as he tried to correct him.

Professor Tang was slightly stunned. He smiled awkwardly as if he remembered. He coughed and asked, "Are you switching to computer science next semester?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I don't have plans for that yet. I think it is very important to learn mathematics well. It is very helpful for studying other subjects. Also, the other majors might not be suitable for me."

He was telling the truth. When he was learning the basics of organic and inorganic chemistry, his mathematical knowledge really came in handy.

"Computer science is a pretty popular major as well. I'm not against you switching majors. However, let me give you some advice. If you continue to dive into mathematics, you'll be more successful. I've lectured for many years and you're one of the most gifted students I have ever seen," said Professor Tang. He sighed, "Of course, I know that you're not the kind of person that can sit in a lab and do research. You're too impatient!"

Lu Zhou was confused. He did not know if Professor Tang was complimenting or insulting him.

Or maybe it was a pity?

"Forget it. I'll stop talking. Digest this yourself," sighed Professor Tang. He shook his head before saying, "I called you over today because I wanted to talk about your thesis and see if you made any progress. I didn't expect you to jump to computer science. I guess I've wasted my time."

Lu Zhou raised his eyebrows as he thought, "If I keep writing theses, I'm scared that you'll think that I'm writing substandard theses. Why do you always think that I'm doing something wrong?"

Of course, he could not voice his thoughts out loud.

Lu Zhou coughed, smiled, and said, "Teacher, mathematics is hard to do well. I tried my best."

Professor Tang waved his hand and did not argue. He placed his mug on his desk and said, "Okay, we'll leave it at that. Leave your bank account number here and leave."

Bank account number?

Lu Zhou was stunned.

Professor Tang looked at his surprised face. He squinted and smiled as he asked, "What? Why do you look so surprised? Did no one tell you?"

"About what?" asked Lu Zhou with his eyebrows raised. He had a bad feeling about this.

"The school had a meeting recently. It said to strongly support scientific research activities and encourage students to discover new knowledge, they wanted us to look at the statistics and see how many theses each department submitted," said Professor Tang. He then paused and smiled before continuing, "Basically, you're getting money. This money is allocated according to the SCI theses impact factor! I can't remember exactly how much, but no less than five thousand!"

Five thousand!

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and said seriously, "Professor, I suddenly have some good ideas. Can I still submit the SCI theses now?"

"F*ck off," said Professor Tang. He laughed, "It's too late!"

He did not know why, but he felt happy looking at Lu Zhou like this.

Unexplainable happiness!

Chapter 49

The other nine theses were not eligible for the rewards. Even though they counted as SCI theses, they were published in the general journal.

Lu Zhou saw this and was heartbroken.

From a CEO's evaluation, his nine theses were undoubtedly valuable. He screwed himself over a small payment of 150 yuan.

There was no use being regretful.

However, if one were to think about it clearly, it would be hard to say whether it was a loss or a profit.

If it was never published in the general journal, it would have been reviewed by a more professional academic reviewer. His theses might not have stood out from other theses or passed the review so quickly.

The reason why he was able to get an S+ evaluation and unlocked the reward mission was largely due to the speed of the general journal's review process.

Regardless, he could probably have enough money for the server?

"Zhou, what are you looking at?"

Liu Rui saw that Lu Zhou did not go to the library to study. Instead, he was staring at the computer screen. Out of curiosity, he finally asked.

Liu Rui had finally stopped sucking up to Lu Zhou.

It seems that all the pandering came to an end...

"It's fine," sighed Lu Zhou. He said, "I'm just sad that I lost a bit of money."

"What money... Sci theses reward? F*ck me, you're too good..." said Liu Rui as his eyes widened. He shouted, "How much did you get?"

"Probably ten or twenty thousand."

Lu Zhou wanted to be modest and said a lower number.

He had not expected for Liu Rui to be shocked by it.

Liu Rui was silent for a while.

After a long time, he sighed and said expressionlessly, "Zhou, how about you buy dinner for us tonight?"

Lu Zhou thought about it. It made sense.

After all, he said that they should never forget each other and they should buy each other meals when they got rich.

Although he valued money, he was not selfish.

Therefore, he took Liu Rui to the food street near the school and found a spicy hotpot place...

...

The spicy hotpot was delivered to their table. Liu Rui normally did not drink but he ordered two beers.

Each of them opened a beer.

Suddenly, Liu Rui asked, "How's staying in school for the summer?"

Lu Zhou was eating a tofu stick when he replied, "It's okay? Pretty fulfilling."

"I'm so jealous of you," sighed Liu Rui. He then added, "I feel like I'm getting stupider. I can't take in any new knowledge."

