

Two Trillion 1871

Chapter 1871 - An Unbelievable Visitor (Part 2)

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng also wanted to pursue a path of strong alliances, as the saying goes, many hands make light work, and it was also in order to accelerate the development of Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region.

With this approach, Bai Xiaosheng could also harvest points, elevate his level, and thus get promoted, rushing towards his ultimate goal.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng also had some personal ambitions; he wanted his current enterprises to soar, including Shengsheng International. He already owned five companies including Xuelian Wan He, Zunbai Zhisheng, Li Ni Workshop, and Kelson. The large alliance would bring unimaginable development opportunities and resources to his companies, potentially allowing Bai Xiaosheng to build another small business empire in the future...

While Bai Xiaosheng was holding a press conference on one side, planning grand enterprises, on the other side, the Yuema Group suffered another heavy blow, with several large investors withdrawing and the stock market dropping sharply. In just two days, Yuema Group had lost one-third of the gains it had secured from the Tengyun Yuema campaign.

This was like putting Ma Zongting on the rack; even if the Tengyun Series didn't pursue, they would still be greatly weakened, not to mention Lu Yun was not one to leave a grudge unavenged!

The Ma family father and son were overly anxious and fearful each day.

After the press conference, Bai Xiaosheng disappeared from the media's eye again, and Xiahou Qi, the former executive president of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, became his spokesperson.

On the second day after the press conference, Bai Xiaosheng was at the hotel and welcomed a few special distinguished guests.

That day, after having breakfast, Bai Xiaosheng was in a window seat in the hotel's restaurant drinking coffee, with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying reporting key affairs to him.

This was also one of Bai Xiaosheng's work habits.

Although Bai Xiaosheng appeared in the media, causing a sensation in the finance section, he was ultimately not an entertainment or a flow star, so in the eyes of ordinary people, the attention level was not high, and he was not recognized by other diners.

Just when Bai Xiaosheng was listening to the report and drinking coffee, someone walked over.

Lei Ying was the first to notice them.

The leader was a middle-aged man with a kind facial expression, always smiling, but exuding a sense of integrity and strength.

Behind him was a man and a woman, who followed along.

The man behind had a simple and honest appearance yet sharp eyes, walking with an upright posture.

The girl was very pretty but not at Lin Weiwei's level; her lips were thin, indicative of someone who was eloquent, with a hint of critique in her eyes.

As they approached, Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei naturally also noticed them.

"Excuse me, are you Mr. Bai Xiaosheng?" the middle-aged man asked with a smile.

The aura of the opposite party immediately attracted Bai Xiaosheng's attention.

It was not the shrewd or controlling aura of a businessman, but an implicit majesty and firmness.

“Who are you, reporters? Or from which company?” Lin Weiwei stood up, ready to shield Bai Xiaosheng from them.

Lei Ying stood up with her.

The role of an assistant to Bai Xiaosheng, this was part of their job.

The middle-aged man glanced at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying kindly and smiled, “Neither.”

“What’s your attitude, don’t you know he is our...” the girl behind the middle-aged man couldn’t help but speak out.

The middle-aged man raised his hand to stop her, “Jiang Qinqin, don’t be impolite!”

The girl was reprimanded and immediately fell silent, though her eyes still showed some discontent.

“I’m Bai Xiaosheng. Sir, what brings you to me?” Bai Xiaosheng stood up and said with a smile to the middle-aged man.

With his sharp perception, he could tell the middle-aged man had a different aura, indicating a different identity. Since the opposite’s demeanor was peaceful, he couldn’t turn them away.

As Bai Xiaosheng spoke up, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying stopped speaking.

“My surname is Hou, my name is Hou Yuncheng, and this is my work ID.” The middle-aged man smiled and said to Bai Xiaosheng, handing over not a business card but an identity card.

Even Bai Xiaosheng was a bit surprised, taking that identity card.

He saw Hou Yuncheng’s photo without a hat, name, and position.

An extremely long title, stamped neatly with a scarlet seal, authentic national-issued.

“Director Hou Yuncheng!”

Even Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but inhale a breath, looking at Hou Yuncheng in surprise.

“If Mr. Bai has any doubts about my identity, you can verify it by phone.” Hou Yuncheng looked at Bai Xiaosheng and smiled.

His gaze was straightforward and honest, like a ray of sunshine.

Bai Xiaosheng directly returned the ID with both hands, smiling, “No need. I can discern the authenticity of your identity.”

Bai Xiaosheng’s words made the middle-aged man nod slightly, taking back his ID with both hands.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had also glanced at that ID’s position just a moment ago and immediately stood in awe.

This person indeed had an unusual identity, a director from the relevant departments!

Some might think that being a director is a small title, but it depends on where they serve. At the very least, the person before them was extraordinary.

Even Mr. Ji Mingyang from Ji’s would receive him with respect.

The male subordinate behind Hou Yuncheng showed a liking for Bai Xiaosheng due to his attitude.

That Jiang Qinqin, however, seemed disdainful of Bai Xiaosheng, as if she found his confident tone overly self-assured and even arrogant.

Nonetheless, such a young executive president was indeed rare; was he truly not someone who rose through connections to enjoy the fruits?

Jiang Qinqin had deep doubts about Bai Xiaosheng.

“These two are my subordinates, he is Geng Tianhao, she is Jiang Qinqin.” Hou Yuncheng introduced to Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, smiling, “We are well aware of the identities of the three of you, so there’s no need for further introductions.”

Bai Xiaosheng and the two nodded courteously to Geng Tianhao and Jiang Qinqin.

Chapter 1872 - Incredible Guest (Part 3)

Geng Tianhao smiled warmly, nodding in return.

Jiang Qinqin seemed a bit more reserved.

“Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, may I take a few minutes of your time? I have a few words I’d like to chat with you alone.”

Hou Yuncheng spoke gently and politely, combined with his smile, it was truly hard to refuse.

“Alright, please sit!” Bai Xiaosheng nodded immediately, then said to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, “Weiwei, have someone bring two cups of tea. Lei Ying, invite Mr. Geng and Miss Jiang to rest over there.”

Hou Yuncheng had asked for a private chat, and Bai Xiaosheng certainly did not refuse.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying complied immediately, and Geng Tianhao and Jiang Qinqin had no objections.

Soon, the tea for Bai Xiaosheng and Hou Yuncheng was brought over, and the others sat at a distance, observing, ensuring no one would interrupt Bai Xiaosheng's conversation with Hou Yuncheng.

"The conflict between Tengyun and Yuema has come to a close, I must first thank Mr. Bai." Hou Yuncheng said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, not expecting this to be Hou Yuncheng's first topic.

Then, Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I'm not sure how to respond to that. Thank me, for what?"

"Because over these past days, I've been dedicated to reconciling the conflicts between them, which is my task." Hou Yuncheng explained with a smile, "We wouldn't intervene forcibly in the market, but hope for a stable economic situation, which benefits society and the people. We won't get involved in disputes even if one of Tengyun or Yuema fails, we won't force an intervention, because it's market regulation. However, we still hope to mediate, and won't miss any opportunity for reconciliation! After all, they are all Huaxia enterprises!"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but nod.

"Unfortunately, I haven't been able to achieve that." Hou Yuncheng said with a smile and a shake of his head, then addressed Bai Xiaosheng, "But Mr. Bai, you've stopped this turmoil from escalating in just two days, I must say I'm impressed."

Bai Xiaosheng quickly smiled and waved his hand, "You're too kind!"

"Additionally, Mr. Bai, managing the Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region, not only initiated major reforms, significantly contributing to enhancing the competitiveness of ethnic enterprises and optimizing market order, but also fostered economic exchanges between Huaxia and Europe. Our director has long been aware of you and has expressed strong approval!" Hou Yuncheng said with a smile, "So actually, my next stage of work is to visit you and seek to provide some necessary policy support and other assistance for your development. I'm basically starting my work ahead of schedule."

Hou Yuncheng's words made Bai Xiaosheng feel both surprised and joyful!

