

Middle Age 691

Chapter 691: You Should Know Better by Now

The top floor of the hotel was entirely tea rooms. Considering privacy and to avoid disturbances, Qi Yun specifically had the whole tea room reserved.

At this moment, outside the tea room door, Old Hou's secretary was being blocked, looking very displeased.

"I am the secretary of Director Hou, I have important business with your President Qi." Secretary Wang's tone was serious, unable to conceal the impatience on his face.

He had been waiting here for nearly ten minutes, and the person who went in to convey the message hadn't come out yet. The main issue was that his director was still waiting in the car downstairs.

"Sorry, our boss is currently receiving important guests and has instructed that no one should disturb him." Old Eagle and An Zai stood expressionless at the door, though their words were polite, their attitude was quite cold.

They were used to significant events being around Qi Yun, and even dared to deal with the Emperor of Japan, so Secretary Wang trying to pressure them with his status was indeed a miscalculation.

Just one word: disregard.

Secretary Wang was furious. Never before had he been so belittled in this realm, but he knew the background of President Qi was extraordinary, so he angrily took out his phone to report to the director.

On the other end, Old Hou listened, and after a few seconds of silence, he softly said, "Just wait."

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Inside the private room, Qi Yun and Zhang Wei had basically finalized their cooperation. President Bi brought up some detail issues, including board seats after equity transactions.

These matters were not Qi Yun's forte, which was a significant reason he had President Bi attend the negotiations.

After discussions ended, both parties signed a letter of intent for cooperation. The matter was set, but the formal signing needed to wait for the Changrong board to complete its processes, scheduled for two weeks later.

After clinking cups with tea instead of wine, Qi Yun apologetically said, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, I must excuse myself for a moment to handle some matters."

Wei Zhe and the others nodded, "Please, President Qi, go ahead."

Qi Yun gave President Bi a look, implying for him to entertain the guests. He then led Brother Quan out of the room, but it had been almost half an hour since Brother Quan came in to report.

Walking, Qi Yun took out his silenced phone from his pocket, the screen lit up, revealing a long list of missed calls, all from unfamiliar numbers.

At the tea room entrance, Secretary Wang was anxiously pacing. Seeing Qi Yun come out, he immediately and urgently said, "President Qi, you're finally out!"

President Qi glanced at him, feeling no affection for the person behind him, and casually asked, "What do you need from me?"

Seeing his indifferent attitude, Secretary Wang's heart skipped a beat, and his prepared speech got stuck in his throat.

He originally thought that making his director wait so long, Qi Yun would be somewhat flustered or apologetic, but unexpectedly, the other party was so calm, even bringing a noticeable touch of impatience.

Secretary Wang quickly adjusted his demeanor, forcing a stiff smile, his tone lowered even further, "President Qi, Director Hou is just downstairs, waiting for you for almost half an hour."

He paused, showing some difficulty, "I know you have distinguished guests here, but this time has indeed been long, shouldn't you..."

He didn't finish, but the meaning was clear—Director Hou had given you enough face, now it's time for you to be sensible.

Qi Yun looked calmly at Secretary Wang, didn't answer his question but instead asked, "What's your surname again?"

This question made Secretary Wang's smile completely freeze, a wave of slight resentment and embarrassment surged in his heart.

Outside, he represented Old Hou, even someone like Qin Minghui had to be polite to him, yet today he was humiliated in such a manner.

At this moment, he really wanted to loudly criticize, "Do you, Qi Yun, really think too highly of yourself? Just because someone is backing you, are you really this arrogant?"

However, he ultimately didn't dare to do so...

Secretary Wang took a deep breath, barely maintaining composure, "President Qi, my surname is Wang, I'm Director Hou's secretary."

"Oh, Secretary Wang."

Qi Yun nodded, still speaking in a calm tone, revealing no emotion, "Go back and inform Director Hou, today I have very important guests here, it's inconvenient to be disturbed."

"Once things here are settled, I will personally visit to pay my respects."

Upon saying this, he didn't give the other a chance to speak, turned and walked away.

He had already guessed why the other party was seeking him at this time. No more than hearing about Wei Zhe's arrival and wanting to make contact.

Otherwise, they hadn't sought him before, nor would they likely seek him later, with Wei Zhe's arrival being the only urgency he can think of.

But he wouldn't play the middleman role, Wei Zhe had clearly stated that he should keep his itinerary confidential, intending to avoid such attention.

If he were to agree to Old Hou's request now, it would not only break his promise to Wei Zhe but could also cause complications, potentially jeopardizing the already determined deal.

"President Qi! You..." Secretary Wang wanted to say something more, but Qi Yun had already walked away.

Returning to the private room, Qi Yun apologized with a smile to Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei, "Just a minor issue, it's been resolved, let's continue."

Wei Zhe looked at him and smiled, seemingly realizing something.

In the Audi car in the hotel's parking lot, Secretary Wang turned around to report what happened earlier.

"Hehe, he's refusing to help us then." Old Hou dryly laughed after hearing it.

Though his face showed no change, he was actually extremely dissatisfied with Qi Yun.

First, there was not listening to his warning during the conflict with Old He, causing such a commotion, resulting in criticism from the higher-ups;

Then, he acted alone on the photovoltaic project, giving the project to Shanghai and making him miss a great opportunity;

Now, even with such a minor matter, he wouldn't give him face. With all these accumulating, how could he not be angry?

Chapter 692: You'd Better Wise Up Too _2

Qi Yun had already been labeled in his mind as "inconsiderate" and "uncontrollable."

The atmosphere inside the car was tense, and Secretary Wang kept his head down, not daring to breathe too loudly.

He had followed Old Hou for many years and understood the immense fury brewing beneath this seemingly calm exterior.

"Inconsiderate..." Old Hou softly repeated these words, his fingers unconsciously tapping the armrest, "It seems President Qi feels his wings have hardened and no longer needs to pay heed to our expressions."

"Leader, then shall we now..." Secretary Wang asked cautiously.

"Go back." Old Hou opened his eyes, his tone steady as if the trace of hostility had never appeared, "Since President Qi is busy, we won't disturb him."

"Notify Old Xu to organize an exchange meeting and personally invite Mr. Wei Zhe to attend under this pretext at the hotel."

"Understood." Secretary Wang nodded quickly, hesitated for a moment, and then said, "But... would this be too abrupt? What if he..."

He didn't dare finish his sentence, knowing if the formal invitation was rejected, it would be a major embarrassment.

Old Hou glanced at him coldly and said, "Then give me a solution."

Secretary Wang immediately fell silent, as if bitten by the cold.

"Furthermore, tomorrow morning, in my name, send a letter to G Business and tax authorities, suggesting that to optimize the business environment, they screen and examine companies to prevent systemic risks and guide companies toward healthy and orderly development."

Secretary Wang knew this was a tactic to intimidate, making Qi Yun realize who truly held the cards in this territory.

"Understood, I'll take care of it first thing in the morning."

"Hmm." Old Hou said no more, leaning back into his seat.

Qi Yun repeatedly defied his will, completely slipping out of control. He felt it was time to teach him a lesson.

As long as it's not too excessive, the others wouldn't bother him over such a trivial matter.

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The next day, Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei came down to the hotel lobby dressed in sportswear, as Qi Yun was to take them to experience the unique northwest desert scenery, and both were excited.

As they stepped out of the elevator, they saw a calm and composed middle-aged man sitting in the lobby lounge, accompanied by two staff members.

Upon seeing them, the middle-aged man immediately stood up, greeting them with a smile.

"Mr. Wei, Mr. Zhang, good morning." The middle-aged man offered his hand, "I'm Xu Yunliang from S."

"I heard distinguished guests are visiting, and our leadership team values this greatly, so they specifically arranged for me to come and extend our greetings."

Wei Zhe furrowed his brow slightly but still extended his hand in a courteous greeting.

