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As the Grand Commander of the Left Army Command, Wu Yongzhen's willingness to speak to a scholar in such an approachable and friendly manner demonstrated just how sincere he was trying to appear.

Rachel's mother was so overwhelmed by the honor that tears began streaming down her face.

She knew nothing about the hidden circumstances behind all this. She simply believed that her daughter had finally made something of herself and that the century-old shackles imposed on their scholar family were finally beginning to loosen.

Although Rachel appeared visibly excited, in her mind she could not help imagining Wu Yongzhen's currently smug expression transforming into the face of a completely ruined man—bankrupt, utterly broken, desperate, and helpless.

She deliberately adopted a humble and respectful attitude as she said, "Thank you, Grand Commander, for your understanding and kindness toward my family. Please rest assured that I will continue to give everything I have to serve you and the Great Lord. I will devote myself wholeheartedly to your service!"

Wu Yongzhen was extremely satisfied with Rachel's response. He exclaimed approvingly, "Oh! You're humble despite receiving such favor, and you remain composed despite both honor and disgrace. No wonder you've managed to win the affection of a descendant of the Rothschild family and even earned the appreciation of Steve Rothschild. Excellent! Very impressive!"

Rachel humbly cupped her fists, lowered her head, and bowed.

"You're too kind, Grand Commander!"

Wu Yongzhen looked at Rachel seriously and said, "No, no. If anything, my praise is understated rather than exaggerated. Based on what I've seen so far, you have every chance of becoming the most capable and

accomplished scholar the Qing Restoration Society has seen in decades. And I mean the best, without exception!

“However, whether you can truly reach the pinnacle depends on whether you can successfully marry into the Rothschild family. If one day your name becomes Rachel Rothschild, you will undoubtedly become the greatest scholar in the history of our organization!”

Rachel’s mother could hardly contain her excitement upon hearing these words. Although Rachel remained inwardly calm, she deliberately appeared to be suppressing her excitement as she respectfully replied:

“If the day you speak of ever comes, I will never forget your support and guidance, Grand Commander! Everything that my family and I have today is thanks to you!”

Rachel’s words immediately filled Wu Yongzhen with delight.

Although he spoke of hoping that Rachel would marry into the Rothschild family, he actually had his own reservations.

At present, Rachel’s greatest value lay in her ability to generate personal wealth for him.

However, if Rachel genuinely married into the Rothschild family, such an important development would undoubtedly have to be reported to the organization’s headquarters. Wu Feiyan would certainly find out.

A scholar marrying into the Rothschild family was comparable to a scholar in feudal China passing the imperial examinations and becoming the top-ranked candidate. It was the highest possible achievement for someone from a scholarly family, and naturally, the news would reach the emperor’s ears.

Arranging an audience with the emperor would then be nothing more than a simple matter.

If things reached that stage, however, it would actually be bad news for Wu Yongzhen.

After all, once Wu Feiyan met Rachel or established direct contact with her, Rachel would no longer be under his control. He would lose his ability to keep her in check. And if she happened to reveal everything to Wu Feiyan, it would create enormous trouble for him.

Therefore, what he truly wanted was not for Rachel to marry into the Rothschild family. Instead, he wanted her to generate a sufficiently enormous fortune for him before marrying into the family. After that, it would be best if some kind of “accident” happened to her and she suddenly died.