

Golden 52

Chapter Fifty-Two: City God Temple

"There's an antique market here? How did you know?"

Upon hearing Liu Chuan's words, Zhuang Rui felt a surge of excitement. It seemed a bit unreasonable to enter a treasure trove and return empty-handed, relying solely on the spiritual energy in his eyes. Judging from Liu Chuan's words, this market was much larger than Pengcheng's, and perhaps it would offer a wider variety of goods.

"Hey, what a novel question! Not only is there an antique market here, but also the largest pet and bird market in Hefei. I come here seven or eight times a year, how could I not know? The pet turtles and hamsters in my shop are from here, which I bought a few days ago. Otherwise, how would I do business? Alright, enough rambling, go back and get some sleep so you can get ready tonight..."

Liu Chuan explained impatiently for a few minutes. Now that he was full, he just wanted to go back to the hotel and get a good night's sleep. Driving all night was not a pleasant experience. Although the Hummer was sturdy, if it hit something at a speed of about 200 kilometers per hour, either someone else would be unlucky or he would be unlucky.

After hearing Liu Chuan's words, Zhuang Rui finally understood. So this guy was incredibly familiar with this place! Seeing him wandering around the streets and alleys, he'd thought he'd lived here for a long time.

Zhuang Rui looked at the tall tower called Sihui Tower that Liu Chuan had mentioned and said, "You rascal, you go back to the hotel first. I'm going to wander around the antique market here. It's rare for me to come to Hefei. If people ask me what I did in Hefei, am I supposed to just say I ate a meal, took a nap, and left?"

Liu Chuan paused for a moment upon hearing this, his eyes darting around. He chuckled and patted Zhuang Rui on the shoulder, adopting a lecturing tone, saying, "Do you think I don't know what you're up to? Let me tell you this upfront: I know a few people in Hefei, but if anything happens, it's definitely not as convenient as dealing with things at home. I know you want to try your luck and find a bargain, but the antique business has its rules, so don't cause any trouble."

Liu Chuan didn't object to Zhuang Rui wanting to go to the market. After all, Zhuang Rui could sleep in the car at night because the Hummer's shock absorption system was excellent, and driving on the highway felt almost like riding a train.

"Get lost! Every time we're together, it's you who gets into trouble and I'm the one cleaning up your mess. Okay, okay, go back now. Leave your phone with me, and I'll call you from your hotel room if anything comes up."

Zhuang Rui suddenly realized that he might need to buy a cell phone. A regular phone would only cost a little over 2,000 yuan, which might have been a significant expense a few months ago, but now it was nothing. Only now did Zhuang Rui begin to grasp the awareness that someone with millions in assets should have.

Liu Chuan took out his phone, held it for a moment, and then, instead of handing it to Zhuang Rui, entered a number into the phone before handing it to Zhuang Rui, saying, "If you need anything, just call the hotel front desk and have them send someone to room 302 to call me. I've entered the number into my phone."

"The hotel room doesn't have an extension phone?"

Zhuang Rui didn't even get to his hotel room before Liu Chuan dragged him to dinner. However, he found it hard to believe that such a luxuriously decorated hotel wouldn't have a telephone in the room.

"What are you talking about? It's not like I'm staying in a private guesthouse, of course there's a phone. I'm just worried about being bothered by those 'Sir, would you like some kind of service? Do you have the 'Nine Heavens of Ice and Fire' kind of calls? Oh, by the way, you're still a virgin, right? Hmm, I'll arrange one for you later."

Zhuang Rui laughed heartily when he heard Liu Chuan mimicking the way a prostitute spoke in a affected voice. Hearing what he said next and seeing his lewd grin, he couldn't help but kick Liu Chuan in the buttocks and said, "Get lost. I'll wander around the market for a bit and then come back. If I see a prostitute when I come in, I'll call the police and have you arrested. Then I'll have Lei Lei come to the police station to pick you up."

After dodging Zhuang Rui's kick, Liu Chuan was about to leave when he seemed to remember something. He turned around, looked around to make sure no one was watching, took out a thick wad of RMB from his handbag (estimated to be around ten thousand), unzipped Zhuang Rui's leather jacket, stuffed it into an inside pocket, and said, "I know you don't have any cash. Don't withdraw money here, you'll attract attention. Keep this money close to your body. If you're not sure about something, don't take it out. Don't worry about the manuscript from last time, but if you find anything good today, you have to count me in."

"Alright, go back to sleep. I'm having a lucky streak lately, I might just find a treasure."

Zhuang Rui was also a little touched. Although Liu Chuan had many flaws, he was an impeccable person. This was why he was able to make a name for himself in the Pengcheng antique market at such a young age.

Liu Chuan nodded, lit a cigarette and put it in his mouth, then leisurely returned to the hotel. He had complete confidence in Zhuang Rui. From childhood to adulthood, no matter what Zhuang Rui did, he always planned carefully before acting and rarely suffered losses. In addition, in recent years, the collecting craze has become popular, and with more people paying attention, the City God Temple Antique Market has become much more regulated. Those forced buying and selling, and those who cause trouble and extort money, have basically stopped happening.

Zhuang Rui zipped up his jacket and headed toward the Sihui Tower that Liu Chuan had mentioned. As the saying goes, "looking at a mountain makes a horse run itself to death," and although it looked close, it took Zhuang Rui more than 20 minutes to reach the entrance of the City God Temple on the outskirts of the tower. Flagpoles stood in front of the City God Temple, and stone lions faced each other at the entrance. The gate was wide open, and from the outside, one could see incense burning in front of the tower, with a constant stream of visitors.

Zhuang Rui asked a passerby and learned that the antique market at the City God Temple was located to the left of the "Sihui Tower." The entire antique market could be seen from the top of the tower. Intrigued, he decided not to rush to the antique market and simply took out fifteen yuan to buy a ticket. He also picked up a brochure about the "Sihui Tower" from the ticket office and followed the tourists who came to worship Guanyin Bodhisattva into the City God Temple.

Upon entering the main gate, Zhuang Rui saw that the entire temple was built around the "Sihui Building." There were five rooms on each side of the main gate, all of which were relatively small, like two ears hanging on either side of the gate. The introduction called these rooms "ear rooms," which was a very apt description. Many old houses still retain ear rooms. However, in the past, the main house in

the middle was for the elders, while the ear rooms were for the younger generation, reflecting a difference in status. Now, the main house is used for living, while the ear rooms are used for storing things.

Walking further in, he saw several opera stages, with people performing on them. However, Zhuang Rui didn't have time to look closely at the time. Holding the brochure of the City God Temple in his hand, he walked towards the Pagoda Hall located in the very center of the City God Temple.