

# I Can Meet with Dead Scientists

## Chapter 301 186: The Former Myth of Chinese Hackers! (Alliance Leader's Extra Update!)\_2

[ 871 words ]

It's Lin Yong (Lion) from the Red Alliance, and Wan Tao, the founder of Huaxia Hawk.

The attack began at midnight on May 1st, with "Bing'Er" leading the operation that day.

At that time, the Red Alliance distributed software called flood to each participant, only a few KB in size. Thousands of people opened the software simultaneously at the agreed time, allowing mid-level personnel to launch the attack. (Back then, ADSL's dial-up speeds were only a few KB; my friends and I were such rookies, staying up overnight with lag. I really miss those days...)

The final result was a brief victory for the Red Hacker, but it ended in mutual destruction.

To be honest.

Of the more than 80,000 participants in the battle, 90% had no professional knowledge and were just business rookies; many had just learned how to dial up the internet.

However, among the main forces left were quite a few famous hackers.

For instance, Lion, Wan Tao, Goodwell, Ice River, Aullik5, Lone Swordsman, and....

Xiaorong.

This group of hackers—or Red Hackers mysteriously disappeared for a few years between 2006 and 2010. The officials did not overly deny this matter; later, many people mentioned the registration agreement.

Since 2012, they gradually returned to the public eye.

For example, Ice River and Juanzi got married. They are very active on Weibo, often showing affection, dubbed as The Return of the Condor Heroes in the Red Hacker circle.

Or Aullik5 went to Ali, and now he's the chief security researcher at Alibaba Cloud.

Yuange joined Penguin and now is the Sect Leader of Zhanlu Laboratory.

Besides, Lin Yong (Lion), founder of the Red Hacker, recently made a comeback. He has an account on a small video site and occasionally does livestreams and whatnot.

As for Xiaorong...

He's relatively low-key.

Xiaorong was born in 1972, gender male.

He is the famous creator of software like Disorder Sword, Flowing Light, Su Xue, and Flowing Shadow. Countless hackers see him as a legend.

Back in that attack defense battle,

The slogan at the White House was Xiaorong's masterpiece.

He just doesn't like appearing publicly everywhere like Wan Tao; at one point, Xiaorong's whereabouts were even a mystery in the circle:

Some say he was completely recruited and is currently working at the Chinese Academy of Sciences...

Others say he was poached by IBM, earning two to three million USD a year.

There's even a rumor he immigrated to Gaul—this is especially funny; how could a passionate Huaxia Red Hacker become a surrenderer?

Yet no internet rumor is reasonable; thus, these rumors only ceased when Xiaorong himself appeared in the Celestial City in 2016.

Since then, people vaguely know his life has gradually returned to normal, as if the myth descended from the sky back to earth.

Gu Qunqing is among the few people who maintain contact with Xiaorong.

Then Xu Yun paused, pondered for a moment, and asked:

"Aaron, Xiaorong's ability is undoubtedly unquestionable, but someone so talented isn't worried about employment. How could he consider joining my company?"

Xu Yun's words were not modest.

Think about those early Huaxia Red Hackers—you know—apart from Lone Swordsman Wang Xianbing and Weird Dog, who went to Orange, everyone else has a net worth of millions.

A main player like Xiaorong, to put it bluntly, domestic BAT companies would beg them to join.

Not to mention, Huadun Biotech is just starting out; even if the product becomes a big hit, Xiaorong may not even care.

Upon hearing Xu Yun's words, Gu Qunqing suddenly laughed.

He took out his phone, scrolled through a few moments on social media, and then handed the screen to Xu Yun.

Xu Yun took the phone and looked.

It was a post from two days ago, signed as 'Brother Rong':

"(Angry emoji) When will cockroaches be extinct? If someone can eradicate cockroaches, I'd work for him free for five years ah ah ah ah ah!!!!"

Seeing this, Xu Yun was momentarily stunned.

He then raised his head and looked at Gu Qunqing with a curious expression:

"...This is?"

Gu Qunqing spread his hands, affirming:

"As you can see, Dr. Xu, Brother Rong is also a cockroach hater."

....

Two days later.

Yangcheng.

Baiyun International Airport.

Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing walked shoulder to shoulder, dragging their luggage out of the terminal.

Feeling the relatively warmer temperature of Yangcheng, Gu Qunqing pulled out his phone, checked the travel schedule.

Then he smiled and said to Xu Yun:

"Dr. Xu, you need to hire an assistant quickly; otherwise, once the company enters its formal phase, I won't have the time to help you plan travel itineraries."

Xu Yun lightly nodded.

Like PR, when it comes to assistants—especially life assistants—many people instinctively lean toward the term 'little secretary.'

But in reality.

In a mature company system, a life assistant is a formal and indispensable position.

Whether it's arranging meetings, internal reports, or traveling abroad, a competent assistant can save a lot of trouble.

Like this business trip for Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing.

Without an assistant.

Everything from the taxi from Ke Da to the airport, boarding procedures after security, to airport pickup and even hotel accommodation was handled by Gu Qunqing.

Especially the accommodation arrangements.

For personal trips, it's fine; Xu Yun himself is not too fussy about lodging, whether it's a 3000 RMB Four Seasons or a 300 RMB All Season.

But he's here this time for Xiaorong and needs to consider the impression—plainly put, when you're headhunting someone over a long distance, starting a conversation with "I stayed at Hanting" is unlikely to succeed.

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## **Chapter 302 186: The Once Chinese Hacker Legend! (Alliance Leader Adds More!)\_3**

[ 513 words ]

Therefore, considering the appearance, he and Gu Qunqing discussed repeatedly, and finally chose the executive king room at Rosewood Guangzhou.

During this period, the executive lounge or even the lounge meeting room might be used. To be precise, there are quite a few handover elements that need to be considered. Without an assistant, it's truly exhausting.

Not to mention other arrangements like dining. Anyway, before setting off, after Xu Yun had searched through a round of reviews by himself, he was almost dazed.

Subsequently, he secretly noted down the matter of needing an assistant, took Gu Qunqing, and found a taxi, heading towards the booked hotel.

An hour and a half later.

The taxi arrived outside the hotel.

Another half an hour later.

Having completed the check-in procedures, Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing didn't rest but instead went out to buy some gifts and took a taxi again towards Dongfang Wende Square.

