

Two Trillion 2411

Chapter 2411 - Interview (Part 2)

Is this not agreeing with my statement?

Bai Xiaosheng frowned.

"'Xuanjin' company." Mr. Brown began, speaking slowly, "is the only company in the African region under my group that deals with rare earths. Mr. Bai may not know its importance and weight, but I can say this: the five companies you've investigated, combined with their upstream and downstream affiliates, are not even half as important as 'Xuanjin' company. It controls 23% of Xisuli's rare earth output. Even I hold it in high regard; it is a company directly under my management. This half of the year, seven more subsidiaries will be added here as auxiliary companies to its industrial chain. Every year, top financial groups from Europe, North America, and South America negotiate cooperation with me, offering extremely favorable conditions. The technology and funds they offer can continuously improve my industrial chain. What conditions can Huaxia offer?"

Mr. Brown's words were lengthy, and his final question left Bai Xiaosheng speechless.

The negotiation hadn't even started, and Mr. Brown had already set the bar extremely high. It seemed like Mr. Brown wasn't very interested in this collaboration?

Could it really be because of me that Mr. Brown is intentionally making things difficult with this cooperation...

On this point, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't be sure and sighed deeply in his heart.

Bai Xiaosheng thought that later, he should suggest to Director Hou to send Lu Yun or Jia Chengshan to communicate again; perhaps there might be a turnaround.

Upon thinking of this, Bai Xiaosheng said, "Huaxia's companies have different advantages in the rare earth field compared to other countries and regions. I still hope Mr. Brown will consider it. If Mr. Brown is really not interested, then I..."

"No, I am very interested in cooperating with Huaxia's companies."

On the other end, Mr. Brown changed his tune, suddenly saying this.

This left Bai Xiaosheng a bit stunned.

Mr. Brown's turn of phrase was quite abrupt, almost making him "lose control."

"As it happens, I'm inspecting the 'Xuanjin' company headquarters. I heard Mr. Bai is currently in Moribido City? It's only about a two-hour journey from here. Why don't you come over, and we can talk, shall we?" Mr. Brown said with a light laugh.

So Mr. Brown is already in Kaido City, where 'Xuanjin' Company is located?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be surprised; he thought Mr. Brown was still in Naliya.

That was quite a quick trip!

After the initial surprise, Bai Xiaosheng also quickly smiled, "I didn't expect Mr. Brown to be in Lin City. Then I must visit you. Since you are willing to discuss cooperation, I will bring some relevant members of the business delegation along."

"No need, you can come alone," Mr. Brown said.

Bai Xiaosheng hesitated briefly but agreed, "Alright!"

This matter is better discussed than not, hesitating might cause changes.

"It's now eight in the morning, Mr. Bai, you should come over. A two-hour drive should be about right, I'll be waiting for you here. Oh, I have other matters to attend to, so you need to be quick," Mr. Brown said on the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng naturally agreed, "I'll head over immediately."

"Then I look forward to your visit, see you in person," Mr. Brown replied warmly.

"I wouldn't dare, I'll discuss with you face to face then!"

With pleasantries exchanged, the call was finally hung up.

After Bai Xiaosheng put down the phone, he pondered for two minutes, then called in Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to explain the situation to them.

Both were both surprised and delighted yet puzzled.

"That Mr. Brown is actually in Lin City, Kaido City? He wants to discuss cooperation face to face with you, which is good, but I feel he might still make things difficult for you on this matter, just to vent some frustration."

"It's really incredible, wasn't it just yesterday that he was said to be in Naliya, flew over overnight? Saying he wants to see Xiaosheng, then says he has other matters, urging us to hurry, it's like he's making time to see us, it's a bit too... but being willing to meet is always good. Yet I feel somewhat uneasy about it..."

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged and smiled at them, "No need to overthink it. If we analyze any further, the situation changes infinitely and can't be fully analyzed. You guys hurry to prepare things, I'll go inform Director Hou, and we'll meet at the entrance."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately nodded, quickly going their separate ways to get things done.

Bai Xiaosheng also strode quickly towards Hou Yuncheng.

Upon reaching Hou Yuncheng's temporary office, Bai Xiaosheng gave a brief explanation of the situation.

