

Peasant 391

Chapter 391: Being Strong is Better Than Anything

Seeing that Madam Liu did not object, she used Chu Heng as an example. "Mother, think about it again. Third Brother will be leaving for the capital city in less than a month. At that time, he will have to bring one or two servants with him."

"When Third Brother and some servants leave, Third Sister-in-law will be alone at home. It will be a little difficult for the remaining servants to help us deliver pickled cabbages."

"Now that our family has an ox cart, we can't trouble Third Brother and Third Sister-in-law anymore." Madam Zhang knew that she could take advantage of this because of the two elders, but if she wanted to speak nicely, she had to say it like this.

Madam Liu glanced at her. How could she not know what she was thinking?

However, no matter what her eldest daughter-in-law was thinking, it was already good enough for her to say it politely. As long as there were no conflicts in the family, she would be happy.

"Is that what Chu Lin wants too?"

Chu Lin had gone to the fields and was not at home. During this period, he only planted vegetables.

"Of course. I've already discussed it with my husband." When Madam Zhang heard Madam Liu's words, she knew that there was a chance. A hint of joy could not help but flash in her eyes.

Actually, Madam Liu had also considered this point. Although she was also looking forward to her third son passing the high scholar examination, she also needed to consider what would happen if he did not pass.

The eldest son's family had been doing well. Just the money earned from pickled cabbages for a year was enough to let the two children study until they were seventeen years old.

In the future, he could not rely solely on the third brother's family. If he did not work hard, even if his third brother became an official, it might not be a good thing for the entire family.

Thinking of this, Madam Liu agreed.

However, she had to warn Madam Zhang in advance. "Since you and Chu Lin have decided, I will find a time to tell Third Brother. Don't be dissatisfied and regret it in the future."

Madam Zhang immediately understood that Madam Liu was reminding her. If she refused to let her third brother's family send pickled cabbages, she could not ask them again in the future.

She had actually thought about it before. If it was before, she would have regretted not being able to take advantage of him.

However, at this moment, Madam Ye had given her lots of advantages.

She looked at Madam Liu and laughed awkwardly. "Mother, in the past, we troubled Third Brother because of his special circumstances. How can we continue to trouble him now?"

"I was thinking of treating Third Sister-in-law and Third Brother to a meal at the end of the month to give Third Brother a farewell."

Madam Zhang did not care about the small benefits of delivering vegetables at all, so she made this decision very happily. She did not feel any heartache at all, but was happy that her family could slowly develop.

In fact, everyone liked to be rich and not take advantage of others.

After all, taking advantage of others depended on their attitude. From time to time, she would be bullied. If she was rich, who would dare to provoke her?

After tasting the sweetness of prosperity, Madam Zhang became confident.

Seeing that her expression was not fake, Madam Zhang nodded and did not make things difficult for her. "In that case, send Ah Ming and Ah Sheng to the county school. Ah Heng also went to the county school when he was about twelve or thirteen years old."

"Mother, it's settled then. I'll find some time to go to the county school and ask if I can enroll in September." Although they could only enroll in the spring, they could not help but use their connections and backdoor connections.

This kind of thing had never stODDed since ancient times.

"Okay, as long as you know your limits."

Madam Zhang naturally nodded and agreed with a smile.

Chu Ming and Chu Sheng did not expect to be able to study in the county school. They were both very happy. They were the oldest in the family and had been compared to their third uncle, Chu Heng, by all kinds of elders since they

were young..

Chapter 392: Song Lu I s Visit

Their thoughts were simple. Teacher Lin and their Third Uncle had taught them well, so they would study in the village.

Now that Teacher Lin was leaving, going to the county school was definitely the best choice.

In the afternoon, Madam Liu and Madam Zhang had just finished preparing their daily pickled cabbages.

Someone came knocking.

It was an unexpected guest.

They looked at Song Lu and Madam Huang who were standing at the door.

Madam Huang was Song Lu's mother.

Because they were already engaged, the matchmaker did not have to come along.

"Sister Huang?" When Madam Zhang saw the person who had come, a trace of wisdom was hidden under her smile. It only took an instant for her to change from being stunned to smiling.

Madam Huang and Song Lu were quickly welcomed in and sat in the central

room.

Madam Zhang found Chu Ming in the courtyard and asked her youngest son to call Chu Lin back. When her in-laws suddenly came, she could not help but think of the news she had heard before.

Madam Liu was already sitting in the central room, talking to Madam Huang and Song Lu.

