

Two Trillion 1051

Chapter 1051: There is Only One Truth

"The thief isn't him," sounded especially harsh among the unanimous denunciations.

"What nonsense are you talking about, young man!"

"Everyone saw it with their own eyes, how could it be false?"

"If it's not him, who is it then? Could it be you!"

...

Mocking and accusatory voices filled the surroundings.

Bai Xiaosheng responded indifferently.

His gaze fell on the hotel employee, who was full of tears and snot, being grabbed by the collar and ignored by everyone.

The employee looked at him with a hopeful expression, seeing him as the last straw.

"It's not me!"

The employee's voice was hoarse as he cried out.

He had yelled this countless times, but no one listened.

Bai Xiaosheng looked confidently at him and said seriously, "The thief, isn't him!"

The crowd jeered again, and someone even whistled and shouted, "Hey, we've got a Sherlock Holmes here!"

Chen Yucheng's eyes were filled with interest as he observed Bai Xiaosheng.

To him, this young man seemed to possess an unrivaled charisma—

Though millions oppose me, I go my own way!

"Interesting!" Chen Yucheng muttered with a focused smile.

"Sir, this has nothing to do with you! We will handle it!" The hotel manager firmly rejected Bai Xiaosheng.

At that moment, he just wanted to calm things down and minimize the hotel's losses.

As for the truth, wasn't it obvious—

What everyone agrees on, that's the truth!

"You!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes turned cold as he pointed at the lobby manager, "You are worse than all of them. This is your employee! Rather than proving his innocence, you're framing him! I think you are the most irresponsible here!"

The hotel manager's face changed color, extremely annoyed.

"If you can't solve it, then let me! Isn't that alright? Do you only feel happy when you have to pay a sum of money?" Bai Xiaosheng sneered, pointing to someone nearby, "Also, do you think money can smooth everything over? Open your eyes and look, this incident is probably all over the internet by now!"

The hotel manager was stunned and looked around.

Many people were filming with their phones.

This scene made his face turn instantly pale.

In the information age, news explodes everywhere, syncing instantly across the internet.

Some might even be live streaming!

Covering it up was impossible!

The hotel manager was dumbfounded, then couldn't help but look at Bai Xiaosheng, without a squeak.

If Bai Xiaosheng could indeed prove that it wasn't their hotel employee who stole the wallet, that would be a good thing!

It could even restore the hotel's reputation!

Otherwise, even if they compensated everyone present and immediately engaged in crisis PR,

The loss wouldn't be trivial!

And with the higher-ups holding him accountable, his career as the hotel manager might be over!

The manager swallowed.

"Understand?" Bai Xiaosheng asked coldly.

"Understood, understood," nodded the hotel manager.

"Move aside!" Bai Xiaosheng was too lazy to waste words on him.

"Okay!" The hotel manager obediently moved away.

Bai Xiaosheng walked past.

"Where the hell did you come from! What's this got to do with you! My stuff was stolen, stolen by hotel people! What's your involvement!" The man who lost his possessions cursed at Bai Xiaosheng.

What a foul mouth!

In another place, Bai Xiaosheng would have slapped him already.

But now, Bai Xiaosheng intended to verbally annihilate him!

The surrounding crowd snickered at Bai Xiaosheng, pointing fingers.

"This young man just loves to attract attention."

"Really, we all saw what happened; how could it be wrong!"

"I really want to see who else the thief could be!"

Mockery abounded around.

But Bai Xiaosheng was unmoved.

"In the face of the public, unflinched, cool, calm, and collected—a true general's demeanor!" Only Chen Yucheng admired Bai Xiaosheng, clicking his tongue in appreciation, "Unanimous opinion still unsways him, sticks to his beliefs, not misled by public opinion, truly a sign of a wise man!"

Of course, Chen Yucheng spoke very softly.

Let alone Bai Xiaosheng not hearing it, even people nearby didn't catch it.

Seeing the employee treated as the thief, Chen Yucheng felt a stir of sympathy, reminiscent of his own situation.

Which made his usually laid-back self, consider intervening.

But it seemed unnecessary now.

This young man with an imposing yet calm aura greatly intrigued him.

"I see you look like a high-salaried white-collar, yet you speak foully," Bai Xiaosheng spoke lightly, "It shows that your normal environment is definitely not the corporate world. Your clothes might look superior, but they're just street stall goods."

"Of course, it's none of my business what you wear or what you do."

Bai Xiaosheng humorously continued, "Even if you dress to appear superior, specialize in defrauding hotels or similar, what is it to me?"

A seemingly jesting remark from Bai Xiaosheng made the man's eyes immediately flash a hint of fear.

Bai Xiaosheng, unsurprised by this reaction, had noticed from the start that the man's loud protests, seeming extremely angry, were completely feigned.

Bai Xiaosheng, who was he!

As someone who had trained his eyesight, even the most seasoned office veterans couldn't hide their tricks from him, let alone be deceived by a petty swindler.

From the very beginning, Bai Xiaosheng had pegged him as a fraudster!

Commonly known as, bumping porcelain.

Only this time, the porcelain didn't just harm the hotel, but also implicated an ordinary hotel employee!

What had that person done wrong!

To have his reputation shattered and bear the brunt of curses!

Perhaps behind him was a whole family to support!

Being from the lower class himself, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't stand it!

"What do you care about my identity! Anyway, he stole my wallet, and that certainly isn't false!" the man said, his face a mask of fierce resolve.

Holding on to this "ironclad fact," he feared nothing.

Some people around seemed enlightened by Bai Xiaosheng's words.

Some doubtfully stared at the man, their voices much lower.

Others looked on eagerly, watching closely.

"Then I will verify now what you said is false." Bai Xiaosheng said with a casual smile, pointing at the hotel employee, "When I was getting on the elevator, he was on the left side, you were on the right. In the middle—"

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze searched.

"I was in the middle!" someone shouted.

Chen Yucheng emerged with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled back, with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

This man's expression, slightly expectant, was unlike the other onlookers who were just there for the drama.

It seemed as if he was waiting for a show?

Bai Xiaosheng felt that this man's deeper intentions needed careful consideration.

Such cunning, Lin Yu might not even compare!

Bai Xiaosheng was deeply impressed by Chen Yucheng.

Of course, now was not the time to be amazed.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded at Chen Yucheng and then looked at the accusatory man, "Tell me, how did this hotel employee steal your wallet and slip it into his pocket on the left, next to the elevator, while there was someone between you two?"

"And from what you just demonstrated, your wallet was in your right pocket, wasn't it?"

"That's the width of an elevator. Could he really reach his arm out that far without drawing attention? Was it like that?"

Bai Xiaosheng playfully twisted his body to mimic the action.

The crowd roared with laughter.

Reasonable, rhythmic, and humorous.

As the laughter rose, Chen Yucheng knew they were already leaning towards the young man's version of the story!

"Brilliant! Sharp-minded and clear-eyed, undisturbed by the crowd! To be so capable at such a young age!" Chen Yucheng looked at Bai Xiaosheng with ardent eyes, "And skillful at directing the audience with your words!"

Bai Xiaosheng's performance unexpectedly gave Chen Yucheng a thrilling sense.

"Then maybe, he stole it before entering the elevator!" The man's face started sweating, as he desperately argued.

"But you said that you discovered your wallet missing in the elevator. Who remembers?" Bai Xiaosheng even made sure to interact with the onlookers.

Only by involving everyone could he truly get their support.

"I remember!"

"So do I!"

"He did say that!"

Many people excitedly exclaimed.

Those who watched loved dramatic turns.

The man looked panicked.

"If it was two people walking towards the elevator, with both facing the same direction, you passing by his side to slip the wallet into his pocket, then both turn around as they enter the elevator—it only makes sense that way!"

"I say it was you who slipped the wallet into his pocket before entering the elevator!"

Bai Xiaosheng coldly observed the man, then commanded the hotel manager, "Check the surveillance of the floor where he and that employee entered the elevator!"

The hotel manager, completely convinced by Bai Xiaosheng's words and actions, immediately nodded enthusiastically, "Yes, I'll have someone look at it now!"

The man instantly panicked.

Damn it!

This wasn't his first or second time running this scam. Shouldn't everyone be sympathizing with the underdog, condemning the hotel!

Demanding compensation, where everyone benefits!

This whole thing operates on the premise that the hotel won't report to the police, won't publicize the matter, preferring private settlements.

Who bothers with deductions and detailed thinking!

It had always worked before flawlessly.

Why did this guy have to show up today, exposing him in a few words!

The man who had grabbed the hotel employee, seeing the changed views in the crowd's eyes and their pointing fingers, suddenly let go and tried to run.

The crowd was taken aback, letting him break through.

But as soon as the man dashed out of the crowd, he fell flat on his face in a perfect "eating shit" fall.

A security guard quickly stepped forward, grabbing him fiercely.

Chen Yucheng retracted his foot that he had stuck out, looking at Bai Xiaosheng and clapping his hands with a chuckle.

"Spectacular, absolutely spectacular! I couldn't help but give you a leg up!"

Someone led the way.

The crowd erupted in applause!

The hotel manager was especially grateful.

"Little brother, care for breakfast? Join me," Chen Yucheng said cheerfully, "I find you quite likable; this meal is on me."

Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily startled, couldn't help but roll his eyes.

A free buffet, and it's on your dime!

Chapter 1052: So it's him!

Hotel lobby, buffet restaurant.

Bai Xiaosheng got some food and found a window seat to sit down.

The window was bright and clean, and the morning light was just right.

In such an environment, Bai Xiaosheng was in a good mood. Looking at the food on his plate, he felt quite an appetite.

Speaking of which, this five-star hotel had a lavish breakfast of high quality.

Bai Xiaosheng picked up a small bowl of steaming hot noodles, topped with half an egg, two shrimp, and bright green chopped scallions floating in the broth, the aroma tantalizing his taste buds.

Additionally, he grabbed two buns, one vegetarian and one meat, and a small dish of mixed cold dishes.

With such a rich breakfast, Bai Xiaosheng was indeed hungry.

However, just as Bai Xiaosheng was about to start eating with his chopsticks, someone sat down across from him, pushing their plate level with his.

"Eating just this much for breakfast? It's better to have a hearty meal," the person smiled, directly picking a tea egg from their own plate and placing it onto Bai Xiaosheng's, cheerfully saying, "Come on, don't be shy, eat more!"

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

In this buffet, you could take whatever you wanted—who was being shy!

But, the person meant well, and Bai Xiaosheng looked up and smiled, "Thanks."