They currently don't lack money or opportunities, what they need is national-level support.

Now, it's being offered to them.

Bai Xiaosheng instantly sat up straight, saying to Hou Yuncheng, "Then I really have to thank you on behalf of our enterprise!"

"It's what we should do, Mr. Bai, no need for formality." Hou Yuncheng laughed, "We've actually assessed you thoroughly over here, and are convinced you're worth it! Otherwise, we wouldn't have rushed over. Hard work pays off, you essentially helped yourselves!"

Nevertheless, Bai Xiaosheng expressed his gratitude to Hou Yuncheng once more.

The two chatted for a while, feeling very good about each other.

Twenty minutes later, Hou Yuncheng stood up to take his leave, "Going forward, we will send someone to liaise with you, you can think about what assistance you might require."

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, smiling and nodding.

As he was leaving, Hou Yuncheng suddenly leaned in and chuckled softly to Bai Xiaosheng, "I heard you have a good relationship with Ji Mingyang?"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, nodding, "You know Mr. Ji?"

Hou Yuncheng smiled, leaving a remark as he departed, "I'm sort of, his senior."

Chapter 1873 - Icebreaking Mission

Bai Xiaosheng accompanied Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying all the way to send off Hou Yuncheng, Geng Tianhao, and Jiang Qinqin into the elevator. During this time, Bai Xiaosheng's attitude towards Hou Yuncheng was extremely respectful.

Watching the elevator descend, Bai Xiaosheng then led Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying back.

"Brother Sheng, what did Director Hou say to you?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask, "Also, why did your attitude towards him seem especially respectful?"

Earlier, when Bai Xiaosheng was chatting with Hou Yuncheng, the four of them were sitting quite far away, so naturally, they didn't hear the conversation.

However, Lin Weiwei felt it should be something good rather than bad.

Just now, Bai Xiaosheng and Hou Yuncheng were talking and laughing. Even after Hou Yuncheng left, the two seemed to have had a pleasant conversation.

Lin Weiwei was a bit curious about what kind of "good news" Hou Yuncheng would bring.

Additionally, what puzzled Lin Weiwei was Bai Xiaosheng's attitude towards Hou Yuncheng.

Hou Yuncheng had a special status. He only needed to send someone to invite Bai Xiaosheng for a dialogue, and Bai Xiaosheng would definitely go. Hou Yuncheng personally coming over to speak with Bai Xiaosheng was quite gracious. Bai Xiaosheng's respect for him was deserved, but Lin Weiwei felt that in Bai Xiaosheng's respect, there was a hint of proactive enthusiasm and closeness.

Judging based on authority and power is not Bai Xiaosheng's nature; he is not someone who seeks favor with the powerful.

Even when he was still the general manager of a company, he treated Mayor Ji Mingyang calmly, neither overbearing nor servile.

Lei Ying also had some doubts about these two points. Seeing Lin Weiwei ask, he immediately looked at Bai Xiaosheng, hoping to hear what he would say.

"Director Hou's visit this time is both icing on the cake and providing timely help!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile as he walked, explaining to the two, "He represents government support and recognition of our enterprise!"

Bai Xiaosheng briefly explained the content of Hou Yuncheng's conversation to the two.

Upon learning that the country was going to support them with policies, even Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying felt quite excited.

"In a moment, I will call Elder Xia to ask him to hold a special meeting with the Senior Affairs Officer and regional heads, to form a special team to connect with Director Hou." Bai Xiaosheng took this very seriously.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded frequently.

"And, do you know who that Director Hou is?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

Lin Weiwei and the others looked at each other in confusion.

Who is Director Hou?

Well, he's... Director Hou, who else could he be? This is the first time everyone met him.

Could it be that he has another connection with the three of them?

If Bai Xiaosheng didn't say, how would they know?

"He's Mayor Ji Mingyang's senior!" Bai Xiaosheng, not wanting to keep them in suspense, directly told them.

"Mayor Ji Mingyang's..."

"Senior!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were quite surprised, not expecting this relationship!

They suddenly realized.

Bai Xiaosheng had immense admiration and respect for Mayor Ji Mingyang, treating him like a mentor. Knowing Director Hou's personality and his relationship with Mayor Ji Mingyang, it was only natural for Bai Xiaosheng to extend that respect.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he took Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying back, and it goes without saying that he reported the good news to Xiahou Qi over the phone.

At this moment, inside the elevator.

Jiang Qinqin, beside Hou Yuncheng, couldn't help but mutter, "That Bai Xiaosheng, didn't expect him to be so young!"

"Young and promising!" Director Hou praised.

Recalling the conversation with Bai Xiaosheng earlier, this young man was quick-witted, had a broad perspective, and conducted himself in a calm, composed manner, with an air that did not lose out to Lu Yun and those big entrepreneurs!

Even now, Hou Yuncheng couldn't help but nod, with a look of appreciation in his eyes.

Lu Yun, Ma Zongting, Dong Tianlu, Wang Xuantian, weren't they all older than Bai Xiaosheng by a dozen or twenty years, veterans in the business world? Yet currently, they were all turned around by this young man, a testament to his extraordinary nature!

"Indeed, he left a good impression on me!" Geng Tianhao couldn't help but agree with Hou Yuncheng's assessment.

Though he had only met Bai Xiaosheng once, he had done his homework beforehand, and upon meeting him, he felt even more impressed than he had anticipated.

"Director Hou, Old Geng, is he really as good as you say?" Jiang Qinqin protested, muttering, "Didn't you see how eager he was to see us off to the elevator? I think he lacked the composure of those true business magnates like Lu Yun and Ma Zongting. Maybe he got ahead because of his background... I've heard that the chairman of Zhenbei Group is also named Bai..."

"Jiang Qinqin, don't talk nonsense!" snapped Hou Yuncheng.

Hou Yuncheng naturally understood why Bai Xiaosheng was so cordial, partly due to Ji Mingyang's influence.

However, he wasn't going to explain this to Jiang Qinqin.

Getting reprimanded, Jiang Qinqin pouted and stopped talking.

But her eyes still held that opinion of Bai Xiaosheng.

Geng Tianhao couldn't help but shrug.

This girl was like this, sharp-tongued but with no bad intentions.

"In the future, you two must maintain close contact with Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region and must not let personal feelings interfere," Hou Yuncheng reminded again.

Geng Tianhao nodded.

Jiang Qinqin reluctantly nodded too.

As they spoke, the elevator reached their destination.

Stepping out, Hou Yuncheng said, "So, I'm going back to the office. You two need to make a trip to Liqiu City to investigate the company from the materials sent to you this morning. They have some... background, and local departments have requested our intervention, so you should make the trip!"

Geng Tianhao and Jiang Qinqin immediately responded.

On the other side, Bai Xiaosheng fully informed Xiahou Qi over the phone about Hou Yuncheng's visit, to which Xiahou Qi was immensely excited. He immediately pledged to handle the coordination work and briefly discussed with Bai Xiaosheng where they needed policy support.

One phone call from Bai Xiaosheng lasted until noon, even chatting over lunch.

After lunch, Bai Xiaosheng and the other two returned to their rooms to start packing.

After staying for so many days, it was time for them to leave Tianhu and return to Linshen.

Currently, Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region has established major cooperative relationships with the European region, the Luo Family, Tengyun, Beifeng Holdings, and Haoyu Group. Next, it's time for practical actions.

While Bai Xiaosheng was packing, suddenly Red Lotus's voice echoed in his mind.

"Icebreaking task, released!"

Hearing this voice while packing, Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned.

The so-called icebreaking task was actually a stage where, after Bai Xiaosheng's score quickly reached seventy percent, the mechanism froze scores for the subsequent thirty percent. Completion of tasks released by Red Lotus would unfreeze them, allowing scores to continue to rise.

"Within three months, the host needs to visit any two continents and establish extensive cooperation with two business units under the group to unfreeze scores and restart score growth," Red Lotus explained.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded in understanding.

This task wasn't really difficult.