Chu Qingxiang came out of the room and looked at the main room with anticipation.

Madam Zhang knew that her daughter was satisfied with her son-in-law, Song Lu. She laughed and scolded in a low voice. "You haven't even married yet, but your heart is already with them."

Chu Qingxiang's face turned red. She was a capable person after all. "Mother, why are you making fun of me? No matter what, I can hear it. It's only right for me to pour some tea."

"Go on, do you think Mother will really laugh at you?" Madam Zhang naturally agreed.

Chu Qingxiang quickly went into the kitchen.

Madam Zhang casually brought some peanuts and the remaining pastries into the central room.

After entering, he sat down.

"Sister Huang, why did you think of coming to our house? Stay for dinner tonight." Madam Zhang's words had always been warm and pleasant.

Madam Huang was originally hesitant about how she should explain her intentions.

Seeing that Madam Zhang and Madam Liu's attitudes were not bad.

She instantly felt a trace of confidence, and her nervousness disappeared under the comfort of the two of them.

Madam Huang said, "Sister Zhang, it's like this. Our family has discussed this.

We want Li' Lu and to marry Little Xiang in advance in July."

"Before we came, we had already calculated the auspicious date. The 16th of July is a good day."

Madam Zhang's expression changed slightly, but it was hidden under her smile.

However, Song Lu noticed the coldness in Madam Liu's eyes.

He stood up and cupped his hands. "This is all because I want to prepare for the provincial examination. Old Madam, Aunt, if you have any requests, I will do my best."

Madam Liu raised her eyebrows.

She glanced at Song Lu and saw that his expression was honest and his words were sincere. She was quite satisfied. Then, her gaze fell on Madam Huang's face.

As expected, she saw Madam Huang unable to maintain her shock and anger.

Was she not satisfied with Song Lu's request?

Or was the so-called reason for bringing forward the marriage not because of the examination?

Although Madam Liu was puzzled, she knew that she would not be able to find out anything other than asking Song Lu. Before this, she had heard from the neighboring village that the Song family had the idea of bringing forward the marriage and was already preparing for it.

She was waiting for them to personally come and explain.

As for the specific reason, the Song family had been secretive.

When Madam Zhang heard that the marriage was brought forward because of the imperial examination, the dissatisfaction in her heart disappeared.

She had a smile on her face and did not care about Madam Huang's dissatisfaction.

"Ah Lu, you're so thoughtful. I'll be at ease if Xiang'er marries you," she praised.

“Thank you for your understanding, Aunt. Today, apart from informing me of this matter, I also intend to discuss the betrothal gifts.” With every sentence that Song Lu said, Madam Huang’s expression turned uglier.

However, she did not dare to say anything openly..

Chapter 393: Talking About Betrothal Gifts

However, Madam Huang did not dare to say anything openly.

She could only feel anxious in her heart.

As the four of them were talking, Chu Qingxiang finished brewing tea and pushed the door open.

Seeing that the atmosphere in the room was not bad, she smiled sincerely.

“Aunt, have some tea.” Chu Qingxiang politely served tea to Madam Huang.

When it was Song Lu’s turn, her face turned red and she quickly served him tea. The two of them looked at each other.

Chu Qingxiang blushed even more when she saw Song Lu’s smiling expression. She quickly looked away.

Song Lu had Chu Qingxiang in his heart. This girl was very honest with him. Moreover, she was capable, genuine, and intelligent.

He knew that his family was large, so it was complicated. However, with

Qingxiang’s ability, she would definitely be able to solve these problems.

Madam Zhang looked at their actions and could not stop smiling.

Madam Huang was not in such a good mood.

When she heard that Song Lu had taken the initiative to mention it, she was not satisfied.

Although she also liked her eldest son, she still had other children. Naturally, she could not use up all her assets for her eldest son's marriage.

Moreover, the Chu family was already richer than the Song family. If they asked for too much...

Madam Huang rubbed her hands anxiously, afraid that she could not satisfy what Madam Zhang requested. She would lose face in front of the other party.

Chu Qingxiang walked away after pouring the tea and did not stay any longer.

Although Madam Liu could see that Madam Huang was nervous, she did not comfort her.

After all, if the wedding date was brought forward, her granddaughter would be at a disadvantage.

They were not married yet. If she did not support her granddaughter, she would probably suffer when she married in the future.

After Chu Qingxiang left, Madam Zhang picked up her teacup and smiled, "Sister Huang, drink some tea, drink some tea."

