

## **Global CM 421**

Chapter 421: God of Power! (Three in One, 3/5)\_1

After Chen Mo and the others returned to their seats, the teacher introduced himself, saying, "The three new students have all introduced themselves, so let me introduce you to the rest of the class."

"First, let me introduce myself. I'm Summer, and I'll be your class advisor from now on. If you have any questions or don't understand something, feel free to come to me."

After his introduction, Summer introduced the other students to Chen Mo and the other two new students.

Once everyone was acquainted, Summer began the formal lessons.

He taught a proper mathematics course.

Mathematics, regardless of the era, is an essential subject. It was a subject that required continued study even in college.

There were four classes in the morning, two of which were mathematics.

The latter two were cultural studies, covering subjects like history and literature.

These were also required subjects. While they didn't seem directly related to improving combat power, they were valuable for broadening the students' knowledge and Experience.

A rich literary heritage is a defining characteristic and the very soul of Earth's civilization!

No matter how the world changed, education in this aspect had never been abandoned.

Moreover, improving literary proficiency also helped to cultivate Wisdom. Among the various activities in the Milky Way, there was an event called the "Peak of Wisdom."

The rewards were very generous, and this activity tested not combat power, but pure Wisdom.

Earth's professionals might not dare to participate recklessly in other activities, but many were eager to take on this particular challenge.

Although the rankings they achieved each time they participated weren't very high, they could at least squeeze into the top ten, and that was enough.

Chen Mo knew about this event, but he wasn't very interested in it. That kind of intellectual contest was too much of a headache for him.

By the end of the four morning classes, Chen Mo felt as if he had returned to his grueling school days of the past.

However, he was more interested in the four afternoon classes.

These four were dedicated specialization courses.

Instructors specializing in each type of profession would impart combat Experience.

Although everyone's chosen profession might not be identical, the Experience of their seniors was highly relevant and valuable.

Since there weren't many professionals of the Skeleton Mage lineage, Chen Mo was the only one in his group for this course.

This effectively meant he received one-on-one instruction from the teacher. It was quite an advantageous situation.

After everyone assembled in the training hall, they were led off in different directions by various instructors.

Before Chen Mo stood a figure wearing a peculiar mask.

He immediately used his Pioneer ability to sense the figure. To his surprise, he discovered the mask was Artifact Level, and it completely obscured the wearer's features, preventing him from probing any further.

This made Chen Mo very curious. He wondered what this teacher looked like and why they wore a mask.

Is it some kind of facial defect? But for a teacher at a top university, changing their appearance shouldn't be hard.

While Chen Mo was pondering this, the black-robed figure before him spoke. The voice was pleasant, feminine, gentle yet carrying a hint of authority. "Student Chen Mo, I will be guiding your specialization classes from now on. My name is Jing. You may address me however you wish."

"Hello, Teacher Jing. Then I'll be relying on your guidance from now on," Chen Mo immediately saluted respectfully.

"I heard that during the recent Disaster, you were already capable of providing support across various locations. Your inherent combat power must be quite extraordinary. In terms of sheer combat strength, I might not even be qualified to be your teacher.

However, when it comes to maximizing the utilization of summoned creatures, I believe I have some Experience that I can share with you."

"I await your instruction, Teacher."

"How familiar are you with the history of our China during the Ancient Times?"

"I have a basic understanding."

"Then are you aware of how many wondrous battle Formations our ancestors in ancient China created?"

"I've heard a little, but those are mostly Formations from the age of cold weapons. Can they truly bring about a qualitative change to the combat power of the summoned creatures under my command?"

"Indeed, Formations from the Ancient Times are outdated in this era. However, after modification, they can still be exceptionally effective.

While deploying a Formation isn't advantageous in every single situation, in most circumstances, there's a significant difference in combat efficiency between those who understand Formations and those who don't.

And compared to the Ancient Times, we possess a unique, inherent advantage.

In the Ancient Times, deploying a Formation required soldiers with exceptional coordination and rapid reflexes. It also necessitated an excellent point for dispatching signals. Whether using signal flags or drums, their effectiveness would be compromised on a real battlefield. They couldn't truly convey instructions with perfect accuracy and timing at all times.

Furthermore, there were limitations regarding the efficiency of transmitting and executing commands.

However, we Skeleton Mages, by the nature of our profession, don't suffer from these drawbacks.

We can summon numerous creatures and command them instantly with a mere thought. This allows us to bypass the need for extensive coordination training and avoid the problems of signal dispatch and reception.

We can deploy and alter Formations swiftly and directly. Therefore, the Formations left by our ancestors are, for us, essentially a gift of exceptional Skills!

Responding to different combat scenarios with appropriate Formations is far more effective, both offensively and defensively, than simply having a disorganized horde of summoned creatures scattered about."

Chen Mo naturally agreed with his teacher's points.

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He had previously contemplated this matter when facing some agile enemies. If there was a perfect troop Formation to pin down the opponent, their agility would be useless. Previously, his only way of dealing with them in a cramped space was to attempt to hit them by employing an exceptionally dense attack, akin to finding a needle in a haystack. If there was a fantastic troop Formation that could steadily confine the enemy, the entire team's attack hit rate could potentially increase manifold.

After Jing introduced Chen Mo to the utility of troop Formations, he casually sprinkled some powder and instantly summoned tens of thousands of Skeleton Monsters. These Skeleton Monsters had low attributes. After all, other people's Skeleton Summoning Skills hadn't been synthesized as many times as Chen Mo's, which was extremely high-grade and possessed so many quirks.

The Skeleton Summoning Skill learned by a normal Skeleton Mage professional is quite weak. However, ordinary Skeleton Mages don't usually employ skeleton summoning in actual combat primarily to use this Skill against others. Instead, they use the Skeleton Monsters summoned through this Skill as mediums for summoning other, more formidable Undead Units.

Owing to his Dominator's Appearance Skill, Chen Mo could summon all types of Ghosts without any preconditions. If he didn't have this passive ability, whenever Chen Mo needed to summon top-tier Ghosts, he would receive The Heavenly Path's Hint about needing to prepare a medium. Similarly, to summon a large number of Ghosts, a medium was required. Take the powder that Jing had just sprinkled, for instance. It was the "Undead Powder," a necessary item for summoning large numbers of Ghosts! Ordinary Skeleton Mage professionals were typically required to carry this regularly, unless their profession specifically stated they didn't need it. Therefore, despite seemingly being able to summon a substantial number of Ghosts, the Skeleton Mage class line was actually quite restricted.

The more powerful the Ghosts, the higher the summoning requirements. The greater the number of summons, the higher the summoning requirements. This was unlike Chen Mo, who not only had a chance to directly summon god-grade Ghosts but also a chance to summon several hundred times the number of summoned creatures.