After arriving at Dongfang Wende Square.

Gu Qunqing led Xu Yun through several turns to the outside of a decent residential area.

At this moment.

A middle-aged man was already standing outside the gate of the residential area?

This person appeared to be in his forties, wearing a pair of gold-rimmed glasses, giving off a gentle and scholarly impression, with thick hair, looking like a university professor.

"Brother Rong!"

Upon seeing this person, Gu Qunqing hurriedly waved to him.

Then quickened his pace to come forward, giving him a heavy hug:

"Brother Rong, long time no see!"

Quite obviously.

This person was the renowned Xiaorong.

Xiaorong smiled and patted Gu Qunqing's shoulder, sighing:

"It has been quite some time... five or six years, right? Time really flies, and now everyone calls me Lao Rong, ha!"

He then looked at Xu Yun, extending his hand proactively:

"You must be Dr. Xu, right? Hello, I'm Guo Rong, one cycle older than Qunqing. You can call me Brother Rong or Uncle Rong."

Xu Yun quickly shook hands with him, respectfully saying:

"Hello, Brother Rong. I'm Xu Yun, you can just call me Xiaoxu."

Although Xu Yun was a complete novice in computers, it did not prevent him from having deep admiration for those early Red Hackers.

In the early days when internet awareness and even legal rules were relatively vague, they didn't misuse their abilities. Instead, they fought passionately and purely for the country.

Almost 20 years have passed, and only two of the over 60 main members whose identities were revealed have emigrated, reflecting their awareness.

These were truly respectable predecessors.

They might not be warriors, but they were true 'knights'.

Neither the iteration of the internet nor the lure of money has corroded their hearts. As time goes by, they still uphold that spark of flame in unknown areas.

There is a saying that goes well.

The reason you don't see the darkness is that someone is trying their best to keep it in a place you can't see.

Looking at Xu Yun's sincere gaze, Xiaorong suddenly became a bit entranced—Xu Yun's eyes reminded him of his former self, of Ice River, of Goodwell...

Back then they were so young, so high-spirited.

In a rented room draped with the national flag in Jinling, they worked through nights for days on end, breaking through one blockade after another.

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## Chapter 303 187 Blood in the Chest Not Cold (7.8K)

[ 897 words ]

Ding——

With the sound of a prompt.

The elevator steadily stopped on the eighth floor.

Moments later.

The elevator door opened, and Xiaorong led Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing out.

The three then walked to a door with the number '803'. Xiaorong unlocked the electronic door with a fingerprint.

"Ah Yuan, guests are here. Go make some tea."

After entering, Xiaorong said something to someone inside the room, then made a gesture of invitation to Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing:

"Both of you, this is my home, feel free and don't be too formal, the slippers are by the door."

Xu Yun nodded at Xiaorong and followed Gu Qunqing into the entranceway.

While changing into slippers, he began assessing the house.

Although due to the view, it was still difficult for him to determine the total area of the apartment.

But judging by the size of the living room and the hallway layout, the area shouldn't be less than 150 square meters.

You should know.

This is Dongfang Wende Square in Yangcheng.

The apartment price in this area is generally above hundred thousand yuan per square meter, some even surpassing one hundred fifty thousand.

Having an apartment here is enough to show how strong Xiaorong's financial power is.

But thinking about it carefully, this is normal.

After all, early internet hackers were rare, a chance encounter in thousands of days, when you meet them, it's a thousand-day encounter.

Back then, whether hackers went black or gray, it was easy to accumulate initial capital.

Like Wan Tao's Huaying, Green Alliance, and Black Base.

These so-called non-profit Red Hacker organizations actually did a lot of defense business in early years.

That's why the officials targeted Lone Swordsman and Dog Monster's Black Base:

The capture of Lone Swordsman was sudden, but with the later disclosure of information, it was known that as early as 2008, official personnel had joined the Black Base forum as students for learning and communication.

Back then, the monthly flow of the entire Black Base forum was about two million yuan, with top Red Hackers earning tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands monthly.

You must know.

It was a concept to make more than a hundred thousand monthly in 2006 to 2008—back then, the house price in many small towns was only 2000 yuan per square meter.

If the head of a single forum was like this, not to mention a top Red Hacker like Xiaorong in the circle.

According to another rebelling Autumn Wind withered leaves, the income in those disappearing years was even more than outside.

Those once famous online, later disappeared Red Hackers, basically took the route of recruitment.

After entering the room.

Xiaorong led Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing to the living room sofa and courteously invited them to sit down.

Soon after, a woman brought tea and a fruit plate over.

The woman appeared a bit younger than Xiaorong, not particularly beautiful but had a good foundation, and with little makeup at home, gave off a very virtuous feeling.

Xiaorong received the fruit plate from the woman while saying to Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing:

"Let me introduce, this is my wife Lin Siyuan, she used to be a Red Hacker enthusiast as well."

"Of course, Ah Yuan's skill level isn't that high, she doesn't have much fame in the circle, but she knows all about my matters."

Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing quickly stood up together and said:

"Hello, sister-in-law."

Lin Siyuan smiled and greeted them, then tactfully excused herself.

After his wife left.

Xiaorong pointed to a family photo on the wall, which in addition to Xiaorong and his wife included a young man and a woman:

"Ah Yuan is 9 years younger than me, we got married in 2006, so our kids are not that old."

"The boy in the photo is the older brother, just entered high school year two, the girl is the younger sister, currently in junior high school year one."

"Speaking of which, we're quite lucky, the siblings inherited Ah Yuan's smart mind, performing decently at school."

Upon hearing this, Xu Yun couldn't help but exchange a glance with Gu Qunqing.

Xiaorong's words were more about expressing another meaning than introducing family:

The children are at a critical juncture in their education, the couple is harmonious, income is stable, and there's no reason to earn money elsewhere.

So if you don't have that hard power, it's better not to mention it.

Let's just meet as friends, have a chat, and stay for a meal to avoid any awkwardness later on.

Xu Yun saw this, couldn't help but exchange a glance with Gu Qunqing:

Seems like we're being underestimated.

Previously when contacting Xiaorong, Gu Qunqing had only briefly mentioned Xu Yun's PhD status and hadn't explicitly stated any intent to recruit him.

He only said he had just returned to the country and wanted to see the big brother, thus setting up a time.

