

Two Trillion 1231

Chapter 1231 In Great Fury

Bai Xiaosheng made several calls to Xiahou Qi, all of which went unanswered.

"Is Elder Xia busy in a meeting?" Bai Xiaosheng frowned, muttering to himself.

These past few days, the headquarters were also busy with meetings.

Bai Xiaosheng was aware of this.

Xiahou Qi mentioned that he would pin down Shen Peishen and his people at headquarters.

To avoid causing troubles here as much as possible.

Indeed, Elder Xia did exactly that!

But watching Shen Peishen wasn't easy, and Bai Xiaosheng was also worried about Xiahou Qi's health.

However, each time they spoke on the phone, the old man sounded vigorous, and since things were genuinely busy on this end, Bai Xiaosheng gradually put his mind at ease.

"Right now, Han Hefei is unusually cooperative, providing us with many valuable, yet temporarily inapplicable clues. Is this merely to stall time, a plan they prepared early?"

"When exactly did Shen Peishen learn about the incident here, was it after we made our move on Han Hefei... or before?!"

"These past few days, has Shen Peishen really stayed put at the headquarters? He could've defied orders, after such a major incident shook his foundation and threatened his life!"

"Thinking carefully, many things here indeed seem amiss!"

...

Pondering over these, Bai Xiaosheng felt inexplicably troubled.

However, he also firmly believed.

Regardless of what happened, Elder Xia would certainly be able to maintain control of the situation.

Currently, at the locations under investigation, several Senior Affairs Officers were overseeing things, communicating with each other, and no anomalies were detected.

"Am I overthinking it? Or is it just that underlying currents are surging, and Shen Peishen is merely plotting a counterstrike!" Bai Xiaosheng thought worriedly, furrowing his brows.

Little did Bai Xiaosheng know.

At headquarters, at this moment, a shocking change had occurred!

Even a dramatic scene of a palace coup had unfolded!

Xiahou Qi had collapsed under the impact of betrayal from his own people.

"Before things become clear, I shouldn't speculate wildly and confuse myself!" Bai Xiaosheng reminded himself internally, trying to calm down.

Lin Weiwei, who had come with Bai Xiaosheng, held a tablet, occasionally looking at the information on it and then at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was deep in thought, still maintaining the posture of making calls, so Lin Weiwei did not go up to disturb him.

Finally, another call failed to go through, and Bai Xiaosheng put down his phone, deciding to stop calling Xiahou Qi for the time being.

Believing that Elder Xia, after finishing the meeting and seeing so many missed calls, would get back to him.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng put away his phone, Lin Weiwei approached and cautiously asked, "Brother Xiaosheng, what's wrong, is there a problem with Han Hefei?!"

After visiting Han Hefei, Bai Xiaosheng had this demeanor, so Lin Weiwei naturally associated it with him.

Since Bai Xiaosheng himself was unaware of the specifics, he just shook his head with a smile at Lin Weiwei, motioned towards the tablet in her hand, and asked, "How's it outside now?"

In Nanyu and surrounding provinces, hundreds of Affairs Officers and Assistants were investigating over twenty corporate groups, and the scope of investigations was expanding.

Almost every moment, there were inquiries about the direction of investigation, requests for authorization, demands for additional personnel, among various other issues.

"There are some tasks that need your attention!" Lin Weiwei handed the tablet to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng temporarily set aside his concerns, took the tablet from Lin Weiwei, and walked to his temporary office to handle the affairs first.

After taking a few steps, Bai Xiaosheng still felt unsettled and turned to Lin Weiwei, instructing, "Weiwei, go and call Lei Ying back!"

Lin Weiwei was momentarily stunned, then nodded, crisply replying, "Okay!"

"We previously thought Han Hefei was too cooperative, so we overlooked it. Now, it seems, no matter whether he cooperates or not, we must intensify our efforts and expedite our pace! Even if they plan anything, we only seek to be fast and fierce! Even if the situation changes, we must cling tightly to their main weaknesses! Break through!"

Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be talking to himself, seemingly making a decision, then strode toward his office with determination.

Lin Weiwei quickly took out her phone and contacted Lei Ying.

Now, with Lei Ying outside, it would also take two hours for him to return.

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Bai Xiaosheng worked in the office for two hours, until 1:30 pm.

During this period, those consulting Bai Xiaosheng clearly noticed that the style of the Senior Affairs Officer had changed.

More "aggressive"!

More swift and decisive!

It seems that he wants results by the afternoon whenever he gets a clue in the morning!

As a result, those below him couldn't help but start to adapt to Bai Xiaosheng's pace.

When Lei Ying arrived, Bai Xiaosheng was having lunch, eating a simple boxed meal voraciously.

Lin Weiwei was also eating by the side.

As soon as Lei Ying came back, Bai Xiaosheng greeted him, knew he hadn't had lunch, and asked Lin Weiwei to get one for him.

The three of them ate in the office.

Bai Xiaosheng ate quickly, thinking about discussing with Lei Ying after finishing his meal on how to pry open Han Hefei's mouth to get more useful information!

However, before he could finish his meal, Bai Xiaosheng's mobile phone started ringing.

Bai Xiaosheng grabbed his phone, thinking it was Elder Xia calling.

"Is it her?!" Seeing the name on the caller ID, Bai Xiaosheng was extremely surprised, but still answered the call, his voice calm, "Yu Ying, are you looking for me? Is there something wrong?"

While Bai Xiaosheng was on the phone, Lei Ying was fervently gobbling down his food, chewing deliciously.

Lin Weiwei had started eating earlier and had already finished, now cleaning up.

Suddenly, there was silence on Bai Xiaosheng's end.

Both Lin Weiwei looked up simultaneously without agreement and saw a scene.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed to be frozen, standing there.

His expression was one of unprecedented horror, as if he had heard some terrifying news!

Something bad has happened!

Both Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying thought at the same time.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes started to fill with anger.

However, he remained silent, his gaze ferocious.

"Understood," Bai Xiaosheng said these three words in a voice unlike his own.

Hoarse, deep, as if compressing a heavy emotion in his throat.

Then, his hand dropped, slamming the hung-up phone onto the table.

"Xiaosheng?"

"Sheng!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying called out almost simultaneously.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't even look at them, he stood up and walked straight out.

In that moment, his eyes were blood-red and frightening.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying hurriedly followed him.

...

Shenhe Group, Assistant Office.

The Affairs Officer and assistant responsible for interrogating Han Hefei were eating lunch, and Han Hefei was also eating.

However, the quality and abundance of Han Hefei's meal were significantly better, as he was not yet a prisoner and received a privileged treatment.

It was a calm noon, and both parties were enjoying their meal.

Suddenly, a loud "bang" erupted!

It was so loud it made people's ears buzz.

One assistant dropped their chopsticks in fright.

Another one directly bit through their plastic spoon.

The door of the assistant office, connected with metal hinges, the top one flew off, causing the whole door to collapse.

If the force had been any stronger, perhaps the whole door would have been blown away.

Bai Xiaosheng walked in step by step from the outside, his expression gloomy, carrying a storm of fury.

"Out!" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the Affairs Officer and assistant responsible for the interrogation, his voice hoarse.

Upon seeing him, the three people scrambled up in panic and fled as if escaping.

Han Hefei looked up at Bai Xiaosheng, continuing to eat his lunch calmly.

However, his lips curled into a rare smile these days.

A smile so refreshing, so proud!

Chapter 1232 - You, Provoked the Wrong Person!

Bai Xiaosheng approached Han Hefei, kicked the table in front of him away, and slapped the lunchbox out of his hands.

Han Hefei provocatively threw the chopsticks in his hand on the ground, looked up, and sneered at Bai Xiaosheng.

Despite all this, if Bai Xiaosheng still couldn't guess what had happened, then he wouldn't be Han Hefei.

"Looks like the news is good?" Han Hefei asked with a bright white smile.

The exact news wasn't known yet, but seeing such an expression on Bai Xiaosheng suggested that Mr. Shen must have succeeded!

Bai Xiaosheng walked forward, grabbed Han Hefei by the collar, and yanked him up from his seat.

With blood-red eyes furiously fixed on Han Hefei, Bai Xiaosheng gritted his teeth and said, "It was you, you purposefully leaked that 'list'! You made me find so many problems on purpose! All to make us expose our entire operation, then ambushed Elder Xia at the headquarters!"

"Is that right!" Bai Xiaosheng roared.

Han Hefei calmly looked at Bai Xiaosheng, not retaliating, the smile never fading, his voice composed—

"You guessed right, it was us!"

"But, you didn't lose out either! Mr. Shen was prepared to sacrifice his fortune and gamble with you all!"

"It's your own greed for the hunt, it's you who wanted others dead!"

"So everyone just plays a game! But now, it seems, we are the winners!"

With that, Han Hefei laughed heartily, "To think, at first I really thought I discovered a treasure by recruiting such a talented and young Senior Affairs Officer!"

"Until I realized, all challenges become non-issues with you. Then I thought, what kind of person could be so supernatural! Could such a supernatural person be ordinary!"

"We received the news that 'Bai Xiaosheng would visit Nanyu' very early! By this point, if I hadn't figured out who you are, then I would be too stupid!"

