

Scholar 211

Chapter 211

Lu Zhou smiled. He did not know how to respond.

He had yet to process what happened earlier.

This surprise caused him to forget his award-winning speech!

Many people were surprised by this decision from the Federal Mathematics Society, but no one objected.

This was the best choice.

Schultz was obviously stunned, but he smiled and looked back at Lu Zhou. He then started to applaud.

The applause gradually subsided.

Sitting on the other side of the venue, Professor Deligne had a look of surprise.

After a while, he finally made a comment.

“The Federal Mathematics Society made a bold decision.”

“Yes, awarding both the algebra and number theory award at the same time... This has never been done before,” said Edward Witten with a smile. He then added, “And the two winners are so young.”

A 28-year-old and a 21-year-old were considered extremely young.

For the older scholars, it was gratifying to see so many young talents emerging in their field of research.

However, not everyone felt this way.

Deligne said, "It seems that Francis is ready to accept criticism and questioning."

Witten smiled and said, "Anyway, he's retiring next year, right? If it was me, I would make the same choice. It's a good closing chapter."

The two geniuses walked on stage together.

Francis, the president of the Federal Mathematics Society, personally handed the medal to the hands of the two and smiled.

"Congratulations! I wish more success for you young scholars in the future!"

"So, at this exciting moment, please feel free to voice out some of your thoughts."

Francis took a step back and made a gesture.

There were many awards in the field of algebra, and the Cole Prize was not the most famous one. However, in the field of number theory, the Cole Prize was the king.

The academic community had been fiercely discussing who would be awarded the Cole Prize for this year.

Whether it was to award a number theory prize again or to insist on traditions and award an algebra prize... If it was the former, Schultz's results would be ignored, and if it was the latter, the judges of number theory would not be satisfied.

The main reason was that the value of the twin prime conjecture and the Polignac's conjecture was too high. Many number theory professors spent their entire life working on prime numbers and made little progress. It was difficult to make a breakthrough in the field of number theory.

When Lu Zhou proved the twin prime conjecture, he used the topology sieve method. However, in less than a year, he proposed the “Group Structure Method”.

This progress was outstanding!

The two winners each delivered their acceptance speech. The award ceremony finally came to an end.

As the opening ceremony came to an end, the mathematicians started to leave the venue. The reporters rushed against the crowd and pointed their cameras at the two winners.

One reporter asked, “Hello, I’m a reporter from the L.A Times. Mr. Schultz, what are you going to do with the prize money?”

“I’ll buy my wife a few nice skirts, milk powder for my kid...” said Schultz with a smile. He then said humorously, “Of course, I’ll get myself some new shoes.”

The camera shuttered and flashed.

The L.A Times reporter started to type on his laptop. He was typing the headline article for the paper tomorrow.

“Peter Schultz, a family man in mathematics!”

Lu Zhou looked at this mathematics genius in astonishment.

The f*ck?

Does this guy have kids?

You're only in your twenties!

The other winner was also in the reporter's spotlight.

In fact, the reporters were more interested in the Chinese winner that appeared out of nowhere.

Especially since this winner was only 21 years old, the youngest Cole Prize winner ever!

This was shocking news!

A blonde reporter from the British "Daily Mail" asked, "Mr. Lu Zhou, what do you plan to do after you get the prize money?"

Lu Zhou wanted to say, "save money and buy a house". After all, this was what his dad wanted him to do.

However, he realized that he was not being entirely politically correct. He decided to bullsh*t instead.

"I'm going to use this money as research funding to challenge the next conjecture!"

The reporter asked, "Your next goal is?"

"The Goldbach's conjecture is a good choice," said Lu Zhou with a smile. He then said, "But I've also been paying attention to the 750 GeV signal. There are many topics worthy of further research in mathematical physics, so I may also use some of my energy there."

The reporters around him gasped.

Goldbach's conjecture?!

750 GeV characteristic peak?

Although Goldbach's conjecture was less valuable than the Millennium Prize Problems, it was named one of "Three major mathematical problems of the modern times". Its difficulty and influence were quite amazing! In the minds of the public, it was on the same level as Millennium Prize Problems.

As for the 750 GeV characteristic peak, any scientific journalist would know about this recent discovery.

How an intern made a mathematical prediction on the 750 GeV characteristic peak. CERN's spokesperson said that this discovery could fill in the last piece of the standard model!

Maybe...

Lu Zhou made other major discoveries about the characteristic peak?

Lu Zhou gave the reporters a hard time.

His answer was too long, so the reporters did not know what to write for the headline.

Lu Zhou looked at the reporter from the Daily Mail as she typed on her laptop. He then cursed in his heart.

Damn it, I think I bragged a little too much.

He was not at the LHC, so it was not like he could discover something new.

Hopefully, the reporters would not over-interpret his answer.

Chapter 212

Many number theory mathematicians took this opportunity to meet him.

The younger and less accomplished scholars would only chat for a bit to Lu Zhou as they felt intimidated.

This was because Lu Zhou was considered a big name in the field of mathematics.

Cole Prize at the age of 21 years old. The Fields Medal must be coming soon then?

It was just a matter of time.

After dealing with the people who kept asking for his email address and Facebook, Lu Zhou felt a little hungry. He put down the champagne down and took a plate as he started to look for food.

He asked the hotel waiter to cut him a leg from the roast turkey. Coincidentally, Schultz was also there.

The two were interested in each other, so they found a seat and sat down.

At first, the two started to discuss mathematics, but because of the differences in the area of research, they started to talk about their life instead.

Lu Zhou, "I heard that you're married?"

Schultz smiled and said, "Yes, the second year after I was hired as a professor at the University of Bonn, I proposed to my wife. We've been together for three years."

Lu Zhou said, "Wow, I didn't know. We're close in age but you're already a dad."

"Hey it's nothing strange, I'm already 28 years old," Schultz smiled and said, "How about you? When are you going to get married?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "I don't have plans to marry yet."

Lu Zhou suddenly regretted saying this.

Why did I bring up this heavy topic?

Schultz smiled and said, "I understand. Being married isn't always fun. There's not as much freedom compared to when you're single. I also thought like you when I was young. Until I met her... Thing is, having a family brought me more joy than I can imagine, second only to mathematics. Especially because she brought me a cute little angel and this angel plays with my medals all the time."

Yes, his medals were toys for his children.

If he won the Fields Medal, imagined how many people would be pissed off.

While talking about Schultz's wife and daughter, Schultz began to move away from the University of Bonn and started talking about their vows in front of Munster Cathedral.

"Real talk, my friend. I sincerely suggest that you try a relationship. If you don't experience these things, it's like something is missing from your life," said Schultz as he looked at Lu Zhou seriously. He smiled and said, "I promise you that it won't affect your mathematics research. In fact, it might even bring you unexpected inspiration."

