

Two Trillion 1011

Chapter 1011 How Can You Be Sure It's Real?

Before Zheng Honghu announced the results, Lin Yu's confidence had its reasons.

Up to that point, his performance was neck and neck with Bai Xiaosheng.

The key lay in the additional evidence gathered in the investigation of Lu Zhixin and Zhao Beiqing.

That is, from Li Qiushan and his group and the physical evidence they held!

At the moment, Bai Xiaosheng had the testimonial evidence, while he had the physical evidence.

But actually, there is a hierarchy between testimonial and physical evidence.

If the physical evidence is authentic, its evidentiary power is quite high.

Whereas testimonial evidence, strictly speaking, should be the testimony of witnesses and needs corroboration from other evidence to be accepted.

Generally, mere testimonial evidence is insufficient to ascertain its authenticity and validity!

Traditionally, where physical and testimonial evidence conflict, physical evidence takes precedence over testimonial evidence!

Moreover, Lin Yu had "documentary evidence" such as contracts and official documents!

The proof power of which was even higher than physical and testimonial evidence.

So, although outwardly both parties were equal, in truth, Lin Yu's "evidentiary strength" overshadowed Bai Xiaosheng.

Quantified into points, it should have been a stable victory!

Yet why did Bai Xiaosheng end up winning!

Lin Yu's complexion fluctuated between a steel blue and frost white.

He gritted his teeth, unwilling to believe.

And he would not accept it!

He had abandoned his principles of action but, in the end, it did not yield a victorious result!

Still ignorant of where he had lost!

Lin Yu could not accept it!

The crowd surrounding them was eerily silent.

Over seventy percent of them were shocked and in disbelief.

They stared at Lin Yu in surprise before their gaze shifted to Bai Xiaosheng, oscillating between the two.

Such an outcome was completely beyond their expectations!

In the crowd, Yu Ying's eyes were wide open in shock, revealing disbelief.

It was she who had personally acquired the documentary evidence and given it to Lin Yu.

Lin Yu, to actually lose...

"Interesting, testimonial evidence actually overcame documentary evidence, or perhaps..."

Yu Ying's gaze sharpened.

Seated in the resting area, Shen Peishen was also slightly taken aback, but it was only a fleeting reaction.

He quickly regained his usual expression.

"Truly unexpected!"

Xiahou Qi clicked his tongue in admiration, glancing at Shen Peishen.

"Yes, Affairs Officer Bai is so outstanding, it's truly admirable," Shen Peishen smiled.

His demeanor showed no hint of anger or depression from Lin Yu's defeat.

His emotional control had truly reached a high level.

Xiahou Qi gave a faint smile, watching Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu, taking in their reactions.

"Bai Xiaosheng really surprised me with his composure; calm in victory, which is excellent! Just for this composure alone, I recognize his eligibility to become a Candidate Great Affairs Officer!"

"Lin Yu... his emotional reaction is somewhat excessive. Alas, after dominating for years, to be defeated all at once, indeed a pity!"

Meanwhile, Zheng Honghu called to Bai Xiaosheng, "Officer Bai Xiaosheng, follow me!"

Then, Zheng Honghu walked towards Xiahou Qi and Shen Peishen.

Since these two were present, Zheng Honghu treated them as the "final judges" and showed them the final scores.

At the same time, he was to present the results of the inquiries regarding Lu Zhixin and Zhao Beiqing to Xiahou Qi.

Later, Lu Zhixin, Zhao Beiqing, and all the evidence would be handed over to the judiciary.

To put it bluntly, the company was only responsible for gathering evidence and conducting inquiries, not interrogations.

They managed the fine line very well, never overstepping.

Bai Xiaosheng followed Zheng Honghu all the way to Xiahou Qi and Shen Peishen.

The spectators also gathered around.

As soon as the result was announced, all eyes turned to Bai Xiaosheng.

Shock, admiration, reverence...

Their gazes followed him like spotlights, closely watching his every move.

In just over a year!

In just over a year, he had surpassed Lin Yu, who had been an Affairs Officer for several years, and triumphed over many to win the position of Candidate Great Affairs Officer!

Who else could there be!

This time, the impact Bai Xiaosheng had on everyone.

Was even stronger and more real than when he initially held the Chen Brothers accountable!

Many people's gazes were fervent.

Bai Xiaosheng had become their new idol!

In the crowd, Lin Yu's forehead veins were prominent, his gaze fixed, and his hands clenched into fists tightly.

From extreme confidence to defeat in one move.

From being the pride of everyone to being surrounded by sympathy and ridicule.

The contrast was so stark!

So huge it was like a mountain pressing on his heart.

It was too much for Lin Yu to bear.

Yet, he still followed them.

Zheng Honghu handed over a set of evaluation results to Xiahou Qi and Shen Peishen.

Two highly respected individuals perused the document.

Xiahou Qi was okay.

After reading it, Shen Peishen's eyes narrowed slightly, showing some surprise.

Lin Yu had been staring at his mentor, swallowing hard, feeling guilty for not living up to his teacher's cultivation and support.

However, when he saw Shen Peishen's moment of surprise, his eyes suddenly widened.

He wanted to see the final scores.

This desire was incredibly strong, and seeing his teacher's reaction made him even more anxious.

He wanted to see!

He needed to see!

"Sir Shen, may I take a look," Lin Yu asked.

His voice was a bit hoarse.

This request made everyone look at him.

Ignoring the gazes of others, Lin Yu stubbornly stared at Shen Peishen.

Shen Peishen hesitated for a moment, exchanging glances with Xiahou Qi.

Finally, he passed the score sheet to Lin Yu.

Lin Yu quickly stepped forward to receive it.

People behind Lin Yu also crowded around, sneakily peeking over.

Zheng Honghu didn't stop them.

After all, it was going to be made public eventually.

Lin Yu looked only at his and Bai Xiaosheng's scores.

First was the performance score, where he even slightly surpassed Bai Xiaosheng.

Then, the scores for the follow-up investigation regarding Lu Zhixin and Zhao Beiqing.

Lin Yu's eyes suddenly narrowed, and he exclaimed, "This is impossible!"

"How could the gap be so wide, I... I'm not even close to his fractional score!"

Lin Yu's eyes filled with blood, incredulously staring at Zheng Honghu.

Surprised, disbelieving, and even faintly angry.

Why...

Why would he, holding documentary evidence, score only a fraction of Bai Xiaosheng, who had merely testimonial evidence?

"Great Official Zheng Honghu, regarding the final results of Officer Bai Xiaosheng and Officer Lin Yu, both Mr. Xia and I trust your judgment, but what is the basis for these scores? This gap seems a bit large," Shen Peishen also said.

Losing was one thing, but losing clearly was another!

Even in death, one must understand the reason!

Lin Yu looked towards Zheng Honghu.

Zheng Honghu was calm and unruffled, telling Xiahou Qi and Shen Peishen, "About the detailed inquiry process, there are videos, and I will also provide a detailed report."

"I can only say that only thirty percent of the evidence provided by Officer Lin Yu later was true! The rest was false."

False evidence?

False evidence!

"Impossible!" Lin Yu shouted angrily, "Is it because those two people didn't admit it, or because the testimonial witnesses brought by Bai Xiaosheng denied it, that you think my evidence is false?"

He couldn't accept it!

"No," Zheng Honghu looked at Lin Yu calmly, not at all angered by the confrontation.

"Officer Bai Xiaosheng also provided documentary evidence, which contradicts yours and matches the testimonial evidence. Those two people admitted to those parts and denied yours."

Zheng Honghu gave Lin Yu a meaningful look, saying, "I don't know where Officer Lin Yu obtained your evidence, are you so confident that those... are real?!"

This seemingly light question, like a bolt from the blue, struck Lin Yu dumb.

How can you prove that what you brought is real!

How could those possibly be fake!

They all came from...

Lin Yu's mind roared, his eyes widened in shock towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Could it be that from the beginning, the evidence he had gotten was fake?

"The lost items might be mistaken, how I wish the person who took them—"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke innocently to himself, "would not use them!"

Chapter 1012: I Want to Set a Record!

Lin Yu was completely stunned as if he were a wooden statue.

He felt a scorching anger.

Anger, gloom—these emotions had nowhere to vent, especially under the public's gaze.

What could he do?

Pointing at Bai Xiaosheng's nose and cursing, "You bastard actually used fake evidence to make me steal, are you still human, do you have no shame?"

The people around them were already whispering and gesturing to each other.

What they said no longer mattered.

To Lin Yu, everything sounded like mockery, like disdain directed at him!

Lin Yu only felt his face burning, and he didn't want to stay there for another moment.

Xiahou Qi looked at Bai Xiaosheng, then at Lin Yu, his eyes carrying a profound meaning.

Zheng Honghu's face was expressionless as he took the report card from Lin Yu's hands.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was indifferent.

"Alright, alright, the results are out, congrats to Officer Bai Xiaosheng for becoming the Candidate Great Affairs Officer! A round of applause, everyone!"

Shen Peisheng suddenly laughed, leading the clapping.

His gaze lingered on Bai Xiaosheng, eyes clearly filled with gratification and admiration. When he looked at Lin Yu, there was a hint of implication.

Xiahou Qi started clapping, Zheng Honghu began clapping.

Applause swelled around the room.

"Congratulations to Officer Bai Xiaosheng for becoming the Candidate Great Affairs Officer!"

"Truly impressive, Officer Bai Xiaosheng, you will be a model for the new generation in our Affairs Department!"

"Congratulations!"

"Congratulations!"

The flood of congratulations didn't make Bai Xiaosheng jump for joy.

Everything was as expected, all within the plan.

That day, when he had treated Li Qiushan and others to a meal, what he had instructed Li Qiushan to do was just this—

Prepare some fake evidence as a precaution.

