

Golden 140

Chapter 140 One Strike to Heaven, One Strike to Hell (Part 3)

"So, Mr. Xu, this stall has great feng shui! Two rough stones were cut open, and both turned out to be profitable. Yours is sure to be no exception. Go cut it; it's better to keep it.

Zhuang Rui was also encouraging them from the side. At this moment, the jade merchants who were originally going to select rough stones also gathered around the table and began to observe the half-rough stone with a window that Xu Wei had bought.

"The water quality is good, there's no white mist, and no cracks. It was worth the three million!"

The jade merchant, known as Old Huo, after obtaining Xu Wei's consent, examined the jade carefully for several minutes with a powerful flashlight before drawing this conclusion.

After hearing what Lao Huo said, Xu Wei glanced at Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan sideways, feeling a little smug. "You two country bumpkins found jadeite, that's pure luck. The kind of rough jadeite we're playing with really tests your eyesight."

"Mr. Xu, are you interested in selling this rough jade stone? I'm willing to offer 3.2 million yuan to buy it. What do you think?"

Perhaps wanting to share in the good fortune of Zhuang and Liu, Lao Huo took a liking to Xu Wei's semi-rough jade and offered him a price.

"I'm from Xu's Jewelry Company in the South, in charge of South China affairs. I'm here to acquire raw jadeite. Mr. Huo, I'm sorry, but I took a liking to this piece of raw jadeite at first sight. Unlike some people who just rely on luck."

Seeing that Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan's rough jadeite, which they bought for only a few thousand yuan, had turned out to be worth tens of millions of yuan, Xu Wei felt very uncomfortable. He knew that even if his semi-rough jadeite was worth more than seven or eight million yuan, it would only be worth around seven or eight million yuan. Compared to Liu Chuan's jadeite, it was worlds apart.

"Hey, Xu Bailian, we guys pick rough stones based on our eyesight and experience. Otherwise, how could we find jade worth 20 million? If you think you're better than me, cut open your rough stone and let everyone see Xu's jade gambling skills.

Liu Chuan's words drew laughter from everyone. No one in the room would believe that he selected the raw materials based on his eyesight. However, Liu Chuan's sarcastic words made Xu Wei's fair face turn red. He stood up abruptly and said, "Since Mr. Liu wants to see it, I will grant your wish."

"Old man, could you please help me unravel this piece of raw jade?"

Although Xu Wei agreed to cut the stone on the spot, he was not very proficient in stone cutting and was not much better than Zhuang Rui. Therefore, he wanted to ask Grandpa Gu to help him, so that the jade in the rough stone could be completely cut out to the greatest extent.

Normally, people in the jade business enjoy cutting stones and personally extracting jade from them. The satisfaction is indescribable. However, after hearing Xu Wei's words, Gu Lao shook his head and said, "I've cut two stones today and I'm a bit tired. Mr. Xu, you should find someone else."

Old Gu had just looked at Xu Wei's semi-rough jadeite. To be honest, he was also very optimistic about this piece of jadeite, and the chances of it being a winning bet were very high. However, there were too many unexpected events today. Two pieces of jadeite that were considered waste material were cut into jadeite, and the quality was not bad. This made Old Gu feel uneasy. Could it be that things would happen three times in a row, and that this would happen to Xu Wei's piece of jadeite?

Furthermore, the work of cutting those two rough stones had indeed taken a lot of effort from the old man. Although it seemed that Zhuang Rui had already extracted jadeite, the subsequent work of polishing and removing the surface layer was very delicate. A slight mistake could damage the jade inside. So, although the old man looked relaxed, the effort he actually put in was far beyond what everyone imagined.

However, the old man also wanted to know what this semi-rough jade stone was like, so he said to Xu Wei, "Here's what we'll do. I'll draw a few lines for you. You cut along these lines first, and then see how this rough stone performs."

Xu Wei, who was initially somewhat disappointed, was overjoyed upon hearing this. Everyone had just witnessed the skill of Old Master Gu in cutting stones. Now that he was willing to draw the cutting lines on the rough stone, it was not much different from cutting it himself. Even if he accidentally damaged the jade inside, he could explain it to his family, since he had cut it under Old Master Gu's guidance. Thinking of this, Xu Wei quickly handed over the chalk.

"Hey, do you think there's any jade in the stone this kid bought? He was so cocky earlier, it annoyed me." Liu Chuan nudged Zhuang Rui with his elbow and asked in a low voice.

"Anyway, I have a bad feeling about it. You know I buy antiques entirely based on my gut feeling. That rough stone is probably not going to be good. But seriously, why do you care so much? You've made 20 million for nothing. You're eating the meat yourself but not letting others have a sip of soup."

Zhuang Rui spoke very softly for the first few sentences, but he deliberately raised his voice for the last few sentences, so that people more than ten meters away could hear him clearly.

