

Two Trillion 1141

Chapter 1141 Agree to Cooperate

"Mister Wang was startled by Bai Xiaosheng's words. 'You said Mr. Xiahou Qi promised me that the group would no longer pursue my issues and that Shen Peisheng could not touch me.'"

Although there is only one rank between a Grand Affairs Officer and the CEO of the Greater China Region, the actual difference between them is immense.

It must be known that within the Greater China Region, all regional heads and Grand Affairs Officers must obey the orders of the CEO of the Greater China Region, under his jurisdiction, and are appointed or dismissed by him.

Even Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, who holds so many human and material resources, does not dare to openly confront the CEO of the Greater China Region.

Of course, without solid evidence, the CEO of the Greater China Region would not easily take action against a Grand Affairs Officer or a regional head. Removing someone is easy, but maintaining stability is hard as it could cause severe cascading effects.

It's not that he can't make a move, but rather, he is reluctant to do so.

However, an exception includes Shen Peisheng, a Grand Affairs Officer whose experience matches that of Xiahou Qi and has supporters throughout the Greater China Region and even people at the headquarters of the Zhenbei Group.

He really has become too influential to control.

Nonetheless, when comparing the two, Wang Ziyu felt that Xiahou Qi was more formidable.

After all, if Xiahou Qi decided to take action against him, even Shen Peisheng wouldn't be able to protect him.

On the contrary, if Shen Peisheng wanted to take action against him, and Xiahou Qi stepped in to protect him...

Wang Ziyu believed more strongly that Xiahou Qi could ensure his safety.

"I can call Elder Xia and have him promise you personally," Bai Xiaosheng said to Wang Ziyu with a smile.

Wang Ziyu was genuinely tempted but still cautious, "I want a video call!"

He needed to confirm for himself that it was actually Xiahou Qi.

"No problem," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He had already notified Elder Xia, who was available during this period to assure Wang Ziyu, and any form of communication was possible.

Seeing how readily Bai Xiaosheng agreed, Wang Ziyu believed him a bit more, but then he thought to himself, "Even Xiahou Qi is supporting this Bai, it seems the headquarters are indeed planning to take action against Shen Peisheng."

Even Wang Ziyu did not fully understand the grand ambitions of Shen Peisheng, thinking he only acted to protect his status and wealth by "establishing his own power" and "ruling as a king."

However, Wang Ziyu knew that Shen Peisheng had already been undermining Xiahou Qi, including spreading rumors that Elder Xia's health was failing and he was about to retire, which Wang Ziyu also vigorously supported.

Wang Ziyu believed Shen Peisheng had more moves up his sleeve, even if he was not aware of them.

Now, there was nothing controversial about President Xiahou Qi targeting Shen Peisheng.

"If it's only Elder Xia's verbal promise..." Wang Ziyu hesitated and probed Bai Xiaosheng, "Can I record it?"

"No!" Bai Xiaosheng refused outright.

To Bai Xiaosheng, it seemed highly disrespectful.

He seriously said, "If I were you, I wouldn't do that."

"Firstly, Elder Xia is a man of such stature, do you think he would care about deceiving just a regional industry head... oh, right, you are no longer even that!"

"Secondly, if Elder Xia truly breaks his promise, do you think a video will turn the world upside down? You are underestimating Elder Xia."

"Lastly, recording it is simply seeking some psychological comfort. If Elder Xia does not fulfill his promise, you would go to Shen Peisheng to expose this. But, what use would that be? What would Shen Peisheng do if he knows? Moreover, he knows you once betrayed him; do you think he would trust you?"

Bai Xiaosheng, calm and unruffled, made another two points, then concluded, "Think about it for yourself."

"Anyway, you have only two choices, either believe in Elder Xia's promise and cooperate with us to redeem yourself."

"Or, go and spend a dozen or twenty years in prison, with me watching over here. I doubt Shen Peisheng and his people would be able to interfere or reduce your punishment!"

With these words from Bai Xiaosheng, Wang Ziyu felt extremely unsettled, his will significantly weakened.

"Alright then, I'll just have a video call with President Xiahou Qi, and forget recording or anything..."

Wang Ziyu thus submitted once more.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled upon seeing the reaction, the recent topic was also his opportunity to warn Wang Ziyu.

If Wang Ziyu thought he could secretly collude with Shen Peishen's side and play both ends against the middle, that was impossible.

Would Shen Peishen trust someone who had betrayed him? Bai Xiaosheng clearly told Wang Ziyu not to harbor any inappropriate thoughts!

The only way out for him, Wang Ziyu, was just one!

He had to agree to cooperate, help root out those problematic individuals, and he could only follow one path to the end, completely severing ties with Shen Peishen's side.

"Rest assured, Mister Wang, I won't let you be busy for nothing," Bai Xiaosheng added with a smile.

Wang Ziyu looked at him, puzzled.

"Shen Peishen kicked you out of the group, didn't he give you anything as compensation?" Bai Xiaosheng said, "I'll turn a blind eye to those things, consider I never saw them, they are still yours! Moreover, I'm not saying you were involved in them, any information and reports that involve your name and certain content will be redacted, only Mr. Xiahou Qi can review them, to protect your privacy as much as possible. How about that?"

Bai Xiaosheng "delivered a slap" but also offered a big red date.

Finally, there seemed to be a flicker of spirit in Wang Ziyu's eyes.

Permanently and thoroughly resolving his personal dilemma while reaping benefits from the other side, and with some luck, he might even fool Shen Peishen's side without their knowledge.

Such a great deal, so "perfect," Wang Ziyu finally warmed to the idea.

"Done!"

Bai Xiaosheng, smiling, sent a video to Elder Xia.

The entire conversation lasted only five minutes, but by the end, Wang Ziyu had evidently become one of their own.

"Let's not delay, Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, since we've decided to take action, we must act quickly and decisively. I'll help you clean up the problematic individuals on this side as soon as possible."

Wang Ziyu's enthusiasm and initiative were even higher than that of Bai Xiaosheng's team.

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying smiled, saying to Wang Ziyu, "That would be most ideal!"

...

That night, Lin Yu arrived in Linshen and immediately headed for Shen Peishen's residence upon disembarking.

Shen Peishen had his servant cook a late-night snack for his student so he could eat while speaking.

Lin Yu meticulously recounted his journey to Nanyu and his confrontation with Bai Xiaosheng, not missing a single detail.

Although it seemed there wasn't much worth mentioning, adding specifics about Bai Xiaosheng's facial expressions when he said certain things, Shen Peishen listened thoughtfully, nodding frequently.

"Listen, this Bai Xiaosheng can't do anything to you, so he deliberately deceived you, then rushed towards Nanyu," Shen Peishen said, frowning slightly, "However..."

Hearing a "however" from his teacher, Lin Yu quickly put down his chopsticks and exclaimed, "Teacher, what however..."

Shen Peishen looked at Lin Yu.

"Doesn't it seem too easy for you to deduce Bai Xiaosheng's motives?" Shen Peishen asked.

"Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng deliberately let me see his anger? What would be the point? It seems like nothing but a distraction for his move to Nanyu!" Lin Yu couldn't help saying, "Teacher, although Bai Xiaosheng is very cunning and crafty, we don't need to think too highly of him!"

Lin Yu still felt somewhat unconvinced as he spoke.

"Maybe, I'm overthinking it," Shen Peishen admitted, glancing at Lin Yu.

"Anyway, we need to immediately be on alert in Nanyu, be prepared! It's better to be prepared and have nothing happen!" Shen Peishen added.

Lin Yu nodded emphatically.

What neither teacher nor student expected was.

The very next day, Bai Xiaosheng created a huge uproar.

Not in Nanyu.

But in Gandong!

Chapter 1142 Inconceivable

Lin Yu returned to headquarters the next day, having originally booked a car for the afternoon to head to Nanyu City, ready to catch Bai Xiaosheng off guard once again.