Against whom and why, Bai Xiaosheng didn't say, and Li Qiushan didn't ask, but he carried out the instructions faithfully.

The girl arranged by Yu Ying was tricking evidence from Li Qiushan.

In fact, even if Bai Xiaosheng hadn't cautioned him, Li Qiushan wouldn't have been fooled!

In today's era, information is crucial.

Yu Ying didn't know that Li Qiushan and others' current boss was Bai Xiaosheng.

If Bai Xiaosheng really wanted to send someone to get evidence, when talking to Li Qiushan and his people, he wouldn't address them with such unfamiliarity and distance.

Regarding the creation of the fake evidence, Bai Xiaosheng had muttered to Li Qiushan, Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and others—

That what he was doing might be somewhat underhanded.

But those few unanimously thought that Bai Xiaosheng was being too honorable!

Generally, knowing someone was scheming against oneself, not striking first was considered overly kindhearted.

Having received everyone's "approval", Bai Xiaosheng no longer felt uneasy.

"Ding! Becoming the Candidate Great Affairs Officer, you have completed the current phase of promotion tasks!"

Red Lotus's voice echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

"Calculating points."

"You have completed the investigation of one provincial industry leader and one affairs officer, with conclusive evidence ready to be transferred to judicial authorities. The company has decided to fire them and initiate litigation."

"You have earned twenty-nine points, with a total score of ninety-nine points at the affairs officer level, one point away from the senior affairs officer level!"

Bai Xiaosheng was full of anticipation, eagerly waiting, and couldn't help but feel somewhat disappointed.

To be just one point short...

"It seems that uncovering one provincial industry leader is worth fifteen points, and one affairs officer is worth fourteen points..."

"Damn, just one point short."

Bai Xiaosheng sighed slightly.

There had been times before when he was just one point away from a promotion; being stuck in such a "precise" position was indeed a bit speechless.

However, it was just one point after all, simple.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

After all, the position of Candidate Great Affairs Officer was his!

"Alright, everyone, disperse now!" Shen Peishen raised his voice to the onlookers.

The reason he had taken the lead in announcing Bai Xiaosheng's success and initiated the applause was to bring an end to this scene as quickly as possible, to get Lin Yu out of there.

Shen Peishen noticed that Lin Yu was on the brink of collapse.

His student had suffered such a heavy blow, and accompanying the applause, his hands seemed as heavy as a thousand pounds.

However—

"For Lin Yu, this may also be an opportunity!" Shen Peishen silently thought.

Lin Yu was too honest, too rigid.

Setbacks, failure, and even humiliation could be like the purifying fire of the red lotus, allowing him to be reborn.

"Let's disperse," Xiahou Qi also said.

He too had noticed that Lin Yu was struggling to cope.

He couldn't just watch one talent rise to success while letting another fall to ruin.

As everyone left, the chatter continued unabated.

There were those who expressed regret and disappointment for Lin Yu, and even more who praised and marveled at Bai Xiaosheng.

After this event, Bai Xiaosheng was truly a Candidate Great Affairs Officer in every sense.

Even though his authority remained the same, his future was boundless.

This news would surely shake the entire Affairs Department, even causing a stir among regional heads and provincial industrial leaders!

Shen Peishen left with Lin Yu shortly afterward.

Xiahou Qi also rose leisurely to leave, refusing any accompaniment.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply as he watched Lin Yu walk away with a stiff and somewhat dejected gait.

"Lin Yu, from the very start, when I tested you, I was certain that the one who had stolen the evidence had to be from your side!"

"Your eyes gave you away!"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

Over the past year, under systematic training, his powers of observation had become incredibly strong.

While he couldn't see through people like Xiahou Qi or Shen Peishen, or the enigmatic Great Affairs Officers,

when it came to those at the Affairs Officer level, if Bai Xiaosheng put his mind to it, he was almost always spot-on.

"It's not my fault, I merely dug a hole in my own yard, not intending to trap anyone outside the wall. If someone enters my house to steal and skulk, they can't blame me."

Bai Xiaosheng silently mused.

"Lin Yu, how could you change like this..."

Bai Xiaosheng felt a twinge of regret.

But then, his smile returned.

After all, he had become a Candidate Great Affairs Officer.

Yu Ying left quietly with the crowd, her cold gaze cutting through the throng to settle on Bai Xiaosheng.

Though she was far away and couldn't hear what was said, she was exceedingly intelligent.

One guess told her that if there was something wrong with the evidence, then what she had received must have been tampered with.

"Damn you, Bai Xiaosheng, dragging my reputation through the mud!"

Yu Ying laughed bitterly in her rage.

"All day long, I've been hunting geese, only to end up getting pecked in the eye!"

"You dare to scheme against me, just you wait!"

Yu Ying left quietly.

In Zheng Honghu's office, the door opened, and Yu Chang and another assistant led Lu Zhixin, Zhao Beiqing, and Li Qiushan and others out, leaving by another way.

Lu Zhixin and Zhao Beiqing looked defeated like frostbitten eggplants, their steps faltering and weak.

But Li Qiushan and his group left with faces full of joy.

Their great vengeance had been satisfied, how could they not rejoice!

Before leaving, Li Qiushan and the others nodded and smiled wordlessly at Bai Xiaosheng, who returned the gesture with a smile.

The matter was settled.

He had quite unexpectedly gained a group of capable elites, striking it rich!

"Congratulations, Bai Xiaosheng... Candidate Great Affairs Officer."

Zheng Honghu smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Now, I wonder, do you have any thoughts to share?"

Bai Xiaosheng was amused.

Thoughts?

If I just find some work to do and earn a single point, I'll be a Great Affairs Officer today!

Would that be too outrageous?

"I want to set a record!"

Bai Xiaosheng expressed his thoughts sincerely.

Chapter 1013 Surrounded by Spectators

He had indeed achieved his desired goal of becoming a Candidate Senior Affairs Officer.

Bai Xiaosheng greeted Zheng Honghu and then returned to his office with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Along the way, the three of them received a "guard of honor" welcome.

Those who passed by all stopped in their tracks to make way for them, smiling broadly with kindness and respect, calling out to Bai Xiaosheng—"Affairs Officer Bai"!

Even though he was now a candidate for Senior Affairs Officer, the title remained the same.

Yet within those voices, there was clearly a hint of awe reserved for a Senior Affairs Officer!

Today, Bai Xiaosheng's status was entirely different!

Beyond the greetings, these people also invariably widened their eyes to carefully observe Bai Xiaosheng.

Their gazes even followed him all the way.

It seemed they all wanted to see for themselves what kind of miraculous figure could, in one year, rise from being an Affairs Officer to a Candidate Senior Affairs Officer, surpassing the benchmark of the Affairs Department, Lin Yu.

Or perhaps they thought he was donned with some secret halo!

The most absurd thing was.

As they passed offices along the way, the doors would quietly open.

Those inside would specifically run out to join in greeting him and have a look.

Bai Xiaosheng on this walk could do nothing but smile, nod, and greet people; by the end, even his facial muscles felt sore.

It was exhausting.

At the end, Bai Xiaosheng walked with a brisk step, just to get back sooner.

Once he returned to his office and closed the door, Bai Xiaosheng's expression immediately collapsed.

"This Candidate Senior Affairs Officer, to think I was actually on public display..."

"Do they really see me as some precious animal!"

Lin Weiwei laughed with a "pfft," "Then we should charge admission and not let them watch for free."

"Exactly!" Lei Ying heartily agreed.

Bai Xiaosheng twitched his lower eyelid.

While chatting, Bai Xiaosheng's phone rang.

"Feng Li?" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the name and answered the call.

"Congratulations, Bai Xiaosheng! I didn't expect you to become the candidate for this term's Senior Affairs Officer! I'm handling affairs in the neighboring province and just got the news. Sorry I can't congratulate you in person," Feng Li laughed on the phone.

"Not at all, I've just been lucky," Bai Xiaosheng replied modestly while smiling.

Yet internally he thought.

Is the news spreading this quickly? Even Feng Li, who is out of town, knows about it.

Bai Xiaosheng had a chat with Feng Li and then hung up the phone.

No sooner had he done so, another call came in.

This time, even further away, it was Lin Ke.

Just two days ago when they chatted, she was in the south. But she would be returning soon.

"Candidate Senior Affairs Officer Bai, impressive!" As soon as the call connected, Lin Ke shouted excitedly.

Only she could call out such an awkward title so nonchalantly...

"One year not seen, and you've made quite the progress, seizing the candidacy for Senior Affairs Officer upon your return!"

"Now, you're just one step away from being a Senior Affairs Officer!"

"It's really infuriating, once you become the Senior Affairs Officer, I'll have to listen to you!"

Lin Ke chattered incessantly.

"I don't care, if you really become the Senior Affairs Officer in a few years, you must give me some privileges, or I won't let you off the hook!"

This girl was like a bouncing bean, her words unending.

Bai Xiaosheng could barely get a word in.

After a round of banter, Lin Ke finally hung up.

Bai Xiaosheng let out a sigh of relief, but then Wang Xincheng's call came through.

And afterward, Li Haofeng...

Most of his acquaintances, although outside, congratulated him as soon as they heard the news.

On one hand, Bai Xiaosheng marveled at the speed of the news spreading, and on the other, he felt very comforted.

Those who came to congratulate were all his friends.

In their words, there was heartfelt joy for him.

...

At this moment, in a Senior Affairs Officer's office.

Fang Beijun heard the news and was genuinely surprised, his gaze a bit complex.

"This Bai Xiaosheng has actually managed to surpass Lin Yu and secure the candidacy for Senior Affairs Officer! Unbelievable!"

This news was somewhat hard for Fang Beijun to believe.

After all, Lin Yu's backer was none other than Shen Peishen!

And Bai Xiaosheng?

Although President Xiahou Qi was quite fond of him, he definitely would not intervene this time.

