

I CAN MEET WITH DEAD SCIENTISTS

Chapter 371 205: Old Su Shows His Power for the First Time (6.2K)

After deciding to first tackle the barrier of transition metal catalysis, Xu Yun and others quickly changed into a set of standard lab attire.

Students who passed high school chemistry should know.

According to the periodic law of elements, people often search for catalysts in the region of transition metals.

For example, the catalyst for synthesizing ammonia is an iron catalyst.

Vanadium pentoxide is the catalyst for synthesizing sulfuric acid and nitric acid.

Ranny nickel is often used for the addition of olefins and hydrogen gas, among other things.

Why do these transition elements and compounds frequently play the role of "matchmaker"?

Let's first use layman's terms to explain a concept here:

Feedback π -bond.

When a coordination bond is formed between a transition metal atom (central atom) and a ligand.

The coordination atom provides an electron pair and fills the empty orbital provided by the central atom, forming a σ -bond in the form of a coordination bond.

Sometimes, some electrons from the central atom might also fill the empty orbitals of the ligand molecule.

This is what a feedback π -bond is.

And in this process.

The antibonding orbitals $\pi^*_{2p_y}$ and $\pi^*_{2p_z}$ of the ligand molecule are empty.

When it acts as a ligand.

It can either provide electron pairs for coordination out or offer empty antibonding π -orbitals to coordinate electrons in.

As long as the central atom and the ligand both have electron pairs and empty orbitals, the prerequisite conditions for reciprocity are met.

Coupled with the symmetry between the two being suitable, a feedback π -bond forms.

Up to this point.

Smart students should understand.

Exactly!

If a ligand molecule forms a feedback π -bond with a certain transition metal atom, its originally empty antibonding π -orbitals then fill up with electrons.

The bond order and the number of electrons in antibonding orbitals are inversely correlated.

The more electrons filled in the antibonding orbitals, the smaller the bond order, and the less stable the bond.

The originally very stable $\text{N}\equiv\text{N}$ bond is weakened by the feedback bond, indicating its chemical activity is significantly enhanced.

In other words.

It becomes much easier for the ligand molecule to react further.

This is the principle of transition element catalysis.

Very simple and easy to understand.

The transition metal Xu Yun and the others used in the lab is ruthenium, a metal that is very stable and highly resistant to corrosion.

This material has another very special characteristic:

Its content in the Earth's crust is only one-billionth, making it one of the rarest metals.

Yet it is quite inexpensive, being the cheapest among the platinum group metals.

However, despite being cheap.

Due to its hexagonal crystal cell structure, it can only be used on the laboratory side in the production process of Imidacloprid and cannot be successfully applied in industrial production.

"So in the given candidate plan, we've appended three metals: lanthanum, scandium, and gallium, for Nutrien to match."

Inside the laboratory.

Xu Yun is introducing related information to Yu Yuanyong:

"Eventually, Nutrien's response was gallium metal, which is the transition metal catalyst with the highest overall efficiency, and the operational results after receipt fully met expectations."

"Naturally, it's also because of this that their equipment quotation was much higher than expected."

Across from him, Yu Yuanyong knowingly nodded.

Among the three metals, the price of scandium is the highest.

As per the current price, one ton of 99.9% grade scandium is 32,000 yuan.

Next is lanthanum.

One ton costs 27,750.02 yuan.

Gallium is the cheapest.

One ton is only 2,805 yuan, ten times less than the other two metals.

Meanwhile.

Gallium is also the best choice in terms of catalytic effect.

However, contrary to price and effect, the difficulty of mass production on industrial production lines increases sequentially among the three metals.

Equipment requirements naturally follow suit.

Thinking of this.

Yu Yuanyong picked up a report from the table beside him, flipped to a certain page, and introduced it to everyone:

"Dr. Xu, to be honest, we are currently stuck on the molecular sieve stage of the catalyst."

"Our team has tried many methods but unfortunately failed in the end."

"Not to mention gallium, we haven't even broken through with scandium."

"Because regardless of the metal, the framework heteroatoms with coordination in the molecular sieve must be highly isolated."

"For instance, the neighbors in Ti—O—Si are mainly Si—O—Si, and on the other hand, Ti mainly exists in a tetra-coordinated way. We must perform atomic defect site reactions inside the container, but thermodynamically this is unfavorable."

At this moment, Lin Zhenhua suddenly interrupted him and asked:

"Yu, how did Nutrien complete this step? Can we borrow some of their ideas?"

Yu Yuanyong shook his head, pointing to the computer on the other side:

"Nutrien employed a chemical grafting patent, and the entire process is interconnected with points that cannot be altered."

"Complete duplication aside from the difficulty of the process is undone by patent protection — they can list FOERDA-T632 under the 'Wassenaar Agreement,' but Dr. Xu and his team cannot infringe on patents, or they'd be handing the knife to others."

Hearing this, Lin Zhenhua opened his mouth as if he wanted to say something.

But ultimately remained silent.

Just as Yu Yuanyong said.

Huadun Biotech is not a small private workshop; every step taken by Xu Yun and the others will be scrutinized with a magnifying glass, finding vulnerabilities.

Once the production capacity of 'One Locust Extinct' is enhanced.

It is certain that someone will prompt Nutrien to initiate a patent review, demanding verification of patent infringement situations.

Is there any skulduggery?

Certainly, it's unjust.

Prohibition of imitating equipment on one end while banning non-reproduction on the other is the epitome of double standards.

Chapter 372 205 Old Su Begins to Show His Power (6.2K)_2

Is it legal?

The answer is also affirmative.

Even with the support of Ke Da or even the Science Institute behind Huadun Biotech, it wouldn't make any difference.

Once such an incident occurs, what awaits them will inevitably be severe punishment and a frenzy of public outrage.

Therefore, neither Nutrien nor its backers would fear Huadun Biotech attempting to replicate this chemical grafting process; they might even be hoping you would.

Then Xu Yun thought for a moment and proposed a new idea:

"Director Yu, what do you think about using the ion beam injection method?"

Yu Yuanyong blinked:

"Ion beam injection method?"

Anyone who studied with ions in their past life should know.

The so-called ion beam injection method refers to the method of accelerating metal ions generated through ionization in an electric field, forming a high-speed ion beam to strike a specified substrate.

Due to the high speed of the ion beam, it can be injected into the surface layer and lattice of the substrate, thus achieving a periodic effect.