Lu Zhou smiled awkwardly. He did not want to talk.

F*ck sake!

You think I don't want to be in a relationship?!

...

The next day, Lu Zhou woke up a little later than usual. He slept until afternoon and nearly missed the afternoon report.

He quickly brushed his teeth, washed his face and changed his clothes before walked to Berkeley and went to the report meeting.

This report speaker was Helfgott, the Peruvian from France!

The report content was about Goldbach's conjecture!

Two years ago, this French mathematician used a "circle method" to prove a smaller conjecture related to Goldbach's conjecture. Each odd number of $>10^{30}$ could be expressed as the sum of three prime numbers.

As for the 10^{30} number, this had been checked by computers and it was correct.

This method of proof lacked some mathematics sophistication, but it was still a proof. The fact was that the Goldbach's conjecture had been proved under established conditions. What remained to be done was to prove the Goldbach's conjecture without these conditions.

Different from the "circle method" was Brown's "a+b" method. It was the same line of logic and was a fairly promising method in number theory.

Using this method, he narrowed down an infinite problem to a lower bound that could be calculated. All odd numbers greater than this limit was correct, and as for the odd numbers smaller than this limit, it had to be checked one by one with a computer.

At present, the mathematics community accepted Helfgott's research results. This was why he was invited to give an hour report at the mathematics conference.

Naturally, Lu Zhou was interested in this talk. Helfgott was the biggest Goldbach's conjecture researcher for decades.

Lu Zhou started to listen carefully and he even took some notes.

Although the Cole Prize was a great honor, Lu Zhou knew that his strengths could be improved. He did not bathe in the joy of winning for long and he was ready to grind again.

He did not even realize that his Cole Prize would cause another sensation in China...

...

[Shook! The Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award winner won another international award!]

Shi Shang was doing his homework. When he looked at the news on his phone, he said, "Motherf*cker, this guy did it again!"

The day Lu Zhou won the Cole Prize in Number Theory, his name blew up in the University of Jin Ling.

The aura of the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award had not even faded yet, and he already won another award.

This time, it was not just people from the mathematics department. Even the students from the liberal arts department, physics department, and foreign language department all worshiped this god.

As the first Chinese winner of the Cole Prize and as the record holder for the youngest winner ever, this glory was enough for the professors of University to brag for a year.

Previously the department of mathematics of the University of Jin Ling had no sense of existence at all, so this award was extremely impactful for them.

Huang Guangming raised his head and said, "Bro, the banner outside the school changed again!"

Liu Rui raised his head and said: "..."

Huang Guangming saw that Liu Rui did not respond, so he said, "Liu Rui, it's still Lu Zhou on the banner!"

Liu Rui: "..."

Huang Guangming, "Liu Rui, why are you like this?"

"..."

Goddamn it!

Are you guys done bragging about Lu Zhou yet?!

In his head, Liu Rui slammed the pen down.

Dorm 201 once again heard the screams of Huang Guangming...

Chapter 213

Only if guess A was established, would guess B be established as well.

However, this would not work the other way around.

As for why, it was because this involved a very interesting question on logical mathematics. It was difficult to describe with simple mathematics, but it was basically a set of "the sum of odd and odd primes greater than 9" was not equivalent to the set of "any even numbers". All elements were infinite and could not be proved exhaustively.

From an abstract point of view, the "even set" of the circle method was the "1+1" form of the sieve method. There was a small part missing in both.

However, this small part was crucial.

After a brief opening remark, Helfgott started to write a line of calculations on the whiteboard.

[... when $2 \mid \mid N$, there is $r_3(N) = \frac{1}{2} n(N^2/N^3) \prod (1 - 1/(p-1)^2) \prod (1 + 1/(p-1)^2), (1 + O(1))$]

Lu Zhou's eyes lit up when he saw this line of calculations.

This line of expression was not merely scribbling. It was the two-digit argument of Hardy and Littlewood. It was one of the expressions that were presented in the 1922 thesis!

While studying the twin prime conjecture, Lu Zhou read that thesis. He even quoted some parts in his own thesis.

As such, his impression of this thesis was deep.

It seems that this report is a bit interesting.

The old man in front of the whiteboard did not speak. Instead, he continued to write.

The venue was completely quiet.

It was not just Lu Zhou who was listening carefully. All of the other big names were also listening seriously.

The mathematics industry was highly specialized. No one was an expert at everything. Therefore, the thesis for the report would be released in advance for everyone to study and consult.

If the report did not answer one's question, one would be able to ask the question during the Q&A section. This was how academic reports were done. It was not just watching and listening. One had to actively think and ask questions as well as to participate in discussions.

After 40 minutes, Helfgott finally stopped writing and turned around.

“The basic proof process is like this. If you have any questions, you can ask them now.”

Lu Zhou raised his hand.

Helfgott looked at Lu Zhou and nodded.

Lu Zhou stood up and asked, “I have doubts on the formula on line 34. In the operation of $\sum a(n)z^{n+\delta(n)}$, you can directly derive each integer $n > 0$. I guess you used the Cauchy-Gusa theorem or its inference residue theorem. But how do you judge that the function $f(s)$ is a pure function?”

Quiet discussions began in the venue.

Clearly, Lu Zhou’s question was intriguing.

“Good question,” said Helfgott as he looked at Lu Zhou. He then wrote down a line of calculations on the whiteboard before he asked, “Do you understand now?”

Lu Zhou looked at the line of calculations and nodded.

“Understood, thank you.”

Lu Zhou sat back down and copied the line of formula into his notebook.

Since his main research was on sieve theory, Helfgott’s method was also interesting. By doing academic exchanges, Lu Zhou could perfect his own theory and used the difference in opinions as a way of getting inspiration.

While Lu Zhou was taking notes, someone next to him poked his arm.

“Sorry, can I ask you a question?”

The person that asked the question was a blonde girl with pale skin.

This girl looked young and she was a little shorter than Lu Zhou. She was probably an undergraduate student from Berkeley.

Her voice was pleasant to listen to.

Regardless of the pleasantness of the voice, Lu Zhou would never reject a mathematics question. He said, "Go ahead."

The girl blinked and pointed at the whiteboard as she asked, "Sorry, that... What did you know from that?"

She looked at the line of formula which she did not understand at all.

"You're talking about the expression?" asked Lu Zhou. He then patiently explained, "Because $I(n) = \oint \frac{f(s)}{s^{n+1}} ds = 2\pi i a_n$ is a closed-loop integral, you can use the residue theorem directly when you return to the original form. Professor Helfgott's explanation is a bit funky, so it is hard to understand. Just think about it more."

The girl started to write notes.

From her ruthless note-taking technique, Lu Zhou was convinced that this girl was an undergrad.

However, could an undergrad really understand this report?

Lu Zhou asked, "Any other questions?"

