

Scholar 71

Chapter 71

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The mathematical modeling competition prize money was finally released and the total amount was 15,000 yuan. Of which, 10,000 yuan was given by the school directly to Lu Zhou and the other 5000 yuan was with Wang Xiaodong.

Lu Zhou was surprised to hear that Lin Yuxiang gave up on the prize money.

Even though Wang Xiaodong wanted to give her half of his money, she smiled and refused.

He did not know what the girl was thinking...

The first thing Lu Zhou did after the team was disbanded was to block her from his news feed.

He had spent so much money on the artificial intelligence “Eye” that he was glad that finally got some money back.

According to the agreement, he bought food for his three roommates.

These three animals were not polite at all. The first thing they did was to ask for half a box of beer, a plate of grilled fish, and five side dishes.

The food came and Shi Shang opened a bottle. He then took turns and filled the everyone’s cups with beer. Finally, he took his cup and looked at Lu Zhou.

“Zhou, you were a scrub at first, but now you’re a god. You still remember this meal, which means you haven’t forgotten us. I respect you.”

"It's just a dinner. You guys have bought me food before, why are you being so cringy now," said Lu Zhou. He smiled and once he cheered Shi Shang, Lu Zhou drank the whole cup.

Huang Guangming also raised his cup, "Zhou, I'll cheer you as well. No reason, I just want to be happy."

"No need, no need," said Lu Zhou as he raised his hands and cheered Huang Guangming.

Liu Rui also raised his cup, "Congratulations..."

"Thank you!" said Lu Zhou said.

Regardless of the complex meaning behind Liu Rui's "congratulations", everyone was roommates and brothers.

Lu Zhou cheered Liu Rui and drank the whole cup.

With beer running low and the dishes almost finished, Shi Shang sighed with a belly full of alcohol.

"Zhou."

"What's up?"

"I've recently been thinking of a problem."

"Ask away."

'What's it like being a genius student?' asked Shi Shang as he sighed. He stared at the bottles of beer and said, "Insanely high exam marks, guaranteed master's entrance, scholarships..."

Perhaps it was because Shi Shang read some books in the library or perhaps it was because of the alcohol but Shi Shang had been thinking about the philosophy of life. Huang Guangming always said that he would take him to psychological counseling, but he never went.

Regardless, Shi Shang's question hit the spot.

The two animals next to him pretended to eat but their ears were open wide. Especially Liu Rui. He even stopped moving his chopsticks as he waited for the genius' experience.

Lu Zhou shook his empty cup and burped.

He was slightly blushing because of alcohol. He coughed and slowly said, "... You think, being a genius is fun?"

"... I understand. You're actually not happy, right? Tired, right?" said Shi Shang as he sighed.

"No," said Lu Zhou as he shook his head. He continued, "I meant that... Being a genius is great. You can't even imagine the joyfulness of being a genius."

Shi Shang: ? ? ?

Huang Guangming: ? ? ?

Liu Rui: ? ? ?

...

By the time they went back to the dorm, it was already seven o'clock at night.

Liu Rui was again carried back and he fell unconscious on the mat. Shi Shang's alcohol tolerance was quite good. Even though he drank six or seven bottles, when the class leader called him to play basketball, he went.

What a guy. How can you even play basketball after drinking so much?

Drunken basketball?

This time it was Huang Guangming that carried Liu Rui to the toilet. Lu Zhou climbed in bed, opened his laptop, and went on the [Mathematics Chronicle] website.

Without any surprise, the status of his thesis had become [Under Review].

It seemed that his guess was correct.

Not just ordinary missions, but even with the reward missions as well, the system would help him save time. As for how the system did it... Lu Zhou decided not to bother it with that question.

It would only hurt his head!

When he logged onto his email, he saw that the authorization file had already been sent.

Lu Zhou completed the authorization file as required before uploading it onto the website.

Next was the long peer review. He had to wait for an academic editor to free up and verify his certification process. Unlike his previous papers, this paper involved a proof for an important conjecture, so it would take longer to review.

Academic editors would be extra cautious in reviewing and would not miss any mistakes. It was because once a wrong proof theorem was published, it was not just a joke, but it would seriously damage the academic reputation of the journal.

Of course, his thesis could be sent to a master of mathematics and that master could finish the review within a day. However, the probability of it happening was very low.

Lu Zhou went back to his dorm and opened his laptop. He chatted with his artificial retardation bot Xiao Ai before he went to check the Campus Train bug reports.

When Lu Zhou saw the stagnated user number, he did not anything.

He ignored the messages that were asking for thesis help. As always, there were no error or bug reports.

Great.

I don't have to release an update.

Lu Zhou closed the developer website and logged onto the Academic Affairs Office website. He was about to look at his class timetable when a notice caught his attention.

"A Twin prime conjecture lecture will be held at 9 am tomorrow..."

Lu Zhou saw the words of twin prime number and suddenly remembered his inspiration from when he was writing the thesis on Zhou's conjecture.

He was so busy with the submission of the thesis that totally forgot about his accidental discovery.

Now that he thought about it, it was pretty interesting.

"... I don't have class tomorrow morning anyway, maybe I should listen to this lecture. I'll get partial credit for it," thought Lu Zhou. To sign up, he entered his student number and password.

"Speaker is Ren Changming... I think I've seen this name?" thought Lu Zhou as he stared at it for a long time but he could not remember.

In a mathematics textbook?

Or I read it online?

Who cares. This doesn't matter.

Lu Zhou shook his head and threw a towel over his shoulder before picked up his basket of laundry and went to the bathroom.

Chapter 72

The editors at Johns Hopkins University were trying their best to maintain the academic influence of Mathematics Chronicle.

Normally, an ordinary number theory thesis would not be worthy of Davis' attention. It was a mere coincidence that he had a certain amount of knowledge on number theory that when he first read the thesis, he immediately discovered the extraordinary value of it.

There were countless conjectures about the distribution law of the Mersenne prime numbers, but none of the conjectures had been proved. Among them, the most mathematically beautiful and precise conjecture was undoubtedly the famous Zhou's conjecture.

When $2^{(2^n)} < P < 2^{(2^{n+1})}$, then the amount of Mersenne primes is $2^{(n+1)}-1$.

However, this was just a guess.

Zhou's conjecture had not been proved or disproved.

When it was proved, it would be upgraded to a theorem!

Even though Davis saw that Professor Delini did not care, Davis refused to give up. Instead, he said, "Come on, Viscount Deligne! Your research is the most outstanding from any professor I've ever seen! I

read this thesis and instantly thought of you. We've been working together for many years now. Can you just please take a look?"

"Stop kissing my ass," said Deligne as he slammed the suitcase down and laughed coldly. He said, "I know I'm good."

He usually was not this irritable. Like all the other geniuses at Princeton, he was only a little arrogant. Normally, if Davis brought an interesting thesis to him, he would take the time and read it.

However, no matter how interesting the thesis may be, he had more important matters to attend to.

His teacher, Mr. Grottendick, was lying in a hospital bed and could pass away at any time.

He did not have the appetite to study some math problem. He had to fly to France and see his teacher.

Not only did he pause his academic editor work, but he also stopped his own research projects temporarily.

Davis tried to convince him, "Don't you want to bring a gift to Mr. Grottendick?"

Deligne said angrily, "Gift? A piece of trash paper? I'd rather buy a flower in France!"

"I promise you, this paper is not as bad as you think," said Davis sincerely. He then added, "Isn't proving Riemann's conjecture your teacher's life goal? The distribution law of Mersenne prime numbers has been solved, and we have taken another step forward towards the crown of this mathematical world... Even if it's just a small step! I remember the remark you said in last year's academic report – that the road to the end of the Riemann zeta function was dark and required countless candles to illuminate... Now, the match is in your hand."

