Scholar 341

Chapter 341

Short and concise reply.

When Stanley saw the line of text, his eyebrow twitched.

What the hell is this?

He calmed himself down and deleted the email.

“You don’t have to let a loser affect your mood.”

Stanley took a deep breath and tried to relax his mind.

He reached out to fix his tie before he went back into the party with a smile on his face…

…

In order to build momentum, ever since the beginning of the year, ExxonMobil had kept their involvement in the battery industry a secret.

Professor Stanley making a breakthrough in lithium-sulfur batteries was undoubtedly a shocking piece of news for the entire industry.

Because this meant that Mobil Chemical, who had an advantage in raw chemical materials, had first dibs on the patent.

During the party, Professor Stanley naturally became the center of attention.

Whether it was business people or scholars, they all didn't want to miss the opportunity to make friends with this lithium-sulfur battery expert.

Woods stood in the middle of the banquet hall and raised his glass to Professor Stanley before he said, "Congratulations, Professor Stanley, your status in the lithium field has strengthened once again."

Professor Stanley gracefully sipped some wine before he said, "Thank you, congratulations to you too, I heard ExxonMobil's shares are booming."

Woods had a bright smile on. "Of course."

A Broadway singer played a melodious song for the banquet.

The guests attending the banquet gradually stepped onto the dance floor.

People outside the dance floor formed into circles as they enjoyed the party in their own ways.

Professor Stanley was standing with his research team, and he had a glass of champagne in his hand as he spoke loudly.

"Everyone, quiet please, I have something to say!"

People around him stopped talking and focused their attention onto this big man.

Stanley enjoyed the attention. He coughed and said solemnly, "This is without a doubt a great moment! We should thank those who silently contributed to a great cause."

He raised his glass and smirked.

"Cheers to Professor Lu!"

“Cheers!”

“Hahaha! Thank you, Professor Lu, for your thesis!”

“…”

The researchers knew the inside story; they started to laugh and some even whistled.

Professor Lu undoubtedly helped them greatly.

However, history didn’t remember people that helped, only people that created.

No matter how close someone was to the results, coming second meant nothing.

Ricardo waited until no one was around Stanley before he walked up to him to ask, “Congratulations, Professor Stanley, have you submitted your thesis yet?”

Stanley nodded and said, “Yes, Mr. Ricardo, your data came in handy.”

Ricardo said, “According to our agreement, you will add my name on the thesis, right?”

Stanley had a sudden flash on disdain in his eyes, but he managed to conceal it well.

He nodded. “Of course, you are our hero.”

According to the contract, his name would be on the thesis, and he would remain in the research team.

Of course, he could forget about being involved in important research.

No matter how talented he was, Stanley would never allow him in the core research team or to touch any sensitive data.

A researcher without integrity was worthless.

Ricardo was immersed in joy; he obviously didn't realize Professor Stanley's plan. He really thought he was a hero.

In a sense, he did make a great contribution.

A contribution that was so great that Lu Zhou was willing to sue this guy…

But neither he nor Professor Stanley noticed any weird signs.

Until halfway through the banquet when Professor Stanley suddenly received a call…

…

"What did you say? The inhibitory effect of the carbon molecule on the shuttle effect isn't as ideal as we thought?"

Professor Stanley stood on the balcony with his cell phone; he was in disbelief.

Just now, he had received a piece of bad news from his research assistant who was still in the laboratory.

Really bad news…

He made sure that no one was around before he lowered his voice and asked, “Are you sure you experimented with all of the ratios?”

The research assistant said, “I have increased the carbon mass ratio to 50%. Although there is some effect on polysulfide compounds, the effects are far below our expectations.”

Professor Stanley turned red and suddenly found it hard to breathe.

“This is impossible! Continue the experiments and increase the carbon mass ratio to over 50%!”

The assistant said, “Professor! We’re making a battery! Battery!”

Professor Stanley suddenly realized what he had said.

His face turned white.

Yeah, they were making a battery.

The carbon nanomaterials weren’t part of the electrochemical reaction.

Normally, the ratio of carbon in carbon-sulfur composites was within 30%. If it were increased to 50%, then there would be no point for the material to exist. This was because the real reaction didn’t involve carbon, it involved sulfur!

Even if the producers could accept this cost, the market would never accept a battery so unnecessarily large…

The old professor took two steps back and leaned against the balcony railings. He looked as if he had aged 20 years instantly.

It was like he was just standing on a cloud before he got hit by lightning.

Right now, he didn't know why this was happening.

Suddenly, Professor Stanley remembered that email.

He calmed down and thought about it from a different perspective.

If he were the one that got poached and his researcher leaked important experiment data, he would be furious. Even if he could contain his anger, he would never be able to write such a calm email.

Maybe…

He had a scary thought.

This thought sent chills down Stanley's spine.

Maybe he was played…

Chapter 342

He was at Columbia University for over a month, he had been going to the research institute every single day, and still, he could only count a handful of female researchers.

However, those young and beautiful ladies… they didn't look like researchers…

The party hadn't begun yet but the guests had already arrived.

David, who was wearing a suit, stood at the entrance of the ballroom. He poured himself a glass of champagne and raised his glass.

"This is a moment worth celebrating, let us toast to Anton and Professor Lu!"

This lighted the atmosphere of the party.

The guests smiled and raised their glasses.

“Cheers!”

The champagne popped and foam burst into the air.

The party had finally begun.

The waiters in uniform walked into the ballroom with plates and dining carts; the food was stacked on long tables on both sides of the dance floor.

A melodious jazz song started to play while the young woman and men gradually stepped onto the dance floor.

Most people were willing to dance with their favorite person before eating…

However, Lu Zhou obviously didn’t want to do that.

He was more attracted to the food than dancing.

Especially after eating a month of bacon sandwiches, the salads, chicken legs, and foie gras looked exceptionally appetizing.

He was adding more delicious food onto his plate when David came over.

“How do you feel?” David smiled at Lu Zhou and said, “This party is for you.”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “It’s very New York style.”

“Princeton is different?”

“Princeton is mostly about barbecue on lawns; it’s another type of enjoyment.”

Lu Zhou then said with a relaxed tone, “Speaking of which, I never noticed so many female researchers at the institute before.”

“Of course they’re not all my researchers, there are also girls from Columbia’s Manhattan sisters sorority.” David looked at Lu Zhou and joked, “You know, 90% of researchers at research institutes are male, so this gives them a chance to “socialize”. This is one of the responsibilities of being a boss.”

Lu Zhou asked, “Kind of like a group dating club?”

David smiled and said, “Haha, I guess so.”

In American universities, clubs, fraternities, and sororities were extremely common. Almost half of the students participated in some kind of club.

