

“Who are you in our company to tell us what to do?”

“Who do you think you are? You’re totally mad.”

“Get more security guards to come up and chase him out. This fella must have just escaped from the Geleshan Mental Hospital.”

As soon as Lu Chen finished his words, taunts were thrown at him again by the crowd.

As Li Hongmei was about to persuade Lu Chen to back down, Wang Wei, the chairman, walked out from the lift.

Everyone immediately shut up once they saw Wang Wei. Even if they wanted to find fault with Lu Chen, as mere insignificant employees in the company, they wouldn’t have the opportunity to do so as Xu Zhiheng was here with them too.

Seeing that Wang Wei had actually come down after receiving the call from Lu Chen, Xu Zhiheng was devastated.

Forget about the relationship between Lu

Chen and Wang Wei, the most important thing was that everyone had heard that he and Yu Li had plotted to set a trap to slander Li Hongmei's son. It was impossible for Xu Zhiheng to deny it when so many people had heard what Yu Li said.

Last time, Wang Wei punished him to kneel at the entrance of the company for the entire day; how would Wang Wei deal with him this time?

"Chairman Wang, you arrived just in time. Lu Chen came to our company and beat these people up for no reason; he even beat the security guards. Look at them, these people were all beaten by him just now!" Throwing his worries on how Wang Wei would deal with him to the wind, Xu Zhiheng felt that he had to maintain control of this matter by taking the initiative to strike first.

"That's right, Chairman Wang. He punched my face. Look at my bruises."

"Me too! I also got a punch on my face from him."

"He hit my chest."

“He punched my stomach.”

The people who were beaten by Lu Chen quickly joined forces with Xu Zhiheng to complain about Lu Chen to Wang Wei.

Wang Wei knitted his brow. Obviously he was not concerned about their injuries at all.

He frowned because he wondered what had irritated Lu Chen and prompted him to beat these workers.

“Mr. Lu...” Wang Wei was just about to speak, but he was directly interrupted by Lu Chen.

“Dismiss all these people who have been beaten by me, including this security guard, Xu Zhiheng and Yu Li! As for the reason, ask them yourself. In addition to that, from now on, anyone in the company who dares to bully Li Hongmei can get the hell out of here immediately!” Lu Chen snorted coldly and turned to look at Li Hongmei.

“Li, you may stay here. No one will dare to bully you in the future.” As Lu Chen finished his words, he turned to go

downstairs.

Everyone was just about to mock Lu Chen, but they noticed that Chairman Wang's face had turned pale, a sense of fear in his eyes.

Chairman Wang is actually afraid of this fella?

Do my eyes deceive me?

Who is this brat exactly? Only with a few sentences, he is able to terrify Chairman Wang.

Xu Zhiheng, in particular, was just standing beside Wang Wei. He couldn't believe that Lu Chen dared to threaten Wang Wei. More unbelievable still was that Wang Wei was actually terrified by his threat.

Who else has the power to fire Wang Wei except the big boss who works behind-the-scenes in this company? Wang Wei is actually afraid of Lu Chen. Don't tell me... Oh my god. How could this be? How is it possible that Lu Chen is the big boss of the company?

Xu Zhiheng kept shaking his head,

unwilling to believe the thoughts that rose in his mind.

If Lu Chen was really the big boss of the company, he was completely doomed.

However, he heard that Lu Chen, who was his girlfriend Yu Li's classmate in university, had been doing poorly after graduating from the university, so how could he be the boss of Yi Qi Technology?

It was like a bolt out of the blue to him.

Wang Wei could only regain himself when the figure of Lu Chen, who was in a burning wrath, disappeared from his sight. It was the first time he saw Lu Chen so indignant, which showed how outrageous Xu Zhiheng and the rest had been.

Slap!

Wang Wei turned around and slapped Xu Zhiheng in the face. The slap, which came out of the blue, dumbfounded everyone present.

"C-C-Chairman Wang..." Xu Zhiheng had no aggrieve for receiving the slap at all; in contrast, he was quaking in his boots.

The slap he received from Wang Wei had just proved that his thoughts from earlier were right.

Lu Chen was the big boss of the company so he had the authority to decide Wang Wei's prospects. That was why Lu Chen's words had terrified Wang Wei, the anger compelling him to give a slap on Xu Zhiheng's face.

Only now did Xu Zhiheng realize the reason for Wang Wei to be so aggressive when he had offended Lu Chen last time; according to their bet, he was only supposed to kneel down and apologize to Lu Chen, but he was sentenced by Wang Wei to kneel outside of the company for the whole day instead.

Wang Wei was actually doing this to please Lu Chen.

Meanwhile, he still foolishly thought that Wang Wei had punished him to kneel for the whole day because Wang Wei didn't want him to disgrace the company and make the company bear a reputation of being dishonest. He thought Lu Chen was just a normal acquaintance to Wang Wei.

It turned out that Lu Chen was not just an ordinary acquaintance to Wang Wei; he was the big boss of the company.

The others were all startled by the situation. They didn't expect Wang Wei to slap Xu Zhiheng without asking or saying anything. They thought Wang Wei was being too overbearing and unreasonable.

Looking at Xu Zhiheng who remained silent and didn't even rebuke after receiving a slap from Wang Wei, the others were holding their breath, not daring to complain.

"Did you hear Mr. Lu's words just now? Anything else you want to explain?" After giving a slap on Xu Zhiheng's face, the fury in Wang Wei's heart finally dissipated a little.

"Chairman Wang, is Lu Chen really the big boss of the ..." Knowing that he had no chance to stay in the company anymore, Xu Zhiheng insisted to know the truth behind the company's big boss' identity. Otherwise, he couldn't let things go.

If Lu Chen was really the boss of the company, it was natural for Lu Chen to fire

him as he had offended Lu Chen numerous times. He could totally understand that.

He could only blame himself for failing to recognize Lu Chen as the boss of the company and provoking him.

“If you still cherish your life, watch your mouth once you leave the company. Believe it or not, it is just a piece of cake for him to take your life with just one sentence or phone call,” said Wang Wei, his tone icy.

Xu Zhiheng was left dazed. He believed Wang Wei’s words, but he felt puzzled and wondered how it was possible for Lu Chen to be the boss of the company. Since when did he become so rich?

However, he had no choice but to believe it at this moment.

“Chairman Wang, I’m sorry for disappointing you.” Xu Zhiheng bowed to Wang Wei sincerely and returned to his office to collect his things and leave the company.

Despite feeling aggrieved, Xu Zhiheng

didn't blame anyone for that. He could only blame himself for being ignorant enough to go against Lu Chen so many times.

"You, you, you and you. All of you are all fired. Don't ask me why. If you insist on asking, you won't even get your pay for this month. If you don't believe my words, just try me." Wang Wei pointed at the male colleagues who were beaten by Lu Chen just now and said coldly.

Wang Wei was clear about Lu Chen's personality. He knew that Lu Chen wouldn't fire employees on a whim; their attitudes were certainly a problem.

Lu Chen was provoked by Xu Zhiheng last time but still he decided to give Xu Zhiheng a chance.

Since Lu Chen didn't even give these men another chance, he believed that Lu Chen must have noticed that there was something wrong with their attitude and that they were not suitable to continue working in the company.

Those men were all shocked. They didn't expect Wang Wei to really follow Lu Chen's instruction and dismiss them.

Who the hell is this guy? How could he decide our fate with just a sentence?

These people did not react as quickly as Xu Zhiheng. Up until now, they still didn't know why Lu Chen had the right to decide their fate with only a sentence.

The most important thing was that they still had no idea of the reason for Lu Chen to fire them.

They didn't realize that they had lost their jobs because of their heartless and indifferent attitudes at Yu Li beating Bao.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“You are Li Hongmei, right?” Seeing as they were not saying anything, Wang Wei turned to look at Li Hongmei, who looked completely lost.

“Ch-Chairman Wang.” Li Hongmei looked at Wang Wei guiltily. She had lost her confidence without Lu Chen around.

“Li Hongmei, don’t worry. Nobody will dare to bully you anymore. Take a look. I have already fired all the people who bullied you today,” said Wang Wei in a reassuring manner when he saw that Li Hongmei was still anxious.

Li Hongmei was really shocked when she heard this.

She did not expect Lu Chen to keep his word. He told her that he would fire the people who had bullied her, and he had kept his promise.

What was the connection between Mr. Lu and Chairman Wang? Why did Chairman Wang have to obey him?

Li Hongmei thought about it as her anxiety gradually eased.

“Ok. Thank you, Chairman Wang.” Li Hongmei nodded, becoming more at ease.

“Li Hongmei, can you tell me what happened?” asked Wang Wei calmly when he saw that she had relaxed.

Although he had carried out Lu Chen’s request unconditionally, he wanted to know what had ticked Lu Chen off today.

Li Hongmei was a little hesitant as she looked at the women beside her. These women were fierce toward her before this, and she was afraid that they would bully her using the same method in the future.

“Don’t worry. In the future, no matter who it is, as long as they dare to bully you, I will fire them immediately, no matter how trivial the matter is,” encouraged Wang Wei.

Li Hongmei nodded her head and finally told him the whole story.

She even told him how Yu Li had slapped Bao until the corners of his mouth bled.

In addition to that, Li Hongmei also told him what Yu Li had told her, that this

incident was a plot with Xu Zhiheng to chase her out of the company in the end.

She recounted these incidents honestly and thoroughly.

When he heard her words, Wang Wei finally knew why Lu Chen had not only fired Yu Li and Xu Zhiheng, but several of their male colleagues as well.

It was because when Yu Li was hitting Bao, not only did they show no sympathy, they took her side and made cynical remarks as well. Naturally, there was no reason for him to allow people with such attitude to stay on in the company.

Even if they were just ordinary staff, as long as their morals did not meet the necessary requirement, they weren't qualified to work for Yi Qi Technology.

...

After Lu Chen left Yi Qi Technology, he immediately went to the Sakura Nightclub.

Just as he had parked his car and was about to open the door, he felt a sudden sense of danger as his body quivered

before dodging to the side subconsciously.

Bang!

The moment he dodged, a bullet struck the door of his car. After the sparks had died down, a bullet hole was left behind on the car door.

Lu Chen was shocked as he did not know what was going on.

Moreover, this was Du Fei's territory, so how would anybody dare to mount a sneak attack on him?

Lu Chen was puzzled, but he did not just stand around idly. Judging from the bullet's trajectory, he could guess the general direction of his opponent.

Under the cover of a few cars, Lu Chen slowly slinked toward the direction of his opponent.

Soon after, he managed to sneak toward the fourth car from him without his opponent's knowledge. He saw a man in black shirt with a gun in his hands sneaking toward his car.

Seeing his opponent's vigilant demeanor, Lu Chen smirked to himself. Although this guy was an assassin, he wasn't a qualified one.

If he was a qualified assassin, he would have retreated immediately after he missed his first shot.

However, this person was actually trying to make a second attempt.

Lu Chen wasn't giving him any more chances. He snuck up on his opponent and landed a knife hand strike on his opponent's neck, which managed to knock him out cold.

After he confiscated the gun in the assassin's hand, Lu Chen dragged him directly into the private room that he and Du Fei had agreed to meet up in.

The moment he pushed open the doors to the private room, he saw that Du Fei and his men were already waiting for him there as he had made a last minute decision to go to Jun Yue Tower prior to this.

Everybody looked stunned when they saw Lu Chen dragging a man inside.

“What happened?” asked Du Fei out of curiosity.

“This assassin who was trying to kill me was lying in ambush on your territory. I would like to know what is going on here,” said Lu Chen casually.

The assassin was lying in ambush on Du Fei’s territory, waiting to kill Lu Chen. Hence, he didn’t need to think much to know that one of Du Fei’s men had leaked the information that he was visiting Du Fei today.

The Sakura Nightclub would usually open for business at 7.30 p.m., yet the assassin was already lying in ambush although it was still morning.

Du Fei knew that there was definitely a mole amongst his men even without Lu Chen’s suspicions.

Du Fei’s face looked grim as his gaze swept across his underlings’ faces. He slammed his hand down hard on the table and said in a deep voice, “Only the 5 of you here know of Lu Chen’s identity, hence I will not say anything else about it. Whoever it is, you better own up to your

actions now, or else when I find out who it is, not only will you bear the consequences, your entire family will bear it as well.”

Although there was a saying that went ‘The family does not bear a wrongdoer’s sins’, the Sakura Ring was a part of the Mafia underworld after all and Du Fei was a ruthless person. If he said that he would bring disaster upon one’s family, he would definitely follow through.

Du Fei had a total of 5 trustworthy, capable assistants.

They were Hu Biao, Zhang Wei, Zeng Xin, Zhao Chuan and Liu Yi.

On the surface, these 5 men seemed to get along well with each other. However, in reality, they were fighting and scheming against each other behind Du Fei’s back.

Du Fei’s status in Chongqing was increasing by the day. In addition to that, he had become the official boss of the Mafia underworld in Chongqing. Naturally, these 5 men hoped that they could gain more of his trust as they risked their life and limb for him.

Only by gaining his trust could they have the opportunity to obtain and dominate one of his territories.

At the moment, all 5 men did not dare to utter a single word when they saw a hint of murderous intent flash in his eyes.

It was definitely his capabilities that had earned him his current status. Therefore, the entire Mafia underworld was afraid of him.

"I don't care who you are, but as long as you are willing to own up to your actions voluntarily and give me a reasonable explanation, I will spare your life," said Lu Chen as he looked at the 5 men before him.

Amongst Du Fei's underlings, these 5 men were the only ones that knew of his identity, so the mole must be amongst them.

Strictly speaking, the Three Marquises of the Water Margin and the Legendary Thief, Liu Zixiu, were Lu Chen's men as well, so there was no reason for them to betray him.

“I will give you all one minute. After that, if that person does not own up to his actions, I will start my investigations,” said Du Fei in a deep voice.

As the boss of the Mafia underworld in Chongqing, he had a lot of ways to investigate a mole. Furthermore, he did not need to take any action at all as his men would definitely investigate the incident for him in the shortest amount of time.

As time ticked by, the 5 men started to become anxious.

However, one of them named Zhang Wei was obviously very agitated, his forehead beaded with sweat.

Hu Biao and the rest of the three men were anxious as well, but they looked calmer than Zhang Wei.

“5 seconds left. Don’t blame me for not giving you a chance later,” said Du Fei in a grim tone as he looked at his stopwatch.

However, at that moment, Zhang Wei suddenly fell to his knees in front of Lu Chen.

Chapter 239 Mole

“Young Master Chen, I am sorry; they are holding my mother captive and are using her to threaten me, so I have no choice,” said Zhang Wei, his voice trembling.

“Who are they?”

Lu Chen did not get angry, instead he only asked Zhang Wei calmly.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"I don't know who they are, but judging by their accent, they are not from Chongqing. I am not acquainted with them as well," said Zhang Wei as his voice quivered.

He knew that he was doomed for he had betrayed Lu Chen, and that he would meet his end soon. However, before he died he wanted to rescue his mother from her captors first, and he hoped that Lu Chen would spare his mother's life.

"Can you get in touch with them?" asked Lu Chen.

"Yes," said Zhang Wei.

Lu Chen nodded his head and did not continue.

"If you can get in touch with them, I can spare your life, but you have to accept your punishment," said Du Fei when he saw that Lu Chen had no intention of killing him.

Although Lu Chen did not say anything, Du Fei knew that he could not leave this matter as it was. As this was one of his men, Lu Chen allowed him to handle this matter personally out of respect.

"Thank you, Young Master Chen! Thank you, Mr. Fei!" Zhang Wei kept kowtowing to both of them.

"I will punish you according to our rules. Three of your fingers will be chopped off and you will be chased out of the Sakura Ring," said Du Fei coldly.

The men's faces did not change. Even Zhang Wei wasn't too afraid when he heard of Du Fei's punishment for him.

Obviously, if he could climb up the ladder to become one of Du Fei's most trusted assistants, he was definitely a ruthless person as well.

He might not have betrayed Lu Chen if his mother hadn't been taken as a hostage.

"I am sorry, my friend," said Hu Biao as he drew a dagger and came to Zhang Wei's side.

Hu Biao was in charge of carrying out the punishments in the Sakura Ring. As long as anybody flouted the rules, he would be the one to carry out their punishments in general.

There was a trace of misery on Zhang Wei's face, but he did not protest as he knew that he would die if he did. Thus, he simply stretched out his left hand on the table and curled up his index finger and his thumb.

Hu Biao lifted his arm, then brought the knife down. The sound of broken bones were heard as Zhang Wei's three fingers were chopped off.

Although Zhang Wei was a ruthless person, he couldn't help but scream from the excruciating pain as his three fingers were suddenly chopped off.

"Biao, help him stop the bleeding," said Du Fei in a cold voice.

Hu Biao found some gauze and bandaged Zhang Wei's wounds simply. Then, he placed the three fingers, which he had chopped off, into a small bag.

"Mr. Fei, please save my mother, on account that I have followed you for so long. They have guns, and it is impossible for me to rescue my mother by myself," said Zhang Wei as he knelt before Du Fei and begged sincerely.

"I will help you save your mother as long as you can get in touch with them. After this, the Sakura Ring will have nothing to do with you at all," said Du Fei lightly.

Although he was a ruthless person, he wasn't heartless toward his subordinates.

Zhang Wei had betrayed Lu Chen, and Du Fei wanted to kill him initially, but since Lu Chen did not want to have him killed, he could help him out for the last time.

"Thank you, Mr. Fei!" said Zhang Wei as he kowtowed again.

Du Fei gave Hu Biao a look. Then, Hu Biao said, "Let's go then. I will send you to the hospital first to treat your wounds."

Zhang Wei nodded his head and picked up his chopped fingers as he followed Hu Biao out of the Sakura Nightclub.