He seriously regretted entering the mathematical modeling competition.

Once he passed the first round of school selection, he was given teammates and a teacher. However, once the real training started, he realized just how far behind he was from the real geniuses.

For example, the third year student in his team had already won the second prize twice. He entered this competition before his graduation with the hope of getting the first prize. Liu Rui compared himself to him and felt like he was a little brother who was holding the older brother's leg.

However, a person like him still modestly said that he was uneducated.

Later, Liu Rui heard from the other teams that the school organized that the various departments had organized a "super team". It was the real golden team. Those people would not even train with people like him.

Liu Rui finally understood that the team Lu Zhou was in was the legendary super team.

After hearing the news, he was confused and in distraught.

As the gap was too big, he even started to think if he should become jealous of his roommate, who suddenly rose to success.

Lu Zhou tapped his beer against Liu Rui's as he said, "You are making yourself too tired, I think."

"There's no other way. There are people who are better than me while working harder than me. I've got to work hard," said Liu Rui. He slammed the beer down and sighed. It was like he was trying to blow the depression out of his body and let it drift away into the night sky.

Lu Zhou was slightly drunk and could not understand why Liu Rui was depressed.

When people are drunk, they liked to talk obscenely.

"I remember... I shouldn't say it."

Liu Rui paused. He thought that Lu Zhou had good advice and so, he could not help but ask, "What?"

Lu Zhou burped before saying, "If there are people better than you and working harder than you, then what's the point of you working hard?"

Liu Rui: "..."

The pair finished seven beers, five of which was consumed by Liu Rui himself.

...

Liu Rui was not the type that could handle alcohol and he would stay quiet when he was drunk. After drinking the last bottle, he slammed his head on the table and it scared Lu Zhou. Even the spicy hotpot manager was shocked as he thought Liu Rui was poisoned.

After that, the kid flipped over and started to talk nonsense. The manager and Lu Zhou was relieved to see that.

Once Lu Zhou paid the bills, he carried the drunk Liu Rui back into his dorm. Lu Zhou did not have the strength to carry him up the ladder. So, he pulled out a mat from his cabinet and made Liu Rui sleep on the floor.

He waited for him to lie on the mat before giving Liu Rui a blanket.

No one else would have helped their friend like this.

Lu Zhou turned on the air conditioner and sat in the chair before taking a sip of water. He sighed in relief.

He was tired.

Liu Rui did not feel tired at all. Instead, he laid down and started to snore.

“You’ll get a massive headache tomorrow morning.”

Lu Zhou shook his head and opened the computer. He logged onto an online shopping site and started to search for an appropriate server.

According to Professor Tang, the school would transfer the money to him latest by tomorrow. He would find a server today and order it after he received the money tomorrow.

If possible, he wanted to buy a good quality server.

It was not entirely for his ticket-buying app, but also in preparation of the “artificial intelligence level 0” mission reward.

What would happen once I upgraded artificial intelligence from level 0 to level 1?

It would be the first technology branch he would ever unlock.

Therefore, Lu Zhou was excited.

Of course, after he saw the price of the server, his face turned blue.

“Dell... Rackmount chassis 2U, 56 cores 112 threads 256GB RAM, comes with twelve 8TB hard drives, 270,000 yuan! No way.”

“Lenovo IBM, dual controller storage array. Uses Storwize real-time compression technology, 64GB RAM, 8 8GB fiber connections, 24 3.5 inch hard drives! Price, 40,000! That seems okay... Wait! I missed a zero... I can’t afford this!”

He scrolled through another page but they were all equally expensive.

Goddamn it!

Why is it so expensive!

Lu Zhou sorted by price and found some cheaper servers. However, he did not know if they could handle his operation needs. He could not possibly spend all his money on buying the server.

Maintaining the operation of the server also costs money!

Lu Zhou could not decide. Suddenly, he remembered about the computer science genius in his team.

Oh yeah, why don't I ask him?

As it was still early, Lu Zhou took out his phone and gave him a call.

Chapter 50

"You're not an expert. Why are you trying to do this?" sighed Wang Xiaodong. He then continued patiently, "Also, did you even think about registering a domain name for your app?"

"Can't I just use the server's IP address?" asked Lu Zhou.

"No," replied Wang Xiaodong immediately. He said, "For example, if you developed an app on IOS and you set a fixed server IP address in your code, once the cloud service operator changes the server device, not only would you have to rewrite the code and upload it again, but you might get rid of half of your users directly. Not everyone turns on automatic updates."

The f*ck?

Lu Zhou had never heard of this before.

