

## Two Trillion 2331

### Chapter 2331 - The Blind Date Candidate Ran Away...\_2

So, Mrs. Lin decided to join Chen in fighting back.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin saw this and quickly said, "It's already nice to have you as a guest, bringing something or not, we're happy either way!"

"Yes, we're not concerned about that."

The couple was afraid Bai Xiaosheng would feel embarrassed and tried to smooth things over.

Bai Xiaosheng just laughed and said, "Actually, before I came, I did want to buy something, but I didn't know what would be appropriate. If I simply bought something random, it might seem too tacky."

Chen smirked, looking disdainful, as if he thought of Bai Xiaosheng as stingy.

"I heard that Uncle Lin and Auntie are both people of refined taste; Uncle Lin likes root carving, and Auntie likes calligraphy and painting." Bai Xiaosheng ignored Chen's reaction and continued smiling at Mr. and Mrs. Lin, "So I thought of giving something more elegant."

"Oh? You speak so eloquently, but where's the gift?" Chen glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, noticing there didn't seem to be any root carving or painting gift boxes with them, and sneered mockingly.

Bai Xiaosheng acted as if he hadn't heard and continued, "Although our city is below Zhongjing's jurisdiction, there is actually a renowned carver right here whose work is famous both domestically and internationally."

On the side, Mr. Lin's eyes suddenly lit up, "Young man, are you talking about Master Pang?!"

Talking about his hobbies, Mr. Lin started to talk enthusiastically, "Ah, six months ago, Master Pang held a semi-annual exhibition in our city! Tickets were issued in limited quantities each day! I lined up for

three hours before I managed to snatch a ticket! It was truly hard to get one! But the master's works are so full of spirit and exquisitely crafted, it's truly awe-inspiring!"

An exhibition making tickets hard to get, like a concert, just shows how capable that master is!

Mr. Lin became more excited as he talked, touching upon his interests, making it difficult for him to restrain himself.

Next to him, Chen immediately slammed his hand in regret and said, "Oh dear, Uncle Lin, why didn't you mention this earlier? Why would you need to queue for a ticket if you let me handle it? It's just a phone call for me."

Chen said this while glancing at Bai Xiaosheng with an obvious implication: could you do that?

Bai Xiaosheng then turned to Mrs. Lin, switching topics, "Auntie, I heard you enrolled in a course by a famous calligraphy and painting master from Zhongjing. How do you find it?"

Mrs. Lin was taken aback, then said with a wry smile, "The course is great, but there are too many people, several hundred in one class. However, just listening to Master Tan's occasional guidance from afar is indeed very beneficial. It's just that even enrolling for next semester isn't guaranteed."

This time, before Bai Xiaosheng could speak, Chen jumped in and said, "Leave it to me, I know people in the culture industry. Not only can I get you enrolled, but I'll also ensure you pay at least half the price!"

Whether it's that sculpture exhibition or the painting course, they all use a hunger marketing strategy, intentionally creating a sense of demand to tug at true enthusiasts' hearts, ensuring that once they get a chance to spend, they won't hold back. Those queuing or attending the course, if not mostly shills, then there are quite a few staging it. After all, it's not like a pop star concert; it's not truly impossible to get tickets.

Hearing Chen say this, Mrs. Lin suddenly breathed rapidly and asked, "Really, can you manage the enrollment?"

"And the tickets for the personal exhibition Uncle Lin wants; I'll handle that too!" Chen boasted, patting his chest, "I assure you won't have to spend an extra penny!"

Seeing Chen make such promises, Mr. and Mrs. Lin were naturally moved.

Mrs. Lin also seemed quite pleased, smiling, "Our Chen is capable! He can easily get tickets and spots that ordinary people can't."

As she spoke, Mrs. Lin glanced at Bai Xiaosheng, her eyes carrying a playful smile.

Chen was proud, looking at Bai Xiaosheng, "I say, young man, you've researched well and talked fancily, but what's the point if you can't get tickets or spots? Appealing to others isn't just about talking. As young people, you must act within your means!"

Lin Weiwei immediately looked unconvinced, ready to argue with Chen.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin felt a bit awkward, thinking their overt enthusiasm earlier might have been inconsiderate to the young Bai they were hosting.

Just then, the doorbell rang outside.

Mr. Lin immediately looked over, saying, "Who's this now? Let me answer."

"I'll...go check too." Mrs. Lin hurriedly said and followed along.

The couple was also seeking a temporary escape to ease the awkwardness.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and sipped his tea slowly.

Chen was relentless in teasing, "Young man, you say you've researched so much, but can you truly reach that master's level? I actually know one of Master Pang's core disciples and have a good relationship with him!"

Chen spoke proudly, as if knowing the master's disciple was something remarkable.

Bai Xiaosheng listened silently.

Suddenly, a shocked exclamation came from the direction of the hallway.

"Ah, it's, it's you! How come you've visited our house!?"

It was Mr. Lin's voice.

Everyone present, except Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, looked puzzled and turned toward the hallway.

Lin Weiwei almost ran to see what was happening.

"Please come in, please come in! Having you here makes my home shine!" Then came Mr. Lin's enthusiastic and joyful voice, calming Lin Weiwei a bit.

There were sounds of footfalls, indicating quite a few people had arrived.

In the living room, everyone saw Mr. and Mrs. Lin leading the way, followed by a group of people, surrounding an elderly man with a youthful appearance despite his white hair.

Chapter 2332 - Blind Date Candidate Ran Away...\_3

The old man had his hair tied up into a topknot, with a jade hairpin inserted, forming a Tai Chi bun, exuding an immortal-like temperament.

Chen was critiquing Bai Xiaosheng, his mouth dry from talking, and was about to take a sip of tea to moisten his throat. Upon seeing the old man, he was so startled that he gulped down the hot tea, spat it out, stood up abruptly, and exclaimed repeatedly, "Pang, Pang, Master Pang..."

The elderly visitor was indeed the esteemed carving artist everyone had been discussing!

Mrs. Lin widened her eyes upon hearing the name.

At this moment, Master Pang, smiling, walked in and caught sight of Bai Xiaosheng rising to his feet. Someone next to him whispered a few words into his ear.

The master immediately quickened his steps toward Bai Xiaosheng. To everyone's astonishment, the master offered his hand and shook hands with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Ah, Mr. Bai, the traffic was a bit heavy, delayed me a few minutes, I hope I didn't hold you up?" The master warmly greeted Bai Xiaosheng, "Hearing a hundred times is not as good as seeing once, Bai Xiaosheng is indeed young!"

Chen, Mrs. Lin, Mr. Lin, and Mrs. Lin were dumbfounded. Stunned.

In their eyes, the highly revered Master Pang treated Bai Xiaosheng with such courtesy.

It was simply unbelievable!

"I'm sorry to trouble you to make a personal trip; it really wasn't necessary." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Oh, not at all! Saying that is too polite!" Master Pang smiled while beckoning with his hand, and someone behind him immediately stepped forward, holding an intricately carved redwood box.

The box alone looked quite valuable.

Master Pang personally opened it, revealing a small sculpture inside.

"This is a new piece I've spent three months carving, feeling quite satisfied, so I specially came to present it to you for your appreciation!" Master Pang beamed.

"Your work is truly imbued with spirit, an exquisite masterpiece." Bai Xiaosheng repeated the words of praise Mr. Lin had just used to compliment Master Pang.

"You're too kind, too kind." Master Pang stroked his beard and laughed heartily.

Everyone watched, speechless.

Mr. Lin truly felt happiness had come too suddenly, leaving him a bit dizzy.

At this moment, someone outside shouted, "Excuse me, is this Lin Weiwei's home?"

Earlier, when Master Pang and his group arrived, the door outside wasn't closed.

Now, another group entered.

This time they were escorting a middle-aged man with a delicate and thin face, sporting a black mustache.

This time, it was Mrs. Lin who exclaimed in surprise, "Master Tan!"

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Chen stared wide-eyed in a daze.

Yet another distinguished figure had arrived, chatting and laughing with Bai Xiaosheng, also bringing his prized creation.

This isn't a dream, is it!

