

## Golden 132

### Chapter 132 Family Friendship (Part Two)

"Grandpa, you're joking. I don't know much about jade. This rough stone that yielded the jadeite was left to me by my grandfather. I accidentally cut it open and discovered the jadeite inside.

Zhuang Rui smiled bitterly. He could only bring up his deceased grandfather as an excuse. This feeling was really not good. He couldn't help but recount the story of his grandfather's diary again.

"So Mr. Zhuang was the young man's grandfather! When I was young, I once listened to his lectures on the theory of 'The Relationship Between Intense Hydrothermal Activity in Crustal Movement and Natural Jadeite,' which greatly inspired my later research on jadeite. In a way, I could be considered Mr. Zhuang's disciple. So many years have passed, and I didn't even know that my teacher had passed away..."

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui mention his grandfather's name, Grandpa Gu was taken aback and quickly stood up to show his respect for his teacher. From Grandpa Gu, Zhuang Rui learned that his grandfather was indeed a student of the great geologist Li Siguang. It turned out that the way Li Siguang was addressed in those letters was not just out of respect, but because the two had a true teacher-student relationship.

"Teacher Zhuang's lectures are humorous and interesting. He has a deep understanding of the geology and landforms of Yunnan, my country, as well as Myanmar and Laos. It was after listening to Teacher Zhuang's lectures that I first learned that beautiful jadeite is mined from stones. You could say that Teacher Zhuang was my guide into the jade industry."

"Young Master Zhuang is truly remarkable! Just from his teacher's diary, he could discern the grain of the raw jadeite and cut it so perfectly. Like father, like son; his teacher has certainly passed on his skills."

Upon hearing news of his teacher from decades ago, Gu Lao was quite excited and his words became somewhat incoherent. However, Qin Xuanbing and the others could see the deep respect Gu Lao held for Zhuang Rui's grandfather from his face.

"I didn't actually see the patterns or antiquity of the raw stone. I just randomly cut along the edge of this jadeite, and then polished it little by little with a grinding wheel. Please don't laugh at me.

Zhuang Rui said with a wry smile, "So this stone-cutting has made me a grandson of a general." However, he dared not take credit for it. When it comes to knowledge of antiques, he knows the least about jade. If he were to admit it, he would probably reveal his ignorance after just a few words.

"From Teacher Zhuang's perspective, we are practically family friends. I should call you my nephew. Don't underestimate luck. Whether it's antiques or jade, in the process of treasure hunting, your eyesight accounts for 20%, while luck accounts for 80%. Think about it, these objects that have been passed down for thousands of years are still there waiting for you to find a bargain. Can you do it without good luck?"

Especially in jade, you all probably know about gambling on rough stones. Experience does play a role, but it only accounts for 20%. The remaining 80% is all about luck. A rough stone with full pine flower and python patterns might turn out to be a piece of garbage, while a stone with an unremarkable appearance might yield a top-quality piece with glassy texture. Add to that the string of dzi beads bestowed upon you by the Living Buddha, and so on. So, my dear nephew, never underestimate the power of luck!

Old Gu was very happy today and became very talkative, chatting with the group. What he said was all based on his experience. As for jade, jade that has already been mined can of course be analyzed and concluded based on experience or instruments. However, for jadeite rough, there is no instrument in the world that can detect whether there is jadeite inside without damaging its surface. It all depends on luck.

"Damn, you piece of junk, it's actually worth millions? You're so cheap, you didn't even tell your buddies about something like this. I'm telling you, you really put in the effort to pick up girls."

Liu Chuan, after hearing the old man's exaggerated words, pulled Lei Lei aside and only then realized the true value of the jade. This belatedly aware guy couldn't help but exclaim, making Zhuang Rui's face flush red and then pale with embarrassment.

"Liu Chuan, you good-for-nothing! Zhuang Rui can give away jade worth millions, what have you ever given me? I always pay for everything when we go to the supermarket, so what gives you the right to criticize Zhuang Rui?"

Before Zhuang Rui could answer, Liu Chuan's backyard was already on fire. Seeing Lei Lei roaring like a shrew, Liu Chuan repeatedly apologized. This guy was shameless and insisted on sending himself away, which made everyone burst into laughter.

"If I had known that this tiny piece of broken rock could be worth millions, whether I would have given it to Qin Xuanbing or not is another matter."

Zhuang Rui was grumbling inwardly, but seeing Qin Xuanbing's touched expression, he knew he couldn't say it out loud. Zhuang Rui now understood that those stories of heroes rescuing beauties or spending lavishly on a beautiful woman were probably similar to his own—he was simply forced into it.

Looking at Qin Xuanbing, whose face was smiling and whose eyes were full of affection, Zhuang Rui suddenly remembered something and said to Old Master Gu, "Grandpa, I have another favor to ask of you..."

