

Golden 131

Chapter 131 Family Friendship (Part 1)

"It's old, nothing serious. A customer complained, I'll handle it.

When Deputy Director Zhao saw Gu Lao and his group approaching, he quickly went to greet them.

"Hey, Xiao Zhuang, what are you doing here? Others say they'll leave but don't come in, but you've already come in and haven't even come to see this old man. It's really making this old man angry."

Old Master Gu nodded to Deputy Director Zhao and immediately noticed the two young men standing in the middle of the crowd. They were the same two he had met yesterday. He was particularly impressed by Zhuang Rui. Someone who could make the famous "money-grubbing" lose face was enough for him to take seriously.

In the antique trade, seniority and lineage are important, but what's even more important is having genuine talent and expertise. Zhuang Rui's performance in the ceramic appraisal yesterday was something even I, an old man, felt ashamed of.

Seeing Gu Lao speak intimately to Zhuang Rui and even pat Zhuang Rui on the shoulder, his attitude was as if he were treating him as an equal. Everyone around was stunned, and Deputy Director Zhao's eyes almost popped out of their sockets, unable to believe what he was seeing.

In the domestic jewelry appraisal circle, Gu Lao is unparalleled. Jewelry that has been appraised by him has seen its value increase significantly. His disciples and grand-disciples are all over the world, and his reputation in the jewelry industry is unmatched. However, he is old and has a name registered with the Jade Association. Although he is not in charge of specific matters, his handwritten appraisal conclusions are more authoritative than the appraisal results of any jade appraisal institution in China.

"Sir, my friend is an exhibitor at this exhibition, and I came to help out."

Zhuang Rui felt a little embarrassed by Gu Lao's enthusiasm. He had seen Gu Lao sitting on the temporary stage outside when the trade fair opened, but since they had only met once, he hadn't gone up to strike up a conversation.

"Hmm, Xiao Zhuang, so the exhibitors who got the complaints are these two young girls? Deputy Director Zhao, what's going on?"

Gu Lao glanced at the crowd around him, then looked at Zhuang Rui and the others who were surrounded in the middle. He immediately understood what was going on and asked the person next to him.

"It's nothing, it's nothing, Gu Lao, it must be a misunderstanding. Alright, alright, everyone disperse, there's nothing to see here." Seeing how familiar Gu Lao and Zhuang Rui were, Deputy Director Zhao didn't dare to cause any more trouble. He wasn't afraid of leaving the temporary organizing committee, but he was afraid of Gu Lao. If Gu Lao said anything in the jewelry appraisal industry, he could immediately smash his livelihood.

"Misunderstanding? This guy harassed a woman and then falsely accused us. Your organizing committee didn't even investigate before shutting down our booth. You call this a misunderstanding? Deputy Director Zhao, can you explain this?"

Lei Lei was not having it. She had been so self-righteous when she was causing trouble, but now she was claiming it was a misunderstanding. It was too late!

"What exactly happened? Xiao Liu, come here for a moment."

Old Gu frowned. He wasn't familiar with this Director Zhao, so he pointed to someone he knew in the crowd and went over to ask him what was going on.

"Nonsense, pure nonsense! Just because someone only has two girls exhibiting, you think you can manipulate them like that? What is your organizing committee doing? Closing someone's booth without even investigating properly? How do you do your job?"

This man dared not hide anything from Gu Lao, so he described how Wang Kun had come to the organizing committee. Director Zhao's bias towards Wang Kun was also evident. He was just a staff member, and he naturally followed along when his superiors gave him instructions. However, this man also disliked Wang Kun very much, and in his words, he revealed Wang Kun's nickname and background.

Upon hearing the nickname "Wang Yigun," Gu Lao immediately understood what was going on and began loudly reprimanding Deputy Director Zhao. He didn't even bother with scum like Wang Kun.

"Old Gu, this...this is all a misunderstanding. I will definitely investigate the matter when I get back and give you all an explanation."

Deputy Director Zhao was sweating profusely. He hadn't expected that Old Gu would get so angry over these young people, showing no mercy to him in front of everyone. It seemed he had underestimated the relationship between that young man and Old Gu.

"Old man, they started the fight. I didn't do anything. It's not fair of you to say that, old man."

Wang Kun was indignant at this moment. He had just been slapped by Liu Chuan, which made him furious. In addition, although he had heard of Gu Lao's reputation, he did not know much about him. Now, seeing Gu Lao acting like an old man and Deputy Director Zhao nodding like a chicken pecking at rice, he couldn't help but shout that he was wronged.

"Whose kid are you?" Old Master Gu glanced at Wang Kun with some disgust and asked casually.