"Mr. Xu, you're too kind. We are here at a friend's invitation for a private visit, not expecting to alarm the leaders."

It was clear Wei Zhe was quite experienced in dealing with officials, subtly indicating his wish not to be disturbed with just a few words.

Xu Yunliang's smile didn't waver, as if he hadn't noticed the undertone, becoming even more enthusiastic and sincere: "Heh heh, considering your long journey, as your hosts, we can't feel at ease not showing you some hospitality."

"We've arranged a very comfortable accommodation for you, with better environment and privacy than the hotel, and there's even a dedicated guide, making it more convenient for your travels."

"We hope you'll give us the opportunity to extend our hospitality."

Faced with Xu Yunliang's warm invitation, Wei Zhe's expression remained unchanged: "Mr. Xu, I appreciate your kindness, but our stay here was arranged by friends, and guests should follow their host's wishes, I hope you understand."

Xu Yunliang felt a little disappointed but maintained his composure: "Mr. Wei is right, I haven't planned thoroughly enough. Since it's already arranged, we naturally respect your choice."

He didn't press on the accommodation issue but changed the subject, "Mr. Wei, besides extending greetings, I have another humble request on behalf of the leaders, or rather, I'm entrusted to deliver a sincere invitation."

"Recently, we're preparing a high-level economic and trade exchange event here at S, and our leaders are very eager to have the opportunity for an in-depth interaction with industry experts like Mr. Wei and Mr. Zhang, hearing your insights on industry development while introducing S's development plans and business environment to you."

"The timing can be whenever is convenient for you both; is it possible for you to grace us with your presence?"

Xu Yunliang, worthy of being a seasoned secretary, spoke flawlessly, making it hard to refuse.

Others might consider their warm hospitality, feeling it hard to decline; but not Wei Zhe, who shook his head and respectfully declined without any hesitation.

"Mr. Xu, I acknowledge your kind offer, but we don't plan to participate in any activities this time, please convey my thanks to the leaders."

A complete refusal, with not even a perfunctory "let's see the schedule," left Xu Yunliang a bit flustered.

Just as he pondered how to persuade or make a graceful exit, footsteps approached from behind, and turning around, he saw Qi Yun leading two people toward them.

"President Wei, President Zhang, hope you both had a good rest last night?" Qi Yun's voice arrived before he did.

Wei Zhe seized the moment to avoid further conversation with Xu Yunliang, saying "Excuse me, our friend is here," as he and Zhang Wei promptly walked towards Qi Yun.

Xu Yunliang stood there, his professional smile finally fading, replaced with an awkward and barely suppressed anger.

He watched as Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei briskly approached Qi Yun, exchanging familiar pleasantries, leaving him feeling utterly peripheral and insignificant, which was undoubtedly a humiliating experience for him.

He opened his mouth, but in the end, said nothing, just giving Qi Yun a complex look before turning to leave the hotel lobby with two staff members.

Meanwhile, Qi Yun greeted Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei with a smile: "You both look great, the car is ready. If there's nothing else, shall we set off?"

"Okay, let's go!" Clearly not wishing to dwell on the earlier incident, Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei nodded with smiles.

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Inside the office.

Old Hou listened to Xu Yunliang's report. Although he had anticipated the effort might not succeed, hearing Wei Zhe's blunt, almost impolite refusal, along with Xu Yunliang's complete disregard, still darkened his expression.

The office was silent, with only the ticking of the second hand on the wall clock breaking the stillness.

Old Hou remained silent for a long while, finally squeezing out four words from between his teeth, "Ungrateful wretches."

His voice was icy, unclear if he referred to Wei Zhe or Qi Yun.

"I think maybe it's best to just forget it, forcing things may lead nowhere." Xu Yunliang sighed helplessly.

Forget it?

Old Hou was clearly unwilling.

The photovoltaic project was missed last time, and now with the weightier Wei Zhe, he had to seize this opportunity.

Whether tangible cooperation is achieved isn't the point; even a few publicity photos from a meeting would be beneficial.

With some careful wording, the headlines could read something like, "Famous entrepreneur, semiconductor industry leader, current CEO of TGrand Electric Mr. Wei Zhe visits our S for inspection and exchange, highly praising our business environment and development prospects."

Publishing news like that is tangible recognition and face.

Thinking of this, Old Hou suppressed his irritation, regaining his composure.

"We have to start with Qi Yun. You should personally seek out Qin Minghui."

Xu Yunliang was initially surprised, but quickly understood his intention: "Alright, I'll go discuss with him."

"Hmm, this matter needs to be expedited!"

"Okay, I'll go now."

After the other left, Old Hou pondered for a couple of seconds and then summoned Secretary Wang in again.

"Did you send the letter to G Business and the tax authorities last night as I instructed?"

Secretary Wang nodded: "Yes, Leader, I've issued it according to your instructions."

"Withdraw it."

"Huh?"

"I said withdraw it! Didn't you understand me?"

Chapter 693: Neither Refusal Nor Commitment

The office fell silent once again.

Old Hou lit a cigarette, taking a deep drag, the smoke obscuring his somber face.

He had just realized that using such official hard tactics to pressure Qi Yun might backfire, possibly scaring Wei Zhe away, which could result in nothing but trouble.

After all, the incident with the last photovoltaic project showed that this guy clearly yields to soft approaches, not hard ones.

Having Qin Minghui communicate with Qi Yun was his first step in extending an olive branch, and if this matter succeeded, Qin Minghui could also bask in the reflected glory. There's no reason the latter wouldn't put forth his best efforts.

With this thought, Old Hou's mood calmed slightly as he began to think about the next step.

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The two office locations were not far apart, and forty minutes later, Xu Yunliang's car drove into City F's compound.

Qin Minghui had already received the secretary's notification in advance and personally met Xu Yunliang at the elevator to guide him to the office.

"Secretary Xu, what brings you here in person? A phone call would suffice for any instructions," Qin Minghui said with a smile, inviting him to sit.

Technically, the two were at the same level, but the latter was the chief steward, and he also had a seat at the table during major meetings, so his status was much higher.

As Xu Yunliang sat on the sofa, he accepted the tea Qin Minghui handed him, a friendly smile on his face. "Qin, no need for formalities. I came over because there's something I want to discuss with you, and I'd like to hear your thoughts."

"Please, Secretary Xu, I'm all ears," Qin Minghui said humbly, fully aware that whatever brought him here was no trivial matter.

"It's like this, President Qi Yun, you should be quite familiar with him, right?"

Putting down his teacup, Xu Yunliang spoke in a calm tone, "Recently, he's invited an esteemed guest from across the straits, Mr. Wei Zhe, the CEO of T-Base Electric, and along with him is Mr. Zhang Wei of Evergreen Shipping. This matter has Old Hou's full attention."

He mentioned Old Hou, instantly adding weight to his words, causing Qin Minghui to sit up straight, his expression serious.

"We're both aware of Mr. Wei's significance in the semiconductor industry. Though his visit is personal, if we seize this opportunity to express our welcome and attention, showcasing our favorable business environment, it could greatly benefit S's image and development."

"Old Hou is particularly keen on this opportunity," Xu Yunliang emphasized once more.

Qin Minghui nodded in agreement, "Secretary Xu is right. This is indeed a rare opportunity. We should express our welcome and attention."

"Yes, but..."

Switching gears, Xu Yunliang furrowed his brow slightly, "It seems Comrade Qi Yun is somewhat resistant to this, and previous communications haven't been smooth."

"Old Hou's view is that this matter needs to be handled delicately, not forcibly. Qi Yun is one of S's outstanding young entrepreneurs, and we must nurture his enthusiasm. Mr. Wei is a distinguished guest, and proper etiquette is crucial."

"Qin, you are Bird City's leader and have close ties with these entrepreneurs; your words carry weight."