The person who came over was naturally Chen Yucheng.

"You're welcome," Chen Yucheng said with a smile.

On his plate, there was only coffee, a small piece of toast, and a boiled egg—very simple.

Bai Xiaosheng ate his breakfast, and Chen Yucheng drank his coffee.

"Back there in the elevator, in the face of 'facts' unanimously recognized by everyone, you still had the courage to step forward, identify the real culprit, and clear someone's name," Chen Yucheng said with genuine admiration. "Man, you're really something!"

"Overrated."

Bai Xiaosheng didn't even look up, dismissing it with a word.

"No no, I really admire you!" Chen Yucheng said sincerely.

"Admire what? Admire that I bring a 'dumb down' aura with me, that I alone could see the truth, and everyone else is a fool?"

Bai Xiaosheng put down his chopsticks and started peeling the tea egg with a smile.

Chen Yucheng looked at him with a quasi-smile, "Why say that?"

"It's what you imply. Of the twenty to thirty people there, I believe that no less than five could see the truth, including you, old fellow!" Bai Xiaosheng bit off half the egg and continued eating, "And I never pride myself with the notion that 'everyone else is drunk and I alone am sober,' nor do I think everyone else is a fool."

"I'm not that narcissistic!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "So don't treat me like a fool either. Your admiration, it's too much."

These words made Chen Yucheng smile even more, and even his eyes brightened.

He looked at Bai Xiaosheng, unable to stop himself from exclaiming, "It's rare for someone to have such a clear understanding like you!"

Bai Xiaosheng remained indifferent.

Chen Yucheng continued—

"It's also rare for someone to dare stand up, to dare to stand on the opposite side of the majority, and speak the truth!"

"What I said about admiration, has a different implication!"

"Some people see it, but don't want the trouble!"

"Some people see it, and just want to watch the drama unfold!"

"Some people see it, waiting to profit from it!"

"You're not like those! You saw it. You chose, to stand up!"

"You not only have the ability to see the truth but also have the ability to change the situation, to keep the truth from being buried!"

Chen Yucheng said with extra emotion, "That is the real reason why I admire you!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Yucheng unexpectedly, then smiled.

"Actually, I'm a bit curious now," Bai Xiaosheng finished the remaining egg and wiped his hands with a napkin.

"What?"

"If it were you standing up back then, how would you have handled that situation?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

Because of this man's words, Bai Xiaosheng started to look at him with new respect.

Being able to say these things indicates that they share some common values—

Wanting to do something!

Without minding the trouble, the gains and losses, ignoring the benefits, just wanting to do something!

This recognition made Bai Xiaosheng very appreciative!

Faced with Bai Xiaosheng's question, Chen Yucheng thought for a moment and then shrugged, laughing, "Perhaps not much different from your methods."

"Maybe it's a special way," Bai offered.

"Pity it's all over now, no chance to show you," Chen said with a laugh.

"No worries, I didn't really want to see anyway," Bai Xiaosheng smiled. "Because I believe if it was you, you would have solved it as well!"

Chen Yucheng smiled, "Then I must thank you for your trust. How should I address you?"

"Just Bai," Bai Xiaosheng replied simply.

"Just Chen," Chen Yucheng echoed the response.

When strangers meet, even if there is a sense of recognition, there's no need to reveal one's identity.

After all, the friendship of gentlemen is like water.

"Finished eating, goodbye." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and stood up.

Chen Yucheng nodded with a smile, watching Bai Xiaosheng leave.

Until Bai Xiaosheng disappeared from the doorway, Chen Yucheng kept watching, but then seemed to remember something, his expression slightly condensed.

"Bai, is it?!"

On his way back, Bai Xiaosheng walked and pondered.

That man surnamed Chen, gave him a sense of déjà vu, as if they had met somewhere before.

Where?

Bai Xiaosheng returned to his room without figuring it out.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were already inside, reviewing documents.

Bai Xiaosheng walked over and greeted them.

"Xiaosheng, we have pulled up the information on Chen Yucheng and the two provincial industry heads with your authority. Take a closer look; it might inspire you," Lin Weiwei said.

"Hmm. Good job," Bai Xiaosheng, his mind elsewhere, took the documents and accidentally looked at the photos, suddenly paused.

Then, his eyes lit up.

"So, it was him!"

Lin Weiwei was startled, "What? Xiaosheng, what did you say?"

"No matter, Weiwei, notify those two provincial industry heads and Chen Yucheng to come here tonight for dinner, on me!"

"We're inviting them to dinner," Lin Weiwei smiled. "Will they really enjoy it?"

A Senior Affairs Officer investigating here normally would be given a welcoming dinner by the locals.

Who invites them like this?

This is not playing by the rules!

Bai Xiaosheng didn't care; the meal would be expensed by the company.

He was just adopting a way to meet those people!

At that moment.

In Beiyu Group, in the chairman's office.

Shen Yu, the chairman, was sitting opposite someone in the sofa area.

Shen Yu looked respectful.

But after listening to the other person's request, Shen Yu was somewhat surprised.

"Why so soon? You're asking me to expose Chen Yucheng? According to the plan, shouldn't I be in the last batch and not get too involved?" Shen Yu was slightly reluctant.

This was the chaos of the investigation, led by a Senior Affairs Officer!

Being part of it, who knew what troubles might arise!

"The situation has changed, Old Shen!" his companion frowned, "That Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng arrived half a day ago; we intercepted evidence carried by one of Chen Yucheng's colleagues – it seems they intended to use it to confront him! Our initial evidence had loopholes; we need to fill them promptly. Your early appearance is unavoidable!"

Shen Yu opened his mouth, looking like he wanted to say something else.

"Sooner or later, you have to come forward; does the order really matter that much!" his companion suddenly was displeased, "I didn't ask you to confront the Bai's Senior Affairs Officer directly, it's me who will meet him! Of course, if the investigation reaches you, you'll have to testify; what's there to fear, you aren't at the group anyway."

"Don't want to, reluctant? Don't forget what you promised that person!" his companion's voice hardened.

Shen Yu hesitated, stopping himself from speaking.

I don't have to confront Bai Xiaosheng directly?

Hell, I've seen him in Zhongjing before!

He's a tricky one!

Meeting him again, could I remain calm and composed?

Inside, Shen Yu felt bitter.

Chapter 1053: Who Sets the Chessboard, Who Makes the Move

At noon, Bai Xiaosheng ordered room service at the hotel and ate with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying in the room.

While eating, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly looked up and asked the two, "What do you think about the situation here, is it troublesome, or simple?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying paused, exchanged a surprised glance, and looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"It should be quite troublesome," Lei Ying said, "well, I should say it's very complicated! We need to verify whether Chen Yucheng really has issues before we can decide our course of action! However,

whether Chen Yucheng has problems or not, those opposing him are even harder to deal with; we totally can't grasp who those people are, how they organize, and how they operate!"

Lin Weiwei also nodded, puzzled, "Xiaosheng, it's clear that things are tough. How could you still think it could be 'simple'?"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly and said nothing.

After a while, as if talking to himself yet seemingly replying to Lin Weiwei, he said, "For a large corporation, is it more harmful for one person to cause problems, or a group of people? On the premise that this person's power is controllable, far from being rampant! And those people, as far as we currently know, have already appeared not just one at their level!"

"Xiaosheng, what do you mean?" Lin Weiwei asked curiously, "Even if it's just Chen Yucheng alone, if he is problematic, we still must investigate."

Lei Ying nodded.

"If, I say if," Bai Xiaosheng suddenly said, "all of Chen Yucheng's issues prove to be true, have you assessed how much harm he could bring to the corporation?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at each other and then nodded slightly.

"We estimated the total embezzled amount."

"Approximately eighty million to a hundred million!"

This was the total amount embezzled by Chen Yucheng.

"Eighty million to a hundred million! And that's assuming everything holds true," Bai Xiaosheng murmured, "but in the past two years, hasn't he exposed pests who had embezzled no less than twenty or thirty billion in funds?"

"He starved for three years, just to grab eighty million to a hundred million? And risked leaving so many traces for the other party!"

"It doesn't make sense,"

Bai Xiaosheng murmured.

Lin Weiwei was stunned, "Xiaosheng, do you think he embezzled too little?"

Lei Ying also looked confused.

They didn't understand what Bai Xiaosheng meant.

"Have you ever considered," Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked, "that Chen Yucheng might have done it on purpose?"

"On purpose?" Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were both stunned.

"He deliberately left some flaws in his actions, allowing the opposition to seize so many handles on him! Letting the opposition frame him!"

This speculation left Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying speechless.

Who would intentionally reveal flaws for others to exploit and frame themselves?

Looking at the evidence, it was even from three years ago!

Consistently, day after day, leaving handles for the others, purposeful self-sabotage, what kind of "resolve" is that.

Moreover, doing so...

"Isn't that stupid?" Lei Ying couldn't help but say.

Lin Weiwei deeply agreed.

"Yes, absolutely foolish," Bai Xiaosheng murmured, "then tell me, do such fools really exist in this world?"

This was a very metaphysical question.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying didn't know how to answer.

"Or perhaps, this 'fool' is actually very smart, voluntarily embroiled in trouble, finding problems for himself, turning himself into a whirlpool, attracting the opponent's minions, then clearing them on behalf of the corporation."

"At the same time, such performance metrics are sufficient for him to aim for the next Candidate Senior Affairs Officer!"

Bai Xiaosheng continued his thoughts like a flowing faucet.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were both somewhat horrified.

This idea was too fantastical!

Only a madman would dare to do such a thing!

As Bai Xiaosheng pondered, his phone rang.

It was a call from Mr. Xiahou Qi.

"Hello, Elder Xia?"

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, left the dining table, and answered the phone.

"Xiaosheng!" Over the phone, Xiahou Qi's voice came through, "After our last call, I have been very busy. Just now, reminded by Wang Mubei, I finally reviewed some materials!"

"The materials Chen Yucheng had submitted to me!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sharpened.

For Elder Xia to personally call, those materials must be very important!

"Chen Yucheng, actually, had left some evidence to prove his innocence!"

"At the same time, he also presented a plan!"

"He claimed that he would expose these evidences of his innocence, and if the opposition targets them with specific responses, it would prove that he was framed!"

"Moreover, if they attempt to patch the vulnerabilities, inevitably more flaws will emerge!"

Xiahou Qi said, "Coincidentally, just as I had finished reading all these, someone delivered a new batch of materials that confirmed Chen Yucheng's judgment."