Deligne stared at Davis and was silent for a while before he finally snatched the thesis from David's hand.

“F*ck!”

Finally, the academician could no longer contain his curiosity.

“A proof of Zhou’s theorem?” Deligne’s frowned.

He had read countless theses like this in the past and it only recently stopped being so common. People who thought that they were smart always liked to pick seemingly simple questions, but they had never even started to solve them.

If Zhou’s conjecture was proven, it could really help the research for Riemann’s conjecture. After all, the behavior of the Riemann zeta function was closely related to the frequency of prime numbers. The Riemann hypothesis was about when the zeta function was zero.

When Deligne read the author’s name, he was shocked.

Lu Zhou?

Chinese guy? Or ABC?<

There were quite a lot of outstanding mathematicians in Asia, but he had never heard of this name...

His heart could not help but feel contempt towards the author. However, as he knew that David would never fool him with a crappy thesis, Deligne continued to read.

One minute passed...

Five minutes passed...

Ten minutes passed...

Deligne maintained the same reading position the entire time with his eyes staring intensely at the first page. He had no plans of turning the page.

Davis controlled his breathing when he saw Professor Deligne acting like this. He did not want to disturb Deligne's thinking.

The more Deligne read the more serious his expression became.

Another five minutes passed...

He rested the suitcase against the wall but he remained silent. Deligne then took an A4 paper and went into his study room before he closed the door behind him.

Davis breathed a sigh of relief and he finally relaxed his stiff shoulders as he sat casually on the sofa in the living room.

Judging from his years of experience, Professor Deligne's strength of closing the door was positively correlated with how important the thesis was.

If it was a rubbish thesis, he would not even close the door to the study room.

When Deligne was in the study room, he took the draft paper out and started to verify the calculations in the thesis.

The author's calculations were clear, logical and rigorous. The method of application was so clever that Deligne could not even find a mistake.

Deligne could not even find possible improvements.

What confused him was that, other than the sloppy English, the argumentation process was flawless. It did not look like the author was a newcomer...

It's too smooth.

I can't believe how smooth this thesis is.

He wanted to believe that there was a mistake in this five-page thesis!

Maybe I missed the mistake?

This is interesting.

An hour passed.

After Deligne read the last line of calculation, he was silent for a very long time. He then put down the printed thesis next to the draft paper before he sighed and muttered a French word, "Impressive."

An hour ago, he still had doubts in his mind.

However, after reading it again, he was certain that this five-page thesis had no problems.

He could not think of another word other than impressive.

Deligne really wanted to meet the author of this thesis. However, there was no chance in the near future. After he returned from his France vacation, he would have to participate in a new research project for Princeton, which would occupy him for a few months.

Perhaps, this paper will arouse the interest of my teacher?

He knew that the probability was low as his teacher had not been studying mathematics for many years.

Davis was walking back and forth in the living room when he finally turned his attention to the fish tank next to the living room cabinet. He tapped the glass with his fingers and played with the goldfish to pass time.

Suddenly, the door to the study room opened and out came Deligne with the thesis in his hand.

Davis immediately rushed forward and asked, "How was it?"

As Deligne placed the thesis into the suitcase, he replied without lifting his head, "I need some time. I'll give you a response within a week."

When Davis heard him, he held his breath for a moment because he was too excited.

He had worked with him for so many years that he completely understood the professor's personality.

If a thesis was not inserted into the professor's shredder, it meant that he could not find a problem with the thesis. If he had not given the thesis back to Davis, it meant that the content of the thesis attracted his attention!

A week's time was nothing.

It was impossible for an academic editor to quickly review a paper. Repeated scrutiny and verification was necessary. This was not only the rigor of a mathematician but also a scholar. It was the minimum respect for the field of study!

A world-class mathematics problem was about to be solved.

The academic value of [Mathematics Chronicle] would undoubtedly be improved.

As for Davis himself...

What else could better prove his performance as a technical editor other than picking a needle from a haystack?

Chapter 73

As she looked at him, she asked quietly, "Student, are you, Lu Zhou?"

Lu Zhou nodded his head and said, "Yeah."

That girl's eyes lit up and she whispered with slight excitement, "You... You are from the 2013 mathematics class, Lu Zhou?"

"Yes... What's up?"

"Oh, nothing," said the young school girl as she shook her head.

Then why did you say my name!

Lu Zhou was speechless as he opened his notebook and started taking notes.

"..."

Lu Zhou: "..."

It might have been an illusion, but Lu Zhuo felt like the two girls sitting next to him were secretly watching him. They kept whispering and pointing at him.

Lu Zhou sighed.

Is this the troubles of being famous?

It feels...

Pretty good?

Fortunately, they did not talk about him for too long as they quickly changed topics.

Lu Zhou automatically shielded himself from external distractions by concentrating on the lecture.

When the professor finished his opening remarks, Lu Zhou had not missed anything.

“... We all know that prime numbers are natural numbers with only two factors. You might have known the first hundred prime numbers when you were in middle school. The twin prime numbers refer to prime pairs with a difference of 2, ie p and $p+2$ are both prime pairs, such as 3 and 5, 5 and 7, 11 and 13, 17 and 19, etc. As the number becomes larger, the number of twins that can be observed becomes fewer.”

“There are 8 twin prime pairs within 100, and there are only 2 pairs between 501 and 600. As the prime numbers increase, the next prime should be further and further away from the previous prime. The Goldbach’s conjecture asserts that there is an infinite number of prime numbers, which differ only by 2, such as 3 and 5, 5 and 7, and even this...”

Professor Ren wrote down a line of numbers on the blackboard.

[2003663613×2195000-1 and 2003663613×2195000+1]

He then turned around and laughed before he continued to speak.

“There is an infinite number of primes with a difference of 2. That is the guess of the twin prime numbers.”

So far, Professor Ren had only talked about simple stuff. Even Lu Zhou who had not studied the twin prime numbers yet could easily follow his speech.

It was the same for the other first-year students. Whether they were mathematics enthusiasts or not, all of them listened with interest.

However, the content of the lecture soon became difficult.

“... The twin prime number conjecture has always been a difficult problem in the field of mathematics. Just last year, there was a breakthrough in the study of the issue,” said Professor Ren as he smiled. He turned to the next page of the powerpoint before he continued, “The Chinese mathematician, Mr. Zhang Yitao, announced a proof that states there are infinitely many pairs of prime numbers that differ by 70 million or less. This was a huge breakthrough for the twin prime numbers problem.”

Professor Ren pushed his glasses and wrote the proof on the blackboard.

[Define $\theta(n) = \ln n$. if n is a prime number; define $\theta(n) = 0$ if n is a composite number. Take the function $\lambda(n) = \dots$, define $S_1(x) = \dots, S_2(x) = \dots$]

[Verify $S_2 - (\log 3x)S_1 > 0 \dots$]

[...]

When the students who were following the lecture saw the ever-increasing formula on the blackboard, there were unable to follow along anymore.

For example, the female student next to Lu Zhou had a look of “Where am I? What is this?” on her face. Within a second, the entire lecture had changed...

However, Lu Zhou was able to keep up with Professor Ren’s thought process.

Simply speaking, Mr. Zhang skillfully selected a lambda function and successfully proved that $k \geq 3.5 \cdot 10^6$, and concluded that $S_2 - (\log 3x)S_1 > 0$ holds.

In this way, by listing the first 3.5×10^6 prime numbers as acceptable sets, it could be proved that there were infinite numbers of infinite differences of less than 70 million.

“As of now, Mr. Zhang’s $k \geq 3.5 \times 10^6$ has been reduced to $k \geq 50$. That is to say, the figure of 70 million has been reduced to 246. The rest of the work needs to be completed by latecomers.”

