

## Scholar 141

### Chapter 141

While overseas, he watched Lu Zhou's Youtube video. He guessed that most people in China had not seen it yet, and the proof on the conference website was about Zhou's conjecture, so his heart was filled with greed.

Anyway, it was not like he was publishing in journals anyway, and there was no overlap between the entertainment and academic industry. Therefore, he copied the proof process.

However, the results were out of his expectations.

Within a week, his scheme was defeated.

Someone posted the conference recordings online, with the signature of Mr. Francis, the president of the Federal Mathematics Society.

Even though the production team tried to cover the story up, and even though his crazy fans defended him, at this moment, he was still flustered.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

It was none other than Professor Harris from the University of Auckland.

He picked up the phone.

"Did you submit a thesis recently? Don't tell me you wrote my name down."

Wu Yan replied, "I didn't submit anything."

Copyright issues were relatively common in the academic circle, but that did not mean the academicians would tolerate it. Plagiarism was intolerable.

Professor Harris' tone softened, but he was still stern.

All allegations had a reason.

Especially allegations from the Federal Mathematics Society.

Professor Harris' tone was serious when he said, "Some people accused you of plagiarism, and this accusation came from the Federal Mathematics Society. I hope that you can take this matter seriously."

Wu Yan's face turned red and he said, "I didn't plagiarize, I only participated in a TV show and used some..."

He could not continue.

Professor Harris frowned and asked, "Used what?"

"Some proofs of the twin prime number conjecture which was presented at the Princeton conference..."

The other end of the phone went silent.

The professor spoke.

"Then you checked the conference submission and didn't find anything, so you copied it? Do you know there's a conference text recording, in addition to the submissions?"

Wu Yan's face turned bright red.

He had never presented at a conference, so he did not know about this stuff. The proof process was a simplified version from the Princeton website, and he barely understood it.

Wu Yan knew that there was no point hiding anything, so he tried to argue with his supervisor, "I didn't publish anything, it only inspired me..."

"You think that just because you didn't publish anything, this is okay? Anyways, I suggest you fly back to Auckland and sort out your school status."

Wu Yan froze. When he was trying to figure out what the professor meant, the other end had already hung up.

Beep beep beep...

His face turned pale. Cold sweat was rolling down his back.

He threw his phone on the bed. Wu Yan felt desperate.

Professor Harris had asked him to sort out his student status.

What does that mean?

Am I getting... expelled?

The door was pushed open, and his agent walked in.

When Yang Feng walked in the door and saw Wu Yan's face, he asked, "What happened to you?"

Wu Yan bitterly said, "My supervisor... might expel me."

Yang Feng paused for a second before saying, "Who cares about your supervisor? Do you really plan to go back to Auckland? You could just sign an advertisement contract here and make money. Who cares about your academics?"

Wu Yan thought about it. His agent made sense.

Who cares about the University of Auckland?

He took a deep breath and calmed down before asking, "What do we do now?"

He was not about to apologize, but he had nowhere else to retreat to.

He was still considered a genius. If he apologized, it would be a devastating blow to his status.

On the other hand, who would care about his academic title? His acting career had just begun!

"The show has been rectified, and the only person that can save it is you," said Yang Feng with a stern look. He continued, "Sort out your thesis as soon as possible, then submit it in a domestic journal. Then you can argue that you were the one that came up with the proof... Remember to change his proof process so it doesn't look like you copied it. You're the strongest genius student!"

Wu Yan was shocked by this idea. He did not expect his agent to be even crazier than him.

"How do I modify it? The whole premise of the thesis is using the sieve theory of topology. That can't be avoided..."

Yang Feng said, "Are you dumb! I don't know about mathematics, don't ask me! I asked you to change the steps. You can copy his ideas but not exactly. Just change a few letters or something, and we can just claim that it is a coincidence. Who cares about the academic circle anyway! You're in the entertainment circle!"

Wu Yan was unhappy to be called dumb. After all, it was a lot harder to change the proof process of mathematics theses.

Quite frankly, he had no idea how to modify it.

However, he still had sneaky plans.

He read the thesis published by Professor Zellberg in 1995. If he found a substandard journal and submitted the thesis first, how would anyone prove that he plagiarized?

He could claim that it was a coincidence from two geniuses...

It did not matter if the academic community was convinced. At least he could give his fans a reasonable explanation. Even if the show was canceled, as long as his fans were there, he could still make money.

However, things did not always turn out as expected.

He did not realize the flaws in his plan.

Wu Yan was discussing with his agent when the phone rang.

Yang Feng looked at his phone and stood up. He then walked outside to pick up the call.

"Hey, Director Zhang. How's the negotiation going with the TV station? They can't just give up on this investment..."

"Look at the news yourself."

Yang Feng almost could not recognize his voice as his voice had become so depressed.

He was about to ask what the news was, but Director Zhang hung up on him.

Chapter 142

If he was just an ordinary university student...

If he had not received evidence from the academic conference...

If those things were true, then even fewer people would believe him.

He thought about the 2014 academic scandal, the “Academic Goddess” Xiao Baofang incident. A Nobel prize level fraud, which ended in the supervisor’s suicide.

Fortunately, Lu Zhou was not alone in this fight.

So much so that he did not even have to fight himself.

When Lu Zhou saw the comments on his Weibo post, he was not angry at all.

In fact...

He wanted to laugh.

“Who cares about these blind haters.”

Lu Zhou kept reading the comments. When he saw a few people supporting him, he liked their comments.

He did not care about those “Wu stans”. Instead, he called Luo Wenxuan who was in Princeton.

The timing of the conference record was perfect.

He had to thank him.

...

The news that Director Zhang talked about was from Everyone Daily.

This time, Everyone Daily published an article about the trending topic.

[Entertainment shows should have basic morals.]

The article used harsh language to criticize the Strongest Genius Student TV show. It said that the show was fooling the audience, and breaking the law.

As soon as the article came out, all of the other major media outlets re-posted the article, which sent it on trending.

The comment section of Everyone Daily blew up.

[F\*ck me, I really thought that Wu Yan proved the conjecture. Are all celebrities like this?]