"Thanks, no... Sorry, can you give me your email? I have more questions to ask you," said the girl. She looked a little nervous and she even started to blush.

It was obvious that she was not that good at socializing.

Lu Zhou was not that good at socializing either, so he did not care and said, "Sure. Also, don't say "sorry" all the time. I'm Lu Zhou, and you are?"

"I know you're Lu Zhou. I saw you at the opening ceremony," said the girl. She then said, "I'm Vera. I'm studying at Berkeley... I'm very interested in pure mathematics, especially number theory."

Vera?

Sounds a bit Russian?

Lu Zhou subconsciously looked at her boobs. Although they were not washboard size, they were on the smaller end.

Emm...

No way?

"Just out of curiosity, how old are you?"

"17..."

Lu Zhou looked at her and asked, "A 17-year-old can attend Berkeley?"

He had not even graduated from high school when he was 17.

"I'm an IMO 1 gold medalist..." said Vera. She smiled and said, "Of course, it's nothing compared to solving two conjectures..."

Lu Zhou said, "... No, the Olympic Math Competition is impressive. Have more confidence in yourself. This is shocking. So you got the medal when you were 15? When did you go to high school then?"

The last question was left unanswered by Vera as Helfgott announced the end of the report.

"We still have a long way to go to prove Goldbach's conjecture."

"Thanks for coming!"

Helfgott then nodded and walked down the stage in the round of applause.

Lu Zhou had never participated in the IMO competition before, so he was quite interested. He wanted to talk with this girl for a bit, but it was getting late. Therefore, he packed up his stuff and started to walk out of the venue.

Chapter 214

Many of Helfgott's viewpoints were interesting. Whether it was the choice of power series functions or solutions to progressive problems, he had many innovations.

It seemed that over the past two years, this professor has not been satisfied with the progress of Goldbach's conjecture. Therefore, he had been further polishing his theory.

Compared with the 2013 thesis, his content in this report was more concise and rigorous.

After putting all of his notes in his computer, Lu Zhou laid in his bed with his printed thesis and started to think carefully.

Should I continue to use the sieve method?

Or should I use the circle method?

This was a question worth pondering.

The former had not had any big changes for decades while the latter was promising.

“The problem is how to find a condition and small enough lower bound in the large collection of even numbers?” thought Lu Zhou as he flipped through the thesis. He then said, “It seems that proving this question is similar to the twin prime conjecture.”

Suddenly, someone knocked on his door.

Lu Zhou threw the thesis aside and sat up from his bed. He then went to open the door.

Luo Wenxuan stood in the hallway and greeted him, “Hey.”

Lu Zhou asked, “What’s up?”

“It’s almost Christmas. Don’t tell me you plan on studying mathematics in this room,” said Luo Wenxuan. He pulled out two tickets and asked, “There’s a basketball match on the 23rd. I got it from my friend. Do you want to go?”

23rd was the day after tomorrow.

If Lu Zhou recalled correctly, there was an hour-long report that day.

Generally speaking, hour-long reports were all either for major discoveries or reserved for big names.

Lu Zhou did not want to miss it.

So, he shook his head and said, “Sorry, but I’m not really interested in basketball. I also have a report that day that I don’t want to miss. How about you go and find someone else?”

Luo Wenxuan sighed and with a look of defeat, he said, "Not like this, bro. You're about to go to Princeton, so you have to try to integrate into the lifestyle here. This isn't China... You have to at least like one sport."

Lu Zhou thought for a moment before he said, "I think that it's not necessary to force yourself into an uncomfortable lifestyle. I prefer to live life at my own pace."

"Fine, maybe you're right," said Luo Wenxuan. He glanced at the tickets in his hand and said, "But I still suggest you have a hobby other than mathematics. This will help you find topics to talk about when socializing. It can also help you relax."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "I'll consider your suggestion."

Luo Wenxuan said, "Oh yeah, do you want to go drinking tonight? I found a great bar nearby."

Lu Zhou had spent the past few days researching mathematics, and he sorely needed a break. So he agreed, "Sure, I can go."

Luo Wenxuan smiled and said, "Haha, it's not easy getting you to hang out."

...

The news of the Cole Prize had been floating around in China for three days. Even after three days, there were still relevant news articles popping up.

Lu Zhou was the first Chinese person to win the Cole Prize. Naturally, the media had to follow up on this matter.

Although the Cole Prize was incomparable to a Nobel Prize, it was still an international award!

Since the 2000s, the number theory community in China had never been strong.

The emerging of a Cole Prize broke this curse.

It was not just the University of Jin Ling that was happy for Lu Zhou, even his old high school, Jiangling High, was also proud of him.

The morning he received the Cole prize, the banner was hung up at the high school gate.

[Congratulations to Lu Zhou, a 2013 graduate of our school, who won the international renowned mathematics award: The Cole Prize in Number Theory!]

Jiangling High, mathematics office.

Xiao Tong knocked the office door and waited until she heard a “come in” before she walked in.

She was still in class when she was suddenly called to go to Old Ma’s office.

Being called into Old Ma’s office was no good news.

Among all of the teachers, Old Ma had the worst temper.

This teacher liked to patrol the class and would confiscate phones. Many students were afraid of this teacher. He was like the devil amongst students.

Xiao Tong carefully walked to his desk. She was about to ask what was wrong when Old Ma smiled and pulled out a chair.

“Come sit down.”

Xiao Tong: ???

She was shocked by Old Ma's abnormal behavior.

When did Old Ma become so kind?

However, Xiao Tong thought that this might be the calm before the storm, so she sat down cautiously.

"Xiao Tong, how're your studies?"

Xiao Tong thought for a moment before saying, "It's going okay..."

Old Ma smiled and said, "Please ask me if you don't know anything!"

Xiao Tong could not take it anymore, so she asked seriously, "Teacher, is it because I failed my monthly exam? Just tell me what I got! I'll try my best next time. It's fine if you want to roast me!"

"No no no, your test result is good! What about your life? Is there any troubles... Like anyone bullying you in class? You can tell me," said Old Ma with a serious look.

Xiao Tong was confused. She replied, "Nope, my classmates are friendly and I'm friends with a lot of them... Teacher, just give it to me straight. I still have homework to do."

Old Ma coughed and said, "I just have a question. Lu Zhou... Is your brother busy?"

Xiao Tong said, "Should be busy"

Old Ma immediately asked, "He's still coming back for New Year, right?"

Xiao Tong asked, "Of course he's coming back for New Year. Is there a problem?"

Old Lu suddenly smiled and said, "The thing is, the leaders of the Education Bureau wants Lu Zhou to give a speech at his old high school, and talk about his learning experience. Can you help me and ask if your brother has time?"

Just this thing?

Xiao Tong thought that she was in trouble. She wanted to roll her eyes but instead, she said, "Okay, teacher, I'll tell my brother about it."

