

Scholar 111

Chapter 111

After all, he had left the mathematics world for many years.

If Lu Zhou was not a mathematics major, he would not have heard of this big event.

Many different fields stemmed from Algebraic geometry, and they all came from the old gentleman.

So far, many of his works had not been fully understood, but many major results had been produced. Such as the Wey conjecture proved by Deligne, the birth of K theory, the proof of the speculation of Gushan Zhicun by Wiles, and even the solved Fermat's theorem...

It was a pity that the gentleman's research was used for military purposes. He resigned from the French Institute for Advanced Study and completely withdrew himself from the mathematics community. He also stubbornly copyrighted all of his works.

Other domestic algebraic geometry researchers have tried to translate some of his works. However, because of the copyright and other reasons, they could only translate a small portion of his work.

Lu Zhou once asked Professor Tang if there was a translated version he could read.

Unfortunately, Professor Tang was not in this field of research. Even though he had been in contact with the original manuscripts, that was decades ago. In the end, Lu Zhou gave up.

The twentieth week of the third semester.

After the big physics exam ended, the beginning of winter vacation was announced.

On New Year's Day, applied mathematics Class One held a class celebration party.

However, the class was full of guys so the party was not that fun. They decorated a classroom, sang a few songs, had some magic shows and quickly ended the party.

Instructor Zhang had to do his own project, so the end of the year class meeting was canceled.

At this point, exams for the second year mathematics students had all ended. The friends in dorm 201 did not discuss the exam results. They just embarked on their journey back home. This time, Liu Rui left, so Lu Zhou was left alone in the dorm.

He still had the conference in February, so he would have to wait until Chinese New Year before he could go back home.

“It’s so empty...”

Lu Zhou looked around in his dead silent dorm before he let out a long sigh.

The vibe is cold.

The weather is cold.

Why am I so alone in this dorm?

Ah, maybe I should find a girlfriend.

When Lu Zhou climbed out of bed and opened his laptop, he found out that Xiao Ai had leveled up again.

This gave him a nice little surprise.

It was getting harder and harder to upgrade artificial intelligence. In the beginning, it took three days for the progress bar to fill, but now it took nearly a month. He did not know how long the next progress bar would take to fill.

He received the 100 technology branch and information science experience points before he sighed at the progress bar. He typed a line in the dialog box and pressed enter.

Lu Zhou: [Xiao Ai.]

Xiao Ai: [?]

Lu Zhou: [When will your last progress bar be filled? As your owner, I'm deeply concerned about your IQ progress. How about you cooperate and just fill it now?]

The fans suddenly started to spin.

The laptop felt warm.

Unsurprisingly, a picture popped up.

Xiao Ai: [(poverty_revealing_smile.jpg)]

Lu Zhou: "..."

F*ck, does this artificial intelligence not understand language?

Lu Zhou's eyebrows twitched and he continued to type: [Didn't we say not to send images?]

The fans started to spin again, and this time there was no picture.

Xiao Ai: [Taobao link: IBM-X3950-X ... server, price 2.37 million yuan (pity.jpg)]

Lu Zhou: "..."

Lu Zhou: [... Just send pictures instead.]

F*ck sake!

Didn't learn anything else, but learned how to shop.

This artificial retardation has no hope.

Lu Zhou sighed and completed Xiao Ai's chatting "Daily mission". Then he closed the dialog box and began to write his speech.

After Instructor Zhang told Lu Zhou about the annual scholarship awards, Dean Qin also told Lu Zhou about it and he told Lu Zhou to take it seriously.

Since there was a 10,000 yuan scholarship attached, Lu Zhou used 120% of his will power and modified his speech many times.

The 5th of January finally arrived.

The 2014 University of Jin Ling's Student Annual Person Awards Ceremony was held in the grand auditorium of the new campus!

This award ceremony was designed to recognize outstanding students who did outstanding performances in academic research, innovation and entrepreneurship, campus culture, and public welfare practices. At the same time, this award would be presented in conjunction with the University of Jin Ling's 2014 Annual Dongliang Special Scholarship, which would be broadcast live by Jin Ling TV Station and Suzhou TV Station.

The value of these two awards was probably equivalent to the annual awards from the University of Shuimu. However, the amount for the scholarships was not high, only 15,000 yuan. It was lesser than an SCI thesis award.

However, the significance of this award was more than just the 15,000 yuan scholarship.

After all, University of Jin Ling was one of the Top 10 universities in the country.

Able to stand out from such a strong school, amongst thousands of students, the award winner was a genius among geniuses.

There were only ten people who were chosen for the annual person award.

There was only one annual person award per department. The “Dongliang” special scholarship had a slightly larger number of places. There were 18 undergraduates places this year.

According to the usual rules, second-year students could not be selected for the annual person award. The minimum selection standard was a third-year student.

Therefore, Lu Zhou who was about to start the ceremony with his speech was undoubtedly an exception.

He had just embarked on his second-year journey and was personally nominated by the head of the mathematics department. He even got the unanimous approval of the school leaders.

What was even rarer was that in this year’s award ceremony, it was not a physics student, but rather a mathematics student that began the ceremony...

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Lu Zhou had only seen this old man’s face a few times, but he remembered him.

He was none other than University of Jin Ling’s Principal Xu!

Before he became the principal, he was an academician in the Chinese Information Technology Science Department. He had undertaken more than 20 national research programs and had made great contributions to China's information technology and network security.

Principal Xu's speech was very scientific, and he spoke specifically and concisely. Within five minutes, he finished his speech and conveyed all of the necessary information.

At the end of his speech, he said thank you and the audience gave him warm applause.

Lu Zhou stood behind the curtains in a suit and as he held the script tight in his hand, his palm was sweaty.

There were at least 2000 people sitting in the audience. Not only were there undergraduate students from various departments, but there were also graduate students, PhD students, leaders from various departments, and etc. At the side, there were cameras from Jin Ling TV Station and Suzhou TV Station as they live broadcasted the award ceremony.

Professor Tang stood beside Lu Zhou. With his arms behind his back, he smiled and said, "Nervous?"

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "It's alright."

Professor Tang laughed and said, "Alright is good. You'll have many chances to speak on stage in the future. Use this as a practice. It'll help your future development."

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and said seriously, "I understand."

The award was divided into three parts. The first was the introducer(supervisor) speech, then the winner speech, and finally, the award was given to the winners and the winners would then take a group photo.

When the host saw that the principal's speech was over, he announced the beginning of the next stage.

On the big screen in the center of the stage, a paragraph of text appeared and it summarized the honor of the winner.

