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The two quickly ran out of the temple.

"Why did dad say that? How did he know we were eavesdropping?" Bai Hua was still in shock.

"I told you, my dad isn't that easy to fool. You shouldn't have underestimated him!" Nan Zhiyuan was scared out of his wits as well.

"Oh, so it's all my fault, huh? You were the one who told me to tell him all that, and now you're blaming me for making him suspicious?" Bai Hua snapped back at him.

"I'm not blaming you! I'm just telling you to be more careful!"

"I have been very careful, but that old geezer just doesn't trust us! He said all that despite knowing that we were eavesdropping, so that means he wanted us to hear it. What do you think he's playing at?"

"Dad's probably warning us to stay out of the affair of the Nan family," Nan Zhiyuan said.

"But we are part of the Nan family! You're his son!"

"There's no point in talking about this now. Have you forgotten what happened back then? Just because he has allowed us to return doesn't mean it's all over! You need to stop being so naïve!"

"So... Are we just going to be outsiders in the Nan family forever?"

"Things won't go back to the way they were, at least for now. You can't rush this, okay? If we anger my dad again, he might just kick us out of this country for good! Heck, we might even get killed overseas!"

"All right, I've heard enough! Look, I won't let Chen marry that woman! I've always hated her ever since I saw her!"

At the hospital.

Ouyang Qi returned to Ning Ran's ward with a bouquet of flowers and saw her playing with her two kids.

The two of them looked almost the same, with one of them being slightly chubbier than the other.

Ouyang Qi was shocked when he saw how beautiful they were.

"These are your children? Oh my god!" he shouted.

Dabao and Erbao quickly put up defensive postures and stared at him in response.

That's the man who gave Mommy flowers before! He caused a lot of tension between Mommy and Daddy!

The two of them exchanged glances and knew what they had to do.

"Who are you?" Erbao was the first to ask.

"My name is Ouyang Qi. What about you two?"

Ouyang Qi bent down to pat Erbao on the head, but she quickly moved out of the way. "Please mind your manners!"

Dabao then stood in front of his sister and glared fiercely at him. "What do you want?"

Ning Ran simply watched quietly from the side. She knew what her kids were capable of, and they were more than capable of dealing with someone like Ouyang Qi.

"Nothing! I just think you guys are very cute and thought I'd like to be close to you. That's all!"

"Well, we don't want to be close to you! We don't even know you!" Erbao said.

"You may not know me now, but you will later on. I'm a good friend of your Mommy, you see," Ouyang Qi said.

"Really? Are you a guy or a girl?" Erbao asked.

Ouyang Qi was shocked by that question. What, am I not masculine enough?

"Of course I'm a guy! Look, I have a beard!" Ouyang Qi said while rubbing his chin.

"Then why is your hair so long?" Erbao asked.

"I... This is a fashion statement!" Ouyang Qi shrugged.

"You think it's very fashionable to keep your hair long and tie it up?" Erbao followed up with another question.

Ouyang Qi was starting to feel awkward at that point. "I think it's pretty cool. Don't you like it?"

"I just think it's a little weird." Erbao said honestly.

"It only shoulder length, so it's actually not that long. If you don't like it, I can just cut it short later."

"Forget it, this is none of my business anyway. Did you come here to see my Mommy today?"

"Yeah, that's right."

Ouyang Qi placed the flowers down on the table and looked at Ning Ran. "So what the rumor about having two kids is actually true?"

"What kind of stupid question is that? Can't you see that we're right here?" Erbao rebutted.

That was a little rude, so Dabao shot her a look and motioned at her to mind her language.

Dabao placed great emphasis on manners and believed that one should always be polite regardless of who they were dealing with.

To him, that was an essential part of being a cultured and sophisticated person.

Ouyang Qi didn't get mad at her either. "You're right, that was a stupid question indeed. Say, you haven't told me your names."

"I'm Ning Sihan, and he's my brother Ning Sirui. He's an unprecedented genius, and I'm an amazing beauty!"

Even Ning Ran was surprised by what she had just heard. *Did they just upgrade their titles? Where did they even learn those words?*

"Hahaha!" Ouyang Qi burst out laughing.

