

Two Trillion 1091

Chapter 1091 Two Old Friends!

At that moment, inside the Mercedes-Benz V-Class—

Bai Xiaosheng leaned comfortably against the back of his seat, smiling slightly, and said leisurely, "You know, it's actually quite interesting."

"What's interesting?" Li Shiyue looked up at him, puzzled.

Out of the blue, Bai Xiaosheng's comment caught her by surprise.

With a smile, Bai Xiaosheng continued in a calm and unhurried manner, "The situation here, isn't it interesting?"

"The problems you all are facing here could jeopardize the entire industry of a province. The regional managers had gone to attend the global inspection event arranged by the Group and couldn't handle it effectively, so such an issue naturally fell temporarily under the jurisdiction of the headquarters' affairs department."

"But for a provincial industrial manager to personally file a report under such a critical situation, and for the affairs department to drag its feet for so long, and to only send an assistant, no less!"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "During this time, if the other party had been more decisive and pushed harder, the enterprises of Shangyun Province within the Group might not have all collapsed, but isn't it also possible they would have been utterly devastated!"

Li Shiyue frowned as she listened.

"I'm wondering, is someone trying to destroy Mr. Shang?"

"Yet as far as I know, based on Shang Wenshu's character, he would never provoke any formidable opponents. So, it's strange why someone would desperately plunge a province's industry into crisis."

"No matter how you look at it, the eventual problems that arose would be difficult for Shang Wenshu to avoid responsibility for, and the best outcome might be resigning to accept blame."

"Putting all these things together, doesn't it seem quite interesting?"

Bai Xiaosheng said to himself with a smile, his thoughts seeming distant, as if he was considering the whole situation.

"How is this interesting!" Li Shiyue was speechless and even a bit angry.

This man knew their Mr. Shang, even understood the operation of the Group's top management in the Greater China Region, wasn't he in a hurry to put out the fire?

Yet, he appeared detached, even enjoying the misfortune.

Mr. Shang really has poor judgment in people!

Li Shiyue secretly glared at Bai Xiaosheng, feeling somewhat indignant.

This man, first making outrageous statements offending the Zhang Family people, then talking nonsense about business warfare, and now taking pleasure in their misfortune?

Facing Bai Xiaosheng, Li Shiyue's anger surged once again, almost unconsciously.

Li Shiyue looked to Mr. Lei, really wanting this "Mr. Lei" to speak out and reprimand Bai.

However, when she looked over, Li Shiyue was taken aback.

That "Mr. Lei" and Miss Lin seemed to be seriously contemplating Bai's words, nodding frequently!

As if they agreed.

Li Shiyue held her head in her hand, sighing inwardly.

What kind of people are these...

"What provinces are next to Shangyun Province?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked.

"Ah?" Li Shiyue thought he was asking her.

Caught off guard by the question, she was indeed puzzled.

Li Shiyue thought carefully.

"Originally, it borders three provinces, hmm."

Bai Xiaosheng answered himself, talking to himself, as if he had already gotten the answer.

Li Shiyue couldn't help but wonder which three provinces.

After all, being from Gaoyun, she embarrassingly didn't know the neighboring provinces of her own.

"Where does the Zhang Family reside, in which province?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked again.

"The Zhang Family..." Li Shiyue was stunned again.

"Indeed, it's that province!"

Bai Xiaosheng narrowed his eyes, again answering his own question.

Li Shiyue had told him the name of the Zhang Family's largest supporting enterprise, and she had clearly stated that key people from the Zhang Family worked there.

It wasn't difficult for Bai Xiaosheng to find out.

Li Shiyue was asked twice and both times she hadn't had a chance to respond, which greatly annoyed her.

She felt this Mr. Bai was clearly making a fool of her.

Out of spite, Li Shiyue stopped dealing with Bai Xiaosheng and turned to look out the window.

Really couldn't talk to this person, who was illogical and kept talking to himself.

The key was, to actually know, and still claim to know on purpose.

Those questions, you just think about them and you have the answers, do you think you have a search engine in your head!

Li Shiyue secretly scoffed, dismissing his comments.

Looking at the road outside the car window, at the moment, they were about thirty minutes away from Drinking Moon Tower, taking the shortest route through the city center.

However, the traffic outside the window was lined up in a long queue, and there was even a bit of a traffic jam...

Hope it wouldn't be too late. Li Shiyue thought to herself.

...

At that moment.

Another road, relatively clear but farther away.

Two top-tier Porsche Macans, one following the other, were traveling.

In the second vehicle, Wang Yingxue was on the phone while Liu Beicheng sat beside her, watching her.

On the phone, Wang Yingxue vividly described Bai Xiaosheng as "arrogant, haughty, and rude".

Liu Beicheng, beside her, occasionally made faces, giving her cues.

After hearing Wang Yingxue's report, a voice, deep, thick, and magnetic, came through the phone.

"Who is that person?"

"He must be an assistant invited by Shang Wenshu, constantly mentioning Zhenbei Group, I think, maybe someone from the Zhenbei Group?" Wang Yingxue said.

"Am I asking you, or are you asking me?"

The magnetic voice on the phone sounded slightly displeased.

Wang Yingxue felt a chill in her heart.

Her young master detested such ambiguous answers, and she had carelessly slipped up in her excitement.

"Mr. Dong, that person didn't say, and when we asked, he wouldn't answer, saying we weren't qualified to know. If we wanted to inquire, it had to be you who was qualified," Wang Yingxue cautiously said.

Beside her, Liu Beicheng gave a thumbs up.

Wang Yingxue's clever sidestep directly shifted the blame onto the other party.

The voice on the phone paused for a moment, then scoffed coldly, sounding very displeased.

"What is the name of that person?"

Wang Yingxue had just breathed a sigh of relief when the voice on the phone asked again.

"I only heard his surname is Bai," Wang Yingxue hurriedly said.

"And?"

"That's all I know," Wang Yingxue answered timidly.

"You mean to say, he didn't tell you, and I should personally ask?" the voice on the phone coldly said. "If you can't handle such small tasks, if there's a next time..."

The voice didn't state the consequences, but it was more terrifying than having them spelled out.

This statement made Wang Yingxue involuntarily shiver, unwilling to defy, she replied softly and compliantly, "Yes, Mr. Dong, Yingxue will remember!"

"Tell Liu Beicheng, the same goes for him! People who can't handle tasks, what use do I have for them!" the person on the phone coldly laughed.

But then, the voice eased, "However, it also isn't entirely your fault. Out of nowhere, such an arrogant person appeared; I really want to see for myself! Alright, I'm not far from Drinking Moon Tower, I'll head there directly!"

"Before I arrive, keep a close watch on him for me; I want to see who is so bold as to seek presence in front of the Zhang Family!"

"If he wants to be arrogant again, don't be polite!"

"Yes!"

Wang Yingxue quickly responded, the phone had already been hung up, a dial tone sounding.

"How did it go?!" Liu Beicheng asked urgently.

Wang Yingxue, feeling as if she had received the Imperial Sword, smiled at Liu Beicheng, "Mr. Dong said for us to go watch that boastful guy. If he wants to be arrogant again, we needn't be polite!"

"Good!" Liu Beicheng's eyes sparkled, he sneered, "Earlier, we did not receive explicit instructions, naturally we couldn't act too ostentatiously! Now with Mr. Dong's words, let's not be polite! If that person spouts nonsense again, we'll make him regret it!"

"Driver, speed up!"

Liu Beicheng even called out loudly, his words filled with urgency.

It took nearly forty minutes.

The car carrying Bai Xiaosheng and the others finally arrived at Drinking Moon Tower.

After getting out of the car and observing the peaceful surroundings and the building's ancient charm, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but nod his head.

Nice place!

That young master of the Zhang Family really knew how to enjoy himself.

"Please, this way!"

Li Shiyue had been here before, leading the way.

Before they could enter, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze were already talking and walking out.

"Mr. Shang!"

Li Shiyue called out once and then saw Bai Xiaosheng and two others swiftly moving to stand before her.

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze looked up upon hearing the voice.

When they saw Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, both were taken aback.

Is it him?

It is him!

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze's eyes widened to their fullest.

"Long time no see!" Bai Xiaosheng greeted with a sincere and eager smile, "My two old friends!"

Chapter 1092: What Big Talk

Upon seeing the unexpectedly appeared Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze were deeply surprised at first, and then their eyes brimmed with ecstasy.

Then, as if waking from a dream, they looked at each other.

As they gazed at one another, their eyes conveyed amazement.

Bai Xiaosheng said, "My two old friends," naturally referring to them.

After Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze "confirmed with a glance," they suddenly realized and simultaneously exclaimed to each other—

"So it was him you were talking about!"

They had just been discussing their respective friends, not realizing it was actually the same person!

It was so unexpected.

From a distance, Li Shiyue stared in astonishment at Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze's reactions and gave Bai Xiaosheng an extra look.

She was somewhat puzzled.

Wasn't this the man Mr. Shang had invited to help?

Why did it seem that Mr. Shang was extraordinarily delighted to see this person?

Moreover, Miss Zhao seemed to know him too, showing a face full of surprise...

Li Shiyue observed that for the past few days, both Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze had been frowning with worry, barely smiling, their smiles tinged with anxiety.

But now, at this moment, their smiles were relaxed, and there was a sense of relief.

Li Shiyue glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, expressing her perplexity.

Who exactly was this man?

Li Shiyue scrutinized Bai Xiaosheng from all angles, not sensing any extraordinary charisma in him.

Except for when he had stood up to rebuke Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, he indeed had a bit of a commanding presence and charm...

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were also surprised as they watched Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze.

What intrigued them was realizing that Bai Xiaosheng had two acquaintances here.

...

After exchanging greetings, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze warmly led Bai Xiaosheng into the Drinking Moon Tower.

They proceeded into the inner hall.

Bai Xiaosheng took in his surroundings and couldn't help but admire, "The setup here is quite impressive."

Shang Wenshu gave a wry smile.

Zhao Qianze playfully linked arms with Bai Xiaosheng and strolled leisurely, nonchalantly saying, "It's just the richer people are, the more they fuss over details. This Mr. Zhang must think he's an ancient lord. Look at this, just for a meal, he insists on having music, chess, calligraphy, poetry, wine, and flowers all available. You didn't see, but he even handed us a list detailing down to the type of incense and the origin of the ingredients. Mr. Shang dared not make any mistakes and was here early, supervising everything. Truly meticulous!"

Zhao Qianze didn't forget to tease Shang Wenshu with a quip.

With a bitter smile, Shang Wenshu then said, "Their secretary did mention if we weren't well-prepared, we'd have to reschedule."

