

## Golden 85

Chapter 85 Lhasa Night, Qin Xuanbing's Kiss

After leaving the Jokhang Temple, the group found a hotel and sat down. Zhuang Rui recounted his experiences at the temple to everyone, omitting the detail about the spiritual energy in his eyes. Even so, everyone was extremely envious of Zhuang Rui for gaining the favor of the Living Buddha.

"Hey Wood, after the Living Buddha gave you the empowerment, did you develop any special abilities?"

After listening to Zhuang Rui's account, Liu Chuan stopped drinking and looked Zhuang Rui up and down.

"Of course I can see through things. I can see right now that you're not wearing shorts. If you don't believe me, let's confirm it here." Zhuang Rui was naturally very familiar with Liu Chuan's lewd tricks.

"If you're wearing shorts, you can let me have this little white lion, okay?"

Liu Chuan understood from Zhuang Rui's story that the little white lion was a purebred snow mastiff. He immediately stood up, ready to take off his pants to verify its identity, which immediately drew the ire of the women, making the atmosphere in the private room even more lively.

Everyone readily accepted the fact that the little white lion was the king of mastiffs. The intelligence the little guy had shown along the way had already demonstrated that it was no ordinary Chow Chow.

"Zhuang Rui, I've heard that Tibetan dzi beads are very beneficial to the human body, but there are many fakes now. This string of dzi beads was worn by a living Buddha, so you should keep it safe."

As for the dzi bead bracelet that Zhuang Rui obtained, no one really knew its value. Zhou Rui only knew that dzi beads were extremely precious in Tibet, let alone that this was worn by a Living Buddha. He immediately instructed Zhuang Rui to keep it safe, as this bracelet might become Zhuang Rui's greatest gain from this trip.

Afterwards, Zhuang Rui was naturally ripped off by everyone, but since he had a very fruitful day, he didn't care. Everyone ate happily, except for Bai Meng'an, who seemed to have some unresolved issues and got drunk again. It was Zhou Rui who had to carry him back to the hotel.

Zhuang Rui and Liu Chuan were staying in a double suite, but Liu Chuan wasn't in the room at the moment. As soon as he returned to the hotel, he ran to Lei Lei's room to fawn over her. He originally wanted to drag Zhuang Rui along, but Zhuang Rui refused. He wanted to be alone and test what new functions his spiritual energy had gained after the upgrade.

Zhuang Rui first took out the sandalwood root carving he had found in Hefei and used his spiritual energy to examine it.

Zhuang Rui's eyes could originally only see about one centimeter of depth in wooden objects, but now he could easily see through the sandalwood root carving. The beautiful and delicate internal patterns of the sandalwood were clearly visible to Zhuang Rui. However, the root carving had lost its spiritual energy, so Zhuang Rui had no way to try to absorb it. Moreover, he didn't have any antiques or other items around him.

"Oh right, how could I forget about this..."

The dzi bead given to him by the Living Buddha must be an old item. Zhuang Rui slapped his forehead, quickly took the dzi bead bracelet off his wrist, put it in his palm, and examined it carefully.

The spiritual energy had completely transformed into purple, making it much easier to manipulate. With just a thought, the spiritual energy followed his gaze into the interior of the dzi bead, and a beautiful world instantly appeared before Zhuang Rui's eyes. The small space of the dzi bead was filled with all sorts of magnificent colors, a dazzling array of hues. It seemed as if there was a magnetic field inside the dzi bead, encircling all the beautiful colors in a circle, like a rainbow after the rain, radiating seven-colored light.

This string of dzi beads did not disappoint Zhuang Rui; it was indeed filled with rich spiritual energy.

However, when the spiritual energy seeped into Zhuang Rui's eyes, it was unable to merge with it. The two streams of spiritual energy went their own way, clearly distinct. When Zhuang Rui tried to control his own spiritual energy to envelop the spiritual energy inside the Heavenly Pearl, he found that the

spiritual energy was as slippery as swimming fish. Even if he surrounded it, he could not merge with it. The two seemingly similar streams of spiritual energy acted as if they were keeping to themselves.

"how so?!"

If the inability to absorb the spiritual energy from the thangkas on the walls of the Jokhang Temple was a coincidence, the fact that he couldn't even absorb the spiritual energy from the dzi bead made Zhuang Rui feel a sense of unease. If he couldn't absorb spiritual energy from this point on, wouldn't he lose it forever when the spiritual energy in his eye was completely depleted?

