

Golden 138

Chapter 138 One Strike to Heaven, One Strike to Hell (Part 1)

Most of the people gathered in Hall D watching the stone cutting were from the jewelry business and were certainly no strangers to jade gambling. However, today was still an eye-opener for them. Two rough stones, which even the renowned jade expert, Mr. Gu, hadn't been optimistic about, had actually won big on the gamble. Such a situation is usually only seen at major jade auctions.

While some are happy, others are sad. The two people with the most complicated feelings right now are Xu Wei and Liu Chuan. Xu Wei had mocked and ridiculed Liu Chuan into buying the three-thousand-yuan rough jade, but he never expected that he had given away money to someone else. He felt as bitter as if he had drunk bitter melon.

The other person was Yang Hao, the original owner of these rough stones. He never expected that the two rough stones, which were considered worthless by everyone at home, would actually be worth a fortune. More importantly, the price he sold them for was practically a steal, which made him feel extremely awkward.

Fortunately, when the onlookers heard that both rough stones came from his booth, they all went inside to select some. Among them were legitimate jade merchants and tourists who wanted to try their luck, since Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan had just stumbled upon them by sheer luck.

Zhuang Rui continued rubbing the stone. After Gu Lao came over and took a look, he told Zhuang Rui to continue rubbing. However, after rubbing from the side, what was revealed was not green, but white, misty crystals. This made Gu Lao frown. The performance of this rough stone was really strange. The jadeite color and texture that came out when rubbing the cracks were not very good, but when rubbing from the side, it was all white mist. Even Gu Lao had never encountered such a situation.

In fact, Zhuang Rui was now considering cutting it open. He was fully confident that he wouldn't damage the jade inside at all. However, doing so would be too conspicuous. Once could be attributed to luck, but a second time would be unacceptable.

"Xiao Zhuang, stop. Don't wipe it anymore. This white mist must have seeped in quite a bit. Cut it open from the side and see what's inside."

Gu Lao stopped Zhuang Rui from rubbing the stone and let him start cutting it. Hearing that there was another stone being cut, the crowd that had gone to select raw materials gathered around again.

Zhuang Rui didn't want to cut the jade directly. After measuring the distance with his eyes, he cut the rough stone in half. The onlookers sighed at the same time. Clearly, this cut had ruined the jade.

"Hey, what do you think of this piece of wood? It's so big, it should be worth more than yours, right?"

Aside from the moment he discovered the green color, Liu Chuan had been completely baffled by the jade. However, hearing the sighs of the crowd, he realized that his rough jade wasn't very good, so he quickly pulled Zhuang Rui aside and asked.

"It's better than mine. I'm telling you, you rascal, don't just stare. Go up and practice yourself. You bought it for three thousand yuan, you should at least have some fun with it." Zhuang Rui replied irritably. He didn't want to polish it anymore. The cut was only two or three centimeters away from the jade, so he might as well let Liu Chuan polish it himself.

"Hey buddy, it's good enough that this piece of scrap can yield any green material. You bought it for three thousand, I'll offer eight thousand. How about you sell it to me?"

While the two were talking, the middle-aged man, who was called Old Huo, carefully examined the cut and then said to Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan.

"Eight thousand? That's five thousand in profit from reselling it, isn't it? Wood, what do you say, are you going to sell it or not?"

Liu Chuan was a little undecided. Gambling really tested his heart's endurance. The cut Zhuang Rui made earlier made Liu Chuan's heart feel like it was on a roller coaster, going up and down.

"That boss just offered 30,000 yuan for my piece. Do you think I'll sell it or not? Look at you, so pathetic. Go get your stone polished. At worst, you'll just be doing your thing for 3,000 yuan."

Zhuang Rui glared at Liu Chuan with annoyance. If this guy really sold the raw material for eight thousand yuan, he would definitely jump into the Qinhuai River in less than ten minutes.

"You've made over a million, of course you can talk so easily. My three thousand yuan didn't come from thin air either.

As Liu Chuan muttered to himself, he picked up the grinder and began grinding the cut surface. This guy was strong, and he was holding his breath, so he cut in three or four centimeters in just a few strokes. However, he wasn't looking at the cut surface; instead, he was looking around.

"Damn, you're such a pig, you've been cheated on."

Zhuang Rui kicked Liu Chuan in the butt, sending him flying. He then rinsed the cut surface of the jade with water. Upon hearing this, Liu Chuan quickly threw down the grinding wheel he was still holding, forgetting his anger towards Zhuang Rui, and got up to lean over.

"Can't you concentrate on what you're doing? Look at this, you've scratched a hole in a perfectly good piece of jade." Zhuang Rui pulled Liu Chuan aside and pointed at the cut surface with annoyance. If he had known it would turn out like this, Zhuang Rui would have rather cut it himself.

"Dude, I don't know how, you blockhead. How much do you think this piece of mine is worth?"

