## Life at the Top Chapter 2009

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Under the mutual attack and defense between Jasper and Soros, an unprecedented situation was presented in the domestic A-share market.

With the cliff-like decline of the tertiary industry and the steady growth of the heavy industry, these two opposed trends appeared together in the financial market.

Generally speaking, financial markets had their own set of rules.

Taking the real estate industry as an example, the rise or fall of the real estate industry would immediately affect the market changes of upstream industrial chains such as building materials and construction. One had to understand that it was impossible to build a house without steel bars, cement, and sand.

Meanwhile, the rise and fall of the building materials and construction industries would affect the market of the upstream mining industry.

The expansion or contraction of the overall industry would directly affect the salary and income level of the workers in the industry, thereby influencing the stability of thousands of families and cause resulting changes in the consumer economy and consumer goods...

Therefore, the economic system of any country and society was a cycle, and had natural domino effects. A problem in one of the sectors would inevitably affect the entire system.

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Therefore, in a financial system, it was almost impossible to see several industries soaring while several other industries were plummeting with such a huge disparity for no reason unless it was man-made.

This situation in the domestic A-share market showed that the struggle between Jasper and Soros had reached a white-hot stage.

It did not need any foreshadowing or prelude at all. The moment it started, it would become the most violent battle.

In the Nauritus City command center, Jasper was staying idle.

Since the two sides had completely shed all pretense and started fighting, then they should hit where it hurt and draw blood with every move. The team of traders would be in charge of the specific operations and Baz and Jake would be giving orders in the middle. After Jasper came up with a strategic plan, they needed to control the flow of the entire situation.

Before the general direction changed, all he needed to do was wait for the situation to change or the confrontation between the two sides to begin to tilt.

It was just that Jasper's brain was still running fast. He was constantly analyzing Soros's next actions and what strategy he could use to deal with these possibilities.

At this moment, Jasper received an unexpected call.

It was Dean.

"Mr. Laine, 30 minutes ago, I was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce. From now on, I am the executive vice

president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce and I will be presiding over the work."

Jasper was taken aback for a moment.

Was Gale someone who would delegate power so easily?

This was not in line with Jasper's understanding and judgment of him.

"What happened?"

Jasper, who was keenly aware that something had gone wrong, asked calmly.

"It's grandpa... He was diagnosed with a terminal illness six months ago."

Dean's tone sounded very complicated, it was unknown if he was happy, disappointed, or sad.

Jasper froze when he heard the words.

Gale's scheming and calculating face appeared in his mind, but the first sentence he said was, "How could this be? His body is still strong,"

"He's just bracing himself this whole time, and since there is no need to worry about the cost of his treatment, in the past six months, apart from

himself and the medical team, this news had not gotten out at all. At this moment, Mr. Laine, you are only the second person who knows about this."

Jasper exhaled and said, "He asked you to make this call, right?"

"Yeah, grandpa said you must be able to figure it out. If you do, then I'll hand him the phone," Dean said in a low voice.

"Hand the phone to him then. Let me talk

to him," Jasper said.

There was silence on the other end of the phone. Then, Jasper heard Gale's voice that was full of vigor. "Sly child, there will eventually be something that you can't expect. I only have a few days left now."

Jasper replied calmly, "Old Master Hurlbutt, why did you do that?"

Gale laughed. "Why not? Just think of this as gaining an advantage. If I can still live for two or three more years, then I would have kicked Dean out the door."

"So does it mean that you actually know and even acquiesce the things that I arranged for Dean to do before, including the connection with some people inside the Haddock Chamber of Commerce?"

Jasper voiced the question in his heart.

To be honest, Jasper felt that things had been going too smoothly at that time.

It was going so smoothly that Jasper thought there was an invisible hand that was adding momentum to this while helping Dean seize the throne.

However, Jasper was very busy at that time, and the matter of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was really just a minutia of what he was facing back then, s o Jasper did not put much thought into it and did not delve into the matter.

