

Two Trillion 1071

Chapter 1071: What Kind of People Are These!

Bai Xiaosheng gestured, and Guo Yunxin proactively invited, leading Bai Xiaosheng out of the room.

As soon as these two left, only Chen Yucheng, Xiao Qiang, Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Guo Yunxin's two secretaries remained in the room.

The two secretaries were also confidants of Guo Yunxin, who had just watched their boss nearly forced into a desperate situation, and they were extremely nervous and anxious.

Unfortunately, in front of Bai Xiaosheng, Guo Yunxin barely had some ground to speak; they did not.

Therefore, the two of them could only keep silent.

Now, as soon as Bai Xiaosheng had left, the two immediately felt some presence, feeling that they could speak up.

"Affairs Officer Chen, ladies, and gentlemen, would you like some more tea or snacks?"

In the face of these hostile visitors, the female secretary spoke first, yet her tone was very warm.

"Affairs Officer Chen, if there's anything else you need, just let us know. Tell us, and we will try to accommodate!"

The male secretary also expressed his sincerity with a full smile.

Whether the higher-ups were fighting tooth and nail or crossing swords, these subordinates wouldn't dare to turn hostile unless they received a direct order to do so.

In the workplace, who can be clear about everything? There might be a turn for the better in a while, and both sides might turn to "harmony."

Guo Yunxin was a person of duplicity; naturally, his confidants had mastered this essence.

"There's no need!"

Chen Yucheng's response to the two's enthusiasm was exceedingly casual, his voice cold.

He clearly didn't take the two of them seriously.

However, the male and female secretary did not take offense.

After all, Chen Yucheng didn't even consider Guo Yunxin important, let alone the two of them.

But then, Chen Yucheng turned towards Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, his eyes earnest and his face suddenly smiling, "What about you two? If you need anything, feel free to tell them!"

Chen Yucheng's tone was extremely polite, even with a hint of seeking favour.

This attitude left Guo Yunxin's two secretaries involuntarily astonished.

In their eyes, Chen Yucheng was a man of brazen actions, fearless!

He had little reservation, not only towards Affairs Officers, regional industry heads, but also held scant reverence for Senior Affairs Officers!

Such a man, however, was being so courteous towards the mere assistants of Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng!

This was a bit exaggerated!

Just now, the two secretaries had witnessed Bai Xiaosheng's display of "divine might" against their boss. Now, seeing the two assistants of Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng commanding such prestige, they naturally did not dare to take them lightly.

The two treated Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying with the utmost respect, offering their warmest smiles.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying glanced at Chen Yucheng.

The latter subtly hinted, giving a slight wink.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying understood.

Chen Yucheng was establishing their authority, covering for them!

Chen Yucheng had also figured out that Bai Xiaosheng must have entrusted them with a task.

Although not a word was spoken, just a few glances.

But Chen Yucheng was certain that his message had been conveyed!

This unspoken understanding among those on the top and their subordinates evoked Chen Yucheng's envy.

The cohesion of this small group was almost like a single person!

In Chen Yucheng's view, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying must be about to do something next.

But he couldn't guess what.

Chen Yucheng watched as Guo Yunxin's secretaries treated Lin and Lei with condescension.

Considering how Lin Weiwei and the others operate, unable to bypass these two secretaries, Chen Yucheng simply decided to help them establish authority.

Having something that commands respect should make acting easier.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, faced with Chen Yucheng's cooperation, were also greatly pleased.

Even without this help, the two of them had plenty of ways to achieve their goals, but after all, this was their first "understanding cooperation" with a new ally.

Moreover, it was precisely what they needed!

...

What, exactly, are you planning to do?!

Chen Yucheng was curious, full of anticipation.

Bai Xiaosheng would rather jeopardize his own position than give these two a chance?

What will Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying do next?

Following the respectful demeanor of Guo Yunxin's secretaries, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying did not hold back and began to take action.

"It's almost noon. I wonder, where shall we eat lunch?" Lin Weiwei was the first to ask, smiling at the two secretaries.

"Oh, the lunch banquet is set in the nearby Wanwei House. It is a very famous Japanese restaurant." The female secretary immediately responded with a sweet smile, "Under normal circumstances, you need to book a month in advance. However, our boss Guo is good friends with Master Yeshan, and we spared no expense, tenfold, just so that Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng could enjoy the finest cuisine... "

The female secretary was speaking enthusiastically, but then she saw Lin Weiwei raise her hand, stopping her from continuing.

The female secretary was startled, her voice coming to an abrupt halt.

"I'm sorry, but Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng doesn't like Japanese food. We've heard that the private banquets at Tianqiu Fenglin Garden are good, please make arrangements there!"

Fenglin Garden private banquet?!

The female secretary hastily tried to explain with an apologetic smile, "Assistant Lin, you may not know, but the private banquets at Fenglin Garden also require booking a month in advance, and now, I'm afraid..."

"Since you have a way to book such a difficult reservation for Japanese cuisine, I believe you can also manage to change it to a Chinese meal!"

"But..."

"Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng dislikes 'buts'!"

Lin Weiwei was still smiling, but her tone and gaze were incredibly firm, leaving no room for excuses.

This was clearly not giving any face.

The female secretary looked awkwardly at Chen Yucheng, who appeared to be enjoying the show, seemingly eager for the female secretary to continue refusing, to provoke the wrath of Guo Yunxin.

Her expression steely, the female secretary exchanged a look with the male secretary, determination quickly lining her brows, "Alright, I'll give it a try."

"It's not about trying; it's about ensuring it gets done!" Lin Weiwei snapped, "Just making a phone call can also be considered trying. What we need are results! If the phone call isn't sufficient, then I expect you to make a trip to the store!"

Lin Weiwei's forcefulness was terrifying.

The ferocity of Bai Xiaosheng, the Senior Affairs Officer, and Chen Yucheng's reverence toward them, instantly made the female secretary realize that Lin Weiwei's tone wasn't just an empty threat.

She was serious!

Perhaps even a meal that didn't meet expectations could implicate their own boss.

"Alright, I'll go!" the female secretary immediately agreed, not daring to refuse.

After she left.

Just as the male secretary was about to breathe a sigh of relief, he saw Lin Weiwei turn to him.

The male secretary caught Lin Weiwei's gaze, and his hair stood on end.

Lin Weiwei was smiling, a frightening smile.

"Do you know what's good to eat and fun to play with as a specialty of Tianqiu?" Lin Weiwei asked with a smiling face.

Eventually, Guo Yunxin's male secretary left as if fleeing.

His assigned task was simpler than the female secretary's; it was just shopping.

But this gentleman dared not stay any longer either.

If he stayed, who knew how that female assistant of the Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng would put them to use!

The male and female secretaries, hustling on the road, were upset but not suspicious.

Because Guo Yunxin was usually very extravagant. In the minds of the two secretaries, if Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng was above Guo Yunxin, such behavior was —

Understandable! Logical!

Chen Yucheng watched as Lin Weiwei "acted high and mighty." He was curious but then saw Lin Weiwei walk to the door and lock it securely.

In the room, only she, Lei Ying, Chen Yucheng, and Xiao Qiang were left.

Could it be that there was something to be passed on privately?

That's what Chen Yucheng thought, and even Xiao Qiang had the same idea.

However, to pass a message, did she really need to scare off the secretaries in such a ruthless manner?

While Chen Yucheng and the others were pondering this, they saw Lin Weiwei give them a smile and say nothing more.

Lei Ying was even more efficient, quickly walking to the background wall and standing before a landscape painting hanging there.

After inspecting it, Lei Ying gently pushed, and the ink painting silently slid aside, revealing something hidden behind it.

An embedded safe the size of a 24-inch monitor.

Chen Yucheng and Xiao Qiang were both stunned.

Bai Xiaosheng had tricked Guo Yunxin away, and Lin Weiwei had dispatched his two secretaries, all for —

Cracking someone's safe?

How did they know the safe was there...

Chen Yucheng suddenly remembered that during their conversation, Guo Yunxin seemed to have glanced in that direction; at the time, he hadn't paid it any mind.

Had Bai Xiaosheng already noticed it back then?

Chen Yucheng was astonished.

"Chen... Chen bro, this..." Xiao Qiang seemed to feel that cracking a safe was not proper.

Just as Lin Weiwei would call Bai Xiaosheng 'Xiaosheng,' in private, Xiao Qiang also called Chen Yucheng 'Chen bro.'

Chen Yucheng prided himself on his unscrupulous investigative methods, but it seemed like Bai Xiaosheng's people were a bit too unscrupulous.

Besides, there was no way to know if someone would come here, if Guo Yunxin would return, or if the two secretaries might come back halfway.

All of this was uncertain!

Moreover, although the safe was an old model without iris or fingerprint recognition,

Opening it wouldn't be that simple, would it?

Just as Chen Yucheng thought this, he heard a soft "clack" sound.

Lei Ying spoke in a calm low voice, "It's open."

Open?

Chen Yucheng and Xiao Qiang were dumbfounded.

It took less than a minute to open it?

Was this a safe, or just a notebook with a lock?

So ornamental but so useless!

Or was it that these people were so skilled at this kind of thing because they had done it too many times?

Just a glance from their boss, and the subordinates immediately knew what to do.

Such quick lock-picking...

Had they become so proficient through frequent practice?

What kind of people were these!

Chen Yucheng and his colleague were full of silent complaints.

"Chen bro, isn't it wrong to do this? The means are too..." Xiao Qiang murmured to Chen Yucheng.

Chen Yucheng nodded.

The two were mumbling to each other.

Lin Weiwei walked over and inspected the hidden documents with Lei Ying.

"It turns out Guo Yunxin really has a habit of keeping ledger books and diaries!"

"These issues are much more serious than the ones we investigated."

Chen Yucheng's ears perked up instantly, unable to contain his excitement.

Was there evidence?

"Let me see!"

Chen Yucheng, casting aside his "self."

Chapter 1072: Fortunately, He Gained Nothing

Chen Yucheng flipped through the items taken from Guo Yunxin's safe, his eyes overflowing with ecstatic surprise.

Ordinary people would keep some accounts, documents, as a last resort, which was understandable.

Especially when dealing with nefarious deeds, no one wanted to be treated as an expendable pawn, nor did they want to be betrayed by a comrade.

Keeping a backup plan was a compelled necessity.

However, for someone like Guo Yunxin, to have his own handcrafted ledger with annotations,

That was rare!

Not only that, he even kept a diary, meticulously recording who said what crucial words, when and where.

This was too comprehensive!

No wonder when Bai Xiaosheng spoke of Sun Youhe, even someone as crafty as Guo Yunxin got scared and subconsciously glanced at his secret safe, because it was as if he was hinting at him!

Looking at the evidence, Chen Yucheng roughly counted.

The number of people involved was even more than they had discovered!

"Is this everything?" Lin Weiwei looked over the items and then at the empty safe.

For now, it appeared so.

This big group could be called a gang.