However, unlike the chemical grafting method, the ion beam injection method is mostly used in the fields of physics and materials science.

It is especially used for semiconductor surface modification and doping, rarely used in catalyst preparation.

Seeing Yu Yuanyong a bit puzzled, Xu Yun patiently explained:

"You see, the metal ions in the ion beam are all positively charged, which will repel each other and separate."

"So the metal ions injected into the substrate will basically remain in a highly isolated state."

"By adding a chemical intermediate, such as catechol, a Y-shaped molecular sieve is formed, isn't it?"

Yu Yuanyong's eyes widened as he listened, his mouth involuntarily gaping, a look of disbelief on his face.

A few seconds later.

He suddenly clenched his right fist and heavily struck his left palm:

"Right, we can completely use the introduction of isotopic metal ions to force out the cations in the antibonding orbitals, oh my mind, how could I not think of this layer?"

Xu Yun smiled without saying a word.

Ion beam injection method.

This was the last paper he published before leaving the research field in his previous life, which involved the defect site reaction transition effects of vanadium metal, addressing molecular sieves.

The DOI is... ahem, can't say, saying it would cost me my online alias.

In summary.

This last paper before leaving the circle is like your first love, perhaps unforgettable for life.

Therefore, realizing that Yu Yuanyong and his team were stuck on molecular sieves, Xu Yun immediately thought of this approach.

With Xu Yun's suggestion, the following steps became straightforward.

Detection methods for transition metal catalysis, besides the final product, can also be determined using UV Raman spectroscopy.

Especially in terms of molecular sieves.

The accuracy of Raman spectral peaks is even slightly higher.

Thus, Yu Yuanyong soon prepared for the Raman spectroscopy cleaning phase.

Half an hour later.

Yu Yuanyong's team was ready and officially began testing.

Ten minutes into the test.

Transition metal heteroatoms began entering the molecular sieve framework.

At the same time.

On the UV-Visible absorption spectrum, charge transfer transition absorption between the $p\pi$ of the framework oxygen atoms and the $d\pi$ of the framework transition metal atoms immediately appeared.

After more than twenty minutes.

A report appeared on the equipment table in front of Yu Yuanyong.

"Absorption peaks in the UV region at 200–350nm, charge transfer transition absorption band center at 220nm..."

Yu Yuanyong extracted some information and began calculations simultaneously with Xu Yun.

Five minutes later.

Xu Yun and Yu Yuanyong raised their heads one after another.

Lin Zhenhua, who stood nearby, noticed.

At this moment, both of their expressions were somewhat serious, not as joyful as expected.

Then the two exchanged a glance, as Xu Yun said:

"Director Yu, to what magnitude has the Raman signal amplified according to your calculations?"

Yu Yuanyong furrowed his brow and gave a number:

"Five orders of magnitude, what about you?"

Xu Yun raised the calculation paper in his hand towards him:

"Also five, five is not enough..."

Yu Yuanyong's brows furrowed deeper; he scrutinized the report again, puzzled:

"Strange, the charge transfer transition absorption band center is around 220nm, and the nearest UV laser close to this absorption band is 244nm, the data is definitely correct."

"According to the resonance Raman principle, when the excitation source energy is close to the electronic absorption band, resonance will inevitably occur between the electronic and vibrational states."

"The Raman signal intensity of the vibration modes associated with this resonance should match the transition formula, so the tetrahedral coordination magnitude should be 6 to 7..."

Xu Yun also picked up the report, shaking it like a doctor examining a CT, carefully reviewing it.

A few minutes later.

Xu Yun's expression suddenly tightened, pointing to a column and saying to Yu Yuanyong:

"Director Yu, look here, why is there such a strong Raman peak at the position of 530?"

A moment later.

Yu Yuanyong and Xu Yun simultaneously realized something and said in unison:

"Selective excitation?"

Selective excitation.

Refers to a situation where, within a certain range, the feedback is lower than expected.

It could be man-made, or it could spontaneously occur due to energy loss during the reaction.

Just like the gas stove in our daily life.

Sometimes you turn it to low heat because the dish must be slow-cooked on low heat to perfection.

If needed, you can adjust the firepower at any time.

But sometimes you turn it to low heat because the pipeline is about to run out of gas.

Xu Yun and his team encountered the latter kind of situation, or rather a strengthened version of the latter — your home's gas pipeline ran out of gas, and at the same time, the gas company delivered the gas meant for your home to your neighbor's place, causing external...

Seeing the two people furrowing their brows like they were looking at a failed writer in the backstage subscription, Lin Zhenhua couldn't help but speak out:

"Yu, Xiaoxu, my expertise is in industry, and I'm not very familiar with the concept of selective excitation. In any case, is there a way for us to solve this?"

Xu Yun pondered for a moment before responding:

"It's probably very difficult. We're using scandium, which has the lowest complexity, and the ion beam has been chosen to have iron with non-selective oxidation properties."

"Therefore, the occurrence of selective excitation is likely due to some pulse characteristics appearing during the interaction stage."

"For example, some spectral feedback was produced between the iron ions and the chemical intermediates, which delayed the reaction that was supposed to happen at the third minute to the fifth minute — of course, this is just a necessity. In any case, this kind of problem is hard to solve in a short period."

"Our only current option is to bite the bullet and continue production in this way. Although the bands are different from straight lines, some products can still be produced."

"However, doing so will affect our production cost and efficiency."

Lin Zhenhua furrowed his brow:

"I see..."

Then Xu Yun pondered for a moment, preparing to say something comforting to Lin Zhenhua.

But before he could speak.

Old Su suddenly tugged gently at his sleeve.

It was only then Xu Yun stopped talking and turned his head.

He found Old Su giving him a look saying 'let's talk on the side'.

Xu Yun thought for a bit, casually patted Old Su's shoulder, and pointed at the water dispenser not far away:

"Xiaosu, come with me to pour some water for everyone. We've been doing experiments for so long, people will dry out without drinking water."

Old Su immediately understood:

"Alright, senior."

After walking to the water dispenser.

Xu Yun glanced around, then lowered his voice and asked Old Su:

"What's the matter?"

Old Su first put a disposable cup under the spout, pressed the switch, and said to Xu Yun:

"Xiaoxu, I don't quite understand the specific concepts you guys are discussing, but the so-called chemical intermediate reminds me of something, and I don't know if it might inspire you."

