

Golden 971

Chapter 971 The Jade King (Part 3)

The invisible and colorless spiritual energy seeped into the massive "rock" like mercury spilling onto the ground. In the first few centimeters, it appeared no different; Zhuang Rui saw only ordinary mountain rock.

However, when the spiritual energy penetrated to a depth of about 20 centimeters, the internal structure of the rock seemed to change. The molecules inside the hard rock began to crystallize into granular form, and objects resembling green moss appeared inside.

"Strange, how was this material mined? Why is there such a large stone encasing the outer layer of the jadeite rough?"

Zhuang Rui found it strange. According to the common understanding of jade formation, the outer skin of a typical raw stone is usually exposed or washed into a stream and formed over millions of years. However, this stone was completely different from the ones he had seen before.

There is only one explanation for this situation: after the jadeite had already formed, the Earth's crust changed again, causing the previously exposed raw stone to be rolled back into the magma, which is why this happened.

However, the probability of such an event occurring is even smaller than the probability of jade itself forming, so Zhuang Rui had never seen it before.

"This...this can't be real, can it?"

Although he was somewhat prepared, Zhuang Rui was still stunned by what he saw when he explored further inside.

A vast expanse of pure, water-like water, shimmering with vibrant light and a touch of green, came into Zhuang Rui's view. Its rich aroma nourished the spiritual energy in Zhuang Rui's eyes, making him feel incredibly comfortable.

"Glassy type, it must be glassy type material..."

Zhuang Rui could almost hear his heart pounding. Despite his extensive experience and handling of countless precious cultural relics and jadeite over the years, he still couldn't suppress his excitement at such a large piece of glass-type green jadeite.

This piece of jade is oval-shaped, about 20 centimeters thick, and about 40 centimeters long. The weight of this material is at least 50 kilograms.

In this piece of jade, there are no visible crystal grains at all. The entire piece of jade is like amorphous glass, transparent and flawless. The inside of the jade shines with a captivating light, as if this piece of jade has its own spirit.

Although the green color of this material is not a bright green, its pure and flawless texture, along with the faint green hue, is enough to place it among the top-grade jadeite.

The ancients once said, "If the water is too clear, there will be no fish." The same applies to jade.

The reason why Imperial Green is so rare is that most glass-type jade is colorless. Due to the complexity and variability of its formation, even light green is rare, and glass-type jade with a rich and vibrant green is even rarer.

The piece of jade that Zhuang Rui saw, being green and of such a large size, is extremely rare.

In recent years, in particular, glass-type jadeite with a bright green color has been highly sought after. Even if it does not reach the level of imperial green, it can still fetch astronomical prices, making it extremely popular.

At a recent auction, a cabochon measuring only 1 x 8 centimeters fetched a staggering price of over 13 million yuan. In contrast, the price of a colorless, glass-type jadeite would be more than a thousand times higher.

So even though this piece of material may not reach the level of imperial green or even bright green, the green color is distributed very evenly. Whether it is made into a bracelet or a cabochon pendant, it will definitely become a new favorite in the jewelry market.

This single piece of material is enough to ensure that Zhuang Rui's "Qin Ruilin" store in Beijing will have no shortage of high-end jadeite jewelry for the next five years.

You see, Zhuang Rui sold a lot of high-end materials recently, and now he's at a loss for what to do with them. At this moment, Zhuang Rui has forgotten about the bet with Old Tang, and is instead calculating the value of this piece of jade in his mind.

As the saying goes, gold has a price, but jade is priceless. Top-grade mutton fat jade and jadeite are priced by the gram. Some mutton fat jade pebbles have seen prices soar to tens of thousands of RMB per gram in recent years.

Zhuang Rui secretly estimated that if this piece of material were broken down and processed into jewelry, its market value would be at least 500 million RMB.

Now, when Zhuang Rui looked at the four million euro offer, it wasn't as glaring as before. He would have bought it even for 10 million, let alone four million. However, judging from the "excellent" appearance of this piece of material, it probably wouldn't cost that much.

This piece of jade may not be the best material from the Myanmar jade auction, but it is definitely the most valuable. Zhuang Rui even imagined that if the green color could reach the glassy quality, the value of this piece of jade would increase tenfold.

After considering his options, Zhuang Rui was about to withdraw his spiritual energy when he suddenly remembered that he hadn't finished examining the material yet. So he continued to let his spiritual energy pass through the glass-type material and seep into it.

"Huh? Holy crap, is this...is this for real?"

Zhuang Rui knew he had always been lucky, but when he saw what was behind this piece of jade, his brain still couldn't quite process it.

A round, bright green jade the size of a ball appeared in Zhuang Rui's sight. It was as transparent as glass and radiated an endless emerald green, dazzling Zhuang Rui's eyes.

"Damn, it's imperial green!"

Zhuang Rui couldn't help but curse under his breath. His heart, which had just calmed down, started pounding again. He had never imagined that a piece of imperial green jadeite could be this big.

Zhuang Rui has cut out pieces of glass-type jade before, but the largest ones were only about the size of a baby's fist, and the smaller ones were even only the size of a table tennis ball.

Furthermore, based on the experience of generations of jade miners, the purer and more uniform the color of the jade, the smaller its size is generally. Therefore, many people believe that imperial green jade rarely exceeds one kilogram.

However, the jade material in front of Zhuang Rui would overturn the entire jade industry's understanding of jadeite. After reluctantly withdrawing his spiritual energy, Zhuang Rui was no longer thinking about the upcoming bet, but rather whether or not to cut the material open.

The glass-type jadeite worth hundreds of millions was still acceptable to most people, but if this imperial green jadeite were to be unveiled, it would likely attract worldwide attention once again.

It's important to understand that the discovery of a rare treasure will spread throughout the upper echelons of society on this planet in the shortest possible time.

"Why worry about so much? Let's just take the picture first..."

Zhuang Rui shook his head and stood up. Only then did he realize that a lot of people had gathered around him, their eyes shining as they looked at the rough stone next to him. He couldn't help but chuckle to himself before getting up and leaving.

As soon as Zhuang Rui left, seven or eight people surrounded him, wanting to see what was so special about the jade that had captivated the young "Jade King" for almost ten minutes.

...

Sitting in the bidding hall again, Zhuang Rui's mindset was completely different from yesterday. Today, he was prepared to bid on all the pieces of jade he had his eye on. Perhaps in the near future, these icy jade pieces would become legendary.

"Zhuang Rui, how's it going? Anything you like?" A voice came from behind Zhuang Rui.

"Brother Hu, you seem to have a lot of free time. What's up? Are you here to supervise the site again today?"

When Zhuang Rui first participated in a jade auction, Hu Rong was the on-site supervisor.

Back then, in Zhuang Rui's eyes, Hu Rong was quite a figure—an international jade tycoon and a renowned jade jewelry designer. However, just two years later, Zhuang Rui's reputation had already surpassed Hu Rong's.

Hu Rong laughed upon hearing this and said, "Since you're here, you should at least do your duty. By the way, what kind of materials did you choose? After the bidding is over, are you confident you can beat Old Tang?"

In the jade gambling circle, Zhuang Rui has always been synonymous with miracles. Every time he manages to unearth top-quality jade that shocks the world. Regardless of whether others believe that Zhuang Rui can win against Master Tang this time, Hu Rong certainly does!

"Here, these are the pieces of material..."

Zhuang Rui had no reason to hide anything from Hu Rong, so he handed over his notebook and said, "There are a few semi-gambled rough stones, and one fully gambled one. I'm going to take them all..."

There were many rough stones in the trading market, and Hu Rong couldn't possibly equate them with the stones based on their numbers. So he only looked at the prices, saying, "Hmm, these few pieces together are quite valuable. Oh, this one..."

Halfway through his sentence, Hu Rong's face showed surprise and doubt, and he suddenly looked up at Zhuang Rui.

"What's wrong, Brother Hu?"

Zhuang Rui was also somewhat surprised; he didn't know what would make Hu Rong have such an expression.

"You...you've decided to buy this piece of material?"

Hu Rong took a pen out of his pocket, drew a circle on the notebook, and handed it back to Zhuang Rui, his eyes showing both surprise and confusion.

"You mean this area? Yes, I was planning to take a picture of it..."

Zhuang Rui was also stunned when he saw the number in Hu Rong's circle. Coincidentally, it was that "rock" material.

"Brother Hu, how do you know what kind of material this rough stone is, worth hundreds of thousands of yuan?" Zhuang Rui really couldn't figure it out. Instead of explaining, he asked Hu Rong.

How did I know?

Hu Rong gave a wry smile and said, "That's the material I provided to the conference. Do you think I wouldn't know? Let me tell you, this piece of material..."

Hearing Hu Rong's explanation, Zhuang Rui was dumbfounded. It turned out that the military had asked Hu Rong to provide jadeite rough stones for the public auction, and Hu Rong was unwilling to do so, so he found some random materials to make up the numbers.

This rough "rock" that doesn't resemble a natural stone was actually mined by the Hu family from one of the earliest jade mines in Myanmar.

However, this appearance is not like that of a raw stone. It was forgotten after it was dug out, and this "mountain rock" material existed even longer than Hu Rong was old.

Chapter 972 The Jade King (Part 4)

More than half a century ago in Myanmar, the methods used to mine jadeite were very primitive. They would heat the rocks with firewood, then pour cold water over them to loosen the stone's structure, and then use hammers, chisels, and other tools to break it apart.

Since jadeite mines are generally located in the mountains, it is difficult to transport larger pieces down the mountain. Therefore, some pieces that do not appear to have jadeite characteristics are used as roadbed stones and buried on the spot.

This stone was like that. After it was mined, it is unknown which of Hu Rong's elders saw that the stone was huge and had no mottled patterns or python patterns on its surface. So it was used as a roadbed stone and buried at the entrance of the jade mine.

However, the jade mine was finally exhausted in recent years and reached the end of its life. During the final cleaning process, the mine workers discovered that some rough stones that had not been noticed before actually contained jade of good quality.

Upon receiving this news, Hu Rong immediately organized people to carefully screen the jade mine, and the massive "rock" rough stone that had been buried underground for so long was finally revealed.

However, Hu Rong had no hope that the stone could yield jade. Just then, the Burmese military requested that all jade mine owners provide raw stones for the public auction, so Hu Rong simply handed over the stone.

Furthermore, Hu Rong, taking advantage of his position as a member of the organizing committee, jokingly priced this enormous "rock" material at a staggering four million euros.

These past two days, it wasn't just Zhuang Rui who was cursing; everyone who saw the material was cursing the Myanmar organizing committee for being heartless. But no one could have imagined that this was just a mine owner's bored prank.

After hearing Hu Rong's explanation of the material, Zhuang Rui was dumbfounded. He couldn't believe that such a priceless piece of jadeite had been trampled on by countless people every day for decades.

Seeing that Zhuang Rui was sitting there dumbfounded after Hu Rong finished introducing the raw jade to him, and that waving his hand in front of his face didn't even startle him, Hu Rong couldn't help but push Zhuang Rui and say, "Zhuang Rui, Zhuang Rui, what's wrong? Are you dumbfounded?"

"Ah? Uh... Brother Hu, it's nothing. I was just thinking... this piece of jade might create a miracle, a legend that can never be surpassed..."

Zhuang Rui was pushed by Hu Rong, which brought him back to his senses. Given his relationship with Hu Rong, he wasn't afraid his older brother might try to steal the deal halfway through; Hu Rong wasn't that unscrupulous.

Besides, this is Hu Rong's material, and Zhuang Rui could easily offer an exorbitant price. After deducting the fees taken by the Myanmar government, the money would still end up in Hu Rong's hands, which would be a way of keeping the profits within the family.

"Are you kidding me, kid? That rock, a legend, a miracle? Fine, if you have too much money, go ahead and bid. It's all for my money anyway..."