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes lit up.

Just as he had thought, Chen Yucheng really was the one who had "planned in advance"!

He had probably been setting up for years with himself as the vortex, all to draw out the opposition!

Putting it dramatically, this was a tide of performance!

And it was man-made!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but admire him.

But the target Chen Yucheng was aiming at had existed since three years ago and had always been lying dormant!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help frowning.

"Chen deliberately kept it from me, I was even kept in the dark. I'll send you everything now, how to investigate, you know!"

Xiahou Qi trusted Bai Xiaosheng utterly, and his manner of referring to Chen Yucheng had changed.

"Elder Xia, you really worried for nothing, allowing Chen Yucheng to keep things hidden from you. Aren't you annoyed?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Hmm, find an opportunity to vent some anger on my behalf," Xiahou Qi laughed on the phone.

"Should I say, you've been suspicious of Chen Yucheng turning bad from the start! Otherwise, you wouldn't have asked me to come!"

"Just how clever you are!" Xiahou Qi snorted.

"I have only minor cleverness; you are swamped with affairs and have no time to sort everything out! Actually, many things can escape your legal eye," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Bootlicker!" Xiahou Qi laughed and cursed.

After chatting for a while, Bai Xiaosheng received a mail alert that the files had been sent.

Hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng was full of emotions.

Chen Yucheng, truly daring!

Daring to act!

And to achieve the results, he even kept Elder Xia in the dark.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng also felt that Chen Yucheng seemed to have touched some core aspects of the opposition; this concealment was a safe and cautious choice.

Bai Xiaosheng remembered the self-service restaurant and the look in that guy's eyes.

"A person of his caliber fears not even a billion; even tens of billions might not sway him!"

"He has aspirations and wants to achieve things! At the same time, he also wants to earn his keep, not toiling in vain!"

"No loss to the public, no loss to the private!"

"I like it!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Now, it was possible to define Chen Yucheng's character; things had become simpler.

However...

"Chen Yucheng, you're really something, a good master of strategies. 'Playing' Elder Xia, he is magnanimous and can disregard it. But I am not so magnanimous," Bai Xiaosheng said with a grin, "You can use self-preservation methods, to extricate yourself from the vortex, proving that the things you've touched are too much for you to handle! No worries, I'll help you!"

"Also, I went all the way to Tianqiu, only to find it was a wasted trip, how could I let that pass!"

"This wave of performance tide, sharing a portion with me should be okay."

"I think a seventy-thirty split is good."

"I get seventy, you get thirty!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Ah, I am indeed too softhearted!"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed, walking back to the dining table.

He still felt he was at a loss.

If Chen Yucheng knew, that often smiling face would definitely twist in anger.

But he wouldn't expect it.

His evidential materials and tactics were trusted by Elder Xia so much that they were immediately passed on to Bai Xiaosheng.

And he would never expect that Bai Xiaosheng had already guessed his calculations before knowing those.

The so-called Evil Genius.

That you absolutely cannot judge by normal standards.

Bai Xiaosheng is that Evil Genius!

Chapter 1054: This busyness cannot be in vain!

This time, when Bai Xiaosheng and his team arrived in Tianqiu, the biggest trouble they faced was actually in discerning the true nature of Chen Yucheng.

The "good" or "bad" of Chen Yucheng would directly determine the ultimate direction of the issue.

Bai Xiaosheng and his team didn't have ample time, and human hearts are the most unpredictable.

But now, it seemed that Chen Yucheng was still that same Chen Yucheng.

Only, he had played a big game.

Bai Xiaosheng felt quite emotional and actually admired Chen Yucheng a bit.

Who could spend three years laying out a grand strategy, daring to use Mr. Xiahou Qi as a pawn, and still stand at the center of the board, right at the heart of the storm?

That boldness was truly remarkable!

Bai Xiaosheng also happened to have had contact with Chen Yucheng unintentionally.

Towards him, both in terms of impression and sixth sense, he felt not bad.

Then the problem seemed "simple."

Bai Xiaosheng shared Mr. Xiahou Qi's phone number and his own judgment with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"So since Officer Chen Yucheng is not an issue, this matter becomes simple! We clarify the problem for him, root out the troublemakers for a strict investigation, and that will be it," Lin Weiwei joyfully said.

There was a sense of sudden clarity and refreshment.

"You're oversimplifying the problem, Weiwei," Lei Ying, on the other hand, threw cold water on the idea, "So many people have provided evidence together. To overturn all that and restore Officer Chen Yucheng's innocence, how difficult that will be!"

"Moreover, to conduct a counter-investigation on those people, we need a reason!"

"The opposing group is institutionalized and deeply entrenched with a complicated network, and moreover, all of them are lurking in the shadows! Officer Chen Yucheng investigated for three years to arrive at the current situation."

"The trouble we are about to face can only be imagined!"

Lei Ying might appear burly, but he had a mind as fine as a hair, and sometimes his considerations were even more meticulous than Lin Weiwei's.

Especially when it came to the perception of danger!

It was not surprising since he was a special forces soldier who had licked blood off the edge of a knife and survived the battlefield.

Enemies on the battlefield are extremely cunning; if one simplifies the problem, one might just lose their life.

Lin Weiwei also realized that she had been too overjoyed and had overlooked these points.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"What Weiwei said is not bad; in this case, if we clarify the situation for Chen Yucheng and take care of those exposed troublemakers, we can consider our objective achieved. At the very least, the enemy is now out in the open!"

"What Lei Ying said is also correct; the vast entity Officer Chen Yucheng is investigating—exactly who is behind it and to what extent it has been investigated—we know nothing about. It's easy to cast a net, but if we let the big fish get away, or worse, get targeted ourselves, how troublesome the future might be is indeed worth considering!"

Bai Xiaosheng said, "Chen Yucheng must have touched on some core issues and felt that his authority and power were insufficient to continue, so he wanted to harvest a wave of achievements!"

"And we have been inadvertently brought here by Elder Xia. One could say that through a fortunate twist, we got involved."

"But that's not necessarily a bad thing!"

"How so?" Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked curiously at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed quite pleased.

Facing the question, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"In any case, I'm here to help Chen Yucheng. Would I, a Senior Affairs Officer, be dispatched just to boost morale? He, Chen Yucheng, should share a few fish with us."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately laughed, nodding again and again in agreement.

Even if one works wholeheartedly for justice, working for free just wouldn't do!

"Besides, what Officer Chen Yucheng cannot swallow might not be a problem for me as a Senior Affairs Officer. If we 'save' him, he has to reciprocate with kindness and share his investigative results from the past few years, right? As for the big fish, I'm even more interested in taking on the challenge!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded excitedly.

Exactly the point!

"Furthermore, I think that this Chen Yucheng is really damn talented. I, as a Senior Affairs Officer, admire him. He might as well work for me," Bai Xiaosheng said with a gleaming gaze and a joyful smile.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were astounded.

When it came to ruthlessness, who could match their very own?

Helping people fish just to drag the fishermen away as payment.

Impressive, indeed.

"But right now, we can't afford to let people think we favor Chen Yucheng. We need to do something to distract them, to buy us some time," mused Bai Xiaosheng to himself.

As evening approached,

a black Rolls-Royce moved down the road,

followed by a Maybach.

In the back of the Rolls-Royce sat two men, both just over fifty—one slightly fatter, the other thinner—but both with a powerful presence.

They were the provincial industrial leaders Chen Yucheng had his eyes on.

One was named Guo Yunxin, the other Sun Youhe.

And they were on their way to attend a banquet—a banquet hosted by Bai Xiaosheng!

In the car, both the driver and the assistant in the front passenger seat were their own trusted people.

Therefore, the two men didn't bother hiding their conversation.

"To be honest, when I received the phone call this afternoon, it gave me quite a fright! Old Guo, when did this Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng arrive? He just appeared out of nowhere. And now he's inviting us to dine with him. I really don't know what to expect!" Sun Youhe couldn't help but speak out.

Normally, when the Senior Affairs Officer personally visited, one piece of news would have them arranging everything and rushing to welcome him.

But this time, without any warning, he set up a banquet.

A feast akin to the Banquet at Hongmen!

Definitely a trap!

But did they dare not to go?

"What are you afraid of, Old Sun?" Guo Yunxin seemed calm and collected, "Right now, Chen Yucheng is the one with problems, not us. It's Bai who's here to investigate him, not us!"

"But I heard that this Bai Xiaosheng is no simple man. He just became an Affairs Officer and took down the Chen Brothers, Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng!"

"Oh, come off it, stop building him up. The Elder Xia had been eyeing the Chen Brothers for a long time—even Zheng Honghu played a supporting role. That youngster Bai just got lucky, happened to be at the right place at the right time."

"I also heard he's investigated a few Affairs Officers and provincial industrial leaders—our people included!" exclaimed Sun Youhe, his voice filled with dread.

"Those who were investigated and who we are, do you really think we can be compared?" Guo Yunxin snorted coldly, "Chen Yucheng was like a dog, biting at us for three years, investigating many, right? But look, did 'that person' ever care? And when he went after us, what did 'that person' do? One strategic play, and Chen Yucheng's done for."

"There is a hierarchy even among our own. We, my friend, are precious!"

Whenever Guo Yunxin mentioned "that person," his eyes filled with immense respect and fear.

"We're talking about Bai Xiaosheng, why bring up Chen Yucheng? He's not the Senior Affairs Officer!" Sun Youhe felt like Guo Yunxin was getting off-topic.

"What of the Senior Affairs Officer? Even they have to respect seniority! This Bai Xiaosheng, he's had a streak of dumb luck, had the audacity to take Officer Lin Yu's place, and happened to benefit from Fang Beijun's promotion, securing the role of Senior Affairs Officer. But can a greenhorn like him really handle it?" Guo Yunxin scoffed repeatedly.

"This is an opportunity. We really need to see what this Mr. Bai is all about. His attitude toward Chen Yucheng—if his heart lies with Chen Yucheng, then we..."

Speaking, a chilly gleam appeared in Guo Yunxin's eyes.

"Look, don't do anything rash. He is still the Senior Affairs Officer! You can't act without 'that person's' consent," warned Sun Youhe urgently.

His own ally was ruthless enough not to take even the newly appointed Senior Affairs Officer seriously.

While they couldn't frame the Senior Affairs Officer, this was Guo Yunxin's territory, and one couldn't rule out some unsanctioned tactics.

Sun Youhe glanced over at Guo Yunxin.