"So I thought I'd mention it casually for you to consider."

"If it can help, all the better. If I'm wrong, feel free to ignore it."

Xu Yun placed a filled plastic cup aside and replied:

"Mr. Su, feel free to say what's on your mind."

Old Su nodded, pondered for a moment, and said:

"That day when you were assembling the telescope, you mentioned something, which I haven't forgotten."

"At the time, you meant that the telescope needed a parabolic surface as an intermediary carrier to reflect images, but the industrial level of the Song Dynasty was limited and couldn't process the spherical mirror you required."

"So later you took an alternative approach, using rotating mercury to achieve the parabolic effect."

"In my opinion, since the so-called chemical intermediate is meant to act as a relay, perhaps its principle has no intersection with the mercury parabola, but the two might share some properties."

"Given this, I'd like to ask a question."

"Could the current situation be resolved by drawing parallels and trying to use a liquid as this intermediate, thereby avoiding selective excitation through the special properties of the liquid?"

Upon hearing this.

Xu Yun was stunned at first, then his pupils shrank dramatically!

The matter Old Su spoke of was rather a classic operation he'd done in the Northern Song Dungeon:

At that time, due to a lack of Knife Edge Instruments and Interferometers in the dungeon, Xu Yun couldn't grind a precise spherical lens.

Hence, he cleverly used rotating mercury to achieve a parabolic surface, reaching the same effect through an RC-like structure.

Although this operation had no intersection with catechol.

Yet as Old Su said.

Their properties are somewhat similar.

One reflects light, the other gives spectral feedback, both serve as a relay medium.

Thus, if this idea could be expanded upon.

Replace catechol with other special liquids.

While using the centrifugal force of the liquid to balance the spectral feedback of solid substances, it seems...

Really feasible?

.....

Sometimes you use a low flame because the dish must be slowly stewed over a low flame.

When necessary, you can always turn up the heat.

But sometimes you use a low flame because the gas pipes are about to run out of gas.

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"Our only choice at the moment is to bite the bullet and use this method for production. After all, though the bands are different from direct lines, there can still be some output."

"But this way, our production costs and efficiency will both be impacted."

Lin Zhenhua frowned along: Sometimes you use low heat because the dish needs to be slow-cooked with gentle heat.

If needed, you can always turn up the heat.

But sometimes you use low heat because the gas in the pipeline is running low.

Xu Yun and the others are facing the latter situation, or rather, an intensified version of it—a situation where the gas pipeline to your home has run out, and the gas company has also diverted the gas meant for your home to your neighbor's, causing external...

Seeing the two with their brows furrowed like disgruntled authors facing cancelled subscriptions, Lin Zhenhua couldn't help but speak:

"Yu, Xiaoxu, my expertise is in industry, and I'm not too familiar with this concept of selective excitation. Do we have any way to solve it?"

Upon hearing this, Xu Yun pondered for a moment and said:

"I'm afraid it's difficult. We are using scandium, which is the least challenging, and for the ion beam, we've chosen iron, which has been stated as non-selectively oxidizable."

"Hence, the occurrence of selective excitation is likely due to certain pulse characteristics during the interaction stage."

"For example, the iron ions and chemical intermediates might have generated some band feedback, delaying the reaction meant for the third minute to the fifth minute—of course, this is just a conjecture. In any case, this kind of problem is hard to solve in the short term."

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Chapter 375 206: Only the Boss is Left

After getting inspired by Old Su.

Xu Yun didn't dare to delay.

He immediately decided to return to the site to share this idea with Yu Yuanyong and others.

"What? Using liquid as an intermediary?"

Upon hearing this idea.

Yu Yuanyong looked surprised at Old Su's 'I'm just a bystander' face, and immediately fell into deep thought:

"The iron ion beam density we use is a low-energy ion beam of 110keV, and there should be three spectral bands with phase shifts in one period."

"If we set up a constant period liquid device, feedback the band when the phase shift appears to bring it back to balance..."

"Hiss, could it really be possible?"

Considering that some students might not quite understand the nature of the intermediary in this reaction, here's a very simple example to illustrate—it's truly the simplest kind.

Suppose there is a very long conveyor belt, and the height at the feed port is 4 centimeters, and 95% of the items on the conveyor belt are 3 centimeters.

Three centimeters against four centimeters.

These items can naturally pass smoothly through the feed port.

But besides these three-centimeter items, every certain period on the conveyor belt—say every 30 seconds, a giant object of 5 centimeters appears.

However, due to various restrictions, the feed port cannot be permanently raised, thus there will be instances where materials get stuck.

And at this moment, someone proposed a solution:

Although we can't permanently raise the feed port, we can set a program.

So that each time the five-centimeter giant object period occurs, the feed port can temporarily be raised to six centimeters for a few seconds, right?

Perhaps such an approach requires a certain cost, but it is obviously much lower than permanently raising the feed port.

At least within an acceptable range.

Although the practical part nowadays requires Xu Yun and others to consider much more complex issues than the example above.

In nature, however, the two are actually interoperable, both balancing certain abnormal energies through connecting periods.

Upon thinking of this.

Yu Yuanyong couldn't sit still for a moment, turning around to say to Xu Yun:

"Dr. Xu, what do you think we should use to balance the liquid?"

Xu Yun used his right hand to form a figure eight in front of his nose, while his left hand picked the report up from the table again, carefully glancing over it.

Chemical intermediaries.

As the name suggests, these refer to some common intermediary substances in the chemical industry, subdivided into 11 main categories.

Among these 11 categories, besides additives, chemical medicines, and daily chemicals.

They also include reagents, coatings, and dyes, which are liquids.

However, what Xu Yun and Yu Yuanyong discussed obviously wasn't these conventional liquids, but rather certain concentrated special liquid materials.

This material must first have the property of not participating in subsequent reactions and possess suitable attributes, while also not reacting with the iron ion beam.

Thus.

A considerable portion of salts is excluded.

Next, the molecular interaction of this material must be considered, which is the coordination of molecular spatial configuration in the hybrid orbit.

So Xu Yun thought for a moment.

He took paper and pen, wrote down a term, and handed it to Yu Yuanyong:

"Director Yu, what do you think of this?"

Yu Yuanyong looked at the result:

"Ferricyanide potassium?"

Xu Yun nodded, explaining:

"The ligand of ferricyanide potassium is CN^- , with a coordination number of 6."