But thinking of Shen Peishen again made one feel that the number of these people was really not that large.

Thus, Lin Weiwei was doubtful.

However, there was indeed nothing else left in the safe.

"We should say, these are all the contents of this particular safe!" Chen Yucheng looked up, "But it doesn't mean that Guo Yunxin doesn't have similar safes elsewhere!"

"Separating them for storage is safer!"

After speaking, Chen Yucheng paused slightly, his gaze flickering, "Or perhaps, these are all the people associated with Guo Yunxin!"

"For a large organization, the bigger its personnel, the more likely it is that a problem with one member can affect a whole group and even spread further! This terrifying domino effect can sometimes even endanger the safety of the entire group!"

"If the organization is effective, a large group could divide into several smaller groups that cooperate with each other while keeping their connections shallow, couldn't that be more secure!"

"This way, if a small group encounters a survival threat, it's possible to decisively sever ties without affecting the security of the larger entity!"

Chen Yucheng spoke gravely, "If it were me, that's what I'd do."

This is why some big brands create many smaller sub-brands with different names: it's a consciousness of spreading risk.

Not to put all one's eggs in one basket!

Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Xiao Qiang nodded as they listened, agreeing with Chen Yucheng's judgment.

Chen Yucheng speaking so openly, in fact, also represented his trust in Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

He witnessed the understanding between Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying.

Also, given Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying's lack of surprise when seeing these items, he knew that these people were Bai Xiaosheng's trusted insiders!

Completely trustworthy!

Bai Xiaosheng had previously analyzed Guo Yunxin with me, mentioning he's very likely to be a person who keeps ledgers and writes journals. At that time, I didn't take it seriously, but now it seems, he guessed correctly! His ability to read people is more accurate than mine!

Chen Yucheng inwardly sighed but increasingly admired and praised Bai Xiaosheng.

"What should we do now, take photos of these items to serve as evidence?" Xiao Qiang couldn't help but ask.

In his view, this was a cautious approach, to avoid alerting the target.

"What photos? Of course, take everything," Lin Weiwei gave him a surprised glance and unabashedly stuffed all the items into her briefcase.

"Is that really okay? What if Guo Yunxin comes back and finds his stuff missing..." Xiao Qiang couldn't help but continue, "What if he prepares in advance and destroys the evidence!"

To him, this seemed a bit rash.

Lei Ying smirked, took out a tube of toothpaste-like substance, and carefully squeezed it into several spots inside the safe until the entire tube was used up, then he gave a nod and closed the safe door.

"This is a powerful adhesive I composed myself, very effective. When Guo Yunxin tries to open this safe, he'll find that although the combination is correct, it just won't open!"

"I believe he won't easily look for someone to lock pick, and finding a completely reliable and trustworthy locksmith takes time!"

"And even when the locksmith arrives, how to open a door completely glued shut! Unless, using a blowtorch to cut!"

As Lei Ying explained, Xiao Qiang was stunned, and even Chen Yucheng's eyelids twitched.

The way these people went about their business had a certain mastery to it.

Even the subsequent preventive measures were meticulously considered...

"Actually, there's one thing that I've been very concerned about!" Chen Yucheng looked at Lin Weiwei and said, "We're all insiders, so I'll just say it."

Lin Weiwei was intrigued and immediately nodded.

"Weiwei, why did Xiaosheng so decisively give up on forcing Guo Yunxin to submit?"

"In my view, at that time he had already secured victory and there was no need to do so!"

"Did he have such firm conviction, such assurance, that whatever Guo Yunxin was hiding here, its value would outweigh the success that was already at hand?"

Chen Yucheng's doubts were secondary; what really mattered to him was whether Bai Xiaosheng, the man he followed, acted impulsively at times, without considering the consequences.

That's when Guo Yunxin unintentionally glanced over here. He saw it too, and he doubted.

But he wasn't as decisive as Bai Xiaosheng, even giving up the nearly obtained "results."

Chen Yucheng wanted to learn a thing or two from the people around Bai Xiaosheng.

He was more concerned about Bai Xiaosheng's way of doing things, and what they thought about it.

Lin Weiwei knew what he was thinking and immediately smiled, "Brother Chen, Xiaosheng always reminds us that people's emotions are unstable; yielding in a moment doesn't mean they won't regain their senses, and people can lie. But evidence doesn't!"

"As for why Xiaosheng is so confident, you can understand that he has a keen perspective, able to notice things that others can't!"

"If you want to know his reasons afterward, you are welcome to ask. I believe you won't be disappointed!"

"But there's one thing, both Lei Ying and I always remember, once this leader makes a decision, even if we don't understand or see it clearly at the time, we will trust him unconditionally!"

"It's not to say he has never made a mistake. But even if he does, he can still lead us to turn the situation around! That's his real strength!"

"Brother Chen, since you've chosen to trust him, perhaps you could afford to be a bit more confident!"

Lin Weiwei's simple words somehow carried an inexplicable force.

Chen Yucheng remained silent and then smiled, "Next time, I'm willing to give it a try!"

Meanwhile, in another room.

Bai Xiaosheng and Guo Yunxin sat opposite each other, having already talked for twenty minutes.

The conversation was always under Bai Xiaosheng's control.

However, Bai Xiaosheng's thinking was surprisingly erratic, digressing as they spoke.

Just as Guo Yunxin couldn't bear it any longer, Bai Xiaosheng would bring the topic back on track.

All of Bai Xiaosheng's topics revolved around his acquaintance with Shen Peishen and Lin Yu, leading Guo Yunxin to believe that Bai Xiaosheng indeed wanted to foster "goodwill" through him with his side.

With that thought, Guo Yunxin became more patient.

Sun Youhe had already fallen into Bai Xiaosheng's hands, and his own lifeline was also in Bai Xiaosheng's grasp.

He dared not offend this big shot.

After twenty minutes of talking, Guo Yunxin became increasingly restless, urging in his mind for Bai Xiaosheng to get to the point and stop discussing Shen Peishen and Lin Yu. It was time to talk about something substantive!

Guo Yunxin could hardly stop from urging him.

Just then.

Bai Xiaosheng's phone rang with a notification sound.

He looked at it and immediately smiled.

What good news could make him smile so comfortably?

Guo Yunxin saw it and was curious.

Little did he know, the message was from Lin Weiwei.

Their good news was bad news for Guo Yunxin!

"It's getting late," Bai Xiaosheng said after putting down his phone with a smile, standing up. "Mr. Guo, let's end our chat here."

His calm tone left Guo Yunxin momentarily stunned.

What was happening?

What did this mean?

Bai Xiaosheng, the Senior Affairs Officer, had come with a peaceful opening, then suddenly wanted to talk privately. After starting a conversation that lacked any substantial content, he now wanted to leave?

Guo Yunxin couldn't understand.

Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng had hinted at something during their conversation?

And that he was too foolish to notice?

Guo Yunxin went over it in his head, but his thoughts were a jumbled mess.

"Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng, why are you in such a hurry to leave... That is, is there really nothing else you want to say to me?" Guo Yunxin hurriedly stood up and, with a forced smile, couldn't help but ask.

"Hmm..."

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment.

Guo Yunxin was full of anticipation.

"Mr. Guo, take care!" Bai Xiaosheng gave a meaningful smile and strode away.

Guo Yunxin was dumbfounded.

Take care? Was that what Bai Xiaosheng wanted to say in the end?

As he watched Bai Xiaosheng walk away, Guo Yunxin hurried after him.

On the way to see Bai Xiaosheng off, Guo Yunxin's mind raced—

"What exactly is Bai Xiaosheng trying to do with this move?"

"I should report this, just in case!"

"However, fortunately, he's leaving empty-handed—for now!"

Chapter 1073: I Can Make an Exception!

Bai Xiaosheng walked ahead while Guo Yunxin followed closely behind.

Just under an hour since he arrived, the Senior Affairs Officer was ready to leave, which was really too quick.

The key question was, what had happened in that hour?

What was Bai Xiaosheng's purpose for coming, what had they discussed, and why did he suddenly want to leave?

Guo Yunxin had no clue.

Even as he escorted him out, he couldn't come up with any answers.

No wonder!

Shen Yu had said that speaking with Bai Xiaosheng was like being in hell!

No wonder!

Just asking about what had happened had made Shen Yu furious.

Now, Guo Yunxin truly felt that he understood Shen Yu!

This Bai Xiaosheng certainly drove people insane!

People who didn't play by the rules were common, but someone who disregarded the rules entirely was rare, potentially only Bai Xiaosheng.

How had such a person become a Senior Affairs Officer!

Guo Yunxin felt completely frustrated with Bai Xiaosheng.

Following for a while, Guo Yunxin was shocked to discover that Bai Xiaosheng wasn't heading back to the study to gather with his own people, but was walking towards the exit.

Could it be that he intended to leave alone and leave people like Chen Yucheng behind?

In his perplexity, Guo Yunxin followed him to the elevator and found that Chen Yucheng and others were already waiting there.

How did they know Bai Xiaosheng was leaving?

Why didn't my two secretaries tell me!

Guo Yunxin was utterly astonished.

He might not have expected it.

His devoted male and female secretaries were currently sparing no effort, hurrying on the road to complete a "task" assigned by Lin Weiwei...

"Mr. Guo, please wait," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Guo Yunxin, "This meeting was quite fruitful and when I'm at headquarters, we shall talk more!"

Guo Yunxin, "..."

Quite fruitful?

Where was the gain?

Guo Yunxin still tried to retain him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and refused, entering the elevator with Chen Yucheng and others. Guo Yunxin wanted to accompany them, but Chen Yucheng stopped him.

In the end, Guo Yunxin could only watch the elevator descend.

Bai Xiaosheng and his group had arrived ceremoniously and left abruptly.

Guo Yunxin stood in front of the elevator, his expression full of complexity.

"No, I must report this to the higher-ups now!" Guo Yunxin murmured and turned to hurry to his office, locking the door to make a call, "Today's matter... it's too bizarre!"

However, just when he was about to make the call, Guo Yunxin saw the ink painting on the wall and couldn't help but walk over and push the painting aside.

He entered the password on the safe, pulled, but it didn't budge.

He paused, startled.

Stuck?

After several attempts, it still wouldn't open.

"This damned thing must be malfunctioning!" Guo Yunxin muttered, "Forget it, if I can't open it with the password, who else could?!"

"Let's make the call first, and I'll fiddle with this damned thing later!"

Meanwhile, the elevator descended directly to the ground floor.

Bai Xiaosheng and everyone remained quiet, walking out of the building and boarding the vehicle.

Lin Weiwei handed over items from her bag, all evidence found from Guo Yunxin's safe.

She then proceeded to explain.

Chen Yucheng also shared some information.

"Not bad," Bai Xiaosheng quickly glanced over them and smiled as he handed the items to Chen Yucheng.

Regarding the question of whether they would alert the target, Bai Xiaosheng didn't even ask.

With Lei Ying on board, everything was undoubtedly secure.

