18 Levels of Hell - Lying is Forbidden Here

Novice Tutorial and Instance Feat Analysis



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.....stay tuned for more!

Introduction

The setting of this story involves elements of intellectual challenge, locked room mysteries, deception, manipulation and Lies.

Lies are both a weapon and a weakness that can be exploited. The following feat takes place in the Hell of Tongue-Ripping, the 18th layer of Hell as per Chinese Mythology from the Tang era.

This is a layer where lies are forbidden, and therefore liars are punished with ‘death’. But still, people lie, deceive and manipulate to survive this hell. The Primary Rule above all is Lying is Forbidden

Novice Tutorial and Novice Instances - Introduction

- 18 people are added in this tutorial level, after the completion of which, they shall move on with **Novice Instance** (Think of Instances as a Level in a game, which can comprise of multiple sub instances/levels)

- The objective of Novice Tutorial is to be the last person/ team to survive, with the possession of the Liar Killer Gun

- Participants can be Newbies, entering Hell for the first time. Or Old Players, who have already cleared the **Novice Instance** and are coming back to play

- Each Novice Instance is different, people experience different scenarios and objectives to pass them. Players clearing the Novice Instance successfully are eligible for One-star Instances, which are of higher difficulty. They are also promoted to being One-star players.

- The Instances are backward compatible, thus old players who had cleared the novice instance can attempt another Novice Instance (w their tutorial). But the level difference cannot be 3 or more. Thus in a One-Star Instance, players upto 3 stars can participate. In a Novice Instance, players up to 2 stars can participate.

- Clearing Novice tutorial can allow the person in possession of Liar Killer Gun to claim ownership of it permanently. People with Liar Killer Gun cannot be harmed by others in any way other than the Instance rules/punishments, Liar Killer's shot and Liar Killer Skills (Additional powerups unique to that Liar Killer Gun and can cause different supernatural effects

- Liar Killer Guns do not come with Liar Killer Skills by default. But there is a chance to get a skill upon completing the Novice Dungeon. This is also a reason for Old Players to play the Novice Instances, other than to avoid higher ranked players in One-Star Instances or to bully Newbies and win over em.

- A Liar Killer cannot be shot, unless the target has lied and the user announces that the target has lied (This is called Judging the target). If the user announces that the target has lied, but the target hasn't, the Gun jams. The Gun user can also be judged as lying if this happens, leading to him being shot if needed.

    - In the Novice Tutorial, the gun does not have a permanent Owner. Thus if the current user is proved to have lied, the gun falls out of hand, and the previous user cannot pick up the gun again.

Thus, Lies can act as a person's weakness, making the person vulnerable to being killed by a Liar Killer.. Lies should be defined enough to judge targets accurately, and the criteria to consider a statement a Lie is given next page.

Definition, Criteria and Types of Lies

➔ Definition : A statement that's not true based on objective evidence, or/and is one of the following three types of Lies

Classification of Criteria of Lies, as per Hell's rules

➔ Emotional Lie: Being controlled by others' emotions, uttering a Lie under anger is considered being a Liar.

➔ Common Sense Lie: Ignoring or misunderstanding basic common sense, uttering statements inconsistent with common sense is considered being a Liar.

➔ Emotional Connection Lie: Regarding the three major human emotions—friendship, kinship, and love—no matter the psychological Reason, telling a Lie is considered being a Liar.

For example:

➔ Emotional Lie: If you are provoked, and you curse the person who angered you as "I'll screw your ancestors", since his ancestors are already dead, theoretically, you cannot do this. In this situation, you have told a lie.

➔ Common Sense Lie: Based on fundamental common sense, everyone knows there is a sun in the sky, but if you alone do not know this, When others ask you if there is a sun in the sky, regardless of whether you answer "I don't know" or "No," you will be judged to have told a Lie.

➔ Emotional Connection Lie: Your girlfriend is ugly—objectively and generally recognizably ugly. If you comfort her by saying she is beautiful, you are telling a lie.

The three types of lie are related to the three realms of psychology, The Id, The Ego and The SuperEgo. Each controls Emotions, Common Sense and Emotional Connection.

Lies can also be made about the past, present or about the future. Future lies include false promises that can be judged as a lie as soon as the promise is broken. Other lies can be judged so at the moment u can identify it as any of the above types of lies.