"If I remember correctly, its mass-to-charge ratio at the 110keV energy level should be around 11.5, specifically something like 11.54 or so, which is very close to our requirements."

"Also, because its central atom is a trivalent iron ion, it will only react with ferrous particles, naturally having a compound barrier with the iron ion beam."

"Although ferricyanide potassium is toxic, its industrial application range is actually very broad, and it should meet the requirements when used as an intermediary in sealed equipment."

Just as Xu Yun said.

Ferricyanide potassium is a red crystal, its aqueous solution has a yellow-green fluorescence, and forms a deep blue precipitate when encountering ferrous salts.

It is also easily reduced under sunlight and can be completely Feng Jie when burned, producing highly toxic cyanide and cyan.

Students who were poisoned by cyanide in a past life should all know.

Cyanide is an alkaline substance, directly stimulating mucous membranes and causing irritation, leading to faster and deeper breathing, fatigue, headache.

Then you start experiencing difficulty breathing, increased blood pressure.

Because the tissues cannot utilize oxygen, the venous blood oxygen saturation increases, turning the skin and mucous membranes cherry-red.

Finally, you experience convulsions, whole-body muscle relaxation.

Thus, leading to cardiac arrest, multiple organ failure, and rapid death.

Therefore, in civilian applications, ferricyanide potassium has always been a strictly controlled substance.

However, in industrial fields, this thing is still quite common.

It is widely used in photographic paper, printing, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, steel, and other industrial applications.

It's considered a highly prevalent and legal substance.

Upon thinking of this.

The gleam in Yu Yuanyong's eyes grew a bit brighter, pondering aloud:

"Ferricyanide potassium... ferricyanide potassium... it really might be possible?"

Then he thought for a moment, looked at his assistant by his side, and asked:

"Xiaoqian, can you check the database to see where the CN bond stretching vibration appears under ten atmospheres for ferricyanide potassium?"

Xiaoqian, mentioned by Yu Yuanyong, is a rare woman in the field of chemicals, sporting short hair and looking quite competent.

She tapped quickly on the keyboard, and soon after looked up and replied:

"Found it, the range is 2356-3091cm⁻¹."

"What about the radicals?"

Xiaoqian tapped on the keyboard a few more times:

"Rank 45."

"Rank 45..."

Yu Yuanyong repeated the number thoughtfully, and glanced at the previous test results.

Although detailed peak comparison still requires experimental calculation, judging from a purely data perspective...

Iron potassium cyanide does seem like a pretty good choice?

In fact, the intermediate Yu Yuanyong initially thought of was cobalt iron carbonate composite salt, a substance commonly used in lithium batteries.

But just as its name suggests, cobalt iron carbonate composite salt is a compound with very complex components.

Although it can achieve good intermediate effects in a molten state, compared to the aqueous solution of iron potassium cyanide, the preparation difficulty and cost of molten cobalt iron carbonate composite salt are undoubtedly much higher.

If this was laboratory preparation, it would be easier to talk about.

After all, the amount required by the lab isn't much, and the model is different too.

Lab production mostly doesn't need to consider costs too much, obtaining the product can already be considered effective for such a method, and might even justify a paper.

But it's different in the industrial field.

The industrial field has to consider various real-world problems, put simply, it's about profit margins, so the simpler and cheaper, the better.

This is also the reason why substances like hydrochloric acid are produced differently in the laboratory versus industrial production — predicting some might say the syntax is mixed.

Thinking up to here.

Yu Yuanyong immediately made a decision:

"Attention all departments, let's try iron potassium cyanide first, if it doesn't work, we'll consider other substances. Get ready immediately!"

As Hanhua Group is a well-known heavy industry group in Huaxia, it's natural for the factory to have a considerable reserve of iron potassium cyanide.

Thus, very quickly.

A newly prepared high-concentration iron potassium cyanide was placed on the test bench as a substitute for catechol.

Meanwhile, considering that this time the key lies in the softening of the feedback band, with emphasis on locking the peak.

Yu Yuanyong specifically adopted a measurement method combining Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and Raman spectroscopy, with clear targeting.

Half an hour later.

Yu Yuanyong calculated the cycle of the rotation equipment, and the second round of experiments officially began.

"Beep—swoosh swoosh swoosh—"

Another fifteen minutes later.

The report results officially came out.

Yu Yuanyong took the report, glanced at it hurriedly, then his face lit up with joy as he said to Xu Yun:

"Dr. Xu, the absorption peak shifted 40nm to the right after the iron ion injection, but the selective peaks at 530 and 1060 positions did not appear!"

"No doubt, your thinking is correct, the special liquid completely balanced the interference of the feedback band!"

Upon hearing these words.

Xu Yun and Lin Zhenhua immediately smiled.

Just as Yu Yuanyong said.

This report basically confirmed Xu Yun's...or maybe Old Su's line of thinking, indicating that transition metal catalysis is no longer an insurmountable obstacle.

As early as when they arrived at the laboratory, Yu Yuanyong introduced that their team had already overcome some pre-existing technical obstacles, halting at the molecular sieve step.

And passing the molecular sieve, the only remaining problem was the directional cyclization equipment issue.

Indeed.

Directional cyclization is considered the final barrier, with difficulty possibly higher than all previous stages combined.

But at least for the overall situation.

Having only one major problem left is surely many times better than having a whole slew of issues.

It's like in online games.

Before formally attacking the boss, most players would first clear out the minor mobs and elite monsters, then focus on the boss as the singular target.

Of course.

Before launching the final general offensive, Yu Yuanyong and his team still have another issue to resolve first:

Which is how to adapt transition metals to the lowest-cost metal lanthanum.

However, this problem belongs to the realm of pure industrial optimization, beyond the capabilities of Xu Yun and others.

Furthermore, specific optimization won't yield results in a short time, taking at least more than two days.

Thus, after a simple handover.

Xu Yun and his team temporarily left the lab, taken by Zhao Haiyang to the Hanhua Group's guesthouse.

The Hanhua Group's guesthouse was a newly renovated eight-story building, not luxurious inside, but appearing rather imposing.

The specification for single rooms was a 1.8-meter bed, no bathtub in the bathroom, and besides some basic facilities, there was just a desk in the room.

The curtains in the room were electric, and the bedside table had a Xiaodu device for voice assistance.