After meeting Bai Xiaosheng, I'll quickly leave Tianqiu. Whatever happens next has nothing to do with me!

A companion in death is not the companion sought by a Taoist.

Sun Youhe thought to himself.

He didn't possess Guo Yunxin's self-confidence or boastfulness. Truly believing one is so valuable in "that person's" eyes?

Sun Youhe believed more that it was Chen Yucheng's continuous actions over the years that finally wore "that person" out.

"That person" was known for having tremendous patience but would ruthlessly deal with adversaries in anger.

Lost in thought, Sun Youhe suddenly heard the driver softly alert them, "We've arrived!"

Both men looked through the windshield ahead.

The hotel—had

Chapter 1055: Show Power

"What? Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng is hosting a banquet at this hotel and inviting you along with those two people!"

In Chen Yucheng's room, Zhang Wenxin exclaimed in shock.

"Yes, so that's why I called you back. Change your clothes and come with me," Chen Yucheng said with a smile.

That young man was indeed Bai Xiaosheng!

Chen Yucheng sighed.

He had even thought about pulling him under his wing. It seemed impossible now.

Reflecting on Bai Xiaosheng's way of doing things, Chen Yucheng felt it suited his own taste even more.

"However, might he be too upright but not cunning enough?"

"Being willing to stand up and speak for justice is commendable, but knowing how to adapt and being...a bit more cunning would be good."

"That's the only way to secure one's position!" Chen Yucheng thought to himself.

Senior Affairs Officers have extraordinary strategies and always have a group of people around them; this is how they stabilize their foundations.

It's not about forming cliques necessarily.

But one does need some people, to stand by your side, and faithfully carry out your arrangements.

Even the best plans rely on people for execution.

Senior Affairs Officers might seem lofty, but if they are sidelined or met with lip service compliance, they become nothing but a hollow shell.

Intimidating people might work, but making things happen is hard.

Bai Xiaosheng was a Senior Affairs Officer with a shallow foundation.

"I, Chen Yucheng, after years of work, have built a network that ranks among the top in the circle of Affairs Officers; even Lin Yu is no match for me. This time, I have prepared a last resort measure. If it ever comes to that, many will stand up for me, ensuring my safe exit. This network of resources, if lent to Bai Xiaosheng, could enable him to contend with any Senior Affairs Officer!"

"But why should I put everything on the line for Bai Xiaosheng?"

"Just because I admire him?"

"That's impossible! If something goes wrong, it won't just be trouble for me but will also implicate many!"

Chen Yucheng thought to himself, "Besides, I still don't know if Bai Xiaosheng is cunning enough, if he is fit to adapt to the treacheries of the corporate world. Until I'm truly convinced about him, I had better not entertain the thought of changing alliances!"

"After all, it's not like there are no other suitable candidates!"

Chen Yucheng, while arranging his clothes in front of the mirror, contemplated these thoughts.

So much so that when Zhang Wenxin spoke to him, he did not listen, just responded with non-committal grunts.

"I'm talking to you!"

Finally, annoyed, Zhang Wenxin brought Chen Yucheng back to reality.

"What did you say?"

"I said 'I'm talking to you!'"

"The sentence before that."

"Why is Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng hosting a banquet here?"

Chen Yucheng smiled, "Who knows, maybe he is staying here."

That was his way of addressing Zhang Wenxin's question; feeling no guilt, Chen Yucheng turned away.

Zhang Wenxin's brows furrowed.

"Why can't you take this seriously? If he's staying here, you should at least find him in advance, explain the false accusations to him, and ask for a fair judgment," Zhang Wenxin felt his anger rise whenever he spoke to his friend.

At the same time, he was extremely displeased with Bai Xiaosheng's arrival.

"After all these years, doesn't Elder Xia know what kind of person you are? Doesn't he know you have been falsely accused?"

"Not appointing Haofeng Great Affairs Officer, Great Official Zheng Honghu is one thing, but sending a newly appointed Senior Affairs Officer, not even thirty years old!"

"The headquarters are unfair! Elder Xia is unfair!"

The more Zhang Wenxin thought about it, the angrier he got, "You might think it doesn't matter, but I can't stand it!"

Regardless of what Chen Yucheng thought, Zhang Wenxin decided to stand up for his friend.

At six in the evening.

At the hotel where Bai Xiaosheng was staying, on the fifth floor in a banquet hall, outside a private room.

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, each with an assistant, led by a waiter, found the private room and pushed the door open.

Inside, sat Chen Yucheng and Zhang Wenxin.

"Hehe, you two come early," Guo Yunxin said with a strained smile.

Sun Youhe nodded politely to the two Affairs Officers.

"Not too early, just arrived a few minutes ago," Chen Yucheng smiled, gestured for them to sit with a welcoming hand, showing quite an enthusiasm, "Please, have a seat."

Although it had come to a point of dire competition, Chen Yucheng still managed to smile and behave politely.

Zhang Wenxin, however, was not in a good mood, snorted coldly, his gaze filled with hostility towards Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

These two individuals had started it, and then there was an echo around, maligning Chen Yucheng.

So, in Zhang Wenxin's view, they were the "culprits."

"What would you two like to drink? The Huangshan Maofeng here is particularly good, why not try it?"

"Hehe, sure, since Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng recommended it, then Huangshan Maofeng."

Chen Yucheng and Guo Yunxin chatted and laughed.

Sun Youhe also smiled, "Then I'll have a pot as well."

The waiter nodded and left.

"You look quite worn out, Affairs Officer Chen, haven't been sleeping well lately? You should take care of yourself; someone like you is a valuable asset to our group."

"I've been a bit busy lately, but thank you for your concern, Mr. Guo. I also need some information from a few companies soon, I hope for your cooperation."

"Hehe, absolutely, definitely will cooperate."

Guo Yunxin and Chen Yucheng continued their friendly exchange.

Unknown to others, they would think those two were best friends, yet in reality, both viewed each other as rivals wishing for the other's demise!

Sun Youhe forced a smile awkwardly from the side.

Zhang Wenxin's face was ashen with anger, seemingly on the verge of exploding.

Suddenly, the door to the private room opened. At first, everyone thought it was a waiter, but then they saw it being pushed open from both sides, and a man and a woman entered.

The man was burly and imposing without showing anger, his gaze sharp and piercing.

The woman was beautiful and elegant, her demeanor supreme, her smile sweet.

Following them, a young man with a smile, dark hair, and dark eyes walked in.

"Have all of you arrived early? It seems I'm the last one to arrive, sorry about that," the newcomer said with a laugh.

It was Bai Xiaosheng.

"It's him!" Zhang Wenxin exclaimed in disbelief.

During his trip to Tianqiu, the suspicious travel companion turned out to be Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng!

Zhang Wenxin was stunned by this realization, at a loss for words.

The change in his expression caught the attention of Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

Both men frowned slightly.

Why would Zhang Wenxin react this way?

Could it be that he had met Bai Xiaosheng before?

Both were astute individuals, quickly managing to hide their expressions.

Yet Zhang Wenxin's reaction had not escaped Bai Xiaosheng's notice.

"Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself, 'Zhang Wenxin really can't control himself!'"

He had learned from Xiahou Qi that Zhang Wenxin was also present, which made him look up a photo of Zhang Wenxin, recognizing him as the same Affairs Officer he had encountered in Tianqiu.

Despite Zhang Wenxin's reaction and Guo Yunxin's watchful eyes, Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained unchanged.

He seemed not to recognize anyone.

Chen Yucheng also appeared to be seeing everyone for the first time.

"I am Bai Xiaosheng," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

His gaze swept calmly over each of their faces, seemingly exerting a subtle authority.

The aura of a superior was awe-inspiring.

Chen Yucheng, Zhang Wenxin, Guo Yunxin, and Sun Youhe all stood up.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng!" they greeted in unison.

No sooner had they greeted him than Zhang Wenxin, unable to hold back, blurted out, "Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, we have met once before, do you remember me?"

"You?" Bai Xiaosheng seemed to ponder for a moment, "The person who sat beside me during the trip to Tianqiu?"

"It was me! I'm glad you remember! We surely do have a past connection!" Zhang Wenxin hastily added, "Then I must report to you."

"Affairs Officer Chen was wronged, framed by these two!"

Zhang Wenxin yelled, pointing at Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

Was this an accusation right from the start?

Chen Yucheng was taken aback.

His friend was not usually the kind to cause trouble; he was just straightforward by nature.

Such people, once they discern right from wrong, tend to stick to their path, rarely making a misstep.

It was also why Chen was promoted to Affairs Officer by headquarters.

Yet such individuals can also be too single-minded.

At the moment, his concern caused chaos.

Facing the accusations, Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe remained silent, both watching Bai Xiaosheng, waiting for his reaction.

What would Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng do!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression darkened, remaining silent.

Zhang Wenxin, apparently oblivious to the reactions around him, continued impassioned.

"Since you are here, you should quickly clear Affairs Officer Chen of these false accusations! These two are very problematic, and we have found a lot of evidence. They should be investigated! You can't let good people be wronged and allow them to slander freely!" Zhang Wenxin continued to shout.

Chen Yucheng tried to pull his friend's sleeve discreetly.

Yet Zhang Wenxin seemed not to notice.

"Affairs Officer Zhang Wenxin," Bai Xiaosheng finally spoke, his eyes cold and his words icy, "Are you the Senior Affairs Officer, or am I?"

Zhang Wenxin was momentarily stunned.

"Do you think because you rode with me once, had a brief meeting, you can speak to me in this manner, even order me around?"

"I didn't mean to..." Zhang Wenxin quickly defended himself, noticing Bai Xiaosheng's stern gaze.

"Hmph, I don't know about Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, but I see you, without respect, spouting nonsense!"

Bai Xiaosheng's face was dark, his eyes full of anger.

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, catching a glimpse, felt a chill.

The young Senior Affairs Officer had such a strong sense of self-respect, not allowing any violation of his authority!

Indeed, a new official normally asserts authority, who likes subordinates to be disrespectful!

Zhang Wenxin, foolish as he was, probably got himself into trouble, perhaps even affecting Chen Yucheng!

Guo Yunxin and Sun Yunxin felt a secret thrill of schadenfreude.

"Zhang Wenxin, since you can't orient yourself, you don't need to stay here anymore... get out!"

Bai Xiaosheng raised his hand decisively and commanded authoritatively, directly expelling an Affairs Officer.

Senior Affairs Officer Sheng had shown his power!

Chapter 1056: Different Treatment

Zhang Wenxin was either straightforward or naive.