"How dare you laugh at us! That's rude!" Erbao said angrily.

Ouyang Qi stopped laughing immediately. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be rude or anything! I just thought that you were really cute, that's all! You're so cute that I just have to give you a present!"

Ouyang Qi began checking his pockets for something he could give her, but couldn't find anything.

In the end, he reached for the pendant around his neck and looked like he was about to give it to her as a present.

I don't know what material that pendant is made out of, but it must be expensive if Mr. Ouyang is wearing it!

"I don't want it." Erbao quickly rejected him.

"You see, this pendant..."

"Don't bother, she won't accept it. Man, you sure are a strange one. My kids aren't beggars, so why do you keep trying to give them stuff?" Ning Ran spoke up at last.

"Ah... I just thought I'd give them a little present on our first meeting, so..."

"She doesn't need it, now leave." Ning Ran said.

"Why do you always chase me away whenever I come to see you? Do you hate me that much?"

"Don't you have anything else to do? How do you have so much free time every day?" Ning Ran frowned.

"I don't. I'm from a rich family, remember? My dad is so rich that I don't have to work at all!" Ouyang Qi declared proudly.

"Whatever, just go now! You're a bad influence for my kids!" Ning Ran scolded him.

"So you're not happy about me giving an honest answer to a question you asked?" Ouyang Qi shrugged.

"He just got here, so how about we let him stay for a while?" Erbao suggested.

"I agree," Dabao said.

Ouyang Qi was very happy to hear that the kids were willing to let him stay. "See? Even the kids like me!"

"No, we don't like you. We just find you fun to play with because you're so childish," Erbao said.

That response left Ouyang Qi completely speechless.

I see. These aren't ordinary kids. They're smart little devils!

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Ning Ran felt tempted to laugh, but didn't dare to for fear that it would encourage Erbao to tease and insult people.

As for Ouyang Qi, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry in response to that.

The door to the ward was suddenly opened, and Nan Chen came walking in.

"Daddy!" Erbao shouted happily.

Dabao shot her a stare, and she went quiet immediately.

"Hello, Daddy." Dabao's tone was a lot calmer.

However, Nan Chen ignored them as he was staring daggers at Ouyang Qi.

He then motioned at Jiang Zhe who came with him and said, "Take the children outside."

Ouyang Qi panicked the moment he saw that. "What, are you going to start another fight? What the hell is wrong with you?"

Nan Chen didn't quite understand what he meant. Another fight? Why would he say that when I've never even fought him before?

Nan Chen began walking towards Ouyang Qi after Jiang Zhe brought the kids outside.

"Can we not fight again? Look, my face is still swollen after you hit me earlier! I'm a civilized person, okay? I don't like getting into fights!" Ouyang Qi said while pointing at his face.

That was when Nan Chen understood what had happened. Nan Xing must've hit him, and he thought it was me! That guy is always reckless in whatever he does, but he did a great job this time!

"Get out," Nan Chen said.

"What?"

"Leave now," Nan Chen repeated himself.

"Why should I? I came here to visit Ning Ran! You don't own this hospital! Who are you to ask me to leave?" Ouyang Qi challenged him.

"Our family owns this hospital," Nan Chen said coldly.

"Huh?" Ouyang Qi was stunned.

Oh wait, he's right. This hospital has a joint venture business model, so it's normal for the Nan family to hold a part of its shares.

"Even so, you can't just tell me to leave!"

"I can and that's exactly what I'm doing," Nan Chen said arrogantly.

"What if I refuse?"

"I'll kick you out then," Nan Chen replied.

Ouyang Qi was dumbfounded by how unreasonable he was.

"On what grounds?"

"Because I feel like it."

"Oh, my god! You're unbelievable! Fine, I don't want to get into another fight with you. Those kids called you Daddy. Are they your children?"

"That's none of your business," Nan Chen replied coldly.

"But I heard you aren't married, so why do you have kids? You even have two!"

"I just told you that that's none of your business," Nan Chen repeated.

"You made my diva give birth to two kids, and you won't even marry her?"

He then turned towards Ning Ran and asked, "Mimi, why are you still with this man?"

Ning Ran kept quiet.

With Nan Chen here, it's best to not say a word. You can't say anything wrong if you keep quiet.