He truly relished this, even found it somewhat addictive.

He loved to see Bai Xiaosheng's angry yet helpless expression.

The "security arrangements" for Nanyu were personally organized by Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng, who had communicated them on the same day.

By now, he believed that Nanyu was fully prepared. If Bai Xiaosheng were to go there, he would definitely meet with tight security. Any short-term breakthroughs would be wishful thinking.

After Lin Yu's arrival, he would meet Bai Xiaosheng, ostensibly by coincidence, claiming he was also there to conduct investigations.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng didn't believe it, he would have to begrudgingly accept it!

After all, the New-type Affairs Officer's "investigative authority" was comparable to that of a Senior Affairs Officer, as decreed by Mr. Xiahou Qi. Bai Xiaosheng couldn't monopolize a city and forbid others from intervening, nor could he deny the New-type Affairs Officer's power and blatantly order him to leave.

Later, Lin Yu would actively "cooperate," addressing whatever direction Bai Xiaosheng was investigating.

Not to help Bai Xiaosheng resolve issues, but to plug the gaps.

With Lin Yu on site, and with Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng orchestrating from a distance, along with the support of locals who were all on his side.

Did Bai Xiaosheng expect to achieve anything?

Dream on!

"This time, he'll definitely get stuck in the mire, struggle every step of the way, and in the end, leave without gaining anything!" Lin Yu thought, even finding the idea thrill-inducing.

Unfortunately, Lin Yu's beautiful imagination had not yet unfolded. Before noon, an investigative report was dispatched from Gandong.

Thirty companies in Gandong Province, including ten major corporations, were mentioned in the report: one demotion, four dismissals, and two prosecutions recommended! Besides that, from the remaining twenty companies, more than half had serious issues—deep accountability was encouraged for those responsible!

The report had created a storm within the department, rocking it like a ferocious hurricane.

Normally, there weren't massive investigations and batch processing of problematic individuals.

But such a large-scale purge, snaring over seventy percent of major corporations in a province, was truly terrifying.

The critical part was that the evidence was irrefutable!

Even more outrageous, as mentioned in the report, each individual had only one or two, at most four, significant issues—minor, trivial matters were hardly mentioned.

This precision and ferocity, like sniping a vital point, struck with deadly accuracy.

In just one morning, every corner of the department was buzzing—all anyone could talk about was this matter.

"Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng is incredibly formidable; wherever he goes, he eradicates the problematic figures in a province! Where he passes, it's like a baptism by fire, absolutely nothing remains!"

"Yes, his capability is terrifying. From now on, wherever Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng appears, it will surely unsettle the people, sending shivers down everyone's spine."

"What nonsense are you spouting? Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng is merely rooting out pests. Only those with guilty consciences need to fear!"

"Yes, yes, you're right. It was just a slip of the tongue! But consider the whole country, with two or three dozen provinces; if Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng keeps this up, how are the rest of us to survive!"

"You all are just focussed on how thoroughly Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng is scrutinizing people, but have you noticed how little time he used! Think about it, he hasn't been away from headquarters for long, and yet he's uncovered so many problem individuals!"

"Hiss—yes! You're right, we almost overlooked that! Indeed, it hasn't been long, and the efficiency is almost too frightening!"

"Now, this will definitely please the lower-level managers; finally, they have their day to shine, their moment to rise!"

...

Not only were there exclamations of surprise and awe, but there were also a few conspiracy-laden whispers mixed in.

"Don't you find it strange? Yesterday, Officer Lin Yu investigated Wang Ziyu, the provincial industrial head of Gandong, and today, Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng has rounded up all the problematic individuals there. And crucially, this occurred after Officer Lin Yu returned to headquarters!"

"I find it odd too, too coincidental and thought-provoking! Whether these two went there consecutively, or might have met there..."

"I heard, when investigating Wang Ziyu, Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng personally took charge, making the key approvals and swiftly and rigorously dealt with Wang Ziyu. This quick action, is it related to Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng's arrival?"

...

After many suggestive remarks, the conversation took a certain turn.

"I heard that Wang Ziyu had been quite close to Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's side... Suddenly being so swiftly and sternly investigated, anyone would normally appeal to the headquarters, which is only human, but this Mr. Wang Ziyu quietly accepted it without any fuss. What do you think, is there something fishy going on here..."

"Are you suggesting a case of 'Zhou Yu against Huang Gai, one willing to lash out and one willing to endure'?"

"Doesn't it seem like it? I heard that before being investigated, Wang Ziyu had already been targeted by Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng! This way, Wang Ziyu becomes a scapegoat, not only stopping Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng's investigation but also enhancing Officer Lin Yu's performance. Have you considered who Officer Lin Yu's mentor is..."

"Wow, now that you mention it, this is really worth pondering!"

"Then, among those dealt with by Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, many must be connected with Shen..."

"Stop talking nonsense, walls have ears!"

"True. Senior Affairs Officers are not to be messed with, not to be messed with!"

Chapter 1143 Unbelievable_2

...

This voice seemed extraordinarily popular; Dan Linyu had unintentionally heard it at least four or five times.

It was spreading like wildfire.

So much so that Lin Yu couldn't restrain himself and hurried to find his teacher, Shen Peishen.

Shen Peishen had already received the news and was frowning in front of the office's floor-to-ceiling window. Seeing Lin Yu coming, he beckoned him closer.

"Look, cunning as ever!"

Shen Peishen rebuked with a somber voice.

"See, Lin Yu! To what extent Bai Xiaosheng is cunning!"

"He deliberately said in front of you that he would return to headquarters, but he bought a ticket to Nanyu while he actually stayed in Gandong, creating a big scene!"

Lin Yu listened and clenched his teeth in hatred.

Only yesterday, he had forced Bai Xiaosheng into a corner, feeling triumphant himself, and today, Bai Xiaosheng's actions were like a harsh slap in his face!

"Was all his behavior fake!" Lin Yu couldn't accept it.

"I had my doubts yesterday. It was just you..." Shen Peishen sighed lightly.

No need for further words. His student was extremely proud, so it was best to leave it at that. Agitating him would do no good.

Lin Yu clenched his fists.

"But teacher, how could Bai Xiaosheng possibly dig out all our people there in such a short time? According to the report, over ninety percent of the people dealt with were our men! Each of them appeared unconnected to us, yet the issues involved were severe enough that not a single one could be preserved!" Lin Yu began to analyze the problem, "There must be a leak somewhere!"

"There must be a leak!" Shen Peishen repeated, his eyes narrowing slightly with a trace of cold light dancing in them, "One careless move and all is lost! A moment's oversight, and years of hard work go down the drain!"

Even Shen Peishen felt a tinge of pain from those losses in Gandong.

"What do you think went wrong?" Shen Peishen glanced at his protégé, asking.

Lin Yu pondered for a moment and said solemnly, "If in such a short time every person was investigated and no hint of it reached our ears unless Bai Xiaosheng is a god, it's very likely... our person in charge over there has compromised!"

"Wang Ziyu!" Lin Yu exclaimed, his eyes lighting up.

Shen Peishen's gaze too turned icy.

After Lin Yu returned, he had said that he had resolved the issue with Wang Ziyu properly, and Shen Peishen had also inquired and thought it was fine. How could it be that Wang Ziyu had switched sides and joined Bai Xiaosheng within a day!

Had Bai Xiaosheng lured Wang Ziyu with benefits alone?

Could it be that Wang Ziyu wasn't afraid of offending them?

While the master and student were talking, Shen Peishen's assistant, Cheng Liu, hurried over and whispered something into Shen Peishen's ear.

Shen Peishen's eyes sharpened, then brightened, before returning to normal.

Lin Yu noticed this and was somewhat surprised but held his curiosity.

After Cheng Liu finished speaking, he nodded at Lin Yu and silently retreated.