"You see, I put that 'list' carefully in a safe, looking at it day by day. If you really are the Senior Affairs Officer Sheng from the rumors, then just a slight negligence on my part, just a bit, and you would have succeeded in getting that document!"

"You really didn't disappoint me! Senior Affairs Officer Sheng! So, I can't disappoint you either, we can't disappoint you!"

"This flawless gambling plot, half of the success was due to us, the other half, to you!"

Han Hefei looked genuinely appreciative, smiling sincerely.

"So we still have to thank you!"

Hearing this, veins bulged on Bai Xiaosheng's forehead, and his hands grasped Han Hefei's collar, turning veiny as well, feeling an urge to tear this scoundrel apart.

Following behind, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, hearing the conversation between Bai Xiaosheng and Han Hefei, both were utterly shocked.

It turned out to be a plot crafted by Shen Peishen!

Shen Peishen risked his own fortune to bait people from their side and drain them out from headquarters.

But what did that mean after all?

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying still didn't know what exactly happened back at the headquarters.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, what happened at the headquarters?!" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask in alarm.

Lei Ying also looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng gritted his teeth, "Just now, the news I received. These people have been organizing large meetings non-stop at the headquarters, keeping Elder Xia busy every day! You know Elder Xia's health can't take this!"

His voice hoarse, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "They even colluded with Fang Beijun at headquarters to force Elder Xia to give up power, using his health as the cause."

"Elder Xia is critically ill, unconscious!"

These words made both Lin Weiwei's and Lei Ying's eyes suddenly contract.

It turned out that Shen Peishen gambled with their fortune just to directly take down Elder Xia!

Recalling Elder Xia, Lin Weiwei's eyes reddened — scenes of their past meetings clear before her eyes.

The elderly man was very kind, and when he visited the office informally, he'd even make jokes, just like a family elder.

Who would have thought...

Lei Ying's expression also instantaneously grimaced.

To be so cruel to an elderly person, aiming to take his life, was nothing less than beastly!

"You all really cause too much trouble. Have you ever thought why only you guys keep getting away with it, able to weed out all Mr. Shen's direct descendants, while others cannot? Is it your luck or do you wear a halo?"

Han Hefei sneered mockingly, "Don't be foolish! You probably still don't realize when you became mere pawns!"

"This game is not for people of your caliber to meddle in!"

Han Hefei smiled as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, "You are quite clever, seeking me out immediately to understand the situation! And I, too, wanted to talk to you right away; otherwise, the joy of victory would be too dull!"

"You are proud of what! Han Hefei, have you ever thought about it! Even if Shen Peisheng wins, if your problem is confirmed, you can only end up in jail!" Lin Weiwei said angrily.

Han Hefei glanced at her and chuckled, "Right now, Mr. Shen is in charge at headquarters, and your investigation will be terminated! Do you have enough evidence to confirm my issues? Even if you do, it's insufficient! What I confessed are problems of others! Also, don't worry about me; I am not meant to be a scapegoat! Because, I follow my mother's surname."

"My father's surname is also Shen!"

Han Hefei laughed wildly.

Then, he was struck hard in the face by a punch from Bai Xiaosheng, falling heavily to the ground.

"You think you'll be fine? Wishful thinking!" Bai Xiaosheng pointed at him, his gaze murderous as he spoke, "Lei Ying, I'm leaving him to you! At all costs! By any means necessary! Make him spill everything!"

"Understood!" Lei Ying's eyes were devilish, looking at Han Hefei with a hint of pity, "Mr. Han, you've seen my profile, you know my background! In a little while, I'll have a good 'discussion' with you, and I hope you can last till the end!"

"Because even if you confess early, I'll assume all you say is false!"

Han Hefei looked at the butcher-like gaze of Lei Ying, feeling an inexplicable chill in his heart.

Bai Xiaosheng strode towards the door, not looking back, "Han Hefei, do you think that just because Shen Peisheng takes control and stops the investigation, you're in the clear, that you all are safe?"

"Sorry, what was before was official. Now, it has escalated to a vendetta!"

Bai Xiaosheng paused at the door, glancing back at Han Hefei, his eyes brimming with lethal intent, "You thought of me as a pawn? Well, let me tell you—"

"You've messed with the wrong person!"

Bai Xiaosheng walked away directly.

Lin Weiwei looked at Han Hefei with cold eyes and followed out, gently closing the sagging door.

When only the two of them were left in the assistant's office, Lei Ying walked towards Han Hefei, his gaze like that of a butcher eyeing a lamb.

"What do you want to do? Don't mess around, I'm telling you, don't mess around!" Han Hefei shouted.

The fierce look in Lei Ying's eyes was like a raging beast, not at all human.

...

At this moment.

Greater China Region Headquarters of Zhenbei Group, Shen Peisheng's office.

"Fang, this isn't what we agreed on! How can you announce that I'm just an acting CEO! Does that mean if Xiahou Qi wakes up, he still holds the CEO position!" Shen Peisheng frowned, somewhat displeased.

This wasn't in line with his earlier plans!

"Fang, I'm just making the initial moves; the higher-ups are behind this, did you think I, being an officer from headquarters, have the power to appoint you directly? Did you think this position is as trivial as a department manager that you can assign it to whoever you want?"

"If Xiahou Qi signs the document I brought, you could indeed be confirmed quickly."

"But look, right now, Xiahou Qi has fallen! He is critically ill! The top leaders at headquarters wouldn't dare to remove him directly, at most they would declare an acting CEO!"

"Ultimately, your drastic measures have toppled Xiahou Qi, but it was too forceful! You can't blame me for that."

"So what if it's acting CEO, aren't you still exercising the powers? Just wait a few days, once Xiahou Qi is truly done, after the headquarters discuss a candidate, it would still be you."

"With such a large operation at the Greater China Region, who else but you, with your accomplishments and experience, can lead?"

Fang Beijun sat with crossed legs, sipping tea, advising with a smile.

"These simplistic principles, you understand them, so why are you being so impatient, like a newbie?"

Shen Peisheng breathed heavily through his nose.

Indeed!

Shen Peisheng, who strategized broadly and decided battles from thousands of miles away, was actually asking such a naive question, displaying such impatience.

"What am I worried about?" Shen Peisheng asked himself.

"Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Chen Yucheng?"

"Without Xiahou Qi, they are nothing!"

Then, Shen Peisheng's eyes hardened, as he seemed to find the root of his folly, muttering someone's name—

"Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chapter 1233 - Can't Go Back!

Zhenbei Group Greater China Region's CEO, Mr. Xiahou Qi, suddenly became critically ill and was admitted to the ICU—Intensive Care Unit.

From Zhenbei Group's headquarters far away in America, senior executives were sent to convey their sympathies promptly.

The Greater China Region's first Senior Affairs Officer, Shen Peishen, was temporarily appointed as the acting CEO of the Greater China Region.

Once these three pieces of news spread, the whole Greater China Region was shaken!

Talking about Mr. Xiahou Qi's condition, among the mid-and upper-level management in the Greater China Region, some sighed, felt emotional, and grieved, while others were delighted, content, and ecstatic.

Regardless of the stance or camp, or personal sentiments,

Everyone recognized that Mr. Xiahou Qi was a monumental figure in the Greater China Region.

Now, the sky had fallen.

Although Shen Peishen's rise to the top was just a temporary assignment, it nearly declared a fact—

He would be the next CEO of the Greater China Region!

Thus, many people were worried, and many were overjoyed.

In any case, within a day, in just one hour, the feelings of the mid-and upper-level management at Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region were complex, but they had to admit that talking about the sky falling in the Greater China Region was not an exaggeration.

Rather, it was a change of heaven!

Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, and another female Senior Affairs Officer, Xu Youruo, who were investigating abroad, were extremely shocked and grief-stricken when they received the news, for they were all handpicked by Mr. Xiahou Qi, having a relationship with him that was part mentor, part father. Faced with such terrible news, it was hard for them to accept, and they immediately wanted to return.

Bai Xiaosheng contacted the three of them right away, and he chose to do so over video call.

"I've booked the earliest flight, I'll rush back overnight!"

"I've arranged a driver over here, I'm setting out shortly, it doesn't matter how many hours, I'll drive back!"

"I'm already on my way to the high-speed rail station, it's just seven hours by high-speed rail to Linshen!"

These three, regardless of their usual temperaments, were extremely agitated at the moment.

They wanted to rush back as soon as possible, to Elder Xia's side.

Facing the three emotionally charged individuals, Bai Xiaosheng, on the other hand, was unusually silent.

"Sheng, you're actually the closest to Linshen. Once you get there, you must remind the doctors to use the best medicine, the finest techniques, and if that's not enough, arrange to transfer him to the capital, or even abroad! Elder Xia's illness cannot be delayed for a single moment!" Li Haofeng urgently advised.

Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo both said similar things.

"We can't go back now!"

Bai Xiaosheng replied with a grave expression, in a slow and heavy tone to Li Haofeng.

His words made all three individuals' expressions change; they were to some extent, incredulous.

"Elder Xia is in the ICU, and you still fucking sit there calmly? Are you still thinking about work, about the investigation, about performance?!"