Madam Huang picked up her teacup and took a sip. She looked at Song Lu several times and wanted to say something, but she could not find the opportunity because Madam Zhang had asked her to eat.

She could not even focus on the tea

“Cough, cough, Sister Huang, since you’re here today to discuss the betrothal gifts, I won’t waste your time. I’ll get straight to the point.”

Madam Huang forced a smile. What did she mean by wasting her time? It was obvious that she could not wait to get more benefits.

Madam Zhang was very happy. She was originally angry when she heard that the Song family had brought forward the marriage. Now that Song Lu had casually made a request, she should take this opportunity to fight for more betrothal gifts for her daughter.

“I wonder what about the betrothal gift do you want to discuss, Sister Huang?” Madam Zhang asked directly.

Although Madam Huang felt a little uncomfortable, Madam Liu, who had been sitting steadily beside her, made her unable to be tough.

This person also had a scholar son who was not inferior to her son.

“This is the gift list.” Seeing Madam Huang nod, Song Lu took out the list of betrothal gifts that he had written.

Madam Zhang took it over and saw the words:

Betrothal money: six strings.

Betrothal Cake: Half a load (50 catties)

Seafood: Four styles, two bags of seaweed, two bags of mushrooms, two bags of dried shrimps, and two fish.

Three animals: two pairs of chickens, two males and two females, and five catties of pork. Fish: Grass Carp

Wine: 6 jars

Four fruits: dried longan, dried lychee, dried walnut, and shelled peanut.

Four-colored sugar: rock sugar, orange cake, winter melon sugar, gold.

Tea leaves, sesame seeds.

Gift boxes with lotus seeds, lilies, green wisps, red beans, mung beans, red dates, dried peach, red bean rope, red packets, a pair of couplets, and dragon and phoenix candles.

Incense, Cannon, Gold Bracelet: Incense (transparent green incense), Cannon

(big firecracker), Bracelet (dragon and phoenix pair bracelet)

Chapter 394: Fighting for Benefits

Rice: The man would prepare twelve catties of glutinous rice and three catties of sugar. This would be used to make glutinous rice balls for the woman, with the meaning of perfection and sweetness.

When Madam Zhang saw that the betrothal money was six strings instead of the six taels of silver that she had hinted to the other party before, she was a little unhappy. If she had felt that it was too much before, they could have said it directly. Now, they were playing tricks on her.

Six strings of silver were only equivalent to four taels of silver. It was just that six strings sounded better. Did she really think that she did not even know how to read money?

In the entire betrothal gift, the most valuable things were the betrothal gold and the wedding bracelet.

As for the rest, according to Madam Zhang's understanding, they would at most spend two strings of money.

Although she thought so, there was no specific number written on it. Madam Zhang was a little worried, so she directly discussed the number with Madam Huang.

Madam Huang saw that she did not mention the betrothal money and was delighted.

Even if it was other details, they would cooperate with him.

Song Lu personally wrote down the exact number.

However, Madam Huang was happy too early.

After confirming all the numbers, Madam Zhang took a sip of tea and said with a smile, "Sister Huang, Ah Lu, I'm afraid there's a mistake here. Although I don't know many words, I can still recognize the difference between 'strings' and 'taels'."

One had to know that the first thing Madam Zhang learned about words was to recognize the writing method of all kinds of money.

She did not even need to ask Madam Liu to confirm that she was not mistaken.

Sure enough, when Madam Huang heard her say this, her heart skipped a beat. She forced a smile on her face. "Sister, this is not wrong. If it's written as four taels, it won't sound good."

This meant that they were only going to give four taels of silver.

Madam Zhang smiled and said, "Ah Lu, just from the county's female arts competition alone, my daughter won a piece of barren land worth three to four taels of silver. We haven't counted the hairpins yet."

"I'm not trying to make things difficult for you. I just want to be honest."

Besides, I'm going to add half of the betrothal gift to Qingxiang's dowry. The Chu family will not be greedy." Why did she say half? It was because Madam Zhang wanted to save money for her two sons.

Of course, the bride's family in the village usually would not share the betrothal gift with their daughter. The dowry was also prepared in advance.

Therefore, in Madam Zhang's opinion, she was so good to her daughter that she could be considered to have set a precedent in the village.

When Madam Huang heard Madam Zhang say this, she did not believe it.

Which family would ask the man for more betrothal gifts? It was a matter of pride. The dowry was already provided to their daughter.

How could any parents be willing to give betrothal gifts to their daughters?

A married daughter had to be filial to her husband's family first before being filial to her mother's family.