Facing Lin Yu's inquiring gaze, Shen Peishen said, "Just got news from that Information Trafficker Yu Ying. There are people planted by Chen Yucheng in Gandong."

Lin Yu was shocked.

"And not just one!" Shen Peishen added gravely.

Lin Yu was both shocked and angry.

"It's that Chen Yucheng again, always opposing us!" Lin Yu said angrily, "Teacher, Chen Yucheng has formed an alliance with Bai Xiaosheng!"

What Lin Yu meant was that Bai Xiaosheng had achieved his results through Chen Yucheng's information channels.

Shen Peishen pondered, "If it's Chen Yucheng's people who made this happen, I believe it! And you've also noticed. Were any of those convicted people linked to us? This also matches Chen Yucheng's style! He doesn't intend to find out if these are definitely all our people or what roles they played. He just needs to suspect them, then randomly investigate and find some serious issues to ensure these people are taken down. That's how he achieves his goals!"

Lin Yu thought for a while, his face grim, and nodded slowly, "Indeed!"

While Lin Yu was acknowledging this, Shen Peishen frowned again, "But is there really no other possibility, like... Wang Ziyu!"

Shen Peishen did things quickly and never overlooked any possibility.

Even if it was extremely unlikely.

"Unless Bai Xiaosheng has solid incriminating evidence against Wang Ziyu, how could he possibly have been bought?" Lin Yu considered, "If you really suspect, we can investigate slowly later and see if he's connected!"

To Lin Yu, that possibility seemed exceedingly slim. Furthermore, since Wang Ziyu was a cautious person, even if Chen Yucheng could not achieve it, it was unlikely to be uncovered.

What he didn't know was that just because Chen Yucheng couldn't, didn't mean that the regional head, Xu Yuncong, couldn't!

The latter had the authority and the means. If he truly decided to keep tabs on someone over a long period, it would be very easy to find leverage against that person!

They also didn't know that Xu Yuncong's attitude towards their side had drastically changed!

Hearing Lin Yu's words, Shen Peishen sighed and shook his head, "By that time, will it even matter whether it is or isn't?"

Lin Yu fell silent.

"The most important thing right now is to resolve the immediate trouble," Shen Peishen suddenly looked at Lin Yu, "If you were facing this situation on your own, how would you break it?"

Shen Peishen looked at Lin Yu expectantly.

Bai Xiaosheng, as if miles away, silently declared war:

Please break the game!

So, how were they supposed to break this situation?

While Lin Yu was contemplating, Cheng Liu returned. This time he didn't whisper to Shen Peishen but spoke directly, "Sir Shen, Elder Xia is asking for you to discuss the handling of the report regarding Bai Xiaosheng as the Senior Affairs Officer!"

Chapter 1144 - Unbelievable_3

"Mm, got it," Shen Peishen nodded, looking at Lin Yu.

Mr. Xiahou Qi's invitation turned out to be a breakthrough.

Lin Yu pondered for a moment and said, "Teacher, those people can't be saved! Mr. Xia knowingly called you even with conclusive evidence. I think you should take a firm stand, support Bai Xiaosheng, and deal with those people... severely!"

Cheng Liu looked up at Lin Yu and felt a chilling "murderous intent" emanating from him.

The present Lin Yu was no longer the person he used to be; now, he was decisive in killing, having the aura of an overlord!

He no longer pursued fairness or generosity, but instead chose the path of "In the wake of the general's triumph, a thousand bones lay bare".

Shen Peishen smiled, "Sure?"

Lin Yu nodded.

Shen Peishen also nodded.

"Then let's proceed this way," Shen Peishen calmly said, turning to walk out, "I'm going to meet Mr. Xiahou Qi!"

Cheng Liu cast a deep glance at Lin Yu, following Shen Peishen out.

Lin Yu watched them leave.

The teacher had already made this decision in his heart; he was just gauging my reaction. Lin Yu thought to himself, I must have made him satisfied...

Lin Yu looked out towards the distant sky.

The key to breaking the situation now lay in speed, the faster to disentangle, the better to control the rhythm and seize the initiative in what comes next!

No hesitations, no looking back.

Since the problems were as numerous as twisted hemp and it was a dead end, then it was time to cut through it.

Slice through the tangled mess swiftly!

The answer I provided, this method is actually the crux of the matter; I believe the teacher must understand that!

...

Lin Yu's gaze became gloomy.

Bai Xiaosheng, oh Bai Xiaosheng, you have gained the upper hand once again, but that's alright, no matter.

We have a long road ahead of us!

At this very moment.

Lin Yu, who was muttering about Bai Xiaosheng, was on the phone.

Speaking of which, Bai Xiaosheng had received a call earlier that morning.

It was Chen Yucheng who had called, congratulating him and then looking for recognition, saying he was "organizing manpower and resources at headquarters to guide the topics" and revealing to Bai Xiaosheng all the most eye-catching hot topics at headquarters.

Bai Xiaosheng had immediately discussed it with him, deciding the extent to which topics should be guided and which ones to deepen or not dwell on.

The two clever minds working together had come up with quite the "joyful" result!

Ultimately, the two confirmed the direction and scope of the topic guidance, with Chen Yucheng in charge of implementing it all.

By then, Bai Xiaosheng had also contacted Yu Ying, following the strategy he had formulated with Chen Yucheng, he gave Yu Ying additional matters to handle.

Now, Yu Ying was returning the call.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, I'm reporting back to you," Yu Ying said cheerfully, "I've successfully conveyed the information you asked me to, word for word, to Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng. Speaking of which, you made me sell a piece of fake news this time. That could harm my reputation, especially with Grand Affairs Officer Shen, who took a huge risk to do this. If things go south, it could spell the end of his career."

Yu Ying's half-playful, half-serious complainings were such that just listening to them made one feel itchy with delight and comfortable inside.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng had seen too many beautiful women of all kinds, and he had developed some immunity. He immediately thought to himself—

Is it your career as an Information Trafficker at the corporation that should've ended already...

Bai Xiaosheng mocked himself inwardly, but he cheerfully said out loud, "Don't worry, I don't use people for nothing. Next time, I'll give you some key information as reward, how about that?"

The Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng actually offering information to an Information Trafficker would indeed leave anyone speechless if they heard it.

"How dare you, talking about using me... not for nothing..." Over the phone, Yu Ying spoke in an overly coquettish manner, steering the topic towards not-so-child-friendly directions.

"Or should I forget about the reward?" Bai Xiaosheng, fed up with her lack of seriousness, proposed.

"No way!" Yu Ying's voice changed at the other end of the call, assuming the shrewdness of a cunning businesswoman, "I'm a businessperson, I can't take losses, Senior Affairs Officer Sheng. You made the offer, and I'm holding you to it! Besides, personal feelings are one thing and business is another! And, if the information you give me is unsatisfactory, that won't do!"

Yu Ying's emotional transformation was so smooth, effortlessly shifting from cute girl to tough lady, to shrewd trader.

Bai Xiaosheng inwardly acknowledged her prowess with a silent "respect".

"Don't worry, I'm counting on future collaborations," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Afterwards, the two chatted a bit more.

Yu Ying then said, "Alright, Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, I'll stop bothering you now. Remember your promise, otherwise... hmph!"

Yu Ying ended the call with a threat.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled bitterly.

Beside him, Lin Weiwei pouted unhappily; Bai Xiaosheng was speaking on speakerphone close by, and she got angry just at hearing Yu Ying's voice!

Lei Ying was snickering on the side.

Bai Xiaosheng looked from Lin Weiwei to Lei Ying and said, "You two, stop enjoying the drama! Are things ready yet? Hurry up!"

"I need to add fuel to the fire for this matter!"

Chapter 1145 - Swearing to One's Content

At three o'clock in the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng's second report was delivered to headquarters.

If the report from the morning was like dropping a millstone into the tranquil waters of a lake, causing ripples to surge and persist for a long time,

then the afternoon report was truly a raging storm!