[What a douchebag.]

[Why do people even like this guy? He's just a PhD student. There are millions of PhD students!]

[I can't believe it, Wu Yan fooled us.]

[Is he going to get in trouble for this?]

[I hope he does! (fist) (fist)]

[I'm curious about Lu Zhou. He was on Huaguo Youth Daily last time, and now, he's on Everyone Daily. He's quite influential...]

[...]

With the Everyone Daily article, those who were still skeptical about the whole incident changed their mind.

No matter how hard the Wu fans tried to argue, they had no chance against the giant media article.

Fewer and fewer people were on Wu Yan's side.

When people went to find Wu Yan's Weibo account, they were surprised to see the account banned.

Before Wu Yan was banned, he posted one last time.

[I, Wu Yan, would never plagiarize. I have five million fans, do I really need to plagiarize? I was only inspired. You guys are accusing a scientist...]

Even now, he would not admit his mistakes.

His desire to survive was strong.

Unfortunately, his desire to survive was used in the wrong place.

No one sympathized him.

As a young adult, he had to pay for his wrongdoing.



...

After the incident, the discussion quickly heated up amongst major universities.

Almost all of the major media were reporting on this incident.

At the campus of the University of Yan, a guy and a girl were walking side by side to the library when suddenly, a reporter chased them from behind.

"Hello, please wait... Are you Wei Wen?"

Wei Wen stopped walking and looked at the reporter.

"Yeah, why?"

"Here's the thing. Our TV station is doing a campus interview program. What do you think about the recent dispute between Lu Zhou and Wu Yan on Weibo?"

Wei Wen pushed his glasses and said, "You want to ask what I think?"

The reporter smiled and said, "Let's talk about Lu Zhou first. I heard you met him in a national competition. What do you think about him?"

Wei Wen thought for a moment before he answered, "A respectable opponent."

In reality, Lu Zhou was so far ahead of Wei Wen that he could not even call him an opponent.

Of course, Wei Wen obviously could not say that.

In his dictionary, there was no such thing as giving up.

He was about to leave.

“Wait a second.”

Wei Wen turned around and looked at the reporter.

“Anything else?”

The reporter asked, “What about Wu Yan? You’ve won the gold medal in the IMO International Olympic Mathematical Competition. Do you think Wu Yan is a respectable opponent?”

Wei Wen frowned and said, “Wu Yan? He’s weak.”

The reporter was stunned.

Wei Wen walked away from the reporter.

“Cui Jing, let’s go.”

“Okay.”

The girl name Cui Jing nodded and walked next to him.

The reporter was left behind.

Chapter 143: Thousands Of People

Everyone Daily reported that the Strongest Genius Student show would be suspended indefinitely.

People claimed to see the French team at the Shanghai airport.

The French team was sitting at the airport as they waited for their flight back home.

This confirmed that the show was discontinued.

Everyone Daily further reported on the show.

It was not just academic fraud.

Box..

Reverse Rubik's cube, blind Sudoku, questions, scripts...

Join Telegram Group For Fast update

Most of the show's segments were faked.

The audience found out that they were lied to.

There were no geniuses. It was just a show.

The several big-name celebrities who were invited to be on the final episode of the show canceled their contracts.

After all, the show's reputation was in the dumpster.

As for the main responsible person, Director Zhang, although he was not fired, he was transferred to the TV station's printing room. The head of the TV station was the one that demoted him.

Anyone demoted by the head of the TV station was done.

It was not just Director Zhang.

Wu Yan had it even worse. Even though he went to New Zealand and escaped criminal prosecution, his degree was revoked and his life was over.

Lu Zhou had not expected this to happen.

He was also surprised about...

The Ten Thousand People Initiative selection.

The Ten Thousand People Initiative was one of the 12 major talent projects developed by the government.

Normally, one would have to wait for at least six months to get a reply.

However, Lu Zhou had already received a reply.

The school issued a notice and Lu Zhou started to prepare the materials. The application was based on Professor Tang's "Polignac's conjecture" suggestion.

Then...

The Ten Thousand People Initiative documents inexplicably came through.

1.6 million yuan in research funds also came through.

Although Lu Zhou could not put this money into his bank account, he could use it to purchase flights, travel for conferences, and pay for graduate studies...

Of course, Lu Zhou was still an undergraduate student. However, he could still give himself a monthly salary and improve his life a little at a time. He only had to write an expenditure report each year, and submit the progress of his research.

In addition to the research funding, there were other policy supports.

It could even be said that these policy supports were the key points while the funding was secondary.

After all, there were very few people who applied for this initiative for money.

Lu Zhou had not expected the application documents to come so quickly.

When he looked at the documents and the certificate that said “Top Youth”, he felt a little satisfaction in his heart.

Maybe it was an illusion?

Regardless, he was considered a “Young Scholar”.

He was probably the youngest.

...

After Lu Zhou returned to school, he was busy with the Ten Thousand People Initiative application. He had paused his graduation thesis and had only completed 1/15 of the system mission.

I can't keep doing this.

Lu Zhou looked at the Ten Thousand People Initiative certificate in his hand and shook his head.

I have to be more diligent.

I'll finish the thesis first.

It was too late to go to the library, so Lu Zhou pulled out his laptop and started writing on his desk in his dorm room.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open by Huang Guangming.

Shi Shang, who was tuning his guitar, looked at Huang Guangming and asked, "What's wrong with you?"

Huang Guangming sighed and placed his backpack down. He had a sad expression on his face as he said, "Nothing, it's over."

Liu Rui was gloating when he added, "Qian Hua?"

Huang Guangming nodded heavily and sighed, "Yeah, we were going to study together, but the results were unpleasant. I left."

Lu Zhou coughed and spoke.

"Is... it because of me?"

Huang Guangming shook his head and said, "No, I can't accept someone that bashes my friend..."

He smiled and continued, "Who cares. It's not like anything substantial happened... She's a bit annoying anyway."

Shi Shang sighed and said, "Wow, I think that your future relationships will be successful!"

Huang Guangming felt a little better and he said, "Thanks, Brother Fei, you always speak kindly."