It would be considered If her family did not need to subsidize her when she was not doing well in her husband's family.

Therefore, Madam Huang did not believe it at all.

However, Madam Zhang had said this, and she could not find anything to refute it. She could only say dryly, "Sister, you have a point. But Ah Lu spent a lot of money on his studies. He is capable. He will definitely be filial to you in the future."

Madam Zhang snorted coldly. She had no proof. Who knew how filial her son-in-law would be in the future?

She was happy to marry her daughter to Song Lu because she saw that Madam Ye was doing well. Song Lu was also a scholar.

As for whether she could enjoy the filial piety of her daughter and son-in-law, she did not dare to look forward to it, but Madam Huang could guarantee it.

“Sister Huang, I know that your family is in a difficult situation, but please understand my heart as a mother. Who doesn’t want their daughter to marry more gloriously? Women only fight when it comes to marriage..”

Chapter 395: Song Lu ‘s Attitude

“We are all women, so we have to understand each other. Sister Huang, you have a daughter too, so you definitely understand my intentions.” Madam Zhang was eloquent, Madam Huang simply could not resist.

“Ah Lu, what do you think about this?” Madam Huang took a deep breath and forced herself to remain calm. She could only bring up Song Lu. She really could not win against Madam Zhang. Everyone here was from the Chu family. She felt inexplicably wronged.

However, for the sake of her face, it was not something she could say.

Song Lu sighed helplessly in his heart. Finally, he said, “Mother, I don’t want to make things difficult for you, and I don’t want to mistreat Qingxiang. Since we are married, it is a good thing for both of us. There is no need to be estranged because of two taels of silver.”

Madam Huang's face flushed red, and she looked at Song Lu with an accusing gaze, roaring in her heart. Was she trying to make things difficult for him? It was clearly the Chu family who had gone too far. They actually wanted so much.

This betrothal money was already considered very good in the village. In the past, when she got married, she only needed a foot of cloth and two pieces of clothes to get married. After that, she still had to live her life. Why did she need so much betrothal money?

Adding on the cost of the banquet and other items, it would cost a total of six to seven taels of silver. This was enough to build three to four houses.

In the Song family, they would not have much left after taking out this money.

When she heard her son say this, and even felt that he had mistreated Chu Qingxiang, Madam Huang felt a surge of anger in her heart.

"Mother," Song Lu said, "I promise to change the betrothal money to six taels. I will earn the remaining two taels of silver before the wedding."

When Madam Zhang heard this, she instantly smiled. "I knew Ah Lu was sensible. A wedding has to look good, and a man needs to focus on it too. Sister Huang, look at this child. He understands us. He is a good child."

Madam Huang forced a smile. Of course, she knew that her son was a good child. Otherwise, how could he be admitted as a scholar?

In fact, the betrothal money for the family's marriage was actually paid by his son.

However, the Song family did not live separately and there were still so many juniors. She had long been used to treating the money her son handed over as her own.

Madam Zhang could tell that she was unhappy, but she had her eyes on Song Lu and had no feelings for the Song family. With her around, would the Song family dare to bully Qing Xiang?

Since she did not dare to bully Qingxiang openly, she could always gain the upper hand with Qingxiang's abilities.

Moreover, Song Lu's attitude was good. How could she be unhappy? She warmly welcomed him.

Seeing her son Song Lu getting along so well with Madam Zhang, Madam Huang felt even more sad. At the same time, she was a little worried. Seeing her son like this, would he stop giving money to the family after he got married?

Now that she saw her future daughter-in-law's powerful family, she instantly had an ominous premonition. She even felt a trace of regret. If she had known that her son's reputation was so good, she would have chosen the girl from the weak family.

Madam Liu had been watching from the side, so she caught the change in Madam Huang's expression.

She picked up her teacup and took the initiative to talk to Madam Huang.

"Guihua, as an elder, I rarely care about the children's affairs."

"But Madam Zhang's tone was really bad just now. I apologize on her behalf."

When Madam Huang heard this, she was a little terrified. She had long heard of Madam Liu's ability. How could she be so easy to talk to?

"Aunt, you're too polite. I can understand Sister Zhang's motherly heart..."

When Madam Liu heard this, she thought to herself that Madam Huang was indeed like the rumors, bullying the weak and fearing the strong. Such a weak mother-in-law, had both advantages and disadvantages to Qingxiang..

Chapter 396: Convinced

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"I'm relieved that you understand. Qingxiang is a good child. When she marries into your family, she will be filial to her in-laws and considerate to her husband. I can guarantee that."