Nan Chen was satisfied with Ning Ran's decision to remain silent as that meant she wasn't on Ouyang Qi's side.

"That's our business, not yours. Are you going to leave or not?"

"What are you gonna do about it, huh?"

"I have told you earlier. I'll have someone kick you out."

Nan Chen whipped out his phone and it seemed like he was calling security.

"Fine, I'll go! You win, okay?"

Ouyang Qi was still traumatized after being beaten up the day before and decided it was better to retreat.

Nan Chen snorted as he opened the door and motioned at Ouyang Qi to leave.

He then slammed the door shut the moment Ouyang Qi stepped outside.

"Why is he always here?" He asked coldly while walking towards Ning Ran.

"How would I know? It's not like I can stop him from coming on his own," Ning Ran replied sulkily.

"You weren't the one who asked him to come?"

"Of course not! Why would I? I don't even know him well!"

"Are you sure?"

"Yes! Why are you being so suspicious?"

"Why did you let the kids play with him?"

"The kids came before him, and they were just having a little chat. That shouldn't count as playing."

"When will you be discharged?"

"Tomorrow, according to the doctors."

"Don't let him come over again."

"I told you. I didn't ask him to do that. Him coming over has nothing to do with me! If you don't want him to come, then go tie him up!" Ning Ran said.

Nan Chen kept quiet.

"I'm going to see my Grandpa in Yunfeng Hill later. It's bad for the kids to stay in the hospital all day, so I'll be taking them along with me," He said after a brief moment of silence. "What's the Old Master doing in Yunfeng Hill? Is he there to pray?"

"Yeah. I'll just go and pay him a visit with the kids. I'm usually busy with work, so this might be a good chance to spend some time with them." Nan Chen said.

Ning Ran wasn't used to how serious he was talking to her now but she had no reason to object either.

He's right. It isn't healthy for the kids to stay in the hospital all day.

"All right, go ahead. Make sure to stay safe," Ning Ran said.

"Someone will bring your food over in a bit. You mustn't eat anything that isn't from me, especially if it's from Ouyang Qi."

Nan Chen then picked up the flowers on the table and threw them into the trash can.

Ning Ran didn't mind it as she didn't like Ouyang Qi's flowers anyway.

"If you like flowers, I can have someone send you a bouquet every day," said Nan Chen.

"No, thank you. You're better off just wiring that money to me instead."

Nan Chen frowned. Why is she always talking about money? Is that all she thinks about?

"Hey, don't give me that look now! I was just kidding! Oh, by the way... Are you going to bring your little girlfriend with you to Yunfeng Hill?"

"What girlfriend?"

"Don't play dumb with me! I'm warning you, you'd better not let my kids hang out with other women!" Ning Ran said.

"I'm playing dumb?"

"Yeah!"

"Well, I'll be bringing a lot of women with me, so I don't know which one you're referring to." Nan Chen shot back at her.

"Heh." Ning Ran sneered in response.

"What are you laughing at?"

"Nothing. I just felt like laughing, that's all."

Nan Chen frowned again, and Ning Ran saw that and decided to not tease him any further.

"Run along, then. Make sure you keep my kids safe!" she said while waving at him.

"Of course I will. They're my kids too, remember? Also, my family owns this hospital. If I see Ouyang Qi here in this ward again, I'll have my men break his legs!" Nan Chen said menacingly.

"Do as you wish!" Ning Ran snapped back at him.

Nan Chen walked out of the ward without saying another word.

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Nan Chen decided to take the kids out for lunch before heading over to Yunfeng Hill as it was hard to find a restaurant up in the mountains.

Being in a hurry, he wasn't too picky and chose a restaurant at random.

For some reason, both the kids were rather quiet that day.

Nan Chen wasn't a talkative person himself, so the atmosphere got really awkward with all three of them completely silent.

At some point, even Nan Chen couldn't stand it anymore and decided to break the ice.

"What's gotten into the two of you today?"

Erbao had actually wanted to say something, but restrained herself as Dabao wouldn't let her speak.

She was really tempted to talk when Nan Chen initiated the conversation, but she didn't dare to do so without Dabao's permission.