Circumstances when a statement won't be considered a lie include

- ➔ Questions: If a statement is formulated as a question, even if the question has a lie or implies so, it still cannot be considered a lie.

- ➔ Deductions: Deducing, Decrypting a puzzle, even if the answer is wrong, is not considered a lie.

There is also the Unknown Lie and Gui Yu, but they are not needed for now..

Chen Ran and the Novice Tutorial

Chen Ran opens his eyes to find himself standing in a queue in a room with no doors nor windows. His last memories were of him getting hit in a car accident and dying. But now he finds himself in the queue, with a dozen people in front of him, all queuing up to a table with an A4 sheet that reads "**Ghost Gate Pass**". Only one is seated on the table and another is standing facing the wall behind the table(We'll call him the **Youth**).

There is a person seated on the table(We'll call him **Burly Man**), and two others on both sides of the queue maintaining order (**Ox Head** and **Horse Face**. Both are wearing these masks so lets call them that). Both these masked men carry spiked clubs, overall the three men (Burly Man, Ox Head and Horse Face) try to give off an intimidating appearance.

As Chen Ran comes to his senses, the Horse Face asks the old woman in front of Chen Ran to tell where they are, for which the old woman fearfully replies "This is **Yellow Springs Road**". Chen Ran immediately notices the incongruity.[Trap 1][Observation, Situational Perception, Critical Thinking, FRI - Deductive Reasoning, Crystallised Intelligence]

- The table says its Ghost Gate Pass [Sensory]
- The woman says it's Yellow Springs Road, which the horse face doesn't correct..
- According to Chinese mythology of afterlife, Yellow Springs Road comes after Ghost Gate Pass, not before

Chen Ran, who had just entered this scenario, is instantly able to deduce the incongruity with the scenario. He's also able to accept that he truly has died, by comparing the information with his memories. [Metacognition] Then the Burly Man asks the personal details of the first person on the queue (He was not the original first person, the Youth had presumably told his details and is standing next to the wall already, as mentioned before), after which he asks him if he had committed any evil deeds in his life. The person fearfully says No, so the Burly Man orders him to squat near the wall behind the desk, facing the wall(in a harsh tone)..

But when the second person comes forward, he earnestly tells the crimes he committed to the Burly Man(who everyone thinks is a person in charge of registration by now). This makes the Burly Man smile. He asks the second guy “Were all the things you just mentioned done voluntarily?”. The second guy tells he was forced, denying accountability.

So the Burly Man tells the second guy to stand facing the wall instead of squatting. So everyone else on the queue does the same. [Trap 2].

Chen Ran immediately has noticed both the traps, concluding that burly man and Horse face are compelling everyone else to Lie [Strategic Analysis, Inductive Reasoning]. The three of them are working together to emotionally manipulate the ones in queue to lie, using fear tactics and positive reinforcement.[Behavioural Analysis]

Trap 1: Horse face tells the one in front to tell them its Yellow Springs Road, even though its Ghost Gate Pass, thus the person in front Lies to the person in back

Chen Ran further reasons that the first person who would have been in the front(the Youth), whom he saw standing near the wall behind the desk, is working with the other three to make the rest behind lie about the place, making them think that the info on the desk is wrong.

But then, the first person should have lied right? No. If he said this is Yellow Springs Road after crossing the desk, he would be right (As Yellow Springs Road comes after the Ghost Gate Pass). This is Trap 3, as some may guess that the first in line was lying too but in fact, he did not. Chen Ran has deduced Trap 3 already. [FRI - Deductive Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning]

Trap 2: Making them lie about their evil deeds, making them say they are innocent and deserve to go to heaven, or they were forced to do something.

Another woman(call her **Bai**) suddenly appears behind Chen Ran. The Horse face tells Chen Ran to inform the woman where they are..[Using Trap 1 on Chen Ran].

Chen Ran's "Lie"

Chen Ran says "Is this Yellow Springs Road?", but he only says Yellow Springs Road out loud, silently mouthing the is this part so that the Bai knows what he's saying, but all Horse face sees is that Chen Ran is stammering in fear and only said Yellow Springs Road.[VCI, Trap Evasion, Counter Trapping]. This also leads to Bai being suspicious of the three guys.

When it's Chen Ran's turn at the table, the Burly Man asks personal details of Chen Ran and what crimes he committed. [Trying to use Trap 2 on Chen Ran].