Shang Wenshu sighed with frustration, "Reschedule? I can't afford any delays! What can I do, I'm quite desperate!"

That remark made Zhao Qianze burst out laughing.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled silently, admiring the surroundings.

The Drinking Moon Tower was a Chinese-style pavilion, grand yet understatedly luxurious, with a lingering charm.

The decor cleverly concealed modern elements, feeling neither gloomy nor oppressive.

The lighting was good too.

The place was already nice, but with meticulous decoration, it turned extraordinary!

Along the way, four bronze incense burners were placed on both sides of the path, with misty incense smoke swirling above them.

The air was filled with a gentle fragrance, not pungently assaulting the nostrils but subtly refreshing and stimulating.

Additionally, pots of simple-colored flowers added embellishments, with the scent of flowers complementing the incense, creating a poetic atmosphere.

In the inner hall, extra chairs and tables had been removed, leaving only a long table with a touch of Western style, adorned with green porcelain ware, complete with a full set of Kung Fu Tea equipment.

In a corner, several women dressed in ancient costumes were busy tuning a guqin, seemingly preparing for the afternoon banquet's accompaniment.

Moreover, many other details were meticulously arranged, showing distinctiveness.

"Ah, I'm actually quite eager to meet this Mr. Zhang," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "Such attention to detail, such taste, such a pursuit of a quality lifestyle, people like this are really rare."

Li Shiyue followed behind, unable to help rolling her eyes silently at Bai Xiaosheng.

What, you admire him too?

He's a scion of a wealthy household, who are you in comparison?

Of course, Li Shiyue kept these thoughts to herself.

Arriving beside the long table, everyone pulled out chairs to sit down.

Knowing that Bai Xiaosheng was not one for formality and did not mind sharing a table with assistants and secretaries, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze were not particular either.

Li Shiyue saw Mr. Shang signaling for her to sit down, so she did, without any hesitation.

But the fact that she, too, was invited to the table, made her wonder about Bai Xiaosheng's identity.

It seemed that his status was not as high as she had previously thought.

After sitting down, Bai Xiaosheng went straight to the point.

After all, now was not the time for small talk.

"Mr. Shang," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I was just passing through Gaoyun and had the sudden urge to have tea with you. I didn't realize you were so busy. How about I give you a hand?"

To be passing through, and yet come especially to help? Li Shiyue thought to herself.

And additionally, how could this young man be so impolite as to address Mr. Shang directly as 'brother'? It was frivolous.

You must realize, Mr. Shang is the head of a provincial industry!

His status is revered!

Li Shiyue didn't know what to think, but Shang Wenshu was unaware.

He sighed softly and chuckled ruefully, "Busy? It's more like I'm in over my head!"

"I've discussed the situation with your secretary; it does seem a bit tricky," Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

To say it was a bit tricky, yet he showed no sign of difficulty; his demeanor was even more relaxed.

Normally someone who's been through a great deal!

Both Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze thought.

They knew Bai Xiaosheng had been involved in an investigation concerning the Chen Brothers,

Including Chen Jiutian who was in charge of a region!

Bai Xiaosheng had navigated through turbulent times. To call this situation 'a small complication' wasn't that far-fetched.

Li Shiyue was somewhat dissatisfied and frowned secretly.

Not knowing of Bai Xiaosheng's lauded achievements, she thought he was disengaged and, therefore, not very concerned.

In fact, everyone - Shang Wenshu, Zhao Qianze, and Li Shiyue - was mistaken.

Only Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying knew that to Bai Xiaosheng, this situation really was just a bit tricky.

After all, he was a Senior Affairs Officer!

Normally, a Senior Affairs Officer should not interfere in local affairs, but the current situation was exceptional.

The regional heads were abroad on inspections, leaving all matters to be coordinated by the affairs department.

This time, they made an exception, allowing Bai Xiaosheng, a Senior Affairs Officer, to intervene in the local matters.

If needed, they would just take one extra step and report to Elder Xia, who surely would agree.

"Sheng, actually, we've talked before and wanted your help. But Mr. Shang thought the issue was too complex, with undercurrents making it too dangerous for you to get involved. After all, even though you, as a New-type Affairs Officer, have some special privileges, we can't guarantee if the opponents might be too powerful!" Zhao Qianze couldn't help but say.

Shang Wenshu also nodded in agreement.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged surprised glances.

Did Shang Wenshu and his companion not know that Bai Xiaosheng had become a Senior Affairs Officer?

Their information was seriously outdated!

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, not bothering to explain, and said, "That's not the way to speak."

"Privately, we are friends. If a friend is in trouble, how could I not help? And when I've needed help, Mr. Shang has gone all out."

"Officially, as long as I'm at headquarters, I cannot sit idly by while our corporate enterprise is being insulted."

Bai Xiaosheng spoke calmly, "I've heard about the Zhang Family, they're quite assertive, but in my eyes, they're really nothing special."

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze were momentarily stunned, then visibly pleased.

They were moved by Bai Xiaosheng's words, and he seemed confident, surely having some backing.

Perhaps he could even discuss the situation with Mr. Xiahou Qi, possibly reporting it as well.

They secretly looked forward to it.

Li Shiyue, however, frowned deeply, looking languidly at Bai Xiaosheng, "This guy is shooting his mouth off, typical of him! And they actually believe him."

Just as Bai Xiaosheng finished speaking, footsteps approached from outside.

Then, a woman's angry voice followed.

"You say our Zhang Family isn't anything special!"

"What a bold statement!"

Shang Wenshu and the others were startled, hastily looking around.

Bai Xiaosheng leisurely looked up.

Wang Yingxue came striding in, her face ablaze with anger, pointing at him, "What are you to belittle my Zhang Family!"

"I see you know nothing about death!"

Chapter 1093: How should you treat me when you see me?

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng arrived, and this time they brought four bodyguards with them, exuding an aggressive and imposing presence.

Upon entering, Wang Yingxue heard Bai Xiaosheng "spouting nonsense."

She immediately flew into a rage, scolding with fury all the way as she approached.

Wang Yingxue's anger was clearly written on her face, as if she couldn't share the sky with Bai Xiaosheng!

Such an emotion was overwhelmingly intense, even a bit "overdone."

However, Wang Yingxue didn't care, as her angry roar was, to begin with, four parts real and six parts feigned, a mix of truth and bluster.

This was why she adopted such a stance.

First, it was to repay the "grudge" from earlier at Dacheng Group when Bai Xiaosheng had startled her with a single remark.

Secondly, it was for her own people to see.

In addition, there was a bit of a triumphant air about her.

Back at the Dacheng Group, as a mere assistant, she, Wang Yingxue, couldn't truly represent the Zhang Family, but now it was different.

On the way here, her own young master had said, if the other party became arrogant again, there was no need for courtesy!

That statement was her Imperial Sword!

It allowed her, Wang Yingxue, to flip the table and face off against Shang Wenshu right then and there. She could raise a commotion without bearing any responsibility!

With this power, why not use it?

Moreover, her own young master would soon arrive.

If he were to see that she remained indifferent in the face of someone mocking the Zhang Family, what use would there be for her to stay with the Zhang Family?

For these various reasons, Wang Yingxue came in looking "furious as thunder."

It was not surprising.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile turned cold as he watched Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, yet he kept silent.

Shang Wenshu, as well as Zhao Qianze, all stood up with inevitably solemn expressions.

Whatever one says in private is one thing, but being overheard is quite another.

At this moment, a negotiation that had been hard to come by couldn't be easily destroyed.

After all, even if Bai Xiaosheng really had a way to help them solve the problem, it would still take time.

They needed to win some time.

At the very least, they couldn't let a moment of pride lead to an on-the-spot fallout, causing the situation to spiral out of control.

"Miss Wang, Mr. Bai certainly had no intention of disrespecting the Zhang Family. Please do not overinterpret the situation."

Shang Wenshu spoke, and though he offered some explanation, he did not bow too low, nor did he cause Bai Xiaosheng to lose face.

"Mr. Shang, don't protect this kid. We've tolerated him for a long time!" Liu Beicheng barked sharply.

"He doesn't even regard our Zhang Family, truly shallow and like a frog in a well, unaware of the vastness of heaven and earth!"

"In the business circles of these several provinces, before my Zhang Family, no matter what background he claims, he's like an insignificant bug, lowly and trivial!"

Seeing Wang Yingxue's performance, Liu Beicheng did not wish to lose out to her. Finally getting the chance, he exerted even more energy in his speech, even humiliating Bai Xiaosheng.

Liu Beicheng feared both a poor performance by himself and Bai Xiaosheng cowering.

If that were the case, their "defense of the Zhang Family" merit in front of the young master would be lost!

Once Liu Beicheng humiliated Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wenshu's expression changed dramatically.

"Sheng's words did not contain any insult, but Mr. Liu, aren't you being a bit too much? It's already involving personal insults. I think, Mr. Liu, you should apologize to Sheng alone!" Zhao Qianze frowned and scolded.

"That's right." Shang Wenshu squeezed out two words, his expression serious.

Seeing them say such things, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng immediately glared at the two men with an infuriated look, and sneered continuously.

"Are you guys okay? Apologize to him? Don't think we didn't hear what he said about our Zhang Family earlier!"

"We heard it very clearly; this man disrespected my Zhang Family! This is a huge mistake! To not mention cursing him, even dragging him out for a beating would be light punishment!"

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng's attitude was resolute, and they even threatened loudly—

"Let me tell you, don't think this is just a few words! It's not that simple! If we report this, today's negotiation ends here!"

"If that's the case, Mr. Shang, you can continue the business war with our Zhang Family. If it becomes a fight to the death, all because of these few words, we'll see if you regret it later!"

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng's voices grew louder.

Their momentum was unmatched.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked on indifferently at Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, especially at Liu Beicheng, their eyes filled with icy coldness.

Dare to say Bai Xiaosheng was an insignificant bug?

And to keep shouting at them?

Simply courting death!

The Zhang Family cannot be bullied?

Then is the dignity of the Senior Affairs Officer worth nothing?

"Please don't be impulsive! Do not distort the situation!"

"Let's stick to the facts, everyone should restrain a little, OK?"

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze, though logical in their words, spoke with voices that were increasingly hoarse, unable to suppress their fury.

These days, the frustrations pent up in both of them were intolerable.

Now that their friend Bai Xiaosheng had come to help and was being humiliated in public, even a clay Buddha would have some anger, let alone them.

As the situation became tense, ready to explode at any moment.

Li Shiyue became a little impatient; she couldn't help but quietly run to Bai Xiaosheng's side, lowered her voice, and said in Bai Xiaosheng's ear, "Mr. Bai, this matter started because of you!"