Who was that young man Chen just mocked, who could attract two masters over with gifts!

Seeing Mr. and Mrs. Lin so overwhelmingly excited, Chen felt finished.

Mrs. Lin was also too shocked to speak, but soon eagerly took out her phone to quietly take a side-view photo with the masters, thinking that being in the same frame with two masters was enough to flaunt in her social circle.

Of course, she would block Mrs. Lin before posting it...

Soon, Chen snapped back, gathered himself, and sidled over to the two masters, only to be blocked and yet actively introduced his job position to their aides.

The aides politely asked him to stand further away.

If it wasn't for Chen being at the Lin Family, making it unclear what his standing was, they probably wouldn't have been so courteous.

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The two masters didn't stay long at the Lin Family before bidding farewell to Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

Before leaving, both masters expressed their fond farewells to Bai Xiaosheng.

After they left, Mr. and Mrs. Lin, as well as Mrs. Lin, looked at Bai Xiaosheng with different eyes. Who must he be to have two masters visit and present gifts!

Even though Chen was shocked too, seeing Lin Weiwei acting like a little fan girl towards Bai Xiaosheng, a man's jealousy flared inside, unable to help maintaining a facade, "This must have been connections and money spent, well, it's worth it..."

No one took Chen's bitter words to heart.

Just then, Bai Xiaosheng's phone rang.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced, smiled apologetically to Mr. and Mrs. Lin, "Uncle, Aunt, sorry, I need to take this call."

Mr. and Mrs. Lin nodded quickly.

Bai Xiaosheng walked towards the dining area, answering the phone.

"Once I get promoted to the regular level, I'll also invite both masters to visit our house as guests, Uncle and Aunt, I'll have them stay a while longer next time." Chen still clung to his ego.

Even Mrs. Lin didn't believe that.

From the side, Bai Xiaosheng's faint conversation was heard, "Mr. Ji, I really can't visit you this time, I need to return to the office, next time, I'll come to the city government to see you."

Mr. Ji?

Chen realized who those characters were, shock left him speechless, springing up as if he had springs on his seat.

As Mr. and Mrs. Lin subconsciously looked over, Chen glanced at Bai Xiaosheng in shock, an extremely awkward smile creeping onto his face worse than crying.

"Uh, Uncle, Aunt, I suddenly remembered I left the stove on, I've got to go, go now!"

Without waiting for a response, Chen dashed towards the doorway without turning back.

Mrs. Lin stood there blankly, watching Chen's retreating figure.

This kid, he just fled like that?

Chapter 2333 - Troubles Resolved

The person coming for a blind date with Lin Weiwei, Chen, knew when Bai Xiaosheng called Mr. Ji that this man he saw as a rival was not someone he could compete with!

Previously, Bai Xiaosheng exhibited personal connections and wealth, and even attracted two masters to visit and present gifts. Chen could still maintain his bravado out of pride as a man.

Chen believed that with his status in a governmental job, he could hold his own against a businessman.

But unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng could easily connect and visit Mr. Ji.

How could he compete with that?

Once Chen realized the vast difference between him and Bai Xiaosheng, he immediately decided it was better to make a hasty retreat.

If the conflict arose from other kinds of disagreements, Chen, with his adaptable personality, might try to make amends and win favor, possibly forming a beneficial relationship that could pleasantly surprise him in his career.

But when it came to women, it was different.

Chen thought that even if he humbly submitted, it couldn't resolve the conflict. It was better to leave before becoming an eyesore.

Chen wisely thought things through and acted decisively.

Mrs. Lin watched Chen run off, and now being left alone felt uneasy too.

She was playing matchmaker, so with the blind date gone, there was no point in her staying.

Mrs. Lin found an excuse to bid farewell to Mr. Lin and Mrs. Lin, ignoring their invitation to lunch, and quickly left.

After leaving the Lin family's house and going downstairs, she glanced back, her expression incredibly complex.

The young lady from the Lin family found her own match—young, handsome, and wealthy—which was her fortune and skill. No use envying them to death.

Seeing even the masters voluntarily present gifts, this young man's background was quite extraordinary!

In the future, it's best to maintain a good relationship with Mrs. Lin and not gossip behind their backs.

Otherwise, it would really be a disaster from a loose tongue!

From then on, Mrs. Lin truly took heed, speaking well of the Lin family behind their backs. If anyone spoke ill of them, she would firmly defend them, giving others the impression that she had changed.

Of course, those were later events.

Bai Xiaosheng returned after a phone call and found two people missing from the living room.

Chen and Mrs. Lin were nowhere to be seen.

As Bai Xiaosheng looked surprised, Lin Weiwei proactively explained to him, "Mrs. Lin and Mr. Chen said they had urgent family matters and already left."

Lin Weiwei spoke with a smile, appearing happy.

Seeing them fleeing in a hurry made Lin Weiwei feel amused and delighted.

Bai Xiaosheng understood, smiled faintly, and nodded.

Since the two retreated wisely, Lin Weiwei's "siege" was resolved.

Mr. Lin and Mrs. Lin each held a gift from the masters, both loving and thinking it might be too valuable!

"Bai, the gifts from the masters must be invaluable. Perhaps... you should return them!" Mr. Lin held the small sculpture, reluctantly saying to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Indeed, they are a bit too valuable!" Mrs. Lin added.

The two were hesitant to accept.

Seeing this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "This is a token of my appreciation. Uncle and Aunt, we can't measure sincerity with money, right? Even if it's a reward for Weiwei's hard work, it's entirely appropriate. Please do accept them!"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng speak sincerely, and since Mr. Lin and Mrs. Lin genuinely liked them, it became harder for them to refuse.

"Dad, Mom, just accept them." Lin Weiwei also persuaded.

Lei Ying also chimed in.

Only then did Mr. Lin and Mrs. Lin accept the gifts.

If they knew their daughter had hundreds of millions in the bank, they might not consider these artworks too pricey...

"Bai, since it's rare for you to visit, why not stay for lunch? Aunt will let you try my cooking," Mrs. Lin said enthusiastically.

Mr. Lin also smiled and said, "Indeed, your Aunt's cooking could rival a top chef. I've been eating her cooking for decades and never tire of it. As for Weiwei, she hasn't mastered it yet. Once her mom teaches her, whoever marries her will be fortunate."

This made Lin Weiwei's cheeks blush, and she glanced coyly at her parents. "Oh, what are you talking about? We're in a hurry to catch the train, so there's no time for lunch!"

Lin Weiwei tried to rush Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying to leave.

"You child, how could you visit and leave without having a meal? I won't allow it! Besides, I know your train time! Isn't it half-past twelve? It's only ten now; there's plenty of time to cook. Come, give me a hand!" Mrs. Lin beckoned Lin Weiwei to the kitchen, "I spoiled you before, now it's time to teach you how to cook!"

Seeing her mother's insistence, Lin Weiwei could only tell Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying, "There's still time, so you two sit down while we go cook."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded to Weiwei with a smile, then looked at Mrs. Lin, smiling, "Aunt, don't trouble yourself, a simple meal will do."

"Yes." Lei Ying also smiled, agreeing.

"Just wait." Mrs. Lin responded, calling her daughter to the kitchen.

Actually, teaching her daughter cooking was one thing; Mrs. Lin also wanted to take the opportunity to extract more information from Lin Weiwei.

This young Mr. Bai perfectly fit her criteria for a son-in-law.

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"They are off to cook; come, let's have our tea." Mr. Lin said to Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying with a smile.

"You're too kind." Bai Xiaosheng also smiled, "Uncle Lin, since you like sculptures, I do too. I have some knowledge; shall we discuss it?"

"Oh? You know about this?!" Mr. Lin looked at Bai Xiaosheng, surprised.

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The lunch initially planned for Chen and matchmaker Mrs. Lin was instead served to Bai Xiaosheng and Lei Ying.

Five people, ten dishes. With delicacies from land and sea, a perfect mix of meat and vegetables, it was a feast for the senses.

Mr. Lin's words weren't exaggerated—Mrs. Lin's culinary skills were indeed comparable to a top chef. They say she once learned from a retired national banquet chef.

