

Amazing Son-In-Law Chapter 5759 - 5765

Chapter 5759

Now that the situation unfolded, Zachary's fear wasn't about exposure, but rather the possibility of being ousted by Charlie and Don Albert.

Upon hearing Charlie's instruction for him to confess and then apologize to Felix, Zachary felt as though he had been granted a reprieve.

Tears welled in his eyes as he expressed his gratitude, “Thank you, Master Wade, for your generosity. From this moment on, I, Zachary, will be sincere and honest. I'll never resort to such cunning tactics again. If | ever do, I.... I will willingly accept any consequences!”

Charlie interjected, “I instructed you to confess, but | didn't promise leniency, did |?”

Zachary hesitated before replying, “Master Wade... What you said just now... Does it mean...”

Charlie let out a sigh and said, “Zachary, you are indeed clever, but as | mentioned before, you need to use your intelligence for the right path. Do you understand?”

Zachary hurriedly replied, “| understand, | understand! Zachary understands!”

Charlie nodded and said, “Good. When you were still in the antique street, such actions were not a big deal. After all, your circle was filled with deceit and fake goods. It was the survival rule. But now that you are no longer part of that circle, you can no longer engage in such activities. If you do, it means you are not abiding by the rules...”

“Felix Cole did show some disrespect towards my father-in-law, but that was because my father-in-law was at fault first. By helping my father-in-law seek revenge, you are not distinguishing right from wrong.”

At this point, Charlie continued, “Absolutely no more retaliation against Felix Cole in the future. If word gets out, people might think that I, Charlie Wade, do not distinguish right from wrong and instructed you to help my father-in-law vent his anger. Do you understand?”

Zachary quickly said, “Master Wade, rest assured, | will go apologize to Felix and will never cause him any trouble again. Even if President Wilson looks for me, | won't listen to him!”

Zachary then cautiously asked, "Master Wade, you asked me to explain the situation in detail. How should | explain your father-in-law's situation?”

Charlie asked in response, “What does ‘in detail’ mean? Is there any room for concealment? Is that considered ‘in detail?’”

Zachary was instantly stunned. He didn't expect that Charlie would not be willing to help conceal Jacob's situation. It was at this moment that he truly understood the severity of his mistake.

Charlie was not the type of person who couldn't distinguish right from wrong. Since his father-in-law was at fault first, how could he protect him?

It was impossible, let alone standing up for Jacob. And he had eagerly stood up for Jacob, wanting to gain favor with him.

Wasn't that just a futile attempt to win someone's approval?

Realizing this, he quickly and respectfully said, “Alright, Master Wade, | understand! | will go apologize to Felix on Antique Street and then write an apology letter, explaining the whole situation in detail, and post it on my social media. | have many colleagues in the antique industry on my social media, so the entire antique community will know.” He then gently reminded, “By the way, Master Wade, President Wilson mentioned that he might be promoted to the position of President

soon. If this matter spreads, although it may not attract the attention of the police, it will still greatly affect President Wilson's reputation. I'm afraid he will face difficulties in becoming the President...”

“It doesn't matter,” Charlie said firmly, “I know my father-in-law well. If he does become the President, it will just be an empty title. If he can't rise up, even better.”

Zachary respectfully said, “Alright, Master Wade, I understand!”

Charlie expressed his satisfaction, “Good, I'll be waiting to see how you handle this.”

Zachary thought of Jacob and said awkwardly, “Master Wade, President Wilson is currently on a plane to Dubai. He gave me a deadline to give him a clear reply after he lands, to retrieve that Northern Song bronze Buddha. If I can't retrieve the item, he might seek your help...”

“It doesn't matter,” Charlie said, “I will make him realize it's futile. Also, when he comes to you for trouble, stand your ground and don't bow down to him just to save face for me. Over time, it will only lead him astray and make him lose himself further.”

At this point, Charlie paused slightly and continued, “Let me tell you, Zachary, this time we were lucky that no one suffered any losses.

Otherwise, if you had sold a fake item for tens of thousands of dollars, and an investigation took place, both of you might have ended up in jail”

Zachary felt a sense of fear in his heart and quickly said, “Master Wade, rest assured, if President Wilson contacts me again, I won't respond! I won't help him with anything anymore!”

Charlie nodded and said, “There's one more task for you. See if you can make up for your mistake.”

Zachary became excited and said, “Master Wade, please tell me! I will do my best to make amends!”

Charlie said, "I don't care how you do it, but you have to ensure that my father-in-law willingly returns the money and doesn't keep a single penny."

Zachary instinctively asked, "Master Wade, do you want President Wilson to return the profits or the profits plus the principal?"

Charlie said, "Returning everything would be best."

Zachary immediately promised, "Rest assured, Master Wade, I will make sure President Wilson returns the full 300,000 without keeping a single penny!"

Charlie continued, "You can't help him find money to buy items. This time, he needs to feel the consequences. Do you understand?"

"You can count on me. I understand!"

"Alright, go and do what you need to do."

Zachary felt as though he had been granted a reprieve and repeatedly said, "Yes, Master Wade! Yes, Master Wade! I will go now!" After ending the call, Charlie couldn't help but let out a sigh.

His father-in-law had truly gone too far this time. Since becoming the vice president of the calligraphy and painting association and having the opportunity to become the president, he had become increasingly arrogant and self-righteous.

If he wasn't given a lesson this time, he would only grow bolder, just like Elaine.

When there was a cash balance of 20 billion dollars, Elaine dared to transfer it all. If she hadn't been taught a lesson, she would be even more audacious today.

While Zachary hurriedly made his way to Antique Street, Timothy Carey, who had been nervous and had made several trips to the bathroom, anxiously sat in front of the company's personnel manager.

The personnel manager took out a document and handed it to him, getting straight to the point, "Timothy Carey, this is the notice of

termination of your employment contract with the company. Due to the significant damage to the company's reputation and profits caused by your personal actions, the company has decided to terminate your employment based on the clause regarding serious work negligence in the labor contract.”

Saying that, the manager continued, “You can hand over your work today and pack your personal belongings. Your salary for this month will be calculated until today, and it will be deposited into your bank account on the 10th of next month when the company issues salaries.”

Timothy felt as though he had been struck by lightning and blurted out, “Manager, by dismissing me like this, you are not in accordance with labor laws! | didn't cause any damage to the company. | just made a wrong judgment on someone's collectible. You can't consider it as causing a loss to the company just because | didn't bring those items to Vintage Deluxe, right? Every year, many valuable items are bought at low prices by others. Does that mean it's my fault for not bringing those items to Vintage Deluxe?”

The personnel manager's tone turned sharp as he said, “Other people buying valuable items at low prices has nothing to do with Vintage Deluxe. But when someone brings a valuable item to you and you reject it, that becomes your problem. We have seen the video, even President Moore has seen it. Doesn't that qualify as causing significant damage to the company?”

The manager's tone became even colder as he continued, “Furthermore, you are the general manager of Vintage Deluxe, representing the reputation, brand, and professional standards of the company. But you couldn't even recognize a priceless item. Do you know how much this affects the reputation of Vintage Deluxe?”

“Before | came here today, | consulted several friends who are knowledgeable about antiques. They all know about your situation, and without exception, they believe that your ignorance and incompetence have caused significant negative impact on Vintage Deluxe's reputation! Isn't that considered serious negligence?”

Timothy tried to argue, “Everyone makes mistakes sometimes. Vintage Deluxe handles so many items every year, it's normal to make one or two mistakes occasionally. Even a robot can't guarantee 100% accuracy in its work. Can you really fire me just because | made a mistake in recognizing one item?”

The personnel manager responded coldly, “You still don't understand where you went wrong? Let me tell you, Vintage Deluxe doesn't have any profit requirements from you. It's fine if you don't make money for the company, but you cannot tarnish the reputation of the company!”

“Yesterday, you missed out on a Northern Song bronze Buddha worth 20 million dollars. That wouldn't have been a big problem if you hadn't said anything; the company wouldn't even have known that you missed such a valuable item. But you made the mistake of posting the video online!”

“It's this video that tarnished the reputation of the company and Vintage Deluxe. Today, the company has every right to terminate your employment based on this video as evidence. If you're not satisfied, you can go to the labor department or hire a lawyer for arbitration, but this video that you posted will teach you a lesson on how to conduct yourself.”

Timothy felt a sense of despair. Deep down, he knew that based on the content of that video, he had indeed made a serious mistake, and the company had every right to terminate his employment.