Li Haofeng roared in anger, "Bai Xiaosheng, are you even human! I was fucking wrong about you! Elder Xia was wrong about you!"

Of the three, Li Haofeng had the deepest emotional connection to Mr. Xiahou Qi, so much so that this gentlemanly and well-mannered man, upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, was enraged to the point of cursing vehemently.

His fury was practically erupting.

If Bai Xiaosheng did not have a valid explanation, it's likely Li Haofeng would turn his back on Bai Xiaosheng for life.

Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo hurriedly tried to mediate.

"Do you know? It's because of this investigation, this very investigation that sent all of us away, leaving Elder Xia alone to face Shen Peishen and his cohorts, that he was literally exhausted into the ICU! Bai Xiaosheng, this is all because of you!"

Li Haofeng's eyes were bloodshot, and he continued to bellow.

He was truly distraught.

Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo swiftly consoled Li Haofeng, and again tried to persuade Bai Xiaosheng.

They suggested that work could be handed over to others for now; the priority should be to visit Elder Xia immediately.

"I admit, this matter has arisen because of me!"

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't angry about Li Haofeng's outburst.

After all, even the most rational person can lose their composure when someone they are deeply close, trust, and respect is in trouble.

He didn't shy away from Li Haofeng's angry words.

To be fair, Bai Xiaosheng himself was suppressing a raging fury, wishing he could fly straight to the headquarters and have a showdown with Shen Peishen and his associates.

However, that was not an option!

"Elder Xia, up until yesterday, still spoke to me. Do you know what he said?" Bai Xiaosheng said.

Li Haofeng glared angrily at Bai Xiaosheng but ultimately did not interrupt.

Bai Xiaosheng continued solemnly, "Elder Xia said, 'Sheng, this might be our only chance, the real opportunity to bring clarity back to the Greater China Region. I have waited, a full twenty years for this opportunity!'"

"Now, the opportunity has finally arrived, and I have to thank you, thank Haofeng, thank Honghu, thank Youruo."

"I am also grateful, grateful for having you guys as the future backbone! The future of the Greater China Region is assured because of you!"

As Bai Xiaosheng repeated the words Elder Xia said yesterday, it was as if the old man had a premonition and said a lot, unusually.

Bai Xiaosheng's repetition carried a touch of sadness.

Li Haofeng's eyes were already filled with tears.

Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo were also silent and filled with sorrow.

"Twenty years!"

Through the video call, Bai Xiaosheng raised two fingers, looking at Li Haofeng and the two others.

"The old man waited twenty years for this opportunity!"

"Maybe you think this is Shen Peishen's trap, and we've been duped, and that Elder Xia got played by Shen Peishen as well."

"But what I am telling you now is, this is an opportunity! Whether you accept it or not, this is the chance to thoroughly dig out Shen Peishen!"

"If you persist, if you stay and with the fastest, even faster pace, dig out all those pests and sons of bitches, then that is an opportunity! Not a trap anymore!"

"If you go back now! Without you holding the fort, Shen Peishen has a hundred ways to turn the tables, do you believe that?"

"I know that actually, you all understand this, it's just that you are deceiving yourselves!"

"Elder Xia waited twenty years, betting everything to create this opportunity for us, just to go see him for a moment, for the sake of your conscience at this moment, you want to give up? Is that really your conscience?"

"Then will your conscience be at peace in the future!"

"Elder Xia said he is reassured by having you, is he truly reassured!"

Bai Xiaosheng got more and more animated as he spoke, and finally he bellowed out loud, even pointing at Li Haofeng's nose and shouting, "Speak up, Li Haofeng, speak!"

"If you don't care, then go back!"

Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo looked at Bai Xiaosheng in the video in shock.

They were all in their forties or fifties, people who had been the Senior Affairs Officer for several years, and yet they were shaken by what Bai Xiaosheng said.

In the video, Li Haofeng stared angrily at Bai Xiaosheng, breathing heavily, opening his mouth but unable to say a word.

"We should go back, we should return to Elder Xia with a clear conscience! If you are truly anxious, then bring everyone to fight with all you've got, and thoroughly investigate all the scoundrels!" Bai Xiaosheng said fiercely.

Beneath the silence, Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo finally spoke up again.

"I think Sheng is right!"

"I also agree with Sheng's point!" - the Senior Affairs Officer.

They too agreed with Bai Xiaosheng's opinion and even began to express their stance.

"I will deal with things here before returning!"

"Haofeng Senior Affairs Officer, let's finish the job before we go!"

In the video, Li Haofeng's face was grim as he stared straight at Bai Xiaosheng, suddenly yelling to someone outside of the video, "Turn around, let's go back!"

That was to his driver.

Li Haofeng agreed!

These three Senior Affairs Officers were, in an unprecedented move, following the lead of this young man, Bai Xiaosheng!

"Let me warn you in advance, Shen Peishen would be happy to see us return, but if we stand our ground, he will become anxious and will stop at nothing to force us to give up the investigation," Bai Xiaosheng looked at the three in the video. "You are all my seniors, so what do you say!"

"Hold the line!" Li Haofeng said.

The calmed him had a steely look in his eyes, regaining the demeanor of the Haofeng Senior Affairs Officer from the past.

Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo also nodded in agreement.

Their gaze also hardened.

"Not one step..."

"Back!"

"Very well!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded decisively, "Then next, everyone, give it your all!"

Chapter 1234 - A Bunch of Crazy People

Bai Xiaosheng, after finishing the video call with Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, and Xu Youruo, closed the software just as Lei Ying returned.

"Already done with the questioning." Lei Ying spoke succinctly, placing a thick stack of papers signed and fingerprinted by Han Hefei in front of Bai Xiaosheng.

Even if it took three hours, Lei Ying could make a wooden block talk.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, picked up the stack of papers to look through them; many were written by Han Hefei himself.

Bai Xiaosheng had seen Han Hefei's handwriting before; he was among the finest in hard-pen calligraphy, but at this moment, it looked more like elementary student's handwriting, some even distorted.

Looking at the content, Bai Xiaosheng was quite moved as well.

Just the confessions from Han Hefei about himself were enough for imprisonment, not to mention the abundant evidence from others, along with his signature and handprints, which could be used as legal evidence now.

"How is the person?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"His mind is not very well, but rest assured, there is no visible physical injury," Lei Ying replied with a cold laugh.

Considering how thoroughly Han Hefei had confessed his own deeds, it was clear what Lei Ying meant by that simple phrase "his mind is not very well."

He hasn't gone mad, which should be deemed as Han Hefei having a strong will.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, showing no pity for Han Hefei.

At this moment, his heart was as hard as iron, not giving any mercy to those who stubbornly resist.

While the two were talking, Lin Weiwei hurried in.

She nodded to Lei Ying and then said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I've already completed the work to calm our staff down below, had them devote all their time, except for meals and sleep, into intensive work! They all agreed."

"However, Feng Li and Lin Ke were too emotional, and I couldn't persuade them; they have already headed back to the headquarters," Lin Weiwei added apologetically.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "Let them go if they want to go back. I'm not at ease if not even one of them goes. With myself, Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, and Xu Youruo here, we can stabilize the situation! Their going back to look after Elder Xia eases my mind. Weiwei, you arrange someone to take over their work."

Lin Weiwei nodded.

Bai Xiaosheng flipped to the next page of Han Hefei's writings, raised his eyebrows slightly, stood up, and walked directly to a corner of the office.

This office was Han Hefei's.

Lei Ying knew what was written on that page and thus was not particularly curious.

Lin Weiwei, however, watched Bai Xiaosheng's every move with curiosity.

In the corner, Bai Xiaosheng crouched down and lifted a corner of the carpet, revealing a metal plate with a ring handle underneath. Pulling it open revealed an electronically locked safe.

Indeed, in his office, Han Hefei had left a more confidential safe, not hidden inside a wall, behind a painting, or a bookshelf, but dug into the floor, plus his meticulous Virgo personality, without him opening up himself, even a skilled investigator like Lei Ying would have found it extremely difficult to detect.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying gathered around as Bai Xiaosheng pulled out a thick stack of documents from the safe and began to browse through them.

Compared to the items in the visible safe, these were the real evidence!

Due to Han Hefei's special status as a direct descendant of the Shen Peisheng family, these documents were rare and connected to other places, pointing towards many scattered enterprises!

Xu Youruo had always been in charge of investigating these scattered companies, previously one of the more relaxed among the four.

But it seemed she was going to be busy now!

After briefly looking through them, Bai Xiaosheng split them into two parts, handing them to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, "Organize these and send the relevant parts to Li Haofeng and the others!"

"This time, I want to see if Shen Peisheng's plot brings profit or loss!" Bai Xiaosheng also clenched his resolve.

...

Three consecutive days.

Under the coverage of Xiahou Qi falling ill and Shen Peisheng acting in his stead, some matters were quietly unfolding.

In Nanyu City, Han Hefei, the former general manager of Shenhe Group, one of the top thirty direct enterprises of the Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region, was handed over to justice, suspected of multiple crimes, with concrete evidence!

And in Nanyu and its surroundings, key evidence was found against the heads of a dozen large and medium enterprises, implicating each in numerous critical allegations.