Firstly, Lin Yu was also someone Xiahou Qi admired, and he would be happy regardless of who was elected.

Secondly, what status was Xiahou Qi? If he trampled the rules, then what rules could Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region follow in the future?

Moreover, if Xiahou Qi truly wanted someone in the position, would he need to go through such trouble?

It would simply be unnecessary!

Therefore, in this matter, President Xiahou Qi would certainly remain neutral.

Bai Xiaosheng could be said to be fighting a solo battle, not only facing the powerful enemy, Lin Yu, but also contending with the support of other Senior Affairs Officers!

Yet he still won!

"I really did underestimate him!" Senior Affairs Officer Fang Beijun frowned and murmured.

His dislike for Lu Zhixin, this troublemaker, and his wish to get rid of her were true.

When discussing the selection criteria for the Candidate Senior Affairs Officer election, thinking of troubling Bai Xiaosheng was also true.

This isn't a conflict.

Fang Beijun wanted to offer Lu Zhixin as a dish to Shen Peishen's side to eat, so he secretly reached out to Yu Ying and wanted to spare Lin Yu some "trouble."

Of course, this was also an attempt to gain Shen Peishen's support.

Outsiders only think it's Fang Beijun and Shen Peishen in an open and covert fight, but little do they know, when it comes to their level,

there are no permanent enemies, only eternal interests.

Fang Beijun, thinking of advancing half a step up and leaving the Greater China Region for a position at the Zhenbei Group headquarters, knew he needed more support.

At the very least, not a stumbling block.

Bai Xiaosheng could say he had snatched that position from the jaws of a generation's prodigy, despite the resistance of two Senior Affairs Officers, one overt and one covert!

"He's a strong figure!" even Fang Beijun was somewhat impressed.

On the other side, in Shen Peishen's office.

Lin Yu sat on the sofa, with Shen Peishen opposite him.

Lin Yu's face looked terrible, and his whole person seemed a bit dazed.

This blow to him was indeed significant.

A person always adheres to a set of thoughts, a set of principles.

Suddenly, one day, they shake, wanting to betray their former self and abandon some principles to achieve victory.

Yet they find that abandonment is meaningless, ultimately achieving nothing.

So, what exactly is pointless? The perseverance or the abandonment?

That confusion leaves one at a loss.

Lin Yu lowered his head to look at his hands, saying nothing.

Shen Peishen sighed softly.

"Lin Yu, do you feel that you've made a great sacrifice but haven't gained anything, and consider yourself a failure?"

Lin Yu raised his head, looking blankly at his mentor.

His eyes were complex.

"I, on the other hand, think your failure was inevitable!"

"Because you, aren't pure enough!"

Lin Yu was stunned.

"Although you agreed to use some methods, inside you're still resistant. It doesn't feel glorious enough, not open enough."

Lin Yu looked at his mentor, mouth slightly agape.

Shen Peishen stopped him from speaking and continued, "I know what you want to say. You want to say that you didn't feel that way, right?"

Lin Yu nodded.

"Even if you don't think you felt that way, you've been subconsciously rejecting it!"

Shen Peishen pointed at Lin Yu, "Otherwise, with your brain, wouldn't you have thought of the trap Bai Xiaosheng might have set for you? In this matter, I had someone build bridges, but didn't care about the rest because I believed in you!"

"But what about you?"

"You didn't actively contemplate. Being passive even when you resorted to tactics is the resistance in your heart!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, on the other hand, is different!"

"He never cares about the means used, only about the outcome!"

"That's why, the loser is you!"

Shen Peishen's voice was low but seemed incredibly sharp, each word like a needle, stabbing into Lin Yu's heart.

Lin Yu's eyes widened, and his mouth hung open, staring at his mentor.

His heart was also touched!

So, it was his own lack of purity, his lack of thoroughness!

Since he had resorted to tactics, he should have been active, proactive, and made those tactics fully thought out!

"The difference between you and Bai Xiaosheng isn't in intellect; it lies here!" Shen Peishen pointed at Lin Yu's chest.

With the last sentence, Lin Yu was like someone awakened from a dream.

"It's my inner indecision!"

"It's my lingering concerns over those tactics!"

Lin Yu muttered to himself continuously.

In his mind, there seemed to be a faint roar.

I, Lin Yu, am not worse than Bai Xiaosheng!

My loss is because I took that step, yet I was not proactive—

to scheme!

Lin Yu's eyes brightened.

This scene, witnessed by Shen Peishen, was most gratifying.

Blessing in disguise, Lin Yu had an "epiphany."

This was no small gain, even compared to getting the title of Candidate Senior Affairs Officer!

The corners of Shen Peishen's mouth curled into a smile.

"Candidate Senior Affairs Officer is not the same as the real Senior Affairs Officer," Shen Peishen said.

"Next time, just take it back!"

"Indeed, teacher!"

"Next time, in the election five years later, I will take back the title of Candidate Senior Affairs Officer, and I'll certainly become a Senior Affairs Officer before him!"

Lin Yu's eyes were bright, revealing a sharpness after enlightenment, "By any means necessary!"

Here, Lin Yu had an epiphany.

There, Bai Xiaosheng was restless.

Ultimately, he had to go out.

"Xiaosheng, where are you going?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

"Just going for a walk," Bai Xiaosheng muttered.

The next sentence tumbled in his throat but remained unspoken.

"Without that one point, I'm restless."

Chapter 1014 Just Want One Point

Bai Xiaosheng left the office alone, wandering outside.

This time, even if people treated him like a rare exhibit, he accepted it.

As long as he could find a place or an opportunity to earn that one point!

Currently, he had ninety-nine points at the Affairs Officer level.

Just one more, and he would be a Senior Affairs Officer!

To be a candidate and then officially promoted within one day, how wonderful!

Even someone as patient as Bai Xiaosheng couldn't wait at this moment.

But where to earn that one point?

Bai Xiaosheng was worried.

He couldn't just knock on every door, with a sweet, honey-like smile, saying to everyone, "Hello, I'm Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, the newly nominated Candidate Great Affairs Officer. Do you have any tasks here? Hand them over, I'll do them for you."

That would be crazy.

By noon, the Affairs Department would likely be spreading the "new legend."

A newly nominated Great Affairs Officer, in his excitement of selection, went into hysteria...

That would be a big joke.

Thinking of this, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but shudder, shaking his head to rid himself of the thought.

Without any clue, Bai Xiaosheng simply took out his phone and called Lin Ke.

At this time, he needed to ask an acquaintance for help.

A moment later, the call connected.

"Yo, Candidate Great Affairs Officer Bai, calling me as soon as you passed the nomination, need something? You want my help? Just say it, I'm on it!"

Lin Ke playfully said over the phone, "After all, you might be my boss in the future, might as well start buttering you up."

"Yes, there's something." Bai Xiaosheng thought over his words before speaking, "I've just returned, and I don't have anything on hand. I was thinking..."

Lin Ke became alert.

"I wanted to ask if you know any Affairs Officers who might be willing to lend me a case they're currently investigating..."

On the other end, Lin Ke was stunned.

Throughout history, people had borrowed things, money, but this was the first time one heard about borrowing work.

Moreover, work that involved personal performance, could it be lent?

That was what the Affairs Officers relied on for their professional existence.

"Are you joking, or am I hallucinating?" Lin Ke couldn't help but exclaim, "You don't have anything on hand? I think you're just bored!"

"Yes, exactly, I'm just bored!"

Bai Xiaosheng was pleased that Lin Ke had immediately grasped the nature of the situation.

"If you're bored, go find a place to haul bricks. Where can I find cases for you to work on? Besides, isn't this the same as taking over?" Lin Ke protested, "Haven't you heard? There are three things you don't borrow in the Affairs Department: a wife, a car, and a job!"

"I'll borrow it, I will return it," Bai Xiaosheng quickly said.

"I trust you, but others also need to trust me!" Lin Ke shouted, "Everyone says I'm offbeat, but I feel like you, becoming a Candidate Great Affairs Officer, are putting pressure on me here."

The little lass gave him an earful, but in the end, she agreed, "All right, I'll go ask, but don't get your hopes up!"

"Great, great!" Bai Xiaosheng hastened to say.

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng still felt insecure and decided to call Feng Li.

Feng Li was dumbfounded upon hearing it, "Can that be borrowed?"

"Otherwise, come here; I need more hands for this investigation," Feng Li suggested.

Go to another province?

That would go against his intention of getting promoted today!

"Uhm, I can't leave the Affairs Department," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Feng Li, "..."

In the end, Feng Li also promised to ask around for him.

But she also told Bai Xiaosheng not to keep his hopes up.

What Bai Xiaosheng wanted was the Affairs Officers' cases, their work.

That was equivalent to their professional performance!

Affairs Officers were evaluated too, and they saw their performance achievements as treasures, not wishing for others to interfere.

Putting down the phone, Bai Xiaosheng thought it over and indeed felt his request was a bit much.

At the very least, work in the Affairs Department, unlike that in external companies, was the fundamental capital upon which people established their careers.

Bai Xiaosheng resisted calling Wang Xincheng, Zheng Honghu, Li Haofeng, and the others.

Bai Xiaosheng waited for about fifteen minutes, and Feng Li responded.

"I don't have as many connections in the Affairs Department as that girl Lin Ke, and even fewer good relationships. I'm only on good terms with a handful of people," Feng Li confessed, "I just asked them, and either they're out of town or unwilling. Sorry, I can't help you with this."

Feng Li's voice was full of regret.

"No worries, I was just asking." Bai Xiaosheng understood.

His call with Feng Li hadn't ended when Lin Ke called back twice in a row.

Bai Xiaosheng could only excuse himself from Feng Li and then pick up Lin Ke's call.

"Listen up, Bai Xiaosheng! This time I've made a huge sacrifice, lots of people think I'm either stupid or mad. I spent my collagen-rich young face for your sake and finally found one for you!"