"Do you want me to play a song for you?"

Huang Guangming quickly waved his hand, "No, no, no, that's not necessary."

On the other hand, Lu Zhou felt bad.

He always thought that Qian Hua and Guangming was a good match.

They were both the optimistic type. Although they both had shortcomings, who did not?

Still, he was happy that his friend defended his research results.

Lu Zhou said, "How about... I buy you some food?"

Huang Guangming immediately nodded and said, "Sure."

Lu Zhou was surprised by the speed of his response.

Wow, he agreed quickly...

Lu Zhou felt like he was being tricked...

Chapter 144

Huaguo Youth Daily also cited the evaluations of Lu Zhou's thesis.

[This is an outstanding achievement. Now we can say with certainty that the twin prime numbers are infinite – Pierre Deligne.]

Also, the article mentioned that Lu Zhou was selected as the younger member of the Ten Thousand People Initiative.

This immediately caused a sensation on the internet.

[F\*ck, isn't a PhD the minimum threshold for the Ten Thousand People Initiative?]

[But how many doctors are as nutty as Lu Zhou?]

[Mathematics is really the field of geniuses...]

[I wish I can get in...]

[This study god is amazing!]

[Brother Lu defeated the “Strongest Genius Student”!]

[Save some for me...]

Not only Weibo, but forums from major universities were also discussing this matter.

The University of Yan's forum...

[I just had a number theory class, and the lecturer told us about this guy. I wish I was there to watch him solve the conjecture...]

[This qualification alone is worth a PhD right?]



[Correct, but he's too young. You can't just hand doctoral degrees out like candy.]

[F\*ck, he must be a genius.]

[Even geniuses have to learn. But he doesn't learn the same way as you. I heard that the University of Jin Ling gave him a special talent training program so he could get double PhD degrees within the next three years.]

[I'm so jealous.]

[This guy will probably receive the 2018 Fields Medal. There's no point being jealous. Just switch to financial mathematics, pure mathematics is a dead end.]

[...]

...

In addition to major media, we-media also reported on Lu Zhou.

[Shocked! The twin prime number conjecture was proved by him!]

[He was going to make a presentation, but he was inspired and shocked the world!]

The reports on the Internet were overwhelming. Lu Zhou skimmed over them before deciding to lock himself in his bedroom and work on his graduation thesis.

He thought that if he went to the library, the people around him would not be able to focus.

Therefore, he decided not to make other students feel bad. Instead, he studied in his room.

He planned to go to the library after he finished his thesis. He was too busy to do the system mission at the moment.

However, he was not completely stuck in his dorm over the past three days. He went to Mrs. Yang's house on Sunday to help Han Mengqi with her math problems.

He did not go for the money. It was more of a way to relax his brain and think about simple problems.

Of course, he did not refuse the raise that Mrs. Yang offered.

It was still a sense of accomplishment.

His student turned from a dumb student to a genius, like she was a plant that he watered every day.

Of course, this was also due to Han Mengqi's own talents. Anyone else would not have improved so quickly.

Lu Zhou previously thought that girls had a natural disadvantage in science and logic, but now it seemed that he was incorrect.

At least, Mengqi improved her mathematics score by 20 within a semester. That was no small feat.

If it was not for the system, Lu Zhou's own talent abilities would have been around the same as this little girl.

Regardless of what the media says, Lu Zhou always viewed himself as a hardworking person, not a talented person.

The reason he managed to get into the University of Jin Ling had nothing to do with whether or not he was a genius, but it was because of sweat, blood, and tears.

After the tutoring session ended, Lu Zhou wore an apron and went to cook in the kitchen. He made a dish of green pepper fried meat, and the girl's favorite mapo tofu. This counted as an award for the girl's test results.

Mrs. Yang had not returned from work yet, so the pair ate by themselves.

Lu Zhou started to chat with her about her studies.

"I've already reviewed the mathematics and physics textbook for you, and I pointed out the topics you need additional work on. I can't teach you much else. By June, you won't need me anymore."

She had to study by herself and further solidify her knowledge.

Han Mengqi whispered, "Will you study abroad?"

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Probably next year. The university plans on sending me to Princeton for a PhD, to allow me to go on a higher scientific research platform."

By next year, he would have earned a master's degree. The University of Jin Ling did not have much else to teach him.

It would be necessary for him to go to a higher education platform.

Han Mengqi looked a little sad as she asked, "Oh, I see. Then, will you come back?"

Lu Zhou joked and said, "Of course, I'll probably come back as a professor."

Han Mengqi looked up and said, "Really? I'll be a uni student by then. Can I be your master's student?"

Lu Zhou was surprised, "My master's student? You want to study pure mathematics?"

Pure mathematics was not a good major, especially for girls.

However...

Her family was wealthy, so it did not really matter.

Han Mengqi nodded energetically and said, "Yes! I love pure mathematics!"

"You sure?"

"I'm sure!"

Lu Zhou placed his chopsticks down and said, "Okay then, but I have to tell you, it's not that easy. You'll have to get into at least a Top 40 university."

Han Mengqi said enthusiastically, "I'll try my best!"

Chapter 145

"Right here? What if you send it to my email..."

The people around him quickly started to come over.

"It's Lu Zhou... Nutty, he looks so young."

"F\*ck, it's him!"

"Are you preparing for the graduate entrance exam as well? Why are you at the library so early."

A third-year student excitedly came over and asked, “God Lu, can I shake your hand?”

Lu Zhou’s hand was grabbed before he could respond.

“I’ve got the spirit of the god. I won’t wash my hand before my exam!” said the guy after he released Lu Zhou’s hand. He then quickly walked away.

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

“Genius student, do you have a WeChat? Can you add me?”

“God! Do you still use your mathematical analysis and advanced algebra notebooks? I’ll buy them off you for a thousand!”

“I’ll pay a thousand five hundred!”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

The crowd was getting more and more excited, so Lu Zhou took the chance and slipped through the library door.

...

The library was the same.

His internet fame might have faded slightly, but his reputation in the school was still there.

He then went to the mathematics building and found an empty classroom.