As tens of thousands of Skeleton Monsters emerged, Jing immediately showed Chen Mo some Formations. Soon, the Skeleton Monsters' formation underwent three changes. The first was a

formation resembling an Eight Trigrams Array. The second was a formation resembling a Yin Yang Formation. The third was a formation resembling a Hurricane Formation.

According to Jing, the Eight Trigrams Array is a confinement Formation, the Yin Yang Formation is a single-kill Formation, and the Hurricane Formation is a group-kill Formation. These three Formations are quite practical. Among them, the Eight Trigrams Array is the most complex Formation. To achieve the effect of the confinement Formation, ordinary Skeleton Monsters are naturally insufficient. It requires the deployment of at least several types of functional Ghosts, working together, to create a perfect Eight Trigrams confinement Formation. The advantage of a confinement Formation is its versatility: it can be used to kill or trap enemies. This allows one's side to gather information about the enemy and then decide whether to flee or fight. As long as the enemy remains trapped, the initiative lies with the summoner's side.

The latter two kill Formations are set up to maximize the team's attack efficiency. They can be easily set up even with ordinary Skeleton Monsters. However, compared to the Eight Trigrams Array, the latter two Formations have weaker defenses and require timely replenishment of Ghosts. Otherwise, they can be broken relatively easily.

"These three troop Formations are rather basic versions," Jing explained. "There are advanced versions of higher-ranking troop Formations beyond these, but they typically require stronger Ghosts to be part of the Formation. They're not easy to learn, and the usage conditions are very stringent. At your Level, you probably can't summon many top-tier Ghosts. So, it's better to first study these three basic troop Formations until you understand them and can use them proficiently."

Hearing his mentor say this, Chen Mo nodded with a smile. Although he could summon plenty of top-tier Ghosts, his Level was still too low to summon them as abundantly as ordinary Skeleton Monsters. Therefore, they were still somewhat inadequate for setting up Formations. For now, it was better to first thoroughly understand the basics of these three Formations.

For instance, Chen Mo already found the Yin Yang Formation quite useful. He had just entered the Formation to test it. If he were trapped in the middle to be killed, even if he could swiftly defeat the surrounding Skeleton Monsters, the Formation of Skeleton Monsters could constantly replenish their ranks to attack him in a spiral manner. He felt as if he had fallen into a huge millstone, continuously being ground down.

Fortunately, Chen Mo was powerful enough. Additionally, the Skeleton Monsters summoned by his mentor were only for teaching purposes and weren't summoned at full strength, so their combat prowess wasn't formidable. Thus, Chen Mo didn't suffer any injuries even when entrapped.

Apart from issues with Formations, Jing also provided Chen Mo with some guidance on the development paths for a Skeleton Mage. Ordinary people couldn't possibly trigger a hidden profession rebirth mission like Chen Mo when they underwent a profession change, nor could they always pass five-star level rebirth missions. Therefore, their opportunities to enhance their Skills were limited. Under such circumstances, differences in development paths would emerge. Since they couldn't have everything, different paths had to be chosen.

Generally, there were two paths for Skeleton Mages. One was the elite summoning route, and the other was the mass summoning route. For the elite summoning route, the goal was naturally to summon stronger Undead Units. The mass summoning route, however, prioritized quantity over quality. It could only be said that each had its pros and cons.

However, for Chen Mo, he didn't actually need to make a choice; he could have it all.

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As for this kind of experience, there was no real need for him to learn it. He had mainly come to learn combat experience from army formations. After an afternoon of formation battle training with his teacher, Chen Mo had gained quite a lot.

Of the three army formations, the Eight Trigrams Array was the most difficult to use and learn; Chen Mo had only grasped the basics so far. The other two killing formations, on the other hand, were relatively easy to learn. Although he hadn't mastered them, he could at least use them adequately. Chen Mo was quite satisfied with this result.

After finishing the day's lessons, Chen Mo was preparing to have dinner and then return to his dormitory to challenge the Legendary Trial. Before he could take more than a few steps, three distinct fragrant scents wafted over from behind him. He knew who had arrived without even turning his head. It was Alina, Yan Yingyue, and Shen Bingbing.

"Have you all become good friends already?" Chen Mo looked at the three of them, surprised they were walking together so soon.

"Of course! Girls become friends this quickly." Alina walked in the middle, linking arms with Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing on either side, and said with a radiant smile.

Chen Mo just smiled and didn't say much.

"I really didn't know the three of you were schoolmates; that's amazing! This is the first time I've heard of three classmates from the same school all getting into a top university together," Alina remarked.

"Indeed, it's rare," Chen Mo nodded with a faint smile.

Seeing Alina and Chen Mo chatting freely, Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing started to feel a bit ignored, so they quickly struck up a conversation with Chen Mo as well.

"Chen Mo, how did your studies go today?" Shen Bingbing asked, looking at Chen Mo.

"Not bad, it was very beneficial. How about you all?"

"We also learned some things we hadn't paid attention to before, which were very useful," Yan Yingyue said with a smile.

"It seems we've all become a bit stronger."

"Chen, are you going to have dinner now? Let's all go together," Alina interjected.

Chen Mo joked with a smile, "Sure, though just looking at the three of you is a feast for the eyes."

"Chen, you really know how to talk," Alina smiled and moved to walk side by side with him.

However, soon the two of them walking side by side turned into four of them walking side by side. Passersby could sense a subtle, unapproachable air surrounding the four of them. Yet Chen Mo, amidst the group, was still joking and laughing with the three girls as usual, seemingly oblivious to any tension.

When they reached the dining hall and had ordered their food, Alina turned to Chen Mo with a smile and said, "Chen, we don't have classes Wednesday morning, so are you free Tuesday night? I spent a lot of credits and finally managed to get an entry permit for a challenge-level SSS-level dungeon. Are you interested in trying it with me? It should take about 12 hours."

"How many people?"

"Just the two of us would be perfect. But if you feel we need more teammates, we can call others," Alina said with a smile, glancing at Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing beside her.

"Didn't you have team members before?" Chen Mo asked in surprise.

"Before? I did, but they didn't synergize well with me. Chen, you're a Skeleton Mage. My copying ability combined with your numerous summons should produce excellent effects. Clearing an SSS-level challenge-level dungeon shouldn't be too difficult."

"The mortality rate in SSS-level trial dungeons isn't low, is it? You're quite brave to trust me so much." Chen Mo looked at Alina in surprise.