In any case, once he became emotional, he would lose all restraint, even going so far as to talk back to his superiors publicly, not just once or twice.

The fact that he had managed to occupy the seat of an Affairs Officer had always seemed incredibly surreal to everyone.

Actually, the more single-minded a person is, sometimes their convictions turn out to be astonishingly firm, making it difficult to convince anyone when trying to frame such a person.

Therefore, Zhang Wenxin was seated quite securely in the unique position of an Affairs Officer.

However, he didn't have many friends.

Chen Yucheng could be considered one.

So, when Chen Yucheng was slandered, the most anxious person was Zhang Wenxin, and he was also the one who found it the hardest to accept.

In his agitation, Zhang Wenxin's old problem flared up, and he actually pressured Bai Xiaosheng publicly to take action.

This was outrageous!

How could the authority of the Senior Affairs Officer be violated by subordinates so casually!

Bai Xiaosheng didn't mince words either and furiously scolded him, wanting to throw him out.

At this, Zhang Wenxin was dumbfounded.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, Wenxin didn't mean to offend intentionally. I hope you won't take it to heart," Chen Yucheng hurriedly tried to smooth things over with a placating smile.

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe exchanged a silent glance.

Zhang Wenxin was always like this, and maybe Bai Xiaosheng would just make a show of it and scold him a bit—after all, they were both from the Department of Affairs.

"Affairs Officer Chen, one or two sentences I could take as unintentional, but so many words clearly sound like ordering me around!" Bai Xiaosheng said angrily, "And you're telling me not to take it to

heart? If every Senior Affairs Officer had to endure their subordinates commanding them and was told not to take it to heart, where would the dignity of a Senior Affairs Officer be?"

"How then, would I continue with my work in the future!"

Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be genuinely angry, rebuking even Chen Yucheng.

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe felt a secret pleasure.

Zhang Wenxin overstepped alone, and Chen Yucheng was implicated because of it.

They really had it coming!

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, I didn't mean that..." Zhang Wenxin still refused to admit defeat.

"Out!" Bai Xiaosheng shouted angrily, outright refusing to listen to his explanation.

Lei Ying strode over with a grim face and actually grabbed Zhang Wenxin, forcefully dragging him away.

Zhang Wenxin, being rather weak, was in no position to compete with Lei Ying in terms of strength.

"You can't do this, Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng!" Zhang Wenxin yelled.

Bai Xiaosheng turned a deaf ear.

Zhang Wenxin was forcibly pushed out the door by Lei Ying.

"Go back. If this goes on, Chen Yucheng will be unlucky too," Lei Ying pressed his voice low and said coldly.

Zhang Wenxin watched as the door closed, filled with annoyance. He thought about knocking but remembered Lei Ying's words.

He feigned the gesture twice, not daring to actually knock, and ultimately had to leave, disheartened.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, it's Zhang Wenxin's fault. Please be lenient!" Chen Yucheng pleaded once more.

The surname Bai, would he take the opportunity to relent?

Guo Yunxin paid particular attention to Bai Xiaosheng's reaction.

"Affairs Officer Chen, your own issues are not yet resolved. Don't worry about others!" Bai Xiaosheng sat down indifferently with a thunderous look, casting a gloomy glance at Chen Yucheng, "Or are you saying that you want to leave as well? I came to Tianqiu with good intentions to invite you to dine, but one by one, you're not giving me face!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were fierce, seeming to take true offense.

Indeed, anyone would be angry if, upon inviting subordinates to a meal, they would get talked back to by their direct subordinates.

Guo Yunxin quietly gave Sun Youhe a look.

This Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, no matter how lucky he was, was after all still a young man.

Young people, after all, care about saving face.

Especially when placed in a high position, eager to be respected and recognized.

Then, give him face!

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, with your esteemed status, why bother with him!"

"Yes, getting angry is bad for your health. Affairs Officer Zhang has always been blunt, everyone knows this: there's no need for you to bother with him."

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe comforted him with laughter while serving tea and fruits.

They behaved respectfully.

This attitude significantly eased Bai Xiaosheng's angry expression. Though still somewhat silent, he nodded his head, his aura also considerably restrained.

Afterward, Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe shifted the topic, discussing many legends they had heard about Bai Xiaosheng.

The pair complemented each other, expressing admiration without overdoing it, singing Bai Xiaosheng's praises indirectly.

Certainly, at first, neither of them dared to be too ostentatious, fearing this Senior Affairs Officer Sheng might not appreciate such flattery.

Who knew that Bai Xiaosheng initially managed to keep his composure, but the pride in his eyes betrayed him.

In the end, the triumph was plainly visible on Bai Xiaosheng's face.

He seemed quite pleased with others' respectful and flattering compliments.

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe were even more enthusiastic in their praise.

As for Chen Yucheng, Bai Xiaosheng completely ignored him, even when Chen Yucheng tried to join the conversation, Bai Xiaosheng displayed an indifferent expression.

The conversation was cursory and inattentive.

Chen Yucheng felt somewhat embarrassed.

This scene delighted Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

They had long heard that Bai Xiaosheng was even tougher on people from the Affairs Department than on those outside of it.

Otherwise, why would he have investigated officials who had taken over provincial industry responsibilities?

It looked like the rumors were true!

Hmph, he became a Senior Affairs Officer at such a young age, seeking vanity, and wanting to establish authority within the Affairs Department—is that why he's being domineering among his own?

Guo Yunxin wore a smile on his face, but internally, he held immense contempt for Bai Xiaosheng.

Sun Youhe, on the other hand, thought differently.

He was earnestly trying to leave a good impression on Bai Xiaosheng.

Sun Youhe firmly believed that first impressions could influence many aspects that follow.

Laying a good foundation for an impression and scoring high on it never hurt!

Because of Zhang Wenxin's recklessness, Chen Yucheng lost points on first impressions, and even if he tried to make up for it later, it would likely cost him ten to a hundred times more effort!

Thus, Sun Youhe worked hard to bridge a relationship with Bai Xiaosheng.

After conversing for a while,

the banquet began.

In the face of Bai Xiaosheng, Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe frequently toasted him.

Bai Xiaosheng also showed a lot of face in return.

Chen Yucheng, on the side, seemed to feel the need to build rapport and ease the awkwardness.

He too, smiled broadly and raised his glass to join them.

Unexpectedly, when Bai Xiaosheng saw him, his smile immediately became stern.

"Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng, we are technically of the same department, so our relationship should be closer. You are my direct subordinate, and I should offer you some pointers."

Chen Yucheng nodded eagerly.

"As an Affairs Officer, one should know propriety, understand when to advance or retreat. Although this is our first meeting, there are some things I still need to remind you of, don't think that seniority allows you to ignore your leadership."

Bai Xiaosheng gave a half-hearted smile but his words were blunt and serious.

"Yes, yes, I'll certainly remember your advice this time," Chen Yucheng replied, nodding continuously and displaying an eager-to-learn demeanor.

"We won't talk about your issues today, but if there are problems, proactively report them to the Affairs Department."

"And don't always be driven by performance, stalking and shadowing the two provincial industry heads."

"You haven't cleared up your own issues yet; remember, the blacksmith must himself be hard!"

Bai Xiaosheng exerted his authority, repeatedly "instructing" Chen Yucheng, an officer ten years his senior.

Chen Yucheng's expression slowly turned awkward.

After agreeing to the points, Chen Yucheng became a bit despondent and dared not toast anymore.

So, Chen Yucheng, you too have seen such days!

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe watched, feeling secretly thrilled.

The banquet continued until nine in the evening.

When the crowd dispersed.

Bai Xiaosheng was clearly much more amicable to Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe than to Chen Yucheng.

Once out of the hotel, Guo Yunxin and his group drove back.

Inside the car, Guo Yunxin couldn't help but burst into hearty laughter.

"How about it, old Sun? This Bai Xiaosheng is just so-so! Everyone wants to be respected and flattered. No one is an exception!"

Sun Youhe also nodded and smiled, "I fancy myself as somewhat skilled in judging people. But observing carefully from beginning to end, I'm absolutely certain that Bai Xiaosheng was truly annoyed with Chen Yucheng. There's no mistake!"

Sun Youhe was also brimming with confidence.

Little did he know that in terms of controlling facial expressions, Bai Xiaosheng's ability far surpassed his own by a factor of ten or even a hundred!

Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe returned home full of satisfaction and joy.

On the other hand, Chen Yucheng left the banquet with a frown, only to smile once he reached his own place.

Back home, Zhang Wenxin approached with a face full of anxiety and guilt.

"Yucheng, did I cause you trouble this time?"

Chen Yucheng smiled, patted his good friend on the shoulder, and said something meaningful.

"No, it was me who caused you trouble!"

"Thank you for your hard work!"

Chapter 1057: Want to Collaborate?

The day after Bai Xiaosheng hosted the banquet, early in the morning, Guo Yunxin received a call from Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng's assistant.

"Mr. Guo, here's the situation, starting immediately, we need to initiate an investigation into Mr. Chen Yucheng."

"However, according to the procedure, we also need to routinely recheck the issues reported by Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng regarding the enterprises under your jurisdiction."

"It's just a routine, I hope you understand."

Lin Weiwei's tone was extremely polite.

"Oh, I see, no problem. I'll notify those enterprises right away, and you can access all the documents you need," Guo Yunxin readily agreed, laughing, "Just give the orders, no need to be so polite. After all, you are the Senior Affairs Officer's assistant!"

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng greatly appreciates you and specifically instructed us to be polite," Lin Weiwei chuckled over the phone.

"That's really too kind, too kind," Guo Yunxin laughed heartily.

He also felt extremely relieved.

No matter what, they had established a good relationship with Bai Xiaosheng.

Chen Yucheng was in for a difficult time!

"By the way, Senior Affairs Officer Sheng mentioned, do you perhaps have any more evidence on the issues with Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng? We can verify them all together. Senior Affairs Officer Sheng said that previously, there might have been reservations, considering the face of a colleague, but the

system does not tolerate personal feelings, especially within the group of Affairs Officers, where no problematic individuals should arise," Lin Weiwei said earnestly.

"Well..." Guo Yunxin seemed "troubled" for a moment.

Bai Xiaosheng had provided a perfect excuse, and Guo Yunxin wouldn't miss this opportunity.

"There actually is some—you know, previously we truly didn't want to completely fall out with Chen Yucheng. After all, as an Affairs Officer, he oversees us. If pushed too hard, who knows what false accusations he could make against us, which we couldn't handle!"