Hu Rong was stunned by Zhuang Rui's expression. The fact that the material could appear in the Myanmar National Jade Exchange Center was just an unintentional act. Hu Rong would never believe that there could be jade inside that thing.

"Hehe, Brother Hu, believe it or not..."

Zhuang Rui didn't explain, and there was no way to explain it anyway. Just then, it was time to bid, and Hu Rong sat back down at the front desk.

Countless red numbers flashed on the big screen, and the previously noisy bidding hall immediately fell silent. Everyone's eyes were fixed on the numbers that had begun to slowly change.

This wasn't Zhuang Rui's first time participating in open bidding, and he was well aware of the tricks involved. After finding the few rough stones he had selected, he lit a cigarette and leisurely smoked it.

Zhuang Rui's behavior drew the attention of the other bidders. It wasn't that they were criticizing Zhuang Rui for lacking a sense of public service; the key point was that everyone was focused on their preferred rough stone grade and dared not relax for a moment.

The sudden appearance of this oddball smoking in the lobby left everyone puzzled. Could it be that he came here specifically to cool off because the air conditioning in the lobby was so strong?

"This guy is interesting..."

"What do you know? That's Teacher Zhuang, that's called being confident..."

"Yes, he has the air of a master. We should learn from him..."

Zhuang Rui hadn't expected that his attempt to relax with a cigarette would attract so much discussion, and he immediately put out the cigarette, feeling embarrassed.

There's no need to rush with this open bidding process. The outcome is decided in just a few minutes. As long as you have a bottom line in mind, whether you pay attention to other things or not is irrelevant.

Zhuang Rui is now far more mature and knowledgeable than he was two years ago. Even though the rough jadeite, which can be called the king of jadeite, was among them, Zhuang Rui was able to control his emotions very well.

Zhuang Rui wasn't the only one in the hall who understood things. Many people started chatting with the people next to them after staring at the screen for a while, otherwise, those two hours wouldn't have been so easy to pass.

"Teacher Zhuang, you absolutely have to win! I'm betting on you to win..."

"Yes, Teacher Zhuang, the first time I ever gambled on stones was when you cut them. You're my idol..."

Zhuang Rui naturally became the focus of everyone's attention, especially after the gambling incident, he received even more attention, and people around him tried to get close to him.

"Alright, alright, everyone, I'm just saying this because I got lucky. Please don't say that. Gambling on stones is about communication. Let's go to the stone-cutting area and exchange ideas sometime..."

Although Zhuang Rui wasn't exactly thin-skinned, he was still embarrassed by everyone's comments. "I'm a big shot in the jade gambling circle, how did I end up with such a bunch of idol-like fans?"

"Okay, Teacher Zhuang, after the bidding is over, let's go to the stone-cutting area together..."

"Yes, let's all go and cheer for Teacher Zhuang..."

"This...maybe it's Tang Laoying who will win..."

"No way, Mr. Zhuang, you've never seen anything like gambling on stones..."

Zhuang Rui's comment turned the entire bidding hall into a bustling marketplace, almost escalating into a brawl between the old and new generations of "Jade King" fans.

The other bidding halls nearby were filled with doubt. Could it be that some sky-high bid had appeared, making them so excited? They all craned their necks to observe the bids on the screen, but found nothing unusual.

Amidst the noise and commotion, time flew by. With ten minutes left until the bidding deadline, everyone seemed to have timed it perfectly, and the bidding hall immediately fell silent.

Zhuang Rui selected a total of twelve pieces of jade this time. Apart from the "rock" rough jade, the rest were almost all icy jade rough jade, with only two pieces reaching the high icy jade level.

Zhuang Rui, who had initially been indifferent, became more generous with his spending after gaining confidence. After all, even if he spent more money on relatively ordinary materials, he could make up for it with this Imperial Green Jadeite King.

The eleven pieces of jade cost Zhuang Rui a total of sixteen million euros. As for how many pieces he could win, Zhuang Rui no longer cared. At this moment, his eyes were fixed on the lot numbered 23356.

Zhuang Rui noticed that the bid number was still red; it would change to green if someone submitted a bid. He secretly rejoiced, thinking, "No one's bid yet. Looks like nobody thinks this piece is promising..."

Zhuang Rui didn't even consider that although jadeite is currently in high demand and the market is booming, no one's money comes from thin air. Only a fool would throw money at a rough stone that doesn't look like jadeite at all.

How much should I invest?

Zhuang Rui's fingers rubbed against the bidding machine. Besides the sixteen million euros he had just received, Zhuang Rui still had one hundred and ten million euros, which he had withdrawn from his father-in-law yesterday.

The timer on the big screen ticked away second by second, and the last minute before the bidding deadline arrived. Zhuang Rui saw that the bid had not changed at all, so he quickly typed a number into the bidding device.

When the countdown timer reached five seconds, Zhuang Rui pressed the confirmation button. At the same time, countless numbers on the screen began to jump, and even with Zhuang Rui's eyesight, he could not make out the final winning bid amount for lot number 2356.

"It shouldn't be stolen!"

At this moment, Zhuang Rui was also a little nervous. In order to ensure that everything went smoothly, Zhuang Rui finally entered a number of 10.5 million euros.

Zhuang Rui was confident that he would win the bid at this price, but since the final result was not yet out, he was feeling a bit anxious. As for the other bids, he had long forgotten about them.

"The results are in, the results are in..."

"Wow, what rough stone is lot number 23356? Someone actually bid 10.5 million euros!"

"10.5 million euros, that's today's top bid. Let's see who won it!"

"Forget about who won, let's go to the open bidding area and take a look at this piece of jade first..."

"Are you stupid? Open bidding, the open bidding area has been sealed off and under martial law for a long time, can you see that?"

After three or four minutes of dazzling flashing on the big screen, the dust finally settled, and the highest single bet price of the day, as calculated by the computer, was displayed on the big screen.

Seeing the glaring red numbers, Zhuang Rui finally breathed a long sigh of relief, putting his heart, which had been pounding in his throat, back down.

As previously mentioned, the procedures for handling the formalities after winning the bid are arranged in order of the winning bid price. Therefore, as today's top bidder, Zhuang Rui can be the first to handle the winning bid procedures.

After payment, Zhuang Rui can choose to pick up the goods on-site or have them shipped, and the staff will handle all of this for the customer.

"Zhuang Rui, is it really you? That bid... was it you who submitted it?"

Just as Zhuang Rui was about to turn around to go to the door to complete the formalities, Hu Rong's voice rang out from behind him. This shout drew everyone's attention in the entire bidding hall.

Chapter 973 The Jade King (Part 5)

"If no one else bids this price, I think... I'll be the one who wins the bid..."

Zhuang Rui had already decided to cut this "mountain rock" raw stone now. This piece, a rare and unparalleled treasure, should be allowed to shine with its inherent brilliance.

So Zhuang Rui didn't hide it and openly admitted it. Even if he didn't admit it now, everyone would find out when they went out later.

"It was Teacher Zhuang who won it, that's really generous..."

"Over 10 million euros, that's over 100 million RMB..."

"You're so naive. In a sealed-bid auction, materials worth hundreds of millions of RMB would be quite common..."

"Let's skip the formalities today, let's go with Teacher Zhuang and see what it's like..."

When the crowd learned that the stone belonged to Zhuang Ruizhong, they immediately erupted in excitement. They knew that Zhuang Ruizhong was competing with Elder Tang today, and that he had gone to such great lengths just for the stone-cutting competition later.

Thinking of this, the successful bidders no longer cared about their raw stones and flocked to Zhuang Rui's side. As long as they completed the formalities within the ten-day bidding period, they would not be punished by the organizing committee, so they were not in a hurry.

"Zhuang Rui, you...you actually gave me money?"

Hu Rong pushed through the crowd and walked to Zhuang Rui's side, a look of bewilderment on his face. He hadn't expected that a roadbed stone he had casually picked up would be auctioned off at a high price by his own family. Wasn't this just giving money away to the Myanmar government for free?

It's important to know that the Myanmar organizing committee's pumping fees are substantial; out of a 10 million euro bid, they would take at least 4 million. In other words, Zhuang Rui's single bid contributed over 40 million RMB to the Myanmar government.

Zhuang Rui glared at Hu Rong with annoyance and said in a low voice, "You have the nerve to say that? If it weren't for the sky-high price of 4 million euros, would I have paid so much? Fine, anyway, it's worth every penny. You'll regret it later..."

Even if it cost 50 million euros, let alone 10 million, Zhuang Rui wouldn't feel like he was losing out. After whispering these words to Hu Rong, he ignored the stunned Mr. Hu and went to process the winning bid procedures himself.

According to the rules of the Myanmar organizing committee, for bids of five million euros or more, the procedures are handled in a special office, and there is no need to squeeze through the window.

Although Myanmar's infrastructure is underdeveloped, it attaches great importance to the National Jade Center, which is equipped with advanced money transfer equipment and even has luxurious office decorations.

Led by a staff member, Zhuang Rui entered an office and found an acquaintance sitting inside.

Sitting on the sofa in his office, Old Tang looked at Zhuang Rui and smiled, "Young Zhuang, you've really gone all out! This time, the investment is quite substantial..."

The news of Zhuang Rui winning the bid spread throughout the entire bidding hall almost instantly. Although Old Tang was not in the same bidding hall as Zhuang Rui, he also received the news.

"Mr. Tang, your generosity is quite impressive..."

Zhuang Rui chuckled upon hearing this. The fact that Tang Lao was sitting in this office meant that his bid for this project was at least five million euros.

After Zhuang Rui and Mr. Tang greeted each other, the staff member next to him said in fluent Chinese, "Mr. Zhuang, you have won a total of nine rough stones this time, with a total value of 23 million euros. I wonder what you would like to do with them? Ship them or pick them up yourself?"

Zhuang Rui thought for a moment and said, "Go pick up the rough stone worth 10.5 million euros immediately, and process the international shipping for the rest..."

"Xiao Zhuang, you just made a move that involved hundreds of millions of RMB. There aren't many people in China who can afford that kind of spending..."

Old Tang was shocked when he heard Zhuang Rui's total winning bid amount. He knew that materials bid in open auctions were usually not very good; many people placed their heavy bets on sealed bids. If Zhuang Rui played the same game, he would probably have to invest at least a billion RMB this time.

"Old man, I'm just really eager to beat you, aren't I?"

Zhuang Rui smiled and made a joke. He knew that Old Tang had a very open-minded personality and liked to mentor younger generations, so he spoke quite casually.

"Alright, you've beaten me. This old man will treat you to a big meal!"

Old Tang laughed loudly, unconcerned. At his age, he had long since lost any competitive spirit. He was simply happy to see that there were successors in the jade industry.

"Grandpa, please don't blame me for not respecting the elderly this time..."

Zhuang Rui muttered to himself as he went to process the transfer with the staff next to him. He was already very familiar with these things, and after signing a few shipping agreements, it was completed in just a few minutes.

"Old Tang, see you at the stone-cutting area later..."

After bidding farewell to Grandpa Tang, Zhuang Rui took the delivery order to the open bidding area, which had been taken over by the military and police. After checking the delivery order, a modified flatbed shovel transported Zhuang Rui's piece of material out.

This bulldozer costs money. After Zhuang Rui handed over two hundred US dollars, the bulldozer driver drove the bulldozer with a smile toward the entrance of the jade trading center.

The bulldozer moved very slowly carrying the heavy stone, and many people followed along the way. Before they even reached the entrance of the Myanmar National Jade Exchange Center, Zhuang Rui was followed by hundreds of people.

"Is this the stone that Teacher Zhuang wants to unravel?"

"It shouldn't be, right? This doesn't look like a piece of raw jade. It looks more like a paving stone..."

"How fresh! If it weren't a rough stone, it would be transported to the cutting area. This must be it, but it is indeed a bit of junk..."