"Everything's here, let's get started," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Not bad!" Chen Yucheng took the evidence, nodding, "I'll submit it soon, and I believe we'll receive feedback quickly. Given the magnitude, it'll be specially approved. By tonight, headquarters will have directives."

"It's too late!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Late?

Chen Yucheng was startled, how could this be considered late?

"Now, I can give you the directive!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I am the Senior Affairs Officer after all!"

He had the authority!

Chen Yucheng was taken aback and then couldn't help but laugh.

Yes, the person beside him was the Senior Affairs Officer!

"Affairs Officer Chen, I approve, handle the special issue urgently! Prepare the investigation team!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "I'll report to Elder Xia!"

Chen Yucheng smiled, "I'll follow the directive of the Senior Affairs Officer!"

On Guo Yunxin's side, the phone call lasted a full quarter of an hour.

The person he called took his report very seriously and said that it would be handled urgently.

After the call, Guo Yunxin finally felt a bit relieved.

Although he struggled facing a Senior Affairs Officer, he had powerful backers, gathering under Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng!

And a vast group of accomplices!

In front of Shen Peisheng and in front of the group, what was Bai Xiaosheng!

Merely having the title of a Senior Affairs Officer and nothing more!

The more Guo Yunxin thought about it, the more relieved he felt; he even sneered secretly, "Bai, thinking that by seizing Sun Youhe's issue, he could intimidate me. Now it seems, his sincerity in

befriending Sir Shen is insufficient; instead, he seems more aligned with Chen Yucheng! If that's true, he's really courting death!"

"People should have some self-awareness! He has none and still thinks, as a Senior Affairs Officer, he can equal Sir Shen? Pfft! Dream on!"

"Moreover, with Chen Yucheng arriving this time, all smiles and worries-free, does he really think that by backing a Senior Affairs Officer, he has the right to arm-wrestle with us? Ridiculous!"

"Bai, compared to Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, is like comparing an ant to a great tree!"

"Bai will suffer, and as for Chen Yucheng, perhaps he will soon be dismissed and handed over to the judiciary!"

The more Guo Yunxin thought about it, the happier he became.

The discomfort brought by Bai Xiaosheng and others also faded a bit.

Just as he was feeling pleased, Guo Yunxin's phone suddenly rang.

The caller was a good friend of his, also a "companion," and also an Affairs Officer!

"Hello, Old Yu, what made you think to call me." Guo Yunxin asked cheerfully, "Is there some good news? Let me guess, isn't it finally time to deal with Chen Yucheng from the department?"

"Deal with shit!" The voice on the other end was incredibly anxious and burst out with a curse.

Guo Yunxin was stunned.

This Old Yu rarely used such a rude introduction.

"The department has already issued a notice, Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng's investigation confirms, there are no corruption issues with Chen Yucheng, only some regulatory violations for which he has been reprimanded."

Guo Yunxin stunned, "That's it?"

"Just that!"

Guo Yunxin's eyes narrowed.

Bai Xiaosheng managed to clear Chen Yucheng's troubles in such a short time?

How could this be!

With such a comprehensive and detailed preparation on their side, so much evidence, how could it be cleared!

"Is it true, Old Yu, you're not joking, are you!" Guo Yunxin suddenly became extremely anxious.

If it's proven that Chen Yucheng is innocent, doesn't it mean they were falsely accusing!

Falsely accusing an Affairs Officer is no small issue!

If Mr. Xiahou Qi believed it, then in the next phase, it might trigger an investigation against them! They'd need to prepare early!

The key issue was, how could Bai Xiaosheng possibly clear Chen Yucheng?

Did he, have evidence?

Thinking about Bai Xiaosheng, Guo Yunxin felt an immense headache again.

This unrestrained Senior Affairs Officer gave him a sense of dread.

"The notice is already issued, am I joking with you?!" The other side yelled angrily.

Guo Yunxin became alarmed.

The fact was established?!

"I didn't call to tell you this!" the Affairs Officer surnamed Yu shouted, "Big trouble, Guo Yunxin!"

Hearing his full name made Guo Yunxin feel extremely ominous.

Big trouble?

What could be bigger!

"The department announcement, you included, three provincial industry heads, two Affairs Officers, and twenty-five people from subsidiaries, are involved in serious issues, effective immediately, they are suspended and under investigation!" the Affairs Officer surnamed Yu shouted, "The notice will probably arrive any moment!"

"This can't be!" Guo Yunxin cried out loud.

In one day, Chen Yucheng was cleared.

In one day, all of them were suspended and under investigation?

The number of people involved chilled Guo Yunxin to the bone.

The people under Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, related to him, Guo Yunxin, weren't they exactly this number!

Did that mean they were all caught in one sweep?

Impossible, absolutely impossible, how could so many people be investigated together!

Guo Yunxin was utterly disordered, nearly driven mad!

Such a big issue, such a huge impact, even if Mr. Xiahou Qi didn't have definitive evidence, he wouldn't easily make a decision.

"It's Bai Xiaosheng, the Senior Affairs Officer, who, along with Affairs Officer Chen Yucheng, submitted the evidence! And part of it has already been made public, with many pieces involving one name - yours!" The Affairs Officer surnamed Yu said this and even swallowed nervously.

"That is to say, they got those pieces of evidence from you!"

"Old Guo, years of friendship, that's why I'm telling you this!"

"I heard that 'those above' are also extremely outraged!"

The Affairs Officer surnamed Yu abruptly stopped speaking, "Take care, that's all I can say!"

"From... me!" Guo Yunxin was bewildered, shocked, fearful, his mind went blank, only recalling the smiling face of Bai Xiaosheng as he left not long ago.

And the words he said to himself—

"Mr. Guo, take care!"

"When we met this time, it was quite fruitful. Later, when we're at the headquarters, let's talk more!"

Chapter 1074: Wind Sweeps the Remnants of Clouds

After hearing what the Affairs Officer with the surname Yu said, Guo Yunxin felt like he was going insane.

Those exposé evidence, coming from him?

Impossible!

"The part of the evidence that was publicly disclosed includes an appendix explaining it. The handwritten section has already been verified by professional personnel at headquarters as being written by your own hand!"

"Moreover, many pieces of evidence have your handwritten signature! This point can no longer be denied!"

"Now, 'our people here' believe that you betrayed them!"

Affairs Officer Yu was stating a terrible truth.

Guo Yunxin felt as if he had been struck by lightning, his face turned as pale as paper, and his body trembled like a sheet of paper.

"No, it must be fake! Those are fake!" Guo Yunxin screeched like a madman.

Betraying his own small group, what good would that do him!

The small group he was in currently lacked a leader.

And he had always subtly held a leading position, his "future" was boundless.

Why would he sever his own "prospects."

Moreover, the crime he committed was the most severe among everyone in that small group.

If he had betrayed these people to headquarters, he would be the most miserable one!

It would be like digging his own grave.

Such a foolish act, could he even contemplate doing that?

"Elder Yu, there must be some misunderstanding here, I am being framed!" Guo Yunxin continued to bellow.

Initially, many of the setups against Chen Yucheng involved Guo Yunxin's active participation.

Now, what goes around comes around, justice is served.

It was Guo Yunxin's turn to taste being "framed."

That feeling of being utterly unable to defend oneself, being seen as an enemy by one's own people.

Terrifying, horrifying, painful!

Moreover, Guo Yunxin believed, if this misunderstanding wasn't cleared up, his fate would be a hundred times more miserable than "the successfully framed Chen Yucheng!"

Now, Chen Yucheng had cleared all suspicions.

The tragic one was, in fact, only him!

The other end of the phone fell silent for a moment, the tone was also very helpless, "Elder Guo, whether you are wronged or not, I really can't help. You know, I'm just an Affairs Officer, insignificant and powerless no matter where I am!"

"Out of our many years of friendship, this call is me trying to show some kindness."

A long sigh came from the other side.

At this point, even if the leaders didn't believe Guo Yunxin was a turncoat, those below wouldn't care.

Furthermore, since the evidence originated from him, it was his fault!

"Elder Yu, listen to me, hello? Elder Yu!" Guo Yunxin's eyes were red with rage, still shouting.

But the phone then emitted a "beep beep" busy tone.

The call was hung up.

For a moment, Guo Yunxin was stunned like a wooden chicken.

But soon after, a notification sound rang out, and Guo Yunxin hurriedly picked up his phone.

He received a picture sent by Affairs Officer Yu.

The picture must have been secretly taken, not very clear, and even a bit blurry from shaking.

Guo Yunxin only glanced one eye at it, his pupils shrinking to the limit, feeling cold in his hands and feet.

This was the account he had handwritten himself, the kind done by hand!

Because he didn't trust any computer storage, thinking it was very likely to be stolen! Hence, he had a habit of handwriting!

And this item should have been securely kept in the safe!

Guo Yunxin suddenly looked at the calligraphy on the wall, rushed over, and pushed it aside.

The safe's code was entered by him until reaching the maximum attempts, automatically locking, still unopenable.

"Damn it!" Guo Yunxin cursed angrily, punching it.

Blood dripped profusely.

A quarter of an hour later, two workers with a cutting machine entered Guo Yunxin's office.

Guo Yunxin, with his eyes bloodshot, stared fixatedly at the sparks flying from the cutting of the safe, completely ignoring the continuous ringing of his phone.

Finding the phone's ringtone more piercing than the sound of the saw, Guo Yunxin simply walked over to a fish tank in a corner of the room and threw his phone into it.

After another ten minutes, Guo Yunxin's safe finally opened.

Inside, it was completely empty.

"Gone, how is this possible!" Guo Yunxin's eyes widened as he yelled.

He had placed things inside it just this morning and had been sitting here all along, it couldn't just disappear into thin air.

Unless—

"It must have been Bai Xiaosheng who stole it, it must have been them!"

"They framed me..."

Guo Yunxin was in utter disarray, shouting and screaming.

The two workers were frightened away.

But Guo Yunxin simply sat down on the floor, his eyes dead, tears and snot streaming down, sobbing.

It was over, utterly over!

There was no explaining it!

Because all the evidence truly originated from him!

"Manager Guo, someone is here to see you." The employee, who hastily knocked and entered to report, was startled to see Guo Yunxin sitting like a decayed log, his face ashen. He swallowed hard before timidly adding, "They say they are Affairs Officers, sent by Grand Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng for an investigation."

...

Sun Youhe was pacing frantically in his office, having received the same news.

Stupefied, fearful, panicking. His emotions were a mess for a moment.

Then, Sun Youhe frantically called Guo Yunxin. When he couldn't get through, he continued dialing repeatedly.

But Guo Yunxin's phone became increasingly busy.

It seemed, at this time, there were inevitably many trying to reach Guo Yunxin!

"No, now's not the time to clarify things; the pressing matter is to contact the higher-ups! Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng will definitely not ignore this!"

Sun Youhe sought help and dialed the phone of a high-ranking individual within their faction.