Trial dungeons, similar to challenge-level ones, were dungeons whose difficulty changed according to the entrants' Level. However, the difference was that challenge-level dungeons imposed level restrictions. For instance, in a Level 10 challenge-level dungeon, all entrants, regardless of their actual Level, would be treated as Level 10. Trial dungeons, on the other hand, changed difficulty based on the highest Level player in the entering team. They usually generated enemies equivalent to the highest-Level player in the team and enhanced them based on the difficulty, which makes them quite challenging. The SSS-level trial dungeon was the most elite among them, with an extremely high death rate! That was why Chen Mo was so surprised.

"Because I have this," Alina said with a smile, taking out a special stone.

Chen Mo sensed it and realized it was an "Instant Group-Departure Stone". This item was different from ordinary Detachment Stones; it could be used in combat. Moreover, it was instantaneous and could allow the entire team to escape from the dungeon in any crisis. This kind of item was very rare and non-tradable. It could only be obtained by chance when clearing S-level or higher dungeons. If she had such a valuable item, they could indeed withdraw whenever they wanted, ensuring their Life safety. But she

was also quite bold; to think she was willing to use such a precious, hard-to-come-by life-saving item for a dungeon run with someone she had just met.

"So, are you interested in trying?" Alina's azure eyes stared intently at Chen Mo, awaiting his answer.

"Since it's a trial dungeon, how are you certain our Levels are compatible?"

"Chen, I'm very intelligent, you know. The Sound of the Great Path was triggered by you, right? It has only triggered up to Level 30 so far, so your Level should be no more than 35 at most. I'm a first-transition Level 40. That's only a 5 to 10 Level difference in terms of difficulty. For a powerhouse of your caliber, that small difference probably doesn't matter much, does it?" Alina said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing both turned to look at Chen Mo. They were actually the most surprised by Chen Mo's transformation.

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After all, they were classmates who had awakened around the same time at their school.

Although Chen Mo was recognized by everyone as a Skeleton Mage, his performance always defied expectations.

They couldn't understand how he did it.

But they understood at least one thing: considering Chen Mo's track record, it was highly probable that he had triggered the sound of the great path.

"Interesting. Sure, if you don't mind me slowing you down, I'll join you. I haven't been in an SSS-level divided dungeon yet. I heard the death rate is as high as 90%, right?"

"To be precise, for those under a fifth-transition, the death rate is as high as 99%, while for those above, it's around 50%," Alina corrected with a smile.

"Having an Instant Departure Stone certainly makes one bold. Alright, I'll go," Chen Mo said with a grin.

"Originally, I intended to bring Yuer and Bingbing along. However, their levels aren't quite up to par, and the level gap in divided dungeons can't be too large. So, I could only invite you," Alina glanced regretfully at Yan Yingyue and Shen Bingbing.

Their ability to earn experience points wasn't as formidable as Chen Mo's. Alina had awakened her profession much earlier than they had, so her level was naturally higher.

"Alright then, contact me when you're ready tomorrow night," Chen Mo said to Alina after adding her as a friend in the Heavenly Path System.

In fact, after dinner, he would return for the Legendary Trial challenge. By the time Chen Mo emerged, it would be Tuesday evening, which was when Alina had scheduled their outing. For Chen Mo, the timing was almost seamless.

Since their plans for the next evening were set, Chen Mo immediately accessed the Heavenly Path System and opened the Legendary Trial interface as soon as he returned to his room.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You are about to go to the Trial Tower for the Legendary Trial. Regardless of how long you spend in the Trial Tower, it will always take one day in real-world time.

Each Legendary Trial only allows one challenge attempt. Whether the challenge is successful or not, the level cap will be lifted.

Please note that failing the Legendary Trial will result in the loss of all your current experience points. Furthermore, dying in the Legendary Trial, while not causing actual death, will lead to a drop in your level!]

Ignoring the warning, Chen Mo directly chose to challenge.

A flash of light later, Chen Mo found himself back in the Divine Training Tower.

This time, he appeared on the eleventh floor.

The eleventh floor was a peculiar small room containing only a table and two chairs. A strange, black-skinned being covered in intricate golden patterns was already seated in one of the chairs.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Welcome to the Divine Training Tower! After entering the Trial Tower, you are allowed to challenge ten consecutive floors. Each floor offers only three challenge attempts. If all three attempts are used without clearing the floor, the challenge will be deemed a failure!]

In the Trial Tower, upon reaching the fourteenth, seventeenth, and twentieth floors, you will receive a chance to claim rewards and quit the trial. If you feel your strength is insufficient at any point, retreating early is also an excellent option.]

After reading The Heavenly Path's Hint, Chen Mo looked at the black-skinned creature before him, curious about what this floor entailed.

Using his Pioneer's perception ability, he attempted to sense the creature's attributes.

He hadn't sensed it before, but doing so now gave him a shock. This seemingly ordinary black-skinned creature possessed terrifyingly high Divine Power. A single glance was enough for Chen Mo to realize this was an opponent he could never hope to defeat.

If it wanted to kill him, it would be incredibly easy.

Placing an enemy here that I obviously can't beat... what are they trying to do?

Chen Mo stared doubtfully at the mysterious black-skinned creature.

"Greetings, challenger. Please sit."

Noticing Chen Mo's gaze, the black-skinned creature smiled at him and spoke.

Chen Mo, still puzzled, pulled out the other chair and sat down, continuing to look curiously at the creature.

The creature continued, "Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Cha Latu. You may also call me the 'God of Power'."

Hearing this title, Chen Mo knew this being was authentic; no wonder its Divine Power was so outrageously high.

Chen Mo gave a slight bow to Cha Latu and said, "Greetings, God of Power. May I ask what form the Legendary Trial on this floor will take? If you are the opponent, I'm afraid even a billion of me wouldn't stand a chance against you."

Chapter 425: A Different Test! (Two in One, 5/5)\_1

Hearing Chen Mo say this, Cha Latu immediately laughed and said, "Don't worry. My being in this position doesn't mean I'd take advantage of you. I forgot to mention my other title. In addition to being the God of Power, I am also the God of Wisdom."

"The God of Wisdom? You're not suggesting that this Legendary Trial is a test of wisdom, are you?"

"That's correct," Cha Latu affirmed with a smile. "As a being surpassing the pinnacle, wisdom is a crucial component. Therefore, these twenty levels are testing your wisdom."

Hearing this, Chen Mo felt a bit overwhelmed.

"Can't we switch the challenge mode?"

"You can try it first. If you fail three times in a row, we'll discuss alternatives."

Cha Latu revealed a mysterious smile.

Seeing this, Chen Mo didn't know what else to say. Well, since I'm here, I might as well see it through, he thought, then said, "Please pose the first question of this level."

"Alright, let me first explain the rules of the challenge.