There were basketball, football, and even dance clubs. The social clubs allowed young people to interact with one another.

However, all of the clubs had a common theme— an endless amount of partying.

In some sense, Lu Zhou’s food club was an elite club. It rarely hosted any kind of party events.

But how did David connect with Manhattan Sisters?

Actually, it was easy.

This was the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan; there were very few people that could host a party here.

There were tons of young and beautiful girls who were willing to dress to impress the D.E Shaw Research Institute.

They enjoyed partying and posting photos on Instagram.

“Speaking of which, you’re still single, right? Actually, there’s nothing wrong with being single,” David said. He shook the glass of champagne in his hand as he added, “Feel free to ask anyone to dance.”

Lu Zhou said, “But I don’t know how to dance.”

“It’s fine, people don’t care if you dance horribly,” David said. He then smiled and continued, “I bet that many girls are willing to dance with you.”

Is he calling me handsome?

Lu Zhou smiled awkwardly.

This… I’m embarrassed.

Even though Lu Zhou thought of himself as handsome as well…

David opened a new bottle of champagne and as he filled his glass, he asked, “What is your next step? How about you just become a professor at Columbia University? I can convince the principal to open a computational materials department.”

Lu Zhou looked at the lights of Manhattan outside the window and said, “Columbia is a beautiful place, so is Manhattan. But I think Princeton is more of my kind of place.”

David sighed and said, “Really? Okay then, everyone has their preferences.”

He poured the remaining alcohol into Lu Zhou's glass and said, "If you have time, remember to come and visit me here."

"Sure, it's close by anyway."

Lu Zhou suddenly remembered something when he said, "Oh yeah, I have something to ask you before I go back to Princeton."

David: "What?"

"The theoretical model of the electrochemical interface structure has already been completed, but the new theory is often ignored. In order to enhance its credibility, I intend to use our theoretical tools to try to solve more specific problems. I need the power of Anton for this." Lu Zhou paused for a second before he said, "I won't need it for too long, I only need it before I return to Princeton."

His visit to Columbia University would last until June, which meant that he still had a month to go before leaving for Princeton.

This experiment wouldn't take a month. Optimistically, it would only take two weeks.

Also, this experiment was related to the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials.

Therefore, whether David wanted or not, Lu Zhou planned to pay him equipment rental fees.

David was interested, so he asked, "What kind of problem?"

Lu Zhou smirked.

"It's a molecular dynamics simulation of the interface between carbon-sulfur composites and organic electrolytic solutions!"

Chapter 343

Many research institutes were doing repeated experiments.

Maybe soon lithium-sulfur batteries would come out of laboratories and into people's lives…

As for the other important thesis, it was the highly controversial "theoretical model of the electrochemical interface structure".

Prior to this, the theoretical chemistry community did not have a theoretical model that could thoroughly clarify the microscopic essence of various electrochemical processes occurring on the "interface".

If this model proved to be effective, it would help the entire chemistry community on electrochemical interface research.

However, this theory was too advanced.

Because of this, this thesis caused widespread controversy in the theoretical chemistry community.

It was no exaggeration to say that if it wasn't because of the Crafoord Prize and the Adams Chemistry Prize, JACS would never have published this thesis so easily.

Although mathematics could be judged by its logical self-consistency, research outside of mathematics, especially for applied sciences, couldn't be judged by its logical self-consistency.

The most difficult thing was that there were very few mathematicians that could understand the logical self-consistency in Lu Zhou's mathematical model.

It wasn't difficult to find a scholar both proficient in mathematics and in chemistry but to find a Crafoord level mathematician, that was much more difficult.

Although testing the model through experiments sounded like a good idea, it wasn't.

After all, not every laboratory could afford supercomputers. Especially for calculations of molecular dynamics, the price wasn't cheap.

The reason why "Anton" was so famous in the computational chemistry industry was that it had no worthy opponents.

However, due to Lu Zhou's reputation in materials science and mathematics, many people were convinced that his theory was reliable.

Among them were scholars in theoretical chemistry and scholars in applied mathematics.

Rumors said that the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science in Germany had set up a task force that brought together several scholars in the fields of mathematics, chemistry, and condensed matter physics to test the model.

Maybe soon the answer would come out.

But for now, it seemed that the controversy would stay.

Lu Zhou, who was at the center of all of this, was surprisingly calm. He did his experiment without hesitation.

Three days after the JACS publication, his second experiment with the D.E Shaw Research Institute came to an end. He had finally completed the research on the molecular dynamics simulation of the interface between carbon-sulfur materials and organic electrolytic solutions.

After sending these millions of dollars worth of experiment data to Yang Xu, who was far away at the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials, Lu Zhou was about to turn off his computer. Suddenly, he received a video call from Sarrot.

Lu Zhou knew what the professor wanted and picked up the call.

As expected, Sarrot had an awkward expression.

He stayed silent for a while before he said, “I’m sorry… for letting you down.”

Lu Zhou didn’t blame him.

“It’s fine, you don’t have to feel guilty. You did what I asked you to do.”

Scientific research wasn’t gardening; just because one planted seed doesn’t mean results would come out.

Professor Stanley was the director of the Institute of Materials at Binghamton University; Sarrot was no match for someone like him.

Not to mention Stanley’s financial support, it would be a miracle if Sarrot had won the competition.

However, just like Lu Zhou had guessed, it didn’t matter who developed the technology.

Sarrot was confused. He then looked at Lu Zhou and said, “I don’t understand, why do you look like you don’t care? This is the lithium-sulfur battery project, you must have invested a lot of money into this?”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “Of course, I spent a lot of money on your lithium-sulfur batteries, and your experiment on HCS-1 was inspiring. But when did I say the key to solving lithium-sulfur batteries was the caged carbon molecule?”

Sarrot was stunned.

Lu Zhou told him to do everything he could to solve the laboratory synthesis method of the caged carbon molecule, and the HCS-1 was only a by-product of the caged carbon molecule.

But Lu Zhou never said the caged carbon molecule was the key to solving the lithium-sulfur battery shuttle effect…

He suddenly realized this.

His eyes widened. “Wait a minute, you’re saying…”

“The caged carbon molecule is a very interesting material whether it is from the perspective of its geometry or its physical chemical properties. However, it has nothing to do with lithium-sulfur batteries.” Lu Zhou threw a sugar cube into his coffee and said, “As for its use, I will tell you later.”

Sarrot gulped and said, “Which means the JACS thesis that Professor Stanley had published…”

“They’re probably running around like lobsters in a pot,” Lu Zhou smiled and said, “but it’s their fault.”

Similar things happened before.