Among them, seven or eight key personnel have been prosecuted, and others are undergoing in-depth investigations!

Li Haofeng and Zheng Honghu's regions have seen a large number of key figures being investigated with irrefutable evidence. There's no turning of the verdict!

The most unexpected has been Xu Youruo, who in just three short days conducted sudden inspections on a number of businesses in terms of both quantity and quality, astonishingly surpassing both Li Haofeng and Zheng Honghu.

Of course, she still could not hold a candle to Bai Xiaosheng.

Not only one Shenhe Group, Bai Xiaosheng is now targeting enterprises in the top ten and top twenty of the Greater China Region!

Those two enterprises, they are as significant as ten others combined!

Such a great haul, under normal circumstances, would likely cause the Greater China Region Headquarters to be shaken repeatedly.

But currently, the attention of everyone at the headquarters has been drawn by even bigger issues, seemingly overlooked.

People below might think it's nothing special, but led by Shen Peisheng, several Senior Affairs Officers were genuinely alarmed.

This time, those rallying with Shen Peisheng aiming to overthrow Xiahou Qi included not only his direct descendants from the headquarters but more crucial were several originally neutral Senior Affairs Officers and all their forces.

Of course, those people each had their own agendas.

However, they were not happy to see Shen Peisheng grow too powerful alone.

Thus, the fierce reaping by Bai Xiaosheng came as a covert "blessing" for them.

Only Shen Peisheng was genuinely in agony and quietly furious.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Li Haofeng! What are these people thinking, such a big issue and they aren't returning?"

"Xiahou Qi is already hospitalized in the ICU, I've leaked news saying he's critically ill several times. In the end, only Feng Li and Lin Ke returned, are those people heartless?"

"Simply... simply..."

In front of Fang Beijun, Shen Peisheng furiously denounced Bai Xiaosheng and his group as unfeeling and cold-hearted.

This scene, was quite ironic...

Fang Beijun also sighed deeply. Even he couldn't comprehend how these people managed to stay so controlled.

"That Bai Xiaosheng, just a young man, how could he remain so undisturbed?"

"Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo, those two, also no moves?"

"The most unbelievable is Li Haofeng, you and I know well his relationship with Xiahou Qi, if he can stay steady, things are not simple!"

Fang Beijun analyzed with a frown.

The visiting leaders from the headquarters have already returned, and he was left behind to assist Shen Peisheng in stabilizing the situation.

Soon after, waves of top executives from the group will come.

After all, it is Xiahou Qi we are talking about, the President of the Greater China Region, comparable to a provincial duke. His incident couldn't be overlooked by those above.

Moreover, the higher-ups are also scouting for new successors!

For Shen Peisheng, this is both an opportunity and a challenge!

He himself knew it well.

"What I can't put my mind at ease the most, it's not Li Haofeng, not Zheng Honghu or Xu Youruo, but Bai Xiaosheng!"

Shen Peisheng, with a throbbing headache, grimly said, "I didn't expect that even Han Hefei would have his mouth pried open by him! He has betrayed many people! We can't let their investigations continue!"

"What are you planning to do?" Fang Beijun asked.

"It's time to exercise my authority as the acting president of the Greater China Region!" said Shen Peisheng in a deep voice.

He was about to forcibly terminate the investigations by Bai Xiaosheng and the others!

"Well then, do it!" Fang Beijun said with a beaming smile.

Chapter 1235 - A Mouthful of Old Blood

Shen Peishen was determined to exercise his newly acquired authority as the acting CEO and forcefully recall the four Senior Affairs Officers, including Bai Xiaosheng.

That very afternoon, Shen Peishen assigned the task to the headquarters' administrative department, instructing them to call those four individuals.

Bai Xiaosheng was the first to receive the call.

The caller was an Affairs Officer-level administrative executive from headquarters.

On the phone, the administrative executive was exceedingly polite.

He also knew exactly whom he was speaking to.

With Bai Xiaosheng's current reputation, he was absolutely awe-inspiring among all the Senior Affairs Officers.

His fame was formidable.

His "notoriety" preceded him.

You must know, there was more than one provincial industry head who had fallen to Bai Xiaosheng's investigations, and none could escape. Even if they had the backing of a Senior Affairs Officer or were regional heads, their fate was sealed!

Even earlier, Chen Jiutian, a figure comparable to a Senior Affairs Officer in status, had been defeated by Bai Xiaosheng!

Thus, no matter who the administrative executive was under, they dared not act out of line in front of Bai Xiaosheng.

"Senior Affairs Officer Sheng, currently, Mr. Xia is gravely ill, and his condition is very dire. Mr. Shen Peishen has been summoned to step in as the acting CEO. He is calling all the Senior Affairs Officers who are away to return to headquarters promptly for a work adjustment meeting. The meeting is urgent and cannot be delayed. I am informing you that we have booked a business class flight for you at ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Please arrange your tasks at hand accordingly," the executive said to Bai Xiaosheng with the utmost courtesy.

Bai Xiaosheng responded decisively and in one breath, "I am indispensable here; I cannot leave. A meeting for Senior Affairs Officers? We have a remote video conferencing system; I don't need to go back in person. Cancel the flight ticket; that will be all." Then, without giving the administrative executive a chance to speak again, he hung up the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng's hurried demeanor served to show that he was indeed "very busy."

On the other end, the administrative executive called out "Hello? Hello?" twice, only to hear the dial tone. He was left with an expression of helplessness, glancing cautiously at Officer Lin Yu, who kept a watchful eye on him.

"How did it go? He hung up?" Lin Yu asked, frowning.

In truth, there was no need to ask; seeing the expression on their own man, he already knew the answer.

"He said he's busy..." the administrative executive stammered.

"Even if he's busy, he must follow orders!" Lin Yu suddenly roared in anger, "Does he think Acting CEO Shen Peishen is negotiating with him! Such disregard for leadership!"

Lin Yu was very angry.

The administrative executive promptly nodded, but couldn't help inwardly scoffing, "With such a strong aura, why don't you call Bai yourself? Yelling at me is pointless, as he can't hear it!"

Naturally, the administrative executive would never dare to voice this opinion, or even let it show on his face.

Moreover, they were all "on the same side."

"The Senior Affairs Officer said there's a video conferencing system. Normally for meetings, there's no need to go back to headquarters," the administrative executive added.

"Then couldn't you have told him that the system is down?" Officer Lin Yu glared.

The administration executive made a pained face, "If I said that, he would surely tell me to go see Sir Shen and fire the logistics and technical staff. Mr. Lin, you know as well as I do that our headquarters' system failures have never lasted more than an hour..."

Officer Lin Yu huffed in silent irritation and then pointed at the executive's phone, "Forget it, give Li Haofeng and the others a call now!"

"Okay," the administrative executive quickly agreed.

What these two didn't realize was that Bai Xiaosheng had immediately contacted Li Haofeng and the others after receiving the call, informing them about the situation.

Following that, no matter which Senior Affairs Officer the administrative executive phoned, the answers were almost uniform.

"Busy," "No time," "We have a video conferencing system," "No need to go back in person," "This is the right of a Senior Affairs Officer."

"Their responses are too similar; it's certain Bai Xiaosheng has talked to them, and they're doing this deliberately!"

Lin Yu was shocked and outraged after hearing the administrative executive's conversation with Xu Youruo.

The executive from their own side managed a secret, bitter smile.

It was no surprise...

Such uniform responses, it would be odd if they had not colluded.

The key point was, they were all in cahoots, and that was something everyone on our side already knew...

Is this your first day realizing it?

Officer Lin Yu, the former model for Affairs Officers, who was decisive and acted swiftly, how come when confronted by Bai Xiaosheng, seemed to lose his composure, with his intelligence even appearing to take a holiday...

The administrative executive inwardly sighed.

"They say Bai Xiaosheng descended like a malevolent star, born to counter Officer Lin Yu. Could it be true..."

For a moment, the executive remembered the nonsensical rumors circulating internally and started to believe a bit of it...

After Officer Lin Yu had finished berating, seeing the administrative executive looking at him with a strange expression, he pondered for a moment, feeling slightly embarrassed.

Their sides were just at loggerheads with each other!

It was a matter of who had more reason on their side!

Right now, Sir Shen had seized greater power, but with that also came greater restriction!

It was impossible to act as forcefully as before!

Sir Shen intended to use his authority to make them bow, while they were using the rights of the Senior Affairs Officers to rebel.

This was a struggle against each other!

Since a phone call proved useless, further calls were unlikely to work either!

Having realized this, Officer Lin Yu refrained from wasting further words with the administrative executive, hurriedly turned, and left to report to Sir Shen before deciding on their next move.

This action by Officer Lin Yu actually gave the administrative executive a sigh of relief.

As a minor figure, he dreaded superiors assigning hard tasks without caring whether they were achievable or not.

Bai Xiaosheng was an untouchable "malevolent star"... not someone he could provoke...

...

Officer Lin Yu returned to Shen Peishen's office and recounted the entire incident.

Shen Peishen frowned deeply, exhaling heavily.