During the meal, Bai Xiaosheng praised her cooking endlessly and even asked Mrs. Lin for advice.

"Bai knows quite a lot. While you were cooking, he talked to me about sculptures and discussed calligraphy and traditional painting with insights." Mr. Lin praised Bai Xiaosheng to Mrs. Lin.

"Oh?" Mrs. Lin looked at Bai Xiaosheng with wonder.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I just have a basic understanding, mainly discussing with Uncle Lin."

Later, Bai Xiaosheng talked about painting at the dining table with Mrs. Lin, and occasionally continued discussing sculptural art with Mr. Lin.

During the meal, Bai Xiaosheng engaged the couple, who frequently nodded in approval.

After the meal, seeing that time was about right, Bai Xiaosheng and company took their leave.

This time, Mr. Lin and Mrs. Lin happily sent away their daughter and the "future son-in-law" they admired, watching them leave.

Bai Xiaosheng and his group headed to the station.

On the way, Lin Weiwei smiled sweetly, and asked Bai Xiaosheng, "Xiaosheng, I should pay for those gifts, shouldn't let you spend so much."

Bai Xiaosheng waved it off with a smile, "Forget it, given our relationship, what do those little costs matter."

Hearing this, Lin Weiwei felt warmth in her heart, her cheeks slightly flushed, and her smile showed a hint of shyness.

The three arrived at the station, took the noon high-speed rail, heading straight for Linshen.

At five in the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng and company arrived in Linshen, and once out of the high-speed rail station, the company car was already waiting for them.

This time Lin Ke came to pick up the trio; as they got into the car, Lin Ke immediately smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, I finally got to see you."

Last time Bai Xiaosheng returned, Lin Ke was just out and couldn't meet him until Bai Xiaosheng went home for family visits, and finally now they met.

Lin Ke, with a sweet and youthful style despite being an adult, called him "Mr. Bai" in an endearing and youthful manner.

"Calling me Mr. Bai, are there any other Bai in the company that I'm unaware of?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said.

Lin Ke giggled and then said, "Going back to headquarters, right? Elder Xia is waiting for you, urgent work matters to discuss."

"Oh, what's the matter?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

Lin Ke pondered, "I heard there's a response from the negotiations with Han He."

"Really, how is it?" Bai Xiaosheng asked immediately.

Before returning home, Elder Xia particularly mentioned the dealings with the Han family for cooperation, saying things would be clearer when he returned, and now it seemed about time.

Asked by Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Ke shrugged, "I'm not exactly sure, but—"

"It doesn't seem to be going smoothly!"

## Chapter 2334 - I'll See This Through to the End!

Hearing from Lin Ke that Elder Xia is expecting him to discuss some issues related to the negotiations with Han He, Bai Xiaosheng immediately frowned slightly.

At that time, Han Zizhi came to him to discuss cooperation, which he refused.

The reason being, the content of the cooperation was entirely Han Zizhi's own business, unrelated to the Han Family.

In Bai Xiaosheng's opinion, Han Zizhi's business was moving too fast, spreading too wide, without necessary sedimentation, just blindly chasing the current trend, like a precarious castle in the air with unstable foundations.

Frankly speaking, it could collapse at any moment.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't irrationally accompany Han Zizhi in taking unnecessary risks.

At that time, Bai Xiaosheng directly rejected Han Zizhi and believed there was no reason for Han He, a mature businessman, to be offended.

After all, Han He is a person as reputable as Lu Yun of Tengyun Group, at least he's expected to have a certain degree of magnanimity.

But now, Han He's refusal to cooperate with their Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region, is it due to other considerations, or is it related to that previous incident...

Bai Xiaosheng pondered slightly, then looked up to ask Lin Ke, "What exactly went wrong with the negotiations with Han He? Are the terms disagreeable, or does the Han Family intend to go solo, unwilling to share any profits, or is there some other reason? Ake, what else do you know?"

Lin Ke shook her head directly, "Other than that, I'm not quite sure."

She wasn't the person in charge of this matter, having only heard mentioned by Xiahou Qi.

"I think, it's likely that the problem lies with Han Zizhi. At that time he approached for cooperation, Xiaosheng you bluntly refused him, causing him great embarrassment. If this gets out, it wouldn't just harm Han Zizhi's face, but damage the reputation of the entire Han Family. How could Han He not be furious, and still want to cooperate with us?" Lin Weiwei stated.

"If that's true, then Han He is really narrow-minded." Lei Ying murmured from the side.

Lin Ke watched the crowd curiously, then looked at Bai Xiaosheng, "I heard about you rejecting Han Zizhi, but I think you did the right thing. His father is upset about this and won't cooperate with us?"

Bai Xiaosheng responded leisurely, "Now, we can't draw conclusions yet, maybe it's due to other reasons. The Han Family holds a significant advantage in the field we've set our sights on, if they want to go solo, they have ample reasons and strength to do so."

After all, with the potential to capture more benefits, who would want to share it?

Before seeing Xiahou Qi and hearing further information, Bai Xiaosheng refrained from imprudent speculation, which is meaningless, unreasoned, and utterly unhelpful in resolving the matter.

Thinking of this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at the group, "Alright, let's not discuss this topic for now."

Bai Xiaosheng turned to Lin Ke, smiling, "I heard you've had quite a smooth outing, not only did you handle things well, but also enjoyed good food, drink, and entertainment. Don't deny it, I checked your social media! Honestly, did you bring us any local specialties?"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying also smiled at Lin Ke upon hearing this.

Lin Ke chuckled and leaned towards Bai Xiaosheng, playfully punching his shoulder, "Boss, you see, I forgot to block you... Ah, no, I'm saying, how could I forget to bring you a gift, I'm your loyal and adorable subordinate after all."

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After joking around with Lin Ke, they didn't feel bored, and before they knew it, Bai Xiaosheng and the others arrived at the headquarters by car.

Bai Xiaosheng instructed Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Lin Ke to get busy, while he headed straight to Xiahou Qi's office.

He knocked on the door and, upon receiving a response, pushed it open to enter. Even though Bai Xiaosheng was now the head of the Greater China Region, and had risen to the level of business president, comparable to Jiang Kuo, he still maintained great respect for Xiahou Qi, which naturally earns him respect from others.

With Bai Xiaosheng, there's no such thing as being dismissive when someone has left, which also keeps morale warm among the staff.

As Xiahou Qi was reviewing documents, he looked up to find Bai Xiaosheng coming in, and immediately smiled, standing up and walking around his desk.

"You're back, come, sit here." Xiahou Qi pointed to the nearby sofa, smiling as he went to retrieve his prized tea leaves.

"Elder Xia, let me handle it." Bai Xiaosheng quickly stepped forward, grabbed the tea leaves, and turned to start brewing.

Xiahou Qi graciously sat down on the sofa, couldn't help but massage his back, and sighed, "Can't pretend to be young anymore, back in the day, I wouldn't be so tired from sitting for a couple of hours reviewing materials."

Bai Xiaosheng carried the tea over, slightly reproaching, "You need to take care of your health, you shouldn't be overworking yourself. Otherwise, if ailments recur, you'll end up back in the monitoring unit. Haven't you suffered enough there? If you keep this up, I'll revoke your work privileges."

Bai Xiaosheng treated Xiahou Qi like his own grandfather, and his reprimanding words came from genuine concern.

"Alright, you're the boss, your criticism is valid, I'll listen to you." Xiahou Qi naturally understood Bai Xiaosheng's concern, smiled warmly, feeling comforted.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled, once the tea was brewed, he first poured a cup of hot tea for the elder and brought it over.

"Let's talk business." Xiahou Qi held the hot tea and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "On the way here, that little girl Lin Ke told you, right."

Bai Xiaosheng poured a cup of tea for himself, nodding, "She mentioned briefly that the negotiations with Han He were not going smoothly."

Upon mentioning this matter, Xiahou Qi's smile slightly faded, snorted coldly, "Humph, not just unsmooth. I truly overestimated this Han He."

Chapter 2335 - I'll See This Through to the End!

Bai Xiaosheng listened intently.