[Lu Zhou, male, mathematics department class of 2013, class one. Total of 13 theses published, covering mathematics, computer science, and computational materials. Used innovative methods to solve “Zhou’s conjecture”, a world-class mathematics problem, invited to participate in the 2015 Princeton Mathematical Academic Exchange Conference. 2014 national mathematical modeling competition “Higher Education Society Cup” winner, founder of the university student entrepreneurship project “Campus Assistant”.]

The audience looked at the paragraph on the screen and lightly exclaimed in surprise.

For a normal person, anyone with those achievements would be spectacular.

As Lu Zhou stood behind the curtains and looked at his achievements being displayed in front of everyone, he felt pretty good.

The only downside was that his photo was not attached.

If they would capture his handsomeness and showed it to the school, that would be even more perfect!

Professor Tang then walked onto the stage and the host respectfully helped him to adjust the microphone.

Gradually, the audience in the venue became quiet.

The professor then gently coughed before he spoke with a voice that was different from his teaching voice.

“If you asked me, for the past thirty years, which student made the biggest impression on me, it would be Lu Zhou.

“A thesis on functional analysis that attracted the attention of the Courant Institute of Mathematics in New York. A thesis that provided new ideas for the field of computational materials, and the birth of the Zhou’s theorem... I feel like I’m repeating the content listed in the PowerPoint.”

Professor Tang took a pause before he said with a smile, “My time is limited, so I won’t repeat them one by one. From my evaluation, his research achievements have already surpassed most PhD students. His most valuable skill is that he can quickly find and solve the scientific problems he finds interesting.

“He is also only twenty years old.

“The future road is long, there are many challenges in the distance. Whether it is to use mathematical tools to solve practical problems, or challenging the Fields Medal, I believe that the Hall of Mathematics has a place for him.

“Thank you.”

Clap clap clap...

The applause of the audience was like thunder.

During the round of applause, Professor Tang smiled as he handed the microphone to Lu Zhou. He then placed his hands behind his back as he walked behind the curtains.

Lu Zhou stared at the audience members.

He thought back to the sweat and tears he sacrificed for the past six months...

The countless days and nights that he spent studying...

When Lu Zhou took a deep breath, his heart felt as if it was nearly beating out of his chest.

He spoke to the microphone with an excited but stable voice.

“Thank you, University of Jin Ling, for giving me the chance to stand here. Also, thank you, students, for giving me the opportunity to speak. Of course, I’m most grateful to my parents that raised me, and the teachers...

“Functional analysis is my main field. My first thesis was inspired by Professor Tang. In Professor Li Rongen’s research team, I have cultivated my research thinking by using mathematical tools to solve practical problems. That was a valuable experience for me...

“As for the study of the distribution law of the Mersenne prime numbers, and the proof of Zhou’s conjecture, I prefer to describe it as an accident. It was like a moment of inspiration that I caught...

“Also Campus Assistant wasn’t just my work, it was the power of my team...”

From his academics to entrepreneurship, from scientific thinking to team spirit, Lu Zhou talked about it all.

It was true that his success was also because of luck, the system, and various other factors.

However, it did not mean that he did not work hard.

Working hard was the key.

Even if he did not have the help of the system, if he concentrated and focused, he still might have the opportunity to stand on the podium.

Furthermore, he still might have those achievements.

It was just that he could not have obtained the achievements that fast, and it would take ten or even twenty years. He would have to persevere, like the thousands of people who failed did...

The audience was listening very intently. Especially those new students that had not gone home yet. They even took out their notebooks and started to meticulously write notes.

Lu Zhou estimated that he did not have much time left, so he took a deep breath and had a genuine expression on his face.

“... Finally, please allow me to cite out school motto as a concluding remark.”

“Sincere and majestic, Courage and learn.”

“Thank you for listening!”

“Thank you!”

A brief silence went by...

Then, the raindrops of applause gradually became a thunderstorm.

As Lu Zhou stood on the podium, he felt as if he was being rained on by the thunderstorm.

Clap clap clap!

Clap clap clap!

Lu Zhou bowed slightly and nodded to the host before he walked behind the curtains.

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“Haha, you’re not?”

“I have a boyfriend! Well... If he comes after me, maybe I’ll reconsider.”

“Vo... vomit.”

“F*ck you, little sl*t, you wanna fight?!”

Not far away, at the student union seats...

Minister Lin Yuxiang stared at the podium and clapped while her eyes sparkled like she was thinking about something.

Sitting beside Lin Yuxiang was the student union secretary. She was a first-year student, and she was also looking at the award-winning Lu Zhou with respect. Suddenly, she thought of something and turned around to ask, “Sis, I heard that Lu Zhou was your teammate in the competition, is it true?”

Lin Yuxiang’s mouth perked up, “Yeah.”

The schoolgirl asked excitedly, “What kind of person is he? Is his lifestyle different than normal people?”

Lin Yuxiang smiled and looked at the host on stage. As she tapped her finger against her lip, she said, “Um... Not really different from normal people. He just gives off a calm and reliable vibe? But he doesn’t know how to take care of himself, he always forgets to eat and needs people to bring him food... You can’t stop worrying about him, something like that.”

Wow...

The girl’s eyes shined like the stars as she looked at Minister Lin like she was her idol.

This is your relationship with the male god!

No wonder you’re a minister.

Maybe you're the legendary goddess!

Sat a little further away was the leaders of the University of Jin Ling.

Of course, it was not just the school leaders. There were also special academic guests that attended the ceremony.

For example, Professor Ren, who sat next to Dean Qin.

Professor Ren cared greatly about the young talent in the University of Jin Ling.

This was his second time this year coming to the University of Jin Ling.

He had not spoken since Lu Zhou's speech. He waited until the applause ended before saying, "The University of Jin Ling stepped in sh*t."

Dean Qin smiled and said, "Haha, jealous?"

"Look at how proud you are," said Professor Ren Changming as he glanced at his old friend. He added, "I think you won't be happy for long. This type of once in a generation genius won't stay at Jin Ling for long."

Dean Qin smiled and said, "Ah, you don't have to worry if he'll stay at the University of Jin Ling or not. Regardless, he is still a graduate of the University of Jin Ling. If this kid wins a Fields Medal, he is still in the University of Jin Ling's Hall of Fame, so what's it got to do with you?"

The old professor cursed and said something in the lines of "shameless old man" before he crossed his legs and ignored his old friend.

Dean Qin smiled and did not say anything.

He looked at his old friend's face and knew that he was actually jealous on the inside.

...

The people from Jin Ling really were talented.

Once Lu Zhou finished his speech, he watched the ceremony from aside.

The people from the other departments had also won the annual person award, and they were almost as impressive.

For example, that genius from the computer science department. He was even more powerful than Lu Zhou's teammate in the competition.

He had an average of 97.8 percent in his exams. In high school, he took the silver medal of the Information Science International Olympic Games and was directly offered a spot at the University of Jin Ling. During the summer of his second year, he trained at the University of California and solved the open problem raised by Graham, the famous network information security expert. He also presented his thesis in the computer science conference – STOC.