Because this time, the report not only involved several corporate executives but also a provincial industry head from the same Greater China Region as Wang Ziyu, whose issues were no less severe than Wang's!

Headquarters was in an uproar.

Many thought all the gasps of astonishment had been exhausted in the morning, but they now realized,

the situation was akin to "the rat pulling the leveling board; the big end is at the back!"

Many people, with emotions running high and dried, raspy throats, continued to gather together, disregard fatigue, and engage in animated discussions with clicking tongues.

"Damn! A provincial industry head, several top corporate general managers, this lineup is no weaker than the morning's!"

"There's no comparison! If we really must compare, the morning's report would need another Wang Ziyu to suffice! This is practically the core management layer of the group in the second province, all cut down to size in one fell swoop..."

"Just one day, and Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng is doing what, not resting until he scares people to death!"

...

After the shock of many voices, someone suddenly raised a question, "Mr. Xu Yuncong, responsible for that large area, is still abroad. If he knew that nearly seventy percent of the people in the two provinces under his command were dealt with by Bai Xiaosheng in one day, I wonder what he would think..."

Shen Peishen's office.

After receiving the news, Shen Peishen was silent, and it took quite a while before he exhaled a heavy breath of turbid air.

"Teacher, if you're angry, don't hold it in. You can shut the door; outsiders can't hear," Lin Yu cautiously suggested at his side.

If the teacher were to curse or throw things, it would be okay.

Better that than to have the anger simmering inside, harming one's health.

"Good," Shen Peishen was silent for a long while before uttering a single word, as light as a breeze and as detached as clouds.

His complexion also seemed to return to normal.

"Good?!" Lin Yu was surprised to hear it.

In the morning, the teacher was quite angry, very distressed about the huge losses in Gandong.

In the afternoon, the report brought losses far beyond the morning's, and the teacher should be even more furious, so how could he utter the word "good"?

Lin Yu was somewhat baffled.

"Look, Bai Xiaosheng has really given you and me a big lesson!"

"It has made us truly recognize that the current Bai Xiaosheng is far from the Bai Xiaosheng of a year ago! We can't look at him with old eyes!"

"A little snake has become a dragon, wrenching wrists with you, matching wits with me, and catching us both off guard!"

"Letting us suffer considerable losses, otherwise we wouldn't have understood how capable Bai Xiaosheng is. Isn't that great!"

Shen Peishen spoke slowly, his expression unchanged, only his eyes cold.

"As you say, Teacher, it's indeed... not necessarily a bad thing. Besides, things have come to this point; lamenting and anger are useless!" Lin Yu agreed with Shen Peishen's words, incorporating some consolation.

But at the same time, he also felt his strong will to fight being stirred up.

The stronger the opponent, the more exciting it is, isn't it?

"This little dragon wants to stir up the waters in the Greater China Region, wants to help the old decrepit Dragon King ruin my plans. He really is hateful, courting death!"

"Previously, I valued talent and wanted to win him over. Though he rejected me repeatedly, showing signs of becoming an adversary, in my heart, I must admit, I always harbored a sliver of hope that once I became the President of the Greater China Region, he would ultimately understand my vision and work for me."

"It's a pity that he has become the stumbling block on my path to that position!"

Shen Peishen's eyes were cold, his voice even colder.

"Realizing this reality and cutting off my hopes. Isn't that good!"

Lin Yu nodded, "Good!"

If Bai Xiaosheng had sensibly stood by his side early on, Lin Yu wouldn't have had the chance to pit himself against him, and that would have been unfortunate!

After Shen Peishen finished expressing his emotions, the focus returned to the issue at hand, "Years of investment, destroyed in one fell swoop! To say that this was also achieved by Chen Yucheng aiding Bai Xiaosheng, I don't believe it!"

Lin Yu wore a dark expression, nodding his head.

"Wang Ziyu can't escape his involvement in this matter; even if Gandong has Chen Yucheng's people, only he could have controlled those people's issues! This bastard, he really was bought over by Bai Xiaosheng!" Lin Yu exclaimed indignantly.

As the outcome emerged, the realm of possibilities narrowed down to one.

The answer that seemed impossible was, in fact, the answer.

"Hateful, he was still demanding payment at noon, our side had already sent over the 'pacification funds', and this bastard betrayed us, taking away two million from us! There can't be such good things!" Lin Yu raged, "I'm going to submit a supplementary investigation on Wang Ziyu right now, send him to prison for ten or twenty years. Let him earn money without a life to spend it!"

Shen Peishen raised his hand and pressed it down slightly.

"Too late," Shen Peishen confirmed, "That lad Bai must have provided him a foolproof way out. It would be difficult to punish Wang Ziyu just from the headquarters' perspective!"

Lin Yu opened his mouth as if to say something.

Cheng Liu walked in with something to report.

Lin Yu let him speak first.

Cheng Liu said, "Just now, the headquarters issued a notice saying Wang Ziyu has seen the error of his ways, helped report and expose problematic people, and has admirable merit. However, due to the issues he committed, his position will not be restored. The group headquarters has decided, regardless of the severity of Wang Ziyu's past actions, all pursuits of accountability will be dropped."

Chapter 1146 - Swear to Your Heart's Content_2

After speaking, Cheng Liu added a sentence, "Mr. Xiahou Qi personally agreed and signed."

Shen Peishen nodded.

Cheng Liu exited.

Lin Yu was speechless.

The teacher guessed right!

"It's easy to target someone like Wang Ziyu, even if he's not in the corporation, we can still do it. If he enters the business world, we can make him lose everything he has invested, and it's easy to crush him. The key is whether it's worth it or not. Also, taking out a Wang Ziyu might just draw Bai Xiaosheng's attention to more of our people here. In the end, we might end up causing trouble for ourselves!" Shen Peishen said.

"So the teacher's meaning is..." Lin Yu was beginning to understand, "Wang Ziyu is insignificant, Bai Xiaosheng is the key. You're saying, don't put the cart before the horse!"

Shen Peishen nodded.

Actually, Lin Yu's comprehension was quite good.

"I'll call Xu Yuncong now. Bai Xiaosheng has messed up his territory, there's no way he isn't furious!" Shen Peishen thought for a bit, "Although Bai Xiaosheng has rooted out our people from there, it's not all bad. At the very least, our movements against Xu Yuncong have been well concealed. He hasn't noticed!"

As strong as Shen Peishen was, in the end, he wasn't a god.

He was meticulous in his considerations, but one small mistake could lead to a disastrous blunder.

What Shen Peishen didn't know was that Bai Xiaosheng had discovered his plans against Xu Yuncong, which is why he received help from Xu Yuncong, who provided evidence to threaten and "turn" Wang Ziyu. With the key evidence provided by Wang Ziyu and the covert support of Xu Yuncong, Bai Xiaosheng was able to smoothly take down an industrial leader from another province and several top executives from major corporations.

In the end, Shen Peishen, smart as he was through his entire life, encountered Bai Xiaosheng, a kid who played by no one's rules.

And his luck was incredibly good.

For powerful allies, he had Chen Yucheng.

For information networks, he had Yu Ying.

For headquarters support, he had Xiahou Qi.

...

One could only say that this time, the heavens really weren't looking out for Shen Peishen.

Which was fair, after all, good things shouldn't be monopolized by one person alone. Over the years, Shen Peishen's growth of power and cultivation of confidants had been too smooth.

It was simply karma's way of balancing.

...

At this moment, Shen Peishen was unaware of Xu Yuncong's true sentiments and thought that he would be furious upon hearing the news, hating Bai Xiaosheng for the mess and numerous troubles caused.

What Shen Peishen wanted to do now was to incite Xu Yuncong to turn against Bai Xiaosheng.

A regional leader and a Senior Affairs Officer were nominally at the same level, but in terms of winning odds, the latter had much more.