"This life is about understanding each other. Now that Ah Lu understands the importance of Qingxiang's wedding, Qingxiang will take good care of Ah Lu in the future and let him prepare for the exam in peace."

"Compared to some small matters at home, the child's school examination is more important. If he can become an official, it will be a great joy to bring honor to his ancestors. I think Ah Lu is very good at reading. In the future, if you have time, you can discuss it with Ah Heng."

Madam Liu deliberately led Madam Huang to think about this and also made it clear that her family could not be easily bullied. After all, Chu Heng was more outstanding than Song Lu. No one could deny that.

One was an ordinary elementary scholar, and the other was the first place.

Of course, she also hoped that her grandson-in-law, Song Lu, would be able to walk the official path and help Ah Heng in the future.

It could also remind Madam Huang not to lose the big for the small, killing two birds with one stone.

As soon as Madam Huang heard this, she immediately thought about Chu Heng and came to her senses.

Yes, their family had married the Chu family in order to build a good relationship with Chu Heng.

spending time together, how could they not develop feelings for each other?

As for the betrothal money, Madam Huang remembered Madam Zhang's words and could not help but confirm, "Aunt is right. Guihua was wrong just now, and Sister Zhang was thoughtful. This money is for Qingxiang, for Ah Lu's small family. Then it's settled. Six taels of betrothal money."

When Madam Liu heard this, how could she not hear the probing in her words? However, this matter had long been discussed by Madam Zhang and Chu Lin, so they were not deceiving the Song family.

Of course, as for Qingxiang's dowry, it was impossible to give it to Madam

Huang.

It seemed that Madam Huang had not thought of this at all.

It was likely that there would still be some problems to be solved if Xiangxiang married Song Lu. However, in her own family, Madam Zhang and he got along harmoniously and gave in to each other.

However, with a lot of dowry, Qingxiang could stand tall in her husband's family. She would not have to be afraid of being criticized or bullied.

As for the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship, marrying into an ordinary family would also have these troubles. Song Lu had a good character, was good at studying, and had good personal conditions. He could be considered to have some advantages.

At least if Qingxiang married into the family, she would not have to worry about lacking food and clothing.

To put it simply, it was to marry someone with good conditions. Anyway, there were conflicts between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law.

"Of course. We're all thinking for our children." Madam Liu nodded.

Not to mention what Madam Huang was thinking, the issue of the betrothal gifts had been resolved.

Because it was the middle of the afternoon, Madam Liu asked Madam Zhang to prepare dinner. Basically, they had to eat dinner before the sky turned dark. After all, the two of them still had to return to the village and would delay some time.

After settling her daughter's marriage, Madam Zhang was in a good mood and was very willing to go to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Madam Chu was entertaining Madam Huang.

When Chu Lin returned, he called Chu Zhiwen and Chu Lin to talk to Song Lu alone.

Song Lu sat obediently in the lower seat, quietly waiting for the two elders to speak.

Chu Lin glanced at his father, not knowing how to speak. Before he came out, his mother asked him to ask Song Lu the reason for his early marriage.

However, the Song family had already explained it.

Chu Zhiwen believed in his wife's wisdom. Since she reminded him like this, there might really be some secrets.

There was nothing to hesitate about when facing a junior.

He directly asked, "Ah Lu, we're alone now. As a grandfather, I just want you to tell us sincerely.. What's the real reason for getting married early?"

Chapter 397: Real Reason

Song Lu felt a sense of helplessness.

“Grandpa Chu, this matter...It’s about family matters...” Song Lu did not know

what to say.

Chu Zhiwen stared at him, wanting to see what he would say. He thought to himself that it was just as his wife had expected. It was not simply for the provincial examination.

Chu Lin was slightly stunned. After hearing Song Lu’s words, how could he not understand that there must be some other reason? He frowned for a moment, afraid that his daughter would be pushed into the fire pit and be deceived by the Song family.

Song Lu saw the warning look in their eyes, and now that he had already been guessed, he did not dare to hide anything. He could only tell them everything.

“It’s like this. In my second uncle’s family, there’s also a cousin who has reached the age of marriage and has already proposed marriage.”

“The elders in the family want to hold the marriage between the two families together.”

“In my opinion, this is something that has never happened before in the village. I don’t want to see Qingxiang suffer because of this.”