"First, I will pose a difficult problem to you. If you can answer correctly, you will pass directly.

"Don't worry. The questions I ask will mainly derive from the cultural foundations that have evolved on your planet to this day and won't involve any incomprehensible logic.

"If you answer incorrectly, don't fret; you won't immediately fail.

"You will have one chance to ask me a question in return. As long as I can't answer it but you can, that round will be considered a draw.

"After that, I will continue to ask questions, and you will continue to answer."

After finishing his sentence, Cha Latu quickly added, "Do not try to ask about the names or ages of people I wouldn't know, or purely mathematical calculation problems. The questions must be solvable with logic.

"Alternatively, if you provide enough clues for me to infer names, then you are allowed to ask about names, as this also falls within the scope of logical deduction."

Hearing this, Chen Mo laughed helplessly. He had indeed briefly considered such an approach.

"Understood. Please pose the first question."

"Alright, the first question: 'What is something that is clearly present before your eyes but very hard to find?' What is the answer to this question?"

"The answer." Chen Mo smiled. I've seen this question before! Thanks to my experiences from my previous life. If there's a question, the answer naturally exists; it's just very hard to find. Only 'the answer' fulfills the contradictory characteristics of being both obvious and difficult to find.

"Correct. You've passed the eleventh level."

Cha Latu laughed and lightly tapped the table. Immediately, a CLICK-CLACK sound echoed, and a space opened above Chen Mo's head. The two chairs and the table, along with Chen Mo and Cha Latu, WHOOSHED up, ascending to the twelfth level.

As the opening in the floor closed, Cha Latu looked at Chen Mo again and said, "You answered quite smoothly. Interesting. Let's proceed to the second question."

"Here's the question: Three men went to stay in a hotel. The room cost for the night was originally 30 copper coins. However, due to a special event that evening, the rate was discounted to 25 coins. The hotel owner mistakenly charged them 30 copper coins, overcharging them by 5. He instructed an employee to return these 5 copper coins to the men. The employee, however, decided to return only 1 copper coin to each man and secretly kept 2 for himself. So, each man effectively paid 9 copper coins. That's a total of 27 copper coins paid by the men. If you add the 2 copper coins the employee kept to this 27, you get 29 copper coins. Why is one copper coin missing?"

This question seems a bit confusing at first glance. It feels like no matter how you calculate it, one copper coin is missing, but that's not actually the case.

After listening to the question, Chen Mo immediately provided the answer: "This is a misleading question. Each man effectively paid 9 copper coins, totaling 27 copper coins. The 2 copper coins the employee pocketed are already included within those 27 copper coins, so you shouldn't add the employee's 2 coins to the 27. The 27 coins represent the actual cost to the men. If you add the 3 coins that were returned to them—1 each—to the 27 they paid, you get 30 copper coins, the original amount. Not one more, not one less. So no coin is missing."

As expected, after Chen Mo finished his answer, Cha Latu smiled, tapped the table, and in an instant, the two of them ascended to the thirteenth level.

"It seems your perception and clarity of thought are both first-rate."

Cha Latu complimented Chen Mo.

Chen Mo laughed and said, "I just got lucky with those."

Indeed, for these two questions, I didn't have to think much, since I'd encountered them before. Cha Latu did say at the beginning that his questions would be based on the culture of Earth, so most of them are likely well-known riddles from Earth.

Upon reaching the thirteenth level, Cha Latu chuckled and said, "On an Uninhabited Island, there are two people. One always tells the truth, and the other always lies. I can only ask one of them a single question to determine the correct route to the harbor. What question should I ask to find the correct way to the harbor?"

"It's simple. You ask either person: 'If I were to ask the *other* person which route *does not* lead to the harbor, which route would he point to?'

"If you ask the liar: He knows the truth-teller (the other person), when asked 'Which route does NOT lead to the harbor?', would point to an actual non-harbor route. The liar must lie about what the truth-teller would point to, so the liar will point to the *correct* route to the harbor.

"If you ask the truth-teller: He knows the liar (the other person), if asked 'Which route does NOT lead to the harbor?', would lie and point to the *correct* route to the harbor. The truth-teller will truthfully report this, so he also points to the *correct* route.

"So, in both cases, they point you to the correct route."

Although this question can be tricky, it's so well-known that I've practically memorized it. I didn't expect him to use such a classic, almost childish, riddle.

Chapter 426: Different Test! (Two in One, 5/5)\_2

Even considering it as the thirteenth-level question, Chen Mo couldn't help but feel like it was a freebie.

To Cha Latu, the fact that Chen Mo answered this question correctly seemed impressive, as if he considered it a very difficult riddle.

In an instant, they were both elevated to the fourteenth floor.

This time, Cha Latu changed his demeanor. Looking at Chen Mo, he said, "This next question is quite challenging."

Upon hearing this, Chen Mo was all ears. He was curious to know exactly how this riddle, claimed to be uncommonly difficult, would turn out.

"This question is: which came first, the chicken or the egg? Whatever answer you give, it must be logically sound."

Cha Latu smiled at Chen Mo and said, "As far as I know, this riddle is considered top-tier difficulty on your planet Earth. If you can't answer it, you can choose to give up; you'll still have a chance to tie with me."

Hearing this, Chen Mo plunged into deep thought. Indeed, this riddle was as tough to solve as deciding whom to save first if two loved ones fell into the water simultaneously.

After carefully considering the question, Chen Mo's eyes suddenly lit up; he had figured out the answer.

He looked at Cha Latu and said, "I've got it."

"Please proceed."

Cha Latu watched Chen Mo with interest, eager to hear his answer.

"The egg came first," Chen Mo stated directly.

"Oh? And why is that?"

"Regarding the question of whether the chicken or the egg came first, we can use hypothetical reasoning. In the scenario where the chicken came first, we must consider hens and roosters. As everyone knows, roosters don't lay eggs. So, if a chicken came first, it's impossible for there to definitely be an egg as a result, because if that first chicken was a rooster, there would be no egg."

"Please continue," Cha Latu said with a smile, listening to Chen Mo's explanation.

"On the other hand, if the egg came first, regardless of whether it hatches into a hen or a rooster, the result is definitely a chicken. Therefore, the egg comes before the chicken."

"What if your egg hatches a rooster?"

Hearing this, Chen Mo chuckled. "I knew you'd ask that, but your question is irrelevant. The outcome has already been determined, regardless of whether the egg hatches into a rooster or a hen, or whether offspring can be produced afterward. Even if the egg hatches a rooster, it still means the egg came first, then the chicken. The original question doesn't require us to address whether there will be more eggs or chickens later. Similarly, if you were to ask where the very first egg came from, that's also outside the scope of the question. Your question was simply whether the chicken or the egg came first. Therefore, I only need to prove which of the two propositions leads to a definite outcome."