"Holy crap, this...this stone is just too outrageous! How could jade possibly be extracted from it?"

Everyone who joined the marching column would first glance at the rough stone on the bulldozer, and they would all stare in astonishment, not because the stone was exceptionally fine, but because it was unanimously considered garbage.

If this rough stone had a life of its own, I wonder if it would be driven mad by these people's comments. This guy is a master of feigned wisdom. You common folk can't understand it, and you even resort to insults.

Zhuang Rui naturally ignored these idle gossips and walked ahead calmly, followed by Peng Fei and Li Zhen, displaying a bit of the demeanor of a boss.

The Myanmar organizing committee has been informed that there will be a stone gambling competition today. At this moment, the stone cutting area is filled with armed police and military personnel, and a cordon has been set up next to the largest stone cutting machine.

Mr. Tang's reputation is extremely high in the Myanmar public auction, and it has remained strong for decades. Zhuang Rui, this rising star, has also left a deep impression on the Myanmar organizing committee, so they attach great importance to this competition and have put a lot of effort into security.

Apart from the owner of the raw stone and the parties involved in its cutting, everyone else was kept outside the cordon and not allowed to approach.

At this moment, jade merchants from almost every country gathered in the stone-cutting area. The queue of thousands of people even stretched out onto the square. Many people braved the pain of mosquito bites and insect stings, all wanting to witness the contest between the "Jade Kings" of two eras.

"Make way, let me in..."

When Qin Haoran's voice reached Zhuang Rui's ears, he quickly greeted the guards and let Qin Haoran in. However, of the appraisers Qin Haoran brought, only two were allowed in.

"Xiao Rui, both of them are skilled at cutting stones. If you get tired later, let them take over..."

After Qin Haoran entered, he introduced the people behind him to Zhuang Rui. Zhuang Rui nodded dismissively. What a joke! This rare jade that will shock the entire world must be unearthed by his own hands.

After greeting Zhuang Rui, Qin Haoran walked over to the "rock" and stared wide-eyed, asking incredulously, "This...this is the material you bought?"

"That's right, Uncle, this is the material Zhuang Rui picked out. Hehe, that kid even said he had a surprise for me..."

Hu Rong, standing to the side, said with a hint of schadenfreude, "They're all relatives. If Zhuang Rui fails, Hu Rong will return his share of the money to Zhuang Rui. However, the money the organizing committee took will truly be wasted."

"Zhuang Rui, you...you...this is too outrageous!"

As the head of Qin's Jewelry, Qin Haoran may not be an expert in gambling on stones, but he has a good eye and can at least distinguish between rough stones and roadbed stones.

This piece of material has been stepped on and run over by cars for decades, and one side is already very smooth. It doesn't look like a rough stone with jade inside at all.

At this moment, Zhuang Rui's mature and steady image was greatly diminished in Qin Haoran's mind, and he immediately became a target of criticism.

Not only did Qin Haoran not think highly of this material, but now anyone who glanced at the stone also thought it was good. Moreover, the news spread like wildfire, and in no time, thousands of people in the venue knew that Zhuang Rui had chosen a roadbed stone.

"Old Guo, you've really struck it rich this time. I bet you'll lose at least forty or fifty million..."

The happiest person at this moment was none other than Boss Jin from the gambling duo. Because of their gambling operation, they were honored to be led to the edge of the cordon. However, the two men standing there had very different expressions on their faces.

By noon, Lao Guo had received nearly 40 million yuan in bets, while his net worth was only 50 to 60 million yuan, including fixed assets. Throughout the day, Lao Guo's mind was far from at ease.

If there was still hope of winning at the beginning, after seeing the rough stones that Zhuang Rui had "carefully selected," Lao Guo was almost in despair.

"Old Tang is here, everyone make way, Old Tang is coming..."

Not to mention that Lao Guo was wishing he could find a rope to hang himself up, the crowd was in an uproar as Tang Lao followed a bulldozer into the stone-cutting area.

Chapter 974 The Jade King (Part 6)

"Old Tang is here, everyone please make way..."

"Mr. Tang, you absolutely must win..."

"The piece of jade that Teacher Zhuang chose, sigh, this matter..."

"Hey, I'm sure Old Tang will win. Look at this material, the blemishes are so obvious..."

As Mr. Tang's figure moved through the crowd, various sounds arose. If this surging scene were filmed and posted online, it might very well be mistaken for a concert by some superstar.

Upon seeing Elder Tang follow the bulldozer into the stone-cutting area, Zhuang Rui hurriedly went to greet him. Although there was an element of competition involved in this stone-cutting competition, the relationship between Zhuang Rui and Elder Tang remained harmonious, and there was no estrangement caused by it.

"Mr. Tang, the piece of jade you chose is quite large..."

For Zhuang Rui, Old Tang was an elder whom he respected and who was worthy of learning from. In Old Tang's eyes, Zhuang Rui was a promising junior. With their open minds and insight, they would naturally not be affected by the words of others.

The piece of material on the forklift was oval-shaped. On the side of the raw stone facing upwards, there was a small window. With the help of the setting sun that had not yet completely set, Zhuang Rui could barely see the color of the window. It was not green, but a somewhat eerie purple.

The entire piece is about 30 centimeters thick, nearly 80 centimeters long, and weighs no less than 200 kilograms, which is considered a large piece among jadeite rough stones.

It's important to know that due to various reasons such as crustal movement, the materials that are more likely to yield top-quality jadeite are generally very small in size. For example, the imperial green jadeite that Zhuang Rui previously extracted was only the size of an egg yolk, which was already extremely precious.

The "rock" material that Zhuang Rui encountered this time may be unique, but it is certainly unprecedented and probably the only one of its kind on this earth.

Zhuang Rui didn't use his spiritual energy to examine the materials Tang Lao had chosen. Since it was a competition, he'd let the answer be revealed at the last moment. Zhuang Rui didn't want everything to be without suspense; that would be too boring.

Miracles do happen, and perhaps this piece of material by Mr. Tang will have an amazing performance?

In any case, among the thousands of people present, anyone who has compared the materials chosen by Zhuang Rui and Elder Tang would definitely support Elder Tang. Even Qin Haoran, who has always had great confidence in Zhuang Rui, is shaking his head at this moment.

"Xiao Zhuang, which piece of material did you choose? Let this old man take a look first..."

Old Tang knew too many people, so after greeting everyone around him, he returned to his own raw stone.

However, Tang Lao was only halfway through his sentence when he saw Zhuang Rui's "rock" material. Even though he was used to all sorts of things in the jade gambling circle, he was still surprised and his eyes widened.

"Little...Little Zhuang, this...this piece of material is the one you chose?"

Old Tang looked at Zhuang Rui in disbelief. He still remembered this piece of material; he had chatted with Zhuang Rui a few times back then.

The old man never expected that Zhuang Rui, who had previously belittled this piece of material, would now choose it to compete with him.

At this moment, Old Master Tang felt that those who questioned Zhuang Rui's appreciation of stones might not have been entirely unfounded.

"Mr. Tang, this piece of jade was offered at such a high price, so it must have some merit. After you left, I took another look at it and feel there should be some good quality inside. Would you like to take a closer look?"

The old man's reaction was exactly what Zhuang Rui had expected. After all, he had criticized the stone so harshly back then. Of course, even now, Zhuang Rui couldn't see any aspect of the material that resembled a jadeite rough.

So in the end, Zhuang Rui asked Old Tang to appraise the stone, hoping to see if Old Tang could find any clues.

"Oh? Then I'll have to take a look..."

Tang Lao's greatest passion in life was appraising jadeite rough stones. Over the decades, he had seen countless strange and unusual stones. Now, hearing Zhuang Rui's description, his curiosity was immediately piqued. 695၅၂၃.၄၀၈

In Tang Lao's opinion, if Zhuang Rui wasn't just seeking fame and fortune, then he must have discovered something valuable about this material. In other words, this was a test for him. There was no reason why Zhuang Rui could see it while he couldn't.

By this time, it was getting dark, but the organizing committee of the Myanmar jade auction had specially prepared more than ten high-wattage lights for this stone-cutting event, illuminating the entire stone-cutting area as if it were daytime. No matter which angle you looked at the rough stones from, there would be no shadows.

For the organizing committee, the discovery of a top-quality jadeite on-site would greatly boost the transaction volume of this public auction.

Therefore, they spared no effort in taking care of this competition. In addition to lighting equipment, they even prepared pocket wireless microphones to clip to Zhuang Rui and Tang Lao's collars so that people in the venue could hear their conversation.

"This stone...was it really used as a roadbed stone?"

Old Tang held a magnifying glass and looked at the pitted and uneven surface. It looked like it had been caused by a mining vehicle. Moreover, the dented areas looked like limestone, without any characteristics of raw jadeite.

The more Mr. Tang looked at it, the more puzzled he became. After examining it from all angles for a long time, he still couldn't find any reason why this piece of material could be worth more than 10 million euros. After having the bulldozer driver turn the stone over on the ground, Mr. Tang examined it more carefully.

However, the formation of this "rock" is too peculiar. It was encased in magma at the beginning of the formation of jade, which is somewhat similar to amber. However, the outer rock is not transparent, so it is difficult to distinguish with the naked eye.

Old Tang observed it for nearly twenty minutes but couldn't discern anything. He shook his head and said, "Young Zhuang, this piece of material... I don't understand it..."

"What? Old Tang can't figure it out? Could it be a good piece of material?"

"Not necessarily, it might just be a rock. Of course, Old Tang wouldn't be able to tell..."

"Quiet down, let's hear what Old Tang has to say next..."

After Mr. Tang commented on the stone, it immediately caused a stir in the room. Mr. Tang's words were ambiguous, leaving everyone somewhat confused.

"This...it looks like a piece of limestone to me..."

Although Old Tang liked to mentor younger generations, he was a straightforward person. In front of thousands of people, he did not say anything against his conscience, but expressed his true feelings.

Tang Lao's evaluation immediately caused a stir among the audience. Those who had not seen the stone that Zhuang Rui had chosen began to question Zhuang Rui's skill.

"Did you hear that? That's just a stepping stone..."

"Really, it seems Teacher Zhuang misjudged this time..."

"That's not necessarily true. Didn't you know that Sun Wukong also sprang from a crack in a rock? No one dares to say what's inside until the rock is cracked open!"

Amidst the lively discussions among the crowd, one voice stood out loudly, seemingly cheering on Zhuang Rui. However, his words were quite amusing, eliciting laughter from those around him.

However, although this guy strongly supported Zhuang Rui, his expression was very unpleasant, because he was also in the jade gambling circle and had some knowledge of the quality of rough jade. In his eyes, Zhuang Rui's piece of jade was really not very good.

As the saying goes, a good man doesn't gamble. Right now, Lao Guo is thinking to himself whether he should dump the mistress he's keeping in Xiamen, sell the villa, and raise the money to pay off his gambling debts.

Upon seeing the man, Peng Fei suppressed a laugh and whispered in Zhuang Rui's ear, "Brother Zhuang, that guy runs a gambling den and bets on you winning..."

Peng Fei knew nothing about jade gambling, but he firmly believed that Zhuang Rui would win!

Peng Fei's belief is different from the Chinese football team's boastful attitude after beating a weak opponent. Peng Fei's belief is based on his experience after following Zhuang Rui for several years. Whether it's antiques or jade, he has never seen Zhuang Rui make a mistake or suffer a loss.

Zhuang Rui glanced at the worried-looking Lao Guo and asked, "How much money did he collect from the bets?"

"I heard it's around forty or fifty million, Brother Zhuang. These people don't really think highly of you..."

Peng Fei laughed heartlessly. He knew that even if Zhuang Rui lost, he wouldn't care about such a small amount of money. The fortune he had gained at sea not long ago was an astronomical figure.

"Brother Xinzhuang...may attain eternal life!"