Now that he thought about it, it had to be because Gale knew he did not have much time left, which was why he was intentionally letting this happen.

"I do not have time to train a successor who can truly satisfy me. Dean is a good kid, and he is good at everything, but he is not ruthless and decisive enough. With such a character, he can lead the Haddock Chamber of

Commerce smoothly with me around, but if I am gone, him alone will be insufficient to suppress those devils in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

Gale spoke without any scruples, and then he even followed with a sentence, Actually, in my mind, the successor I am most satisfied with is you, sly child."

Jasper was elated when he heard that.

"Old Master Hurlbutt, should I thank you for the compliment?"

Gale laughed and said, "I know you are very ambitious, sly child, and with your current strength, you really do not need to care about the small business of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

Jasper chuckled along but after that, he was silent.

Jasper and Gale did not say anything.

After a long time, Jasper sighed softly, "Old Master, do you have anything you want to say?"

"I will hand over the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to Dean. In truth, I know what you want to do, and I also know very well that regardless of if I die or not, you will need to use the rest of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce's resources if you

want to push Dean to the top to do

something."

Gale seemed to have prepared his lines

long ago, as he said slowly but firmly, "If

I had more time, I would not agree. However, one cannot go against God's wish, so Dean will cooperate with you in the things you want to do, but in reality, h e cannot stop you either. After all, this is the price you pay for helping him climb up the ladder.

"After I die, he will completely take charge of the Chamber of Commerce in the shortest ssible time with your help. You can do whatever you want at that time. I have talked to the several core figures in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce and I will help you arrange it properly, but there is one thing I would like to ask you to agree to.

"Regardless of what happens, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce cannot collapse."

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Gale's tone came off a bit bleak, but it also sounded more like a request.

Gale was just an old man who had come to the end of his life, and no matter how powerful he was before, how high his status, or how much wealth he had gathered, at this moment, just like thousands of people before him who had reached this stage, he just wanted to fulfill his last wish.

Jasper paused and replied, "Old Master, in my opinion, when it comes to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce or other chambers of commerce, there is a reason for their existence. I have no intention to regard the Haddock Chamber of Commerce as my enemy or even to compare it with other chambers of commerce.

I have had more contact with the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, so I understand better that this chamber of commerce is essentially focusing on profit and practicality, and this trait is precisely why it is more suitable to be my partner.

"If the interests are there, then the

cooperative relationship will not be

broken. This is an eternal truth.

"So, I promise you I will not take the initiative to let the Haddock Chamber of Commerce perish and such a chamber of commerce that has been passed down for hundreds of years will not perish either."

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After Jasper finished speaking, Gale laughed.

"Good, very good."

Everyone was smart, and since things had reached this point, there was no need for any fancy language traps or modifiers..

Therefore, this exchange was actually the sincerest exchange between the two since Jasper first met Gale.

"I already understand what you are trying to say... Alright, the doctor is here again, I should hang up."

After hearing what Gale said, Jasper suddenly realized that this was probably the last communication between the two, s o Jasper immediately said, "Old Master, what else do you want to tell me?"

Gale paused for a moment before saying slowly, "Sly child, do not embarrass the folks of Somerland."

After speaking, he hung up the phone.

In the end, Gale did not make any more

demands.

This was although they both knew that so long as it was not too much, Jasper would probably agree.

Such as his funeral or Dean's status.

Gale said nothing.

However, his last sentence made Jasper understand why Gale chose Dean in the end and chose to acquiesce in cooperating with Dean to seize the throne.

He did not have time to choose a more suitable successor, which might be one of the reasons.

However, someone like Gale had been in the business world all his life. At this moment, which one of the few big shots i In the domestic business world was not his junior?

Even at an advanced age, he still controlled the Haddock Chamber of

Commerce for decades without wavering.

How could such a person not have several backup plans for an event as major as his heir?

However, he made the final decision.

There was helplessness in this choice, but other than that, he felt much more at ease. Other than that, he also had the pure heart of the older generation.