At this point, he regretted his actions and thought, “If I had known it would end up like this, | would rather have taken a beating than conspired with Zachary to do such a thing! In the end, Felix wasn't pushed out, and he even made 20 million because of this incident.

What benefits did | gain? I'm about to lose my job, isn't that a huge loss?!”

In his mind, he harbored even more hatred towards Zachary.

With a determined expression, he gritted his teeth and told the personnel manager, “Let me tell you the truth. Yesterday's incident was not because | had a bad eye, but because Zachary, Don Albert's lackey, set a trap for Felix. He obtained that bronze Buddha and had someone bring it to Vintage Deluxe to make it seem like I rejected it according to his script. Then, he sold the item to Felix, hoping to trick him...”

“I thought that since Don Albert and President Moore had a good relationship, being friends and all, | would help him out. Since it was just a staged act, | didn't pay much attention to the item. Who could have imagined that Zachary would mess things up and end up tricking me... Please inform President Moore about this matter. | genuinely didn't mean to reject the bronze Buddha.”

Saying that, he took out his phone and showed the personnel manager the chat records with Zachary, which contained all the scripts and | lines Zachary had given him, which were almost identical to what he had said in the video.

He handed the phone to the personnel manager, looking aggrieved as he said, “Words alone are not enough. | have the chat records with Zachary here. Please take a look!”

At this moment, Timothy could only try his luck. After all, there was indeed a certain relationship between Don Albert and Jasmine, and these chat records could prove that he didn't actually make a mistake, but rather followed Zachary's instructions. In this way, to some extent, he was also dragging Zachary and Don Albert down with him.

At this point, Timothy had no other choice but to make a desperate move.

The personnel manager looked at the chat records on his phone, frowning his brows. He didn't expect that there would be hidden details

in this matter. Moreover, it also involved people on Don Albert's side.

He looked at Timothy and said, “Wait a moment, I'll make a phone call...”

Timothy saw that the manager was taking it seriously and felt a glimmer of hope reignite in his heart.

The personnel manager stepped outside the Vintage Deluxe store and dialed Jasmine's number.

Over the phone, he reported the situation to Jasmine and then asked her, “Chairwoman, how should I handle this situation?”

Jasmine had just spoken to Charlie on the phone this morning, tentatively asking about his attitude towards Felix. When she heard that Zachary had conspired with Timothy to target Felix, she knew it had nothing to do with Charlie.

In addition to that, Jasmine also keenly sensed that something was not right.

Based on her speculation, if Zachary wanted to use a fake item to target Felix, it must have been for the sake of Charlie's father-in-law, Jacob. In that case, why would he send someone to Vintage Deluxe and coordinate with Timothy to act out a scene and then post it online?

In other words, wasn't it Timothy trying to use this incident to boost his own reputation by stepping on Felix's head?

Therefore, without hesitation, she said, “Vintage Deluxe has become chaotic and unacceptable. Here's what you should do go ahead and dismiss Timothy as planned, and terminate the employment of all other employees at Vintage Deluxe on the spot. Compensation should be calculated according to N+1...”

The personnel manager hurriedly said, “Chairwoman, if we do that, Vintage Deluxe might have to shut down...”

Jasmine responded with a hmm and said decisively, “Vintage Deluxe does need to shut down and reorganize. After dismissing Timothy Carey and terminating the employment of other employees, post a notice at the entrance of Vintage Deluxe stating that due to serious internal issues caused by poor management by the company, Vintage Deluxe will be temporarily closed for reorganization, and the reopening date will be announced separately!”

Chapter 5760

‘Timothy anxiously observed as the personnel manager reentered the room, hoping that this would be the turning point they had been waiting for.

To his astonishment, the first words out of the personnel manager's mouth were, “I'm sorry, Mr. Carey, but the company has determined that not only did you make a major mistake at work, but you also have significant personal and business ethics issues. Your employment contract will be terminated immediately.”

Timothy never expected that exposing the hidden truth would not only fail to solve the major mistake issue but also raise questions about his professional ethics.

With a heavy heart, he had to say to the personnel manager, "Manager, what did Director Moore say? After all, she knows Don Albert. | also considered the fact that we are all acquaintances in this matter...”

“No need to say anything, Mr. Carey.” the personnel manager said coldly. “This matter has already been decided, and there is no room for negotiation. | have brought the termination notice with me, and you don't need to sign it. Our legal department is here as a witness. Once | give you this document, we have fulfilled our obligation to notify you. Please hand over your work as soon as possible.”

Despair filled Timothy's heart, and he pleaded with a mournful face, “Manager, please consider all the years | have dedicated to Vintage Deluxe. Even if you don't give me a chance to reform, at least offer me some compensation. You can't just let me work at the grassroots, level for so many years and leave with nothing.”

The personnel manager responded indifferently, "I'm sorry, there is no compensation for termination due to a major mistake. | already mentioned this to you earlier. If you don't believe me, you can go to arbitration or file a lawsuit. The lawsuit process is simple; you can find a law firm to help you, and our group's legal department will actively respond." Timothy knew very well that in his current situation, he wouldn't win a single lawsuit even if he fought ten thousand of them. Filing a lawsuit would only waste his time and incur high lawyer fees, which wouldn't be worth it. Seeing the personnel manager's unwavering attitude, he felt a deep sense of dissatisfaction. He could only grit his teeth and say, "Since the group and Director Moore refuse to acknowledge the relationship with Don Albert and the favor | did for the group, then | won't hesitate to publicize this matter. | will make sure that Zachary, who caused me to lose my job, has his reputation destroyed!"

The personnel manager didn't take his threat seriously and calmly said, "That is your freedom, and the group will not interfere."

"Fine!" Timothy gritted his teeth and said, "Then | will expose this matter and show Zachary who's in charge!"

The personnel manager nodded and said, "Alright, Mr. Carey, if you have nothing else, please help me call in the remaining employees."

The group is preparing to temporarily suspend the operation of Vintage Deluxe and terminate their employment contracts."

"What?" Timothy widened his eyes. "You're firing everyone? That's too harsh!"

The personnel manager smiled and said, "Whether it's harsh or not is irrelevant. It's simply a decision made by the group. Many businesses go through this kind of adjustment. It's like the logic of treating early-stage cancer. As soon as cancer cells are detected, they need to be removed as soon as possible to prevent them from spreading to other organs. If done timely, it can lead to a cure."

Timothy never expected the other party to compare him to cancer cells. He was furious, considering that since he had already lost his job, he might as well confront the manager and vent his anger. But then he realized that the personnel manager was from the Moore Group, and there was also a legal department present. If he were to act against him, the other party would definitely take him to court.

Thinking of this, he had to suppress his anger. He thought that he would just post this matter on social media later and expose Zachary.

Unbeknownst to him, at that moment, Zachary arrived alone at the door of Felix's Selected Artifacts Pavilion.

Selected Artifacts Pavilion was bustling with people, as many came to pay their respects and seek appraisals.

Zachary hesitated at the door for a moment before gathering his courage and stepping inside.

Since many people knew Zachary and knew that he had changed, when he entered the store, many of them subconsciously called him “Brother Zachary” with a respectful attitude.

Zachary felt embarrassed by this reception. It was at this moment that he realized how despicable his actions had been and how sorry he was to Master Wade and Don Albert for the position they had given him.

He saw Felix, and felt ashamed as he approached him.

Peter, thinking that someone had come in person after their failed attempt to retrieve the item, asked with caution, “Zachary, what brings you here to see me?”

Zachary suddenly knelt down on one knee and said with a face full of shame, “Mr. Cole, I'm sorry! | apologize to you!”

Peter furrowed his brow, thinking that Zachary was playing some new trick, and asked, pretending not to understand, “We only have a nodding acquaintance, and we have never had any business dealings. | can't think of any reason why you would owe me an apology.”

~The people around were stunned, as they couldn't believe that Zachary, who was usually shrewd to the core, would kneel down to apologize to Peter.

Some people with a strong curiosity and a penchant for gossip discreetly took out their phones to secretly record videos.

At this moment, Zachary took a deep breath, feeling the heat on his face, and said with embarrassment, “Mr. Cole, the bronze Buddha you received earlier was a scheme | secretly planned with the Vice President of the Calligraphy and Painting Association, as well as Timothy Carey from Vintage Deluxe...”