However, if a regional leader did not hold back in causing trouble, even a Senior Affairs Officer would have a huge headache.

That's the effect Shen Peishen wanted.

For Xu Yuncong to counter Bai Xiaosheng and protect those listed in the report was nearly impossible, as the evidence was irrefutable!

But if Xu Yuncong wanted to cause trouble as payback for the problems Bai Xiaosheng caused him in this matter, that was definitely achievable.

Moreover, Shen Peishen had previously done "business" with Xu Yuncong and was considered an "acquaintance" of his.

So, after some thought, Shen Peishen made the call to Xu Yuncong.

Even if it was just to exchange pleasantries and foster goodwill, Shen Peishen considered it worthwhile.

Lin Yu said nothing and silently listened by his side.

"Sir Shen, what can I do for you?" came Xu Yuncong's voice through the phone after the connection, as always polite, gentle, and courteous.

"Old Xu, are you still in Europe?" Shen Peishen asked.

"Yes," Xu Yuncong laughed over the phone, "Do you have any instructions for me, Sir Shen?"

"Such a big event has occurred under your jurisdiction, and you're unaware?" Shen Peishen asked again.

There was silence on the other end.

Clearly, Xu Yuncong was aware, and he was "pretending to be calm!"

Shen Peishen judged as much and immediately took advantage by saying, "Elder Xia called me over to review the report sent by Bai Xiaosheng. There were two reports, one from the morning and one from the afternoon, one from Gandong Province and one from Da Qing Province."

"Amazing, the people from both provinces, almost all of them were written up by him, Bai Xiaosheng. We've never seen him be so ruthless before, but this time we certainly have!"

"Your younger brother should be extra careful and warn his subordinates too. Try not to provoke this formidable god, better to avoid him if possible."

"Of course, as a Senior Affairs Officer, it's not proper for me to say these things to you, this is just a private chat! Since we two have a good relationship, and before, you've done me a favor."

"Also, Old Xu, Bai Xiaosheng is extremely prominent right now and is highly valued by Mr. Xiahou Qi, even I have to give him some leeway, so you absolutely cannot act out of pettiness. If he has any questions for you, you should answer politely and courteously, you must not be negligent just because you think you have seniority, he's one to hold grudges."

Shen Peishen's advice seemed friendly but was filled with ill intentions.

To his peers, it was seen as a crude tactic full of incitement.

But in this world, there's no such thing as an absolutely foolish strategy.

Provided the conditions are right, even a clumsy plan can produce surprising results.

Especially now, in Shen Peishen's view, Xu Yuncong must have been so angered by the two reports that he was interwoven with desperation and rage, boiling with fury, and extremely resentful towards Bai Xiaosheng, only containing himself with his composure.

So, a few words seemingly soothing but actually sinister may be more effective.

After Shen Peishen finished speaking, all he heard from the other end of the phone was a gloomy curse, entirely different from Xu Yuncong's usual harmonious and quiet tone.

Chapter 1147 - A Satisfying Scolding_3

"Bastard son of a bitch!"

Just hearing this crude and direct curse, one knew that Xu Yuncong was truly angry.

"Old Xu, I know you're upset, but don't hold it back. Let out your anger if you have any," Shen Peishen said understandingly.

"Despicable scoundrel, shameless villain, bastard, grand traitor..." As soon as Xu Yuncong began cursing, his anger surged like a landslide and tsunami, spewing insults for a full minute without repeating himself, and he was gasping for breath.

Although Shen Peishen knew Xu Yuncong was cursing Bai Xiaosheng, the profanities were entering his own ears, and it was quite uncomfortable to listen to. Yet, he couldn't properly interrupt Xu Yuncong's venting, since he was the one who had fanned the flames.

It was with great difficulty that Shen Peishen waited for Xu Yuncong to finish cursing before he said, "Old Xu, calm down, I called you precisely because I was afraid you would act impulsively and lose control, creating a scene with Mr. Xiahou Qi's side. You know, if you really caused a scene, it would be very

difficult for Mr. Xia as well. Although this might upset Bai Xiaosheng, it ultimately leads to a situation where you 'kill a thousand enemies but harm yourself by eight hundred,' and that's not acceptable!"

These words were also carefully guided.

They might not count as brilliant tactics, and afterward, Xu Yuncong might even resent Shen Peishen for adding fuel to the fire.

However, this should fall far short of the hatred Xu Yuncong felt for Bai Xiaosheng.

Shen Peishen believed he could tolerate that degree of dissatisfaction.

On the other end of the phone, Xu Yuncong seemed to have vented his annoyance and took a long breath, his voice returning to its usual calm and polite tone, "Sir Shen, thank you for the reminder, I will consider it! It's just not satisfying not to curse that bastard in person. You needn't trouble yourself with what happens next."

"Hehe, then I'm relieved," Shen Peishen also said with a laugh.

The two chatted for a few more sentences and then hung up the phones.

After hanging up, Shen Peishen sneered to Lin Yu beside him, "Xu Yuncong already harbors hatred for Bai Xiaosheng. He just let out a long stream of curses, and maybe soon he will give Mr. Xiahou Qi a call to complain! As for Bai Xiaosheng, he will surely call Xu Yuncong to inquire about things following protocol. Guess what, will Xu Yuncong be as good-tempered with him as he was with me?"

This wasn't Shen Peishen boasting to Lin Yu about some clever scheme that had worked out.

Stirring up trouble was ultimately a petty tactic.

Yet, the teacher and student had been frustrated by Bai Xiaosheng all day, and they really couldn't feel pleased without doing something against him.

At the moment, they couldn't use any grander schemes or plots.

Lin Yu's eyes shone with a cold laugh, "Xu Yuncong's attitude towards Bai Xiaosheng definitely won't be good. Even if it seems nice, Xu Yuncong will 'hide a needle in cotton,' 'a knife behind the smile.' Dealing with such a character will give Bai Xiaosheng headaches!"

Shen Peishen smiled, his eyes turning cold, "Even if Bai Xiaosheng wins this game, we must not let him win easily. We need to make sure he gains an enemy!"

Lin nodded repeatedly to these words.

They wanted to make more enemies for Bai Xiaosheng, to set up strong adversaries.

That way, when it's time for the wall to fall, everyone will be there to push it!

Then, they would watch him perish!

The teacher and student even fantasized about whether Xu Yuncong would cause a big stir at the headquarters.

Unbeknownst to them, when Xu Yuncong hung up the phone, he was actually laughing coldly, sending the recording of the conversation to Bai Xiaosheng.

Xu Yuncong's tirade had been blissful and exuberant, but it wasn't aimed at Bai Xiaosheng.

Those words were directed at Shen Peishen!

That old fox would have to take it, and even praise it!

Damn, that felt good!

"Trying to set me up and then use me as a scapegoat, you are really stubborn, old man!" Xu Yuncong sneered at the name on the phone, "Too bad for you, old man. Despite your every clever plan, you could never predict that I'd be aware of everything!"

"You, old man, could never anticipate that a young man would be your nemesis!"

"I look forward to the day you're finished. When that happens, I'll be the one to help throw a stone onto the well lid to seal it!"

This enemy had been made, but not Bai Xiaosheng's—it was Shen Peishen's.

While Shen Peishen and his student were eagerly anticipating, Xu Yuncong's phone call finally reached Xiahou Qi, who specifically had someone pass on the message to Shen Peishen—

The exact wording aside, the message was simple:

Xu Yuncong said he was ashamed for not being more vigilant, grateful for Bai Xiaosheng for getting rid of the parasites, and that he would fully support Bai Xiaosheng's work!

This content made Shen Peishen and Lin Yu furious.

Shen Peishen even angrily cursed Xu Yuncong, "Xu Yuncong is really a slick and cunning man, only daring to rant and rage to me but then turning around to offer obsequious flattery to Xiahou Qi! Such a sly creature!"