"Wake him up. Then, ask him whether he knows who is trying to kill me," said Lu Chen to Du Fei's men as he looked at the unconscious assassin on the floor.

This guy wasn't a professional assassin, hence Lu Chen felt that he might not be as

strong-willed as more professional assassins.

Liu Yi and the other two men nodded their heads as they tied up the assassin and poured a basin of cold water onto his face.

When the assassin awoke, he quickly knew the situation he was in. However, he did not panic; instead he looked calm.

Lu Chen kept quiet. Liu Yi and the other two men understood the meaning behind Lu Chen's silence and started beating up the assassin without a word.

The assassin was a firm person as he did not beg for any mercy although he was beaten until blood was dripping out from the corners of his mouth.

"You are quite a tight-lipped man. Yi, bring me a few bamboo sticks," said Du Fei mockingly as he sized the assassin up.

When the crowd heard that Du Fei wanted some bamboo sticks, they knew what he wanted to do.

He wanted to carry out the torture of piercing one's fingernails.

Previously, the assassin wasn't moved at all even when he was beaten till he was vomiting out blood. However, his expression changed dramatically when he heard Du Fei's words.

Any injuries to any one of his fingers would bring about an excruciating pain. Could you imagine how painful it would be to have bamboo sticks pierce through your fingernails? The thought of it would send chills down anybody's spine. Even if he was an assassin, he couldn't help but look scared.

Not long after that, Liu Yi brought back 10 toothpicks. Although the toothpicks weren't as frightening as the bamboo sticks, it would be extremely painful once it was pierced through his fingernails.

"What do you want to ask? I will tell you everything." The hitman finally spoke when he saw Du Fei grabbing his arms, preparing to drive the sticks into his nails.

The act of piercing one's fingernails was a famous torture method from medieval times. Although the assassin had not experienced it before, the mere thought of it turned his legs to jelly.

Although he finally gave in, Du Fei did not spare him as he picked up a toothpick and pierced the fingernail of the assassin's left index finger.

"Ugh!"

The assassin grimaced in pain as his entire left hand trembled profusely. Obviously, he couldn't endure the excruciating pain.

"Who sent you here?" asked Du Fei as he picked up another toothpick.

"I don't know..." The assassin shook his head. However, before he managed to finish his sentence, Du Fei drove the toothpick ruthlessly into the fingernail of his left middle finger.

The assassin gave out a terrified howl. Before he could calm down, he quickly blurted out, "I really don't know who they are. They only gave me some money and ordered me to kill the person in the photo. Moreover, they even gave some information. However, before I left, I vaguely heard them muttering something about Mr. Zhou."

Mr. Zhou?

Lu Chen was stunned as the name of a man appeared in his mind.

Zhou Zunfei.

Previously, he won against the antique expert Zheng Xihe at the antiques fair that was organized by the Zuo family. As a reward, he managed to seize control of the rough stone channel that was owned by the jeweler, Zhou Zunfei's family from the central plains. Could it be that he was resentful and came to exact his revenge on him?

Lu Chen felt that it might be a possibility.

After all, the rough stone channels were very important to the Zhou family. In addition to that, the Zhou family relied more on the rough stone channels than the Zuo family, so it was a devastating blow to the Zhou family when Lu Chen had won the rough stone channels from them. Hence, it wasn't a surprise if they wanted to exact their revenge on Lu Chen in order to seize control of the rough stone channel once again.

Du Fei looked at Lu Chen as Lu Chen swiped his hand across his throat.

He would not go soft on anybody who tried to take his life.

Du Fei understood his gesture. He turned to Liu Yi and his two subordinates and said, "Take him away and finish him."

Liu Yi nodded his head as he released the assassin from his bonds and dragged him into the basement.

The assassin saw Lu Chen's gesture as well and tried to put up a struggle. However, Liu Yi elbowed him directly on the head and knocked him out in an instant.

"Do you know who they are?" asked Du Fei who was sitting on the couch.

"Yes." Lu Chen nodded his head as he took out a cigarette and lit it. He was having a slight headache.

Xiao Bieqing's men had not come knocking on his door yet, but now he had Zhou Zunfei to deal with. It was giving him a headache.

"Who is it then?" asked Du Fei.

"The jeweler, Zhou Zunfei, from the central plains. He is definitely here to exact his revenge on me ever since I won the rough stone channel from him," explained Lu Chen.

"I'll be damned! How dare the people from the central plains behave in such an atrocious manner in Chongqing? Why don't we make it so that he will never be able to return to the central plains this time?" said Du Fei angrily as he sought out Lu Chen's opinion.

Lu Chen took a puff of his cigarette and remained silent for a while before he said, "The Zhou family is still one of the powerful families in the central plains. It will be better not to injure Zhou Zunfei or kill him unless our hands are forced. However, if we manage to capture him, we will need to imprint a lesson in his memory before he can leave."

Chapter 240 The Zhou Family's Revenge



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The Zhou Family was one of the few powerful families in the central plains and they were extremely influential. Although their plan would be carried out in Chongqing, if they did kill Zhou Zunfei, the Zhou Family would definitely come after them.

Lu Chen had the power to do anything he wanted to in Chongqing, but that was because he had the support of Xie Weihao.

If he left Chongqing, he would definitely not be able to go against the truly powerful families, unless they went head to head with each other.

Nevertheless, in modern society, going head to head with each other would be their last resort. The best plan would be to utilize their personal and social ties as well as their power to deter in solving the problem.

To put it in plain words, Lu Chen did not have a stable foundation.

In fact, even if Lu Chen announced his identity as the owner of Yi Qi Technology, the truly powerful families on local soil like the Four Major Families of Chongqing

his leadership would then be considered a true aristocratic family.

By then, if Zhou Zunfei dared to mess with him, he would be able to easily take him out, regardless of whether he was in Chongqing or anywhere else.

This was because his whole family would then have sufficient power and ability to cover up the incident.

However, he still had a long way to go before he could achieve that status.

"Okay, I understand." Du Fei nodded and turned to look at Zeng Xin. "Call Hu Biao and ask him when they will be coming back."

Hu Biao had gone to send Zhang Wei to the hospital. There was one hospital situated nearby, so if there was no queue, they should not take too long.

They could not drag this thing out anymore. Once the other party found out that their killer had failed, they would definitely be much more alert. Therefore, they should subdue the other party as soon as possible and the only person

would still look down on Lu Chen.

This was not a society where one could be a leader with only money.

The real competition was a comparison of the families' background and their networking.

However, even the Four Major Families of Chongqing would not qualify as 'Old Money'.

For example, the Zuo Family and the Chen Family still had a long way to go before they would be able to qualify as the true 'Old Money' upper class society.

To be fair, Lu Chen had the qualifications. However, when his father disbanded the Lu Family in Beijing, he became a new figure among the rich and wealthy. Hence, in the eyes of the 'Old Money', he was still only a 'New Money'.

The high society status of 'Old Money' was a social class that all powerful families dreamt of achieving.

If Lu Chen could one day achieve the status of 'Old Money', the Lu Family under

around Zhou Zunfei whom they could contact now would be Zhang Wei.

At this very moment, Zhou Zunfei was having a drink with Zuo Qingcheng in a clubhouse owned by the Zuo Family.

"Zunfei, I think that it was very irrational of you to send someone to kill Lu Chen," said Zuo Qingcheng as he clinked his glass with Zhou Zunfei's.

As the saying went, the enemy of my enemy would be my friend.

Although Zhou Zunfei punched Zuo Qingcheng in his face the last time and he had also won the bid for the Zuo Family Channel against the Zuo Family, Lu Chen's intervention after these incidents created a new common enemy for both of them—Lu Chen.

Hence, both of them put their past behind them and joined forces to go against Lu Chen.

"Why do you say that?" asked Zhou Zunfei after he downed the red wine in his glass.

Zuo Qingcheng gracefully lifted the wine

bottle and poured Zhou Zunfei some wine as he said, "Do you not know? Lu Chen has Xie Weihao on his side. Although we do not know what Lu Chen's real identity is, if anything happened to him in Chongqing, both Xie Weihao and the people who stand behind Lu Chen would not let this go easily."

There were many people in Chongqing who were guessing that Lu Chen most likely came from a powerful family in Beijing or some other big cities.

However, taking into consideration his relationship with Xie Weihao and the fact that both of them had Beijing accents, most people thought that Lu Chen probably came from the Lu Family in Beijing.

Zhou Zunfei frowned a little. It was true that he did not probe further into Lu Chen's background, and if his backing was really Xie Weihao, that could pose a problem.

"Also, I don't think the men that you sent would be capable of killing Lu Chen."

Zuo Qingcheng continued to explain, "Haven't you heard? It was just a while ago

loss. Although their financial loss in the books was estimated to be as high as 3 billion, the Zhang Family's net loss was at least close to 5 billion after taking into consideration the damage it caused to their reputation and so on. It was a heavy blow to the Zhang Family and I heard that Zhang Daozhong ended up meeting with Lu Chen personally to make truce. I think they were really shaken this time." Zuo Qingcheng poured himself a full glass after he finished. Then, he gently placed the wine bottle on the crystal table.

"Dammit! Is he that merciless? Where did he get the power to do that? It wouldn't have been possible with Xie Weihao alone!" Zhou Zunfei exclaimed in shock.

"Zunfei, you need to trust me on this. Let me lay things out for you."

Zuo Qingcheng raised his glass to clink with Zhou Zunfei's again. He then finished half a glass of wine by himself and continued saying, "The Zhang Family Tower was completely burned down by him. It was rumoured that they did not manage to take their confidential documents out and that would be a loss of at least 1 billion. Besides, the Zhang

when the Zhang Family invited a martial arts master, Dongfang Long, to challenge Lu Chen. Just when everyone thought that Lu Chen would lose, to everyone's surprise, he easily defeated Dongfang Long. Do you know what price the Zhang Family had to pay in the end?"

Zhou Zunfei was shaken. He did not expect Lu Chen to be strong in martial arts too. Furthermore, he had heard about the famous Dongfang Long before. He recalled that the man was a truly strong martial arts master and he did not expect this man to lose to Lu Chen. If this was true, the killer that he sent may really fail in killing Lu Chen and he may end up alerting them instead.

Zhou Zunfei was starting to feel a little regret. If only he had come to meet up with Zuo Qingcheng before he sent his men, he could have given up on the plan.

"Do tell me more about it," said Zhou Zunfei as he nodded.

"He almost caused the whole Zhang Family to go bankrupt, but of course, this is an overstatement. However, he did cause the Zhang Family to suffer a great

Family had also invested almost 1 billion on the Blue Water Bay project. They had completed its construction and started its renovation when Kapow! Lu Chen blasted it into a flat land. Then, there's also the Green Island with its massive land, constructions and all its future investments, which total up to at least another 1 billion. Moreover, Lu Chen had managed to get his hands on the Green Island somehow. In conclusion, by taking into consideration these three major losses in the books, the Zhang Family would suffer a loss of at least 3 billion, excluding all the other indirect losses. To top it off, they also completely lost face in Chongqing. Don't you think they suffered a great blow this time with all the above added up together? "

Zhou Zunfei's face changed. He did not think that Lu Chen would be this great and this was completely out of his expectation.

Before this, he had only thought of Lu Chen as a mere stone gambling master and there would be no problem killing him, as long as he was able to retrieve the rough stone channel.

Now that he thought about it, he was

capable of forcing the whole Zhang Family to surrender and back down on their own. How could he say that Lu Chen was just a stone gambling master?

In addition, he also had the support of Xie Weihao.

The Zhou Family also had their backing in Beijing and they had also analyzed the movements of the families this year.

Xie Weihao had moved to Chongqing and it did not seem like the demotion that it appeared to be on the surface. It seemed more like an icing on the cake because as long as he did not do anything wrong in Chongqing, he would almost certainly be promoted when he moved back. Imagining Lu Chen with a backing like Xie Weihao, it seemed as though he was finding trouble for the Zhou Family when he tried to assassinate Lu Chen.

After giving it a careful and thorough thought, Zhou Zunfei immediately made the call to cancel their plan to assassinate Lu Chen.

I do hope that I can make it in time. Zhou Zun Fei was thinking to himself anxiously

as he was making the call.

Seeing the worried look on Zhou Zunfei's face, Zuo Qingcheng knowingly smiled and said, "Zunfei, I have a better suggestion to make Lu Chen hand us our families' rough stone channels."



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

At this moment, in the Sakura Nightclub, Zhang Wei had been making a few calls to the same number continuously. The other party did not pick up his call and the phone was even switched off in the end.

Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead.

Firstly, his mother was in their hands.

Secondly, the anaesthetic that was injected around the broken finger on his left hand seemed to be wearing off and he was starting to feel an excruciating pain.

Thirdly, if he failed to carry out the task that he was given properly, not only would Du Fei refuse to save his mother, but he may also end up killing her.

At this moment, Zhang Wei was extremely nervous as he could not get hold of the other party.

"How's the situation now?" asked Du Fei as he saw the sweat on Zhang Wei's forehead. He believed that Zhang Wei was really trying to call the other side and that he would not dare to play any tricks in front of him.

"F-Fei, the other party has probably found out that the mission has failed and they have switched off their phone, but I only have that person's number," Zhang Wei said in a trembling voice.

"Where do you think they would be now?" asked Du Fei as he frowned.

"I-I-I... I really don't know. " Zhang Wei's face changed, a little frightened as he answered.

Du Fei started frowning. There was nothing he could do if he did not know where the other party was. All he could do was slowly investigate or just wait for a phone call from the other party.

However, he had not managed to find anything on Mr. Mu and now, he had to add Zhou Zunfei to the list. All these were starting to give him a headache.

"Whenever Zhou Zunfei comes to Chongqing, he'll either stay in a hotel or stay in the villa that he bought here. It would be easier to find out if he was staying in a hotel, but if he had bought a villa here, that would be a little difficult for us," Lu Chen analyzed. They were indeed

having trouble finding out Zhou Zunfei's whereabouts.

"Yes, it's not easy for us to investigate as they are in the dark whilst we are out in the open. I think it would be better for us to wait for the next time they take the initiative to contact us," agreed Du Fei as he nodded.

"I think they will not rush to send someone to kill me after failing to do so this time. I'm just worried they will target Qiqi and Yijun instead and use them to threaten me," Lu Chen analyzed. He had given Lin Yijun and Xu Jing a call earlier and asked them to be careful. It would not be easy for Zhou Zunfei too if he was planning to target them.

He was still quite confident in both Xu Jing and the few bodyguards that he had personally gotten for Lin Yijun.

However, he started worrying a little when he realized that he had not given Xu Jing a gun.

This was because Zhou Zunfei's men were all equipped with guns and if Xu Jing did not have any gun on him, then he may not

be able to protect Qiqi.

Lu Che suddenly started feeling a little anxious after thinking about it. He had a feeling that this little mistake of his would in turn, become a big problem later.

He was just planning to give Xu Jing a call when he received Xu Jing's call instead.

Lu Chen's heart skipped a beat when he saw the caller display and he hurriedly pressed the button to take the call.

"L-Lu Chen, I'm so sorry. I did not manage to keep Qiqi safe..." Xu Jing's voice sounded a little weak and it felt as though he would be dying at any time.

Lu Chen trembled inside as he hurriedly asked, "Are you okay?"

"I was shot twice—one of them hit my stomach which is not too much of a problem and the other one was on my chest. I think it managed to hit my heart..." Xu Jing had not finished his sentence, but they could not hear Xu Jing's voice anymore.

Lu Chen's heart dropped. It was happening

exactly as he had feared.

He had a dark look on his face, not only because of Qiqi getting kidnapped, but also because of the possible loss of Xu Jing's life as a result of this incident.

"What's the situation?" asked Du Fei with a frown on his face.

"They have taken my daughter and they may also have shot Xu Jing to death," said Lu Chen in a low voice.

"Dammit! That scumbag Zhou Zunfei! If he dares to lay a finger on my niece, I swear I will kill him with my own two hands!" declared Du Fei angrily.

"Fei, why don't we go to the kindergarten now to take a look at Brother Xu?" suggested Hu Biao.

"There's no need for that. The kindergarten is quite far from here. I'll make a call to the hospital to get someone to go have a look and we shall all go directly to the hospital instead."

Lu Chen turned around to head outside as he said to them. He was making a call to a

hospital in the Big Cross District while he was walking out.

“Oh yeah! Go get our brothers ready for battle at any time,” said Lu Chen as he turned to look at Du Fei when they arrived at the car.

If Zhou Zunfei dared to hurt a hair on Qiqi's hair, he vowed to keep Zhou Zunfei in Chongqing forever, even if it meant the destruction of both the Lu Family and the Zhou Family.

“Okay, got it!” Du Fei nodded. He did not need Lu Chen to tell him to know that it was a serious matter this time.

Qiqi was Lu Chen's only daughter and the apple of his eye. He could understand what Lu Chen was feeling right now.

He had given this some thought. If Zhou Zunfei did hurt Qiqi, even if Lu Chen stayed still, he would kill Zhou Zunfei himself.

After getting into the car, Lu Chen gave Lin Yijun a call and reminded her to be careful, but he did not tell her about Qiqi's kidnapping.

Half an hour later, Lu Chen and his men arrived at the Big Cross District People's Hospital and they quickly found the hospital director.

"Director Cheng, how is my friend's condition?" Lu Chen asked directly.

Director Cheng was a bald, middle-aged man. They had known each other ever since Qiqi was admitted into the hospital the last time. After he got his inheritance, Lu Chen had also donated some money to the hospital. Thus, as soon as Lu Chen made the call, Director Cheng had immediately arranged for someone to look for Xu Jing in the kindergarten.

"His condition is not too good and it seemed like he was hit in the heart, but he was still breathing when he arrived at the hospital and I've arranged for the best attending physician to operate on him. I do hope that he has dextrocardia. If not, his rate of survival is really low," Director Cheng explained.