Suddenly, Red Lotus continued, "Given what you've done for the group so far, you can choose to accept or refuse this task! Different choices will lead to different scenarios."

Red Lotus's words left Bai Xiaosheng momentarily puzzled. This wasn't something normally said.

He knew accepting the task would mean continuing.

But what if he refused...

Bai Xiaosheng asked Red Lotus directly, "What if I don't accept?"

Chapter 1874: Accept or Refuse

Red Lotus has always issued tasks without providing an option to abandon them. Even if there were such an option, the consequences would likely be dire.

But this time, Red Lotus surprisingly reminded Bai Xiaosheng that accepting or giving up would result in two different outcomes, without punishment or adverse effects.

So naturally, Bai Xiaosheng wanted to know what would happen if he didn't accept it.

“Sorry, please allow me to inform you first what will happen if you accept this task,” Red Lotus responded.

This made Bai Xiaosheng pause in surprise.

What would happen if I accept this task?

What else? Just complete the task, continue to earn points, level up, and get promoted. What else could there be?

Bai Xiaosheng found this a bit hard to understand.

“If you accept this task, relying on the cooperation and alliances you’ve established in the Greater China Region, after the ice-breaking task is completed, your points will soar, immediately meeting the promotion criteria. You will have been in the executive role for less than a year, yet you’ll be promoted again. This is unprecedented since the establishment of this group and will result in high-level criticism, along with various unpredictable issues, leading to over three hundred possible threat scenarios,” Red Lotus said.

Over three hundred... potential threat scenarios?

How do you even calculate that! Bai Xiaosheng found it amusing.

“Therefore, in your next phase of promotion, you will face sanctions which will reduce your point accumulation by 75%, and task issuance will increase by 800%,” Red Lotus stated.

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbfounded and inwardly speechless.

So, advancing too quickly also results in penalties and restrictions? What kind of logic is this?

Isn’t this forcing me to give up the task!

Then what's the point of accepting the task?

"By accepting the ice-breaking task, you won't have a level-up task, but you'll be promoted directly. You'll also gain a higher position, more opportunities, stronger assistance, and more time to prepare for the next phase."

Red Lotus knew Bai Xiaosheng's complaints since it resided in his mind, and immediately explained.

"Alright, let's discuss what happens if I refuse," Bai Xiaosheng said directly.

"If you refuse this task," Red Lotus stated, "your freeze period will be extended from one year to up to one year and six months. During this period, regardless of your achievements, you will not earn more points!"

"After this period ends, the ice-breaking task automatically lifts, leading directly to a level-up task. If your achievements are three times your current ones, you can also bypass the promotion task to upgrade directly!"

"By giving up the current task, you can earn points at a normal rate in the next phase!"

"Give up the current task, and your position in the next phase will become uncontrollable!"

"Give up the current task, and the assistance you'll receive in the next phase will be weaker!"

...

Red Lotus presented the pros and cons of abandoning the task, imprinting them in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Giving it up seems better? Bai Xiaosheng pondered.

“In a comprehensive calculation, there is currently a more suitable high position and stronger system support — accepting the task is still better than abandoning it,” Red Lotus advised.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment, then suddenly asked, “If I get promoted, won’t I be able to handle specific affairs in the Greater China Region anymore?”

This task requires a completion time of three months. By then, all cooperation should be showing results. Visits to other continents’ business units might provide more cooperation, but if I’m not involved anymore, Bai Xiaosheng would be unwilling.

“Correct. Higher posts are not related to specific work in various continental business units. You may observe and guide, but you cannot intervene excessively,” Red Lotus replied.

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng no longer hesitated, “I refuse the task!”

What a joke!

He, Bai Xiaosheng, has been working tirelessly both domestically and internationally to achieve these major cooperations today.

After picking the fruits, getting the stove ready, and cooking the meat, should I just leave? No way!

Even if it were just about leveling up and getting promoted, it would be tolerable regarding his legacy journey.

The crux is that he also bears the burden of doing business with the Wei Family, redeeming Wei Xuelian’s youthful time. UPDATE FROM

Holding so much industry and resources under Zhenbei Group’s Greater China Region, how could he just give it all up?

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng decisively chose to refuse the task.

"I remind you again, excluding a suitable higher position and stronger assistance, what you lack most is time! Refusing the task equates to extending your time at your current position by one to one and a half years, leaving only four years or less for your succession journey. Have you thought it through?" Red Lotus reminded again.

"I've thought it through. I give up this task!" Bai Xiaosheng decided resolutely.

Red Lotus said no more.

A "ding" sounded in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, followed by a prompt, "Host, task abandoned!"

Bai Xiaosheng sat there for a silent two minutes, choosing to clear his mind with little distress over the decision.

Even if there were only four years for level-up, he remains confident in completing his succession journey!

Moreover, holding the domain of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, there is plenty of room for him to showcase his abilities. During this period, he plans to steadily accomplish some things!

Just then, Bai Xiaosheng's room door was suddenly knocked. He put aside his thoughts and got up to open the door.

Opening the door, he was surprised to find Mo Ziyue standing outside.

These days, he's been busy, but he's also been in contact with Old Mo via phone. Old Mo has been in Tianhu, but mentioned he would be leaving soon.

"Sheng, I'm planning to leave Tianhu today and head home. Just wanted to give you a heads up," Mo Ziyue said with a smile.

"Please come in!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and invited Mo Ziyue inside.

After entering, Mo Ziyue noticed Bai Xiaosheng packing luggage and paused, "You too..."

"If you hadn't come to find me, I was about to tell you that I'm leaving Tianhu too. Today as well," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, inviting Mo Ziyue to sit.

The two hit it off from the start, appreciating each other's character and abilities, and are now good friends.

Bai Xiaosheng poured Mo Ziyue a glass of water.

Mo Ziyue was slightly regretful and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I was planning to invite you to my home, but Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying said you all seemed very busy, and you might not have time. It's a bit of a pity."

"There will be opportunities. We are only busy for a few months. It's not like we will always be so busy," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"By the way, I saw you in the news the other day. You're amazing!" Mo Ziyue genuinely praised him.

Actually, as a doctor, he's not particularly interested in big bosses or businessmen, and he has no ulterior motives in complimenting Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Still a long way to go, Old Mo, you being such a young associate chief physician, you're quite impressive yourself."

Mo Ziyue immediately laughed.

The two sat down and chatted for a while, agreeing that once Bai Xiaosheng was less busy, he'd visit the Mo Family.

As the conversation wound down, Mo Ziyue suddenly asked, “Hey, when is your train today?”

The train ticket was with Lin Weiwei, but she had sent Bai Xiaosheng a photo, which he now showed Mo Ziyue.

Mo Ziyue looked at the train ticket photo and was stunned, saying incredulously to Bai Xiaosheng, “This, how is this possible!”

What’s so impossible?

Bai Xiaosheng was paused by his words.

Mo Ziyue, noticing this, quickly took out his train ticket to show Bai Xiaosheng, “See for yourself!”

Bai Xiaosheng took Mo Ziyue’s ticket and compared it to the picture on his phone, and he too was stunned.

Same train, same carriage, even the seats were adjacent!

“Wow!” Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but exclaim, “How can it be this coincidental!”

Chapter 1875: Dong Tianxiu’s Farewell

Learning that Mo Ziyue was in the same car, in the same compartment, and even sitting right next to him, even Bai Xiaosheng couldn’t help but exclaim.

“This is truly fate!” Mo Ziyue clapped his hands and laughed, “How about this? You get off halfway with me, have dinner at my place, and then continue your journey. I’ll reimburse you for the ticket.”

With Bai Xiaosheng’s status, he naturally wouldn’t care about the cost of a ticket, and Mo Ziyue was just joking.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "That sounds good, but even if I wanted to, I couldn't. I've got a pile of work at the company waiting for me. I can't just leave them to it; I'd feel bad."

Currently, with so many things going on at the company, Bai Xiaosheng returning to work alongside everyone would be morale-boosting.