The higher-ups hope the city will take the initiative, showing concern for Comrade Qi Yun's business in the name of serving enterprises, subtly conveying our attention and goodwill during communications."

"If possible, create an opportunity for the leaders here in S to have a brief exchange with Mr. Wei, which would be ideal. Of course, everything must respect the guest's wishes and schedule."

Although these words were vague and the reasons dignified, Qin Minghui quickly grasped their underlying intent.

This was to make him the intermediary.

Qin Minghui quickly calculated in his mind.

This matter was challenging, and he knew Qi Yun and Old Hou didn't quite get along.

Qi Yun even dared to disregard Old Hou's face; though he had some ties with him, would Qi Yun show him respect? If he also got a cold shoulder, it would be more than just his own embarrassment...

But on second thought, if this was successfully managed, the benefits would be tangible.

Not only would he bask in the glory, but he'd also leave a good impression with Old Hou. More importantly, since Xu Yunliang had personally come, there was no room for refusal. Otherwise, he would truly face difficulties in the future.

Considering these stakes, Qin Minghui quickly made up his mind.

"I understand Secretary Xu's instructions! This matter is indeed significant, concerning S's image and the reputation of our business environment."

"Please assure Secretary Xu and Old Hou that I'll take on this task, personally communicate with Comrade Qi Yun, and do my best to convey the concern and attention of S's leaders, striving for a result that satisfies everyone."

Hearing this, Xu Yunliang showed a satisfied smile.

That was precisely the assurance he wanted; how to execute it and to what extent was Qin Minghui's concern.

"We trust Qin to handle this matter. We await your good news from S."

"It's my duty. Please, Secretary Xu, take care. Let me see you off."

Hastily, Qin Minghui stood up, courteously escorting Xu Yunliang to the elevator, only relaxing once the doors closed, the smile on his face fading slightly.

Back in his office, Qin Minghui paced back and forth, pondering how to broach the subject with Qi Yun.

A few days ago, Zhang Dayong hadn't reached out since leaving the disciplinary office, which made him sense something was amiss.

Could it be that Qi Yun was dissatisfied with his performance in this matter and conveyed some message to Zhang Dayong?

This thought made Qin Minghui feel a slight unease in his heart.

Compared to himself, Zhang Dayong clearly had a closer relationship with Qi Yun, acting as an important bridge between him and Qi Yun.

Chapter 694: Neither Refusal Nor Promise (Part 2)

If this connection loosens or even sends negative signals, then his upcoming communication with Qi Yun might be more difficult than expected.

"Zhang Dayong, oh Zhang Dayong..." Qin Minghui muttered to himself, his fingers gently tapping the windowsill.

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Half an hour later, at the New District Branch, Zhang Dayong received a phone call and hurriedly left the office.

He jogged all the way to the parking lot, sitting in the back seat of a black Audi.

"Director, why did you come personally?" Zhang Dayong spoke with the same respectful tone as always, showing no change.

"I was passing by, so I thought I'd stop to see you." Qin Minghui's tone was flat as his gaze swept over Zhang Dayong's face, "You look well, it's good that recent events didn't affect you."

"Yes, thank you for your concern, Director. Ultimately, the recent issues were due to my lack of vigilance, causing trouble for you."

"Luckily, the investigations cleared my name. I've reflected deeply and will be more careful in the future, never to repeat such mistakes." Zhang Dayong's expression was sincere, his words seemingly fine but actually just routine pleasantries.

Qin Minghui nodded, the car went silent for a moment, then he casually changed the subject: "By the way, have you been in contact with President Qi much lately? He seems to have invited some important guests."

Zhang Dayong's eyes flickered, immediately realizing that this was Qin Minghui's true purpose for seeking him out today.

He cautiously responded, "I haven't been in touch with President Qi much lately, he's a busy man. Director, do you have business with President Qi?"

Qin Minghui did not answer directly but sighed, his tone turning more earnest, "Dayong, there are some things that might be inconvenient for me to say directly to President Qi. Since you are close, it might be more effective if you relay some messages."

"Whatever you instruct, Director." Zhang Dayong lowered his stance even further.

"Here's the thing..."

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Elsewhere, Qi Yun was accompanying Wei Zhe and others at a scenic spot in the desert. Seeing a call from Zhang Dayong, he stepped aside to answer.

"Hmm, what's up?"

"Just now, Qin Minghui came to see me..." Zhang Dayong briefly explained Qin Minghui's intentions.

Qi Yun listened, his gaze shifting to the distant sand dunes, "How did you respond?"

"Neither reject nor promise."

Qi Yun smiled warmly, "Alright, that's fine. Just keep it this way for now."

After hanging up the phone, he returned to Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei, his expression unchanged, without mentioning anything about Qin Minghui and the others' concerns.

Although those people lowered their stance this time, it didn't mean he was obliged to help.

As dusk fell, Qi Yun escorted Wei Zhe and his group back to the hotel for rest. As soon as they entered the lobby, they spotted Qin Minghui waiting there alone.

Qi Yun was slightly taken aback, thinking to himself how impatient this guy must be to have come directly to the hotel.

Seeing them, Qin Minghui quickly put on a surprised smile and approached eagerly, "President Qi! What a coincidence, I was just here to visit a friend and didn't expect to run into you."

This excuse was rather clumsy, but Qin Minghui couldn't worry about that now.

His gaze quickly bypassed Qi Yun and landed on Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei, feigning astonishment, "Ah, these gentlemen must be the esteemed Mr. Wei Zhe and Mr. Zhang Wei? I've heard so much about you!"

As he spoke, Qin Minghui was already walking briskly toward Wei Zhe, extending both hands as if he had truly encountered some revered figures.

Seeing that Qi Yun made no move, Wei Zhe's assistant immediately stepped forward, blocking Qin Minghui.

"Sorry, sir, President Wei is exhausted and needs to rest today."

The outstretched hands of Qin Minghui froze in mid-air, the enthusiastic smile on his face also stiffened.

Wei Zhe glanced at Qin Minghui before leaning in to quietly discuss something with Qi Yun.

Understanding, Qi Yun turned to Qin Minghui and said, "I'll first escort my two friends to their rooms to rest."

With that, he accompanied Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei, surrounded by assistants and Brother Quan, directly to the elevator, leaving Qin Minghui behind.

The whole process was swift, giving Qin Minghui no chance to speak again.

Standing there, Qin Minghui's outstretched hands had not fully lowered, and the forced smile on his face gradually faded away, leaving only helplessness.

He had tried to have Zhang Dayong communicate with Qi Yun, but the latter did not respond at all. With no choice and tremendous pressure, he had braved the encounter only to face the same outcome again.

Inside the hotel's presidential suite, Wei Zhe invited Qi Yun to sit and sighed, "President Qi, the person we saw in the lobby earlier is also from your local Government Office, right?"

Qi Yun nodded, "Yes, he's a local official."

Wei Zhe paused to reflect, "Thank you for your hospitality these past few days. We're planning to head to Shanghai by tomorrow afternoon."

"I can tell they're very interested in me. If you have a need here, I could attend some events for your sake."

Wei Zhe spoke these words candidly.

Feeling a touch of warmth, Qi Yun didn't hesitate much at all before firmly shaking his head.

"President Wei, I appreciate the offer, but since you prefer not to attend any events, I certainly won't force you."

"They may want to see you, but that's their wish. You came because you trust me, Qi Yun, so I certainly won't betray that trust by involving you in unnecessary distractions."

Upon hearing this, Wei Zhe's gaze was filled with appreciation and reflection as he looked at Qi Yun.

Having navigated the business world for decades, he's seen many compromise, negotiate, and even betray principles in the face of pressure and benefit.

It's rare to find someone like Qi Yun, who stands firm in his commitments to friends despite the potential gains at hand.