Professor Stanley’s thesis could be interpreted as an academic mistake.

Lu Zhou guessed that in order to win the competition, Stanley probably “modified” some data in order to publish sooner.

For example, according to the mathematical model he established for “the effect of pore size and surface area of hollow carbon spheres on the diffusion of polysulfide compounds”, the caged carbon molecule had a lesser effect on the “shuttle effect”. This was confirmed in Professor Stanley’s experiment.

The so-called lesser effect meant a tiny effect.

Its actual industry application value wasn’t even comparable to Lu Zhou’s HCS-1…

Sarrot was speechless.

What is a genius?

This is a genius…

Stanley thought he had the upper hand. Instead, he was baited…

From Sarrot's perspective, Lu Zhou had planned this whole thing.

Including Ricardo stealing the data… It was all part of Lu Zhou's scheme.

Sarrot would still be in the dark if Lu Zhou hadn't explained this to him.

However, Sarrot didn't know that the reality was much more simple.

Even if Lu Zhou explained the high tech system missions to him, he wouldn't believe in it…

"Oh yeah, about the Ricardo lawsuit, just withdraw it." Lu Zhou smiled and said, "He's helped us so much, we'll let him go."

Their most competitive opponents were destroyed; this reduced a lot of pressure on the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials.

Lu Zhou couldn't be bothered to go through with a lawsuit.

Lu Zhou originally thought that Sarrot wouldn't be happy to drop the lawsuit. He didn't expect Sarrot to look at him with admiration.

"Okay, boss!"

Sarrot couldn't help but say, "Smart, your scheme was wonderful…"

Lu Zhou: …?

What scheme?

What is he talking about?

I'm so confused.

Lu Zhou felt like Sarrot had misunderstood something.

Chapter 344

Professor Ertl paused for two seconds before he adjusted his glasses and nodded.

"Yes, I have, is there a question?"

The student looked at him and asked, "Is it correct?"

Ertl thought for a moment before he said with a relaxed tone, "My child, due to the rigorous of science, I cannot answer you this question right now."

The student didn't seem to be satisfied with the answer, and he asked, "What if it's correct?"

"There are no ifs in science, but if I have to answer…"

Ertl frowned and seemed reluctant on answering, but in the end, he said, "If it is correct, then it will revolutionize chemistry."

The classroom exclaimed in awe.

Revolutionize chemistry!

What a shocking statement!

Most people wouldn't have cared if someone else had said this, but this was said by Professor Ertl who was a 2007 Nobel Prize winner and an expert in solid surface chemistry!

In addition to his role as a professor at the University of Munich, he was also the director of the Fritz Haber Institute at the Max Plank Institute.

Who else's opinion in the electrochemistry field mattered more?

Professor Ertl smiled at the student's reaction.

"I am happy to see that you guys are optimistic at the birth of a new theory. You guys are right, the only way to improve is to accept new theories.

"However, in the midst of being curious about new theories, I hope you guys can all remember to look at every conclusion meticulously.

"This is the responsibility of a scientist."

Ertl tapped the podium.

"I will ask my assistant to send you the homework through email, class over."

After leaving the classroom, Professor Ertl didn't return to his office. Instead, he got into his car and drove to the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society.

The recent JACS thesis caused widespread controversy in the chemistry field. The Fritz Haber Institute had a responsibility to express its opinion on this thesis.

Of course, this expression of opinion had to be taken seriously.

Due to the importance of this theoretical model in the field of electrochemical interface structures, the Max Planck Society had set up an interdisciplinary team to bring together top scholars in the fields of mathematics, chemistry, and condensed matter physics to discuss this theoretical model.

Ertl was a member of the research group and the director of the Institute of Physical Chemistry; his opinion represented the research institutes' opinion.

Because of this, he was particularly cautious when dealing with this research project.

He walked into the conference room and saw Faltings sitting there while holding a printed thesis and reading it carefully.

Strictly speaking, this guy was an expert in the field of algebraic geometry and arithmetic geometry. Functional analysis wasn't his field of research. However, he was a big name in the number theory field; it wasn't a rare thing for him to research out of his expertise.

He was also the most influential mathematician since Grothendieck, and he was the director of the Max Plank Institute for Mathematics, thus it was necessary for him to understand other areas of research.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have become the director of the research institute.

However, this old German had a temper at Princeton, and his attitude didn't change when he got back to Germany. In fact, it became worse.

Faltings spoke slowly to Ertl as if he were telling a story.

“Only second-rate mathematicians are interested in applying mathematics to real-world problems. In my opinion, such things have no value at all.”

Looking down at applied sciences was the norm at the Bourbaki School. Although the phenomenon was less common among young mathematicians, the concept still existed in the mind of the older generation of mathematicians.

Hardy was a classic example of this. Other than researching mathematics, Hardy’s favorite thing was to show off to others. He loved to study pure mathematics and was proud that his research couldn’t be applied.

However, unfortunately, Hardy didn’t expect his research to be applied in computer science and cryptography…

Of course, Faltings didn’t mean that Lu Zhou was a second-rate mathematician; he was only looking down at his thesis.

At last year’s Crafoord Prize ceremony, he said there were only four mathematicians in the world that could surpass him; Lu Zhou was the most promising among them.

But now, he thought about changing the number four to three.

Ertl sat across from Faltings and said, “I don’t agree.”

Faltings replied, “I didn’t expect you to agree. It’s like how not everyone can appreciate the sculptures of ancient Greece, you just don’t understand the beauty of mathematics.”

Ertl’s eyebrow twitched.

Professor Klaus von Klitzing coughed and tried to stop the two from fighting.

“Enough, Mr. Faltings, I hope you can provide more constructive opinions, we’re not here to hear you ridicule us.”

Professor Klaus von Klitzing was a researcher for the Max Planck Institute for condensed matter physics. He was the discoverer of the quantum Hall effect and a Nobel Prize nominee.

“I didn’t ridicule you guys,” Faltings looked at the thesis and said, “I’m only stating facts.”

Ertl looked at Klitzing; he decided not to argue with the stubborn old man before he finished reading the thesis.

Fortunately, Faltings had the same intention, and he continued to read the thesis carefully.

After a long time, he threw the thesis on the table and gave a review.

“From the standpoint of a mathematician, his process is fine.”

Ertl and Klitzing were relieved.

If Professor Faltings said it was mathematically correct, then it should be fine in the mathematics department.

Klitzing looked at Ertl and said, “What do you think of this theory?”

Ertl thought for a moment before he said, “In my opinion, it’s not bad. However, his theory is difficult to understand. Even if we were to give our opinion, the chemistry world wouldn’t be able to accept this theory.”