Hou Yuncheng also looked pleased, "It's good as long as there's something to talk about. I didn't expect you to immediately get to speak with Mr. Brown; that means the cooperation is likely on its way. I'll arrange a car to send you over!"

Bai Xiaosheng immediately smiled and nodded.

"Speaking of which, we might have a double success this time." Hou Yuncheng's face was gleeful as he said to Bai Xiaosheng, "You know Mr. Jia Chengshan from Jia Group, right? He has considerable cooperation with another family's rare earth business in other ventures. I just learned about it this morning. Mr. Jia Chengshan has just set out to discuss cooperation with another company, and perhaps when you return this afternoon, we will have double the celebration!"

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng also felt happy, and at the same time, a sense of relief.

Yesterday, didn't Hou Yuncheng say that as long as we negotiate cooperation with one more company, securing four out of five, both our superiors and subordinates will be satisfied.

This means that even if his negotiations with Mr. Brown fail, it doesn't seem as severe...

Of course, this was just a fleeting comforting thought in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Chapter 2412 - Face-to-Face Meeting_3

Bai Xiaosheng is a diligent person, a determined individual; if there's even a slight chance, he wants to facilitate the collaboration.

After nodding to Hou Yuncheng, Bai Xiaosheng hurriedly rushed downstairs,

where Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were waiting in the first-floor lobby, and the driver arranged by Hou Yuncheng was already there, truly not daring to waste a single moment.

The driver was affiliated with the embassy and was quite familiar with the surroundings.

"Let's go, in two hours, we'll reach Kaido City," Bai Xiaosheng called out to everyone.

"Two hours?!"; yet the driver responsible for driving hesitated a bit, "Isn't that too rushed? It would be more reasonable to consider two and a half hours."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying immediately looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and reassured the driver, "Just try to drive as fast as possible while ensuring safety; we're already racing over there nonstop. A bit more or less time, and I'll communicate with them on the way."

The driver nodded at Bai Xiaosheng's words and led them straight outside.

Soon, Bai Xiaosheng and his team were on their way to the destination.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng communicated further with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

If Mr. Brown is willing to let bygones be bygones, Bai Xiaosheng is also considering initiating in-depth cooperation with the company under his jurisdiction, even offering more favorable terms at the start, as peace brings wealth, and harmonious relations result in lasting prosperity. As long as both parties maintain a harmonious relationship, it will undoubtedly lead to a win-win situation.

In the blink of an eye, more than two hours passed.

As the outline of Kaido City came into view, Bai Xiaosheng took out his phone to call Mr. Brown and inform him that they would be delayed.

At present, their car was already racing at the speed limit; it couldn't really go any faster.

As it turned out, Bai Xiaosheng made two calls, both of which ended with a busy signal.

He thought perhaps Mr. Brown was busy; didn't he say he was inspecting the "Xuanjin" company?

Thinking of this, Bai Xiaosheng put away his phone.

If he continued to call, it might end up annoying someone, which would be problematic.

Besides, the two missed calls served as proof of his timely communication. Mr. Brown would notice and respond when he had time.

So Bai Xiaosheng didn't continue.

Soon, their car entered Kaido City, and the driver followed the navigation to find the "Xuanjin" company.

What is called a big company?

In this area, one could see traces of "Xuanjin" everywhere, whether on buildings or street names, leaving Bai Xiaosheng and his team in awe.

This enterprise is like a small world of its own.

When they reached the towering "Xuanjin" company building, which stood dozens of floors high, it seemed to have the makings of a major international corporation.

Bai Xiaosheng and his team bid farewell to the driver and entered the building, heading straight to the front desk to report their identities.

The receptionist immediately made a phone call.

Soon, a smiling black man greeted Bai Xiaosheng and his team, saying he was one of Mr. Brown's assistants.

The man took Bai Xiaosheng and his team upstairs to a meeting room, invited them to sit down, and brought them coffee.

Bai Xiaosheng and his team were confident that Mr. Brown would appear shortly, but after waiting and waiting, no one came, as if they had been forgotten.

After waiting for two hours, Bai Xiaosheng and his team finally couldn't resist and had someone call the person who welcomed them in.