This approach is also common in business.

Many headhunting companies, even when the employer is prominent, won't reveal their intentions online when trying to poach.

After all, meeting face-to-face leaves room for negotiation, while online is just dry text.

Since appearing on the Tianfu Cyber Security Forum in 2016, companies have constantly made recruitment attempts, which Xiaorong is accustomed to.

Therefore, he could roughly guess the purpose of Xu Yun's visit, but he wasn't clear about the type and scale of the other's company.

Xu Yun pretended not to understand Xiaorong's implication, gave Gu Qunqing a look, and Gu Qunqing immediately understood and proactively spoke:

"Brother Rong, how come you settled in Yangcheng? I remember when we parted in Hongqiao in 2015, you said you were returning to Maoming?"

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## **Chapter 304 187 Blood in the Chest Has Not Cooled (7.8K)\_2**

[ 862 words ]

Xiaorong shook his head when he heard this, gesturing towards the bedroom, and said:

"The education level in Maoming is still somewhat lacking compared to big cities. A good educational environment is really important these days."

"Plus, Ah Yuan's dad has a heart condition, and because of what happened those years back, I managed to get the privilege to choose where to settle without worrying about points."

"It's rumored that the Feng Shui in Yangcheng is good, and Guangdong Province's food culture, known for nourishing the body, aligns well with our dietary habits."

"So, Ah Yuan and I decided to settle in Yangcheng. To put it simply, it's like Yangcheng's Feng Shui is nurturing for people."

Gu Qunqing offered Xiaorong a glass of water and said:

"Brother Rong has a good eye. The Feng Shui in Yangcheng is indeed reputed to be excellent. It is said that the Sea Suppression Building is a Feng Shui hub of a thousand years."

"Speaking of Feng Shui, it reminds me of an online joke."

Xiaorong glanced at him and asked:

"What joke?"

Gu Qunqing secretly exchanged a glance with Xu Yun and said:

"Online, it's said that the Feng Shui in Yangcheng nurtures all things, so it not only takes care of people but has also constantly produced all kinds of insects, like mosquitoes, and... cockroaches."

After finishing, he paused and knowingly added:

"Brother Rong, are the cockroaches in Yangcheng really as numerous as they say online?"

Hearing the word cockroach, Xiaorong's expression immediately froze, a visible mix of aversion and helplessness flashing in his eyes.

He sighed softly and said:

"Numerous? The cockroaches in Yangcheng are more than just numerous. Have you heard of the American cockroach? Each one is four to five centimeters, real big guys."

"Every summer, Yuexiu District organizes cockroach extermination, making headlines every time, but never truly effective."

"These creatures aren't afraid of humans, they like to dart to your face, and seem more like the owners than you do."

After he finished, he paused for a moment, got up, and beckoned:

"Hearing is one thing, seeing is another, come with me."

Xu Yun and the others followed obediently.

The three of them walked through the living room and soon arrived outside the kitchen.

Xiaorong's kitchen, unlike many apartments, was not open-plan, instead occupying a large separate area with a glass door that could be pulled shut from the living room.

The larger the area, the more complex the kitchen environment naturally becomes.

Then Xiaorong went into the kitchen, pointed to the tiles behind the stove, and said:

"Look here."

Xu Yun looked over as well.

Xiaorong's stove was integrated, with about twenty centimeters of space between the kitchenware and the tiled wall.

On this wall space that should have been spotless, there was now clearly a large amount of...

Cockroach droppings.

Yes, cockroach droppings.

Like the American cockroach, these too are an old script.

Previously introduced.

Wherever there's cockroach droppings, there are cockroaches, and the higher the density of droppings, the more cockroaches there are.

Then Xiaorong pointed at the dark area and said:

"Xiaoxu, Qunqing, guess how long it took for this much cockroach droppings to accumulate?"

Gu Qunqing stepped forward to observe for a moment. Being a seasoned cockroach hater himself, he quickly replied:

"I guess... a week?"

"A week?"

Xiaorong's lips curled up in a mocking smile — a mockery not aimed at Gu Qunqing, but at the cockroaches:

"Ah Yuan is a very clean person; there's no way she'd allow cockroach droppings in the cooking area for a week."

"Honestly, I'll tell you, last night we attended a friend's child's wedding, didn't have dinner at home, this is a day and a half's accumulation."

While speaking.

From a dark corner of the kitchen, a pair of black antennae suddenly extended, gently swaying in the air.

A moment later.

A four-centimeter long cockroach cautiously emerged from the pipe opening.

It glanced at Xu Yun and the others, then swaggered along the edge of the kitchen.

Ironically...

Right in its path, there was a cockroach trap box clearly placed.

Seeing this, Xiaorong sighed, spread his hands, and shook his head:

"Look at this, a perfect example of human-cockroach coexistence. What's that phrase again?"

"Oh, when going outside, the cockroaches of Yangcheng worry about you."

Xu Yun:

"..."

At this moment.

By the side, Gu Qunqing suddenly looked at Xu Yun and said:

"Dr. Xu, aren't you going to seize such a perfect opportunity? You might not find better 'actors' next time."

Hearing this, Xiaorong turned his head, looked Xu Yun up and down, then shook his head:

"It's useless, cockroaches are so resilient. Kill one and ten more pop up."

"See the storage box in the corner? I've broken six pairs of slippers trying to kill them, and yet the cockroaches are as live as ever."

Gu Qunqing waved a hand quickly at him, pointing at Xu Yun:

"Hey, Brother Rong, you misunderstood. Dr. Xu isn't going in hands-ons...."

Upon hearing this, Xiaorong's gaze towards Xu Yun grew even more peculiar:

"Using his mouth is no good either; even Yangcheng people don't eat cockroaches..."

"...."

Gu Qunqing twitched his mouth, hurriedly interrupting the hacker boss's wild guess:

"Brother Rong, I never got the chance to explain, Dr. Xu is a Ph.D. candidate in biology at USTC. He now runs a biology company specifically producing cockroach extermination products."

"I meant he has the opportunity to apply chemicals, not hands-on, much less using his mouth!"

"USTC?"

Hearing this term, Xiaorong was momentarily taken aback, then suddenly thought of something:

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## **Chapter 305 187 Blood in the Chest Has Not Cooled (7.8K)\_3**

[ 832 words ]

"USTC... Is it the same USTC that recently did the cockroach extermination live stream?"