“We bought that item for 98,000 dollars from a well-known expert, Teacher Ewing. We didn't realize it was from the Northern Song Dynasty. Our intention was to deceive you and make you lose face in Antique Street, so that you would have a hard time doing business in the future. But things didn't go as planned, and it turned into the situation we have now. | hope you can forgive me for my actions and not judge me based on the same standards as a scoundrel like me!”

As he spoke, he took out a piece of paper covered in writing from his pocket and handed it to Peter, saying respectfully, “This is a letter of | apology that | wrote myself. Please accept it! At the same time, | will post this letter on my social media to publicly apologize to you!”

The crowd in Selected Artifacts Pavilion was shocked by this revelation. No one could have imagined that behind Peter's stroke of luck, there was such a bizarre hidden truth!

Peter found himself perplexed by Zachary's request for an apology.

Initially, he suspected it might be a ploy, but upon deeper consideration, he realized Zachary had openly confronted Charlie's father-in-law, which was quite thought-provoking.

Confident in Charlie's influence in Aurous Hill and Don Albert's loyalty, Peter reasoned that Zachary would naturally seek to please Charlie.

Moreover, Jacob would never risk tarnishing his own reputation by exposing Zachary in public.

Peter concluded that Charlie must have orchestrated this. It seemed Charlie was already aware of the situation and intended to teach Zachary, Timothy, and Jacob a lesson.

With this understanding, Peter smiled at Zachary and remarked, “There's no need to apologize to me for this matter. In fact, | should thank you. Doing business in the antique street isn't easy these days. Having such a promising start is quite rare...”

Zachary, feeling relieved that Peter didn't plan to pursue the matter, said with a sincere tone, “Mr. Cole, please rest assured that | will never interfere with your business again. | will not hinder you in any way. If you ever need my help, I will not hesitate to assist you!”

He quickly added, "Also, please be assured that we will return every penny of the 300,000 dollars we tricked you out of. Please have mercy on me and don't hold me responsible for any other actions...”

Peter reached out to help him up and said, “Once the words are spoken, we are friends. Feel free to visit the store anytime.”

Zachary couldn't possibly come to the store in person, so he could only force a smile and say, “Of course, of course... Mr. Cole, you have many customers here, so | won't disturb you...”

After saying that, he quickly bid farewell and left. His departure caused a commotion in Selected Artifacts Pavilion. No one would have expected that the cunning Zachary would do something so foolish.

Some people who enjoyed gossip had already posted the video they secretly recorded on their social media.

After leaving Selected Artifacts Pavilion, Zachary immediately posted the photos and text of his apology letter on his social media. He even pinned the post to the top.

The apology letter provided detailed information about the whole incident, including how Timothy approached him first, informing him of

Felix's return, and how he took the initiative to contact Jacob to help him. He also described the entire process of planning the fraud, thinking that they were deceiving Felix with a 20 million dollars gift.

He knew that this was his chance for redemption given to him by Charlie. Therefore, he didn't dare to hide or discount anything.

This social media post caused a complete uproar in Antique Street. Almost every shop was discussing the post.

Who could have imagined that Peter's stroke of luck was actually a trap set by others?

Timothy, who had been ousted by Vintage Deluxe, sat in front of him, poised to pour all the blame on Zachary through his social media circle. But just as he was about to publish his scathing post, an acquaintance approached him in a fluster, exclaiming, "Manager Carey, have you seen Zachary's Moments? Is what he said true? Did you really collaborate to present Felix Cole with that 20 million gift?"

Caught off guard, Timothy asked, "What Moments? What are you talking about?"

~The acquaintance responded, "Zachary's social media feed. You should take a look!"

With a sense of urgency, Timothy abandoned his post, refreshed his feed, and was met with Zachary's apology letter. Enraged, he spat

out curses, "What a backstabbing trick! Zachary, you treacherous scoundrel!

You've out maneuvered me even in self-destruction! You

despicable beast!"

This social media post also thrust Jacob into the limelight within the antique industry.

Being affiliated with the Calligraphy and Painting Association, Jacob's implication in this scandal sent shockwaves through both circles.

Within moments, the news reached Chairman Price, who was in a frenzy in his office.

Chairman Price, intending to curry favor with Jacob, had planned to offer him the position of general president after his promotion.

However, Jacob's involvement in an antique scam, albeit initially forgeries, now twisted into a money-laundering scheme, threw a ring into his plans.

Incensed by Jacob's deceptive actions, several vice-presidents, along with other members, stormed Chairman Price's office, demanding Jacob's expulsion from the association.

One individual declared, "Chairman Price, Jacob is a criminal! If this matter is pursued, he'll end up in jail! How can the executive vice president of the Calligraphy and Painting Association face such disgrace?"

Another echoed, "Absolutely! Chairman Price, we can't harbor such a black sheep in our association any longer! He must be expelled immediately!"

Yet another chimed in, "I've always said Jacob doesn't know a thing! What qualifications does he have to be the executive vice president?"

Now it's clear he not only lacks knowledge but also has severe moral deficiencies! He should be expelled immediately, and we should issue a statement that this is his personal misdeed, unrelated to our association!"

"Yes, absolutely! We need to issue a statement! If we delay taking action on this matter, the public will accuse our Calligraphy and Painting Association of condoning fraudsters! Our reputation will suffer, and the entire association will be tainted by his actions!"

Chairman Price, caught in a dilemma, attempted to pacify the crowd, "Please be patient, everyone. This matter is based solely on Zachary's words. We lack concrete evidence to take direct action against Vice President Wilson. Please allow me time to investigate before making a decision."

The protesters were not satisfied, but Chairman Price insisted, "I'll handle this matter as I said. Let's give it time to unfold. For now, let's focus on other matters. Rest assured, once the truth emerges, I'll provide a satisfactory explanation."

With that, he left the association, dialed Jacob's number, but received no response as Jacob was still airborne.

Anxious and frustrated, Chairman Price sent a voice message to Jacob on WeChat, “Jacob, you've made a grave mistake! This is a crucial moment for both of us to advance. How could you do this now? Everyone's calling for your expulsion from the association. Call me once you see this! We need to talk!”

Chapter 5761

Several hours later, Jacob and Elaine's flight finally touched down at Dubai International Airport, their anticipation mounting as they prepared to embark on a new adventure.

As the wheels of the plane hit the runway, Jacob swiftly deactivated the airplane mode on his phone and anxiously watched as the signal indicator in the upper right corner flickered to life, searching for communication signals and data networks.

Having arranged for international call and data roaming prior to their departure, Jacob's phone successfully connected to the Internet within seconds.

Instantly, multiple WeChat notifications flooded his screen, but his impatience prevented him from checking them. Instead, he went straight to the call log and dialed Zachary's number, eager to resolve an urgent matter.

Meanwhile, Zachary found himself in his office, preparing for a routine inspection at Don Albert's place. Despite facing the repercussions of his apology letter, which had tarnished his reputation in Antique Street and earned him disapproving glances from those around him, Zachary remained undeterred. He understood that his current focus should be on his work, a way to repay Master Wade's kindness.

When Zachary saw Jacob's name flashing on his phone, he hesitated for a moment before answering, his voice calm and composed.

“Chairman Wilson, have you arrived in Dubai?”

Impatient and anxious, Jacob wasted no time getting to the point.

“What about the bronze Buddha? Have you retrieved it for me?” he demanded, his tone laced with urgency.

Regrettably, Zachary delivered unexpected news.

“I'm sorry, Chairman Wilson, but | cannot handle this matter. You should seek assistance elsewhere,” he responded, his voice unwavering.

Jacob's frustration reached its peak, his anger bubbling to the surface. This was the first time Zachary had ever defied him, someone who had always been subservient and eager to please.

The audacity of his refusal only fueled Jacob's rage, and he bellowed, “Zachary, what is the meaning of this? How dare you claim you can't handle it? You were the one who sold the item in the first place! If you won't retrieve it for me, who will? Let me make this clear: you must resolve this matter, or face the consequences!”

Maintaining his composure, Zachary calmly responded, “Chairman Wilson, you are free to handle the situation as you see fit, but | kindly request that you no longer involve me...”

Infuriated, Jacob accused Zachary of ulterior motives, his voice filled with suspicion. “Are you attempting to secretly retrieve the item for yourself? Let me warn you, do not scheme against me! If you fail to resolve this matter, | will call my son-in-law! I wil call him right now, and you wil regret crossing me!”