"Where is Mr. Brown? When will he see us?" Bai Xiaosheng got straight to the point.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng's current position is no lower than Mr. Brown's; how can he wait indefinitely, as if meeting a superior?

The black young man grinned instantly, showing his white teeth, "Mr. Brown? He's not in this city; he went out on a visit. Mr. Bai, you agreed with Mr. Brown to meet two hours later, right? You exceeded the time; our Mr. Brown is extremely punctual! Being late by even a minute is unacceptable!"

Chapter 2413 - An Unexpected Change

Hearing the young Black man who claimed to be Mr. Brown's assistant say that Mr. Brown would wait no longer and had already left, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions understood the situation.

From the very beginning, Mr. Brown never intended to meet them!

The claim that the journey should only take two hours was actually setting a trap for Bai Xiaosheng.

This was also why Bai Xiaosheng couldn't reach Mr. Brown on the phone midway, even when he wanted to explain the situation—

He simply didn't plan on answering!

Although Bai Xiaosheng was skilled in interpreting microexpressions and voice tones, emotional deductions, he didn't consider that path at the time and thus failed to notice the intent behind Mr. Brown's mention of time.

If someone so important resorts to such petty tricks, it's really too trivial!

Yet, Mr. Brown chose to behave in such a way.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying secretly frowned, feeling that the other party was quite dishonest.

Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained unchanged as he said to the young Black man, "Indeed, we spent too much time on the road. I originally wanted to call Mr. Brown to explain, but couldn't get through. Regardless, we were the ones who missed the appointment first. I will apologize to Mr. Brown in person. May I ask where Mr. Brown is now and when he will return?"

In this matter, Bai Xiaosheng showed great patience and sincerity.

However, the young Black man didn't seem moved, still wearing a slight smile and a lazy expression as he said, "Mr. Bai, you're too kind. I think Mr. Brown will understand your situation. But as for where he is, he wouldn't tell someone like me, so I don't know. As for when Mr. Brown will return..."

The young Black man flashed his white teeth and said, "Maybe in another hour or two..."

Another hour or two?

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but check the time.

Do they really think their time is worthless?

Bai Xiaosheng's position is certainly not lower than that of Mr. Brown, and even with sincerity, he shouldn't have to wait like this!

"Or maybe three or four hours..." the young Black man added.

This is even less reliable, three or four hours!

Lin Weiwei directly frowned.

"Or perhaps Mr. Brown won't come back at all today," the young Black man chuckled.

Lin Weiwei had already given up inside.

Waiting a whole day here and still possibly not meeting the person, what's the point!

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent.

"But I suggest you wait here a bit longer. I'll try to reach Mr. Brown by phone, and if I can get through, I'm sure Mr. Brown will appreciate your sincerity and come back as soon as possible." The young Black man said to Bai Xiaosheng.

This sounded rather perfunctory.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help wanting to respond for Bai Xiaosheng:

We have other matters over there and we're short on time, perhaps we'll visit next time...

"Alright, we'll wait here a little longer then." Unexpectedly, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at the young Black man and said.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were greatly surprised, and even the young Black man was momentarily taken aback, seemingly not expecting Bai Xiaosheng to make this decision.

The young Black man then cheerfully nodded to Bai Xiaosheng, "Then please wait here... I'll get someone to serve you more coffee."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly.

After the young Black man left, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but say to Bai Xiaosheng, "Xiaosheng, Mr. Brown is clearly toying with us; do we really need to wait here?"

"No matter how long we wait, the outcome might just be a waste of time!" Lei Ying also commented.

Bai Xiaosheng remained calmly seated, leisurely saying, "Since we are already here, it's best to gain something, so we can report back to Director Hou. Don't say much, just patiently wait here with me; I have my plans."

With Bai Xiaosheng's statement, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had nothing more to say.

Soon, someone came in to deliver coffee.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed that judging by their attire, they looked above regular staff level, as he accepted the coffee handed over, he asked, "Do you work for 'Xuanjin' Company?"

The person seemed to know Bai Xiaosheng's important status, quickly smiled and said, "Yes, I am the secretary for the general manager's office. Mr. Brown instructed that you are esteemed guests to be well taken care of; the general manager was afraid the other staff might annoy you, so I was sent over."