"You better apologize to the Zhang Family people, don't make it difficult for Mr. Shang and Miss Zhao. You spouted nonsense by yourself; don't drag everyone else down, okay!"

"A few words of humble apology, and this whole matter would be over, it's worth it!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Li Shiyue emotionlessly.

"Are you asking me to beg for mercy?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Yes! Hurry up and apologize, you were the one who spoke without restraint!" Li Shiyue grew somewhat anxious, her voice inevitably raised.

Suddenly, everyone around them could hear.

"Shiyue, what nonsense are you talking about!" Shang Wenshu noticed and immediately frowned and scolded.

Zhao Qianze also looked disapprovingly at the girl.

"Mr. Shang, it was indeed his fault to begin with!" Li Shiyue suddenly felt very wronged.

What was wrong with her? She was doing it for everyone, for the good of the group.

Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng's apology and one person's face mattered more than the industry of an entire province?

"Hmph, it's really a group of people who are inferior to a little girl, I see you still haven't recognized the reality!" Wang Yingxue spat, pointed at Bai Xiaosheng, and angrily yelled at the four bodyguards she brought along, "What are you all standing there for? This man has insulted the Zhang Family, slap him a few times before we talk! Just standing there, do you think the young master will praise you when he arrives!"

"Go, teach him a lesson! Tear his mouth up first!" Liu Beicheng followed, shouting loudly.

The four Zhang Family bodyguards, upon receiving their orders, immediately approached with ferocious expressions.

These men, each around one meter ninety with a large and muscular build, stood before ordinary people much like four burly bears.

"What are you trying to do!"

"Don't you dare act wildly!"

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze shouted simultaneously.

Right now, not even the basic outlines of a negotiation had been drawn, and yet a full-blown physical fight was about to unfold!

They moved, and Lei Ying "sprang" to his feet.

Lei Ying's tiger-like eyes flashed a ferocious smile, practically shining.

Arguing wasn't his strong suit, but fighting was right up his alley.

Li Shiyue saw the four burly men approaching and just one man standing up on her side, her face paled, and she urged Bai Xiaosheng desperately, "You you, hurry up and apologize to them!"

"Apologize to them?" Bai Xiaosheng let out a wry laugh full of conviction, "They're not worthy, not to mention them, even if the master of the Zhang Family or even their young master came, they still wouldn't be qualified!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words made Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng even more furious while Li Shiyue looked at him as if he were crazy.

Bai Xiaosheng stopped wasting words with them and just instructed Lei Ying, "Take it easy with your hands, and don't destroy anything."

He's insane?

Only one man on our side, and still telling his own people to go easy?

Li Shiyue and the others looked at Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a fool.

Lei Ying looked back and smiled, "Got it!"

What followed was a spectacle that left Wang Yingxue, Liu Beicheng, Li Shiyue, and even Shang Wenshu somewhat stunned.

Only Zhao Qianze recalled that Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be quite capable of fighting.

Four tall and muscular bodyguards, ganging up on Lei Ying, lasted less than three minutes before they all fell to the ground, moaning in pain.

Their punches and kicks fell on Lei Ying like cotton, not eliciting any reaction from him.

Lei Ying, on the other hand was different; one punch, and one would kneel; one kick, and another would lie flat.

Each of his strikes twisted the bodyguards' faces with pain until towards the end, they looked upon Lei Ying as if he were a ghostly apparition.

This one against four brawl left the bodyguards questioning their lives, and the onlookers doubting their own eyes.

"Are these really bodyguards? Pillow-fists!" Lei Ying, particularly dissatisfied, returned to Bai Xiaosheng's side and sat down with a huff, "Zhang Family people, all flash and no substance."

This snide remark nearly drove Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng insane.

Forget them looking all flash and no substance, these bodyguards, with their smaller frames, could beat an ordinary person to a pulp just by dancing the Little Apple.

It was you who were freakishly powerful!

Before Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng could speak, suddenly a string of footsteps came from outside, followed by an annoyed and magnetic voice.

"Who said the Zhang Family people are useless!"

Hearing this voice, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng's bodies shook with glee.

The young master was here!

The Zhang Family's prestige was formidable across several provinces, and Mr. Dong was an extraordinary talent in the business world, deeply favored by the Family Head, with absolute power to decide whether to fight or negotiate this time!

You're doomed, having offended the young master, you might as well wait for death!

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng didn't forget to take malicious joy and throw a threatening glance at Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wenshu, and the others as they hurried to greet him.

Shang Wenshu's face turned pale, Zhao Qianze's complexion changed.

They certainly knew the prowess of this future leader of the Zhang Family!

Now they were in trouble!

Surrounded by everyone, a young man with a handsome and stern expression walked in, his gaze piercing and awe-inspiring.

Zhang Family's Mr. Zhang, his presence extraordinary!

Upon laying eyes on him, Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

What day was it today that all the familiar faces were gathering?

"Zhang Yudong, do you recognize me?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly smiled and called out.

That notably fierce Mr. Zhang frowned at Bai Xiaosheng and after three to five seconds, his expression suddenly changed.

"You recognize me?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Do you still remember what you lost to me at Master Song Kai's birthday banquet?"

"How should you behave when you compete with me?" Bai Xiaosheng's voice turned cold.

Zhang Yudong's expression changed several times, and under the incredulous gaze of everyone, he clenched his jaw and forced out a sentence.

"I should keep a respectful distance!"

Chapter 1094: Talking About Level with Me?

Back in the day, Bai Xiaosheng went to celebrate Master Song Kai's birthday and during the banquet, he taught a lesson to a group of spoiled youths and even won a promise through a bet.

That promise was that those people, if they ever conflicted with Bai Xiaosheng, would have to retreat three steps.

Among those people, the leader was Zhang Yudong.

Afterwards, Bai Xiaosheng stayed at Master Song Kai's house for a few days, and Master Song Kai even specifically mentioned Zhang Yudong to him.

Zhang Yudong's grandfather, Zhang Xi, and Master Song Kai, as well as Xiahou Qi, were all friends.

Master Song Kai even suggested to Bai Xiaosheng that the Zhang family was powerful and that networking with them would be beneficial and harmless!

At the time, Bai Xiaosheng merely listened.

But unexpectedly today, he found himself intertwined with the Zhang family again.

However, it was not a good connection.

Bai Xiaosheng hadn't expected that Zhang Yudong would come.

Meeting an old acquaintance, he too was somewhat surprised.

After all, the Zhang family information he found had only mentioned the current helmsman of the family, who should be Zhang Yudong's father, the son of Zhang Xi.

The information did not mention the older generation like Zhang Xi, nor the specifically unappointed Zhang Yudong.

Thus, Bai Xiaosheng had no idea that the Zhang family was that of Zhang Yudong and Zhang Xi.

Upon meeting again, Bai Xiaosheng recalled the promise he had won back then and mentioned it casually, without meaning to rely on it.

After all, if Zhang Yudong refused to acknowledge it, he had no place to find evidence.

But Bai Xiaosheng hadn't expected that Zhang Yudong would readily admit it in front of everyone.

This even surprised Bai Xiaosheng a bit.

This scene left onlookers shocked and astounded.

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng were stunned.

What was happening!

In their eyes, the future helmsman of the illustrious Zhang family!

The lofty, imposing Mr. Dong!

He actually admitted personally that if he had a conflict with this Mr. Bai, he would back down!

Was this... for real?!

The two of them were shockingly looking at a not joking Zhang Yudong and even more stunned looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

The young man they had previously underestimated and even wanted to teach a lesson...

Evidently had such a backdrop, even Mr. Dong couldn't do anything about him and even actively stepped back!

The two of them didn't know what to say anymore.

Beside them, Li Shiyue was dumbfounded, unable to believe the scene before her.

She always thought of him as someone who was blindly defiant and couldn't understand the situation.

Turns out he was always fearless!

The real clueless one was she, Li Shiyue!

Different from them, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze, surprised as they were, their eyes sparkled with excitement.

Bai Xiaosheng was still that Bai Xiaosheng who had created miracles in the past.

Today, he also didn't disappoint them!

Bai Xiaosheng was not only an old acquaintance of Zhang Yudong but seemed to even dominate him.

If Bai Xiaosheng took the initiative to speak with him, the other party might just agree!

This conflict was coming to an end!

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze felt somewhat relieved, expectantly looking towards Bai Xiaosheng.

It truly gave a sensation of "withstanding a tsunami single-handedly."

On either side of Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying simply smiled.

They were surprised, but not as much, being with Bai Xiaosheng for a while and used to being shocked, they gradually became "unperturbed in the face of change."

At that moment,

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Zhang Yudong, filled with admiration.

A man should be able to lose gracefully and hold to his promises.

Zhang Yudong's action surprised him but also made him pleased.

"Since Mr. Zhang is so straightforward, why not come over, sit down, and chat? You represent the Zhang family, and I represent the Zhenbei Group; let's hold a drink and talk joyously to resolve the friction and misunderstandings between us. Isn't that a beautiful thing?" Bai Xiaosheng said as he stood up to invite.

Everyone said Bai Xiaosheng was a pushy person, ready to start a business war at any disagreement.

But it wasn't so.

If there was a better way, Bai Xiaosheng too didn't wish to swing the "big stick" at someone.

Often, though, his perspective was so extraordinary, he could see at a glance that talking would lead nowhere, better to have a decisive battle to the death.

If the other side gave him face, he Bai Xiaosheng would give even more face.

As the saying goes, "When you respect me a foot, I respect you ten feet."

...

Under the current circumstances, things were looking up.

One side had softened while the other released goodwill, marking the beginning of harmonious relations.

Suddenly, Zhang Yudong laughed.

Shang Wenshu, Zhao Qianze, Li Shiyue, Wang Yingxue, Liu Beicheng, and even Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying thought that Zhang Yudong would accept Bai Xiaosheng's suggestion to sit down and talk.

However, upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng, Zhang Yudong's gaze instead became sharp.

"Brother Bai, I, Zhang Yudong, am the direct eldest son and grandson of the Zhang family. I was taught from a young age to act prudently and speak cautiously, never to disgrace the Zhang family. Thus, breaking my word is impossible for me."

Within a smile, Zhang Yudong continued calmly, "Furthermore, our agreement took place at Master Song Kai's home! Should any unfavorable news about me leak from you, the damage to my image at Master Song Kai's would be immeasurable."

"Therefore, I acknowledge our original agreement."

"When I see you, I will retreat three feet!"

"Good! Starting now, I, Zhang Yudong, will step back and no longer represent the Zhang family. I hereby resign from my duties."

With that, Zhang Yudong pushed Liu Beicheng forward.

"You are now fully in charge of the negotiations!"

Zhang Yudong used his "resignation" to embody retreating three feet, delivering a cold blow in a grand manner.