Once Lu Zhou found a seat to sit down, he sighed and took his laptop out of his bag. Just as he was about to edit his thesis, Xiao Ai's window popped up.

The window contained chat records of the mathematical modeling group chat.

They were chatting about him.

Chang Qing: [... What a god, solved Zhou's conjecture last year, and solved twin prime number this year.]

Xian Zong: [Ah, he's too quiet though. He hasn't said a word since joining our group chat.]

Kedu: [What if, we slide into his dm?]

Chu Chu: [F\*ck off.]

Chang Qing: [I wonder if he's joining the modeling competition this year? Hopefully, I can join his team, I want to win the Higher Education Society Cup.]

Dayday: [Modeling competition? He's not even joining the US Competition, why would he join the domestic one?]

Lu Zhou looked at the chat records and smiled.

Xiao Ai: [Master, are you happy?]

Lu Zhou smiled and typed: [Happy. When I save up to 2 million yuan, I'll buy you a new home.]

Allowing this little AI to live in a tiny laptop was quite annoying as the CPU would constantly be burning. The noise from the fan was especially annoying.

The university was prepared to give him another million yuan for solving the twin prime number conjecture.

He had already asked Dean Lu. When the TV interview was over, the award would be presented to him by Principal Xu.

Plus his savings, he could buy the 2 million yuan server!

Xiao Ai: [It's 2.9 million though.]

Lu Zhou: "..."

He suddenly felt as if he was spoiling this guy.

He edited his thesis for around an hour before people starting to come into the classroom.

When Lu Zhou looked up at the podium, he saw a young glasses wearing PhD student adjusting the projector.

There's a class here?

The PhD student made eye contact with Lu Zhou.

He was stunned.

Suddenly, the class bell rang.

The PhD student did not say anything. Instead, he gently coughed and started his PowerPoint presentation.

“Today, we’ll talk about basic number theory... Let me introduce myself, I’m Wang Shijie. I’m still studying my PhD in the field of number theory. If you are interested in the field of number theory, feel free to consult Professor Li Zhongshu.]

He then turned to the next page.

Most middle school students knew about prime numbers and natural numbers.

This was precisely the magic of number theory.

Even though many conclusions could be expressed in basic mathematics, without further knowledge in mathematics, it was almost impossible to study or prove these conjectures in depth.

Lu Zhou was getting a bit tired, so he closed his laptop. He wanted to see what the lecture was about.

He looked at the blackboard curiously.

[

The contribution of Chinese scholars to prime numbers.

Zhou’s theorem: When  $2^{2^n} < p < 2^{2^{n+1}}$ ,  $2^{n+1} - 1$  which are prime numbers.

Presented by: Zhou Haizhong.

Proved by: Lu Zhou.

]

This was not the main problem.



The main problem was that the PowerPoint presentation contained a photo of Lu Zhou.

When Lu Zhou saw the photo, he instantly blushed. He wanted to bury his head in his keyboard.

This is so embarrassing!

Where did they even get this photo! It doesn't even reflect my true handsomeness!

This...

This is unacceptable!

Lu Zhou did not know what to do.

The PhD student on stage was also feeling awkward.

F\*ck sake!

I found this photo online. Who knew that you would come to my class!

Next slide of the powerpoint.

It was related to Lu Zhou as well.

[

Twin prime conjecture

The Polignac conjecture proposes that for all natural numbers  $k$ , there is an infinite number of prime pairs  $(P, P + 2K)$ . The case of  $k=1$  is the twin prime guess.

Proof: Define  $\theta(n)=\ln n$  if  $n$  is a prime number; define  $\theta(n)=0$  if  $n$  is a composite number. If we can properly select the function  $\lambda(n)$ ...

The Chinese scholar Zhang Yitang proposed the above proof, the current best result is 246.

]

A student sitting in the front row saw this slide and raised his hand.

“Teacher, I think this conjecture was proved a few days ago.”

The PhD student was a little embarrassed, so he coughed and said, “I made this powerpoint two weeks ago and I forgot to change it. This conjecture was proven by Lu Zhou from our University of Jin Ling. The specific proof process is too long, so it won’t be tested in the exam. Oh yeah, also, Lu Zhou is sitting in the fourth row of our classroom.”

The PhD student smiled at Lu Zhou.

Suddenly, everyone turned their heads toward Lu Zhou.

Especially the guy sitting next to Lu Zhou, his eyeballs nearly popped out.

He was probably wondering how he did not notice.

Lu Zhou smiled at the PhD student on the podium and sighed.

I can’t even go to class.

Soon after, the class ended.

Lu Zhou packed up his stuff and left.

Chapter 146

Lu Zhou was constantly writing on the blackboard.

Now, even fewer people could keep up with his pace.

Most people started to feel lost.

For example, even Luo Rundong was staring at the blackboard with a confused expression.

Liu Rui stopped writing, and he whispered instead.

“F\*ck me, what is this sh\*t?”

Huang Guangming looked at the blackboard as well.

He was not confused because he was not listening at all.

“Guangming, do you understand this?”

Huang Guangming shook his head and said, “Nope, Lu Zhou doesn’t understand how dumb we are.”

Liu Rui paused for a second.

He did not know what to say.

When Lu Zhou finished writing on the blackboard, he stood aside to let the students copy the notes.

The students in the first row took out their phones and started taking photos, but the other students did not bother to do anything.

The old professor, who stood aside, smiled and placed his vacuum flask down. He walked next to Lu Zhou and spoke.

“Remember, this is in the exam.”

The students moaned.

They looked at the blackboard and felt hopeless.

They did not know what to do.

Liu Rui was going crazy and Huang Guangming said to him, “It’s fine, Lu Zhou is coming back to our dorm anyway, so he can just teach us then.”

Liu Rui ignored him.

He was not crazy because of how hard the content was.

It was because...

He found out the gap between him and Lu Zhou.

...

Lu Zhou could not attend any lectures, at least not mathematics ones.

After the complex functions lecture, Lu Zhou did not go to class again.

There was nothing that undergraduate classes could teach him. As usual, he went to the library instead.

His experience in the library gradually got better.

He refused a few thesis invitations, and fewer people bothered him.