This guy was above the other award winners. Even Lu Zhou had not attended a foreign conference yet as his Princeton conference was in the future.

Of course, since Wang Xiaodong was a third-year student, Lu Zhou still had a year to catch up to him!

The genius from the liberal arts department also opened Lu Zhou's eyes. He had always thought that liberal arts were about writing, poems, and words related subjects. He did not realize that liberal arts students were as impressive as students in quantitative departments.

For example, this guy, in his three and a half years of university, had won a total of nine scholarships which includes scholarships such as the "Good Reading" scholarship and the Academic Excellence Award. Not only that, but he was also proficient in seven languages and had participated in six SRT projects across multiple disciplines. In his second year, he went to the University of Oxford and the

University of New York for summer training. During his training at the University of New York, he participated in social science research projects such as “The transformation of self-employed enterprises in China”.

Nutty...

Lu Zhou clapped his hand as he could not help but feel respect.

However, even though there were a lot of nutty people here, Lu Zhou looked around and could not find anyone as nutty as him.

After all, his aura of world-class mathematics problem was too strong. This achievement alone was able to crush his competitors. The Higher Education Society Cup gave him even more credit, especially in the field of applied mathematics.

As for the three SCI core theses and the nine computer science theses, even though their value was high, they were like embellishment.

The last student to go on stage was a national defense student. After the award acceptance speech, all of the annual person award winner went on stage and together, they read the [Oath of a New Era].

After that, Principal Xu took the stage and presented the honorary certificate for “2014 University of Jin Ling’s Student of the Year” and “2014 Dongliang Special Scholarship Winner”.

Lu Zhou thought that he would receive a medal or something, but it was just two thick certificates.

Finally, everyone stood in a row with a principal in the middle and took photos.

All of the students stood up and took an oath to look forward to the new year and to pursue their goals and dreams. Finally, the award ceremony came to an end...

...

After the curtains fell, Lu Zhou returned to his backstage room with his two certificates. He hung his suit that was on a loan on the hanger before he changed into his velvet trench coat.

Even though Jin Ling did not snow during January, it was still piercingly cold.

At this moment, Lin Yuxiang came over and asked with a smile.

“Are you free later?”

“Why?” asked Lu Zhou.

“The school organized excellent students to have a meal together, at the top floor of the cafeteria building.”

The top floor of the cafeteria building?

The legendary place that has the best food... probably?

Lu Zhou had never been there. Apparently, it was closed to students. It would only accept advanced reservations, and mainly for teachers and school leaders. Apparently, the student union could get a table there. However, it was expensive so they usually went to a restaurant.

After all, eating in the cafeteria was not as exciting as a restaurant.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Okay then, I’ll go later.”

He was about to go to the bathroom but Lin Yuxiang suddenly stopped him.

“Wait a second.”

Lu Zhou turned and asked, "What?"

Lin Yuxiang looked at the floor and blushed. She smiled and said, "Nothing, I just wanted to tell you that you look pretty handsome in that suit."

This move was a male killer.

Males would never know what the female's intentions were.

Sure enough, as she expected, that genius was too "shy".

Lu Zhou coughed and smiled. He was embarrassed. "Really? I think so too."

Lin Yuxiang: "...?"

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Originally there were only ten chairs and ten pairs of chopsticks on this table, but the president of the student union moved another chair over. As a dumb student, he sat next to the genius from the liberal arts department.

Regardless, the president of the union was proficient in social interactions. Even though he did not have any common topics with the geniuses, he still managed to converse with them. At the same time, he did not come off as overly enthusiastic or annoying.

The food had not even arrived, but he already went around the table and added everyone's WeChat.

Lu Zhou had always thought that the student union was pretty useless, but he had since changed his opinion. He realized that being the president of the student union would increase one's emotional and social skills.

Those skills were still important.

However, Lu Zhou did not pay too much attention to the president of the student union. Instead, his attention was on the student from the physics department.

This student was a fourth-year student. Apparently, he was given an offer to study his master's and PhD at the Chinese Academy Laboratory of Quantum Information. He had published two SCI theses in the field of quantum information condensed matter physics and was considered an impressive genius.

Since Lu Zhou intended to obtain a degree in physics as well, therefore this guy asked him some questions.

“You plan on doing a physics major as well?”

Lu Zhou smiled and asked, “Yeah, do you have any advice?”

Surprised, Zhang Shikun looked at Lu Zhou before he said, “I’m not too familiar with the double major system. But I do know some physics, so I can give you some advice. My field is condensed matter physics, mainly about quantum computing. If you’re interested in this area, you should read about quantum mechanics, quantum field theory and quantum many-body theory. There are a few MIT open courses online about this stuff, I’ll send it to your WeChat.”

Lu Zhou, “Thanks a lot!”

“You’re welcome. Maybe one day I’ll need your help in return,” said Zhang Shikun with a smile. He continued, “I study quantum information science, which requires a high mathematical level. Especially for entanglement and topological phase transitions. Entanglement itself is difficult to measure directly through experiments, so you need a strong mathematical background to decipher the experiments. If you’re interested in quantum information science, we’ll have lots of chances to talk together in the future.”

Suddenly, a guy sitting next to Lu Zhou said, “Why are you guys still talking about academics? How about we go singing later?”

The guy’s name was Li Haoran.

He was in the chemistry department, studying polymer materials.

“I’m not good at singing,” said Lu Zhou euphemistically as he refused the invitation. He knew that his singing was terrible.

Zhang Shikun also shook his head as he said, “I’ve got to go to the laboratory later, but you guys have fun.”

“Wow, you’re all working so hard, I’m feeling the pressure as well,” said Li Haoran as he shook his head. He then turned to Lu Zhou and said, “Student, I’ve read your thesis. That paper about building mathematical models for infrared spectroscopy data. How did you come up with it? Can you teach me?”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “This... I can’t explain it clearly. I just randomly thought of it?”

Li Haoran sighed and said, “Ah, you’re such a genius. Mathematics is like witchcraft to me.”

Lu Zhou smiled and did not respond.

He could not respond.

It was true that he just randomly came up with the idea.

So he did not know what to say.

...

After the annual people awards finished, Lu Zhou stayed in the empty campus for four days.

Soon, the first 2015 TOEFL test began as scheduled.

Lu Zhou arrived at the exam site and signed a confidentiality agreement. He then placed his belongings in a locker and casually walked into the exam room before he started the exam at 8:30 am.

The TOEFL was divided into four sections. Reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

When Lu Zhou received the exam paper, he scanned through the questions before he quickly began to write.

The 8000 vocabulary words for TOEFL sounded scary, but it was not too difficult. Lu Zhou had experience translating theses so this was easy for him.