Zhuang Rui smiled and joked with Peng Fei, then walked to the center of the stone-cutting area, looked at Old Tang, and said, "Old Tang, why don't you go first?"

Zhuang Rui knew exactly what kind of rough stone he had, and now he wanted to see what kind of material this veteran in the jade gambling circle, who had been famous for decades, had chosen.

"Alright, I'll go first then. But Xiao Zhuang, your... your piece... well, hopefully it'll be a surprise for the old man..."

Old Tang readily agreed, but he was still bothered by the rough stone Zhuang Rui had chosen. He had originally thought that evening would be a closely contested written test, but after seeing Zhuang Rui's material, Old Tang was extremely disappointed.

"Xiao Zhao, come on, help the driver carry the materials upstairs..."

The piece of material that Old Tang selected weighed more than 200 kilograms. First, it was lifted by a loader, and after being aligned with the stone cutting machine, several people worked together to push it onto the iron frame of the stone cutting machine.

Although he had already observed it beforehand and knew exactly how to make the cut, Tang Lao still spent more than ten minutes observing with chalk, drawing several cutting lines on the raw stone.

After Master Tang finished preparing, the disciple surnamed Zhao stepped forward and said, "Teacher, let me do it?"

"Let me do it. This piece is my last piece; I'm afraid I'll never find jadeite that surpasses this rough stone again..."

Although Old Tang's voice wasn't loud, it was carried clearly through the microphone in his collar throughout the entire stone-cutting area, including the surrounding square, and thousands of people could hear it clearly.

"What... exactly is this material?"

"Don't speak, the stone will be cut soon..."

The raw stone that Tang Lao praised so highly must be extraordinary. After the initial commotion, the huge square became so quiet you could hear a pin drop!

Chapter 975 The Jade King (Part 7)

Zhuang Rui was also curious. Tang Lao spoke with such certainty that he was a little skeptical. If he couldn't see inside the raw stone, did Tang Lao have X-ray vision?

When Old Tang's veined hands gripped the stone-cutting machine, the thousands of people in the audience could only hear their own heartbeats and the breathing of those around them; the silence was eerily profound.

"Click...click click..."

The huge alloy gears of the stone cutter started spinning, and then cut into the raw stone along the dotted line drawn by Old Tang, making a piercing sound.

Old Tang's movements were very gentle. He hardly used any force with his hands, but instead used the downward power of the stone cutter's gears to cut the raw stone. Fragments flew around, and the flying stone chips constantly hit Old Tang's hands.

When the gear had cut into the rough stone four or five centimeters thick, Old Tang stopped and had his disciple bring a basin of water, which he poured onto the stone. After observing the gap with a strong flashlight for a while, Old Tang started the stone-cutting machine again.

Zhuang Rui was standing very close to Old Tang, and he could see that the old man's hands were trembling slightly when he was holding the flashlight. This was understandable, as Old Tang was born in the early 1940s and was now nearly seventy years old.

"Mr. Tang, take a rest first, there's no rush to solve it..."

A few minutes later, Zhuang Rui saw large beads of sweat on Old Tang's face and quickly advised him, "Age doesn't forgive anyone. Stone cutting requires both physical strength and skill, and it takes a lot of strain on the body."

"Sigh, I'm really getting old. If this were ten years ago, I could cut five pieces of this material in one go..."

Old Tang was indeed feeling a bit overwhelmed at this point. After hearing Zhuang Rui's words, he looked at the piece of material that had just been cut in half and reluctantly stopped.

"Teacher, how about I solve it? I'll just cut along the lines you drew..."

At this moment, Master Tang's disciple volunteered, as cutting stone in front of so many people was a very prestigious thing.

"No, even though you're experienced, this piece of material is quite complex. If I mess it up, you'll ruin it..."

Old Tang shook his head, turning off the microphone before speaking, to save face for his disciple. Little Zhao blushed slightly, a little unconvinced, and said, "Teacher, I'll speak softer..."

"It's not a matter of force. I just checked with a flashlight, and I didn't see any jade with this cut. I need to cut from a different spot. Let me rest for a bit before I try again..."

Old Tang still didn't agree. You see, the process of cutting the stone is extremely important for the creation of jadeite. If the weight of the gears is not properly controlled, a single mistake could result in a loss of tens of millions of yuan.

If it were an ordinary piece of material, Old Tang would let Xiao Zhao try it out. But since he was convinced that this piece of material would yield top-quality jadeite, he would only feel at ease if he cut it open himself.

Seeing the old man with a full head of white hair so persistent, Zhuang Rui was somewhat moved and immediately said, "Old Tang, how about I help you solve it..."

"you?"

Old Tang hadn't expected Zhuang Rui to make this request. After thinking for a moment, he shook his head and said, "No, it would be such a waste to ruin this piece of material..."

It's no wonder that Old Tang doesn't trust Zhuang Rui. The key issue is that the rough stone Zhuang Rui chose was too unreliable. His skill in appraising rough stones was so poor that Old Tang didn't believe he could be that good at cutting stones.

"Old Tang, even a god can't judge a piece of jade by its flaws. Many times, it's impossible to draw conclusions too early..." Zhuang Rui said with a smile, but his words were pointed.

Old Tang raised an eyebrow and said in surprise, "Oh? Little Zhuang, then you'd better tell this old man what the secret is behind that piece of jade?"

"Grandpa, that piece of jade was mined from a genuine old mine. Moreover, the formation of jade is quite accidental. Although the outer skin may not look good, it doesn't necessarily mean there isn't jade inside..."

"Mr. Zhuang, that material you're using isn't even a rough stone, how could it possibly yield jadeite?" Before Old Tang could speak, Little Zhao retorted to Zhuang Rui.

After hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Old Tang frowned slightly, a thoughtful expression on his face. He waved his hand to interrupt Xiao Zhao and said, "Xiao Zhao, don't talk nonsense. Such situations do exist. There used to be a Chinese man in Myanmar who worked for a mine owner. He would pick up discarded scrap materials to dissect and play with, and he was often laughed at."

But then one day, that person actually unearthed a top-grade imperial green jadeite worth tens of millions, so what Xiao Zhuang said did make some sense..."

Old Tang has spent his entire life in the jade and jadeite industry, and he has seen countless strange and unusual things. He has even seen jadeite cut from materials that don't look like raw stones.

"But, teacher, Mr. Zhuang cuts stones..." Xiao Zhao blurted out, but realized his words were inappropriate as soon as they left his mouth, and quickly stopped. However, anyone could understand his distrust of Zhuang Rui.

Zhuang Rui was a little annoyed by Xiao Zhao's teasing, so he said, "Old Tang, don't worry, if it really turns out badly, I'll compensate you with a piece of imperial green jade, the value of which is no less than yours, how about that?"

"This...this..."

Zhuang Rui's words made Old Tang a little embarrassed. Although he didn't want to give Zhuang Rui the material to cut, refusing would be too hurtful.

Seeing Zhuang Rui's confident demeanor, Old Tang hesitated for a moment, then gritted his teeth and said, "Alright, but Zhuang, you must cut along the lines I've drawn. Be gentle when you make the cut, and carefully observe the inside. Don't rush..."

"Teacher, you..." Xiao Zhao was a little indignant when he saw that Old Tang actually wanted Zhuang Rui to cut the stone.

"Stop talking, let Xiao Zhuang explain. The reputation of the Jade King of the North is not for nothing. Can you compare?"

Old Master Tang glared at his disciple, then said, "Little Zhuang, cut down from here, and then..."

Like a teacher instructing a newcomer, Old Tang talked to Zhuang Rui for a long time, even standing up to point to the lines he had drawn, explaining in detail how deep the cuts needed to be, and how deep the cuts needed to be before the land needed to be relocated if no green appeared.

"Mr. Tang, please don't worry..."

Zhuang Rui smiled and shook his head. Standing in front of the stone-cutting machine, he didn't cut anything, but instead observed the piece of material.

Previously, Zhuang Rui hadn't used his spiritual energy to examine the raw stone in hopes of creating a pleasant surprise. But now that he was the one to do it, he dared not be careless. Once a promise is made, it's done; if he messed up, he would really have to lose a piece of imperial green jade.

A glint of spiritual energy emanated from Zhuang Rui's eyes, seeping into the spot where the old man had just cut halfway.

After hearing what Elder Tang said, Zhuang Rui thought that no jadeite would be found below. However, to his surprise, as soon as the spiritual energy entered the raw stone two or three centimeters deep, an extremely pure aura enveloped the spiritual energy he had infiltrated.

"This...this is purple eyes?"

The aura enveloping the spiritual energy in his eyes was somewhat familiar to Zhuang Rui. He had once unearthed a similar type of jade when he was with the Qin family in Hong Kong. However, the purple eyes in this stone seemed to be purer than those in his own.

A piece of purple jade, about the size of a baby's palm, surrounded by some unevenly distributed pieces of jade, appeared in Zhuang Rui's field of vision like twinkling stars in the sky.

"That old man, hey, he's fucking amazing..."

Zhuang Rui withdrew his spiritual energy, looked up at Elder Tang, and his eyes were full of admiration.

He never expected that this seemingly frail old man could determine that there would be top-quality jade inside just by looking at the dark green and purple color on the surface of the rough stone.

To be honest, Zhuang Rui felt a sense of defeat. He had an incredible cheat code, yet he still only found that "rock" material by luck. If it came down to the level of identifying jadeite rough, Zhuang Rui knew that he couldn't even come close to Old Master Tang.

"Grandpa, I'm about to start..." Zhuang Rui greeted Grandpa Tang and then started the stone cutting machine.

"Xiao Zhuang, you!"

However, the direction Zhuang Rui cut was the same spot where Old Tang had cut halfway earlier, which greatly surprised Old Tang, who suddenly stood up from his chair.

Not only was Old Tang surprised, but Zhuang Rui's action also stunned the thousands of people in the room. Because Old Tang and Zhuang Rui had turned off their microphones, they did not know that Old Tang had agreed to let Zhuang Rui cut the stone.

What was supposed to be a competition has unexpectedly turned into an opponent coming to cut the stone. The onlookers are racking their brains trying to figure out what exactly happened.

Although Old Tang stopped him quickly, Zhuang Rui was even faster. With a forceful swing of his arms, the half-cut stone fell heavily to the ground amidst a series of cracking sounds and flying stone fragments.

"Xiao Zhuang, you...you!"

The old man was so angry that he pointed at Zhuang Rui with his finger, his face flushed, and he started to sway.

"Hey, old man, what's the rush..."

Zhuang Rui quickly shut down the stone-cutting machine, grabbed Old Tang, and said, "Grandpa, although my skill in selecting rough stones isn't great, I've never had a single piece of raw jade go wrong..."

As Zhuang Rui helped Old Tang up, a glint of spiritual energy shone from his eyes and seeped into the old man's skin. He was afraid that his actions might upset the old man.

Zhuang Rui turned his head and shouted to Xiao Zhao, who was standing dumbfounded to the side, "Xiao Zhao, go wash it up, I guarantee it'll turn green..."

"Let...let me see..."

Whether it was Zhuang Rui's words that had an effect, or the wisp of spiritual energy that had an effect, Old Tang shook his head vigorously, pushed Zhuang Rui away, and walked to the side of the raw stone that had already been cut open.

"T-Teacher, this...this is imperial green jadeite?"

Because of the dim lighting at night, and because the purple eyes themselves are very intense in color, Xiao Zhao, after cleaning the cut surface with a basin of water, immediately exclaimed in surprise when he saw the fluorescent light shimmering on the cut surface.

Chapter 976 The Jade King (Part 8)

"What, Imperial Green?"

Standing behind Xiao Zhao, Old Tang frowned. Based on the color spots on the rough stone, this piece was very likely a case of unusual color change. If it really turned out to be imperial green, it would be a huge departure from his previous assessment.

"Move aside, let me see..."