Zhuang Rui felt somewhat lost. As the saying goes, it's easy to go from frugality to extravagance, but difficult to go from extravagance to frugality. Zhuang Rui had become accustomed to the help he received from the spiritual energy in his eyes. Although the spiritual energy had been upgraded and was now plentiful, there would always be a day when it would run out. If he lost the spiritual energy, Zhuang Rui really didn't know what he would do.

Staring blankly at the dzi bead bracelet in his palm, Zhuang Rui's thoughts drifted. Scenes from after he developed spiritual energy resurfaced before his eyes: discovering treasures among his grandfather's belongings, finding bargains at the market. As these scenes played out before him, Zhuang Rui realized that he could no longer live without the spiritual energy he possessed.

Zhuang Rui didn't realize that, without his own mental control, the spiritual energy in his eyes became somewhat chaotic, passing through the dzi bead bracelet and surging wildly into his right hand. When he felt a comfortable sensation coming from his right hand, he realized something was wrong and quickly withdrew the spiritual energy into his eyes. However, the spiritual energy in his eyes had decreased by nearly a third, which was more than what he had used to heal his arm.

Zhuang Rui felt a pang of heartache. He hadn't even solved the problem of absorbing spiritual energy, and now he had wasted so much of it. If it weren't for the fact that this right hand was his own, Zhuang Rui would have loved to cut it off. But there was nothing he could do now. Zhuang Rui collapsed heavily onto the bed and stared blankly at the ceiling.

"Um?"

As Zhuang Rui lay on the bed, he suddenly noticed that with each rotation of the spiritual energy in the small pupil of his eye, the originally faint wisps of spiritual energy seemed to grow stronger, and the total amount of spiritual energy that had previously decreased seemed to be slowly increasing.

Fearing it was just his imagination, Zhuang Rui quickly sat up, took several deep breaths to calm his excited heart, and began to carefully record the size and shape of each strand of spiritual energy. After the spiritual energy entered his small pupil and circulated for a week, he would compare it with the previous record.

In fact, Zhuang Rui had this feeling when he was at Jokhang Temple, but that was in a room full of spiritual energy. At that time, he thought that the increase in spiritual energy in his eyes was absorbed from the outside, and he was in a hurry to find the little white lion, so he did not carefully experience it.

"That's right, spiritual energy is being generated automatically..."

After observing for a full half hour, Zhuang Rui finally confirmed his discovery. Overjoyed, he realized that his eyes could generate spiritual energy on their own, so whether he could absorb spiritual energy from the antiques became completely irrelevant.

Moreover, the experiment of observing dzi beads shows that Zhuang Rui can still distinguish whether there is spiritual energy in antiques. In other words, he can still use this method to identify the authenticity of antiques in the future.

"Since the eyes will no longer absorb spiritual energy from objects, can we determine the age of an object by the amount of spiritual energy it contains?"

Zhuang Rui never expected that the problem that had troubled him for more than a month would be completely solved after this spiritual energy upgrade. After solving the problem of replenishing spiritual energy, Zhuang Rui felt as if a huge weight had been lifted from his heart, and he became incredibly relaxed. Some questions that he hadn't thought of before also appeared in his mind. For a moment, Zhuang Rui, who had returned to bed, began to let his mind wander.

"Hey buddy, thinking about women? You're so lost in thought. I called you to go look at some pretty girls, but you wouldn't go."

Liu Chuan pushed open the door and entered, interrupting Zhuang Rui's thoughts.

"Get out of my way! If I were to look at your Lei Lei, you'd be ready to fight me to the death!"

Zhuang Rui sat up, laughed, and retorted. He was in a great mood and didn't care that Liu Chuan had interrupted his train of thought.

"That's your sister-in-law. If you dare look at her too much, I'll gouge your eyes out," Liu Chuan said, glaring at her.

"By the way, Wood, were all those things you said at the restaurant true? Is this little thing really a Tibetan Mastiff, and a king of mastiffs at that?"

Looking at the little white lion thrashing around Zhuang Rui's body, Liu Chuan asked with some doubt, "Not counting the silly dog I raised when I was a child, I've been running a pet shop for four or five years now. I can't believe I could mistake a Chow Chow."

After hearing Liu Chuan's words, the little guy actually turned his head and let out a low growl at Liu Chuan. Although the voice was a little immature, it had quite the style of the Golden Mastiff King back then. The other two little mastiffs were actually very scared and moved closer to Liu Chuan after hearing the little white lion's roar.