Liu Beicheng was stunned.

Apart from Bai Xiaosheng, everyone else was similarly stunned.

"Liu Beicheng, remember not to let our Zhang family's interests be compromised; otherwise, I will never let you off! My agreement with Mr. Bai has nothing to do with the Zhang family or you!"

"In this way, even if Master Song Kai and the others find out, they will have nothing to say!"

Zhang Yudong looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "People of the Zhang family keep their word, resolute, yet do not appreciate being coerced through child's play!"

"Furthermore, Liu Beicheng, I am temporarily appointing you as the Deputy CEO. According to the principle of equivalent positions in negotiations, unless your counterpart's rank is equal to or higher than yours, you have the right to choose your negotiating partner, be it this Mr. Bai or that Mr. Shang!"

With a sly grin, Zhang Yudong blatantly directed Liu Beicheng to force Bai Xiaosheng out.

Looking at Bai Xiaosheng, Zhang Yudong's smile carried a hint of mockery, "Although my family's enterprise is not as significant as Zhenbei Group, a deputy director is certainly not inferior to Mr. Shang. I'm not sure, Mr. Bai, what position do you currently hold?"

Zhang Yudong "perfectly upheld" his agreement with Bai Xiaosheng and then delivered a combination punch, intending to force Bai Xiaosheng out.

Everyone was astonished.

It was thought that Bai Xiaosheng had the upper hand, but Mr. Zhang, with his scheming and eloquence, concealed his sharp edges.

When he revealed his fangs, it was with a lethal blow.

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze's expressions changed dramatically.

Li Shiyue was at a loss.

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng exchanged a look, their smiles cold.

The Bai fighting the young master?

He's far from ready!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression was indifferent as he watched Zhang Yudong, who was smiling at him.

Among peers of wealthy families, not all were profligate sons.

The probability of outstanding individuals emerging from their ranks was actually much higher than in ordinary families.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed softly, "It seems there's a reason why the Zhang family has grown so large!"

"You're right, having a high position allows you to negotiate any way you want, right?"

Zhang Yudong nodded, smiling without a word.

That was the idea.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lin Weiwei.

Lin Weiwei, smiling, stood up and pulled out a shiny gold object.

A small gold badge.

Under the sparkling light, it symbolized supreme authority, and within the group, no one dared to counterfeit it!

"The Great Affairs Officer Badge!"

While Zhang Yudong and others hadn't yet reacted,

Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze already screamed in shock.

Their eyes widened, staring in shock at the small object in Lin Weiwei's hands!

Their level of astonishment was even a hundred times greater than when Bai Xiaosheng rebuked Zhang Yudong.

Hearing the exclamations of Shang Wenshu and the others, Zhang Yudong's smile stiffened, his eyes flickering differently as he stared at the small badge.

Bai Xiaosheng took the badge from Lin Weiwei and showed it to him.

"Senior Affairs Officer, get to know me," Bai Xiaosheng said with a winning smile, "If you want to compare ranks, then let's compare ranks."

"This position of mine seems to be on par with the Chairman of Zhang Corporation, doesn't it?"

A regional head could match this, a Senior Affairs Officer is equal to a regional head.

You want to talk about ranks?

Sorry, I'm on a level with your father!

Chapter 1095: Zhang Yudong Defeated and Fled

Zhenbei Group, Greater China Region, Senior Affairs Officer!

This position, in fact, always shocks family members who are in the know first.

As soon as the news came out, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze's eyes bulged wide.

After the exclamation, they both looked at Bai Xiaosheng incredulously, staring silently at the badge.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually the Senior Affairs Officer!

When did this happen?!

By rights, as the head of regional industry for Shang Wenshu, he should not be unaware of Bai Xiaosheng, the newly appointed Senior Affairs Officer!

But in fact, Shang Wenshu just did not know!

There were many reasons for this.

In the internal network of the corporation, personnel appointments were usually highlighted at the top of the page for seven days. This was true.

Unfortunately, those who frequently used the internal network were always the Affairs Officers, sitting in their offices, eyes on the world, with their minds far away.

The regional industry heads overseeing enterprises within a province always had endless affairs to manage locally.

Many people did not even pay much attention to the news on the internal network.

After all, if there was something they needed to do, someone naturally would notify them.

Among these people, those most blinded were actually more like Shang Wenshu.

They had no background, relying solely on a stroke of luck to rise to their positions.

They were always the busiest and most hardworking.

They dared not slacken or rest for a moment.

Especially in the past half a year, regional heads had undergone a series of inspections arranged by the headquarters, with rumors of major personnel changes ahead.

And the next wave of reorganization would fall on the shoulders of regional industry heads like him!

These messages were like hot oil frying one's heart.

It made Shang Wenshu and others like him work nonstop like spinning tops, desperately accumulating performance, trying to secure a stable footing.

Who would have the mood to pay attention to other things?

Moreover, recently, Shang Wenshu, with his mind solely on contending against the Zhang Family, raced across various enterprises putting out fires, hardly touching the ground, sleeping only four or five hours a day. How could he pay attention to major news or changes within the group?

He lacked the energy!

Even so, as a regional industry head, Shang Wenshu still had many opportunities to know the situation.

Was there really no one who mentioned it to him?

Those regional industry heads in the "big and small circles" of the group, even if they were extremely busy, key information would still be specifically communicated to them.

That is the advantage of being in a group.

A lone tree does not make a forest; establishing oneself in the workplace relies on collective strength.

But unfortunately, Shang Wenshu had not yet joined any circle.

On one hand, Shang Wenshu had not shown any strong value worth eagerly courting, even though he was the current regional industry head.

Some large circles had subtly felt him out, then fell silent.

Some small circles wanted to include him, but Shang Wenshu did not think highly of them.

On the other hand, Shang Wenshu had witnessed the fall of Chen Jiutian, with those who once shone brightly ending up with tragic fates.

With even the large circles like this, Shang Wenshu would not easily cozy up to some small groups.

As a result, naturally no one "kindly" informed him.

So many reasons, piled up during the specific period of Shang Wenshu's conflict with the Zhang Family, made him a "blind man with eyes open," which was not surprising.

As for Zhao Qianze, she had been tied up by Shang Wenshu in Shangyun, plus having limited permissions, her logins to the internal network were few and always hurried searches for information, and she likewise failed to notice information about the change in the Senior Affairs Officer.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng revealed his identity before their eyes.

The two were horrified.

Li Shiyue was also genuinely shocked.

She had heard a little, knowing the Senior Affairs Officer held the same rank as regional heads but further constrained them.

Watching the expressions on Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze's faces, the young girl's big eyes widened, her inner turmoil turning into shock waves.

She had never imagined that Mr. Bai was actually a high-ranking executive of the group.

In the Greater China Region, he was second only to thousands, and indeed, on the same level as the helmsman of the Zhang Family Group!

Zhang Yudong's eyes also suddenly narrowed when he heard Bai Xiaosheng's words.

If even he did not know what level the Senior Affairs Officer of Zhenbei Group was, that would be truly foolish.

"He, he is the Senior Affairs Officer; doesn't that mean he's qualified to talk to me, and I can't refuse?"

Beside him, Liu Beicheng anxiously lowered his voice, hurriedly communicating with Wang Yingxue.

As secretaries to Zhang Yudong, they had to be aware of the Senior Affairs Officer, though their understanding was still superficial.

Wang Yingxue swallowed hard, struggled to recall, and nodded with difficulty!

The young man they once belittled was someone treated as an equal by their own family head.

Indeed, the affairs of the world can sometimes be truly thrilling.

"Step back, you aren't qualified to speak with him," Zhang Yudong said gravely.

Liu Beicheng murmured an assent, not daring to speak further, and stepped aside. Now looking at Bai Xiaosheng, he dared not meet his gaze.

Wang Yingxue felt the same.

Zhang Yudong smiled distantly at Bai Xiaosheng, "I never imagined, Brother Bai, that you are now the Senior Affairs Officer!"

Even Zhang Yudong was shocked, and couldn't believe it.

"Just took office recently," Bai Xiaosheng said with a light smile.

Zhang Yudong walked over and sat opposite Bai Xiaosheng, sitting up straight, looking at him with a focused smile, "Bai, may I represent the Zhang Family and talk with you?"

This time, Zhang Yudong didn't mention keeping a distance anymore.

"Sure," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, not refusing.

That's the business world for you.

When you can leverage your opponent, nobody will be soft.

Once negotiations become more beneficial, everyone's willing to sit down with a smile.

This change of attitude was faster than the clouds and rain in the sky.

Bai Xiaosheng's role as a Senior Affairs Officer was dignified enough to warrant Zhang Yudong's serious attitude. However, it didn't cause Zhang Yudong too much fear, given the power of a Senior Affairs Officer was still within the framework of the Zhenbei Group.

"Those unimportant, leave us, there's nothing here for you anymore!" Zhang Yudong said with a smile looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Behind him, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng quickly dismissed the bodyguards and attendants.

Shang Wenshu and Lin Weiwei did likewise, ushering the unimportant out.

Zhang Yudong glanced at those behind Bai Xiaosheng, then turned to see those behind him.

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng awaited with smiles.

"Leave!"

Zhang Yudong said just one word, his eyes showing disdain.

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng paused.

Oh, "those unimportant"... included themselves...

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng left dejectedly.

Zhang Yudong gave a small, smiling gesture to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and had Lin Weiwei and Shang Wenshu, along with everyone else, leave.

Now, only the two of them were left in the inner hall.

This conversation looked remarkably private.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, did you specifically come to Shangyun?" Zhang Yudong asked warmly with a smile.

"Trying to pry into my plans is meaningless," Bai Xiaosheng said, staring at Zhang Yudong with a faint smile, "You're just trying to figure out if our Greater China Region Headquarters has already penetrated someone's set maze and noticed this place."

Zhang Yudong's expression didn't change, apparently not thinking along those lines.

"I can responsibly tell you, no! This matter has been well concealed by someone!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he looked into Zhang Yudong's eyes, "Are you relieved now? I can see that thought in your mind! Let me tell you, you've eased up too soon. Now that I'm here, forget any plans you have here."

"Oh?" Zhang Yudong maintained a polite smile, "Isn't the Senior Affairs Officer supposed to handle internal affairs, since when did it extend to local matters?"

Bai Xiaosheng simply smiled.

"You actually know very well, is this move timed when the regional head isn't around, leaving Shang Wenshu unsupported?"

"And did you also check who manages local affairs temporarily when the regional head is out?"

"It's the Affairs Department!" Bai Xiaosheng immediately answered, "And I am the Senior Affairs Officer of the department, do you think I have the authority?"