Klitzing said, “So you’re saying?”

Ertl nodded and said, “There is nothing better than a report. The more difficult the theory is, the more it needs its author.”

Klitzing gently tapped his finger on the conference and asked, “What do you think is appropriate?”

“We can send an invitation letter to Princeton and invite Professor Lu to come to Fritz Haber Institute on an exchange visit. We can provide him a platform to explain his views to the chemistry community.”

This was a great idea.

Klitzing nodded in agreement.

“I agree, but the problem is which research institute should send the invitation?”

This was an important question.

The Max Planck Institute was not a top-down organization; the research institutes were basically independent of one another.

However, this question was easy to answer.

The two spoke at the same time.

“Of course it should be from the Institute of Physical Chemistry.”

“It should be from our Institute of Mathematics.”

Faltings and Ertl looked at each other.

Faltings said, “He is a mathematician.”

Ertl looked at him in disbelief and said, “But we are talking about chemistry.”

Seeing that the two men were arguing again, Klitzing made a compromise.

“Since you guys can’t make up your minds, how about the Institute of Condensed Matter Physics…”

“Impossible.”

“Don’t even think about it!”

Klitzing awkwardly coughed and said, ‘I was just saying… If so, we should just resolve this issue in the classic way.”

A physicists tradition.

Betting.

“Heads you’re out, tails you’re in,” Klitzing said. As he placed a coin on the table, he added, “Of course, I will also participate.”

Chapter 345

He was a theoretical chemist that was also proficient in mathematics. Karplus made many outstanding contributions in fields such as quantum chemistry, biomacromolecules, and molecular dynamics model.

Because of this, his review of Lu Zhou’s thesis received widespread attention.

Especially because Science was one of the top two journals in the world, many scholars outside of the chemistry field were able to read a summary of the thesis.

At the same time, a photo had been circling on Twitter among the Columbia University students.

It was a photo of a man standing in front of the Thinker statue.

The caption was in one line.

[A mortal man saw the universe through a bronze statue.]

This photo was taken a month ago.

Apparently, it was taken by a person with a PhD in philosophy who was walking back to his apartment.

This PhD holder thought it was interesting that someone was standing in front of the “Thinker” statue for so long, therefore he took a photo.

After returning home, the PhD holder drank some alcohol and came up with the caption for Twitter.

He didn’t expect that his tweet would be discovered a month later.

Actually, this tweet didn’t attract any special attention until the 2013 Nobel Prize winner gave this photo a very different meaning on Science.

It brought a sense of character and color.

Even though everyone knew that it was impossible for an apple to teach Newton the laws of gravity, a story gave a sense of scientific romance to the public. It was then easier for the public to spread the story.

Standing in front of a bronze “Thinker” statue while coming up with a new chemistry theory was exactly this type of story.

However, Lu Zhou didn't know that these things were happening on Twitter. He merely realized that he was being recognized more often on the Columbia campus; some people even took photos with him.

He was confused at the enthusiasm of these people, but since he was an easygoing person, he would often accept the requests of his fans.

As for those that were too enthusiastic and naughty…

He obviously rejected them.

The interesting thing was that Lu Zhou wasn't the only popular person on the Columbia campus.

Even the bronze statue became the center of attention.

More and more people began to stand in front of it, both professors and students.

It was difficult to say whether this was a good thing for the statue or not…

…

Times of joy were always short-lived.

It was time for Lu Zhou to say goodbye to this university.

Before leaving, the president of the Columbia University, Professor Lee Carroll Bollinger, personally sent Lu Zhou to the school entrance.

"I can tell that Columbia students like you a lot. Are you sure you don't want to stay?"

Lu Zhou smiled and joked, "I don't think Mr. Eisgruber would like that very much."

Eisgruber was the president of Princeton University. Although Lu Zhou wasn't close to him, he still knew of him.

"Oh, don't do this, I was only thinking for my students." Bollinger smiled and said, "If you can, tell Eisgruber I said hi. Also, the doors of Columbia University are always open for you."

Lu Zhou smiled. "Thank you."

Professor Bollinger said with a heavy tone, "Actually we prepared a gift for you. But this gift is a little special, it requires your opinion…"

Lu Zhou asked, "Can I ask what this gift is?"

"An honorary professor title at Columbia University. Since this gift is nothing useful to you," Bollinger smiled and said, "I don't know if you're willing to accept this gift?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "It's my honor."

Professor Bollinger smiled. "This is also the honor of Columbia University."

A person could have many honorary professor tittles. Prior to this, Lu Zhou was only an honorary professor for Jin Ling University.

This title represented Columbia University's recognition of his academic ability and his friendship with Columbia University.

Any scholar would be happy to receive as many honorary professor titles as possible.

Lu Zhou walked outside of Columbia campus and sat in his Ford Explorer.

Jerick was sitting in the driver's seat. When he heard that his professor was coming back, he volunteered to pick Lu Zhou up.

Even though Lu Zhou planned to take the train back, he didn't reject Jerick's proposal.

"Professor, are we going back to school?"

Lu Zhou put on his seat belt and said, "Of course, we can still get some lunch if we get there fast."

Jerick nodded. "Okay, professor."

He was about to start driving, but suddenly, a man in a suit fell in front of his car.

Lu Zhou was muddled.

Is this…

The legendary insurance fraud?

I've never even seen this in Jinling, why is it happening here?

Jerick was also muddled; he had never seen anything like this. He removed his feet from the gas pedal and turned the engine off.

The man in the suit climbed up and walked to the side of the car. When he saw Lu Zhou, he screamed tearfully.

"Please, in god's name, forgive me."

Lu Zhou was confused; he didn't know what was happening.

“Speak slowly, who are you?”

Honest to god, Lu Zhou had never seen this dude before.

It was almost like Lu Zhou had bullied this guy before.

This isn’t a good look for me…

Lu Zhou looked around and saw many students staring at the commotion.

The security guard at the entrance of the Columbia campus touched his baton as he stared at them.

There had been an increase in school shootings in recent years. Although New York had the strictest gun laws in America, they still took security very seriously.

This could be seen from the protective gear the security guards had.

“I…” The man in the suit awkwardly hesitated and said, “I’m Ricardo… I used to work at your research institute.”

When Lu Zhou heard this name, he finally knew what was going on.

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “Don’t worry, I have already withdrawn your lawsuit.”

Although Lu Zhou was angry when he was poached…

But it had been so long… Furthermore, since this dude had been a great help to him, Lu Zhou had let this matter go a long time ago.

However, Lu Zhou didn't expect Ricardo to be even more miserable.

"No, please don't do this! Sue me! I beg you!"

Lu Zhou: …?

What?