The call had yet to connect.

Sun Youhe's assistant then burst in abruptly, knocking on the door, "Manager Sun, someone is here for you..."

Before he could finish, the half-open door, and the assistant himself, were forcefully pushed aside.

Two stern-faced men, leading several others, stormed in.

"What are you doing, get out!" Sun Youhe shouted angrily.

"Mr. Sun Youhe, we are Affairs Officers, sent to investigate. Please cooperate!"

The two men were cold and brief, showing their credentials directly.

Sun Youhe was taken aback.

The investigators arrived so quickly!

His phone finally connected, but an Affairs Officer took it from his hand and promptly hung up.

"Let's go!" This statement was not polite; it carried a tone of cold indifference and, more so, an unquestionable firmness.

Sun Youhe felt dizzy but dared not disobey.

Within a day, within an hour.

Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, and those others with "irrefutable evidence" against them as identified by Bai Xiaosheng, were all sought out.

The speed of accountability was nothing short of terrifying!

Like a whirlwind sweeping everything away.

When Chen Yucheng reported this to Bai Xiaosheng, even Bai Xiaosheng himself was startled.

Too fast, it was so fast that he had just given special approval and reported to Elder Xia, and within an hour, someone had approached Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe.

It was simply astonishing!

If the people at headquarters heard about this, it would spawn countless versions of "Bai Xiaosheng Speed."

"Are all these nearby city inspectors Affairs Officers and their assistants? Why are there so many people!" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were also very curious, looking at Chen Yucheng.

According to Chen Yucheng's report, key figures like Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe each had visits from two Affairs Officers, and the rest were at least approached by Affairs Assistants.

Not a single person overlooked!

Bai Xiaosheng had initially thought there weren't enough hands and considered giving special approval for more personnel as quickly as possible.

However, to his surprise, once he gave the special approval, Chen Yucheng immediately arranged everything, securing everyone involved!

"I have set myself as bait in the layout, naturally, I had to arrange everything meticulously, and plan thoroughly. Moreover, I felt confident about winning, the difficulty lay in how to secure the evidence quickly," said Chen Yucheng.

"I had actually prepared the people in advance. I had them positioned in nearby cities. With just a special approval, they could secure those individuals' evidence effectively and swiftly," Chen Yucheng said with a slight smile.

At that moment, they were on their way back to headquarters.

"You really did a great job! With so many Affairs Officers and assistants at your command, I think, you are the real Senior Affairs Officer!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed, feeling somewhat aggrieved.

Here he was, the official Senior Affairs Officer, with no one available under his command!

"It's all friends, all favors," Chen Yucheng said with a smile.

Four simple words.

No arrogance, no self-satisfaction.

Yet, it was a powerful shock to everyone.

"I know now why Shen Peisheng over there, seeing you always targeting them, cannot tolerate you! All those elaborate schemes, just to deal with a mere Affairs Officer, I was puzzled," Bai Xiaosheng sighed. "Now I see, you're basically the uncrowned Grand Affairs Officer among the Affairs Officers!"

"Too kind, too kind, I still have to follow you in the future!"

Then Chen Yucheng smiled somewhat triumphantly.

At this very moment.

Elsewhere, everyone was panic-stricken and furious.

"That bastard Guo Yunxin, could he really have turned traitor!"

"The Affairs Department must have planned this in advance, their move was too swift!"

"Guard day and night, but a thief within is hard to defend!"

Regardless of whether Guo Yunxin had truly betrayed, the "fact" had already branded him.

The so-called truth, actually, no one cared about.

Above these small groups, finally, a voice came from the highest level.

"Effective immediately, all parties, cut off all contact with Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe!"

"Guo Yunxin and others, their actions endanger the group, hence, should be abandoned!"

A small group, annihilated!

Chapter 1075: Headquarters Shaken

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng had not yet arrived at headquarters when the whole place was already in an uproar!

Like a bubbling, boiling pot of oil.

Any news about Bai Xiaosheng could ignite the crowd, fervently passed among countless eager eyes.

Any piece of information considered news spawned a thousand different versions.

Such a spectacle had been rare in the past twenty years.

The crowd continuously debated.

Various debates.

"Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, truly impressive! I've been looking forward to his initial measures upon taking office, wondering how shocking they would be. Unexpectedly, he has kept a low profile and hasn't even stayed much at headquarters. Just as I was feeling disappointed, this scene occurred, so stunning! This measure has truly set half the sky ablaze!"

"Yes, three regional industry leaders, two Affairs Officers, and as many as twenty-five key corporate managers! All investigated at once, at one time! And with undeniable evidence! Truly unmatched!"

"Such a bold move from a Senior Affairs Officer! Terrifying indeed!"

"Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, even when he was just an Affairs Officer, was second to none. In just over a year, he even overshadowed the benchmark Affairs Officer Lin Yu, how mighty!"

"When he was first appointed as an Affairs Officer, he even played a crucial role in those investigations led by Chen Jiutian's brothers!"

"I'm truly convinced now! Such a young age for Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, yet his achievements are exceptional, truly demonic!"

"Demonic!"

...

Amid the frenzy of discussion, even the Grand Affairs Officers began to show their stance, feeling astonished and shaken by Bai Xiaosheng's sudden surge.

Amid many voices, yet a few dreadful remarks were quietly spreading.

Some were saying that those who had these problems were very close to Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng...

Others were claiming that those corrupt acts were done under the name of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, how could Shen Peisheng not know about it...

Still, others suggested that more than half of the investigated individuals had been involved in framing Officer Chen Yucheng, perhaps, possibly, even on the orders of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng...

Such remarks, once spoken, heard, would shock everyone, quickly drowning in a sea of voices.

Some things, cannot be said, and definitely not recklessly.

It could cost lives!

However, there are some things about people that never change.

For instance, curiosity.

Even if it might kill, driven by curiosity, those voices would still occasionally emerge.

Amidst the roaring voices, the office of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng.

Lin Yu hurriedly came and relayed everything he heard to his mentor.

Actually, there was no need for him to report.

Lin Yu came because he wanted to ask one thing, "Teacher, Guo Yunxin and them, your relationship with them, exactly..."

While Lin Yu spoke, he was extremely cautious, fearing his teacher would disapprove.

Actually, Lin Yu had already changed a lot, no longer blindly pursuing justice, no longer always concerned about what others thought.

With time, he might demonstrate even more changes.

Whether these sudden rumors would further provoke him, nobody could tell.

Shen Peisheng sat there, leisurely savoring the Da Hong Pao.

Wuyi Mountain Da Hong Pao, a rich fragrance with hints of orchids.

Savoring "Da Hong Pao" required slow drinking using small teapot and cups, a Gongfu Tea method, to truly taste the peak of rock tea and its Zen-like flavor.

Shen Peisheng appeared serene, without a hint of emotion leaking out.

Lin Yu waited.

After a long time, Shen Peisheng put down his teacup, smiled at Lin Yu, "I've also heard quite a few of the rumors outside. I indeed have close connections with people like Guo Yunxin."

"So, Lin Yu, what are you going to do?"

Shen Peisheng asked seriously, "Would you like to investigate me, check on those who are close to me?"

"Lin Yu wouldn't dare!" Lin Yu immediately responded.

His response was unequivocal.

"Is it that you wouldn't dare, or you dare not?" Shen Peisheng asked with a smile.

At first hearing, there seemed to be no difference.

Lin Yu earnestly said, "Teacher, I have seen and remembered all the kindness and support you have shown me. I, Lin Yu, am not a cold-hearted person. When I say I wouldn't dare, it means even if I have to

leave this corporation, give up everything I have now, and start over, I still wouldn't dare investigate you."

What a "wouldn't dare."

"No matter what, you are my closest relative! This is something money cannot take away!" Lin Yu said earnestly and resolutely, "Whoever wants to attack you, I will surely fight them to the death!"

Lin Yu spoke from the heart, his intentions resolute.

Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng listened with a joyful expression.

In fact, Shen Peisheng could really be considered as having mentored many, and he had students whose talents rivalled those of Lin Yu.

However, people are different.

Some have talent but lack temperament, while others have temperament but lack talent.

It seemed to Shen Peisheng that talent was ability and temperament was desire or ambition.

Those with ability and ambition who revealed their desires too early seemed terrifying.

The human heart is unpredictable—who could guarantee that pouring one's heart into someone wouldn't end up nurturing a venomous snake?

Shen Peisheng was unwilling to painstakingly cultivate a venomous snake that would turn against him.

He would rather nurture someone with affection and righteousness and then find ways to slowly remove their dullness, polishing them to be self-serving yet not forgetful of their roots.

It was like sculpting a piece of jade, difficult at first glance and requiring much effort.

But the result was satisfying.

At least, at this moment, when Shen Peisheng looked at Lin Yu, it felt like looking at a proud piece of work.

Comfortable and pleasing.

There was also a kind of old satisfaction.

"Go, do not heed those murmurs and speculations, and don't take to heart their views of right and wrong too much, the workplace is terrifying, human hearts are dangerous," Shen Peisheng said warmly, "I will handle the rest."

Shen Peisheng had truly invested a lot of emotion in Lin Yu, a mentor as well as a father.

Lin Yu nodded and turned to leave.

Shen Peisheng watched as Lin Yu disappeared outside the door.

Then, his gaze shifted elsewhere.

Gradually, the warmth in Shen Peisheng's eyes dissipated, and the leisurely air from the tea-drinking earlier slowly turned chilly.

"Chen Yucheng, great!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, great!"

Shen Peisheng murmured in a calm yet somewhat chilly voice.

He paused when he spoke of Bai Xiaosheng.

"Cheng Liu."

"You called for me!" A square-faced, very spirited man approached briskly, his demeanor respectful and his words succinct.

He was one of Shen Peisheng's close assistants, a trustworthy person.

"How is it going?"

"It's all wrapped up neatly," replied Cheng Liu calmly.

"Good, has Bai Xiaosheng returned yet?"

"He's already at headquarters, probably meeting with Mr. Xiahou Qi."

Behind closed doors, Cheng Liu directly referred to Mr. Xiahou Qi by name, without any regard.

Shen Peisheng nodded, "Invite him to dinner tonight, a simple meal, and keep it quiet."

"Yes."

Cheng Liu nodded briefly, not saying much, and quickly departed.

Shen Peisheng leisurely picked up a small pot and a cup, savoring his own Wuyi Mountain Da Hong Pao.

"Bai Xiaosheng, if I were to give you a choice, which path would you take!"

"Walk with this old man!"

"Or, become my enemy!"

When Shen Peisheng sipped his tea again, he was not the image of a sage but had a sharp gaze and a chill emanating from him.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng returned to headquarters, rushing toward Mr. Xiahou Qi's office, noticing along the way that there were significantly more people who, with great enthusiasm in their eyes, seemed to have specifically come to the corridor to watch them pass.

"It's incredible, it seems this time it really has caught everyone's eye," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but express to Chen Yucheng.