Gu Qunqing immediately relaxed, thinking finally things were getting back on track:

"That's right, it's the same USTC. The insecticide used in that live stream was developed by Dr. Xu."

"Dr. Xu owns all the patents for the cockroach medication, and that's precisely why I joined his company."

"Xu Yun... Xu Yun..."

Xiaorong repeated the name in his mouth, then suddenly smacked his head, grinning:

"Hey, I thought I heard this name somewhere before. Xiaoxu, do you know Wings of Chaos?"

Xu Yun blinked:

"Huh?"

Wings of Chaos?

Does someone still use such a pretentious title these days?

Seeing Xu Yun a bit puzzled, Xiaorong added:

"The real name of Wings of Chaos is Wang Qingchen, who's now responsible for cybersecurity at Ke Da. You two must have met, right?"

Upon hearing the three words Wang Qingchen, Xu Yun couldn't hold back anymore:

"Oh my god, Director Wang?"

Goodness.

That person who appeared so quiet and even somewhat aloof, Director Wang, actually has such a pretentious title?

But Xu Yun quickly caught on:

Wang Qingchen was once one of the legendary top members of the Red Alliance and a key player in the battle in 2001, so it's not surprising that Xiaorong knows him.

In a sense.

Wang Qingchen is an example of being recruited, only occasionally appearing in public.

Seeing Xu Yun mention Wang Qingchen's position, Xiaorong nodded along:

"That's right, it's him. I chatted with him online before, trying to ask him for some cockroach medicine."

"He said the formula was still a top secret at Ke Da, developed by a doctoral student named Xu Yun, and couldn't be shared easily, so I gave up on the idea."

"Who would've thought that after running around outside, the main person would end up at my house today."

Xu Yun also chuckled with some emotion.

They say the anime world is small, but in the real world, certain top circles aren't that big either.

Just like some author groups he'd joined in his previous life, it's always the same people circulating, like a permutation game of choosing six out of ten.

Afterwards, he took out a tube of gel from his pocket and handed it to Xiaorong:

"Brother Rong, this is the special insecticide we developed. Shall we give it a try now?"

Xiaorong scrutinized the gel, feeling it looked no different from common azithromycin, and asked with some skepticism:

"Xiaoxu, if I recall correctly, doesn't your insecticide attract a huge swarm of cockroaches?"

"Oh, you're talking about that? Don't worry @"

Xu Yun said with a relaxed smile, shaking the gel in his hand and explained:

"Brother Rong, what we tested back then was a semi-finished product, focusing only on the killing effect, not the visual performance."

"But the gel I have now is different; it's a market-considered prototype, very close to the release version."

"We've added special ingredients to make sure the cockroaches automatically move to the sewers after being poisoned, so you won't have them gathering indoors."

Xu Yun's description might seem a bit mystical, but in essence, it's quite simple:

They added boric acid and pheromone blockers to the gel. Once poisoned, cockroaches will feel dehydration signals both physically and neurologically.

Thus, while poisoned, they'll instinctively head to the sewer, preventing deaths indoors or on the floor.

Sewers are used for waste disposal, so there's no need to worry about water contamination.

With Xu Yun's assurance, Xiaorong couldn't sit still and immediately had Xu Yun place the gel bait in the four corners of the kitchen.

Once everything was done,

Xiaorong's expression slightly became serious, and he brought Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing back to the living room, saying:

"Xiaoxu, Qunqing, you're not here today because you saw my WeChat Moments from the other day and came specially to leech off me, are you?"

Xu Yun nodded with a smile and said:

"That's one part, but it's not necessarily to make you fulfill your promise."

"Brother Rong, the hacker battle you organized back in the day inspired countless people from that era, far surpassing the act of smashing Neon cars."

"No exaggeration, it was a magnificent act that invigorated and influenced an era."

"So just for your contribution alone, without hesitation, I'll give you as much cockroach medicine as you need."

Then Xu Yun sighed and took another report from Gu Qunqing's side:

"On the other hand, the company I've set up with Ke Da truly needs a strong cybersecurity expert to oversee."

"This report in my hand is the attack statistics faced by Ke Da and related institutes during the extermination live stream."

"Generally speaking, Ke Da... or any single university might not bear the title of 'national image,' but during those few hours of the live stream, the network defense internally and externally at Ke Da could be considered a national-level confrontation."

"In several hours, there were over 6.7 million DDOS attacks, 219 TCP/TST attacks from domestic, foreign, Asian, European, and even African sources."

"Not only was Director Wang involved at the time, but even the Chinese Academy of Sciences temporarily formed an information security group to remotely assist in guarding the final victory."

"It's truly shocking....."

Xu Yun handed the report to Xiaorong, his gaze earnest and sincere:

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## **Chapter 306 187: The Blood in the Chest Has Not Cooled (7.8K)\_4**

[ 955 words ]

"Brother Rong, I'm a very conservative person, usually too scared to boast, even considered a pessimist."

"So I won't boast about punching Google or kicking Apple, or handcrafting an optical lithography machine in a few months, nor dare I say I'm fighting against the whole world."

"But at the very least, I can guarantee one thing—every step my company takes forward, it will surely take a bite out of some foreign company."

"Who's to say that with enough bites, we won't chew our way to their kidneys or even their heart?"

"Just like you back then, initially just wanting to break into the 'Thunderbird' aerobatic team's website, and ended up digging up the ancestral grave of the White House."

"But this kind of path sounds easy, yet it's incredibly difficult to tread, which is why I found a boastful yet capable friend, sought Ke Da, and found Mr. Gu."

"Yet that's still not enough, so we came to Yangcheng today, hoping to persuade you to come out of retirement."

Xiaorong was silent for a moment.

He took the report and began to read it seriously.

The report Xu Yun brought was a full three centimeters thick, documenting a large number of attack sources and other information.

Among the attack data and methods, Xiaorong vaguely saw traces of some people from across the ocean 21 years ago.

Fifteen minutes later.

Xiaorong handed the report back to Xu Yun and said:

"Xiaoxu, can you give me a couple of days to think about it?"

Xu Yun nodded:

"No problem."

According to his plan,

Poaching talent is a meticulous task and inherently requires giving Xiaorong some time to think and observe the effects of their strategy, just like convincing Gu Qunqing back then.