Old Ma smiled and said, "Haha, thank you!"

Chapter 215

Lu Zhou felt like Tao Zhexuan was different in person. He had not expected him to be a humorous and welcoming guy.

Also, he looked younger than what Lu Zhou imagined. Lu Zhou would have never guessed that Tao Zhexuan was in his forties.

Since he was born in Australia, he could not speak Mandarin. However, he could speak Cantonese, but unfortunately, Lu Zhou could not understand him. Therefore, they resorted to speaking in English.

The fourth day of the conference, after the hour-long report ended, Tao Zhexuan invited Lu Zhou to visit his office.

The two started to talk about academic issues.

After exchanging a few words, Lu Zhou could not help but think.

I have to admit. This guy really is a mathematics genius! His field of study is in all areas of mathematics. He might not be good at everything, but there's rarely something he doesn't know anything about.

In September this year, he cracked the 1980's unsolved Erdos problem. This was a classic number theory problem and one that was outside of Tao Zhexuan's research field.

However, it was not as important as the Polignac's conjecture, so his spotlight was stolen by Lu Zhou.

"You're studying Goldbach's conjecture?"

Lu Zhou asked, "Yeah, you've researched it before?"

Tao Zhexuan smiled and acknowledge his shortcomings, "I tried to, at the beginning of this year. I quickly realized that I can't solve it. I'm better at studying two directions of partial differential equations and harmonic analysis."

He then continued, "I saw your thesis in Annual Mathematics. I was greatly inspired by the topology sieve theory you used. I thought it might be able to solve Chen's theorem... However, the results were regrettable."

Lu Zhou asked, "Does the sieve method not work?"

Tao Zhexuan sounded pessimistic as he replied, "Doesn't work... At least I couldn't make it work."

Tao Zhexuan shook his head and started to write on the paper.

$[\sum |S(\alpha m)|^2 \leq \Delta \sum |\alpha n|^2, \text{ where } \alpha n \text{ takes an arbitrary number}]$

$[S(\alpha) = \sum a_n e(\alpha n), e(x) = e^{(2\pi x i)}. M, N \in \mathbb{Z}, a_1 \dots a_n \text{ is a set of modulo 1 well-distributed real numbers...}]$

[...]

Lu Zhou looked at the formulas on the paper and rubbed his chin. He then went into deep thought.

Tao Zhexuan stopped writing and said, "I only read about this method. You're the one that invented this method."

"No, Professor Zellberg was the one who originally introduced topology into the sieve method. I just made some minor improvements, and you obviously made some major improvements," said Lu Zhou with a smile as he looked at the paper. He then said, "Since a_n is well-distributed, why not treat $R^{-1} \cdot \sum |S(\alpha n)|^2$ as $\int |S(\alpha)|^2 d\alpha$ Riemann"

Tao Zhexuan's eyes lit up. He then said, "Then?"

"The value of $R = 1$, we can get by the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality..." said Lu Zhou. He could not explain it in words, so he picked up a pen and started to write on the paper.

$$[\sum_{n=1}^N |S(\alpha n)|^2] \leq N \sum_{n=1}^N |a_n|^2$$

Tao Zhexuan said, "Your idea is interesting... We have to find an $N(\delta)$ value, then we can find Δ ."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Yeah, but Δ won't be much larger than $N + \delta^{-1}$. The trouble lies in N ."

The two raised their heads and looked at each other before they smiled.

However, there was a slight bitterness in their smile as the method did not work!

Tao Zhexuan threw the pen on the table and sighed. He started to speak, "The circle method is too difficult. It could take decades to solve. Maybe you can try the circle method. Honestly speaking, the sieve method might not work."

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I'll research it in my free time, but I still have hopes for the sieve method. Maybe it has potential."

"How about you come to teach at Berkeley? The environment here is good, and we can start a research project together... If you don't think I'm a liability," said Tao Zhexuan with a smile.

Lu Zhou: "..."

You literally have an IQ of 230. If you're a liability, then what about those with IQ of 100?

For the first time, Lu Zhou realized that it was a pain in the ass talking with people who are too humble.

Lu Zhou said, "I still haven't gotten my PhD yet. I'll probably go to Princeton next year for it."

"You still haven't graduated?" said Tao Zhexuan as he looked at Lu Zhou. He then said, "Okay then... Chinese Universities are so strict."

Lu Zhou said, "I started my master's degree at the beginning of the year."

"Okay then, that's understandable," said Tao Zhexuan. He smiled and said, "When I was doing my master's, the same thing happened to me. The supervisor made me stay for a year before I could graduate."

Tao Zhexuan wrote down his email on a piece of paper and handed it to Lu Zhou. He smiled and said, "Let's keep in touch, I'll contact you if there are any new discoveries."

"Okay."

Lu Zhou nodded and took the piece of paper. He then wrote down his email in a piece of paper as well. They then separated.

While walking back to the hotel, Lu Zhou kept thinking about the problem.

After some thinking, he became hungry.

Lu Zhou looked at the time on his phone. It was a bit too early for dinner, so he turned around and walked into a BBQ restaurant.

He then ordered a set of ribs. He then took out the \$19 USD and placed it on the counter. Once he paid, he went to find a place to sit down.

People said that America was cheap, but he did not think so.

\$19 USD was almost \$110 yuan.

A skinny waitress carried a huge plate of food and placed it on Lu Zhou's table.

When Lu Zhou looked at the things on the plate, his eyes twitched.

Good god, he thought it would be the kind of ribs he saw on TV. He had not expected a whole rack of ribs! This was enough for three people!

On the plate, there was also a baked potato with sour cream, a bowl of Mexican beans, and a mysterious soup.

I guess it's pretty worth it for the price.

However, this clearly isn't for one person.

He finally knew why everyone in America was so fat.

"Sir, are you satisfied with the food?"

Lu Zhou suddenly remembered that he had not given the waitress a tip yet. He then pulled out two dollars from his pocket.

However, when he saw the waitress, she looked familiar.

Lu Zhou placed the tip into her hand and asked, "You work here?"

"Yeah," nodded Vera embarrassingly.

"Do you not have a scholarship?"

Lu Zhou also worked part-time to pay for his tuition and living expenses, so he did not think anything was wrong with it.

What surprised him was that he thought American scholarships were easy to get, especially for an IMO gold medalist. It should be easy for her to get a free ride for the degree.

Vera had not expected to meet Lu Zhou here. She smiled awkwardly and said, "There's a scholarship..."

If Vera worked for the experience or travel money, she would definitely tell Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou saw that she did not further expand on why she was working, so he guessed that she must need the money for tuition.

"You're Russian?"

Vera shook her head.

When Lu Zhou saw her awkward expression, he felt that he should not have asked the question.

Suddenly, a chef in the kitchen shouted her name.

Vera quickly turned around and responded. She then bowed to Lu Zhou before she hurried back to the kitchen.