With a resigned sigh, Zachary softened his tone slightly, offering a glimmer of understanding. “Chairman Wilson, | advise you to calm

down and take a look at my WeChat moments. After you have seen it, you can decide whether or not to involve Master Wade.”

Jacob, still seething with anger, questioned Zachary’s mention of WeChat moments. “WeChat moments? What are you talking about? What did you post on your moments?”

Zachary simply replied, “You will find out when you take a look.”

Determined to uncover the truth Jacob exclaimed, “Fine! Stay on the line. | am going to check it now! | want to see what kind of trick you are playing with your WeChat moments!”

Switching his phone to speaker mode, he opened WeChat, greeted by a flood of messages from various contacts.

Ignoring them for the moment, he quickly scrolled through his moments until he found Zachary's apology letter.

With a single glance, his world turned upside down, his mind reeling in disbelief. Never could he have anticipated that Zachary would publicly expose the entire incident on his moments, including Jacob's name and personal information. It was as if they were both jumping into a fire pit together, their reputations at stake.

Jacob's anger surged anew, his voice trembling with fury. “Zachary, what in the world do you think you are doing? By posting this on your moments, are you trying to destroy me?!”

Zachary remained composed, his remorse evident in his voice. “Chairman Wilson, | deeply regret my actions. | have already personally apologized to Boss Cole, and | will no longer interfere in this matter. It is in your best interest to salvage the situation as soon as possible.”

Jacob's emotions spiraled out of control. Gripping his phone tightly, he shouted into the microphone, “Zachary! Delete that moments post immediately! Then post a clarification, stating that you deliberately framed me and that | had no involvement in this whatsoever!”

Zachary let out a weary sigh, his voice tinged with resignation. “I am sorry, Chairman Wilson, but I cannot delete or post anything...”

In disbelief, Jacob accused Zachary of callousness. “If you refuse to delete it, I will call my son-in-law! He will order you to delete it!”

‘With a nonchalant response, Zachary simply uttered, “Hmm, go ahead and call Master Wade. Let's see what he says.”

Before Jacob could respond, Zachary added, “By the way, Chairman Wilson, | have other matters to attend to. | cannot speak for long.

However, | feel obligated to remind you of one thing. Our actions can be considered fraudulent. It would be wise for you to return the stolen money to my friend's account, and have him return it to Manager Cole. Otherwise, the situation may escalate, and it won't end well for you.”

In a fit of rage, Jacob dismissed Zachary's warning as nonsense- “You are talking nonsense! It won't end well for me, but what about your”

Unfazed, Zachary calmly stated, “I did not take the money. The 300,000 was transferred directly from my friend's account to yours. | did not touch a single cent. Even if the situation escalates, | would be, at most, an accomplice, and the severity would not be significant...”

“Furthermore, our circumstances differ. | have personally apologized to Boss Cole and publicly acknowledged my mistake on my moments. | have earned Boss Cole's forgiveness. If things escalate, he will provide me with a letter of forgiveness, and I will not face any repercussions...”

“But for you, it is a different story. The amount involved is substantial, and if the situation escalates, you will be required to return the money. At your age, it is possible that you may even face a few years in jail. It is simply not worth it.”

Fear and panic gripped Jacob. Desperate for answers, he questioned Zachary, his voice trembling. “If it is not worth it for me, is it worth it for you?”

Zachary suggested, “Simply refund the money and offer an apology.”

Jacob retorted, his voice tinged with anger, "I've already allowed Felix to take over 19 million for nothing, and now he demands I return the 300,000? This is outrageous!"

Zachary's response was simple yet profound. "Do what you believe is best for yourself..."

After that, Zachary abruptly ended the call, not bothering to wait for Jacob's response.

Jacob gripped the phone, a mix of anger and apprehension coursing through him. His entire body trembled involuntarily, his muscles twitching with tension.

Beside him, Elaine noticed his distress and urgently inquired, "Husband, what did Zachary say? Will he help us retrieve our money?"

Distracted, Jacob fumbled with his phone, attempting to catch it twice as it slipped from his grasp.

With swift reflexes, Elaine retrieved the phone before it hit the ground.

Concern etched on her face, she observed Jacob's perspiring brow and pressed, "Husband, what's troubling you?"

Regaining his composure, Jacob erupted in frustration, "That stupid Zachary! He's out to ruin me! Broadcasting everything on WeChat Moments, he might as well be pushing me into a pit of fire!"

In a sudden realization, he exclaimed, wide-eyed, "Good Lord! Moments! No wonder my WeChat's flooded with messages! Where's my phone? Give it here!"

Elaine handed him the phone instinctively, her anxiety palpable as she asked, "Husband, what's going on?"

"I don't have time to explain now," Jacob snapped, urgency in his tone. "Please, just give me a moment..."

With the plane still in motion, Jacob swiftly scanned through the unread messages on WeChat, his mind racing.

As he came across Chairman Price's message, his heart skipped a beat, his anxiety reaching new heights. The monetary loss was inconsequential compared to the potential loss of his position as executive vice president.

The Calligraphy and Painting Association had several vice presidents, but only one executive vice president, a position that held immense prestige and power. If Chairman Price were to be promoted, it was highly likely that Jacob would be next for the coveted position.

Jacob had longed for the day when he could ascend to the role of chairman, a position that would grant him the recognition and status he craved. If Zachary's actions tarnished his standing in the association, it would be a devastating blow to his aspirations.

With trepidation, he played the voice message Chairman Price had sent, his teeth chattering with nervous anticipation.

Chairman Price expressed his concern, his words laden with disappointment. “Oh, Jacob, the situation between you and Zachary is worsening. Several leaders who attended our dinner have reached out to me, seeking clarification. They never expected such behavior from you. You know, we had just established a solid foundation for communication during our gathering at Heaven Springs. But now, people will distance themselves from you. | wanted to help, but it seems there is little I can do at this point.”

Jacob's mind raced, his thoughts consumed by the impending crisis.

“It's over, it's all over,” he muttered to himself, his voice filled with despair. “Zachary's actions have ruined everything. If the association discovers the truth, | fear | won't be able to salvage my position.”

As he spoke, Jacob hastily wiped away his cold sweat and composed a message to Chairman Price. "I apologize, Chairman Price, I've just landed in Dubai, and the plane hasn't even come to a halt yet. The situation does not align with Zachary's account. Zachary is notorious for spreading falsehoods! Please don't lend credence to his claims. Rest assured, I will hold him accountable!" Hardly had he sent the message when Chairman Price's call came through.

Jacob answered immediately, his voice fraught with nervousness, "Chairman Price, what's the situation in Aurous Hill?"

"It's a mess," Chairman Price sighed, sounding resigned. "Since Zachary's post went viral, members of the association have been bombarding me with reports, demanding your removal as executive vice president. My own position in the association is also under scrutiny, with representatives from several sister units inquiring about my standing."

"You wouldn't believe the frenzy it's caused. These people thrive on gossip, with little aptitude for actual work. Offer them a patch of land, and they'd devour it whole. For now, I've managed to contain the situation pending further clarification, but action must be taken. Tell me, were you involved in this debacle? if not, can you furnish evidence to discredit Zachary's claims?"

"I..." Jacob hesitated, unsure how to respond.

Naturally, he wanted to deny any involvement, but without evidence, and with Zachary's hostile stance, denying his part could backfire. Yet admitting guilt would likely spell the end of his career in the association.

Thought occurred to him. Rather than answering directly, he diverted, "Chairman Price, how can I prove my innocence?"

Chairman Price didn't mince words, "Jacob, if you're truly innocent, we must take decisive action! Let's involve the authorities! Report Zachary for defamation and demand a thorough investigation. Once the police clear your name, no one can tarnish your reputation!"

"I..." Jacob's heart raced with fear.

Involve the police?

That would be akin to signing his own death warrant!

As Zachary had warned, once the police intervened, he would be the prime suspect, bearing the brunt of the blame. Moreover, if the police failed to implicate Zachary, Jacob would shoulder the entire blame himself. Additionally, considering that Zachary has already secured forgiveness from Felix Cole, if the authorities decline to take action against him, Jacob would likely bear the full weight of the repercussions himself.

Torn with indecision, Jacob stammered, "Chairman Price, you know Zachary is affiliated with Don Albert. Given my ties with Don Albert, I must tread carefully. It wouldn't be right to disregard his brother's reputation."