This statement was quite flattering.

It's evident the general manager doesn't realize that Bai Xiaosheng is actually very easygoing and not demanding at all.

Both Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying thought so in their hearts.

Unexpectedly, while talking to the secretary, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly turned stern, snorted quietly, and said, "In fact, I am really not happy now!"

The secretary watched Bai Xiaosheng 'change face' in amazement and couldn't help but be stunned.

Bai Xiaosheng coldly said, "I've been here for half a day, and your general manager hasn't even shown up, what's the meaning of this?"

"Also, is this coffee drinkable? I've never had such bad coffee!"

"Do you have Huaxia green tea? Let's change it!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke sharply, as if looking for trouble out of boredom, which was unprecedented.

The secretary seemed unprepared for Bai Xiaosheng's unpredictable mood, appearing slightly flustered.

"Go, bring your general manager here; I need to ask him how he plans to entertain us at noon!" Bai Xiaosheng ordered, waving his hand to dismiss.

The secretary initially intended to apologize, but seeing Bai Xiaosheng's expression, swallowed the words back down.

Chapter 2414 - An Unexpected Change (Part 2)

It seems this person has been waiting here for too long, and is ready to vent his anger, just looking for trouble.

I fear I can't handle this anger, so I should quickly report it to the higher-ups and let them decide!

The secretary thought about this, nodded timidly, and retreated.

"Sheng, what are you...?" As soon as he left, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

Lei Ying was also a bit puzzled.

Bai Xiaosheng was acting, those familiar with him naturally knew, but what was the purpose? Did he want to meet the general manager of Xuanjin Company?

Bai Xiaosheng's expression had returned to normal, and he smiled, saying, "Wait and see."

The secretary who delivered coffee left the reception room where Bai Xiaosheng and the others were, first finding the young black man from earlier, and told him the situation in detail.

After hearing this, the young black man couldn't help but chuckle, "This person is quite angry and is looking for trouble."

"Exactly! So... will you go see?" the secretary asked cautiously.

The young black man immediately waved his hand, "Mr. Bai asked for your general manager, what use is it if I go, it's just asking to be scolded, it's better to have your general manager go. After all, Mr. Bai is almost on the same level as Mr. Brown, he's considered a leader in the group, not meeting would indeed be inappropriate. What Mr. Bai wants is just good tea and a nice lunch, which aren't really big issues..."

The secretary couldn't help but complain internally: You're just not wanting to take the blame, you want our general manager to go instead...

"Alright, I'll call our general manager to go." The secretary nodded.

About as long as it takes to drink a cup of coffee, the door to the reception room where Bai Xiaosheng and the others were opened, and a capable, sharp middle-aged black man walked in with big strides, wearing a safety helmet on his head and dressed in work clothes, followed by the secretary from earlier.

As soon as this middle-aged man came in, he loudly said, "Where's Mr. Bai! Oh, my, how rude of me, I went to the construction site for inspection early on and didn't know you had arrived! How regrettable!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but glance at each other, secretly amused.

The person who came was also skilled at acting!

Who says foreigners are all straightforward and simple-minded, anyone who can reach such a position isn't easy to deal with.

The secretary responsible for delivering coffee led the middle-aged man to Bai Xiaosheng, and introduced them to each other, "This is Mr. Bai!"

"Mr. Bai, this is our 'Xuanjin' company's general manager—Mr. Ande."

Mr. Ande quickly apologized to Bai Xiaosheng, bending forward with a smile and extending his hand, "Mr. Bai, it's my fault for not coming to meet you earlier, my fault, my fault. I've brought some excellent Huaxia green tea and have instructed someone to brew it for you, it'll be here soon, and at noon, I'd like to invite you to try some local specialty dishes, what do you think..."

This Mr. Ande was truly enthusiastic and courteous.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled while shaking hands with him, saying, "Mr. Ande, those things aren't urgent, we want to first visit your company's subsidiary factories about new materials and new technology. Surrounding the building, there are four industrial parks, twelve factories, and six research centers, I want to tour them before noon."

