Report

Selected from *Being Officials* 有官在身, PP. 30-32, Jiangsu People’s Publishing LTD, 2011

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82-440: Officialdom Novels in China

总结：
这个故事讲了作为中层干部的“我”想要举报局长公款吃喝，相信同事及好友老郝而采取实名举报，却不想被老郝出卖将举报信直接转给局长，老郝升了官而“我”遭到贬职的事情。这个故事反映了复杂的政治现实，同事之间勾心斗角，出卖同事当作上位的手段。

I wanted to report the director of our bureau to the supervising authority. I didn’t hate the director of the bureau. Why would I like to report him to the supervising authority? Well, I am an upright man. I felt naturally to report him when I saw him act against the law. The director of the bureau used public funds to entertain private guests. Was it legal or illegal? Of course it was illegal. Then could I report him to the supervising authority? Definitely I could. This was not a problem anymore. But what I was thinking about was whether to report him anonymously or using my real name? Small difference, big divergence. As for a real-name report, the supervising authority takes it very seriously and definitely will not let it go. While as for anonymous report, the supervising authority either neglects it or gives it to the reported person and asks him to handle it and report back to them, then the case gets covered up. I was not afraid of the director of the bureau taking revenge on me. In a democratic society, people need to get used to being monitored. Only through monitoring and reporting can government officials lead an honest and clean political life. What’s more, nowadays most of the officials are highly educated. An eye for an eye is done by the uneducated.

I talked about this to Lao Hao. Lao Hao was outraged, “I have never heard this before. One meal costs more than ten thousand!? It is
intolerable. We need to report him and let him give the money back to the people." Hearing these words, I felt I found a decent friend. I said, "Lao Hao, why can't we report him together, to have strength in numbers!" In a daze for a second, Lao Hao said, looking at the ceiling, "Um...um...I actually didn't see the director of the bureau spent more than ten thousand on entertaining." "You didn't even believe me?" I cried. Lao Hao explained, "This is another thing."

At last, we agreed that I write the report letter using my real name and Lao Hao as the attesting witness. In case I might suffer from unfair treatment, he would uphold the justice for me. I thought it sounded not bad so as not to fail the report.

Then I wrote the report letter. Lao Hao sent it for me. I was supposed to go the post office and send the letter by myself. But I was called away unexpectedly. So Lao Hao went there. I trusted Lao Hao since we were friends for many years.

I waited and waited. One week passed, nothing happened. I asked Lao Hao, "Lao Hao, do you know what’s going on?" Lao Hao told, "The supervising authority is very busy these days. There are many cases waiting for them to deal with. You need to wait." What he said was right. But I felt strange and awkward when I met the director of the bureau. I am the kind of person that is upright but immature. It’s hard to say that all upright men are immature. Zhuge Liang, the very resourceful chancellor of the state of Shu during the Three Kingdoms period was upright, but he was very careful in dealing with all kinds of things. I could not ever behave like him.

One day, the director of the bureau asked me to his office. He spoke kindly to me, "Xiao Xu, sit down please." Then he smiled and said, "You have done a good job and are very hard-working. But I think you are not well adapted to the main office, I find a good place for you to work. If you go to the organization at the basic level, you can get promoted by half a level in the administrative rankings. I will promote you half a level again and let you work back at the main office when time is appropriate. You can get trained and promoted. How do you think of it?" I was very happy. I took it for granted even though I reported him to the supervising authority. Report was one thing and the promotion was another thing. The director of the bureau made mistakes when he used the public funds to entertain private guests, but he was fair in personnel matters.

Not long after I went to the organization at the basic-level, Lao Hao took
my previous position. Several days later, the bureau had a big personnel change among middle-level cadres. Lao Hao, who used to work with me stood out and became the director of executive office due to his experience and talent. He was at the deputy-division-head-level now. Compared to him, I suffered a lot by going to the organization at the basic-level. If I came back to the main office, Lao Hao must be my boss.

But after all, I felt happy for his promotion. I invited him to dinner. Lao Hao said, “We are friends. This is my treat.”

A year later, I stayed in the same position and didn’t get any promotion. Lao Hao became the deputy director of the bureau. I set a table in restaurant to congratulate him. After a dozen of cups of wine, he felt happy. A dozen more, he beamed with smiles. He could not hold his tongue, so did I. Then I asked, “Lao Hao, did you send the report letter for me last year?” He answered, “Definitely. How did I not send it for you?” “In which way?” I asked. He replied, “I signed and sent it away.”

I believed him. He would not lie to me.

Lao Hao was dead drunk. I looked at Lao Hao and suddenly realized that if Lao Hao didn’t sign on the report letter but on the envelope and sent it to the director of the bureau, then what would happen? I reported the director of the bureau. Lao Hao reported me for reporting the director of the bureau. Everything made sense to me now. But Lao Hao is really that kind of person?

I walked Lao Hao out. I didn’t get drunk. I drank water after that.