Professor Ren smiled and threw the chalk on the desk as he said, “Perhaps, the great person who will complete this historic work is sitting in this lecture hall right now.”

“I look forward to that day!”

Clap clap clap!

The crowd applauded in thunder.

The audience was enthusiastic.

Even though they could not understand the content, they still clapped!

Of course, there were some people that understood and they were those that had a thoughtful expression on their faces.

For example, Lu Zhou.

The twin prime was just an introduction. Unlike an academic report meeting, the intention of the lecture was only to stimulate the students’ passion for mathematics.

Professor Ren talked about the Goldbach conjecture from the twin prime conjecture, and from the Goldbach conjecture, he talked about the current development of domestic number theory and some relatively advanced research results.

It was safe to say that this professor was quite skilled.

The professor took obscure topics and made them seemed interesting for beginners.

However, the content of the second half of the lecture was much less interesting than the content of the first half of the lecture. So, Lu Zhou did not listen carefully. His mind was still stuck on the proof of the twin prime.

Lu Zhou recalled the discovery in the library while he stared at the blackboard. He frowned as he felt like there was something in the dark that and whenever he tried to catch it, it would run away...

Once the lecture was finished, the students from the student union took a name list and passed it around for the other students to sign.

After Lu Zhou finished signing it, he wanted to rush to the library but he was blocked by the schoolgirl sitting next to him.

“Student, student, wait a second. Um, can I add your QQ?”

Lu Zhou did not want to waste his time, so he wrote down his QQ number on a piece of draft paper. He did not even give her a chance to speak before he quickly walked away.

However, when he walked out of the lecture hall, he was stopped by another person.

This time it was not someone random, but Professor Ren.

From the smile on the old gentleman’s face, it was obvious that he had waited for Lu Zhou for a while.

“Ah, young man, we meet again.”

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

We've met?

I think we have met actually...

The old gentlemen did not even wait for Lu Zhou to speak before he asked, "Young man, are you interested in rocket development?"

Lu Zhou was still thinking about the prime numbers problem and he was shocked by this question.

What the f*ck. Are you asking me to be an astronaut?

How is that possible?

Lu Zhou smiled awkwardly, "Professor, I don't want to go to space yet."

Chapter 74

"I heard that you're an applied mathematics major but that you still research on pure mathematics and even wrote a functions thesis a while ago. Our country's aerospace industry could use someone like you," said Ren Changming. He smiled and said earnestly, "Young man, are you interested in going to Yan University? Yan University's mechanics and aerospace technology department is famous in the country!"

Lu Zhou listened carefully to his offer before he finally said something.

He formed the sentences his mind and refused any euphemism as he said, "I'm sorry, Professor Ren. I don't know anything about aerospace. To put it bluntly, mathematical modeling only transforms complex particle motion problems into mathematical problems. It doesn't involve any esoteric knowledge. Otherwise, I wouldn't be lucky enough to get this Higher Education Club Cup. Really, the area of aerospace is not suitable for me."

Lu Zhou could not accept the professor's offer.

It was not as if Lu Zhou was completely disinterested in aerospace technology. It was because the entrance requirement to the field was too deep. With his current physics, mathematics, and engineering grades, he would not even be let in the door.

If he wanted to get into aerospace, he would at least have to achieve level 5 in material science, biochemistry, and engineering.

It was difficult for him to get into this field now.

“Ah, what’s the point of studying? Just learn what you don’t understand! If you already understand everything, what’s the point of learning? You might as well start working,” said Professor Ren. He smiled and continued, “You’re still young. The decision is up to you but I bet that if you put your heart into it, you would become successful.”

Lu Zhou did not know how to reject him.

A loud voice came from afar, “Old Rin, you’re not honest at all. Coming all the way from Beijing to scout at our Jin Ling.”

Lu Zhou looked towards the direction of the voice and saw Professor Tang walking over.

“What are you talking about? What do you mean scouting? I’m doing this for our country’s aerospace development. I can’t let this genius waste his time,” said Professor Ren Changming unhappily.

“What do you mean wasting his time? Wasting his time studying mathematics? Or is the University of Jin Ling wasting his time?” said Old Tang. He was not happy either and he pointed out, “If Yan University is so nutty, why aren’t we in space yet?”

The huge development project of lunar exploration was not something a university could do alone.

Just Chang’e 3’s data collection took teams of researchers from various universities, and that did not even include actually sending Chang’e 3 into space.

Even though University of Jin Ling's mathematics department was relatively weak, their physics department was top in the country.

At least, in the eyes of the professors at the University of Jin Ling, they were the best!

When Lu Zhou saw the two old professors fighting, he did not know whether to laugh or cry.

He quickly took the opportunity and whispered goodbye before he left. Without them noticing, he walked into the crowds and slipped out.

...

Lu Zhou went to the cafeteria and ate lunch before he headed back to the library.

When he found a random corner and sat down, he started to read his notes from the lecture.

Even though Professor Ren was in the aerospace industry, his lecture ability was still high. He was also well equipped in mathematics.

Especially in number theory.

As the professor said, Mr. Zhang opened a pathway for the twin prime. It was equivalent to the Norwegian Mr. Brown's "9+9" proof of Goldbach's conjecture. It provided a path for number theory researchers.

Following Mr. Zhang's path, global mathematicians had advanced the research of twin primes to the number of 246. It was close to the number of 2.

The key is the selection of the lambda function...

Is that it?

Lu Zhou felt like this was simple.

He was always slightly off his inspiration...

“Maybe it is because of my mathematics level?”

Lu Zhou suddenly came up with an idea.

Did the mathematics level only unlock the system’s database?

He suddenly remembered that last time, the system asked him to independently complete the mathematical modeling competition and win the first level national prize.

In fact, not only did he won the first level national prize, but he also won the Higher Education Society Cup.

If it was a few months ago, could I have done that?

Lu Zhou suddenly thought about something that happened a long time ago.

Before he upgraded mathematics to level one, when he first got the Zhou’s conjecture blueprint, at that time, he tried to read the proof theorem from beginning to the end. Back then, he could not produce any “inspiration” at all.

“That is to say, the improvement of the level isn’t just for unlocking the system data? It also improved the research ability of the subject?” thought Lu Zhou.

He believed in talent.

Perhaps it was not particularly obvious in the field of engineering, but for the purely theoretical disciplines like mathematics and physics, the more in-depth the field research, the more a researcher could feel a “bottleneck”.

A good example was the problem that plagued the world of mathematics for a hundred years. For Gauss, it was one night’s effort. If the mathematics level of an ordinary mathematician was LV_n , then the Gaussian level was probably $LV_{(n+1)}$ or even higher.

Lu Zhou speculated that this level of disparity had nothing to do with pure knowledge, but rather an abstract concept that was closer to “research and development capabilities”.

Lu Zhou did a macro analysis of the system and thought of an example. If he was level 1 mathematics and wanted to study the twin prime numbers, it might have taken decades or even hundreds of years. However, if he was level 2, perhaps this time would be shortened into decades. Level 3 would be ten years or a few years...

Perhaps, if he raised his mathematics level above level 2, he would be able to grasp that flash of “inspiration”.

If his guess was correct, then the level of the main subject should be linked not only to the access of the system’s database but also to his research and development capabilities in a particular subject area. This research and development ability determined the time that he would need to complete a research project...

Lu Zhou suddenly figured this out.

Although he failed to solve the problem of the twin prime numbers, he solved something much more inconspicuous.

The secrets of the system...

Chapter 75

F*ck sake!

There's a bug.

Lu Zhou opened the development tools and opened the program that connected QQ to Xiao Ai. He quickly found the line of the bug in the code.

Although he set the program to only accept messages from a specific account, friend and group request messages would cause a logic bug. This resulted in the computer defaulting in accepting the friend or group requests.