"By the way, which station are you getting off at?" Bai Xiaosheng picked up Mo Ziyue's ticket and glanced at it, casually reading the destination, "Liqiu City."

Liqiu?

"Nice place!" Bai Xiaosheng immediately praised it.

Bai Xiaosheng had read an article listing Liqiu as one of the top ten most livable cities in the country, known for its beautiful scenery, delicious food, and charming people.

The mention of Liqiu's scenery and food sparked a sense of pride in Mo Ziyue, who then passionately praised his hometown.

As they were talking, there was a knock on the door.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up to open the door, and outside were Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

They were already prepared, intending to call Bai Xiaosheng to leave early together.

Seeing Mo Ziyue there as well, they both greeted him.

Mo Ziyue knew that although they were Bai Xiaosheng's subordinates, they were also friends with him. Privately, the three treated each other as equals, speaking freely about anything. For this, Mo Ziyue admired and envied Bai Xiaosheng.

When Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying heard from Bai Xiaosheng that Mo Ziyue was on the same train, in the same compartment, and even had adjoining seats, they were astonished.

Lin Weiwei knew Mo Ziyue's hometown was in Liqiu City and wanted to visit.

Years ago, while traveling with Bai Xiaosheng, the "Affairs Officer," through various cities in the country, they regrettably only passed through Liqiu once.

Unexpectedly, they were passing through again this time...

Mo Ziyue took the opportunity to invite them again.

Neither could agree on behalf of Bai Xiaosheng, so they politely declined.

Mo Ziyue checked the time and thought it best to set off early since they were all going the same way, and suggested they go together.

Mo Ziyue had brought his luggage when he came to this hotel, which he left there, so it was convenient to fetch it and leave.

A quarter-hour later, Bai Xiaosheng and the other two went downstairs with Mo Ziyue, ready to head to the train station together.

As they departed Tianhu, Bai Xiaosheng only said goodbye to Zhengdong Province and Dong Tianxiu.

Currently, Zhengdong Province was not in Tianhu; he'd gone to the Tengyun headquarters, so they could only say goodbye over the phone.

Dong Tianlu was too busy, so Bai Xiaosheng didn't ask Dong Tianxiu to pass on any messages. Dong Tianxiu insisted on seeing Bai Xiaosheng off, but Bai Xiaosheng declined.

However, upon reaching the ground floor, they still ran into Dong Tianxiu, with Chen Feiyu and Zi Yue following him.

“You’re leaving now?” Dong Tianxiu expressed surprise upon seeing them and then, relieved, muttered, “Good thing I left early, almost missed you!”

“I said no need to see me off,” Bai Xiaosheng smiled, “Come to Linshen if you have time; I’ll treat you.”

Dong Tianxiu grinned, “Sure!”

Seeing Mo Ziyue with Bai Xiaosheng and the others, dragging his luggage as well as if ready to leave.

Dong Tianxiu, surprised, asked, “Mr. Mo, you’re leaving too?”

Mo Ziyue laughed, “Yes! Let me tell you a huge coincidence; I’m on the same train, same compartment, and even adjacent seats with them. We didn’t arrange this; it’s all by chance.”

Dong Tianxiu found it quite incredible as well.

As the three men chatted, Chen Feiyu was talking to Lin Weiwei, occasionally glancing at Bai Xiaosheng.

This young Zhenbei Group Greater China Region Executive President appeared so approachable, so sunny, that he was hard to look away from.

Lin Weiwei noticed Chen Feiyu’s admiring gaze but wasn’t jealous; she was a bit proud. Her Xiaosheng was indeed such a charismatic man.

Lei Ying calmly watched Bai Xiaosheng and the others talk but was tapped on the arm by someone. Turning, he saw Zi Yue standing next to him.

“Hey, how about leaving a... phone number? I only have your WeChat, and it seems it’s your work account.” Zi Yue, a bit flushed, avoided Lei Ying’s gaze as she handed over her phone.

Lei Ying was taken aback but then smiled and reached out.

“I don’t mean anything by it!” Zi Yue quickly stated.

Lei Ying smiled as he entered his number, then added his personal WeChat and handed it back to Zi Yue, softly saying, “If you visit Linshen, I’ll host you.”

Zi Yue grinned as she nodded and took her phone back.

Just as she was about to speak, she suddenly noticed the surrounding quiet.

Turning her head, she found Bai Xiaosheng, Mo Ziyue, Dong Tianxiu, Lin Weiwei, and Chen Feiyu all watching them.

Zi Yue’s face turned crimson, and she turned to leave.

Lei Ying also noticed everyone watching him curiously, unusually embarrassed.

Everyone shared a knowing smile.

Bai Xiaosheng was genuinely happy for Lei Ying. Despite being much older, Lei Ying had been single all these years while going through thick and thin together with him.

Bai Xiaosheng had considered arranging something for him, even urging him to go on a few blind dates.

By appearances, this big guy gave off a sense of security, was attentive despite his ruggedness, and thanks to his years with Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng hadn’t treated him or Lin Weiwei poorly. Not counting stocks, he had millions in the bank, qualifying him as affluent.

Yet, during those blind dates, Lei Ying either sat silent with the beauties for hours in coffee shops or ended up killing the conversation.

Despite this, a few exceptionally attractive women were still interested in him given his circumstances.

Lei Ying, however, turned them down, saying their focus wasn't on him, so it wouldn't work out.

After that, Lei Ying refused to go on blind dates, and the matter was shelved.

Unexpectedly, today, he developed a fondness for Zi Yue.

Thinking about it, in recent days, Lei Ying had frequently substituted for Lin Weiwei in visits to the Dong Family, handling negotiations with unusual enthusiasm, often choosing to go in person rather than just call, indicating a lot...

Now, with Lei Ying and Zi Yue being a good match, everyone was happy for them.

Finally, Dong Tianxiu and Chen Feiyu saw off Bai Xiaosheng, the three of them, along with Mo Ziyue, to the high-speed rail station.

Outside the station, everyone said their goodbyes, promising to meet again another day.

After Bai Xiaosheng's group of four entered the station, they boarded the train as soon as it arrived.

This time, Lin Weiwei hadn't bought business class, but fortunately, with their first-class seats, they were hardly picky, finding it comfortable all the same.

As the train proceeded, Bai Xiaosheng and Mo Ziyue continued to chat.

Speaking of going home, Mo Ziyue expressed his regrets to Bai Xiaosheng, "I should be home by tonight. At the start, middle, and end of the month, my family hosts a banquet. We have an old chef there, incredibly skilled. The flavors rival, if not surpass, any Michelin three-star chef. You should really try it."

Discussing family banquets touched a tender spot for Bai Xiaosheng, reminding him he hadn't gathered with his family in quite some time.

"But sadly, during these banquets, I, having studied Western medicine, am the least welcomed," Mo Ziyue sighed lightly, then laughed, "Fortunately, someone else draws the attention away from me. I have an uncle who's much younger. With him around, it's much easier for me."

"Is he also in Western medicine?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help laughing.

Mo Ziyue shook his head, "No, he abandoned the medical field entirely. He's now a general manager at a pharmaceutical company! His boss's background is quite formidable!"

Chapter 1876: Mishap Along the Journey

Speaking of his young uncle who works as the general manager in a pharmaceutical company, Mo Ziyue instantly became animated, even a bit exuberant. Bai Xiaosheng could see both admiration and a bit of schadenfreude in his eyes.

This emotion was somewhat strange...

"My grandfather always says that our Mo Family ancestors were Imperial Physicians, with deep-rooted family heritage and pure lineage. He nurtured two generations of Chinese medicine experts in his lifetime," Mo Ziyue laughed, "But in the end, his youngest son was the first to betray, turning into a Western doctor and now even gave up clinical practice to become a manager. So my grandfather has always been quite displeased with my young uncle. With him around, my pressure is greatly reduced."

Listening to Mo Ziyue speak like this, Bai Xiaosheng felt that his grandfather had a somewhat stubborn "cuteness."

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh, "Did you choose Western medicine because of your young uncle's influence?"