Chairman Price pondered, "You have a point. I've heard Zachary holds a significant position under Don Albert, assisting him in various affairs."

Suddenly, a realization struck Chairman Price, his tone elevating, "Jacob, something doesn't add up! If Zachary is aligned with the Don Albert and knows of your close relationship, why would he target you? Is he telling the truth or orchestrating a vendetta?"

Jacob cursed inwardly at the oversight. He sought a pretext to avoid involving the police, but inadvertently exposed a fatal flaw.

Quickly, he interjected, "Of course... Of course, he wouldn't target me. Chairman Price, I must extend courtesy to the Don Albert in handling this matter. Please, allow me some time. I'll contact the Don Albert immediately and seek his guidance."

Chairman Price breathed a sigh of relief, "Yes, that's wise. Reach out to Don Albert and request his intervention. Perhaps he can exert pressure on Zachary to retract his statements and issue a public apology!"

Filled with renewed hope, Jacob pledged, "Absolutely! I'll contact the Don Albert without delay! I trust he'll aid for the sake of my son-in-law

in this predicament!”

Chapter 5762

At this moment, Jacob had come to see Don Albert as his last hope, his final lifeline.

Though he often mentioned Charlie in his conversations with Zachary and Chairman Price, as if he were on the verge of calling Charlie for help, he never actually mustered the courage to do so. After all, he was involved in fraudulent activities.

How could he bring himself to ask Charlie for help in such matters?

If he were to seek Charlie's assistance, his daughter, Claire, would inevitably find out.

What would she and his wife think of him?

Would he forever be forced to bow his head in shame before them?

Therefore, at this point, he could only turn to Don Albert and hope that Don Albert would be able to lend him a hand.

Unbeknownst to him, Don Albert was currently by Charlie's side.

Charlie had foreseen Jacob's next move. When his father-in-law realized he couldn't handle Zachary, he would undoubtedly seek out someone who could. And Don Albert had become the prime candidate at this critical juncture!

Sure enough, Don Albert's phone soon began to ring. And on the other end was Jacob.

Don Albert decided not to answer the call right away. Instead, he glanced at Charlie and asked carefully, “Master Wade, should I say what you told me to say?”

Charlie nodded.

Don Albert then inquired, “Should I adopt a softer tone and approach?”

“No need,” Charlie replied calmly. “My father-in-law has never understood the concept of knowing when to quit. I introduced the two of you so that you could help him gain some respect in Aurous Hill and make socializing easier for him... But this time, he has gone too far. If he continues down this path, it will only lead him further astray. I need to apply some pressure and guide him back onto the right path.”

Don Albert nodded and answered the call, putting it on speakerphone.

As soon as the call connected, Jacob exclaimed eagerly, “Don Albert, it's me, Jacob!”

Don Albert responded simply with a “Hmm” and asked, “Mr. Wilson, what can I do for you?”

Jacob awkwardly began, “Don Albert, to be honest, that rascal Zachary posted something on his social media. I don't know if you've seen it

Don Albert replied indifferently, “I've seen it... What's the matter?”

Jacob explained with embarrassment, “Don Albert, although most of what he posted is true, the idea of deceiving people originated from Zachary. I was completely fooled by him. Now that he has shared such a post, it has had a severely negative impact on me. Chairman Price from the association is demanding an explanation. If I can't provide a reasonable one, I may lose my position in the Calligraphy and Painting Association...”

A touch of coldness crept into Don Albert's voice as he responded, “Mr. Wilson, what you all did was truly despicable. Once I found out, I scolded Zachary severely! I even suggested that he make that post!”

Jacob was taken aback and asked, “Don Albert, why would you do such a thing? Are you good friends with Felix Cole?”

Don Albert replied, “I have no connection to Felix...”

Jacob grew even more puzzled and inquired, “Then why are you taking Felix's side?”

Don Albert's voice turned icy as he declared, *I have been striving to improve my image over the past two years. | have distanced myself from shady dealings and illegal activities. Now, everyone in Aurous Hill knows that Zachary is my mentee, but my mentee engaged in such a despicable act behind my back. Isn't he just tarnishing my reputation?”

Jacob hadn't expected Don Albert's words to be so serious. He hesitated for a moment and quickly explained, “I'm truly sorry, Don Albert. I didn't anticipate this incident having a negative impact on you... It's all because of Zachary! | didn't even know that Felix had returned. He personally informed me and devised this plan. | was completely deceived by him...”

“Please, Don Albert, help me out. Ask Zachary to take full responsibility for this incident and save me. Otherwise, I'm in deep trouble and might even face arrest...”

A hint of exasperation laced Don Albert's voice as he responded, “Mr. Wilson, | have already dealt with Zachary for his actions. He has already apologized to Felix. As far as I'm concerned, this matter is already closed. What can | do for you?”

Jacob panicked and pleaded. “Don Albert. I'm under immense pressure right now. | beg you, for the sake of my son-in-law Charlie, help me out. Ask Zachary to remove me from this matter. Otherwise, I'm in deep trouble and might even lose my freedom.”

Don Albert replied, “Mr. Wilson, while | respect Master Wade, | cannot compromise my principles in this matter...”

Jacob felt despair creeping in and choked back tears as he implored, “Don Albert, please help me. If you don't, I'm finished...”

After a moment of silence, Don Albert sighed and relented, “Fine! For the sake of Master Wade, | will help you this time...”

Jacob felt a wave of relief and excitement wash over him. He quickly said, “Thank you, Don Albert! Thank you, Don Albert!”

Don Albert cautioned, “Don't rush to express gratitude. While | can offer assistance, there are limits to what | can do. Completely absolving you while placing all blame on Zachary isn't feasible. Remember, Zachary is my subordinate. Forcing him to take sole responsibility would strain my relationship with my people.”

Jacob's anxiety heightened as he inquired, “Then, what can you do to help me?”

Don Albert replied, “I can intervene with the authorities. Since this incident occurred within Antique Street, let's resolve it internally. Prevent it from escalating to a legal matter. This way, you'll avoid legal consequences.”

Jacob's spirits lifted momentarily.

Avoiding legal repercussions meant he had a lifeline. While he might face embarrassment and job loss, his freedom would remain intact.

However, Don Albert added a caveat, “But my assistance comes with conditions. I'll only step in if you agree. Otherwise, you're on your own.”

Jacob hastily agreed, “Don Albert, whatever it takes, I'm in full agreement!”

Don Albert clarified, “While | can contain the situation within Antique Street, eventually, you'll need to resolve it there. Therefore, | need you to apologize to Felix Cole in person and return the three hundred thousand you received from him.”

Jacob's heart sank once again. Nervously, he asked, “But Felix has already made 19.7 million. Do | really have to return the full 300,000 to

him?"

Don Albert replied, "How much he earns is his concern. The 300,000 you earned from him is the result of fraud. Do you understand?"

Feeling a bit agitated, Jacob blurted out, "But | spent 98,000 on purchases! | spent 98,000 and earned back 300,000, leaving me with a profit of only 200,000. If I return the full 300,000 to him, | won't even have my initial investment left!"

Don Albert said calmly, "At this point, if you're still unwilling to part with the money, then | can't help you. Mr. Wilson, when it comes to this matter, you must figure it out on your own."

Jacob, on the verge of despair, could only muster a trembling voice and say, "Don Albert... | will return the 300,000. Is that alright? I will return every last penny! | won't keep any of the profit. Will that be enough? | still need to recoup my initial investment, don't 12"

Don Albert countered, "Mr. Wilson, following your logic, if a scammer is apprehended and ordered by the authorities to reimburse their victims, should they also factor in their internet and phone expenses?"

"I..." Jacob faltered, unable to formulate a response.

Continuing, Don Albert remarked, "Mr. Wilson, | extended my assistance and guidance solely out of respect for Master Wade. Yet, despite the circumstances, you're still hesitant to relinquish the money. Spare me further delays."

Defeated, Jacob conceded, "Fine, Don Albert, I'll return the entire 300,000 to him. Will that suffice?"

Don Albert said, "I suggest you donate the money to a charity and present the donation receipt as an apology to Felix. I've heard that he has personally donated 10 million to charity, so he probably won't be too concerned about your 300,000. If you cater to his interests and

donate the money, he might hold a higher opinion of you.”

Jacob, feeling utterly defeated, agreed, “Alright! | will donate! | will donate the full 300,000!”

Don Albert smiled and said, “That's the right attitude, Mr. Wilson. Money is merely material possessions. With your determination, | believe you'll be able to navigate this ordeal safely.”