"Even if I didn't, I could report directly to Mr. Xiahou Qi, do you think your hopes can still continue?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "I told your secretary that the group is not to be trifled with, they must have thought I was spouting nonsense, but I was stating a fact."

"If Elder Xia found out what you are plotting here, even being the family enterprise of an old friend like Zhang Xi, guess what he would do?"

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze turned cold, "If you don't know, then go back and ask Mr. Zhang Xi!"

Zhang Yudong's smile faded, and his expression turned stern.

"Also, don't think I don't know what you're planning." Bai Xiaosheng leaned in and whispered something to Zhang Yudong.

Zhang Yudong's face changed, watching Bai Xiaosheng warily.

"Making such a big fuss, you don't really dare push too far, so later Elder Xia can be appeased."

"Now that I know, forget about it, back off. Otherwise, I'll definitely report, and you wait for Elder Xia's fury," Bai Xiaosheng stood up and smiled, glanced around the arrangement, and said regretfully, "Let's skip the meal, hurry back and dismantle your setup, I might have already submitted my report to Elder Xia."

Bai Xiaosheng used both soft and hard tactics, not without threats.

Zhang Yudong's expression subtly changed, watching Bai Xiaosheng leave. He too hurriedly stood up and rushed out.

"Bai, take care. Whether it takes a day or half a day, we will give you a satisfactory response," Zhang Yudong, conceded.

Shang Wenshu and others waited outside.

In less than twenty minutes, they saw Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Yudong come out talking and laughing.

The two seemed inseparable, a far cry from the initial tension.

The crowd was stunned beyond measure, hardly able to stir up any significant emotion.

They curiously watched as Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Yudong warmly said farewell.

"Time is tight, I won't keep you for a meal on my side."

"I'll invite Bai another day, farewell, farewell!"

After Zhang Yudong spoke, he quickly left with his people.

The Zhang Family retreated without a fight, not even staying for the meal?

Shang Wenshu, Zhao Qianze, and Li Shiyue were astonished and speechless, but mostly curious.

"Sheng... Senior Affairs Officer, how did you do this!" Shang Wenshu couldn't help but ask.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed looking in the direction Zhang Yudong and others left, "Lead with emotions, guide with reason."

"That's it?"

"And with a little threat!"

Chapter 1096: Zhang Family Retreats

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng stayed in Gaoyun City for two days with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, saying he wanted to completely resolve the troubles here before leaving.

With him at the helm, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze were naturally overjoyed and were extremely enthusiastic towards the three of them.

In fact, starting from Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's second day in Gaoyun City, the Zhang Family had already given a response.

It wasn't verbal, but rather through actual actions.

The Zhang Family completely retracted their reach that had extended into Shangyun Province. In all industries, they stopped competing with the companies associated with Shang Wenshu, withdrawing batches rapidly, and within half a day, the situation had completely changed.

The thirty or so enterprises under Shang Wenshu's control, facing a difficult situation, crumbled instantly.

To this, Shang Wenshu was ecstatic beyond words. However, he was by no means complacent and rapidly instructed the companies under his charge to seize the moment, to quickly stabilise their current market, and also implemented some proactive defensive measures.

This was not only to prepare for the Zhang Family's possible return but also to guard against competitors seizing the opportunity.

Having witnessed Shang Wenshu's strategies, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but sigh that the Zhang Family had probably taken advantage of a surprise attack, and then used their significant strength to spread out everywhere, which was the only way they could have trapped Shang Wenshu.

Once Shang Wenshu had a moment to catch his breath, it would definitely not be so easy.

In this regard, Shang Wenshu truly was a rare talent.

On the third day at noon, the Zhang Family sent someone specifically to deliver a message to Mr. Bai Xiaosheng.

It was still Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng who came, probably because the Zhang Family felt they were more familiar with the situation here.

When these two visited again, they were like completely transformed individuals, very respectful towards Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, with a hint of awe in their eyes.

They also brought a note specially. The paper was of excellent quality, and on it was writing in tiny regular script with a brush —

"Having secluded myself to practice calligraphy, I have long been unaware of my family's affairs. Suddenly hearing that my descendants have acted absurdly and come into conflict with your esteemed group, I have severely reprimanded them and withdrawn all improper actions. In the days to come, I will apologize to Elder Xia, and I hope Mr. Bai Xiaosheng can be forgiving."

The signature was Zhang Xi.

That Ancestor of the Zhang Family, an old acquaintance of Master Song Kai and Xiahou Qi, also made his first statement.

Staring at the note that was neither scholarly nor plain, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's smile carried a subtle meaning.

Was Zhang Xi truly unaware of anything?

Or was he pretending not to know?

There is no hard evidence, so it remains unknown.

It's rather pointless to delve into it now; Mr. Bai Xiaosheng himself would report back to Xiahou Qi later.

After examining the note, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng handed it back to Wang Yingxue and the others, smiling, "Alright, I understand. Please give my regards to Elder Zhang."

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's comments were casually spoken.

However, in the eyes of Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, their awe only deepened.

Look, that person has long known their family's esteemed elder!

Even the person at the helm of their enterprise, Mr. Zhang, was extremely respectful and attentive to his father's instructions.

And Mr. Bai Xiaosheng considered the Ancestor of the Zhang Family as a friend!

In the hearts of Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, their understanding of Mr. Bai Xiaosheng's extraordinary identity had reached a new level.

Was it even conceivable that they, who had thought of causing trouble for such a person, even thought of teaching him a lesson?

That was like a mouse licking a cat's nose — that's seeking death.

The words that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng said were akin to an order to leave, but after he had finished speaking, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng did not seem to have any intention of going.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng looked intrigued.

"Um, our Mr. Zhang Xi has asked if Mr. Bai Xiaosheng could kindly give an evaluation of his calligraphy," Wang Yingxue hastily said with a smile when she saw Mr. Bai Xiaosheng looking at her.

The word "please," made the heart of this beautiful secretary pound with nervousness.

They knew, that was Elder Zhang's own words!

He used the word "please."

With the heftiness of that one word, it was like a mountain pressing down on them, making Wang Yingxue's voice sweet and her gaze towards Mr. Bai Xiaosheng tender when she spoke.

After saying so, Wang Yingxue raised her delicate, fair hands, holding up the note parallel to her chest, inviting Mr. Bai Xiaosheng to take another look.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng looked over and couldn't help but admire the ravine as deep as a moat above the aligned white paper, where Wang Yingxue's fairness was striking to the sight.

"Good," Mr. Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but praise.

Then, looking at the calligraphy, he nodded, "Hmm, Elder Zhang's writing... it's indeed... improved."

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng struggled to find an "improved" to comment with.

Had it been anyone else who dared to say that, Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng would have exploded in anger at that moment, immediately turning hostile to defend the dignity of the Zhang Family and declare war.

But Mr. Bai Xiaosheng had just done so.

And they had no temper about it!

Beside them, Liu Beicheng, as if by magic, took out ink and brush from a bag he carried with him.

Liu Beicheng handled it with extreme care, the brush and ink in his hands were all top-notch.

The treasures collected by the old Mr. Zhang Xi!

Bringing them over this time, the old man had repeatedly instructed him again and again.

One could imagine just how much the old man cherished these items.

Even so, the old man still took them out for Bai Xiaosheng to use!

Liu Beicheng sighed inwardly in admiration.

"Mr. Zhang Xi has asked Mr. Bai to write an inscription and comments," Liu Beicheng said, without forgetting to attend to the task at hand amidst his sentiments.

He quickly got the brush and ink ready, with remarkable speed.

He had to hurry, fearing Bai Xiaosheng might grow impatient and choose not to write.

While Bai Xiaosheng was taking another look at the characters, a brush was already thrust into his hand.

A handcrafted piece by a renowned master, it was a top-tier treasure among "Lake Brushes."

At first glance, Bai Xiaosheng made a mental appraisal of the brush that left even him with a slight sigh at its value.

Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng were filled with anticipation, yet they did not dare to rush Bai Xiaosheng as they watched him.

Today, if Bai Xiaosheng did not write a single word, it was likely that the two of them could not return.

Should Bai Xiaosheng write, even if it was just a casual stroke on the paper, they would have fulfilled their task!

The two of them thought, if Bai Xiaosheng did not write, they would beg earnestly, persisting relentlessly.

But the moment Bai Xiaosheng took the brush in hand, he himself felt the urge to write.

It had been a long time since he last wrote—and he really felt like writing now!

"What to write?" Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment, then smiled, lifting his brush to inscribe on the vast blank space of the memo, his strokes animated with vigor.

A large character for "good" leaped onto the page, and even if Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng were not connoisseurs of calligraphy, at first sight of the character, their eyes lit up, sensing an impressive aura emerging from the paper.

"Thank you so much, Mr. Bai!" Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng couldn't stop smiling, overflowing with gratitude.

This one character, once brought back, it was said that Mr. Zhang Xi's eyes gleamed, and for several days, he kept it by his side, unwilling to part with it even for meals or sleep.

Of course, this came later.

After sending off Wang Yingxue and Liu Beicheng, Bai Xiaosheng also prepared to bid farewell to Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze.

However, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze were currently busy with wrapping up their work and would need to wait a bit longer to arrive.

Taking advantage of this time, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had a chat with Bai Xiaosheng.

Their trip also had a purpose: passing through Gaoyun and wasting a few days were one thing, but when Bai Xiaosheng mentioned that the goals of the Zhang Family's investigation and their own were interrelated, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged a knowing glance, their eyes wary.

"Sheng, are you saying that the Zhang Family's companies attacking Shang Wenshu's on this occasion have something to do with Wang Ziyu, the person in charge of Gandong Province's industry territory?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but exclaim in surprise.

Gandong Province was their intended destination, and Wang Ziyu was the clue they had painstakingly unearthed through Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe's information.

This man was said to be one of Shen Peishen's people.

And few knew of it!

But his status far exceeded that of Guo and Sun.

If Wang Ziyu also held power on Shen Peishen's side, he must be one of the core members.

Thus, even Bai Xiaosheng was extremely cautious about him, personally following the lead.

Right now, by some twist of fate, they found themselves involved in the affairs in Gaoyun.

Yet Bai Xiaosheng indicated there could be a connection with Wang Ziyu.

"Sheng, do you have irrefutable evidence?" Lei Ying asked, startled.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "Need irrefutable evidence? When I pressed Zhang Yudong with related topics, we didn't have any clues at first, only speculation and intuition."

"I've investigated; the core businesses of the Zhang Family are located in Gandong Province's capital, Dayou City, and so is Wang Ziyu."

"The Zhang Family has stood tall in the business world of several provinces for decades, and the old Mr. Zhang Xi is even friends with Elder Xia; how could they be unaware of their conglomerate's strength!"