As Lin Zhenhua previously mentioned, the room's soundproofing was exceptionally excellent:

Xu Yun played a recording of a friend snoring to ward off evil in the next room, only to find the sound couldn't get through.

In general.

It could be considered standard four-star quality.

However, instead of choosing to take a shower and then rest for a while, Xu Yun met with Old Su outside after placing his luggage.

Then he instructed Tang Li on some matters, and took the vehicle prepared by Zhao Haiyang to Yong City high-speed rail station.

The destination they must reach was quite clear:

First to Zhenjiang.

Then to Five Continents Mountain.

Finally arriving at...

Su Song's Tomb.

.....

Chapter 376 376: Zhang 207: "Regarding the Matter of Me Buying Tickets to Visit My Own Grave" (6.8K)

Among the various mountain peaks in the Zhenjiang city district and suburbs.

The meaning of the name of Five Continents Mountain, located southwest of the city suburbs, is perhaps the most varied.

In local county chronicles, Five Continents Mountain is also referred to as Five States Mountain, leading many to believe its name originates from ancient poems.

Some say its name comes from Zeng Bu's poem 'Starting from the northwest of the sea gate, the high hills appear uneven, showing the Five States.'

Others claim it originates from records in the 'Selected Works':

'In the land of Jiuzhou, the Song obtained five. People from the Five States long for the emperor's favor.'

There are even rumors that Five States Mountain is a new dragon vein that appeared in Zhenjiang after Emperor Qin Shi Huang cut through Jingyan Mountain, and whoever possesses it can claim half the world, thus named Five States.

There are many similar rumors, hard to verify.

The only thing currently certain is.

The naming of Five Continents Mountain occurred after the Kaibao Period of the Northern Song Dynasty, i.e., 968-975 AD.

The five peaks of Five Continents Mountain resemble a human hand, with the central peak being the highest and the two ends lower.

The mountain is steep to the north and more gentle to the south.

However, even the highest central peak has an elevation of only 306 meters, far from the scale of a "Great River."

Thus its fame has never been strong, limited to being relatively well-known around Zhenjiang.

However, as the saying goes.

Though small, a sparrow has all its vital organs.

This ordinary mountain peak, just over three hundred meters high, contains Elder Peak, Swan Cave, Wooden Chess Mound, Xixi, Zhuoxi Spring, Xiting Spring, Lu Pao Spring, Qianchi Well, Sun Pavilion, Lying Cloud Pavilions, and many scenic spots, along with Xianci Temple and Yinsheng Temple.

At this moment.

On a small path in the mountains.

Two young people are walking one after the other, stepping up the stairs step by step.

The two are precisely Xu Yun and Old Su.

"Actually, the origin of the name Five Continents Mountain isn't that grand."

After walking for a while.

Old Su wiped the sweat off his forehead and pointed to the faintly visible branch of the Zhenjiang Nine Bends River not far away, saying:

"In the Song Dynasty, Zhenjiang was the starting point of the South Canal and the hub of the Grand Canal, considered a key transport route."

"Back then, I served as the Southern Transport River Patrol Officer and once, at the peak of this mountain, overlooking the port, I saw five huge boats sailing side by side in the river."

"Later, I heard that this mountain was nameless, so I casually remarked, 'Why not call it Five Boats Mountain?' The then County Magistrate Wang Wenyue recorded it in the county chronicles."

"Later, when the Jin People ended our dynasty, the mountains and rivers fell, and the county chronicles of Zhenjiang in the Song Dynasty became lost."

"Therefore, as it was passed down, Five Boats Mountain became Five Continents Mountain, with all sorts of add-ons becoming quite interesting."

Next to him, Xu Yun handed him a bottle of mineral water, leaning against a rock, smiling and saying:

"That's the power of imagination, adding some embellishments during the gossiping process, and by the end, even you wouldn't know which direction things would go."

"For example, when I initially wrote a novel, I didn't know at what point I got the nickname of a fishing girl, and eventually, even the editor thought I was a girl."

"The most absurd part was during Women's Day on March 8, he even asked if I wanted to be interviewed as a representative of female authors."

Old Su: "..."

Then the two of them rested for a while before continuing their climb.

As the only two temples on Five Continents Mountain, the history of Xianci Temple and Yinsheng Temple is quite long.

Xianci Temple was originally built during the Five Dynasties, undergoing four major renovations.

The Prime Minister during the Xining Period, Chen Sheng, was buried here.

Yinsheng Temple is even older.

It was initially built in the sixth year of Tang Dazhong and has been renovated three times.

The most renowned person buried nearby is...

Su Song.

"According to the original historical trajectory, you should have returned to Jingkou, today's Zhenjiang, a month after my appearance."

Outside Yinsheng Temple, Xu Yun, holding his phone, was briefing Old Su about his afterlife:

"Then, on June 18 of the following year, you passed away due to illness in Run Prefecture, and your descendants buried you on Five Continents Mountain."

"Later, Volume Seven of the 'Jia Ding Chronicles' recorded, 'The Former Prime Minister of Wei State, Su Song Ancestral Hall, is located in Yinsheng Baoqin Temple'."

"Wow, quite a few historical figures have worshiped you, like Song Ci... Wen Tianxiang... and Zhu Yuanzhang even burned incense for you."

"Zhu Yuanzhang?"

Hearing this, Old Su was startled and asked:

"Is that the founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, whose face resembles my family's donkey?"

"...That's right."

"That is indeed quite a coincidence...."

Old Su nodded thoughtfully, then asked Xu Yun:

"Xiaoxu, where exactly is my grave?"

Xu Yun looked at the phone screen, checked the direction, and pointed to the northeast:

"It should be there."

The excavation work of Su Song's Tomb can be traced back to 2007, with substantial progress happening in 2018.

At that time, the Zhenjiang City Cultural and Broadcasting Bureau Cultural Heritage Department led an archaeological survey in the northeastern region of Five States Mountain, eventually discovering a tomb park covering an area of 2,000 square meters.

Many ceramic relics and architectural components were unearthed from the tomb park, totaling about thirty to forty pieces.

The artifacts included bowls, jars, etc., not dating later than the Southern Song Dynasty.

Archaeology unearthed two architectural components.

One was a remnant gray pottery chiwei and the other a beast-face-patterned tile eave, both featuring typical Northern Song attributes.

The heritage department later conducted many detailed surveys, and finally, on April 15, 2019, held a "Five States Mountain Northeast Northern Song Large Tomb Archaeological Survey Report," confirming Old Su as the tomb owner.