"Lucky for me you're drawing all the fire, I'm happy to keep a low profile!" Chen Yucheng's smile lowered his voice to a whisper.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him, both annoyed and amused.

They walked past the crowd, within which a pair of beautiful eyes followed Bai Xiaosheng, below which were a pert nose, rosy lips, and a white smile.

"Didn't expect this guy to be such a troublemaker!" Yu Ying laughed, arms crossed, her eyes showing a hint of greed, "Speaking of which, since Officer Bai Xiaosheng's promotion, I haven't had a chance to get in touch with him, tsk tsk."

"But, just because you're a Senior Affairs Officer, doesn't mean you can act so unrestrained. Even momentarily high spirits mean nothing! Don't end up dead without knowing how it happened."

"I wonder if such a person could even be turned into a client!"

Chapter 1076: You Need to Rest!

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng headed straight for Xiahou Qi's office as soon as they returned to headquarters.

This was a matter of great importance.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng had spent over an hour on the phone with Xiahou Qi, reporting the details of the incident.

As for the various pieces of evidence, they had been sent back in advance.

Of course, this issue involved too many people, too much evidence—merely discussing it on the phone was far from sufficient, which is why Bai Xiaosheng brought Chen Yucheng to report to Xiahou Qi in person.

Arriving outside Xiahou Qi's office door, Bai Xiaosheng knocked gently. As soon as the door opened, Wang Mubei's eyes lit up at the sight of him, and he greeted him with a smile, "Affairs Officer Sheng, please come in quickly, Elder Xia has been waiting for you for quite some time!"

"Alright," Bai Xiaosheng returned the smile, and walked in with Chen Yucheng.

Inside the office, the furnishings were the same as ever, but there was a rather strong scent wafting through the air.

Bai Xiaosheng sniffed and was momentarily stunned.

The smell of traditional Chinese medicine.

"Sheng, Yucheng, have you returned? Come over and sit."

The moment Xiahou Qi, sitting behind the desk, saw them, he smiled, rose from his seat, and moved toward the couch area.

"Elder Xia!" Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng respectfully greeted him as they walked over.

Sitting face to face, Bai Xiaosheng was surprised to find that after several days, Elder Xia had become quite gaunt, almost to the point of looking haggard, though his eyes were still as wise and profound.

"What happened to you?!" Bai Xiaosheng asked in concern.

Chen Yucheng also looked worried.

"As one ages, ailments are inevitable," Elder Xia said with a smile.

"Elder Xia, your medicine!" Wang Mubei interjected.

He was holding a large porcelain cup in his hands, emitting a pungent herbal scent.

"Cough, Sheng and the others have returned, I won't drink it today, no more for today," Elder Xia chuckled awkwardly, sneaking a guilty look at Wang Mubei.

"That won't do."

Wang Mubei's expression remained unchanged, his tone left no room for argument.

"Then I'll drink it later."

"If it cools down, it won't be as effective," Wang Mubei insisted.

"Then go get me some sugar, some milk candy."

"The doctor said your blood sugar is too high."

Elder Xia kept negotiating, but Wang Mubei was unyielding.

"Believe it or not, I'll fire you, won't let you be an assistant anymore, go roll into an Affairs Officer position!"

With Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng present, Xiahou Qi finally "blew his top," threatening.

"Fine," Wang Mubei chuckled coldly, pursing his lips, "Drink the medicine first!"

In the end, Xiahou Qi, with a bitter face, lifted the bowl and tipped it back, drinking the full cup of bitter herbal medicine, his face contorting from the bitterness.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng wanted to laugh but could not, only able to hold it in.

Mr. Xiahou Qi, who used to be so high and mighty, had now become somewhat childlike.

Bai Xiaosheng even recalled their first meeting when Xiahou Qi sat on a curb, holding a tray of food, his eyes lighting up at the sight of characters he liked, not wanting to be called "sir," only wishing to be addressed as "uncle."

Back then, Bai Xiaosheng had also treated Xiahou Qi.

In the blink of an eye, over two years had passed!

Yet the memories were as vivid as if it were yesterday.

Bai Xiaosheng even felt a tinge of sentimentality; time truly flies.

Xiahou Qi handed the porcelain cup back to Wang Mubei, not forgetting to shoot him a disdainful look.

"Elder Xia, shall I go fill out the forms to apply for a transfer to an Affairs Officer position?" Wang Mubei asked.

"Get lost!" Xiahou Qi said angrily.

Wang Mubei smiled, turned around to return the cup, but did not actually leave.

Bai Xiaosheng, while Xiahou Qi was drinking his medicine, had been carefully observing, noting Xiahou Qi's complexion.

Traditional Chinese medicine emphasizes "observation, smelling, questioning, palpating," among which observing one's complexion is part of its own theory—the "Holographic Theory."

Traditional Chinese medicine believes that the facial "orifices"—mouth, eyes, ears, nose, tongue reflect the health of the body's "five organs"—heart, liver, spleen, lung, kidney.

However, the subtle changes in complexion are not so easy to observe thoroughly. A qualified practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine must undergo a long period of cultivation to master it.

Bai Xiaosheng's keen eyesight, combined with Red Lotus's cooperation, after looking around, he had some general ideas in his heart.

"Why are you looking at me like that," Xiahou Qi wondered, and then his eyes lit up, "I forgot, you little guy understand traditional Chinese medicine, come on, check me out, can I avoid drinking that deadly bitter medicine soup?"

Xiahou Qi was terribly afraid of taking medicine, especially bitter medicine, and now he looked at Bai Xiaosheng with great anticipation.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and gave Xiahou Qi a check-up.

Chen Yucheng watched curiously, as did Wang Mubei.

After the examination, Bai Xiaosheng said to Wang Mubei, "Brother Wang, let me see Elder Xia's prescription."

Wang Mubei nodded and went to fetch the prescription.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at it and pondered for a moment.

"How is it!" Xiahou Qi asked, "Is it prescribed wrong? Can I skip it?"

Bai Xiaosheng hesitated, finding it difficult, "The prescription is not wrong, it's just..."

"Is my illness very serious," Xiahou Qi smiled and asked, "Why is it so hard for you to say it?"

Wang Mubei instantly became a bit nervous.

He had heard from Xiahou Qi that Bai Xiaosheng was incredibly skillful in traditional Chinese medicine.

Initially, he had also seen the effects of a folk remedy used by Elder Xia, so he cared a lot about Bai Xiaosheng's judgment.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed to make up his mind and then said, "This prescription can only delay the progression of your illness, it cannot cure it..."

"It can't cure, so Elder Xia..." Wang Mubei was instantly horrified.

Chen Yucheng was startled too.

The atmosphere in the office became tense, so much so that even Xiahou Qi's smile froze a little.

Bai Xiaosheng was still thinking about how to phrase it when he saw everyone's reaction and realized they had misunderstood.

"No, Elder Xia is not in life-threatening danger," Bai Xiaosheng clarified before continuing.

"As one ages, it's natural to have some illnesses. Accumulated, they can indeed overwhelm a person. This is what's called 'illness falls like a collapsing mountain.'"

"To eliminate these diseases, it's not something that can be done overnight. The best method is to nurse one's health, which requires time. This is what's called 'illness recedes like drawing silk from a cocoon.'"

Bai Xiaosheng paused slightly, then exhaled, "I'll just say it! Elder Xia, you need to rest. The intensity of your work is causing these illnesses to accumulate, which could eventually be truly dangerous."

After Bai Xiaosheng said this, everyone let out a sigh of relief.

"It's just rest, okay, I'll arrange it immediately," Wang Mubei quickly said.

Yet Xiahou Qi quietly watched Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng let out a light sigh, this was the part he had found hard to broach before.

"It's not a matter of resting for a day or two, nor a week or two, and not even a matter of counting by months and years," Bai Xiaosheng looked at Wang Mubei.

Wang Mubei pondered, his eyes widening.

"It's long-term rest!" Bai Xiaosheng declared.

"So you're suggesting I resign," Mr. Xiahou Qi laughed heartily, "Good on you, Bai Xiaosheng. I thought the biggest catch this time would be the Affairs Officer or the provincial industry leader. Now it seems it's me. You want me to fire myself."

Xiahou Qi still had the mood for jokes.

To be honest, Bai Xiaosheng also did not want to see Mr. Xiahou Qi step down; he too was pondering ways to eliminate the diseases afflicting him.

But after much thought, retiring from work and nurturing the spirit were the only ways to prolong life.

Wang Mubei and Chen Yucheng had complicated expressions.

Bai Xiaosheng was also silent.

"Alright, let's not talk about this now; let's get down to business!" Xiahou Qi's smile receded as he said, "I have some details to ask you both!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng stayed in Xiahou Qi's office for two hours, informing the President of the Greater China Region of everything, without omission or carelessness.

Finally, Xiahou Qi nodded imperceptibly.

"Act quickly, strictly, and show no mercy!" Xiahou Qi gave his eight-word policy.

"Dig deep, dig meticulously, extend the achievements!" After thinking for a moment, he added another eight words.

"If you need people, I will give you people; if you need support, I will give you support; the key is—" Xiahou Qi said gravely, "be quick!"

After the discussion, Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng took their leave.

Xiahou Qi sat on the sofa, his eyes slightly closed, his face a bit pale, and even more tired.

"Elder Xia!" Wang Mubei called softly.

"I'm alright," Xiahou Qi opened his eyes, gave him a faint smile, and then his gaze moved elsewhere, deep and profound.

"Even if I really step down, I want to leave my successor a clean and clear Greater China Region!"

Chapter 1077: Successive Visits

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng left Xiahou Qi's office, exchanged farewells, and each returned to their own office to busy themselves.

Indeed, they really had their work cut out for them!

Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, and those people were essentially done for—solid evidence meant that probably no one could help them now!

And Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Yucheng would have loved someone to come to their "rescue."

That way, they could follow the leads and thereby expand their achievements!

Of course, this was just the ideal scenario.

Their opponents weren't fools—they wouldn't just willingly jump into a pit.

Now, all they could do was extract more clues and more people from these individuals!

Bai Xiaosheng was brimming with confidence.

He had strong experience in accountability, along with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Amidst the gaze of many, Bai Xiaosheng returned to his office.

Lin Weiwei had just served tea, and Lei Ying had just handed over the interrogation plan they'd prepared when someone knocked on the office door.

Lin Weiwei walked over to open the door.

Outside stood a square-faced man with a smile.

"Is Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng in?" the man asked politely.

"Who are you?" Lin Weiwei's gaze slightly sharpened, followed by a bit of surprise, "Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's assistant, Assistant Cheng Liu!"

As an assistant to a Grand Affairs Officer, Lin Weiwei had indeed made significant efforts.

She had thoroughly memorized the information and photos of Grand Affairs Officers, special Affairs Officers, and even special assistants.

She was particularly impressed with Cheng Liu.

Cheng Liu smiled, "It's good that Assistant Lin recognizes me. Please, let them know."