"Interesting. Indeed, your solution is logical as you've explained. Well, consider this fourteenth floor passed."

As Cha Latu finished speaking, The Heavenly Path's Hint promptly sounded in Chen Mo's ear.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations on successfully clearing the fourteenth floor of the Divine Training Tower. You have received a "Special Item Divine-Level Gift Pack." If you choose to exit the challenge now, you will still receive 3 points of Divine Power. However, after exiting, you will only be able to re-enter when the next challenge opportunity arises. Please be aware.]

With the preceding four floors cleared so easily, Chen Mo felt quite relaxed.

However, based on the trials of the previous ten floors, the first four floors and the subsequent two stages didn't seem to be the same type of challenge.

Chen Mo tentatively asked Cha Latu, who was in front of him, "May I ask if the tests from the fifteenth floor onward will also be question-and-answer type challenges?"

Cha Latu chuckled and said, "There will be some changes, but it will still be a test of wisdom. If you feel like quitting while you're ahead, you can leave now."

Just receiving 3 points of Divine Power wasn't enough for Chen Mo. This Divine Power was so precious; he was determined to take it all.

He immediately said, "Let's continue."

"Good! As expected of someone who inherited the Divine Physique, you've got guts!" Cha Latu admired Chen Mo, slapping the table with a laugh.

Instantly, they both ascended to the fifteenth floor.

"From the fifteenth to the seventeenth floors, it's no longer simple questions and answers, but a series of strategic games."

"Strategic games? Don't tell me it's something like rock, paper, scissors?" Chen Mo asked in surprise.

Hearing this, Cha Latu chuckled. "More or less."

"Well then, please present your first game."

"Alright, the first game is simple: we count towards thirty. Whoever is forced to say 'thirty' loses. In each turn, a player can advance the count by one or two numbers. Since this game has a strategy that guarantees a win for the first player, I'll let you go first."

Chen Mo vaguely remembered this game. He tried to recall the surefire winning strategy... and soon, he did.

With a smile, he promptly said, "Two."

Cha Latu said, "Then I'll add two, making it four."

"Five."

"Seven."

"Eight," Chen Mo quickly stated.

Seeing Chen Mo add one each time, Cha Latu thought for a moment and said, "Nine."

"Eleven." This time, Chen Mo added two.

"It seems you've found the solution," Cha Latu said with a smile. "Twelve."

"Fourteen."

Seeing Chen Mo add two again, Cha Latu became certain that Chen Mo had mastered the solution.

"Sixteen."

After Cha Latu called out sixteen, Chen Mo immediately switched to adding one. "Seventeen!"

Cha Latu called nineteen; Chen Mo immediately called twenty.

Cha Latu called twenty-two; Chen Mo called twenty-three.

Cha Latu called twenty-four; Chen Mo called twenty-six.

At this point, the outcome was essentially decided. Whoever could call twenty-six first, assuming they didn't intentionally throw the game, meant the other person was guaranteed to lose.

Now, regardless of whether Cha Latu called twenty-seven or twenty-eight, Chen Mo would directly call twenty-nine. Cha Latu would be forced to call thirty.

And calling thirty meant losing.

Seeing this, Cha Latu didn't continue. He laughed and said, "Very good. You saw through the winning strategy right away."

With a slap on the table from Cha Latu, they both immediately ascended to the sixteenth floor.

"There's no guaranteed winning strategy on this floor," Cha Latu said to Chen Mo with a smile.

"What happens if I fail on this floor?"

"I'll allow you to design a two-player game. However, if it involves taking turns, I will decide who goes first. If you win under these conditions, it will be considered a draw."

Hearing this, Chen Mo nodded. "Then please, present your challenge."

"It's simple, just the game you mentioned earlier: Rock-Paper-Scissors. But it's a best-of-seven series. A single round can be pure luck, but winning four out of seven comes down to skill," Cha Latu said with a smile. "To prevent any issues with changing hand gestures, let's use this deck of cards instead."

With a wave of Cha Latu's hand, a stack of cards appeared before them. They depicted seven sets of Rock, Paper, Scissors.

"Each time, we'll take one set to compete. I'll place my card first."

Rock-Paper-Scissors has certain strategic elements, but luck also contributes to the win rate. Chen Mo recalled his past life experiences with the game.

He directly played a Rock card. Based on personality assessment, aggressive types tended to favor Scissors. Chen Mo decided to use this first game as an experiment to test Cha Latu's temperament. After all, a seven-round match was clearly designed so the initial rounds could be used for gathering intelligence.

As the cards were revealed, Chen Mo lost. Although his opponent was the God of Power, he seemed to have a gentle personality; he had played Paper, which can wrap anything.

In the second round, Chen Mo continued to play Rock. This time, Cha Latu switched to Scissors. Chen Mo won.

They played a total of five rounds consecutively in this manner. Chen Mo had played Rock for five straight rounds. By this point, Cha Latu had won three rounds, and Chen Mo two.

Cha Latu was now at match point. Now that he was at match point, Cha Latu assumed Chen Mo would be in a bind, struggling with his choice.

Unexpectedly, however, Chen Mo placed his card down first this round. "I've already played. Your turn."

Chen Mo grinned at him, looking as if victory was already assured.

This, however, puzzled Cha Latu.

In the previous few rounds, Chen Mo had met every change with an unchanging tactic. It had seemed as though Chen Mo had revealed his habit of only playing Rock; however, in reality, he had been grasping how Cha Latu reacted to unusual situations.

By now, Chen Mo had gained some understanding of Cha Latu, while Chen Mo himself remained a complete enigma to Cha Latu!

Under these circumstances, although it appeared to be Cha Latu's match point in this game of Rock-Paper-Scissors, the momentum was subtly shifting, with Chen Mo beginning to take control.

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Chen Mo was the first to lay down his card.

Cha Latu chuckled. "Interesting. You dare to make the first move at this stage?"

"I believe you will play the card I expect," Chen Mo replied with a smile.

At this point, Cha Latu said casually, "You want to seize the initiative? Fine, I'll give you another chance..."

As he spoke, Cha Latu spread out three cards. "To make this game more than just pure luck, I'm giving you an opportunity. You pick one. After you've chosen, I'll decide whether or not to play that card."

Clearly, this was a strategic play. Chen Mo had initially wanted to seize control and confuse his opponent, but he hadn't expected Cha Latu to anticipate such a move.

He glanced at the three cards in his opponent's hand and, without hesitation, pointed at 'scissors'.

"Interesting. So you're still playing 'rock' then?" After Chen Mo indicated his choice for Cha Latu, Cha Latu looked at him.