He added, “It's getting late. | suggest you check the flight tickets and book the earliest one back. Otherwise, if anything goes awry, | won't be able to assist you.”

Jacob, feeling helpless, said, “Don Albert, my wife and | are currently in Dubai, on vacation. We only just landed not too long ago, and the plane has just come to a stop.”

Suddenly, he realized that all the first class passengers were casting disdainful glances his way. It dawned on him that he had been speaking loudly on the phone, and these passengers had likely overheard everything.

Feeling embarrassed, he quickly lowered his voice and said to Don Albert, “Don Albert, can | donate the money and send the donation receipt to Felix instead?”

Don Albert said, “This matter is of great Importance. | advise you to set your vacation aside for now and return as soon as possible. Otherwise, if things take a turn for the worse, | won't be able to help you either.” He added, “Oh, by the way, I've heard that the local media is already paying attention to this matter and planning to interview Felix. If the impact of this matter continues to grow, | can't guarantee that I'll be able to provide complete cover for you. So it's best if you come back as soon as possible and resolve this matter first.”

Jacob was completely shattered and tearfully said, "I've spent a significant amount of money on this trip. The plane ticket alone cost tens of thousands, not to mention the hotel expenses. I've just endured a nine-hour flight and only just arrived. I can't go back now, can I?"

"And I have to return the money I earned, with no profit of 98,000. If I lose another 100,000 on the flight and hotel, won't I become a colossal scapegoat..."

Don Albert, feeling helpless, said, "Then how about taking a gamble?"

Jacob quickly responded, "No, I can't... I can't take any risks in this matter. If things go wrong, I might end up in prison. My wife suffered greatly during her time in prison. I can't allow history to repeat itself..."

He sighed and said, "Forget it, Don Albert... Let me check the flight tickets and book the earliest one back..."

Chapter 5763

As soon as Elaine heard that Jacob was leaving, she felt a surge of anxiety.

Seeing Jacob end the call, Elaine hurriedly asked, "What's going on? You just got here and now you're leaving? Do you realize that my shoes have touched the ground in Dubai? And now we have to leave..."

Jacob wiped the sweat from his forehead and whispered, "The situation is such that I have to go back. If I don't, I'll lose my position as the vice president..."

Elaine's anger flared as she exclaimed, "After waiting for so long, we finally went on our honeymoon. You can't just abandon it like this! I've already shared it with my friends on social media, and they're all eagerly waiting to see what happens next on our Dubai trip!"

She continued, "And let's not forget the amount of money we spent on the plane tickets and hotel. Plus, the hotel is non-refundable!"

Frustration etched on Jacob's face, he said, "What else can we do? If I don't go back, I'll have to donate the entire 300,000 yuan. According to Don Albert, donating that amount means not only losing the 200,000 profit, but also investing another 98,000..."

Covering his face with one hand, he sighed, "What a predicament..."

At that moment, the plane's door opened, and the passengers around them began to retrieve their luggage and form a line to disembark.

Some even cast amused glances at Jacob, exacerbating his sense of despair.

Quickly checking the return flight ticket on his phone, Jacob discovered that the earliest available flight was six hours later.

Turning to Elaine, he suggested, "Wife, considering the money we spent on the hotel, how about you stay here and enjoy yourself while I go back to handle things..."

Elaine inquired, "How long do you think it will take for you to sort everything out?"

Jacob sighed heavily, expressing, "I won't arrive in Aurous Hill until tomorrow afternoon. Dealing with this matter will likely consume a significant amount of time. By the time it's resolved, it'll be too late for to fly over. I'll be shuttling back and forth endlessly. My old bones can't handle it..."

Elaine countered, "What's the fuss? We're here because we slept through the flight, right? I'm feeling fine, and the amenities are decent. Let's just consider it an extended nap on the plane."

In a defeated tone, Jacob handed his phone displaying the flight details to Elaine, lamenting, "Look at this, tonight's departing flight costs

over 4,000 for economy class, more than 20,000 for business, and a whopping 50,000 for first class. | already wasted one ticket coming here, which set me back nearly 100,000. if | return in first class, that's three first-class tickets, totaling hundreds of thousands! Spending that much just to sleep on a plane feels like a waste. | might as well stay home.”

Discontentedly, Elaine murmured, “We planned a honeymoon trip, and now you're leaving me alone for days?”

Realizing the imbalance, Jacob relented, “Then stay at the hotel and wait for me. I'll rush back as soon as I'm done.”

Relieved, Elaine agreed, “Fair enough. But hurry up, don't wait until it's time to head back.”

Jacob nodded, resigned, “I'll take the economy class tonight. First class will have to wait until my work's done. Spending 100,000 on this round trip is painful. Economy class is less than 10,000, so why not?”

Elaine concurred, “Economy class is more sensible. With the money saved, we could enjoy a lavish stay in a five-star suite for days.”

Adding, “| find economy class quite comfortable. It's just an eight or nine-hour flight. Let's tough it out. Back in college, | traveled from my hometown to Aurous Hill on a green bus. Trains took over ten hours, and if you managed to get a seat, you were lucky. | even endured standing the entire journey once.”

Jacob resigned himself, “Alright, let's go! We'll disembark, head to the hotel, and then I'll sort out the return ticket.”

Exiting the plane, clearing customs, they hailed a taxi to their reserved hotel.

Jacob purchased his return ticket en route, while Elaine reminded him, “Don't forget to inform Charlie of your flight details. Arrange for him to pick you up at the airport.”

“Forget it!” Jacob immediately refused, “This time, I won't tell anyone. I'll go straight to Felix upon arrival and apologize to him. Even if I have to kneel and bow three times, as long as he can let this matter go, I'll find Chairman Price and discuss how to resolve the trouble in the Calligraphy and Painting Association. If I can handle it, I'll come back directly.”

Elaine asked, “But what if you can't resolve it?”

Jacob felt uneasy and sighed, “If those people refuse to let this matter go, I don't think I can remain in the Calligraphy and Painting Association. We'll see then. If it truly doesn't work out, I'll simply quit the association. My only requirement now is to avoid ending up in jail.”

Elaine advised, “When you return, talk to Felix. If it doesn't work out, ask Charlie for help. It's better to lose face than to go to jail.”

“Alright!”

By the time they arrived at the hotel, evening had descended upon Aurous Hill.

Having finished dinner, Charlie and Claire sat in their home when Claire took out her phone and said to Charlie, “According to the flight tracking app, my parents' flight landed almost two hours ago. They should be at the hotel now. I'll video call them to check...”

Before she could open WeChat, a video call from Elaine came through.

Assuming that her parents had safely arrived at the hotel, Claire felt relieved. She thought that as long as they informed her and Charlie of their safety, there was no need to worry.

She planned to have Elaine send a few photos every day and post them on social media, creating the impression that they were still in Dubai. As long as her parents were safe and having a good time, that was enough.

The video call connected, revealing Jacob and Elaine sitting on the hotel's living room couch. The hotel was situated on a high floor,

offering a breathtaking view of Palm Island, a renowned landmark in Dubai.

Elaine raised her phone and smiled at Claire, saying, "Daughter, your dad and I have arrived at the hotel. Don't worry about us."

"Okay, Mom." Claire noticed the improved relationship between her parents and felt reassured. She said, "Enjoy your time there, immerse yourselves in the local culture. If there are any famous local products, remember to bring some back for me and Charlie."

Elaine readily agreed, "Don't worry, I'll definitely bring some back for you."

She added, "Your dad mentioned that international roaming is expensive, and the mobile network here is slow. Only the hotel's WiFi is decent. So, for the next few days, don't video call us. Just send messages if you need anything."

Claire didn't think much of it and nodded, saying, "Okay, you two have fun. Stay safe, and remember to be cautious when you're out. Don't trust strangers."

Elaine quickly replied, "Don't worry, Mom has some experience now and will be extra careful."

After that, she said, "Enough talking, daughter. Your dad and I are going out to eat and explore the Dubai Mall!"

"Okay!" Claire smiled and said, "Have a great time!"

Though Charlie remained silent, he deduced from Elaine's deliberate mention of expensive roaming and slow network speed that Jacob might return soon.

At this point, Charlie hadn't decided how to teach his father-in-law a lesson. The severity of the lesson could be adjusted, and it was up to Charlie to decide.