After putting down the phone, Jasper took a brief moment to recompose himself and then looked up at the market.

At this moment, it was approaching the market closing time.

The battle between Jasper and Soros was still fierce, and it seemed that no one had any plans to give up first.

The trading volume of the entire A-share market had more than doubled in the past half a trading day, which meant that every minute and every second, massive funds were being traded in the market. They were either buying or selling, and the stock price was fluctuating like an

electrocardiogram, whereby anyone with a weak heart would not be able to bear this stimulation.

When the time was up for the morning trading, all data stopped being refreshed and all transactions were locked.

The morning market was closed.

Jasper let out a breath and began to listen t

o Baz's summary report.

"Mr. Laine, the transaction volume of A shares in the morning exceeded 1 trillion Somer Dollars, which is 10 times more than the usual. Among them, we have used more than 200 billion of the funds, while the funds that have been traded so far are 170 billion. According to the team's estimation, the capital used by Soros is about 300 billion after being converted into Somer Dollars. The margin for error o In this will not exceed 1%."

Baz's expression was solemn and serious. Then, he continued, "According to our analysis, after the 1000 shares fell to the limit, funds from all parties fled in panic. Later, with the news that the social security fund entering the market, there

was a large flow of funds returning, but the overall situation showed a trend of high quantity but low quality. The vast majority of well-funded institutions are still on the sidelines and are hesitant, while on the contrary, a higher proportion of retail investors rushed back.

"In terms of profit and loss, since we raised the stock price of the 170 billion funds we have traded so far regardless of the cost, the average loss ratio is very high. The numbers sits at about 11 billion while the loss is about 6%. We can't report on the profit and loss situation on Soros's side

due to insufficient data, but according to the assessment of the situation of the market, they are likely to have made a profit."

Jasper was not surprised by this result.

"We are raising the stock price, while Soros is blindly suppressing it. Although the two sides are moving in different directions and since we're investing in different sectors and industries, you will not form a hedge. We do not hedge against Soros as no one can stop him.

Furthermore, we require costs to raise the stock price, so it is normal for us to lose money and for them to make a profit.

"Soros is still the one with the upper hand."

Jasper sighed and said, "It's not just because of the financial strength of both parties, but the most important thing is that we don't have time.

"Relying on the news of the social security fund entering the market to stimulate private capital to enter the stock market is the best solution for the current situation, but Soros is indeed cunning. He has already anticipated our intentions and has attacked those positions we gave up at any cost. His real purpose is not to the market value of the stock market, but to make private capital hopeless.

"If the social security fund enters the market but the stock market still does not have enough upward momentum, private capital will not dare to come in. If private capital does not come in, even the social security fund can only watch Soros crash the market.

"So we have to strive to expand the results in a short period, and what Soros has to do is to continue to maintain a high-pressure attitude even if the market does not crash. If it does not rise, we would have fallen into a desperate situation of a slow death."

After Jasper said that, he slammed his hand down on the desk heavily. He said sternly, "Do you have any good suggestions for this situation?"

Baz hesitated for a while and said, "Mr. Laine, do you want to talk to the other big enterprises and capitals?"

"I've addressed the ones who I should talk to during the forum very clearly, but it's up to them whether they want to do it and how they approach the matter. After all, we can't put a knife to their neck and force them to save the market."

After Jasper finished saying that, someone arrived.

The little prince, Lord Alvarado, and the gang were here.

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The little prince and Lord Alvarado's arrivals were announced, but they came together with Moses, Simson, and a bunch of other people.

This group of people could be regarded as being around Jasper all the time, and they were the more outstanding heirs in Somerland.

Of course, they were headed by the most powerful duo, the little prince and Lord Alvarado.

After finding a bigger room, Jasper ordered someone to fetch some tea for everyone. Then, he asked, "Everyone, what's the matter?"

The little prince and Lord Alvarado looked at each other, and Lord Alvarado shrugged at the little prince before saying, "You should tell him."

