Liu Pingan was clearly cowed by the anger and irritation on the man's face.

Peasants were like that, afraid of nothing but the authorities.

Lu Chen studied the man for a moment before approaching to ask, "Are you the superintendent?"

The man sobered a little, obviously intimated by Lu Chen's imposing manner. "That's right! I'm Tan Tailun, superintendent of Shilong Village Police Station. Who are you?" he demanded.

Lu Chen took out a packet of First Son of Heaven cigarettes and passed one to each of his companions; Tan Tailun was the only one left out.

First Son of Heaven cigarettes were the best cigarettes in Chongqing; they were rare reserve cigarettes. Most people had never seen, let alone smoked one.

Lin Tong immediately lit Lu Chen's cigarette before lighting his own.

Lu Chen inhaled on it deeply and blew a smoke circle before continuing. "We're

friends of Xu Jing. I'd like to know what law he broke to make you hold him beyond the maximum remand period without transferring him to another station or sending him to court?"

Tan Tailun's anger at Lu Chen's behavior and tone of voice was compounded by the liquor he had drunk earlier, making him fly off the handle and point at Lu Chen as he shouted agitatedly, "Who do you think you are?! You dare to create trouble in the police station? Give me your ID. I'll arrest you if you don't cooperate!"

Liu Pingan was shaken up by Lu Chen's arrogant attitude, but before he could collect himself, he received another shock at Tan Tailun's temper and his legs buckled.

He could never have imagined that Lu
Chen and his companions would try to get
Xu Jing out in this way. If so, how was their
behavior any better than that of gangsters
and hoodlums?!

Most importantly, they were at the police station! A place where people had to tuck their tails between their legs and behave properly no matter how successful they

were out there!

Liu Pingan tugged at Lu Chen's sleeve urgently in an attempt to make him take it down a few notches. Otherwise, they might end up in the lockup with Xu Jing instead of getting him out of there!

Completely unperturbed, Lu Chen looked at Tan Tailun mockingly. "You're an officer of the law, yet you're dressed so sloppily and drinking on the job. Believe it or not, I can strip you of this uniform with a single call," he threatened.

Tan Tailun was shaken by his words and sobered up immediately. Scrutinizing Lu Chen and his companions, he realized that they all looked like important figures, particularly Lu Chen. Anyone who dared to speak like that must have backing from one of the higher-ups.

Just then, several police officers walked up the stairs. Seeing that Tan Tailun appeared to be confronting Lu Chen and his companions, one of the policemen frowned and asked, "What are you guys doing here?"

But no one answered him because Lu

Chen was already on the phone.

"What kind of attitude is that?! The vice superintendent is asking you a question!" another police officer barked.

The Three Marquises of the Water Margin's faces were full of scorn. They'd seen everything; a few furious police officers were nothing to them.

Liu Pingan was the only one among them who turned ashen, so terrified he couldn't speak.

"You guys arrived just in time. These brats are just here to cause trouble. Take them down!" Tan Tailun abruptly changed his mind when he saw his underlings come upstairs. He would arrest these men before deciding on anything else.

The police officers were just about to advance on them when Lu Chen passed his phone to Tan Tailun.

"Xu Zuojun from the City Bureau is asking for you," Lu Chen told him coolly.

The others all paused and stared at Lu
Chen with mixed amounts of shock and

suspicion; they all knew who Xu Zuojun was.

Tan Tailun was skeptical as well, but he still took the phone and spoke into it after clearing his throat. "This is Tan Tailun speaking. Who is this?"

Xu Zuojun replied sternly from the other side of the line. "I am Xu Zuojun from the City Bureau, and I want to talk to your superintendent."

"F*cker, if you're from the City Bureau, then I'm your boss! Believe it or not, I'll get your number and have you arrested!" Tan Tailun hung up abruptly and confiscated Lu Chen's phone.

"Arrest them all!" Tan Tailun bellowed in rage.

The police officers didn't dare to hesitate and immediately pulled out their handcuffs to restrain Lu Chen and his companions.

Lu Chen wore a cynical smile and obediently allowed them to cuff him. The Three Marquises of the Water Margin didn't resist either, stretching their hands out to allow the police officers to cuff their

hands in front instead of behind their backs. Out of their group, only Liu Pingan was terrified, his face as pale as snow.

I just knew that Lu Chen and his companions couldn't be relied on! I wish I hadn't come with them!

He still had some spirit, however, and neither complained nor tried to denounce his companions when he was cuffed.

Tan Tailun grew more suspicious when he saw that Lu Chen and his companions had allowed the police officers to cuff them obediently, even willingly.

Unease stirred within Tan Tailun when he saw the derisive look on Lu Chen's face.

Just then, the telephone on the superintendent's desk rang. Sweat beaded on Tan Tailun's brow when he walked into his office and glanced at the caller ID.