"In the past, when I was in your position, I had some dealings with Han He, but not much and no real cooperation," Xiahou Qi said. "However, judging by the reputation he has among our circles, he is not someone of good repute. Compared to businessmen like Lu Yun, he's far behind. I thought he might have changed after all these years, but it seems he hasn't changed a bit! Still conducts himself poorly, with a petty demeanor!"

Bai Xiaosheng understood that while many successful people in this world act magnanimously, it doesn't mean that those with a smaller mind can't find success. There are people who are naturally vindictive, lacking in character, but through decisiveness and acumen, along with some luck, they still manage to carve out a niche for themselves.

Perhaps, Han He is such an existence.

Xiahou Qi continued, "To engage with him, I sent Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, and Chen Yucheng over, almost went myself—it was quite a big deal. Under Mr. Bai, it was our strongest lineup. There's no way Han He could've been ignorant of their importance. He first sent a message to reassure Li Haofeng and the others, entertained them with food and drink, making them wait for several days, saying he'd return soon. As a result, our strongest team ended up waiting there, no, more like getting stuck there, while Han He slipped away to the West to quickly set up his plans. Just this morning, he held a press conference there, launching five major initiatives, completely excluding anyone else and going it alone with the Han Family! Several projects have already commenced simultaneously!"

Xiahou Qi spoke with a series of cold laughs and a trace of anger on his face.

In this matter, they had indeed suffered a hidden loss. Han He, knowing full well why they were visiting his home, had decided not to cooperate but still managed to stall the key figures to pursue his own agenda behind their backs.

His methods weren't exactly against any rules or wrong per se, but it was infuriating, leaving them feeling deceived and feeling like he was being underhanded.

Bai Xiaosheng also frowned.

This Han He is something, stabilizing them while sneaking off to enjoy the spoils alone. Is he not afraid of damaging his reputation if word gets out?

"With just a few days, even if Han He is exceptionally capable and has countless talents under him, it's unlikely he could complete the entire layout. I guess he had been setting up things long in advance," Bai Xiaosheng analyzed. "It's impossible for him not to notice our presence there. I believe he had a plan ready for cooperation with us, which he ultimately didn't implement."

Xiahou Qi sipped his tea from the cup he held up, "We don't know how many plans he has, but one thing is certain: he 'jumped the gun.' Did you know he not only snatched up resources and channels but also established several cross-border business organizations in the area and covertly blockaded our enterprises there!"

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't surprised at this.

Since he decided against cooperating with them, it was only natural to squeeze them out and block them, a valid tactic, showing that he's indeed petty.

"The most annoying thing is, even after we learned about this, he still sent word to Li Haofeng, telling them to continue waiting and that he'd definitely be back by tomorrow morning at the latest," Xiahou Qi sneered. "He's dragging our people on purpose. If we pulled out early, it'd seem disrespectful, as they've hinted at a vague interest in cooperating. If we did that, it'd mean abandoning our position and letting him capture the narrative advantage. If we don't bring our people back, we won't have enough manpower here to handle major affairs, and it'll be even more difficult to send people over to deal with the business crisis in several provinces in the west. Isn't that rotten?"

Bai Xiaosheng also laughed, "He's quite scheming!"

Xiahou Qi sneered, "But I'm not foolish. The moment I heard about Han He's activity in the West, I asked Li Haofeng, the leader, to stay, and as soon as the news came in, I had Zheng Honghu and Chen Yucheng return, and they should arrive in Linshen tonight."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"I'm sure Han He now realizes there's only Li Haofeng waiting for him over there. I'd bet that he'll use the excuse of being too busy to meet, requiring Li Haofeng to fly out to see him or reschedule for another meeting time," Xiahou Qi predicted.

This old man, with his stormy experiences, his mind is as sharp as a fox.

Bai Xiaosheng agreed with his deduction.

If Han He really intends to do this, it would not only be underhanded but also somewhat blatant.

"Let's see his next move then!" Bai Xiaosheng said in a deep voice.

However the opponent acts, he'll react accordingly.

Whether to pursue collaboration or confrontation, he wasn't afraid!

Just then, a phone rang from Xiahou Qi's desk.

"It's my phone," Xiahou Qi said, intending to get up and fetch it.

"You wait here, I'll get it for you," Bai Xiaosheng stood up, walked over, and brought Xiahou Qi's phone.

"It's Li Haofeng," Bai Xiaosheng noticed by chance and said as he handed the phone to Xiahou Qi.

Xiahou Qi nodded, answered the call, "Haofeng, what's the situation?"

Bai Xiaosheng sat quietly by, waiting for Xiahou Qi to finish the call.

"Alright, okay, I understand, take the morning flight back tomorrow, there's no need to rush. Our Mr. Bai has already returned," Xiahou Qi said to Li Haofeng, glancing at Bai Xiaosheng.

After Xiahou Qi ended the call and placed the phone on the coffee table, he spoke to Bai Xiaosheng, "See, I was right, Li Haofeng just got the news, Han He said he's too tied up to meet and invited Li Haofeng to visit him in his current city. Hmm, I'm worried if Li Haofeng goes, he'll end up being stalled again, and even if they talk, it won't yield any substantial results. I simply had Li Haofeng find an excuse and come back."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded. Knowing their opponent's intentions, there was no need to waste manpower, especially someone as significant as Li Haofeng.

"By the way, Han He told Li Haofeng to pass a message to you," Xiahou Qi gave Bai Xiaosheng a meaningful look and laughed, "Guess what it is?"

"Is it related to Han Zizhi?" Bai Xiaosheng squinted his eyes, waiting to hear more.

Xiahou Qi chuckled, "Han He said, thank you, Mr. Bai, for teaching his son!"

Indeed, the decisions Han He made were likely related to Han Zizhi, if not entirely driven by him.

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng burst into a sarcastic laugh, his smile tinged with a hint of self-deprecation.

Indeed, he had overestimated Han He.

"By the way, they've already surpassed us significantly in progress. Even if Zheng Honghu and Chen Yucheng return, it will be late at night, and having meetings to discuss countermeasures overnight would still leave us significantly behind. Aren't you, as the leader, worried?"

Xiahou Qi smiled as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Xiahou Qi and smiled too, "Don't joke with me. You've already come up with countermeasures, right? If I'm not mistaken, you've had Li Haofeng and the others make a second plan early on, a strategy for us to go it alone! And in response to Han He's current actions, there is a counteraction plan in place! Otherwise, you wouldn't be so calm. Show it to me now, and let me study it thoroughly."

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was sharp, "Since Han He wants a battle with us, then I'm willing to accompany him to the end!"

Chapter 2336 - A Bigger Problem

The strategy Han He used was one of delay, keeping Bai Xiaosheng's key people occupied, while he went off to "feast alone."

In the face of such a situation, Xiahou Qi remained unhurried as he explained it one by one, and Bai Xiaosheng figured Xiahou Qi must have been prepared.

Otherwise, Elder Xia would not have appeared so calm and collected.

When Bai Xiaosheng inquired, Xiahou Qi held his teacup and smiled slightly.

"Yes, from the beginning, knowing about the business opportunities over there and that Han He was our biggest competitor, I made three preparations!" Xiahou Qi confessed without concealment.

That's how the old hands are; they always prepare in advance, have foresight, so as to not panic when things happen.

Bai Xiaosheng was very impressed.

Xiahou Qi continued slowly, "The first preparation is naturally 'cooperation,' which is the ideal and preferred choice. Frankly speaking, the advantage we hold there is not completely on par with the Han Family, but slightly inferior. Fighting would lead to losses and harm to our interests. In business, it's not about winning or losing, life or death; profit is above all. So, a win-win cooperation is most beneficial for us."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, agreeing with this stance.

"The second preparation is 'struggle.' As the ancients said, 'Do not harbor harmful intentions, but do not lack vigilance.' Everyone in the industry knows what kind of person Han He is, so I must guard against his exclusionary actions. It's one thing for him to feast alone, but if he also tries to trip us up, we must have a way to counter it. To be unprepared would make us suffer greatly." Xiahou Qi continued.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and nodded.