Afterward, Shen Peishen couldn't help but sigh heavily, "Lin Yu, you've seen it now, right? Indeed, it's better to rely on our own people to get things done!"

Lin Yu nodded slightly, deeply agreeing with the teacher's words.

"By the way, where is Bai Xiaosheng right now?" Shen Peishen suddenly asked.

"Bai Xiaosheng should be at Da Qing! I'll make a call to check!" Lin Yu hurriedly said.

This matter had brought them immense trouble; they thought about breaking the situation, about malicious plots, but had overlooked the most critical and core question—

Where was Bai Xiaosheng, and what was he doing?

It took quite a while for Lin Yu to get a response after making a call and then relayed to Shen Peishen, and the answer was not good.

"Bai Xiaosheng is missing!"

Chapter 1148 - Not Running, Is it Stupid?

On a high-speed train, in the business coupe, a man with black hair and dark pupils had reclined his seat and was lying comfortably with headphones on, seemingly listening to music or perhaps asleep.

This individual, who had turned the corporate industries of Gandong and Da Qing provinces upside down and caused the headquarters to collapse chaotically in a single day like a landslide or tsunami, had quietly boarded this train heading to Guangyun, vanishing from everyone's sight.

Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng wanted to vent his anger but couldn't find him.

It seemed that only Bai Xiaosheng could pull off something like this.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng appeared to be dozing, but his mind was buzzing with voices without pause.

Red Lotus was calculating for him.

In fact, it seemed that the later stages of Red Lotus's calculations were delayed a bit.

It's said that this was to better assess the results, waiting for some matters to emerge before making judgments.

But Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a hurry; what was his couldn't escape him anyway.

Red Lotus had always been fair in its assessments.

Of course, if it were unfair, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't do anything about it. After all, there was no absolute standard to follow.

Just then, the scores arrived—

"Assisting Shang Wenshu, the provincial industrial head of Shangyun Province, in resolving a provincial industrial crisis, add five points."

"Investigate and manage seven large enterprise heads and ten small to medium enterprise heads in Gandong Province, all actions deemed just and reasonable, add twelve points!"

"Investigate and manage one provincial industrial head and six large enterprise heads in Da Qing Province, all actions deemed just and reasonable, add twelve points!"

The continuously rising scores brought immense joy to Bai Xiaosheng, even curling the corners of his mouth into a slight smile.

Indeed, the most delightful thing in the world was scoring points to level up.

"This time, a total of twenty-nine points were gained, currently a Senior Affairs Officer with fifty-seven points, only forty-three points away from a Regional President!"

Suddenly, over half the points were achieved!

Bai Xiaosheng's mood couldn't have been better.

How long had it been?

He hadn't even been a Senior Affairs Officer for half a year, yet the journey was already half over, truly comforting!

Regional President!

Bai Xiaosheng savored the title, slowly building anticipation.

This was different from a normal regional level with only a few provinces under its jurisdiction.

A Regional President could oversee places as significant as the Greater China Region, or perhaps other major international regions.

In that case, he would truly be "second only to one, superior to tens of thousands."

Here, "tens of thousands" referred to the top managers from various industries.

Beneath them, the numbers were far greater than tens or hundreds of thousands.

Such splendor was something that even Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but yearn for.

The smile on Bai Xiaosheng's lips, oblivious to him, grew by another degree.

"Xiaosheng?" Lin Weiwei asked tentatively from nearby.

Bai Xiaosheng opened his eyes and looked over.

"What are you listening to? It must be amusing; I've seen you smile several times," Lin Weiwei asked curiously, handing him a box of neatly cut and assorted fruits.

Bananas, pears, watermelon, honeydew—white, red, pink...

Arranged neatly and not only looking good but also very fresh, it was tempting at first sight.

Bai Xiaosheng sat up, adjusted his seat upright, ate the fruit—nodding as it was sweet—and casually answered Lin Weiwei's earlier question, "Didn't listen to anything specific, just thinking about Shen Peisheng and their current mood is making me a little too pleased."

Hearing this, Lin Weiwei also laughed.

Indeed, Shen Peisheng on the other end must be going mad with rage by now, especially after Xu Yuncong's forthright declaration supporting Bai Xiaosheng sent to headquarters.

Lin Weiwei felt like laughing.

Imagine, the expression on Grand Affairs Officer Shen Peisheng's face—it must be priceless!

"The evidence collected on Shen Peishen must be kept safe until we have enough to make it impossible for Shen Peishen to deny his guilt—then we'll use it! Otherwise, if we report it piece by piece, it will only add fuel to the fire and easily let the other party mitigate it. We don't engage in such tactics."

Bai Xiaosheng said this as he stuffed a piece of cantaloupe into his mouth and chewed.

So sweet.

After a few bites, Bai Xiaosheng passed the fruit box to Lei Ying.

Each plastic fork was for individual use; it was very hygienic.

Lei Ying took it without any reservation and began eating.

"I've been keeping them all, categorizing and archiving. Now, from Chen Yucheng and Yu Ying, we've really collected quite a bit. Even if we revealed it all at once, it would be enough for Shen Peishen to receive a notice, a salary cut, or even a demotion!" Lin Weiwei's eyes sparkled.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, "Not enough, not nearly enough. What I want is to leave Shen Peishen with no chance to turn over the table!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke seriously and deliberately.

What Bai Xiaosheng wants is a relatively clear Greater China Region.

It's not about eliminating problematic individuals. In fact, many problem-bearing individuals are extremely talented, and many of those without issues are just too mediocre.

Both he, Bai Xiaosheng, and the group's executives understand this.

Mr. Xiahou Qi, all the Senior Affairs Officers, and all the regional heads know this as well.

That's why there are penalties such as notices, salary cuts, and demotions after mistakes—small punishments to serve as warnings, drawing a line but also keeping those who are useful.

Bai Xiaosheng isn't seeking an absolutely "clear" Greater China Region.

After all, water that is too clear is void of fish.

And what Shen Peishen wants is a "post-stage" clear Greater China Region.

However, Shen Peishen's approach is more extreme; he turns himself into a vortex, attracting those with issues to help him climb to a higher position, then sweeps these people away, clearing Greater China Region and adding a feather to his cap, aiming for even higher positions.

You have to say, for someone of Shen Peishen's age, an "old man" who would be retired in public service, to have such ambition, even audacity, is truly remarkable.

Naturally, Bai Xiaosheng does not agree with his methods.

Ultimately, What Shen Peishen pursues is fundamentally "self-interest," with self-interest as the goal. Although it will also eventually clear the Greater China Region, by gathering that group, starting from profit, he's undermining the foundation, leaving Greater China Region riddled with holes. And in the end, even if the termites are gone, it's nothing but a leaky, broken house swaying in the storm.

What's the use!

"It will be soon, with the rate we are collecting evidence, the day we take down Shen Peishen will come quickly. Of course, they will hate us even more, just like they do now, I bet they despise us to the bone," Lin Weiwei said confidently, smiling.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled; he also felt that day would not be far off.

Then, Lin Weiwei asked, "Xiaosheng, why did we leave Da Qing so quickly to come to Guangyun? What's the plan?"

Bai Xiaosheng never mentioned any evidence or clues in Guangyun. On the contrary, in Nanyu, after their investigation, there were indeed real issues. It was Bai Xiaosheng who, with a single train ticket, drew out deeper issues.

But Xiaosheng had said,

Going to Nanyu now was obviously not plausible; Shen Peishen and his crew would surely be on high alert, and the loss would outweigh the gain.

We must wait, let the heat pass, then feint a move and sneak over quietly!

Lin Weiwei understood this.

But, the purpose of coming to Guangyun?

Lin Weiwei was curious, and even Lei Ying, who was eating fruit next to her, perked up his ears, waiting for Bai Xiaosheng's explanation.