Wang Xiaodong paused for a second before he continued to say, "Also the most crucial part is that your crawler's collection of data from the third party websites may be blocked by website administrators and they might block your IP address. This problem can be avoided with a cloud server. After all, Ali has countless IP addresses and you don't have to bother with virtual IP addresses."

The genius student became strangely talkative when talking about his expertise. He spoke like an endless stream. This made Lu Zhou thought about Huang Guangming. If he started to talk about the mechanics of playing Leblanc, he could go on for half an hour.

Of course, the content that the genius talked about was quite valuable.

Lu Zhou listened carefully. He even took a notebook and started to write notes.

"... If you're crawling from 12306, the crawler itself will not use a lot of resources from the server, especially since Ali is doing a promotion for small enterprise users, there is a good discount. I think you should start with one million sending and receiving server capacity. It's around 300 yuan a month. Wait till the number of your user visits go up, then you can upgrade the server. This is a lot more convenient than tossing out your own server."

F*ck me, this guy really is a genius.

Lu Zhou felt like he had saved tens of thousands of yuan just from this phone call.

Of course, he still had to buy his own server, but it would have to be delayed until he received his money.

"Thank you, I'll buy you food someday," said Lu Zhou.

"We'll talk about that later."

When the topic changed from computer science to food, Wang Xiaodong's enthusiasm instantly returned to zero and his tone became emotionless again.

However, Lu Zhou did not have any other questions nor did he wanted to talk for long either. He thanked him again before hanging up.

Lu Zhou held the mouse and went on Alibaba's cloud computing page. He began to look for services.

Indeed, just like what Wang Xiaodong said, Alibaba Cloud was doing a promotion. The server had considerable discounts.

"A million pps 1 server only costs 300 a month, includes 100GB cloud SSD, 200 yuan to upgrade to 1TB... 0.3 yuan per extra GB. CPU, intranet bandwidth, sending and receiving capabilities can all be upgraded. 50% discount for three years..."

This price could be said to be quite attractive. If there were no unexpected circumstances, it would cost less than 1000 yuan per month to operate the app. If the user number surpasses the expected amount, he just had to upgrade the service.

"Okay, this is solved. Next up is to promote the app. I have to promote it before school begins," thought Lu Zhou.

Advertise in Tieba to new student groups...

In short, the primary goal is to increase user volume!

Lu Zhou filled in the server renting application and went to the bathroom to take a shower. He dried his hair and returned to his dorm.

He was about to climb on the ladder and sleep when he suddenly smelled a pungent stench.

He turned around and saw that Liu Rui puked while laying on his side.

F*ck!

This kid was just sleeping! How did he vomit?

Lu Zhou did not have time to hesitate. He jumped off the ladder and took Liu Rui to the toilet.

“Go away... I can still drink,” said Liu Rui as he stumbled around. He reached out and pushed Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou panicked and quickly said, “F*ck, Brother Rui, you can’t puke again! I’m warning you, I just had a shower!”

“barf...”

Lu Zhou: “...”

Lu Zhou showered for no reason and he could not sleep either. The dorm smelled extremely sour.

Liu Rui swore that this was the last time he was going to drink.

Liu Rui kept vomiting. When he was finally awake, he looked at the floor and Lu Zhou’s dirty clothes. Embarrassed, he quickly apologized.

They turned off the air conditioner and cleaned up the debris together before opening the door for ventilation.

After all this, Lu Zhou took another shower. When he came back, he took his mat and left for the class leader’s dorm room.

It was impossible to sleep without air conditioning.

...

The next day, Lu Zhou woke up early.

When he returned to his own dorm, Liu Rui was still snoring on his bed.

Lu Zhou did not bother him. Instead, he went to his desk and turned on his computer.

The cloud server application was quickly ready. He uploaded the script and the crawler started to go to work. It downloaded ticket, station and other information from 12306 before it summarized and sorted the data. Anyone could make an account and purchase tickets, receive sale reminders, automatic ticket refresh, etc.

It had all of the necessary features and it was also easy to use. The light blue background was boring but at least it was not annoying.

Lu Zhou downloaded the app on his phone and chose a station to test. He saw that the order was ok, so he canceled the order in the payment stage.

Then he spent an entire day to put the app on the android store. Stores such as Baidu mobile, 360 assistants, and other large Android software downloading platforms.

He looked at the number of downloads through the developer panel and saw that the number of downloads remained at 0. He sighed.

"I guess creating a successful app is not that easy. Having no users is a big problem."

"I applied to a couple of free advertisement platforms. Don't know when I'll get accepted."

Lu Zhou shook his head and turned off his laptop. He then stuffed his textbooks into his bag.

“Who cares. I’ll work on this for half a year or so. At least, I can use it as a learning experience.”