"The third preparation is naturally going it alone ourselves. Although we won't exclude opponents like Han He, nor scheme against others, legitimate business competition must be well planned."

As Xiahou Qi spoke of his preparations in one, two, three steps, Bai Xiaosheng nodded repeatedly.

"Since you just returned and are rushing home for a family reunion, I naturally wouldn't burden you with these plans, adding anxiety for no reason. Besides, nothing had happened back then. But now, everything is different..."

Saying this, Xiahou Qi stood up, walked to his desk, opened a drawer, took out three thick planning documents, returned to the sofa, and handed them to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng took them and glanced at the dates on them.

These were drafted three days before Han Zizhi's visit to him.

"These are some initial ideas, contingency plans that Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Chen Yucheng, and they all helped put together," Xiahou Qi pointed to the documents, "Of course, as soon as events unfold, all plans tend to differ from reality, but with a framework, everything is manageable. Take a look."

Bai Xiaosheng immediately nodded and took out the contingency plan about the "struggle" to go through.

I must say, with Xiahou Qi at the helm, and with the assistance of Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Chen Yucheng, and the others, this document covered almost every possible angle, with all kinds of countermeasures in various scenarios included.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but nod as he read it.

Xiahou Qi, with his hands behind his back, walked to the office's floor-to-ceiling window, looking at the lights outside, said, "Actually, I consider Han Zizhi's arrival a variable. I'm really worried we haven't considered the fourth possibility."

Bai Xiaosheng looked up at Xiahou Qi.

Xiahou Qi continued, "That is, Han He obscures his intentions, seemingly cooperates with us on the surface, but then strikes against us in the shadows. In the business world, this is considered a disgraceful act, but if used skillfully, it won't easily give people something to talk about and might cause us trouble, which would be a headache."

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng was suddenly struck by a thought.

He thought of a possibility.

"Elder Xia, you couldn't have deliberately sent Li Haofeng and the others as a group over there, right?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but say.

Actually, from the beginning, Bai Xiaosheng found it strange.

Although negotiations with Han He were important, it didn't seem necessary to send all the major figures at headquarters over there. While it showed sincerity, if circumstances changed, there would be no one left at home base.

It now seemed that this was Elder Xia's deliberate intention!

On one hand, sending so many key figures indeed made Zhenbei Group appear sincere; on the other hand, it gave Han He the chance to act as he is now!

Although Han He could still agree to cooperate and then secretly work against their allies, if one deeply understands Han He, knowing he is unpredictable, flamboyant, and enjoys taking unconventional paths.

One would realize, he is more likely to act as he is now!

Perhaps this was a gamble, a gamble on Han He's character!

Xiahou Qi and his team bet correctly.

Bai Xiaosheng reacted quickly.

Xiahou Qi glanced back with a slight smile, "No matter what, that old fox Han He has shown his tail, standing against us now! Originally, he could be in the dark while we were in the light! Now the positions have switched, it is time for us to consider how to target him!"

Xiahou Qi had implicitly acknowledged Bai Xiaosheng's deduction.

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

In the end, the older ginger is indeed spicier.

In high-level games, every move carries significant meaning.

"Currently, in the Greater China Region, our overall strength is above the Han Family, and also above Tengyun, Beifeng, Haoyu, and Jia Family Group, other first-class enterprises, but we cannot completely overwhelm any of them." Xiahou Qi continued, "The reason why Lu Yun, Jia Chengshan, and those people gather around you is because of the networks and business opportunities you've cultivated globally."

This point, Bai Xiaosheng naturally agreed with.

"Although the Han Family is not as strong overall as us, when dealing with them, we cannot throw all our resources into the fray regardless; the group headquarters would not approve," Xiahou Qi remarked, "And in the Western regions' industry competition, I call that 'arena competition,' because it confines us to specific locations and industries, like an arena, where certain conditions and constraints limit us, while also amplifying the Han Family's advantages to a large extent."

Bai Xiaosheng looked through that plan again and nodded.

Indeed, this was incredibly tricky.

"The most crucial point is, local support for Han Family enterprises will not allow them to face problems in the short term, which means our struggle and conflict with them will again be confined to a certain range," Xiahou Qi said with a frown.

This imposed a further constraint on their actions.

Han He is no fool; achieving his status and position, he is not foolish. He must have weighed these factors, relying on that support, before daring to provoke so blatantly.

At this point, even Xiahou Qi frowned and sighed.

Unseen, the Han Family's business over there gained many intangible protections; they could not even attempt "counteraction" or "retaliation," let alone "competition," without careful prior planning to avoid greater troubles arising later.

The initial "struggle" plan would probably need to be considered multiple times to ensure no mistakes were made.

Hesitating to act because of potential consequences is precisely it.

"In fact, there is another bigger problem that you didn't mention!"

As Xiahou Qi lamented, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly said.

"Oh?" Xiahou Qi immediately looked at him in surprise, "What bigger problem?"

Bai Xiaosheng clarified, "Or rather, it's a massive disadvantage on our side!"

Chapter 2337 - It's a Big Problem

Bai Xiaosheng had been listening to Xiahou Qi's analysis, and finally, he interjected with a comment pointing out a significant disadvantage on their side. This surprised Xiahou Qi and piqued his curiosity, as he had almost thought of the same issue.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't keep them guessing and spoke bluntly, "It's about me accepting Hou Yuncheng's invitation to travel with several entrepreneurs. So those entrepreneurs traveling with us must ensure that their businesses don't face any major problems during this period. For instance, one company against another shouldn't fall into fierce business warfare."

Upon hearing this, Xiahou Qi suddenly realized, and his eyes narrowed as he spoke in a deep voice, "Indeed!"

"Han Yewanhe's large enterprise, Han He will surely be invited. And as the Executive President of the Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region, I will also receive an invitation. So, I'm afraid Han He considered this point too!" Bai Xiaosheng said calmly, "One week later, we will travel together. That means our actual conflict time with them is only one week. Then, whether locally or at a higher level, no one will want us to have further conflicts. By then, we might have to cease competition, even be cautious when expanding the market significantly over there."

This is indeed a major problem.

Xiahou Qi slapped his forehead with a hint of frustration in his eyes, "I actually overlooked this problem. As people age, they become unusable! This is truly maddening! One week is simply not enough!"

Although they had detailed contingency plans, implementing them needed time, especially within the "rules and regulations" over there, which made things a thousand times more complicated, and the required time would increase exponentially.

Calculating it, time is indeed not sufficient!

This made Xiahou Qi somewhat furious.

Bai Xiaosheng, however, remained silent, his gaze slightly focused, seemingly thinking about something.

Seeing this, Xiahou Qi's heart moved, and he couldn't help but walk back in front of Bai Xiaosheng and sit down again, whispering, "Sheng, have you already thought of something?"

In Xiahou Qi's eyes, although Bai Xiaosheng was young, his vision, overall perspective, and various overt and covert tactics were not inferior to people with decades of experience in the business world.

Sometimes, Xiahou Qi couldn't help but sigh, thinking that business acumen is truly about talent.

Bai Xiaosheng might just be one of those exceptionally talented individuals.

Upon hearing Xiahou Qi's words, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly smiled.

That smile alone settled most of Xiahou Qi's heart.

"I said, if Han He wants a fight, I'll play along!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled with a hint of coldness, "I'll let him experience the taste of defeat at our hands within this week."

Hearing this, Xiahou Qi was both surprised and delighted, "You've already got an idea?!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Xiahou Qi and gently placed the proposal document on the table, "Elder Xia, you and Han He, and everyone else, have framed the playing field over there within those industries. But who says we have to give up our advantages over there and fight against their strengths with our weaknesses?"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's smile, Xiahou Qi was initially stunned, then frowned, and finally, as if enlightened, his eyes brightened, and his mouth slightly opened.

"You're clever! You've even applied military strategy to business warfare!" Xiahou Qi seemed to understand.

Bai Xiaosheng pursed his lips and smiled.

...

At the same time.

In the presidential suite where Han He was staying, Han He was swiftly writing in the study, inscribing four large characters on expensive xuan paper, "Enjoying Success."