At the beginning of 2021.

The state approved the "Archaeological Excavation Certificate" Exam (2021) No. (007), permitting official archaeological excavation of this tomb site.

Chapter 377 207 "About Me Buying Tickets to Visit My Own Grave (6.8K)_2

A Su Song Exhibit Hall was also built around the Su Song's Tombstone near Yinsheng Temple.

Everyone knows.

Zhenjiang is a city with incredibly rich tourism resources.

The city has two 5A-level tourist attractions and seven 4A-level attractions, with a consistently high number of visitors over the years.

So when Xu Yun and the other person arrived, not only did they see some scattered tourists, but a modern building suddenly appeared before them.

"What did you say?"

Xu Yun looked at the ticket kiosk in front of him, with a string of question marks appearing on his forehead:

"You need to buy a ticket to visit the Su Song Ancestral Hall?"

The ticket seller was a chubby young girl, who replied in a slightly polite but emotionless tone:

"Yes, there are many artifacts from the Song Dynasty in the Su Song Ancestral Hall, and it connects to a tea garden and Zhuoxi Spring, Xiting Spring, and Lu Pao Spring. It's considered a combined scenic spot."

"This is a requirement by the Cultural Relics Bureau and Tourism Bureau, after all, it is a cultural protection unit. This is the case in most places around the country."

Xu Yun secretly glanced at Old Su, inexplicably reminded of an image of a last emperor visiting the Forbidden City.

Then he took out his phone, scanned the QR code:

"Alright, how much?"

"Children under one Pan and seniors over seventy are free, those above one Pan are ten yuan, exactly one Pan for a full ticket."

Xu Yun quickly paid 20, received the ticket stub from the ticket vendor, and walked into the attraction with Old Su.

Behind the ticket booth was a quiet wooden boardwalk, with winter sunlight warmly shining down on their faces.

The two walked straight for over fifty meters, coming upon a brand new building.

The building's land area was about three to four hundred square meters, with a statue standing prominently at the front.

The building had only one main entrance, with the bold words 'Su Song's Tomb' above it.

Xu Yun led Old Su to stand before the statue.

He first looked at the statue, then at Old Su.

Xu Yun: "...."

What can I say?

It looks like Liang Chaowei made to resemble Yang Di...

Then Old Su looked at his 'portrait', suddenly thought of something, and walked to the statue:

"Xiaoxu, help us take a photo together, and remember to include the words Su Song Ancestral Hall in the background."

Xu Yun continued:

"....."

After taking the photo.

The two walked into the Su Song Ancestral Hall.

The interior of the Su Song Ancestral Hall was somewhat vintage, dominated by dark tones, instantly imparting a feeling of the weight of time upon entering.

The walls inside the hall were inscribed with Old Su's character introductions and portraits, and there was a small television playing Old Su's life story.

Information like birth and death years, life achievements, and historical evaluations were included.

Below the walls were display cases containing items not yet moved to the museum.

Old Su and Xu Yun began to stroll from the left side, examining the relics excavated from Old Su's grave:

"This should be the tea set from the front hall. You see, this evening primrose pattern was specifically used for receiving guests."

"Tsk tsk, do you see the lower part of this lamp? The entire Su Mansion only used this kind of lamp during the first year, because his forefinger was missing a segment from the battlefield, making it hard to hold things, so I had someone make a special lamp for him."

"And this is..."

Xu Yun also walked, listened, and observed with interest, finding the items that had been buried for nearly a thousand years surprisingly familiar to him.

For example, a bamboo basket he saw.

This was the special utensil for the 'Qing' servants of Su Mansion. Xu Yun's first breakfast at Su Mansion was served using this.

Not decayed in over nine hundred years, who knows if it's due to the special environment inside the tombstone, or if some techniques had been used on it before burial.

And another stone mill he saw, was also from the Old Su Mansion.

Of course.

Xu Yun wasn't very familiar with this one, but Brother Lv was.

And as they were touring.

A couple also approached nearby, exuding a sticky romantic air.

The woman leaned on the man's arm while browsing and remarked:

"Ah Yuan, do you think these introductions are real? Was this person called Su Song really so remarkable?"

The man was a scholarly-looking guy wearing glasses, who pondered for a few seconds before saying:

"These are recorded historical achievements, so they should be real, right?"

The woman asked again:

"Then why haven't I heard much about this person in textbooks?"

"Well...."

The man opened his mouth as if to explain but ultimately gave up:

"I don't know, there must be some reason. By the way, what do you want to eat tonight?"

"Tonight huh? Fermented mandarin fish, stinky tofu, smelly amaranth stems, and a bowl of snail rice noodles, how about that?"

"Sure, and after that, I'll eat you..."

Shortly after the couple walked away.

Xu Yun and Old Su finished their tour.

Old Su adjusted his breathing for a moment, pointed outside, and said to Xu Yun:

"Let's go, take a look at my grave."

Xu Yun nodded.

And led Old Su out of the Su Song Ancestral Hall.

Anyone who has been to Five Continents Mountain would know.

The grave Old Su referred to is actually a type of mausoleum resembling a dress and cap tomb.

After all, the actual tomb chamber has not yet been fully opened, and Old Su's coffin has not yet been excavated.

This mausoleum's tombstone was built by Emperor Huizong after Old Su's death. Later, the Cultural Relics Bureau conveniently built an empty tomb behind the tombstone to provide a place for some descendants of Old Su to visit and worship.

The layout of the whole grave, if you have to describe it, somewhat resembles the Yue Fei's Tomb at West Lake:

Chapter 378 207: "About Me Buying Tickets to Visit My Own Grave" (6.8K)_3

The grave is located on a platform about thirty meters above the ground, with several small steps leading up to it.

The tombstone is approximately one and a half meters tall, with a mound about two meters in diameter behind it, surrounded by some trees.

In front of the tombstone are some incense holders, seemingly intended for tourists or descendants to pay their respects.

He stands before his own grave, looking at the names of the descendants on the tombstone.

A touch of sentiment gradually appears in Old Su's eyes.

After gradually adapting to the environment earlier, he had actually asked Xu Yun to check the information on his descendants.

He wasn't sure if it was considered fortunate.

Among his six sons.

Xiaosu Number One and Number Two, due to their advanced age, passed away before the outbreak of the Jingkang Incident.

