Chapter 7326

Steve's words made Charlie take the computing power business seriously for the first time.

According to Steve, computing power had become the most sought-after resource in the world, and also the one with the greatest potential for value retention and even appreciation.

Moreover, the AI computing power center he had unintentionally developed to deal with the Qing Dynasty and Wu Feiyan had now become a highly sought-after asset. Given this, he certainly couldn't miss such a golden opportunity.

So Charlie asked Steve, "Let's put aside the issue of renting out computing power for now. If I still want to build another computing center, what do you think would be the best approach?"

Steve replied honestly, "Mr. Ye, building a computing center now isn't about money; it's about the supply. High-end graphics cards are in short supply, and the waiting lists are much more severe than before. Nvidia has been forced to publicly announce its production schedule, so even we can't jump the queue. Therefore, if we want to build such a large-scale computing center now, the cost will naturally increase tenfold or even more. Because now, to buy cards, you have to pay an outrageously high price—so high that the person who gets the cards feels they might not even make as much money selling them to you as they would keep them for themselves—before they'll even consider renting them out." "A set of high-end computing cards, starting at $300,000, has now risen to over three million, almost four million US dollars. Only by offering such a high premium can they possibly acquire enough cards to establish a new computing center."

Charlie frowned. "That's outrageous?"

Steve could only explain, "That's just the market price. There's a supply shortage, everyone's scrambling to buy them. Companies like Meta, OpenAI, and Claude are spending hundreds of billions of dollars buying

computing cards all over the world. Oh, and there's Musk too. That kid's riding high right now. If he keeps showing off, his personal wealth will probably surpass the Rothschild family's."

Charlie couldn't help but click his tongue.

For him, he'd be happy to stumble upon such a lucky opportunity, but he absolutely couldn't accept being ripped off.

Even if a tenfold increase is the standard market price now, he still felt it was too much of a rip-off.

Steve continued, "But Mr. Ye, even if it were possible to upgrade your computing center, let alone the current difficulties, it would be very hard to expand it further."

Charlie asked curiously, "Why?"

Steve explained, "The power supply in Northern Europe, and indeed throughout Europe, is very tight. A computing center is essentially a giant power shredder. They don't have a strong enough power supply locally, so even if you had the cards, they wouldn't be able to operate."

Charlie exclaimed, "It's the 21st century! Europe can still be short of electricity?"

Steve chuckled and said, "Well…" Oh, you might not know this, but Europe used to have no shortage of electricity. But then environmental protection became a priority, and everyone neglected their duties. A bunch of idiots protested at every coal-fired power plant they saw, and they practically wanted to tear nuclear power plants apart. Traditional coal-fired and nuclear power generation were severely restricted. The crucial point is that those guys couldn't even develop clean energy. In winter, many countries didn't even have enough natural gas for heating, let alone enough energy to supply electricity. Look at the Germans, they were even more ridiculous. They built nuclear power plants, and as soon as there was a protest, they simply stopped using them and turned around and bought nuclear power from France at exorbitant prices. "Electricity…it feels like these people are just doing performance art."

Charlie sighed, “Oh, now that you mention it, I’m reminded of that environmental activist. Europe is in this state largely because of her and her cronies.”

Steve chuckled, “Exactly. If there were more girls like that, Europe might be overtaken by Africa in no time.”

Charlie smiled, then remembered something and said, “By the way, China has abundant electricity. I might as well go back to China and set up a computing center.”

Steve remarked, “Yes, China’s electricity is indeed…” “World’s number one, but the key issue is that those high-end computing cards are banned from sale to China. If you want to get a lot of computing cards, it’s just a matter of money overseas, but in China, it’s more than just a matter of money.”

Charlie nodded slightly. He seemed to have heard about the ban in the news before. As a Chinese person, he felt quite annoyed. However, thinking about it on the other hand, sometimes there’s nothing you can do about it. He himself had been blocked from entering the American market after obtaining the Nine Profound Rejuvenation Pill. Sometimes, if key technologies are in the hands of others, and they want to block you, there’s really no good way to deal with it.

However, Charlie also planted a seed in his heart: sooner or later, he would find a way to break through this blockade.

Seeing that Charlie remained silent, Steve quickly said, “Mr. Ye, if you’re interested in renting out computing power, I can help you make connections. A hundred billion US dollars a year—honestly, it’s free money!”

Charlie hummed in agreement and said, “Okay, but I have a question I need you to answer.”

Steve hurriedly replied, “Please go ahead, Mr. Ye.”

Charlie asked curiously, “With everyone spending so much money to grab computing power, is computing power inherently profitable?”

“Profitable!” Steve said, “Computing power is now high-quality productivity, especially for internet companies and high-tech enterprises. You can think of it as a kind of super energy. An electric truck that could previously pull a hundred tons can now pull a thousand tons or even ten thousand tons after using this super energy. Companies are naturally willing to invest heavily in purchasing this super energy to bring themselves exponentially increased output. If they don’t use computing power, they will be left far behind by their competitors. Therefore, companies spend a lot of money to buy computing power. The main clients of those large-scale models are also enterprise clients. Some clients burn through tens of millions of US dollars worth of tokens every day, and a portion of this money is used to provide large-scale…” “The companies that manufacture the models profit, and a portion goes to the hardware companies that provide computing power to these large model companies, as well as the computing power leasing companies. Take SpaceX, for example; they can earn tens of billions of dollars a year just from leasing computing power. Large models in the US are also very willing to spend money. With the scale of your Nordic computing center, tens of billions of dollars a year is a certainty, and it will likely continue to rise.”

Charlie said thoughtfully, “If that’s the case, I’d rather lease the computing power to our domestic companies at a low price than to those companies that block us.”

Steve said in surprise, “Mr. Ye, why go through all that trouble? You’d obviously lease it to whoever pays the most.”

Charlie chuckled and said, “Steve, that’s certainly true for you, but not for me. Money is never the most important thing.”

After saying that, Charlie smiled and said, “Alright, Steve, I’ll reconsider the computing power leasing later. Keep a close eye on the cryptocurrency market, and let me know immediately after they cash out and leave.”

Steve had no choice but to give up trying to persuade him and respectfully said, “Yes, Mr. Ye, I will keep a close eye on this and notify you as soon as possible!”