Lin Weiwei had yet to agree when Bai Xiaosheng's voice floated out from the office, "Weiwei, please invite Assistant Cheng in!"

Bai Xiaosheng naturally heard the outside conversation.

Lin Weiwei stepped aside, smiled at Cheng Liu, and made a "please" gesture.

Cheng Liu nodded with a smile, his steps leading him inside.

This assistant to the Grand Affairs Officer, nearly forty years old, carried an aura and demeanor far surpassing the average Affairs Officer.

Lin Weiwei silently marveled at this and recalled the snippets of rumors she had heard about Cheng Liu.

A Grand Affairs Officer didn't just have one assistant—Shen Peisheng had six!

Each of these six, it was said, could match an Affairs Officer in capability.

Cheng Liu was one of the most trusted, and he was one of Shen Peisheng's favored "students"!

Moreover, it was said he had been with Shen Peisheng for nearly twenty years!

He definitely represented the deepest level of trusted insiders within Shen Peisheng's circle.

He must have come for something important, Lin Weiwei thought privately.

Once Cheng Liu entered the inner office, Bai Xiaosheng looked up and smiled, "Assistant Cheng, is something the matter?"

Bai Xiaosheng had also looked into Shen Peisheng and his six assistants and naturally knew Cheng Liu's standing.

Currently, Guo Yunxin, Sun Youhe, and a large group were being forcefully summoned back to headquarters for questioning.

On each of them lay, to a greater or lesser extent, Shen Peisheng's mark, even stirring up gossip within headquarters.

Regarding those murmurs, Bai Xiaosheng had spoken with Chen Yucheng. Indeed, some of it was rhythm he'd instigated, creating noise and confusion beneficial to their actions that also made Shen Peisheng's side more cautious.

However, many of the voices weren't from their side.

They were other "powers"!

It was predictable that someone, or some people—even a Grand Affairs Officer—were also fishing in troubled waters, using others to accomplish their ends.

Of course, to think they only aimed to "take down" Shen Peisheng underestimated these people's intelligence.

They were playing with fire, whether it was to cause trouble for Shen Peisheng or make Shen Peisheng suspicious and resentful of Bai Xiaosheng, they should all stand to gain!

This time, what Shen Peisheng could do was either maintain silence or make his stance clear.

Making his stance clear could also go two ways: support severe punishment of the culprits or strive to protect someone.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually quite eager to see which option Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng would choose.

"Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng, I've come to invite you to a dinner tonight," Cheng Liu said with a smile, "on behalf of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng!"

Without any superfluous words, Cheng Liu went straight to the point.

His expression was calm, and glimpses of curiosity flickered in his eyes as he assessed Bai Xiaosheng. It seemed he was quite interested in this Senior Affairs Officer, someone he had never chatted with before. He was particularly eager to see what extraordinary qualities this young man, who had thwarted Lin Yu and routed Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, possessed.

Cheng Liu waited quietly.

It seemed as though Cheng Liu didn't care whether Bai Xiaosheng would agree or refuse; he would simply turn and leave without any fuss.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment, then looked up with a smile.

"Alright, if Sir Shen invites, I must attend! Please, have Assistant Cheng inform my assistant of the time and place."

With his reply received, Cheng Liu immediately smiled, nodded at Bai Xiaosheng, and then left.

Outside, he briefed Lin Weiwei before departing.

After closing the door, Lin Weiwei walked over with a piece of paper that had the time and place written on it and asked, "Are you really going?"

She always felt that this Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng was setting the stage for a Hongmen Banquet.

Bai Xiaosheng looked outside, his gaze distant.

"Go? Why not go? Shen Peisheng's feast is not something everyone gets a chance to enjoy!"

"It's been a long while since I've sat down to chat with such an important figure!"

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "This Cheng Liu, he must be quite trusted by Shen Peisheng."

"Yes, absolutely!" Lin Weiwei nodded and added, "I heard he was also a student of Shen Peisheng!"

"This Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng really has disciples all over the place, even running a school inside the headquarters!" Lei Ying remarked, not without a hint of sarcasm.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly, "Have you noticed that Cheng Liu seemed utterly unconcerned by the potential crisis that could endanger Shen Peisheng's position?"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply, "What a demeanor—"

"Calm and composed!"

Could this mean that Shen Peisheng had already prepared thoroughly, perhaps even having contingency plans ready?

The opponent was an expert in the operations of the affairs department, a senior "predecessor," and also a person with immense resources.

At this reflection by Bai Xiaosheng, the expressions on Lin Weiwei's and Lei Ying's faces unavoidably grew solemn.

Too excited, they had even overlooked something!

Their opponent was far more formidable than they had imagined, immensely more so!

The atmosphere grew somewhat heavy.

Suddenly, a knock on the door sounded.

Lin Weiwei glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and hurried to open the door.

"Weiwei!" As the door opened, a lively and beautiful girl greeted her with a smile.

Yu Ying!

Lin Weiwei was slightly surprised but returned the smile, "Yu Ying, it's you!"

"Yes, it's been a long time. I wanted to come over and say hi to you, Xiaosheng... Is Senior Affairs Officer Bai, Lei Ying here?" Yu Ying said with an exceedingly sweet smile.

"He is, please come in," Bai Xiaosheng's voice called out from inside.

Lin Weiwei smiled, "Come on in, the Senior Affairs Officer has spoken."

"Alright then." Yu Ying took the invitation without hesitation, smiling at Lin Weiwei as she shut the door behind her and walked inside arm in arm.

When Yu Ying met Bai Xiaosheng, her eyes sparkled brightly as she eagerly greeted him and Lei Ying.

She was the embodiment of cheerful and carefree.

"Come, take a seat." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and gestured for Lei Ying to move a chair so Yu Ying could sit across from him. "Miss Yu, did you need something from me?"

"What, Senior Affairs Officer Bai, can't I just drop by for a visit?" Yu Ying seemed a bit aggrieved, "Am I really that unwelcome?"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Cheng Liu was here earlier," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Cheng Liu? Assistant Cheng Liu of Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng!" Yu Ying's eyes widened, "Wow, he really doesn't appear often. He's a man of few words and very direct."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled warmly at Yu Ying, "Exactly, I've been quite busy lately; I prefer straightforward conversation."

Yu Ying, sensing the underlying hint, felt a bit upset, "So, Senior Affairs Officer Bai, you think my arrival is ill-timed or that I'm not direct enough, wasting your time?"

"Yes!" Bai Xiaosheng was unapologetically direct.

Yu Ying's face fell, and she pouted, somewhat annoyed.

"Everyone's time is precious, especially for businesspeople like you!" Bai Xiaosheng spoke with a friendly smile.

"Miss Yu Ying, the Information Trafficker from the Affairs Department, what do you really want?!"

Chapter 1078: Quite the Businessperson

"Xiaosheng, what are you talking about?" Yu Ying looked utterly bewildered, her eyes even brimming with astonishment as she gazed at Bai Xiaosheng.

She seemed not to understand what Bai Xiaosheng had just said.

"Is this amusing to you?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with an indifferent smile.

Yu Ying pouted, seemingly a bit aggrieved, and turned to look at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Both of them were watching her with calm expressions on their faces.

"Weiwei, Brother Lei Ying, has Xiaosheng mistaken me for someone else?" Yu Ying asked, seeking help in a pitiful tone.

"This, is it really that interesting?" Bai Xiaosheng sighed and repeated his question.

Seeing that Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying remained unmoved, standing firm just like Bai Xiaosheng.

Yu Ying suddenly laughed.

"It's interesting, for sure!"

After saying that, the clueless and foolish look on Yu Ying's face disappeared entirely.

She twisted her waist seductively, even crossing her legs in an alluring pose.

With just one expression, one gesture, it was as if Yu Ying had become a different person.

At this moment, her demeanor was lazy, her eyes sly, she had leapt from innocence to sultry charm in an instant.

Even though Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were prepared, they couldn't help but inwardly praise and admire her.

"What a pity, Miss Yu, with such acting skills, you're buried in the Affairs Department," Lin Weiwei said wittily, "If you were an actress, you might become famous."

"That's an overstatement, Sister Weiwei."

Yu Ying smiled at her, then turned to Bai Xiaosheng, "Senior Affairs Officer Xiaosheng, how did you figure it out?"

"You should ask, when did I figure it out?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"So, when did you figure it out?"

Yu Ying asked with a radiant smile, playing along quite well.

"Since our first meeting, from the moment I saved you, I felt that you were quite different," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "Of course, back then it was just a feeling. You could call it a sixth sense."

In reality, Bai Xiaosheng's observation of micro expressions, and even his sense of people, had already reached an introductory level, allowing him to perceive the subtle inconsistencies.

"So, at that time, you all used aliases with me?" Yu Ying asked with a teasing smile.

"Pity, that wasn't very useful, was it! Because for an Intelligence Trafficker like you, a mere alias amounts to nothing!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Later on, when you came to me for an autograph, your acting had really improved a great deal."

"Thanks for the compliment." Yu Ying smiled.

"Too bad my discernment has grown even faster!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

At first listen, it sounded like self-praise, but it was an absolute truth.

After over a year of refinement, his insight, his eye for detail, was of the highest order even among those experienced Senior Affairs Officers!

To discern whether there was an issue with Yu Ying was naturally not a problem for him.

Furthermore, with a little effort, Bai Xiaosheng could predict Yu Ying's actual focus and then infer her motives—it was not a difficult task at all.

Of course, if he had not paid sufficient attention or solely relied on the Micro Expression Analysis System to simulate "inner voices," it would have been unlikely.

After all, this girl was not to be underestimated!

Hearing what Bai Xiaosheng had said, Yu Ying even smirked.

In her view, Bai Xiaosheng was just bragging.

Yu Ying's expressions, gestures, and even her speech conveyed that she had no awe or fear of Bai Xiaosheng, the Senior Affairs Officer.

In fact, she held a similar attitude towards everyone else.

Currently, her public identity was merely that of an assistant in the Affairs Department, not even qualified enough to be considered an Affairs Officer, her low and "special" status making her rarely respectful.

"In fact, regarding your identity, even though it's secret, the particular Affairs Officers and Senior Affairs Officers still know about it," Bai Xiaosheng said cheerfully, "After all, you still have business to do. Right?"

"Since I got so close to Chen Yucheng, I've felt that it was only a matter of time before my cover was blown," Yu Ying followed with a sigh, "That guy has extensive connections and is ranked among the top five for his uniqueness in the Affairs Department."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded in agreement.

"Moreover, many of his pieces of information came from me—I sold them to him. He's one of my regular customers!" Yu Ying deliberately glanced around, looking at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying with a sly smile, "It's safe to say this here, right? No outsider eavesdropping, or you guys recording it?"

Her words made Lin Weiwei laugh, "You're the only outsider here!"

"You didn't mention it, but now that you have, perhaps we should search you," Lei Ying said coldly as he stroked his chin, sizing up Yu Ying, "just in case you're the one who came to record."