Chen Ran says "While alive, I had a fight with my girlfriend.." He acts nervous, pausing for a moment before continuing "I buried her, and the police still haven't found her body". Then he looks frightened at the Burly Man, then says "Since the body hasn't been found, I haven't committed a crime, so I never killed anyone while alive!"[Trap Evasion, Acting, Deception, Info Obfuscation, Logical Manipulation, Verbal Manipulation, Counter Trapping, VCI]

The Burly Man argues "Murder is murder; why all the unnecessary chatter?" Chen ran acts panicked and says "I don't want to go to Hell! I truly didn't kill anyone!", to which the Ox head replies "You Committed Murder" emotionlessly [Counter Trapping, Strategic Deception, Verbal Manipulation, Acting, Emotional Facilitation]

Here Chen Ran never committed any murder previously. Him fighting with his girlfriend and him burying her arent in a causative relationship. Both these events are separate, but his acting and the structure of his sentence convinces others that he indeed committed a murder, even getting a lie out of Ox-head.

Bai doesn't answer any questions Burly Man asks, so Burly Man shows her a Gun and threatens her, to which she doesn't budge(even when others are shouting at her, telling this is hell, follow their instructions, etc..). So when Bai doesn't co-operate, the Burly Man tells "13 it is, then." Chen Ran by now confirms that the first guy in the queue was working with the three, thus out of 18 total here, Burly Man thinks 13 have lied (excludes himself, Ox-head, Horse-face, First in queue and Bai)

He then shoots everyone near the wall (except the Youth, who still acts like he doesn't know the other three), saying “You lied” and shooting one by one. The gun can only shoot liars, and only after the user of the gun judges the victim as “You lied”

Now the ones remaining alive are Chen Ran, the Youth, Bai, and the three. When Burly Man says “You lied” and tries to shoot Chen Ran, the gun jams and falls down (making Burly Man unqualified to use the gun again, because he lied)

Chen Ran vs The Youth

Bai picks up the gun, and after discovering Chen Ran has been acting the whole time (because Chen Ran asked Is this Yellow Springs Road) she decides to shoot the youth, thinking he lied.[Falling for Trap 3 due to error in deduction] Thus she fails the judgement and the Youth picks up the gun.[Trap 4]

Chen Ran could have warned Bai. But he wanted to know more about the gun. As he has not lied till now, he is safe. So he proceeds to make the Youth get the gun, and gather info from the Youth instead.[Foresight, Indirect Manipulation, Information Gathering, Strategic Decision-making]

The Youth could have judged Bai for lying, but he doesn't. One reason is that both Chen Ran and Bai didn't know they can judge for telling a wrong command(Bai said You lied when the Youth hadn't prev according to Trap 3, making her statement a lie)
Another reason is that he has laid a trap for Chen Ran in worst case scenario [Trap 4]

Now the Youth realises Chen Ran is intelligent. So he wants to make Chen Ran lie through a language error. Thus the following conversation goes like this.

The Young man says "If you want it, it's not that I can't not give it". Which can be shortened to "If you want it, I won't give it".

The Young man will not give the gun even if Chen Ran wants, for which Chen Ran replies in kind "If you really give it, It's not that I can't not want it". This can in turn be shortened to "If you give it, I don't want it". Which can't be judged as a lie.[Trap Evasion, VCI, FRI]

Now the Young Man goes full on in
"If you don't want it, I can't insist on making you want it. Whether you want it is up to you; whether I give it is up to me. If you don't say you want it, you won't know that if you don't want it, I won't give it."

For which Chen ran replies
“If you don't give it, it's not that I can't not want you to give it. Whether you give it is up to you; whether I want it is up to me. If you don't say you'll give it, you won't know that when you can't not give it, I won't want it”

Here both use words like If, preventing both from speaking a lie. Chen Ran simultaneously learns how lies work in usage with this conversation [Learning, Information Gathering, VCI, Fluid Intelligence - FRI]

Chen Ran also effectively circumvents a trap set by the Youth above. The Youth was basically saying “If you want it, I won't give it; if you don't want it, I still won't give it.”

For this, Chen Ran can't answer a simple yes or no. He could stay silent to avoid a lie. But Chen Ran simultaneously wants to gather the rules of lying, while also trying to trap the Youth here.