Liu Chuan grinned foolishly, completely unaware of how much money his actions would cost him.

"You're asking me? Who am I supposed to ask? Let my senior uncle take a look." Zhuang Rui pushed Liu Chuan aside, making room for Old Master Gu.

The window that Liu Chuan polished was about the size of a palm. After Zhuang Rui washed it with water, the entire piece of jade revealed a small part of its true form. It was as transparent as water and lush with green. Zhuang Rui knew that this piece of jade was several times larger than the one he had just seen, and the spiritual energy contained within it was also extremely rich, indicating that it was of good quality.

"You two lads, what can I say about you? Your luck is just... just too good."

After fiddling with the flashlight and magnifying glass for five or six minutes, Gu Lao finally put down his tools, looked at Zhuang Rui and the other man, and said with great emotion.

"Hehe, old man, you don't know, Mu Tou's good luck is all thanks to me. When we were in elementary school, I was always the one picking up money while he followed behind eating dust. I knew it, all the good things went to him recently, now it's my turn. Old man, how about this piece of jade? Isn't it better than Mu Tou's?"

Liu Chuan couldn't wait to squeeze in front of Gu Gu. After boasting for a while, he finally asked about the value of his rough jade.

"It's better than his piece. It's icy jade, and the green is pure and deep, probably a bright green. Although it has some impurities, it's much better than the egg-white jade. And what we've just polished out is only a corner. If we take the whole piece out, it will be much bigger than Xiao Rui's previous piece. Young man, this piece of jade will be enough for you to live on for the rest of your life."

Looking at the lucky guy in front of him, Gu Lao sighed. Many people who had spent their whole lives gambling on jadeite had never found a piece of jadeite of this quality, but this guy had found one as if it were a game. This made Gu Lao even more envious of the string of dzi beads in Zhuang Rui's hand. He could only attribute it to the good luck that the dzi beads had brought to the two of them.

Because the site of the stone cutting was cordoned off by security guards, the jade merchants outside could not observe the rough stone up close. Strictly speaking, it was still a semi-gambled rough stone. Although it had turned green, it was only a small part of it. No one dared to draw a conclusion about what the rest of the stone would look like. However, what the old man had just said still excited the jade merchants outside. A top-quality icy green jadeite, this was the raw material for making high-end jewelry.

"Make way, let us in. I'll offer two million RMB, young man, are you willing to sell?"

"Young man, I'll offer 50,000, what do you think?"

"Six million, I'll offer six million."

The scene went wild. You see, icy jadeite is not as good as glassy jadeite, but it is still extremely rare, especially since it is bright green. A single cabochon of such a top-quality jadeite is worth hundreds of thousands, and a bracelet made from it would be worth millions. Not to mention that, as Mr. Gu said, this piece of jadeite is quite large. Although they had not been able to get close to examine it, the jade merchants had already started shouting out prices.

Liu Chuan was stunned. He had just been envious of Zhuang Rui for turning a rough stone into jade, but now that it was his turn, he was at a loss. Millions upon millions were being shouted out by these jade merchants as if they were shouting out tens of dollars. Not only Liu Chuan, but even Zhuang Rui was seeing such a crazy scene for the first time.

"Grandpa, I... he... are you selling this?"

Liu Chuan was at a loss, so he asked the old man who was still observing the face-wiping man.

"Two million, haha, just add a little extra and it'll be about right."

The old man stood up and told Liu Chuan to carry the rough stone onto the stone-cutting machine. He had observed it for a long time and had figured out the direction and distribution of the jade inside. Now he was going to cut the whole piece of jade out.

As the old man moved, the restless crowd around him gradually quieted down. Whether they were jade merchants who intended to buy jade or tourists brought by tour groups, everyone felt that today's trip was worthwhile. They all held their breath, afraid of making a sound that might disturb the old man who was cutting the stone.

With the old man's skillful and ancient stone-cutting movements, fragments of stone fell to the ground, and the exquisite jadeite, which had been hidden deep within the stone and almost abandoned by the world, gradually revealed its true appearance. After the old man completely peeled off the outer skin, he used a polishing machine to polish it. After more than half an hour, a piece of jadeite slightly smaller than a football and entirely emerald green was presented to everyone.

"The water content is good, but the green color is a bit scattered and not very even. But it's still quite valuable. Young man, this is gambling on stones. One cut can lead to heaven or hell. You decide how to handle it."

Old Gu wiped his sweat and handed the jade to Liu Chuan.

"Grandpa, you haven't said how much it's worth yet." Liu Chuan, ignoring the dust on the jade's surface, hugged it tightly to his chest and asked the old man.

"Don't ask me, go ask them."

Following the direction of the old man's finger, Liu Chuan looked around at the crowd and couldn't help but shiver. The way these people looked at him made him feel like he was surrounded by wolves in Tibet.