Tang was anxious and almost roughly pushed Xiao Zhao aside. He didn't even notice why he, who had been so weak just moments before, had such great strength.

Holding a magnifying glass in one hand and a powerful flashlight in the other, Old Tang examined the jade carefully for over a minute. He then looked up at Xiao Zhao, his expression one of exasperation, and said, "This...this isn't imperial green jade, it's purple jade..."

When emerald green and purple reach their peak, they can look somewhat similar under light. Moreover, imperial green is the king of jadeite, so Xiao Zhao mistakenly identified it as imperial green.

Upon hearing the teacher's words, Xiao Zhao's face turned slightly red. To cover up his mistake, Xiao Zhao turned over the small piece of fabric that had fallen to the ground.

"Huh? There's not a single piece of purple jade here?"

Xiao Zhao examined the piece of jade, not with good intentions. He wanted to find the purple jade that had been cut into the piece to ridicule Zhuang Rui. However, to his disappointment and astonishment, there were only some dark crystalline particles on the smooth cut surface of the jade.

"What?"

Xiao Zhao's words startled Old Tang, who was examining the piece of purple jade. After turning his head to look at the half-cut surface for a while, Old Tang looked up at Zhuang Rui with complicated eyes and said, "Xiao Zhuang, you...you already saw the cut surface a long time ago?"

Even if Old Tang were twenty years younger, let alone now that he's past his prime, he wouldn't be confident he could cut it so neatly.

Moreover, Old Tang was just about to change the cutting line. If Zhuang Rui hadn't made that clean and swift cut, changing the cutting line would have definitely damaged the jadeite inside.

At this moment, Old Tang felt a bit like Lian Po, an old general, past his prime. He certainly didn't believe Zhuang Rui hadn't foreseen anything before making his move.

“Mr. Tang, this line you drew was along the edge of the blemish, and the edge isn't very big. Even if it doesn't yield green, this cut won't damage the jade itself. That's why I decided to continue cutting from where you just made it...”

Old Tang nodded at Zhuang Rui's words. He had indeed been trying to be safe by drawing a line with his knife. He didn't want to ruin the cut on the first try, so he was going to change the spot to cut. He repeatedly told Zhuang Rui to be careful.

"What did you cut out?"

"Hey, why did those two turn off their microphones?"

"Yeah, I'm so anxious... the soldiers won't let us in..."

Zhuang Rui and Tang Lao's conversation nearly drove the thousands of onlookers crazy. They hadn't even figured out what had just happened when the attack was already over.

Because the cordon was set up quite far away, and Zhuang Rui and Old Tang were both standing next to the raw stone, even those people standing around the cordon couldn't see the outcome clearly, and they all started making a fuss.

"I said, how about you? I'll give you \$1,000, can I go in and take a look?"

A shopkeeper standing next to a Burmese soldier rolled his eyes, spoke broken English, and struck up a conversation with the soldier on guard. He rolled up a stack of US dollars and stuffed it into the soldier's hand.

And you know what? This dollar really works. Although the soldier couldn't understand what the man was saying, he discreetly put a wad of dollars into his pocket and then turned sideways to put it in.

"Hey, this tour fee is damn expensive..."

The boss chuckled smugly, squeezed through the cordon and ran towards the stone cutting machine, leaving the people behind him dumbfounded before they finally realized what was happening.

"Hey, hey, I have money too..."

"Here, I'll give you 2000, let me in too..."

"Damn, is the Burmese government even more corrupt than the one in China?"

After the soldier accepted the money and released the man, he didn't expect it to cause such a huge commotion; the entire crowd erupted in uproar.

Some people tried to squeeze in by holding up their banknotes, while others simply started cursing. There are still unspoken rules even abroad. How can these businessmen who have suffered under the oppression of certain institutions bear this?

"Bang! Bang bang!"

Three crisp gunshots rang out, and the restless crowd immediately quieted down. No matter the time, the deterrent effect of force is always the most effective.

The moment the gunshot rang out, Peng Fei and Li Zhen, who had been lounging next to Zhuang Rui, sprang up like leopards and rushed in front of Zhuang Rui. Before Zhuang Rui could react, the two of them, one hugging his knees and the other pressing down on his shoulders, swiftly knocked Zhuang Rui to the ground.

These two brothers had both survived gunfire and were exceptionally sensitive to gunshots. Before most people even realized it was a gunshot, they had already dutifully completed their duty.

Zhuang Rui was thrown quite hard, almost hitting his head on the stone cutting machine. He pushed Peng Fei away with both hands, sat up, and shook his head, saying, "Hey, what's wrong?"

"Brother Zhuang, don't get up, someone's firing..."

Li Zhen placed his right hand on his waist, using his body to block Zhuang Rui, and looked warily toward the source of the gunshot, while Peng Fei stood up and went over to find out what was going on.

"Damn it, what kind of mess is this?"

A few minutes later, Peng Fei returned, cursing under his breath. He gestured to Li Zhen and said, "It's alright now. A soldier was taking money to let people in, which almost caused a riot. A Burmese officer only fired his gun when he couldn't control the situation..."

Upon hearing Peng Fei's words, Zhuang Rui, Qin Haoran, Tang Lao, and the others all wore expressions of disbelief. The person who gave the money was incredibly clever! They actually wanted to bribe their way to an overseas country!

It seems that the old saying "money can make the devil turn the millstone" is indeed quite true. The words passed down from our ancestors are truly irrefutable truths!

The soldier who collected the money was quickly taken away after his gun was confiscated, and the shop owner who believed that "money can make the devil turn the millstone" was also identified and taken away as well. It is unknown whether he will receive a fine from Myanmar.

"Mr. Tang, what do you think of this piece of jade? Tell everyone..."

"That's right, once you two turn off your microphones, we won't know anything..."

"Yes, Mr. Tang, did you make a profit on this piece of jade? Why was it Mr. Zhuang who handled the carving just now?"

Having learned from the previous example, the people who followed no longer dared to bribe the Burmese soldiers. Instead, they shouted at the top of their lungs towards the stone-cutting area.

Zhuang Rui and Old Tang exchanged a glance. It turned out that they were the ones who had caused this trouble. They couldn't help but smile wryly and turned on the microphone at the same time.

"I'm so sorry, I really apologize to all my friends!"

Old Tang first bowed to everyone, then said, "Due to some minor issues, Xiao Zhuang and I discussed them with the microphones off, which has caused everyone some anxiety..."

The material has been cut open, and it seems the gamble has paid off. The jadeite exposed on the cut surface is purple jade. Since it still needs some cleaning to confirm its quality, please be patient. I will begin cleaning now..."

This "betting on a winning cut" doesn't mean cutting through the jadeite without damaging it at all. It means cutting along the edge, where there are still some crystalline particles on the surface of the jadeite, but they are very rare and transparent, which is why you can see the color inside.

However, to distinguish the quality of the seed water, this layer of crystal must be polished off, which is what Xiao Zhao is doing now. This kind of thing that does not require any technical skills is naturally done by his disciples.

The coarse and fine sandpaper were provided free of charge by the organizers. After five or six minutes, the crystallizable particles were almost completely polished. When Xiao Zhao poured a basin of water onto the cut surface, several heads that had been peering over were immediately stunned.

"T-Teacher, this...is it purple eyes?"

Although Xiao Zhao is still a novice in jade gambling, he has been following Master Tang for several years and has a keen eye for quality, recognizing the quality of this piece of purple jade at a glance.

It's important to know that only purple jadeite with exceptional color and a glassy texture is qualified to be called "purple-eyed." Ordinary purple jadeite cannot use this name.

Because the formation of jadeite's color requires extremely demanding conditions, it is absolutely impossible for jadeite of this color to be produced without associated minerals such as copper.

Therefore, relatively speaking, rare gems such as purple-eyed jade and top-grade yellow jade, which are worth almost as much as imperial green jade, are even rarer than imperial green jade.

In the past two decades, it seems that only Zhuang Rui unearthed a piece two years ago, which shone brightly at an international jewelry exhibition in the UK.

"That's right, it's purple-eyed, and this piece of material isn't small either. It looks like it can be used to make two fingers, so making three necklaces shouldn't be a problem!"

Glass-type jadeite is as pure as water, and it seems to have a shimmering light inside. It is very easy for experts of Mr. Tang's caliber to identify.

After carefully examining the cut surface with a powerful flashlight, Old Tang nodded heavily, his face revealing an uncontrollable excitement.

Judging the jade's texture from its color and flaws is Tang Lao's specialty. Although he had previously believed that it could yield top-quality jadeite, his expectation was only for high-grade icy purple jade. However, Tang Lao did not expect that the surprise brought by Zhuang Rui's cut would far exceed his expectations.

"Purple eyes? Really?"

"Damn, this is a legendary, top-quality jadeite that you can only see once in a lifetime!"

"Brother, uncle, can I call you grandpa? Please let me in for a look..."

When Old Tang's voice rang out, it immediately drove everyone in the square into a frenzy. Among them were newbies who had just entered the jade gambling business and veterans who had been around for decades, but none of them had ever seen such a top-quality jade as the Purple Eye.

"I have to thank Xiao Zhuang for this. If it were me, this old man, I probably would have collapsed..."

Old Tang's next sentence stunned everyone. It turned out that Zhuang Rui had also played a part in this.

Chapter 977 Legend (Part 1)

For a moment, everyone in the square felt confused. Weren't these two supposed to be competing? Why did Old Tang ask Zhuang Rui to help him cut the stone, and then afterwards give half the credit to Zhuang Rui?

It's important to know that cutting the stone is a crucial process for extracting jadeite from a rough stone. Even a slight mistake during this process can drastically reduce the value of the jadeite inside. The skill of the stone cutter is absolutely indispensable in the world of jade gambling.

So if this piece of material was indeed cut by Zhuang Rui, then Old Tang's words were not an exaggeration at all. When everyone looked at the ugly raw stone that Zhuang Rui had chosen, they no longer felt as disgusted as before.

"Mr. Tang, please sit down. Let me help you take all the jade out of there..."

To see things through to the end, Zhuang Rui washed his hands and went to the stone cutting machine to get busy again. Although removing jadeite was easier than cutting it, it was a slow job. It required using a grinding wheel to remove the excess rough stone little by little and take out the jade inside.

Old Tang didn't rest either. While Zhuang Rui was working, he went back to the rough stone that Zhuang Rui had chosen and examined it carefully over and over again.

Previously, Mr. Tang would not have made such a move, but after witnessing Zhuang Rui's skillful stone-cutting, Mr. Tang began to question his own judgment. Perhaps this piece of material really is a jadeite rough?

Meanwhile, Tang Lao's disciple, Xiao Zhao, was staring intently at Zhuang Rui cutting the stone, his eyes shining. At first, he thought Zhuang Rui was just lucky, that he had just cut right along the edge of the jade with one stroke, but now he was completely in awe of Zhuang Rui.

When Zhuang Rui was cutting the stone, his technique didn't seem fast, but he was quite decisive. Sometimes when he used the stone-cutting machine, he didn't hold back at all, which made Xiao Zhao break out in a cold sweat. But after the cut, it was just right, without damaging the jade at all.

Extracting jade from a rough stone weighing over 200 kilograms was a time-consuming task, taking Zhuang Rui more than two hours to break the stone apart.

A piece of purple jade, about the size of a baby's palm, shimmering with a faint purple light, was held in Xiao Zhao's hands. Her eyes were filled with a mesmerizing expression. The charm of this purple jade was irresistible not only to women, but its beauty was also enough to make men fall deeply in love with it.

Besides the purple eye jade weighing over a pound, Zhuang Rui also cut out nearly two kilograms of high-quality icy purple jade. Although its quality was not as good as the other piece, it was still a rare and exquisite piece of jade that was hard to find in decades.

The purple jadeite beads scattered on the trays provided by the Myanmar organizing committee, under the light, resembled twinkling stars or the alluring eyes of a woman, radiating endless brilliance, captivating anyone who looked upon them.