"Good!" Wei Zhe patted the arm of the sofa, a tone of genuine admiration from a senior to a junior, "I'm glad to have you as a friend, Qi Yun!"

"In that case, I won't say more. I'll respect your choices here."

Laughing, Qi Yun stood up to bid farewell, "Alright, I won't disturb your rest any further."

Leaving Wei Zhe's room, Qi Yun's smile quickly faded as he descended to the hotel lobby, where Qin Minghui was still waiting.

"Let's talk over there." Qi Yun gestured to the sofas in the lounge area.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Minghui followed Qi Yun to a corner in the lounge to sit down.

A spotlight overhead shone a beam of light between them, like an invisible divide.

"You shouldn't have come here," Qi Yun began.

With a bitter nod, Qin Minghui replied, "Yes, I know, but I had no choice."

Qi Yun could understand what he meant by having no choice.

Though displeased by Qin Minghui's earlier actions, he wasn't entirely resentful, understanding that the other was also constrained by circumstances.

Nonetheless, understanding did not sway Qi Yun's resolve.

"President Wei doesn't want to attend meaningless events, so there's no need for you to trouble yourselves, nor should you try to use me as a go-between. He's my invited guest, and I must respect his choices."

Reading the firm resolve in Qi Yun's words, Qin Minghui knew it was futile to say anything more. All he could do was open his mouth and sigh helplessly.

"That's enough for today. Head back," Qi Yun said, standing up, without looking at him again, and left the lounge area, leaving Qin Minghui sitting there stiffly.

Outside the hotel, Qi Yun had just gotten into the car when his phone rang; it was an unknown number.

"Hello."

"It's Yao Yuzhong."

Yao Yuzhong?

This guy still dared to call him?

Qi Yun tapped the shoulder of Old Eagle in the front seat, motioning to his phone, then smiled and said, "Heh, Old Yao, you're pretty fast on your feet?"

Catching on immediately, Old Eagle took out his phone to contact Guo An's tech team, instructing them to trace Qi Yun's call signal.

Chapter 695: The Father-in-law Joins the Game

In the car, Qi Yun was quite surprised by Yao Yuzhong's unexpected contact, pondering how to stall for more time to let Guo An lock in the location on the other side.

But Yao Yuzhong's next words were even more unexpected.

"I'm sorry, Director Qi, I didn't intend to run away. I just had a wish unfulfilled. Now that it's done, I'm surrendering. I'm at Qin Sizhi's place."

At Qin Sizhi's?

Qi Yun squinted his eyes—a voluntary confession?

"Haha, then tell me, what was this unfulfilled wish of yours?"

There was silence on the phone, and after a while Yao Yuzhong replied with a sigh: "I went to King Zhou You's tomb."

"King Zhou You?"

Qi Yun frowned, pondering for a long time before remembering who King Zhou You was—the one who made history with his beacon fire jest.

"Before I got caught last time, I had been searching for King Zhou You's tomb for five whole years; eventually locked the location near Qishan, but hadn't had time to act when I got arrested."

"I was unwilling, so that day I ran when you weren't paying attention, made another trip to Qishan, and this time I found it."

Qi Yun considered the truth in the other's words and asked, "And then?"

Yao Yuzhong's hollow voice came again: "I entered the tomb, found King Zhou You's coffin, there were no remains inside, just a jade pendant, a dragon-shaped jade pendant."

"I brought the jade pendant out, and it's now in my possession."

Dragon-shaped jade pendant?

Qi Yun was silent for two seconds.

"Old Yao, telling me all of this, is it to trade that jade pendant for your freedom for the rest of your life?"

"No, Director Qi, you've misunderstood."

"I'm just telling you the whole truth and willingly handing over the jade pendant to you, willing to go back and continue serving my sentence." Yao Yuzhong's response was straightforward.

A tomb raider, risking getting his head chopped off to raid King Zhou You's grave, carrying out a priceless treasure, and then so easily willing to hand it over?

And willing to go back to prison?

Qi Yun was stunned, a bit unable to understand what trick this guy was playing.

"Old Yao, you're becoming harder for me to understand? You're originally a serious offender, yet ran off to raid such a national treasure-level tomb, and then voluntarily surrendered."

"What are you playing at? What's your motive?"

On the other end of the phone, Yao Yuzhong seemed to chuckle bitterly: "I have no motive, just wanted to complete this last big job after a lifetime of raiding tombs."

"Haha, so you still have a touch of craftsmanship spirit, huh?" Qi Yun's voice had a hint of playfulness, he couldn't discern the truth in this guy's words, as he had been deceived by this guy twice before.

Anything Yao Yuzhong said now, he had to question.

"Craftsmanship spirit is a bit much, just an obsession."

"Director Qi, I know whatever I say now, you won't believe it, that's okay, I'm at Qin Sizhi's place now, you can send someone over right away."

Qi Yun nodded: "Alright, then wait there."

After hanging up, Qi Yun immediately dialed Qin Sizhi's number to verify the situation Yao Yuzhong had just mentioned.

Turns out this guy wasn't lying; he was really at Qin Sizhi's house in Chang'an.

"Mr. Qi, I was about to report this to you, but Old Yao asked for your number, saying he wanted to explain to you himself..."

Qin Sizhi likely feared Qi Yun suspecting him of withholding information, and added another sentence.

"Alright, I understand, watch him for me first, I'll arrange someone to come over soon."

Putting down the phone, Qi Yun rubbed his chin, still unable to figure out what trick Yao Yuzhong was playing.

Ultimately, he decided to meet this guy first to see if he could get any intel from him.

With the decision made, he immediately contacted colleagues in Chang'an through the internal system, asking them to have Yao Yuzhong brought back, planning to deal with him after sending off Wei Zhe and his group.

To be able to travel from Yunnan Province to Chang'an amidst today's widespread surveillance, Old Yao indeed has some tricks, truly worthy of being a seasoned tomb raider.

...

On the other side, in the office building on Zhongshan Road.

It was already past office hours, but Old Hou hadn't left his office.

He stood by the large floor-to-ceiling window, his face gloomy enough to drip water.

Secretary Wang cautiously pushed the door open, holding a document, seeing Old Hou's figure, instinctively lightening his steps.

"Sir..."

Old Hou turned around, his eyes gloomy, saying nothing.

Secretary Wang's heart tightened, knowing the mood was exceedingly poor, hurriedly stepped closer, placed the document on the wide office desk, whispering a report: "Just got a call from air traffic control, they've received a flight plan for that private plane, taking off tomorrow night at eight to Shanghai..."

He didn't dare explicitly say Wei Zhe and the others were leaving tomorrow, just faithfully conveyed the information.

Old Hou's face grew even darker, after a full half-minute, he finally spoke: "You personally go and invite Qi Yun over, tell him I want to see him."

Secretary Wang quickly nodded: "Okay, I'll go right away." Saying so, he quickly turned around and left, only after closing the office door, did he let out a long breath.

...

Meanwhile, in a hotel in the New District, Liu Guangxin was exchanging drinks with Qi Yun.

"Xiao Qi, the idea you mentioned to me about car manufacturing, I thought about it seriously afterwards, feel that although there's some risk, the chances of success are quite high."

"You indeed have a leading edge in battery technology, by using this as a breakthrough, you can carve out a path in the market."

Qi Yun smiled and agreed: "Yes, you said last time too, the core of new energy vehicles is battery technology, plus Guanghui Group's resources, I'm very confident in making a competitive product."

Chapter 696: Father-in-law Joins the Game _2

Liu Guangxin nodded, took a small sip, and put down his glass: "But the funds needed to build cars are no small amount. Just the initial R&D investment and production line construction might require tens of billions."

"Although Guanghai Group can scrape together some money, this is a long-term investment and it's hard to see returns in the short term."

"Guanghai Group, although large, has its resources spread out and the cash flow needs to cover all aspects. Betting entirely on a high-risk, long-cycle project would put enormous pressure on the board."