Lei Ying was only trying to scare her and had no intention of actually doing anything.

"Don't you dare mess around. I'm a single young lady, you know. I can scream," Yu Ying said with a fearful expression, even making a show of covering her chest.

Lei Ying couldn't help but roll his eyes. He certainly didn't believe that this woman didn't know he was joking.

She was all fun and games!

Beside them, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but sigh.

"Actually, when you came, you never intended to hide your identity. Whether we saw through you or not, you were going to spill the beans in the end, right?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Yu Ying smiled as she looked at him.

"Yep, Xiaosheng has been promoted to Senior Affairs Officer. How long could I possibly keep my identity secret? Now that you've reached your current status, you're qualified to do business with others. Right now, you're the man of the hour, and there are many things that require information channels. Don't you want to buy some information?"

Yu Ying said enthusiastically, "The price I offer is very fair! Plus, since you saved me, I'll give you a 5% discount. How about that!"

They offer discounts?

A 5% discount, quite generous indeed!

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying suddenly felt a mix of laughter and helplessness.

"Aren't you afraid I'll report your identity to Elder Xia, making it impossible for you to stay in the Affairs Department!" Bai Xiaosheng's gaze turned cold, his voice firm.

"Are you trying to scare me?" Yu Ying smiled radiantly, "I'm just a small fry who hasn't done anything wrong. If I'm upright, I'm not afraid of my shadow. Besides, Xiaosheng, could you really bear to do that?"

Bai Xiaosheng pretended to reach for his phone.

"Even if you could bear it, what about the Affairs Officers and Senior Affairs Officers who have done business with you? What would they think? They might wonder if Xiaosheng has taken something from you."

"Now, when your side is in the midst of troubled times, if you mess with Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's people, do you really want to make more enemies among the other Affairs Officers and Senior Affairs Officers? Fighting on multiple fronts, even with Chen Yucheng's wide connections and numerous allies, will that be enough?"

"Even if Elder Xia favors you greatly, Xiaosheng, can you really fight against so many people?"

Beneath Yu Ying's smiling face, her voice was calm, carrying a veiled threat.

Her words caused Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to involuntarily furrow their brows, a chill in their hearts.

"You have quite the gift of gab!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed, "And what clever schemes!"

Such praise made Yu Ying's smile more complacent.

"I might not be as glamorous as the Affairs Officers and Senior Affairs Officers after all these years in the Affairs Department, but my income is pretty decent. And I've never made a loss." Yu Ying said proudly, then her expression suddenly became a bit resentful upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, "But I lost big time to you!"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback and asked with a smile, "How so?"

"Wasn't it because of you last time? You used unscrupulous methods to win over Lin Yu, inadvertently setting me up!" Yu Ying gritted her teeth, her eyes narrowing slightly, "I had someone obtain evidence from Li Qiushan, but you had set a trap there. Fine, fine, you almost ruined my credibility and made my clients hold me accountable!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed, "Your client is Lin Yu, who wanted you to get physical evidence from the hands of Li Qiushan and the others?"

After saying this, Bai Xiaosheng negated his own words, "No, it shouldn't have been him. He wasn't that proactive then."

"Was it Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Yu Ying smirked, her expression saying "as if I'd tell you."

"Forget it, with things becoming clearer now, there's no point in dwelling on past issues," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, unconcerned.

Yu Ying rolled her eyes.

"So now, you're here to sell information?" Bai Xiaosheng got straight to the point, "Let's talk business then!"

He didn't want to waste words.

"Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, let me make it clear that even though I offered you a 5% discount, my rates are very high!"

Yu Ying smiled, her expression sly and cunning.

"Okay. But first, let's see if you're all talk and no show," Bai Xiaosheng said seriously, then smiled again, repeating a previous question, "Are you really not afraid Elder Xia will find out?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked again, "Or do you underestimate Elder Xia, thinking he's already aware of your existence but is choosing to ignore you for now?"

Yu Ying frowned, looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

The more she looked, the more she disliked him!

"No discount for you!"

...

An hour later.

The door to Bai Xiaosheng's office opened, and Yu Ying walked out with a naive, sweet smile. She spoke to Lin Weiwei, who saw her out, in an overly sweet tone.

"Thank you, Sister Weiwei!"

"I'll come by often when I have the time!"

Chapter 1079: Bai Xiaosheng Attends a Banquet

After leaving Bai Xiaosheng's office, Yu Ying left with a pleased expression on her face.

However, as she walked past the corner of the corridor and saw no one around, a cold smile appeared in Yu Ying's eyes.

"Just now, I left Bai Xiaosheng's office with a smile, and I met two Affairs Officers walking together, a cleaning lady at the end of the corridor, and a female assistant rushing to the restroom... They must all be 'interested parties'!"

"Yes, not only them, I'm afraid the surveillance cameras also clearly captured my expression."

Yu Ying thought to herself, "The report about this scene will likely be sent to the desks of many big shots."

"Excellent!"

"Although the deal with Bai Xiaosheng wasn't bad, it's still trivial. The others are just secondary targets. Only Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng is my real target!"

Yu Ying's overt approach to Bai Xiaosheng was meant as a show for the other side.

"If Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's side doesn't contact me, then I'll just sell some more goods to Bai Xiaosheng to put some pressure on him!"

"Normally, it's Shen Peisheng's subordinates who contact me, but this time I won't talk unless it's Shen Peisheng himself. After all, even Bai Xiaosheng talked to me personally." Yu Ying's expression was somewhat arrogant.

"Information indeed needs to be sold to both parties to really fill up the pot! Of course, what I've already sold, I definitely cannot resell to the other party."

After reciting this to herself, Yu Ying couldn't help but admire her own cunning, "I indeed am a very conscientious businessman!"

The more she thought about it, the happier she became, humming a song with a light and brisk step.

The song she hummed was, "Little money, truly sweet."

It seemed she was very satisfied with today's results.

In Bai Xiaosheng's office.

"That Yu Ying is really a bit annoying, later we should report her to the headquarters, to Elder Xia. How can the department tolerate such despicable people!" Lin Weiwei huffed coldly.

Calling every other word 'Xiaosheng', so annoying indeed!

Seeing Lin Weiwei upset, both Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying couldn't help but smile.

"Existence is reasonable." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Actually, if you think about it, this phrase makes a lot of sense."

Did Elder Xia really not know about Yu Ying's existence? Allowing her might serve another purpose.

Lin Weiwei remained somewhat resentful.

"Alright, alright, it's about time we left, we have a dinner to attend tonight," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"You know, that's Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's dinner!"

At the mention of this, both Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded their heads.

Indeed, it was getting late, time to get ready to go.

Leaving the office, Bai Xiaosheng took Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to their residence to tidy up, then, following the address given by Assistant Cheng Liu of Shen Peisheng, they found their way.

Linshen, as a first-tier city and a hub of prosperity, was known for its distinguished large restaurants and eateries, each one strikingly conspicuous and excellently located. The interiors were all splendidly decorated, giving an impression of high status and wealth.

In reality, this was just how common people saw it.

True wealthy people are actually very low-key.

Driving their way into the second ring, it took them some time to find the ancient, quaint little alley.

After parking the car, they walked, Bai Xiaosheng still marveling.

True luxury is understated.

Even the simple act of dining here was worth its weight in gold, yet it also had a rich historical charm.

Having found the place, it was a spacious courtyard.

Someone was waiting at the entrance, and they were warmly invited in as soon as they arrived.

This must have been someone arranged by Shen Peisheng.

Led by this person, Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying walked through serpentine paths and past pavilions and towers.

At last, Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying were led into the deepest part of the courtyard.

Standing at the entrance of the courtyard was a person, Cheng Liu.

At that moment, Cheng Liu, dressed in a dark blue Sun Yat-sen suit, stood there waiting with a smile, hands clasped in front of him, looking quite stylish.

"Officer Xiaosheng, please follow me, Assistant Lin, Assistant Lei, please accompany him to another place," Cheng Liu said with a smile.

Guests follow the host's arrangements.

Since that was how they had arranged it, Bai Xiaosheng naturally had no objections, and immediately smiled and told Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, "You guys go on, I'll go have a chat with Sir Shen."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying naturally nodded and followed the previous guide.

Bai Xiaosheng then followed Cheng Liu directly inside to the hall.

Stepping into the hall, Bai Xiaosheng saw, sitting behind a long table, indeed was Shen Peisheng.

He sat there leisurely, sipping tea.

As soon as Shen Peisheng saw Bai Xiaosheng enter, he stood up with a smile, "Xiaosheng, you've come!"

Shen Peisheng didn't address Bai Xiaosheng by his official title or full name, but instead used a nickname.

It was a private dinner, so there was no need for formality, and it also showed his approachable and friendly demeanor.

"Sir Shen, to have made you wait for me, truly is my fault," Bai Xiaosheng apologized with a smile, striding forward.

They indeed arrived a bit later than the agreed time.

It wasn't that Bai Xiaosheng lacked a sense of time, but rather that the place was difficult to find, and walking in also took a significant amount of time, both of which were unexpected.

"No worries, no worries, come, sit down and try this green tea, a rare treat!" Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng smiled unconcernedly, affectionately pulling Bai Xiaosheng by the hand to sit.

Xiasheng glanced around the room.

Others might just perceive it as antique, but with his keen eyesight, enhanced by Red Lotus's scanning analysis,

"Haihuang furniture!"

"Tang and Song dynasty calligraphy and paintings!"

"Ming and Qing dynasty ornaments!"

...

To call this a room was inaccurate, it was more like a small museum.

Just those pieces of Haihuang furniture alone, well-maintained despite ages, were probably worth tens of millions.

Added with antique calligraphy and paintings, this place truly was "gloriously splendid."

People talk about mansions costing hundreds of millions, but this hundred million worth house was even more astonishing.

Under such an environment, the tea that Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng called "fine tea" must truly be exceptional.

Bai Xiaosheng sat down opposite Shen Peisheng, watching as the latter poured him a cup of tea and handed it over.

Bai Xiaosheng also received it with both hands respectfully.

Manners were fundamental, reflecting a person's cultivation and quality.

Even if the two sides were "enemies," as long as the pretense wasn't pierced and the other side remained courteous, Bai Xiaosheng would reciprocate politely.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng showing such respect, Shen Peisheng also smiled and nodded slightly.

Tasting the tea that Shen Peisheng had praised, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel compelled to commend it.

The tea was Longjing tea, with the buds standing straight in the cup.

Look, the color is clear, smell, the fragrance is pervasive.

Upon closer observation, each bud and leaf, this could indeed be called "One Flag One Spear," the finest of the fine.

"Pre-Qingming Longjing, indeed a fine tea!" Bai Xiaosheng praised.

"A connoisseur!" Shen Peisheng pointed at Bai Xiaosheng and laughed heartily, "If you like it, you can take some with you when you leave."