“I can only propose an early marriage so that I can miss the opportunity to jointly marry my cousin. This way, the elders in the family can no longer use the timing as an excuse to facilitate this matter. The elders in the family had no choice. They have already spent too much money on my studies,” Song Lu said.

“Now that I’ve achieved something, I should be independent and become the pillar of the family.”

Song Lu did not dare to hide the truth, nor was he in a position to criticize his elders. His words were more protective, putting himself in the lowest position.

Chu Zhiwen nodded. At least from Song Lu's reaction, this child's character was not bad. "Ah Lu, I see. But since you've already done the right thing, your uncle and I won't talk about this anymore. We'll pretend that you never said anything today."

"Filial piety is a good thing, but you can't be foolish."

"There must be a balance between the wife, children, and parents. Only when the family is harmonious can everything prosper." Chu Zhiwen sincerely hoped that Song Lu would have a better future.

At least from the way they interacted, this child was not stupid.

His mind was also clear.

Even his eldest grandson could not compare to such a talent.

However, there was a difference in age between the two, so it was not good to compare them.

"I'll remember what Grandpa Chu said." Song Lu nodded hurriedly.

Chu Zhiwen nodded in satisfaction.

Chu Lin was even more direct. He looked at him and said, "My daughter is smart. She will definitely be able to help you. You just have to promise me that you will trust her in everything in the future. My children are filial. I can guarantee this with my head."

"Uncle, you're being too serious. Song Lu knows about Qingxiang's character and the Chu family's character." Song Lu stood up and bowed.

Chu Lin was satisfied with his reaction. He raised his hand and said, "Sit down and talk. We're family now. There's no need to bow." These words meant that he had accepted him.

Song Lu heaved a sigh of relief.

He had long known that a family that could nurture a person like Big Brother Chu Heng must be somewhat different.

Now, it seemed that just this point of being reasonable was enough for the Song family to slowly learn.

Chu Qingxiang had been eavesdropping at the door. When she heard Song Lu's defense, a happy smile appeared on her face.

However, she was still wary of the Song family.

At Chu Heng's house...

Ye Muyu had been making ink for four hours in the afternoon.

The progress was quite smooth, and there was already some ink. She only needed to continue to improve the quality before she could sell it. Chu Heng returned in the afternoon, just like yesterday..

Chapter 398: Mountain Pepper Sapling

Ye Muyu thought that since the summer days were longer, Chu Heng must have spent more and more time reading books because of the provincial examination, so she delayed dinner time.

When Chu Heng reached home, he saw Lin Zhongjin playing with Chu Jin in the courtyard. He reached out and handed the chicken in his hand to Madam Hu, who was approaching.

At the same time, he was holding a pastry box in his hand.

Lu Chuan saw that Madam and Master were about to speak, so he consciously carried his bookcase into the courtyard.

"This child is?" Chu Heng narrowed his eyes and his gaze fell on Lin Zhongjin.

Lin Zhongjin, who was sitting in the courtyard and watching Chu Jin and Chu Ziluo play, seemed to feel his gaze and suddenly raised his head.

He saw Chu Heng.

A look of understanding flashed across his eyes. He stood up and walked forward, bowing to Chu Heng. "I am Lin Zhongjin, the nephew of Teacher Lin Hanzhen. My uncle has entrusted me to eat at Mrs. Chu's house. Sorry for disturbing you."

"Since it's actually Teacher Lin who said it, you can rest assured and stay here. Go play with Lil' Jin and Ziluo." Chu Heng's voice was calm and he did not care about Zhongjin being there. He could tell at a glance that this child was not ordinary and probably had an extraordinary background.

Even so, because of his relationship with Teacher Lin, he had more or less guessed the other party's identity, which was why he was so assured.

Lin Zhongjin nodded and returned to the center of the courtyard to watch with Chu Ziluo.

He had always been sensible and would never make things difficult for others. At least, Chu Ziluo felt that this boy really knew how to take care of people's moods. She liked to play with him.

"If you come back at this time in the future, I'll make dinner later. Although it's fine if the summer dishes are cold, the taste is not good. I'm afraid it will affect your stomach." Ye Muyu took the pastry box from Chu Heng and said gently.

Chu Heng thought about what he had been doing recently and nodded. "Alright. I'll be back around this time."

“By the way, the mountain pepper saplings you asked me to find will probably be transported to the village tomorrow. I’ll get Lu Chuan to contact them. You just have to wait at home.” Chu Heng had quite a number of people now, so Ye Muyu did not need to do things personally.

This was also the reason why he had accelerated his development.