"Since Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng is standing up for us! Then naturally, we will speak with no reservations and expose everything!"

Guo Yunxin was filled with a sense of justice.

Lin Weiwei also greatly praised his attitude, her voice filled with joy.

Discovering an Affairs Officer might not count as a significant achievement for a Senior Affairs Officer, but for an assistant, it meant a lot.

From the phone call, Guo Yunxin could also sense this beautiful assistant's eagerness for achievements.

This pleased him greatly.

Perhaps Bai Xiaosheng also intended to make Chen Yucheng a feather in his assistant's cap.

Driven by benefits, Guo Yunxin started to firmly believe that Bai Xiaosheng would show no mercy to Chen Yucheng.

That was for the best!

Hanging up the phone, Guo Yunxin couldn't wait to inform Shen Yu, "It's your group's turn to take the stage now. This time, make sure to add a hefty weight to Chen Yucheng's neck!"

"Strike him while he's down!"

Meanwhile, Sun Youhe, who had left Tianqiu overnight, also received a similar call from Lei Ying.

Sun Youhe also expressed his full cooperation.

The sooner they dealt with Chen Yucheng, the sooner they would resolve a lingering concern.

Why not do it?

At the same time, in the hotel where Bai Xiaosheng was staying, in the first-floor buffet restaurant.

In a corner, Bai Xiaosheng was having a meal with someone.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, your acting skills are truly top-notch. I observed from beginning to end yesterday, absolutely flawless! I didn't expect someone as young as you to be so impressive, truly admirable!" Chen Yucheng exclaimed while sipping his coffee.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him and continued eating his hot noodles.

"Do I have a keen eye or what, not waiting for your signal but delivering a perfect performance? I think my acting wasn't bad either, fully portraying a pitiful man who harbors sorrow but has to force a smile," Chen commented with a smile, generously praising himself.

"What's your next plan?" Chen Yucheng asked.

Bai Xiaosheng put down his chopsticks, picked up a wet towel to wipe his mouth, put it down, and looked at Chen Yucheng.

"What's with that look?" Chen Yucheng wondered.

"Now you know I'm a Senior Affairs Officer and you still address me as 'you'. Isn't that disrespectful? Tell me, should I accept the evidence they provide..." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"And deal with you!"

The voice was slightly cold.

"You really like making jokes," said Chen Yucheng, smiling. Then, seeing Bai Xiaosheng's serious gaze, his smile also faded, "You're not serious, are you?"

"What do you think?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled again.

The harsh seriousness was swept away.

Chen Yucheng secretly breathed a sigh of relief, thinking to himself, "This guy, how is he so good at controlling his expressions?"

"That moment just now, that look, made me think he was really going to do it!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Yucheng.

Chen Yucheng was secretly criticizing, and seeing Bai Xiaosheng's expression, he immediately smiled, "What's up?"

"Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng, I think you're truly talented, and moreover, exceptionally bold, even Lin Yu might not compare to you in many aspects!" Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly.

Chen Yucheng revealed his white teeth and smiled, "Thanks for the praise, why suddenly compliment me?"

"Because you are impressive!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

"I've been thinking it over, combining the materials you provided to Elder Xia, and the reports..."

"I've concluded that for the past three years you've been relentlessly pursuing a certain group, gradually wearing down their patience. This strategy, using yourself as bait to lure them into taking action against you! And you, you must have substantial evidence to prove your innocence while using this opportunity to achieve great results, am I right?"

"Recently, you seemingly gave up the competition for the Candidate Great Affairs Officer, but actually it was a deliberate move, wasn't it? You were banking on this harvest of achievements as a foundation to aim for the next Candidate Great Affairs Officer!"

Bai Xiaosheng watched Chen Yucheng's expression.

Chen Yucheng's eyes narrowed slightly, his smile faded, and he became more serious.

It seems my guess was not wrong! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"Did you come up with all this yourself?" Chen Yucheng couldn't help but observe Bai Xiaosheng seriously, and slowly asked.

"Elder Xia is busy; he probably doesn't have time to discuss these things with me, and the same goes for the other Senior Affairs Officers," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "That tone of yours, does it mean you're validating my guess?"

"I think I might have underestimated you!" Chen Yucheng said a bit seriously.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"I thought about it seriously again, I think someone like you, so composed, must have more than just the evidence you presented to Elder Xia to save your own skin."

"So, I looked into your reputation a bit, and in the Affairs Department, many Affairs Officers have extremely positive things to say about you!"

"In such an environment, they aren't kicking you when you're down, but praising you..."

"I guess that means, you have privately wide connections, and if this framing becomes solid, a whole lot of people will stand up and testify for you, helping you out of trouble!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

These words made Chen Yucheng's smile disappear, and his gaze became more serious.

"Oh, I forgot to say. I think you're harvesting achievements now because you've touched the core of the opposition, unbearable for them, and you—" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "have limited authority, not enough appetite!"

"But my authority is sufficient, isn't it?"

"Are you interested in collaborating with me?"

"Or, simply come under my command!"

Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Chen Yucheng stared at Bai Xiaosheng, for the first time treating him with a very serious attitude.

But soon, Chen Yucheng laughed.

"Even if we cooperate, I still need to know if Affairs Officer Sheng has the capability you claim!"

Chen Yucheng said, "First, let me see how you help me solve the current predicament!"

The word "you" turned into "you" (honorific form).

A difference in a single word, a different meaning.

This change, Bai Xiaosheng seemed not to notice.

"Alright."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, rose, and left.

His figure receded gracefully.

Chapter 1058: Entry Point, Found!

Chen Yucheng watched Bai Xiaosheng leave, then stared in that direction for several seconds before withdrawing his gaze.

"This guy, really beyond my expectations!"

It was the first time that Chen Yucheng felt such sincere admiration toward Bai Xiaosheng.

"So young, yet so experienced it's terrifying."

"A man with principles, who still knows how to play his cards!"

Chen Yucheng sighed, "Such a man, he's no less than any Senior Affairs Officer. No, it should be said that even among Senior Affairs Officers, he would be outstanding!"

"Moreover, he's still so young... A stock with potential, an absolute stock with potential!"

"No wonder, Elder Xia relies on him so much, no wonder Li Haofeng and Zheng Honghu are willing to make his acquaintance!"

"Like a demon!"

Chen Yucheng muttered to himself, then lowered his head in thought and a smile curled at the corners of his mouth.

"Right now, I truly can't go it alone. The competition is just too strong!"

"However, with the resources at my disposal, joining any other Senior Affairs Officer's ranks would suffice, but those people have their own trusted aides. If I bring my people over, there's bound to be conflict, inevitable infighting."

"But Bai Xiaosheng is different, he's starting from scratch, his slate is clean..."

"Even if I don't join his ranks, cooperating with him, each taking what we need, is also excellent."

Chen Yucheng finished his cup of coffee in one gulp and stood up to leave.

"Let's see how capable he is with his tactics, whether he can clear up the trouble for me, whether he can satisfy me. When the time comes..."

"Cooperate, yes! Join his ranks, that's also possible!"

Chen Yucheng had already made his calculations.

On the other hand.

Bai Xiaosheng made his way back to his room.

Upon entering, he saw Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying packing their things, as if they were about to go out.

"Have you said your hellos to Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

As he had arranged these matters, he naturally knew what they were going to do.

Judging by their reactions, things must have gone very smoothly.

Lin Weiwei smiled, "After last night's dinner, those two have been extremely cooperative toward us, actively offering their support. For one meal to achieve such a result, it was truly worth it!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe have both said that they'll have their enterprises cooperate. Once we get there, we'll first request the documents and then arrange meetings with key figures! With our recent study of the documents, combined with our conversational skills," Lei Ying said with a grin, "as long as we act swiftly, we will definitely achieve something!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

By doing this, on one hand, they could solidify evidence that showed problems with Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

On the other hand, they could also discover things that would corroborate Chen Yucheng's framing.

"Just now, I met with Chen Yucheng, and he gave me a problem to solve," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh, "He wants me to take care of his troubles!"

"If I can do it to his satisfaction, future cooperation, even the possibility of him joining us, is on the table!"

Bai Xiaosheng, who was observant of Chen Yucheng's expressions and reactions, had already concluded that he was open to the idea.

And Bai Xiaosheng was quite taken with Chen Yucheng.

"This guy is capable, cunning, and bold. And as far as I know, he has a significant network in the Affairs Department!" Bai Xiaosheng mentioned, his eyes lighting up with excitement, "To be honest, we currently have too few people we can use! Due to my position, I can't do everything myself, and it's been just the two of you running around outside, truly working hard."

"In the past, it might have been manageable, but going forward, I'm afraid it won't be enough!"

This truly was an unavoidable reality!

"I've been coveting Chen Yucheng and his people for a long time!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded repeatedly, also smiling.

Indeed, as Bai Xiaosheng had become a Senior Affairs Officer, the issue of personnel had become their greatest constraint.

No Senior Affairs Officer is without people they can use.

But in the short term, getting Bai Xiaosheng to pull together a team, or to go one by one to meet with those Affairs Officers and screen them to see if they are capable, if they have integrity, and if they aren't affiliated with other Senior Affairs Officers, is almost impossible.

The best way is to find someone trustworthy, like-minded, and with powerful connections to take under one's wing.

No matter how you look at it, Chen Yucheng is the perfect candidate!

"However, we originally thought that we would first investigate Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe's issues, then obtain some evidence to cast doubt on Chen Yucheng's case, and then gradually and carefully push forward, peeling back the layers one by one," Lin Weiwei said. "But now, with Chen Yucheng testing us, we certainly can't delay any longer. Doesn't that make things more difficult!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, deep in thought.

Indeed, the difficulty had just increased.

Chen Yucheng probably knew this and wanted to see what Bai Xiaosheng would do.

"So, Chen Yucheng, you want to test my methods? Fine, I won't disappoint you!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

He actually already had a few preliminary ideas.

As he was thinking, Lin Weiwei's cellphone rang.

"It's Guo Yunxin!" Lin Weiwei gestured to Bai Xiaosheng before answering the call.

After listening for a moment, Lin Weiwei's eyes lit up, and while looking at Bai Xiaosheng, she said into the phone with a smile, "Mr. Guo, you've sent over new evidence about Chen Yucheng to my email. Great, got it! I will check it right away! Thank you!"

Guo Yunxin had made his move on the other end.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Chen Yucheng had mentioned in his report to Elder Xia that the evidence he used to prove his innocence would be leaked, and the other party would surely supplement it with new evidence.