Chapter 216

However, the taste...

Is pretty good.

Lu Zhou left the BBQ restaurant and returned to his hotel.

Back at his hotel, he started to sort out his daily notes.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

When Lu Zhou picked up the call, he heard Professor Tang's voice.

"When do you plan on coming back to China? Are you still coming back to University of Jin Ling this year?"

Lu Zhou was stunned but he quickly understood why Professor Tang was asking him these questions. He said, "It's nearly New Year, so I plan on going back to my hometown."

Professor Tang was unsurprised by Lu Zhou's answer. He smiled and said, "You're not coming back? There's still an award waiting for you here."

Lu Zhou, "Award?"

Old Tang smiled and said, "You're a master's student now, right? So you can be nominated for the Annual Person Award. You don't have to give a presentation like last year, just take the prize on stage."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "This... I'll give it to people that need it. I've already won it before! I'll let other people have a chance."

University of Jin Ling's Annual Person Award was valuable in China.

It basically guaranteed a job. Any company would want someone with the award.

However, since Lu Zhou already won the Cole prize, he was not interested in small awards like this.

Professor Tang asked, "You really don't want it?"

Lu Zhou, "I'm good!"

Old Tang smiled and did not insist. Instead, he said, "Okay then... The school won't have to give you the million yuan then! It's fine if you don't want it."

"Pfft!"

Lu Zhou nearly spat his water out.

He coughed and said, "How much?"

Old Tang smiled and said, "What do you mean how much? You don't want the award anyway."

Lu Zhou asked, "Isn't the award only \$10,000 yuan? What is this million for?"

"Other people are awarded \$10,000 yuan, but you get a million yuan," said Professor Tang with a smile. He then said, "This is the decision that the school made. I heard it from Dean Qin."

Lu Zhou: "..."

Seeing that Lu Zhou was speechless, Professor Tang smiled and placed down his vacuum flask.

After a while, he sighed and said, "You've changed a lot over the past year. But one thing you didn't change is your love of money! Loving money isn't anything bad since you can't do research without money and you also can't get a wife... But remember, don't make it too high of a priority or it'll come and bite you in the ass one day."

"I understand!" said Lu Zhou. With a serious tone, he added, "The conference ends on the 23rd. If the school needs me, I'll fly back immediately!"

Professor Tang smiled and shook his head as he said, "It's fine, take your time with the conference. The ceremony for the Annual Person Award can be delayed. I'll just talk about it with Principal Xu."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Then teacher... Are the million yuan award still on the table?"

"On!"

The situation was different than last year.

Having won the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award and Cole Prize, Lu Zhou was not winning this Annual Person Award for himself. He was doing it for the honor of the University of Jin Ling!

Just like if Einstein won the Nobel Prize, it was not only an honor for Einstein, but it would also be an honor to the Nobel Prize.

A school-level honor was too insignificant for Lu Zhou. Therefore, in order to get Lu Zhou to come back to the school, the school "slightly" raised the amount of the award.

The school was even willing to reschedule the award ceremony to match Lu Zhou's schedule.

...

Lu Zhou had been in California for a week. Two days before Christmas, the academic conference finally ended.

This academic conference also awarded a Best Young Speaker Award.

The award winner was a French professor in his thirties. His report was a breakthrough on partial differential equations.

Due to a conflict in his schedule, Lu Zhou missed this report. However, Lu Zhou read his thesis and the level of his report was indeed worthy of this award.

There was also a Best Overall Speaker Award.

This award was undoubtedly given to Professor Helfgott.

His research in Goldbach's conjecture would be the most dazzling research result of the year.

If this old man had not already received a Cole Prize, Lu Zhou might have some competition.

However, the old man did not care about the award too much. He was just happy to see that people recognized his research.

Of course, he was also happy about the \$20,000 USD prize.

After the closing ceremony, Lu Zhou bought a plane ticket back home.

He originally planned to transfer at Shanghai, then fly to Jiangcheng.

However, his university had invited him to go back, and he had agreed.

While he was using his knowledge of geometry to pack his suitcase, Xiao Tong suddenly called him on WeChat.

Lu Zhou picked up the phone and turned on the loudspeaker.

Xiao Tong was wearing pajamas in bed. She yawned and asked, "Brother, when are you coming back?"

It was nighttime in China and it looked like this girl was about to go to sleep.

Lu Zhou was packing the chocolate he bought for his sister and replied casually, "I'll come back before the New Year, why?"

Xiao Tong said, "Two good news, which one do you want to hear?"

"You got first in your class for the monthly test?"

Xiao Tong's eyes widened as she said, "Brother, you're a god!"

After all, Xiao Tong was Lu Zhou's sister, so she had half of his intelligence.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "What else could it be? Go on, what's the other good news?"

Xiao Tong smiled and said, "Old Ma told me to ask if you want to give a speech at your old high school?"

Lu Zhou was speechless and he asked, "What kind of good news is this?"

Xiao Tong, "This is good news! Are you not going to go?"

Lu Zhou was too lazy to go, but he still asked, "Do you want me to go?"

Xiao Tong eyes lit up, "Yes!"

Lu Zhou sighed and said, "Then I'll go."

Xiao Tong cheered and said, "Yay! Brother, you're the best!"

Lu Zhou shook his head and smiled.

Why does she even want me to go?

If only she could use this energy on her studies.

Chapter 217

[The mathematics problem that plagued the community for more than a century, the Riemann's conjecture, was proved by Professor Enoch, from the University of Addo Ekiti, Nigeria!]

Lu Zhou: ???

The f*ck?

How come I don't know anything about this?

Lu Zhou logged onto the arXiv website to check if it was still in the peer-review process.

He quickly found this thesis on arXiv.

Before Lu Zhou could even start reading the thesis, he had already lost his interest. This was because the thesis was classified as General Mathematics.

Arxiv gave the General Mathematics classification to common folks that wanted to get into mathematics. Theses thrown into this category were basically worthless.

Lu Zhou: "..."

He finally knew why Daily Mail was blocked on Baidu search.

Western journalists had to fact check their sources more vigorously.

Riemann's conjecture was not only a million-dollar theorem. Proving it meant that thousands of other derivative theorems would also be proved.

For example, a Swede named Koch proposed a more accurate expression of the prime number theorem which was based on Riemann's conjecture. His theorem was: $\pi(x) = Li x + O(\sqrt{x} \cdot \ln x)$.

If the Riemann's conjecture was proven to be true, then so would his theorem.

If the Riemann's conjecture was proven to be false, then thousands of other similar formulas would be buried with it.

The influence of this thing was unimaginable.

Lu Zhou skimmed through the thesis and closed the website.

The thesis used some elementary mathematics to "prove" Riemann's conjecture, so it was a waste of Lu Zhou's time.