They then agreed on a time to meet again, and Xu Yun took his leave with Gu Qunqing.

After leaving the community,

Gu Qunqing glanced at Xu Yun and asked:

"Dr. Xu, do you think Brother Rong will agree to join us?"

Xu Yun pondered for a moment, then slowly shook his head:

"Hard to say. If Brother Rong were only thirty, I would be confident to persuade him, but now Brother Rong is fifty... I really have no assurance."

Now it's 2022, and the hacker battle happened in 2001.

Twenty years have passed, enough to change a lot of things.

Now, both from a family and economic perspective, Xiaorong has no reason to go through the hassle of changing cities for work.

The only hope Xu Yun has is to try to move Xiaorong with words and facts.

His previous words were actually quite objective:

He can't represent nor has the authority to represent the official side, but on the other hand, the enemies he is about to face are indeed those people.

Therefore, he and Xiaorong can definitely resonate on this point, no doubt about it.

But whether this resonance can reignite Xiaorong's passion, that depends on Xiaorong's own decision.

Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing then hailed a cab and headed to a famous restaurant in Yangcheng called Bingsheng to enjoy some good food.

After all, it's a pity not to try some gourmet food when visiting Guangdong Province.

It's a shame the time was limited, otherwise Xu Yun would have wanted to make a trip to Shunde—he heard the Red Star claypot rice there is quite delicious, and he could have also swung by a certain shop whose business license had been revoked to gloat a bit.

Just like that,

An evening passed in the blink of an eye.

At one o'clock the next day at noon.

Just as Xu Yun had finished lunch and was preparing to catch up on some papers, his phone suddenly rang.

He picked up the phone and saw a name prominently displayed on the screen:

Xiaorong.

Xu Yun took a deep breath, pressed the call button:

"Hello, Brother Rong, it's me."

A moment later.

Xiaorong's voice came from the other end of the line:

"Xiaoxu, there's something I want to discuss with you."

"Please go ahead, Brother Rong."

"I just want to ask, can the company issue two salary cards for me? The main card for my wife, and the secondary card I'll keep for some pocket money to buy cigarettes..."

Upon hearing this, Xu Yun was initially stunned, then overjoyed:

"Brother Rong, does this mean you've agreed?"

A few kilometers away.

Xiaorong was sitting in the living room, holding a phone in one hand, touching a photograph in front of him with the other.

This was a group photo taken by Bing'Er 21 years ago, on the eve of the 'decisive battle.'

In the photo.

Xiaorong stands in the front row, holding a corner of the national flag, full of spirit and vigor.

Outside the frame.

Xiaorong touched his hand full of calluses from years of typing on the keyboard.

Twenty-one years have passed in the blink of an eye, and time has added some wrinkles to the once youthful face; at the age of 50, he can't even be considered a regular middle-aged man.

But despite the change in appearance, Xiaorong suddenly realized, the passion in his heart...

Had not yet frozen.

.....

"Brother Rong, this is our newly developed special drug, should we give it a try now?"

Xiaorong took the gel, examined it, and it looked no different from common roxithromycin, so he asked with some doubt:

"Xiaoxu, if I remember correctly, your insecticide tends to attract a large crowd of cockroaches, right...?"

"Oh, that matter, rest assured@"

Xu Yun replied with a relaxed smile, shaking the gel in his hand, explaining:

"Brother Rong, when we experimented before, it was a semi-finished product, focused only on the killing effect, not on visual appearance."

"But the gel I have now is different, it's a prototype designed with the market in mind and is very close to the launch version."

"We've added some special ingredients to ensure that once the cockroaches are poisoned, they automatically move to the sewers, so there won't be a situation where they gather indoors."

Xu Yun's description might sound far-fetched, but in reality, the principle is quite simple:

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 307 187: The Blood in the Chest Has Not Cooled (7.8K)\_5**

[ 734 words ]

They added boric acid and pheromone blockers to the gel bait. When cockroaches are poisoned, it triggers a dehydration alert in their bodies and nerves.

Therefore, while being poisoned, they instinctively flee toward the sewers, avoiding dying indoors or on the ground.

Sewers are used for waste disposal, so there's no need to worry about polluting water sources.

With Xu Yun's assurance, Xiaorong felt uneasy and hurriedly asked Xu Yun to place the gel bait in the four corners of the kitchen.

Once everything was completed.

Xiaorong adjusted his expression slightly, then led Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing back to the living room, saying:

"Xiaoxu, Qunqing, today you came to visit me, didn't you come specifically because of my post the other day, hoping for some free benefits?"

Xu Yun nodded with a smile and said:

"That's part of the reason, but it's not necessarily for you to fulfill any promises."

"Brother Rong, the hacker war your team organized back then inspired countless people to move forward from that era, far surpassing actions like vandalizing Neon cars in impact."

"To put it mildly, it was an overwhelming achievement that stirred and influenced an entire era."

"So, just based on your contributions alone, without hesitation, I'll send you as much cockroach bait as you need."

Then Xu Yun sighed, receiving another report from Gu Qunqing:

"On the other hand, the company that I and Ke Da have established indeed needs a highly competent internet security expert to oversee its operations."

"Look at this report in my hand; it's an attack statistic during the pest control live broadcast faced by Ke Da and related affiliated institutions."

"Normally, Ke Da... or any single university might not bear the weight of 'national image,' but during those hours of the live broadcast, the cyber defense within Ke Da arguably reached a national level confrontation."

"Within a few hours, there were over 6.7 million DDOS attacks, 219 TCP/TST attacks, from domestic and international sources, Asia, Europe, even Africa."

"Not only Director Wang, but even the Chinese Academy of Sciences temporarily formed an information security team to remotely assist in securing the final victory."

"It's truly alarming....."

Xu Yun handed the report to Xiaorong, with earnest and sincere eyes:

"Brother Rong, I'm conservative by nature; I dare not boast or exaggerate, sometimes a pessimistic at heart."

"Therefore, I won't boast about punching Google, kicking Apple, or handcrafting an Optical Lithography Machine in a few months, nor would I claim to be fighting against the world."

"But I can guarantee at least one thing — with every step forward my company takes, we'll certainly take a bite out of some foreign company's flesh."

"Who can say? Bite by bite, maybe eventually we'll chew into their kidney or even heart."