Lived to the ages of 78 and 74, both died of natural causes in bed.

The remaining Xiaosu Number Four died at the age of 47 at the brothel due to CPU overload.

Aside from that.

Old Su's other three sons and their descendants lived on smoothly to the Southern Song period and managed to proliferate a good number of clan members.

Old Su's bloodline has continued to be passed down to the present day, with branches in Zhenjiang, Tong'an, and even Southern Sichuan.

Truth be told.

This can already be considered a good ending, deserving of the term "flourishing branches and scattered leaves."

After a while.

Old Su reached out to touch the tombstone, his fingers gliding over the rough texture, and suddenly asked:

"Xiaoxu, do you know what the old man was thinking about the night you appeared?"

Xu Yun frankly shook his head:

"I don't know."

Old Su turned around to look at him with a hint of reminiscence in his eyes, and said:

"At that time, the old man was thinking that he didn't have much time left, probably couldn't live for many more years, and wondered how people would evaluate him after a thousand or hundred years."

"Originally, the old man thought that, even if I weren't compared with Zhang Heng or Gongshu Ban in the history books, at least I would have the fame of Li Daoyuan, wouldn't I?"

After saying this, he sighed and looked at the pathway they came from.

His gaze seemed to want to penetrate through layers of obstructions, locking onto that pair of dog-like... small couple figures:

"As a result, after a thousand or hundred years, there are very few who know of the old man, with even some doubting the authenticity of my works."

Upon hearing this, Xu Yun opened his mouth, wanting to say something.

But Old Su waved his hand ahead of him, interrupting:

"There's no need to say things like 'only those who truly know can understand how great you are.' That's essentially a malformed theory, just a form of comfort."

"Even though the looks and demeanor of that couple just now aren't the best, the texture of their clothing is quite fine, and they don't have signs of toil, likely representing a couple from a reasonably well-off family."

"What they can represent is the mainstream thinking of ordinary people—
'Who is Su Song?'"

After saying this, Old Su suddenly turned around, seriously looking at Xu Yun:

"But fortunately, the old man has now lived a different life, and everything is not the same as before."

"This represents another kind of possibility, a possibility where the old man can prove himself to himself."

"Xiaoxu, back then, I thanked you once, but that was for the common people of the Great Song."

"Now I must thank you again, but this thanks is for myself."

"Thanks to you, the old man no longer has to be like the dry bones under the ground, staring bleakly at the surface in a dark coffin, listening to the doubt of later generations without any way to explain."

Then he paused for a moment, shifting his tone, and continued:

"The old man understands, in this day and age, bowing is no longer in fashion, and given your personality, you surely wouldn't be receptive to it."

"However, today the old man heard there is a song 'Let Me Say Thank You' that seems to be quite popular on the internet, so...."

"Stop, stop!"

Before Old Su could finish speaking.

Xu Yun quickly grabbed him, cold sweat trickling down his face:

"If you don't want me to end up buried on the spot, then please don't. If you really want to help, you should focus on studying harder, try to work your way into my team sooner, that's way more useful than any thank you...."

"You don't know how catchy that song is, singing it out would really make the reader bash me as a fishing girl...."

And so.

Xu Yun persistently persuaded Old Su for several minutes before finally dispelling Old Su's notion.

And just as the two were conversing.

Seven or eight middle-aged people suddenly appeared not far behind them.

These people, both men, and women, looked somewhat travel-worn.

As they approached.

The leader, a chubby man, proactively stepped forward, smiling as he asked Xu Yun and Old Su:

"Two young fellows, may I ask, are you here for sightseeing or worship?"

Xu Yun glanced at the other people who were taking things out, without replying to him, but instead asked:

"What's the matter, is there something wrong?"

The chubby man took out a business card from his body, handed it to Xu Yun, and explained:

"It's like this, we're from the Zhenjiang Su Family Ancestral Association, and I'm the director, Su Hua."

"Isn't today December 10th, which happens to be the birthday of our Su ancestor, Su Song."

"Although our clan's main ancestral worship site is in Tong'an, Min Province, since Zhenjiang is the resting place of Su Zu, we also organized some representatives to come for a visit."

"If you two are tourists, we ask for your understanding in moving to another spot for a while."

"If you are Su Family members from out of town, you are welcome to join us in worshipping Su Zu, after all, we share the same roots."

Xu Yun nodded in understanding.

Then he glanced at Old Su, intending to speak before leaving.

But he saw Old Su take a step forward, pulling out his ID card and handing it to Su Hua:

"I am also a descendant of the Su Family here to worship my ancestors. Here's my ID card."

Su Hua took the ID card, looked at it for a few seconds, and immediately raised his eyebrows:

"Wow, you're also called Su Song?"

Actually, in clan management.

Unless they are descendants that have branched off, people usually don't give their children the same names as their ancestors.

But nowadays, with the spread of various modern ideas, clan customs have gradually become obscure, and many people don't even know the names of their ancestors.

Therefore, when naming children, it often happens that they share names with ancestors.

For example, the ancestor of Xu Yun's branch of the Xu Family was called Xu Hui, a name that wasn't very distinctive and somewhat common.

As a result, during an ancestral ceremony a few years ago, Xu Yun saw three clan members named Xu Hui at the grand event...

After the initial surprise,

Su Hua quickly accepted Old Su's identity.

After all, the Su Family in Tong'an has only one main branch, Su Song, with a "pure" bloodline.

Adding to that, appearing in front of Old Su's grave at this time, the identity as a Su Family member was clearly legitimate.

Just like that.

Half an hour later.

Watching Old Su excitedly burning paper offerings with Su Hua in front of his own grave, Xu Yun couldn't help but fall into contemplation...

This scenario is really too damn ridiculous...

.....

Old Su wiped the sweat from his forehead, pointed to a faintly visible branch of the Zhenjiang Nine Bends River in the distance, and said:

"During the Song Dynasty, Zhenjiang was the starting point of the South Canal, the hub of the Grand Canal, and a crucial route for water transport."

"Back then, as the Southern Transport River Patrol Officer, I used to look out from the mountain top at the port and see five giant ships sailing side by side in the river."

"Later, I heard that this mountain was nameless, so I casually said, 'Why not just call it Five Boat Mountain?' The then County Magistrate Wang Wenyue recorded it in the county annals."

"Later, when the Jin People broke our country's lineage, the mountains and rivers fell, and the county annals of Zhenjiang from the Song Dynasty were lost."