Dextrocardia?

All of their hearts sank.

By dextrocardia, they meant someone whose heart was growing on the right side of the chest. They had heard about people like that before, but they had never seen one.

People like them had all their organs growing on the opposite side of a normal person. Their heart would be on their right side and their liver would be on their left side, mirroring the growth in a normal person.

However, even if Xu Jing had dextrocardia, as he was hit on the left side of his chest, he could have injured his liver too, otherwise he would not have fainted before he finished his sentence.

Nonetheless, that would still be better than him injuring his heart. The chance of him surviving if he hurt his liver was higher compared to if he was injured in his heart. If his heart was hit, even the gods would not be able to save him.

“Why don’t we go and wait for news outside the operation room?” suggested Director Cheng when he noticed that everyone was a little nervous.

“That’ll be great! Sorry for the trouble, Director Cheng.” Lu Chen nodded in agreement. He only wanted to know if Xu Jing would survive the ordeal and he would like to be the first one to know about his condition.

“Okay then. Why don’t you guys follow me?” Director Cheng nodded. Then, he led Lu Chen and his men toward the direction of the operation room.

There were two benches prepared for the patient’s guardians outside the operation room. Lu Chen and his men looked on from the outside of the operation room for a little bit before taking a seat on the benches.

With anxious hearts, everyone waited for more than half an hour before they saw the door to the operation room opening. Then, a few doctors dressed in white coats walked out, all of them looking exhausted.

Chapter 242 The Kidnapping of Qiqi



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“How is he?” Director Cheng was the first one to go up to him and ask.

“He has dextrocardia and he’s really lucky. The bullet only scraped the side of his liver and he will be fit as a bull after resting for a little bit,” the attending physician said excitedly when he saw the hospital director waiting outside in person.

“Good, thanks for your hard work. All of you, go and get some rest.” Director Cheng nodded and he breathed a sigh of relief.

The same went with Lu Chen and his men as he would be extremely saddened if Xu Jing was to lose his life because of this.

He had never treated Xu Jing as just any other bodyguard. To Lu Chen, Xu Jing was like a little brother.

Now that Xu Jing was no longer in danger, Lu Chen could finally take a deep breath. All he had to do now was wait for Zhou Zunfei’s call.

Zhou Zunfei only kidnapped Qiqi because he wanted to use her to threaten him. He wanted to make him return the rough stone channel to the Zhou Family, so he

believed that Zhou Zunfei would not hurt Qiqi.

However, this only made him angrier. Now, he was forced to fight the Zhou Family till the end.

Nevertheless, even though he had those thoughts in his head, Lu Chen was still a little worried

Besides worrying that Zhou Zunfei would hurt Qiqi, he was also worried that the incident this time would traumatize Qiqi and cast a shadow on her little soul.

The operation was a success, but Xu Jing was not yet awake. It was not until one hour later that Xu Jing finally awakened.

"Lu Chen, I'm so sorry..." Xu Jing apologized when he saw Lu Chen and the others sitting beside the hospital bed.

The anaesthetic had worn off by now. Not only was he feeling pain from his surgical wound, he also looked a little weak and his face was white as a ghost.

"I'm just glad you're okay. I believe that Qiqi will be fine, so don't you start blaming

yourself for what happened, okay? It was my fault for not thinking things through. If I had given you a gun, you wouldn't have gotten hurt!" Lu Chen waved his hands to stop Xu Jing from blaming himself.

"I..." Xu Jing was a little touched and for a moment, he did not know what to say.

"Why don't you have a good rest and focus on recovering first? Don't you bother yourself with anything else! Oh, would you like us to inform your parents?" asked Lu Chen.

"No need. I don't want them to worry." Xu Jing shook his head and rejected the offer.

"Well, okay then." Lu Chen nodded in agreement as he also thought that they should not worry his parents.

Just then, Lu Chen's phone finally rang. It was an unknown number and the screen showed that it was a phone number from the central plains.

"You're Lu Chen, am I right? I will cut to the chase as I'm sure you already know that your precious daughter is in my hands now. If you want her back, bring along the

contracts of the two rough stone channels that used to belong to the Zhou Family and the Zuo Family in exchange. Oh, you're only allowed to bring a lawyer along and don't you dare think about lodging a police report, otherwise you should prepare yourself to claim your daughter's dead body," the other party threatened.

Lu Chen's expression darkened as he asked, "What's the address?"

"We'll meet at the original old train station on the west side of the city. I know that you're staying in the Big Cross District. I'm giving you one hour to retrieve the contracts. If you're late, don't blame me for getting rid of the girl!" The other party hung up the phone as soon as he finished talking.

Lu Chen put his phone aside, everyone's eyes on him.

"Du Fei, can you help me get the contracts of the two rough stone channels? The two of us will be going to the old train station on the west side of the city together. Then, I need everyone else to surround the old train station and not let a single person leave the place," said Lu Chen in a low

voice.

The fact that Zhou Zunfei kidnapped Qiqi had reached his limits. He vowed to teach Zhou Zunfei an unforgettable lesson today.

"Where will you be waiting for me?" asked Du Fei as he nodded.

"I'll just wait for you here. The train station isn't far away; it's only about 20 minutes from here," said Lu Chen.

"Okay." Du Fei turned and left without saying another word.

Lu Chen gave the Three Marquises of the Water Margin a call and after arranging everything, he looked at Hu Biao and the rest of the men and said, "All of you should bring our men and go lie in ambush first. Be careful to cover your tracks and not let them spot you. You will all wait outside and only enter quietly after Du Fei and I go in."

"Okay!" Hu Biao and the rest of the guys nodded. Then, they started to call up the other men there and then to make preparations.

This was a high-class VIP ward and the rooms here were all private rooms. The people here were all their own people and they were not worried about leaking the news.

“Lu Chen, who is the other party?” Xu Jing turned a little and asked.

“A jeweler from the central plains. I had won their rough stone channels the last time, so they are doing this to snatch the rough stone channels back,” Lu Chen told Xu Jing about the whole story without hiding anything.

“Okay.” Xu Jing nodded. He blamed himself a little for not being able to help out at a time like this.

Lu Chen went out to the living room outside. He stood beside the window and lit a cigarette. Despite the hot weather outside, he was extremely calm on the inside.

“Zhou Zunfei had also asked me to bring the Zuo Family’s rough stone channel contract. Clearly, the two families must have joined forces in this matter, and if I’m right, it was the Zuo Family who told Zhou

Zunfei which kindergarten Qiqi is attending.”

Lu Chen’s face darkened even more as he blew a mouthful of cigarette smoke.

He was getting too famous in Chongqing and he believed that many people other than the Four Major Families would have investigated his background.

He was not scared of them finding out that he was the owner of Yi Qi Technology, but he was worried that they would find out about Qiqi and Lin Yijun's background as well.

The way he saw it now, he was still unsure if the Zuo Family had found out about his identity as the owner of Yi Qi Technology, but they had clearly gotten hold of a lot of information about him already.

The Zuo Family, huh? I think it's time for me to teach them a little lesson, but that'll have to wait till I finish dealing with Xiao Bieqing's men. After doing that, I'll find some time to visit the Zuo Family, Lu Chen thought to himself as he inhaled the smoke from his cigarette for one last time before he flicked the cigarette bud out of

the window.

Du Fei was very fast; he was back after about 20 minutes. After getting a nurse to take care of Xu Jing, Lu Chen went downstairs.

Once he got into the car, Du Fei started the engines of his Hummer and drove toward the old train station on the west side of the city at top speed.

"This will be more convenient and really useful at critical times like this." Du Fei handed Lu Chen a gun.

As the Big Boss in the Mafia underworld, Du Fei had also bought a few guns and a few hundred bullets from the black market. Although he did not need to use them usually, these guns were very useful at critical moments. No matter how strong a person was in martial arts or how fast he was, he would not be as fast a bullet.

Lu Chen took the gun and opened the rear of the barrel to take a look. It was fully loaded with bullets. He then closed the rear of the barrel shut and secured the gun at his waist.

He should not be careless as Zhou Zunfei's men had guns as well.

"Do you want to finish him?" asked Du Fei.

He knew Lu Chen well and the fact that Zhou Zunfei kidnapped Qiqi was the last straw for Lu Chen. He knew that Lu Chen had every intention to kill.

If Zhou Zunfei did not kidnap Qiqi, Lu Chen would not think of finishing him off, even if he sent someone to assassinate him. However, the nature of the matter was different this time.

"I'll see how it goes later, but I'll make sure that he comes out of this crippled today," Lu Chen kept quiet for a while before he said.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

When Lu Chen and Du Fei arrived at the old train station, they saw more than ten men, including Zhou Zunfei, chilling on the old train station platform.

However, to his disappointment, no one from the Zuo Family was present.

He strongly believed that his guess was not wrong. He figured that the Zuo Family must have been wary of him because of his revenge on the Zhang Family the last time. Hence, they would rather make a minor sacrifice and buy the Zuo Family's rough stone channel back from Zhou Zunfei than let Lu Chen have anything against them.

"Exactly 50 minutes, how very punctual you are. What about the contracts? Did you bring them?" Zhou Zunfei stood and walked up to Lu Chen and Du Fei. He was not afraid of Lu Chen as Qiqi was still in his hands.

Lu Chen waved both the contracts at Zhou Zunfei and asked in a low voice, "Where is my daughter? "

"There's no need to rush. Let me double check the contracts first before doing

anything else." Zhou Zunfei smiled as he gestured to his lawyer.

The lawyer walked up to Lu Chen and took the contracts in his hands before opening them to carry out the examination. Then, he returned the contracts to Lu Chen and turned to nod at Zhou Zunfei.

"Ask Hu to bring her over." Zhou Zunfei turned and instructed the burly man who was standing behind him.

Upon hearing the instruction, the burly man took out his phone to make the call.

Zhou Zunfei knew that Lu Chen was a strong opponent. Thus, he had an ace up his sleeve and did not bring Qiqi over to the old train station with him.

"Lu Chen, you should not have gone against me. Even though you have Xie Weihao to back you up, you are no match for me, Zhou Zunfei," mocked Zhou Zunfei.

"You know quite a lot, don't you?" Lu Chen said coldly.

"Well, not too much actually. I only know where your wife is working," said Zhou

Zunfei laughingly.

Lu Chen's face darkened, a murderous look in his eyes.

Zhou Zunfei had been testing his limits again and again today, making Lu Chen consider if he should make Zhou Zunfei stay in Chongqing forever.

"Young man, you should open your eyes and take a good look at who you can't afford to mess with before you do anything else in the future! If you mess with the wrong person, you will be endangering not only your life, but also your family's," mocked Zhou Zunfei again.

Thinking about the time Lu Chen humiliated him in front of everyone, Zhou Zunfei felt exhilarated when he saw Lu Chen at his mercy.

Lu Chen did not say a word. Until he saw his daughter, he would allow Zhou Zunfei to feel pleased about himself for a little while more. The more Zhou Zunfei tested his limits, the more determined Lu Chen was to kill him.

At this moment, at a construction site 2

kilometers away from the old train station, Zhou Hu received a call from one of Zhou Zunfei's men. Then, he lifted Qiqi and walked out of the shade with her as they headed toward the old train station. Qiqi's mouth was taped shut with duct tape, her eyes filled with fear.

...

Due to the extremely hot weather—the temperature had reached as high as 41 degree Celsius—today, the construction site had to give their workers the day off to escape the heat.

It was Yu Bing's turn to guard the construction site today. He was resting in a room with the fan blowing at him when he heard the faint sound of a girl crying.

At first, he thought he had imagined it and did not take any notice. However, when he heard the sound again a few seconds later, he walked out to take a look out of curiosity.

Just as he walked out of the construction site, he saw a burly man carrying a little girl and heading toward him.

"That's my savior!" Yu Bing was shocked as he recognized Qiqi immediately, even though her mouth was taped shut.

He still remembered that night, the night he felt so hopeless he was on the verge of crying. It was this little girl who had given him a packet of rice. Unexpectedly, there was 5,000 in that packet, which helped him to grab a taxi back home and get his mother's illness under control.

He had always thought of properly giving his thanks if he ever met the little girl and her father again. Then, although he knew that they would not have wanted it, he wanted to return the 5,000.

"What are you looking at? Go away or I'll beat you to death!" shouted Zhou Hu furiously as he glared at Yu Bing when he saw Yu Bing curiously studying him and Qiqi.

Yu Bing's heart trembled for a moment and he immediately turned his head. He only dared to turn back to take a look when the burly man had walked past him, Qiqi in his arms.

The burly man's eyes frightened him a

little. However, when he thought of Qiqi with her mouth taped shut, he immediately guessed that the man must have kidnapped Qiqi.

"Although the guy is a kidnapper and he may very well kill me, I can't just stand and watch at my savior getting kidnapped by him. I must save my little savior!"

After a few seconds of internal conflict, Yu Bing finally gritted his teeth as he turned to pick up a metal rod and quietly sneaked up behind the burly man.

Yu Bing was sweating buckets, large droplets of perspiration trickling down his cheeks, whether it was because of his extreme nervousness or the hot weather he didn't know.

Nevertheless, although both his hands were trembling as they held onto the metal rod, his eyes were determined.

Suddenly, Zhou Hu, who was walking in front, discovered Yu Bing sneaking up behind him and immediately turned to take a look.

It gave Yu Bing such a fright that he let out

a loud cry. At the same time, he swung the metal rod in his hands and hit Zhou Hu on his head hard.

Before Zhou Hu could even react, he felt a hard whack on his forehead, so hard that it cracked and blood immediately gushed out.

"What the..." Before he could finish swearing, Zhou Hu's eyes rolled back into his head and he fainted.

Yu Bing heaved a sigh of relief and immediately grabbed onto Qiqi when he saw her falling over with Zhou Hu.

"Are you here to save me, uncle?" asked Qiqi as soon as Yu Bing removed the duct tape over her mouth.

Qiqi also recognized Yu Bing. Her father had asked her to give this uncle a packet of rice the last time; he was the uncle who had cried silent tears.

"Yes, my little savior. Where is your house? Let me bring you back to your parents," said Yu Bing as he nodded.

"My house is in the Dragon Lakeview

Mansion Area. It's the biggest house there," answered Qiqi.

Yu Bing nodded. Then, he carried Qiqi out of the construction site, worried that Zhou Hu would wake up.

As he walked, he kept looking around, wary of his surroundings as he was worried there were other accomplices of the kidnapper around.

He had heard of the Dragon Lakeview Mansion Area before; only a truly wealthy person in Chongqing would be able to afford a mansion there. Yu Bing now understood why the kidnapper would kidnap Qiqi.

This was because only the wealthy could afford to stay in the Dragon Lakeview Mansion Area.

At that moment, at the train station, Lu Chen and Du Fei had waited for half an hour and were starting to get a bad feeling when they saw that Zhou Zunfei's men still had not brought Qiqi over.

"It has been half an hour. Why is my daughter not here yet?" asked Lu Chen as

he frowned.

Zhou Zunfei had been so busy mocking Lu Chen that he did not realize that half an hour had passed. Upon hearing what Lu Chen asked, Zhou Zunfei froze for a moment.

He only did this to take back the contracts of the rough stone channels; he had given up all thoughts of killing off Lu Chen after he found out that Lu Chen had Xie Weihao supporting him.

"What's the matter? Where is she?" Zhou Zunfei turned to ask.

"Let me call and rush them a little. Maybe there's a traffic congestion," answered the burly man who made the call earlier.

However, right after Zhou Zunfei nodded, he heard the burly man say, "Zhou Hu is not picking up his phone."

"Try calling him again." Zhou Zunfei started frowning. It was only 2 kilometers and he did not believe that the journey would take more than half an hour. It was by car too, at that.

He had arranged for a meeting with Lu Chen to make a deal with him and if anything happened out of the plan, he would be put in a difficult situation.

Suddenly, Zhou Zunfei started to feel a sense of foreboding.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"Bring two men with you and go check it out," Zhou Zunfei said in a deep voice when he saw that the man still couldn't get through Zhou Hu's phone.

The muscular man nodded, and led two men off the train station platform.

"Zhou Zunfei, if anything happens to my daughter, I will kill you today!" Lu Chen shouted in a deep voice.

"Are you threatening me?" Being the arrogant person he was, Zhou Zunfei's expression soured when Lu Chen threatened him.

"Make of it what you will. I advise you to tell me where my daughter is now. If you dare to play any tricks, I don't mind shooting you now," Lu Chen drew out his pistol and pointed it at Zhou Zunfei's head.

He could vaguely feel that Qiqi was in danger again. If she fell into the hands of someone else, he could still give the kidnapppers money or whatever the kidnapppers wanted to rescue Qiqi.

But if she had fallen into Xiao Bieqing's hands...

He didn't dare to continue that thought. The more he thought about it, the colder his hands and feet felt.

Seeing that Lu Chen was pointing his gun at Zhou Zunfei's head, Zhou Zunfei's men also aimed their guns at Lu Chen and Du Fei, while Du Fei also drew the pistol strapped to his waist.

"Put down your guns, otherwise I will kill him with one shot!" Lu Chen shouted in a deep voice.

Everyone dared not move; no one dared to shoot without Zhou Zunfei's order.

"Make them put down their guns!" Lu Chen hit Zhou Zunfei's forehead with the gun and shouted in a deep voice.

Zhou Zunfei's expression was quite dark. It has never crossed his mind that Lu Chen would preemptively take him hostage first.

However, he believed that Lu Chen wouldn't dare to kill him.

But that was under normal circumstances.

At this moment, Lu Chen was crazy

worried about his daughter after all. Who knew if he would do something insane all of a sudden?

"Put down all your guns," Zhou Zunfei took a deep breath and said to his subordinates.