Upon hearing this, Mr. Ande's smile slightly stiffened.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying suddenly realized.

Bai Xiaosheng's earlier difficulty wasn't just to make the general manager of 'Xuanjin' come over, but to explore the place.

If he asked directly, the other party might not agree, they would play ball and evade.

"This...might not be appropriate." Mr. Ande grimaced, smiling awkwardly at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, although we are all part of Zhenbei Group... But you, after all, are the Executive President of the Asia region, while we are an important company in the Africa region, this...involves some trade secrets..."

Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"Mr. Ande also knows we are all part of the group, not outsiders, what's wrong with visiting a colleague's company? All we're doing is visiting, having a look around, do you think we can just see things and remember them all immediately?"

Bai Xiaosheng said this, leaving Mr. Ande without words to counter.

In reality, what Bai Xiaosheng said about instantly remembering everything, others might not be able to do it, but he can...

Of course, Mr. Ande doesn't know this.

"I can't decide on this, my company reports directly to Mr. Brown..." Mr. Ande hesitated.

This excuse was a bit clumsy.

"Then will you contact Mr. Brown now? That's great, I've been wanting to contact him, but haven't been able to get through to him, I was wondering if Mr. Brown is busy." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Mr. Ande's smile became somewhat rigid, and he quickly replied, "I can't get in touch with Mr. Brown, I couldn't reach him just now..."

Clearly, Mr. Brown was avoiding this person, and Ande dared not make contact.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't seem to find this awkward, shrugging, "Since you can't reach him, there's no need for approval, just take us to visit..."

"But this..." Mr. Ande looked troubled.

He was indeed outwitted by Bai Xiaosheng, caught in a dilemma.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lin Weiwei, giving her a look.

Lin Weiwei, being highly intelligent, immediately realized and simply took out Bai Xiaosheng's identification and handed it to him.

"Mr. Ande, if you think my executive president identity makes it highly inappropriate to visit your important departments, how about using this identity?" Bai Xiaosheng handed the documents to Mr. Ande.

Mr. Ande, seeing the documentation, realized it was a card made of titanium alloy, with a small gold emblem inlaid in the center, its design unmistakably unique to the headquarters' inspection department!

Chapter 2415 - Unexpected Changes (Part 3)

From the craftsmanship of this identification card, it absolutely represents an extraordinary figure from the Surveillance Department!

Mr. Ande gasped immediately; he didn't know much, but he knew what kind of power that card entailed!

If Bai Xiaosheng were to suspend him on the spot, even Mr. Brown wouldn't be able to intervene. If he wants to use this identity to "visit," who could oppose him!

"You want to, want to visit, no problem, no problem!" Mr. Ande agreed all at once.

Behind Mr. Ande, the secretary peeked around, looking confused.

He didn't know what that small card meant, the "mental" impact it brought to his own general manager.

"I showed you this without any other intentions. I don't want to make it too procedural, just thought about casually visiting and waiting for Mr. Brown. After all, just sitting here like this is too boring. What do you think, Mr. Ande?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he put away his identification, speaking pleasantly.

First, show courtesy and then strength; the imposing manner shaken off and then retracted, leaving not a trace. Bai Xiaosheng's display of authority left Mr. Ande powerless.

"Since you want to take a look, I'll show you now." Mr. Ande accompanied with a smile.

"Shall we go now?" Bai Xiaosheng also smiled.

"Let's go now!" Mr. Ande said straightforwardly.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying secretly admired him, feeling quite content.

After that, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions followed Mr. Ande, touring around with this building as the core, visiting one place after another.

Continuing this way until one in the afternoon, they finally stopped.

Bai Xiaosheng saw a lot, remembered a lot.

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng was indeed tired and worn out, and only at the repeated suggestions of Mr. Ande did they go together to a Michelin three-star restaurant, where they tasted a meal of local dishes with Western characteristics.

After the meal, it was almost three in the afternoon, yet there was still no news from Mr. Brown.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't linger much longer, bidding farewell to Mr. Ande who accompanied him, as well as that young Black man.

Although the two were eager to retain him, their expressions were filled with joy.

In Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, their thoughts were plain as day: This one is finally leaving!