“Of course, it’s him. He’s the only odd one out in our family.” Mo Ziyue nodded in acknowledgment, “Now, including me, there are two. He’s less than ten years older than me; we grew up playing together, how could he not ‘lead me astray’?”

Bai Xiaosheng finally understood why Mo Ziyue’s emotions earlier were so strange...

The two continued to chat for a while, but leaning against the wide, comfortable seat, they inevitably felt a bit drowsy, so they stopped talking, adjusted the recliner to a comfortable angle, and took a little nap.

Bai Xiaosheng slept briefly and just awoke to the train’s broadcast, “Passengers, please pay attention, the next stop is Liqiu City. Please prepare your luggage and disembark in an orderly manner. We wish you a pleasant journey...”

How long have I been sleeping, that we’re already close to Liqiu City? Bai Xiaosheng raised his hand to check the time.

Beside him, Mo Ziyue also woke up, rubbed his eyes, and smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, “I’m almost at my stop, but you still have a few hours to go, so I’ll wish you a smooth journey in advance.”

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile, just about to say something when the broadcast sounded again.

This time, the announcement was somewhat urgent.

It must be an emergency to make a trained announcer sound this way.

“Passengers, please note, there has been a landslide on the route between Liqiu and Shanghe. We’ll be halting at Liqiu City for repairs, expected to take over six hours. Please await further arrangements...”

The content of this broadcast left Bai Xiaosheng and Mo Ziyue stunned.

Beside them, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged puzzled glances.

Mo Ziyue inadvertently played the role of a “jinx”, having just wished them a smooth journey, when trouble arose ahead.

The carriage erupted into commotion, triggered by the broadcast.

“What, a landslide? Really?”

“A six-hour delay, that’s too long!”

“This route passes through mountains; I said there might be some natural disaster.”

“Hurry up and repair it; send more people so our journey isn’t disrupted!”

“So many maintenance workers, and still over six hours? It’s too backward! Abroad, it wouldn’t take this long...”

Complaints rose one after another.

“More than six hours, within a short time frame, even arranging accommodations would be quite a hassle.” Mo Ziyue said to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

“What should we do, Xiaosheng, should we fly at Liqiu City?” Lin Weiwei asked.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head at this proposal, “No need. There’s Elder Xia at home, there shouldn’t be any issue. We’ll just tough out the executives a bit. We can still work online. Let’s stay overnight in Liqiu.”

After speaking, Bai Xiaosheng turned to Mo Ziyue with a smile, "This time, we'll truly be intruding."

Mo Ziyue heard this and was even more delighted, "Great, great, I'd wish for nothing less!"

Contrary to the gloomy and irritable mood filling the train cars, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions maintained a calm demeanor.

The train eventually stopped in Liqiu City, and once the vehicle stabilized, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions gathered their belongings and squeezed off the train with Mo Ziyue. Behind them, many people in the carriage were still exclaiming and even swearing, but there were also voices of understanding.

"What's the point, a landslide is beyond human control, and the railroad company isn't at fault either." Mo Ziyue shook his head.

"Nobody wants to encounter such situations; it's understandable to vent momentarily, but later, didn't you hear many rational voices too?" Bai Xiaosheng said, "Hopefully, they'll be more rational."

In any case, the issues here aren't something the few of them can help with. Bai Xiaosheng and his companions followed Mo Ziyue out.

Outside the high-speed rail station, standing in front with an abundance of greenery, Liqiu City's landscaping was exceptionally well done, resembling a garden city, and the air was far better than that of Tianhu.

"No wonder it's a nationally renowned livable city," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but praise.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded in agreement.

Mo Ziyue chuckled, "Just now, my family messaged me that they've sent a car to pick us up, it's outside the plaza; let's go."

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions immediately nodded.

Eventually, they spotted the car sent by the Mo family at the roadside, an MPV, fitting for the group.

As Bai Xiaosheng and his friends approached, a balding middle-aged man came out of the car, heading straight for Mo Ziyue.

“Ziyue!” The man greeted with a warm smile.

“Wang.” Mo Ziyue greeted the man and pointed to Bai Xiaosheng and the others, “These are my friends, coming over for dinner tonight.”

“Great, great.” Uncle Wang nodded to Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, enthusiastically helping with their luggage.

Seeing this, it seemed Mo Ziyue’s treatment at home wasn’t as dire as he claimed. Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying shared a smile.

Everyone got into the car, and the MPV left the high-speed rail station.

On the road, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions admired the scenery along the way, unable to resist praising this “garden-like city”—Liqiu City, truly living up to its name, where even simple urban landscaping exuded taste and artistic flair.

Mo Ziyue enthusiastically shared more about Liqiu’s famous sites and delicacies with Bai Xiaosheng and his friends, while driver Wang occasionally chimed in.

Eventually, the MPV drove into a cluster of traditional Chinese courtyards.

A family of Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners certainly wouldn't lack money. These grand houses well suited the living habits of older generations, and they looked quite similar to the industries Bai Xiaosheng established back home, although they appeared older.

The car stopped at the courtyard entrance, and Bai Xiaosheng and his companions got out. The MPV then left to park.

To be honest, the mansion was indeed imposing, with a tall facade, but Bai Xiaosheng and his friends had visited too many wealthy and grand estates, so they didn't feel particularly impressed.

"Welcome home. Please come inside!" Mo Ziyue smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and his companions.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled and nodded, ready to enter with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

At that moment, several people emerged from the courtyard, seemingly seeing off a few guests.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions also noticed a Maybach parked by the roadside outside.

"Your father's condition is quite good, nothing serious. Mr. Chen, rest assured, I will revisit your home for follow-up treatment in two days." Among the people exiting was a man who smiled and cupped his hands, speaking to the guests. He appeared to be of similar age to Mo Ziyue, with a striking presence, especially in his traditional mandarin jacket, adding an extra touch of style.

"Thank you, Mr. Mo, farewell, farewell! Please remain here!" The lead among the departing guests was dressed in a luxurious suit but was exceptionally respectful.

Taking a glance at Mo Ziyue, Bai Xiaosheng, and the others, the departing guest only glanced briefly and then left.

The Mo family member seeing off the guests fixed his gaze on Mo Ziyue's face before chuckling.

His smile was noticeably mocking and not concealed, “Well, isn’t it Ziyue? How come you’re back, big Western doctor!”

Mo Ziyue’s expression subtly darkened as he looked at the person, but he remained extremely polite, “Zi Yun, long time no see.”

“Ha-ha, yes, yes!” Mo ZiYun laughed dismissively, “It’s just that too many famous people are coming for consultations, busy, tired! Of course, you wouldn’t understand that feeling.”

He then glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and the others, pursing his lips, “Your friends? My younger brother, don’t tell me they’re also Western doctors. Don’t let grandpa see them, he’ll be annoyed!”

Chapter 1877: Unwelcome Guest

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions didn’t expect that before they could even enter the Mo family estate, they’d encounter Mo ZiYun, a member of the Mo family, with such an unwelcoming demeanor.

The Mo family servants following Mo ZiYun all looked at Bai Xiaosheng and his group with peculiar expressions.

Bai Xiaosheng remained calm and composed, responding with tranquility.

Lin Weiwei couldn’t help but secretly furrow her brows.

Lei Ying always maintained a poker face, but at this moment, there was an added touch of frostiness.

Mo ZiYun spoke rather rudely. Not only did he label Bai Xiaosheng and his companions as “Western medicine” personnel, but he also said not to let them disrupt old Mr. Mo’s view.

Did this mean he was openly expressing his unwelcoming attitude towards their visit?

At first meeting, neither side had reported their names or identities, nor did they have any grudges against each other. Yet Mo ZiYun was so rude, it was quite clear who his words were truly aimed at—Mo Ziyue.

No wonder Mo Ziyue said he was the least welcome in this house. At first, when they saw Wang greeting them, his attitude was decent, and they thought Mo Ziyue was exaggerating. But now it seems true.