"Remember my contribution, remember my kindness!"

"Also, make sure to thank my friend generously!"

Lin Ke was unstoppable on the phone.

"Definitely, definitely, thank you so much," Bai Xiaosheng quickly responded.

"Seriously, if you have nothing to do, why don't you go to the duty room and take a shift?" Lin Ke casually threw in another comment.

Bai Xiaosheng was suddenly stunned.

Right!

He had nothing to do, he could go take a shift in the duty room!

Both Senior Affairs Officers and Affairs Officers have the regular duty of taking shifts.

He had never done it, so he hadn't thought of that!

Taking a shift, handling the tasks submitted by subsidiary companies, could also earn him points!

And even simpler!

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt like he had an epiphany.

"Listen up, now go find..." Lin Ke was finally getting to the point.

"Little Lin Ke, you're awesome, thank you for reminding me! I'm heading to the duty room right now!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed excitedly.

Lin Ke was startled.

"What about my side?"

"No need anymore!"

"No need anymore?!" Lin Ke's whole person was not okay, yet before she could speak, Bai Xiaosheng had hung up on her.

Lin Ke, in the car, was on the verge of going mad, tried calling back, but there was no signal.

Must have driven into a weak signal area.

Lin Ke gnashed her teeth.

"Damn you, Bai Xiaosheng, for hanging up on me!"

"No, damn you, Bai Xiaosheng, for playing me!"

"I don't care if you're a Candidate Great Affairs Officer, this time, you're dead meat!"

Bai Xiaosheng had no idea of the trouble he had just stirred up.

He sprinted all the way to the affairs duty room.

Along the way, onlookers were amazed.

"Officer Bai Xiaosheng is in such a rush, what is he about to do?"

"There must be some particularly urgent affairs, otherwise he would not personally rush over!"

"Impressive, even as a Candidate Great Affairs Officer, he still gets hands-on, truly an example to us all!"

When a person's status is high, even the simplest action can elicit endless sighs from others.

Bai Xiaosheng did not know this, and even if he did, he had no time to care. He ran straight into Great Official Zheng Honghu's office.

Zheng Honghu was currently the on-duty Senior Affairs Officer.

"Sheng, what's going on, what happened?"

Zheng Honghu was in the middle of handling affairs, and when he saw Bai Xiaosheng barge in, he too was startled.

"Great Official Honghu, you have to help me this time!"

"Hm?"

"I'm looking for some work!"

"Hm!"

Zheng Honghu was perplexed, and Yu Chang by his side was dumbfounded as well.

Bai Xiaosheng barged in so dramatically.

Just for that?

In the end. Zheng Honghu understood.

Bai Xiaosheng was requesting to take a shift.

Though the reason was unclear, Zheng Honghu still took him to a duty room and replaced the current Affairs Officer on duty.

"If you want to experience it, then that's fine too." Zheng Honghu thought Bai Xiaosheng just wanted to satisfy a whim for a day.

Zheng Honghu interpreted it this way, and Bai Xiaosheng actually felt it was great, saving him a lot of explaining.

Bai Xiaosheng was extremely thankful, sent Zheng Honghu away, sent the on-duty Affairs Officer away, and happily waited for the affairs that would need his handling, awaiting that one point to come.

This wait went straight past noon, straight into the afternoon.

In the duty room, there were already affairs assistants handling matters below, and very few needed an Affairs Officer to deal with them.

Realizing this reality, Bai Xiaosheng groaned, feeling a bit remorseful for having refused Lin Ke.

But now to call her back, that girl would surely explode.

Just when Bai Xiaosheng was filled with bitterness, an affairs assistant suddenly stood up, holding a freshly printed document, walked over, and handed it to Bai Xiaosheng, "Affairs Officer Bai, this needs your attention."

Those words, like the sound of Heaven's Melody, Bai Xiaosheng almost teared up, wanting to embrace that affairs assistant.

Just his eager look was enough to startle the guy.

He took the document and glanced at it.

His joyous expression slowly faded, even his brows lightly furrowed.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng thought it over carefully, wrote down his handling opinion seriously, and handed it to that affairs assistant.

"Send it back like this!" Bai Xiaosheng told the assistant.

"Okay!" The affairs assistant nodded immediately, taking it over.

"Ding! You've earned one point!" The voice of Red Lotus resounded in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, "Your total score as an Affairs Officer is one hundred points!"

"Level up!"

While the sound should have made Bai Xiaosheng ecstatic, he was somewhat distracted.

He was still thinking about that affair just now!

Chapter 1015 This Speed is Godlike!

"Current Level: Zhenbei Group Greater China Region—Senior Affairs Officer!"

"Funds Available for Discretionary Use—500 million! The amount will arrive in the account within three hours!"

"For matters related to the group's affairs, an additional 500 million can be mobilized! This fund will be replaced by a similar reward at the next promotion!"

"System assistance and rewards will generate automatically based on the host's behavior and choices."

"Various reward-based tasks will also generate automatically based on the host's behavior and choices."

...

Red Lotus's various alert tones kept ringing in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

He had finally become a Senior Affairs Officer!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile knowingly.

The momentary distraction he had experienced while dealing with affairs just now had dissipated into thin air.

After all, it couldn't contend with the joy at hand!

Now, in the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, he had truly become an existence second only to one and above tens of thousands!

"Everyone, excuse me, I have something to take care of and must leave for a bit!"

With a beaming smile, Bai Xiaosheng took his leave, bidding farewell to the affairs assistants present.

His voice was warm, his smile benevolent.

"Okay." "You have matters to attend to, please go ahead." "Take your time."

All the affairs assistants quickly returned the smile and watched as Bai Xiaosheng pushed the door open to leave.

"Why is Affairs Officer Bai suddenly so happy?"

"I have no idea, maybe there's some good news."

At this moment, in the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region's President's office, Xiahou Qi was the only one present.

Tired from signing documents, he was taking a break with a cup of tea.

Remembering that Bai Xiaosheng had become a Candidate Senior Affairs Officer this morning, Xiahou Qi couldn't help but reveal a faint smile, "Good lad, quite capable indeed!"

Then, thinking of Lin Yu, Xiahou Qi gave a light sigh.

When it came to Shen Peishen, Xiahou Qi's brow furrowed slightly, "This competition, Old Shen...stepped over the line a bit!"

There were some things Xiahou Qi knew about!

Always had.

It's just that he had never shown it.

"Old Shen is ultimately fond of his own student! And he's betting on the value I place on Lin Yu!" Xiahou Qi muttered to himself with a sigh, "Lin Yu, she actually agreed too..."

"Sometimes, I too can turn a blind eye..."

Lin Yu was someone he valued, whereas Shen Peishen was not someone who could be trifled with lightly.

"But, if this time Lin Yu really becomes a Candidate Senior Affairs Officer..."

"Then she won't easily become an official Senior Affairs Officer!"

"And Bai Xiaosheng, I will make him into an entity to counterbalance Lin Yu!"

Xiahou Qi's eyes flickered with a hint of chill.

"For now, it seems things have settled down to a satisfactory conclusion."

"However, should I make a move against Shen Peishen...?"

As Xiahou Qi was talking to himself, the landline on his desk suddenly rang.

"Hello, Xiahou Qi speaking!" Xiahou Qi answered the phone with a stern voice.

"What!" The content of the call seemed to startle Xiahou Qi.

After listening for about two to three minutes, Xiahou Qi nodded, "Okay, okay! I understand, thank you for your hard work!"

He hung up the phone and Xiahou Qi sat in a daze for a moment before smiling, "Bai Xiaosheng, you lad, you're about to set a record this time!"

...

While dealing with affairs, Fang Beijun's desk phone suddenly rang.

He glanced at the number and was surprised to find that it was Xiahou Qi who was calling.

That was truly rare!

Generally, if there was anything Xiahou Qi needed, his assistant Wang Mubei would convey the message; it wasn't far, and was there a need to call?

Fang Beijun quickly adjusted his mindset and answered the phone with a smile, "President Xia, do you need me for something?"

"Beijun, congratulations!" On the phone, Xiahou Qi sounded cheerful.

Congratulations? Me?

Fang Beijun paused, feeling somewhat puzzled, "President Xia, congratulations for what?"

"You applied for a transfer to the headquarters, didn't you? The higher-ups have already approved it, and I just received the notification. The announcement will be on the web soon, and the transfer order will arrive tomorrow!"

What!

Fang Beijun suddenly stood up, his eyes wide with a mix of shock and delight.

Zhenbei Group's headquarters selection, where spots were few and handpicked from a global pool.

In the Greater China Region, even if Shen Peishen wasn't interested, Beijun had put in a great deal of effort to secure his spot.

Compared to competitors from other continents, Beijun could only be considered above average; at times, even he had his doubts.

Yet, he had actually been chosen.

"Beijun?" came a voice from the phone, Xiahou Qi called out again.

"Ah? Ah! President Xia, I'm here!" the ecstatic Fang Beijun, his speech slightly incoherent.

"This is excellent news, your honor, and the pride of our Greater China Region. I will issue the announcement momentarily!" Xiahou Qi said.

"Thank you, President Xia, thank you!" Fang Beijun was so delighted he could barely contain his joy.

There.

Having hung up the phone, Xiahou Qi laughed.

"What an extraordinary day indeed!"

A Senior Affairs Officer got promoted!

That Candidate Senior Affairs Officer is bound to be confirmed!

...

In the duty room, Zheng Honghu sat in front of the computer, meticulously reviewing the notification.

The news of Bai Xiaosheng becoming a Candidate Senior Affairs Officer had already spread, but the official announcement still needed to be made, and that was his responsibility to issue.

Simply put, an urgent matter had taken up much of his time, which was why he was only getting to it now.

Of course, so long as it was published within the day, it wouldn't be considered late.