Lu Zhou could probably guess why the Clay Institute ignored this guy.

Every country had a "politically righteous" problem.

Maybe one day he would also challenge the crown of mathematics; Riemann's conjecture. Right now, there was one problem. The Goldbach's conjecture and the collaboration with Professor Frank had taken all his time...

...

After flying for a dozen or so hours and after a transfer, Lu Zhou finally dragged his suitcase out of the airport.

This time, University of Jin Ling did not send a welcoming team. Perhaps Dean Lu saw the effects of what happened last time. However, the crowd at the airport was not small either.

There were a few Mercedes that were parked at the entrance. Lu Zhou did not know that the school was so rich.

When the pedestrians who were walking by saw the black Mercedes, they thought that there was a big celebrity coming. They then started to take pictures.

Dean Qin got off the car and shook Lu Zhou's hand.

"Congratulations, Lu Zhou!"

Lu Zhou shook Dean Qin's hand and said politely, "Dean Qin, you're too kind."

Dean Qin smiled and said, "What do you mean? You're the number one person in domestic number theory! This treatment is necessary to take our hero home! Stop waiting outside and get in the car."

Since the cars were already there, Lu Zhou did not refuse. He got on the same car as Dean Qin.

The school knew that Lu Zhou had moved out of his dorm, so they arranged a hotel nearby for him.

The school staff helped him with his luggage.

A science reporter from CCTV wanted to interview him.

Normally, Lu Zhou would refuse to do interviews. However, when he thought about that million yuan check, he accepted the interview.

University of Jin Ling's reputation had always been good, but it was slightly behind Aurora University and Zhi University. The reason was that there were no famous alumni at the University of Jin Ling.

After Lu Zhou became famous, the number of people that applied to University of Jin Ling mathematics department doubled. Even the popularity of other majors increased, and the University of Jin Ling finally experienced the effects of fame.

It was foreseeable that in 2016, a lot of young students would enroll in this beautiful campus, and jump into the pool of mathematics.

With regard to this, Lu Zhou was pleased.

After all, he had lived here for three years. He hoped that his school would get better and better.

After the interview, Lu Zhou went back to his hotel and went to sleep straight away.

He slept until afternoon. When he woke up, he brushed his teeth before he went to the cafeteria for lunch. He then went to the school auditorium.

Dean Qin and Principal Xu were at the auditorium.

"Student Lu Zhou," said Principal Xu Jian. He shook Lu Zhou's hand and smiled, "You just got back from America, right? You must be tired!"

Lu Zhou had not graduated from the University of Jin Ling, so he still kind of counted as a student.

It was mainly because of this that Principal Xu did not know what else to call him.

Directly calling his name felt a bit serious since Lu Zhou had not started his PhD yet.

“No no, I’m not tired at all,” said Lu Zhou. He smiled and said, “If my school needs me, I would definitely come!”

Dean Qin said, “This time, our event for the Annual Person Award will go on CCTV! Have you thought of a speech?”

“It’s going on CCTV?” asked Lu Zhou. He was surprised.

He originally thought that at most, it would appear on local TV.

After all, University of Jin Ling was not Shuimu. Even though the annual awards were significant, there were way more universities stronger than the University of Jin Ling.

“Long story, it’s mainly because of you,” said Principal Xu. He smiled and said, “Our country is paying more and more attention to science. The investments are getting bigger. We need a young role model for all of the young scholars. Anyway, how is your speech? Do you need help?”

Lu Zhou did not prepare his speech at all.

After all, he did not feel any pressure from such a small prize. He just wanted to improvise it and he thought he could use his previous speech for the Cole Prize as a reference.

But now, it seemed that he was caught unprepared?

“I remembered it,” said Lu Zhou with a smile.

“Haha, okay then,” said Professor Xu. He smiled and looked at Lu Zhou seriously as he continued, “Have a good performance. All of this depends on you!”

To raise his morale, Lu Zhou said, “Yes, I’ll complete the task!”

Chapter 218

[Xiao Ai, help me write a 500-word reward speech!]

A short time passed by.

Xiao Ai: [“(←”∠)_? ? ?]

Lu Zhou: “...”

Motherf*cker!

I was too naive to count on this thing.

Lu Zhou sighed and stuffed his phone back into his pocket.

I guess I have to rely on myself.

...

The reward ceremony started.

The finale of this ceremony was the graduate student Annual Person Award, so Lu Zhou’s speech was last.

The first person to speak on stage was the undergraduate Annual Person.

Lu Zhou admired them from backstage.

The student's achievements were stellar and comparable to last year.

The genius student from the computer science department won the award. He came first in his school three years in a row.

Maybe because of last year, this year's award ceremony was not as exciting. Lu Zhou's achievements overshadowed everyone else.

However, the physics department had a big player. A nutty fourth-year student went on stage.

Soon, the undergraduate awards ended and it was time for master's students. The powerful physics department competed against the engineering department.

Unsurprisingly, Brother Qian also stood on this podium.

As a crucial member of Professor Li Rongen's research team, his knowledge of carbon nanomaterials surpassed many PhD students. His SCI thesis impact factor was 9, and he had published at least three theses during his degree.

He deserved the honor of this year's special scholarship!

Soon, it was Lu Zhou's turn.

They even changed the background music when he stood on stage.

A big projector behind him showed his achievements.

[2015 Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award winner, winner of international number theory award, Cole Prize. Proved Zhou's theorem, twin prime theorem, and Polignac theorem...]

Ordinary people would be happy with just one of those achievements.

When he stood on stage, the honor of the previous winners was overshadowed by him.

Lu Zhou took the microphone and looked at the audience.

Whether it was his mentality or the mentality of the audience, it was different than from a year ago.

He could feel it.

Actually, while he was talking to Shi Shang on WeChat, he was informed that the name "God Lu" was spreading around campus.

Completed his undergrad in two years, master's in one year and got an offer from Princeton while most people his age were still in their third year...

The students almost started to treat him as an actual god and pray to him before exams...

Maybe some people did actually prayed to him?

Lu Zhou smiled and spoke in a relaxed tone, "Thanks, professors and teachers, that have helped me. Thank you, University of Jin Ling, for giving me this honor, and thanks to the leadership team and the audience that came..."

"... I'm honored to stand on this podium again!"

“I can talk a lot about mathematics, just like I have at countless conferences. However, I don’t want to talk about mathematics now. I want to talk about our university...”

“... Many of you only recently stepped into university and you’re still carrying the curiosity and excitement from high school, and you’re wondering what you should do before the enthusiasm disappears.”

“... Or second and third years, you guys probably want to go home, but were forced to come here by the student union...”

The crowd laughed. They had not expected Lu Zhou to be so down to earth.

Lu Zhou smiled as well.

Dean Qin kept trying to remind Lu Zhou that this was live on CCTV, so Lu Zhou should not mess around.