Then as they converse, Chen Ran asks if making wrong deductions counts as lie, to which the Youth replies “You type of statement doesn’t count”

Chen Ran deduces that they were transported after death to this secret chamber and further says, IF we want to leave this secret chamber,we MIGHT POSSIBLY need to use some force OR fulfill a certain condition. Since the group made everyone lie, the secret chamber is LIKELY related to judgement. But IF I stall, none of us will leave alive. Instead why don’t we just face head on?

Chen Ran uses words like If, Might, Possibly,Or, Some Kind, etc.. to circumvent lies, not falling in the trap of telling lies after the Youth said that statement. He also establishes momentum through the conversation to steer others for his own advantage [VCI, Trap Evasion, Manipulation, Deduction, Reasoning, etc..]

Liar Paradox

Chen Ran proposes for each person to ask questions, and the person being asked can't say I don't Know or answer Irrelevant topics. Chen Ran lays multiple traps within this proposal, intending for the Youth to find some of the traps, so that the Youth would add rules Chen Ran already manipulates him to add, while also hiding other traps.[VCI, Short term Planning, Trap Setting, Manipulation]

Now the loopholes the Youth finds are

- Chen Ran didn't propose the number of questions, meaning each can ask multiple questions
- Chen Ran has limited the answers, but if Chen Ran asks a private question, the person being asked is forced to answer

Thus the Youth adds two conditions

- The next person can only ask question after the previous one is answered
- The question can't involve private affairs of one's past

The Loophole the Youth didn't notice, in the high stakes scenario was :

- There is no time limit to answer a question. The loophole was not noticed because the original Chen Ran proposal included the words "must answer", and thus was misleaded [Verbal Manipulation, Trap Laying, Deception, Cognitive Warfare].
- The person being asked the questions should answer all the questions. Chen Ran mentioned they must answer, but it does not extend to all questions[Trap setting] for trapping others from the Youth's group.

Even if the Youth included time limit in his supplementary additions, Chen Ran would have asked the Liar Paradox. If Chen Ran didn't get the first question, the head on confrontation would have never happened[Short Term Planning, Contingency Planning]

Chen Ran agrees and starts with a question to the Youth “Since the gun holder has the right to judge others, can others challenge the gun holder’s right to judge?”

Here Chen Ran has already deduced that when the Gun holders lie with the command You Lied, they can in turn be judged for lying. Also, if the gun holder tells a lie, Chen Ran wants to know if they can prove the gun owner lied, can he get the gun from them. [Info Gathering] But also, he is laying a trap for youth. He knows the Liar paradox, which is

“I am lying right now. Is this statement true or false?” No matter how you answer, it will be wrong and therefore violate the agreed upon rules by Chen Ran, thus making the agreement of the rules a lie (This is called a future lie in the series, and is effectively violating a promise).

If Chen Ran asks this question, the Youth won’t be able to answer. But he still doesn’t ask this question. By asking the original question, he makes the Youth excited(because the question is very simple for the Youth), while also making the Youth thinking he will get the advantage[Emotional and Logical Manipulation]

So when the Youth answers Chen Ran’s original question as “Yes”, and asks the Liar Paradox in turn, the events have gone according to Chen Ran’s plan. The Youth and his 3 accomplices laugh, thinking they got Chen Ran.[Emotional Manipulation]

Chen Ran acts the part, with his pale face and closing his eyes in despair [Acting like the Drama Queen he is, so shameless, Emotional Manipulation, Emotional Facilitation]. The Youth says “You have Lied” and tries to shoot, but the gun jams. The gun falls and Chen Ran picks up now, and points it at the Youth.

“Why?” the Youth murmured. Chen Ran answers “You Lied” and shoots the Youth. Here, his You Lied is the answer for Why?(as per agreed upon confrontation rules), and also the activation command for the gun.

But he obfuscates his usage of the “You Lied” statement for the question “Why?”, by immediately provoking the three with a complicated series of statements [Emotional Manipulation, Ragebaiting, Trap Setting], why also proving that he has deduced them as Old Players who are farming newbies [Deduction]

“Based on my years of gaming experience, if this place is compared to a novice village, then you must be Old Players, right? Old Players who come to a novice village probably aren't that strong. I haven't even answered your question yet, and you already said I lied. Are you lying, or are you lying?”.

The Horse-Face retorts with “You Lied”, hoping to judge Chen Ran since he thinks the You Lied is an answer to the Liar Paradox, not for the Youth’s next question “Why?”. Chen Ran mentioned in the rule that the person being asked must answer the question. But he did not mention they must answer all their questions. Thus he successfully has used another one of his traps to make someone else lie.