Ye Muyu knew that she must have her own career, and it might develop better than she imagined.

“How many are there in total?” she asked.

“I’ve bought a hundred or so for now, but I don’t know how many will survive.

If it’s not enough, tell me again, and I’ll get the caravan to buy more.” Chu Heng’s voice carried a trace of joy. Ye Muyu glanced at him, not knowing what he was happy about.

However, it was a good thing that the mountain pepper tree had arrived. The sooner she planted it, the sooner she could harvest it.

As soon as this idea popped up, Ye Muyu thought of the matter of the mother ginger. Since Chu Heng’s caravan looked so powerful, they should be able to find healthy ginger pieces that were plump, bright, fresh, not dry, not rotten, not frozen, hard, and free of pests, right?

Ye Muyu thought for a while and turned to him. “I also want to buy some tender ginger. Can your caravan buy it?” he asked.

With the idea of making money together as a family, Ye Muyu no longer treated Chu Heng as an outsider.

Chu Heng noticed this change in her and felt much better. He wanted Ah Yu to treat him like family.

“Sure, we’ll call the caravan to set off tomorrow.”

“As long as it can germinate and be planted, I can take it.”

“Ginger matures in winter. It can be used to ward off the cold, so it can also be sold for a lot of money.”
Ye Muyu knew that the entire prefecture consumed a lot of ginger in winter.

It was always in short supply.

“Try to buy more. Our family doesn’t have enough land. When the time comes, we can ask the clan to come over and buy ginger seeds if they are willing to plant them..”

Chapter 399: Teacher Lin Is Here

Ye Muyu was not worried. After all, she could still eat them if she could not finish planting them. If she could not finish eating them, she could sell them. She was not worried about buying too much.

“Alright.” Chu Heng’s eyes flashed with a smile. He nodded and tilted his head to signal Lu Chuan to take note of it.

After the two of them finished talking, Madam Hu called them for dinner.

Chu Heng went to wash his hands in the basin outside the kitchen and called the children.

Lin Zhongjin looked outside the courtyard and saw that his uncle had not come. He was a little puzzled and hesitated for a moment. Then, Chu Ziluo quickly pulled him to the kitchen to wash his hands.

He thought for a moment but did not say anything. He waited quietly for his uncle to come and pick him up. Then, he washed his hands and ate with Chu Ziluo.

Ye Muyu went into the kitchen to help with the dishes. Just as she was about to serve the dishes, Teacher Lin arrived.

Chu Heng had just finished washing his hands when it was Zhang Shu's turn.

When he heard the knock on the door, he did not wait for Zhang Shu to open the door. He walked straight to the courtyard door and opened it. He saw Teacher Lin standing at the door with a pastry box in his hand.

"Scholar Chu, sorry to disturb you. I'm here to pick up Zhongjin." When Teacher Lin saw Chu Heng, he had a gentle smile on his face. He handed the pastry in his hand to him. "This is an old man's gift of thanks. I hope Scholar Chu doesn't mind."

"Teacher Lin, you're welcome. It's just dinner time. I don't think you've eaten yet. Why don't you come in and have a meal? By the way, we can talk about the village school in the future." Chu Heng turned around and invited Teacher Lin in.

Teacher Lin was a little hesitant. He felt that he had already disturbed them enough. It was really embarrassing for him to stay for dinner.

"Teacher Lin, don't be polite. It's just an ordinary meal."

Chu Heng had a polite smile on his face as he called Lu Chuan over to collect the pastries. Then, he and Teacher Lin walked toward the main room. Seeing that he did not mind, Master Lin thought about his next plan and decided to stay.

When he passed by the kitchen, he saw Lin Zhongjin standing at the side.

Master Lin had a warm smile on his face.

Lin Zhongjin nodded and walked over, entering the hall with Chu Heng and Master Lin.

The dishes in the central room were already laid out, and the fragrance of the dishes wafted from the dining table. Teacher Lin could tell at a glance that the food was definitely not bad. He had heard from many villagers that Ye Muyu could cook and that the family ate well.

However, now that he had seen it in person, he knew how good it was. Those who did not know better would think that it was bought directly from a restaurant.

However, when he saw that there were no less than three plates of meat dishes on the table, he understood after thinking for a while. The Chu family definitely would not eat so sumptuously every day. After all, Chu Heng still had to take the exam and spend money.

It was probably because he asked Zhongjin to come over.

This was their way of serving guests.

Teacher Lin instantly had a good impression of Chu Heng and his wife. As expected, he had not misjudged them.