Lu Zhou finally remembered that when he gave that first-year girl his QQ number, he had accidentally given her the wrong account.

This is bad...

Lu Zhou clicked the group and he skipped over the 99+ messages to scroll through the first one.

Xian Yan: [Welcome new person.]

Chu Chu: [The new Lu student that joined is a national mathematical modeling champion, everyone welcomes him~]

Salt: [Oh my god, what a god!]

Dayday: [Bow down to the god.]

Chang Qing: [Will you fight in the modeling competition next year as well? Are you lacking a teammate?]

Kedu: [The god isn't replying?]

Dayday: [Gods are relatively cold, it's normal!]

[...]

The topic quickly changed.

It did not seem to be a mathematical modeling competition group organized by the school. In fact, it was more like a group chat for the students of the University of Jin Ling who was interested in mathematical modeling.

Lu Zhou read through the message and noticed that no one was actually discussing mathematics.

He laughed at these idiots' messages. He was about to leave the group and fix the bug in his program when his eyes suddenly noticed the progress bar in the lower right corner.

Then...

He was stunned.

The progress bar...

Is full?!

No, technically speaking it's half a millimeter from being full.

Suddenly, the group messages were at 99+ again!

It was at this moment that the progress bar moved forward.

When Lu Zhou saw the full progress bar, he gulped and used the mouse to click the confirmation button.

Instantly, two lines of prompt text by the system popped up.

[Congratulations, User. Artificial intelligence (technology branch) experience +100]

[Information science experience +100]

Lu Zhou: ? ? ?

It made sense that he got branch technology experience, but he did not know why he got information science experience points as well?

Upgrading technology branch experience also improved your core technology?

Lu Zhou still remembered that when he upgraded artificial intelligence from level 0 to level 1, nothing happened to the core subjects.

Lu Zhou thought, “Maybe... It’s because I used general points to accelerate the upgrading process?”

“Which is saying, the technology branch is equivalent to a mission. Obtaining technology branch experience through conventional means can enhance the experience related to core technologies. If you use general points to upgrade your technology branch, you wouldn’t earn extra experience points...”

Technology branch had a different experience leveling system. To upgrade from level 1 to level 2, artificial intelligence required 1000 points, which means that Lu Zhou still needed 9 more full progress bars.

In theory, if he did not use general points to upgrade his technology branch, he could earn 900 information science experience points as well.

Lu Zhou was surprised.

He did not think that other than missions, he could use this type of “secondary mission” to earn experience for his main subjects.

Suddenly, he realized another problem.

The third party app he designed essentially copied QQ messages into the dialog box of Xiao Ai. However, the program did not send group messages, which meant...

Even without the third party app, Xiao Ai could still read the messages that appeared on the computer?

Did Xiao Ai read the file or directly intercept the network?

Let me think carefully...

It makes sense. If artificial intelligence can't even read messages, that would be a bit too useless. If this thing continued to develop like this, would it grow to be out of my control?

Lu Zhou felt like it was possible.

It seems that I have to find some time and check the core code of Eye.

He was about to check the code when he suddenly received a phone call.

He pulled out his phone and saw that it was Old Tang calling.

Old Tang did not even wait for Lu Zhou to speak, “... Come to my office!”

...

At the University of Yixian, Yangcheng, outside the teaching building.

When the bell rang, an old man with glasses walked out of the classroom.

He was preparing to return to the office. However, when he saw the director of the mathematics department, Director Chang, holding a journal, he walked over with a smile.

Director Chang smiled and looked at Professor Zhou Haizhong with a smile, "Professor Zhou, congratulations." He shook the professor's hand and said, "Congratulations, congratulations."

Professor Zhou Haizhong was muddled as he looked at Director Chang with a confused expression.

"... Director Chang, did you mix something up? Why are you congratulating me for no reason."

Director Chang asked, "Did you not read the latest issue of [Mathematics Chronicle]?"

"I haven't read it for a long time. I haven't been keeping up with mathematics," said Professor Zhou as he shook his head.

Although Zhou's conjecture made Professor Zhou Haizhong widely known in the international mathematics community and he received special grants from the National Academy of Sciences, his hobby was not in mathematics, but computer science and linguistics.

Since 1980, he had published more than 100 theses, more than half of which were about linguistics, information science, and emerging interdisciplinary subjects. In particular, his series of theses on fuzzy mathematical linguistics research had received extensive attention from the academic community and its academic value was equal to Zhou's conjecture.

As for number theory...

To be honest, he did not have the energy to research number theory.

Director Chang did not say anything. He merely placed the journal in his hand and smiled, "Take this, and start from page 30 and read to page 34. You'll know why I congratulated you!"

Professor Zhou Haizhong was full of questions as he returned to his office with the journal.

He placed his bag on the desk and leaned against his chair before he opened the [Mathematics Chronicle] to page 30.

The second he saw the title of the paper, he was stunned.

[Discussion On The Distribution Law Of Mersenne Prime Numbers And Proof Of Zhou's Conjecture]

[Abstract: This paper studies the distribution law of Mersenne prime numbers and proves that when $2^{2^n} < P < 2^{2^{n+1}}$, MP has $2^{n+1}-1$ Prime numbers are established. Based on this argument, it is proven that when $2^{2^{n+1}}$, Mp has $2^{n+2}-n-2$ prime numbers.]

He quickly sat up from his office chair. He opened the drawer, pulled out a pen and paper before he started to calculate according to the steps given in the thesis.

Time slowly passed, his eyes became more and more serious.

Correct...

Correct...

Completely correct!

So this is how you solve it?!

The more Professor Zhou Haizhong read, the more emotional he felt. He could not help but applaud the exquisite proof process.

As the writer of the conjecture, this problem had plagued him and the mathematics community for more than 20 years.

He had not been researching number theory for a long time. Instead, he put his heart into linguistics and education. Like a curse, the unresolved conjecture tangled around him and he could never stop thinking about this issue.

His heart was excited, but at the same time, he did not want to get his hopes up.

The closer he reached to the end of the thesis, the more scared and careful he was.

He was scared that in the last calculation, there would be a flaw in the proof process. The problem would then remain unsolved.

However, the probability of it happening was low, especially after he saw the reviewer's name...

Time slowly passed by...

The view outside the window gradually became darker and the old man finally stopped holding his pen.

He did not say anything.

Instead, he placed the pen down and stood before he walked next to the window. He then quietly lit up a cigarette and puffed a long trail of smoke as he said in his heart, "The young are surpassing us."

The lake outside the window was sparkling.

As his wrinkled old face reflected on the window, he started to tear up...

Lu Zhou said, "It's okay, I'll do it myself."

"No, let me," said Wong as he placed a teacup on the coffee table before pouring water into an electric kettle. He said respectfully, "I'm pouring water for the master."

"Thanks..."

As Lu Zhou looked at the full cup of tea, he reluctantly accepted Wong's kindness.

Lu Zhou sat on the couch and looked at the magazine next to his teacup. It was the latest English version of the journal [Mathematics Chronicle]. Lu Zhou flipped to page thirty and instantly recognized the thesis he wrote.

[Discussion On The Distribution Law Of Mersenne Prime Numbers And Proof Of Zhou's Conjecture]

"The thesis in Mathematics Chronicle, did you write this?" asked Professor Tang with a serious tone as he sat behind the desk.

"Yeah," said Lu Zhou as he nodded and looked at Professor Tang with a strange expression.

Who else could it be?

Is there another Lu Zhou in the University of Jin Ling?

The two master's students in the room sucked in the cold air and looked at Lu Zhou in respect.

No wonder Old Tang admires this guy so much!

He proved a world-class mathematics problem, yet he is still so calm.