After all, they had their own matters to attend to.

They could not stalk Lu Zhou all day.

This could also be due to the fact that Lu Zhou chose a low-key spot to sit at.

He devoted himself to his thesis.

Writing a thesis was actually a learning process for Lu Zhou.

In order to introduce Hilbert space into quantum mechanics and use mathematical problems to study the motion law of microscopic particles, he also studied a lot of theses and also attended several advanced graduate lectures in quantum mechanics.

University of Jin Ling's theoretical physics department was highly rated, and the lectures were inspiring to Lu Zhou.

Of course, even though quantum mechanics was fascinating, mathematics was still his cup of tea.

Therefore, he used a more mathematical approach to his thesis.

He only slightly touched on the topic of quantum mechanics.

[A viscous approximation method for equilibrium problems and finite non-extension maps in Hilbert space.]

[Abstract: A new iterative format is introduced in the real Hilbert space, which uses the method of viscous approximation to approximate the common elements of the solution set. The equilibrium problem and the fixed point set of the finite non-extension map forms a strong convergence theorem.]

The abstract was the final stage of the thesis.

“Finally finished!”

Lu Zhou looked at the completed thesis and sighed in relief. He then entered the system space to check his mission progress.

Reward mission: Documents read (13/50).

From the mission completion details, it was clear how much effort he had put in.

Fortunately, he did not have to worry about the thesis.

He only had to hand in the thesis to Professor Tang.

After that, he could start making his PowerPoint presentation for the oral defense.

As for the submission, he planned to submit it to the [Advanced Theoretical and Mathematical Physics] journal.

This journal focused on physics and mathematics. It had an impact factor of 2.3, which was not high. However, he chose it because this journal was a core journal and was quite famous.

After completing the graduation thesis, Lu Zhou went to Professor Tang's office. As a second year, he handed over his final undergraduate assignment.

Inside the office...

Professor Tang skimmed through Lu Zhou's thesis and said, "Your thesis puts forward many good points. There are many overlaps between the research on the real Hilbert space and my own research field, but I won't ask you technical questions. Just do well in the oral defense."

Lu Zhou nodded humbly and said, "Thanks, professor."

Professor Tang smiled and said, "Oh, you're afraid of my questions? Remember to work hard on your PowerPoint presentation. There's quite a lot of judges that want to ask you questions."

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "Professor, please have mercy."

"I will, I will," said Professor Tang as he waved his hand and smiled. He continued, "Dean Qin and I will give mercy, but the other two professors might not."

Lu Zhou carefully asked, "Can I ask who are they?"

Professor Tang said, "Sure, one is academician Lu Shenjian from our school. The other is Xiang Huanan, from the Chinese Academy of Sciences."

The F\*ck?

Even though Lu Zhou had not heard much about Xiang Huanan, he knew that he was a deputy director of the Mathematical Society. In short, the guy was famous in the field of algebraic group and functional analysis.

As for academician Lu Shenjian...

He was a member of international cooperation groups such as BESIII and LHCb. In 2013, he discovered the four-quark state  $Z_c(3900)$  in the Shanghai Electron Collider Test. This discovery was named the world's top ten physics discovery of the year.

Although it was a great honor for these two big names to take time and critique an undergraduate student's thesis, Lu Zhou only felt one thing.

I only want to get my undergraduate certificate, but not like this...

Lu Zhou felt nervous.

#### Chapter 147

There was an interview waiting for Lu Zhou before the oral defense.

After the interview, Principal Xu would personally award him with one million yuan.

Lu Zhou was surprised to see that Suzhou TV station was the one conducting the interview.

Lu Zhou did not understand this arrangement.

He thought that it would be awkward to see a reporter from Suzhou TV station, but not only did the reporter come, the director of Suzhou TV station also came.

When Director Li met with Lu Zhou, he shook his hand.

"Lu Zhou, allow me to apologize! It was our fault to not verify the program's content. We've found the relevant personnel and fired him. We hope you can forgive us!"

Lu Zhou was a little unprepared at Director Li's kind words.



To be honest, he held no grudges against the Suzhou TV station.

After the plagiarism problem occurred, the involved personnel were all given the punishment they deserved.

Now the director even personally came to apologize, so there was no need to hold grudges.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "It's fine, Director Li, I'm happy with the way your station handled the matter. It's already over, so let's forget about it."

Director Li smiled and said, "On behalf of Suzhou TV station, we thank you for your forgiveness."

He paused for a second before he said to the reporter.

"Xiao Wang, start the interview now."

"Okay, director."

Reporter Xiao Wang smiled and walked over.

Soon after, the interview officially began.

Judging from the interview, Suzhou TV was being quite nice to Lu Zhou. They did not ask any hard questions.

By the end of the interview, Lu Zhou finally knew why the university had arranged this.

This was good publicity for both the school and the TV station.

After the interview...

Principal Xu of University of Jin Ling and Lu Zhou stood in front of the camera and held a one million yuan ICBC cheque.

This one million yuan would be put into Xiao Ai's new home.

...

At night, Lu Zhou ate dinner at the cafeteria before he went back to his dorm. He then sat in front of his computer and started to edit his oral defense PowerPoint presentation.

He knew that this oral defense would not be easy. Even though he was only an undergraduate student, the two academicians would not go easy on him.

Therefore, Lu Zhou had to practice all possible questions about his thesis.

This process was the most grueling.

His three roommates finally came back from their lecture.

Huang Guangming saw Lu Zhou and curiously looked at his PowerPoint.

"Zhou, what are you doing?"

Lu Zhou thought and replied, "Oral defense powerpoint."

Liu Rui put his backpack down and said, "Oral defense?"

Lu Zhou nodded, "Yeah, graduation oral defense."

The dorm became silent.

Lu Zhou felt it and sighed.

He had been deliberately avoiding this issue, but he knew that he had to tell them at some point. This was life and separation was a part of life.

Unfortunately, this separation came too quickly.

Huang Guangming forced a smile and said, "Actually... We kind of guessed it. We were talking about this just a while ago, but anyway, good luck!"

Shi Shang put his hand on Lu Zhou's shoulder and said, "Good luck."

