

Golden 95

Chapter Ninety-Five: The Concept of the Mastiff Kennel

Fatty Ma scrutinized Zhuang Rui suspiciously for a long time, until Zhuang Rui started to feel uneasy, before finally speaking: "I've been in business for over twenty years, from running errands and doing odd jobs to contracting small coal mines, and I've developed to where I am today. In other people's eyes, I'd consider myself a successful person. I've seen all sorts of people, but as for you, Zhuang, I really can't quite figure you out. Whether what you're saying is true or not is another matter, but I've made friends with you all. If you ever need anything in Shanxi, just come find me.

Hearing that Fatty Ma was no longer bringing up the matter, Zhuang Rui breathed a sigh of relief. This guy was really terrifying. Not only did he pretend to be weak while actually being strong, he could also understand people's psychology perfectly. If you stayed with him for too long, he would probably find out all your secrets.

Upon arriving in Lhasa, they first took Fatty Ma to his hotel. However, no one knew what Fatty Ma was up to, as he insisted on treating the three of them to dinner. During the meal, he asked for several people's contact information. By the time the meal was over, it was already evening. Zhuang Rui, Liu Chuan, and Zhou Rui discussed it and decided to stay another night and drive back the next day.

Since Qin Xuanbing, Bai Meng'an, and the others had all left by plane, the three of them simply booked a new suite and stayed together. After taking care of the two little devils, Liu Chuan said to Zhou Rui, who was watching TV, "Brother Zhou, how's business in Sichuan? Are you happy? Are you interested in coming to Pengcheng with me? I really need someone to run errands there. I used to run errands myself, which made it hard to take care of the shop. If you come, my life will be much easier."

Over time, everyone had gotten to know each other. Liu Chuan knew Zhou Rui was from Shaanxi. Since his hometown was in the countryside, his family only had a small plot of land, and their annual income wasn't much. So, after leaving the army, Zhou Rui had been working in Sichuan and other places, doing all sorts of jobs—security guard, waiter, salesman, you name it. Now he had a boss who treated him fairly well; at least he was entrusted with this car worth a million or so, which was a sign of trust.

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"Invite me? I can't do anything except drive..."

Zhou Rui was puzzled. He knew himself better than anyone else. Apart from the excellent skills he had developed in the army, he was not very shrewd in dealing with people. When he was in sales, others earned three or four thousand a month, while he only earned a basic salary of three hundred yuan. He knew he was not cut out for business, so he didn't understand what Liu Chuan saw in him.

To be honest, Zhou Rui is a little dissatisfied with his current job because the salary is a bit low. He works as both a driver and the boss's bodyguard, earning less than 2,000 yuan a month. Although this is more than what a typical factory worker earns, Zhou Rui has a large family with three younger siblings who are still in school, so the expenses are high. His younger brother, who is in college, needs several hundred yuan a month for living expenses, not to mention the tuition fees of more than 10,000 yuan a year.

Therefore, Zhou Rui has been looking for opportunities to start his own business for the past few years. However, the things he learned in the army are completely useless in civilian life. Moreover, he joined the army at the age of sixteen and retired at the age of twenty-seven. He spent a relatively long time in the army, so he was simple-minded and not used to the backstabbing and infighting in some companies. He wanted to start his own business, but he was completely clueless and had no idea what to do.

"Brother Zhou, we've gotten along quite well on this trip. We've also noticed your personality; you're not a talkative person, but you're genuine. Da Chuan sincerely wants you to come work for him. If you go, you'll get a 20% stake in his pet shop, and your annual dividends should be no less than 100,000 RMB..."

Zhuang Rui chimed in, explaining that he and Liu Chuan had already discussed it. While a 20% stake might seem like a lot, Liu Chuan spends most of his time each year traveling all over the country sourcing goods. Over the years, he's built relatively stable relationships with many long-term clients. In the future, Zhou Rui can travel the country to find these clients, while Liu Chuan stays in Pengcheng to develop the market. Business will definitely be several times better than it is now

More importantly, after Liu Chuan met Renqing Cuomu, a friend from the grasslands, he had an idea: to open a Tibetan mastiff kennel in Pengcheng and gradually develop the focus of his pet shop into the Tibetan mastiff business.

Although the initial investment in the Tibetan Mastiff kennel is quite large, the profits from this business will far exceed those of ordinary pet trading. Furthermore, we can cooperate with Rinchen Tsomu to strictly control the bloodline of Tibetan Mastiff matings. With the resources of the vast grasslands, we can definitely establish a Tibetan Mastiff kennel with considerable influence.