Nan Chen noticed that and looked at Dabao. "What's wrong with you? Why won't you let your sister talk?"

"I didn't. We just have something on our minds." Dabao said sternly.

"What could you kids possibly have on your minds?"

The two kept quiet, much to Nan Chen's chagrin.

What the hell are they playing at?

"Does it have something to do with your Mommy?" Nan Chen asked.

They both nodded at the same time.

"You don't have to worry about her. She's fine and can be discharged tomorrow," Nan Chen reassured them.

"We're not worried about her condition. It's something else," Dabao said.

"Hmm? What is it then?"

"Relationship problems," Erbao replied.

That caught Nan Chen completely off guard.

What's going on here? Why are they worried about Ning Ran's relationship?

"What about it? Why are you kids sticking your noses into adult matters?" Nan Chen asked.

"It's that young lad." Erbao said.

"Which young lad?" Nan Chen was confused.

"That young lad who keeps giving Mommy flowers."

"You mean Ouyang Qi? He's about the same age as I am! Did he tell you to call him that?" Nan Chen was getting anxious.

"No, we gave him that nickname ourselves. He seems young because he knows how to be romantic." Erbao said.

"What do you mean he knows how to be romantic?"

"He's giving Mommy flowers every day, which is something romantic that young people do."

Everything Erbao said was part of Dabao's plans.

He was observing Nan Chen's expression the whole time and noticed that Nan Chen was clearly bothered by it.

That means the strategy is working, and we can keep it going.

"So giving flowers makes him romantic, and that makes him young? Is that what your Mommy thinks?" Nan Chen said angrily.

Erbao shook her head. "No, that's what we think."

"We? Dabao, you think so too?"

Nan Chen looked at Dabao, hoping that he would support him.

However, Dabao simply nodded his head in response, much to Nan Chen's disappointment.

Is that all it took for Ouyang Qi to bribe these kids? By giving Ning Ran flowers?

"So this is what you think too. Dabao, I've always thought you are a sensible child." Nan Chen said disappointingly.

"I do, Daddy." Dabao stood his ground.

"Then why would you think so? It's just flowers! I can send her flowers every day too! Truckloads of them!" Nan Chen exclaimed.

"It's not about the flowers, but the intentions behind the act of giving the flowers," Dabao said seriously.

"Did your Mommy tell you that?"

"Daddy, we've told you. This is entirely our opinion and it has nothing to do with Mommy. Don't you go scolding Mommy for this!" Dabao repeated.

Nan Chen had lost all appetite at that point.

"What's so great about Ouyang Qi anyway? He's nothing but a dandy!"

"What's a dandy?" Erbao asked curiously.

Nan Chen wasn't in the mood to explain, so Dabao did it for him.

"It means a person who is rich but ignorant."

"What does ignorant mean?" Erbao asked again.

"It means they don't know anything."

"Like me?" Erbao pointed at herself.

"No, there's no way Ouyang Qi can compare to you," Nan Chen replied coldly.

Looks like Daddy's really mad about this. Dabao thought to himself.

"Ah, really? He's so useless, then!" Erbao laughed, but quickly put her straight face back on when she realized it wasn't the time to celebrate just yet.

Nan Chen reached for his phone and seemed like he was about to make a call.

"Daddy, you're not going to have Uncle Qiao keep Ouyang Qi away from Mommy, are you?" Dabao asked.

"How did you know?" Nan Chen paused.

"That's what you always do, Daddy." Dabao replied.

"You're right, and that is exactly what I'm going to do." Nan Chen didn't bother to hide it anymore.

"But that's not a good idea."

"How so?"

"I know you don't like Mommy, but that doesn't mean you should stop others from liking Mommy. That's just plain selfish! You're adults, and adults should be reasonable," Dabao explained calmly.

Nan Chen was shocked by what he had just heard and slowly put his phone away.

The kids would think I'm a bully if I make that call... I can't do that now, can I?

"What should I do, then? Just sit by and let Ouyang Qi do as he pleases?" Nan Chen protested.

"He's just trying to woo Mommy. Isn't that a good thing?" Dabao asked.

Nan Chen got angry when he heard that.

"How can you say call that a good thing? I thought you were a lot more mature than this!"