Chapter 1236 - A Mouthful of Old Blood_2

"Xiahou Qi is in critical condition and they won't come back. I speak with authority, and they don't listen, forcing me to wield the stick of power, huh! It's true what they say—a new official always takes strong actions upon taking office. It never fails to hold true!" Shen Peisheng said angrily, "A video conference, then! Once I make a formal decision, let's see if they dare to defy the order!"

Someone chuckled softly to one side.

"In the video conference, consider them in attendance. With all the Senior Affairs Officers present, once a majority passes a resolution, the minority must comply. Otherwise, it's considered insubordination, which even a Senior Affairs Officer can't afford to bear!"

Fang Beijun, who chuckled, reminisced, "I still remember an Affairs Officer surnamed Gao who refused to comply. Xiahou Qi initiated the disciplinary procedure, and after three times, he directly stripped that Senior Affairs Officer of his power. Many years have passed, but the memory lingers. It would indeed be quite a spectacle if we stripped four Senior Affairs Officers of their power at once!"

Fang Beijun seemed to be enjoying the spectacle.

This Fang Beijun, who used to rank below me, wasn't so at ease before, always addressing me as "Sir Shen" whenever we met.

Now, his status has changed, and so has his attitude!

Shen Peisheng glanced at him and snorted coldly, "You don't need to test my rationality. I can keep my cool and won't act against four Senior Affairs Officers out of short-term triumph. I've only been acting president for a few days; issuing such orders would be looking for trouble and it will impact my impression at the headquarters!"

"It's best if you understand that," Fang Beijun said with a smile.

This collaboration between the two had not only changed the form of address from "Sir Shen," but even the addition of the word "you" was discretionary, based on mood.

A small man getting cocky!

Shen Peisheng cursed under his breath.

However, right now, he did indeed need to spend a "honeymoon period" with Fang Beijun, unable to offend him.

Once at the headquarters, even running errands for others is more prestigious than being down below!

Shen Peisheng sighed again.

"However, I will take down Bai Xiaosheng first, then force Li Haofeng to resign by himself! Leaving Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo isolated, dividing them, breaking them down, that's what I'm really interested in!" Shen Peisheng said with a cold smile.

Fang Beijun smiled quietly on the side, "Excellent!"

"Then teacher, when do you think we should hold the meeting? Today..." Lin Yu asked.

"Not today, let's do it tomorrow," Fang Beijun suggested, "We've notified them of the time, we should play by the rules!"

Haste doesn't bring success.

"Tomorrow afternoon then," Shen Peisheng said.

The original notice was for tomorrow afternoon; just exercise patience for the time being.

While they were settling on the "Zhang Liang strategy" here, Bai Xiaosheng was already discussing the "ladder over the wall" strategy with Li Haofeng and the others via video conference.

"Sheng, you asked us to refuse to return but agreed to the video conference. You need to be clear, that counts as us attending the meeting!"

"If we attend the meeting and they pass any resolution on their side with a majority, we can't refuse to comply. Otherwise, it's resisting the decision."

"Don't assume that being Senior Affairs Officers means we can do anything without restraint. There was once a Senior Affairs Officer surnamed Gao who was punished by Elder Xia for exactly this kind of thing. There's a precedent!"

Li Haofeng reminded Bai Xiaosheng.

"Indeed, they might not dare to take down all four of us at once, but if they confront us one by one, they could possibly break us down bit by bit. When the time comes, I'm afraid you will be the first in line to face difficulties!" Zheng Honghu said.

"Right now, all four of us are in a desperate struggle. Without what you provided, even in one or two months, we might not achieve much. But because of what you uncovered, our timeframe is much shorter. However, even then, I estimate we'll need another ten days to a half month at the shortest. It can't be any less!" Xu Youruo also advised in a serious tone.

Clearly, Shen Peisheng would not give them ten days to a half a month to continue their investigations.

The current predicament felt suffocating.

Bai Xiaosheng appeared to have an idea; he wasn't anxious but merely scoffed coldly, "Then from now on, we'll need to change our strategy!"

Li Haofeng and the others couldn't help but be taken aback. Seeing Bai Xiaosheng seemingly had a plan, they all looked inquiringly at him.

"Let's hear it!" Li Haofeng urged.

Bai Xiaosheng calmly began—

"First of all, we need to clarify our work. There's only one principle—to focus on the major issues while letting go of the minor ones! Concentrate our resources and manpower to target the people most important to Shen Peisheng. The rest, we can file away for now and not touch!"

"Secondly, we have a ten-day deadline. Within these ten days, we'll take down as many 'big fish' as we can! We'll do our utmost to weaken Shen Peisheng's influential power!"

With Bai Xiaosheng putting it this way, after pondering for a moment, Li Haofeng and the others began nodding in agreement.

Just trying to capture them all in one fell swoop isn't realistic anymore, nor does it suit the current situation!

A targeted approach to maximize damage is the key!

"It's just that we might not get ten days from Shen Peisheng!" Xu Youruo held firm in his view, "Once the video conference starts tomorrow, we might only be able to hold out for... four or five days if we resist! Only half the time, and we will all suffer heavy consequences! It would benefit Shen Peisheng instead!"

Li Haofeng and Zheng Honghu also frowned at the same time.

It was unavoidable.

Tomorrow's video conference was a huge problem.

Yet Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"The video conference won't happen tomorrow! Leave it to me!"

Li Haofeng and the others looked on, curious about what Bai Xiaosheng had planned.

"Are you saying that you want us to find an excuse to not attend the video conference tomorrow?" Li Haofeng wondered.

Chapter 1237 - A Mouthful of Old Blood_3

Zheng Honghu and Xu Youruo also somewhat shared this sentiment.

"No, tomorrow, everyone should just treat it as a regular remote meeting. Be present, and if the system encounters any issue, call the Headquarters' administration and logistics immediately. If they can't resolve it, just throw a fit. It's their fault after all."

Bai Xiaosheng sneered, "The Headquarters mandates that remote meetings must use a specialized system. Using mobile video to participate doesn't count, for it involves the confidentiality of trade secrets. Looking at it now, this regulation has really done us a big favor!"

Indeed, the group's handbook explicitly stated that an official internal remote video system must be used.

However, was Bai Xiaosheng so certain that the system would malfunction?

"Our system, how could it possibly malfunction. The Headquarters employs a bunch of high-level programmers. Do you know how skilled they are? They are really top-notch!" Zheng Honghu emphasized.

How top-notch?

Better than Red Lotus?!

Bai Xiaosheng laughed without a word, "In any case, I guarantee they won't be able to hold a video conference for an entire week! After that, how will Shen Peishen deal with us, what should we do? Regarding the situation and countermeasures, I've thought of some, let me share them with you, so everyone can listen and see if there's anything overlooked..."

Bai Xiaosheng then explained his thoughts.

Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo listened, somewhat dumbstruck.

They say young people have agile minds, indeed!

They say young people lack depth in their scheming, maybe not!

This guy, Bai Xiaosheng, no wonder he's so valued by Elder Xia, indeed cunning and shrewd.

Under Bai Xiaosheng's "inspiration," they all started speaking out, truly benefiting from pooled wisdom...

...

Shen Peisheng and his team would never have imagined that before they even made a move, the others were already considering their countermeasures.

...

The next day, afternoon.

Zhenbei Group Greater China Region Headquarters, the second conference room.

Five Senior Affairs Officers sat in a row at the front, in their designated seats.

Shen Peisheng sat alone on the stage.

Behind him was a wall-sized screen; below him were his former peers, the Senior Affairs Officers, and further down, a hundred and twenty related Affairs Officers.

These were the elite officers remaining at the headquarters, holding positions in various departments.

Actually, many of them normally wouldn't have the qualifications to attend such meetings.

However, with many more formidable people already sent out with Bai Xiaosheng to conduct investigations, they had stepped up to fill in.

You could see that some were quite excited.

But their excitement was far less than Shen Peisheng's.

Shen Peisheng, with his hand on the long table in front of him, was filled with emotion. For decades, he had always been sitting below, looking up at the person on the stage.

Many times, he had wondered what it would be like if he sat in that position.

Now, it had finally come true!

As long as he dealt with those last four problems, he would have time to secure his position!

The losses in his loyal followers could be recovered!

And for those Senior Affairs Officers below that he saw as threats, he would have time to slowly eliminate them.

"I could still work for another ten years! By then, I might even aim for an even higher position!"

Shen Peisheng felt as though he had rejuvenated by decades, his heart bursting with inexhaustible energy.

Fang Beijun sat below, also filled with complex emotions as he looked at Shen Peisheng.

Had it not been for his transfer to the Headquarters, even if Shen Peisheng hadn't become the president, Fang Beijun would have to respectfully address him as Sir Shen.

And now, even though Shen Peisheng was the acting president, he still had to engage with Fang Beijun on equal terms!

In the world of corporate competition, the accomplished lead the way!

Why is power so intoxicating, so earnestly sought after?

Because it equals the playing field, overcoming any gaps as extensive as age and experience, among all else!

...

Time slowly ticked by.

Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters' technical and logistics teams are rushing to calibrate devices and arrange papers and pens.

The meeting, originally scheduled for three o'clock, saw the leaders arriving twenty minutes early, which really put the support personnel through the wringer.

Actually, it was all because Shen Peishen had finally achieved his wish, was overjoyed in his heart, and held great expectations for his first time chairing a company-wide meeting, so he arrived early to look around and take a seat.