"The Jinling Royal Jewelry belongs to our family, and I am also an exhibitor at this exhibition. They beat me up for no reason. You can't show favoritism, sir."

Wang Kun puffed out his chest and announced his family's name. In his mind, Wang's Jewelry was a big player in Jinling, and he figured the old man would give him some face. Little did he know that because of his self-disclosure, Wang's Jewelry had many jade suppliers terminate their cooperation with them, and for a long time afterward, they struggled to survive. Only after figuring out what had happened did they ask around and finally managed to get help from Old Master Gu. But that's another story.

"Since you are an exhibitor, there is no question of assaulting a customer. Besides, that young man doesn't belong to this booth. You can call the police; there's no need to crowd around here. Director Zhao, will you only take him away if there are more onlookers?"

The old man's face was already quite pale. Upon hearing this, Deputy Director Zhao quickly led the organizing committee staff away. Wang Kun struggled to speak, but Deputy Director Zhao also pulled

him away. He knew the old man's power; a single word from him could put Wang Kun's company in a supply shortage. If Wang Kun didn't know his place, he would inevitably bring trouble to his family.

Only Liu Chuan was very unhappy. Why was this old man just like Lei Lei? He was always trying to send people to the police station. Although he grew up there, he didn't like spending the night there.

"Alright, you guys go ahead and get busy. I'll stay here for a bit."

The old man spoke to the person accompanying him, leaving only the middle-aged man whom Zhuang Rui had met yesterday by his side.

"Young lady, the jewelry styles here don't sell very well. Although these diamonds and jade are of a high quality, they are not the best. Most people can't afford them, and those who really need them can't get them. This won't do."

After dismissing everyone around him, Gu Lao carefully looked around Qin Xuanbing's booth, then sat down inside and shared his thoughts.

Qin Xuanbing brought a glass of water to Gu Lao and the middle-aged man behind him. Of course, there was no Da Hong Pao tea from Qian Yao Si's shop here. Then she said, "Gu Lao, we were prepared for this exhibition rather hastily. Many exhibits are not yet ready. We do have top-quality jadeite and diamond jewelry in our Hong Kong shop, but we didn't have enough time. By the way, Gu Lao, I have a piece of jadeite that was just cut open. Could you please give it a rating?"

Just as Zhuang Rui was about to stop Qin Xuanbing from speaking, Qin Xuanbing took the glass-type jadeite out of her pocket. Ever since Zhuang Rui gave it to her, Qin Xuanbing had always carried it with her.

Over the years, Gu Lao has rarely appraised jewelry for merchants, for fear that his reputation would be stolen by some people. However, seeing that Qin Xuanbing had already taken out the jadeite while speaking, he couldn't refuse. After reaching out to borrow it, the middle-aged man behind him handed him a pair of reading glasses and an extremely exquisite small flashlight. After slowly putting on the glasses, the old man took the jadeite in his palm and looked at it.

"This jadeite has good quality, huh?"

Old Gu had initially been somewhat nonchalant, casually making comments, but once he focused his attention on the jade, he immediately fell silent, turning on the small flashlight in his hand that emitted a strong beam of light.

After about five or six minutes, Gu Lao handed the jade in his hand back to Qin Xuanbing and asked, "Girl, which jewelry company does your family own in Hong Kong?" When he heard that it was Qin's Jewelry in Hong Kong, a look of understanding flashed in his eyes.

"Hehe, so you're the granddaughter of an old friend. I know your grandfather; he's a generation older than me. This piece of jadeite you have is of glassy quality, entirely green—a very rare imperial green. Your grandfather is quite comfortable letting you carry it with you like this?"

Qin Xuanbing glanced at Zhuang Rui and honestly replied, "This was given to me by Zhuang Rui. I didn't take it from home. Besides, all the jadeite of this quality at home has already been polished into finished products. We don't even have rough stones like this at home."

Qin Xuanbing's words revealed a hint of joy, indicating her extreme satisfaction with Zhuang Rui's gift.

Liu Chuan didn't understand the value of jadeite and didn't react much after hearing Qin Xuanbing's words. However, Lei Lei was different. Although the jadeite wasn't large, its value was at least five million. She didn't expect Zhuang Rui to be so generous and looked at Zhuang Rui in surprise.

"Not only is Brother Zhuang an expert in ceramics appraisal, but it seems he is also quite knowledgeable about jade."

When the old man heard that the jade was a gift from Zhuang Rui to Qin Xuanbing, he was quite surprised. He could tell that the jade had just been taken out of the stone not long ago and hadn't been polished much. It was obviously cut by Zhuang Rui himself, and the ability to cut the jade without damaging its surface was something that not everyone could do.