If he went easy, he would let Jacob off lightly. After donating the 300,000, he would have Felix personally intervene to "clarify" the situation.

He would assert that Zachary's social media post was a misunderstanding and had nothing to do with fraud. This way, Jacob would lose

his money, but at least his personal reputation and position in the Calligraphy and Painting Association wouldn't be affected.

If he took a harsh approach, he would make Jacob pay a higher price. Charlie would only guarantee that he wouldn't be arrested, leaving the rest up to him. By then, Jacob's reputation would be tarnished, and the Calligraphy and Painting Association would undoubtedly be over for him.

As for which option to choose, Charlie needed to assess his father-in-law's true intentions first.

Chapter 5764

At night in Dubai, Jacob dragged his tired body from the hotel in the city to the airport alone.

Since the return ticket he purchased was for economy class, he could only sit on the hard bench next to the boarding gate and wait for it to open.

While waiting, he opened the website of the Aurous Hill Charity Foundation, found their donation account, and planned to transfer 300,000 dollars to the foundation.

The reason he chose the Aurous Hill Charity Foundation was because he saw many antique dealers in his circle of friends discussing Peter's donation of 10 million dollars to the foundation.

Today, Peter has become famous on Antique Street, suddenly becoming the most talked-about person. Some people admire his expertise, some envy his comeback ability, and some are jealous of his 20 million dollars windfall overnight.

Peter was straightforward. As soon as the news of the 20 million dollars spread, he contacted the Aurous Hill Charity Foundation and

donated 10 million dollars in his own name, without hesitation.

Peter's main reason for donating 10 million dollars was to mitigate and slow down people's envy and jealousy towards him.

Sudden wealth often makes many people uncomfortable, but if half of the money earned is donated, many of those uncomfortable people will naturally feel much better.

Initially, Jacob felt extremely depressed about donating the 300,000 dollars, but when he thought about Peter donating 10 million, he felt relieved.

At this time, he hesitated, thinking: "Should I donate this money now, or should I wait until I meet Felix and make sure he forgives me?"

He thought, "If I donate in person later, it might seem insincere. It's better to donate now to show my attitude. Even if Felix insists on calling the police, I will have already donated the money when the police arrive. I might get leniency."

With this thought, he gritted his teeth and transferred 300,000 dollars to the foundation.

After the transfer, he carefully downloaded the transfer voucher to his mobile phone. When he returned, he planned to show it to Peter and beg for forgiveness.

The return flight was torture for someone of Jacob's age who lacks exercise. The economy class seats were far less comfortable than first class. Moreover, the flight was almost full, and Jacob was squeezed between two men. The eight-hour flight was extremely painful, and he couldn't sleep for a moment.

When the plane landed in Aurous Hill, Jacob felt half-dead. As he got off the plane, his legs were shaking.

After finally exiting the airport, Jacob immediately put on a disposable mask to avoid being recognized. He then queued for a taxi.

As soon as he got in the car, he eagerly told the driver, "Hello, please go to Antique Street!"

Seeing his anxious look, the taxi driver smiled and said, "You're so eager to get to Antique Street as soon as you land. Did you come to Aurous Hill specifically to pick up antiques?"

Jacob responded angrily, "I'm a local. There are so many valuable items to pick up, | don't want others to get them first."

The driver laughed, "You, a local, went to Antique Street right after landing instead of going home. You must be looking for valuable items..."

He added, "Even | want to go to Antique Street to find treasures. We work hard driving taxis, earning only ten thousand or eight thousand a month. Others can earn 20 million in one night."

Jacob knew he was talking about Peter, which made him even more uncomfortable. He responded irritably, "I'm going there to run errands, not to find treasures."

Curiously, the driver asked, "If you're not looking for treasures, haven't you heard about what happened yesterday?"

Without waiting for a reply, the driver continued excitedly, "Let me tell you, it's so unbelievable that even a movie wouldn't dare to make it like this. A few idiots bought a fake cultural relic to deceive a boss on Antique Street, but the fake relic turned out to be real..."

Jacob was furious, wanting to shout at the driver, "I am one of those idiots!"

But he restrained himself, saying, "I'm exhausted from the eight-hour flight. | need to rest..."

Surprised, the driver asked, "Did you come back from abroad? Which country?"

Jacob closed his eyes and replied, "Dubai..."

The driver exclaimed, "Wow! | heard Dubai is full of rich people. They say the Burj Al Arab Hotel is seven or eight stars, and the Dubai Mall takes days to visit. Is it really that amazing?"

Annoyed, Jacob thought, "I just landed a few hours ago. How could | have had time to visit Dubai? Now this driver is irritating me even more."

He asked angrily, "Can you stop talking to me?"

The driver retorted, "If you don't want to chat with the driver, why take a taxi?"

Jacob opened his eyes and snapped, "| said I'm tired and want to sleep. Do you have to keep talking?"

The driver muttered, "Fine, if you want to rest, | won't talk..."

Jacob closed his eyes, ignoring him.

Finally arriving at Antique Street, Jacob paid and hurriedly got out of the car, then walked towards the street.

Wearing a mask, he wasn't recognized when he entered Antique Street. He found Peter's store overcrowded with customers seeking antique appraisals. Embarrassed to enter, he waited outside for over an hour until all the customers left. He then mustered the courage to approach the store.

When Peter saw someone pushing the door, he said, "Sorry, we're closed today. Come early tomorrow for appraisals; we only issue 80 numbers a day..."

Jacob entered, removed his mask, and nervously said, "Hello, Boss Cole... It's me, Jacob..."

Peter looked up, momentarily stunned, then asked, "Mr. Wilson, why are you here? To take things back?"

"No, no..." Jacob quickly waved his hands. "I came back from Dubai to apologize..."

"Apologize?" Peter smiled and asked directly, "You're here because of Zachary's post, right?"

Too embarrassed to deny, Jacob nodded, "Yes..."

Peter calmly said, "I benefited from this, so there's no need to apologize..."

Jacob, thinking he was being polite, quickly showed his phone's transfer record and respectfully said, "Boss Cole, | know | did something wrong. To show my remorse, | donated all 300,000 dollars to the Aurous Hill Charity Foundation. | hope you'll consider my gesture and not involve the police..."

As he spoke, he nervously bowed deeply to Peter.

Peter looked at the transfer record, handed back the phone, and smiled, "Mr. Wilson, I'm not angry, not at all. To be honest, | never intended to call the police."

Stunned, Jacob asked, "You really don't plan to call the police?"

Peter nodded, "I never planned to. If | wanted to, | would have done so already."

He continued, "Everyone on Antique Street knows | made 20 million by picking up a treasure. They all know the details from Zachary's post. If I called the police, they'd think I'm petty... I've been in the antique business for years. We don't trouble the police for such matters. ~~

Even if | lost 300,000, | wouldn't call the police."

Jacob breathed a sigh of relief. What he feared most was being imprisoned if things went wrong. Now, with Peter's sincere response, he felt reassured.

However, just as he was feeling relieved, a sudden realization hit him. "Since Felix never intended to call the police, doesn't that mean my donation of three hundred thousand was for nothing?"

Thinking this, he almost collapsed and berated himself: “Why was | so eager to donate the money? | should have waited to see Felix's reaction before deciding! Now, with the donation made ten hours ago, | don't know if | can get it back!”

Immediately, an anxious Jacob took his phone back from Peter, hurriedly found the 24-hour donation hotline of the Aurous Hill Charity Foundation, and called directly.

As soon as the call connected, the operator on the other end said politely, “Hello, this is the Aurous Hill Charity Foundation. How may i assist you?”

Jacob didn't wait for the operator to finish and impatiently asked, “| made a mistake today and accidentally donated 300,000 dollars to your foundation. Can you return the money to me?”

Chapter 5765

‘As soon as Jacob spoke, Peter couldn't help but burst into laughter. The idea of someone regretting a charitable donation and wanting it back was utterly absurd. Today had truly opened his eyes.

However, the operator seemed more experienced in handling such situations. They calmly explained, “Sir, according to the country’s regulations, donations made to charitable, disaster relief, and poverty alleviation organizations cannot be revoked at will...”

Jacob quickly interjected, “I made a mistake. | actually intended to donate 30,000 dollars, but | accidentally pressed an extra zero and donated 300,000 dollars. Can you please talk to your supervisor and refund me 270,000 dollars?”