Zheng Honghu saw no issue upon inspection and clicked to publish.

For such significant news, it would usually pop up on the internal network with an accompanying sound effect to draw everyone's attention.

As Zheng Honghu heard the notification sound and saw the announcement pop up, he let out a sigh of relief, picked up his tea cup beside him, and took a sip.

Soon after, two more notification sounds rang out.

Three in succession, a cascade of chimes.

Zheng Honghu glanced over and sprayed his tea onto the screen.

To his horror, he saw the words "Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng" scroll by, lacking the term "Candidate."

A mistake in the notification?

Impossible!

Could someone have hacked the internal network?!

That was Zheng Honghu's first thought, but he immediately second-guessed himself.

How could that be possible? The team responsible for the internal network consisted of top talents recruited globally!

In his panic, Zheng Honghu checked the other sections.

All was as normal.

Hacking the internal network would not result in changing a single announcement!

Zheng Honghu's eyes caught the number of items beside the notification; it was listed as three.

This confirmed that there were three announcements released; were the other two just coincidentally at the same time as his?

Then what was this about Bai Xiaosheng becoming a Senior Affairs Officer?

Zheng Honghu hurriedly opened the announcements.

The first was his own, all as expected.

But the other two...

As Zheng Honghu read them, even he was left wide-eyed and disbelieving.

"Fang Beijun got promoted?"

"Bai Xiaosheng got promoted?"

"..."

"Damn! Doesn't this mean Bai Xiaosheng has set a record! Candidate in the morning, official by the afternoon!"

"This speed is godlike!"

In that moment, Zheng Honghu was far from the only one shocked.

All the Senior Affairs Officers, Affairs Officers, upon their computers, received the internal network notification.

For such significant news, even if the internal network was closed, the backend system would still pop up actively.

Suddenly, the Affairs Department was abuzz!

What was a surge in the morning became truly tempestuous by the afternoon!

The most incredible record in history had been set.

Chapter 1016: I'm Looking for You, There's a Matter!

The entire Affairs Department was seething with excitement!

From one office to another, cries of astonishment rose and receded in waves.

"What!" "How is this possible!" "Incredible!" "Oh my God!"

Accompanying the exclamations were the sounds of desk slapping, teacups shattering on the floor, and an assortment of other strange noises.

It was electrifying, utterly electrifying!

The notice of Bai Xiaosheng's candidacy for the position of Senior Affairs Officer had only been issued for less than a second, and before most people had even made it out, it was covered by the announcement of his formal appointment as a Senior Affairs Officer.

Was this a promotion in one second—

In a heartbeat?!

"This is... a record-breaking event!" a young Affairs Officer said, his voice quivering.

His eyes were sparkling with an odd brilliance, seemingly in fervent admiration!

Bai Xiaosheng!

These three words were as if imbued with magic.

In just half an hour, they swept through every corner of the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters!

The Affairs Officers were almost running to spread the news.

In the offices, down the corridors, in every nook and cranny, there was heated discussion about the event, about Bai Xiaosheng!

Within a single day, from candidate in the morning to official by afternoon!

Who else could claim such a feat!

One year and three months, from Affairs Officer straight to Senior Affairs Officer, who else could do that!

Even since the founding of the Affairs Department, this was an unprecedented event!

When Shen Peishen received this news, he was continuing the morning's conversation with Lin Yu.

After Lin Yu had been cheered up by his teacher, his whole spirit had revived, and his confidence returned.

In the afternoon, Lin Yu came running back to discuss his ambitions for the next five years with his teacher.

"This time, he got the Candidate Great Affairs Officer, but in the next five-year selection, I will stop at nothing to snatch it back! I will prove that I am the first to become a Great Senior Affairs Officer!" Lin Yu repeated his morning's assertion, his eyes overflowing with a fighting spirit.

Shen Peishen saw a glimmer of ambition flashing in his student's eyes.

He was very pleased.

Perhaps it was just a budding seed, but once rooted, given time, Lin Yu would transform into what he hoped for.

Shen Peishen naturally encouraged and praised him, nurturing with great care.

Then they heard the news.

Bai Xiaosheng had become a Senior Affairs Officer.

An official, bona fide Senior Affairs Officer.

Senior Affairs Officer!

Shen Peishen was momentarily stunned.

Lin Yu suddenly rose to his feet, his eyes bulging wider than they ever had before, as if they might pop out, frightening the assistant who had come to relay the news.

"Bai Xiaosheng, he's become a formal Senior Affairs Officer!" Lin Yu said with a somewhat fierce expression.

Disbelief, confusion, anger, resentment.

A mix of emotions made him look incredibly fearsome.

"Fang Beijun got promoted at such a time!" Shen Peishen's expression turned frosty, followed by a long, narrow sigh.

Time and fate.

It's all destiny!

His own beloved student had just made a bold declaration of intent when the news broke from the other camp—a birth (promotion)!

Lin Yu slumped back onto the sofa in complete desolation...

Shen Peishen, observing this, waved the assistant away, feeling quite helpless inside.

He pondered how to encourage Lin Yu once again, sensing a long and arduous journey ahead...

At this moment, in Bai Xiaosheng's office.

"Xiaosheng, you were amazing this time, a Senior Affairs Officer!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed in surprise and adoration, at a loss for what more to say.

Even Lei Ying, usually so composed, couldn't stop smiling.

Bai Xiaosheng had just returned when they received the news, and naturally, they were thrilled and excited.

In contrast, Bai Xiaosheng was much more composed.

This composure impressed Lei Ying so much that she gave him a mental thumbs-up.

Of course, she didn't know that Bai Xiaosheng had found out earlier and almost jumped for joy.

"I'll treat you all to a meal later to celebrate," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Then he slapped his forehead, "Shoot, I rushed back from the duty room and forgot to tell Zheng Honghu... Never mind, I'll look for him later."

"Now, I need to hurry and meet Elder Xia!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

There were still things to be done!

"Do you need us to come with you?" Lin Weiwei asked.

"No need," Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand, "Get ready, we're going to make a trip back to our hometown soon!"

Back to Zhongjing?

Lin Weiwei was taken aback, then her eyes lit up.

They really hadn't been back for a year, even during the New Year, they were caught up in an emergency and had to rush over!

"Okay!" Lin Weiwei replied crisply.

Bai Xiaosheng was about to head to Xiahou Qi's office.

As the door opened, there were quite a few people standing outside—Affairs Officers!

And the one leading the group looked as if they were just about to knock.

"Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng!"

As Bai Xiaosheng came out, the eyes of those at the door brightened, and they greeted him with smiles and respect.

Most of the people present were "neighbors," and some were from farther away.

They had come to familiarize themselves with his face.

Times had changed; Bai Xiaosheng was now their superior, a figure second only to one in the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region!

It was always good to build a relationship while he was still in this office, before he moved to another.

"Hello, everyone," Bai Xiaosheng greeted them with utmost friendliness and a smile on his face. After exchanging pleasantries, he said, "I have to go see President Xia now, so I can't stay with you all. Sorry!"

"You're busy, you're busy, we just came to congratulate you!"

"Yes, your official duties are important!"

Everyone had a smile on their face and wore an expression of respect.

The title of Senior Affairs Officer really did carry weight. If he hadn't been in a rush to discuss matters with Xiahou Qi, Bai Xiaosheng would have loved to have a nice chat...

And enjoy the feeling of being complimented.

Of course, in everyone's eyes, Bai Xiaosheng was young and capable, suddenly becoming the Senior Affairs Officer without arrogance or impatience, with a friendly attitude and humble posture, which left the Affairs Officers feeling somewhat flattered and greatly increased their fondness for him.

Bai Xiaosheng left the crowd and headed straight for Xiahou Qi's office.

The journey there was quite lively.

It continued the morning's theme of "pedestrians stopped in their tracks, doors opened automatically," with the addition of many beautiful young women sending him admiring glances, and he could faintly hear the sound of the beauties swallowing hard.

It was as if Bai Xiaosheng was Tang Sanzang, whom everyone wished they could snatch away.

Young and talented, handsome, and now a Senior Affairs Officer, he was truly a diamond bachelor.

Bai Xiaosheng continued on his way with a smile, greeting people warmly, until he finally reached Xiahou Qi's office. Just as he was about to knock, Wang Mubei happened to come out.

"Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng! I was just about to look for you!" Wang Mubei said cheerfully upon seeing him.

The way he addressed Bai Xiaosheng had subtly changed, now with an added "you."

"Is it Elder Xia looking for me?"

"That's right!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, watching as Wang Mubei knocked and opened the door for him.

Passing by Wang Mubei, Bai Xiaosheng deliberately slowed down, whispered with a smile, "Brother Wang, in private, using 'you' is fine. 'You' is too formal."

After saying that, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and passed by.

Wang Mubei's smile widened as he watched Bai Xiaosheng.

Entering the office, Bai Xiaosheng saw Xiahou Qi lift his head and smile at him, "Oh, Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng has arrived."

"Are you here for a performance review, or is there something you need?"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Elder Xia, you are truly prescient. I am here to see you about a matter!"

Chapter 1017: Approved!

Hearing that Bai Xiaosheng was looking for him on business, Xiahou Qi was delighted and stood up to beckon Bai Xiaosheng over to the sofa area.

"Come, Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, take a seat," Xiahou Qi said humorously, "Today, we can just chat, and I'll consider it your job report. However, later, you'll have to give me a formal report; I still need to use it to deal with others."

How straightforward that was!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

It was always comfortable chatting with Elder Xia, no constraints.

He strode over.

He sat down across from Xiahou Qi, and when he saw Xiahou Qi was about to brew Kung Fu Tea, Bai Xiaosheng reached out to help.

But as he reached out, Xiahou Qi smacked his hand away.

"You can't even do it, what are you touching!"

This scolding had a bit of the tone of an elder schooling a younger one, and it sounded affectionate.