One lie would be covered up with ten more, leading to a hundred loopholes.

The more fabrications there are, the more likely it is to find an entry point!

Lei Ying's cellphone also started to ring.

It wasn't a call, but a message notification.

"It's a message from Sun Youhe, the content is more or less the same as what Guo Yunxin said on the phone!" Lei Ying said as he looked up. "I've received supplemental evidence as well!"

"Falling asleep and getting handed a pillow, how timely!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying continued with the original plan, visiting enterprises to collect evidence.

Lin Weiwei was going to visit four enterprises in Tianqiu and Lin City.

While Lei Ying was headed to the provincial capital city governed by Sun Youhe. Speaking of which, the two provinces were adjacent; there was high-speed rail connecting Tianqiu with its provincial capital city, just over an hour away. In a large city like Linshen, that amount of time was the distance from one district to another.

Thanks to the convenience of modern transportation, the two of them could conduct a lot of investigations.

Bai Xiaosheng stayed in his room, facing the computer, checking the "new evidence" provided by Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

He opened one piece of new evidence after another, while the old evidence was freshly imprinted in his mind.

Bai Xiaosheng was looking for a breakthrough.

Currently, all this evidence was like a complex tangle of threads. The more entwined it seemed, the more complicated it appeared, but as long as you found a loose end, you could unravel the knot and solve everything easily.

The key question was—where was that "loose end"?

Bai Xiaosheng had identified several potential entry points but felt none were quite satisfactory.

Just then, Bai Xiaosheng's own phone rang.

The call was from Wang Mubei, Elder Xia's assistant.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, Elder Xia is busy right now and asked me to send you some things. They're also complaints about Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng, but they're from people who have left the group," Wang Mubei said on the phone.

"Alright, I got it! Thanks for your hard work, Brother Wang!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng opened his email to check the information Wang Mubei had sent.

He'd only taken a glance when his eyes suddenly brightened—

"The entry point, I've found it!"

Chapter 1059: Senior Affairs Officer Visits Abroad

Replace the Chinese name with the corresponding English name: 白小升 => Bai Xiaosheng

振北集团 => Zhenbei Group

红莲 => Red Lotus

振北 => Zhenbei

小升 => Sheng

林薇薇 => Lin Weiwei

雷迎 => Lei Ying

事务官 => Affairs Officer

薇薇 => Weiwei

大事务官 => Senior Affairs Officer

林钰 => Lin Yu

北屿集团 => Beiyu Group

沈总 => Mr. Shen

沈裕 => Shen Yu

陈宇成 => Chen Yucheng

天秋 => Tianqiu

郭云心 => Guo Yunxin

孙友合 => Sun Youhe

北屿大厦 => Beiyu Building

郭云 => Guo Yun

林 => Lin

For anyone else, facing a pile of intricate and interconnected evidence and clues would surely be a headache-inducing ordeal.

They might have to look it over countless times and make ample notes, using a process of elimination, and then, perhaps only by some inadvertent inspiration, could they find a way in to solve the problem.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't need to.

Having looked through it once, Red Lotus would help him deeply remember it.

Bai Xiaosheng's reflections on some of the issues were also recorded by Red Lotus at all times, even pinpointing certain connections and marking them.

These were all crystal clear in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

The speed and efficiency of a human brain combined with an intelligence brain were thousands of times faster than that of a human brain alone!

With such convenience, Bai Xiaosheng naturally found the best breakthrough point in the shortest time.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was intently staring at a report document, his eyes shining brightly.

To be precise, he focused on the name of the person who reported in their real name—Shen Yu!

In fact, the fear in Shen Yu's eyes the day he learned that Bai Xiaosheng was the Senior Affairs Officer had already made a deep impression on him.

At first, Bai Xiaosheng thought it was because Shen Yu held a reverence for the Department of Affairs.

Or perhaps, it was because he had been investigated by the Affairs Officer before and had been left with a shadow in his heart.

But upon further reflection, Bai Xiaosheng felt something was amiss.

Especially since the name Shen Yu, as well as Beiyu Group, had appeared more than once among the old and new evidence!

Bai Xiaosheng became increasingly convinced that after leaving the group, Shen Yu still had contact with some people from the group.

Moreover, that Shen Yu could swiftly set up a Beiyu Group and take root in Tianqiu must have been with the help of those people!

After all, Tianqiu was under Guo Yunxin's jurisdiction!

Bai Xiaosheng also found out that the Affairs Officer who had initially locked Shen Yu down and almost nabbed him was Chen Yucheng!

Unfortunately, Chen Yucheng had had a long battle with Shen Yu, but to his dismay, in the end, it was indeed Lin Yu who took Shen Yu down.

Just now, in Bai Xiaosheng's several yet-to-be-refined ideas, he had identified Shen Yu as one of the breakthrough points.

But there was a problem.

Shen Yu and Beiyu Group's names only appeared in other pieces of evidence, just as nouns.

That was all.

Surely Bai Xiaosheng couldn't just start investigating someone based on a mere name mentioned in passing in a report in the evidence gathered by others.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was just the Senior Affairs Officer of the group; he was respected within the group, but outside of it, he had no authority whatsoever to hold others' corporations accountable.

But now, things were different!

Shen Yu had personally intervened, reporting Chen Yucheng to Zhenbei Group.

With this turn of events, Bai Xiaosheng now had an excuse to go after him!

And based on the contents of Shen Yu's report, Bai Xiaosheng quickly connected several related pieces of information in his mind, forming a clear line of thought.

Some things suddenly became clear without concern.

"Shen Yu and his company have appeared numerous times in all the evidence! And now, he has personally taken action, especially after we hinted at Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe..." Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he got up, his gaze twinkling, "This guy is definitely a big fish!"

"It seems that this time, I, the Senior Affairs Officer, need to take matters into my own hands!"

Bai Xiaosheng thought about it and a sly smile curled up at the corner of his mouth.

A mischievous smile.

Such a smile, if seen by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, would surely provoke murmurs.

In the past year, whenever they saw Bai Xiaosheng sporting such a smile, it always meant someone was about to have bad luck...

This time, it should be Shen Yu.

Amidst his mischievous smile, Bai Xiaosheng packed up his things and called Lin Weiwei.

"Are you still on the road, Weiwei? There's been a bit of a change in the situation. Listen to me..."

After calling Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng then called Lei Ying.

After two calls and arranging with both sides, Bai Xiaosheng left lightly packed, exited the hotel, and hailed a taxi directly to Beiyu Group, led by Shen Yu.

Over an hour later, Bai Xiaosheng stood in front of Beiyu Building, looking up with a hint of admiration, "Not bad for a real estate company, indeed grand and imposing."

At this very moment, Shen Yu was holding a meeting with the senior executives of his company, his face stern with anger, banging on the table and reprimanding his subordinates for their inefficiency.

His secretary hurried in and whispered in his ear.

Shen Yu was suddenly taken aback.

The people present noticed that the boss's expression was extremely odd; amidst their surprise, there seemed to be a touch of fear.

"Let's stop here. Everyone go back and reflect on your own actions!" Mr. Shen said sternly, then hurried off with his secretary.

Many exchanged glances, unsure of what had happened.

...

Bai Xiaosheng was leisurely admiring the decor in a corner of the lobby when he heard rapid footsteps approaching from behind.

Before the person arrived, their voice preceded them.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, why have you come in person without giving us a heads-up? We didn't have the chance to welcome you properly. It's such an oversight!"

Bai Xiaosheng turned around with a smile.

Shen Yu approached with an enthusiastic smile, almost breaking into a jog.

Everyone in the lobby was astonished.

The front desk was visibly shocked, thankful they hadn't been rude to Bai Xiaosheng earlier.

The boss personally greeting him and displaying such behavior could possibly only be for a visit from the mayor himself.

Who knows what sort of background that young man has!

Many looked on with respectful gazes.

"Sorry for the intrusion, Mr. Shen. I just got the exposé material you sent to our group this morning. Thinking we're old acquaintances, I wanted to come and visit. I hope I haven't disrupted your work," Bai Xiaosheng said with a cordial smile.

"Not at all, not at all! It's my honor to have you here. Please, come this way!"

Shen Yu was extremely attentive, inviting Bai Xiaosheng in.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed a trace of shock and unease still lingering in Shen Yu's eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile grew wider.

Shen Yu, whether Chen Yucheng can wriggle out of trouble this time depends all on you.

If there's anything that trips you up...

Well, you'd have it coming.

With a content smile, Bai Xiaosheng proceeded onward.

When Bai Xiaosheng arrived at the Beiyu Group, Lin Weiwei was sitting across from the general manager of one of the group's subsidiary property management companies.

Learning that Lin Weiwei was the assistant to the Senior Affairs Officer, the general manager appeared somewhat earnest and apprehensive, with a prompt smile.

"For someone of your stature, there's no need for you to come all this way. Just say the word, and I'll have everything delivered to you!" The general manager's smile overflowed.

"It's all for the group's work, so why not make a trip?" Lin Weiwei smiled, "Senior Affairs Officer Sheng tells us we must be hands-on. Besides, even the Senior Affairs Officer Sheng is making a personal visit right now."

"The Senior Affairs Officer making a personal visit!" The general manager was dumbstruck.

Such a prestigious position the Senior Affairs Officer held; he should not be involved in front-line work.

"May I ask which company he's inspecting?" The manager asked tentatively.

"It's not one of our group's companies. It's an external one, the Beiyu Group!" Lin Weiwei smiled, "Its chairman has some old ties with Senior Affairs Officer Sheng!"

The general manager was incredibly surprised, his eyes flickering briefly before he said with a smile, "I see!"

"Let's not dwell on that. I still need these items, and I'd like to speak with these individuals."

Lin Weiwei slid a pre-prepared list across the table.

"Sure, sure, no problem!" The general manager readily agreed without even looking at the list. "Mr. Guo Yunxin has already given us the heads up to fully cooperate with you. Whatever you need, we'll make sure it's provided!"

Over with Lei Ying.

Although he had gone to the provincial capital of another province, due to convenient transportation, his arrival was not much later than Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei's. At that moment, he was on his way to the office, accompanied by the general manager of a brokerage company affiliated with a group.

Lei Ying also divulged Bai Xiaosheng's whereabouts.

"The Senior Affairs Officer has taken matters into his own hands, heading to the Beiyu Group..." The other party was full of surprise, then laughed, "It's just like the Senior Affairs Officer to take a personal approach. Admirable!"