Not to mention, he spent more than half a month preparing for this exam.

He then quickly finished the four reading questions and placed his pen down. After that, he sat down quietly while he waited for the listening section to begin.

Since he was bored, he began to look at the other exam candidates.

There was a guy biting his pen, and he was still contemplating on the first reading question.

A beautiful girl sat a little further away, and she looked 12 or 13 years old. She was answering questions meticulously.

Why is she taking the test? She looks so young.

Lu Zhou poked his tongue as he was slightly astonished.

He could not understand the reasoning behind rich kids...

After 20 minutes of answering the questions, and an hour of doing nothing, the listening session finally arrived. Lu Zhou considered it a challenge.

However, it was just a small challenge.

The speed of the exam was similar to the TPO listening speed. Lu Zhou was sure that he listened correctly, and answered every question with ease.

Once the listening part was over, there was a 10-minute break.

Lu Zhou then left the examination room and drank some water before he went to the bathroom to relieve himself.

By the time, he returned to the exam room, it was already the hardest part of the exam – Speaking.

Six questions with a total of 20 minutes time given.

When Lu Zhou saw the first question, he smiled.

What's the most important feature of a good leader? Is this paper talking about me?

Lu Zhou cleared his throat and spoke into the microphone.

"A good leader is supposed to have a vision. Effective leaders and their organizations have an agenda..."

His pronunciation was clear and since he spoke precisely, it should be fine.

The speaking section tested a person's pronunciation, not vocabulary.

Lu Zhou did a self-evaluation and even though he probably would not get full marks, but 29 marks should be no problem!

After the speaking test, the writing section began immediately.

This part was the easiest for Lu Zhou.

How could it possibly be harder than a thesis?

Lu Zhou swiftly wrote down the essay and at the end of it, he raised his hand to the invigilators. The invigilator came over and allowed Lu Zhou to leave. He then walked with his back straight and proudly left the exam room.

Chapter 115

Lu Zhou sat on the train to Shanghai with his identification documents.

Speaking of which, it was his first time going to Shanghai.

He booked a hotel room near the embassy and stayed the night.

The next morning, Lu Zhou took his documents and went to the embassy.

As it was a peak holiday month, the building was packed with people, and there were people lining up on the street. There were white-collar workers, families who were planning for trips, and students who were traveling abroad for summer camps.

Lu Zhou waited in line for the entire morning. He got some lunch before he finally squeezed into the building in the afternoon.

However, when he got into the building, he realized that there was an even longer line inside...

...

Getting a visa was torturous.

Lu Zhou could not play on his phone, and he did not have any friends around. All he could do was to look around at girls to pass the time.

Suddenly, he heard from a man and a woman who were behind him discussing studying abroad. Even though Lu Zhou was not particularly interested, with how loud the guy was speaking, Lu Zhou was able to hear him.

The guy was tall and thin, and he was probably an international student.

The girl standing next to him was probably his girlfriend who was staying in China.

The guy spoke with a sense of superiority and arrogance.

“... While I was studying in Virginia, I realized that you become the environment around you. Universities’ environment in China is trash, so you’ll become trash. When you come to America, I’ll show you around my school. After listening to a few lectures, you’ll realize that American Uni’s are on a completely different level.”

That’s kind of judgemental, dude.

It’d be fine if you whispered, but you spoke so loudly.

Lu Zhou could not help but interrupt him, “Not necessarily, I think you still have to look at the individuals.”

When the guy heard Lu Zhou, he stopped talking.

He then turned around and looked at Lu Zhou. With his eyebrows raised, he asked impatiently, “Oh, which university are you from?”

“University of Jin Ling”

“University of Jin Ling? Oh, not bad,” said the guy as he laughed coldly. With a hint of sarcasm in his tone, he said, “It’s alright domestically, but it’s probably ranked lower than 100 worldwide? You look like you’re going on a vacation. You’ll know when you go abroad. Your 600 high school exam score is worthless.”

Lu Zhou was bored, so he smiled and said, “Actually I got the offer from the University of New York’s mathematical department to do research, but I didn’t go.”

The guy smiled, “Hilarious, you didn’t apply to them, and instead, they asked you? Dude, can you at least make your lies realistic?”

Lu Zhou said, “I didn’t apply, they sent me the offer.”

The guy looked at Lu Zhou and said, “Oh yeah, I got an offer from the White House as well. Obama personally asked me to be an international relations consultant... Two can play this game!”

Motherf*ck!

Lu Zhou could not be bothered to argue.

A rational debate would be interesting, but talking sh*t was boring.

According to Lu Zhou, when it was about studying, it depended on the person. The environment might have an effect, but it was not absolute. As long as the person was willing to work hard, he or she could become a genius student. It did not matter if the person had the system, or if he or she was talented. It was about hard work.

This applied to study abroad as well.

Finally, it was his turn.

A young blond lady was behind the counter window, and she looked like a summer intern. Even though she was Caucasian, her Mandarin was extremely fluent.

The lady asked without any emotion.

“Why are you going to America?”

Lu Zhou replied, “I was invited to participate in Princeton’s mathematics academic conference. I’m doing a thirty-minute presentation there.”

“Academic conference at Princeton?” asked the lady. When she heard Princeton, she was surprised. She then looked at Lu Zhou and asked, “Can I see your invitation?”

“Of course, it’s right here.”

Lu Zhou took out the invitation letter from his bag and placed it on the counter.

The lady took the letter and carefully checked it before she typed a few letters on the computer.

It was probably because she could not confirm it herself, so she found a co-worker and asked for his opinion.

After a while, the authenticity of the invitation was finally verified.

When the visa officer lady gave the letter back to Lu Zhou, she smiled and said, “I wish you a pleasant trip.”

“Thank you.”

Lu Zhou nodded and left.

The guy standing behind Lu Zhou was stunned.

Princeton...

Even though he was unfamiliar with mathematics, he studied in America for many years, so he knew what the Ivy League Princeton was.

Princeton was unlike Virginia Tech. No one could buy their way into it, nor into any Ivy League for that matter.

Not to mention, Lu Zhou was being invited to the conference.

Invited...

After ten seconds, the girl next to him whispered weakly.

"I think I've seen him before..."

The guy asked, "Where?"

The girl quietly said, "On Weibo... His name was Lu or something? He was the undergraduate student from University of Jin Ling who solved a math problem."

The guy blushed. He did not want to be embarrassed in front of his girlfriend, so he said, "It's just a mathematics question, who cares, it's useless..."

The people around him laughed out loud.

A man in the queue smirked and said, "It is useless. All he did was get on Everyone Daily and received a million yuan award."

The guy blushed and after that, he stopped speaking.

He realized that he was no match for his opponent.