Chapter 346

Jerick took out his phone and was about to call the police.

As an American, he knew the dangers of mental patients better than Lu Zhou. He was more aware of how to deal with a situation like this.

However, Lu Zhou waved his hand and gestured Jerick not to call the police.

"Although I want to help you…" Lu Zhou looked at Ricardo and paused for a second before he said, "You should be aware that once the lawsuit has been withdrawn, the court will not pursue another civil action on the same case again."

When Ricardo heard Lu Zhou's explanation, his face turned white. He took two steps back and sat on the sidewalk.

The security guards relaxed, but the pedestrians nearby were even more confused. Ricardo looked down at the ground; no one knew what he was thinking about.

Lu Zhou looked at him and sighed.

He remembered Professor Sarrot's anger and could probably guess what Ricardo was afraid of.

In a sense, being a two-faced spy was worse than the usual corporate espionage. He both angered ExxonMobil and stained his resume; he could say goodbye to his career.

However, although Lu Zhou felt sympathetic, he wouldn't apologize.

Ricardo was the one that did something wrong.

If only he didn't bring the data to ExxonMobil…

If it were a normal resignation, Lu Zhou might have even introduced Ricardo to some of his scholar and research institute friends.

However, the world didn't work in that way.

Like how no one would compensate the losses of ExxonMobil and Professor Stanley, no one would compensate Ricardo…

…

Lu Zhou finally left Columbia University and arrived at the quiet Princeton town.

Jerick drove his Ford Explorer to his driveway. When Lu Zhou was taking out his suitcase from the trunk, he received a warm welcome.

"Professor, you're finally back," Hardy said with a warm smile. He then said with an enthusiastic tone, "I was originally going to bet if you were going to stay there forever… but I knew you wouldn't ditch us."

Lu Zhou smiled; he felt warm in his heart.

Lu Zhou was about to say something when Qin Yue patted Hardy's shoulder and said two words, "Pay up."

Hardy muttered, “Oh, Jesus… Can’t you wait a bit?” He took out a hundred dollar bill and placed it in Qin Yue’s hands.

Vera couldn’t help but laugh at the two.

Even Wei Wen chuckled.

However, Lu Zhou gradually lost his smile…

This f*cker bet against me?

Jerick helped park his car into the garage while Lu Zhou walked into his warm house with his suitcase.

However, the dust inside his house made him sneeze.

No one had been in the house in two months.

Obviously, there was no way anyone could live here without some thorough cleaning.

The kitchen was in a mess.

Lu Zhou knew that this would happen, so he planned to go eat at the Ivy Club.

However, out of his five students, only Hardy was a member of the Ivy Club.

The weather was cool today. Therefore, Hardy proposed a barbecue in the backyard. Everyone unanimously agreed to this idea.

The group then started to work on it. They took out the barbecue stove and folding table from Lu Zhou’s garage and set up a lively barbecue party in Lu Zhou’s backyard.

Lu Zhou sat on the grass while eating authentic Brazilian barbecue and drinking cold beer.

Although this party wasn't as luxurious as the one at the Hilton Hotel, it brought him a completely different type of relaxation.

As expected, he still preferred to hang out with his students.

Vera walked over to him while carrying a plate of food.

She sat next to him and made some small talk. After that, she reported to him her work for the past two months.

This included her number theory lecturing job, results of the class exam, the research progress on Collatz conjecture…

When Lu Zhou heard Vera's report, he nodded with approval.

"Not bad." He smiled and said, "Remember what I said? You were born for this job."

Vera blushed and looked away before she quickly said, "Also, when you were gone, there were two letters sent to your office. I had retrieved it from the mailroom and placed it in your drawer."

Lu Zhou nodded and said, "Okay, I will look at it tomorrow."

He just got back from Columbia University; he needed a day to unpack his luggage and relax.

Today, he wouldn't go to the Institute for Advanced Study.

However, everything would return back to normal tomorrow…

…

Lu Zhou spent the whole day relaxing.

The next morning, he wrote a report on his Columbia University exchange and sent it to Nassau Hall at Princeton University. He then quickly went to the Institute for Advanced Study.

When Lu Zhou got back to his office and sat down on his chair, he opened his desk drawer and found the two letters.

One letter was from the International Mathematical Union (IMU); it was an invitation letter to the International Conference of Mathematicians which was to be held on the 1st of August next year in Brazil.

As expected, he was invited to do an hour-long report at the International Conference of Mathematicians.

Normally speaking, reports were usually forty-five minutes or sixty minutes long. He should be the only Chinese scholar invited to do a sixty-minute long report at the conference.

Lu Zhou was surprised at the other letter.

It was from across the pond, all the way from Germany.

[Dear Mr. Lu Zhou, I apologize for disturbing your busy research schedule. We did extensive research on your “Theoretical Model of Electrochemical Interface Structure” thesis that was recently published in JACS. We still have many questions…

[… We sincerely hope that you can come to Europe. We will arrange a report session for you, and scholars from all over the world will get to witness this great moment.

[Max Plank Institute of Condensed Matter Physics.]

Lu Zhou wasn't surprised by the content of the letter.

The letter itself was fine.

What he was confused about was…

Why was it sent by a condensed matter physics research institute?

Chapter 347

Deligne believed that Lu Zhou's attitude toward academia was suboptimal.

Lu Zhou shrugged and said, "Okay, I will consider your suggestion."

"I hope you will. Also, once you get there, remember to say hi to the old man Faltings for me." Deligne smile and said, "It's been 20 years since he left Princeton, don't know if he's still cocky or not."

Lu Zhou remembered his last encounter with the old man in Stockholm.

Lu Zhou didn't know what Faltings was like 20 years ago.

But the old man still seemed pretty arrogant…

Lu Zhou left Professor Deligne's office and went back to his own office.

He sat in front of his computer and thought for a moment. He then wrote an email to the Max Planck Institute for Condensed Matter Physics.

In the end, he chose to go to Germany.

The Max Planck Institute promised to pay for all expenses, and a free trip wasn't too bad.

But now he had to prepare for his PowerPoint report…

Lu Zhou worked all day until it was dinner time.

He stretched and saved his incomplete PowerPoint report. He then got up from his office chair.

He had some special matters to take care of at night; therefore, he decided to end the day early. He told Vera not to bring him a sandwich. He then went to the dining area on the first floor.

Lu Zhou was about to eat when he coincidentally bumped into Edward Witten, who had just finished his meal.

"Didn't eat at the Ivy Club?" the talkative Jewish professor asked as he sat down across from Lu Zhou. He then added, "The chef changed when you went to Columbia."

Lu Zhou twisted his fork in the meat sauce as he said, "Every time I plan on going there, I end up here because I'm too lazy to go that far."