"In that case, I thank you in advance, Sir Shen," Bai Xiaosheng was not modest.

They, the older and the younger, then casually chatted about some amusing incidents.

Shen Peisheng knew Bai Xiaosheng was skilled in calligraphy and even exchanged views on it.

The atmosphere was truly harmonious.

Cheng Liu was just outside the door, watching with a smile, attending to their needs.

After tasting a pot of tea, Shen Peisheng signaled, and Cheng Liu began serving dishes.

The dinner was served à la carte, similar to a French meal, with dishes coming one after another.

Every dish, though minimal in quantity on the plate, was meticulously crafted for taste, aroma, and presentation, each flavor being exquisite.

Bai Xiaosheng, while enjoying the delicacies, often exclaimed that achieving such refinement truly matched the standards of this place.

After the dishes stimulated diverse flavors.

Shen Peisheng put down his chopsticks and smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, you've been quite the talk of the town lately. I heard that several officers, regional industry heads, and over twenty key enterprise leaders have been investigated by you with solid evidence. This achievement is something even we senior officers cannot match."

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng genuinely laughed.

"Sir Shen, you flatter me too much. If you wish... you could easily outshine me in minutes!"

"After all, you have held high positions for a long time and have far more resources."

"Not to mention, if you wish, you could certainly play a big game and have Officer Lin Yu overshadow me!"

With barbs hidden in his cotton, Bai Xiaosheng added, "After all, it's not like you haven't done that before."

Bai Xiaosheng said these words with a smile.

If it's about eating, then manners matter.

But for these matters, they need not!

Cheng Liu barely perceptibly furrowed his brow.

But Shen Peisheng's expression remained unchanged, his face beaming as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Actually, if Grand Affairs Officer Xiaosheng is willing, I could add a favor to make your gains even greater this time," Shen Peisheng said smilingly, "How about that?"

Bai Xiaosheng's smile widened, "Sir Shen, are you offering to help me? Wonderful, but I wonder, Sir Shen, what do you want in return?"

Shen Peisheng laughed heartily.

"What if I say, I want nothing?"

"And if I say, I just want to further our friendship, would you be willing?"

Shen Peisheng's smile was warm and approachable.

Chapter 1080: Only You Understand Me

"Sir Shen, I heard that Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe always treated you with great respect, even revering you. Now that they are in trouble, do you truly not care at all?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

Shen Peishen responded with a smile, "What can I do? I am the Senior Affairs Officer of the corporation, after all. Even if I had some contacts with them before, how could I openly protect those who have erred?"

Bai Xiaosheng gave a thumbs up, half-joking, "Sir Shen's words make sense. You're not telling me that it's okay to protect them as long as it's not done publicly, are you?"

"Don't talk nonsense, don't talk nonsense," Shen Peishen laughed heartily. "Sheng, what do you think of my earlier proposal, are you willing to accept it?"

A free gift for you, no demands, just a token of "kinship."

At this moment, Shen Peishen seemed like a pure and gentle elder, giving advice to his younger relatives.

"Sir Shen, you're not only selfless, but you also want to offer me an additional benefit," Bai Xiaosheng laughed. "However, I'm too ashamed and really can't accept this benefit."

"Think about it, if I accepted it, wouldn't today's Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe become tomorrow's Bai Xiaosheng?"

"I know I'm not comparable to Lin Yu, and even less so to those close to you. The day I'm given away as a benefit without knowing it, I'll probably be clueless," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled. "I'm not that brave!"

Shen Peishen calmly took a bite of his food and chewed it slowly, "Is it that you don't trust me as a person, or that you don't trust my promises?"

"Or perhaps you don't think highly enough of yourself, to even compare yourself to the likes of Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe!"

Shen Peishen looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze sincere yet complex, "A Senior Affairs Officer not yet thirty years old, with your achievements at this age, you are probably unprecedented in the entire history of the Department! You, Bai Xiaosheng, are not the same as those people; you are a rare talent, a prodigy!"

"I, Shen Peishen, have no great interests in life, but I like to take on students and train them meticulously! It's because I cherish talent!"

"You can investigate; have any of my students not fared well? If they haven't, you can come and humiliate me!"

Shen Peishen earnestly said, "Sheng, I am much older than you and I cherish talent, which is why I want to take you on as a student. From here on, both you and Lin Yu will be the people I value most. Are you willing?"

Cheng Liu, standing at the door, could not help but show a hint of surprise in his eyes.

His teacher, although he claimed to have taught many, never haphazardly accepted anyone!

Those worthy of his respect and approval are becoming rarer and rarer!

"Sir Shen, are you serious?" Even Bai Xiaosheng seemed somewhat moved.

"Have you agreed?" Shen Peishen's eyes showed a faint hope.

"Unfortunately!" Bai Xiaosheng said regretfully, "I dare not acknowledge you as my teacher."

"Why?" Shen Peishen's eyes widened in surprise.

"I'm afraid that one day, if I were to investigate you, I might bear the responsibility of deceiving my master and annihilating my ancestors," Bai Xiaosheng joked.

Shen Peishen's eyes slightly narrowed.

At the door, Cheng Liu's gaze turned cold.

Being so esteemed, yet being so disrespectful!

"Sheng."

Shen Peishen sighed slowly and looked down at his wine glass, "You young people, including Lin Yu before, always think this world is either black or white, fighting to the death, always detesting the black and worshipping the white. Always thinking that with your own enthusiasm, you can have a great future and create a splendid success to show off in front of others."

"That's not how it is, truly not."

"This world isn't as you think; one day, you'll find there's no absolute good or bad."

"As the saying goes, the finest steel gets snapped the most easily, always being upright and constantly striving for 'purity,' that's very exhausting and such people usually don't end up well!"

"Do you understand what I mean?"

After saying this, Shen Peishen looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a warm smile.

Yet his eyes carried a hint of coldness.

"I cherish talent and will give you young people a chance, but remember, you only get one chance!"

Shen Peishen's patience was running out.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, "I've learned a lot, Sir Shen. Do you know Nietzsche?"

Shen Peishen's eyes widened in surprise.

"When you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss also gazes into you. As you look at it, scrutinize it, feel it, it too is looking at you, scrutinizing you. It will change you. Those dark, obscure, hidden things, maybe you think you're just scrutinizing, but in fact... you're already deeply involved and cannot extricate yourself," Bai Xiaosheng laughed. "You think you see through the shades of gray, but are you unaware of potentially being trapped somewhere without your knowledge?"

You think I'm too young and naive.

I see you as unwittingly fallen.

Shen Peishen's gaze turned icy as he stared at Bai Xiaosheng.

After a long while, he slowly said, "I had my heart set on the bright moon, but alas, the moon illuminates only the ditch!"

Tonight's banquet, henceforth, cold winds bitterly bleak, the murderous intent intense.

Shen Peishen had never underestimated Bai Xiaosheng. From their first meeting, he had a very high opinion of him, watched his progress closely, and had not just once clearly stated to Lin Yu that Bai Xiaosheng's capabilities and achievements, if put up in a fair competition, were not inferior to yours.

What this meant was that, under equal conditions, Bai Xiaosheng completely overshadowed Lin Yu.

Ever since Bai Xiaosheng investigated Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe, collaborating with Chen Yucheng, they had upended their entire small group together.

Shen Peishen knew right away that Bai Xiaosheng would target him.

Even Shen Peishen himself couldn't help but feel a slight dread toward Bai Xiaosheng.

This might be true recognition.

Fortunately, at this moment in time, he, Shen Peishen, no longer needed to endure hardships to craft an image of shining justice.

Because the timing was gradually maturing.

Shen Peishen suddenly smiled and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I heard that after you came back, the first thing you did was meet with Xiahou Qi, our esteemed President!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Shen Peishen continued with a smile, "Then you naturally saw our President. Although he's only five or six years older than me, he's worn out from overwork, his health is really declining seriously."

Shen Peishen suddenly expressed concern for Mr. Xiahou Qi's health, leaving Bai Xiaosheng silently listening.

"Headquarters has certainly heard this news, and they are very compassionate towards Xiahou Qi, our distinguished hero."

Shen Peishen asked with a smile, "What do you think, will the headquarters suggest that he take a rest?"

Bai Xiaosheng felt a chill in his heart as he gazed at Shen Peishen.

Long ago, he had some thoughts, some guesses, but they were too shocking and lacked any concrete evidence.

However, after struggling with Lin Yu, competing for the position of Candidate Great Affairs Officer, and today's conversation, all the information in Bai Xiaosheng's mind suddenly connected like a flash of lightning, illuminating all his thoughts.

He suddenly understood many things!

"Sir Shen, I just realized that using 'high aspirations' to describe just us young people isn't entirely accurate!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke earnestly to Shen Peishen.

"For example, you, at your age, are still aspiring for a higher position—Elder Xia's position, the President of the Greater China Region!"

"I guess that you've always harbored a grudge about your past competition with Elder Xia and failing; it might be your obsession, something you are willing to endure hardships for!"

"I guess that you've always been 'nurturing students,' rallying your own people, and artificially creating Senior Affairs Officers, just to seek supporters! To achieve your own goals, solve your obsessions, and never rest!"

"I guess that Beijun's repeated requests to go to headquarters, and having support there, was also your behind-the-scenes help!"

...

"All these are your doings, right! Maybe there are even more schemes!"

"Decades of constant scheming!"

Bai Xiaosheng gave a thumbs-up and earnestly said, "For such perseverance and tenacity, I, Bai Xiaosheng, am impressed!"

Shen Peishen was staring intently at Bai Xiaosheng.

It seemed that Bai Xiaosheng's words deeply moved him.

Shen Peishen's face even showed some excitement, his lips slightly trembling.

Till now, no one had been able to see through his thoughts and wishes without his hints.

Everyone thought Shen Peishen only focused on cultivating his own power, securing his current respect, and enjoying being a "carefree king."

Everyone thought he was old, without desires or conflicts, and would not trouble himself to take the President's position.

Because that position, aside from being laborious and supervised by higher-ups, could not compare to his current freedom in earning money.

Over the years, the only one who could see his obsessions and pursuits was this young man in front of him!

A true confidant!

This young man was the first in decades who truly understood him!

Shen Peishen couldn't help being a bit excited, a bit agitated, and somewhat—

Wary!

He smiled, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng—

"I, Shen Peishen, have managed for decades, seen countless people, nurtured countless individuals, and among them, there is no shortage of perceptive, intelligent, and cunning people!"

"But someone like you, who effortlessly sees my true intentions, directly recognizes my goals!"

"Only you alone!"

Shen Peishen laughed heartily, "My boy, I'm really growing fond of you!"

Shen Peishen laughed sincerely.

However, he then showed a fierce look, transforming from a spent force to a fierce beast.

"I admit you are extraordinarily gifted, and naturally, I must admit you pose the greatest threat to me! So, if you insist on opposing me—"

Shen Peishen's expression turned ferocious.

"Believe it or not, I will deal with you first!"