If he had known that Lu Chen was such a decisive and merciless man, he wouldn't have gone so close to Lu Chen. He regretted his arrogance just now.

However, what worried him even more was Zhou Hu's situation. Why hasn't he come after so long? I can't even get through his phone.

He was in Lu Chen's hands now. If something happened to Lu Chen's daughter, he really didn't know how to explain himself to Lu Chen.

Is the Zuo Family thinking of double-crossing him? Zhou Zunfei suddenly thought of Zuo Qingcheng.

Zuo Qingcheng was the one who came up with this plan and had also provided him with the location of Qiqi's kindergarten, but in the end no one from the Zuo Family

showed up. They said that they would use 100 million to buy the rough stone channel back from him when the time was right.

Zhou Zunfei agreed with the plan. As long as Qiqi was in his hands, he believed that Lu Chen would definitely give in, so he didn't care whether anyone from the Zuo Family showed up.

Thinking about it now, he felt as if he was being used by the Zuo Family.

In fact, he thought too much.

The Zuo Family—including Zuo Qingcheng and even the patriarch of the Zuo Family—had been tricked by Lu Chen so many times to the point where they were afraid of Lu Chen. Coupled with the tragedy of the Zhang family, it was indeed impossible for them to have a fall out with Lu Chen just for a rough stone channel.

They did not dare to participate in fear that Lu Chen would doubt them. If Zhou Zunfei succeeded, they would rather spend 100 million to buy back the rough channel from Zhou Zunfei than risk facing Lu Chen.

"Kick all the guns over to me!" Du Fei

shouted with the gun in his hand pointed at the crowd.

Everyone looked at Zhou Zunfei, and when he nodded, they all kicked their guns over.

Du Fei put away all the guns; there were more than a dozen in total. Then, he called Hu Biao and the others to come in with the others instead of standing guard outside.

Soon, Hu Biao brought more than 20 men to the train station. Watching so many people show up at once, Zhou Zunfei couldn't help but glance at Lu Chen, feeling a little surprised.

He originally thought that although Lu Chen had Xie Weihao's backing, he wouldn't have anything to do with the Mafia underworld.

However, Du Fei and the others were obviously members of the Mafia underworld. He couldn't help but sweat.

These people obviously had been lying in wait to ambush them outside. Even if he got the rough stone channel today, he wouldn't be able to leave Chongqing safely.

Under Du Fei's commands, Hu Biao and others tied up all of Zhou Zunfei's men.

"Tell me! Where is my daughter?" Lu Chen pressed the muzzle against Zhou Zunfei's forehead and said in a deep voice.

Although Zhou Zunfei's forehead hurt from the muzzle being pressed forcefully against it, when he saw Lu Chen's cold eyes, he still relented.

"I'll take you there," Zhou Zunfei said, throwing up his hands.

At this time, he was too weak to beat them, so of course he could only do as they say.

Zhou Zunfei didn't go there by car, instead they went by foot. Lu Chen felt that the place was definitely not too far away, so he didn't drive either.

Meanwhile, Hu Biao was guarding the few dozen people, so Du Fei also went over there with Lu Chen.

He went with him so that they could protect each other in case of any accidents.

A few minutes later, the trio that Zhou Zunfei had called before arrived with Zhou Hu, blood still running down his forehead.

But after a simple bandage, he was fine.

When the four of them saw that Lu Chen had a gun against Zhou Zunfei's head, their expressions suddenly changed, and they whipped out their pistols.

This time, Zhou Zunfei hurriedly shouted before Lu Chen could say a word, "Lower all your guns and throw them to the ground!"

When Zhou Zunfei saw that Zhou Hu had arrived injured, he knew something was wrong.

He had fallen into Lu Chen's hands, plus Lu Chen's daughter was missing under his care. He had to take responsibility for this matter, otherwise Lu Chen would really kill him with one shot.

Of course, he couldn't let his subordinates anger Lu Chen.

Upon hearing this, the four threw their guns at their feet unwillingly.

"Kick it over here," Du Fei said coldly.

The four of them did so, and Du Fei took the opportunity to put away the four pistols.

When Lu Chen didn't see Qiqi there, his heart sank. The veins on his gun-holding hand stood out, and a strong urge to murder slowly rose from within him.

"What's the matter? Where is she?" Zhou Zunfei looked at Zhou Hu with a dark expression, his eyes full of anger.

Zhou Hu trembled, and after taking a breath, he said weakly, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I was too careless, and lost the hostage."

"You useless piece of trash! What's going on?" Zhou Zunfei shouted angrily.

Zhou Hu's face was grim and also a little angry. He said in embarrassment, "When I got your call at that time, I took the hostage and was about to get into the car. I didn't know that there was another person on the construction site. Then, I was knocked out by him with a stick from behind."

"You trash! A full-fledged nincompoop! You can't even finish such a simple task. I'll teach you a lesson when we get back!" Zhou Zunfei was furious. If it weren't for Lu Chen's gun against his forehead, he would have rushed over and kicked Zhou Hu with all his might.

"Are you sure that the person is really a worker on the construction site?" Lu Chen asked in a deep voice.

"Why the f*ck should I answer you? Who do you think you are?" Zhou Hu was already feeling depressed, so when he heard Lu Chen's words, he immediately cursed.

Bang!

Lu Chen fired at him without a word.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Everyone was startled, especially Zhou Zunfei, who almost fell down in shock. They didn't expect Lu Chen to actually open fire.

But soon they were relieved. Lu Chen fired, but the bullet only hit Zhou Hu in the leg.

"Believe it or not, my next shot will blast your head off." Lu Chen looked at Zhou Hu, who was paralyzed on the ground and holding his left leg with a painful expression on his face, an icy chill in his eyes.

Zhou Hu raised his head and glanced at Lu Chen in pain. Just one glance was enough to make him lose his mind.

The murderous intent in Lu Chen's eyes was that he had never seen before. Although he was a mass murderer himself too, at this moment, Lu Chen's eyes actually made him feel a chill creep into his heart.

A certain something called fear that hadn't risen in his heart for many years was slowly spreading throughout his body.

"I don't know if he is a real worker, but

when I first saw him, his eyes were filled with fear. When I scolded him, his face even turned pale in shock." Zhou Hu was scared out of his wits. He looked at Lu Chen's cold, merciless eyes and finally answered Lu Chen's question.

"Do you want to f*cking die? Are you seriously telling me that he dared to betray you just because you scolded him? And you're saying that he even took your hostage away? Are you f*cking kidding me?" Lu Chen shouted angrily, his gun aimed at Zhou Hu.

"Mr. Lu, what I said is true. I don't know what is wrong with him. How could he betray me like that? If I knew he had the guts to do so, I would've taken him down with a single shot." Zhou Hu had a grim expression as regret filled his heart. The fact that he, the boss of the Mafia underworld in the Central Plains, was actually backstabbed by a construction worker, made him very embarrassed.

Lu Chen observed Zhou Hu's expression. Zhou Hu didn't seem like he was faking it, so he believed him for the time being. As long as Qiqi didn't fall into Xiao Bieqing's hands, he was relieved.

"Zhou Zunfei, if anything happens to my daughter, I will kill you first before destroying the entire Zhou family!" Lu Chen glanced at Zhou Zunfei coldly, then took out his phone and called Xu Zuojun.

At this moment, Lu Chen's heartless words made everyone tremble, regardless of whether it was Zhou Zunfei or his subordinates.

No one doubted Lu Chen's determination.

If they were Lu Chen, they would definitely do the same too.

"Director Xu, my daughter seems to be in the hands of a construction worker. It happened about half an hour or so ago, at the construction site behind the original old train station in the west side of the city. Yeah. My daughter is in your hands." Lu Chen put away the phone and prepared to go to the construction site first to take a look.

"Call them all over and look for her at the construction site," Lu Chen said to Du Fei, and walked to the construction site alone.

Du Fei let all the others in, tied up Zhou

Zunfei and the others, and said, "Liu Yi, take them all back first and keep a close eye on them. I will hold you accountable if anything happens."

Liu Yi nodded and said, "Okay."

Then he asked a group of his men to escort Zhou Zunfei and the others to the car heading back to Sakura Nightclub.

Meanwhile, Du Fei took the remaining men to the construction site to look for Qiqi.

Of course, when they went to the construction site, they called over all the connections that they managed to contact. They had to find Qiqi no matter what, even if that meant they had to dig through the ground.

"Mr. Liu, which underground force are you from?" In the car, Zhou Zunfei asked Liu Yi, who was personally watching over him .

Liu Yi looked back at Zhou Zunfei and said mockingly, "Why? Are you trying to probe?"

Zhou Zunfei smiled awkwardly, and said, "Mister, you're being too sceptical. I am from Central Plains. There's no use for me

to probe into your matters, right? I'm just a little curious. Why do you all follow Lu Chen's commands so obediently?"

Liu Yi sneered, "Do you want to know the answer? I don't mind telling you. Young Master Lu and Big Boss Du are good friends. Plus, Young Master Lu's true identity is very mysterious. Someone like you would never be able to figure him out. Do you think Young Master Lu depends on Xie Weihao? Haha, let me tell you the truth, even the Four Great Families in Chongqing dare not provoke Young Master Lu easily, let alone foreigners like you. They all have to bow down their heads in front of Young Master Lu."

Was Lu Chen really that powerful?

When Zhou Zunfei and the others heard that, they all took a deep breath.

Only now did they know what a powerful man they had provoked.

That kid was a legendary figure who was completely above the Four Great Families in Chongqing.

Listening to his accent, he is a typical

Beijinger. Is he from a wealthy family in Beijing?

Zhou Zunfei suddenly regretted his actions. It was just a rough stone channel; he shouldn't have come here to risk his life.

He finally understood why the Zuo family didn't dare to fight and snatch back the rough stone channel from Lu Chen.

It was because the Zuo family didn't dare to provoke Lu Chen at all.

"Damn it, I fell into Zuo Qingcheng's trap. F*ck!" Zhou Zunfei cursed fiercely in his heart.

He should have known that Lu Chen wasn't a pushover. But at this point, it was too late to regret his actions. He could only pray that Lu Chen's daughter would be fine, otherwise he had no doubts that Lu Chen would kill him.

...

At this time, on the bus going to Saddle Hill, Yu Bing was sending Qiqi back to the Dragon Lakeview Mansion Area.

It was not rush hour so there were not many buses.

Yu Bing told stories to Qiqi the whole way. Before long, a smile appeared on Qiqi's face. It was obvious that she had already trusted Yu Bing.

"What's your name?" Yu Bing asked Qiqi.

"My name is Lu Qiqi," Qiqi said.

"Where's your father?" Yu Bing asked curiously, thinking of the young man in the park who had turned and smiled at him that night.

"My dad's name is Lu Chen. My dad is a boss, and he's very rich. He often buys me many cute toys." Qiqi beamed with pride whenever she spoke of her dad.

Lu Chen?

Is he the owner of that small supermarket?

Yu Bing was startled as he suddenly remembered a small supermarket owner who had donated 100 million during the earthquake. This was hot news in Chongqing in those few days.

At the time, the news also mentioned that the owner of the small supermarket was Lu Chen, who was also a young man in his 20s.

It should be him. Chongqing's youngest tycoon, the supermarket owner in his 20s, is also called Lu Chen, Yu Bing guessed in his heart.

Yu Bing suddenly became emotional. Since he saved Qiqi, he believed that Lu Chen would definitely be grateful to him. He even felt that Lu Chen might give himself a handsome sum of money in return.

But he once helped me during my most difficult times, so I shouldn't accept his money even if he wants to give me hundreds of thousands. If he insists, I'll say that he has already paid me back in the past. Then, I won't have to give him the five thousand he gave me back, Yu Bing thought as the bus arrived at the stop.

The bus was still some distance away from Dragon Lakeview Mansion Area, so Yu Bing had no choice but to carry Qiqi as he walked there.

Chapter 246 Another Accident

Suddenly, an Audi A8 stopped next to Yu Bing. Before Yu Bing could react, he saw a muscular man getting off the car and giving him a knife hand strike on the back of his neck.

Yu Bing snorted and fell down weakly as he looked back at the muscular man.

Then, the big man carried Qiqi up and got on to the Audi A8. After that, he started the car and drove away.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Lu Chen, I’ll have your head if anything happens to Qiqi!” Outside the police station, Lin Yijun glared at Lu Chen with eyes bloodshot from crying.

Having gotten off work early today and thinking that it had been a long time since she had personally picked Qiqi up, she had appeared at the kindergarten and received the unpleasant news that Qiqi had been kidnapped that morning.

She had given Lu Chen a call immediately and only then did he tell her the truth.

Lin Yijun was both terrified and worried since it had been a whole day and they still hadn’t found her daughter.

Everything is Lu Chen’s fault! No one would have kidnapped Qiqi if he hadn’t rubbed them the wrong way!

Meanwhile, Lu Chen puffed his cigarette in tormented silence.

He watched the traffic recordings and noticed that someone had brought Qiqi onto the bus going toward the direction of Dragon Lakeview Mansion District.

There were no cameras that recorded the Dragon Lakeview Mansion District within those two kilometers, so there was no way of knowing what had happened after that.

However, the man who had taken Qiqi looked rather familiar. Anxiety overwhelmed Lu Chen when he recognized the man to be someone whom he'd helped in the past.

"The one called Yu Bing has been arrested. They're bringing him here now," Xu Zuojun announced as he walked out while lighting a cigarette.

"What about Qiqi? Is she with him?" Lu Chen asked wildly.

Xu Zuojun could only shake his head.

Lu Chen was disappointed and his worry grew all the more.

When Yu Bing was brought to the station, he told them all about how he'd recognized Qiqi and knocked Zhou Hu out to rescue her. Only from his story did Lu Chen find out that Qiqi had been kidnapped by another party.

But even Yu Bing had no idea who Qiqi's kidnapper was.

The news only made Lu Chen grow more worried as he thought of Xie Bieqing's underling, Mr. Mu, whom they had been trying to locate for ages.

"I don't care who you are! I'll make sure you die a horrible death if you dare to touch a hair on my daughter's head!"

Lu Chen gritted his teeth and his eyes gleamed with killing intent.

The night passed in silence as the police and Du Fei's men did their best to pin down Qiqi's whereabouts.

Both Lu Chen and Lin Yijun also had a sleepless night.

Lu Chen finally received a phone call from an unknown number around nine in the morning when he and Lin Yijun were out for breakfast.

The man calling him was a stranger with a Chongqing accent.

He had deliberately altered his voice, but

Lu Chen could still discern it from his speech.

“If you want to save your daughter, go to the Rough Stone Association and register as the Chongqing Rough Stone Association’s representative at the upcoming Stone Gambling Competition in Zhonghai before one in the afternoon.”

With that, the caller hung up abruptly without giving Lu Chen a chance to ask any questions.

The Rough Stone Association?

And a Stone Gambling Competition?

Lu Chen narrowed his eyes. His first thought was that the members of the Rough Stone Association had kidnapped Qiqi.

However, he quickly shook his head as he didn’t believe that they would do such a thing.

Nor did he believe that they would dare to.

It was obviously the caller’s plot.

But what did they mean by it?

Lu Chen rubbed his temples, but tried as he might, he couldn't figure out what the kidnapper's intentions were.

"Who called?" Lin Yijun asked.

"They did," Lu Chen replied softly.

"The ones who kidnapped Qiqi?" Lin Yijun demanded wildly.

"Yes." Lu Chen nodded.

"What did they say and how much money do they want? You need to give them the money—no matter how much they asked for—do you hear me?!" Lin Yijun barked in a low, guttural voice.

"If only they wanted money," Lu Chen expressed bitterly.

If they had wanted money, he wouldn't blink an eye no matter how many billions they asked for. Instead, they wanted him to be Chongqing's representative in the Stone Gambling Competition. As such, he couldn't understand their intentions at all.

Lu Chen continued when Lin Yijun looked at him quizzically. "They want me to represent Chongqing at the Stone Gambling Competition in Zhonghai."

"They want you to join a Stone Gambling Competition?" Lin Yijun was stunned. What are their intentions?

Lu Chen nodded and sent the caller's number to Xu Zuojun. "Do me a favor and check who this is and where he's calling from." Lu Chen messaged him.

Xu Zuojun received Lu Chen's message while he was in the bureau and immediately put his staff to tracing the phone number and was quickly given an answer—the caller's identity was unregistered.

He then made a call to the number, only to be notified that the phone had been switched off.

When Lu Chen received the update on the caller's identity from Xu Zuojun, he set out for the Rough Stone Association without hesitation since he had no choice but to do as they said.

Lu Chen reached the Rough Stone Association by ten in the morning.

In the Rough Stone Association, Lu Chen saw the Stone Gambling Masters Yu Zhengtao, Huang Youjun, and Lei Mingchao as well as the Zuo, Zhang and Liu Families' patriarchs Zuo Zhengyi, Zhang Shengqiao and Liu Qifu.

His gaze swept across their faces as they too studied him.

"Lu Chen! Come, come, take a seat!" Huang Youjun exclaimed in surprise.

They had just been wondering whom to send to the upcoming Stone Gambling Competition in Zhonghai as Chongqing's representative. The three Stone Gambling Masters all knew that although they reigned supreme in Chongqing, they were nothing to the rest of the Stone Gambling world.

Which was why none of them had wanted to participate and make a laughing stock of himself.

To their surprise, Lu Chen had turned up out of the blue.

Even Yu Zhengtao and Lei Mingchao who were opinionated against Lu Chen no longer wore long faces.

“Lu Chen, are you going to represent Chongqing at the Stone Gambling Competition in Zhonghai?” The Liu Family Patriarch, Liu Qifu, looked at Lu Chen with anticipation.

Lu Chen might be young, but Liu Qifu didn't dare to slight him since Lu Chen was backed by important figures like Xie Weihao.