If they proved a world-class mathematics problem and published the thesis in a core journal, they would be jumping up and down in joy. They would get the scholarship from the school and then asked their friends to go out for a meal.

“...”

Lu Zhou was so calm that Professor Tang did not even know what to say.

Honestly speaking, Professor Tang was confused when he read the thesis.

Not because of the thesis itself, but because of the person that published it.

He had never thought that Lu Zhou would actually figure something out about Mersenne primes. He wanted Lu Zhou to get his feet wet, but he had not expected it...

Then...

Who would've thought that this kid was going to make such a significant achievement in this field?

He dropped a nuclear bomb onto the entire field of number theory...

“... Your accomplishments in the field of number theory exceeded my imagination. I thought you are only talented in the field of functions, but it seems that I was wrong,” said Professor Tang as he shook his head. He then said, “I’ve taught so many smart students in my life but you are the most talented one that I have ever seen.”

Not only was Professor Tang impressed, but he was also confused.

Normally speaking, a person’s energy should be limited. It was bad for an academician to focus on many things, but it seemed that this limit did not apply to this kid.

It seems that there really are geniuses in this world that defy common sense.

Lu Zhou was embarrassed at his compliment so he laughed it off before he said in a humble manner, "Professor Tang, you're exaggerating. I was only casually inspired. I'm not as strong as you say."

"Huh, okay."

Professor Tang's voice was one of disbelief and Lu Zhou did not even know what to say.

Professor Tang's "huh" obviously meant that he saw through Lu Zhou's attempt at being humble.

Old Tang is too smart!

At this moment, the office door was suddenly pushed open.

Two people walked in.

The first person was Dean Lu of applied mathematics and the other man was someone Lu Zhou could not recognize. However, with the way the man was staring at Lu Zhou, he clearly came after him.

Dean Lu walked in and was about to shout at Professor Tang when he saw Lu Zhou. He then hurried forward to ask, "You proved Zhou's conjecture?!"

Lu Zhou looked at the energetic Dean Lu before he nodded and said, "Yea... Is there a problem?"

Dean Lu did not say anything but the old man next to him smiled and spoke first, "There isn't a problem. I've read your thesis, the proof process is quite good. It really deserves the praise of Professor Deligne."

Praise?

Deligne?

Who?

Lu Zhou was confused.

The two master's students had a shocked expression on their faces.

Deligne?

Viscount, the Belgian king! The guy that proved Weil's conjecture!

Professor Tang coughed and said, "Wong, go pour some tea for the professors."

Wong stood up silently and walked towards the tea set on the cabinet.

The strange old man said, "Old Tang, don't need to be so polite. I'm just here for a bit and I'm leaving soon."

"This is the head dean of our department, Dean Qin," explained Dean Lu when he saw Lu Zhou's confused face.

Lu Zhou stood up and said, "Dean, nice to meet you."

"Hello, hello, don't need to be polite. Sit down," said Dean Qin. As he looked at Lu Zhou, he nodded his head in approval before saying, "So, you're Lu Zhou. I've been wanting to meet you for a while. But I was in Norway doing an academic conference, so I didn't get the chance. I only came back last week."

"When I was in Norway, I talked to Mr. Newman about the linear functional paper that you sent a few months ago, and he spoke highly of you. He told me that you would be able to achieve groundbreaking

results in five years. I had not expected this day to come so quickly. I just came back from Norway and you had already written such a shocking thesis in a field very different from functional number."

Dean Qin finished and sighed. He then smiled and said, "Us old people are becoming more and more useless. We have to rely on you young people to prove these mathematics conjectures."

"Dean Qin, you're too kind," said Lu Zhou. He coughed out of embarrassment before saying, "It's not that shocking..."

Dean Qin looked at Lu Zhou. He then smiled and said, "Oh, wait till tomorrow. You'll know what I'm talking about."

What did he mean by "oh"?

Lu Zhou was confused.

When Dean Qin saw that Lu Zhou did not speak, he said, "It's late, I still have to discuss some matters with Professor Tang. You should go now."

Lu Zhou wanted to leave anyway. Since he had finished the mission, he wanted to go and get his reward in the system space.

Therefore he smiled and said, "Then I'll go... Oh yeah, Dean Qin, is there a scholarship for solving this kind of world-class mathematics problem?"

Professor Tang laughed and said, "This kid, all you care about is money. Can the value of a world-class be measured with money?!"

Lu Zhou nodded. He wanted to say yes, but he stopped himself.

Dean Lu and Dean Qin laughed.

“There is a scholarship. Our school strongly supports outstanding scientific research like this!” said Dean Qin. As he smiled, he said, “But as for the exact scholarship, the school will have a meeting about it. Right now, I can’t make any promises, but we won’t treat you badly!”

Lu Zhou was overjoyed and he replied, “Thank you, dean!”

Dean Qin waved his hand and said, “You’re welcome.”

Lu Zhou left the office and closed the door behind him.

Dean Qin smiled and said, “That kid is quite talented.”

Professor Tang sighed and said, “Yeah, he’s just a bit too utilitarian.”

“It’s good to be utilitarian.”

“Good? I think you have to focus in order to do research well,” said Professor Tang. He shook his head and said, “His talent in mathematics is the highest I’ve ever seen. If he just focused on research, he would achieve great things.”

“Oh? I think that utilitarianism and enthusiasm go hand in hand,” said Dean Qin with a smile. He continued, “The real problem is stubborn people.”

Professor Tang shook his head and did not respond.

He had seen too many geniuses that wasted their talent.

Learning was not dancing or singing. If one wanted to make achievements, one must be able to withstand loneliness. One must learn to actively shield oneself from distractions. This might be unfair to those that contributed towards the advancement of science, but since they had chosen this path of exploring the truth, they would have to bear it all.

Maybe the professor's perspectives were different.

Dean Qin hoped that Lu Zhou could make achievements in the University of Jin Ling. He hoped to mark the proof of Zhou's conjecture with the label of the University of Jin Ling so that the university could become famous in the academic circle of China or even in the world.

However, whether it was at the University of Jin Ling or at Princeton, or somewhere else,

Professor Tang only hoped that this kid would further advance himself in mathematics.

Chapter 77

Lu Zhou could not wait to open his characteristic panel.

Sure enough, his mathematics level was upgraded.

[

Core science:

A. Mathematics: Level 2 (2000/50000)

B. Physics: Level 1 (2100/10000)

C. Biochemistry: Level 0 (0/1000)

D. Engineering: Level 1 (0/10000)

E. Materials science: Level 0 (0/1000)

F. Energy science: Level 0 (0/1000)

G. Information science: Level 1 (100/1000)

General points: 1175

]

Level 2 mathematics!

When Lu Zhou saw the upgrade, he had an indescribable pleasant feeling.

Of course, there was another pleasant thing waiting for him.

Next was the really exciting lucky draw.

Lu Zhou saw the 50% sample and 50% blueprint probabilities and smiled in his heart.

This system had screwed me over so many times! This time, I'll finally get a good prize!

50%

He could not believe it.

There was no way he was going to get garbage!

“Spin!”

The wheel began to rotate at a rapid speed.

“Stop!”

The wheel span for a couple more turns before it slowed down.

[Congratulations, User, sample reward chosen.]

[Received: E-class physical strength enhanced needle (repair damaged cells, improve metabolism, boost immunity)]

Emm...

Seems average?

From the description, it seems to be some kind of health supplement?

Repair damaged cells, improve metabolism, and boost immunity... These seem pretty good. I've been grinding a lot, I should repair my body. But why do I feel like I got screwed again...

Oh well, at least it wasn't garbage.

Now I have to pick the next mission.

Lu Zhou reached out and selected the mission panel on the information screen.

Three dialogs popped up.