The operator apologized, “I'm sorry, sir, but we have strict financial regulations here. We do not have the authority to freely use the funds in the charity account. Every expenditure requires a clear approval process. If you believe there has been a major misunderstanding in your donation, you can hire a lawyer and submit an application to the court. If the court supports your claim, your donation can be revoked. Then, based on the court's ruling, we can refund the money to you.”

“This is so troublesome?!” Jacob exclaimed, growing anxious. “Can't you just give me back the excess amount? It was my money in the first place. Isn't it only fair?”

The operator patiently explained, “Charitable donations are serious matters that require strict adherence to regulations. Additionally, there are tax exemption rules for donations, so we must follow the proper procedures. Just imagine, if a company donates 10 million dollars at the end of the year to avoid paying taxes, effectively saving millions of dollars, and then requests the money back, wouldn't we be aiding them in tax evasion?”

Jacob blurted out, “But I'm an individual, not a company!”

The operator continued, “Individuals are also subject to tax-related issues. Personal income is subject to personal income tax. If you donate a portion of your income that is subject to personal income tax and then attempt to retract it, claiming a donation mistake, we cannot bear the legal responsibility involved. So, if you wish to refund the donation, the only way is through the People's Court or an authoritative arbitration institution to revoke it.”

Jacob suddenly felt hopeless and frustrated. He said, “I have to go to court to get my money back. It will take forever. This money is a matter of life and death. My wife is sick and needs this money for surgery. Can't you make an exception for me?”

The operator replied, “I'm sorry, sir, but this is a matter of principle. We truly cannot resolve it. Besides, I'm just an operator and do not possess that level of authority.”

Jacob still didn't give up and said, “Can I speak to your supervisor?”

The operator responded, “It's already after working hours now. If you want to speak to the supervisor, you can come to the foundation during working hours on a workday.”

Then, the operator added, “But to save you from making a wasted trip, I suggest you consult with a lawyer first. A lawyer will provide you with professional advice.”

Jacob felt annoyed. He didn't want to give up the 300,000 dollars. However, he realized that continuing to argue with the operator would be pointless. So, he could only say, “Okay, I'll think about it myself.”

After hanging up the phone in frustration, Jacob noticed that Peter was still sulking. He didn't want to continue entangling with him, so he smiled and said, "Mr. Wilson, I'm closing up now. If you don't have any other matters, please excuse me."

Jacob snapped out of it and looked at Peter, awkwardly rubbing his hands together. He said, "Mr. Cole, actually, I have another favor to ask. It's a small matter for you, but it's a matter of life and death for me. I hope you won't refuse..."

Peter smiled and said, "I can't promise anything in advance, but you can tell me, and I'll listen..."

Jacob quickly approached him and said flatteringly, "Mr. Cole, I'm sure you've seen the post that Zachary made. Honestly, that post has had a very negative impact on me. It has even affected the foundation of my Calligraphy and Painting Association. You've made a lot of money this time, even if you donate 10 million dollars, you still have 10 million dollars left, and the net profit is 9.7 million dollars. So I'm asking for your help to post on social media and deny the rumors. Just say that everything Zachary posted is false."

Peter thought to himself, "Being accused of fraud would definitely have a significant negative impact on Jacob. If I don't completely help him clear his name, he will indeed have a hard time in the Calligraphy and Painting Association, and he is also Charlie's father-in-law. I should give him some leeway..."

But then he realized another problem, "Zachary exposing this matter definitely means it's what Charlie wants. This shows that Charlie intends to teach his father-in-law a lesson. If I let Jacob off the hook without Charlie's consent, it might go against Charlie's intentions..."

After realizing this, Peter politely said, "I'm sorry, Jacob, but I might not be able to help you with this. After all, I don't know the whole situation, and I can't verify who is telling the truth between you and Zachary."

Jacob quickly said, “Zachary is a liar. He scams people all the time on Antique Street. He never speaks the truth. Please don't believe him!”

Peter nodded and said, “It’s true that Zachary has a bad reputation for deceiving people. But i can't get involved in this matter. | suggest you confront him face-to-face. As long as you can win the confrontation, you will naturally be innocent, and your reputation won't be affected.”

Jacob awkwardly said, °... I've already fallen out with Zachary. | don't want to confront him face-to-face.”

Then, he looked at Peter and pleaded, “Mr. Cole, please consider my situation. Compared to Zachary, I'm definitely more trustworthy. Zachary is always scamming people, but would he donate to a charity organization? No! But |would!” .

‘AS soon as these words came out, Jacob realized that his previous phone call to return the money contradicted what he was saying now.

He quickly tried to save the situation and said, “Of course, | was willing to donate 30,000 dollars. That's not a small amount!”

Peter smiled and said, “It's already commendable that you donated 30,000 dollars. After all, love and care cannot be solely measured by the amount of donation.”

After saying that, he added, “But what you just mentioned, | really can't help with. I'm new here, and the last thing | want is to get involved in trouble or stir up conflicts. So, please find another way, Mr. Wilson.”

Jacob didn't want to give up and quickly said, “Mr. Cole, if you don't want to post on social media, | can bring our president to talk to you face-to-face. Just explain the situation to our president, and there won't be any talk of fraud or not. As long as our president has your statement, it will be convincing to everyone in the Calligraphy and Painting Association.”

Peter shook his head and said, “I'm sorry, but | really can't do that. Jacob, please find another solution.” |

Saying that, he didn't want to continue wasting time with Jacob, so he opened the shop door and said to him, “If you're not leaving, I'll leave first. Can you please lock the door from the outside when you leave?”

Jacob knew that Peter was politely dismissing him, so he could only walk out while muttering, “Alright, Mr. Cole, please think about it. I'll come back tomorrow. If that doesn't work, I can offer you some money. When I get the 300,000 dollars back, I can give you 100,000 dollars. Don't think it's too little. You'll earn an additional 100,000 dollars for yourself. Who wouldn't get along with money, right?”

Peter smiled without saying anything, implying, “Jacob, get your 300,000 dollars back first.”

Jacob nodded and said, "Okay! I'll take care of it first thing tomorrow. Oh no, I'll find a lawyer right now!"

Peter smiled and said, “Then I won't see you off.”

Jacob waved his hand and said, “Please stay, I'll leave now.”

After speaking, he turned around and left Antique Street, intending to find a law firm for consultation.

Peter saw him leaving and went back into the shop. In fact, he didn't intend to leave, he just didn't want to continue dealing with Jacob, so he said he was leaving earlier. However, to avoid trouble, he hung a sign outside the door indicating that the shop was closed and locked the door from the inside.

At this moment, a man suddenly approached the shop. Through the glass door, he asked, “Boss, can I still have a look at something?”

Without looking back, Peter was about to refuse, but suddenly realized that the person speaking was Charlie. So, he quickly turned around to look and indeed saw Charlie standing outside the shop.

A smile appeared on his face, and he quickly walked a few steps to open the door and smiled, “Mr. Wade, it's been a long time since we've seen each other...”

Charlie knew that Peter recognized him based on his current identity. Ever since he was expelled from Vintage Deluxe, he had no contact with Peter. He smiled and said, "Uncle Cole, it's been a while. You're running your own shop now."

Peter humbly said, "It's a small business, nothing worth mentioning. What brings you here, Mr. Wade?"

Charlie casually took out an amulet made of chalcedony and said, "I came across something by chance and wanted to ask you to take a look."

Peter nodded and made a welcoming gesture, saying, "Mr. Wade, please come in." Charlie stepped into the shop, and Peter closed the door again. He then smiled and said, "Charlie, it seems your father-in-law doesn't know about your visit..."

Charlie laughed and said, "He doesn't know. | was waiting in the teahouse across the street until he left."

After that, he asked Peter, "Uncle Cole, what did my father-in-law come to talk to you about?"

Peter smiled and said, "First, he said he donated all his money and begged me not to report him to the police. I told him | had no intention of doing so, and then he quickly called the charity organization to ask for the money back. They told him it needed to go through legal channels, so he's planning to find a lawyer. Before he left, he wanted me to help him refute Zachary's social media post. | didn't agree, but I didn't completely block the possibility either."

Charlie shook his head and smiled, "It seems that people don't change their nature easily. thought he would truly realize his mistake, but it turns out his mind is still focused on money and position..."

After that, Charlie said, "Uncle Cole, you don't have to pay any more attention to him in the future. This matter shouldn't leave him any room. If he can get the donated money back, it's his own ability. As for his reputation, if it's stained, let it be stained."