Besides, he wouldn't dare to underestimate the young man who had almost destroyed the Zhang Family and single-handedly at that.

The other two old men—Zuo Zhengyi and Zhang Shengqiao—also watched Lu Chen, though in Zhang Shengqiao's case, his eyes held a hint of animosity.

It was no wonder since Lu Chen had made the Zhang Family a laughing stock and caused them to lose billions, and even caused Zhang Shengqiao to vomit blood in anger, thus it was only natural that he held no goodwill toward Lu Chen.

Lu Chen's eyes narrowed slightly at Liu Qifu's words. Could they really be the ones who kidnapped Qiqi just to force me to attend the competition in Zhonghai?

"I'll represent you, as long as you're not afraid that I'll bring shame to the Chongqing Rough Stone Association's name," Lu Chen expressed as he arched an eyebrow.

"How could we? To be honest with you, Lu Chen, you were the first candidate we thought of when we received the invitation from the Zhonghai Rough Stone Association!" Huang Youjun smiled and exclaimed enthusiastically.

When they received the invitation just a few days ago, they had truly wanted Lu Chen to be their representative.

However, both Yu Zhengtao and Lei Mingchao hadn't been willing to put their grudges aside and ask Lu Chen courteously while Huang Youjun had been uncertain and afraid that Lu Chen would decline.

After all, since Lin Dahai had invited him to Lu Chen's housewarming party, Huang

Youjun already knew that unlike themselves, who had dedicated their lives to the study of rough stone, Lu Chen was a conventional businessman.

He hadn't given Lu Chen a call to invite him to be their representative as he wasn't sure whether Lu Chen was really up for it.

Liu Qifu and the other old men wore smiles on their faces now that Lu Chen had agreed to take part in the competition as Chongqing's representative.

Considering how Lu Chen had easily defeated Zheng Xihe—the country's third ranking Stone Gambler—at the Zuo Family's antiques fair, they all saw a ray of possibility that Chongqing's Rough Stone Association would be able to stake its claim to glory if Lu Chen won the competition.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The Chongqing Rough Stone Association soon released the news that Lu Chen would represent Chongqing at the upcoming Stone Gambling Competition in Middle Sea through the media. During their introduction of Lu Chen, they brought up the fact that he had defeated Zheng Xihe at the Zuo Family's antiques fair not long ago.

Instantly, the antique and rough stone lovers in Chongqing were all filled with anticipation and many jewelers and antique collectors expressed their intention to follow Lu Chen to Middle Sea in order to witness his victory.

The Stone Gambling Competition in Middle Sea would begin in two days' time, on the 20th of June. Meanwhile, Lu Chen spent every second of those two days searching for Qiqi.

But it was as if she had vanished into thin air. Lu Chen used all his power and influence but received nary a whisper of her whereabouts.

Just as he was about to set out for Middle Sea, he received a call from yet another unknown number. This time, the caller

wanted him to take home the championship.

Lu Chen wasn't worried about that since he was now just as good at stone gambling as Elder Yun, who was the best stone gambler in the country and wouldn't be at an insignificant competition like this. As long as Elder Yun didn't participate as a contestant, Lu Chen had full confidence in winning the championship.

Lu Chen sent the caller's new phone number to Xu Zuojun only to receive the same findings as the last time.

Chongqing Rough Stone Association sent Huang Youjun to accompany Lu Chen to Middle Sea. However, the other companion on their trip took Lu Chen by surprise. It was Chen Churan's good friend, Lan Ling.

"Mr. Lu, you don't mind if I accompany the two of you to Middle Sea, do you?" Lan Ling smiled sweetly at him.

Lu Chen spread his hands. What was there to mind? He was just curious as to why Lan Ling had stayed back in Chongqing for so long.

Chen Churan's good friend couldn't be an ordinary person either. He still remembered the first time he saw her at Chen Churan's dinner party though it had been a long time since.

Of course, Lan Ling could have come to Chongqing a second time to open a company or something, so Lu Chen didn't think twice about it.

"Master Huang, these are your tickets. Please prepare to board soon." Lan Ling pulled out three tickets and handed two of them to Huang Youjun.

Lu Chen had thought that the Chongqing Rough Stone Association would handle everything, but now he realized that Lan Ling had been the one to book the plane tickets.

On the plane, after Lan Ling had gone to the restroom, Huang Youjun explained things to Lu Chen, "Miss Lan is sponsoring our expenses for this competition. She'll also give the Chongqing Rough Stone Association another 10 million on behalf of the Lan Family if we win the championship."

“Is the Lan Family also from Chongqing?”
Lu Chen asked.

“No, she’s from the Lan Family of the central plains, but I heard that they plan to open a jewelry store in Chongqing though I can’t confirm the rumors,” Huang Youjun shook his head and revealed.

Lu Chen nodded. It would make sense if that was true.

If the Lan Family wanted to open a jewelry store in Chongqing, using the Chongqing Rough Stone Association to achieve recognition would certainly be more effective than endorsing celebrities to promote their products.

After all, the Chongqing Rough Stone Association’s three Stone Gambling Masters wielded more influence in the stone gambling community than most celebrities.

“Let’s take a break,” Huang Youjun suggested when he saw that Lu Chen wasn’t interested in chatting.

Lu Chen nodded and lay back on the reclining chair to rest his eyes with Huang

Youjun following suit.

It wasn't long before Lan Ling came back out of the restroom. Realizing that the two passengers in the row in front of Lu Chen were speaking rather loudly, she frowned and approached them. "I'm sorry to interrupt, but my friends are resting. Would you mind lowering your volume?"

Her tone and demeanor were both polite but the two passengers seemed quite upset over her sudden interruption.

The two passengers in the row before Lu Chen were a young man and a woman, both of whom looked to be from affluent families from the way they dressed.

"What does it matter to you if we're talking? Are there any rules that forbid passengers from talking on planes? You should buy your own private plane then if you think it's too noisy!" The young woman was pretty, but her features were now twisted into a repulsive state.

She looked Lan Ling up and down and mistook her for just another ordinary person when she saw that Lan Ling's oversized glasses and outfit weren't from

any of the major brands.

“I’m just asking you to keep it down,” Lan Ling continued trying to persuade them.

The young man lifted his head and sarcastically asked, “How about this? Is this volume alright?”

He deliberately raised his voice by several notches as he looked at her mockingly.

Lan Ling still maintained her polite demeanor, but the young woman stood up and glared at Lan Ling. “If you don’t have the money to buy a private plane, then just shut up and stop being a busybody,” she demanded.

Lan Ling’s brows wrinkled, but neither the young man nor the young woman saw the change in her expression as it was hidden behind her oversized sunglasses. The young man continued mocking her obliviously, “Xia Yi, I believe you think too highly of her. Do you think that anyone could afford a private plane? Let’s just ignore her and carry on.”

The young man was Di Jun. He came from Middle Sea and like Xia Yi, his family was

rich and ran their own companies, hence their snobbish attitudes.

Besides, he was courting Xia Yi and wanted to show off in front of her, so there was no way he would back down from Lan Ling.

“That’s right, what’s the point of picking a fight with a woman? What a bother!” Xia Yi sneered and sat back down, completely disregarding Lan Ling.

“I just want you to lower your volume. Is that so hard?” Lan Ling’s brows furrowed as she asked.

“Keep yapping and believe me, I’ll slap you! Do you think I won’t hit you just because you’re a woman?!”

Di Jun was instantly cheesed off. He felt that Lan Ling was intentionally finding fault with him and Xia Yi. So what if they were chatting? Had anyone decreed that they couldn’t have a conversation on the plane?

Most importantly, he was courting Xia Yi, so how could he back down in front of her?

She dares to say that we're too loud?

Isn't she just asking for trouble?

Di Jun stood up and glared at Lan Ling menacingly.

Frightened by Di Jun's demeanor, Lan Ling instinctively took two steps backward and her sunglasses fell to the floor in her haste and desperation to get away.

Di Jun was rooted to the spot when he saw Lan Ling's face which was no longer obscured by her sunglasses.

Xia Yi was pretty, but nothing compared to Lan Ling's stunning beauty; one was a princess, the other was a maid.

Naturally, Lan Ling was the princess while Xia Yi, whom he had been courting, was the maid.

In that instant, the rage on Di Jun's face melted away and his heart fluttered.

He obviously hadn't seen many beauties like Lan Ling before.

Lan Ling had just bent down to retrieve her

glasses when another hand picked it up before her.

“Thank you,” Lan Ling thanked Lu Chen in a small voice as she took her glasses from him.

“Are you alright?” Lu Chen asked.

He had neither the mood nor the inclination to interfere, but Lan Ling had antagonized the young man and woman so that he and Huang Youjun could have a good rest, thus he felt that he had no choice but to step in when he saw the young man get up to threaten Lan Ling.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"I'm alright." Lan Ling shook her head.

Lu Chen hadn't wanted to interfere, but when he saw the fear in Lan Ling's eyes, he sighed inside and looked toward Di Jun.

Immediately, he was filled with disdain when he saw Di Jun's face covered in covetous amazement of Lan Ling's beauty.

"What kind of man are you to raise your hand against a woman?" Lu Chen asked in a deep voice.

"Who are you and what does it have to do with you? Get lost if you don't want to get a thrashing from me!" Di Jun found being called out by Lu Chen unacceptable. After all, he was hot-tempered and didn't even hesitate to raise a hand to Lan Ling, let alone come to blows with Lu Chen.

Lu Chen laughed icily and delivered a resounding slap to Di Jun's face, grabbing and lifting Di Jun by his collar before he could even turn his head back.

"A goon like you dares to talk to me like that?!"

Lu Chen sneered and delivered another

tight slap to Di Jun's face.

He'd been in a funk when Di Jun had dared to aggravate him, obviously the guy had a death wish.

There weren't many passengers in the first-class cabin, but they were all rattled and stood up to watch the commotion unfolding in front of them.

"|—"

Di Jun hadn't finished his sentence when he received yet another slap.

This time, Lu Chen didn't hold back and it showed in the red finger marks he left on Di Jun's face. On the other hand, Di Jun finally kept his peace as he had been smacked silly and his head still reeled from the impact.

"What right do you have to slap him?" Xia Yi looked at Lu Chen and barked haughtily at him.

Lu Chen turned his head and looked toward Xia Yi. Just one look from him was enough to make her shut up.

Xia Yi felt as if she had been dunked in ice. The look in Lu Chen's eyes had shaken her to the core and her face paled.

Some of the passengers recognized Di Jun and Xia Yi.

"That guy is done for! He's dead meat once he gets off the plane."

"Why? He's so strong! Who would dare to give him trouble?"

"You don't know, do you? The young man he just slapped is Di Jun and he's the son of Middle Sea's real estate mogul, Di Yaohui, while the young woman over there is called Xia Yi and she's the daughter of Xia Group's president. He slapped Di Jun and threatened Xia Yi, do you think that the Di and Xia Families will let him off the hook?"

"Oh, Di Yaohui... No wonder. He's a famous real estate developer in Middle Sea. I heard that he keeps a bunch of thugs on his payroll to handle all the demolitions and evacuations for his company, so no one dares to get on his wrong side."

"Yup. Those men are from the

underground forces and will do just about anything and everything. That's why I said that the brat is done for when he gets off the plane."

Worry showed on Huang Youjun's face when he heard the bystanders' words.

He knew that Lu Chen had the reputation of being a hard man back in Chongqing, but he wasn't on home territory anymore. It was hard to tell what could happen here, so he tried to advise Lu Chen, "Lu Chen, why don't you just let it go?"

Even Lan Ling's brows crinkled as she hadn't thought that the young man and woman whom she had antagonized had come from such a background. She was just about to persuade Lu Chen to let it go when Di Jun's voice rang out coldly. "Did you hear that? My father is Di Yaohui, so let go of me if you don't want to die. Otherwise, when you get off this plane..."

Hearing his threat, Lu Chen raised his hand and gave him another tight slap. "Is Di Yaohui so amazing? If he is, how did he have a piece of trash like you as a son?"

Although he didn't have the advantage of

being on his home territory, Lu Chen knew clearly that there were only two ways for Di Yaohui to come at him. The first was to exert pressure on him via the authorities while the second was to get the underground forces to deal with him.

He wasn't worried about the first and neither did he believe that Di Yaohui would use it unless he knew his identity. As for the second, he thought nothing of it.

Besides, there was a pitful of fury and frustration boiling within him. If any of them dared to antagonize him, he wouldn't mind massacring all the underground forces in Middle Sea.

Di Jun was frothing at the mouth from his anger at being called trash and getting slapped by Lu Chen once again, but he remained silent even as he glared because of the fear he now felt for Lu Chen.

The commotion finally alarmed the air marshals and a couple of them rushed over while bellowing, "What are you doing?! Let go, now!"

Lu Chen released Di Jun when he heard the air marshals' orders. He had let out

some of his anger with the slaps he'd given Di Jun, thus there was no need to hold it against him anymore.

Di Jun complained to the air marshals, "He assaulted me! If I'm not mistaken, assaulting someone on a plane is grounds for revoking his flying privileges!"

The air marshals seemed to recognize Di Jun and sucked up to him. "Young Master Di, don't worry! Since the brat went against the law, we won't let him off easily."

Di Jun took the tissues that Xia Yi handed to him and wiped away the trickle of blood at the corner of his mouth. "Brat, I'd be shaming my own family's name if I don't pulverize you when we get off the plane!"

Lu Chen sat back down and closed his eyes to rest. He couldn't be bothered about toothless threats like that.

The bystanders all shook their heads at his behavior.

This brat really thinks too much of himself, disregarding even the air marshals like that. Isn't he just looking for trouble?

“Show me your ID,” one of the air marshals demanded in a low voice, angered by Lu Chen’s insolence.

“Sir, it’s just a misunderstanding...” Huang Youjun pleaded, trying to save Lu Chen’s neck.

“A misunderstanding? He slapped Young Master Di’s face until it swelled, is that a misunderstanding?! We need to take stern action when it comes to troublemakers like him otherwise no one would fly with Pengcheng Airlines again,” the air marshal contended frostily.

“Leave it until it’s time to disembark and let me rest in peace for now.” Lu Chen slowly opened his eyes and gave a chilling gaze toward the air marshals.

The air marshals actually nodded instinctively, shaken by the ice in Lu Chen’s gaze.

The bystanders’ eyes widened in disbelief at the sight before them.

The air marshals came back to their senses, but for inexplicable reasons, Lu Chen still perturbed them and so they just

slunk away peevishly.

Lan Ling watched Lu Chen silently with a wavering gleam in her eyes that blinked from worry, to anger, and then to regret as if she was at war with herself.

Frustrated and resentful that even the air marshals had been frightened off by Lu Chen, the rage within Di Jun welled up again.

“I’ll put my family to shame if I don’t make mincemeat of him when we get off the plane!” Di Jun huffed after sitting down.

“I’ll have no use for you if you don’t get him back for this,” Xia Yi warned him in an emotionless voice.

There was no way she could ever like a spineless, undependable man.

Di Jun felt a pang in his heart and he hastily spoke out, “Xia Yi, don’t worry. We’ll be on my home base once we get off the plane. Even if he’s a big shot, he’ll have to crawl on his knees while he’s on my territory!”

“Yup. Don’t let me down. I’ll help you too! I

can't let him off for daring to slap you on the plane! I'll make sure that the airlines bans him from future flights," Xia Yi nodded and asserted.

"But he even scared away the air marshals," Di Jun reasoned mistrustfully.

Xia Yi giggled and told him, "My dad is good friends with the captain; I'll give him a call once we get off the plane. That jerk isn't stepping a foot outside the airport."

"Really? That's great! Let's harass him a bit before I call my men to rough him up."

Di Jun instantly brightened at the suggestion.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The surrounding passengers all looked at Lu Chen with mirth on their faces when they overheard Xia Yi and Di Jun's conversation.

Lu Chen behaved atrociously earlier, thus it would be his own fault if he was banned from future flights.

Huang Youjun and Lan Ling were both apprehensive. If Lu Chen was banned from future flights, they would only be able to take the high-speed rail home.

Before everything else, Lu Chen was here to participate in a competition. If this affected his mood, would he still be able to focus during the competition?

"Mr. Lu, I'm so sorry to have dragged you into this mess," Lan Ling told him apologetically.

"It's not a problem." Lu Chen shook his head without even bothering to open his eyes. After all, the matter was inconsequential to him.

Two hours later, the plane finally reached Middle Sea Airport. While Huang Youjun had been dreading their arrival, Lu Chen

slept throughout.

In fact, Lu Chen hadn't been able to sleep properly over the last two days because he was worried about Qiqi. He felt fresh and energetic now that he had caught up on some of his sleep.

Di Jun and Xia Yi had been trailing behind Lu Chen's small group ever since they landed. Following behind them was a small gaggle of nosy passengers from the same plane who were there in the hopes of a good show.

At the first opportunity she got, Lan Ling called for a car to pick them up.

Only when Lu Chen turned back and glanced at Di Jun and Xia Yi did he remember that they had been plotting to create trouble for him back on the plane. After some thought, he pulled out his phone, then switched it on, and gave Xie Weihao a call.

"I slapped someone on the plane and he wants to revoke my flying privileges. Do you know anyone at the Civil Aviation Administration?" asked Lu Chen.

“Sure I do. What flight are you on?” Xie Weihao inquired.

“It’s a flight on Pengcheng Airlines from Chongqing to Middle Sea,” Lu Chen suggested.

“Alright, I’ll get it settled,” Xie Weihao promised.

Lu Chen hung up. Not ten minutes later, they saw a few airport police officers running toward them.

Xia Yi hastily came forward and pointed them out. “It’s him! He’s the one who assaulted my friend on the plane.”

The police officers looked toward Lu Chen and one of them approached to ask, “Are you the one who assaulted her friend on the plane?”