[

Mission1: Balanced development

Description: As a true genius, a comprehensive improvement of knowledge is a basic skill. Although mathematics is the foundation of science, science isn't just about mathematics. In order to advance the science and technological progress of mankind, please take biochemistry, materials science and energy science seriously.

Requirements: Obtain achievement points (0/20) in the fields of biochemistry, materials science, and energy science. Achievement points can be obtained through subject competitions (1), participation in research projects (1-n), the publication of academic thesis (1-3), national research rewards (1-5), etc.

Reward: Core subject experience points (achievement points * 300. One lucky draw ticket (90% garbage, 5% sample, 2% blueprint, 2% unlock a new technology branch))

]

[

Mission 2: Start your career

Description: As a true genius, the achievement is not just in the academic field. For example, Watt, Siemens, Edison, Gates, Dean Kamen and so on. They may not be particularly prominent in their grades, but their contribution to the progress of civilization is undisputable. Humans are economic animals and the distribution of social resources are determined by the economy. A genius doesn't have to learn how to manage a business, but it's important to know how to turn your knowledge into a social resource that can be used...

Requirements: Have a net worth of 5 million RMB (only assets are calculated, liabilities are deducted, intangible assets not included.)

Reward: 5000 experience points towards any subjects. 500 general points. One lucky draw ticket (90% garbage, 10% sample)

]

[

Mission 3: Can I touch your trophy?

Description: As a true genius, one medal is not enough. Awards such as the Abel Prize, the Fields Medal, the Wolf Prize or even the second rate Cole Prize, the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, the Chen Shengshen Mathematics Award, the Birkhoff Applied Mathematics Award, and the Royal Society's Tory Medal are undoubtedly the best proof of the abilities of a genius.

Requirements: Obtain a mathematics award that is internationally recognized(competition awards is not allowed).

Reward: 20-100K mathematics experience points. 1000 general points. One lucky draw ticket (100% blueprint)

]

As a real genius...

It seems that this system doesn't understand humans very well. It has a misunderstanding when it comes to geniuses...

Lu Zhou felt like he was already a genius, but according to the standards of the system, he would be an idiot.

Lu Zhou resisted the urge to insult the system and focused his attention on the three missions.

"The Zhou's conjecture might not be able to win a world-class mathematics award, but I could earn a national award..."

When Lu Zhou saw the minimum 20,000 mathematics experience points that mission three had, he was excited.

However, he had a concern.

There was a very slow selection process for any mathematics award. Even if his contribution was recognized by the international academic community, it could take years before his medal could arrive in his hand.

He could not delay his mission for years just for one award. Who knows how high the level of his mathematics could get within those years.

Even though Lu Zhou was greedy, he was still logical.

As for mission one, it was also a bit awkward.

He was engaged in mathematics. It made sense that he studied physics and information science as well. However, if he suddenly entered into biochemistry, materials science, and energy science, it might look a bit suspicious.

Even if he put rationality aside and looked at it realistically, the three fields of biochemistry, materials, and energy were not easy to succeed in. The SCI thesis in these three areas was not like mathematics and computer science. He could not just write a sh*tty thesis and published it.

Lu Zhou used to listen to a chemical genius who he met while working. That student did research and development of biological reagents, wrote SCI submissions, and even pointed out which laboratory the research was done, the chemicals used... In short, it was extremely cumbersome.

As for mission two...

If five million yuan was so easy to earn, everyone on this planet would be rich.

Lu Zhou calculated. If he wanted to earn five million yuan, he had to do 25,000 hours of tutoring – that would be 2.85 years of tutoring.

Otherwise, he had to write more than 250 theses in the [International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics].

There's no way.

Actually, there's one more way.

That is to sell my app or raise the value of it by financing...

Could I raise the value to five million?

Not gonna happen.

Opening VIPs accounts to users and classify it before advertising to them. Anyone can think of this. At most, it would decrease my losses. Any app (other than mobile games) are basically money losers in the early days of development. They don't make a profit until they take over a significant portion of the market.

This was called "strategic loss". It used the economics of scales to operate by betting on the future.

This was a common sense amongst the tech industry.

However, the road to financing was not that good. Until now, not a single company had offered to finance his app. Obviously, no one was optimistic about his Campus Train app. No one was interested in his hundreds of thousands of inactive users.

The missions are getting more and more difficult...

Lu Zhou stared at the semi-transparent holographic screen as he bit his lower lip and frowned.

“Which mission should I pick?”

Chapter 78

...

The latest edition of [Mathematics Chronicle], page thirty: [Discussion On The Distribution Law Of Mersenne Prime Numbers And Proof Of Zhou's Conjecture]

At the end of the thesis, there was a review of the paper.

[This is groundbreaking work. We finally have a theorem that we can rely on to constrain the variation of Mersenne primes to a visible range. Professor Pierre Deligne]

Professor Deligne was famous for being critical. Whether in an academic conference or in a Princeton lecture, if someone made a mistake, he would not hesitate before pointing it out. He had embarrassed many well-known professors and scholars in the industry.

However, he used the word “groundbreaking” to describe Lu Zhou's thesis and it was rare for him to use that word when evaluating theses.

It had not even been a week since the mathematics journal was released but it had already caused quite a stir in the international mathematics community. It could have been the proof theorem itself, or professor Deligne's evaluation, or the age of the author...

Furthermore, the week before Lu Zhou even saw his thesis in the journal magazine, countless scholars had devoted themselves to repeatedly verified the proof process.

After that...

Mathematics professors at the University of Jin Ling were shocked!

The China Mathematics Society was shocked!

The results of the verification were...

Completely correct!

The cranks were...

Okay, the cranks were not shocked. They were still tackling Goldbach's conjecture or Fermat's last theorem. Most of them would not even care about the Chinese conjecture unless someone won an international award.

Soon, this sensational news went from the mathematics community to the press.

Zhou's approximation which had plagued the number theory community for over 20 years was finally proven.

This meant that from now on, Zhou's conjecture would become Zhou's theorem.

Another Chinese surname was entered into the history of mathematics!

Both the person that made the conjecture and the person that proved the conjecture would be included in the history of mathematics!

The most important fact for the media was that the person that proved the conjecture was a second-year undergraduate student!

Many people thought of Student Liu who proved the Sitapan conjecture a few years ago.

All mathematics experts knew that even though one was a Chinese conjecture while the other was a British conjecture, the academic value and difficulty of the two could not be compared.

The so-called Sitapan conjecture was only a counter-inference in the field of mathematics about the strength of Ramsey's two-staining theorem. The $RT^{2 \times 2}$ may be stronger than WKLO. Liu gave a negative answer to the conjecture by proving that $RT^{2 \times 2}$ does not contain WKLO.

Solving a conjecture was difficult and there were thousands of other conjectures just like it...

However, even though there were also thousands of conjectures on the same difficulty level as Zhou's conjecture, the research on the distribution law of Mersenne primes was more significant. Numerous mathematicians had tried to express the distribution law of Mersenne primes numbers. All of the expressions were conjectures and none of them could be promoted to a theorem.

Right now, a theorem was born.

Due to that, the media went crazy.

At least, the domestic media went crazy!

A new star in mathematics was rising and the media labeled him as a guy who could win the Fields Medal.

Although proof of Zhou's conjecture was far from a Fields Medal as only something like the Jacobian conjecture could actually be worthy of the Fields Medal, but...

He was only twenty years old!

The Fields Medal had a 40 years old limit and he still had 20 years to go.

Based on that alone, it was enough for the media's headline.

[Huaguo Youth Daily] used a domineering title. It chose Professor Deligne's evaluation of the [Mathematics Chronicle] paper. It reported the sensational news title: [Answering Qian Xuesen's

question, an undergraduate student from the University of Jin Ling conquers the world of mathematical puzzles! We can also produce amazing talents!]