The number calling him belonged to the Dadukou District Police Headquarters.

"Hello, I'm the superintendent of the Shilong Village Police Station. May I know who this is?" Tan Tailun finally took the call after taking a deep breath.

"Tan Tailun, who gave you the guts to hang up on Director Xu?! You even cussed at Director Xu over the phone?! Did you f*cking drink so much moonshine you became demented?! I'm warning you, Director Xu is furious! He says that he's going to inspect the Shilong Village Police Station later today. If you make me look bad or get any flak, I will make sure that you're stripped of this uniform for life!" The person on the other end of the line hung up abruptly, evidently furious.

Tan Tailun took the scolding for some time before he finally realized that the person on the other end of the line was Chief Li from the Dadukou District Police Headquarters. It looks as if the brat really had put Director Xu on the line earlier, he despaired.

Tan Tailun's knees buckled and he almost fainted when he remembered that he had actually called himself Director Xu's boss.

When he came out and saw that his police officers still had Lu Chen and the others in cuffs, he quivered and barked, "What the hell are you doing?! Let go of them this

instant! This is unacceptable!"

The brat can exert influence on even Director Xu, and yet I dared to have him cuffed. Maybe I really have had too much moonshine.

The police officers exchanged looks, unsure of what Tan Tailun was up to this time, but still cautiously removed the cuffs from Lu Chen and his companions' wrists.

Once the handcuffs were removed, Tan Tailun smiled placatingly as he grabbed hold of Lu Chen's hand and expressed his shame. "It's all my fault; I didn't think that you were friends of Director Xu. It's a misunderstanding, all just a misunderstanding."

He returned Lu Chen's phone as he said it and looked at Lu Chen imploringly.

By this time, the vice superintendent and the other staff had finally caught on to the fact that Tan Tailun's complete turnabout in attitude was due to the phone call that he had just received in his office.

Could Director Xu, Xu Zuojun, really have been on the line that the brat passed to

Tan Tailun earlier?

The vice superintendent's eyes lit up at the thought.

I heard it very clearly; Tan Tailun's hadn't just been insolent, he'd also said that he was Director Xu's grandfather and hung up on Director Xu!

It looks like his career is at an end.

My chance will come once Tan Tailun goes down.



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Liu Pingan couldn't believe his eyes.

Tan Tailun, who had threatened, berated, and even cuffed them just a minute ago, had swallowed his own words and was now treating Lu Chen as warmly as a brother!

Everyone's eyes were on Lu Chen, waiting to see how he would respond.

Lu Chen's reaction was completely unexpected. Seeing that Tan Tailun was offering to shake his hand, Lu Chen grasped and shook Tan Tailun's hand enthusiastically. "Superintendent Tan, you're too kind. We were impulsive on our part. We just needed to clear up this simple misunderstanding," Lu Chen stated warmly.

He drew back his hand with a smile to pull out a First Son of Heaven cigarette which he then offered to Superintendent Tan. The Three Marquises of the Water Margin got the drift and hastily offered cigarettes to the other police officers. Everyone was soon smoking and chatting like long-lost friends.

"...Superintendent Tan, so that's how it

happened. Regarding my friend Xu Jing...?" Lu Chen looked at Tan Tailun, holding the smile on his face.

"It's utterly unacceptable. I was attending a course in the district over the last few days, so I had no clue that this was happening. Let me take a look at the records and settle everything within the day." Tan Tailun nodded as if reproaching the other police officers.

The vice superintendent and the other police officers were contemptuous, but in their police station, Tan Tailun was the king and no one dared stand up to him.

"That's good. We'll be leaving now. Thank you for your help, Superintendent Tan, and we'll be sure to be at the dinner later." Lu Chen smiled and led his companions down the stairs to their car which was parked beside the gate.

Just then, Tan Tailun and his staff looked down from the second floor and realized that Lu Chen's vehicle was a luxury car.

"What car are they driving? Hu, don't you know a lot about cars?" Tan Tailun asked a police officer beside him as bitterness

festered inside his chest.

He may not recognize Lu Chen's car, but he wasn't a fool. The car was obviously a luxury car worth millions. There wasn't a man in Huayan Town who could afford such a car, so it could only belong to a man who was powerful and well-connected.

Since when had the Xu Family curried favor with such a powerful big shot?

"Superintendent Tan, if I'm not wrong, that car is a limited edition BMW Steinway that costs more than 3 million. What's more, you need to reserve it or you won't be able to buy it even if you have the money." the officer said after looking at the car, shock evident in his voice.

A man who can drive a luxury car like that came to Shilong Village, and for a green boy like the Xu Family's son at that. The Xu Family had certainly made a friend in high places.

More than 3 million?!