Those standing near the cordon could see a little bit, though not very clearly, but the unique luster of the purple jade still captivated them.

"Old Guo, this time... even your older brother has helped you out..."

Mr. Jin and Mr. Guo actually have a good personal relationship, but because of a joke, the two made a bet, which has resulted in Mr. Guo not only losing everything and begging on the streets, but also losing all his savings.

"Mr. Jin, this... isn't over yet? Let's wait and see what Teacher Zhuang's material is..."

Old Guo spoke with a bitter expression. Purple eyes are almost the highest quality in jadeite, so it can be said that Zhuang Rui has no chance of winning at all. Old Guo was just trying to comfort himself by saying this.

Meanwhile, Lao Guo was calculating his assets, wondering if he still had the capital to make a comeback after losing more than 40 million yuan. As for defaulting on the gambling, Lao Guo had never thought about it.

It's important to understand that the people who came to gamble on stones this time weren't just from the stone gambling circle; there were also many speculative investors from society and funds from major domestic conglomerates. If Lao Guo wanted to renege on his debts, he wouldn't be able to stay in China anymore.

...

"I can't tell anything? Is it really because I'm getting old?"

After witnessing Zhuang Rui's skill in cutting stones, Old Tang paid almost no attention to Zhuang Rui's actions, focusing all his energy on Zhuang Rui's rough stone. However, no matter how he examined it, he couldn't find any clues.

This made Old Tang a little discouraged. Judging from his intuition, the material Zhuang Rui had chosen must be extraordinary, but he couldn't see it himself, which was very frustrating.

"Teacher, all the materials have been cut. The glass-type purple jade weighs 708 grams, and the rest of the materials add up to 1400 grams. Teacher, this material is enough to elevate our heirloom jade to another level..."

Xiao Zhao was now completely convinced by Zhuang Rui. After Zhuang Rui finished cutting the material, he recut the scrap material that Zhuang Rui had discarded, but he couldn't find even a trace of jade.

"Huh? It's over?"

As Old Tang was deep in thought, Xiao Zhao interrupted him, looked up, and saw that Zhuang Rui had finished his work and was wiping his sweat beside him.

"Xiao Zhuang, I really have to thank you this time. If this old man had to solve it, there would definitely have been damage. It's true that the younger generation is surpassing the older one. This old man has no choice but to admit defeat..."

When Tang Lao said these words, he did not turn off the microphone, which meant that thousands of people at the scene heard it clearly. This shocked them greatly. Zhuang Rui's original stone had not yet been cut open, so why did Tang Lao admit defeat?

"Old Tang, is there any jade in this world better than purple-eyed jade?"

"With that piece of material, you think you can beat Elder Tang? That's... a bit impossible, isn't it?"

"Yeah, I don't believe that piece of material can yield jade. Forget about top-grade jade, even if it turns out to be some kind of garbage, I'll eat it up!"

"Old Tang, the competition isn't over yet! How can you admit defeat? That's not fair! We'll only know who won after Teacher Zhuang has finished analyzing his material!"

Witnessing the birth of the purple-eyed machine today made the trip worthwhile for those who had waited for more than two hours. Although they waited for two hours on an empty stomach, they witnessed a legendary story.

For these merchants who have been dealing with jade for many years, this is a living legend. Perhaps decades from now, their stories will still be told in the jewelry and jade industry.

However, everyone was quite puzzled by what Old Tang said at the end. Did he really think that mentoring a younger generation didn't require this method? If revealing the purple eye would still result in a loss, then they really couldn't imagine what kind of jade could possibly win against Old Tang.

The last person to speak was Boss Jin. Old Tang's surrender had nothing to do with others, but it was very important to him. If Old Tang lost, wouldn't he have to pay out more than 20 million for nothing?

"Hehe, Xiao Zhuang, then you should cut open your piece. Although this old man can't see the secret, I feel that the value of your rough stone might far exceed that of mine..."

Old Tang was speaking from the heart. Gambling on jadeite is not just about the raw stones, but also about gambling on people's hearts. From Zhuang Rui's performance in cutting the stone just now, Old Tang could tell that Zhuang Rui's understanding of jadeite raw stones was no less than his own.

If someone like that were to pick out a piece of junk, Old Tang would absolutely not believe it. His inability to see through that "foundation stone" gave Old Tang an unprecedented sense of frustration.

"Let's see what they're made of. Talk is cheap, Professor Zhuang, let's begin..."

"Yes, let us see for ourselves what kind of jadeite can be better than glass-type purple-eyed jadeite?"

"Stop spouting nonsense. Old Tang himself said he couldn't be sure. Are you all more skilled than Old Tang?"

As soon as Tang Lao said this, the scene was divided into two factions again. Those who originally thought Zhuang Rui was bound to lose had a glimmer of hope in their hearts. Having already witnessed the top-grade purple-eyed jadeite today, they were all looking forward to an even greater surprise.

"Old man, you're putting me on the spot! I've only taken a liking to this piece of jade; whether it will turn out green is still uncertain..."

It's getting late. We started cutting the stone around 5 p.m. and it's almost 8 p.m. now. Although the organizing committee has attached great importance to this stone cutting event and provided various cutting tools and venues.

However, the Myanmar government, whose services are several levels worse than those in China, would not provide them with a free dinner. Zhuang Rui was starting to feel hungry and wanted to finish quickly, unravel the jade, and leave.

The "rock" that Zhuang Rui chose was over 1.8 meters long, 1.2 meters wide, and over 50 centimeters thick, truly a gigantic raw stone.

Of course, only after the jade is cut out will people acknowledge that it is a rough stone. As for now, most people just see it as a roadbed stone.

Compared to this enormous piece of jade, the stone-cutting machine placed in Myanmar looks rather small. Neither the length of the machine nor the diameter of the gears can cut it directly, and it can't even hold the jade on the machine's frame.

Finally, Zhuang Rui had no choice but to find two iron supports. After the forklift lifted the stone, he fixed it to the supports and then called Peng Fei, Li Zhen, and more than ten other young men to carefully place the stone under the gears of the stone cutter.

"Peng Fei, move a little more to the right..."

Zhuang Rui circled the raw stone, adjusted his direction, and carefully washed his hands in the basin of water brought by the staff.

These are some old rules in the jade gambling circle. In the past, when cutting a piece of jade that was considered to be of the highest quality, one would not only wash one's hands, but also burn incense, take a bath, and worship heaven and earth.

After wiping his hands clean, Zhuang Rui was too lazy to draw any lines. Drawing lines on a piece of material that didn't have any characteristics of raw jadeite would just be pretentious.

"Crack...crack crack!"

The stone cutter emitted an unpleasant "click-clack" sound, and the alloy gears, reflecting a dazzling light, cut into the "rock" as easily as cutting tofu.

Chapter 978 Legend (Part Two)

Due to the limited radius of the stone cutter's gears, this cut only created a slit in the raw stone; it couldn't separate it completely.

When he reached the central axis, Zhuang Rui stopped and told the bulldozer driver to scoop up the stone again and turn it over. Although Zhuang Rui's abnormal physical strength was enough to move the raw stone by himself, if he really did that, it would probably be on the world news tomorrow.

"Xiao Zhuang, what if you damage the jade flesh by cutting it like that?"

Old Tang couldn't stand it anymore. Zhuang Rui's performance when he helped him cut the stone was impeccable, but he was so careless when cutting this rough stone. He didn't even bother to draw a line and just cut it straight in the middle.

"Mr. Tang, I just feel there's potential in this piece. There's no sign of jade on the surface, so there's nowhere to draw lines. I might as well just cut it open..."

Zhuang Rui replied nonchalantly, but he actually knew the truth. Whether it was the imperial green material or the glassy type of material, it was all concentrated on one side of the raw stone. Zhuang Rui's cut was destined to ruin it.

"Sigh, I really can't keep up with the way you young people think. Whatever..."

Old Tang shook his head. Zhuang Rui's behavior made him really suspect that the young man was just hitting the jackpot. If Zhuang Rui had seen through the clues, he certainly wouldn't have made such a move.

Zhuang Rui felt a bit hungry. After the rough stone was turned over, he pretended to draw a line along the cut surface with chalk, and then started the stone cutting machine.

The massive gears cut into the stone, sending up a cloud of debris. Zhuang Rui turned his face slightly to the side, avoiding looking directly at the stone, but he didn't reduce the force in his hands in the slightest.

A few dozen seconds later, a "click-clack" sound of gears spinning idly rang out, and then half of the stone, weighing several hundred kilograms, fell heavily to the ground next to the stone cutter.

Zhuang Rui turned off the stone cutter, spat out a mouthful of saliva, and the dust covering his head and face made him sneeze several times. He then turned to Peng Fei and said, "Peng Fei, bring a basin of water. Or, just pull the hose over..."

"Awesome! Let's do it again!"

In the sweltering summer heat, and with only men present, Zhuang Rui bent down and had Peng Fei rinse his hair for him. The icy tap water poured over his head made Zhuang Rui involuntarily cry out.

"This person..."

"Teacher Zhuang is truly a man of strong character!"

"Well...it depends on the occasion..."

Zhuang Rui's behavior shocked the thousands of people present. Did this guy forget that he was there to cut stones? He ignored the material he bought for over 100 million RMB and went to wash his hair first. No one in the room would have done that.

"Give it to me..."

After washing the dust off his face and head, Zhuang Rui took the hose from Peng Fei and started rinsing the half of the raw stone on the stone-cutting machine. White stone chips mixed with tap water flowed onto the ground.

After Zhuang Rui washed the rough stone clean, Old Tang was the first to rush to the cut surface and eagerly took a look. However, he was immediately disappointed and muttered to himself, "This...this is a failure?"

Although Mr. Tang spoke very softly, the sound was clearly audible to everyone in the audience through the wireless microphone and the large speakers in the venue.

"It's collapsed?"

"I told you long ago, that material has no chance of yielding jade. If it did, I'd eat it alive..."

"Sigh, Teacher Zhuang is certainly skilled, but why did he choose this particular piece of material?"

"When it comes to jade gambling, no one dares to say whether they'll win or lose before the rough stone is cut open..."

"This is probably the first time Teacher Zhuang has lost a bet. It seems that experience counts; Teacher Zhuang is no match for Old Tang..."

Old Tang's exclamation of "It's over!" immediately caused a stir among the crowd, with everyone expressing their opinions. The guy who had initially wanted to eat raw materials seemed to have won the Long March, jumping around and making his own pronouncements.

Although the saying "one cut to heaven, one cut to hell" in the world of jade gambling generally refers to small pieces of rough jade, especially black jade from the Ma Meng factory, which is usually about the size of a fist, if you cut it and see no green, then you are definitely falling into hell.

However, even with large rough stones, the importance of the first cut is undeniable. In cases like Zhuang Rui's, where no green was found on the first cut, the chances of finding jadeite are extremely small.

"Wait, something's not right... there's something fishy about this stone..."

Old Tang's next words caused the clamor of the crowd to fall silent, like a rooster being choked. They were all filled with doubt and uncertainty. The fact that no green had appeared already spoke volumes. What else could be so strange?

"Xiao Zhuang, look at this cut surface. There are quartz crystals! And here, there are even some inclusions. This really is a raw stone..."

After carefully examining the cut surface, Tang Lao, like the others on the outside, was filled with doubt. The surface of this piece of material did not have any characteristics of jadeite rough, and no green was found when it was cut open. However, the stone structure inside was very similar to the internal structure of jadeite rough.

"Mr. Tang, I... I lost the bet, didn't I? It's a piece of jadeite rough, that's true, but there's no green inside..."

Zhuang Rui was unusually humble. One shouldn't be too flamboyant. If he continued to act so confidently, it would really make people suspicious.