[Everyone Daily] also reported the news. Although their focus was not on Lu Zhou, it published an article with a similar title. It encouraged researchers to “climb Mount Everest” and to continue to pave the road of science.

Compared with the traditional media, we-media was not as accurate. They greatly exaggerated their titles.

[Shocked! An undergraduate student of the University of Jin Ling solved a world-class number theory problem overnight!]

[The problem that plagued the mathematics community for twenty years was solved by an undergraduate student! ! !]

[American mathematicians are shocked, Japanese mathematicians can't even understand...]

They bragged about Lu Zhou so much that it seemed as if Lu Zhou had nearly become immortal.

The popularity of the media inevitably pushed Lu Zhou's name onto trending for the third time this year.

Except that this time, he was first on trending!

Netizens were blasting Everyone Daily's comment section.

[Amazing... Second-year student solving a world-class problem, what would happen if he does a PhD! (frightened) (frightened)]

[I'm going to cry, I'm leaving, I'm not going on Weibo anymore. I'm changing my PhD thesis. (cry)]

[When I was twenty, I was worrying about advanced algebra while this guy is already doing world-class mathematics problems...]

[He's from University of Jin Ling! Me too! I remember! He was the modeling champion!]

[This guy is going to be a godly mathematician.]

[Is there anyone that is still insulting old dog Zhu?]

[Do you want to insult him? (dog)]

[Zhu is old news. (dog)]

[F*ck Zhu.]

[Strong Chinese man! Contributing to research! (fist) (first)]

[...]

Right now, Lu Zhou still had no idea what was happening on Weibo because, at 3 pm, he was still sleeping!

Lu Zhou coughed and woke up. His entire body felt sore as if he ran for hours and did a hundred sit-ups.

Not only that, the blankets and bed sheets were all soaked with his sweat. It even smelled sour.

Lu Zhou pushed the wet blanket away and was shocked.

"The f*ck, why did I sweat so much?"

It was like the sheet and blankets were soaked. Lu Zhou quickly bounced off the disgusting bed.

When he stretched his body and cracked his joints, he felt as if the soreness of his muscles were decreasing. It was oddly comfortable.

Lu Zhou sat up from the bed and threw the blanket and sheets on his chair before he climbed down the ladder.

He stared at himself in the mirror and as he touched his chin, he felt that he was still handsome.

He then took the blanket and sheets before heading to the balcony where he threw them in the laundry basket with the plan of throwing them into the washing machine later. Then, he took a shower.

When he walked out of the bathroom humming, a cool breeze blew through and his entire body relaxed. He could not help but stretch.

Samples from the high tech system were really good. Although he did not feel an obvious increase in strength or reaction speed, he felt better physically.

At least, the fatigue and injury that were accumulated from staying up late were cured by the needle. He went from unhealthy to almost healthy overnight.

At this moment, the dorm door was suddenly pushed open. Liu Rui and Shi Shang both rushed in as they tried to wake Huang Guangming up.

"F*ck me, what's wrong with you two."

Instead of responding to Huang Guangming, Shi Shang shouted, "There are many reporters downstairs! Zhou, did you do something again?!"

Chapter 79

"Zhou's guess..."

“What? Zhou’s guess? What did Zhou guess about?” Shi Shang came over and asked.

“No... Lu Zhou proved Zhou’s conjecture,” said Liu Rui as he staring at the mobile screen. He then looked at Lu Zhou and said, “... That Zhou’s conjecture seems to be a world-class mathematics problem. I’ve seen it before in number theory books.”

After today, those number theory books would have to be edited.

In a sense, history was changing before their eyes.

Huang Guangming and Shi Shang gasped and they both turned to stare at Lu Zhou.

Awkward, Lu Zhou touched his face and said, “Oi... Is there something on my face?”

Other than his handsome face, Lu Zhou did not feel anything on it.

With a serious expression, Shi Shang said, “Zhou, we’re brothers, right?”

Lu Zhou sighed softly, “... Just stop, I’ll buy you guys food.”

After his groundbreaking discovery, it would be too cheap of him not to treat his roommates to a meal.

Shi Shang was unhappy, “Am I that type of person?”

Lu Zhou asked, “Then... I won’t buy you that meal?”

“Wait, no! I mean I’m not that type of person, but if you insist, I’ll still take you up on your offer!” said Shi Shang. He coughed before laughing mischievously, “Umm... When you’re doing the interview, can I be in the shot? I’ll post it on my news feed and brag to my friends.”

Huang Guangming's eyes widened and he yelled, "F*ck me, Shi Shang, this isn't like you! I didn't know you would step this low... I have to be in the shot as well!"

Liu Rui sat in his seat and was scratching his head about the proof of Zhou's approximation. Although he found the original thesis online, he could not understand the proof process at all and thus, he did not join in their conversation.

Lu Zhou: "..."

For the sake of his own reputation, Lu Zhou suddenly felt like he could not do the interview here.

Who knew what these group of animals would say about him?

It's best if the reporters don't interview them!

Therefore, he put on his backpack and left the dorm.

As he rushed down the stairs, he ignored the screams of Huang Guangming.

However, just as he was about to leave the dorm building, he was blocked by a group of journalists and reporters.

Lu Zhou thought that it was bad. He pretended to be a normal student and tried to slip past them. Unfortunately, he brushed shoulders with a cameraman and was recognized.

A reporter from Jin Ling Evening News asked, "Hello, may I ask if you are Lu Zhou?"

"Lu Zhou, how did you solve Zhou's conjecture? Are the articles true? Did you really dream of the proof?"

“... Can I ask how do you normally study? Do you have any advice for college students?”

“... The internet is saying that Professor Deligne from Princeton has given you an offer to study a master’s degree there. Will you accept the offer?”

The questions made Lu Zhou cringe, especially when he saw his own reflection in the camera. Furthermore, with the crowd of students staring at him, he could not even form sentences.

Fortunately, at this moment, someone came over and dissolved the crowd...

“Move away, move away.”

“Don’t block the dorm building door.”

A few men in suits stood in front of the entrance while the reporters gave way.

Lu Zhou stood behind the men in suits and was relieved. He saw Dean Qin and two other strangers. From the looks of it, the two strangers were pretty high status, probably leaders of the school.

While Lu Zhou was pondering over the identities of these two people, the old man in a suit walked in front of Lu Zhou, smiled, and extended his right hand, “Lu Zhou, congratulations.”

Lu Zhou shook his hand and politely asked, “This professor... May I ask, who are you?”

“Hahaha,” laughed the old man. Even though he smiled amiably, he said, “... Dean Qin is the only professor here. I’m not a professor.”

The cameras next to them clicked and photographed the two shaking hands.

Lu Zhou was even more confused.

If you're not a professor, then who are you?

He had no idea who the guy was.

Dean Qin said, "This is Secretary Liu. He works for the city government of Jin Ling." He smiled and lightly introduced the other person, "This is the president of the Su Mathematical Society and the vice chairman of the Chinese Mathematical Society, Professor Wang Zhongming."

That professor had glasses on and smiled as he nodded towards Lu Zhou.

"Hello, Professor Wang!" said Lu Zhou politely as he stuck out his right hand.

Two old magnates...

"Hello," said Professor Wang with a smile as he shook Lu Zhou's hand. He shook it gently and said, "No wonder Professor Tang spoke so highly of you. You really are talented."

Lu Zhou smiled and said humbly, "Professor Wang, you're too kind."

"Let's talk another time. Secretary Liu still has some stuff to say and so, I won't waste your time," said Professor Wang with a smile.

"I can afford to waste this time," said Secretary Liu with a smile. He looked at Lu Zhou and said, "Lu Zhou, on behalf of City of Jin Ling, I thank you for your contribution."