"Don't call me 'old man,' I can't accept that. Just call me 'uncle-master.' I've met your father before; he was a learned man, what a pity... Well, just tell me what you need, and I'll help you if I can."

Before Zhuang Rui could finish speaking, Gu Lao waved his hand to interrupt him. He could accept being called "Old Master" by others, but Zhuang Rui was only one generation younger than him. Although "Old Master" was a valid title, Gu Lao wanted to show respect for his teacher and asked Zhuang Rui to change his address.

"Uh, Uncle Gu... it's like this, I'm going back to Zhonghai in a little while. Judging from the look of that person, he should be a local tyrant. I'm afraid that after Da Chuan and I leave, Xuan Bing and the other two girls will suffer. Uncle Gu, could you please keep an eye on them? With you here, I'm sure those petty scoundrels won't dare to cause trouble."

Zhuang Rui's words startled Gu Lao at first, then made him furious. He turned around and said to the middle-aged man behind him, "Go and investigate that kid's background. If he's also in the jade business, cut off their supply. Tell those jade merchants that I said not to supply this jewelry company."

At this moment, Gu Gu's authority as a superior was unmistakable, and he suddenly seemed unfamiliar to Zhuang Rui and the others, as if he had suddenly become a different person.

What they didn't know was that Gu Gu was not only highly skilled in jade appraisal, but also one of the specially appointed researchers of the Palace Museum. Every year, he would set aside time to classify some national treasure-level ancient jade and imperial seals from various dynasties. Moreover, he was

also an expert in jade carving. Many high-ranking officials and nobles found Gu Gu's works extremely rare and sought after, and he had befriended many important figures.

The middle-aged man agreed and turned to leave. Poor Wang Kun's family company suffered a great blow for a long time, not knowing who they had offended. Afterwards, when they found out that it was Wang Yigun who had done this, Wang Kun's father almost broke Wang Kun's third leg.

"Alright, they won't dare to cause any more trouble. However, little girl from the Qin family, your jewelry exhibits are neither high-end nor low-end, and it will be difficult to sell them at this exhibition. How about this, I'll help you to the end and introduce you to a few clients so you can buy all your goods this time. As for the future, you'll have to rely on yourselves, and you're not allowed to use my name."

Although Gu Lao was confident that no one would cause trouble for this booth, Qin Xuanbing and her group had no connections and there was no point in them staying at the exhibition. Out of respect for Zhuang Rui, Gu Lao decided to help them out. After thinking for a moment, Gu Lao continued, "The exhibition lasts for ten days. Today is only the first day. After you have sold all your jewelry, you can transfer the booth. This will save you a lot of money."

Qin Xuanbing and Leilei were overjoyed upon hearing this. The two women had been thinking that they would definitely lose a lot of money at this trade fair. Although they didn't care about the money they spent on the exhibition, they were naturally a little frustrated that their first attempt at planning such a project had ended in failure. Now, Old Master Gu's words were like sending charcoal in snowy weather.

Old Gu waved his hand, indicating that the group didn't need to thank him. Then he stood up and said to them, "Take these pieces of jewelry with you and come with me. I'll introduce you to some clients, but remember, you're not allowed to use my name again."

Old Gu had a smile on his face as he spoke. Since he could introduce clients to Qin Xuanbing and the others, he naturally didn't care that they wouldn't need to use his name when contacting these clients in the future. Those people would still give him some face.

"Uncle-Master, I won't go with you. I still have to drive back to Zhonghai. When you have time to visit Zhonghai, I will definitely treat you well. Xuanbing, Leilei, see you in Zhonghai in a few days."

Zhuang Rui glanced at the time; it was already past 1 p.m. He was driving towards Zhonghai, and it would probably be dark by the time he arrived. Seeing that things had been resolved satisfactorily, he decided to take his leave.

"No rush. It only takes four or five hours to drive from Nanjing to Zhonghai. Why don't you come along? There are some Chaozhou customers at this exhibition who brought some raw jadeite from Myanmar. You're really lucky. Come and take a look; maybe you can give us a surprise."

The ancient saying stirred Zhuang Rui's heart. This was a rare opportunity. He had heard about gambling on stones many times, and today he was finally fortunate enough to see it for himself. Zhuang Rui immediately abandoned the idea of leaving.

The total value of the jewelry that Qin Xuanbing and her group exhibited this time was over ten million. After hearing Gu Lao's words, they put it into a safe with a combination lock, which was then carried by Liu Chuan and followed Gu Lao to a corner in the southeast of the exhibition hall.

This jade and jewelry exhibition was divided into four exhibition halls: A, B, C, and D. The area was very large. Qin Xuanbing's company's booth was in Hall A. Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan had been extremely busy since yesterday and had no time to stroll around. It wasn't until they followed Gu Lao to Hall D that they realized there was more to it than met the eye.