Given Zhuang Rui's current status in the jade gambling circle, as long as he can reasonably identify jadeite, no one can say a word against him. This is the benefit of fame.

Just like in the antique trade, when newcomers are appraising items, most people will be skeptical. However, if an expert who enjoys special government allowances appraises an item, even if it is fake, it will become real.

The proverb "the truth cannot be hidden, and the false cannot be made true" does not apply to the expert effect in the antique circle.

"No, look at the color here, isn't it a bit too dark?"

Old Tang discovered another unusual spot on the ground, pointing to a darker area within the misty flow, and said, "This should be a blemish formed by jadeite. Xiao Zhuang, look, the color of this blemish is very pure. There must be jadeite inside this piece of material..."

"Teacher, this might not be jadeite blemishes, right? Some minerals can also give rocks their color..."

Xiao Zhao was also squatting down in front of the knife, observing, and then offered a different perspective.

"I've been studying jade for so many years, how could I be wrong about this one?"

Old Tang shook his head, used a small pair of nail clippers to scrape off a small piece from the blemish, examined it carefully in his palm for a while, and said, "That's right, it's blemishes left after the jade weathered!"

"Old Tang, I estimate that this situation is likely due to the original stone being swept up by a secondary crustal movement. I'm afraid only this could have happened..."

Zhuang Rui's previous judgment was based solely on the appearance of the raw stone. He was not a geological expert and could not be certain. He was now bringing it up to hear Tang Lao's opinion.

"That's right, Xiao Zhuang, your explanation is correct. This thing is like a creature inside amber, which was encased in resin and formed a resin fossil. This is the first time I've ever seen something like this..."

Mr. Tang graduated with a degree in geology and has worked in the field for decades. His research in geology even surpasses his research on jadeite. With these words, he has essentially made a definitive conclusion about the formation of this rough stone.

"Holy crap, could there really be jade?"

Hu Rong, who had been watching quietly from the side, was now dumbfounded. If jade were found in this stone block that had served as a roadbed for almost a century, it would truly bring shame to Hu Rong's ancestors.

"How novel! When has Brother Zhuang ever made a move and then come back empty-handed?"

Hearing Hu Rong's mutterings, Peng Fei pursed his lips and said that although he knew nothing about jade appraisal and gambling, he blindly trusted Zhuang Rui.

"If this piece of material can really yield jadeite, it will be an absolute legend in the jadeite industry. Xiao Zhuang, take a piece, rub along this mottled area and see if there is any jadeite inside!"

As Mr. Tang spoke, he became a little emotional. He had been dealing with jade geology his whole life, and even if this piece of material did not contain jadeite, it was still of great research value, at the very least allowing us to verify the geological features of that time.

"Alright, Mr. Tang, please give me some pointers from the side..."

Zhuang Rui was just returning the favor after Old Tang praised him so much. Otherwise, when the jade was unearthed, it would make Old Tang lose face.

In fact, Zhuang Rui underestimated the old man beside him. Having lived for nearly seventy years, what hadn't Old Tang seen in terms of glory, disgrace, rise and fall? If Zhuang Rui really won, Old Tang would only be happy.

"Mr. Tang, please stand a little further away..."

This time, Zhuang Rui didn't cut the stone. Instead, he used a grinding wheel to polish the colored spots. When the grinding wheel came into contact with the stone, tiny stone chips flew everywhere and landed on Old Tang's face.

"It's okay, you can continue, but don't go too fast. Be careful, and bring it back as soon as you see green..."

Old Tang waved his hand and squinted his eyes. His conversation with Zhuang Rui was like a teacher instructing a student on how to cut a stone on the spot, which was exactly the result Zhuang Rui wanted.

As the grinding wheel continued to push inward, large pieces of crystallized material broke off from the raw stone. After changing two grinding wheels, Zhuang Rui suddenly pulled his hand back as he was rubbing it inward.

"It's...it's turned green..."

Old Tang's unconscious remark immediately shocked the entire audience. Regardless of the quality of the jade inside, it now proved that this was indeed a piece of jadeite rough, and everyone else had misjudged it!

Comrade Guo, who had been looking worried, now looked much more cheerful.

Although this guy didn't really believe that the jade in Zhuang Rui's piece could surpass the purple eyes of Old Master Tang's jade, it still gave him a glimmer of hope.

"Hey, Liu, we've found some jade. Are you going to buy it?"

Suddenly, a sentence rang out from the previously silent arena.

Chapter 979 Legend (Part 3)

"This...we don't even know if it's jade yet..." Da Liu said, blushing. He knew he had exaggerated too much.

"Hey, Old Tang said it's green, there's no doubt about it. Guys, throw this kid in and let him swallow that rough stone..."

The commotion caused by the people around them to burst into laughter, instantly dispelling the previous atmosphere of shock and tension.

"Mr. Tang, what kind of jadeite is it?"

"Yeah, tell everyone, how's the water quality?"

"This damn Burmese government is a real rip-off. They can't even afford a big screen, otherwise we wouldn't be standing here like idiots unable to see anything..."

What people are concerned about now is what quality of jadeite Zhuang Rui has unearthed. After seeing the glass-type purple-eyed jadeite, their appetites have been whetted, and they are all wide-eyed and listening intently, looking forward to the performance of this rough stone.

If Zhuang Rui can also find a top-quality jadeite, then today's jade gambling competition will become a legendary tale in the jade industry. As for who wins and who loses, it is no longer important to everyone.

"Everyone, wait a minute, the green ones have just come out, the face cream hasn't come out yet..."

Zhuang Rui only rubbed away the white crystalline particles, revealing the green luster inside under the light; the jadeite was not yet fully revealed.

"Mr. Tang, you have so much experience, why don't you wipe it down next?"

Polishing the stone doesn't require much effort, and once the green color is visible, you just need to control the force. Zhuang Rui's intention in handing over the grinding wheel was actually to let Old Tang handle the cutting of this piece of material.

"You kid, come on, your hands are much steadier than mine, and your eyesight is better than this old man's. You keep wiping, I'll take a look!"

Having navigated the cutthroat business world for so many years, Old Tang understood Zhuang Rui's situation perfectly well. Given his seniority and reputation, he had no reason for Zhuang Rui to do such a thing.

Although Old Tang just said that his skill in gambling on stones was inferior to Zhuang Rui's, he was referring to his eye for quality, not admitting defeat in terms of the jadeite in their stones. While he admired Zhuang Rui's eye for quality, Old Tang did not believe that the jadeite in Zhuang Rui's stone could beat his own discerning eye.

It's important to know that there are only a few top-grade jadeite varieties. Purple Eyes, as a jadeite material comparable to Imperial Green, gave Mr. Tang enough confidence that he would ultimately win this competition!

"Crackling... Crackling..."

Zhuang Rui had already put down the grinder and picked up the coarse sandpaper provided by the conference to polish the window surface. You know, even a small scratch on a top-quality jadeite can result in a significant loss.

Especially considering this piece of glass-type jade, even a small cut could be worth hundreds of thousands of yuan, so Zhuang Rui was extremely cautious.

After about seven or eight minutes, Zhuang Rui finally cleaned the granular crystals off the face, and a palm-sized face was clearly visible in front of everyone.

Zhuang Rui gestured for Peng Fei to activate the tap water. After the water came out of the hose, he rinsed the face with it. Instantly, a bright green light radiated out, dazzling everyone.

The water droplets dripping from the surface seemed to be tinged with green, like dew on leaves in the morning, crystal clear, and so graceful and beautiful under the light.

"Xiao Zhuang, let me take a look..."

Ignoring the fact that Zhuang Rui hadn't removed the hose yet, Old Tang squatted down in front of the window to wipe it. The splashing water wet the old man's hair, and his gray hair fell down, making the usually dignified Old Tang look quite disheveled.

Old Tang ignored all of that, wiped the water off his face, gently touched the window with his right hand, and then picked up a high-powered flashlight to look at it. After seven or eight minutes, he finally stood up.

"It's a glassy type of jadeite, and although the green color is a bit lacking, it's very even. Xiao Zhuang, if three fingers of this jadeite could penetrate into it, its value would be at least over two hundred million..."

When Mr. Tang said these words, his face was somewhat moved. He did not expect that this rough stone, which did not look like a raw stone, could actually produce glass-type green jade.

It's worth noting that Mr. Tang has been cutting jadeite rough for decades, handling a considerable amount of glass-type jadeite, but most of it was colorless glass-type jadeite. Only on a few occasions has he unearthed glass-type green jadeite.

However, compared to the even color distribution of Zhuang Rui's material, the jadeite that Tang Lao had previously cut was slightly inferior.

Two hundred million?!

Zhuang Rui remained noncommittal after hearing what Tang Lao said. He knew that this piece of glass-type jadeite had penetrated more than three fingers deep, but was a huge piece of jadeite material that was at least 40 centimeters long, more than 20 centimeters thick, and weighed at least 50 kilograms.

Leaving aside the imperial green jadeite hidden behind this piece of material, the value of this piece alone is calculated by the gram. After being processed into jewelry, it can bring Zhuang Rui at least 500 million yuan in revenue!

"The material that Teacher Zhuang deciphered is worth 200 million?"

When Tang Lao's words reached the square, the crowd immediately stirred. Those who hadn't been optimistic about Zhuang Rui were stunned by the news. How could a rock possibly yield jade?

"200 million, brother, didn't you hear me clearly? Old Tang said at least 200 million..."

"So who won this bet? I bet 50,000 yuan on Tang Laowu..."

"Is that even a question? If you made a few necklaces out of Old Tang's purple-eyed jadeite, it would be worth at least 300 million. Of course, Old Tang wins..."

"It's hard to say. Teacher Zhuang's prediction hasn't been revealed yet, so it's too early to tell who will win or lose..."

"I said, this is very simple. The value of jadeite is not determined by quantity, but by its grade. Old Tang's material is extremely rare in the world, so of course Old Tang wins..."

Of the thousands of people present, almost half had participated in the bet between Boss Jin and Lao Guo. When they heard that the jade that Zhuang Rui had unearthed was also quite valuable, they immediately began to argue.

It's not that I'm upset about losing 50,000 yuan; nobody who comes to Myanmar really cares about 50,000 yuan.

However, this is a matter of principle. If Zhuang Rui wins, a new king will be born in the jade industry. This is a very significant event, marking the end of an era and the arrival of a new one.

"Old Tang, today you unearthed a purple-eyed jade, while mine is just a glass-type jade. You've won this competition again..."

Zhuang Rui proved his judgment with this piece of material that could not possibly contain jade. Those who doubted him will now be shut up. Winning or losing is no longer important.

"Professor Zhuang, this won't do! Maybe you can figure out the Imperial Green too. How can you decide the winner now?!"

A shout came from the cordon. It was Lao Guo who couldn't hold back his shout after hearing Zhuang Rui's words. This guy had just seen a glimmer of hope and was praying that Zhuang Rui would be able to find the king of jade... Imperial Green!

Zhuang Rui didn't care about winning or losing, but Lao Guo did. It concerned his fortune and even his life. If he lost this time, he would lose all his wealth and be half dead.

"Xiao Zhuang, he's right. With the quality of this piece of jade, it might turn out to be imperial green. I think... you should just cut it open. It'll be easier to take it away that way..."

Old Tang agreed with the man's words, because judging from the current surface rubbing, the material was probably quite large. Old Tang also wanted to see just how big this piece of glass-type green material was.

More than 20 years ago, Mr. Tang unearthed a piece of glass-type jadeite weighing more than 30 kilograms, which was hailed as the world's largest at the time. He became famous at home and abroad because of this piece of jadeite and was respectfully called the "King of Jadeite".

Old Tang now wants to know whether Zhuang Rui's discovery of this jadeite can break his own record from back then!

"Okay, then I'll continue solving..."