Chen Mo responded with a noncommittal smile but said nothing more.

"Alright. If I lose this round, it'll be a tie. I'm quite curious to see what you'll play in the final round if it comes to that. So, I'll play 'scissors' as you picked."

Surprisingly, Cha Latu did as Chen Mo had indicated and played 'scissors'.

When Chen Mo unveiled his card, he had indeed played 'rock' again.

"Still 'rock'! Kid, playing 'rock' for six rounds in a row is amusing. But how did you dare to play 'rock' first this time? Given your previous pattern, wasn't it highly probable I'd play 'paper'?"

"The previous few times I played 'rock', I deliberated carefully," Chen Mo explained with a calm smile. "This round, however, was your match point, so I made a swift decision. This uncharacteristic behavior would surely make you suspect my earlier plays were just a setup. You'd likely believe I was trying to mislead you into thinking I wouldn't play 'rock' again. Consequently, your probability of playing 'scissors'—even if you anticipated 'paper' from me—wouldn't be straightforwardly high; you'd be more hesitant."

"You have bold confidence in your judgment. But why did you dare to choose 'scissors' for me directly?"

"Just as I said, I played 'rock' swiftly. I also chose 'scissors' quickly from your options to reinforce your suspicion. This way, you'd become even more doubtful," Chen Mo continued with a laugh. "And finally, I've already thought of an interesting game for us to play later, so I'm not afraid of losing this particular round."

"Oh? Then I must win this final round against you. I'm quite eager to hear about the game you've designed."

"We'll see if you can win this final round then."

With the score tied at three wins each, Cha Latu was the first to place a card face down. Then, he looked at Chen Mo and said, "How about I choose the card for you this time?"

Chen Mo smiled. "Sure."

He spread out three cards for Cha Latu to choose from.

Very quickly, Cha Latu picked one: 'rock'.

"How about it? Dare to play this one directly?" Cha Latu asked provocatively, looking at Chen Mo.

Chen Mo laughed, drew a 'scissors' card, and said, "Sorry, I don't dare."

As Chen Mo put down 'scissors', Cha Latu revealed his own face-down card. It was 'paper'.

"Interesting, interesting. How were you so sure I had placed 'paper'?"

"Simple. It's due to a biological characteristic."

"A characteristic? What characteristic?"

"The characteristic of prioritizing focus on targets perceived as threatening."

As he spoke, Chen Mo gestured to the three cards he had laid out for Cha Latu to choose from earlier.

"When I showed you these three cards just now, your eyes went to 'scissors' first, and you looked at it intently. Only then did you shift your gaze to 'rock'."

"You focused on 'scissors' first because, of the three cards I presented, it was the only one that could beat the 'paper' you had already played. It's a biological instinct to perceive and prioritize danger, which is why it caught your attention first."

"Of course, I must also thank you, Senior, for deliberately going easy on me. Since you're known as the God of Wisdom, you obviously understand this principle."

"In these last two rounds, Senior, you deliberately let me win, didn't you?" Chen Mo said with a laugh.

"Not bad, kid. I'm growing quite fond of you. Alright, you've passed this challenge."

Cha Latu burst into laughter and slapped the table. In an instant, they ascended to the seventeenth tier.

"What do you plan for us to play on this tier, Senior?" Chen Mo asked curiously.

But Cha Latu just smiled and said, "I'm interested in the game you mentioned earlier. How about we just use the rules you designed?"

"And if I lose?"

"Then I'll give you another chance to play my game."

"That's fine," Chen Mo said with a laugh. "The game I came up with is actually very simple."

"Please, tell me." Cha Latu looked at Chen Mo with anticipation.

"Let me first explain the rules of this game."

Cha Latu nodded, gesturing for Chen Mo to continue.

"In this game, we each start with eight chess pieces, divided into black and red sets. Each set includes one General, two Advisors, and five Pawns—black Pawns or red Soldiers, respectively. In each turn, we'll each select one piece, and their strengths will be compared. The match will be decided over three such turns; the player who wins more turns is the final victor."

"Isn't this just Rock, Paper, Scissors, merely replaced by the chess pieces from your planet?" Cha Latu was noticeably disappointed.

Chen Mo laughed. "Patience, Senior. I haven't finished explaining."

"Oh? Please continue." Cha Latu's interest was renewed.

"What I've described so far are just the basic rules. On top of these, I've designed several special rules for this game. These special rules are the key to its strategic depth."

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"Of course, before discussing the special rules, the basic rules need to be clarified first. The basic rule is that each player places one piece per round to compare their strength. The General/Marshal can win over the Minister, the Minister can win over soldiers, and soldiers can win over the General/Marshal. If there's a tie in a round, the tied pieces are set aside, and players continue placing new pieces to compete."

"You can skip to the special rules; I'm familiar with the basic ones."

Chen Mo smiled and nodded, saying, "Okay, then I'll go straight to the special rules."

Special Rule (1): In the first round of each game, if a player leads with a General/Marshal and wins, it counts as winning three games at once. In other words, that single round decides the entire match. If defeated, it also counts as directly losing three games.

Special Rule (2): In a three-game match, the types of pieces played in the first round of the first two games cannot be played again in the first round of the third game.

Special Rule (3): Players must look at their piece before playing it. A piece can only be placed once the player has clearly identified what it is. In other words, blind placement is not allowed.

Special Rule (4): After both players have placed their pieces, they can each ask the other one question, which must be answered. The answer can be true or false. After both questions have been asked and answered, each player has one opportunity to change their piece."

After hearing the four special rules described by Chen Mo, Cha Latu, who had initially thought it was just a reskinned version of Rock, Paper, Scissors, suddenly became interested. The existence of these special rules instantly transformed this game into a unique kind of intellectual contest.

"Interesting, interesting! Let's use this game as the challenge for the seventeenth floor," Cha Latu declared.

After saying this, Cha Latu casually waved his hand, and sixteen chess pieces appeared on the table— eight for each player.

"What color do you want?" Cha Latu asked with a smile.

Chen Mo glanced over and said, "I prefer red."

"Then the red pieces are yours."

After both of them had put away their pieces, Chen Mo suddenly said, "We all have perception abilities. It seems quite easy to sense what the pieces are, right?"

Cha Latu smiled faintly. "Relax, I won't use my perception ability; otherwise, it would be no fun. As for you, you can use your perception ability anytime, provided you *\*can\** perceive anything."

Hearing this, Chen Mo decided not to hold back. However, when his Pioneer perception ability reached out, he only felt a potent Divine Power covering all the chess pieces, and he could not perceive anything at all.

Seeing this, Chen Mo chuckled and shook his head. After putting all the chess pieces into his space backpack, he began to select his own pieces.