Mo Ziyue's face immediately darkened, and his voice became firm, "Brother Zi Yun, you're speaking too harshly!"

Mo ZiYun could mock him in public, but he couldn't treat his friends like that.

Especially in front of the Mo family servants and apprentices, how could Bai Xiaosheng and his friends even enter the house?

"Harsh, am I? Then tell me, aren't these people students you've brought home?" Mo ZiYun laughed, hugging his shoulders as he looked at him, then tilted his head to glance at the three of them, "You're quite the reputable 'Western medicine' physician, aren't you? Why not learn from your cousin like me? Just see who I just sent away—the richest man in Lin City! His assets are hundreds of billions! Such friends and guests are worthy of our family name! Not bringing a bunch of interns around like pals!"

In Mo ZiYun's eyes, the three with Bai Xiaosheng consisted of a calm young man, a poker-faced big guy, and a girl who was quite pretty but seemed displeased.

Wasn't this bringing two interns and a security guard home?

Friends?

Mo Ziyue, with his title, must be a deputy chief physician. Making friends with these people and bringing them home, isn't it demeaning!

Mo ZiYun hadn't said these words yet, but they were clearly written on his face, visible to anyone.

Among the servants following Mo ZiYun, a couple glanced with amusement, some even mockingly.

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, amidst her shock, was nearly amused to the point of laughter.

With Mo Ziyue present, calling his cousin Mo ZiYun a snob wasn't too far-fetched, but Mo ZiYun was truly blind!

The richest man in Lin City with hundreds of billions?

Not to mention, in a city full of hidden talents, the truly wealthy are inconspicuous, and hundreds of billions aren't much to brag about.

What is Bai Xiaosheng's net worth now?

Zunbai Zhisheng and Xue Lian Wan He were valued at over a trillion last year, and Li Ni Workshop is advancing towards group formation and globalization, driving asset growth.

Kelson and Shengsheng International, although they'd eventually be returned, currently belong to Bai Xiaosheng, and their scale is impressive.

Excluding his position as the executive president of the Greater China Region for Zhenbei Group, Bai Xiaosheng's net worth is no less than four trillion!

Mo ZiYun actually admired a net worth in the billions and mistook someone worth four trillion as a Western medicine intern?

His eyes must be blind or simply decorative, not even as good as glass beads!

Mo Ziyue couldn't help but want to fire back, even challenging him.

In his view, his cousin was truly embarrassing, having grown in ability over the years but without improving his insight.

This is laughable!

Bai Xiaosheng is the executive president of the Greater China Region for Zhenbei Group!

Just as Mo Ziyue was about to speak out, Bai Xiaosheng quietly tugged at him.

Mo Ziyue glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, who subtly shook his head and leaned closer to speak softly, “You’ve just returned, hearing a couple of unpleasant words and getting angry here is neither good nor worthwhile.”

Mo Ziyue hesitated. Bai Xiaosheng had reminded him.

He felt that bringing guests home and quarrelling with family at the door wasn’t a good look.

If those servants behind Mo ZiYun spread the word, it would only be more embarrassing.

Thinking of this, Mo Ziyue slowly exhaled the internal anger.

He had been a doctor for many years, possessing self-restraint.

Actually, being the least welcome Western physician in his home, returning and sparring with the most favored cousin, certainly wouldn’t favor him.

“Brother Zi Yun, they’re not my students. This one here has greater expertise in traditional Chinese medicine than even you!”

Mo Ziyue didn’t want to boast about his friends’ worth like Mo ZiYun did; it seemed childish.

But he wasn't feeling good inside, so he let slip.

As soon as these words were spoken, the eyes of Mo ZiYun's entourage, including servants and apprentices, suddenly looked at Bai Xiaosheng with surprise.

Although Mo Ziyue went to study Western medicine, his character was unquestionable in the Mo family, never exaggerating.

Could the young man beside him really be more skilled than their own young master Zi Yun?!

Unbelievable!

Those people even began whispering softly.

Mo ZiYun grew angry upon hearing this.

Mo ZiYun intended to humiliate his cousin; there were "deep-seated" reasons for this.

Since childhood, Mo ZiYun and Mo Ziyue were considered the most promising children of the Mo family, but Mo Ziyue was more favored by old Mr. Mo, praised for possessing a healer's "heart of benevolence." Strong talent that could inherit the elder's legacy.

Chapter 1878: Unwelcome Guest (Part 2)

Back then, although Mo ZiYun was young, his mental development was not slow, and he deeply understood the taste of jealousy.

Over time, his jealousy and resentment towards Mo Ziyue accumulated deeply.

Fortunately, heaven seemed to favor him; because Mo Ziyue's mother fell ill, the family insisted on self-treatment, delaying hospital transportation and leading to her passing.

This made Mo Ziyue start to rebel, develop resistance towards traditional Chinese medicine, and even go off to learn Western medicine.

Old Mr. Mo was furious, even deeply disappointed with Mo Ziyue, which allowed Mo ZiYun to receive the full attention of the family.

But after the initial ecstasy of being valued, Mo ZiYun's dislike towards Mo Ziyue only grew stronger day by day!

Why only when Mo Ziyue gave up did he get his chance!

Where is he inferior to Mo Ziyue!

These years, though every time Mo Ziyue returned home, Old Mr. Mo had no good words for him.

Privately, however, the old man praised Mo Ziyue's early achievement of becoming a deputy chief physician in Western medicine for his exceptional medical talent, willing to beat him, even regretted it was his stubbornness back then; if Mo Ziyue's mother's treatment had followed Western medicine, she might have lived a bit longer, preventing Mo Ziyue from senselessly going to study Western medicine.

Mo ZiYun listened respectfully on the surface but internally harbored resentment, which only intensified his "hatred" towards Mo Ziyue.

So, whenever Mo ZiYun had the chance, he didn't hesitate to teach his cousin a lesson.

Now, upon hearing Mo Ziyue mention that the young man was more adept in Chinese medicine than himself, Mo ZiYun was taken aback at first, then quickly got angry.

"Mo Ziyue, do you know what you're saying! I, the direct inheritor of Chinese medicine from my family, you say his mastery of Chinese medicine surpasses mine! Are you insane, you're insulting the honor of the Mo Family! Fine, I want to see for myself what he knows!"

Mo ZiYun, truly proud and conceited yet narrow-minded, immediately wanted to seize Bai Xiaosheng to settle the score.

The arrival of a new guest was actually just a sideshow.

Mo Ziyue was already disinclined to engage him and began inviting Bai Xiaosheng and the others inside.

Mo ZiYun, on the verge of a meltdown, suddenly noticed the departing Maybach return.

His expression subtly changed as he quickly suppressed his anger, returning to his previous aloof demeanor, though his gaze remained fierce, glaring at Mo Ziyue and Bai Xiaosheng with the others.

As Mo Ziyue led Bai Xiaosheng and others past Mo ZiYun, Mo ZiYun suddenly had a realization and whispered to Mo Ziyue, “Oh, I get it, you’re trying to make me lose face in front of the servants! Mo Ziyue, your skills haven’t improved much over these past two years outside, but your mind has grown much more sinister!”

Judging others by oneself.

Saying so, Mo Ziyue, instead of getting angry, merely shook his head lightly.

You can never wake someone who pretends to sleep.

Mo ZiYun was inherently convinced he was unmatched among the younger generation in Chinese medicine, comparable to a master, making him bow his head might only happen if his pride was shattered completely.

Yet Mo Ziyue disdained to start a confrontation right upon returning home and immediately led the way silently, taking Bai Xiaosheng and the others through the door.

Bai Xiaosheng passed by Mo ZiYun with a cheerful smile.

Lin Weiwei glanced coldly at Mo ZiYun, her eyes filled with pity.

Lei Ying's gaze was indifferent as well.

These attitudes nearly drove Mo ZiYun to an explosion.

He watched the four head inside, feeling quite blocked internally.

"I'll deal with you later!" Mo ZiYun muttered under his breath as he turned away.

Afterward, he composed himself, replacing his demeanor with a smile, and stepped down the stairs to welcome the returning Maybach.