Liu Rui did not say anything.

This time, he was not jealous.

He always saw Lu Zhou as an enemy, and he hated his occasional gloating, but in his heart, he still saw Lu Zhou as a friend. This was precisely why he had not expressed his jealousy out loud.

Maybe, this was what a good friend should do?

Still, he could not for the life of him say good luck.

Lu Zhou felt the heaviness in the air. He smiled and said, "It's just a graduation oral defense, I'm still sitting here. It's not like I'm dead or something. After the oral defense, I'll buy you guys dinner."

Huang Guangming said, "No need, let us buy you dinner."

Shi Shang sighed and said, "Yeah Zhou, you've already bought us so much food over the past two semesters. We'll buy you dinner on the day you graduate as a celebration."

Liu Rui nodded and said, "Yeah, we've to treat you."

Lu Zhou replied, "There's no need, we're all friends here. You're stressing me out..."

Shi Shang said, "It's good to have some stress, so you don't forget about us. Besides, remember how much stress you give us?"

The other two friends nodded.

The F\*ck?

Not like this.

Why are they so persistent?

Lu Zhou did not know what to say. Suddenly, his phone rang.

When Lu Zhou saw the caller, he was relieved.

It was his father.

"I have to take this call."

Lu Zhou turned around and went to the balcony.

He then closed the balcony door behind him.

Lu Zhou took a deep breath and picked up the phone.

“Hello?”

Lu Bangguo’s voice traveled through the phone, “Son, what is the twin prime conjecture?”

When Lu Zhou heard his father’s voice, he felt better.

He smiled and replied, “Dad, you don’t need to understand it, just know that your son is nutty.”

Lu Bangguo, “Oh yeah, I just saw it on TV, so I thought I’d ask. Don’t forget to wear more clothes these few days, it’s getting cold.”

Lu Zhou, “I’m fine, you guys have to watch out for your health as well.”

Lu Bangguo smiled and said, “We’re doing great. Your mom is cooking in the kitchen. Do you want to talk to her?”

Lu Zhou smiled, “Sure...”

“...”

A twenty-minute phone call went by.

Lu Zhou then leaned against the balcony and as he looked up at the dark sky, he was quiet.

He stared at the stars for a long time...

Chapter 148

He had prepared for this moment for a long time, so he was not nervous at all.

The PowerPoint presentation began.

Lu Zhou introduced himself and started to talk about his thesis. He briefly talked about the main points and conclusion of the thesis.

This process was very short, and it only took five minutes.

Next was the important questions and answers stage!

Xiang Huanan looked at Lu Zhou.

"Fifth page of the thesis, I noticed that you mentioned that  $C$  is a nonempty closed convex subset in Hilbert space, and is introduced for a class of quasi-nonexpansive images  $T:C \rightarrow C$ . A Halpern-type viscous iterative algorithm. What does this mean? Can you explain it in detail?"

A normal judge for an undergraduate student's graduation thesis would not ask such a technical question. However, Lu Zhou was no normal student, and this judge was no normal judge.

Therefore, the question was also out of the ordinary.

Lu Zhou did not have to refer to his thesis. He remembered exactly what he wrote on the fifth page.

"The sequence  $\{x_n\}$  used to prove '8' strongly converges to a fixed point on  $T$ , and this point is the only solution to the variational inequality  $V$ . Can I use the blackboard? It's difficult to explain with words."

Professor Xiang Huanan smiled and said, "Of course."

Normally this would not be allowed.

Lu Zhou picked up the chalk and started to write on the blackboard.

$[x_1 \in C, x_{(n+1)} = \alpha_n \cdot f \cdot x_n + \beta_n \cdot x_n + \gamma_n \cdot T \cdot x_n, n \geq 1]$ . Where  $f: C \rightarrow C$  is a compressed image, where  $T: C \rightarrow C$  is a non-stretch impression...]

Xiang Huanan smiled and nodded his head, "Not bad."

This answer was sufficient, even by PhD standards.

Therefore, the judge was satisfied with this answer.

Professor Lu Shenjian said, "Let me ask a few questions too."

Lu Zhou replied, "Professor, please go ahead."

Professor Lu Shenjian said, "I noticed that you mentioned in the paper that by applying your set of viscous iterative algorithms, it can also be used to study the pre-solution of the maximal monotone operator in Banach space. This can become a tool for quantum mechanics. This is similar to the algorithm mentioned by Professor Kohsaka in Japan when he introduced the non-stretching image in 2008, but you have not made further extensions on this basis. Why?"

Lu Zhou was surprised at this question.

What do you mean by why?

Because the focus on the thesis is not on this!

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "Because further expansion of this topic would count as a thesis in and of itself. This thesis is only about mathematics problems. Although there are references to quantum mechanics applications, that is not the focus."

Academic problems were endless, and everything could be further expanded upon. He only briefly mentioned his possible application of this set of viscous iterative algorithms in quantum mechanics.

Lu Shenjian shook his head and said with a heavy tone, "This is not the mentality that a scholar should have. You should strive to learn perfectly. If you have also discovered this possibility, why don't you further expand on it?"

Professor Xiang Huanan suddenly smiled and said, "Old Lu, stop giving Lu Zhou a hard time. People that are good at mathematics aren't necessarily good at physics. I think Lu Zhou is more suited for mathematics research."

Lu Shenjian said, "I didn't mean it like that. I meant that if he's interested, he can study under my wing. The movement of microscopic particles requires Hilbert space to regulate, and vice versa. The observation of microscopic particles will certainly have a great inspiration for his research in the field of mathematics!"

Professor Xiang shook his head and said, "I respectfully disagree. I've studied subgroup theory and the Yang-Baxter equation. Although mathematics can be a tool for physics research, mathematics itself is self-contained. Physics and mathematics are two different things."

Professor Xiang smiled and looked at Lu Zhou before he said, "Like what Professor Lu said, if you discovered a possibility, why don't you expand on it? If you're interested, the China Institute of Mathematics has a similar research project..."

Dean Qin interrupted them, "There are so many talents in the Chinese Academy of Science already, stop trying to steal ours."