"Not supporting your opinion makes me immature?" Dabao shot back at him.

Nan Chen found himself at a loss for words.

Kids these days are so difficult!

"I think Dabao is right," Erbao supported him.

"What do you know?"

"You're not being yourself, Daddy! You were never like this before! Hmph!"

Erbao looked away angrily.

Nan Chen felt somewhat awkward as he realized he was in the wrong.

"You're right. Daddy went a little overboard there. Please don't take it to heart, okay?"

"Hmph!" Erbao turned her face to the other side.

"Come on. Don't be angry. Hurry up and finish your food. We'll go see your Great-Grandpa soon." Nan Chen said softly.

"I have a suggestion about how to deal with mummy." Erbao turned to look at him.

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Oh boy, I'm probably going to hate what she has to say. it is clear that these kids are clearly not on my side today.

"Whatever your suggestion is, I don't want to hear it. You kids shouldn't pry into adult matters," Nan Chen said.

The fact that the great Nan Chen was afraid of hearing his daughter's opinion was so shocking that both Erbao and Dabao were completely caught off guard.

Daddy won't let us speak? What on earth is going on? This wasn't supposed to happen!

"Kids have freedom of speech too, Daddy," Dabao protested.

"Kids have no civil capacity. As her guardian, I have the right to stop her from talking."

Dabao had nothing else to say in his defense.

Despite being a genius with computers and knowing a bit of everything, he was still too young to understand the complex laws of the country.

"Daddy, you're a bully for not letting me speak!" Erbao began to tear up, which impressed Dabao greatly.

Oh yeah, turning on the waterworks is a very effective strategy! Why bother trying to argue about civil rights when we can just throw a tantrum?

"Daddy's such a bully! Boohoo..."

Erbao's ability to summon her tears at will was what made her a true drama queen.

What the hell? Nan Chen panicked when he saw her crying.

"No, I didn't! Daddy loves you!" He quickly tried to console her.

"Yes, you did! You don't love me anymore! I want my Mommy. Boohoo..."

Nan Chen grew increasingly anxious and looked at Dabao helplessly.

Although he had gotten used to their antics, he was still inexperienced in handling tantrums.

On top of that, those weren't ordinary kids he was dealing with.

"Daddy, you should let Erbao finish what she has to say. Otherwise, I'd think you're bullying her too." Dabao said with an expressionless look on his face, his icy cold attitude on par with Nan Chen's.

Erbao took a peek at Nan Chen and continued crying. "Daddy won't let me speak! He's such a bully! Boohoo..."

"Okay, okay! What's your suggestion?" Nan Chen gave in, and Erbao stopped crying immediately.

She was about to say something, but realized she had forgotten her lines.

Erbao had memorized the script that Dabao wrote her, but the unexpected response from Nan Chen earlier threw her off.

"Well? Go on, then! You wanted freedom of speech, didn't you? I'm giving you freedom you wanted, so speak up!" Nan Chen said.

"Let me think about it..." Erbao scratched her head and went into deep thought.

Nan Chen was speechless. Just how long is her suggestion?

"Oh, right! Since you and Mommy don't like each other, and that young lad likes Mommy. Why not just let him look after Mommy instead? He can take care of me and Dabao too!" Erbao finally remembered what she wanted to say.

"What?" Nan Chen's expression grew cold.

"You heard me, Daddy," Erbao said sternly.

Nan Chen kept quiet.

His face went pale, and there was a hint of desolation in his eyes.

I didn't expect Erbao to suggest letting another man look after them. I've tackled all sorts of difficult problems while running the company and shrugged off my defeats with ease, but now... I feel so hurt. I think I finally understand what the word "heartache" truly means.

Erbao was frightened when she saw Nan Chen in that state and turned towards Dabao for help, only to find him in shock as well.

That was a really tough pill to swallow, and most people probably wouldn't be able to. But our Daddy is the great Sir Chen! He's like a god among men! He should be able to swallow this pill like it's nothing! Wait, something doesn't seem right here...

"Daddy, Erbao was just kidding! Don't take it to heart, okay? She's always running her mouth without thinking it through." Dabao said.

Erbao was stunned and stared at him in disbelief.