"A mere Shangyun Province, with its thirty corporate enterprises, naturally cannot compare to the strong Zhang Family. But don't forget, Gandong Province is home to many corporate enterprises, even more powerful than those here in Shangyun!"

"Isn't the Zhang Family afraid of attacking Shangyun and having their own base hollowed out by our enterprises in Gandong?"

"Unless, the Zhang Family has full confidence that the news reaching Gandong will result in standing down, even the surrounding provinces' corporate industries will do the same!"

Bai Xiaosheng's voice grew colder, "I asked Shang Wenshu; he had sought help from neighbors in several provinces, but the responses were varied yet strikingly consistent—without orders from headquarters, they cannot mobilize."

"One sentence left Shang Wenshu isolated and without support, awaiting doom!"

Bai Xiaosheng let out a sigh.

"Are you saying that it was Wang Ziyu who instigated the Zhang Family to take down Shang Wenshu?" Lin Weiwei asked, shocked.

Bai Xiaosheng scoffed, his gaze profound, "This matter is not so simple!"

Chapter 1097: The Waters Here Are as Deep as the Sea

"First of all, what kind of existence is the Zhang Family, that they would be instigated to be bought over by a mere regional industry head? Does he even qualify! Moreover, to truly think that Zhang Xi of the Zhang Family has become senile!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "That is our Mr. Xia's old friend, an old fox! How could he be so easily manipulated!"

"Even the current helmsman of the Zhang Family wouldn't agree!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying listened intently.

"So if we want to get the Zhang Family moving, what do we need to do?" Lei Ying asked.

"Interests, of course!" Bai Xiaosheng affirmed confidently, "Enough interests! Businessmen chase profits, and the more successful the businessperson, the more coldly they will choose the point of maximum benefit."

"There must be someone who promised sufficient interests, making the Zhang Family willing to be the pawn, even at the risk of offending Mr. Xia."

"Wang Ziyu?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help asking.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, "He's not qualified enough!"

Bai Xiaosheng recounted the words he had taunted Zhang Yudong with, saying, "Was it Wang Ziyu who brought people to offer you terms, to cooperate in bringing down Shang Wenshu? You should also know when to quit while you're ahead!"

...

"I'm afraid Shen Peishen might have personally gotten involved." Bai Xiaosheng said, "Of course, it's not yet certain."

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "In fact, the Zhang Family can't really be said to have offended our group. After all, they knew when to stop! Afterwards, they could claim it was a misunderstanding! Do you believe it? Even if we hadn't appeared in time, the Zhang Family would not have continued to expand their victories, they wouldn't have allowed the corporate enterprises of Shangyun to suffer a fatal blow. Furthermore, afterwards, Zhang Xi would send a note to Elder Xia, volunteering for punishment, claiming complete ignorance."

How could Elder Xia tear up with an old friend when the other party bowed their head so low?

But if it was really as Bai Xiaosheng said, then even though the Zhang Family appeared to be defeated, in reality, they would be triumphantly victorious.

Could this be the case?

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were unsure.

"Next, Affairs Officers will jump out to accuse Shang Wenshu's management of having problems, and gradually more and more people will criticize, eventually leading to Shang Wenshu being demoted or transferred." Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "Then, after some maneuvers, I believe the new regional industry head appointed here must be inclined towards Shen Peishen."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged a glance, their eyes filled with solemnity.

"The reason why the situation here has been completely obscured from headquarters, and we only sent an Assistant Affairs Officer later on, really, aside from Shen Peishen's side being capable of this, there is no other!" Lin Weiwei said with a sigh.

Lei Ying nodded, "It makes me think of another thing, why did the former general manager of Dacheng Group suddenly go crazy and insist on antagonizing the Zhang Family, thereby infuriating them... Perhaps, he was actually one of Shen Peishen's people all along!"

Thinking through the whole affair, these speculations were actually not hard to conclude.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

However, Lin Weiwei was sceptical, "This whole affair, going through such a huge circle, Shen Peishen himself goes to negotiate with the Zhang Family, all just to bring down Shang Wenshu? Is it for the position of regional industry head?"

Shangyun Province is not an economic powerhouse, its corporate enterprises, both in quantity and quality, are limited.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have been so easy for the Zhang Family to push the local companies into such a plight.

Was Shen Peishen really making a move for this?

Is it worth it!

"Yeah, that's what puzzles me too," Lei Ying muttered, "With Shen Peishen's means, to seek a regional industry head position, does he really need to rely on external forces? Perhaps the concessions he offered to the Zhang Family to drive out Shang Wenshu cost far more than the internal expenses."

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and said, "Unless, the position of Shang Wenshu is very special, and they urgently need it."

"And then, they have another agenda!"

Bai Xiaosheng pondered.

Taking out Shang Wenshu to secure the position of regional industry head in Shangyun Province might just be the beginning.

As Bai Xiaosheng and his group had taken down Guo Yunxin and Sun Youhe with great fanfare, the actions here had not stopped, showing the importance.

Going around in circles and operating with external forces just showed how cautious Shen Peishen was.

Choosing the Zhang family, Zhang Xi, an old friend of Mr. Xiahou Qi, was also a smoke screen, preventing Mr. Xiahou Qi from quickly discerning their intentions.

So, what were they really after?

Bai Xiaosheng slightly furrowed his brows.

"Gandong Province's provincial industry head, Wang Ziyu, is one of Shen Peishen's people, and I remember that the industry head of a neighboring powerful province also seems to be under Shen's influence. If they take over Shangyun Province, then in this large region, there will be three provincial industry heads under Shen Peishen's control. Is Shen so enamored with this part of the world..."

Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself, his thoughts suddenly bursting forth in his mind like a lightning bolt illuminating a blind spot in his cognition.

"Do you remember what Shang Wenshu once said? When there was a problem, he not only sought help from the Affairs Department but also reached out to his immediate superior, the regional head. However, the latter was overseas and couldn't intervene!" Bai Xiaosheng asked urgently.

"Remember, what about it?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at each other and immediately responded.

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was piercing, "Even if they were out of reach, that regional head could have easily informed Mr. Xiahou Qi!"

"After all, it's their own jurisdiction. Such a big incident happened, and they've remained silent all this time, don't you think..."

"Is that normal?" Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying widened their eyes.

By that logic, it wasn't normal!

"But if you were to say that regional head is also one of Shen Peishen's people, I wouldn't quite believe it either. Shen's power is strong, but not to that extent. If he truly had that kind of strength, he wouldn't need to go through the Zhang family!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed slightly as he spoke coldly, "Perhaps, this involves yet another deal!"

"With Shen Peishen's offer of profits in exchange for the regional head turning a blind eye, it wouldn't be difficult!"

"If that regional head only thought Shen was targeting Shang Wenshu, it's very likely they would have agreed!"

Bai Xiaosheng scoffed, "The thing that the regional head might not know is that two people under him are already related to Shen Peishen. Once Shen takes another province, what does it mean if three provincial industry heads become disloyal to their own regional head!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying listened with a chill building inside them.

After this conversation, they felt as if they'd uncovered a terrifying undercurrent, a whirlpool of darkness!

Bai Xiaosheng fell silent for a moment, his voice icy, "If three or more provincial industry heads joined in testimony, that regional head might face an investigation!"

"And what if, on top of that, a Senior Affairs Officer is conspiring? What then!"

Bai Xiaosheng's voice carried a sudden note of admiration, "Look! Our Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng might be aiming to create not just a Senior Affairs Officer, but also a regional head! With more support, he would have the energy to seize the presidency of the Greater China Region..."

"No, what he really has his eyes on is probably even higher! With such a massive setup, he's also aiming to climb one more rung, to gain strong backing for this ascent!"

The analysis was complete.

Though it was just Bai Xiaosheng's speculation, it left Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying speechless from shock.

It seemed highly likely that what Bai Xiaosheng suspected.

If you looked at it that way, Mr. Shen Peishen was not merely a seasoned workhorse longing for the great distances.

He was, in fact, harboring ambitions that soared to the skies!

Before, Mr. Xiahou Qi had held him back, but now, as Mr. Xia's health declined day by day, Shen Peishen's opportunity was emerging, and he started to hasten his journey.

"Although these are my guesses, verifying them isn't difficult," Bai Xiaosheng said, "After we say goodbye to Shang Wenshu and the others, we'll leave, heading to Gandong..."

Before Bai Xiaosheng could finish, his phone began to ring.

He took out his phone, saw the name on it, and his gaze immediately became intrigued.

It was actually him!

Chapter 1098 That Shameless Person

The name that appeared on Bai Xiaosheng's phone was none other than Mr. Kelson, the CEO from Europe—Kevin.

Bai Xiaosheng considered him quite a good friend, and over the past year, Kevin had called him numerous times.

Of course, every time Kevin's sister, Ariel, was around, Kevin could at most speak for a few minutes before the phone was snatched away.

Ariel herself also contacted Bai Xiaosheng frequently.

So, despite not seeing each other for one or two years, their affection for one another had only grown.

"Kevin, are you looking for me for something?" Bai Xiaosheng, wanting to drink some tea, placed the phone in front of him and casually hit the speakerphone button to avoid holding it in his hand.

"You can't call to chat if there's nothing wrong?" Kevin retorted on the phone.

It had been a long time since they'd seen each other, and Kevin's Chinese had become increasingly fluent.

At first listen, he was nearly indistinguishable from a native speaker.

Bai Xiaosheng took a sip of tea and suddenly smiled, "Just from the slightly defeated and tired tone in that sentence, I think you don't just have something—you have trouble!"

Over this past year, Bai Xiaosheng had honed not just his observational skills, but also his "ear power."

Voices could convey a lot of emotions, reflecting changes in a person's heart.

Once specifically trained, it became easy to sense the state of mind of the person you were talking to.

On the other end of the line, Kevin's voice paused, then he laughed bitterly, "Really, there's nothing I can hide from you."

"Indeed, I do have some trouble," Kevin sighed, his voice growing more somber.

Bai Xiaosheng could easily imagine Kevin's dejected demeanor.

"What trouble are you facing? Tell me, maybe I can help you," Bai Xiaosheng said.

After hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, Kevin's voice still sounded listless.

"If it were something else, you might be able to help, but the trouble I'm facing now is quite bothersome, and you might not be able to do anything."

"Although, it really does involve you."

In the end, Kevin added that comment, muttering to himself.

Oh, it involves me?

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat interested, "Let's hear it. Since you've made this call, you're just seeking someone to vent to. Whether I can help is another matter; let me listen first."

"Alright." Kevin agreed with a weary voice, then murmured, "Why do I feel like there's a hint of schadenfreude in your tone?"