"Teacher, sit." Chu Heng invited Teacher Lin to sit beside him. When Lin Zhongjin saw him, he sat next to Teacher Lin.

Ye Muyu came in with the rice. Madam Hu was also carrying a jar of wine. She placed wine bowls in front of Chu Heng and Master Lin.

Teacher Lin quickly waved his hand. "I'm not drinking anymore. I'm afraid I won't wake up tomorrow. I'll delay the children's lessons again."

"Don't worry," Ye Muyu said with a smile. "This is osmanthus wine. It's not strong. Try it."

"Then... Alright then." Master Lin could not refuse and only poured a little.

Chu Heng's alcohol tolerance was not bad. At least Ye Muyu had never seen him drunk before, so she put the wine pot aside and let them pour themselves..

Chapter 400: Leave After The Provincial Examination

Because there were not many people, they did not eat at separate tables.

Chu Jin had been taught by Chu Heng not to talk while eating.

Now that Teacher Lin was here, he did not dare to be presumptuous and was especially quiet.

Chu Ziluo ate her meal obediently.

Chu Heng raised his wine bowl and toasted Teacher Lin.

Master Lin took a sip and realized that it was not too spicy and the alcohol was not strong. It seemed that Ye Muyu was not lying. He relaxed a lot. After all, he was really afraid of getting drunk.

"Scholar Chu, sorry for disturbing you today. Did Zhongjin cause you any trouble?" Teacher Lin said politely.

"It's just a child," Chu Heng said. "It's not troublesome at all. Teacher, don't worry about it."

"I heard that you've gone to look for other scholars in the afternoon to be a teacher at the village school. Did you find anyone?" Chu Heng asked.

Teacher Lin nodded. "Yes, I found him. He's Scholar Wu from the county. However, he has to substitute for Scholar Liu. He'll only be free to teach at the village school after Scholar Liu finishes the provincial examination."

“Scholar Wu?” Chu Heng pondered. “Scholar Wu isn’t young anymore. Plus, he’s a local. There won’t be any need for him to take the imperial examination. He’s quite suitable. Teacher Lin is thoughtful.”

Teacher Lin had actually been looking for someone long ago. Otherwise, he would not have been able to reach an agreement in an afternoon.

“That’s right. I have the same idea. The children in the village are very smart. Moreover, the children want to study and their parents are willing to send them. It would be inconvenient if there is no teacher here for a long time.”

“Although Scholar Wu is a little older and his lectures are more old-fashioned, he can still help the children and lay a solid foundation for them. When the children are older, it will be much easier for them to go to the county school.”

“It’s also because of this that even though Scholar Wu is teaching for Scholar

Liu, it’s only one class a day. It’s not necessary, but it’s not good to offend Scholar Liu. So, he can only wait until after the provincial examination before coming to the village school to teach.”

“Scholar Chu, don’t worry. During this period, I will continue to teach in the school until Scholar Wu comes.” Teacher Lin promised. He was not someone who did not care about his responsibilities, so he naturally would not leave just like that.

Chu Heng was relieved when he heard this. He no longer needed to find a place for his son to study.

He was going to attend the provincial examination, so it would be inconvenient to send Chu Jin to the county school. Teacher Lin was very thoughtful.

“Teacher Lin is very thoughtful. Chu Heng cheers to you.” Chu Heng raised his wine bowl and toasted Master Lin.

The two of them then talked about Chu Jin’s studies.

Chu Jin felt as if he had done something wrong, and he was a little flustered.

Ye Muyu smiled when she saw the child's frightened look. She did not disturb him. After all, both of them were doing this for Lil' Jin's own good.

Unknowingly, Teacher Lin had eaten too much for this meal.

Under Chu Heng's deliberate control, he did not drink much.

Lin Zhongjin was the same. He was full.

After dinner, the sky darkened. They could barely see the road without lanterns.

Teacher Lin stood up and said goodbye.

Chu Heng asked Lu Chuan to send them off.

Teacher Lin smiled and declined. "Scholar Chu, there's no need. I've already troubled you today. This place is close to the school, just a few steps away. There's no need to bother sending us off. We'll walk back in a few steps."

"Then be careful on the road."

Lin Zhongjin followed behind him. Chu Ziluo caught up with him and placed a small jar in his hand.

"Sister Ziluo, what is this?" Lin Zhongjin looked at her in confusion.

"Have you forgotten?" Chu Ziluo smiled. "It's the honey grapefruit tea that we drank at noon.."