The little prince smiled and said to Jasper, "We already know of what happened today."

Jasper nodded without saying anything.

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He knew that the point was yet to come.

Today, the A-share market started tragically with the limit down of 1000 shares, followed by the announcement of the social security fund's plan to enter the market. If they did not know about such a big move, then they were as good as dead.

The little prince pondered for a moment before saying, "Our group had talked about this, and we also talked to our family. We have some ideas to share with you."

Jasper said with a smile, "We've been working together for quite some time. You can just tell me if it's something serious."

The little prince exhaled and said, "Before that, let me tell you what happened to our company recently.

"You know, a lot of us have family businesses, and during the past two years, foreign trade was easy, so we have more or less cooperated with foreign countries. Among them, we have worked with the United States and Australia the most.

"Some time ago, to be more specific, after the Quantum Fund began to maliciously manipulate domestic food prices, we all received threats from the partners in the United States to terminate our cooperation.

"It's actually very simple. They forced us to choose between two options, either ending our cooperation with them or ending all cooperation JW."

After hearing what the little prince said, Jasper was silent. His eyes turned to everyone present. No one was saying anything and their expressions were serious.

"JW's industry has little contact with the United States, but before this, they suppressed Google, which I acquired. Then, they suspended Sena on Nasdaq for no reason, so I've been through all the difficulties you mentioned."

Jasper sighed and said.

This entire time, since the beginning of the plan, the family power the little prince and the rest represented had been Jasper's most important partner, not only because these families had a longer-term strategic vision, but also because they had stronger financial ability than ordinary entrepreneur.

Either way, it was what Jasper needed.

And they also hoped to make a fortune through Jasper.

Therefore, interests were the core basis of mutual cooperation.

But as things got bigger, what Jasper had been worried about finally happened.

Cooperation could be close because of interest, but it could also be dispersed instantly because of interest.

Right now, the United States had begun to use such means to disintegrate the power around them. If the little prince and the others could not bear the pressure, they would most likely give up their cooperation due to the possibility of heavy losses in the family's foreign trade business.

Jasper and Soros were still not on the their

same level if one were to compare current strength on paper.

Even with the backing of Swallow Capital, it was still the same.

Behind this was a game between Swallow Capital and Washington at the highest level. The comprehensive strength of the two countries was clear, and the difference which was an undisputable truth.

External factors aside, take the market rescue as an example. The United States government and the Federal Reserve could directly intervene in the financial market, but Swallow Capital could only use the social security fund and the plan for the listing of state-owned enterprises at the last moment. Plus, they still had to do it through Jasper on the pretext of promoting the profitability of social security funds and the market-oriented operation of state-owned enterprises.

The one that was more confident between the two was evident.

One would not be patriotic or make their country stronger by just saying it or shouting slogans with enthusiasm. They still needed to take action to prove it.

Thus, the disparity in strength was a reality, and the drawbacks of these families had also appeared, which was that everything focused on the family's own interests while everything else had to be put aside.

However, Jasper did not want to give up on them before they laid their cards on the table.

"When one falls in disgrace, everyone will be doomed. You don't need me to say more about this and I have no intention on emphasizing the concept of going homeless if you lose your country. I will just say that if they can use this reason to coerce you to withdraw your investment and give up your cooperation with JW today, then tomorrow, will they still be able to this reason to force you to suffer a greater setback?"

Upon hearing Jasper's words, the little prince was stunned for a moment.

"What?

"Do you think that we want to terminate our cooperation with JW?"

The little prince raised his voice.

"Do you not?" Jasper asked in astonishment.

"Damn, do you think we're crazy? We're about to f\*cking win and we're terminating our cooperation with you? How is this different from opening the door to the Greeks?" The little prince, a very pretentious man, started shooting curses.

The corner of Jasper's mouth twitched. Although he did not know how they concluded that they were about to win, he found the metaphor of the little prince opening the door to the Greeks perfect.