The small gaggle of nosy passengers earlier looked at Lu Chen mockingly to see whether or not he would admit to it. If he didn’t, they would provide testimony against him as a tiny favor to Di Jun.

“Yes, I did.” Lu Chen’s nod of admission took everyone by surprise.

“Then come with us.” Taken aback by Lu Chen’s cooperation, the police officers didn’t even bother to cuff him.

“Sure.” Still, Lu Chen nodded affably.

“Brat, why are you so meek now? Come on and show us the outrageous behavior you had on the plane earlier!” Di Jun smirked.

Thump !

Without warning, Lu Chen stepped forward and gave Di Jun a kick that sent him flying.

Everyone was stunned.

This brat actually still dares to assault Di Jun?

And in front of the police at that!

The police officers’ jaws dropped. They had thought that Lu Chen wasn’t going to be difficult since he had been so cooperative in the beginning, but it was simply outrageous that he still dared to assault the man in front of them!

“Officers, look how arrogant he is! He isn’t paying you any respect at all! Why aren’t

you arresting him yet?" Xia Yi demanded shrilly.

The police officers' faces turned dark, not only because they were annoyed at Lu Chen but also because it was mortifying to get reprimanded by a woman in public.

"Cuff him now and take him away!" the captain snorted. A police officer immediately took out his handcuffs and secured them on Lu Chen.

Lu Chen actually wore a small smile as he cooperated with them all the way.

Di Jun, having just picked himself off the ground, heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that Lu Chen had finally been cuffed.

He was downright livid. How is that brat so brazen?!

He doesn't even care that he's in front of the police?!

Bloody hell, just wait and see how I'll take care of you when you're sent to the police station!

Di Jun thought viciously as he made a call

to his father to use his contacts in the police station to deal with Lu Chen.

Both Huang Youjun and Lan Ling's faces were pale and worry glimmered in their eyes as they watched Lu Chen get taken away by the police.

If they were in Chongqing or even in the central plains, perhaps they would be able to use their contacts, but this was Middle Sea. Hence, there was nothing they could do here.

Di Jun ended the call and brought Xia Yi to follow the police and Lu Chen out of the airport. He wouldn't be appeased if he didn't see Lu Chen being taken care of.

He'd already figured it all out. Even if Lu Chen was taught a lesson at the police station, he wouldn't let the scoundrel off. Di Jun swore that he would change his name if he didn't castrate Lu Chen once he was released.

However...

They had just exited the airport and walked up to the police car when the captain's face blanched after taking a call.

“May I know if you are Mr. Lu Chen?” the captain turned to Lu Chen and asked courteously.

Di Jun and the others who had followed them out were bewildered. What does the captain mean by that and why is he deviating from the standard procedure all of a sudden?

Shouldn't he be forcing the brat into the car to bring him to the police station right now? What is he asking that for?

Lu Chen smiled knowingly and nodded. “That's right. You can check my ID if you don't believe me.”

He knew that Xie Weihao had made a call to his friend in the Civil Aviation Administration.

“Oh, it really is you, Mr. Lu! I'm so sorry, we've gotten the wrong man. Please excuse us,” the captain said as he personally removed the handcuffs from Lu Chen's wrists, leaving the other police officers baffled.

“It's alright, it's just a misunderstanding.” Lu Chen studied the captain and the police

car beside him before chuckling and declaring, "It looks like your duty gear needs to be replaced. Go back and tell your superior to give me a call. I'll donate 50 million to your police station so that you can replace your duty gears."

Of course, Lu Chen had done that for a reason.

Middle Sea was sure to be one of the larger consumer markets of his science and technology park. If they believed him, he would take the opportunity to make contacts here.

When Yi Qi Technology developed its first product, it would need to be put on exhibit at several international hubs before the official launch.

Chongqing wasn't suitable for this purpose as it hadn't developed into an international hub yet. Due to this, Lu Chen had his eye on Middle Sea.

Which was why it was imperative that he create contacts here sooner rather than later.

It was even possible for him to build his

second science and technology park here.

Of course, that would have to wait until the science and technology park in Chongqing and its research projects were well along.

Everyone was stunned by Lu Chen's announcement.

Donate 50 million to the police station?!

Bloody hell. What a f*cking huge poser!

If he could do that, then he could afford a private plane, so why the heck was he still taking a normal flight?

Not one person believed him.

The captain stared at the name card which Lu Chen had given him and smiled sardonically to himself, not believing that Lu Chen would really donate 50 million to their police station.

Whatever it was, he'd already made up his mind to pass the name card to Chief Liu especially since the latter had personally made a call for Lu Chen to be released. Not to mention that they probably knew each other.

Otherwise, he would be the one at fault if they just happened to bring this up in the future.

Huang Youjun and Lan Ling were both astounded that Lu Chen had been released just like that.

Nevertheless, they were relieved that Lu Chen was fine.

“Are you really going to donate 50 million to them?” Lan Ling asked Lu Chen curiously after they had boarded the car to the hotel.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Why not?” Lu Chen asked coolly.

“Never mind. It’s only natural that we don’t know how the bloody rich live.” Lan Ling laughed it off although disappointment flashed across her eyes.

The way she saw it, Lu Chen was afraid.

He must be trying to curry favor with the local police because he’s afraid of Di Jun and Xia Yi getting retribution from him.

Lan Ling’s assumption was cemented when she inadvertently caught sight of a luxury car trailing behind them.

There was no fear in Lan Ling’s eyes despite her knowing an unknown car was following them.

Instead, a malicious intent gleamed in her eyes.

Of course, Lu Chen, who began resting his eyes once he got in the car, saw neither her expression nor the car that followed them.

He was also unaware that Lan Ling had misunderstood the meaning of his

donation to the police bureau after hearing his conversation with Chief Liu.

The trio lodged in the Presidential Suite of the 5-star hotel—Sheraton.

Lu Chen didn't think anything of it, but Huang Youjun sensed the importance Lan Ling placed on the competition.

Since the competition was at seven the next evening, Lu Chen retired for the day after having dinner and giving Lin Yijun a call.

He'd been exhausted over the last few days and wasn't in the mood for a stroll.

However, his repeated declinations of Lan Ling's invitations made her all the more disappointed in him.

She thought that Lu Chen wasn't going out because he was afraid of being surrounded and beaten up by Di Jun's lackeys.

Di Jun's men were already waiting outside the hotel, but since the president of the Sheraton Hotel wielded more power and influence than Di Jun's father, Di Yaohui, he

didn't dare to let them stir up trouble in the hotel.

Certain that Lu Chen would leave the hotel, Di Jun and his men prepared an ambush outside.

The next day, Lu Chen had just freshened himself when he heard Huang Youjun gripe to him, "Chongqing is so much safer than Middle Sea, you were right not to go out yesterday."

"What happened?" Lu Chen passed Huang Youjun a cigarette as he took a seat beside him.

"The young man and woman who created trouble for us yesterday were murdered and thrown into the Huangpu River. Their bodies were pulled out by some fishermen earlier today. Well, they got what was coming to them." Huang Youjun sighed.

Lu Chen pulled out his phone, thumbed open the news website and was quickly greeted by the news on the headlines.

Both Di Jun and Xia Yi's throats had been slit and killed in one swift motion; their corpses' eyes open and filled with the

terror they had felt at the moments of their deaths.

“Mr. Lu, you’re awake! Would you like to order for room service?” Lan Ling popped out and asked.

Lu Chen kept his phone and mildly asserted, “Let’s go out for lunch.”

Lan Ling was slightly surprised but quickly assumed that Lu Chen was no longer afraid to leave the room because he had found out about Di Jun and Xia Yi’s deaths.

The three of them then went out for lunch together. While Huang Youjun left to use the bathroom, Lu Chen finally confronted Lan Ling.

“Di Jun and Xia Yi are both dead—their throats were slit—and the wounds look like they were inflicted by a dagger in the hands of an assassin with at least ten years of experience in the trade,” Lu Chen stated as he looked Lan Ling in the eye.

“Eek! Really? How do you know that?” Lan Ling cried out and asked in fright.

Lu Chen's eyes narrowed as he watched the subtle changes in Lan Ling's eyes.

This woman's acting is really good, she even nearly fooled me!

"The headlines," Lu Chen coolly informed her.

"Mr. Lu, I'm starting to wonder whether you were the one who sent the assassin after them!" Lan Ling took a deep breath and joked after composing herself.

"It seemed like he affronted you more, considering that he even broke your glasses," Lu Chen pointed out with words hidden between the lines.

"Why would I care about that? They're just glasses! Besides, this is Middle Sea. You can't possibly think that I—a weak woman—was able to do that?" Lan Ling argued, almost at a loss for words.

"What are you thinking? The police wouldn't have cuffed me for so long if you really had been capable of such a thing," Lu Chen joked. It was the first time he'd smiled at Lan Ling during this trip to Middle Sea.

“Exactly. There’s no way I would have let you go through with that if I could avoid it,” Lan Ling returned his joke with a smile.

Both of them spoke with veiled words, and each came to separate conclusions.

There were still several hours to go before the competition began, so Lu Chen personally went and invited Chief Liu from the police force out for a cup of coffee.

Last night, Chief Liu did end up giving Lu Chen a call, whereby Lu Chen actually donated 50 million to the police station. Word of the donation even made its way to Middle Sea’s City Council.

When the head of Middle Sea’s City Council—Wang Zhiming—uncovered Lu Chen’s identity, he personally made a call to Xie Weihao to confirm it. Then, he sat and pondered over Lu Chen’s possible intentions.

There were few in Beijing, let alone Middle Sea, who would invest 50 billion in a science and technology park the way Lu Chen had. If Lu Chen was really going to invest in Middle Sea, he was sure to make a big investment.

Although Middle Sea was an international hub, its development had reached a bottleneck which would be difficult to breach without a huge influx of capital. Hence, Wang Zhiming and his peers had to think of ways to brighten their city's future.

Wang Zhiming paid close attention to the fact that Lu Chen had invited Chief Liu out for coffee and personally made a call to Chief Liu so that he would figure out Lu Chen's stand on the issue.

The two of them requested a private room in the cafe and each ordered a cup of coffee for themselves, cutting to the main topic only after some polite chit chat.

Chief Liu was a straightforward man without the guile of his superiors. When it came to the main topic, he directly asked Lu Chen whether he intended to invest in Middle Sea.

Lu Chen immediately understood that the City Council had put Chief Liu up to that question.

It was the real reason why Lu Chen had invited Chief Liu out for coffee as he had wanted to convey the message that he had

the intention of investing in Middle Sea but at a later date.

In Lu Chen's estimation, within a year, his science and technology park would have at least one or two finished products that could be released for market testing.

Chief Liu took his leave after receiving a confirmation from Lu Chen.

Having recorded his entire conversation with Lu Chen, he handed the recording to Wang Zhiming the minute he returned to the City Council.

Wang Zhiming nodded after he'd finished listening to the recording and wondered if he should fix a meeting with Lu Chen within the next few days.

Huang Youjun greeted Lu Chen when he returned to the hotel room. "Lu Chen, you're back! There's still an hour left to the competition. Do you want to rest for a bit?"

Lu Chen shook his head and replied, "There's no need. The strongest opponent that I could face is the second-ranking Stone Gambling Master, Xiao Zhiyuan, and I have a good idea of his skills—he's not

that much stronger than Zheng Xihe.”

Huang Youjun relaxed and nodded when he saw how confident Lu Chen was. “That’s good, that’s good.”

The Lan Family had been very generous with their sponsorship for the competition and now that Lu Chen had agreed to be their representative, the entire Chongqing Rough Stone Association had high hopes that Lu Chen would bring home the championship.

At six in the evening, Huang Youjun brought Lu Chen and Lan Ling to the competition venue in the Sheraton Hotel.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The Stone Gambling Competition might not have been organized by the authorities, but it was still a national level competition in which countless jewelers invested large amounts—whether in the form of sponsorships or advertisement fees—to increase their brand’s awareness.

The venue was rather large and could hold more than a thousand people. Lu Chen, Huang Youjun and Lan Ling were staggered by the large crowds when they reached.

It was also awfully noisy.

This time, the competition’s organizer was the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association. As it had long been the largest rough stone association in China’s stone gambling community, most of the Rough Stone Associations from various cities and provinces had accepted their invitations.

The competition was being aired live on television and even the banquet below the stage was included in some of the scenes.

The banquet tables had been laid out thoughtfully with wine, water, some cold drinks and dishes. Meanwhile, the three of

them had just found the table allocated for the Chongqing representatives and taken their seats when an old man at the table beside them recognized Huang Youjun and called out, "Huang, did you come from Chongqing all on your own?"

His words left Lan Ling and Lu Chen speechless.

What did he mean by Huang Youjun coming all on his own?

Can't he see the two of us?

This old man evidently has problems with his eyesight.

However, Huang Youjun understood that the old man was referring to Lei Mingchao and Yu Zhengtao.

Seeing that it was an old acquaintance, he just smiled and brushed it off. "Those two old boys are kind of lazy, so they pushed all the errands involving traveling to me."

The truth was that Lei Mingchao and Yu Zhengtao hadn't come mainly because they weren't on good terms with the participant, Lu Chen, and therefore weren't

inclined to come along.

The old man who had called out to Huang Youjun was called Wu Zhonghua, who was the most famous Stone Gambling Master from the Sichuan Rough Stone Association and also its strongest.

Because Chongqing and Sichuan were relatively near, the two Rough Stone Associations frequently interacted, resulting in their Stone Gambling Masters all being well-acquainted with each other.

Wu Zhonghua glanced at Lu Chen and Lan Ling before turning his gaze back to Huang Youjun. "Are you participating yourself?"

Huang Youjun smiled and humbly informed him, "No, I'm not. Lu Chen will be representing Chongqing in the competition."

He proceeded to introduce Lu Chen. "This is Lu Chen. He's our Chongqing's representative."

Taken aback, Wu Zhonghua scrutinized Lu Chen once more.

He knew that Huang Youjun was around the same level as himself. If Huang Youjun wasn't participating, did it mean that this young man was even stronger than Huang Youjun?

Since when did a Stone Gambling Master stronger than Huang Youjun appear in Chongqing, and a young man in his twenties at that?

"What a formidable young man! I couldn't tell that you're a Stone Gambling Master," Wu Zhonghua praised Lu Chen despite his surprise.

"Master Wu, you honor me too much. Master Huang and the others are just giving the younger generation a chance to prove ourselves," Lu Chen humbly replied.

Wu Zhonghua's impression of Lu Chen was instantly improved by his humble attitude.

Wu Zhonghua subsequently introduced the young men sitting at his table, all of whom were disciples that he had brought to increase their exposure. Clearly, they weren't good enough to participate in the competition yet.

The young men were all unhappy when they heard that Lu Chen was there as a participant in the competition. The eldest among them, who looked to be slightly older than Lu Chen, found it difficult to believe that Lu Chen was skilled enough.

Stone gambling was an art that required more than keen perceptive skills; it also required knowledge and familiarity with structure and appearance of all the different gems in this world, giving it a slow learning curve as one could scarcely hope to accumulate enough knowledge to be a master without decades of learning.

Even those blessed with extraordinary talent and intelligence couldn't hope to attain the same level of skill as Master Huang at Lu Chen's age.

Which was why no one thought highly of Lu Chen.

As they were all old acquaintances in a far-off land, Wu Zhonghua warmly invited Huang Youjun, Lan Ling and Lu Chen to his table.

Since there was still some time before the competition, they all chatted while drinking

though Huang Youjun and Wu Zhonghua did most of the talking while the younger ones listened.

Occasionally, Wu Zhonghua would throw a few questions regarding rough stones at Lu Chen, testing his basics.

By the end of a round of tricky, difficult questions, Wu Zhonghua and his disciples were all left impressed by Lu Chen's knowledge regarding rough stones.

Even the two Stone Gambling Masters, Huang Youjun and Wu Zhonghua, had never heard of some of the theories that Lu Chen put forth.

No, it was more like they never understood how such phenomena could have occurred.

In the end, Wu Zhonghua actually started asking Lu Chen to teach him about stuff that he had never truly understood, and although Lu Chen's theories weren't proven, both Wu Zhonghua and Huang Youjun nodded in agreement time and again.

Wu Zhonghua's disciples all felt reluctant

admiration for Lu Chen when they saw that the two Stone Gambling Masters held his opinions in such high regard.

There was no denying that they possessed far less knowledge about rough stones than Lu Chen did.

The competition quickly began with the host giving a few words inviting the chairman of the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association to give an opening speech. The speech lasted for more than ten minutes and was followed by a round of applause, during which the host took the chairman's place and recited the rules to the competition.

The rules were simple; each of the 64 participants would be randomly matched with another participant who would be their opponent and would need to win at least two out of three matches in order to enter the round of 32 while those who lost twice or more out of three matches would be disqualified.

However, the top ten stone gamblers in the country were exempted from this round of the competition and would join only when the 64 participants were whittled down to

16 strong.

Of the top ten stone gamblers in the country, six of them were in attendance and participating, which was to say that the six Stone Gambling Masters would only make their appearance in the round of 16.

The prize structure was quite simple. The Rough Stone Associations whose representatives won first place would receive 100 million, the second place 80 million, the third-place 50 million, the fourth to eighth places 20 million each while the associations whose representatives placed ninth to sixteenth would each receive 10 million.

All the associations whose representatives didn't make it into the round of 16 would only receive 1 million each as consolation prizes.

Naturally, the money had all been sponsored by major jewelers who were willing to throw money at the competition because it was a large-scale event that would be aired live on a national level. Each match would feature advertisements from the sponsors, creating far more

brand awareness than celebrity-endorsed advertisements.

Lu Chen's first opponent was weak and he won two to zero without breaking a sweat; the second match was just as easy and again he beat his opponents hands down by two to zero, thereby entering the round of 16.