"You mentioned before that under the special rules, if one plays a General/Marshal in the first round and wins, they win the match outright, right?" Cha Latu suddenly asked Chen Mo before placing his piece.

After saying that, he placed a chess piece down. Then he looked at Chen Mo with a smile on his face.

From his attitude, it seemed he had placed a General.

The best way to counter a General is to use a soldier. But he might not have played a General. If it's not a General, then he played either a Minister or a soldier. In that case, playing a soldier still has a 50% chance of a tie. The biggest advantage is that playing a soldier definitely won't lead to an instant overall loss. If I play a Marshal, he might have played a soldier; losing that way means an instant overall loss. And if I play a Minister against a real General, that's also an instant overall loss. So, playing a soldier in the first round is the safest choice.

But the more obvious this logic is, the more likely he is to exploit this psychological contrast and play a Minister. If I had the guts to play a Marshal then, I could win in one fell swoop. Actually, in this kind of strategy game, overthinking leads one into a logical vortex.

At this moment, the problem Chen Mo was considering was very simple.

He's clearly very interested in this game, so he probably doesn't want it to end in a single round. In that case, the only piece that wouldn't end the match in the first round is a soldier. He most likely played a soldier.

Although Chen Mo was 90% certain, to be safe, he still took out a soldier piece.

Whether Cha Latu played a General or a soldier, at least I won't lose this round.

After Chen Mo placed his piece, he looked at Cha Latu and said, "Do you want to ask what my piece is? You placed yours first, so you have the priority to ask."

"Did you place a Marshal?" Cha Latu asked with a mysterious smile.

"Yes. And you? Did you place a General?" Chen Mo asked, glancing at his opponent's piece.

"Correct," Cha Latu answered with a harmless smile.

"Well? Want to change your piece?" Chen Mo asked with a faint smile, looking at him.

"No need. What about you?" Cha Latu asked back with a smile.

"I won't change either," Chen Mo answered with a smile.

"Then let's reveal them," Cha Latu said.

As Cha Latu waved his hand, the two chess pieces on the table instantly flipped over.

It was soldier against soldier.

Chen Mo had guessed correctly at first; he just hadn't had the nerve to play a Minister. He didn't regret this, though. His recent choice hadn't been wrong; it was both safe and offered a chance for a decisive win, making it entirely worth trying. At worst, it would have been a tie.

With a tie in the first round, the second round offered many more possibilities. Since the risk of the match being decided in a single round was gone, Generals/Marshals could now be played with less concern. At this point, each side had four soldiers, two Ministers, and one General/Marshal remaining.

In the second round, Chen Mo quickly placed his piece. Cha Latu, however, thought for a while. Once both had arranged their pieces, they again asked each other the same question as in the previous round: whether the other had played a General/Marshal.

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Both of their responses were affirmative.

After answering, they looked at each other, shared a smile, and both decided not to change their chess pieces.

When the pieces were revealed, their gameplay was different from the previous turn; this time, they both actually placed their Generals.

Seeing this, both of them broke into laughter.

"Looks like the first game is a draw."

A stalemate with Generals is different from a stalemate with Soldiers.

If the Soldiers stalemate, there are plenty of replacements, and the game can certainly continue.

But if the Generals stalemate, no variations are possible, and both sides effectively have infinite Knights.

Both can only robotically play their Knights, leading to a stalemate where neither player has any pieces left.

So, there's no point in continuing, and the first game is considered a draw.

Actually, the first game isn't key here.

The first game is just for warming up, a process of testing the waters and gathering intelligence.

The second game is crucial.

This is because Special Rule (2) exists.

According to the limitations of Special Rule (2), the types of pieces used in the first game and the first turn of the second game cannot be used in the first turn of the third game.

Just now, both players had used Soldiers in the first turn of the first game.

This meant that if the second game didn't result in a decisive victory, then once the third game began, players would only have Generals and Knights left for its first turn.

Any sensible person would know that under these circumstances, only the General could be played.

After all, the Soldiers would be banned.

Plus, winning with Generals in the first turn can directly lead to victory. Naturally, no one would play Knights.

Because of this, the choice for the first turn of the second game becomes indirectly restricted.

After all, the third game is almost certain to be a draw.

Since the first game also ended in a draw, the outcome of the match essentially hinges on the second game.

Victory or defeat in the second game will directly decide the final winner.

This holds unless the Generals are used in the first turn of the second game.

But in that case, there would be even more factors to consider during play.

In an instant, a myriad of strategies flashed through both players' minds, but no single idea was foolproof, as this was a game of wits.

It tested a wide range of abilities, such as the power of inducement.

Chen Mo quickly chose a piece and then looked at Cha Latu, saying, "No need to overthink it. This turn, besides Soldiers, there's no other choice."

Upon hearing Chen Mo's words, Cha Latu glanced at the pieces on the table and fell into deep thought.

Finally, he selected a piece and placed it on the table.

"Come on, you ask first." After placing his piece, Cha Latu looked at Chen Mo.

This time, Chen Mo asked his usual question.

"Is your piece the General?"

Cha Latu gave his usual answer, "Correct. And you, did you place your General?"

"Sure did," Chen Mo replied with a smile.

"So, are you going to change your piece?"

Chen Mo, who hadn't changed his pieces in the previous two turns, suddenly said this round, "Yes, I'd like to change."

After saying this, Chen Mo swapped his piece for another.

"What about you?"

Seeing Chen Mo suddenly change his piece, Cha Latu was rather surprised.

He thought for a moment and ultimately decided to change a piece as well.

When the pieces were revealed:

Chen Mo's piece was a Knight, and Cha Latu's piece was a Soldier.

Chen Mo gained one win.

"Weren't you afraid I'd switch to a General?" Cha Latu asked, looking surprised at Chen Mo's piece.

"Nope. Your hesitation when placing your piece told me you were playing it safe this game. I was confident you wouldn't risk playing a high-stakes piece. I was sure I'd win," Chen Mo answered with a smile.

With this move, the third game became unnecessary.

Because now, in the first turn of the third game, Chen Mo could only play his General. Cha Latu, although having two types of pieces theoretically available—General and Knight—would also effectively have to play his General. This was because he had already used his Soldiers in the first game and in this just-concluded second game. Facing Chen Mo's General, playing a Knight would result in a loss. Thus, the third game was destined to be a draw.

Considering this, with the first game also being a draw, Chen Mo's single win in the second game secured him the overall victory in the match.

"Thank you, Elder, for going easy on me. If you hadn't wanted to play a few more rounds with me, I wouldn't have caught on to your mindset of aiming for a compromise and a draw."