Bai Xiaosheng understood but pretended not to see.

The driver arranged by Hou Yuncheng had already prepared the car, and with Mr. Ande and others seeing them off, Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions got in the car and returned to Moribido City.

The journey was silent.

Upon returning to the group's residence, Bai Xiaosheng went to see Hou Yuncheng alone.

This trip, ending in failure, wasn't entirely without gain. Bai Xiaosheng had toured the "Xuanjin" company and saw many things, which were imprinted in his mind. Some things required quite a high level of specialized knowledge to understand, which he could also digest through Red Lotus, equivalent to indirectly gaining insight.

One could say that Bai Xiaosheng could now compile something for domestic enterprises to reference or incorporate into collaboration with a few companies here, using advanced domestic experiences.

Therefore, this trip could not be said to be fruitless for Bai Xiaosheng.

To find Hou Yuncheng, Bai Xiaosheng was not overly despondent, because Hou Yuncheng had sent Jia Chengshan to another rare earth enterprise, apparently with great assurance.

If that succeeds, even if Bai Xiaosheng hasn't reached an agreement, it seems he won't be too disappointed.

When Bai Xiaosheng knocked on Hou Yuncheng's door, he was surprised to find another person inside.

It was Jia Chengshan.

He had also returned.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and greeted Jia Chengshan, who enthusiastically returned the greeting.

"Mr. Jia, was everything smooth on your side?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Hou Yuncheng and Jia Chengshan both were people whose emotions never showed on their faces, but Bai Xiaosheng could still sense a trace of solemnity in the atmosphere, which piqued his curiosity.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng's inquiry, Jia Chengshan furrowed his brows and sighed heavily, speaking in a despondent tone, "Don't mention it. When I got there, someone had already beaten me to it and made a deal with them."

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback by how dire the situation was.

"Who could snatch it from us?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask.

Jia Chengshan looked at Hou Yuncheng.

Hou Yuncheng and Jia Chengshan exchanged looks, then slowly uttered a name to Bai Xiaosheng, "It's not an ordinary person indeed."

"It was Mr. Brown!"

Chapter 2416 - Enduring for Now

Bai Xiaosheng heard from Hou Yuncheng that the rare earth deal with another company also fell through, and it was intercepted, surprisingly, by Mr. Brown!

Upon hearing this news, even Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be taken aback, and then he frowned.

Mr. Brown is clearly targeting him this time!

On one hand, he made Bai Xiaosheng go on a wild goose chase, waiting in vain for most of the day.

On the other hand, he went to another rare earth company and took the business.

This openly tells Bai Xiaosheng that Mr. Brown is very angry about him checking out those companies without informing him first! It's a targeted retaliation.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng deep in thought, with furrowed brows, Hou Yuncheng and Jia Chengshan exchanged glances.

The two naturally saw the problem in this event, and considering Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned to Hou Yuncheng before that he might have offended Mr. Brown from his own group, the problem in this matter was self-evident.

Hou Yuncheng immediately patted Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder and consoled him, "It's okay, Sheng, you don't need to take it too much to heart. In business matters, whether it succeeds or not is all based on interests. The conditions others offered are better than ours, and if we can't offer better, then it's only natural for the deal to go elsewhere. Moreover, such a significant business, Mr. Brown wouldn't act on impulse. I mean, it doesn't have much to do with you, don't overthink it!"

Hou Yuncheng feared that Bai Xiaosheng might, in anger, spark conflict with his colleagues, which would be counterproductive.

"That's right, Mr. Bai, even without cooperating with those two companies, we have collaborations with three state-owned enterprises in Xisuli, which is enough. Once our collaboration thrives, earning profits daily, perhaps those two companies will come looking for us," Jia Chengshan also advised from the side.

Bai Xiaosheng regained his composure, smiling at the two of them.

"Thank you both, Director Hou and Mr. Jia, for your concern. I'm fine. If even such a trivial matter can trouble me, then I, Bai Xiaosheng, would truly be a failure!"

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng speak calmly, his expression returning to normal, Hou Yuncheng and Jia Chengshan couldn't help but nod secretly.

People who can control their emotions are those who achieve great things.