Did Dabao just betray me? He's the one who came up with those lines, and now he's blaming it all on me? You are really the brother of the year, Dabao!

Noticing the look on her face, Dabao quickly winked at her and pointed at Nan Chen with his mouth.

Erbao didn't really understand what he meant by that, but she knew it was her cue to stay quiet.

There was still no response from Nan Chen, who was completely overwhelmed by a sense of defeat that he had never felt in his life.

"Daddy, you won't take a child's word to heart, right? That's not very mature, you know?" Dabao continued.

Nan Chen finally regained his composure and said, "Of course not. I was just thinking about something else."

"I'm not good with my words, Daddy. Please forgive me if I said anything wrong."

I know Dabao is trying to be the good guy, but I don't wanna be the bad guy! What if Daddy hates me and won't buy me snacks anymore?

Erbao's words fully snapped Nan Chen out of it.

That's right, they're kids! Kids don't really think before they speak, so I shouldn't take their words too seriously! Besides, she's my daughter!

"It's fine. I know you were just kidding. But Ouyang Qi isn't a good person, so you two should stay away from him, okay?"

As much as Nan Chen tried to play it off by saying that, it was obvious that he had been hurt by what Erbao said.

Their message had gotten through to him, and he had to come up with a plan to stop Ouyang Qi before the kids were affected any further.

"I'm full!" Erbao said while putting her chopsticks down.

"Me too." Dabao nodded.

Nan Chen was so full of rage earlier that he didn't even eat much of his food.

"All right. Let's go see your Great-Grandpa now." Nan Chen stood up.

"Let's go! Great-Grandpa, here we come!" Erbao cheered.

The driver had the car ready by the time they came out of the restaurant. Dabao and Erbao sat in their respective car seats on both sides while Nan Chen was sandwiched in between them.

The car made its way out of the city and onto the highway.

After having a heavy lunch, Erbao was soon fast asleep.

Dabao and Nan Chen were looking out the window.

"You taught Erbao what she said earlier, didn't you?" Nan Chen asked calmly.

Dabao wasn't surprised as he knew it was only a matter of time before Nan Chen noticed that.

There simply was no way to keep any secrets from someone that smart.

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Dabao nodded. "Yes, I did."

Nan Chen let out a sigh of relief upon hearing that. I knew Erbao couldn't possibly come up with such a heart-wrenching idea!

"Why would you do that?" Nan Chen asked.

"Because things aren't working out between you and Mommy." Dabao replied.

"What do you mean?"

"Mommy had it rough trying to raise us all by herself, so we want her to have someone who she can share that burden with." Dabao said.

"And?"

"We were really happy when you showed up, Daddy. We thought you were that person Mommy needed, but it turns out that you're not."

Nan Chen felt a sting in his heart, but it wasn't as bad as the one from earlier.

"And why is that?"

"Because you don't like Mommy. You two are always fighting, and you've hurt Mommy so many times. You even went on dates with other women!"

"I did not!" Nan Chen said anxiously.

"You did, Daddy. We have photos to prove it."

Dabao said and whipped out the "intimate" picture of Nan Chen and Ouyang Qing.

"It's not what you think. This is just a misunderstanding," Nan Chen said.

"But everyone else doesn't see it that way, and neither does Mommy. Since you don't like Mommy, then you shouldn't continue to hurt her like this. Wouldn't it be better to let someone else look after Mommy then? Then, if there's someone you like, you can go out with her like too. That way, everyone goes home happy!" Dabao said.

Nan Chen was taken aback by what he heard.

How long did he take to prepare those lines? Everyone goes home happy? As if!

"I didn't have Erbao say those things to hurt you, Daddy. We were just being honest," Dabao said.

Nan Chen kept quiet.

Damn, it still stings. This won't do. I have to control my emotions and calm myself down...

"It's not what you think. You're both wrong," Nan Chen tried to explain.

"What is it, then?" Dabao asked.

"You kids wouldn't understand." Nan Chen sighed.

They may be geniuses and all, but they're still children. It takes time and experience to understand these sorts of things. How am I supposed to explain my relationship with Ning Ran in a way that they would understand?

"There you go again, Daddy! You shouldn't underestimate us just because we're kids, you know?" Dabao protested.