His presence meant that several Senior Affairs Officers also showed up.

Just think, when the leaders had arrived, how could the notified Affairs Officers not appear?

They even thought the meeting was starting early and were internally cursing the administration for being incompetent and neglectful for not informing them beforehand, as they hurried over.

Thus, this scene unfolded.

There were still fifteen minutes to go, but everyone had arrived, and the equipment was not yet properly set up!

The technical supervisor sitting at his station watched as the backdrop behind Shen Peishen remained without an image, covered in static, and became instantly frantic, quietly leaving his seat to go over.

"What's going on, I tested it half an hour ago, there were no problems, why can't it connect!" The technical supervisor, furious, questioned the two technicians fiddling with the equipment.

The two responsible technicians, with eyes full of helplessness and heads sweating profusely, kept trying.

"The hardware is fine, but it just won't work, could it be infected with a virus?" One of the technicians tentatively asked.

"Cut the crap!"

The technical supervisor snapped, "The headquarters has spent tens of millions on a firewall, what virus could breach it! Our cybersecurity expert is world-class, paid several million a year, do you think he's just

for show? Are you saying that some world-class tech genius suddenly felt like messing around, not causing trouble in some country, but playing a trick on us here? Like they have nothing better to do, just to meddle with our system? Stop wasting time, get it fixed!"

After scolding, the technical supervisor ran back to his seat.

The two technicians kept checking again and again, but the system just wouldn't go online.

Finally, with no options left, they could only quarrel with the plugs, repeatedly plugging and unplugging.

"You're utterly useless!"

The technical supervisor watched the seconds tick by and, truly impatient, ran over again to take charge himself.

Still, it was to no avail.

Seeing his two subordinates looking at him, the technical supervisor's face couldn't take it, and he angrily said, "What are you looking at, go bring me the cybersecurity expert, motherf*cker, can't you see, we've been hacked!"

Sitting on the presiding stage, Shen Peishen also finally noticed something was off, seeing that there were only two minutes left to the meeting, and the big screen behind him was still blank, when it should have displayed the portraits of Bai Xiaosheng and his three colleagues.

"What's going on!" Shen Peishen finally frowned, looking towards the technical supervisor adjusting the equipment, and the group of technicians, even the cybersecurity expert employed by the headquarters had arrived.

"Could it be my first time hosting a remote video conference, and there's a problem!" Shen Peishen immediately got a bit angry.

Whether the meeting could be held or not was of significant importance.

If Bai Xiaosheng and his three colleagues could not participate, then the resolutions made in this meeting would be invalid!

"Damn the corporate regulations, it's time for a change!" Shen Peishen cursed internally.

However, according to the regulations, to amend them requires the consent of at least eight Senior Affairs Officers.

Now, this had become an unavoidable deadlock!

Shen Peishen was even more frustrated.

On the other side, the cybersecurity expert checking the system was sweating profusely from his forehead; he identified a virus in the system, but despite all efforts, the virus was as if it had intelligence, using myriad tricks, leaving him completely helpless.

"Is this some world-ranking troublemaker after me!"

The cybersecurity expert's face turned pale.

Time ticked by, second by second, and the entire room's gaze converged upon him, especially the angry look from acting president Shen Peishen, which was incredibly pressurizing.

Finally, the system seemed to respond!

The cybersecurity expert, not clear on which of his measures had worked, was suddenly full of surprise.

The big screen behind Shen Peishen not only had an image but also sound.

The sound was filled with childishness and humor—

"What's daddy's daddy called?

Daddy's daddy is called Grandpa.

What's daddy's mommy called?

Daddy's mommy is called Grandma.

What's daddy's brother called?

Daddy's brother is called Uncle..."

Chapter 1238 - Forceful Summoning

The grand world-class conglomerate, Zhenbei Group, at the Greater China Region Headquarters, held its highest-level meeting.

One acting president, five Senior Affairs Officers, and one hundred and twenty Affairs Officers were present.

A video conferencing system worth tens of millions, was playing, of all things, nursery rhymes from street bumper cars.

The cheerful lyrics left everyone, including Shen Peishen, completely dumbfounded.

Unprecedented!

Unheard of!

Probably never before in the history of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region had such a situation occurred!

After being stunned for a moment, Shen Peishen's face turned the color of a pig's liver; he was enraged.

This was the long-awaited first full assembly he had been looking forward to; although not everyone was there.

His debut, and it turned out to be such a debacle?!

"Turn it off, turn it off now!" The technical director shivered under Shen Peishen's murderous gaze and shrieked desperately.

Only then did the cyber-security specialist snap out of it, scrambling to shut down the program.

But no matter how he hammered the keyboard or sent commands, the program just wouldn't close.

Those in technology often fall into a vicious cycle, the more something doesn't work technically, the more they try to fix it with technology.

In the end, someone cleverly by his side pulled the plug on the power cord.

The large backdrop behind Shen Peishen darkened in an instant.

A sigh of relief came from everyone present.

However, the backdrop lit up again in the blink of an eye, and the children's song continued cheerfully, as if mocking everyone there.

The pen in Shen Peishen's hand snapped in half with a "crack."

The Senior Affairs Officers sitting below displayed helpless expressions, almost suffering from internal injuries.

Even if they were allies, they still found Shen Peishen's discomfiture... quite amusing.

Fang Beijun kept his head down, drinking water all the while; the cup was already empty, and yet he continued to drink...

Below, the one hundred and twenty Affairs Officers were like they had lice, all bowing their heads or touching their noses, looking around restlessly, their bodies twitching, almost all vibrating...

Only Lin Yu and his group were genuinely a mix of shock and anger.

"Our video system is equipped with a backup power supply, designed to deal with once-in-a-century power outages in the center of Linshen City, how could it have been triggered and activated!" the technical director said, almost in despair.

His career was probably over...

"How can we turn it off then!" the cyber-security specialist asked urgently.

"Twentieth floor, cut the power..." the technical director said bitterly.

...

The first full assembly chaired by Shen Peishen ended in dismal failure.

The acting president lashed out at the tech department; the technical director and the cyber-security specialist were fired on the spot...

However, Shen Peishen's people on the scene were also secretly relieved.

Fortunately, there were no "outsiders" present today, otherwise, those on the opposing side would have died laughing.

What they didn't realize was that the cameras installed in the meeting room were silently recording everything, and the footage was sent thousands of miles away to Bai Xiaosheng's computer.

Bai Xiaosheng edited the scene into a video and sent it to Li Haofeng and two others...

Even composed individuals like them burst into laughter...

Then, the Affairs Officers busy outside also started sharing the video, witnessing what was the most ludicrous highest-level meeting in history.

Once the news got back to the headquarters, the people there felt an unprecedented collective sense of shame...

Under Bai Xiaosheng's direction, Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo, and the four of them called the administrative, logistics, and technical departments of the headquarters in succession that same day, fiercely reproaching and cursing them for not securing the meeting they were so eager to attend...

Those departments, Shen Peishen's side, handled it awkwardly, apologizing over and over...

This was a blow off steam, and Li Haofeng and his colleagues felt extremely satisfied.

After the meeting, Shen Peishen was lethargic for four consecutive days and never mentioned having another meeting.

The blow was too great.

However, after four continuous days, as urgent distress messages from the outside kept coming, Shen Peishen couldn't keep sitting still.

For now, he was in charge of the headquarters, but he still could not delay the external investigations.

Bai Xiaosheng and his team, including the headquarters' legal department and the Senior Affairs Officers, had direct authority to handle these matters. As soon as the evidence of the offenses committed by the subordinates was solid, they would directly sue and hold them accountable with the local judicial authorities, without the need for approval from headquarters!

This was the discretionary authority of a Senior Affairs Officer!

Even if Shen Peishen and his people wanted to stop it, they couldn't, unless the rules were changed.

Of course, changing the rules requires the votes of more than eight Senior Affairs Officers...

Another vicious cycle...

When Xiahou Qi was around, it was never this troublesome; now that he is in charge, why is everything so difficult!

Shen Peisheng was truly frustrated.

But this was really not hard to explain.

Xiahou Qi would never completely fall out with the Senior Affairs Officers. In handling affairs, he would make some concessions and compromises, and naturally, Shen Peisheng and others wouldn't be too excessive.

Now, Xiahou Qi had pushed Shen Peisheng and the others into a corner and into the ICU, while Bai Xiaosheng and his people were dead set on fighting with Shen Peisheng to the end!

How can these situations even compare!

At the moment, one's own people outside were crying and wailing.

Here, he was at a loss for what to do.

Shen Peisheng was even irritable and angry, inexplicably wanting to say:

What use is this position to me!

What good is this title!

...

In fact, acting as the president seems like an upgrade in power, but in reality, the restrictions faced have increased manifold.

Mainly because there are superiors watching!

Shen Peisheng finally understood the sense of powerlessness that Xiahou Qi felt facing him before.

Of course, if there were ample time, he, as acting president, would still have significant leverage over the four Senior Affairs Officers.

However, this advantage relies on gradual and persistent effort, and what Shen Peisheng lacked was time.

After all, he can wait, but those own people outside couldn't.