Lu Zhou cleared his throat and continued, “There are also people like me, about to leave campus.”

The crowd went silent.

Dead silent.

Unprecedented silence.

Lu Zhou grinned and spoke with emotion, “In the summer of 2014, I was in the school’s computer room, pulling an all-nighter. I then handed the baton to my teammate, who didn’t let me down.”

“In October, the same year, I went to Beijing and won the Higher Education Society Cup. This was my first contact with scientific research...”

Lu Zhou talked about his Zhou's conjecture discovery, his entrepreneurship, carbon nanomaterials, and his conference at Princeton.

He spoke for a long time, and he was soon out of time.

However, no one reminded him as they were all immersed in his speech.

Hundreds of pairs of eyes in the crowd stared at him, waiting for him to continue speaking and to continue talking about life experiences that they had never even heard of.

Finally, he made a conclusion of what happened over the past 6 months.

"Summer of 2015, I was at CERN headquarters with Professor Lu and Student Yan, representing the LHCb China Cooperation Group."

"Same year October to December, I won the Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award and Cole Prize in Number Theory."

Lu Zhou paused for a moment. He then smiled and continued, "I don't have much to say about my learning experience. The librarian knows more about that than me, but I hope my personal experience can give you a little insight."

"Always welcome life and be interested in your surroundings."

"Go discover your passion, go discover your talents. Monetize your talents and infuse your enthusiasm."

"You don't have to be a researcher like me. The university doesn't exist only for academics. University exists as a way to find yourself, to find a platform for your life."

"Whether you are studying in the library or socializing with the student union, they are all parts of soul searching."

Lu Zhou made a final conclusion and blessing for his schoolmates.

“I wish you to have a worthwhile four years at university.”

“Thank you!”

Lu Zhou bowed.

The venue was silent for half a second.

Then, everyone applauded.

Chapter 219

Then, the old man looked at him with approval and said, “Nice speech.”

Lu Zhou relaxed and smiled as he said, “Thank you.”

The old man smiled and said, “I should be the one thanking you.”

The award ceremony came to an end.

All the students stood up and vowed to look forward to the new year by reading “Oath of the Pillar”. They vowed to not forget their heart, to look forward to the new year, and to bravely chase their dreams.

...

The dinner party was on the top floor of the cafeteria.

After the award ceremony came to an end, Lu Zhou went to the backstage lounge. Before he could change his suit, a cute girl and a few of her roommates walked over.

Lu Zhou looked at her and thought that she was from the student union. He asked, "What's up?"

"God Lu! Um, can I ask for your contact details...?"

She was stuttering and her face was bright red. She clearly had not come prepared. She was obviously peer pressured by her friends.

Lu Zhou looked at the curious and excited girls. He did not want to give them a hard time, so he asked, "Is QQ okay?"

"Great!"

Her voice cracked due to the excitement.

Lu Zhou nodded and took a pen from the table, he wrote down a string of numbers and handed it to her.

A lot of people had his QQ number, so he did not mind giving it out.

It was not like he had time to message anyone anyway.

"Thank you!"

The girl eagerly took the note and ran away like a frightened deer.

Lu Zhou smiled and shook his head.

If they say handsomeness is a sin...

Then I must be a sinful man...

Lu Zhou looked at himself in the mirror like a narcissist. He then remembered that he had to return the suit. Just as he was about to undress, the lounge door was suddenly pushed open again.

This time, it was President Lin, from the student union.

Lu Zhou thought she was here to collect the suit and he was about to tell her to wait outside when she spoke first.

Lin Yuxiang looked at Lu Zhou with a smile and said, "Lu Zhou, your performance was great. Some of my girlfriends started crying."

Lu Zhou said, "Why did you phrase it that way?"

What do you mean crying!

Why did you make it sound like a bad thing?

Lin Yuxiang tilted her head and pretended like she did not understand him.

Yet, it was obvious that she did it intentionally.

Lu Zhou changed the topic and asked, "What's up?"

Lin Yuxiang nodded and said, "Dean Qin wanted me to ask you, when do you plan on going over? There are a few higher-ups of the city that want to meet you."

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "Then I'll go over now."

Lin Yuxiang nodded her head.

Suddenly, she noticed his collar.

Her eyes lit up.

“Well, I’ll pass that on to Dean Qin. Oh yeah, your collar is tilted, let me...”

“It’s fine, I’m about to return the suit anyway,” said Lu Zhou. He then smiled and said to Lin Yuxiang, “Can you return the suit for me?”

Lin Yuxiang: “...”

...

The University of Jin Ling was one of the top universities in the country. It had affiliations with the Central Ministry of Education. Its place in the local talent training strategy was undoubtedly huge.

Lu Zhou’s international glory and potential attracted interest from the government.

However, this was related to politics.

Lu Zhou was not good at politics, but he still knew a little.

In the future, he wanted to live and work in Jin Ling. If he wanted to move up the ladder, he had to form great relationships with the local government.

Lu Zhou knew Dean Qin’s intentions.

The school was providing him a platform to connect with people from outside the academic circle.

Lu Zhou was the focus of the dinner party.

The youngest Shiing-Shen Chern Mathematics Award winner, and winner of Cole Prize in Number Theory, plus a Fields Medal candidate... Never mind the young scholars, even old professors were interested in talking with Lu Zhou.

As such, Lu Zhou was there for a long time.

By the time he returned to the hotel, it was already 11 o'clock.

He slept until afternoon the next day. When he woke up, he washed his face before he opened his suitcase and took out two boxes of gifts. He then left the room.

The gifts were the fish oil that he bought at the duty-free store. It was a kind of supplement and it could reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and memory loss caused by aging.

He wanted to give it to Professor Lu and Professor Tang.

Lu Zhou first went to Professor Lu's office. However, he was still in Belgium. Professor Lu said that he might go to CERN for a while later this year.

Therefore, Lu Zhou placed the gift on the table and left a note on it.

Lu Zhou did not know when the academician would come back, but when he did, he would definitely see the gift.

Lu Zhou then left Professor Lu's office and went to the mathematics building.

...

Lu Zhou opened the office door and walked in. When Professor Tang saw the gift in Lu Zhou's hands, he smiled, "I thought I taught you better!"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "I'm still your student so you can teach me now, but you still have to accept this gift."

The gift was inexpensive, but it was meaningful.

Also, since Lu Zhou was no longer an undergraduate student, he could be more casual with the professors.

Not to mention that when he graduated next year, he would be going overseas. He had to give the teacher something before he left.

Professor Tang looked at Lu Zhou and smiled as he said, "You don't have to bring a gift next time you visit me. Xiao Wang, go pour Lu Zhou some tea."

"Okay!"

Xiao Wang got up and walked to the cupboards. He skillfully operated the tea set and electric kettle.