"So as the story was passed down, Five Boat Mountain became Five Continents Mountain, with all sorts of embellishments added, which is quite amusing."

Xu Yun handed him a bottle of mineral water, leaned against a rock, and said with a smile:

"That's the power of embellishment. Add a bit while you're hearing gossip, and eventually even you don't know where the story will go."

"For example, when I was writing a novel, I somehow got the nickname 'Fishing Lady,' and even the editor thought I was a girl."

"The most absurd thing was on International Women's Day, he even asked if I wanted to accept an interview as a female author."

Old Su: "..."

Then the two of them rested for a while before they continued climbing up.

As Five Continents Mountain only has two temples, the history of Xianci Temple and Yinsheng Temple is quite long.

Xianci Temple was initially built during the Five Dynasties Period and has been rebuilt four times. During the Xining Period, Prime Minister Chen Sheng was buried here. Old Su wiped the sweat from his forehead, pointed to a faintly visible branch of the Zhenjiang Nine Bends River in the distance, and said:

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Chapter 380 208: A Letter from Newton

In recent years, due to various official regulations, behaviors like ancestral worship have been constrained significantly, unlike the ostentatious ceremonies of the earlier years.

Furthermore, since the Zhenjiang Su Clan is merely a branch, the entire worship process has become more simplified.

There are no ceremonial rituals.

No opera stages.

And certainly no thousand people worship.

All that is left is the sight of paper money being placed into iron barrels and burnt to ashes under the watchful eyes of the accompanying officials.

However, the informal process also represents relative freedom of speech, allowing everyone not to be overly restrained.

Thus, during the burning of the money.

Su Hua and Old Su occasionally exchanged a few words.

After all, the information available online is limited, and many survival conditions of descendants are only recorded within one's own clan.

"Mr. Su had six sons who all held official titles back in the day, thus after Mr. Su passed away, the six sons returned to their posts after the mourning period ended, and the descendants scattered far and wide."

It might be due to his long tenure as the clan chairman, Su Hua's tone carried a slight touch of ancient style:

"Now staying in Zhenjiang are the lineage of Mr. Su's second son, counting those doing business and studying outside, there are more than six hundred of them."

"Earlier years there used to be a Su Family Village in Zhenjiang, but later everyone moved into the city, right there, in that location."

As Su Hua spoke, he pointed to a certain direction downhill.

Old Su's eyesight was quite good, able to vaguely perceive what seemed like a factory there.

Then Su Hua remembered something and continued:

"In fact, according to the genealogical records, there was originally a Xie Family Village established along with Su Family Village."

"The two villages were less than five hundred meters apart, their relations were intimate, frequently intermarried and moved back and forth, outwardly united as one family."

Old Su was suddenly taken aback:

"Xie Family Village?"

"Yes."

Su Hua nodded, a trace of sentiment appeared in his eyes as he reminisced:

"It is said the ancestors of Xie Family Village were Mr. Su's personal old servants, after Mr. Su's death they continued to guard the tomb in the cemetery, the name seems to be Xie... Xie something...."

Just as Su Hua was stuck, Old Su suddenly blurted out a name:

"Xie Yuannian."

"Oh yes, it's Xie Yuannian!"

Su Hua clapped his hands, feeling a kind of inexplicable relief as if a giant block on the road had been moved, and then added:

"It is said that this person followed Mr. Su for several decades, and roughly five or six years after Mr. Su's death, he also passed away."

"Yet, his descendants remained in Zhenjiang, staying continuously for hundreds of years."

"However, later on, when invaders broke into Shanhai Pass, Huaxia Land suffered, and the people of Xie Family Village fled southward for refuge, breaking the connection between the two villages from then on."

"All these years, the Su Clan Council has been searching for descendants of the Xie Family Village, but since we are a self-organized group with limited capabilities, there hasn't been much progress."

Upon hearing this, Old Su shifted his posture slightly.

Trying not to let Su Hua notice the unusual expression on his face.

At the same time.

He sighed inwardly, his mind conjuring the image of Mr. Xie.

Yuannian...

His acquaintance with Mr. Xie traces back to the Second Year of Zhihe, which is AD 1055.

Just then Mr. Xie had retired from the Western Army, and Old Su from Trial Hall proofreading was promoted to Vice Minister of the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Xie's father once served under Old Su's grandfather's command, through this connection Mr. Xie entered the Su Mansion as Old Su's personal servant.

He served for exactly 46 years.

Old Su remembered very clearly.

Before his death, he had specifically instructed Mr. Xie to use the savings accumulated over the years to return to his hometown, become a wealthy man, play with grandchildren, and enjoy the bliss of heaven and earth.

The current world line of himself had died a few years earlier, but these decisions were already made in his heart before he left Jingkou, a few years early or late won't make much difference.

In this world line, surely before his death, he had also given these instructions.

But clearly.

Mr. Xie did not follow his advice.

Indeed.

With the passage of time, it is possible that several generations later Mr. Xie's descendants had forgotten the ancestral relation.

They chose to reside here more because they considered this place as home, unrelated to 'loyalty.'

But regardless.

The fact that the Xie Family Village accompanied the Su Family Village for hundreds of years is a settled fact, the sentiment Old Su must acknowledge.

At the same time.

Perhaps because Old Su easily mentioned Mr. Xie's name.

Su Hua seemed greatly appreciative of this same clan 'descendant', and proceeded to introduce several other branches of the Su Family clan.

For example, the main branch from the eldest son of the Su Family has the largest number of people, scattered all over the country, primarily engaged in tea and clock business.

Another example is that most descendants of the third son of the Su Family are involved in overseas catering, mainly in Spain and Italy.

Meanwhile.

During the conversation between Old Su and Su Hua.

Xu Yun suddenly felt a slight movement within, as if sensing something.

He glanced lightly at Old Su and Su Hua who were engrossed in talking, then at the various descendants of the Su Family busy burning paper.

Judging by the situation, it was estimated that this ancestral worship would take some time to conclude.

Thus he casually found an excuse regarding nature's call, and ran to the bathroom within the scenic area.

Opened a single stall and locked it.

Then he entered the Halo.

Only to find that at this moment, the situation within the Halo seemed somewhat strange:

Students with good memory might remember.

A long, long time ago, Xu Yun, after fulfilling certain conditions, used three hundred knowledge points to manifest three doors.

At the same time.