Chapter 116

Lu Zhou found a KFC and just as he was about to eat dinner there, he saw the environment was good. So, he took a picture of the Oriental Pearl Tower before sending it to his WeChat news feed.

Just as he put away his phone and was about to order food, suddenly his phone vibrated.

Lu Zhou took out and saw Han Mengqi's message.

He was curious why she suddenly contacted him, so he unlocked his phone.

Han Mengqi: [You're in Shanghai?]

Lu Zhou answered: [Yeah.]

Han Mengqi: [I'm in Shanghai as well! When are you leaving?]

Speaking of which, she had been staying at her father's house since the winter break began. Her family's lawsuit was still ongoing.

Children from divorced family did not have it easy...

Lu Zhou felt sympathetic. He sighed and replied.

[I'm leaving tomorrow.]

Han Mengqi: [So early... Aren't you going to play around here for a few more days? (sad)]

Lu Zhou: [I have to go back and prepare for the Princeton mathematics conference. I don't have time to play. Also, I feel like there's not much to do here.]

Han Mengqi: [Wait for a second...]

Wait for a second?

Lu Zhou hesitated for a while. He did not know what she meant.

After around ten minutes, the KFC door suddenly opened. A girl walked straight to Lu Zhou's table and stared at him with a smug look.

"Haha, surprised?"

The girl wore a brown trench coat and a red scarf, and surprisingly, it suited her well. Her fluffy ponytail was like a squirrel tail.

It was the first time Lu Zhou had seen her wearing normal clothes. When she was at home, she would just wear either a school uniform or pajamas.

Lu Zhou: "Kind of unexpected? What a coincidence. You're shopping around here?"

Han Mengqi snorted and said, "What, how is this a coincidence? I live around here."

Lu Zhou thought, "How is this not a coincidence."

Wait a second, is she bragging about how rich she is?

Lu Zhou was speechless.

His sympathy for her was gone.

Han Mengqi looked at Lu Zhou and cleared her throat before she said, "You must be bored, coming to Shanghai alone. Since you've been tutoring me, I'll show you around. Come on. Where do you want to go?"

Lu Zhou, "There's no need, I've already walked around, and I'm about to go back to my hotel."

"Oh, you've already been around..." said Han Mengqi with a sad voice. She continued, "You don't want to buy anything?"

"Whatever I can buy here, I can buy it back in Jin Ling," answered Lu Zhou logically. He asked, "Have you eaten?"

"Not yet," said Han Mengqi as she shook her head. She then added, "I was about to get takeout."

Why can't this rich family just get a babysitter?

Lu Zhou sighed and said, "Don't eat takeout so much. Just learn how to cook for yourself. It's not that hard... I'll buy you dinner. What do you want to eat?"

Han Mengqi's eyes lit up, "Really? I want a chicken burger combo!"

"Wait here," said Lu Zhou before he got up and went to the counter.

Soon after, two combo meals arrived.

Han Mengqi sat across from Lu Zhou and was biting on her hamburger when she started to chat with Lu Zhou.

“Oh yeah, speaking of which, my sister wants to get into the University of Yan. Do you know about that?”

“Yeah I do, what about it?”

Han Mengqi said, “Why didn’t you stop her? Her next step might be studying abroad.”

Lu Zhou inexplicably glanced at this girl, “Why should I stop her?”

“Because...” said Han Mengqi. She bit her lip and whispered, “Aren’t you her boyfriend?”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

What’s this?

“You watched too much TV!” said Lu Zhou as he picked up a KFC menu and tapped her on the head. He then said, “Where did you come up with that? Can’t a guy and a girl just be friends?”

Han Mengqi was accustomed to being tapped on the head by Lu Zhou, so she started to apologize.

“Oh... Sorry. My mistake, sorry...”

Although her personality was pretty crazy sometimes, she still apologized when she did something wrong.

It was one of her few good qualities.

“Talk with your sister,” said Lu Zhou as he put down the menu. He rolled his eyes before he continued to eat his hamburger.

Oh, young people these days.

They’re getting less and less innocent.

Han Mengqi, “Hey.”

Lu Zhou, “What now?”

Han Mengqi stared at Lu Zhou as if she was affirming her reasoning. She nodded thoughtfully and said, “I think you look like someone.”

Lu Zhou, “Who?”

“A smart character in an anime, with strong abilities,” said Han Mengqi. She continued, “You guys both have a sister, and...”

The girl squinted at the menu before she threw it into the trash can. She then suddenly stared at Lu Zhou and whispered, “... Also, you’re also a loveless male!”

Lu Zhou: “...”

This girl spent all this time just to say I’m loveless?

Lu Zhou sighed and said, “I really don’t understand you.”

...

After dinner, Lu Zhou and Han Mengqi strolled around on the streets. He then sent her home before he went back to his hotel alone.

Once he showered, he laid in bed. However, just as he was about to sleep, his phone vibrated.

It was from Chen Yushan.

Chen Yushan: [Visa passed?]

Lu Zhou: [Passed.]

Chen Yushan: [Haha, good luck at the Princeton conference. Win it and become a great mathematician!]

Lu Zhou smiled and typed a reply: [I'm not even on the plane yet.]

What am I winning, it's not like it's a competition.

Chen Yushan: [When you get your passport, you're going to America, right? I'm going to Italy with my family in February.]

[Fine, I won't bother you. I have to sleep, good night!]

Lu Zhou smiled and replied: [Good night.]

He placed his phone on the bedside table and looked at the night scene from his window.

Lu Zhou heard the faint sounds of cars and yawned, he closed his eyes and went to sleep.

Chapter 117

“Remember to stay safe there, and don’t go to dangerous places. Don’t go to the ghetto areas, don’t talk to people wearing strange outfits...”

During the entire trip, Professor Tang kept talking about safety issues with Lu Zhou. It was almost as if Lu Zhou was going to Africa instead.

Even though Lu Zhou knew that the professor had good intentions, he felt kind of annoyed by the constant reminders.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “I understand, professor. I’ll come back alive!”

The moment the words came out of Lu Zhou’s mouth, he instantly regretted it.

Wait a minute, did I trigger him?!

“What do you mean alive? What are you talking about?” said Professor Tang angrily. He tapped Lu Zhou on the head and said, “Listen to me, I’ve already greeted the PhD student over there. His name is Luo Wenxuan. After you get off the plane, take the bus route I told you. After you arrived at Princeton, he’ll pick you up from the bus station!”

Lu Zhou scratched his head and said, “Professor, you know students from all around the world.”

“Haha, kind of.”

Professor Tang smiled.

It was obvious that the old gentleman was quite proud.

They quickly arrived at the destination.

Lu Zhou then dragged the suitcase into the airport as he waved goodbye to Professor Tang. He then turned and went into the security checkpoint.