"Good words! 'Enjoying Success, galloping swiftly!'" Han Zizhi praised, adding three words to form a line of poetry.

Han He held the pen, smiled at his calligraphy, feeling quite satisfied.

For good calligraphy, it must fit the mood, align with the heart, and be accomplished in one go.

"Dad, once we release this news, I heard it instantly disrupted Zhenbei Group's plans. That Bai Xiaosheng, just returned from abroad, was known to have caused troubles for foreigners, but I didn't expect him to be at a loss in your hands now. I really want to see his expression now." Han Zizhi said uncontrollably, "That bastard was really arrogant before!"

While speaking, Han Zizhi's eyes were bright, filled with satisfaction and gloating.

Back then, Bai Xiaosheng had turned him down, showing him no respect, and word got around, causing him to lose face both in the business world and among friends.

Now, Bai Xiaosheng was finally reaping what he sowed!

He truly deserved it!

He just didn't expect his father to be the one avenging him, going as far as risking a fallout with Zhenbei Group.

In his heart, Han Zizhi was quite touched.

"I brought you here not to see you gloating at others' misfortune," Han He said calmly, "Do you know how many rounds of invisible confrontation we've been through in this situation, even without meeting each other? Do you know how many hidden dangers lie ahead, what one wrong step could lead to?"

Han Zizhi was taken aback.

Despite being a "successful businessman," he didn't feel any of the sharpness his father spoke of.

His first thought was that his father was exaggerating.

Han He glanced at his son with a blank look and snorted heavily through his nose.

Perhaps the only thing about the Han Family that Han He was dissatisfied with was his son.

In Han He's eyes, he was completely lacking and unremarkable.

"If only that Bai Xiaosheng were like you," Han He said lazily, then thought for a moment and added, "A man who stirred up the business world in South America and North America can't possibly be an idiot like you!"

Han Zizhi could tell the harsh words, and his smile froze.

He couldn't understand where he had displeased his father again, turning into a subject of insult.

"What's so great about that Bai Xiaosheng!" Han Zizhi remained unconvinced.

In his view, if his father gave him half of Han Yewanhe, he could also make waves. If given the whole, he would be no less than that Bai.

Han He frowned at Han Zizhi.

Han Zizhi quickly added, "I mean, no matter how capable he is, this time he won't gain any advantage from you."

Though flattering, this remark made Han He smile.

In Han He's view, that was indeed the case.

"I have the advantage of the right time, place, and people. In this game, Bai Xiaosheng truly has no escape!" Han He said with great certainty.

Even he himself couldn't think of a perfect solution in this situation.

Seeing his father smile, Han Zizhi rushed to smile too, "Well, Dad, can you invest a bit in my side?"

"Not too much, just some network support." Han Zizhi said shamelessly.

Han He's smile deepened, looking at his son with a gentle tone, "Didn't I just say I was specifically looking for you to talk about something?"

Han Zizhi nodded eagerly.

"Then listen carefully," Han He's smile turned slightly cold, "From now on, you will step down from all your duties until I return from Africa. Also, you will completely detach yourself from your chaotic business matters, not getting involved in any, do you hear me? During my time in Africa, you better stay put obediently!"

Han Zizhi was taken aback, opening his mouth to say something more.

Han He didn't allow him to speak further, "If you don't listen, I'll donate all this family business, won't leave it to you, you little bastard!"

Chapter 2338 - Waiting in Agony

The night Bai Xiaosheng returned to headquarters, Zheng Honghu and Chen Yucheng were already back, and early the next morning, Li Haofeng rushed to the headquarters on a dawn flight. Everyone knew about Han He's actions and their current predicament, all eager to respond.

However, unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng seemed very calm upon his early return. Not only did he not convene a meeting that night, but he also didn't appear the next morning to gather everyone. This left Zheng Honghu and Chen Yucheng confused.

All morning, Zheng Honghu kept running to Xiahou Qi, wanting to inquire about when Elder Xia would call a meeting to discuss the situation.

Their new business ventures in several western provinces were severely lagging, and every minute of delay meant losses and widening gaps!

Zheng Honghu was anxious, but Xiahou Qi was not. His responses to everyone were consistently the same, telling them to wait for news.

Xiahou Qi merely said Bai Xiaosheng was aware of the situation and naturally had plans. Before Bai Xiaosheng gathered everyone, they could focus on monitoring the situation, and then... wait in their offices.

This left Zheng Honghu and the others speechless.

Exiting Xiahou Qi's office, Zheng Honghu frowned and muttered to the group, "You say, what medicine are Mr. Bai and Elder Xia selling in their calabash? The fires are at our brows, yet they are not hastily strategizing, telling us to go back and wait. The more we wait, the worse the situation gets!"

Zheng Honghu was truly anxious. His words represented the sentiments of quite a few people.

"Mr. Zheng, don't be so impatient. Do you really think Mr. Bai and Elder Xia are the type to act casually without knowing priorities? Since they've asked us to wait, they must have a reason. All we can do is wait, and instead of worrying, let's analyze the current situation more. Once the meeting is convened, we can contribute constructive suggestions, which is what we should be doing." Chen Yucheng advised.

Everyone nodded, feeling Chen Yucheng made a good point.

Zheng Honghu let out a breath of frustration, "I understand, but it's infuriating with Han side causing anxiety. We established new companies in several western provinces ahead of time, opened various channels, planned well, and could have competed with Han Family. But later, thinking 'cooperation yields double win,' they exploited the opportunity, practically tricked us, and we got duped! I can't swallow this grievance! If our investment fails there, it would be maddening."

Frankly, they had considered the prospect of Han Family going solo and the competitive situation between the two sides, after all, when Xiahou Qi proposed three strategies, they also provided reference suggestions.

Yet they didn't expect Han Family to use delaying tactics, building a front while sneaking behind, which infuriated them.

Zheng Honghu's anger stems from this.

"Exactly!"

"We originally had the opportunity to compete!"

"We intended to cooperate, while they used delaying tactics, sigh!"

The others were filled with indignation.

Chen Yucheng understood; even though he advised everyone, he also felt suppressed inside.

"Don't worry, with Mr. Bai and Elder Xia in charge, Han Family won't be able to take advantage of us!" Chen Yucheng could only reassure others, and himself.

Ultimately, everyone dispersed and returned to wait for news.

Yet even when Li Haofeng returned, Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi hadn't summoned everyone.

Anxious, everyone gathered around Li Haofeng, urging him to inquire about the situation.

Li Haofeng was quite distressed, and with the crowd's encouragement, promptly went to find Xiahou Qi.

It turned out, this time even Xiahou Qi wasn't in his office. Allegedly, Bai Xiaosheng had invited him over.

However, Elder Xia left a message for everyone: don't bother him or Mr. Bai, the meeting is scheduled for three in the afternoon!

There was finally news of a meeting, but the afternoon at three meant waiting for several more hours...

Everyone was truly feeling helpless and anxious inside.

They could only wait.

This same emotion was not only spread among the Zhenbei Group Headquarters in the Greater China Region but was also growing among the enterprise managers below.

Xiling Province, a vast and sparsely populated western province of Huaxia.

The provincial capital, Yunding City.

The Urban Development Bureau of East City District of Yunding had recently released an important cooperation announcement, jointly implementing a new energy transformation project with Dacheng Group.

As noon approached, at another new energy company in Yunding City—Xihe Industry headquarters—the head of Xihe Industry, Liu Weizhi, was in the office, frowning as he looked at the newly released announcement.

Several deputy general managers were also present, all showing frustration.

"What do you think is going on here?" Liu Weizhi's voice had a hint of anger as he tapped the table with his fingers, "Originally, in the new energy transformation, besides Dacheng Group's solar technology, there's ours too, from technology to equipment to efficiency. Given the natural conditions in this Yunding area, we should have the advantage! But look, they've seized the opportunity! It's infuriating!"

"In my opinion, we should have actively communicated with relevant departments long ago. If there are concerns about new technologies, we can educate them. If equipment costs are high, we can figure out solutions. But instead, we only contacted relevant departments twice, and headquarters told us that there could be cooperation with the Han Family Group belonging to Dacheng, asking us to pause proposals. Look at it now, their plan is approved! I say, the responsibility lies with headquarters!" A deputy manager said grumpily.