Lei Ying just smiled meaningfully and didn't say much.

...

By noon, the news of Bai Xiaosheng's movements had reached Guo Yunxin.

"Shen Yu reported it, and then Bai Xiaosheng goes straight there - could this be too quick?"

"They say there was a prior acquaintance, some old ties?"

"I've never heard Shen Yu mention these things!"

While Guo Yunxin's gaze flickered uncertainly, a phone call came in from Sun Youhe.

"Old Guo! How much have Shen Yu and you all kept from me?" Sun Youhe started angrily as soon as he spoke, "Why did Shen Yu know Bai Xiaosheng from the beginning!"

Chapter 1060: Going Crazy

Bai Xiaosheng arrived at Beiyu Group just before noon, and although Shen Yu had originally planned to go out for lunch, Bai Xiaosheng declined, saying he had heard good things about the Beiyu Group's cafeteria. It was buffet-style with a wide variety, and he wanted to give it a try.

Despite Bai Xiaosheng's insistence, Shen Yu didn't push the issue too much; however, he soon regretted his acquiescence.

With the chairman present, the employees naturally greeted them with enthusiasm.

Now, nearly everyone had seen Bai Xiaosheng, this young guest laughing and chatting with Shen Yu, having a grand time.

The observant ones would surely take notice of this.

Of course, to Shen Yu, this wasn't a cause for much concern.

After they ate, Bai Xiaosheng followed Shen Yu to his office and shut the door for a private discussion.

At first, Shen Yu even specifically ordered his secretary to stand guard outside, putting off all other business, to convey how seriously he took the meeting.

To him, the visit from Bai Xiaosheng might last an hour, at most, he thought.

But what happened next caught Shen Yu off guard.

Bai Xiaosheng, as a Senior Affairs Officer, didn't dive straight into the heart of the matter, as one might expect.

Instead—he chattered about all sorts of irrelevant nonsense!

They even talked for an hour or two about the suite Bai Xiaosheng had bought in the "Jingyu Courtyard" project!

All things like various architectural details, how the green planting should be done.

Bai Xiaosheng was enthusiastic and went on without pause.

Then, he shifted the conversation to the state of the world economy for another hour!

Shen Yu listened in bemusement and frustration.

This wasn't how it was supposed to go. Was the time of a Senior Affairs Officer worth so little?

Shen Yu wanted to ask Bai Xiaosheng directly—"Are you bored or what? Don't you have anything better to do?"

This endless chit-chat was even less substantial than the motivational speeches Shen Yu gave to his subordinates!

The smile on Shen Yu's face gradually grew stiff, as he silently pleaded, "Enough already, if you keep going, I'm not listening!"

But considering Bai Xiaosheng's status, Shen Yu, endured.

And for the sake of "that person" at home, Shen Yu, endured some more.

Yet, endurance has its limits.

After holding back over and over again, Shen Yu finally couldn't take it any longer.

"Officer Sheng, with you visiting personally, surely you didn't come just to discuss these things. Shall we talk about Chen Yucheng?"

After the third hour, Shen Yu didn't want to hold back any longer.

"Chen Yucheng, eh?" Bai Xiaosheng savored the name and then smiled, "Sure!"

Shen Yu sighed in relief.

"I do have a few minor questions that I'd like to ask Director Shen about, but I'm afraid they might be too dated for you to recall the details clearly," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Just ask, I remember everything!" Shen Yu quickly replied.

He had no intention of listening to Bai Xiaosheng ramble on about other things anymore.

They shut the door, refusing entry to anyone else, treating the matter with such gravity, and yet, if all they were going to do was chat about the irrelevant, what was the point?

Looking back, how was he supposed to explain this to Guo Yunxin and the others?

That he engaged in such trivial talk with Bai Xiaosheng?

Who would believe that?

How could a Senior Affairs Officer be so unreliable? Ridiculous!

Shen Yu wished Bai Xiaosheng would talk about something substantial.

Previously, to avoid any hint of scandal, Shen Yu had not mentioned to Guo Yunxin the details of his project in Zhongjing, where he sold a Siheyuan to Bai Xiaosheng at a low price, since they were "acquaintances."

People like them, once they left the group, customarily made sure to avoid any personal contact with individuals from the group.

Suddenly, Shen Yu felt a pang of regret.

Why hadn't he said anything?

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Shen Yu as he took out a recorder and placed it on the table.

This kind of recording device, used by a Senior Affairs Officer, was much more compact.

Shen Yu immediately understood what it was.

Faced with this, Shen Yu couldn't help but feel nervous.

Given that they were getting down to business, the following wouldn't be so relaxed. Shen Yu knew he had to answer each question very carefully!

After all, this could serve as evidence!

"Regarding the bribery scandal involving Chen Yucheng three years ago, I'd like to ask a few specifics," Bai Xiaosheng said, his expression turning serious, making Shen Yu's heart race even faster.

After such a lengthy period of relaxation, the sudden shift to full alertness was particularly uncomfortable for Shen Yu.

In one go, Bai Xiaosheng asked five questions, all aimed at confirming issues with Chen Yucheng.

But these questions contradicted other evidence!

This was the loophole that Bai Xiaosheng had meticulously unraveled from various connections!

If Shen Yu admitted to these points, it would invalidate the other evidence!

If he denied them, then it was tantamount to affirming that Chen Yucheng had no issues in these respects!

At first, Shen Yu didn't notice anything amiss and answered two of them before suddenly realizing something was wrong and backpedaled.

After the denial, Shen Yu quickly found himself in a dilemma!

No matter how he responded, he was inadvertently supporting Chen Yucheng.

In the end, Shen Yu became hesitant.

"You're absolutely right, Officer Sheng. These matters are from a long time ago, and indeed, there are many details I simply don't remember clearly," Shen Yu smartly deflected.

Many questions, he would need to discuss with people like Guo Yunxin first.

"Is that so?" Bai Xiaosheng replied with an indifferent smile, "Then shall we take a break?"

"Yes, yes!" Shen Yu nodded vigorously.

Bai Xiaosheng promptly put away the recorder and once again started talking about all sorts of disorganized topics with great interest.

The next three hours nearly drove Shen Yu mad.

But whenever he showed impatience, Bai Xiaosheng would ask if he wanted to discuss Chen Yucheng.

Shen Yu naturally did not wish to.

And so, half a day went by in this way.

After six hours behind closed doors, Bai Xiaosheng did what he wanted to say, whereas Shen Yu worried about traps in every small talk, apprehensive and vigilant, not daring to let his guard down.

That kind of pain was downright torture!

"It's getting late, let's call it a day! Thank you, Director Shen, for your active cooperation with our work," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, finally taking the initiative to end the conversation.

At that moment, Shen Yu felt as if he had received a royal pardon, a feeling of being brought back from the dead washed over him.

"Of course, of course."

"Sorry to keep you for so long."

"No problem, no problem."

"Shall we continue tomorrow?"

"Continue, continue."

Shen Yu's smile was a bit strained.

Continue tomorrow?!

"I trust that tomorrow, Director Shen should be able to recall the answers to those questions," Bai Xiaosheng said meaningfully.

"Yes, I'll do my best..." Shen Yu's smile was uglier than a cry.

He wanted to refuse, but obviously he couldn't, at least not until he had communicated the answers to those questions with Guo Yunxin and the others, and relayed them to Bai Xiaosheng!

Otherwise, today's talk would have been for nothing!

Shen Yu held back his tears...

Bai Xiaosheng, satisfied with his smile, stood up and left.

After sending Bai Xiaosheng away, Shen Yu collapsed back into his office chair, unable to come back to his senses for a long time.

Now, his whole brain was mush.

What did we talk about this half-day?

What did I say?

Which questions did I answer?

How did I answer them?

...

Shen Yu's head was filled with garbage information, his brain felt like it was about to explode, he truly felt unable to remember.

In contrast, Bai Xiaosheng had Red Lotus to help him, so he never had to worry about such annoyances.

"Damn it!" Annoyed by his thoughts, Shen Yu, furious, grabbed a document from his desk and slammed it to the ground.

Just after cursing, a phone call came in.

Sun Youhe.

"Old Shen, I heard Bai Xiaosheng went to see you and you guys talked behind closed doors all afternoon? What did you guys talk about?!" Sun Youhe spoke politely but with a hint of insistence.

Shen Yu didn't like to hear it.

His own company had their moles, Shen Yu knew that without thinking.

"We didn't talk much that was useful, all trivial matters!" Shen Yu huffed.

There was a pause on the other end of the phone.

Sun Youhe's voice was not so pleasant now, "Old Shen, you don't trust me!"

"What are you getting at?"

"You don't reveal a thing, you're tight-lipped for sure!" Sun Youhe's voice turned cold.

"You're overthinking it, we really didn't talk about much!" Shen Yu quickly said.

Shen Yu sounded earnest.

"Don't want to tell me, then don't, with that, I won't ask!" Sun Youhe seemed a bit angry.

"Don't get me wrong, let me think..." Shen Yu said urgently.

He couldn't afford misunderstandings or rifts between them.

Shen Yu struggled to remember.

But after six hours of nonsense, with only about ten or fifteen minutes of serious conversation, recalling it was a struggle for Shen Yu.

Nonetheless, he finally managed to remember two of the questions Bai Xiaosheng had asked.

Shen Yu stated them honestly.

"What, you confirmed those questions, are you stupid!" Sun Youhe exploded as soon as he heard.

The things Shen Yu confirmed contradicted the evidence provided by the companies under him.

This way, there was a conflict!

"You've got a pig's brain!" Sun Youhe roared.

The phone was abruptly hung up.

"..."

Shen Yu stared blankly, fuming, and really wanted to curse.

You want me to deny it?

Denying it would also clear Chen Yucheng of the issues!

You try dealing with Bai's verbal barrage!

Can you think of everything? You're worse than me!

Shen Yu truly wanted to call back and curse out Sun Youhe.

After panting heavily for a long while, Shen Yu finally felt a bit better.

The phone rang again.

Shen Yu glanced at the number, almost wanting to die.

Guo Yunxin.

Sun Youhe was no good but still somewhat reasonable; this person, on the other hand, was an even bigger bastard.

Shen Yu didn't answer immediately but glared at the incoming caller ID, cursing vehemently.

"You're the fucking idiot, bastard son of a bitch, messed-up jerk!"

Better to curse now than never get the chance.

After cursing, Shen Yu felt a sense of relief, then picked up the phone with a clear voice.

"Hello, Old Guo."