Xiahou Qi glanced up at Bai Xiaosheng and said with a smile, "Don't be nervous; now that you're a Senior Affairs Officer, this tea is well within your station."

"In front of you, I am always a junior and must always show due respect," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

"Humph, you sure have a knack for flattery," Xiahou Qi spat out, but then he also smiled, "If you really want to impress me, why don't you copy down the 'Book of Songs' for me? I can show it off to Song Kai and those old guys."

Copy down the 'Book of Songs'...

Bai Xiaosheng secretly consulted with Red Lotus.

The 'Book of Songs,' thirty-nine thousand two hundred and twenty-four characters...

This old man wants to kill me!

"You're just using me to pick a fight. Maybe I can start with a couple of pieces and continue gradually," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

Xiahou Qi just humphed but said no more.

After some busy work, the Kung Fu Tea was ready.

Xiahou Qi handed a cup over to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng received it with both hands and utmost respect.

The old man had always been good to him, treating him almost like a grandson, and Bai Xiaosheng held him in very high esteem.

"Now tell me, what's the matter for which you sought me out?" Xiahou Qi inhaled the aroma of the tea and sipped it.

"If we don't count the job report you mentioned, I actually have two things," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"You've got quite a list; let's hear it."

Bai Xiaosheng put down his teacup, "First, I'd like to ask you to formally induct my two assistants. They don't even count as Assistant Affairs Officers just yet. Now that I have become a Senior Affairs Officer, it's time they had a proper position."

The first thing Bai Xiaosheng mentioned was actually this.

Xiahou Qi was somewhat surprised, but then, looking at Bai Xiaosheng,

he felt not so surprised.

"You rascal. Right off the bat, you're seeking benefits for your own people! They sure haven't followed you for nothing!" Xiahou Qi said, "Do you know how Assistant Affairs Officers come into their roles?"

"Most of them are general managers of subsidiary companies!"

"Think about it, high-level executives running large enterprises, and 'Sheng, with just a step up, is no more than an Assistant Affairs Officer!"

"And with just a word from you, you want two spots?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and began to explain.

"Approved." Xiahou Qi took a small sip of his tea and simply uttered two words.

Huh? Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

The old man first detailed the pros and cons, and then... just agreed?

What a swift turn!

"Others, they cherish their feathers, afraid that being seen as biased, would rather have 'unjust to the public' carved on their foreheads."

Xiahou Qi looked intently at Bai Xiaosheng, "But me, I rather like your style of 'unjust to private'!"

"I don't mind you seeking benefits for your people; what's wrong with being open and aboveboard?"

"Because of cherishing one's own reputation, one is ready to shortchange one's own capabilities, I despise such people!"

The old man, he truly had character!

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

He finally understood why Lin Ke, Feng Li, Li Haofeng, and Zheng Honghu, revered Xiahou Qi so much!

The old man had a certain special charisma.

"Thank you!" Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly.

"What's the second matter?" Xiahou Qi asked.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't rush to answer. Instead, he took out his mobile phone, logged into the company's intranet, found the affairs he had been dealing with in the duty room, and handed it to Xiahou Qi.

Xiahou Qi glanced at it and handed it back, "So?"

"I'd like to go back and take a look. It might be trivial to you, but it is the place where I rose up. Also, it was during my tenure there that I came to Linshen for work and met you," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Just that?" Xiahou Qi laughed heartily, "Then go back and take a look!"

"You are now a Senior Affairs Officer. Aside from the duty rotation every few years, you have much greater authority than a regular Affairs Officer!"

Hearing Xiahou Qi say this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I have just assumed the position, after all. I thought it wouldn't be proper to leave immediately, so I wanted to inform you first."

Xiahou Qi shrugged, "Leaving as soon as you take office only puts you at a disadvantage. I was going to hold a welcoming ceremony for you. Let's talk about it later."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, that, he truly didn't mind.

"In a little while, go around and sit with the other Senior Affairs Officers. After all, you'll be colleagues from now on, and you must establish good relationships," Xiahou Qi advised, "Especially with Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng!"

"Yes!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

The old gentleman truly took great care of him.

"Is that all you had to say?" Xiahou Qi asked.

"That's all," Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Then, let's talk about your job performance!"

Xiahou Qi got up and went over to his desk, rummaging through his papers.

Then, he came back with a sheet of paper.

Bai Xiaosheng looked curious.

"This is the plan I've made for the Greater China Region for the next five years. Take a look and tell me what you think after you've read it, anything will do, casually. Consider it a small test from me."

Xiahou Qi said, handing over the document to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up to receive it.

"I've heard about your work in Yunhai. Your strategy for a mayor truly surprised me. This time, I want to see if you're as good as I've heard," Xiahou Qi said with a smile.

"My little insight is simply showing off in front of a master," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"Sit down, have a look!" Xiahou Qi invited.

...

Returning from his tasks, Wang Mubei knocked on the door and entered upon permission.

When he went out, Bai Xiaosheng had arrived, and now it had been over an hour.

In the office, only Xiahou Qi was present, Bai Xiaosheng seemed to have left.

Xiahou Qi was looking at a sheet of paper, smiling.

"Elder Xia, I've placed your items here," Wang Mubei said as he set down the items.

Xiahou Qi absentmindedly nodded, not really paying him attention, and mumbled to himself.

"Good, good! A young mind really works wonders, and many views were unexpected!"

"This youngster is even stronger than Lin Yu!"

Wang Mubei was astonished.

Was this praise for Bai Xiaosheng?

"This kid, as a Senior Affairs Officer, what kind of achievements will he make in the future, could he... reach my position earlier than others? It truly is something to look forward to!"

Wang Mubei was startled, even alarmed.

Elder Xia's admiration for Bai Xiaosheng was simply profound!

He wasn't being groomed for succession, was he?

Chapter 1018: Visiting Their Respective Families

On the high-speed train to Zhongjing, in the business class,

Bai Xiaosheng sat side by side with Lin Weiwei.

After his promotion to Senior Affairs Officer, the treatment was vastly different from that of an ordinary Affairs Officer: he traveled in business class, stayed in five-star hotels, and his assistant received the same treatment.

Bai Xiaosheng had only glanced at his new office once; it was twice the size of a regular Affairs Officer's office.

Low-key, luxurious, imposing.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng only had time to take a glance before he hurried off.

This time going to Zhongjing, Lei Ying didn't accompany him.

Bai Xiaosheng had given him a seven-day long vacation and a bonus of five hundred thousand yuan.

Five hundred thousand a year, even a real Affairs Assistant wouldn't get this much.

It was given by Bai Xiaosheng.

After a busy year, the last thing to be neglected were his own people.

Lei Ying's plane ticket home was first class.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei busied themselves again, preparing a large quantity of gifts and specialties for Lei Ying, which they checked in for his return.

Rubbing his hands, Lei Ying watched the two of them busily taking care of him.

The big man watched with eyes gleaming, a smile on his face, sweetness in his heart.

Perhaps the best decision he had made in his life was to follow Bai Xiaosheng, not to continue mixing in society but to enter the workplace instead.

Lei Ying had gone home.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei, too, had boarded the high-speed train heading for Zhongjing.

It had been more than a year, and it was time to go home for a visit.

At this moment, Lin Weiwei seated next to Bai Xiaosheng carefully peeled a tangerine, even meticulously removing the pith from the orange peels, and with her delicate, fair hand, she offered it to Bai Xiaosheng's mouth, also opening her palm to catch the spat-out seeds.

Afterward, Lin Weiwei brought various exquisite pastries to Bai Xiaosheng's lips.

Having eaten the pastries, Lin Weiwei then asked, "Sheng, are you thirsty? I have coffee here, all kinds of tea, what would you like to drink?"

On her little tray, there was a travel coffee cup, a thermos flask—these were all kept in the small case she had brought along.

Even Bai Xiaosheng was amazed at how well-prepared Lin Weiwei was.

"Bro, you're so lucky!" said a young man sitting nearby, looking at them with envious eyes, and couldn't help but express his admiration across the aisle to Bai Xiaosheng.

On this journey, he had received an abundance of 'dog food.'

The young man next door really didn't know what good karma he had accumulated in his past lives to have such a beautiful woman attending to him like a master.

The young man was green with envy.

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a smile, offering no explanation.

This misunderstanding was quite flattering.

Accepting the tea from Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng leaned in and whispered, "Weiwei, once we get to Zhongjing, you should go home too, visit your family, and stay a few days longer."

He had also given Lin Weiwei a bonus of five hundred thousand yuan.

"And give them my regards while you're there!"

Lin Weiwei smiled sweetly, then frowned slightly and asked, "Won't we stop by Zhongjing Media first?"

Bai Xiaosheng had said that Zhongjing Media was experiencing some emergency situations, the circumstances being somewhat complicated, and this trip to Zhongjing was also to deal with that.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and said, "Even though the situation there is urgent, we are not in a rush, we can stay at home for a few days."

Lin Weiwei didn't understand.

"My decision at the time was to tell them to hold a meeting after seven days, and the group will send someone to observe!" said Bai Xiaosheng.

Lin Weiwei was somewhat surprised, "Wow, Xiaosheng, for someone with your status as a Senior Affairs Officer, just to observe?!"

That was quite an exaggeration.

Zhongjing Media, no matter what, was just a subsidiary, even if it was a directly-managed subsidiary.

It was not worth a Senior Affairs Officer's personal visit, let alone just to observe!

"I guess they still don't know I've been promoted to Senior Affairs Officer," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Lin Weiwei.

The Affairs Department was fully aware of his appointment, but at the company, only regional heads and provincial industrial leaders had access to the internal network.

"Given the current situation at Zhongjing Media, in the past, only an Affairs Assistant would be sent by the Affairs Department," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Lin Weiwei. "After you've finished visiting your family, meet up with me, and we'll go there together. By then, you, the Affairs Assistant, will be the main force! I'll be accompanying."