Zhuang Rui glanced at Old Tang with a complicated expression, then turned around and started the stone-cutting machine. Although only half a piece of material remained, it still weighed five or six hundred pounds. If it could be polished with a grinding wheel, it was unlikely that the jadeite could be extracted by tomorrow.

When Old Tang saw Zhuang Rui preparing to cut the stone again, he wanted to dissuade him, but thinking about Zhuang Rui's actions just now, he held back. This young man always had surprising things to do and could not be judged by common sense.

"Crack...crack crack!"

With the "click-clack" sound of the stone cutter, fragments of stone were continuously broken off from the huge stone.

Zhuang Rui used a laborious method: he broke the rock apart little by little from the four corners. This method could maximize the preservation of the jade inside.

An hour passed, and the enormous rough stone, which weighed five or six hundred pounds, was reduced to just over one hundred pounds. Zhuang Rui's cut surface still showed no jadeite, only some green granular crystals.

Another half hour passed, and the raw stone shrank to only seventy or eighty kilograms in size. Zhuang Rui's movements also slowed down, and he removed the outer stone skin almost inch by inch.

On one side of the cut surface, a hint of green was revealed. Zhuang Rui immediately stopped and cut the other side. Two hours later, a piece of jadeite, more than 70 centimeters long, about 20 centimeters wide and thick, was presented to everyone.

The rough stone wasn't finished yet. Attached to this piece of jade was a stone slightly smaller than a football. After observing it for a while, Zhuang Rui drew a dotted line and cut it directly with the stone cutter!

"Smack!"

A slightly smaller piece of material fell onto the soft ground. After rolling around once, a captivating green shone out, drawing the attention of everyone gathered around the stone-cutting machine.

Qin Haoran stared intently at the piece of raw jade emitting a green glow on the ground and said to Hu Rong beside him, "Little Hu, am I seeing things? That piece of jade seems... seems really green?"

"Uncle... Uncle, you're not seeing things, this... this is a miracle! Whether you believe it or not, I believe it!"

Hu Rong was completely dumbfounded. He never expected that the stepping stone in his house could yield so much jade.

Chapter 980 A draw?

Zhuang Rui's technique for cutting the raw jade is like that of a master butcher, skillfully carving up an ox—a sight to behold. Every cut is precise, leaving no damage to the jade's interior.

Reaching down, Zhuang Rui picked up the piece of material covered in white crystalline particles from the ground. He weighed it in his hand; it should weigh about seven or eight pounds. Although it wasn't as big as the piece on the stone-cutting machine, it was significantly more valuable.

Since this piece of imperial green jadeite had only been cut open, although light was flowing out, everyone assumed it was the same piece as the other one, so they didn't focus their attention on it, but instead surrounded the glass-type jadeite that weighed tens of kilograms.

Old Tang held a piece of fine sandpaper in his hand, personally polishing the remaining stone chips on this glass-type jade, his eyes filled with excitement.

Although it hasn't been weighed yet, the old man could already tell that this piece of jade was heavier than the glass-type jade he had cut out years ago, making it a true king of jade.

"By the way, Xiao Hu, I think I heard Zhuang Rui say that you were the one who provided this piece of material?"

Qin Haoran seemed to be deliberately bringing up a sore spot; didn't he see that Hu Rong's face had turned green?

This top-quality jadeite, worth hundreds of millions, was thrown out by Hu Rong as if it were trash. Although it was a case of keeping the good stuff in the family, Hu Rong was still not in a good mood.

However, one thing gave Hu Rong some solace: he had initially priced the stone at 4 million euros. If he had casually priced it at a few hundred thousand euros and someone else had snagged it, Hu Rong would have definitely slammed his head against the stone-cutting machine.

"Uncle, please stop talking. If you keep going, I'll feel like dying..."

Hu Rongku had a bitter smile on his face. No matter what, he was an internationally renowned jade tycoon. This time, he had suffered a major setback. Not only did he fail to recognize the top-quality raw stone, but his family had also used it as a stepping stone for decades.

"Brother Hu, you were quite prescient; a price tag of 4 million euros is no small sum..."

Seeing Hu Rong's somewhat embarrassed expression, Zhuang Rui spoke up to help him out of the awkward situation. However, Zhuang Rui didn't know that Hu Rong's material was just used to make up the numbers.

After cleaning the clear glass-type jadeite, Old Tang stood up and tried to hold it in his arms. He turned to Zhuang Rui and said, "Young Zhuang, if this piece of jadeite were all broken down into jewelry, its total value would be higher than my piece with the purple eye..."

The purple-eyed jadeite that Old Tang just unearthed, although it is of top quality among jadeites, is not large in size or weight. Even if it is made into jewelry, its price would only be between two and three hundred million. In terms of economic value, it is naturally inferior to Zhuang Rui's piece.

However, in Mr. Tang's heart, he still believed that his own material was more precious.

After all, purple-eyed jadeite is a rare find, perhaps only once every few decades or centuries, and is basically priceless. On the other hand, glass-type green jadeite, as long as it doesn't reach the level of imperial green, is relatively still available in the market.

It wasn't that Old Tang was unwilling to admit defeat, but rather that this was truly what he thought. If he had to choose between the two pieces of jade, Old Tang would still choose the purple-eyed one, since this kind of jade could be passed down through generations.

Xiao Zhao understood the implication in Tang Lao's words and said, "Teacher, although Teacher Zhuang's piece of jade is very valuable, its quality is still not as good as your purple eye jade. I think this competition should be a draw..."

"Neither side is better or worse?"

"Is Teacher Zhuang's piece of jade so valuable?"

"This is quite a remarkable story! The contest between the old and new generations of jade kings has resulted in a close match!"

"Then...if it's a tie, how will our bet be settled?"

Before the stone was cut open, no one could have predicted this situation. From thinking that Zhuang Rui was bound to lose to the unexpected discovery of jadeite, and the latest news is that the jadeite in the rough stone chosen by Zhuang Rui is actually worth more than the purple-eyed jadeite.

This series of changes was somewhat unbelievable to everyone present, but whether they believed it or not, the fact remained: the glass-type jadeite, weighing tens of kilograms, was shimmering with a captivating, luminous green light under the illumination of the lamps.

This result left Mr. Jin, who was in the crowd, feeling somewhat lost. Although he and Lao Guo were friends, the fact that the more than 20 million yuan he had in hand had flown away made him feel uneasy.

As for Lao Guo, he broke out in a cold sweat. The feeling of escaping death almost made him shout out loud. Lao Guo made up his mind that he would stay far away from anything related to gambling in the future.

"Old Guo, now look what's happened, we've both worked for nothing..."

Although Mr. Jin was a little disappointed, he hadn't suffered any losses. He could at least see what was going on. His wealth was far greater than Mr. Guo's, so he wasn't particularly concerned about winning or losing.

Old Guo stopped pretending at this point, wiping the sweat from his forehead, and said, "Mr. Jin, you don't care about these tens of millions, but you almost scared me to death just now..."

"Hehe, how about we go? Shall we grab a drink tonight?" Boss Jin said with a smile.

Old Guo shook his head and said, "No way! These two pieces of jade we cut today are extremely rare. We should at least take a look at them, shouldn't we?"

Upon hearing the results, many people chose to leave. Although the competition between the old and new generations of Jade Kings had been exhilarating, their stomachs were upset, so they boarded the buses arranged by the organizing committee and returned to their hotels.

However, some people shared the same idea as Lao Guo. They wanted to wait until fewer people were around so they could get a closer look at the purple-eyed jade and Zhuang Rui's glass-type jade. Even though it wasn't their own, taking a picture with it would be something to brag about later.

However, Zhuang Rui's raw stone brought an unexpected surprise to those who stayed behind, giving them much more to boast about later, and creating a legendary tale that will be sung for thousands of years in the jade industry!

As for those who left, they later regretted it deeply, never expecting the situation to develop in such a dramatic way.

...

"Mr. Tang, is this all over? Shall we call it a day?"

Zhuang Rui glanced at his watch; it was almost 10 p.m. Although Peng Fei had somehow managed to get some bread and shared it with everyone, Zhuang Rui's stomach was still growling loudly with hunger.

A draw isn't entirely fair to Zhuang Rui, but he's already had his fill of the limelight today and doesn't necessarily want to outdo Tang Lao. As the saying goes, water overflows when it's full; moderation is key.

"By the way, Xiao Zhuang, let me take a look at that small piece of jade too. The green color I saw earlier seemed quite pure..."

Old Tang is an old man who is about to die. He doesn't care much about winning or losing. His reputation and status in the jade gambling circle are the result of decades of accumulation. Even if he loses once or twice, it won't affect his prestige in the jade industry.

Zhuang Rui hesitated for a moment, then said, "Old Tang, they were all cut from the same piece of material, so they're probably about the same, right?"

The competition had already achieved its purpose, and Zhuang Rui didn't want to cause any more trouble. As the saying goes, "People are afraid of becoming famous, just as pigs are afraid of getting fat." If someone were to target him, it wouldn't be a good thing.

Old Tang shook his head and insisted, "That's not necessarily true. The jadeite that forms from this piece of rough stone varies in quality. If you're lucky, you might just get a bright green one..."

"Well, I really did hit the jackpot..."

Helpless, Zhuang Rui handed the piece of imperial green jade he was holding to Old Tang.

Old Tang put on his reading glasses, stretched out his hand to his side, and said, "Little Zhao, get some sandpaper, fine sandpaper..."

Because Zhuang Rui cut the stone very skillfully, the green color inside was basically revealed through the white crystalline particles. Therefore, to determine the quality of jadeite, the outer layer of crystals needs to be polished away.

Although Old Tang was not physically strong, he still had no problem doing this kind of work. He fixed the small piece of raw stone on the stone cutting machine and carefully began to polish it with sandpaper.

By this time, most of the thousands of people in the square had dispersed, leaving only seventy or eighty people who surrounded the stone-cutting area, all observing the two pieces of jade that Zhuang Rui and Old Tang had cut. There were Burmese soldiers maintaining order in the area, so there was no fear of anyone taking advantage of the chaos to rob.

"Professor Zhuang, you're my idol! Can I take a picture with you?"

Instead of joining the crowd around those pieces of jade, Lao Guo squeezed next to Zhuang Rui and made a request. If it weren't for Zhuang Rui's unexpected rise to power today, Lao Guo might have already slit his own throat and hanged himself.

Zhuang Rui felt a little awkward under Lao Guo's enthusiasm, while Peng Fei recognized Lao Guo at a glance and said, "Hey, aren't you the one who runs the gambling den? You should return the money to us for a draw..."

Upon hearing Peng Fei's words, Lao Guo was immediately embarrassed and repeatedly said, "Refund! I will definitely refund your money. I'll sort it out tomorrow and it will be in your hands..."

Zhuang Rui found it amusing, but in the end he still took a photo with Lao Guo. Who knew that this photo would cause more people to gather around and want to take pictures with Zhuang Rui, and some even wanted Zhuang Rui to hold the jade weighing dozens of kilograms, which made Zhuang Rui smile wryly.

"Mr. Tang, whose piece of fabric are you polishing right now?"

"Yes, weren't they all already cut out? How come there's still a piece of material left?"

Others couldn't squeeze through, so they watched as Old Tang polished the stone. They all had some questions in their minds: Wasn't the stone gambling over? Why did they find another piece of material?

"Hehe, this is Xiao Zhuang's piece of jade. It hasn't been fully cut open yet. I'm just rubbing it open to see what quality the jade inside is..."

Old Tang was never pretentious. He explained things to everyone with a smile, but his hands were busy sanding the material.

Before Old Tang could finish speaking, one person curled his lip and said, "Even the best jade can't compare to purple-eyed jade, can it? Actually, in my opinion, Old Tang should have won today's competition..."

"That's not necessarily true. We gamble on stones to make money, right? Teacher Zhuang's piece is worth more than the purple-eyed one..."

Before the man finished speaking, someone nearby spoke up for Zhuang Rui.