"I also heard that Dacheng is contacting other districts and cities in Yunding. If we don't hurry, the market pie here will soon be devoured by them!" Another deputy manager said.

"Exactly, Mr. Liu, we need to act fast. Our advantage is rapidly diminishing; without prompt action, we'll be out!"

"Wasn't it said we'd cooperate with Dacheng? They even mentioned maintaining communication with us. But look, they stabilized us and went solo, shameless!"

"I suggest we let loose and compete with Dacheng. If they are unjust, we'll respond in kind. With our channels, we can access their technology and equipment, cut prices, invest heavily, but never let them monopolize the market!"

Everyone expressed their opinions, yet Liu Weizhi couldn't help but pinch his brow and sigh deeply, giving a bitter smile to everyone, "I know you're frustrated, and so am I. But headquarters said that any commercial actions concerning Dacheng Group, owned by Han Yewanhe, require headquarters approval. This morning, I've called headquarters no less than ten times."

Looking thoroughly troubled, Liu Weizhi said, "Headquarters' message is just one word 'wait'!"

"Wait again?!"

"Waiting more means finished!"

"Are we abandoning this market, withdrawing?"

"If that's the case, I'm quitting!"

Frustrated and helpless, the deputies were in despair.

A similar scene occurred in Zhenbei Group's subsidiaries across different cities and industries in the western regions.

Headquarters' orders caused them to lose the initiative, and now the directive to "wait" rendered them powerless, everyone was intolerant, resistance was rising below.

The Han Family, closely following the moves of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, couldn't discern headquarters trends but promptly sensed this emotion from local subsidiaries, reporting to Han He.

At this moment, Han He was at his temporary residence, writing calligraphy, flaunting his skills with brush and ink.

Han He wrote "Master of the Realm," exuding grandeur and unstoppable brushstrokes.

It echoed his boundless optimism, akin to his current mood.

Alongside him, his secretary softly relayed collected information.

Han He merely listened without responding, but a faint smile curled at the corner of his mouth.

Then, he admired his writing briefly, set down the brush, glanced at his watch, and with no comment on what he heard, uttered cryptically, "It's already three in the afternoon, another day is passing. In less than five to six days, a journey awaits, and a meeting with that unknown Bai Xiaosheng! Even with tireless effort in the remaining days, I doubt a change of fate can occur! Surely Bai Xiaosheng must have accepted defeat, conceding this round. Good for him, wise indeed!"

Han He gestured to the writing on his desk, called out jokingly, "Come, replace the paper for me!"

Next, he intended to compose "Know Courage and Wisdom" for Bai Xiaosheng when they met.

This would also be a message for Bai Xiaosheng, dealing with Han He and the Han Family requires knowing when to advance and retreat, recognizing gains and losses!

#### Chapter 2339 - Make Him Beg Us

Han He was full of enthusiasm, writing "Know when to advance or retreat, understand gains and losses," intending to send it to Bai Xiaosheng. Just as he thought Bai Xiaosheng had given up, Bai Xiaosheng was convening a small meeting with over a dozen attendees. The meeting participants were influential figures like Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, Chen Yucheng, all of whom Bai Xiaosheng trusted.

When everyone was seated, Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi had not yet arrived.

People inevitably whispered among themselves, speculating on the topics this meeting might cover.

"This meeting is at least twenty-four hours late. Sigh, these twenty-four hours, enough for the competition to get a big lead ahead of us." Zheng Honghu whispered to Li Haofeng beside him, "The people below are going crazy; the heads of the two new companies I'm directly responsible for have been calling me non-stop since dawn. I'm afraid to turn on my phone's ringer; I'm afraid it will ring non-stop even when I go to the bathroom."

Before Li Haofeng could speak, Chen Yucheng, with his sharp ears, overheard and immediately leaned over jokingly, "That's great! You even have background music in the bathroom, proving how impressive you are, Mr. Zheng. In TV dramas, you'd be the absolute male lead."

Zheng Honghu and Chen Yucheng had been getting along well recently and spoke without much reservation.

Zheng Honghu rolled his eyes at Chen Yucheng, "Go, go, with your long ears. No wonder your hearing is so good, you can hear such a low voice. Can't you act like Teletubbies and peek over Mr. Bai and Elder Xia, to figure out what those two big shots mean by sitting calmly in the command center? What's the plan?"

"I don't have that ability." Chen Yucheng pouted and boredly poked at the paper in front of him with a pen, "To be honest, when it comes to concern for this matter, Mr. Bai and Elder Xia are definitely above us. Since they can keep calm, it means... they have their reasons. Old Zheng, aren't you curious? The meeting is about to start, and surely they'll announce something. If not, you can just ask in person. Just say it the way you said it to Mr. Li."

Chen Yucheng's words hit the mark.

Zheng Honghu glanced at the seat in the center and beside, mumbling, "Ask then, what am I afraid of? I'll ask later!"

Li Haofeng looked at the two of them and found it quite amusing.

However, what Zheng Honghu said was true; since this morning, his phone had almost exploded with calls from subordinates.

Right now, the newly established more than a dozen companies at the forefront, which are the industry directions the company is focusing on, are probably in chaos.

Originally, with insights into business opportunities and layout in advance, it was the start of a great scenario. Who knew it would cause friction with the Han Family.

It's important to know that Lu Yun, Dong Tianlu, and others focus their businesses in the eastern, southeastern coastal regions, but half of Han He's business is in the western provinces, meaning a market grab right at their doorstep. Even with ample preparation, it wouldn't benefit us.

The other half of Han Ye Wanhe's business is also in the southeastern area.

This Han Family's business line is indeed stretched quite long.

While Li Haofeng was pondering, Zheng Honghu and Chen Yucheng continued their banter, with other attendees also sharing their concerns or grievances.

Nevertheless, sitting here doesn't mean they have nothing substantial to offer.

Who are these people? The highest management of the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, each holding at least one solution to the current situation and ready to spark more ideas through discussion.

This pooling of elite minds and efforts is an extremely formidable thing.

The thing they complained about most was the late start of the meeting, causing delays in their respective countermeasures.

As they were talking, someone suddenly raised their voice and exclaimed urgently, "Mr. Bai and Elder Xia are here!"

With one sentence, everyone, including Li Haofeng, Zheng Honghu, and Chen Yucheng, immediately fell silent, their thoughts interrupted, looking up towards the entrance.

Moments later, two figures appeared at the door and walked in one after another; it was Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi.

At this moment, everyone noticed that both of them had calm expressions, with the slightest hint of a smile on their lips, as if the company's current issues were trivial in their eyes.

Such calm and strategic demeanor instantly provided the senior management present with a sense of reassurance.

This is the charisma and aura of a leader.

Elder Xia was like this, and so was Bai Xiaosheng, which is why everyone had equal measures of respect and awe for both of them.

Though Bai Xiaosheng might have once been lower in rank and younger, no one didn't feel respect and admiration for him, which was a major reason they were willing to work diligently under his leadership.

Bai Xiaosheng invited Xiahou Qi to take a seat first before sitting down in the central seat, smiling as he surveyed the room, "Is everyone here? Then let's get started."

Saying this, Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the staff at the door, and the office door was immediately closed, with someone standing guard outside to ensure no interruptions.

This was truly a closed-door meeting, indicating a significant announcement.

Everyone eagerly fixed their eyes on Bai Xiaosheng.

"These past few days, I think everyone has been anxious. Those responsible for new business development must feel frustrated." Bai Xiaosheng started by directly addressing the issue, expressing what everyone felt.

"Han Ye Wanhe's Han He running off to monopolize the market, is there anything wrong with that? No. But when we showed sincerity for cooperation, they held us back; that's a bit shameless. I think this is what makes everyone angry." Bai Xiaosheng continued.

The group nodded.

"So now, should we intensify efforts to catch up, even engage in low-price competition and networking battles?"

"I think each of you here has a complete set of specific plans in mind, right?"

Bai Xiaosheng's words again made everyone nod slightly.