Qi Yun detected the underlying message—this was likely the reason Liu Guangxin invited him to dinner tonight.

"Hmm, I understand. So, what do you intend to do, Director Liu?"

Liu Guangxin looked at him, his tone becoming more serious: "Give it to me straight—how much can you contribute?"

Qi Yun pondered briefly, not immediately providing a number, but instead said frankly: "Director Liu, to be honest, I currently have a few billion, but I've just negotiated a cooperation with a shareholder of Evergreen Shipping, and this money is needed to buy their shares."

"If too much funding is required from my side initially, it might be quite challenging."

At the mention of 'Evergreen Shipping,' Liu Guangxin visibly paused, but he didn't ask further, simply nodded.

"Xiao Qi, you must understand, even though I'm the largest shareholder of Guanghai Group, I don't have the final say."

"In the board, there are other shareholders, including family members and external investors. They might be more focused on short-term returns and risk control;

This new energy vehicle project, with its long cycle and high risk, although promising, won't easily convince everyone."

"The main issue is... if you're only using Dawn Technology's assets as your contribution, then regarding equity distribution..."

Liu Guangxin didn't finish his sentence, but his meaning was very clear.

If Qi Yun was to join with only these conditions, while Guanghai Group invested over a hundred billion, Qi Yun might be at a disadvantage in future company equity distribution.

However, since Liu Guangxin brought this up proactively, it showed that he didn't have the intention to take advantage of the equity issue, but was merely reminding Qi Yun that Guanghai Group is not a dictatorship and to be wary of potential changes.

The private room fell silent, Qi Yun frowned in contemplation.

Liu Guangxin's concerns were not unnecessary but were based on practical considerations. As the largest private enterprise in Province J, Guanghui Group's internal structure is complex and decision-making indeed needs to balance multiple interests.

Their honesty showed sincerity in cooperation.

After a while, Qi Yun had an idea.

"Director Liu, would you mind if we bring in another partner for our cooperation?"

Liu Guangxin was surprised: "Oh? Who do you want to bring in?"

"Maple Capital."

Maple Capital, the investment company controlled by his father-in-law Zhao Weilin. When he planned to buy Evergreen Shipping's shares, Qi Yun had already considered borrowing money from his father-in-law.

Now that funds were tight, he naturally thought of them first.

Liu Guangxin was slightly taken aback but quickly his eyes lit up.

Maple Capital is also quite famous in the industry. Although not one of the top few giants, it still holds considerable influence and has a strong background and good reputation.

If Maple Capital could be brought in, Guanghai Group wouldn't need to squeeze out so much money, as liquid capital is extremely valuable right now.

"Do you have connections with Maple Capital?" Liu Guangxin confirmed.

Qi Yun nodded: "Yes, Zhao Weilin is my fiancé's father."

"Oh!?" Liu Guangxin was both surprised and pleased, with a hint of excitement on his face.

"If that's the case, then negotiations will be much easier."

"With Maple Capital's participation, the funding pressure can be greatly alleviated, the equity structure will be more reasonable, and having them involved will quiet those voices within the group."

"Those shareholders have considerable confidence in decisions from such large investment firms."

Qi Yun smiled: "Do you also think this is feasible?"

"Of course it's feasible!"

"Your Dawn Technology provides core technology, Guanghai Group provides manufacturing capability, supply chain, and channels, and Maple Capital provides funding. Each side brings their strengths—it's undoubtedly an excellent collaboration configuration." Liu Guangxin was very supportive of this proposal.

"Then what are your thoughts on the equity distribution among the three parties?" Qi Yun raised a new question.

Discussing the equity issue, Liu Guangxin became serious again: "Since it's a three-way cooperation, we shouldn't simply calculate based on the percentage of capital contribution. Technology, channels, and funds—these three elements have different value weights at different stages."

After pondering for a moment, he continued: "My initial thought is to design a dynamic equity structure. In the early phases, Dawn Technology's core technology and team value should occupy a higher proportion, as this is the foundation and core competitiveness of the project;

Guanghai Group's manufacturing, supply chain, and channel resources, along with Maple Capital's funding, also need to be given a fair valuation."

"We can set an initial equity percentage, for example, Dawn Technology holds 40%, while Guanghai Group and Maple Capital each take 30%, but this percentage is not fixed."

"Certain clauses can be set..."

Liu Guangxin elaborated on his ideas, and Qi Yun listened quietly, occasionally nodding in response.

One could see that Liu Guangxin was indeed a person with a broad strategic vision and long-term insight.

"Director Liu's considerations are very comprehensive, so let's proceed as you suggested. I'll have the team prepare a cooperation plan, then invite Maple Capital to discuss the details further."

"Great! Then it's settled," Liu Guangxin said with a beaming smile.

After the meal concluded, Qi Yun saw Liu Guangxin off, got into his car, lit a cigarette, and then took out his phone to dial Old Zhao's number.

Zhao Weilin was a workaholic and wasn't resting even at this hour. Qi Yun skipped the pleasantries and got straight to the point.

"Uncle, here's the situation..."

After listening, Zhao Weilin didn't seem too pleased, even sounding a bit gritted: "Has Dawn Technology's new material development succeeded?"

A few months ago, he specifically sent Dong Anyun over, intending to acquire 51% of Dawn Technology's shares. However, Qi Yun had already secured it earlier.

The previous offer was fifty million, but now... that price might only buy a fraction of it...

"Yes, it was successfully developed last month, and the factory has been built. I've already bought four of the most advanced production lines from Germany, and they will be operational by the end of the month," Qi Yun replied, rubbing his forehead.

Uncertain if it was to provoke Old Zhao or simply to provide updates...

"You kid..." Zhao Weilin took a long breath on the other end of the line, his tone complex, filled with both regret for a missed opportunity and palpable admiration.

"Guanghui Group indeed has some good cards. I think the collaboration you mentioned is feasible."

"Alright, I'll come over as soon as possible to discuss the cooperation in detail."

"Great! Uncle, I'll await your news," Qi Yun was delighted, feeling the situation was quite promising.

...

More than half an hour later, Qi Yun arrived at the hospital, only to meet Secretary Wang quickly approaching as soon as he reached the inpatient building entrance.

"President Qi!"

Qi Yun paused, frowning at him: "Is there an issue?"

Secretary Wang smiled awkwardly: "Sorry to bother you so late, but Director Hou would like to invite you to his office. Would you be available?"

This time he was smart enough to drop the authoritarian tone and adopted a negotiating posture, keeping a low stance.

Qi Yun glanced at the time, noticing it was already past ten in the evening.

He could guess Director Hou's purpose in wanting to see him; it was undoubtedly about meeting Wei Zhe.

Despite his internal grievance, he wasn't ready to break ties, so he sighed: "Let's go."

Chapter 697: Losing Patience

Qi Yun followed Secretary Wang back to that familiar office.

Contrary to the anticipated tense atmosphere, Old Hou was not sitting behind the desk but was rather leaning on the sofa in the reception area, holding a cup of tea, his expression calm.

"Director, President Qi is here," Secretary Wang whispered a reminder, then tactfully withdrew, gently closing the door.

Only Qi Yun and Old Hou remained in the office.

Old Hou pointed to the sofa opposite, "Have a seat."

Qi Yun nodded and sat down on the opposite sofa.

Old Hou didn't speak immediately. He took a slow sip of tea and, after a moment, put down the teacup and looked at Qi Yun, "Comrade Qi Yun, calling you so late, must have been tiring for you."

"Director Hou, you're being too polite," Qi Yun replied expressionlessly.

"I heard that Mr. Wei Zhe is flying out tomorrow afternoon?" Old Hou asked bluntly.

"Yes, President Wei is heading to Shanghai tomorrow."

Old Hou nodded slightly, not showing any obvious disappointment or anger as before, just sighed lightly, "What a pity."