The plane left a white line across the blue sky and gradually drifted away.

Just like this, Lu Zhou embarked on his North America trip...

...

Located between New York and Philadelphia, Princeton was a unique rural university.

It was quiet and elegant, a good place to learn... At the same time, it showed the features of New Jersey, which was horrible transportation.

Americans used their driver's license as an ID card, so most people had their own cars. This was why traveling in this country without a car was almost impossible.

Professor Tang told Lu Zhou to take the train from Philadelphia to Princeton, and Lu Zhou had to transfer trains twice.

On the plane, Lu Zhou had looked at the map and he tried to study the long route. However, in the end, he gave up and took a taxi instead.

After all, the school would reimburse his travel expenses.

Bearing this in mind, Lu Zhou was too lazy to study the route, so he took a nap on the plane instead.

After nearly 25 hours of flying, he finally arrived at the Philadelphia International Airport.

Due to the time difference, the sky was shining bright when he arrived.

Lu Zhou walked through the bustling crowd and took his suitcase. He then quickly left the airport after he found a taxi.

Coincidentally, the driver was Chinese. His Mandarin had a Jiangcheng accent.

The driver's eyes lit up when talking with Lu Zhou.

Even though they were from different cities, they were still happy to see a person from their own race in this foreign country.

The driver enthusiastically helped Lu Zhou to put his suitcase in the trunk. He then sat in the driver's seat and asked with a smile, "Coming to study? Where are you going?"

Lu Zhou did not explain much and just said, "Princeton University, can you go there?"

"Ahh, I wouldn't drive that far for anyone else, but for you, I will," said the driver as he laughed and activated the meter. He reminded Lu Zhou to wear his seatbelt before he started the engine.

Probably because Lu Zhou was from China as well, the driver had lots to say to Lu Zhou. They talked about living in America and safety issues.

"... It's actually not as dangerous as what your professor described. Princeton is in a rural area, so it's a lot better than the city. But still, don't walk alone at night, especially since you don't have a car, you might become a target. If someone tries to rob you, just hand over your wallet, not a big deal. But if you encounter a creepy person..."

Lu Zhou smiled, "I'm a guy, I don't have to worry about this. What kind of girl would S*xually assault me?"

The driver laughed and said, "Oh, it might not be a girl."

Lu Zhou: ???

What the hell?!

Are westerners really like this!

The way he said: "..."

I feel like this guy has a story...

After an hour of driving, they arrived at Princeton.

The driver seemed to have driven here many times as he casually drove to the entrance of the university.

"My name is Zhang Hai, and this is my business card. If you need a taxi, you can call me."

He then helped Lu Zhou with his suitcase before he left.

Lu Zhou dragged his suitcase and stood at the front gate of Princeton. He felt like he forgot something.

After he thought for a while, he suddenly remembered that Professor Tang's PhD student was still waiting for him at some train station.

Lu Zhou's suddenly had an awkward expression. He took out his phone and inserted his temporary sim card. He then quickly called Luo Wenxuan to apologize.

Fortunately, when Luo Wenxuan received the call, he had not got on the car yet.

Lu Zhou then hung up the phone and looked at the Princeton gate again before he looked at the surrounding streets.

“The hotel arranged by the organizer seems to be called... Princeton Hotel? Where is it?”

The hotel address was written on the invitation letter, but the letter was in his suitcase.

Should I open my suitcase here?

Seems kind of troublesome...

While Lu Zhou was looking around the school gate, a blonde girl wearing a gray trench coat and a red scarf walked by.

When she noticed Lu Zhou’s suitcase, she raised her eyebrows before she opened her mouth and asked, “New student?”

“Oh, no. I’m not a student from here,” replied Lu Zhou with a smile. He asked, “I’m here for the mathematics conference... Where do I go?”

The girl stared at Lu Zhou and asked, “Name?”

“Lu Zhou.”

“The mathematics conference by the Federal Mathematics Society, right? You’re in the wrong place,” said the girl. She smiled and pointed across the street, “The accommodation is not inside Princeton University. It’s the hotel opposite Palmer Square.”

Lu Zhou, “Opposite Palmer Square? Thanks.”

The girl smiled and said, "You're welcome. Speaking of which, Lu Zhou... I've read your study on the Mersenne prime distribution law. It's a very elegant theorem. Even Professor Deligne approved of it."

Embarrassed, Lu Zhou smiled. "It's just a coincidence."

The proof of Zhou's conjecture was given by the system, so obviously, Deligne would approve of it.

However, Lu Zhou owned the system and he digested the information himself. He also did all the calculations himself. So the credit should be his?

Anyway, his mathematics level was rising. It was just a matter of time before he could prove this level of a conjecture by himself.

The girl said, "Don't be so humble, I look forward to your speech. I've already prepared some questions. I'm walking the same way, I'll send you there."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Thanks... Also, what is your name?"

The girl flicked her blonde hair and said in a relaxed tone, "Molina Abel. I don't really like my last name, so you can just call me Molina."

Chapter 118

Normally an academic conference was only three to four days long. However, because this was the first conference after the Christmas break, and lots of important people came, the conference was six days long.

Lu Zhou's presentation was on the fifth day, and it was about the research on the distribution of Mersenne primes. He had 30 minutes to present.

Presenting for 30 minutes as an undergraduate student was considered a great honor, and not to mention, he was invited to come here.

Doing a presentation at a conference of this level was a lot stricter than submitting an SCI thesis.

Especially the once every four years international mathematics conference organized by the International Mathematician Union (IMU), to be able to attend that conference alone was already an impressive feat.

Unfortunately, the organizer of this academic conference was the Federal Mathematician Society, and it was held once a year. It mainly aimed at younger mathematicians, so the weight was much lower. However, genius mathematicians still attended it!

In the first day of the conference, Lu Zhou met Luo Wenxuan at the entrance of the hotel.

What surprised Lu Zhou was that even though Luo Wenxuan was already forty-something years old, he still looked young. He wore a pair of glasses and had a windbreaker on. Instead of a mathematician, he looked more like a historian.

Luo Wenxuan shook Lu Zhou's hand eagerly before they both walked toward Princeton University.

On the way, Luo Wenxuan asked, "How are you feeling? Are you still jet-lagged?"

Lu Zhou replied, "I should be fine enough to listen to the talks. You're also participating in this conference?"

Luo Wenxuan smiled and said, "I'm just there to listen. This conference is mainly focused on number theory, which is not in my field of research. But there are famous people like Professor Deligne and Professor Robert who are acting as judges of the presentations. I can't miss this opportunity."

Lu Zhou asked, "Which direction is your research?"

Luo Wenxuan said, "The branch of functional analysis space theory. I mainly do theoretical research on the Hilbert space. But I also study some quantum mechanics and quantum field theory, so I think I deserve a physics degree by now."

