

Folly 102

Chapter 102 Shuangshuang's Birthdate (Second Update)

"Da Shan, you need to take care of yourself. If you're feeling unwell, find a place to rest before continuing with work.

Your father knows you've been working hard lately. Once the busy season is over, I'll have your mother make something nice for you to replenish."

Mr. Mu actually felt quite embarrassed, as everyone else was going home, leaving only the third son to continue working.

But he knew better that the second and fifth sons wouldn't be much help if they stayed, so they might as well go home early, have lunch, and return to work in the afternoon.

"I understand, Dad, you head back early."

Soon, the whole family of the Old Mu Family went back to have lunch, leaving Mu Dashan alone to cut rice in the field.

Midday sun is the hottest part of the day, standing only for a while can make one's mind dizzy. Mu Dashan gritted his teeth and managed to cut two more acres before heading back home.

A morning's work had left his face sunburned and some parts even blistered, with beads of sweat continuously emerging, causing sharp pains on his face.

His clothes were drenched with sweat, and if removed, would surely yield a trickle of water.

Along the road, birds chirped while the earth beneath his straw sandals felt unimaginably hot, with Mu Dashan staggering back home nearly exhausted...

The first thing he did upon reaching the kitchen was to grab a water scoop by the water jar and drink a full scoop of cold water to ease the dryness deep down his throat.

His stomach was full of water, making him feel somewhat uncomfortable; Mu Dashan rested for quite a while before he had the energy to fetch his meal.

He returned late, and the adults of the Old Mu Family had already eaten, while the children, according to Old Mrs. Mu's instructions, did not show up in the main room for lunch.

Thinking of the still unfed children, Mu Dashan decided to take his meal over and eat with them.

He lifted the iron pot lid, his lunch was placed in the pot covered by a big sea bowl. Mu Dashan opened it to find two large sweet potatoes with some grains of rice sticking to them.

Mu Dashan knew the remaining rice must have been eaten by either his second brother or fifth brother because the family's lunches had been the same lately: a man gets a large sweet potato and half a bowl of rice, a woman half of a sweet potato and a small half bowl of rice.

Luckily, he was long accustomed to this lifestyle; as long as he could eat to his fill, it didn't matter whether it was grain or rice.

A portion of greens was placed atop the sweet potatoes in his bowl, and the beans he'd been eating for several days had half of them dumped into Mu Dashan's bowl by someone, making the remnants of lunch piled like leftovers, yet still arousing Mu Dashan's appetite.

Mu Dashan picked up his bowl, ready to go back to his room to share his meal with the children, when Mrs. Jin walked in from outside.

Seeing Mu Dashan, she wasn't surprised at all, but instead wore a kind smile. No matter the time, Mrs. Jin was always poised and superior.

"Third, I heard from the Fifth that you should be back soon, so I came over to check. How's it going, enjoying your meal?"

It was the first time Mrs. Jin proactively showed concern towards Mu Dashan, making Mu Dashan somewhat puzzled.

"Hmm, did sister-in-law eat?"

Mu Dashan replied quietly and stopped in his tracks, keeping his head down and not daring to look at the person before him.

"I've eaten! Third, last time was my mistake, I shouldn't have spoken that way about Shuangshuang. This time I've come as her aunt to apologize and hope she doesn't take it to heart.

Let's not let what happened last time distance her from me, as we are family and should live in harmony."

Mrs. Jin gazed sincerely at Mu Dashan, with words conveying that she truly regretted and wished for Mu Shuangshuang's forgiveness.

Mu Dashan, being honest and simple-minded, believed everyone was like him, knowing their mistakes and making amends.

Plus, Mrs. Jin's usual conduct was far better than most village women, so Mu Dashan forgave her.

The resentment he held due to Mrs. Jin's actions instantly dissipated.

"Sister-in-law, I'll talk to Shuangshuang, she's a good kid and won't bear grudges, as long as you don't do such things again. Shuangshuang is young and can't endure such hardships and torment."

Mu Dashan gathered the courage to say these words to Mrs. Jin, hoping she wouldn't trouble his daughter anymore. If she promised, he'd surely let go of the past.

"You're right, I won't do it again." Mrs. Jin made another promise, then suddenly spoke after Mu Dashan's expression fully relaxed.

"Shuangshuang is getting older, have you arranged for her marriage yet?"

"No, my wife Si Niang and I think the child is still young, wanting her to stay with us for a few more years."

Mu Dashan had never considered marrying off his daughter, even though she was already thirteen this year.

"Third, this won't do. We have a distant relative whose daughter was treated like a treasure, but she didn't get married because they didn't find anyone suitable. When she grew older, she couldn't find a match anymore.

Her family struggled hard to find a matchmaker, and when she finally got married at twenty-five, it was to a village widower, living a tough life and being beaten by her husband every day, eventually going mad."

Mrs. Jin recounted this while closely observing Mu Dashan's reactions. When she mentioned this relative's fate, she clearly saw Mu Dashan's body shiver, likely feeling scared.

"But don't worry too much, Third, Shuangshuang is well-behaved and sensible, surely many will be eager to propose, you just need to prepare the dowry."

Mrs. Jin comforted Mu Dashan, but her assurances only increased his worry, as the third branch had nothing. How would they manage a marriage for Shuangshuang or prepare a dowry?

"Sister-in-law, can you help me keep an eye out? We don't need a wealthy family, just someone nice who treats Shuangshuang well."

Mu Dashan didn't expect his daughter to marry a high official; even if she married a poor farmer, as long as she was treated well and not wronged, he'd be happy.

"Oh, that reminds me. Da De had a former classmate whose family name was Wang. His son has already passed the scholar exam, although he's only fifteen, they urgently want to find him a bride."

I originally thought of proposing Yingying or Dan Dan, but their horoscopes didn't match. Then I thought of using Shuangshuang's to see if it fits. How do you feel about that?

If you're not interested, I could ask for Second's family, as Qingqing is about the same age as Shuangshuang. Anyway, it's better if the benefit stays within the family."

Mu Dashan hesitated; he was uncertain. As a father, he should consider his daughter's future, and such an opportunity was before him, yet he felt skeptical about such a seemingly easy chance.

"Sister-in-law, will they even consider our third branch? We have nothing."

"Even if you have nothing, we do in the main branch. This time if your elder brother becomes a scholar, our whole family will be elevated compared to before. No matter how capable Wang Sheng is, he's just a scholar, while your brother will be a scholar."

"But..."

"Da Shan, don't but anymore. I happened to write down Shuangshuang's birth date on my way out. Just put your fingerprint on it, then everyone will know it's Shuangshuang's."