"Just like you all back in those days, at first simply wanting to breach the Thunderbird flight performance team's website, then unexpectedly digging up the ancestral grave of their White House." Then Xu Yun sighed, receiving another report from Gu Qunqing:

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"Look at this report in my hand; it's an attack statistic during the pest control live broadcast faced by Ke Da and related affiliated institutions."

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"Just like you all back in those days, at first simply wanting to breach the Thunderbird flight performance team's website, then unexpectedly digging up the ancestral grave of their White House."

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## Chapter 308 188: Paper Release (5.6K)

[ 898 words ]

After confirming Xiaorong's intentions.

The remaining issues were quite simple.

That evening.

Xu Yun brought Gu Qunqing to visit again and signed the employment contract at Xiaorong's home.

The contract stipulated.

Huadun Biotech, with an initial monthly salary of 70,000 and some equity incentives, reached a formal employment intention with Xiaorong.

Starting immediately, Xiaorong would assume the role of CTO at Huadun Biotech, which is the Chief Technology Officer, fully responsible for the company's network security affairs.

The salary would be adjusted annually based on the annual report, with the initial contract being valid for three years.

To be honest.

The salary isn't high for someone of Xiaorong's caliber as a Red Hacker.

Take Tombkeeper, the well-known Master TK, who is currently the sect leader of Penguin Security Xuanwu Laboratory.

According to his revelation on a certain platform.

His annual salary alone starts at 5 million, not to mention the even higher bonus income.

Another notable figure is Brother Dao, Wu Hanqing with the alias aullik5, who directly hacked into a server in front of Ali's top executives—speaking of his salary, this is a true story.

In a sense, he's also a legend:

At 15, he entered the youth program of Xidian University, and at 16, he founded the Phantom Forum, bringing together top domestic security tech experts, many of whom have had accounts on Phantom.

Unfortunately, Phantom was founded at the end of 2001, unlike Black Base, which generated large cash flows around 2006.

Later, Wu Hanqing had to close the Phantom Forum due to the inability to maintain the server financially.

In 2005, on a friend's recommendation, he applied for a job at Ali.

At that time, 20-year-old Wu Hanqing remotely shut down one of Ali's routing devices during the interview, causing a network outage, and was immediately hired.

The only exaggeration about this story is that the interviewer was not Ma Yun, but Sheng Yifei from the Eighteen Arhats.

Interestingly enough.

When Wu Hanqing first joined Ali, the leadership didn't really prioritize network security.

So, Wu Hanqing, in his unconventional way, cracked all the game passwords within the company and left an email to inform them, thereby drawing the attention of the top executives.

Currently, Wu Hanqing's annual salary is around 7 million, and with stock options, it easily breaks into the tens of millions, with a generous starting figure.

Therefore, the 70,000 monthly salary Xu Yun offered Xiaorong doesn't quite match Xiaorong's stature.

But there's no other choice.

The current funds on the company's books are limited; it's tough.

Recently, the company's official stamp was approved.

That day, Xu Yun rushed to Lu Zhou High-tech Zone and paid the rent to a side character whose name the author can't remember and doesn't want to look up.

Gold coin -1130000.

At the same time.

New Creation Fund also submitted a list of necessary equipment, which was another major expense:

Due to the need for cyclization synthesis technology for the Fifth Generation Imidacloprid, the production equipment requirements are extremely high.

Even if the company initially plans to only operate three production lines, the cost of related equipment per set won't be less than 1.7 million.

A set costs 1.7 million, and three sets total up to something over 5 million without saying much.

It's more than four times the cost of regular agricultural imidacloprid.

And that's not all.

Besides equipment, funding is needed for every aspect including staff, utilities, and logistics.

It's like shopping at the supermarket.

This bag of chips doesn't seem expensive, that fruit looks quite cheap, and the shampoo is on sale today too.

But when you check out and add it all up.

Gosh, it's nearly 200 bucks!

Therefore, Xu Yun could only thick-skinnedly offer Xiaorong a rather standard CTO salary, planning to raise it when the company's finances were healthier.

Of course.

Though it's a standard salary, it's already the top salary internally at Huadun Biotech.

Gu Qunqing, as COO, signed a contract with low salary but high incentives.

The starting salary is only 40,000 yuan, less than 500,000 yuan annually before tax, which is about equivalent to a regular VP at an ordinary listed company in Shanghai.

As for Xu Yun...

As the executive director of the company, naturally, he wouldn't give himself a high salary—his income is all in the bonuses.

Although he doesn't do as Brother Dong, taking only one yuan, his take-home isn't much either, just 4,000 before tax.

Truly a story to make listeners grieve and witnesses shed tears.

In summary.

At this point, the company's main personnel structure is more or less complete:

Xu Yun is responsible for research and development.

Gu Qunqing is responsible for business affairs.

Xiaorong is in charge of network security.

As for public relations and finance, they can be handed over to Ke Da; they're much more experienced than Xu Yun in these areas.

And while Xu Yun was assembling his right-hand men.

From far-off Lu Prefecture, at Ke Da, Tian Liangwei also brought good news:

The paper Xu Yun submitted to "NUCLEIC ACIDS RES" is about to be published!

Those who've submitted papers likely know.

Generally speaking.

The time it takes from acceptance to publication is not easily determinable, with the better journals often having longer publication cycles.

For example, general journals take about 1 to 4 months.

Core journals might need a year or even a year and a half.

If the latter is a Chinese core journal, it might be a tad shorter, but not by much.

However, as "NUCLEIC ACIDS RES" is an invited journal, and since Tian Liangwei did quite a bit of work during this period.

Such as sending those foreigners some erjingtiao, cured meats, Luosifen, houttuynia, boiled eggs, and Ninghua rat dried goods.

Therefore, the whole process took just over a month.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 309 188: Paper Release (5.6K)\_2

[ 1,337 words ]

Xu Yun's thesis was just in time for the latest issue of .

Early the next morning.

Inside the executive lounge of the Rosewood Hotel.

Xu Yun sat at a relatively quiet dining table with a glass of whole milk in front of him, calmly video chatting with Tian Liangwei.

"Xiaoxu."

At this time, Tian Liangwei in the video seemed to be having breakfast as well; he waved the cup in his hand at Xu Yun:

"You weren't at school these past two days, so you don't know how good the soy milk business is at East Garden Restaurant in the mornings; it sells out in no time."