"Look at what you're saying, of course not," Bai Xiaosheng grinned, laughing, "Don't falsely accuse me."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying squinted slightly, observing the changes in Bai Xiaosheng's expression.

Reveling in schadenfreude...

Perhaps there was a bit...

However, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also knew that even if Bai Xiaosheng felt a touch of malicious joy now, he would go out of his way to help Kevin after learning the whole story.

Bai Xiaosheng was like that with his friends—if there was a way to lend a hand, he would never shy away.

Of course, if the issue itself was beyond his capability, Bai Xiaosheng would never make empty promises.

"My problem over here is pretty big," Kevin said after Bai Xiaosheng agreed to listen, and he poured out his woes.

"First off, our collaboration with Zhongjing Media, which had been adjusted several times, had completed all stage work up until last week. Then, the subsequent cooperation was terminated by Zhongjing Media. Well... technically, according to the agreement, they have the right to do so."

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback when he heard this news.

"From what I understand, your cooperation was going smoothly, and Zhongjing Media was making headway in the European market without a hitch. Why did they stop?" Bai Xiaosheng inquired.

"Ah!" Kevin sighed heavily and responded with an apparent change of subject, "The economic development in your country is truly fast-paced, using the term 'rapid progress' to describe every industry is not an exaggeration at all! I was extremely optimistic about the Huaxia market, but I never expected it to develop so quickly."

"A new company proposed a different form of collaboration and started a brand-new partnership with Zhongjing Media, aiming to enter the markets in both the Americas and Europe together."

"You know our representative went to negotiate with Zhongjing Media, and you know what their new Senior Manager Gao said? He told our team that with the current international climate, just entering a single market seemed too narrow to them; they wanted to include the Americas as well..."

In his speech, Kevin's voice carried a bitter laugh, "Our side was deemed insufficient... What could we do when we had tried to break into the American market several times on our own but failed each time? If we couldn't meet Zhongjing Media's needs, why would they bother to cooperate with us?"

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned, and couldn't help scratching his face.

The last time he revisited Zhongjing Media, he had casually mentioned that under the grand international scheme, expanding overseas markets shouldn't focus solely on one area but should be pushing forward on multiple fronts simultaneously.

It was just a casual suggestion, but that new general manager couldn't resist the trust he had in himself.

"Zhongjing Media's new general manager, Gao Dazhi said that?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Exactly, him! Do you know him?" Kevin suddenly got excited but then his enthusiasm deflated, "Even if you do know him, it wouldn't matter. Even if he's from the same group as you, even if you rank higher than him, and he's your friend, and would listen to you, it's too late now."

"I heard that they've already signed an official contract with a new company, for a period of ten years!"

Kevin's voice sounded as though he had chewed on a bitter gourd, utterly bitter.

"Then, I truly am powerless to help," Bai Xiaosheng said with regret.

Since Zhongjing Media had signed a long-term contract with someone else, there was nothing he could do about it.

He couldn't possibly ask Zhongjing Media to break the contract, could he?

On what grounds?

From a corporate strategy perspective, Zhongjing Media did nothing wrong.

Moreover, a ten-year contract that also involved expanding markets in two continents would have a staggering cost if breached.

Bai Xiaosheng was just the Senior Affairs Officer of the group; could he even make an outside company forgo compensation?

Well. Although Gao Dazhi believed in my viewpoint, the decision was his to make. I didn't ask him to terminate the contract with Kelson...

This matter... shouldn't have anything to do with me, I suppose, Bai Xiaosheng mumbled to himself.

Bai Xiaosheng also considered playing matchmaker on this side and finding a new partner for Kelson, as an intangible "compensation."

"What's the name of the new company that took your place in the partnership with Zhongjing Media?" While pondering, Bai Xiaosheng casually asked.

"I heard it's something called Xue Lian Wan He," Kevin said.

Xue Lian Wan He?

Bai Xiaosheng was startled.

Li Qiushan and his team had pried away Kelson's business?

Kevin didn't notice Bai Xiaosheng's pause and kept ranting, "I really don't know how this new company pulled in such connections."

"Your Zhongjing City Government is giving them unprecedented favorable policies!"

"Zunbai Zhisheng over there is providing them with full data chain support!"

"I've heard that Tengyun is also frequently cooperating with them, offering them channels overseas!"

"You tell me, isn't that frightening!"

...

Kevin went on endlessly about how powerful that oddly named Chinese company was.

Bai Xiaosheng listened with a strange expression on his face.

It would be regrettable if he inadvertently caused Kelson to terminate the contract because of a casual remark, but he wouldn't feel guilty.

After all, he did it unintentionally. What guilt could there be?

However, when he found out that the company that stole the contract was indeed his own company...

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt a bit guilty.

It was he who brought Xue Lian Wan He and Zunbai Zhisheng there, it was like he had stolen Kevin's business...

"If I ever get the chance to meet the behind-the-scenes boss of this new company, I'm going to toast him with a smile and say 'impressive,' while cursing in my heart, 'shameless!'" Kevin vented, and with this, he couldn't help showing off, "Isn't my Chinese very good!"

Bai Xiaosheng blinked, at a loss for words.

That 'shameless one' is actually on the phone with you...

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were listening and were almost dying from holding in their laughter.

"That's not all. The markets we've been developing in your country are not just on one front, but the other markets have been targeted too, by a group called Shengsheng International. In fact, it's not just us; many companies are treated the same."

"We've sent people to visit, and guess what the boss of Shengsheng International said? He mentioned that Xue Lian Wan He was invested in by one of their shareholders."

"Since their ally is interested in this market, of course, they have to lend a hand."

"Tell me, that shareholder of Shengsheng International, the behind-the-scenes boss of Xue Lian Wan He, isn't he a total bastard!"

"Sheng, tell me!"

"Is there such a thing as bullying people like this!"

Chapter 1099: You Help Me with Something too

As insiders, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying listened to Mr. Kevin's complaints, his voice seemingly "weeping blood" with indignant fury, as they cursed along with Bai Xiaosheng at the mastermind behind Xue Lian Wan He and the mysterious shareholder of Shengsheng International. They watched Bai Xiaosheng awkwardly maintain his politeness, while silently mouthing insults like "You're the shameless one" and "You're the real bastard."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't hold it in any longer.

In an instant, rationality collapsed.

Lin Weiwei was laughing so hard her body shook.

Lei Ying's laughter was booming, bending over with mirth.

"What's that noise?" Mr. Kevin heard and immediately asked with surprise.

"It's nothing, I accidentally pressed the TV remote,"

Bai Xiaosheng gave them a helpless look, put down his teacup, picked up the phone, and turned off the speaker.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying went off to an unoccupied space to continue laughing...

"Now, what's the situation with Kelson's investments on our side?" Bai Xiaosheng asked over the phone.

I didn't kill Boren, but Boren died because of me.

Although it wasn't on my orders.

But Zhongjing Media, Xue Lian Wan He, and Shengsheng International—it seems they unintentionally orchestrated a perfect match.

They almost managed to push Kelson back to Europe in one fell swoop!

No wonder even an efficient businessman like Mr. Kevin isn't thinking about striking back but rather is coming to acquaintances to vent his sorrows, downcast and disheartened.

He genuinely wanted to turn things around but felt powerless to do so.

Especially since Shengsheng International is backed by Tengyun, it's truly despairing.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but touch his nose.

This time, he couldn't comfort himself with "It has nothing to do with me."

After all, the boss of Xuelian Wan He is him.

After all, the major shareholder of Shengsheng International is him.

Even the strategic shift of Zhongjing Media is due to his word.

Kelson and Mr. Kevin were truly tricked by him.

Bai Xiaosheng thought, if Kevin knew it was all related to him, even that Xue Lian Wan He is his company,

Kevin might just swim over from across the ocean in a rage to fight him.

Feeling a bit guilty, Bai Xiaosheng thought about helping Kevin as much as possible, arranging some partnerships as compensation.

"You're asking about my current investment situation? What else could it be—it's plummeted," Kevin's voice was filled with sorrow, "Years of effort, all ruined in an instant."

Bai Xiaosheng, too, sighed.

Just as he was about to offer words of comfort, Kevin continued, "But business is unpredictable, isn't it? Ups and downs are normal."

Bai Xiaosheng was surprised, that sounded quite optimistic.

What happened to the despair of a 'dead fish' from before?

"I have made up my mind, if I fail completely, then so be it—I'll start over from the beginning. So what! I am still young, a great commercial journey awaits me!" Kevin even exclaimed, "My journey is the sea of stars!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes squinted slightly.

That sounded familiar.

"The last part, I got online, from your side. It's pretty cool, right!" Kevin confessed rather candidly.

After he finished speaking, Bai Xiaosheng smacked his lips, thinking that offering guidance was completely unnecessary in the first place.

This Kevin, his mental fortitude is truly not ordinary...

Sometimes, Bai Xiaosheng was quite impressed.

"Kevin, you don't have to be so pessimistic, when one door closes, another opens."

Of course, he had to start with a semblance of comfort, but since the man was already consoling himself, Bai Xiaosheng felt his words were dry and lacked substance.

He decided to get straight to the point—

"I can now introduce you to a new partner," he began, "He's our group's regional industry leader. Do you know this position? He is..."

"Really!" Kevin's voice, brimming with surprise, interrupted Bai Xiaosheng, "I know, I know, the regional industry leader manages the group's industry in a whole province, it's a position with real power."

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

It was good that he knew, saving Bai the effort of explaining.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I love you. You truly are my lucky star. I knew that when I came to Bai Xiaosheng with my problems, there'd be a delightful surprise." In his excitement, Kevin actually spoke his true feelings.

Holding the phone, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but roll his eyes at Mr. Kevin who was across the ocean.

Just as expected, if he was beating around the bush instead of getting straight to the point, he must be after something.

Bai Xiaosheng snorted inwardly.

If it weren't for the fact that your predicament was actually related to me, I wouldn't bother with you.

"I also know about the regional leaders, that's an even more powerful position in your group," Kevin continued enthusiastically, "After all, Bai Xiaosheng, you've reached that level in your company. Being friends with a regional industry leader means you're on par with them, right? Impressive, really impressive! You're so young and yet you've achieved so much on your own! I admire you!"

And with that, Kevin threw in a compliment.

Bai Xiaosheng enjoyed the flattery.

That guy Kevin, over the years, had not only improved his leadership but apparently his flattery skills had grown too.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but sigh.

As for what Kevin thought—Bai Xiaosheng being on par with a regional industry leader—

Bai Xiaosheng just listened and smiled.

To date, more than one regional industry leader had fallen into his hands!

At Zhenbei Group headquarters, Bai Xiaosheng was not only dubbed the "Devil" but also known as the "Herald of Promotion."