Jia Chengshan had already been with Hou Yuncheng for a while, so when Bai Xiaosheng arrived, he took his leave.

Hou Yuncheng exchanged a few polite words and personally saw him to the door.

Bai Xiaosheng also bid farewell to Jia Chengshan.

After Jia Chengshan left, Hou Yuncheng invited Bai Xiaosheng to the sofa and personally poured him a cup of tea.

"Sheng, regarding those two companies, you don't need to think too much or worry about them," Hou Yuncheng said to Bai Xiaosheng, "In Xisuli, there are other advantageous industries that want to collaborate with us, totaling thirty-five companies. Today, in your absence, we've already visited a batch. Later, I'll give you the information list, and if you're interested, I'll have someone accompany you as a business delegation to take a look tomorrow."

Hou Yuncheng was not at all annoyed by Bai Xiaosheng's friction with Mr. Brown, which disrupted the rare earth negotiations, but instead, he was considerate of Bai Xiaosheng.

This touched Bai Xiaosheng quite a bit.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, taking out the materials he edited and organized using his notebook on the return journey and then printed back at his residence, handing them to Hou Yuncheng.

"Director Hou, during my visit to 'Xuanjin' company, it wasn't entirely fruitless, and I also conducted an inspection," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Hou Yuncheng took the materials handed over by Bai Xiaosheng with a look of curiosity, glanced roughly, and his eyes gradually filled with surprise.

"During the inspection of 'Xuanjin' company, I compiled what I saw regarding the new material development direction, the application and improvement of new processes, and various other aspects. I believe it will be helpful for domestic companies in negotiations with those three state-owned rare earth enterprises in Xisuli, and in deeper cooperation and aligning domestic enterprises with international standards," Bai Xiaosheng explained.

"It's extremely helpful!" Hou Yuncheng said without lifting his head, his gaze fixed on those pages.

Interestingly, the next phase involves working with this area, and it just so happens that Hou Yuncheng himself is responsible, so he recently "studied" the relevant content.

Hou Yuncheng is meticulous, and his "study" is not just a superficial understanding, but something meticulously thought out.

So, when Hou Yuncheng saw what Bai Xiaosheng gave, he was instantly captivated.

The experience in domestic rare earth development is among the best globally, but it still requires the absorption of strengths from others, to continuously absorb the essence, innovate, and thus become better.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng's "inspection summary" is extremely valuable!

"This is truly considerate!" Hou Yuncheng couldn't help but praise highly.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled as he looked at Hou Yuncheng.

Having one's work recognized is also a pleasing thing.

Strictly speaking, what Bai Xiaosheng compiled didn't involve commercial secrets, because the truly secret aspects, the person in charge of 'Xuanjin' company wouldn't show him, even though Bai Xiaosheng is a higher-up in the group.

After all, they belong to different regions, not the same thing.

The content displayed by 'Xuanjin' company was also shown to some counterparts in Europe and America.

What Bai Xiaosheng saw were relatively cutting-edge things, but he fully utilized Red Lotus's powerful search functions to extrapolate and refine the information, and immediately searched to find out — which kind of machinery needed could be bought from which global companies, and which kind of technology involved could be sought in partnership from which global companies, and then compiled it all back into the document seen by Hou Yuncheng.

Chapter 2417 - Enduring This Moment (Part 2)

This is really something unusual.

Hou Yuncheng kept flipping through the pages for more than half an hour before snapping back to reality and realizing—Bai Xiaosheng was still there.

With an apologetic expression, Hou Yuncheng smiled at Bai Xiaosheng and said, "Look at me, I get lost in thoughts when I see good things. Sheng, since you're back, why don't you take a rest now? I'll have someone send over the investigation materials and the list to you later, so I won't keep you."

Hou Yuncheng was already quite frank about sending him off.

After saying this, Hou Yuncheng shook the few pages in his hand and said with a smile, "I'm going to study this carefully today. Even though this trip didn't result in a partnership, just this gain alone makes it worth it!"

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and promptly took his leave.

Returning from Hou Yuncheng's office, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were waiting in the room for him.