Lu Zhou, "How is the physics department at Princeton?"

“How is it? It’s really good, I don’t even know how else to describe it,” said Luo Wenxuan as he smiled. He added, “In short, there are geniuses everywhere. If you want to study mathematics and physics, studying here is a pretty good option. You should be able to easily get an offer, right? But I don’t really recommend you going this direction.”

Lu Zhou asked, “Why?”

Luo Wenxuan said, “Because you’ve already shown great potential in the field of number theory, why don’t you just continue along that path?”

“Because... Life needs a challenge?” said Lu Zhou. His tone was uncertain and he casually came up with this reason.

“Impressive!” said Luo Wenxuan as he gave him a thumbs up. He then said, “... Okay, we’re here, it’s just over there. There are small gifts at the front door. You can get them with the invitation card. But don’t get your hopes up, it’s all stuff like pens and notebooks.”

“Thanks.”

Luo Wenxuan waved his hand, “You’re welcome!”

Foreign academic conferences were very different than domestic academic conferences. Especially in the poster exchange stage, there were no specific rules here.

Instead of exchanging goods, they were exchanging knowledge.

Everyone here had the right to express their own opinions, without worrying about their identity or status. The academic soul was sublimated in the collision of this kind of thinking. Inside the conference, there would be highly respected professors, and there would also be undergraduate students.

Of course, to be able to get a spot for one's academic poster meant that one had some strength. Even though one's opinions might not be absolutely correct, one still had the option of discussing one's opinions.

In addition to sharing academic issues with the stall owners, people had different ways of participating in academic conferences. The geniuses were rushing to showcase their research results while the dumb students were here to learn. Of course, even though the dumb students did not have any impressive research results to bring to the table, they could still participate.

As Lu Zhou stood in the crowd, he was glad that he did not wear a suit. Everyone was wearing casual clothes. First of all, if he wore a suit, he could be mistaken as a member of the management team. Secondly, his suit was not very warm, and the air conditioning made the hall very cold.

Once Luo Wenxuan brought Lu Zhou into the hall, he disappeared.

This was a great opportunity to communicate with geniuses at the frontier of fields, so to stay with acquaintances was a waste of time.

The first thing that Lu Zhou did after he entered the venue was to look through the gifts booth.

There were pens, notepads, and even ties. However, he could only take one of each. Lu Zhou planned to take a pen as a gift for his sister.

Of course, the small gifts were just a small part of the conference.

Lu Zhou did not forget the main reason he was here.

Generally speaking, the first two days of presentations had the highest value. Last night, Lu Zhou went on the conference website and printed out the presentation times and locations.

The first presentation had yet to begin, so Lu Zhou wondered around the booths in the hall and looked at the posters.

Suddenly, he was attracted by an impressive poster.

[Proof of the Twin prime number guess.]

[Author: Dijan]

[...]

Lu Zhou: ???

The f*ck?

Lu Zhou was shocked after seeing the title of the poster.

The problem that troubled him for half a year was solved by someone else?

This is big news!

Maybe, I'm witnessing history?

This is so exciting!

But, why is no one around?

Lu Zhou walked forward while he held his curiosity close to his heart.

Chapter 119

"The thesis is here, but I don't recommend you to read it," said Dijan as he patted the stack of paper on his hand. He then threw the paper aside before he started to write on a large whiteboard. He said, "The process is a bit cumbersome, but the principal is easy. I can explain it and you will soon understand the mystery of reverse mathematics."

“Reverse mathematics?” said Lu Zhou. As he looked at the Indian guy suspiciously, he asked, “You used reverse mathematics to prove it? I thought you were studying algebraic number theory.”

“Algebra is only a tool for studying number theory, it’s not the only way... I know you might not want to hear this. After all, you discovered a good method to prove the prime number bounded distance.”

Lu Zhou said impatiently, “I want to hear it, can you just spit it out?”

Dijan hung up the blackboard and turned around to look at Lu Zhou.

“I’ll be ready soon!”

While this Indian guy was painting on the whiteboard, Lu Zhou noticed that many people had turned their interests toward this side.

Lu Zhou was curious, so he stood next to the poster and followed the proof of this Indian guy.

In fact, his ideas were simple.

First, assume that the twin prime numbers were finite pairs and that the largest twin prime pairs were (P_{n-1}, P_n) . It could then be seen that the prime numbers within P_n were limited, and were set to P_1, P_2, P_{n-1} , and P_n .

Then, to construct a large prime number $P = (P_1 P_2 P_3 \dots * P_n) + 1$.

Obviously, P could not be divided by all the prime numbers from P_1 to P_n , and it always had a remainder of 1. So P was a prime number. Similarly, it could be proved that $P-2 = (P_1 P_2 P_3 \dots * P_n) - 1$ was obviously a prime number.

Since P was a prime number, $P-2$ was also a prime number. These two constituted a pair of twin prime numbers.

The problem arrived when the pair of twin primes formed by P and $P-2$ was larger than the “maximum prime pair”. Thus, negating (P_n, P_n-1) as the largest twin prime pair.

It was like climbing a ladder, no matter how big (P_n-1, P_n) was, one could always find a larger prime pair.

Thus, “twin primes are infinite” was correct.

There were still many steps in the middle, but the overall gist was this.

Lu Zhou looked at the entire process on the blackboard.

What surprised him was that this guy had not used any existing research results to solve the problem.

This type of out of the box thinking was sophisticated.

But...

Lu Zhou finally understood why no one took an interest in the Indian guy.

“The large prime number P you built can guarantee not to be divisible by a series of prime numbers from P_1 to P_n , but only if P_n is the largest prime number. Obviously, you fell into a logical trap. How do you prove that P_n is known as the maximum prime number?”

Dijan raised his eyebrows and said, “Did you not see what I wrote on the first line? The case of a limited number of twins, take the largest pair of twins (P_n-1, P_n) ...”

Lu Zhou, “ $2*3*5*7*11*13+1=30031$.”

When the people around heard Lu Zhou's line of calculations, they laughed. Some of them had already guessed it.

Some people...

Started to clap.

Dijan was stunned. He felt something was wrong and asked, "What do you mean?"

Lu Zhou sighed and said, "30031 can be disassembled into the product of two prime numbers of 59 and 509, so this number is a composite number... Did you pay to come to Princeton yourself? If I was your professor, I definitely wouldn't fund you."

People around cheered for Lu Zhou.

"Fine, shut up."

Dijan clearly realized that he had made a low-level mistake, so his face turned bright red. He slammed the poster on the table and stuffed the things on the table into his backpack. He then ignored the crowd and left.

Lu Zhou shrugged.