Those talents sitting in line at the headquarters, eagerly awaiting their turn, were practically on tenterhooks, waiting for Bai Xiaosheng's next big move to sound the "change of guard" trumpet.

"Okay, Kevin, stop buttering me up. I'm not swayed by that kind of talk," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

His smile, however, revealed his gratification.

The old ancestors had a saying, everyone wears out but flattery doesn't—it really does hold water.

No one is immune.

"The regional industry leader I want to introduce you to is named Shang Wenshu. He oversees all of the group's industries within Shangyun Province. Do you know where that is? You can look it up. It's not really in the east, it's more central, but the potential here is significant..." Bai Xiaosheng began to enlighten Kevin.

"Shangyun, I know Shangyun Province," Kevin immediately said, "Just yesterday, I attended a large banquet here. The organizer was also a Zhenbei Group enterprise. At the event, I met some figures from the East, and two of them were regional leaders from your side, said to be on a European inspection tour. Hmm, one of them, Mr. Xu Yuncong, I have his business card, and it lists the provinces of the industries he manages, including Shangyun!"

As Kevin spoke, Bai Xiaosheng heard the name Xu Yuncong, his smile froze, his brows creased slightly, and his eyes showed surprise mixed with contemplation.

What a coincidence, that regional leader was in Europe.

And Kevin had met him just yesterday!

This could be an opportunity, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

What Bai Xiaosheng was thinking, Kevin naturally did not know, as he was currently very excited—

"At the time, I wanted to network with Mr. Xu to discuss potential collaboration, but he didn't seem interested in me. And now, you're actually introducing me to a leader from Shangyun. Excellent, I also see great potential in Shangyun Province..."

Kevin went on and on, joyfully talking about what he had learned about Shangyun Province.

Bai Xiaosheng was silent, lost in thought, pondering the situation.

After a while, Kevin realized Bai Xiaosheng had been quiet for quite some time.

"Sheng, are you listening?" Kevin finally asked.

Bai Xiaosheng came back to his senses and quickly said with a laugh, "I'm listening."

Bai Xiaosheng paused, then spoke with a hint of seriousness, "Kevin, right now, I'm helping you out of a tight spot. So, you help me with a little favor, okay?"

"Anything, just tell me!" Kevin responded without hesitation.

"Help me, deliver a message!"

Bai Xiaosheng's lips curled into a cryptic, slightly chilling smile.

Chapter 1100: Arriving at Dayou City

Bai Xiaosheng had just finished his call with Kevin when Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying returned.

Behind them, Shang Wenshu and Zhao Qianze followed as well.

"Sheng, are you leaving now? That's too hasty! At the very least, you should have lunch—I've got everything ready on my end!" Shang Wenshu said urgently.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng was an Affairs Officer, which meant he and Shang Wenshu were peers. However, they had shared a bond in Tiannan, and later on, Shang Wenshu had gone out of his way to help Bai Xiaosheng. Moreover, since Shang Wenshu was older than Bai Xiaosheng, it seemed appropriate, out of a sense of closeness, for Shang Wenshu to always call him "Sheng."

But, upon learning that Bai Xiaosheng had been promoted to Senior Affairs Officer, Shang Wenshu thought about changing how he addressed him, given that times had changed.

Bai Xiaosheng insisted that Shang Wenshu stick with the original form of address.

"Privately, such a form of address among friends is not excessive, Elder Brother Shang needn't worry," Bai Xiaosheng reassured him.

Happy with that, Shang Wenshu continued to use the original address.

In his heart, aside from admiring Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Wenshu did indeed harbor a sense of brotherly affection for him.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng was about to leave right after helping him, and with noon approaching, Shang Wenshu was somewhat reluctant.

"Yeah, why the rush?" Zhao Qianze chimed in anxiously, "There's always time for a meal."

Her feelings for Bai Xiaosheng were more complex; though she knew there was no possibility, there was still a faint sense of romantic affection.

"No need, the high-speed train to Gandong is about to leave, and we are heading there now. For lunch, Weiwei has already prepared it—we'll eat on the train," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, politely declining the offer from the two. He then said specifically to Zhao Qianze, "Sister Zhao, once you've finished with the tasks here, head back to the headquarters. Given your performance over the past year and the abilities you've demonstrated here, I believe you would more than qualify for the promotion to Affairs Officer. I'll be your recommender when the time comes."

Zhao Qianze looked at Bai Xiaosheng, then seemingly inadvertently glanced at Lin Weiwei, and forced a smile, "Okay."

She wasn't particularly thrilled about the prospect of becoming an Affairs Officer.

If she could, she would rather be an assistant to Bai Xiaosheng.

Shang Wenshu still insisted on keeping Bai Xiaosheng, offering to arrange a car to take him to Gandong, but Bai rejected the offer.

Nowadays, taking high-speed rail domestically is both convenient and fast, and for inter-provincial travel, the experience far surpasses that of driving oneself.

In the end, as Shang Wenshu and his party could not persuade him to stay, they could only accompany Bai Xiaosheng and the other two to the high-speed rail station.

Zhao Qianze waited until she could no longer see Bai Xiaosheng before she left with a vague sense of loss.

The three of them boarded the train, taking seats in the business class cabin on the route to Dayou City in Gandong Province.

As Lin Weiwei prepared coffee for Bai Xiaosheng, she didn't forget to tease him, "Brother Xiaosheng, Sister Zhao really seemed reluctant to see us go before we left. The yearning in her eyes was so evident that even I, a girl, felt pity. When you talked about recommending her for Affairs Officer, she glanced at me. I actually saw a hint of jealousy and envy."

Lin Weiwei sighed, "I think she'd prefer to be your assistant. Won't you consider it?"

Saying this, she passed the coffee to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Hmm, there's no problem with having Sister Zhao as my assistant," Bai Xiaosheng took a sip of his coffee, "Would you like to switch with her?"

"No way!" Lin Weiwei promptly refused without any hesitation.

After refusing, she noticed both Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying looking at her, with Lei Ying's eyes carrying a hint of teasing.

Lin Weiwei's face turned red, "I... don't have enough experience. Besides, what's so good about being an Affairs Officer? There are so many restrictions. It's less restrictive to be an assistant."

As if anyone would believe Lin Weiwei was after some sort of "freedom."

Lei Ying's smile carried a suggestive tone, as he then stretched out his hand, "Make me a cup of coffee too."

"You don't get any!" Lin Weiwei glared at the older gentleman.

Lei Ying wasn't upset, just shrugged with a smile and turned to play with his phone.

But ultimately, Lin Weiwei still poured him a cup of coffee and handed it over.

No further conversation followed.

They arrived in Dayou City, Gandong Province, by two o'clock in the afternoon.

Upon leaving the high-speed rail station, Bai Xiaosheng looked up at the sky and smiled, "Let's go meet Mister Wang Ziyu, have a chat, and nab a meal. Before dinner, we're not allowed to question each other; otherwise, we might lose the meal."

Bai Xiaosheng's words were clearly a joke.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying just smiled and didn't take it seriously.

The trio hailed a taxi and headed straight for Wang Ziyu's workplace—Tianyu Media.

As the leading media company in Gandong Province, its influence was substantial, rivaling that of mainstream national media outlets.

En route, the cab driver, upon learning of Bai Xiaosheng and his company's intentions, praised Tianyu Media ceaselessly, his words filled with a deep sense of local pride.

"You're going to visit friends at Tianyu Media, that's really impressive, is your friend a leader of that company?" the driver couldn't help but ask curiously.

"Sort of." Lei Ying replied with a faint smile from the passenger seat.

"Wow, impressive, working there surely has a bright future. Your friends must have already reached the middle to upper management, given your age." The driver glanced at the group's youth and couldn't resist flattering them a bit.

Bai Xiaosheng and his two friends just smiled without saying anything.

Middle to upper management?

The person they were going to meet was someone whom even the General Manager of Tianyu Media had to treat with the utmost respect, and who had to do the same in return when meeting them.

Of course, it wasn't worth bragging about to a stranger.

Even if they did say it, the taxi driver would probably just take it as boasting.

Tianyu Media was located in the busiest and most prestigious area of Dayou City's CBD. The car ride there encountered a few minor traffic jams and took over an hour to arrive.

Upon arrival and seeing the magnificent Tianyu Media Building, indeed a landmark structure, Bai Xiaosheng and his friends couldn't help but marvel.

No wonder the mention of Tianyu Media made the driver feel proud, just the sight of it was praiseworthy.

The three of them got out of the car and made their way into the Tianyu Media Building.

But when they asked at the reception, they found out, to their surprise, that Wang Ziyu wasn't in.

"Mister Wang won't be back at the company until tomorrow. You could come back then, but without an appointment, Mister Wang might not have the time," the well-trained and smiling receptionist informed Bai Xiaosheng and his friends.

What she really meant was, without an appointment, don't bother coming because Mister Wang won't see you.

To this, Bai Xiaosheng and his friends simply smiled.

"No problem, Mister Wang will definitely have time then," Lin Weiwei responded with a smile, completely confident.

The receptionist smiled silently, offering no rebuttal.

However, as Bai Xiaosheng and his friends turned to leave, a hint of mockery glinted in her eyes.

Just how important is Mister Wang, and you expect to see him without an appointment?

Who do you think you are!

This became a topic of laughter for the receptionist after work, shared as a joke with her colleagues.

After leaving the building, Bai Xiaosheng and his friends came to the roadside, surprisingly finding that their taxi driver hadn't left yet, not because he couldn't find a fare, but because he was smoking, with the cigarette barely halfway gone.

Seeing them again, the driver was startled at first and then approached with a beaming smile.

"You visited your friend so quickly?" he chuckled, "Where do you want to go now? I'll take you."

Beneath the driver's smile was a touch of mockery.

To him, when asked whether their friend was a middle or upper manager, they just smiled without a word, as if to confirm.

And the outcome?

In and out in a flash.

Who knows if they ran into a closed door or if their friend's position couldn't accommodate visiting during work hours.

Bai Xiaosheng was unconcerned with the driver's reaction.

"Just find a five-star hotel around here," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"You got it," the driver chuckled.

To him, it seemed these few wanted to keep up appearances until the very end.

A star-rated hotel? A five-star one at that?

Heh.

In about twenty minutes, the taxi dropped Bai Xiaosheng and his friends off at a five-star hotel. The driver couldn't resist glancing at the street corner, where a budget hotel was situated.

The driver felt quite pleased with himself and drove off, stepping on the accelerator.

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends entered the hotel and checked in.

They had just been chatting in their room for a while when there was a knock on the door.

"Who is it?" Lin Weiwei thought it might be room service.

But a familiar voice came from outside, "Bai, are you there?"