"How would I know? That's what the Living Buddha said. You don't think your eyesight is better than the Living Buddha's, do you? Judging from your two Tibetan Mastiff puppies, that's very likely."

Over the past few days, Liu Chuan has often teased Zhuang Rui with those two Tibetan mastiff puppies. Zhuang Rui doesn't mind using the little guys to give Liu Chuan a good beating, to see if he'll dare to show off in front of him again.

"Come here, let Brother Liu Chuan give you a hug."

At this moment, Liu Chuan looked like an uncle trying to abduct a young girl, with a fawning smile on his face, reaching out to hug the little one on the bed.

"Aww..."

As Liu Chuan let out a roar comparable to that of a golden retriever king, his outstretched hands retracted with lightning speed, leaving only a row of tiny teeth marks on the web of his right hand, almost breaking the skin.

"Damn it, are you a dog?"

As soon as he said it, Liu Chuan burst out laughing. It was just a dog, wasn't it?

The little white lion barked defiantly at Liu Chuan a few times, jumped off the bed, and squeezed next to the two black-haired Tibetan mastiffs. The two little guys had opened their eyes now, and when they saw the little white lion running over, they quickly made room for it. Even the strips of meat that Liu Chuan had spent a lot of effort tearing off were given to them by the two little guys.

"Wood, aren't you going to keep an eye on your dog? It's a complete tyrant."

Liu Chuan actually adored the little white lion. Compared to the two Tibetan mastiffs he had acquired, this little guy was clearly more endearing. However, this little rascal didn't give him any face at all. Apart from barely letting Qin Xuanbing hold him for a while, he stayed close to Zhuang Rui the rest of the time.

"By the way, you rogue, now that everything's done, we should head back. My vacation's almost over, and I won't be back in Pengcheng for more than a few days before I have to go back to work."

Zhuang Rui was too lazy to argue with this guy anymore. The gains he had made from this trip to Tibet were simply too great, so great that he couldn't describe the joy in his heart. Now Zhuang Rui didn't even want to go to the Potala Palace anymore. Anyway, the treasures there were something he could see but couldn't touch, so going there wouldn't be much of a point.

Another point is that Zhuang Rui harbored a sense of awe towards the mysterious place of Tibet, fearing that his secrets might be seen through by some powerful lamas.

He hadn't felt this way before, but after his conversation with the old lama today and the initiation ceremony, Zhuang Rui felt that the old lama's pure eyes seemed to be able to see through people's hearts. From this, Zhuang Rui realized that there were still many things in this world that he didn't understand. If just a Living Buddha was so amazing, what about the reincarnated Panchen Lama? Zhuang Rui couldn't guarantee that he could keep the secret of his eyes in front of him.

"Lei Lei and the others will go to the Potala Palace tomorrow morning and take an afternoon flight back to Nanjing. Bai Meng'an will also be leaving. As for the rest of us, we can leave whenever we want. However, a friend of mine called me and said there's a black market for trading cultural relics here. Do you want to go check it out?"

Liu Chuan's words surprised Zhuang Rui. He hadn't expected Qin Xuanbing and the others to leave by plane. They were all young people, and they had gotten along very well these past few days. Upon hearing this news, Zhuang Rui felt a little disappointed.

"An antiquities black market?"

Zhuang Rui was hearing this term for the first time and was about to ask further when a knock came at the door.

"Qin Xuanbing? What brings you here? Didn't you just say you were going to rest?"

Liu Chuan's voice came from the doorway. Upon hearing it, Zhuang Rui quickly put on his shoes and got off the bed, as his posture just now was not very presentable.

"I'm looking for Zhuang Rui, why are you blocking the door?"

If it were the Qin Xuanbing of the past, she would never have explained anything to Liu Chuan. But after spending these days together, the indifferent aura on Qin Xuanbing seemed to have disappeared. At this moment, she was like a girl next door, well, she should be a very pretty girl next door.

"Xuanbing, what's wrong? We're going to the Potala Palace tomorrow, why aren't you getting some rest?"

Zhuang Rui pushed Liu Chuan aside and looked at Qin Xuanbing. His eyes lit up. Qin Xuanbing must have just taken a bath. Her hair was not completely dry and was still a little damp. Instead of tying it up as usual, it was casually draped over her shoulders. Even though he was more than two meters away from Qin Xuanbing, Zhuang Rui could smell a faint woman's fragrance. Qin Xuanbing's fair face, without any makeup, looked so bright and beautiful.