"Haha, same here. I got used to the food here after a while." Edward Witten smiled and said, "If I didn't have a lifetime membership, I would've canceled a long time ago."

This was the first time Lu Zhou had heard something like this. He looked at Witten and asked, "Lifetime membership? You don't have to pay the membership fee?"

"Of course not, you'll probably get it soon. No club will ask a Fields Medal or Nobel Prize winner a membership fee. This is the Ivy Club tradition." Witten paused for a second and suddenly remembered something important. He then asked, "Speaking of which, you received an invitation from the IMU?"

Witten was obviously talking about the International Conference of Mathematicians invitation.

Lu Zhou nodded and said, “Yeah, they invited me to do an hour-long report.”

Edward Witten wasn’t surprised at Lu Zhou’s invitation.

Lu Zhou was a strong Fields Medal candidate, so it was only natural for him to receive an invitation.

“An hour isn’t short, have you thought about what to report on?”

Lu Zhou said, “If all goes to plan, I’ll report on the Collatz conjecture.”

“If all goes to plan?” Edward Witten looked at Lu Zhou and asked curiously, “What if it doesn’t?”

Lu Zhou smiled and answered the question, “Of course, I’ll still report on the Collatz conjecture.”

The difference being who was going to prove the conjecture.

After solving Goldbach’s conjecture, there weren’t that many number theory conjectures that Lu Zhou took an interest in.

His Group Structure Method had been perfected by the proof of the Goldbach’s conjecture. Lu Zhou was more interested in seeing people use his tools to create new theories.

Because of this, Lu Zhou decided to ask his students to prove the Collatz conjecture. He only provided guidance and methods.

Of course, if his students couldn’t solve it, he would solve it himself.

However, Lu Zhou was quite optimistic at the abilities of his students.

Especially Vera; she was the most talented young mathematician Lu Zhou had ever seen.

Although she lacked creativity, she made up for it in analytical skills and logical thinking. Lu Zhou only had to teach her something once and she would never forget. She could also easily apply her newfound knowledge to new problems.

Lu Zhou believed that if she had proper guidance, she could become as successful as Schultz.

She did win the IMO gold medal at a younger age than Schultz…

…

Once Lu Zhou finished his dinner, he didn't go home right away. Instead, he jogged around Lake Carnegie.

A researcher needed a healthy body for grinding.

Lu Zhou discovered this fact after becoming Professor Lu.

He was drenched in sweat and took a shower at home. He then lay down in bed and whispered "system". His consciousness was transformed into the system space.

When he completed his mission last time, he only received the mission reward. He didn't even look at the new missions.

Now that his electrochemical theoretical model had been completed, he finally had some spare time.

It was time to look at the system missions.

Chapter 348

What does this system think of genius students?

Does it think that teaching genius students is like planting trees?

The “super genius student” must be a compliment.

Lu Zhou received recognition from the high tech system, but he wasn’t sure if this was a good thing or not.

[

Mission 2: King of the football field

Description: Football is the American national sport. The Super Bowl is a national-level event. The Super Bowl seems a bit too difficult, but the Ivy League fall championship should be fine?

Requirements: Participate in any of Princeton’s rugby clubs and place third place in the league.

Rewards: 10,000 to 50,000 experience points. 500 General points. One lucky draw ticket (80% garbage, 10% sample, 6% blueprints, 4% special).

]

Lu Zhou: “…”

What do you mean it should be fine?

This is not fine.

Lu Zhou remembered that Connie was built like the hulk, and he decided to stay away from the dangerous sport of football.

If he got hurt, it would be a loss to all of mankind…

Lu Zhou continued to look at the mission panel.

[

Mission 3: Lithium-air battery is the future!

Description: Lithium-sulfur batteries will eventually be eliminated, lithium-air batteries are the future!

Requirements: Solve a series of lithium-air battery problems and make lithium-air batteries occupy 5% of the global battery market.

Reward: 0-??? subject experience points. 500 general points. One lucky draw ticket (50% garbage, 30% sample, 10% blueprints, 10% special).

]

There was nothing wrong with the mission itself, but the high tech system's logic was similar to Professor Sarrot's.

Lu Zhou didn't know if the system overestimated the technological level of human civilization or if the system just didn't want him to earn experience points.

However, since the system was so confident in lithium-air batteries, Lu Zhou felt that he should consider it seriously. He might have to buy the caged carbon molecule from Professor Stanley.

Anyway, it shouldn't cost a lot.

Lu Zhou looked at the three missions and thought for a bit. In the end, he chose Mission 1 as his primary mission.

Mission 2 was too dangerous and Mission 3 was too difficult; Mission 1 was undoubtedly the best option.

However, the reward was negatively correlated with Lu Zhou's participation in the thesis. The system wanted Lu Zhou to be more "hands-off" and let his student do the project.

Lu Zhou rubbed his chin and began to think.

That's a bit difficult.

…

Institute of Materials Science at Binghamton University.

"Ricardo! Come out! Damnit… Where did that idiot go?"

Professor Stanley was looking for Ricardo in the laboratory. He was so filled with rage to the point that even his beard was trembling.

Obviously, he was as furious as he could get.

Many laboratories had been questioning his thesis, asking him to do repeated experiments.

Professor Stanley replied to these suspicions with "just because you can't do it, doesn't mean that other people can't as well".

This response sounded a bit unreasonable.

However, it was nothing unusual in the academic community.

Although the essence of scientific research was that it could be repeated, not every experiment could be copied perfectly.

After all, even if the experiment process was easy, a small change could lead to wildly different results.

In fact, the caged carbon molecules did have an effect on inhibiting the shuttle effect.

However, it was far less effective than what Professor Stanley had described.

The academic community gradually lost interest in his research and the market began to get annoyed. Especially ExxonMobil, they were becoming impatient at their stock price.

In order to fix this situation, a month ago, Professor Stanley told ExxonMobil that he would do everything he could to make the caged carbon molecules useful.

However, unfortunately, no matter what mixing method he used for the positive sulfur material, he couldn't prevent the polysulfide compound from diffusing into the electrolyte. The positive electrode material would disappear after a hundred or two hundred cycles.

Professor Stanley was more and more suspicious of Ricardo being a double spy. He was about to confront Ricardo when Ricardo suddenly disappeared from his laboratory.

He asked his assistant what had happened.

Since two days ago, Ricardo hadn't been coming to the laboratory.

Suddenly, Professor Stanley understood what had happened.

His worst fear was realizing itself.

He felt like an idiot for believing in that traitor!

The researchers in the laboratory feared Professor Stanley's temper.