After all, it was a billionaire from Lin City!

Even his own grandfather treated him with utmost respect, incomparable to any random unknowns!

Mo Ziyue led Bai Xiaosheng and the other three into the courtyard, with Mo Family servants greeting him, and Mo Ziyue responded politely.

Although Mo Ziyue wasn't favored at home, he was still a young master, and the servants dared not act disrespectfully towards him.

Thus, Mo Ziyue's self-deprecating remarks to Bai Xiaosheng about his lack of favor at home were mostly in jest.

Once far from the gate with no one else around, Mo Ziyue's expression slightly darkened, exhaled a long breath, and apologized smilingly to Bai Xiaosheng, "Sorry for the spectacle, my cousin and I have always been at odds. Maybe because we were not very close as kids."

Mo Ziyue actually had some understanding of the “conflict” between him and Mo ZiYun.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled in understanding, “It’s nothing, every family has its issues. I wasn’t on good terms with my cousins either; I can relate.”

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also shared this attitude, not blaming Mo Ziyue for Mo ZiYun’s rudeness.

This made Mo Ziyue feel more comfortable, feeling somewhat relieved.

Mo Ziyue immediately smiled to Bai Xiaosheng and the others, “Let me first take you to the guest rooms.”

Bai Xiaosheng and the others nodded.

Led by Mo Ziyue, the three walked ahead, with Bai Xiaosheng observing the scenery of the courtyard along the way.

The Mo Family’s large courtyard featured several sections, and it looked really impressive.

Over the years, Bai Xiaosheng visited numerous mansions, including many traditional courtyards.

At the Rodan-Lun Luo Family’s estate in Europe, they too had layer-upon-layer courtyard arrangements, almost resembling a fortress. The Luo Family was on par with the Zhenbei Group, though not quite equal yet certainly a super family and financial powerhouse, not lacking in funds. Their traditional courtyard, designed by renowned experts, ensured every detail, even the slabs beneath one’s feet, were top-notch.

Chapter 1879: The Unwelcome Guest (Part 3)

However, the best materials do not necessarily make the best results.

In Huaxia’s charm, what is emphasized is the artistic conception. Sometimes things that are rough or appear crude at first glance, ironically align with the “meaning” and can achieve an unexpectedly profound effect.

The Mo Family's traditional courtyard is just like this. At first glance, it seems plain, but upon closer inspection, its charm is enduring and very pleasing.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng had studied architecture with Master Song Kai, and they both researched courtyards. Though the knowledge was initially gleaned by Red Lotus, it left a deep impression, aligning momentarily, causing him to nod frequently.

Seeing this, Mo Ziyue slowed his pace, allowing Bai Xiaosheng to admire to his heart's content.

Eventually, they entered a courtyard.

An older, plump woman with a gentle face smiled warmly as she greeted them, "Young Master Ziyue is back. Your room has already been prepared for you!"

She then looked at the three guests accompanying Bai Xiaosheng and asked with a smile, "Are these people your guests?"

"Yes, they are my friends!" Mo Ziyue introduced Bai Xiaosheng and the others with a smile, "This is Nanny Zhang, who raised me since I was young and is still my wet nurse!"

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions quickly greeted Nanny Zhang, who responded with a beaming smile, "No need to be so formal, please, come in!"

As she spoke, Nanny Zhang eagerly stepped forward to help Lin Weiwei with her luggage, making Lin Weiwei feel a bit embarrassed.

Once the rooms were arranged and the luggage set, Mo Ziyue asked Nanny Zhang, "Have my father and uncles returned? How about my grandfather?"

Nanny Zhang replied, "Your father and uncles are out on business and will return in the evening. The old master is at the study."

Upon hearing this, Mo Ziyue nodded and turned to Bai Xiaosheng and the others, saying, "You can rest for a while. I'll go greet my grandfather."

Even though Old Mr. Mo often seemed displeased with him, Mo Ziyue still respected his elder.

"If it's convenient, we'll join you," Bai Xiaosheng suggested.

Visiting the Mo Family, they were considered the juniors, and it was appropriate to greet the elder first, rather than meeting at dinner, which wouldn't be ideal.

Mo Ziyue pondered for a moment, then looked at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, who both agreed, and he smiled, "That works. You can come with me."

Having made this decision, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions followed Mo Ziyue.

They walked along a stone-paved path, passed through a bamboo grove and a small stone bridge, finally arriving at a small courtyard.

The courtyard had a plaque inscribed with four characters—"Tranquil Heart House," looking quite elegant.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask Bai Xiaosheng, "Hey, Xiaosheng, how do you find the calligraphy?"

In Lin Weiwei's view, Bai Xiaosheng's calligraphy was highly praised by Xiahou Qi, Master Song Kai, and Lu Yun, his proficiency was indeed top-notch.

Bai Xiaosheng looked up, nodded, and casually said, "Quite good, but the final stroke is somewhat lacking."

The speaker was unintentional, but the listener kept it in mind.

Beside him, Mo Ziyue was surprised and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "You understand calligraphy?"

"Just a bit," Bai Xiaosheng replied modestly with a smile.

"That's not just a bit!" Mo Ziyue said immediately, "The plaque was written by a friend of my grandfather, who is an expert in calligraphy. My grandfather always thought it was flawless until a few years ago, a great calligrapher came seeking medical treatment and pointed out the flaw, saying the same thing as you—the final stroke is lacking, with slightly less strength."

Bai Xiaosheng merely smiled, making no comment.

Lin Weiwei felt a bit proud and remarked, "My Xiaosheng is not only knowledgeable; his calligraphy is excellent! Many masters have sought his works!"

Mo Ziyue was wide-eyed with surprise.

That someone as young as Bai Xiaosheng was already the Executive President of the Greater China Region at Zhenbei Group and highly skilled in traditional Chinese medicine.

And yet, his proficiency in calligraphy was also so high?!

This guy is a monster!

Mo Ziyue had always been confident; at his age, he was already a backbone in his field, promoted early to associate chief physician, earning praise from everyone.

But compared to Bai Xiaosheng, he felt a bit inadequate.

It truly is "comparison breeds envy."

As they spoke, the group entered the courtyard, and they all fell silent naturally.

When Mo Ziyue brought Bai Xiaosheng and his friends into the main hall and then into the inner room, they found no one there.

“Could it be that my grandfather left?” Mo Ziyue wondered.

“Perhaps he just stepped out for a moment,” speculated Bai Xiaosheng, gesturing towards the calligraphy and painting exuding the fragrance of ink on the Eight Immortals Table in the hall.

The painting depicted a landscape with a cascading waterfall, inscribed with “Empty falls a thousand feet straight, thundering swiftly into the river. Forever like a flying white ribbon, cutting through the green mountains.”

From Tang Dynasty poet Xu Ning’s “Lushan Waterfall.”

Bai Xiaosheng studied the calligraphy and painting, complimenting, “The old master’s painting is truly impressive.”

“How about the calligraphy?” Mo Ziyue couldn’t resist asking.

The calligraphy...

Bai Xiaosheng pondered.

“Since no one’s here, say what you think,” encouraged Mo Ziyue.

Since he said it, Bai Xiaosheng didn’t hold back, “The form is right, but the meaning is missing.”

Mo Ziyue was taken aback, pondering before understanding.

It's like it looks the part, but lacks the sentiment...

Just as Mo Ziyue was about to speak, an irritated voice was heard from outside, "Oh?! Who dares to criticize my calligraphy as lacking in artistic expression?"

Bai Xiaosheng and the others turned to see an elderly man in a dark kungfu suit entering, lean and agile, but with an expression of displeasure.

Mo Ziyue's face turned pale.

Now it's lively!

Bringing guests to visit, intending to greet them, yet ending up displeasing the elder!

Chapter 1880: Like I'd Believe That!

Under Mo Ziyue's questioning, Bai Xiaosheng candidly admitted that Old Mr. Mo's calligraphy was "average." Seeing that the old man wasn't around and Mo Ziyue seemed to have a subtle sense of "taking pleasure in this," Bai Xiaosheng spoke frankly.