This meant that even if Lu Chen stopped there, he would still bring home 10 million worth of prize money for the Chongqing Rough Stone Association.

The tens upon thousands of rough stone enthusiasts watching Lu Chen from their screens in Chongqing were overjoyed when they saw Lu Chen enter the round of 16 so easily.

Even Zhang Shengqiao, who held a grudge against Lu Chen, broke out into a small smile.

They couldn't care less about that little bit of money; they cared mostly about their reputation.

The further Lu Chen progressed in the competition, the further the Chongqing

Rough Stone Association's name would spread.

Huang Youjun was also buoyant. Although he knew that Lu Chen was strong, anything was possible in an official competition like this.

Lu Chen walked down the stage, prepared to take a break since stone gambling in that manner was extremely tiring and not getting enough rest would cause him to make mistakes.

He was just about to walk back to the Chongqing representatives' table when a familiar face caught his eye.

The man looked back at him with a dark and forbidding face.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The familiar face Lu Chen had seen was none other than Zheng Xihe, whom he had defeated in a stone gambling match back in Chongqing. Zheng Xihe stared back at him, but there was a darkness in his eyes.

As the third-ranking Stone Gambling Master in China, there was no way that Zheng Xihe would be absent from an event such as this.

Besides, he had to be present to participate since he needed to uphold his association's reputation as he was the strongest Stone Gambling Master in the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association.

Truth be told, the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association hadn't invited the Tangshan Rough Stone Association for this Stone Gambling Competition because they had the second-ranking Stone Gambling Master in China, Xiao Zhiyuan. Thus, they feared that Zheng Xihe might not be able to win the championship if Xiao Zhiyuan showed up.

So, the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association had been caught unawares when the Beijing Rough Stone Association had sent Xiao Zhiyuan as their

representative, increasing the pressure looming over Zheng Xihe's head.

The pressure over Zheng Xihe grew in fold when he saw that Lu Chen was Chongqing's representative since he had once been defeated by the latter. Whether he admitted it or not, he couldn't underestimate Lu Chen; in fact, he sensed that Lu Chen's abilities were more well-honed than Xiao Zhiyuan's.

That was why Zheng Xihe looked at Lu Chen with such a dark face earlier.

Zheng Xihe threw another glance at Lu Chen before turning to leave, though he quickly reappeared in one of the hotel rooms.

Two other old men had already been in the room. The first was called Yang Mu and he was the chairman of the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association while the other old man with him was the Vice-Chairman, Zhu Bohong.

"Did you watch the last round?" Zheng Xihe asked.

"Yes, we did. The Chongqing

representative is good, but both of his opponents were weak. I'm guessing that he'll drop out at the round of 16; the other participants are just so-so." The Vice-Chairman, Zhu Bohong gave his opinion.

Both of them had watched Lu Chen's two rounds on the large screen in the room. Lu Chen's performance was strong, but his estimations were always just a tad more accurate than his opponents. However, he never took long to submit his findings, and that was what had caught their attention.

Even so, they still didn't think that it was much to exclaim about even though it was rare for a young man to have attained such skills because he was still a far cry from the top ten Stone Gambling Masters.

"The Chongqing representative is called Lu Chen and he's very strong. When I was in Chongqing, I was defeated by his hand, and I feel that he's as much of a threat as Xiao Zhiyuan; you shouldn't have invited the Chongqing association to this competition," Zheng Xihe expressed soberly.

"That's..." Yang Mu sat straight and looked toward Zheng Xihe in surprise. "Xihe,

you're not joking, are you? That brat actually defeated you?"

"Chairman, do you think I would trifle with my own reputation? His performance in the last two rounds was only average, but that's only because he withheld himself. If we're not careful, he'll overcome us and Beijing to take the prize home," Zheng Xihe put forward solemnly.

Yang Mu and Zhu Bohong's brows both scrunched up. Although they didn't doubt Zheng Xihe, it had taken them by surprise that yet another Stone Gambling Master more skilled than Zheng Xihe had appeared, one who was only a young man in his twenties at that.

They'd considered it from every angle before sending out the invitations. In fact, whichever association whose Stone Gambling Masters could have posed a threat to Zheng Xihe's victory, such as Tangshan, hadn't been invited.

They wouldn't have invited Chongqing's Rough Stone Association if they had known that they had a Stone Gambling Master like Lu Chen.

But it was impossible to disqualify Chongqing at this point, so what could they do now?

“Xihe, do you have any solutions to this?” Yang Mu asked as he turned toward Zheng Xihe after a moment of thought. They were determined to win this Stone Gambling Competition; they had even thought of a way to keep Xiao Zhiyuan from winning and were willing to pay a heavy price for Xiao Zhiyuan’s defeat if need be.

But Lu Chen had thrown a wrench in their plans and looked posed to ruin everything.

“Stone gambling can be quite tiring, so if we want to defeat Lu Chen, we can change the rules to make him so weary that he won’t be able to evaluate the stones accurately,” Zheng Xihe proposed.

“You mean to tire him with countless opponents? Won’t that make us look bad?” Zhu Bohong asked with a frown.

On the other hand, Yang Mu’s eyes lit up and he voiced his agreement. “That’s a good idea! We’ll change the rules when he gets into the semifinals. Plus, it doesn’t matter if anyone criticizes us because

Chongqing can just pull out if they disagree, and we'll disqualify them then."

Zheng Xihe nodded and added, "Exactly. And this is our home base, so we'll be able to settle the issue with just a few cyber troops. The Chongqing association will have no choice but to concede as long as we maintain our stance."

Zhu Bohong pondered it for a while but still nodded in the end. "I'll make the arrangements then."

Meanwhile, in another hotel room.

"Elder Xiao, we have surprising news," a middle-aged man turned his head to inform Xiao Zhiyuan, who was resting with his eyes closed.

Xiao Zhiyuan slowly opened his eyes, only to see the middle-aged man pointing at the screen toward Lu Chen who had just walked down the stage after a round of the competition. "Elder Xiao, this brat is called Lu Chen; he's Yun Zhongqi's disciple and Lu Tianxing's son. We've investigated him and found that he defeated Zheng Xihe by a huge margin during a match at the Stone Gambling Fair in Chongqing not long ago.

At that time, he was accurate by a difference of only seven grams while Zheng Xihe's figure was twice as far away from the correct weight."

At that, Xiao Zhiyuan's eyes widened and he focused his gaze on Lu Chen.

"They do look very alike, so he should be Lu Tianxing's son. Do you have the video of his match with Zheng Xihe?" Xiao Zhiyuan inquired.

"Yes, I have it right now," the middle-aged man replied and pulled out a USB drive then plugged it into the screen without waiting for a prompt from Xiao Zhiyuan.

The video of Lu Chen and Zheng Xihe's match at the antiques fair organized by the Zuo Family then appeared on the screen.

The video was over very quickly, and Xiao Zhiyuan's face turned dark in that instant.

From the video, he could tell that Zheng Xihe had tried his best. In contrast, Lu Chen had looked as if he had just been fooling around, yet his findings had been far more accurate compared to Zheng Xihe's.

“Yun Zhongqi probably taught the brat everything he knew, otherwise the brat couldn’t have beaten Zheng Xihe,” the middle-aged man remarked after watching the video with Xiao Zhiyuan.

“Yun Zhongqi taught him everything he knew? It’s more than that; the brat is probably on a whole different level at stone gambling even compared to Yun Zhongqi,” Xiao Zhiyuan shook his head and refuted the middle-aged man’s remark.

He and Yun Zhongqi were old rivals and had competed against each other countless times, but he’d only won once against Yun Zhongqi in inconsequential competitions though never in any major competitions even if Yun Zhongqi always won by just the breadth of a hair.

Even so, he wasn’t much stronger than Zheng Xihe, and if Lu Chen had defeated Zheng Xihe easily, it was testament that Lu Chen’s abilities were likely to be higher than his own. Truth be told, he wasn’t sure if even Yun Zhongqi could have done as well as Lu Chen.

“What do we do now? Madam said that we have to win this stone gambling

Chapter 253 The Plot

competition. Do you have the confidence to defeat Lu Chen now that he's here too?" the middle-aged man asked nervously.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“No.” Xiao Zhiyuan shook his head firmly.

The middle-aged man brooded silently for a moment before his eyes lit up. “I have an idea!”

“What is it?” Xiao Zhiyuan raised his head and looked toward the middle-aged man.

“Mu Zong is still hiding in Chongqing. He’s sure to be able to handle it if I give him a call,” the middle-aged man said as he pulled out his phone to call Mu Zong.

The Mu Zong he mentioned was none other than Mr. Mu, the man whom Xiao Bieqing had sent after Lu Chen in Chongqing.

Xiao Bieqing had wanted to send someone else when Mu Zong had suffered internal injuries from Du Fei’s punch during a failed attempt to capture Lu Chen at Qijiang, but she’d been dissuaded when Mu Zong said that he had a plan.

Right now, Mu Zong was laying low in Chongqing, preparing to take Lu Chen in one fell swoop.

Of course, he wasn’t going to kill Lu Chen.

As of right now, Xiao Bieqing preferred him alive to dead.

She was more or less sure that Lu Tianxing's billions worth of assets from the Lu Family which he had dissolved had all been given to Lu Chen, and she wanted it for herself.

By right, she was Lu Tianxing's first wife, thus was entitled to half of his assets. It was only natural that she begrudged Lu Chen now that it was all in his hands.

It was why Mu Zong had been lying low in Chongqing all this time.

To take Lu Chen alive.

...

At the moment, Lu Chen was sitting and resting his eyes beside Lan Ling since he hadn't used much energy and did not need to rest in the room provided to him by the organizers.

All the same, he still closed and rested his eyes as he didn't have much to talk about with the people at his table.

Both Huang Youjun and Wu Zhonghua lowered their voices when they saw that Lu Chen was resting.

In fact, Wu Zhonghua had also participated in the competition, but he had dropped out in the second round after entering the round of 32. Now that Lu Chen had gotten into the round of 16, both he and his disciples looked at Lu Chen with newfound respect in their eyes.

Even though Lu Chen had explained so much to them earlier, to a certain extent, they all thought that it was nothing but theoretical knowledge.

However, Lu Chen had fought his way into the round of 16, which was to say that he was among the top 16 Stone Gambling Masters in the country! Wu Zhonghua's disciples acknowledged that it was a feat that even their Master hadn't achieved.

The third round of matches commenced half an hour later.

Not a single one of the Stone Gambling Masters who had made their way into the round of 16 was weak. This time, Lu Chen's opponent was the representative of

the Central Plains Rough Stone Association who was an elderly man in his fifties.

“Brat, just admit defeat. I don’t want to bully a no-name kid like you,” the old man sneered disdainfully as if he didn’t think it was worth competing with Lu Chen.

Lu Chen watched the old man silently. Instead of getting angry, he just replied mildly, “If you’re afraid, just go home and let your children coddle you; you won’t need to humiliate yourself then!”

Lu Chen wasn’t usually rude, but the old man was terribly mean, so he saw no reason to hold back.

“Hmph! You don’t know who you’re messing with! I’m gonna destroy you!” The old man snorted, grabbing the rough stone before him and starting to analyze it before Lu Chen had chosen his own rough stone.

The old man had watched Lu Chen’s earlier matches; even though Lu Chen had managed to enter the round of 16, there was nothing remarkable about his performance in the last two rounds.

Hence, the old man concluded that Lu Chen just had a real stroke of luck and came across two ridiculously weak opponents.

There was no other way Lu Chen could have made it into the round of 16 considering his age.

The old man even suspected that Lu Chen had only been able to join the competition by cheating.

Right now, the old man brimmed with confidence when he saw that he'd identified the gemstone correctly and ascertained its weight to within 27 grams of the actual figure, a feat that was completely fitting of a Stone Gambling Master in the round of 16.

"Brat, it's your turn." The old man looked toward Lu Chen mockingly.

Lu Chen smiled thinly then randomly selected a rough stone and tossed it in his hand before immediately declaring his findings, "Diamond, 59 grams."

The old man laughed when he saw how careless Lu Chen was. This brat is an

amateur! What was the Chongqing Rough Stone Association thinking when they let a piece of trash like him represent them in this Stone Gambling Competition?!

Most importantly, the part that displeased him the most was that Lu Chen had actually become his opponent in the round of 8.

The staff member was also taken aback and shared the old man's sentiments that Lu Chen was being too careless; it would be a freak incident if he turned out to be right.

However, the staff member's eyes soon became as round as platters.

"What are you waiting for? What gem is it? And what's its weight? Come on, tell us the figure!" the old man urged in annoyance.

The staff member came back to his senses and announced in shock, "Diamond, 74 grams. The margin error is 15 grams."

"What?! Do you even know how to read the scale?" Shocked, the old man barked at the staff member in complete disbelief

before approaching the scale to examine it for himself.

But, he too went wide-eyed when he saw the digits on the scale.

Still in disbelief, he picked up the gemstone to study it—it was indeed a diamond!

How is this possible?

Can he really estimate it so accurately?

That's a level of skill on par with the top three!

"You really are weak; you should just retire," Lu Chen taunted.

The old man fixed a glare on Lu Chen. "There's still one more match, I'd like to see if your luck would still be as good," he sneered as he picked up another rough stone and began to examine it.

This time, however, he took much longer in examining it—almost half an hour—before reporting his findings with sweat beaded on his brow, "This is also a diamond; 36 grams."

The old man exhaled deeply the instant he passed the rough stone to the staff member. At the moment, he looked drained, as if he had just been through a serious illness.

Stone gambling matches like these were most exerting.

Earlier, the old man had focused every single bit of mental energy he could muster into the rough stone for almost half an hour to make his findings as accurate as possible. After all, men in the prime of their lives wouldn't be able to suffer a defeat, let alone an old man like him.

"It's a diamond weighing 56 grams. The difference in weight is 20 grams," the staff member announced.

Lu Chen nodded and picked up a rough stone without waiting for the old man to come up with another snide remark.

He tossed it in his hand like last time before stating, "This is yet another diamond, and it weighs 40 grams."

With that, he threw it to the staff member,

taking less than thirty seconds to complete his entire assessment.

The old man harrumphed, not believing that Lu Chen's lucky streak would continue when he saw how recklessly Lu Chen had done it again.

Lu Chen's behavior was that of a complete amateur. Which Stone Gambling Master would come up with a proper estimation so quickly?

The staff member also felt that Lu Chen wasn't taking things seriously enough and that he had only won the last match in a fluke shot.

He shook his head and started cutting.

Huang Youjun, Wu Zhonghua and Lan Ling all stared unblinkingly at the staff member cutting the stone.

Lu Chen had already won one match. If he won this one, he would become one of the top eight Stone Gambling Masters in the country.

It was an unprecedented achievement for anyone from Chongqing's stone gambling

community.

The entire hall watched the staff member cutting the stone. Lu Chen hadn't just participated in the esteemed Stone Gambling Competition at such a young age, he'd also entered the round of 16 where he'd won the first of two matches! His achievements astonished countless highly experienced Stone Gambling Masters.

At this time, many more people crowded toward Huang Youjun's table to curry favor with him.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Meanwhile, far away in Chongqing, countless rough stone enthusiasts watched their screens in anticipation.

If Lu Chen won this round, Chongqing would make it into the top eight, which would be an unprecedented achievement for them!

Even Zhang Shengqiao and the other old men had butterflies in their stomachs. Though they weren't interested in the money since they were from the Four Major Families of Chongqing, they did care about their reputations especially since they had reached an age where it was of paramount importance to them.

As for the jewelers, the heights of Chongqing's achievements in China's rough stone community would be reflected as a boom in Chongqing's gem and jewelry industry.

It was with much anticipation from the audience that the staff member finally uncovered the raw gem. He first used some advanced equipment to make out the type of gem it was before placing it on a scale to read its weight.

The staff stood rooted in shock for a moment before finally announcing his findings, "It is a diamond weighing 54 grams; the difference is 14 grams."

He took a long look at Lu Chen. Being in the trade for more than two decades, it was the first time he'd ever seen a Stone Gambling Master as proficient in the art as Lu Chen.

Before this, he had thought that Lu Chen's attitude had been too flippant and that he'd just been guessing, but now the staff member understood. How was he able to guess so accurately twice in a row?

Of course, Lu Chen is a highly-accomplished Stone Gambling Master!

Lu Chen's elderly opponent hurried forward to see the assessment results for himself. The longer he looked, the darker his face became.

He abruptly swung back to glare at Lu Chen. "How did you do it?" he demanded harshly.

However, Lu Chen only glanced at him coolly before turning to walk down the

stairs.

At the same time, the host announced Lu Chen's victory, making him the first competitor outside of the top ten Stone Gambling Masters from the last competition to have entered the round of 8.

The audience applauded Lu Chen as he walked down the stage.

Frankly, only a true Stone Gambling Master would be able to make it into the round of 16. Their skills and knowledge were such that even a few pearls of wisdom from them was likely enough for someone to make a living off.

The jewelry companies, in particular, would spend exorbitant fees on hiring such Stone Gambling Masters as consultants, only requiring them to turn up when there was a problem that needed to be solved.

Therefore, the jewelers were all very respectful toward highly-skilled Stone Gambling Masters.

To that point, people crowded over to greet

Lu Chen once he went back to his table.

After all, Lu Chen was a Stone Gambling Master who'd entered the round of 8 in this national competition, as good as one of the top ten ranking Stone Gambling Masters whom only major groups and corporations could afford to hire.

"Master Lu, it's nice to meet you. I'm from Oriental Glory Jewelry and Gems..."

"Master Lu, good evening..."

"Master Lu..."

More jewelers kept passing their name cards to Lu Chen; some even offered him a yearly pay in the tens of millions to be a consultant at their companies.

However, Lu Chen ignored all of them and just closed his eyes on the pretext of needing some rest.