Lu Zhou was flattered.

At most, he only contributed to the field of mathematics. He had not really contributed to the City of Jin Ling.

"I just solved a mathematics question. I don't deserve this," said Lu Zhou as he smiled modestly.

"That's where you're wrong," replied Secretary Liu. He smiled and continued, "The problem you solved isn't a normal mathematics problem. It's a problem that plagued the mathematics industry for 20 years! You are from University of Jin Ling, so how can the City of Jin Ling not thank you?"

Secretary Liu spoke nicely, but also bureaucratically.

It was because he was not in the mathematics industry.

A 20-year-old mathematics question doesn't mean that mathematicians around the world had been trying to solve it for 20 years. Everyone had different research topics. Most mathematicians did not even invest any time or energy to this question.

Lu Zhou smiled but he did not try to explain anything. Some words were better left unsaid. This conversation was mainly for the microphones and cameras around them, Lu Zhou just had to be a good "listener".

Lu Zhou saw Secretary Liu's smile and analyzed in his heart.

This busy man suddenly came to visit the University of Jin Ling and specifically came to meet me. Most of my papers are famous in the international and domestic mathematics community. But why is this political guy here? From which newspaper did you hear about me?

Speaking of which, if this guy wants to show his thanks for my talent, there should be something else waiting for me.

Money?

Honor?

I'll take either, as long as it's good for me!

After a pause, Secretary Liu smiled and spoke.

“Our basic policy is to be education-oriented! Talent training has been the top priority of our city’s Education department! Yesterday, the leader of our Municipal Education Bureau told me about you. This immediately aroused my attention. Especially after learning about your family situation, several directors of our city met overnight and decided to give you a reward. Our future scientists can’t be poor!”

Lu Zhou heard him and suddenly said, “Secretary Liu, you work too hard!”

“Not hard at all,” said the old man as he waved his hand. He then said with a smile, “You’re the one that is working hard as a scientist who is fighting in the front line!”

Chapter 80

“Okay.”

The administrative building was not that far from the library and the two walked along the brick road toward the library’s direction.

On the way, Dean Qin suddenly smiled and said, “What did I say last time? Does this count as earth-shattering?”

Lu Zhou smiled embarrassedly as he said, “I think... It’s still a little different from earth-shattering.”

Dean Qin smiled and said, “Ah, you’re quite ambitious. Even Everyone Daily published about you. If this doesn’t count as earth-shattering, what is?”

Lu Zhou was shocked, “Everyone Daily?!”

Dean Qin raised his eyebrows and smiled, he said, “You didn’t read it online?”

“Um... Actually I just woke up.”

Dean Qin shook his head and said, "You shouldn't stay up that late, strive for longevity. You're different than me. You still have a long road to go, so you shouldn't hurt your body."

Lu Zhou replied, "I know." He actually wanted to say, "I didn't stay up. It's because I injected the needle so I slept for longer."

"The article in Everyone Daily was pretty interesting and it mentioned you. If you're interested, you can look through it," said Dean Qin with a smile. He continued, "Secretary Liu read that article in the morning and rushed to our school in the afternoon."

Is that why he came?

Lu Zhou was amazed.

Although he guessed that Secretary Liu was politically interested in his thesis, he had not expected it to be because of Everyone Daily.

However, once he thought about it carefully, it made more sense. After all, Everyone Daily's report reflected the attitude of the entire country. If upper class people cared about it, lower class people cared about it as well. It had been like this since ancient times.

Lu Zhou was deeply moved.

However, he never cared that much about politics, so he should stay away from it.

When Dean Qin saw that Lu Zhou did not speak, he said, "Professor Tang's view is actually correct. You must guard yourself from arrogance and stay away from fame. But I think that people are still social animals. If you become too anti-social, you will have a bad time."

Lu Zhou nodded thoughtfully and asked, "Dean Qin, what are you trying to say?"

“Nothing, I’m just having a conversation,’ said Dean Qin. He smiled and asked, “Oh yeah, aren’t you interested in the school’s reward?”

Lu Zhou said, “Can... You disclose this to me in advance?”

“It’s not like it’s a bad thing. Why can’t I disclose it to you?” said Dean Qin. He smiled and said, “If you want to hear it, I’ll tell you.”

Dean Qin paused for a second before he continued to speak.

“First is the registered residence problem. The city’s staff will help you solve that. The city council suggested for you to move your registered residence from Jiangling to Jin Ling. Then you can enjoy preferential treatment policies. The bank won’t need to check your credit before you apply for a line and your interest rates will be low. I don’t know exactly how low, but it’s low!”

“You might be more interested in the second point,” said Dean Qin as he looked at Lu Zhou, who was listening closely. He smiled and said, “Yesterday, our principal called us to a meeting to discuss your thesis. According to previous SCI publication rules, the impact factor is used as a measurement for the reward. However, the impact factor doesn’t accurately measure the academic value of your thesis.”

“Therefore, we did some research and decided to award you a million yuan!”

Dean Qin emphasized on the words “million yuan”.

It was like a wind blew past.

That gust of wind blew into Lu Zhou’s ear and he stopped breathing for a second.

“One... Million?!”

Lu Zhou gulped and he swore he could hear his own heartbeat.

“Yeah, is it too low?” asked Dean Qin. He smiled and continued to say, “It’s pretty low. Compared to that Sitapan conjecture, your Zhou’s conjecture contributed way more to our country’s mathematics industry. However, I hope that you can understand that the one million yuan reward was the maximum amount the principal was willing to give.”

Even though the University of Jin Ling was wealthy with the state providing them with the university funds, but this money could not be spent recklessly.

Actually, Dean Qin did not tell him the complete story. The million yuan reward was not decided by Principal Xu himself. They had a meeting and then they asked the director of the Ministry Of Education who gave them the green light.

From which account the money came from, how the money was going to be paid, this all had to be planned out.

“No, it’s not low at all!”

Lu Zhou was so excited that his shoulders began to shake.

A million yuan!

It was equivalent to hundreds of months of tutoring!

He had only seen this amount of money in movies...

When Dean Qin saw Lu Zhou’s excitement, he smiled in his heart. The dean knew that Lu Zhou would be ecstatic.

He paused for a second and smiled before he said, “Okay then, I’ve told you this in advance. We’re at the library now. Go ahead and study.”

Lu Zhou smiled and said, “Thank you, Dean Qin. See you later!”

“Go go go.”

After Lu Zhou separated from Dean Qin, he still had not recovered from the news of one million yuan.

He felt dizzy, like he was floating in the sky.

He was still worried about getting five million for the mission when he did not know that the school already helped him with 20% of the mission...

Not far away, Chen Yushan held a stack of books and walked toward the library entrance.

When she saw a familiar figure standing in front of the library, Chen Yushan’s eyes lit up and she walked forward to tap Lu Zhou’s shoulder.

“Lu Zhou, did you know that you’re on fire?”

Lu Zhou turned around and when he saw Chen Yushan, he was still shocked by the news. He said, “I know.”

Chen Yushan opened her mouth and was disappointed, “Oh... You already knew.”

“A million...”

Chen Yushan was confused, “What is a million?”

“Nothing,” murmured Lu Zhou as he finally recovered and shook his head. He said, “You’ve bought me so much food, I’ve got to pay you back... I’ll buy you dinner.”

“Really?” said Chen Yushan as her eyes lit up. However, she then had a suspicious expression as she asked, “Wait, why are you so generous? This isn’t like you.”

“... Are you eating or not?”

“I’m eating!” Chen Yushan nodded immediately. She quickly remembered the tragic experience from last time and said, “Can we not eat spicy hotpot? I nearly died last time...”

When Lu Zhou saw her expression, he nearly laughed out loud.

It’s just spicy hotpot, why are you so scared?