A Senior Affairs Officer serving as an aide to an Affairs Assistant?

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng was joking.

However, Lin Weiwei was now officially an Affairs Assistant. Having completed the procedures and received her certification, she indeed had the qualifications to intervene.

"That's great, I seem to be in the limelight this time!" Lin Weiwei laughed, her eyes filled with dreams. "I wonder how they will react when they find out about my position back home."

Lin Weiwei's smile was joyful.

But Bai Xiaosheng's gaze flickered as if his mind was wandering.

He kept playing with his phone, reading the detailed reports from there.

This time might disappoint Weiwei.

The situation at Zhongjing Media was not as she imagined but was even worse!

"If I were still an Affairs Officer, I'm afraid even I couldn't resolve this properly!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself, his gaze flickering. "However, I am now a true Senior Affairs Officer! This time, even if it's against the rules, I have to be strong! Those people, they've really gone too far! Not only do they want to mess with Zhongjing Media, they actually want to ..."

"Wang Baiduan, do you want all my past efforts to go down the drain!"

"Whoever dares to make trouble, I'll show them no mercy!"

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was faintly sharp as a blade.

...

In the afternoon, when the high-speed train arrived, Bai Xiaosheng first called a taxi for Lin Weiwei to send her home.

Then, he hailed a cab for himself and headed back home.

"Turns out we are fellow townspeople; we even come from the same county!" the taxi driver was very talkative during the drive.

Bai Xiaosheng also chatted with him.

"Zhongjing is developing so fast! According to the city's published plan, our county will be amazing in the future ... an 'Ecological Residential District'!"

"Several big developers have been acquiring land and starting construction frequently in our county, and their progress is especially fast. I heard they're using a lot of eco-friendly materials. They've even brought in construction machines; those are impressive! Have you seen them online, young man?"

"There's a top-class project being developed just a thirty-minute walk from the neighborhood you wish to go to, all traditional Chinese courtyard homes, tsk tsk ... I've seen the showrooms, they are incredible!"

"The first batch of courtyard homes has already been released, and a set costs tens of millions!"

The driver clicked his tongue in admiration.

"Really? Then I must take a good look when I get back!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, unable to hide his interest.

When he went to the Tianqing Li Family before, he had taken a liking to their courtyard house, thinking that he would get one for his family in the future.

If the project is as good as the taxi driver described, it would be worth investing in!

In life, career is important, making money is important, but if you don't spend your money to benefit your family, what's the point?

Bai Xiaosheng just wanted his family to live comfortably.

"Perhaps this time, I could buy a set!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"The mayor of Zhongjing City is truly remarkable. Look how fast Zhongjing has developed in just a year; it's changing every day! If it hadn't changed like this, those big developers wouldn't have set their sights on our place, right?" the driver continued.

"Yes, indeed." Bai Xiaosheng responded with a faint smile, agreeably.

Initially, he had contributed ideas to Zhongjing's planning; naturally, he knew about the changes over the next five years.

Seeing that Bai Xiaosheng seemed uninterested in the city's development, the driver switched to praising how amazing and great the villas were—just outrageously expensive.

Wondering who in the world could afford to live there.

He didn't know that the unassuming young man in the car was contemplating buying one.

If he had known, he would have been dumbstruck, having driven a young tycoon that day.

As they continued to chat along the way, the car entered the residential community, and the driver, still not having had enough, bade Bai Xiaosheng farewell.

Standing downstairs with his belongings, Bai Xiaosheng looked up at the building and couldn't help but smile.

"Dad, Mom, I'm back!"

Chapter 1019: Have Money, Can't Buy a House?

Bai Xiaosheng stood at the door, knocking on his family's door.

Father Bai Minghang was the one who answered.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Minghang's smile erupted.

It had been more than a year since father and son last saw each other!

"Dad!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel moved as he noticed more white hairs on his dad's head.

"You're back! Good, good!" Bai Minghang took the bag from his son's hand and hurriedly ushered Bai Xiaosheng inside.

"Who's here, is it Sheng?" Mother Li Qiuyun, with her apron on, ran out from the kitchen.

Seeing her son, Li Qiuyun was also brimming with joy, "Son, you've finally come back!"

"Mom!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Ah!" Li Qiuyun looked Bai Xiaosheng over, "You've lost weight, you look tanned! Even if work is busy, you can't neglect yourself! You need to rest more, eat something good! I made soup, this time you're home, stay a few extra days to recharge properly."

Bai Xiaosheng was at a loss whether to laugh or cry at his mother's words.

He still thought that he had been fattened up by Lin Weiwei, raising a 'fatty'.

It seemed that in the eyes of parents, their son was always having a tough time outside, always losing weight...

"Your dad even took a day off today knowing you'd return, just to wait for you at home," Li Qiuyun said with a laugh.

"Cough, cough." Bai Minghang's face reddened as he coughed twice.

"Look at you, feeling shy," teased Li Qiuyun.

Bai Minghang felt awkward, "Son, I'm going to make you a pot of tea, your cousin Bai Fei went on a business trip and specially brought it for me."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded his head with a smile.

"Son, why did you send back so many things? Yesterday, it took me a whole day just to receive the deliveries." Li Qiuyun laughed as she pointed to a corner of the room, where there was a large pile of boxes, "I took some to your grandmother, gave some to your uncles, and there's still so much left."

Bai Xiaosheng glanced over and couldn't help but smile.

The things at his home had all been arranged and mailed by Lin Weiwei.

He had inadvertently ended up being sent so many things.

Li Qiuyun held her son's hand and continued to chat, while Bai Minghang prepared the tea.

Listening to his mother's ramblings and watching his father's busyness, Bai Xiaosheng felt that all the running around and hardship from the past year had vanished in a moment.

Home truly was wonderful!

That afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng spent time drinking tea and chatting with his parents and then went to his grandmother Li Fengguan's house, where he talked with the old lady all afternoon.

During this time, his eldest uncle, third uncle, old uncle, Bai Fei, and Bai Ran came to the grandmother's house one after another to meet with Bai Xiaosheng.

Knowing Bai Xiaosheng had returned, everyone made a point of freeing up their schedules, with Bai Fei and Bai Ran even taking leave.

Right now, harmony in the Bai Family was unprecedented.

Grandmother Li Fengguan also had an unceasing smile; her spirits were better than ever.

After all, when grandchildren are harmonious and four generations live under the same roof, the old are happy with such a blessing.

In the evening, Li Qiuyun brought some dishes over to the old lady Li Fengguan with a food box, and called Bai Xiaosheng back home in the process.

Dinner was sumptuous.

The family of three sat around the dining table; Bai Minghang even opened a bottle of good wine and poured a glass for both his wife and son.

"Today Sheng has come back; let's all have a drink," Bai Minghang was pleased.

Li Qiuyun also smiled and nodded, taking the wine glass.

The family of three drank wine and ate together.

Bai Xiaosheng talked about the things he had seen and encountered over the year.

Of course, he only picked the positive, interesting stories to tell, not mentioning any upsetting matters.

Upon learning that their son was an executive in a multinational corporation, had received shares, and had started a company with friends, his parents were overjoyed.

They never resented their son for succeeding; the better he did, the happier they were!

The meal continued late into the night, cooling the dishes but warming their hearts, before it eventually ended.

That night, there was no conversation.

For several days straight, Bai Xiaosheng lived a peaceful and comfortable life at home.

There was no scheming or deceit.

Such a life was truly comfortable.

It wasn't until the sixth evening that Bai Xiaosheng bid farewell to his parents.

The next day, he would leave home to take care of some matters in Zhongjing, then return to Linshen.

Bai Minghang and Li Qiuyun did not try to hold him back excessively; they just reminded their son to look after his health and not overwork himself.

They would never, not even slightly, hinder their son's progress; all they had was concern.

That night, Bai Xiaosheng stayed up late, even suffering from some insomnia.

The next morning,

Li Qiuyun and Bai Minghang prepared a breakfast that was so abundant it could be compared to lunch.

Under his parents' watchful eyes, Bai Xiaosheng ate heartily, only leaving when he truly couldn't eat another bite, stepping out the family door amid his elders' smiling faces.

Standing at the bottom of the building, Bai Xiaosheng looked back and could still see his parents' figures in the window.

Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand and set off again.

After leaving the residential area, Bai Xiaosheng hailed a taxi, heading straight for Zhongjing.

Half an hour later, as the taxi reached a certain place, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly called out, "Wait a minute, Driver!"

The driver was puzzled.

Bai Xiaosheng pointed outside the window, "That's where!"

The taxi driver glanced in that direction and jumped in fright, "Buddy, you're not serious, are you?"

What Bai Xiaosheng pointed to was a sales office—

"Jingyu Courtyard!"

This was a Chinese-style courtyard house villa cluster under construction!

Its price was the highest in Zhongjing!

And reputed to be in the top three throughout the province!

Could a young man actually be heading there?

To view houses?

The driver certainly didn't believe it.

Nowadays, young people struggle to afford even a tiny apartment, let alone a villa or a big house.

Could someone taking a taxi afford a Chinese-style courtyard house?

"Bro, that's not the kind of house we can afford," the driver tried to advise.

"Just go, and wait for me at the door for a while," Bai Xiaosheng insisted.

The driver wanted to say something more, but Bai Xiaosheng took out his wallet, pulled out two hundred, and handed it over, "Later, I'll be going to Zhongjing, and we'll settle the fare separately!"

This bold gesture stunned the driver, who then chuckled.

"Alright then!"

Eventually, the taxi stopped at the sales office entrance. Bai Xiaosheng got out and walked straight in.

The receptionist at the door saw Bai Xiaosheng coming, gave a slight courtesy—a gesture of politeness, but with only a little of the warmth of a heartfelt welcome.