Tan Tailun was astounded. That's a real luxury car! Let alone Huayan Town, there

probably aren't many who can afford it throughout the Dadukou District!

Tan Tailun felt really uneasy and let Xu Jing out without further delay.

"Xu Jing, the last few days must have been hard on you." Tan Tailun smiled and personally removed the handcuffs from Xu Jing's wrists.

Tan Tailun's complete reversal in attitude told Xu Jing that he had been unnerved by Lu Chen.

Xu Jing didn't remark on it and instead gave Tan Tailun a small smile as he asked, "Superintendent Tan, may I go home now?"

"Of course you can! It was all a misunderstanding. Oh, yes. Your friend, Lu Chen, will be drinking with us later tonight, so please come too," Tan Tailun invited. He knew that he had aided and abetted the Tan Family, and that Xu Jing would likely bear a grudge if he didn't apologize to Xu Jing by means of the dinner feast.

"Alright, I'll be there as long as Lu Chen attends." Xu Jing nodded and stretched his arms and fingers before walking down the

stairs.

Lu Chen, Liu Pingan, and the Three
Marquises of the Water Margin were
smoking and lounging around the car so
that their presence would give Tan Tailun
some pressure to release Xu Jing quickly.
The message was that they wouldn't leave
if he didn't let Xu Jing go.

"Mr. Lu, do you think they'll really release Xu Jing today?" Liu Pingan didn't trust Tan Tailun fully, especially since he belonged to the same clan as his father-in-law's neighbors—the Tan Family—and often socialized with them although they weren't closely related.

"Don't worry. We have someone exerting pressure on them, so they'll have to let him go even if they don't want to," Lin Tong scoffed with a scornful expression.

Even Director Xu from the City Bureau had given Tan Tailun a call; it would be amazing if he dared to be insubordinate.

More than that, it would be f*cking stupid. Tan Tailun wouldn't have been the superintendent if he really was that stupid.

"Was that really Director Xu from the City Bureau?" Liu Pingan's heart jolted inside his chest when he recalled what Lu Chen had said when he had passed the phone to Tan Tailun.

Song Hai patted Liu Pingan on the shoulder and smiled at him. "Mr. Liu, just relax. There's nothing our Young Master Lu can't do when he puts his mind to it," Song Hai assured him

Liu Pingan was confused. Why are these men all calling Lu Chen 'Young Master Lu'? Could he really be a Young Master? If he is, then Xu Jing is really lucky to have gotten on good terms with such a big shot.

"That's right. Even Superintendent Tan has to give Mr. Lu face." Liu Pingan nodded and the doubt he had before disappeared.

As expected, they saw Xu Jing walk down after just a few minutes' wait, haggard after the ordeal of being held in lockup for several days.

Once he walked down the stairs, Xu Jing saw Lu Chen, Liu Pingan, and the Three Marquises of the Water Margin hanging around. His eyes lit up and he called out,

"Chen!"

Only then did he turn to greet the others. "Pingan, Song, Shi, and Lin, it's so good to see all of you!"

They all knew each other since Lu Chen had once introduced Xu Jing to the Three Marquises of the Water Margin over a meal.

"My good man, you've had it rough," the Three Marquises of the Water Margin patted Xu Jing on the shoulder and comforted him.

Xu Jing smiled. He may have spent almost a week in remand because he had been wronged, but it wasn't right to vent his anger to Lu Chen and his other companions.

"As long as you got out. Now, we will settle this grudge. Song Hai, go buy some cigarettes and offer them to the police officers," Lu Chen instructed.

"Young Master, Xu Jing is already out, so why do we still need to give them more cigarettes? Wasn't everything their fault in the first place?" Song Hai asked, puzzled.

"Those are different issues altogether, so just go," Lu Chen dismissed with a wave of his hand.

Liu Pingan understood the intentions behind Lu Chen's gesture and volunteered. "Let me; I can't let you spend any money on this."

However, his voice trailed off when Song Hai left and walked quickly toward the small grocery store next door.

"Pingan, you don't have much money, so just let Song buy the cigarettes," Xu Jing reasoned. His brother-in-law was a teacher, but a primary school teacher in a village like this was paid less than 3000 each month; it was barely enough to survive on.

Liu Pingan smiled abashedly and didn't push his point.

Song Hai bought two packets of cigarettes, gave one to Tan Tailun and shared the other among the rest of the police officers before walking back downstairs.

"Not one of those rascals declined," Song

Hai chortled as he shook his head.

Lu Chen smiled and urged, "Get in the car. We need to get back and have lunch before we get payback for Xu Jing."

They saw Xu Jing's mother from afar on their drive to the Xu Family's home; she stood outside the gate, waiting for her son who was the first to jump down from the car once it pulled up.

"I'm back, Mum!" Xu Jing approached his mother with tears in his eyes.



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