"That's right, that's right. I'm just afraid some people won't even get to drink the soup," Liu Chuan said with a smile.

Xu Wei ignored the two men, carrying the rough stone that Old Master Gu had marked, and walked to the stone-cutting machine.

The crowd at Hall D was growing larger and larger. It wasn't just the jade merchants and tourists, but also the exhibitors who came to watch the excitement. After all, it would be quite a story if word got out that this one stall had unearthed two stones that had made a huge profit.

Moreover, Xu Wei is now preparing to cut the stone again. If he wins again, it will be an extremely rare occurrence, not only at this exhibition which is not a formal trading venue for raw jadeite, but also at major jadeite auctions. It will definitely become a topic of conversation among the people in the market in the future.

The huge exhibition hall was packed with people, but it was completely silent. No one made a sound; everyone held their breath and watched Xu Wei prepare to cut the stone.

"Ouch..."

Xu Wei started the stone-cutting machine, aimed it at the white line drawn by the old master, and was about to cut when a loud sound came from his ear. Xu Wei, who was already very nervous, was so frightened that he almost cut the green side that was exposed. Xu Wei looked up angrily, only to see Liu Chuan looking at him with a worried expression.

"Hey General Manager Xu, can't you hurry up? My stomach is hurting terribly right now, and I need to go to the toilet, but I'm afraid I'll miss the show. Hurry up and cut it quickly, can't you see there are hundreds of people waiting outside?"

Liu Chuan's words made everyone in the room curse inwardly. If he hadn't interrupted others, the stone would have been solved long ago. But looking at Liu Chuan's unreasonable face, no one stepped forward to uphold justice.

Standing beside the stone-cutting machine, Xu Wei took a deep breath, calmed himself down, and started the machine to cut along the white line. This time, Liu Chuan didn't say anything to cause trouble. With a series of ear-piercing "crack" sounds, the half-gambled rough stone was split in two.

"Sigh..." A huge sigh came from the crowd at the front. Those behind knew without asking that the cut had ruined the piece. Xu Wei, meanwhile, stared blankly at the smooth cut of the rough stone on the ground with an incredulous expression.

The old man stood up, picked up the half of the rough stone with the window cut out, looked at it for about a minute, shook his head and said, "This rough stone can only yield three or five pendants at most, it's basically wasted. Young man, just consider it a lesson learned."

Old Master Gu's words left Xu Wei speechless with despair. This lesson was far too costly. He only had five million yuan available for purchasing jade raw materials, and now he had already thrown away three million yuan. In addition, with the controversy caused by that British jewelry designer a while ago, those in the family who were trying to undermine him had probably found another excuse to attack him.

Almost rudely snatching the half of the rough stone from the old man's hand, Xu Wei cut it in half again. However, the cut surface was still a stone with a slightly white misty appearance, with no trace of green. A little anxious, Xu Wei started rubbing the stone from the window where the green had appeared.

After a long while, Xu Wei finally stopped, looking dejected. In his hand was just a flat piece of jade, only the size of a palm. Just as the old man had said, it was only enough to make three or five Guanyin pendants. Moreover, it was just a piece of egg-blue jade. If three or five pendants could sell for a hundred thousand or so, that would be considered very good.

"Hey Wood, I accidentally made 20 million today. Do you think the Tibetan Antelope I bought is a bit low-end? With my net worth, I should at least be driving a Mercedes. Tsk tsk, some people are really pitiful, they even gambled away their pants. Was the old man talking about that person when he talked about heaven and hell?"

Liu Chuan was in an incredibly cheerful mood, like after being exposed to the scorching sun for hours in temperatures over 30 degrees Celsius, he had just downed a glass of draft beer and felt completely relaxed and refreshed from head to toe.

Upon hearing this, Xu Wei could no longer suppress his anger, but he still maintained his composure. Instead of throwing away the valuable material worth over 100,000 yuan, he rushed towards Liu Chuan, as if he wanted to argue with him.

Before he could take two steps, Xu Wei was grabbed by a man who had just squeezed through the crowd. The man cursed and said, "Damn it, Xu Wei, you tricked me! You didn't even tell me those two girls had bodyguards with them, and now I've been slapped. You better explain yourself, or I'll kick you out of Nanjing tomorrow."

The newcomer was none other than Wang Kun, who had just embarrassed himself in Hall A. The five finger marks on his face had not yet faded. He grabbed Xu Wei and dragged him out of the crowd, presumably to vent his anger on President Xu.

"Go to hell, you want to play around with women and then blame me."

Xu Wei, who always seemed very refined, swore and forcefully shook off Wang Kun's hand. He was too ashamed to stay there any longer, so he took the jade, lowered his head, and squeezed through the crowd. When Wang Kun came to his senses and saw Liu Chuan and the others, he was so frightened that he ran away as fast as he could, afraid that he would be too slow. Five finger marks were imprinted on the other half of his face.