As a result, the old man overheard him.

The moment Old Mr. Mo came in, Mo Ziyue's face changed, and Bai Xiaosheng also felt a bit awkward.

Lin Weiwei stood by, awkwardly accompanying with a smile.

Lei Ying, however, eyed the old man with curiosity. With his sharp hearing, he hadn't heard any footsteps. Of course, part of it was because his attention was drawn by the conversation between Bai Xiaosheng and Mo Ziyue, but this old man was indeed a skilled practitioner. His whole get-up in black martial arts attire was clean and sharp, and his steps were light and agile.

“Grandpa, you’ve... been out?” Mo Ziyue put on a smile, trying to find something to say.

“Hmph.” Old Mr. Mo glanced at his grandson, snorting, and then shifted his gaze to Bai Xiaosheng, scrutinizing him up and down. His face clouded slightly as he asked Mo Ziyue, “Who is this?!”

“He’s a friend of mine, visiting our home this time,” Mo Ziyue answered quickly, “He’s studied Chinese medicine, and he’s quite skilled!”

Mo Ziyue also knew the old man was always annoyed that he went to study Western medicine, so he quickly clarified that Bai Xiaosheng was not like him.

Bai Xiaosheng gave Old Mr. Mo a respectful smile, politely saying, “Hello, sir.”

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also greeted the elderly man one after another.

“Good,” Old Mr. Mo nodded slightly at Bai Xiaosheng, showing a slightly better attitude towards Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Apparently, Old Mr. Mo wasn’t concerned about whether Bai Xiaosheng had studied Chinese medicine or how skilled he was.

What he cared about was what Bai Xiaosheng had said earlier.

“Young man, what did you say about my calligraphy?” Old Mr. Mo pointed to the calligraphy and paintings on the Eight Immortals Table, asking, “I’m old now, my hearing isn’t what it used to be. I didn’t quite catch what you said just now.”

Mo Ziyue immediately felt uneasy, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng.

He originally wanted to gloss over the matter, but it was obviously not going to work.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly smiled, "Sir, your calligraphy is quite good."

"That's a lie!" Old Mr. Mo stiffened, glaring, "Just now, young man, you didn't say that! Do you really think I'm deaf?"

Mo Ziyue felt bitter.

The old man, at eighty or ninety years old, took everything lightly, except for his grudge against his grandson studying Western medicine, and his immense pride in his skills in Chinese medicine and calligraphy. Now seeing his work criticized by a young lad, it was hard for him to take.

In reality, it's not fair to say Old Mr. Mo was being petty, as there was a reason behind this.

A few years ago, a renowned calligrapher visited, and the old man asked him to critique his artwork. The guest wasn't willing to speak honestly, so he vaguely said it was not bad.

Consequently, the old man got stubborn, saying if the guest didn't speak the truth, he wouldn't see patients.

Finally, the calligrapher had no choice but to say, "The painting is good. The calligraphy, however, has form but lacks spirit."

Ever since, the old man had worked hard like practicing martial arts, diligently through winter's cold and summer's heat.

Over the years, he felt that his calligraphy and painting skills had improved greatly, and his family would always shower him with praise.

But then Bai Xiaosheng's comment, "Formal but lacking intention," was almost identical to what the calligrapher had said back then.

It was as if a heavy blow had knocked the old man back to square one.

How could he be at peace with that!

“Grandpa, my friend is visiting our home for the first time, and what he said just now was casual. Please don’t take it seriously,” Mo Ziyue tried to calm the situation.

“Yes, sir, I only have a superficial understanding. What I said earlier was a slip of the tongue. Please don’t take it to heart,” Bai Xiaosheng also said.

Old Mr. Mo shook his head stubbornly, walked directly to the Eight Immortals Table, sat down, and tapped his finger on his own calligraphy piece. “You must really be an amateur if you couldn’t just say that! How about this, write a couple of words for me to see! Then it’ll be clear to all!”

He was challenging Bai Xiaosheng to write something, just to see if he really could tell the calligraphy was formal but lacked meaning.

Mo Ziyue, hearing this, could only feel bitter, sneaking a look at Bai Xiaosheng.

To ask Bai Xiaosheng to write a couple of words?

If Bai Xiaosheng wrote them well, wouldn’t that embarrass the old man in public!

If he intentionally wrote poorly, the old man, having practiced for so many years, wouldn’t he see through it?

In any case, Bai Xiaosheng was in a bind — he couldn’t win by writing or by not writing.

It was truly headache-inducing!

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also felt a bit troubled.

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment, then suddenly smiled and spoke gently to Old Mr. Mo, "Sir, you might not know, but I indeed learned calligraphy. However, my old teacher once told me that my eyes are sharp, but I can't execute. I know that's called 'having an eye but lacking skill.' Actually, my own eyesight is average, and I'm just bolder in my remarks among the students."

Old Mr. Mo looked at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

Bai Xiaosheng continued to smile, "In fact, I was with the old gentleman for a long time, often listening to him critique others' calligraphy, saying things like 'form correct but lacking spirit,' or 'soft without substance.' Hearing it enough, I remembered these comments. When I see writing that's too floaty, I say it lacks substance; when I can't discern the foundation, I say it's missing some spirit. After a few lucky guesses, I got a reputation for having a bit of discerning eye."

Bai Xiaosheng's story was so convincing that even Mo Ziyue almost believed it.

Old Mr. Mo looked at him, half-convinced.

"Just now, Mo asked me about this calligraphy. I didn't know it was your masterpiece and assumed it was a gift from someone else. And since I wanted to sound glib, I threw those words out there, and you happened to hear it, which was embarrassing," Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly. "Please don't take it to heart, and I really can't write in front of you. If necessary, I don't even dare to stay and disturb you."

Bai Xiaosheng spoke as if it were genuine, in a very exemplary manner, refusing to write no matter what.

Mo Ziyue, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying couldn't help but admire Bai Xiaosheng's eloquence.

Old Mr. Mo seemed to believe him a little.

Seeing the young man's sincere attitude, the old man's anger subsided somewhat. After all these years, his self-cultivation was not in vain; it was just a moment of temper that made his tone less friendly. On reflection, this young fellow was visiting for the first time. As a guest, making things awkward would only make the Mo Family seem like poor hosts.

Old Mr. Mo went along, coughed, and said, “Young man, your words are somewhat honest. Let’s just leave it at that.”

Upon hearing this, Mo Ziyue silently sighed with relief, feeling immense respect for Bai Xiaosheng.

This guy is really something!

Such eloquence is rare!

“The old man truly has great magnanimity, not holding me to the standards of a junior. With your broad mind, this calligraphy must hold inner spirit, beyond what my feeble eyes can perceive,” Bai Xiaosheng said formally, silently putting the old man on a pedestal.

Old Mr. Mo couldn’t help but laugh, waving his hand, “Young man, stop flattering me. You, visiting for the first time, I shouldn’t have been so rude. Consider it my narrow-mindedness for the moment.”

Bai Xiaosheng hastily declared his humility.

Mo Ziyue seized the opportunity to change the subject with the old man.

After this episode, Mo Ziyue really didn’t dare to linger with his grandfather, chatting for a moment before claiming they mustn’t disturb the old man and needed to settle Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

Old Mr. Mo assented.

Mo Ziyue quickly left with Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying in tow.

Old Mr. Mo sat alone at the Eight Immortals Table, examining his calligraphy and painting, his brow furrowing more deeply the more he looked. Eventually, he glanced outside and muttered, “Your words sound sweet, and you nearly fooled me! You’re just pretending not to know? I believe you’re a crafty little devil!”

After mumbling to himself, Old Mr. Mo got up and called a servant in, giving them some quiet instructions.

The servant nodded, listened, and hurriedly left.

Old Mr. Mo, sitting alone, chuckled to himself, speaking as if to Bai Xiaosheng in the void, "Let's see you keep pretending with me!"