Thus, Shen Peisheng thought of calling another emergency meeting.

But this time, the newly appointed technical supervisor, a recruited technology expert from outside, clearly stated that the entire conference system was infected with viruses. Once triggered, it would face the risk of collapse and paralysis, and some unpredictable outcomes...

Shen Peisheng himself was apprehensive and ordered a thorough solution, even if it meant redoing the whole system.

While these troubles had yet to be solved, new visiting leaders were sent from the headquarters, and Shen Peisheng, along with Fang Beijun, naturally accompanied them and had to ensure they were well received.

In this way, another two days passed without a moment of peace.

When Shen Peisheng came back to his senses, he felt that the cries for help from outside had shifted from wailing to ghostly howls and bitter complaints.

If no solution was found soon, those people might very well "rebel"!

At this point, Shen Peisheng could no longer sit still.

"Now, I am, after all, the president of the Greater China Region Headquarters. Even if I'm acting, the power is ultimately there at my disposal! I can command them to return, and if they don't come back, I will impose penalties. Since we have already fallen out, there's no possibility of reconciliation, I must press them down!"

Shen Peisheng was desperate.

But before taking any action, he still communicated with Fang Beijun.

After all, Fang Beijun was somebody from above, and in case of trouble, he needed to provide cover.

"Do whatever you think is right, but I have to remind you not to be too ostentatious. Now that Xiahou Qi has fallen, your acting role is actually under scrutiny, and the leaders who have come to visit, half of them are actually here to evaluate you!" Fang Beijun reminded.

After all, their interests were tied to Shen Peisheng's, and he couldn't afford to watch Shen Peisheng act recklessly.

"I know!" Shen Peisheng snorted coldly, "Actually, from the very beginning, I shouldn't have called them for a meeting on the pretext of work. Does a command from the president of the Greater China Region Headquarters really need to be embellished? I should have been tougher from the start!"

The reason he used strategies rather than brute force was partly due to concern for the superiors; another reason was that Shen Peisheng, long practiced in such ways, had developed a habit of using overly gentle solutions.

"This time, I will take a firm stance and give a direct order!" Shen Peisheng resolved.

At present, only six out of his fifteen direct subordinates remained, with many problematic individuals nearly investigated thoroughly. What would he rely on to regulate performance and vie for higher positions in the future? Even if "nurturing parasites" was needed, it takes time, doesn't it?

Especially if parasites emerged during his own term, it is far less commendable than clearing out the ones from the previous term!

Shen Peisheng made up his mind and sent for the head of the administrative department again.

The head of the administrative department came, his head aching.

After hearing Shen Peisheng's command, he looked as bitter as if he had chewed on bitter herbs while walking back.

This time, the leader was truly regardless of his abilities, assigning him a tough task...

To "confront" the four Senior Affairs Officers directly!

The administrative supervisor, with a heavy heart, still made a round of phone calls to Bai Xiaosheng and the other three Senior Affairs Officers.

After making the calls and receiving the responses, the administrative supervisor was utterly depressed.

Could he really report these "bizarre" replies back to Mr. Shen truthfully?

The administrative supervisor even began to doubt his life choices—

"It's too hard! The job here is incredibly difficult! Did I choose the wrong side to stand with from the start..."

Chapter 1239 - Lin Yu Offers a Plan

"What did you just say? Say it again!"

The administrative supervisor went to report to Shen Peishen the results of his phone calls to Bai Xiaosheng and the three others. At that moment, Shen Peishen was drinking tea.

He was listening while sipping.

Thus, he drank a mouthful of slightly hot tea too fiercely and nearly spat it out. Despite his lapse in composure, he slammed the teacup down and looked coldly at the administrative supervisor.

Just by hearing one sentence, he sensed something wasn't quite right!

Fang Beijun also looked at the administrative supervisor with a strange expression.

Lin Yu frowned even more, with a hint of shock and anger in his eyes.

"The four Great Affairs Officers readily agreed, all said they agree to come back!" The administrative supervisor quickly repeated.

Shen Peishen's eyes narrowed slightly, Fang Beijun paused, and Lin Yu frowned deeply.

This time, why did those people agree so readily?

Something's not right here!

Shen Peishen and the two others hardly hesitated to come to this conclusion.

Sure enough, the administrative supervisor continued—

"Only..."

"Haofeng Great Affairs Officer said he needs to handle some work on hand, at least a day or two, or up to six or seven days, this is the normal work schedule procedure. If the headquarters is in a hurry, he will expedite, asking us to wait for the time being..."

"Great Official Zheng Honghu said he is arranging for all staff to return to headquarters, the first group of three has already departed, he will come back with some of the remaining hundred or so people after arranging things properly..."

"Yu Ruo Great Affairs Officer said she is currently sick, being treated in the local hospital, the treating physician advised against long-distance travel, subsequently, she will send back the doctor's diagnosis certificate, along with the medical bill..."

The more Shen Peishen listened, the more he felt something was off. Finally, he angrily slapped the table and exclaimed, "Enough!"

Caught off-guard, the administrative supervisor trembled and dared not to utter a word.

"How splendid, just listen, this is playing 'retreat as advance' with me! Verbally agree to come back, but in reality, what is this?! Delay tactics! Shirking work! Falling ill to escape! They stop at nothing! They stop at nothing!" Shen Peishen became more enraged as he spoke, his breath heavy with fury. After a moment, he glanced sideways at the administrative supervisor, "What about Bai Xiaosheng, what did he say!"

"He..."

"If he doesn't have a better excuse, he can't blame me for being rough on him!" Shen Peishen interjected fiercely, his voice filled with intense anger, "I've heard early on that since Xiahou Qi fell ill, Li Haofeng and the others were the first to react, booking flights, taking cars, intending to return that very day! But out of nowhere, they all canceled their travel arrangements!"

"Needless to say, this must be Bai Xiaosheng's doing!" Shen Peishen, usually a composed person, was now extremely agitated as he spoke vehemently, "So the first and foremost person I should deal with, is this Bai Xiaosheng!"

Upon hearing this, Lin Yu nodded and said with a grim face, "Teacher, this Bai Xiaosheng is really a curse! We should not underestimate him simply because he is young and inexperienced, instead, we should see him as the biggest problem among these people!"

Fang Beijun also seemed to agree deeply, quietly nodding.

"Say it, what did Bai Xiaosheng say?!" Shen Peishen urged again.

The administrative supervisor swallowed nervously and said cautiously, "He said he can come back, anytime."

Such a statement made all three of Shen Peishen's group startled.

Bai Xiaosheng agreed and said he could come back at any time?

He didn't say anything else?

Something's fishy here, there must be a catch!

Almost instinctively, Shen Peishen and the other two came to this conclusion.

"Did he say he needs time to arrange his work?"

"Did he say he wants to come back with those Affairs Officers?"

"Is he sick?"

Shen Peishen, Fang Beijun, and Lin Yu each asked a question.

After asking, they couldn't help but exchange glances with each other.

There was a sense of finding common ground.

The administrative supervisor shook his head, "Uh, he didn't mention any of that. He only told us to book tickets, direct flight or high-speed train tickets, and they must be business class."

Just this request?

Shen Peishen and the others were highly skeptical.

After all, as Great Affairs Officers from the Greater China Region, traveling without ostentation is one thing, but they still need to follow certain standards unless there's a special circumstance that allows for exceptions, otherwise the company's arrangements must be made to match.

From this point of view, Bai Xiaosheng's request for business class was reasonable and justified.

"Is it really just that?" Shen Peishen pressed further, wondering if Bai Xiaosheng had any additional conditions.

"There's nothing else, really, nothing more! He genuinely didn't put forward any other conditions!" the administrative supervisor assured repeatedly.

Although the situation was strange, it was naturally for the best that Bai Xiaosheng was willing to come back!

"Then you should book the tickets for him!" Shen Peishen said urgently.

To bring the most troublesome Bai Xiaosheng back first and resolve the issues in Nanyu.

Then, dealing with the other three people is also a good choice!

Fang Beijun and Lin Yu also nodded in agreement.

...

Shen Peishen didn't mention booking tickets until now, but as soon as he did, the Executive Manager's face was filled with bitterness, "But we can't book any tickets!"

Can't book any?

Shen Peishen and the other two were shocked at the same time.

There are high-speed trains and planes, anything would do, and Nanyu is not a small city. How can we not book any tickets!

"From Nanyu, there are four flights and three high-speed trains daily, and all business class tickets have been booked for the next five days! We can't buy a single one!" The Executive Manager said with a mournful face.

Shen Peishen immediately became alert, "Was it Bai Xiaosheng who booked all of them?!"

Fang Beijun and Lin Yu almost had the same thought at the same time.

"No, it's several companies, and they're not small at all. Zunbai Zhisheng, Xue Lian Wan He, Shengsheng International, including Tengyun's," the Executive Manager said.

These companies have all risen to fame in the past one or two years, and Shen Peishen and his colleagues had naturally heard of Tengyun's subsidiary.

"Then book him a flight to another city and have him transfer!" Shen Peishen said angrily, "You can't even come up with such a workaround, what are you even doing here, what's the use of you!"

His words immediately made the Executive Manager feel extremely wronged, so he spoke with a hint of rebuttal.