"Tsk, tsk, I have to say, the taste of stone-ground soy milk is truly different."

"I was really foolish before, even thinking about turning donkeys into donkey meat pies..."

Seeing this, Xu Yun also took a sip of milk and smiled:

"Exactly, these are purebred local donkeys, much better quality than the ones in modern cities, right?"

Many people in today's village workshops often complain about donkeys not being able to pull the grindstone.

This actually has a reason.

After stepping into the new millennium, with the rising demand and prices for donkey-hide gelatin, the demand for local donkeys has greatly increased.

As a result, the country introduced many Pakistani donkeys for crossbreeding, creating meat donkeys.

With this approach.

The number of donkeys increased, but their endurance from a species standpoint decreased significantly.

Even those donkeys at the village markets are often crossbred hybrids.

But Brother Lv is different.

He's a purebred local donkey, strong and sturdy, and his milling performance naturally far surpasses modern donkeys.

Afterwards, Xu Yun and Tian Liangwei chatted casually for a bit, then Tian Liangwei's expression straightened, and he asked:

"Xiaoxu, there's less than ten minutes until publication time, are you nervous?"

Xu Yun smiled slightly, spread his palms towards him, and said:

"Not a drop of sweat, what do you think?"

On the other side of the video.

Tian Liangwei was initially stunned by what he said, then nodded approvingly:

"Not bad, a commendable attitude."

As everyone knows.

Generally, before a journal is officially published, the publisher often sends advance copies to some authors.

This process is also known as journal proofs.

However, the speed of publication for Xu Yun's thesis was very fast, with some 'queue-jumping' nature.

Therefore, the journal wasn't able to send advance proofs, only releasing them about three days before publication.

The headquarters of is in John Bull; the three days might not be enough to reach the homeland, plus Xu Yun is currently in Yangcheng.

So, he regretfully missed the privilege of receiving advance copies firsthand, unable to show off to acquaintances over coffee.

Of course.

Not being nervous is one thing.

As the journal is about to be released, Xu Yun's mood was still a bit agitated.

After all, this is his first publication in a tier-one journal, and the content is biology, a field he just started tackling in this lifetime.

Though is not ranked as high as CNS in the field, its impact factor is noteworthy.

Many times.

Some top university professors spend a whole year or two just to have a paper included by , and when it's published, it might even receive a major promotion on the university's website.

Xu Yun changing his primary specialty to biology in this lifetime and publishing a paper in as lead author at 24—that definitely causes some waves inside.

"Pity that the focus this time is on Imidacloprid...."

On the other side of the video.

Tian Liangwei thought of something, sighed with slight regret:

"Even though this is the fifth generation of research reports, it's still doomed to have higher commercial value than academic value."

"Its citation value will certainly be low, and the level of discussion within the field is bound to be limited; it would have been better if it were about Thiamethoxam..."

Xu Yun knew that older generations like Tian Liangwei often have ideals that prioritize fame over profit, so he proactively explained:

"Oh, teacher, isn't it good for the commercial value to be high? I'm actually hoping it won't be cited."

"Although our product in the pest control field is destined to face initial attacks, the attention it receives is already quite low compared to other industries, which is a good thing."

"As the saying goes, amass food before calling yourself king."

"Besides, if you want academic value, isn't it simple? If the new microorganism we are studying can be successfully commercialized, winning an award might still be tough, but publishing in is sure."

"You, you..."

Tian Liangwei smiled and pointed at Xu Yun with his index finger, didn't criticize harshly, but was clearly skeptical of his student's optimism.

is an old comprehensive journal, commonly seen as a mid-tier dividing line, often referred to by many Key Immortals as 'a watery journal'.

Realistically, whether is watery mainly depends on whether you have academician connections from Eagle:

Eagle academicians are authorized to submit up to 4 papers in through "internal channels," and this unconventional process allows authors to choose who will review their paper and how to respond to reviewers' comments.

As a result, many see it as an internal club for Eagle academicians.

But for those without Eagle academician connections, becomes very, very difficult.

You could put it this way.

With Eagle academician connections.

The publishing difficulty is about the same as .

But if you don't have Eagle academician connections.

The difficulty will be akin to .

Therefore, from Tian Liangwei's perspective, Xu Yun's words are indeed a bit overly optimistic.

No way, after all, he doesn't know Xu Yun has a Halo.

Just then, while the two were chatting, the time slowly reached 8 AM Yanjing time.

The time difference between John Bull and Beijing is eight hours, so it's just midnight in John Bull.

Almost at the stroke of 8.

Xu Yun and Tian Liangwei simultaneously went silent.

Thousands of miles apart, they both pressed the refresh button on the homepage.

Publishing day's midnight journal homepage, this is the only way, apart from advance copies, to see the latest papers.

As everyone knows, Knowledge Network usually takes about three months after the paper is published to formally include it on the site.

Xu Yun had already set up a ladder in advance, so he quickly refreshed to see the updated latest issue of papers on the homepage.

Then he slowly scrolled the mouse down.

"DDInter: an online drug–drug interaction....not this one...."

"synthetic binding protein....also not...."

"zoujinbukexuezhenhaokan....still not...."

"Effect of Imidacloprid on *Periplaneta americana*...found it, it's this one!"

Once he found his paper, Xu Yun immediately clicked in.

The account he logged in with is Ke Da's official account, so he didn't need to pay and could directly read the full text.

"PERIPLANETA AMERICANA, which belongs to Blattaria and Blattulidae, is a worldwide urban pest..."

".....This kind of pest not only pollutes....."

"mature females of PERIPLANETA AMERICANA release two types of sex pheromones: the volatile sex hormone "blatteaquinone(3,6-dioxocyclohexa-1,4-dien-1-yl)methyl 3-methylbutanoate)..." (To avoid confusion over water content, 7 English characters equal one Chinese character, punctuation is not counted)

A few minutes later.

Xu Yun lifted his head from the screen, satisfied.

The layout level of is very high, most content consistent with the final review.

Only a few places were simply modified.

These modified contents do not affect readability, instead, they better suit Western semantics.

It is noticeable that the journal's emphasis is maximized.

Of course.

A significant part of this owes to Tian Liangwei, the impressive significance of an H-index of 77!