They also saw that Bai Xiaosheng had arrived by taxi.

Those who could buy houses here, if they didn't own a car worth at least a million, were merely onlookers.

Their smiles were professional, yet in the depths of their eyes lurked a touch of condescension.

A near-age pauper coming to see a mansion?

He was probably just here for a photo to flaunt on his social media.

They had seen this type of person too often.

With his keen insight, Bai Xiaosheng easily discerned their thoughts, yet his demeanor remained serene as he entered.

Once you genuinely have a card in your pocket and five hundred million to your name, such disdain is easily ignored.

Upon entering the marketing center, he found the spacious, lavishly decorated hall almost empty.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng entered, a person dressed like a manager approached cheerfully.

"Sir, how may I assist you?" The manager's professionalism was impeccable.

"I would like to view a courtyard house," Bai Xiaosheng stated bluntly.

He was in a rush to meet up with Weiwei in Zhongjing and simply wanted to take a quick look. If he was satisfied, he'd leave a deposit.

It has to be said, Bai Xiaosheng's idea was quite extravagant.

"I'm sorry, sir, but there are no available units for this project right now. If you're interested in purchasing a property, I could recommend you look at our other projects," the manager still smiled.

A smile is also a professional skill.

It signifies nothing.

Bai Xiaosheng was startled and then smiled faintly, "I can pay in full."

Did they think he lacked the financial means?

A courtyard house, costing tens of millions, so what?

He was capable of paying in full.

The manager was taken aback, giving Bai Xiaosheng a meaningful glance with a smile that suggested more than met the eye.

"I'm sorry, sir, this project is exclusively for prominent figures in Zhongjing."

"A spot cannot be bought with money!"

You have the means, but we refuse to sell because your status doesn't match!

Here, you don't qualify to make a purchase!

The manager didn't verbalize these thoughts but made them distinctly felt.

Even though he was always smiling, without a hint of disdain,

he managed to make one extremely uncomfortable.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, were there really houses that money couldn't buy?

What an eye-opener today!

"If you'd like to view our show home, or perhaps enjoy a cup of coffee, you're more than welcome," the manager chuckled, "I can introduce you to our other residential projects in the city!"

This high-end villa community was presumably used to elevate the company's other projects!

Targeting the elite, the high-profile!

The wealthy love this kind of thing.

"No need," Bai Xiaosheng turned and walked away, his gaze cold.

You want qualifications?

That's not something you talk about.

At least, not something one proclaims about oneself.

And certainly not to you!

Chapter 1020 - Grim Situation

Bai Xiaosheng came out of the sales office at Jingyu Courtyard and got into the taxi waiting by the roadside.

The driver had a cigarette in his mouth, half-smoked. Seeing his passenger return, he casually stubbed it out and tossed it from the window.

"Finished looking so soon? Buddy, didn't you check their model rooms?" the taxi driver asked curiously as he started the car.

"They said there were no slots left. I didn't see the model room, not interesting," Bai Xiaosheng responded indifferently.

Although Bai Xiaosheng spoke these words without a notable expression, they were quite revealing.

The taxi driver laughed, "Looks like you weren't treated too well. You didn't go in there and straight away say you wanted to buy a house, make a deposit, buy it outright, did you?"

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback and looked curiously at the driver, "Would it be inappropriate for me to say that?"

The taxi driver laughed heartily.

It was as if Bai Xiaosheng was a big fool.

"At your age, if you were inquiring about a regular residential project, they might treat you well. But those multi-million villas... Let me be honest, brother, don't get offended," the driver glanced at Bai Xiaosheng while driving and shook his head, "You don't look like a buyer!"

"What do I look like then?" Bai Xiaosheng wondered.

"You look like someone from the same industry, running a market survey, fishing for information, and scamming for data," the taxi driver was blunt, "There are other possibilities, just not the look of a big client."

"I can make a spot payment, even pay in full," Bai Xiaosheng emphasized.

The driver burst out laughing, "Buddy, although I'm a layman, I know that when you don't have anything on hand and directly talk business worth millions, do you swipe a card? Or go to the bank with them? Do

you think transferring such a large sum doesn't require an appointment? Wait for them to withdraw money with you? Then you get a phone call, make any excuse, and leave—no one can really keep you."

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

Was that the reason?

He had always had a special bank card, receiving special treatment in the banking system, and had never considered these issues before.

Over the past year, he had only dealt with CEOs, while basic tasks were run by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Was he slow to react because he viewed the issue from another angle?

Plus, his eagerness just now indeed didn't seem typical of a regular homebuyer.

"I understand," Bai Xiaosheng said.

He appeared enlightened.

Being humble and eager to learn was a strong point of Bai Xiaosheng.

"However, Jingyu Courtyard really does have slots."

Just as Bai Xiaosheng was accepting the driver's explanation, the driver suddenly blurted out.

Bai Xiaosheng, "..."

"This project, from its inception, was said to cater to Zhongjing's celebrities and big businessmen, seeking prestige. Even if it's wealthy coal bosses, they might not sell," the driver explained.

"Not aiming to make a profit," Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

This is not following conventions!

Developers with such "ideals" and "aspirations" are rare nowadays.

"Think of this project as a golden signboard. It's used to elevate their other projects," the driver said, "If you visit their other residential projects, they'll tell you Jingyu Courtyard was developed by them. Doesn't that boost your confidence in their projects?"

It really did.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

The driver, seeing Bai Xiaosheng willing to listen, was invigorated, "Developers hold back inventory, you know. Despite having available units, they release only a few every now and then. Do you think they're foolish? They know exactly what they're doing!"

"It's their marketing strategy!"

"This project, no matter how many units they sell or have left, they'll always tell you there are no slots left. Want to buy? Check out our other projects!"

"In the end, when they actually have remaining units in this project and want to handle them, guess what? They'll tell those nouveau riche that this is their only chance to become neighbors with celebrities and leap into high society. Those words, the nouveau riche love to hear..."

Once the taxi driver started talking, he was unstoppable.

Bai Xiaosheng was quite impressed.

When it comes to knowledge and eloquence, these taxi drivers really are talented.

Towards the end of their conversation, the taxi driver couldn't help asking Bai Xiaosheng, "Buddy, you weren't really thinking of buying a house there, were you?"

"Yeah, really," Bai Xiaosheng responded honestly.

The taxi driver, "..."

"Ha-ha, Buddy, you're really humorous!" The taxi driver flashed a thumbs up.

Bai Xiaosheng, "..."

And so, chatting all the way, the taxi entered Zhongjing City.

Bai Xiaosheng did not go to Zhongjing Media, but instead had his driver stop at the entrance of a coffee shop.

This was the place he and Weiwei had agreed to meet.

The two were going to Zhongjing Media together.

Bai Xiaosheng's offer to accompany Lin Weiwei was not entirely an exaggeration.

Weiwei had thought that returning to Zhongjing Media would mean encountering many acquaintances.

However, the reality might be different from what she thought.

Before arriving, Bai Xiaosheng had gathered a lot of information, but he did not share it to keep Lin Weiwei's mood unspoiled as she was visiting her family.

Now, Zhongjing Media was no longer the same as it was a year ago!

According to Bai Xiaosheng, more than seventy percent of the directors and managers had been transferred to other cities and companies, and a large group of people had been dismissed.

The New Media Department, Gaming Department, and Film Department saw the biggest turnover.

They were also the departments where Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei had the most acquaintances.

Moreover, Zhongjing Media was to be split in two and relocated to two different cities!

Gao Dazhi, the deputy head of Zhongjing Media, believed this was inappropriate and reported it to the administrative department.

And the person behind all this was the new faith-based regional industry head who replaced Chen Jiuzheng—Gao Siyu!

Bai Xiaosheng, sipping his coffee, looked somewhat more solemn.

This Gao Siyu was no ordinary character.

He was quite special!

Zhongjing Media was, after all, a directly subordinate subsidiary!

Even Chen Jiuzheng could not interfere!

This person's maneuvers had put it under his control, which just showed his extraordinary capability!

It was not just Zhongjing Media he had shaken up; this person had also caused quite a stir in Zhongjing.

His actions were significant!

When Bai Xiaosheng was in Zhongjing, he had established a Media Industry Alliance and made policy recommendations for Zhongjing's development, maintaining a good relationship with the city government.

Zhongjing Media and the group's industries in Zhongjing should have continued to improve with the city's development.

But Gao Siyu completely disrupted this status quo!

He not only shook up Zhongjing Media but also planned to relocate several businesses out of Zhongjing!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flashed with a hint of fierceness.

Amidst the backdrop of Zhongjing's development, such reckless actions were damaging to the group's industries.

And with Mayor Ji Mingyang in need of support, Gao Siyu's actions were undermining him!

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng strongly suspected there were deeper motives at play!

Gao Siyu was likely using this bold move to blackmail the city government!

"Utterly reckless!"

Having reviewed Gao Siyu's resume, Bai Xiaosheng could not help but mutter a judgment under his breath.

This man, leveraging his special status, showed little reverence.

"This time, I'll show him," Bai Xiaosheng whispered somberly.

"What it means to have respect!"

Zhongjing was his hometown, and Zhongjing Media was where he had risen to prominence.

Bai Xiaosheng would never allow anyone to cause chaos.

Not even Gao Siyu!

At this very moment, in Zhongjing Media, the once lively atmosphere had turned bleak, with hardly anyone in the corridors.

The employees were all huddled in their own office areas, nearly silent, immersed in their work amid the stillness.

In the main conference room.

A man sat proudly alone—Gao Dazhi, the deputy head, listened to a scolding.

"You're pretty bold for a mere deputy head, daring to report to the administration. Heh, who do you think will help you? That what's-his-name—"

"Bai Xiaosheng?"

The scorn in the speaker's voice was evident.

"What is he!"