

## Folly 58

### Chapter 58: Old Mrs. Mu's Bias (First Update)

Mrs. Lin's actions didn't create a ripple among the remaining members of the Old Mu Family because everyone was focused on Mu Dashan, who was lying on the kang.

Putting family aside, Mu Dashan was currently the most capable laborer in the Old Mu Family. Usually, it didn't matter how much Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian slacked off, because this honest and silent man would complete all the tasks on his own.

However, with both Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian absent, no one was thinking about this issue.

Mu Shuangshuang needed to take advantage of this time to decide on Mu Dashan's rest and inactivity.

"Grandpa, given my father's current state, he definitely needs to rest for three to five days, don't you think?"

Mr. Mu nodded; it was indeed the case. He knew how the third son got heatstroke—under such sweltering weather, working alone in the field during the peak of noon while both Mu Dazhong and the Fifth Brother, Mu Danian, napped away under the shade until the sun was almost setting.

"Shuang, this is what we'll do. Let Da Shan rest well at home these few days. He'll return to work once he's recovered."

"Old man, are you crazy? There's so much work in the field. If the third son rests for that long, who's going to do the work? You?"

Old Mrs. Mu was the first to react; Mu Dashan was the main labor force in the house. If he didn't work, who knew when the double rush work in the fields would be completed.

"I will do it, haven't I done it before? Besides, resting a few days won't bring down the house. It's settled—Da Shan will rest. The work at home will be done by me, the second son, the fourth, and the fifth together.

If we truly can't finish, then we will call Zhenzhen and her husband back from Dahuo Village. Zhenzhen has been married for a few years, and it's time for her to contribute to the family."

Mu Zhenzhen is the second daughter of the family, ranking below Mu Dashan. After giving birth to Mu Dashan, Old Mrs. Mu was childless for five or six years, so the arrival of this daughter was naturally cherished.

However, Mr. Mu's words made sense; Mu Zhenzhen has been married for four or five years and hasn't helped around the house. She's always arrived just at lunch, ate her fill, didn't even clear the table, took things Old Mrs. Mu had hidden, and disappeared without a trace.

Yet, despite all this, Mu Zhenzhen is still Old Mrs. Mu's darling.

"Old man, are you mad? Zhenzhen is my darling, and making her work would break my heart!"

"Who said anything about making Zhenzhen work? Isn't it for the husband to do the work? Zhuangzi has meat piled up on him, shouldn't he take on some work?"

Old Mrs. Mu tilted her head and made her decision. "I won't let it happen. As long as anyone makes Zhenzhen and my son-in-law work, I won't let it go."

Mr. Mu didn't want to argue with Old Mrs. Mu, so he simply remained silent.

"Si Niang, don't go to work tomorrow, stay home, and take care of Da Shan. If you need anything, tell your mother, and she will prepare it for you."

Old Mrs. Mu was about to lash out but was halted abruptly by Mr. Mu's warning.

"Wife, there are priorities. Let's not make a fuss about today's issue. If people find out, Da De will be laughed at even if he becomes a Champion Scholar and a Capital Official."

Only then did Old Mrs. Mu fall silent, while Mr. Mu gave some additional instructions before leaving.

"Third sister-in-law, please take good care of my brother. I'll help Father with the fieldwork," Mu Dajiang rarely said such a heartwarming sentence, causing Yu Si Niang to almost burst into tears again.

His wife, Mrs. Liu, patted her shoulder, walked over to Yu Si Niang, took her hand, and placed a penny on it.

"Xiao Xia's mother, what are you doing? Take it back, take it back." Yu Si Niang understood all too well the situation of the third branch, and it wasn't any better than her own family. Mrs. Liu didn't have a means to earn her keep; her tasks were boiling water, cooking, chopping wood, and emptying Old Mrs. Mu's chamber pot. Everyone knew how hard-earned this penny was.

Mrs. Liu shook her head; she didn't know what to say, but she was sure the third branch needed that penny.

"Mother, since it's from fourth aunt, just accept it. We'll repay this kindness in the future."

Mu Shuangshuang's heart was warm; one penny, yet it made her feel the warmth of the Old Mu Family.

Fourth uncle, fourth aunt, rest assured, if one day I, Mu Shuangshuang, can attain success, I won't forget your kindness.

Only then did Yu Si Niang accept the penny, carefully putting it away.

Finally, only the third branch people remained in the room. Although Lu Yuanfeng was an outsider, he wouldn't align himself with the Old Mu Family's ways.

"Mother, I need to use a ceramic shard to cut open Father's hand. Don't be alarmed; it's to save him."

Yu Si Niang paused, then nodded.

Mu Shuangshuang picked up the ceramic shard in her hand and pricked Mu Dashan's hand repeatedly. After doing so, she began bloodletting. Since the wound wasn't deep, Mu Shuangshuang didn't bandage it.

After everything was done, everyone quietly refrained from disturbing Mu Dashan.

Mu Shuangshuang found a tattered garment from the cabinet and tore off a piece to hand to Lu Yuanfeng.

"Here, wipe off your clothes!"

Lu Yuanfeng looked down and saw the phlegm spit by Old Mrs. Mu clinging tightly to his clothes. Due to the heat, it stuck to him, and cleaning it took some effort.

"Thank you, Lu Yuanfeng!" Mu Shuangshuang said sincerely.

She owed him yet again, and at this rate, when would she be able to repay him all?

Lu Yuanfeng grinned, showing a set of bright, gleaming teeth.

"It's nothing. Oh, right, Shuangshuang, I brought the sugar cakes and baozi you asked for. I went ahead and bought ten baozi and five pieces of sugar cake for you."

As he spoke, Lu Yuanfeng started untying a bulging cloth bag from his waist.

"You silly boy, I only gave you four pennies, but you bought ten pennies' worth. Are you out of your mind?"

Mu Shuangshuang didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Was there anyone who would sell at a loss like this?

With just four pennies, he bought things worth ten. If he did business like this, wouldn't he end up losing even his underwear?

Lu Yuanfeng scratched his head, looking embarrassed. "This afternoon, I found an inn that said I could regularly sell wild chickens and rabbits there, as long as I clean them each time."

"Congratulations, now you don't have to wait at the market for someone to buy your game." Mu Shuangshuang genuinely praised him. After speaking, he glanced at the setting sun outside; it was almost dusk, and the sky would soon turn dark.

"Lu Yuanfeng, should you head back first? I'll see you at the usual spot tomorrow noon to discuss some matters."

"Alright! I'll head back first then, Aunt Si, Xiao Han, Little Zhi, I'm leaving."

"Yuan Feng, be careful, I'll thank you properly next time."