Lu Zhou thanked Xiao Wang. He then sat down on the sofa and said to Professor Tang, "I can't just bring nothing. It feels wrong if I don't give you something... Also, this isn't just my gift. It's also from Luo Wenxuan. There are also some photos in the bag that Luo Wenxuan said he took in South America. He said he wanted to give you an artistic gift."

"That kid, I guess he didn't forget about me," said Professor Tang. He smiled and said, "How is it? You're about to go overseas next year. What plans do you have for the future?"

Lu Zhou said, "I plan on working at Princeton after I get my PhD. Then I want to come back to University of Jin Ling and teach."

“Okay, I support you,” said Professor Tang as he nodded. He then said, “The qualification of overseas research is important... But it seems that you have it all figured out. I guess I won’t ask any other questions. Do your best.”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “Yes, for sure.”

Professor Tang smiled and teased, “Oh yeah, when do you plan on getting a partner?”

Lu Zhou was caught off guard by his question and he stammered, “This... This depends on fate, there’s no hurry.”

Professor Tang smiled and said, “You’re not in a hurry, but other people are. Dean Qin talked about you with me last time. He said he’s scared that you’ll find someone overseas and never come back. Also, there’s a couple of professors that have been asking me to set their granddaughter up with you. Think about it?”

Lu Zhou nearly spat the tea out of his mouth. He then said, “Don’t... Not like this.”

Professor Tang smiled and said, “Haha, I’m only kidding.”

Lu Zhou nodded quickly.

Yeah, Dean Lu’s granddaughter...

This is sad but if Dean Lu looks like that, I can’t imagine how his granddaughter would look like.

The office was quiet for a bit.

Lu Zhou did not talk. He just drank his tea quietly.

As Professor Tang looked at his successful student, he nodded happily.

After a long time, he said, "Go ahead, you can go."

Lu Zhou stood up and said: "..."

Chapter 220

He smiled at the salesman and said, "No, thanks."

After that, Lu Zhou turned around and left the bank. He got on his bicycle and rode back to school.

While on the road, Lu Zhou could not help but think.

Maybe I should get a car?

I'm about to go to America. I heard that one must have a car over there, especially in the rural town of Princeton.

Lu Zhou made a decision.

A month before Chinese New Year, he was going to get his driver's license.

...

Lu Zhou stayed at the school until New Year's Eve. He then got on a train and went all the way back home in Gangneung.

Lu Zhou dragged his suitcase to the door and pressed the doorbell. He heard footsteps behind the door.

"Brother!"

Xiao Tong opened the door with a smile.

Lu Zhou had not seen her in over a year and she had grown a lot taller.

However, no matter how tall she was, in Lu Zhou's mind, she would always be that crying little sister that was bullied.

Lu Zhou smiled and rubbed her head before he dragged the suitcase into the house.

He looked at the kitchen and asked, "Where's dad and mom?"

Xiao Tong said, "They went to the supermarket! We're eating fish tonight!"

Lu Zhou smile and said, "What about you?"

"I'm doing test papers! I'm such a good kid!" said Xiao Tong as she looked at Lu Zhou with puppy eyes. She then asked, "Bro, where's my gift?"

As expected.

I knew it.

Back at the duty-free store, Lu Zhou video chatted and asked her to pick her gift. She had stared at the beautifully packaged chocolate in awe.

After Lu Zhou bought the gifts for his professors and parents, he still had a few hundred dollars worth of USD left. He could not be bothered to exchange it for RMB, so he bought her a box of chocolate.

Xiao Tong was similar to him. No matter how much she ate, she still remained skinny.

Lu Zhou handed the suitcase to Xiao Tong and said, "It's in the suitcase, help me put it in the room and give your brother some water."

"Okay! Brother, you're the best!"

She smiled mischievously and pecked him on the face before she dragged the suitcase into his room.

Lu Zhou looked at her and smiled. He then walked to the kitchen and found his parent's tea collection. He made himself a cup of hot tea.

When Lu Zhou walked back to the living room, he saw Xiao Tong walking out of his bedroom with her "trophy".

Lu Zhou looked at the plastic bag in her hand and said, "Don't eat too much at once. Otherwise, I won't be able to recognize you when I get back from Princeton."

"No way, I can't even eat it all at once anyway," said Xiao Tong.

Lu Zhou, "Do whatever. Speaking of which, when did you learn how to do makeup?"

He did not only give her chocolate but he also gave her some makeup and skincare products from Clinique.

Clinique was a big brand in America, and it was cheaper at the duty-free store.

Xiao Tong was a good kid who never asked for anything.

Now that Lu Zhou was rich, he would not treat his sister badly but it was a bit early for high school students to do makeup...

Xiao Tong said, "Oh you're talking about this? It's for my friend."

Lu Zhou, who was drinking tea, was stunned, "You bought it for a friend?"

"Yea," said Xiao Tong. She added, "I calculated the cost. A set of makeup and skincare products nets me a thousand yuan! I'll go to school tomorrow and give them to Xiao Yan, then I'll pay you back the costs."

You're selling them?!

Lu Zhou nearly spat the tea out of his mouth.

He went to California to gain glory for his country. He was a little shocked at his sister.

Lu Zhou wiped his mouth and said, "I asked you to pick a gift for yourself, and you wanted to make money?"

"Ah... Bro, don't be unhappy," said Xiao Tong. She looked at Lu Zhou and said quietly, "How about... We split the profits?"

This kid!

No sense of introspection at all!

Lu Zhou sighed and waved his hand, he said, "It's fine, just keep the profits... I don't need the money anyway. Also, don't worry about money, your priority right now is to study. Just put it this way, this time your bro went back to the University of Jin Ling and received a scholarship. Guess how much it was?"

Xiao Tong's eyes widened as she asked, "How much?"

Lu Zhou said, "A million!"

Xiao Tong looked at her brother in surprise and said, "University of Jin Ling is that rich?"

"Of course, it's a top university! As long as you have the excellence to back it up, you'll be awarded," said Lu Zhou in a serious tone. He then added, "That's why. Knowledge is the greatest wealth. Xiao Tong, do you understand?"

Although not everyone was awarded as much as Lu Zhou...

Xiao Tong said excitedly, "I understand! I promise to study hard! I'll get into University of Jin Ling and fill in your shoes!"

Lu Zhou could not help but think.

Why do you sound so fake...

I don't know if I believe you.

Let's see if you'll say the same thing when you start studying.

Lu Zhou coughed and said, "There's no need to fill in my shoes... In short, I hope that you won't worry about money since we're not poor anymore. If there are difficulties, I'll definitely help you solve them. Just study hard. If you're interested in money, you can do finance or accounting."

The reason why he worked so hard was largely in part to give Xiao Tong a chance to go to university without any worries.

If it was only his tuition and living expenses, his family could afford it.

However, he was a man.

He could not let his sister suffer like him.