Qin Xuanbing was dressed casually, wearing a tight-fitting jacket and jeans. Her long legs and round, high buttocks perfectly outlined her beautiful figure. Seeing Qin Xuanbing's outfit, if they hadn't been together so often lately, and if he hadn't been so immune to beautiful women, Zhuang Rui would probably have embarrassed himself again.

"I can't sleep and I want to go for a walk. Do you have time?"

When Qin Xuanbing spoke, her face was slightly flushed. She lowered her head and looked at the tips of her shoes. Although Zhuang Rui was a novice in matters of the heart, Qin Xuanbing was not necessarily any better than him, and might even be worse. It took Qin Xuanbing a lot of courage to invite him this time. After saying these words, she was almost out of strength.

"Yes, I have time. This kid just told me he couldn't sleep."

Before Zhuang Rui could answer, Liu Chuan started shouting behind him.

"Okay, Xuanbing, let's go out for a walk."

Zhuang Rui returned to his room and put on a coat. The temperature in Lhasa in March was still quite low.

The two walked out of the hotel one after the other, with a small white lion running back and forth behind Zhuang Rui.

Their hotel was located on Barkhor Street, which was bustling with activity at night. Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing did not speak to each other, but simply walked along the street, watching the vendors haggling over prices and the tourists with satisfied smiles. The two of them felt a sense of peace in their hearts.

"Let's go sit there for a while..."

Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing simultaneously pointed to an open-air cafe ahead and spoke. Hearing that the other shared the same thought, they both laughed. Their bodies, which had been somewhat far apart, drew closer, a tacit understanding forming between them.

Upon entering the coffee shop, a young man with long hair and an artistic air greeted Zhuang Rui. After exchanging a few words with him, Zhuang Rui discovered that the owner of the coffee shop was actually a Hong Konger.

Judging from his appearance, the boss didn't seem very old, but upon asking, he turned out to be over forty. After hearing that Qin Xuanbing was also from Hong Kong, the two started chatting in Cantonese, leaving Zhuang Rui, who was listening nearby, completely confused.

"I was saying that the pace of life in Hong Kong is too fast. I've been in Tibet for two years now, and I'm living a very peaceful and happy life here."

The coffee shop owner spoke fluent Mandarin and didn't ignore Zhuang Rui. After chatting with Qin Xuanbing for a few minutes, he explained the conversation between the two of them to Zhuang Rui.

"Boss, you're so lucky. Not many people in this world can choose the lifestyle they want. Everyone is busy making a living every day."

Zhuang Rui thought back to his life a few months ago and couldn't help but sigh. It was really tough back then. Every day, he had to rush to catch the subway and bus to and from work, and when he got back to his cold rented room, he still had to cook for himself. Compared to his life now, with a beautiful woman by his side and a car at his side, it was like heaven and earth.

"Young man, everyone's standards for satisfaction are different. A person only needs to eat three meals a day and sleep in a space of no more than three to five square meters. I believe most people can do that, but there are still many people who are not satisfied. For me, I am happy to chat with my friends here every day."

The boss replied with a smile, but it made Zhuang Rui fall into deep thought. Could it be that the life he was pursuing was wrong?

"That's not how it works. If everyone were content with the status quo, society wouldn't develop, and there wouldn't be so many people coming to your place to spend money. Your current actions are also creating benefits for society."

Qin Xuanbing's unusual rebuttal to the boss's words made Zhuang Rui's eyes light up. It's not wrong for her to pursue a more comfortable life. A comfortable life means spending money to create it, which is also a form of consumption. At this moment, Zhuang Rui's way of thinking is getting closer and closer to his million-dollar net worth.

Surprisingly, the first floor of the cafe also had a barbecue area, where many tourists gathered, and the smoke rose, making it very lively. Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing, led by the owner, came to the second floor of the cafe. On the second floor, opposite to the street, there was a small garden, surrounded by unknown flowers. In the middle of the flowers, there was a Western-style round table and two chairs. In the owner's words, this was his place to relax in his spare time.

The night sky over Lhasa was bright and serene. The silvery moonlight bathed the earth in a bluish-white glow, making the trees, houses, and streets appear as if coated with mercury. The countless stars in the sky seemed to be falling from the sky, twinkling as if they were right above one's head.

The owner quickly brought over two cups of coffee, which he said were completely hand-ground. Sipping the sweet and slightly bitter coffee, looking at the clear night sky, and listening to the laughter of the people around them, Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing remained silent, deeply immersed in the beautiful night.

"Waaah..."