"Forget it. We're not having this conversation anymore. Ouyang Qi can never be that special someone for your Mommy, and that's final."

Nan Chen closed his eyes and leaned back against his seat after saying that, signaling the end of the topic.

Dabao got the hint from his body language and stopped talking too.

Of course, he wasn't actually going to let someone else look after his Mommy. Everything he said was just to provoke his Daddy into taking action, and it seemed to have worked a little too well.

The car arrived at Yunfeng Hill about half an hour later.

Under normal circumstances, cars were prohibited from entering Yunfeng Hill. However, an exception was made for those from the Nan family, and they drove all the way to the back of the mountain.

Erbao had slept throughout the entire journey, and it took them quite a bit of effort to wake her up.

"Wow! It's so beautiful! I wanna catch a bird!" Erbao shouted excitedly when she saw that they were in the mountains.

"Don't run around! It's dangerous!" Nan Chen ordered.

"Okay," Erbao responded obediently.

They made their way towards Nan Zhengde's room in the temple.

"Great-Grandpa!" Erbao began calling out to him from outside the door.

Nan Zhengde had a sharp sense of hearing and opened the door when he heard her voice. "Erbao!"

Erbao ran over to him and hugged his leg tightly, melting his heart with her cuteness.

"Hi, Great-Grandpa." Dabao bowed respectfully.

"Haha, come on in! It's windy here in the mountains, you wouldn't want to catch a cold now!" Nan Zhengde said affectionately and welcomed them into his room.

"Are you going to become a monk, Great-Grandpa?" Erbao asked.

"Don't say that, Erbao!" Nan Chen scolded her.

Erbao pouted and kept her head low.

Nan Zhengde laughed. "Hahaha! It's fine. She is just naïve! No, I'm not going to become a monk."

Erbao smiled brightly at him and asked, "Then why are you here, Great-Grandpa?"

"You see, I've made a wish in my prayers to Buddha. In return, I promised to devote some time each year to pray at the temple. Now that my wish has been granted, I have to fulfil my end of the promise," Nan Zhengde explained patiently.

Erbao didn't really understand what he said, but she nodded her head anyway.

"This is votive offering." Dabao understood.

"That's right! It's exactly as Dabao says!" Nan Zhengde was overjoyed.

"Are you not going back anymore, Great-Grandpa?" Erbao asked.

"Of course I am, silly! I'll head back after a few days."

"Okay! It's chilly up here, so you must take good care of your health! Remember to eat on time and stay warm, Great-Grandpa! Make sure you take your medicine if you catch a cold, okay?" Erbao reminded him.

"Oh my, you're so thoughtful! All right, I will."

"Let's go out and play so Great-Grandpa can have a chat with Daddy."

Dabao knew Nan Chen didn't just come all the way here to visit Nan Zhengde.

"Okay!" Erbao played along. One of Nan Chen's men led the kids outside, and he was the only one left in the room with Nan Zhengde.

"At the birthday banquet, the General said a high-ranking official would be coming over from the Capital for inspection. He specifically requested for you to escort the official in order to establish some form of contact. That could make things go a lot smoother for us in the future. However, I heard you abandoned your duty at the last minute for a woman. I need you to give me an explanation for that." Nan Zhengde's tone was calm, but there was a powerful energy in the air around him as he spoke.

"I did escort him," Nan Chen replied calmly as well.

"I know, but you did that afterwards. From what I've heard, you were actually planning not to go through with it, but you did it because of that woman. Is this true?"

Nan Zhengde froze. I had expected Nan Chen to come up with some sort of excuse, but he actually admitted to it! This complete honesty from him is what I admire the most about him! He would admit to his mistakes and take full responsibility for them. That's why I could entrust him with everything in the Nan family despite his young age.

"Are you going to sacrifice your career for a woman?" Nan Zhengde's tone grew cold, revealing his true nature.

In fact, he was never the kind and endearing old man that he appeared to be.

He kept that side of him hidden as much as possible, but bits of it would still show from time to time.

The Nan family had trampled over countless bodies to get where they were today, so it only made sense that the Old Master Nan was a force to be reckoned with.

The fiercest competitions took place during his time, after all.