"You didn't understand what I said. What I mean is that all business class tickets for flights and high-speed rail from Nanyu to any other city," the Executive Manager emphasized, "have all been booked!"

Once the Executive Manager explained the situation, Shen Peishen was alarmed, and Fang Beijun and Lin Yu were equally astonished.

Have those companies gone mad?

They actually booked all the airplane and high-speed train business class seats from Nanyu to other places!

"Could it be that they're helping Bai Xiaosheng?!" Shen Peishen exclaimed in horror.

However, as soon as he said this, he didn't even believe it himself.

Although Bai Xiaosheng is a Senior Affairs Officer, his revered status is only within the corporate group. How could he possibly have such great clout outside!

"Maybe Bai Xiaosheng knows about this situation, which is why he made such a request on purpose!" Fang Beijun said.

"Then let him go to another city and take a plane or high-speed train back!" Shen Peishen said angrily.

The Executive Manager kept silent, and so did Fang Beijun and Lin Yu.

It was clear that Bai Xiaosheng had no intention of coming back, and you still want him to figure something out?

"Call those companies using my name, just say..." Shen Peishen said through gritted teeth.

"Already tried, it doesn't work," the Executive Manager said sheepishly.

Obviously, the other side doesn't recognize any acting president...

"Then I'll send a car to pick up Bai Xiaosheng. This should be possible, right?!" Shen Peishen said in embarrassment and anger.

"It takes four days to drive there from here, eight days for a round trip. If we rent a vehicle locally, I'm afraid Senior Affairs Officer Sheng may refuse," the Executive Manager meticulously reminded, "A Senior Affairs Officer has guidelines for vehicle use. If any doesn't meet standards, he can refuse..."

"Shut your mouth!" Shen Peishen said angrily.

He really felt that as the acting president, it was incredibly frustrating, a level of frustration never felt before, feeling hamstrung in whatever he did. Just as he tried to take a firm stance, he was met with a continual Tai Chi maneuver from the other side, leaving him feeling the futility of throwing punches at cotton.

Embarrassment consumed him during the first full meeting, as he became the butt of jokes.

These days, there was a pile of various affairs that needed his attention, any mishandling of which would result in major troubles!

Bai Xiaosheng and the other three were frantically undermining him, Shen Peishen, right outside, nearly driving his own people to double-mindedness.

...

And there were also those people coming from the headquarters to be dealt with!

A swarm of troubles made Shen Peishen unable to eat or sleep well, continuously aggravated, losing his usual composure.

No wonder Xiahou Qi was so worn out; being the President of the Greater China Region was indeed tough!

Shen Peishen was not much younger than Xiahou Qi. As one ages and the physical strength can't keep up, feeling both anxious and angry, he currently felt dizzy and lightheaded, even a bit vertiginous.

"You go out first!" Fang Beijun asked the Executive Manager to leave.

The Executive Manager, feeling pardoned, hastily made his escape.

Lin Yu had been frowning all along, but suddenly his eyes lit up, stepping forward to say to Shen Peishen, "Teacher, don't worry. I have a solution, take a look and see if it works!"

Shen Peishen looked at his student with a puzzled frown.

"We can't touch Bai Xiaosheng and the others for now, but we can deal with those Affairs Officers who are with him! If a Senior Affairs Officer is fire, then those Affairs Officers are the fuel. Let's undermine them!"

Lin Yu, once a person of such "integrity" and "honesty," when he started to scheme, was even worse than those who often did bad things!

Fang Beijun felt a sense of emotion hearing this suggestion.

Yet Shen Peishen's eyes suddenly brightened, becoming excited.

"Indeed, undermine them from the bottom! Great, great, great, let's do this! I'll let them have internal chaos too!"

Chapter 1240 - Helpless, Deadlock?

Nanyu City, Shenhe Group, General Manager's Office.

Bai Xiaosheng was sitting in the chair of Han Hefei, flipping through the report brought by Lin Weiwei about the last two days.

Calculating, they had already faced several tactics from Shen Peishen's side, and thanks to their thorough preparation, they had not suffered any loss, even achieved minor victories!

And they successfully dragged it out for a week!

The people they caught these days were all considered to be close kin of Shen Peishen.

It's no exaggeration to say that at this point, Shen Peishen's side has been greatly weakened in terms of "personnel"!

"Just another two or three days, whether it's my side or Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Xu Youruo's, the big fish will all be nearly caught in one net, leaving only small fish and shrimps that wouldn't stir up much trouble, we can leave a small team to continue the investigation! Then, we can truly head back to the headquarters to confront Shen Peishen!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were cold. He took a deep breath and slowly exhaled the frustrations in his chest.

So far, he had only "seen" Elder Xia through the videos sent by Feng Li and Lin Ke.

Through the video, and through a glass window, it wasn't clear, but the state of the elderly man lying on the hospital bed, all skin and bones, was distressing to see.

An old man who was once so vibrant, loving to speak and laugh, imposing when serious, and like a mischievous old child when joking around.

Who could have imagined that he would have turned into this?

A heavy breath again filled Bai Xiaosheng's nostrils.

This score, he had taken note of for Shen Peishen, and he would definitely claim it back sooner or later!

The actions now are just collecting some interest!

Bai Xiaosheng set aside the report in his hand, and suddenly Red Lotus's voice echoed in his mind.

"At the current stage, the heads of five subsidiary companies under the group have been investigated!"

"One person, as a direct key subsidiary company head, committed extremely serious offenses, with solid evidence, has been submitted to judicial authorities for prosecution. Add one point!"

"Four persons are heads of medium and small companies, with clear evidence of offenses. Consideration taken, increase the score by two points!"

"For other regional investigated individuals, due to the clues you provided, a shared profit, increase the score by two points!"

"The total increase in score is five points, current total score is eighty-five for the Senior Affairs Officer level, fifteen points away from the Regional President!"

Bai Xiaosheng silently listened to Red Lotus reporting his scores.

When he left Qinggang, his score was seventy at the Senior Affairs Officer level, thirty points away from the Regional President.

In just about half a month in Nanyu, repeated additions to his score brought him a total of fifteen points!

At this moment, he was only fifteen points away from the level of Regional President, truly within reach!

And the investigation hasn't ended yet!

Meaning the scores will still increase.

Who else has been an Affairs Officer for less than a year and has the qualifications to vie for Regional President?

Only he, Bai Xiaosheng!

With this alone, he had enough reasons to be proud! Proud!

Ordinarily, Bai Xiaosheng would certainly not stop smiling.

But now, he was silent.

Seemingly having no sense of joy...

No, it should be said that his feelings of joy are now overshadowed by anger and sadness.

"Regional President of the Greater China Region, if not Elder Xia then it must be me!"

"Shen Peishen, you are not qualified!"

"Once I become the Regional President of the Greater China Region, I will settle these accounts with you properly!"

Bai Xiaosheng clenched his fists.

To date, he had gathered an extensive amount of evidence against Shen Peishen.

If Elder Xia was still in power, just that evidence alone would have been enough to trouble Shen Peishen.

Of course, to completely take down Shen Peishen, that might still not be enough.

After all, how cautious a person Shen Peishen was, and he had a group of die-hard supporters!

Even now with only four out of ten of his direct lines remaining, he could find quite a few scapegoats to take the fall for him!

Thus, even if Elder Xia were still around, Bai Xiaosheng would not directly confront Shen Peishen with the evidence easily, and would also, like now, try to break his claws, removing those who could take the blame for Shen Peishen first, to see how he would protect himself!

And now...

With Elder Xia seriously ill, Shen Peishen suddenly became the Acting President of the Greater China Region.

The evidence was even less sufficient!

Even if he brought it to Zhenbei Group headquarters, it might not work!

"But, these will be useful! Definitely!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Just then, there was a knock on the office door.

Bai Xiaosheng gathered his thoughts and looked towards the door, saying deeply, "Enter!"

Who could be knocking so politely?

If it were Lin Weiwei or Lei Ying, they would knock three times and then directly push the door to enter.

Of course, there were exceptions, if Lin Weiwei or Lei Ying were bringing someone with them, they would also wait for Bai Xiaosheng's permission.

The office door opened.

Pushing the door was Lin Weiwei, but she stepped aside first to let two other people in.

One after the other, two middle-aged men entered, looking rather similar, both around forty to fifty years old.

The two men were one fat and one thin, both with decent appearances and extraordinary demeanors.

The thin one had a solemn expression on his face, while the fat one was filled with anger.

As soon as these two men entered, Bai Xiaosheng's face broke into a smile.

Both were Affairs Officers and were among those most supportive of Xiahou Qi.

In fact, when Shen Peishen became the acting President, there were some fluctuations among the Affairs Officers under Bai Xiaosheng.

But these two would definitely not waver.

The thin Affairs Officer, Yu Shuli.

The fat Affairs Officer, Zeng Yiran.

The two had different personalities, but both were deeply loyal.

Bai Xiaosheng could see that.

Even though the thin Affairs Officer, Yu Shuli, was much more reserved and knew how to control his emotions compared to the fat Affairs Officer, Zeng Yiran, Bai Xiaosheng's discerning eyes would not mistake this through multiple interactions.