Indeed, while they felt frustrated and angry, each had held back some strategies to counter them, ready to make their move.

If they could weather the crisis with their strategies, and even make the Han Family gain nothing, that would be a major success and something to be proud of.

But of course, no one dared to guarantee their approach would work for sure.

After all, it's Han He!

A figure who, like Lu Yun, has dominated the business world and often triumphed in business wars.

Such an old monster-like presence should not be underestimated!

"I can guess the direction most of you might take, which in normal circumstances would be problem-free, but I don't plan to do that," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile. "Didn't Han He believe that he could bring us under control in the new areas we're entering? I guess he has prepared various plans to guard against our pursuit or competition. So why should we follow his lead!"

The group looked at each other at those words.

If not catching up, then what else?

"I discussed a plan with Elder Xia that we think is better. Now, I'm going to tell you all about it, and everyone will have a task, needing to personally oversee and manage a part," Bai Xiaosheng said sternly to everyone, "I have only two requirements; first, maintain confidentiality, and second, act quickly."

Subsequently, Bai Xiaosheng said something that surprised everyone present.

It sounded somewhat unbelievable—

"Within a week, I want to end this turmoil. I want Han He to come to us, begging!"

Chapter 2340 - Han He, Holding All the Cards

The meeting convened by Bai Xiaosheng concluded after two hours.

After the meeting, the executives from the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region left, displaying expressions that appeared "peculiar" to the subordinate employees, with excitement tinged with a sense of anticipation and a... mischievous air.

In short, the subordinates couldn't make sense of it.

Every executive left in a hurry, as if they had urgent matters to attend to, walking briskly.

Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi remained in the conference room, watching everyone leave, then exchanged a smile.

"With our strength, mobilizing all executives to deal with one Han He seems a bit exaggerated, giving Han He too much face," Xiahou Qi couldn't help but chuckle.

His words exuded dominance. It was as if for them today, dealing with a Han He required no excessive effort.

"We're racing against time, so we naturally have to invest heavily, deploy manpower, and utilize talent," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile. "And remember, even a lion uses its full strength to catch a rabbit - that's what you told me. Moreover, we're dealing with Han Yewanhe, which is Han He."

Upon hearing this, Xiahou Qi burst into laughter and nodded, "Indeed, even a lion uses its full strength to catch a rabbit! Actually, I'm a bit intrigued by the prospect of Han He proactively seeking peace with us, and what mindset he would be in."

"That won't be a pleasant one," Bai Xiaosheng replied.

The two then shared hearty laughter.

After the meeting, Zheng Honghu headed straight to his office to pack for a business trip. This time, he bluntly stated he was only bringing one secretary, without mentioning the purpose of the trip.

While packing, Zheng's phone lit up.

A call was coming in.

Zheng Honghu wasn't particularly inclined to answer this call, but the caller was persistent, keeping the phone's screen illuminated.

Finally, Zheng Honghu answered.

The call was from Liu Weizhi, the person in charge of Xihe Industry.

"Hello, Liu Weizhi, what's up?" Zheng asked.

Zheng could already guess what Liu Weizhi wanted to say.

"Mr. Zheng, you finally picked up!" Liu Weizhi seemed very excited.

"Get to the point," Zheng said, "I don't have much time."

"Alright, I'll get right to it. What are we supposed to do on our end? If we don't take any action, there might not be any business left in the nearby cities," Liu Weizhi said anxiously over the phone. "Originally, you persuaded me to leave the Affairs Officer position to become a key enterprise leader. I came with enthusiasm to make achievements, but my term has barely started, and the company is about to go under. How am I supposed to manage operations? What future do I have then?"

Liu Weizhi launched a protest right from the start.

"So, what do you want to do?" Zheng Honghu asked with a knowing smile on the phone.

This attitude left Liu Weizhi momentarily stunned.

In the previous calls, although Mr. Zheng hadn't given any directions and asked them to wait for headquarters' decision, his tone had been impatient and not very pleasant.

What has changed now...

Momentarily bewildered, Liu Weizhi quickly regained his composure and said, "I don't need you to do anything, just give us some authorization so we can start taking action. Doing something is better than doing nothing..."

Expressing his request, Liu Weizhi thought he would have to talk at length again, uncertain if he would get a response.

To his surprise, Zheng Honghu promptly replied, "Alright, I'll give you a definite answer right now!"

Stunned again, Liu Weizhi quickly responded with joy, "Ah, please tell me!"

"Effective immediately, maintain your company's normal operations, and do not engage in any conflicts with Han Family Enterprises. Even if you're negotiating cooperation and encounter them, you must avoid confrontation. Do you hear me?" Zheng Honghu stated firmly.

On the other end, Liu Weizhi was taken aback, then stammered, "What does this mean?"

Not only should they not compete with Han Family Enterprises but also yield?

Liu Weizhi was completely puzzled.

"This is the directive from headquarters. Just be patient for a couple of days. If you're really feeling suffocated, go for a team-building exercise; it will be resolved in due course," Zheng Honghu said lightheartedly. "Alright, I have other matters to attend to, talk to you later."

With that, the call ended, the tone sounding off with a series of beeps.

On the other line, Liu Weizhi was left in a daze, holding his phone in confusion.

Seeing his expression, his deputy couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Liu, what did they say from above?"

Staring blankly at his deputy, Liu Weizhi muttered, "Mr. Zheng said we should go for team-building..."

Liu's deputy was dumbfounded, uttering only, "You must have heard wrong."

Not only Xihe Industry but many enterprises under the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region also received such "strange" orders.

They were instructed to stay put for a couple of days, need not rush to expand their client base, and certainly not engage in any friction with Han Yewanhe's enterprises...

Indeed, it was baffling.

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For two consecutive days, Han He traveled through several provinces in the west, visiting his businesses to conduct inspections and uplift morale.

Simultaneously, he deployed a large number of personnel to closely monitor the enterprises under the Zhenbei Group's Greater China in the area.

Money is a good thing; it can find people to buy information.

The information received by Han He almost entirely described the opposing enterprises as lowering their banners and downplaying their activities.

Even Han He found this puzzling.

"That Bai Xiaosheng is not a mere simpleton, seeing his actions in South and North America makes that clear. Has he really conceded this quickly? He's still young; doesn't he have a bit of daring spirit?"

This doubt lingered in Han He's mind.

In reality, Han He, just as Bai Xiaosheng anticipated, had woven a large net, waiting for actions from Bai Xiaosheng's side.

It was like a spider sitting in the middle of a web, waiting for prey to struggle.

This "calm before the storm" was not something Han He enjoyed.

"Or perhaps those are just appearances, and those enterprises are actually making moves in secret?" Han He was more inclined to believe this scenario.

Han He directly increased his personnel to keep an eye on the enterprises under Bai Xiaosheng's jurisdiction, analyzing reports personally, trying to find any clues.

Meanwhile, Han He also contemplated another possibility: that Bai Xiaosheng, a genuine commercial genius, had seen through his layout and therefore remained still.

"He would probably attempt a breakthrough from another angle, like leveraging connections!" As Han He contemplated these scenarios, it was already the fourth day after event initiation, and he had returned home, packing for an outbound visit.

As he predicted, someone indeed called on the fourth day to inquire about these matters.

Those people carried significant clout!

Among them were Jia Group, which had collaborated extensively with the Han Family, Wanhua Group that had recently agreed to a partnership, Beifeng's Dong Tianlu, and Haoyu's Wang Xuantian.

All were here to act as mediators.

With his astuteness and eloquence, Han He could navigate discussions with everyone without losing face.

"That Bai Xiaosheng really has some face!" Even Han He was slightly surprised during the final phone call.

However, at this point, it wasn't easy for him to retreat.

On the fifth day, Han He received a letter, to head to Huajing.

Well-known business leaders from various sectors would gather to form a business delegation for an outgoing visit.

Han He believed that this time he would encounter Bai Xiaosheng, the executive president of the Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region.

Before setting off, Han He was filled with delight, "At this juncture, no matter how capable Bai Xiaosheng is, he won't be able to turn the tide!"

"What should I say to him when I meet him!"