"Such a leader in the semiconductor industry, it's rare for them to visit, yet we didn't even have the chance to play host."

The remarks sounded like a lament, yet also like some kind of probing.

Qi Yun remained silent, simply listening quietly.

Old Hou glanced at him, seeing Qi Yun playing dead, and continued, "Qi Yun, between us, there might have been some misunderstandings before, or perhaps some communication wasn't very smooth."

"But those things are in the past, and I hope you won't take them to heart."

Qi Yun was slightly surprised inside, as it was unexpected for someone of Old Hou's position to say such words.

"Director Hou, you're overthinking it. We all have different views for the sake of work, which is normal."

Old Hou, being extraordinarily astute, naturally detected the perfunctory tone in Qi Yun's words.

His smile remained unchanged, a sharp glint flashed in his eyes, although he concealed it well.

"It's good you think that way."

Old Hou nodded, naturally transitioning the topic, his tone sounding somewhat sincere, "Qi Yun, I've observed you for a long time; without a doubt, you are a very capable person."

"For capable people, it's even more important to have a platform and space to showcase their abilities."

"To strongly support the development of our J province, the country is about to allocate us 3 trillion in construction support funds, which is a significant historical opportunity for all enterprises rooted here."

"We have always placed great emphasis on outstanding young entrepreneurs like you and are willing to offer maximum support. As long as it benefits development and the local economy, we can give it priority and act on special circumstances."

He paused here, asking with seeming deeper intent, "Qi Yun, do you understand what I mean?"

With such an obvious hint, how could Qi Yun not understand, it was almost like saying "come here quickly"...

He met Old Hou's gaze and smiled, "Yes, I understand."

However, Old Hou seemed unsatisfied with this response because he didn't see a trace of greed on Qi Yun's face, there was only calmness.

And this calmness represented refusal.

He couldn't understand why Qi Yun, as a businessman, would refuse such enormous benefits; he believed that even if the richest person in J province, Liu Guangxin, had heard what he just said, they would be deeply moved.

Old Hou's smile faded somewhat, the sharpness in his eyes resurfaced, "Heh, it seems President Qi... isn't very interested in these matters."

He no longer called Qi Yun by name, but instead used President Qi.

This subtle change indicated a nuanced shift in his attitude, Old Hou was losing patience.

Qi Yun heard this change, but his expression didn't change, maintaining a perfunctory attitude, just as Zhang Dayong suggested, not refusing but not committing either.

"Director Hou, the 3 trillion fund is indeed astronomical, concerning the overall development of S, of course, there is a comprehensive consideration within S. As a company, our primary task is to do our own job well, operate legally, and not cause trouble for S."

"As for other matters, I believe S will naturally have its own considerations."

Seeing that he was still so oblivious, Old Hou could hardly suppress the anger in his heart.

Someone like him, offering face repeatedly, and you just don't take it, indeed proving the phrase "doesn't know how to appreciate favors."

Old Hou's face completely darkened, putting down the cup, the bottom of the cup made a crisp sound as it hit the tea table, exceptionally clear in the quiet office, as if expressing his anger.

"Qi Yun."

He no longer used any polite forms of address, his voice was firm, "Do you think that relying on some people, you can really ignore the place?"

Qi Yun squinted his eyes, this remark already carried a clear threat, it was apparent that Old Hou was really anxious.

If it were anything else, he might have agreed, after all, he still had to operate here in the future and didn't want to completely fall out with the other party.

But since he had promised Wei Zhe, he wouldn't break his word.

"Director Hou, I don't know what you mean by this, I've never thought so."

"The fact that I, Qi Yun, have reached where I am today, is inseparable from the nurture of my hometown and a relatively stable business environment; I am always grateful to S."

After these words, Qi Yun remained silent.

The office fell into an indescribable dead silence.

Old Hou's expression completely froze, the last trace of patience vanished from the depths of his eyes, leaving only cold anger.

He understood, the person in front of him was impervious, hell-bent on his own path.

Chapter 698: Pushed to the Limit

"Alright, I understand what you mean." These words were almost squeezed out from between Old Hou's teeth.

He no longer looked at Qi Yun, his gaze shifted to the heavy night outside the window, waving his hand to issue an eviction order: "You may leave."

Qi Yun stood up, without saying another word, and left the office with steady steps.

The door closed gently, isolating two worlds.

Qi Yun understood in his heart that he had completely offended Old Hou. Whether this guy would make things difficult for him was hard to say, but in the future, if given the chance, he would definitely add insult to injury.

After Qi Yun left, Secretary Wang entered the office. He glanced at his leader and immediately guessed the result.

"Leader..."

...

The next day, just as Qi Yun arrived at the company, he received a call from Xia Shaohua of the business administration.

Looking at the name on the screen, Qi Yun had a faint guess.

"Hello, Brother Xia."

"Old Qi, have you offended someone recently?" Xia Shaohua asked straight to the point.

Qi Yun smiled: "Why do you say that?"

Xia Shaohua paused, lowered his voice, and explained: "There's just been a notice from above to set up a governance team including business administration, tax, and fire departments to sort and inspect some enterprises in the area. I noticed your company is on the list."

As expected, it came quite quickly.

Qi Yun was familiar with this trick. When he dealt with Ji Liyang in Shanghai, he had used the same method, and within days had nearly ruined Ji Liyang's business.

But Qi Yun's industries were different from Ji Liyang's. The latter was mostly in construction, which inherently had many under-the-table dealings; whereas Qi Yun's companies were all clean, typically not prone to such issues, though the operations might be affected.

"Old Qi, they're about to hold a meeting to discuss you here, and it looks serious. You better prepare well and don't underestimate this." Xia Shaohua cautiously reminded again.

"Got it, I know."

After hanging up, he frowned in thought about how to best defend against this wave.

Should he ask Xiao Hanguang or Wendong's leaders to stand up for him?

For such a minor issue, running to them seemed a bit like a child reporting to parents before even being hit...

After thinking it over, Qi Yun had a preliminary idea and got up to consult with Brother Peng in the next office.

"Such a big deal?" Brother Peng showed a surprised expression when he heard the one offended was Old Hou.

He knew Qi Yun was making big strides now, but he didn't expect Qi Yun to already be able to hold his own against such big figures.

"If worst comes to worst, we'll just quit the business!"

Qi Yun handed him a cigarette and said slowly, "It hasn't come to that yet. I want to first test his attitude to see if he's simply venting anger or truly wants to finish me off."

"What do you suggest we do? I'm listening to you."

Qi Yun slowly exhaled a cloud of smoke: "Let's give the employees a few days off first, so they don't become nervous. Keep an eye on the finances to avoid problems, and let them check slowly."

Brother Peng nodded: "Hmm, okay, after all, we just sent out a batch of goods, so there's no rush for now."

"But what about your internet company? If they shut down the game, wouldn't you lose tens of millions a day?"

"I'll take care of that side..."

After discussing, Qi Yun found Xiang Xiaoyue and instructed: "Tell everyone, except for the finance department, those without urgent work will have a holiday these days, and salaries will be paid as usual; those who need to work can work from home as overtime."

"Huh?" Xiang Xiaoyue was surprised and asked doubtfully, "Boss, is something wrong?"

"No worries, just do as I say." Qi Yun didn't explain further.

"Oh, okay." Seeing Qi Yun was unwilling to elaborate, Xiang Xiaoyue didn't inquire further and turned to leave the office.

Whew~

Giving you an out, but don't go too far, Qi Yun muttered to himself.

As for the other companies, he made no arrangements since he wasn't the legal representative and they weren't on the list.

....

In the afternoon, after a sumptuous roast lamb feast, Qi Yun personally escorted Wei Zhe and Zhang Wei to the airport.

At the entrance, the three shook hands in farewell.