The little white lion's voice broke the silence between the two. The little guy darted into the flower bushes but got pricked by a prick. He then ran to Zhuang Rui's feet and started acting cute. His adorable appearance made Zhuang Rui and Qin Xuanbing laugh.

We're leaving tomorrow.

Qin Xuanbing's melodious voice came through the room. To Zhuang Rui, it sounded like it came from another world, appearing incredibly ethereal in this quiet yet noisy environment.

"We've developed a plan in Nanjing, and it's about to be implemented. Leilei and I need to be there."

For some reason, Qin Xuanbing immediately began to explain why she left. She herself felt a little strange. Did she really care about what the man in front of her thought?

Qin Xuanbing couldn't find the answer. Ever since the night she encountered the wolf pack, she felt a comfortable feeling when she was with Zhuang Rui, just like when she was a child with her grandfather. It was warm and safe.

"Da Chuan told me that after visiting the Potala Palace tomorrow morning, you will leave in the afternoon. You've all had a tough journey." Zhuang Rui wasn't just being polite. In the desolate grasslands, none of these young ladies complained about the hardship or fatigue when they were cooking over a fire.

"We will be holding a jewelry promotion event in Zhonghai in April. Will you be there?"

Qin Xuanbing didn't respond to Zhuang Rui's words, but instead asked a question.

"It doesn't matter whether I'm in Zhonghai or not, you have a branch office in Zhonghai, don't you!"

Zhuang Rui's words almost made Qin Xuanbing jump up in anger. This petty man actually remembered what she had said. However, seeing Zhuang Rui's smiling face, she realized that he was joking.

"You stingy person!"

Qin Xuanbing kicked Zhuang Rui under the table with her toe, but the little white lion saw it and actually barked at Qin Xuanbing. Zhuang Rui was both amused and exasperated. He quickly bent down, picked up the little tyrant and put him on the table, pointing at his nose and saying, "You're not allowed to be mean to Aunt Xuanbing anymore, understand?"

"Who is the auntie? Who is the older sister?"

Qin Xuanbing glared at Zhuang Rui, embarrassed and annoyed. As if Zhuang Rui understood what she said, the little white lion ran to Qin Xuanbing's side, licked her affectionately with its tongue, and then quickly ran back, dodging Qin Xuanbing's hand that was trying to hug it.

"Zhuang Rui, have you ever had any worries?"

Qin Xuanbing's soft voice drifted over, startling Zhuang Rui. Without thinking, he blurted out, "Of course I do! Who doesn't have troubles?"

However, after careful reflection, Zhuang Rui realized that his troubles were all trivial matters that he would forget as soon as they were over. It seemed that there were no troubles that he could really remember.

Qin Xuanbing seemed not to hear Zhuang Rui's answer and said to herself, "My grandfather went to Hong Kong from the mainland. When he first arrived in Hong Kong, he was very poor and looked down upon. So my grandfather worked very hard. He started as an apprentice in a jewelry store and later opened his own gold shop, which gradually developed into its current scale."

My grandfather was always very busy after I was born. It was only in recent years, when his health deteriorated, that he had more free time. But as far back as I can remember, my parents were also very busy. I would only see them no more than five times a year. If it weren't for their photos, I probably wouldn't recognize them even if I met them.

When I grew up, my family arranged for me to attend a girls' school in England to study jewelry design. Although I love designing jewelry, I really don't like having my life arranged for me by others, you understand? I want to have my own life, as free as a bird.

At this point, Qin Xuanbing became somewhat agitated, but quickly calmed down and continued, "Coming to Tibet with you was the best decision I ever made in my life, Zhuang Rui. Can we still be friends?"

"Friends? We're friends now, and we'll definitely be friends in the future."

Zhuang Rui was a little confused and answered blankly, thinking to himself, "How can these people's thoughts jump around so quickly?"

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's answer, Qin Xuanbing, who had been feeling somewhat sad, suddenly laughed and said to Zhuang Rui, "Close your eyes."

"Close your eyes? Dude, I didn't use my spiritual energy to examine your body."

Although Zhuang Rui was somewhat confused, he still closed his eyes. Just as he closed his eyes, he felt a fragrant breeze, followed by a soft pair of lips pressing against his own. But before Zhuang Rui could even process what was happening, the soft lips had already disappeared. When Zhuang Rui came to his senses and opened his eyes, the seat opposite him was already empty.

"This...this was my first kiss, no, it was stolen by that kid's dad."

Zhuang Rui snapped out of his daze, glaring fiercely at the little white lion. He remembered his first kiss, which seemed to have been stolen by that golden Tibetan mastiff.