Huang Youjun could only take the name cards from the enthusiastic jewelers in Lu Chen's stead.

"Everyone, please return to your seats for the moment," Huang Youjun kept his

request short, but everyone nodded in understanding as they all knew that stone gambling competitions took a huge toll on one's mental energy and thus didn't dare to disturb Lu Chen's sleep.

Before long, the last group finished their matches and everyone waited in anticipation for the round of 8 to begin.

Just then, the host walked up the stage and announced, "According to the discretion of the organizers, all new participants in the round of 8 will need to go through a test before they can be truly considered as one of top ten ranking Stone Gambling Masters in the country; this is to ensure that our jewelers know that they are indeed getting the best when they hire them."

"What test?" a voice under the stage couldn't resist piping up.

The host looked toward the person who had put forth the question and said, "The new participants will need to accept and win the challenges of another ten Stone Gambling Masters before they can enter the round of 8. Naturally, the challengers will all be stone gamblers outside the

round of 8; if the participant originally set to enter the round of 8 loses, the new winner will enter the round of 8 instead.”

The host’s announcement had barely trailed off when the audience broke out into an uproar though it quickly subsided. They then directed looks of pity at Lu Chen and the other middle-aged man who was another newcomer to the round of 8.

Deep furrows formed between the brows of the middle-aged man who had been set to enter the round of 8 as the new rules were evidently ridiculous.

But then, someone whispered in the middle-aged man’s ear and he got up and left.

And so the crowd focused their attention on Lu Chen.

Despite everything, Lu Chen just sat there with his eyes closed and not a twitch of emotion crossed his face.

However, Lan Ling and Huang Youjun’s brows furrowed heavily.

“What rotten rule is this?! Every single

match takes so much mental energy and now they want him to accept ten Stone Gambling Masters' back to back challenges?! How can anyone take it?" Lan Ling asked, baffled.

"The organizers must have done it deliberately to wear out Lu Chen's mental energy," Huang Youjun blustered.

"By the way, were you telling the truth when you said that Lu Chen defeated Zheng Xihe back in Chongqing?" Wu Zhonghua suddenly asked.

"Of course I was telling the truth! I lost the first match to Zheng Xihe, so Lu Chen took my place on the stage in the second match and defeated him. Lots of people witnessed that match," Huang Youjun affirmed with a nod.

"Then I know why they changed the rules," Wu Zhonghua smiled thinly.

The people seated at the table all swiveled to look at Wu Zhonghua, who continued, "It's because Zheng Xihe is also participating in the competition! He just hasn't appeared yet because he's in the top ten ranking Stone Gambling Masters in the

country and so was exempted from the rounds before the round of 8. Now that Lu Chen has made his way into the round of 8, he must have come up with this plan because he's worried about becoming Lu Chen's opponent!"

Everyone understood immediately since they all knew that Zheng Xihe would represent the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association in the competition considering he was a member there.

"That rascal—Yang Mu—is outrageous! The Middle Sea Rough Stone Association is the most famous rough stone association in the country. Aren't they afraid that their peers will ridicule them for doing such a shameless thing?!" Lan Ling flared.

Wu Zhonghua shook his head. "That's where you're wrong. It's because the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association is the most famous rough stone association in the country that they can't let Zheng Xihe lose, at least not in the round of 8 since they'll really lose face if Zheng Xihe doesn't even make it into the top four when they're the ones hosting the competition," he explained.

Lan Ling understood once she heard Wu Zhonghua's explanation.

The reason was simple, but Lan Ling hadn't thought of it at first since her mind had been clouded by anger.

As a matter of fact, most of the audience had understood that the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association had orchestrated everything to prevent Lu Chen from defeating Zheng Xihe once the host had announced the new competition rules.

The way they had done it was extremely blatant and disgraceful, but to the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association, it was imperative that Zheng Xihe won the championship. When that happened, any voices of dissent would be drowned out by his victory.

Huang Youjun wasn't the only one who was furious. Masses of Lu Chen's supporters in Chongqing denounced the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association for their shameless orchestrations.

"Lu Chen, can you go on?" Huang Youjun asked Lu Chen.

Chapter 255 Changing the Rules

Lan Ling, Wu Zhonghua and the others also looked toward Lu Chen as it was extremely unfair to him, but there was nothing they could do as it was the organizers' decision.

Lu Chen slowly opened his eyes. "It won't be a problem. I just need to rest for a while," he declared.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"And now, I'd like to invite the Chongqing representative, Master Lu Chen, to the stage!" the host announced.

Lan Ling's brows wrinkled and she confronted them loudly, "Isn't that too soon? Master Lu has only just finished a match! Won't you let him take a break? And what's with the unfair demand that he accepts ten challenges in a row?"

"Unfair?"

The host threw a scornful look at Lan Ling. "This is the organizer's decision and the prerogative of our sponsors, the major jewelry brands. Besides, you're not the one participating in the competition, so what right do you have to criticize us like that?"

Lan Ling was so angry at the host's brazen reply that her chest heaved uncontrollably. She had just opened her mouth to retort when she saw Lu Chen shake his head at her. So instead, she took a deep breath and sat down, still seething.

Huang Youjun wore an icy smile. "So this is Middle Sea Rough Stone Competition's way of doing things. They'll stoop to do anything as long as they can keep Zheng

Xihe from being defeated by Lu Chen," he remarked.

As a Stone Gambling Master himself, he was more aware than Lan Ling of the importance of one's mental energy in stone gambling.

Even if Lu Chen managed to overcome the ten Stone Gambling Masters who challenged him, he would have depleted most of his mental energy in the end. By then, he would no longer be a match for Zheng Xihe even if he made it to face him.

"The most likely scenario is that they'll shamelessly arrange for Zheng Xihe to be Lu Chen's opponent if he manages to win the ten Stone Gambling Masters," Wu Zhonghua jeered.

"Of course! Zheng Xihe lost to Lu Chen before this, so he's sure to want payback. The organizers' shameless behavior has really blown my mind," Huang Youjun complained in vexation.

He had thought that Lu Chen's skills would allow him to take home the second place if not the championship, which would still have brought glory to the Chongqing

Rough Stone Association's name.

Huang Youjun was understandably incensed since it would be a challenge for Lu Chen to even enter the top eight now that the organizers had changed the rules like that.

Lu Chen lightly rubbed his temples as he smiled bitterly.

Honestly, he'd won the last few matches without much trouble, but it had taken a lot out of him; he hadn't thought that the organizers would be so shameless either.

That old fart, Zheng Xihe, is f*cking shameless!

"Never mind, just let it go. This is their home base; no one other than us cares about the changes in the competition rules, and complaining is useless. Besides, I'm still confident about taking home the championship," Lu Chen assured Huang Youjun and Lan Ling when he saw how furious they were.

As Lu Chen had said, none of the others cared that the organizers had suddenly amended the rules. On the contrary, they

all believed that it was only right as none of them believed that Lu Chen was actually skilled enough since he'd entered the round of 16 out of the blue.

They would only believe that Lu Chen was skilled enough to be in the top eight if Lu Chen really managed to overcome ten Stone Gambling Masters' challenges.

"A certain someone hasn't skipped out of the competition from being too afraid of accepting the challenge, has he?"

"Exactly. Just scram if you're not capable of it and stop obstructing the next round where Master Zheng and Master Xiao will finally make their appearances."

"Brat, you probably got into the top eight by sheer dumb luck. If you don't dare to take up the challenge, just bow out and stop wasting everyone's time. It's already half past nine at night! You won't be a match for Master Zheng even if you pass the test anyway."

Huang Youjun and the others at the same table as Lu Chen grew even angrier upon hearing the taunts and jeers from the audience. Lu Chen had already won over

Zheng Xihe once, hence beating him a second time would be a walk in the park.

But now that the organizers had employed such underhanded tactics, it was questionable whether Lu Chen would even make it into the round of 8.

"I would like to appeal for a thirty-minute recess for Master Lu. It's too unfair to him otherwise," Lan Ling proposed as she stood up again.

"Who are you to suggest changes to the sponsors and the organizers' decision? Just scurry back to Chongqing if you don't dare to take up the challenge!" a young man barked. He was one of the paid supporters hired by the Vice-Chairman of the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association, Zhu Bohong.

Truth be told, Zhu Bohong had paid and arranged for every single voice that had mocked and criticized Lu Chen earlier.

"If you're really troubled, then pull out of the competition. The decision was made by our major sponsors, so we can't affront them, can we?"

At that moment, the Vice-Chairman of Middle Sea Rough Stone Association came forward. He looked apologetic, but the tone of his voice was domineering.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we, the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association may not have been proper in our recent handling of things, but we had no choice as we needed to be responsible to our sponsors. We beg for your understanding on the inconvenience caused.”

With that, Zhu Bohong turned around, clasped his fists and saluted the audience in a respectful manner.

“Chairman Zhu, what are you saying? The sponsors are paying for everything, of course we need to account for them.”

“Exactly! The brat has no track record to speak of, yet he made it into the top eight. It’s impossible that there wasn’t any monkey business involved, so it’s only natural that the sponsors are suspicious!”

“Chairman Zhu, if those peasants from Chongqing aren’t satisfied, just let them leave! There’s no need to discuss it with them!”

Zhu Bohong's words just trailed off when his supporters—both paid and unpaid—erupted in jeers as if to drown Lu Chen in insults.

Although the others didn't know that those in uproar were paid to do it, many among the audience were swayed and began to feel suspicious.

Did the brat really get into the top eight based on his ability?

Meanwhile, the crowds far off in Chongqing watched the competition live on television and all of them felt the urge to hurl something at the wall.

How utterly shameless!

"How can we do that? Master Lu has already passed so many rounds of the competition, how can we just let him drop out now?" Zhu Bohong quickly shook his head in a righteous manner.

"Master Lu, I know that you and the other Stone Gambling Masters are all proud and distinguished figures that do not concede to each other very often. How about this? If you pass this test, we will give you a

certificate proclaiming your rank as one of the top ten Stone Gambling Masters in the country and arrange for Master Zheng, Zheng Xihe, to have a match with you. What do you think?" Zhu Bohong looked toward Lu Chen with a wide smile on his face.

There it is, what bloody shamelessness!

Huang Youjun and the others jeered internally when they heard it.

They had just been discussing the possibility of the organizers arranging for Zheng Xihe to be Lu Chen's opponent if he really made it past the ten Stone Gambling Masters, but they hadn't expected Zhu Bohong to come straight out with it!

"I've gotten the better of Zheng Xihe before. As long as he dares to be in the same group as me, I promise that he won't make it into the semifinals," Lu Chen glanced at Zhu Bohong and declared contemptuously.

The words had barely dropped from his lips when the crowd erupted.

Chapter 256 The Organizer's Shameless Behavior



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Lu Chen's declaration had poked the hornet's nest.

"Bloody kid! Do you even hear yourself? Do you think you're fit to make such big claims?"

"You haven't even made a name for yourself yet! What right do you have to criticize Master Zheng like that?"

"Who do you think you are? A loser like you beating Master Zheng? You must be dreaming!"

Lu Chen's words had stirred the crowd's anger; both the paid supporters and Zheng Xihe's fans took turns accusing and berating Lu Chen.

"Oh? Is that so?" Lu Chen got up and his gaze swept across their faces mockingly. "Since you're so confident about him winning, why don't you ask him to have a match with me now?"

Zhu Bohong blanched, but the audience had already begun clamoring for it.

"Yes! Let's ask Master Zheng to put the brat in his place!"

“You must have a death wish since you dare to challenge Master Zheng. Prepare yourself because Master Zheng’s gonna crush you!”

Zhu Bohong quickly coughed to stop the crowd from getting too far.

“You can challenge Master Zheng if you want, but that will have to wait until you’ve entered the round of 8. Not everyone has the right to challenge him after all.” Zhu Bohong put on a contemptuous face as if to say, You haven’t proven yourself worthy to challenge Zheng Xihe; you’ll need to go through the ten Stone Gambling Masters first.

The paid supporters instantly caught onto Zhu Bohong’s meaning.

“That’s right! You must have said all that because you don’t dare to accept the ten Stone Gambling Masters’ challenges!”

“You haven’t even entered the round of 8 yet, so what right do you have to challenge Master Zheng?! Master Zheng is one of the undefeatable existences in the country’s top three Stone Gambling Masters; who the hell do you think you

are?!”

Huang Youjun and Lan Ling nearly frothed at the mouth from the absurd gall of the remarks.

Lu Chen has already entered the round of 8 —you changed the rules at the last minute because you’re just afraid that Zheng Xihe will lose to Lu Chen—how can you still insult and berate him like that?

If Zheng Xihe is willing to go to such lengths to avoid being defeated, can you still call him an undefeatable existence?!

Ptooeey!

It was more like Zheng Xihe easily made it into the top three most shameless people in the country!

Of course, Lan Ling didn’t dare to say any of her thoughts out loud.

It was because she was afraid of aggravating the organizers. If they booted Lu Chen out of the competition, then her plans and everything she’d done till date would have gone down the drain.

This time, her family—the Lan Family—had invested tens of millions in the Chongqing Rough Stone Association and dumped several billion into gaining a market share in the Chongqing gem and jewelry industry. As the person in charge of the project, it was only natural for her to hope that Lu Chen would be the black horse to win the championship.

Lu Chen looked calm and unperturbed despite all the insults raining down on him, however, a flash of derision occasionally crossed his eyes.

Lan Ling's eyes grew dreamy as she watched Lu Chen, who was as steady as a rock despite the storm around him.

In her eyes, Lu Chen's figure suddenly grew more strapping.

He stood stalwart against the waves and the wind as if he was unshakeable.

Few ever attained that presence of mind.

"Alright. Then I'll wait for Zheng Xihe to have a match with me. I just hope that he won't turn tail and hide once I've entered the round of 8." Lu Chen shrugged and

threw a contemptuous look at Zhu Bohong before striding toward the stage.

“Arrogant fool, think about challenging Master Zheng after you’ve made it into the round of 8, why don’t you?”

“Don’t you lose to the first challenger because that would be a real joke.”

The audience started mocking Lu Chen once again behind his back.

Lu Chen just treated them as if they were skunks, quickening his stride up to the stage to avoid the stench of their words.

Truthfully, a majority of the audience felt for Lu Chen when they saw him take the stage so soon after his last round.

Middle Sea Rough Stone Association had hit under the belt this time, obviously picking on the Chongqing representative who had no one backing him.

The audience behind the screens in Chongqing broke out in fury, each of them cursing at the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association’s shameless behavior.

Even Zhang Shengqiao and the other old men hit the roof and nearly got a heart attack.

The live broadcast had actually transmitted the entire exchange! The organizers probably hadn't expected it, but it wasn't just Chongqing who witnessed the Middle Sea Rough Stone Association's shameless behavior; so did the entire nation's rough stone enthusiasts.

When they saw that Lu Chen, the first competitor who had been set to enter the round of 8, had taken the stage again to accept ten Stone Gambling Masters' challenges, the overwhelming majority of the nationwide audience actually hoped that he would succeed and throw his victory in the organizer's face.

The first to challenge Lu Chen was a middle-aged man, a Stone Gambling Master from Yinchuan.

"Brat, what makes you think you're good enough to be in the top eight? You're still in time to throw in the towel and get off the stage before you lose your dignity along with the match later," Wu Jun mocked Lu Chen the minute he took the stage.

“What a load of baloney. Get someone else up here if you don’t dare to compete with me properly. This is a stone gambling match, not a bullsh*tting competition,” Lu Chen sneered.

“Brat, you’re arrogant, I’ll give you that. I’ll make sure that I wipe the floor with you,” Wu Jun fumed and harrumphed, boiling inside, then picked up a piece of rough stone and started to analyze it.

It took a full twenty minutes for him to reach a conclusion.

He wrongly determined the type of gem, and the difference between the actual weight and his estimate was astoundingly high, more than 40 grams.

Wu Jun was dissatisfied with his results, but he felt that Lu Chen wouldn’t do much better than him and that he still stood a chance at winning even if he lost this first match.

“Brat, it’s your turn,” Wu Jun prompted.

Lu Chen smiled sardonically then picked up a rough stone at random and just tossed it in his hand once before giving his

findings.

Wu Jun was ticked off. He hadn't watched Lu Chen's previous matches, so he felt that Lu Chen was being condescending.

Taking only seconds to get his findings, wasn't that making a mockery of him?

Even he'd taken a full twenty minutes and thought very hard over his findings before submitting them.

However, the degree of Lu Chen's skill struck him when the staff member uncovered the raw gem and gave his assessment results.

Lu Chen had guessed the gemstone variety correctly, with a margin error of only 9 grams! This had completely overwhelmed Wu Jun.

Wu Jun's face flushed in embarrassment. Nevertheless, he was sure that Lu Chen had just had a fluke shot.

But he was dumbfounded when the second round's results came out.

He'd guessed the gemstone variety

correctly this time, but the difference between his findings and the actual weight was 36 grams. In contrast, Lu Chen had guessed the gemstone variety correctly and the margin error between his estimate and the actual weight was only 6 grams! The difference in the accuracy of their findings was like night and day.

Most importantly, he'd taken a whole thirty minutes to produce his findings while Lu Chen had taken less than a minute.

"Only nine more to go, good luck!" Lan Ling hooted in encouragement to Lu Chen when she saw that he had crushed his opponent so easily.

In contrast, Huang Youjun and Wu Zhonghua wore glum faces.

They had seen through the organizer's plans from the first challenge itself, and it was to wear Lu Chen out.

If every challenger needed an hour or more to complete their two matches—in addition to the time it took to cut the rough stones—the earliest the ten challenges could end was the next morning, and that was if Lu Chen kept up his extraordinary speed of

Chapter 257 The Paid Supporters

getting his findings within a minute each time.

Could anyone even hold up against such a long period of stone gambling?



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!