

Folly 76

Chapter 76: The Three Siblings Work Well Together (Second Update)

Early the next morning, Yu Si Niang returned to her parental home. Although she inevitably got scolded by Old Mrs. Mu again, she still felt happy as she had fulfilled her promise to her daughter.

Yu Si Niang's parental home was in Dashan Village, about seven or eight li from Er Gui Village. The round trip would take some time.

Mu Shuangshuang didn't go with her because today both Mu Dandan and Mu Yingying from the first branch weren't working, leaving just the kids from the second and third branches and Mrs. Liu, who worked as if she were a family member.

It must be said, Old Mrs. Mu was indeed someone who did what she said. When she said she'd make her eldest aunt work, she caught her first thing in the morning to empty the chamber pots. Although the aunt wasn't a lady from a grand family, she hadn't done any heavy work. Holding the chamber pot, she immediately vomited.

Old Mrs. Mu got angry. If it wasn't for Mr. Mu stopping her, she would have slapped with her hand. Since the slap didn't land, Old Mrs. Mu had Mrs. Jin cook meals for the whole family and do laundry. No doubt, Mrs. Jin is miserably doing the laundry by now.

This is just right, put that black-hearted Mrs. Jin in her place, making her plot against others every day.

This morning was just like yesterday afternoon, on the ridges of the fields, everywhere was busy with men and women, young and old, harvesting their own land. Their large family was bustling with activity, not a single person slacking off.

Looking at the Old Mu Family, Mu Shuangshuang immediately spotted Mu Danian crouching in the field playing with mud and Mu Dazhong going to the latrine again. With the efforts of yesterday and today, they hadn't even finished two mu of land.

Mr. Mu also seemed to realize this issue and walked up to Mu Danian, knocking heavily on his head with the handle of the sickle. "Fifth, if you keep slacking off, you won't have dinner today."

"Dad, you're so biased aren't you? How much work has my second brother done? He's gone to the toilet three times already. I haven't even gone once, what's wrong with resting when I'm tired?" Mu Danian responded boldly to Mr. Mu.

"I will talk to your second brother later. Right now, you need to work." Mr. Mu's face darkened, and the hand holding the sickle trembled.

"Why work at all, anyway my big brother will pass the exam for sure. I've worked like a horse for him for years, can't I take a break?"

"You call this taking a break? Look at yourself, how much did you accomplish this morning? You haven't even finished a row of rice stalks. Your big brother is in a rush for silver to take the exam, where will he get it if you don't work?"

Upon hearing about silver, Mu Danian's expression turned calm.

"No need to trouble you with that. We have so many girls in the family, sell one off, collect the bride price, and why would we big men need to harvest rice?"

"You beast, how can you say such inhumane words?" Mr. Mu wielded the sickle towards Mu Danian's face. If Mu Danian hadn't dodged quickly, his face would likely be disfigured.

"Oh great, Dad, you want me to end up like our third brother, an ugly monster? I'm telling you, I need to get married, if you ruin my face, I can't marry, I..."

"What, you plan to ascend to the heavens?"

Watching Mr. Mu and Mu Danian getting into a more heated argument and seeing that not much work was getting done in the fields, Mu Shuangshuang, who had to go to town in a couple of days, decided not to sit idly by.

"Grandpa, don't get angry. Fifth uncle's actions, it's merely because second uncle has been to the toilet a few times. Everything should be fair and reasonable, especially for straightforward people like fifth uncle."

"Exactly, Dad, listen to how reasonably Shuang speaks. I'm all about fairness. Today, if my second brother does a certain amount of work, I will too. Otherwise, people will think I'm being inconsiderate and trying to steal my brother's spotlight."

Well, Mu Danian's excuses sometimes have a bit of force.

Mu Shuangshuang's grape-like black eyes spun, and she continued speaking to Mr. Mu.

"Grandpa, how about giving second uncle and fifth uncle each their designated area? Whichever one finishes their work first, gets to go home first. This way, even if second uncle isn't around, fifth uncle won't feel it's unfair because everyone's work is separate."

Mr. Mu thought it was a good idea, slapped his big hand and said, "We'll decide it like this. Fifth, today seven portions of land, finish when you finish, or don't eat from today on."

"Shuang, you, Little Zhi, and Xiao Han finish five portions whenever you finish, then you can rest. And Qing and Gou Dan, Grandpa will give you four portions. As for the fourth family, you two just need to harvest one mu and eight, later when second uncle comes, let him do seven portions too."

"Dad, how could you distribute like this? Seven portions of land, I can't finish in two days usually, and you want me to finish it in a day, that's killing me?" Mu Danian protested. Working like this would absolutely exhaust him, and he wasn't willing.

"You lazy thing, how much does your third brother harvest in a day? One mu and five per day, and you can't even do half of that? Anyway, I've said my piece today, do it or don't."

After Mr. Mu's stern words, he started working, and Mu Shuangshuang's gaze on him changed repeatedly.

How did he speak such biased words as a grandfather?

Mu Shuangshuang knew from Yu Si Niang's mouth that an adult can cut at least eight portions to one mu two of land a day. If faster, possibly one mu five, or even two mu, but those people generally have exceptionally good physical conditions and are particularly quick-handed.

Currently, the fastest harvester in Er Gui Village is Mu Dashan, who manages one mu five in a day, but only because he starts a whole hour earlier and ends half an hour later than others.

"Sis, let's work quickly. Once we finish the five portions, we won't have to come out anymore." Xiao Han moved beside Mu Shuangshuang, also carrying a bamboo basket, seeking to quicken the pace.

"Xiao Han, you and Little Zhi don't need to carry the rice spikes, just help your sister fill the basket with rice spikes. Two baskets, I'll take one trip and you fill up one basket."

"But sister will be too tired on your own. Brother Xiao Han and I can help lift it." Little Zhi hesitated.

"With those short legs, how will you cross that ditch later? Better for us three to cooperate well and finish quickly. At noon, sis might have time to take you two to eat something delicious."

A half-meter wide water ditch isn't easy for everyone to cross.

"Yes, Little Zhi, let's work quickly and sis can rest sooner." Mu Xiaohan agreed with Mu Shuangshuang's plan. Indeed, neither he nor Little Zhi could cross that ditch.

Mu Shuangshuang increased her speed, going back and forth until her clothes were soaked, with sweat dripping from her hair like she'd been caught in the rain.

"Sister, take a break, you're sweating a lot." Little Zhi rushed forward, taking out his small handkerchief, and handed it to Mu Shuangshuang.

"It's okay, just keep packing the rice spikes. If sis gets tired, she'll rest."

Mu Shuangshuang patted the heads of the little ones and lifted a basket full of rice spikes again, making dozens of trips as the five portions of land grew less and less...