Realizing both their concerns, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly laughed loudly.

"Weiwei, you said it yourself, they're at the point of hating us deeply. We've taken such a big advantage; should we not run and wait for their desperate retaliation?" Bai Xiaosheng humorously said, "Wouldn't that be foolish!"

In his good mood, Bai Xiaosheng even made a joke, then said, "This trip to Guangyun is naturally to dodge the sharpness and, incidentally, to visit Master Song Kai!"

"This time, it's mainly a friendly visit! It's for fun!"

Bai Xiaosheng said, his gaze distant.

It had been quite a while indeed since he last saw Master Song Kai!

Bai Xiaosheng was genuinely missing the old man.

However, what Bai Xiaosheng did not know was that at this moment, in Master Song Kai's home, a significant figure was visiting!

And this significant figure was someone Bai Xiaosheng knew.

In fact, they were closely related!

Chapter 1149 - Wen Yan, Ruan Yu

When they arrived in Guangyun, it was already late at night.

After leaving the high-speed train station, Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and decided to find a nearby hotel to stay in.

He planned to visit Master Song Kai the next morning.

It wasn't that he was reluctant to see Master Song Kai or that the Song Family didn't have enough space to accommodate them.

Rather, Bai Xiaosheng felt that the old man might go to bed early and his sudden arrival could disrupt the elder's routine, which would not be nice if the old man got excited and wanted to chat for a while.

Even though Master Song Kai was strong and healthy, it was still better to be cautious.

With age comes the need to pay attention to an elder's well-being.

Thus, Bai Xiaosheng preferred to keep his distance this once, staying outside and simply bringing his belongings when he checked out the next day, claiming he had just arrived, and no one would question it.

Having made up his mind, Bai Xiaosheng mentioned his decision to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, who naturally agreed.

In fact, there was a big hotel nearby—a five-star one at that—

Yunzheng International Hotel.

It took less than five minutes to get there by car.

This building was also one of the landmark buildings; even when they just left the high-speed train station, it was clearly visible aided by the city's lights.

When they got out of the car in front of Yunzheng International Hotel, even the well-traveled trio of Bai Xiaosheng nodded repeatedly. They had stayed in many hotels during their travels, but based on its exterior grandeur, this one definitely ranked in the top three.

The trio had just paused for a moment when a bellhop with a beaming smile came over to greet them, confirmed their stay, saw that they had some luggage, and called over a cart to help transport it.

This level of service added another two points to the hotel's favor.

Bai Xiaosheng and his friends felt very satisfied and stepped inside.

At the front desk, the three attractive, graceful receptionists who spoke amiably further improved their impression by a couple of points.

However, the rooms here were indeed expensive, even one-third more expensive than other five-star hotels of the same caliber!

But for someone like Bai Xiaosheng, who carried around several hundred million in his private funds,

Expensive?

What was that?

While Bai Xiaosheng and his friends were handling the check-in procedures, three more people entered behind them.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced over unintentionally at first, but his attention was soon drawn to them.

These three, also comprising two men and a woman, were quite distinctive.

The leader was a young man, similar in age to himself, very tall, slim, standing straight as a rod.

His face was quite good-looking, definitely handsome, and he always had a smile on his face, his gaze modest and courteous.

At the moment, he carried a unique air about him.

He blended in with ordinary people.

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment, noticed the elegance in his every move, and then it dawned on him.

A gentleman's demeanor!

Could this guy have been raised with European gentlemanly etiquette?

Bai Xiaosheng had Red Lotus check, and indeed, that etiquette carried a hint of the aristocratic!

If it weren't for his thoroughly Asian appearance, one might truly mistake him for some European baron or viscount.

The other two people, one was a somewhat bald European elder.

He looked spirited, standing there with a lot of styles, and his expression subtly revealed a hint of pride.

Not the pride that distances others but one that was naturally exuded.

While talking with the hotel staff, the elder even seemed amiable and even humble.

Additionally, there was a girl, slightly younger than Lin Weiwei, pretty with stunning figure, her chest imposing, which even made a few of the female receptionists at the hotel sneak glances, envious.

This woman had the demeanor of an orchid, her hands neatly placed in front of her, indescribably demure.

Bai Xiaosheng wondered if she'd look even more suitable in a maid's outfit.

When Bai Xiaosheng looked over, the young man also looked his way, measuring him and giving a slight smile.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back, though he was tremendously surprised inside.

In that exchange of glances, Bai Xiaosheng had discovered something.

This young man had such a profound look in his eyes that Bai Xiaosheng couldn't see through him?!

It was unbelievable; with Bai Xiaosheng's current discernment, even Shen Peishen could be somewhat transparent during a face-to-face encounter.

Could his temperament really surpass Shen Peishen's?

Bai Xiaosheng quietly marveled in awe.

The world was full of talented people; why couldn't he have encountered peers even more outstanding and bewitching than himself?

I couldn't have reached such a level of narcissism, could I?

Bai Xiaosheng quietly mocked himself.

Even so, Bai Xiaosheng silently warned himself not to be arrogant. His progress thus far was also largely due to Red Lotus's assistance and cultivation. He wasn't a genius nor a prodigy and therefore should not be proud or envious of those stronger than him.

After calming his mind, Bai Xiaosheng smiled again at the young man.

The staff members were also processing the young man's check-in.

However, worn by an elderly European who looked like a traditional butler, he was managing it. Astonishingly, he spoke Mandarin fluently and impeccably, even better than most natives, Bai Xiaosheng thought.

Of course, whether it was exchanging smiles with the young man or noticing the European senior's pronunciation, it was all just moments, and soon Lin Weiwei had finished her check-in, retrieved her room card, and came over to smile at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng naturally refocused his attention, and together with Lei Ying, followed Lin Weiwei into the hotel.

However, they had only walked a few dozen steps when they heard a cry from behind.

"Ladies and gentleman ahead, please wait a moment!"

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions realized they were being called and stopped in surprise to turn around.

The balding European elder with half-white hair had actually chased after them.

Although he was running, his steps were steady without any breathlessness, and he maintained his demeanor throughout; this was impressive.

Moreover, the young couple was following him.

"Excuse me, are you calling us?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

They were all strangers, hadn't even exchanged words, and knew nothing of each other's names; just a couple of glances and smiles.

Why would he chase after them?

Bai Xiaosheng was curious.

"Yes, sir, we would like to ask a favor of you," the elder smiled warmly.

"What is it?" Bai Xiaosheng's perception of him wasn't bad, so he smiled in response.

"Our young master is very fond of the number 805; it holds special meaning for him. So whenever he stays in hotels, he insists on having this room. However..." The elder smiled and pointed at the room card in Lin Weiwei's hand. "This beautiful lady has just booked this room, and we were wondering if you might consider exchanging it."

"Of course, your three rooms will be closely situated, and we'll handle the arrangements with the hotel."

"And as an apology, we are willing to cover your accommodation costs."

The European elder was sincere in his negotiations and requests, with no hint of coercion.

Curious, yet amused, Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"So, does your young master always need this particular room wherever he stays? What if it's been booked by someone else in advance? Do you offer money to exchange rooms then too? What if they don't agree?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked repeatedly, not to trouble him, but simply out of curiosity.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were also full of curiosity.

Unexpectedly, there are such intriguing people in the world, infatuated with a number to the extent of insisting on staying in a specific room.

The elder opened his mouth to explain,

"Mr. Huang, let me speak with these friends," an amiable voice came from behind him.

The elder immediately fell silent, respectfully stepping aside.

The young man approached with a smile, "Folks, I really have a special reason for wanting to switch rooms. Let me explain, and if you'd consider it, I'd be very thankful."

The young man smiled, pointing to himself, "My name is Wen Yan."

He then pointed to the girl, "Her name is Ruan Yu."

Quite unique names.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately laughed, introducing himself and his companions.