"Haha, there are things in the world that you can't guess, Jasper." Lord Alvarado slapped his thigh with joy beside him.

The other people also smiled because of this misunderstanding, and the atmosphere suddenly relaxed a lot.

After laughing, the little prince said seriously, "Jasper, we're not as small minded as you think. We are here today to tell you that not only have we decided to take the initiative to end all cooperation with the United States, but we have also decided that we will support you in destroying that son of a b\*tch Soros even i f we have to sacrifice everything."

"Once you do this, you will have no way out, and in my assessment, even if you win, it will be a tragic victory. The price will be very high," Jasper said seriously.

After listening to what Jasper said, strange and thieving smiles could be seen on the little prince and the gang's faces.

"The price will be very high, you say? As long as the family is not destroyed, we can't wait to pay this higher price!"

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Jasper was stunned by what the little prince said.

The little prince seemed to be very proud of f the fact that he was able to puzzle Jasper. He chuckled and said, "Jasper, I admit that you are very smart; it is not too much. to say that you're devilishly smart, but you are not from a big family, so you won't understand what is the most important thing to the children from big

families.

"For us, the rise and fall of a big family should be measured by looking at a timeline of at least 30 years. Usually, in 5 years, 10 years, or even 20 years,

we will prosper or decline temporarily, but this doesn't matter. As long as there is no danger of the family being wiped out within this short period, then it is not a danger.

"The Royals and the Alvarados have just passed the first 30-year mark of being a big family. In these 30 years, when you look back, how many major events have happened? Even in the most arduous circumstance, the people of our family were so poor that we can only afford to put food on the table, but everyone survived that period and reached this point. From the perspective of a 30 year timeline, we are on an upward trend with huge potential for growth.

"In this regard, you can look at the Davidsons and Millers. They are one of the few families that existed before the founding of the country. Historically speaking, they were founded earlier than the Royals and the Alvarados. This is especially true for the Millers, which has a history of at least 150 years."

Moses smiled and nodded. Then, he said, "Yes, the roots of our family is actually older than that of the country. Dynasties will rise and fall, the same goes for families. In our country, the family with the longest history and the most popularity should be the Kohlers in the Central Plains. They... They were powerful in the feudal era, but they backed the wrong horse in the new era so they can only be the mascot. However, they don't care, even if they're just mascots, it's good enough that they can continue their bloodline. Who said that a big family must

have the wealth of the country and monstrous authority?"

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"The most important thing for a big family is survival."

The little prince continued on Moses' topic, "It's true that survival is the priority of a big family, but after solving the problem of survival, the only thing we care about is money and power.

Somerland has thousands of years of history. The idea of an official-rank oriented standard has been deeply rooted, especially in family heirarchy.

"This has lasted from the consuls of Ancient Rome to modern liberal democracy. It's the same for common folks, big families, and also officials and nobles. No one can escape from the official -rank-oriented standard.

"To be frank, we're still making such a decision at this moment because of the official-rank-oriented standard. In Somerland, you will only win if you suck up to the royals. You might lose out if you do that to anyone else." Lord Alvarado added a closing sentence with a smile, "Swallow Capital is watching."

After hearing that, Jasper was silent.

He seemed to understand what the children of the family were thinking.

Should he call them evil?

They were. As long as there were benefits, they would not care about competing for a profit with the people, under-the-table manipulation, following bad examples, or even playing dirty or not.

However, they were pretty good at the same time.

It was still the same sentence. Everything existed for a reason.

In the current situation, could Jasper or Swallow Capital count on those retail investors and ordinary people?

No.

At the end of the day, they were doing this to protect the interests of the people.

At this time, someone needed to stand up and make the necessary sacrifices.

So, these families would be the first to shoulder the burden.

Even they were willing to do this.

One should not assume that the families did not like being sacrificed.

It depended on who it was.

Just like the finishing touch of Lord Alvarado's closing line, "Swallow Capital is watching."