"President Qi, thank you for your warm hospitality. It's great to meet a friend like you, see you on the other side!"

"Alright! Safe journey!" Qi Yun watched the prized guests' silhouettes disappear into the depths of the channel, and only then did his smile gradually fade.

"Boss, shall we return?" An Zai, who was driving, asked.

Qi Yun looked at his watch, "No rush, let's wait here for a bit, there's another person to pick up."

More than forty minutes later, a flight from Shanghai landed.

Zhao Weilin, along with his assistant Dong Anyun, disembarked, and Qi Yun waved to them from a distance before they drove away together.

"Uncle, you arrived quite fast."

Sitting in the back seat, Zhao Weilin glanced at Qi Yun, feeling that this kid somewhat lacked respect in the way he spoke to him now.

"How's Xiaoqing's health?"

This haste to come over was partly driven by a desire to see his daughter.

"Rest assured, Xiaoqing is recovering well. I plan to bring her home in the next couple of days." Qi Yun reassured him.

"Hmm." Zhao Weilin's gaze turned out the car window, "When is the meeting with Guanghui Group scheduled?"

Speaking of business, Qi Yun no longer wore a cheeky grin, and said seriously: "Chairman Liu is very keen on this cooperation, and knowing you were coming personally, has set aside a whole day tomorrow for a detailed discussion with us."

"The meeting will be at Guanghui Group, and other directors will also be attending."

Zhao Weilin nodded slightly and gestured to Dong Anyun beside him. Dong Anyun promptly took a file from the briefcase and handed it to Qi Yun.

"President Qi, this is our risk management team's preliminary cooperation plan key points. Please have a look and let us know if there are any adjustments or additions needed."

Qi Yun took the file and quickly skimmed through it.

The document was detailed and well-structured, covering not only market analysis and financial forecasts but also various potential risks in the cooperation.

For instance, technical issues and market fluctuations were graded and countermeasures suggested.

It even included facing potential online backlash from netizens...

Qi Yun closed the file: "Very thorough, especially the risk contingency sections. They're deeply considered."

This document alone showed that the scale Maple Capital achieved was indeed based on solid capabilities.

It also boosted Qi Yun's confidence in the upcoming cooperation even more.

Having invested so much in Dawn Technology, he naturally hoped for a good outcome. So far, inviting Old Zhao's team to participate seems a wise choice.

...

Simultaneously, after comprehending the governance team's work situation, Secretary Wang found Old Hou to report back.

"Leader, after preliminary investigation, that Qi Yun's company is very clean; they found no issues."

Old Hou was engrossed in a document and didn't lift his head, only letting out a light "humph" that revealed no emotion.

Standing slightly bowing at the desk, Secretary Wang continued cautiously: "His internet company just released a highly popular game on the market. Do you think it's necessary to strictly review the game's content?"

"Besides, he's also the major shareholder of several other companies..."

Finally putting down the document, Old Hou leaned back in his chair, gently tapping his fingers on the desk: "We conduct these checks and reviews legally and regularly to standardize business operations and promote healthy development, not to deliberately make things difficult for anyone or interfere with normal market behavior."

Secretary Wang immediately nodded: "Yes, I know what to do."

After leaving the office, he took out his phone and sent out a text.

The content was just one word, "Investigate!"

Chapter 699: Trying to Force Me to Surrender?

The next day, after breakfast, Qi Yun went to the hotel to pick up Old Zhao. Today, they were going to discuss the specific details of cooperation with Guanghai Group.

Zhao Weilin seemed to be in a good mood because last night Zhao Qing not only talked to him but also allowed him to touch the unborn grandson in her belly.

However, just as their car arrived at the Guanghai Group parking lot, Qi Yun received a call from President Bi.

"Old Qi, I need to talk to you about something."

"Okay, go ahead."

"The company faced a situation. Suddenly, some kind of governance team arrived, wanting to conduct a thorough inspection of the company. I have a feeling something's not right here."

President Bi's tone sounded relatively calm; as someone who had seen many ups and downs, he wasn't rattled by such a sudden situation.

After hearing this, Qi Yun's expression turned grim. He didn't need to guess; it was definitely aimed at him.

Before he could respond, he heard conversations on the other end, suggesting President Bi was talking with someone else. After a few seconds, President Bi said, "Just now, Xiao Xia reported to me that the new company, Tianshan Ice Spring, is also being inspected."

"Is this... aimed at us?"

"Aimed at me." Qi Yun replied with certainty.

"Aimed at you..." President Bi found it a bit unbelievable. He was aware of some of Qi Yun's background. Who would dare intentionally make trouble?

"Who's behind it?"

"Old Hou."

"Old..." President Bi hesitated after saying one word, thinking he must have heard wrong, and confirmed in surprise, "That Old Hou?"

Qi Yun nodded and said blandly, "Yes, the one you're thinking of."

The phone fell into silence. After a few seconds, President Bi asked, "What should we do?"

He didn't ask Qi Yun in detail why he clashed with Old Hou nor panic at the thought of facing such a figure.

The attitude conveyed was clear: They're still partners, facing any difficulties together.

This was why Qi Yun chose to partner with President Bi multiple times.

"The accounts at the jewelry company..." Qi Yun tentatively asked. Last time, when selling that ivory, he got involved in some company business and knew some affairs couldn't be brought to light.

"You don't need to worry about that." President Bi confidently said, "When Old Zhou fell last time, I stopped all those businesses; our tracks were already covered."

"The company has no problems now; at most, they might fine us for some trivial details."

The biggest connection at the jewelry company was Zhou Wenbin, brought in by Mr. Li, and Old Zhou was already out of the picture thanks to Qi Yun's plans.

"But... if they dig deeply into Tianshan Ice Spring, will those procedures..."

Qi Yun understood President Bi's implication. The procedures for Tianshan Ice Spring's mining, land acquisition, and production, including related formalities at Dawn Technology, were expedited thanks to Qi Yun's influence.

Normally, completing the process might take one to two months, even half a year, but it took less than five working days.

Although there were no problems with the procedures and everything was legal, there might be flaws in the process. If someone wanted to make an issue out of it, they could still stir up some trouble.

Not only could it cause trouble for the company, but also for those who gave Qi Yun face.

"Alright, let them investigate if they want." Qi Yun remained composed, his voice steady, "I'll find someone to look into this and get back to you."

"Okay, if you need anything from me, just let me know."

"Haha, no worries. Just keep an eye on the company."

Qi Yun hung up the phone, his gaze colder than before.

The pressure was relentless, affecting even his affiliated companies. It was evident they intended to pressure him.

As expected, during the call, Tao Ziming also sent a message, notifying him that someone had gone to Dawn Technology as well.

Immediately after, Xiang Xiaoyue called, saying that the internet administration had sent a notice, listing numerous corrective requirements and ordered the game to be temporarily suspended.

"I signed the corrective notice, but I clearly refused the suspension order. They don't have the right to do that; only the National Press and Publication Administration or the state internet administration can issue such notifications."

"I feel like this isn't over; they might really apply to the higher authorities..." Xiang Xiaoyue's tone was filled with worry.

"Hmm, I understand. You did very well." Qi Yun acknowledged her crisis-handling skills. The seven-figure annual salary was well-deserved, saving him plenty of trouble.

"Don't worry too much about the rest. The outcome isn't theirs to decide. I'll make arrangements."

"Alright, boss."

With his reassurance, Xiang Xiaoyue finally sighed in relief. She feared losing such a good job and boss...

Qi Yun put down his phone, a cold sneer in his heart.

Trying to force me to yield, are you?

"What's wrong?" Noticing his off expression, Zhao Weilin asked with concern.

Qi Yun shook his head, "It's nothing, just a small problem."

"Uncle, you both head upstairs first, don't keep Chairman Liu waiting too long. I'll make a call and come up shortly."

"Alright." Zhao Weilin nodded, leading Dong Anyun out of the car first.