"My name is Lin Sheng, he's Fang Cheng, and she's Bai Ying."

Using false names?

As if we didn't know each other.

Chapter 1150 - An Interesting Person

Wen Yan, Ruan Yu, speaking of these two names separately, one wouldn't think there's anything noteworthy.

But if you put them together, encountering them at the same time, there's an issue, as it clearly becomes a play on the phrase "soft and gentle words."

It would be too much of a coincidence for their names to match so well unless their parents were the best of friends, and they themselves had been childhood sweethearts born at the same time. That would be somewhat believable.

But it was obvious that "Ruan Yu" was younger, clearly not of the same age as "Wen Yan."

Even if the girl looked young for her age, her behavior towards the man was also off.

That kind of spontaneous respect and compliance was not of an equal but rather that of a maidservant.

There wasn't a hint of the familiarity you'd expect from childhood sweethearts.

More importantly, when "Wen Yan" introduced their names, the reaction from "Ruan Yu" was not that of someone reacting to their own name.

Others might not notice, but Bai Xiaosheng had a remarkably keen eye and saw right through it.

Although he still couldn't figure out what "Wen Yan" was all about, with the girl's microexpressions as evidence, Bai Xiaosheng was more than half convinced of his judgment.

They were using pseudonyms!

So Bai Xiaosheng decided to use aliases for these three people as well.

Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying heard it without batting an eye, their expressions as natural as if these were indeed their real names.

Wen Yan nodded and smiled at each "Lin Sheng," "Bai Ying," and "Fang Cheng" in turn, his demeanor cultured and gentlemanly.

Seeing that Bai Xiaosheng was the leader, Wen Yan turned to him and with a smile said, "Mr. Lin, what you don't know is that I have been an orphan since childhood. An elderly person took me in, raised me, and provided me with the best education, allowing me to live a comfortable life. So, I always remember the day I was adopted as my birthday, the fifth of August, and even when I travel and check into hotels, I try to stay in room 805 whenever possible. It's my way of commemorating."

Wen Yan spoke sincerely and calmly, without pretense or melodrama, as if recounting something utterly mundane.

"Mr. Wen, may I boldly ask you, if you encounter someone very stubborn who is unwilling to give up their room, what do you do?" Bai Xiaosheng asked purely out of curiosity, with a smile repeating a question he had asked before and adding, "Would you look for another hotel?"

At this, Wen Yan also smiled.

"As it happens, this is just one of the ways I honor my memories. If it is possible, then I try to do it. If not, I don't insist. After all, insisting on external relics as a way of remembering is not true remembrance, is it?" Wen Yan's smile was as warm as sunshine.

After speaking, he looked at Bai Xiaosheng and asked, "So, Mr. Lin, what do you suggest?"

To switch rooms or not?

The question came with a hint of earnestness, with absolutely no pressure.

Bai Xiaosheng believed that if he insisted on refusing, Wen Yan would not press the matter further and would likely just smile and walk away.

"Let's switch."

After a moment's thought, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Wen Yan and turned to Lin Weiwei, calling her by her pseudonym, "Bai Ying, could you go with that gentleman back to the front desk and take care of the room switch?"

Once Bai Xiaosheng had spoken, Lin Weiwei naturally nodded, smiled at the European elderly man, and extended a delicate white hand, "Mr. Huang, please!"

"Good, good!" The European elder, referred to as Huang, immediately nodded, his smile gentlemanly as he invited Lin Weiwei over.

While they took care of the paperwork, Bai Xiaosheng and Wen Yan waited and made small talk.

They discussed inconsequential, lightweight matters—

"Mr. Lin, are you a local?"

"No, I'm here to visit friends."

"And Mr. Wen, you look like a scion of a wealthy family yet not staying in the presidential suite."

"Haha, do I look the part? In fact, I'm just a company employee, there's company policy, and I too would like to stay in the presidential suite. I've heard even the faucets are made of gold."

...

After the conversation, Bai Xiaosheng found that Wen Yan was easy to get along with. When talking to people, he had a calm demeanor, always with a smile that made you feel as if bathed in warm sunshine, very comfortable.

However, inside, Bai Xiaosheng still kept his distance from Wen Yan.

Because he could not see through him.

This meant that Wen Yan's disposition was profound, even beyond Bai Xiaosheng's current ability to judge.

Bai Xiaosheng even felt that the "natural" sincere expressions in the other's microexpressions might very well be fake.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng gave up on analyzing him further.

Fortunately, they were just ships passing in the night, merely exchanging rooms as a courtesy.

After this interaction, everyone would go their separate ways, likely never to meet again.

By then, whether this man was genuinely kind-hearted or deeply calculative would be of no concern to him.

Bai Xiaosheng thought so.

And today, that easy favor was done thoroughly, nothing more than a kind gesture.

It was just what Bai Xiaosheng wanted to do, not seeking repayment, not expecting gratitude.

Five minutes later.

When Lin Weiwei and the old European man rushed back, the procedures were already complete. The hotel's attitude was still very good, the process was fast, and didn't take long.

However, after adjusting rooms on the eighth floor, there were no longer three adjoining rooms, nor even enough rooms, so Bai Xiaosheng's group was moved up to the ninth floor.

"Mr. Wen, it seems we won't be neighbors after all, but at least we can share the elevator ride," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Wen Yan and made a "please" gesture.

"Mr. Lin, after you!" Wen Yan replied with a warm smile.

Both parties rushed to the elevators, and Bai Xiaosheng chatted with Wen Yan about some trivial matters along the way.

It was only when they got there that they realized the elevators for even and odd floors were separate, on opposite sides.

And Bai Xiaosheng's elevator had just arrived.

Wen Yan smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Lin, we have to part ways here, hope to see you again."

"Hope to see you again!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile and boarded the elevator with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Wen Yan and the others watched them go.

The elevator doors closed, ascending.

A few floors up, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly smiled faintly, as if talking to himself, "Wen Yan, huh? I wonder what his true identity is, what kind of person he is!"

A company employee?

Just an employee?

And not the heir to some major group or powerful family?

However, Bai Xiaosheng just wondered casually and didn't dwell on it.

After waiting for a moment, Wen Yan and his companions also got their elevator.

While riding the elevator upward, Wen Yan asked Ruan Yu and Huang with a smile, "What do you think of that Lin Sheng?"

"Strong presence," said Huang, "and very polite."

His points of concern were not many, but all important.

Ruan Yu muttered, "How so? After all, he's not as good as you, young master!"

Hearing this, Wen Yan laughed heartily, his gaze thoughtful and profound, "He's an interesting person, no, they are an interesting group."

"And the alias is quite pleasant to the ear, too."

As they spoke, the elevator reached the eighth floor.

Wen Yan and the others got off and went straight back to their hotel rooms.

Huang and Ruan Yu, as usual, went ahead to clean Wen Yan's room.

Once inside, Wen Yan plopped down, fiddling with his phone, reading one report after another.

Wen Yan was very serious about it.

From time to time, he would say something, as if talking to himself, but also as if he was speaking to Ruan Yu and Huang.

However, the two knew Wen Yan's habits well; most of the time, they just listened, occasionally smiling, without engaging in the conversation.

Letting Wen Yan talk on his own.

"Speaking of which, there were so many affairs in Europe and America recently. Now, they seem to have settled for a bit."

"What do you think Mr. Situ and the board are considering, actually letting our institution ignore the Greater China Region's affairs for these two years?"

Wen Yan seemed to sigh then chuckled, "Two years of not focusing on this region, things really have changed a lot here!"

"The Greater China Region has been quite lively recently! That Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, he really stands out!"

"Only, the local affairs have all been left to him, to the local Affairs Department."

"So what should our inspection group do now!"

Wen Yan thought again of the people they had just encountered, his smile meaningful.

"Heh, Lin Sheng?"

"Do you really think, Senior Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, that I haven't seen your photo?"