No one knew why but ever since that Manhattan banquet, Professor Stanley, who was at the peak of his career, suddenly developed a temper.

Even though they were in the same laboratory and working on the same experiment, no one knew the specifics of the entire experiment.

Other than the core researchers whose name appeared in the thesis, most researchers of the institute knew nothing about the specifics of the caged carbon molecule.

Most researchers thought that they had solved the lithium-sulfur battery shuttle effect and defeated the world-class problem…

"Damn, f*ck!" Professor Stanley couldn't stop swearing as he sat in his office desk and breathed heavily.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

Professor Stanley checked the phone number and took a deep breath to calm down. He then picked up the phone.

Woods' voice could be heard from the other side of the telephone.

"My engineer told me what you can't create the battery at all! Stop giving me boring reasons, I need an explanation."

This was his fifth call to Professor Stanley since the Manhattan banquet. His voice had gotten less and less polite each time he called.

Professor Stanley went silent for a while.

He was about to tell the CEO the whole truth when he suddenly had another thought.

ExxonMobil didn't know that Ricardo was missing from the laboratory.

This might not be a bad thing.

He could throw Ricardo under the bus…

Professor Stanley lowered his voice and said, "We were played."

Woods was stunned at this answer. He then asked, "What do you mean?"

Professor Stanley said, "The data was fake, Ricardo was a double-spy! Don't you understand! We were played right from the beginning!"

Woods immediately said, "Impossible! Where can he go? There is a lawsuit on his a*s, he can't run far."

In America, corporate espionage was a very serious crime. Especially when it came to intellectual property theft…

Ricardo's entry out of the country could be under heavy restrictions.

As long as Ricardo was in America, it would be easy to find him.

Professor Stanley said, “He’s a double-spy, do you think that Star Sky Technology will still sue him? They probably have already withdrawn their lawsuit…”

Woods began to think.

He was angry that Professor Stanley had hidden this from him for over a month.

But his anger was now on Ricardo.

If what Professor Stanley said was true, then it wasn’t all his fault.

After all, poaching from Lu Zhou was Woods’ idea as well.

However, this wasn’t the time to argue about whose fault it was…

Woods took a deep breath and spoke slowly, “I will talk to the legal department about the lawsuit. As for now…”

An energy giant like ExxonMobil faced lawsuits every day; a small lawsuit on one of the members of their staff wouldn’t attract their attention.

Woods wasn’t up to date with the progress of the lawsuit.

Of course, if what Stanley said was true, Woods would make Ricardo pay the price.

As for now…

Woods paused for a moment before he said, “As for now, we must stabilize our position! The new material is not ideal, this information cannot be leaked! Our investors trust us, we cannot let them down.

“Also, I learned that Lu Zhou has been researching new theory recently; lithium-sulfur batteries is not his focus anymore. Although we went on the wrong track, we are not too far behind.

“I need you to do more experiments.

“We have invested a lot of resources, I don’t want to see nothing come of it! I don’t think you want to fail either!”

When Professor Stanley heard this, he sighed in relief.

Obviously, ExxonMobil wouldn’t admit defeat so easily. Woods still chose Stanley to fight on the front line.

Professor Stanley spoke in a gentle tone, “I have been doing experiments already.”

He had never intended to admit defeat.

He would fight until the day he received the results.

Chapter 349

“Congratulations, professor! I think in order to celebrate…”

Lu Zhou waved his hand and interrupted him.

“We’ve already had enough parties.”

Hardy sighed and said, “This isn’t enough, the Princeton football club has parties every week.”

Lu Zhou ignored him and continued to speak, “For the subject of this hour-long report, I will use the Collatz conjecture. Our research results will be shown to the mathematics community.

“No one believes that this conjecture can be solved. We will tell those pessimists that they are wrong.”

Qin Yue looked hesitant when he said, “But professor, according to your framework, our research on the Collatz conjecture is only at around 30% or so. This is far from being able to present a report…”

“That’s why you guys have to work harder,” Lu Zhou said as he looked at Qin Yue. He then turned to look at Vera and said, “I will help you guys when necessary, but I hope you can finish this research project on your own. Best case scenario, this thesis can become a master’s thesis for all three of you.”

Even the risk-averse Qin Yue was relieved.

If the professor helped on the research, there was nothing to worry about.

The only thing was that Professor Lu had been studying chemistry problems recently, so he might not have the free time for mathematics conjectures.

“This is the basic plan for the next year. I hope your research project can go smoothly.” Lu Zhou looked at Wei Wen and said, ‘Wei Wen, come outside with me for a second, I have something for you to do.”

Wei Wen smirked and immediately left the office with Lu Zhou.

It looked like his supervisor was about to arrange a research project for him.

He had been waiting for this for a long time.

…

Lu Zhou came up with an idea for the system mission.

On one hand, he would ask Vera to continue her research on the Collatz conjecture. Due to the academic value of the Collatz conjecture, this was Lu Zhou's first choice.

On the other hand, Wei Wen and Jerick were also arranged to do research projects.

However, their project difficulty would be much lower.

This way, if the research on the Collatz conjecture stagnated, Lu Zhou would still have a backup.

However, even if the system did not give Lu Zhou this mission, Lu Zhou himself would have arranged something for Wei Wen to do.

After all, there was a limited amount of knowledge one could learn from textbooks. Precious scientific research knowledge couldn't be learned in the library.

"… Your research direction is the Hilbert space area of functional analysis. I remember that I suggested for you to do research on mathematical physics when you first came here. Unfortunately, I have not studied that area recently."

Wei Wen stood on the corridor outside of the office. Lu Zhou paused for a second before he continued, "However, although I don't have a suitable project for you, I can recommend a person to you."

Wei Wen asked, "Who?"

Lu Zhou smiled and said, "He's my friend, come with me."

Although Luo Wenxuan's lifestyle was pretty relaxing, he still had the talent and ability. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gotten the offer from Edward Witten.

After all, Witten had strict requirements for his students.

The reason why Lu Zhou recommended Wei Wen to Luo Wenxuan was that Luo Wenxuan's research was related to Hilbert space.

Also, because Luo Wenxuan's master's degree was in the field of functional analysis and he was well versed in mathematical physics, he could teach Wei Wen many things.

Lu Zhou took Wei Wen to Witten's office.

Luo Wenxuan was reading documents when Lu Zhou arrived.

When Luo Wenxuan saw Lu Zhou standing at the door, he smiled.

"Morning, what brings you all the way here?"

"Nothing, just visiting." Lu Zhou smiled and looked at the computer screen as he said, "Reading theses?"