And just then.

Two messages suddenly popped up on Xu Yun's phone placed beside him.

One was from Xiaorong:

"Dr. Xu, the VUE hook buried in advance on the homepage has feedback."

"Within ten minutes, Neon IP access recorded 18 times, Eagle 11 times, Germany 6 times, Gaul and Italy 4 times, and other countries had sporadic records."

"Your paper is in the eleventh position on the homepage, but the click rate in those ten minutes has already surpassed the combined total of the first two papers."

"Clearly, an invisible war has already begun."

And the other message sender, the note reads [Ke Da Innovation Fund - Zheng Zu].

[Ke Da Innovation Fund - Zheng Zu]:

"Dr. Xu, the production line has arrived at Lu Prefecture, and it's ready for production acceptance."

.....

Note:

Three goals set at the beginning of the month; the first one has been achieved, 1500 might be difficult, but 1000 is very close.

Don't forget, if there's 1000 monthly pass by the 8th, there will be an update for the whole month~

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## Chapter 310 189 Production Line Acceptance! (5.6K)

[ 910 words ]

Two days later.

Lu Zhou High-tech Zone.

Outside factory building No. P652.

At this moment.

Under the leadership of the high-tech zone director Yang Hongzhi, whose name the foolish author suddenly remembered, Xu Yun and others successively passed through the gate and entered the factory area.

Compared to the day of signing the contract, the formation of Xu Yun's group this time was undoubtedly much larger:

Aside from Xu Yun and Gu Qunqing.

Tian Liangwei and Secretary Zheng from Ke Da Innovation Fund also brought their assistants and arrived on site together with Xu Yun.

Additionally, there were several accompanying personnel from Ke Da, totaling eleven or twelve people.

It can be said.

The main high-level personnel of Huadun Biotech were all present outside the factory today.

As for the reason for deploying so many Nascent Souls... well, the reason is.....

Of course, it's because today is the day for equipment commissioning.

Not long ago.

Upon receiving the message from Zheng Zu, Xu Yun immediately bid farewell to Xiaorong and flew back to Lu Prefecture with Gu Qunqing the next day.

As for Xiaorong, he temporarily stayed in Yangcheng to handle family matters. After all, his child is still in school, and explaining it can be quite troublesome.

In short, according to the agreement between both parties, Xiaorong will arrive in Lu Prefecture to join Xu Yun in a week.

"Dean Tian, Dr. Xu, Secretary Zheng."

Upon entering the factory building, Yang Hongzhi first pointed to another middle-aged man beside him and said:

"As the saying goes, guests should not interfere with host affairs. Currently, the factory belongs to Huadun Biotech, so Director Qian and others will introduce the situation specifically."

The Director Qian that Yang Hongzhi referred to is named Qian Guanglin, a small-framed middle-aged man with high cheekbones and dark skin, looking rather weathered.

Qian Guanglin was originally a production manager at an integrated circuit company under Ke Da Innovation Fund, once managing over two thousand people.

After a corporate restructuring, he was transferred to work at another assembly plant for several years, gaining extremely rich production experience.

Not long ago, after confirming the factory address.

New Creation Fund recommended Qian Guanglin as the production manager, and Xu Yun, having reviewed his resume, immediately voted in favor.

He is a highly experienced and capable person, deeply connected to Ke Da industry, perfectly suited for overseeing chemically risky production.

At Yang Hongzhi's indication.

Qian Guanglin nodded to everyone, leading the way while speaking:

"Leaders, as you should all know, the production line we ordered is mainly divided into two parts."

"One part is the ring-structure production process, and the other is the filling production process. The former has a high technical content, while the latter is relatively ordinary."

"Thus, the earliest equipment we received was from the filling production segment, specifically the TC708 formulation production line sent by Modu Chemical, consisting of fourteen module sets in total."

"Regarding the ring-structure phase, its main purpose is to produce 10-epoxy-3,6-docosadiene, including reactions such as nickel acetate/sodium borohydride catalytic

hydrogenation, Sharpless asymmetric epoxidation, and alkyl epoxide rearrangement, so the equipment requirements are very high."

"We ultimately chose Nutrien Company's FOERDA-T632 series production line, which is currently the leading company in this field globally."

"The equipment arrived at Modu Port five days ago and reached Lu Prefecture the day before yesterday, and it has been fully commissioned now."

Xu Yun and Tian Liangwei nodded lightly upon hearing this.

Due to the influence of the Batu Treaty in earlier years, many industries in the country suffer from a chronic ailment:

They can match or even surpass international levels in theory and research, but there is a significant lag in the production equipment segment.

Take the five-axis machine tools back then, for example.

That is a truly heroic story full of struggles, where the eighteen "luohans" of domestic machine tools strived for decades, yet the level in five-axis linkage is still somewhat behind.

Pleasantly surprising is the rise of Dalian Kede, and from a long-term perspective, there is hope of catching up with the leading ranks.

Then there's the matter of shield tunnel boring machines.

Although these aren't strictly embargoed equipment, we suffered quite a loss on them once.

In 1997, when the country was preparing to create the longest railway at that time, the Xikang Railway.

This railroad had to bore through the Qinling mountains, which was no small project.

Back then, the engineering institute estimated the construction time, and using conventional construction methods, it would take a long time, at least ten years to get through.

Yet, if 600 million yuan were spent on importing two shield machines from overseas, the tunnel could be finished in just two years.

So back then, the Rabbits gritted their teeth and tightened their belts, importing shield machines from Europe and America.

It was in this transaction that the Rabbits tasted success, which spurred them to self-develop shield machines.

But it was only after local self-development of shield machines that the Rabbits discovered.

A shield machine back then only needed 30 million really, and those two machines in '97 were marked up ten times...

So while we say on the surface that the more embargoes there are, the more self-developments occur, those years of technical embargo indeed caused us significant trouble, with effects lasting till today.

In fact.

Not just back then.

Even the three FOERDA-T632 production lines Xu Yun and the others purchased now were subject to a marked-up transaction.

Or to be more precise.

The equipment Nutrien sells to the domestic market all carry a mark-up.

Nutrien was established in 2017 after the merger of PotashCorp and Jia Yang from Maple Country. In 2021, it ranked eighth among the top 10 global agricultural companies, with revenue nearing 20 billion US dollars.

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