Thus, Chen Ran shoots the Horse-Face too. He then shoots the Burly man too because he lied by wrongly judging Chen Ran previously[Succesful Trap Usage]

He also shoots Ox-Head cuz he lied when he mentioned that Chen Ran killed someone previously.[Chen Ran’s Counter trap with his acting and acausal statement to Burly Man previously].

He then points the gun towards Bai, deconstructing the trap that the Youth laid previously [Trap 4]

- The Youth did not kill Bai even when her judgement of the Youth was a lie
- The Burly man previously asked her to join their team, thus Bai infers the clearance condition is only when one team remains
- The Youth wanted to mislead Chen Ran by sparing Bai, making him associate 18 members, 18th floor of hell (tongue ripping hell, where liars are punished) and the number 1 with 18
- Thus in the worst case scenario, the Youth wanted Chen Ran to conclude that 1 team AND 1 person can clear the scenario, so that Chen Ran would have spared the Youth’s team and join him, at which point they would have revealed the real rule..

- The real rule is one team OR one person could clear the instance. Thus they would have killed Bai to proceed
- But Chen Ran inferred 2 1s to clear doesn't associate with the only clue present in the room, 18 members. Therefore, Chen Ran reasons its an OR, not an AND

This entire Reasoning helps him evade Trap 4.[FRI - Abstract Reasoning, Trap Evasion]. Thus, Chen Ran shoots Bai dead, as she isn't smart enough to deduce the trap 4, and would only be a deadweight [Resource Management]

Thus the Novice Tutorial is cleared, and the types of Lie appear in the wall as text, explaining about how Hell judges lies. Chen Ran quickly deduces the types of Lie are associated with the three realms of psychology, also deduces the common ways to tell a lie and also how to avoid these lies [Reasoning, Deduction, Knowledge and Association]

See more on the Lies part explained before this feat to know more about how it associates with the realms of psychology..

Novice Instance would come soon, stay tuned

Novice Instance - Chamber 1:
A Newbie among Veterans

Chen Ran faints after the tutorial is over and wakes up in the Novice Instance's 1st chamber. Besides him, there were nine other people, including

- A Middle Aged Man - Baili Qiangsheng
- Liu Changsheng - Baili's teammate
- Li Annan - Baili's teammate
- Ma Wenjie - Baili's teammate
- A Young Newbie like Chen Ran - Lin Feng
- Yellow haired Youth - Random 1, teammate of Bald Man
- A Bald Man - Zhang Yuan
- Random 2, teammate of Bald Man
- Random 3, teammate of Bald Man

Other than the people there, Chen Ran observes

- A table with a family photo, taken in a studio (inferred from the photo background). Only half of the photo present, the other half torn apart
- The family photo only shows a father and daughter sitting on one side, while the other half is missing (inferred father daughter from their appearance)
- There is also one toy shovel present
- The entire room is covered in sand

As everyone wakes up at the same time, and walks to the table, Chen Ran deduces the following. Their positionings were very subtle, as indicated in wn, and yet Chen Ran deduced

- Baili having 3 other teammates who rely on him, and is probably an old player group just like one met in Novice tutorial, just from the amount of spacing between individuals
- Zhang Yuan having 3 other teammates who are all wary of each other, not that close
- A newbie trying to act like an old player Lin Feng

Chen Ran doesn't walk to the table, and exposes himself as a Newbie to gather information. Baili explains that the gun they all get from tutorial is called a Liar Killer gun, and Novice Instances alone can grant these guns skills (powers basically)

Baili and Chen Ran have already deduced the information needed to solve this chamber while the conversation just started. The reasoning done by Chen Ran are

- Photo studios usually follow symmetry, thus the missing half of the photo must contain the wife and another child, since the daughter is sitting completely on the dad's lap
- A torn photo depicts divorce usually
- The sand in room is salty in taste and thus depicts a beach
- The photo being in the symbolic beach would mean a divorced family visiting the beach
- But by the nature of the mother's side of photo missing, the mother and her child hadn't arrived at the beach, or left early
- Also by the missing toy shovel of the second child, it can be deduced that the second child is dead or missing

Chen Ran asks how many players spawn at a Novice Instance to Baili, and he responds 18, but only 10 are here. Thus he infers

- Symbolically, the other 8 haven't arrived yet. Thus we should trigger a mechanism for them to arrive, just like how a husband does something to make his wife arrive
- The husband could use his child as leverage to call over the wife. Thus the toy shovel, representing the child, can be used to make the other 8 appear
- To clear the scenario, like the husband and wife coming together, the 18 members might have to pair up. If the 8 appearing are women, only 8 other guys can pair up, leaving 2 unaccounted
- So they can eliminate/kill 2 other players before clearing chamber 1.