"That's right, it's my daily routine to log onto arXiv and check theses." Luo Wenxuan said, "That's how the field of theoretical physics is, there hasn't been new physics research in a long time. I'm not afraid to come up with a new idea, I'm afraid someone else already has."

Lu Zhou asked, "Have you still not finished your thesis?"

Luo Wenxuan sighed and said, "Nope, Witten's requirements are way too high, my thesis hasn't been satisfactory."

Lu Zhou asked, "So your thesis is still the same one?"

"I changed it." Luo Wenxuan smiled and said, "Now, it's about the research on the even coherent state of the q-distorted harmonic oscillator in the finite-dimensional Hilbert space."

Lu Zhou: "…"

He didn't know why this was worth bragging.

Suddenly, Lu Zhou had second thoughts on lending his student to Luo Wenxuan.

Luo Wenxuan noticed Wei Wen who was standing behind Lu Zhou, and he asked, "Who's this?"

"My student, Yan University applied mathematics graduate…"

Lu Zhou hesitated for a few seconds before he decided to give it a shot.

Although Luo Wenxuan had his shortcomings, he had been Witten's student for a long time. Wei Wen had almost zero research experience, so he could learn a lot from Luo Wenxuan.

Also, Lu Zhou felt like he should help Luo Wenxuan. Luo Wenxuan was almost thirty years old and still didn't complete his thesis.

Therefore, Lu Zhou patted Wei Wen's back and said, "Didn't you tell me last time you required a mathematical genius in Hilbert space to help with your research project? This is it."

Luo Wenxuan was overjoyed. "Thank you so much! My research has entered a bottleneck, you are my savior!"

He looked at Wei Wen and said, "Wei Wen, right? I'll have to thank you in advance."

Wei Wen obviously noticed that this guy seemed unreliable, so he was a bit hesitant.

Will I be okay doing a research project with this guy?

However, Wei Wen trusted Lu Zhou's decision.

Wei Wen said with an uncertain tone, “I’ll… try my best.”

Chapter 350

Yang Xu drank some water and cleared his throat; he couldn’t wait to speak.

“Then, we mixed the hollow carbon spheres with sulfur by chemical deposition and assembled them into the battery mold to perform the battery performance test. The final result was quite satisfactory.

I won’t talk about the rest over the phone, I have sent the relevant experiment data to your email. Look at it!”

“Okay, I will.”

Lu Zhou was excited at how thrilled Yang Xu was, so he hung up the phone and checked his email.

There was an email from Yang Xu in his mailbox.

Lu Zhou downloaded the email attachments and opened the file with the experiment data. He converted it to a PDF format and carefully read it line by line.

This experiment data contained the battery performance test data, images taken with the SEM, and also data graph plots.

As per what Yang Xu said, the performance of this new material was quite good. No wonder Yang Xu was so excited.

Comparing the original hollow carbon nanospheres with the activated carbon nanospheres prepared using potassium hydroxide, the activated hollow carbon spheres performed excellently with a 70% sulfur composite.

This was only at the macroscopic level, the microscopic level was even more interesting.

The sulfur ions embedded in the hollow carbon spheres could escape from the surface pores of the hollow carbon spheres. They could also electrochemically react with the lithium ions moving to the positive electrode in an orderly manner as well as generating Li2S2 and Li2S between the carbon spheres. This prevented the pore blockage from affecting the efficiency of the electrochemical cycle.

On the other hand, because the charged sulfur ions were in limited contact with the lithium ions, the formation of a long-chain compound LiSn was avoided.

Everyone knew that long-chain LiSn molecules were easily soluble in organic solutions, and that was the basis of the shuttle effect. If the formation mechanism of these molecules could be reduced, it would totally prevent the loss of the positive electrode material.

Not just that, even if a small amount of LiSn (where n is greater than 2) compound was formed in the reaction system, due to the surface absorption properties of the hollow carbon sphere, the polysulfide compound would be trapped inside the positive electrode material. This could prevent it from diffusing through the surface of the material and into the electrolyte.

These two layers of protection minimized the effects of the shuttle effect.

Once Lu Zhou finished reading the physical and chemical properties analysis, he looked at the battery testing.

According to the battery experiments done by the Jinling Institute of Computational Materials, the ability to inhibit the diffusion of polysulfide compounds into the electrolyte peaked when the sulfur content was at 73%. Even after 500 battery cycles, the coulomb efficiency remained at a high level.

When the sulfur content was at 75%, other factors such as energy density, volume energy density, etc reached an optimal level.

Yang Xu named the new hollow carbon sphere HCS-2, following the nomenclature of Lu Zhou.

This new material was undoubtedly more applicable than HCS-1!

“Perfect.”

Lu Zhou placed the experiment report on the table and took out his phone. He called Mr. White Sheridan, the general manager of Star Sky Technology. He told Mr. White to immediately start the international patent applications.

Taking into account the broad prospects of this material, Star Sky Technology would separately register patents on a series of aspects such as compounds, production, use, and mixing ratio of sulfur to HCS-2 materials. This allowed them to establish a robust patent defense.

If things went well, Lu Zhou could receive the patent numbers before the end of the month and could begin writing his thesis.

The success of the HCS-2 material was partly due to computational materials methods. This would undoubtedly provide an important example of his theoretical model of the electrochemical interface structure.

Lu Zhou was particularly looking forward to his theory being applied…

…

White was very efficient; he had already submitted all of the documents and passed the patent application.

After getting the patent numbers, Lu Zhou immediately began writing the thesis.

The last paper on HCS-1 was also written by him. He could use the same format and structure for this thesis. He finished writing the thesis within three days.

He chose the Science journal as his submission target.

Lu Zhou submitted the journal and began to prepare for his Max Planck Institute meeting.

However, this submission gave the editorial department at Science a hard time.

Submitting theses in Science was a hobby of many big names. For example, David Shaw was one of them.

And Science welcomed these theses. After all, the big names gave Science a good reputation within the academic community.

However, Professor Lu had submitted three theses within half a year; it was a bit extreme…

The problem wasn't the HCS-2 material itself. Most mathematics academic editors in the department couldn't believe that Lu Zhou made such a huge improvement on the HCS-1 material within such a short period of time.

Not to mention the carbon-sulfur composite thesis by Professor Stanley was also on JACS.

Everyone had reason to suspect that Professor Lu might have competed with Professor Stanley on the lithium-sulfur battery project and that Professor Stanley might have published incomplete experiment results.

Things like this had happened in the academic community before.

The Science editorial department decided to hand it over to the reviewer.

The reviewer responsible was Professor Bawendi from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Just like last time, this professor accepted the review request and repeated Lu Zhou's experiment step by step by paying out of his own pocket.

He was amazed by the results.

Bawendi succeeded again…