After the two left, Qi Yun lit a cigarette and dialed Li Yaohua's number.

The phone was quickly picked up, Li Yaohua's cheerful voice came through, "Old Qi, are you asking about the bulletproof cars? Don't worry, they've already been sent over and should arrive by tomorrow."

After Zhao Qing and the others were attacked, Qi Yun had asked Li Yaohua to help purchase a few more of the same type of Maybachs, all customized bulletproof versions.

"Haha, that's not what it's about. There's another matter I need your help with." Qi Yun chuckled and said.

"Alright, go ahead."

Chapter 700: Trying to Force Me to Back Down? (Part 2)

"Well..." Qi Yun quickly summarized the situation.

"What do you need me to do? Report this to the boss?" Li Yaohua asked.

"No need."

Qi Yun didn't want to bother Fu Wentao with everything; it was best to handle it himself if he could, "I want you to visit the people at the Publishing Administration and the Country's Internet Office."

Li Yaohua caught on immediately: "Got it, a small matter, I'll take care of it later!"

"Great, thanks. I'll make sure to take good care of you next time," Qi Yun said with a smile.

"What are you saying, trying to make me look bad?" Li Yaohua, having stayed in Beijing for a while, had picked up a local accent.

After ending the call, Qi Yun took a hard drag from his cigarette and then called Qin Minghui.

"Qin**, you're aware of the situation, right?"

"I've heard about it, but it has nothing to do with me. They bypassed me directly... you should know why that is." Not wanting Qi Yun to misunderstand, Qin Minghui spoke very bluntly.

"I understand." Qi Yun didn't show any resentment or questioning, "That's why I'm calling, not to hold anyone accountable, but to understand your stance."

"Hold on a moment." There was the sound of a door closing on the other end, then, "What stance do you want me to take?"

Qi Yun didn't answer directly but said, "Last time Lu Zhaoxue came to find me, it cost me a lot of goodwill, you should be aware of that."

After a brief silence, Qin Minghui sighed: "Yes, I understand, I haven't forgotten that."

He knew Qi Yun was reminding him not to forget the favor from last time.

When he was about to be pushed down by all sides, it was Qi Yun who pulled him back up.

"But... you should also know, there are things I'm powerless to change, otherwise, I wouldn't have been at the hotel the night before last."

Qi Yun exhaled a smoke ring: "Phew~ I know that, don't worry, I won't ask you to withdraw those people."

"I just need to know your stance and whether our cooperative relationship is solid at critical moments."

"As long as it doesn't involve principle issues." Qin Minghui's voice was low, but his tone was clear, "What needs to be done, what I can do, I will do."

He didn't fully commit, leaving enough room for maneuver to prevent Qi Yun from using him as a scapegoat.

But the core message was clear, given sufficient reason, he was willing to stand with Qi Yun and lend him a helping hand.

This was the best commitment Qi Yun could secure from Qin Minghui given the current situation.

Qi Yun's tone softened: "That's enough, Qin**, I'll reach out again if needed."

After ending the call, Qi Yun adjusted his emotions and opened the car door to get out.

Although this retaliation had disrupted the development pace of a few companies, the cooperation with Liu Guangxin was also very important at the moment, and he couldn't neglect one thing for another.

Entering the meeting room, Zhao Weilin and Dong Anyun had already finished exchanging pleasantries with Liu Guangxin and the others, waiting for his presence as the central figure.

Qi Yun wore an apologetic smile, bowed to express his apology: "Sorry, Director Liu and everyone, I was delayed by some urgent matters."

"President Qi, no need to be so formal, please have a seat." Liu Guangxin greeted warmly, skipping the informal "Little Qi" title in such a setting.

After introducing a few major shareholders and senior executives from Guanghui, the meeting officially began.

First, Qi Yun spoke, introducing the current status of Dawn Technology, after which he had a chief engineer sent by Tao Ziming to elaborate on Dawn Technology's breakthroughs in solid-state batteries and new materials.

The senior engineer was a veteran of the team, well-versed in the products, and, with clear charts and data, made all the senior executives at Guanghai understand how advanced Dawn Technology currently was.

Next, Zhao Weilin expressed his stance, stating Maple Capital's optimism about the new energy vehicle industry and their willingness to back the tripartite collaboration with significant investment.

On Liu Guangxin's side, a senior executive introduced Guanghai Group's resources in supply chain integration and market channels.

Overall, all three parties were satisfied with their respective strengths.

Finally, the discussion turned to stock distribution, the most critical and sensitive part of the negotiation, immediately causing the atmosphere in the meeting room to become tense.

Guanghai Group's vice president of finance was the first to speak: "Apologies, everyone, I need to add a point to what was just discussed;

Guanghai Group is investing not only the resources mentioned earlier but also an experienced sales management team and significant brand influence."

"These intangible assets are of great value, and I believe this should be adequately reflected in the stock distribution."

With this statement, the temperature in the room seemed to drop further.

It's no wonder Liu Guangxin had previously reminded Qi Yun to be prepared; when it comes to specific interests, confrontation is inevitable.

Having faced such situations before, Zhao Weilin remained calm and only spoke slowly after the other side finished: "We fully recognize Guanghui Group's industrial advantages, which are foundational to this collaboration."

"Our team at Maple Capital has conducted a preliminary valuation based on industry conditions for the assets Guanghui might contribute."

"Simultaneously, we have also evaluated Dawn Technology's existing achievements, core technology patents, and R&D team, referencing international technology transaction cases."

After speaking, he paused, and without needing any cue, Dong Anyun stood up and distributed the documents in his hands to everyone.

Zhao Weilin continued: "This is our preliminary stock structure draft based on the evaluation, please take a look."

"Of course, every valuation model has its limitations, and if there are differing opinions, they can be raised."

Qi Yun glanced through it; it was similar to the plan Liu Guangxin mentioned earlier, and he even ended up with a bit more, receiving 42%, while the other two received 29% each.

According to Maple Capital's 20 billion investment budget, it equated to Dawn Technology already being valued at over 8 billion.

Moreover, the document specifically highlighted that Dawn Technology had established a complete production facility and four production lines worth 2 billion.

This was essentially a reminder to the senior executives at Guanghui that Qi Yun wasn't just bringing battery technology into the deal.

From this, it was evident that old Zhao was quite supportive of his future son-in-law in this collaboration.

No one in the meeting room spoke for a long while, just as Liu Guangxin mentioned, Maple Capital has a commendable reputation in the industry, and their evaluation report holds significant authority, plus the preliminary plan appeared reasonable and well-grounded in data.

Ultimately, it was Liu Guangxin who broke the silence: "President Zhao's team's evaluation is very professional; I personally have no major objections to this stock structure division."

Upon hearing his statement, the other senior executives at Guanghui exchanged glances; though some still showed slight reluctance, they eventually nodded.

After all, the chairman had already agreed, and while this allocation plan gave Dawn Technology the largest share, it also took into account Guanghui Group's substantial resources and brand value.

The key point was that Maple Capital's endorsement made this valuation difficult to refute.

"Alright, since there's no major objection, the stock structure is tentatively set as such," Liu Guangxin finalized, "Next, we can discuss the specific management framework and board seat arrangements..."

The meeting lasted for most of the day, and the new company's collaboration was basically settled.

Liu Guangxin was appointed as the new company's chairman and president, with Qi Yun and Zhao Weilin as vice presidents, and the board seats were roughly equal among the three parties.

This result was strongly advocated by Qi Yun because he didn't want to be entangled in the company's trivial matters every day.

It seemed as though Guanghui Company held the dominant position, but only Liu Guangxin knew that Qi Yun was the core of this company because of his relationship with Zhao Weilin.

However, this wasn't something Liu Guangxin disclosed to others; if too many knew, someone might develop ulterior motives, as not everyone shared his trust in Qi Yun.