Chen Ran completed this line of Reasoning as soon as he saw the entire room. And to prevent Older players from targeting him because he is a Newbie, he decides to show off his intellect.

When the Random 1 starts deducing publicly about the puzzle, he erroneously utters a common sense lie, but just as 3 others state You Lied and judge him to death, the entire chamber blacks out, leaving everyone blind. After 10 seconds the chamber lights up, but now there are 8 other women in the chamber, along with the dead body of Random 1.

Chen Ran becomes instantly suspicious, which he confirms and deduces that the 8 women aren't real, but illusions made by the skill of someone's liar killer through observing the subsequent actions of one of the woman and others

- When 3 people judged You Lied, there were 4 gun shots heard. The dead body had 3 bullet wounds. Thus the extra Gun shot could be a skill
- Baili's eyes filled with horror, which Chen Ran deduces as acting
- One of the women starts deducing the puzzle, and makes the same common sense lie as the Random 1 as part of her deduction.

Chen Ran already grips his Liar Killer, ready to shoot. When Random 2 judges her for saying that lie, his gun jams, causing Chen Ran, Baili and Zhang Yuan to shoot Random 2.

Chen Ran has already deduced Baili's Liar Killer has a skill, a skill that makes illusions of humans and all 8 women were illusions of Baili's skill. Thus he was able to shoot at the same speed of Baili and Zhang Yuan, who had deduced the same. The thing to note here is the other two know how skills work, while Chen Ran actively deduces the mechanisms of a Liar Killer Skill in his first time exposure.

Now the same woman who lied lies again to Chen Ran, saying he hit the brow accurately, when everyone knows Chen Ran didn't hit the brow of the person. To scare away the constantly testing Veterans, Chen Ran utters a Mosaic style Lie, "I only fired one shot just now. One bullet hit his brow, and he died. I'm not as amazing as you say", while acting shy

Random 3 points his gun at Chen Ran, deceived into believing Chen Ran uttered a lie, but in Mosaic style lies, the individual statements are all true. Only together the meaning will be different. Chen Ran wanted to show off his knowledge in manipulation to the real masters here, Baili and Zhang.

He stops Random 3 from judging him, for having 8 pairs to complete chamber 1. But both Zhang Yuan and Baili warn Chen Ran that they are also not to be underestimated. Chen Ran counters this by showing that he knows these 8 women were created from a skill.

Lin Feng is also tested similar to Chen Ran and he also deduces the illusion from Chen Ran's actions earlier. Chen Ran and Lin Feng both deduce

independently that when a skill is used, the chamber goes dark. Then they introduce each other by names as a show of respect, and start solving the chamber puzzle.

Zhang Yuan, being a police officer while alive, starts deducing. But his deductions are wrong. Chen Ran interrupts, accusing Zhang Yuan of trying to trick Baili, and announces his correct deduction.

When Zhang Yuan asks for how to make the husband's wife (8 women players in this case) arrive, Chen Ran exchanges that information for the criteria to activate a liar skill, which is to sacrifice one guaranteed successful judgement of a lie to activate the skill.[Baili sacrificed the right to judge random 1 for activating his skill once].

After they use the toy shovel to build a sand sculpture of a female as Chen Ran deduced, one by one 8 women appear.

Novice Instance - Chamber 1:
The Password

The first woman who appears is named Cheng Si, then each builds one wife for their own, after Cheng Si also deduces whatever Chen Ran has previously as soon as she sees all the clues.

And as their conversations steer towards cooperation to solve the puzzle, Chen Ran is able to deduce if he is able to be of use to others, they wouldn't dare judge him if he lies. So if he could secure a future lie stating “You cannot judge me in this instance”, he can lie and no one would dare judge in order to not break the promise and make it a lie.

He also asks what happens if everyone loses the qualification to judge, i.e, if everyone has lied… He gets the answer that such conditions would lead to free shooting

They then notice a numeric lock on the door, with the password being of 6 digits, to be deduced with the present clues. Chen Ran wants to measure v