Professor Xiang Huanan smiled and said, "What do you mean by stealing? I'm just making a suggestion."

Professor Tang smiled and said, "There's still some time left, so let's continue the oral defense."

In fact, there was not much else to ask.



The level of the thesis was way too high for a graduation thesis.

The so-called oral defense was only to test the student's skill level, which was obviously unnecessary in this case.

"Ask about what? Screw these formalisms!" said Professor Xiang as he smiled and stood up.

He looked at Lu Zhou and nodded, "Your work in functional analysis surprised me, I rarely see undergraduate students who are able to reply so wonderfully."

Lu Zhou sincerely said, "Thank you, professor."

Professor Xiang Huanan said, "No need to thank me, the oral defense is over. You can leave now."

Lu Zhou looked at Professor Tang.

Professor Tang nodded and said, "You can leave. We'll inform you of the results soon."

After the oral defense, the student usually waited for the judges to exchange opinions and give a score out of 100.

There was no doubt that Lu Zhou would pass.

If he did not pass, then no one else in the school could.

Lu Zhou was curious to know what his score would be.

Once Lu Zhou left, the classroom was quiet.

Professor Xiang looked at Professor Tang and smiled as he said, "Old Tang, I've never taken a student after all these years. I'm about to retire, and I want to find someone to inherit the clock. What if... we make a deal?"

Professor Tang smiled and looked at his old friend as he said, "There's no point asking me, I don't care where the kid goes. Go ask Old Qin."

Dean Qin smiled and interrupted the academician, "Don't even think about it!"

Professor Xiang Huanan shook his head and said, "Selfish."

He was just joking. It would be a miracle for the University of Jin Ling to let go of Lu Zhou.

At the very least, his curiosity was satisfied.

Professor Wang Yuping bragged to him that the University of Jin Ling had a once in a generation genius who would win the Fields Medal.

He had not believed it at first.

After today, he was convinced.

Professor Xiang could not help but think.

"Young scholars are so prosperous, so lucky..."

Actually, it did not matter too much that Lu Zhou refused his offer.

He had been around a lot, so he was bored at most things.

And for the things he was not bored with...

He believed that he would get a chance to see them.

#### Chapter 149

However, the perfect score did not matter too much, as anything above 90% would receive the stamp of “excellence”.

Although it was expected, Lu Zhou was still relieved to hear the perfect score.

His OCD personality would cause him to lose sleep if he received a 99.

When the degree certificate was issued, Professor Tang and Dean Qin were present. In addition, Dean Lu from the applied mathematics department and Professor Liu were also there to congratulate him.

There was only one student who participated in this graduation ceremony, Lu Zhou.

They stood in the school auditorium.

Dean Qin of mathematics department solemnly handed over the diploma and degree certificate to Lu Zhou.

“Lu Zhou, your academics have been stellar, and you have completed all your school credits.”

“After the reviews and appraisal from our school’s degree committee, you’re approved to graduate in advance and have a bachelor degree in science and a diploma in applied mathematics from University of Jin Ling.”

“I hope you can climb even higher on the road of academics, and create even more glory!”

Lu Zhou took the certificate and said, “Thank you, University of Jin Ling, for cultivating me, I’ll remember the education I received from the professors!”

Dean Qin smiled and nodded before he said, "Congratulations on your graduation. You'd take a break for a few days. Then complete the student registration for your master's degree. Think about what direction you want to research, and which professor you want to research with."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Sure."

After the ceremony, the students from the student union came in and cleaned up the auditorium.

Lu Zhou was about to chat with Professor Tang, but he suddenly saw a familiar face walking toward him.

Lin Yuxiang wore a white dress and smiled at him as she said, "Congratulations, you already got your graduation certificate. I'm so happy for you."

Lu Zhou smiled politely and said, "Thanks."

Lin Yuxiang said, "Then, Lu Zhou, are you free later?"

Lu Zhou thought for a moment before answering her, "I don't think so, I still have some stuff to do."

Lin Yuxiang, "...?"

...

Holding the diploma and degree certificate, Lu Zhou went to Professor Tang's office.

Before Professor Tang could speak, the thin looking graduate student stood up and poured a cup of tea.

"Sir, please have some tea."

Lu Zhou was almost embarrassed to be treated like this.

“Thank you.”

“You’re welcome. Hopefully, we can work together one day,” said the graduate student. He then sat back down and continued to work on his research.

Professor Tang looked at Lu Zhou and asked, “Why aren’t you celebrating with your friends? Why are you here?”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “The thing is, Professor Tang, I want to become your master’s student, don’t know if you have time...”

Before Lu Zhou could finish, Professor Tang interrupted him.

“Don’t ask me, I won’t accept you.”

Lu Zhou was surprised at his answer and he could not understand why.

Professor Tang looked at his confused face and smiled as he explained, “Because, with your ability, you can do your own research. Honestly speaking, I’ve nothing to teach you in the field of functional analysis. As for number theory, it’s not my cup of tea. You have to do the research yourself, and this can’t be taught by others.”

“But...”

Lu Zhou wanted to say something, but he was once again interrupted by Professor Tang.

Professor Tang sighed and said, “Speaking of which, while our University of Jin Ling is one of the best schools in Asia, there isn’t a single academician here who can help you. I wish I could recommend to you someone, but unfortunately, University of Jin Ling’s mathematics department can’t help you. You have to find a higher platform to do scientific research.”

Lu Zhou did not speak.

Professor Tang then said, "The domestic academic community is very strong. You might not be able to sense or feel it, but from your rate of improvement, I believe that you'll soon be able to see it."

"I've been teaching for so many years, outside of academics, I really can't help you with anything else. I might even delay you. If you want to develop domestically, academician Lu Shenjian is a good choice. Anyway, don't you want to pursue mathematical physics? You're already an adult, I think you don't need my advice anymore. Your future, your choice."

Lu Zhou did not speak for a long time as he did not know what to say.

After a while, he said, "Thanks for the advice... I'll seriously consider your suggestion."

'Alright, go consider it. But just remember, you can't do research under my wing," said Professor Tang with a smile.