"You are quite an observant lad. I admit defeat."

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Congratulations on successfully clearing the 17th floor of the Divine Training Tower. You have earned a Special Item Divine-Level Gift Pack.

As your gameplay resulted in an overall victory, you have completed this floor's hidden achievement 'Undefeated Wise Man'. You can now receive an extra SSS-level Gift Pack!

If you choose to exit the challenge now, you will earn 6 Divine Power points. However, keep in mind that after exiting, you will only be able to re-enter when you receive the next challenge opportunity. Please be aware of this.]

Receiving The Heavenly Path's Hint, Chen Mo turned to Cha Latu and asked, "What does the content of the next three floors entail?"

"For the last three floors, I've prepared a challenge tailored to your home planet and national culture, so it shouldn't be too unfair to you. However, clearing it will require you to think hard and find the underlying logic.

Of course, the probability of failing isn't small either. You need to consider carefully whether you want to continue."

Hearing that the challenge was designed according to his own country's culture, Chen Mo's interest was piqued.

He immediately responded, "Let's continue."

"Great. It would be a pity to give up now that you've made it this far. The final three challenges can be seen as both difficult and not difficult. Best of luck."

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With a bang on the table from Cha Latu, the two of them were instantly transported to the eighteenth level.

Once here, they were no longer seated face to face.

The two of them were now in a room where the ground was covered with square stone slabs bearing various strange patterns.

The patterns on these slabs were very simple, consisting purely of three horizontal lines.

Moreover, there were only two types of lines used to form the patterns: a long, unbroken line and a shorter line broken in the middle.

At a glance, Chen Mo recognized the patterns inscribed on the slabs—they were the symbols of the Eight Trigrams Array, weren't they?

Qian, Kan, Gen, Zhen, Xun, Li, Kun, and Dui.

He had just learned about the Eight Trigram Array today from Teacher Jing, so he was quite familiar with them.

But now, these slabs, each etched with a different symbol from the Eight Trigrams, looked chaotic and disordered. He wasn't sure what this level required.

"Senior, what is the objective of this level?"

"Very simple. You just need to walk fifty steps forward on these slabs, and you'll pass the eighteenth level."

Fifty steps?

Chen Mo curiously stepped forward.

He had no issue stepping onto the first slab, but as he took his second and third steps, he instantly lost 40% of his maximum Health.

Simultaneously, he was teleported back to his original position, and The Heavenly Path's Hint immediately resounded.

The Heavenly Path's Hint: Find the pattern connecting the stone slabs and walk according to this special pattern. If you step incorrectly, 20% of your maximum Health will be deducted each time. During this challenge, all your recovery effects will be nullified. Pay close attention!

You currently have one more chance to attempt this. If your Health is low, it is recommended that you restart. Do not take unnecessary risks; otherwise, you may lose levels.

After reading The Heavenly Path's Hint, Chen Mo speechlessly examined all the surrounding slabs.

The penalty for this level was surprisingly harsh. A single misstep deducted 20% of his maximum Health. How could he possibly afford that?

Wouldn't five wrong steps mean death?

Now, Chen Mo dared not move rashly. He quickly started mulling over the possible patterns.

According to The Heavenly Path's Hint, of the slabs surrounding each slab, only one was the correct one to step on.

Five mistakes and he'd be dead.

He had to find the correct slab among the surrounding ones, with only four mistakes allowed. It should still be relatively easy to figure out, right?

Chen Mo immediately recalled Teacher Jing's lesson from earlier today about the Eight Trigrams.

Teacher Jing said that the Eight Trigrams—Qian, Kan, Gen, Zhen, Xun, Li, Kun, and Dui—are all interconnected.

Chen Mo glanced at the patterns on the two slabs he had stepped on incorrectly.

The second incorrect slab he had stepped on had an unbroken line in the first row, two broken lines in the second, and another unbroken line in the third.

This pattern is "Li".

Chen Mo then looked at the pattern of the first slab he had stepped on incorrectly.

The first incorrect slab he had stepped on bore a pattern where the first and third rows each had two broken lines, and the second row had a single unbroken line.

This was the pattern of the Kan trigram.

According to the Five Elements correspondence of the trigrams, the Kan trigram represents Water, and the "Li" trigram represents Fire. Water overcomes Fire. So, moving from the Kan trigram to the "Li" trigram meant taking an 'overcoming' path.

Clearly, that path was wrong. This means, at least, that the 'overcoming' sequence of the Five Elements is definitely not the correct one here. Why not try the 'generating' sequence of the Five Elements instead?

Upon thinking of this, Chen Mo immediately looked at the slabs around the first one he had stepped on incorrectly, the Kan trigram.

He wanted to see if there was a slab with a 'generating' relationship according to the Five Elements around the Kan trigram slab. And indeed, he found one: a pattern with broken lines in the first and second rows, and an unbroken line in the third row. It was indeed the Zhen trigram.

The Zhen trigram represents Wood, and Water generates Wood. Perhaps I should have stepped onto that slab!

He looked around the "Li" trigram slab again, and indeed, there was also a slab representing a trigram with a 'generating' relationship nearby.

The adjacent slabs indeed all have a trigram with a 'generating' relationship. Walking according to the 'generating' sequence of the Five Elements might be the correct pattern.

Thinking of this, Chen Mo looked down at the initial slab beneath his feet.

The pattern on this slab consisted of three rows, each with two broken lines. Since all three lines were the same, it was the very memorable pattern of "Kun".

The "Kun" trigram belongs to Earth, and Earth overcomes Water. I previously moved from the "Kun" trigram to the Kan trigram, again taking an 'overcoming' path. Goodness gracious, I'm so unlucky, picking the 'overcoming' path twice in a row!

Muttering to himself, Chen Mo then closely examined the other two slabs adjacent to the "Kun" trigram slab.

Since the "Kun" trigram slab was at the edge of the area, it was adjacent to only three other slabs, not four.

Excluding the Kan trigram, which he had already determined to be incorrect, Chen Mo now had only two options left.

Chen Mo carefully examined the trigrams on these two slabs.

The trigram on the slab to his left was also extremely easy to remember.

It was a pattern composed of three unbroken lines—the "Qian" trigram, one half of the fundamental Qian-Kun pair.

The slab to his right, however, displayed another Zhen trigram.

The slab currently under Chen Mo's feet was the "Kun" trigram. While the Zhen trigram next to the Kan trigram represented a 'generating' relationship, the Zhen trigram next to the "Kun" trigram represented an 'overcoming' one.

Wood overcomes Earth, so I obviously can't step there. That only leaves the slab with the "Qian" trigram. The "Qian" trigram belongs to Metal, and Earth generates Metal—that's a 'generating' path!