Whether or not Zhou Rui could be recruited to work together was a crucial factor in the success of the Tibetan Mastiff Kennel. Since Rinchen Tsomu was still living a nomadic life, communication between Liu Chuan and him was not smooth. Therefore, they needed someone who was extremely knowledgeable about Tibet, could speak Tibetan, had a stable personality, and could get along well with the Tibetan people. Apart from Zhou Rui, Liu Chuan and Zhuang Rui couldn't think of anyone more suitable.

Of course, Liu Chuan hasn't said any of this yet. It would be too early to say anything at this point. Zhou Rui hasn't even agreed to quit her job in Sichuan and work with him.

After hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Zhou Rui was genuinely tempted. You see, his younger brother was in college, and his younger brother was in high school with excellent grades, so he was almost certain to get into college. His other sister was in junior high school and was also doing very well academically.

However, with only a few acres of meager land, it was simply impossible for the family to support three people to go to school. Zhou Rui's younger sister dropped out of school last year to stay at home and help her parents with farm work. Later, when he returned home and found out, he forced his sister to return to school.

For someone like Fatty Ma, money might just be a symbol, a string of bank numbers. But for Zhou Rui, it was extremely important. If he didn't send money home for a month, his younger sister probably wouldn't be able to go to school, and their house was already dilapidated and they didn't have the money to repair it. So what Zhuang Rui said, especially the words "100,000 yuan," had a strong impact on Zhou Rui's mind.

"Da Chuan, Zhuang Rui, let me think about it."

Zhou Rui did not agree on the spot. He was a rather steady person. What he was worried about now was whether Liu Chuan's words were credible. What if he quit his job here and went to Pengcheng, but it wasn't as good as Liu Chuan said? Then it would all be for nothing.

Zhou Rui is nearly thirty years old and has never had a serious girlfriend. Although his family has introduced him to a few women, they all backed out as soon as they saw his family's situation. His parents and brothers felt that his family was a burden to him. Every time he went home, he could feel the guilt from his parents. Looking at his parents, who were just over fifty years old but whose hair had turned gray due to the heavy pressure of life, Zhou Rui felt extremely bad.

Zhou Rui, who could sleep soundly even in the muddy jungle, was experiencing insomnia for the first time today, lying on the luxurious Simmons mattress in his hotel suite.

The next morning, the group checked out of their hotel and drove back to Sichuan. However, Zhou Rui was clearly not in good spirits, so Zhuang Rui drove first for the first part of the journey.

On their return journey, at Liu Chuan's request, they made a special trip to Renqing Cuomu's "winter retreat." Liu Chuan was paving the way for future cooperation, bringing many gifts that the grassland herders needed. Naturally, they were very well received. After a day of singing and dancing, the three brothers were all drunk and spent the night in the tent. The next day, they bid farewell to the hospitable Renqing Cuomu family and returned to Sichuan.

Liu Chuan's trip was incredibly fruitful. Although the Tibetan people don't kill or eat dogs, and if they need Tibetan mastiffs, they don't buy or sell them; they mostly exchange goods for them.

However, after being persuaded by Liu Chuan's silver tongue, and with Renqing Cuomu having some understanding of the outside world, and knowing that his parents no longer lived in the pastoral area but in Nagqu City, and that they would eventually have to leave the grasslands, Renqing Cuomu did not object to doing things now to pave the way for the future.

The two eventually reached some cooperation agreements. Liu Chuan would set up a Tibetan mastiff kennel, and Renqing Cuomu would provide adult Tibetan mastiffs for mating. The ownership of the adult Tibetan mastiffs would belong to Renqing Cuomu, and the profits from the sale of the puppies would be divided among everyone according to their shareholding.

Although the distribution of shares has not been clearly discussed yet, at the very least, the golden mastiff king's harem life will come to a tragic end in the future, because the purity and bloodline of Tibetan mastiffs need to be controlled.

"Damn, this is life! Hey, Wood, leave me some, don't eat it all..."

Emerging from the steaming pool, Zhuang Rui, Liu Chuan, and Zhou Rui were all red from the scalding water. They lay naked on the communal beds in the bathhouse, drinking hot tea and eating crisp radishes, their journey dust and grime washed away.

They arrived back in Chengdu in the morning, had lunch and rested for a while. Liu Chuan then insisted on going to the bathhouse. Zhou Rui had also consulted with his boss and decided to stay overnight in Chengdu and drive to Chongqing the next morning. So he went to the bathhouse with the two of them. However, there are still many bathhouses in Shaanxi, so he didn't have as many feelings about them as the other two.

"Brother Zhou, we'll be going our separate ways tomorrow. I was able to find the Tibetan Mastiff on my trip to Tibet thanks to your help. I've prepared some gifts for you when we get back to the hotel, so please don't refuse them."

Liu Chuan and Zhuang Rui haven't brought up the matter of having Zhou Rui join them in the past few days. They know that Zhou Rui is a very opinionated person, and since he promised to consider it, he will definitely give them an answer before he leaves.