Lu Zhou smiled as well. He suddenly remembered something and asked, "Professor, can you please do me a favor?"

Professor Tang smiled and asked, "What favor?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "I want to take a graduation gown photo, for my parents."

Lu Zhou felt like something was missing.

It would be a great loss if he did not get a handsome graduation photo.

Professor Tang smiled and said, "That's it? Okay, no problem. Oi, Xiao Wang, take Lu Zhou to get a graduation gown. Oh yeah, don't you have a DSLR? Take a few photos of him while you're at it."

The master's student that poured Lu Zhou tea said, "Okay, professor. Let's go, Lu Zhou."

"It's fine, just lend me the gown."

Xiao Wang said, "It's fine, it's just a photo." He then walked with Lu Zhou out of the office.

Chapter 150

I mean, I'm so handsome, he can use my photos as a reference.

After returning to the new campus, Lu Zhou got out of the car.

As for the borrowed gown, Xiao Wang said he would return it for Lu Zhou, so Lu Zhou left it in the car.

Xiao Wang had to give Professor Tang back his car, so the two separated.

As Lu Zhou stood in front of the school gate, he suddenly thought of something. He took out his phone and took a photo of the University of Jin Ling and his certificate.

He then opened Weibo.

Lu Zhou typed a caption and pressed "Send".

The caption was only one sentence.

[Finally graduated.]

He had 300 thousand followers now and had decent engagement.

Within five minutes, the comments started to come in.

[F\*ck, aren't you a second year? Already graduated?]

[This is expected, I'm not surprised.]

[The University of Jin Ling finally opened their eyes and let this god graduate.]

[Please have mercy on us master's students!]

[Did the study god receive an offer from Princeton? When do you plan on going?]

Lu Zhou looked at his fans' comments and smiled.

He then turned off Weibo and stuffed his phone back into his pocket.

He returned to his dorm with the degree certificate and diploma.

The second Lu Zhou went in the door, his three friends circled him.

"Zhou, you got the diploma?"

Lu Zhou replied, "I got it."

Shi Shang grabbed the diploma and degree certificate before he said, "Let me look at it. Zhou. What were you thinking when you took this degree identification photo? Did you not think to photoshop it?"

Lu Zhou replied, "You looked the same after military training."

The photo of Shi Shang after his military training was embarrassing.



Shi Shang said, "Hey, I'm not like you. I can show you, I looked handsome."

Lu Zhou said, "F\*ck off, stop talking about my photo. Do you still want the benefits?"

Huang Guangming was interested, "Benefits? What benefits?"

Liu Rui looked at Lu Zhou. He was curious as well.

Lu Zhou did not say anything. Instead, he reached and took out the textbooks in his drawer. He said, "I don't need these anymore, so take them as a gift."

He gave Huang Guangming two books.

"Take them."

Huang Guangming looked at the two books and was stunned.

Lu Zhou said, "These applied mathematics and probability textbooks are yours. Try your best to study them. Mathematics is a broad subject, whether it's pure or statistics, you have to apply yourself."

"Thank... Thank you."

Lu Zhou looked at Liu Rui and gave him two books as well.

"Liu Rui, these two complex analysis and differential equation books are yours, good luck."

Liu Rui smiled as he said with a trembling voice, "Thank you..."

“No need to thank me, I hope you can reach your own expectations,” said Lu Zhou as he patted his shoulder.

Then, Lu Zhou looked at Shi Shang.

“And, Brother Fei, these two are yours.”

Shi Shang took the two books from Lu Zhou. He was about to say something when Huang Guangming suddenly shouted.

“But Lu Zhou... Why are there no notes written on these textbooks?”

What was the point of an unwritten textbook?

Lu Zhou had an awkward expression. He suddenly remembered that he studied these courses with library books, so he did not use his own textbooks.

Sh\*t.

Lu Zhou coughed and said, “You’ve to fill in the notes yourself. The reason I gave you these books is so that you can follow my path...”

Damn, I don’t know what to say.

Should I confess?

Lu Zhou had an awkward expression.

Suddenly, Shi Shang replied with a serious tone.

“I understand, thank you.”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

...

Even though the textbooks did not have notes in them, they still contained Lu Zhou's signature.

If Lu Zhou won the Fields Medal one day, the textbooks could be worth a lot!

So the three roommates were still satisfied.

However, they did not receive the books for free.

They said that they would buy Lu Zhou dinner after he graduated.

It was just in time for dinner, so they all went to the fish restaurant outside the school.

Shi Shang ordered some food and only one box of beer.

They were originally going to order two boxes, but the waiter would not sell them two. He said that he would give them another box after they finished drinking.

Shi Shang finally gave up.

When the food arrived, the atmosphere was a little sad.

The four friends would soon become three friends. Everyone ate and drank but they did not talk much.

Finally, after a few bottles of beer, Shi Shang asked, “Zhou, you already got your bachelor’s degree, what do you plan on doing next? Are you going to continue studying?”

Lu Zhou said, “The school has set up a personal talent development plan for me. The goal is to get a double PhD from University of Jin Ling and Princeton.”

Liu Rui was envious when he said, “Double PhD... I heard Princeton’s mathematics department is very prestigious.”

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Yeah, so it’s not easy.”

Shi Shang toasted Lu Zhou and asked, “Then... When do you plan on moving?”

Lu Zhou was slightly stunned.

“Moving?”

Shi Shang sighed and said, “Yeah, but don’t worry, I’ll reserve your bed for you.”

“I’ll go to Princeton next year, so I still have one more year left at the University of Jin Ling. I have to get my master’s degree first,” said Lu Zhou. He paused for a moment before continuing, “Are you asking about moving dorm rooms? Dean Qin asked if I wanted to move to a graduate dorm room, but I said it’s too much of a hassle, and my room now is fine.”

The graduate student dorms were a three people room, so the difference was not too big. Lu Zhou was not a particularly picky person, so he did not care.

Furthermore, he did not want to live with two strangers.

He liked 201.

Shi Shang: “...”

Huang Guangming: “...”

Liu Rui: “...”

Lu Zhou saw his three friends went silent.

What?

Why aren't you guys talking?