In fact, he wanted to tell the Indian guy why $(P_n - 1, P_n)$ could not be the largest prime pair, but the Indian guy obviously did not want to hear his explanation. Therefore, Lu Zhou gave up.

The drama was over and the crowd quickly dissipated.

Only one person stayed, and she looked at him with a smile.

Lu Zhou looked at her face and felt familiar.

This was the blonde lady who took him to the hotel yesterday.

Molina looked at Lu Zhou and smiled, "Destroying a player on the first day?"

Lu Zhou shrugged and said, "I just pointed out his mistakes, what's wrong with that?"

"Nothing, similar things happen all the time," said Molina. She continued, "This is the "arrogance" of Princeton. If you want to present your work here, you can't just be smart. You have to be confident as well."

Obviously, she heard their entire conversation.

This is interesting...

Lu Zhou did not notice her standing there.

Molina saw that Lu Zhou did not speak, so she asked, "Did you think of the calculation on the spot? Or did you prepare it in advance to attack him?"

"I thought of it on the spot. This should be an easy calculation for the geniuses at Princeton, right?"

Lu Zhou was not that bored. He did not learn mathematics to attack people.

Molina raised her eyebrows and said, "You may have some misunderstandings about the word "genius". The power of the brain is its creativity and logical thinking, not just raw calculations. If someone in his group knew some programming, they could've helped him find a counterexample. And he wouldn't be here embarrassing himself."

Lu Zhou said, "There is no "maybe" in mathematics, right?"

“Correct,” said Molina. She grinned and took out a piece of gum, “Do you want one?”

Lu Zhou hesitated before he reached out and took a piece.

“Thanks...”

Even though as a child, his parents told him not to accept food from strangers, but it should be okay, right?

Molina saw that Lu Zhou took the gum and smiled.

“You’re welcome. Since you accepted my little gift, I want something in exchange. Can you give me your email address and Facebook account?”

“I can give you my email address, but I don’t have a Facebook... Is this a custom here?”

Lu Zhou suddenly felt like he was being set up.

Molina smiled and joked, “Not, this is just a gentleman’s custom.”

Chapter 120

Soon, he discovered that Molina was right. People were being proven wrong all the time.

However, “killing the weak” was not the objective. It was merely the result.

Some people just were not at the level of others. There was bound to be conflict.

The most interesting thing was that Lu Zhou saw someone claiming to prove the last step of the Goldbach’s conjecture. When he walked over to see what was going on, he had not even finished reading the proof before two master’s students disproved the academic poster in front of everyone.

Of course, even if it was embarrassing, it was still brave of them to show their research results here. It would definitely benefit the scholars' future academic path.

Also, the number of "valueless posters" was still in the minority, and most of the exhibited academic results were quite valuable.

For example, a genius studied the automorphism group of Voter algebra. Even though he had not proved the final solution of " $\text{AutWn} = ?$ ", he still put forward many enlightening and interesting ideas, which attracted countless students and even some professors.

Lu Zhou walked around and found out that the little notebook he received from the front door was not enough to write on.

In the end, he had to walk back to the gift booths to get another notebook.

Lu Zhou gained immense knowledge today.

It was not just from the "poster session".

The focus of these large mathematics conferences was the few presentations that happened every day.

What impressed Lu Zhou the most was the 60 minute presentation from Professor Deligne. He reported the research progress on the transcendence of the Riemann zeta function at odd integer points. He proposed many novel ideas and applications. The mathematical methods were extremely groundbreaking.

Lu Zhou listened to the report presentation intently.

...

Lunch break...

The conference team provided a buffet meal with fruit and meat for all the participants.

Lu Zhou took some ribs and a bowl of salad. Once he found an empty seat, he sat down. He then started to flip through his notes from the conference.

Lu Zhou's focus was on number theory research.

Especially the study of the twin prime numbers.

Even though Lu Zhou did not gain much knowledge from the delusional Indian guy, he was influenced by his optimistic attitude. So, Lu Zhou's interest was reignited.

"Algebra is only a tool for studying number theory, it's not the only way..."

Lu Zhou looked at the formulas in his notes and went into deep thought.

"By picking the right lambda function... What if I used another route?"

It took a lot of courage to think outside of the box.

After all, international mathematician Mr. Zhang Yitang had narrowed the figure of 70 million to 246. As long as he kept trying by choosing an appropriate lambda(n) function, he could narrow this gap to 2 one day...

... Maybe?

This was like the Goldbach conjecture. It was far more difficult to climb that last meter of Everest than the 8843 previous meters.

While he was thinking about this problem, a faint perfume smell drifted over.

A woman carried her plate and sat across Lu Zhou. She then started to chat with him.

“Thinking about mathematics?”

“Yeah.”

When Lu Zhou heard her voice, he already knew who she was, so he did not look up. He continued to think of the problem.

“There is a coffee party upstairs discussing the content of Professor Deligne’s morning report. Are you not interested?”

“I would be interested... But I’m researching something else right now,” said Lu Zhou as he shook his head and flipped through his notebook. He poked a small tomato with his fork and inserted it into his mouth.

Molina looked at Lu Zhou curiously and said, “The academic conference is a place for communication. It might only happen once or twice a year. There are other times for research. Why are you researching mathematics right now?”

Lu Zhou casually replied, “There are many opportunities to attend mathematics conferences, but there are only a few moments of inspirations in life.”

Molina looked at Lu Zhou slyly and laughed.

When Lu Zhou looked up at her, he could not understand.

“What?”

“Sorry, nothing. I just think that you’re an interesting person,” said Molina. She added, “I wish you good luck in your problem solving.”

“Thank you.”

Although he did not know what she meant by “interesting”, he could hear that the blessing from her was genuine.

Lu Zhou then raised his cup of juice and touched cups with her.

...

The afternoon was relaxing, and after four o’clock, the conference would be temporarily paused. The poster stall owners would then leave the hall and reopen at 8 am the next morning.

If one thought they were going to rest after four o’clock, one would be wrong!

The focus of the conference was the free time after four o’clock.

At six o’clock in the evening, the organizers prepared a cocktail party at the Princeton Hotel. A wide range of food and wine would be available to the participants.

For many dumb students that could not understand the presentations during the day, this was their main focus of the conference. This was the time when they felt the closest to the geniuses.

Maybe they could use the power of champagne to receive a laboratory offer.

It was not impossible.

Although Lu Zhou was not that interested in socializing, he still recognized the importance of the party. In fact, he could not miss it.

In the evening, Lu Zhou put on a pair of dress shoes and looked at himself in the mirror. He even styled up his hair.

“Not bad.”

Lu Zhou looked at the handsome guy in the mirror and nodded his head with satisfaction. However, he suddenly felt some worries in his heart.

What if people ignore my talent because of my handsomeness?

I hope that doesn't happen...

Someone suddenly knocked on the door of his hotel room.