"Xiaosheng, Director Hou wasn't upset with you, was he? We went on this business trip, didn't secure a deal, and only brought back a report of our findings. It's indeed a bit hard to explain. However, it's not our fault that Mr. Brown avoided meeting us," Lin Weiwei couldn't help but say.

Lei Ying also looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a concerned expression, eyes inquiring.

"There's no problem with Director Hou. In fact, he was quite pleased with the report we wrote," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but let out a sigh of relief.

"While I was at Director Hou's, I met Mr. Jia Chengshan. He went to negotiate with another rare earth company and got some results too," Bai Xiaosheng explained everything to the two of them.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were initially stunned, then surprised, and soon enough, they got a bit angry.

"That Mr. Brown actually fooled us and went to steal our business!" Lei Ying said in a deep voice.

Lin Weiwei also exclaimed, "This is so underhanded! Why would he treat us like this? Just because we investigated a few of his companies, if there are issues, he should self-reflect! I don't believe he's completely unaware of issues from his executive VP; if he truly is, he should've thoroughly investigated. Yet he blames us, what is this!"

Lin Weiwei was quite emotional.

"Maybe Mr. Brown felt we were too unyielding, and it shattered his perfect retirement plans, so he retaliated in this way, which is somewhat understandable," Bai Xiaosheng consoled Lin Weiwei. "After all, he's old; sometimes they tend to have little tempers, we should understand."

Mr. Brown, after all, is a venerable stalwart of the group. Bai Xiaosheng figured that since he was to inherit Zhenbei Group, he needed to have a generous and forgiving heart.

"So, should we just let this go?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but pout and mutter, "We've never suffered such unjust schemes or such losses. We never provoke others, but we don't let those who pick trouble off the hook..."

This young lady sometimes had quite a childish temperament and couldn't stand being taken advantage of.

"Let's just leave it at that, we'll endure it, take a step back," Bai Xiaosheng said, "I believe after this gain, Mr. Brown will leave it be."

"And if he doesn't..." Lin Weiwei sneaked a glance at Bai Xiaosheng, mumbling under her breath.

"Then we'll see," Bai Xiaosheng replied helplessly.

He wasn't willing to deal with hypothetical situations before they happened.

"Let's not think about it anymore, it'll only frustrate us more," Lei Ying suggested to Lin Weiwei.

Lin Weiwei didn't say anything further.

"By the way, Director Hou mentioned they'll send over the latest list and materials of companies to be inspected in a while. We can study them and see which companies we can visit. Besides collaborating with our group's companies, forming ties with other enterprises can be opportunities," Bai Xiaosheng tried to shift the topic, smiling.

After all, they were here to visit various places in Africa, seeking business opportunities through cooperation rather than "fighting". It was better to quickly bring focus back to the main topic.

Speaking of which, Bai Xiaosheng exercised his inspecting rights within the group and identified ten problematic large enterprises in North America and Africa. The Red Lotus hadn't yet calculated his score.

It was likely because the headquarters investigation wasn't complete and no official outcomes had been released yet.

As Bai Xiaosheng thought of this, he heard a "ding".

A voice echoed in his mind.

"Upon exercising inspecting rights, ten problematic enterprises have been identified. The group's handling results are now posted, detailed as follows..."

One message after another rapidly scrolled through Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

They detailed the handling results of the heads of the ten problematic enterprises, ranging from demotions to dismissals and even prosecutions, with varied outcomes.

Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily taken aback.

This was something he had just thought about, and results had already appeared... certain thoughts can't be entertained too casually.

At that moment, the door to Bai Xiaosheng's room was also knocked upon, someone outside announced that they were sent by Director Hou to deliver something.

Bai Xiaosheng was engrossed in "listening", so he casually motioned for Lin Weiwei to go collect the items.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng deep in thought, Lin Weiwei didn't dare disturb him and got up to handle it.

Lei Ying also waited quietly.

...

Bai Xiaosheng continued to "listen" to the Red Lotus "broadcast" information—

"Now beginning to calculate scores, specifics are as follows..."

The issues uncovered in the ten companies varied in severity, and the scores Bai Xiaosheng earned were naturally varied. Several fraction points combined, resulting in a bizarre total score of 8.45.

Bai Xiaosheng then heard Red Lotus's voice, "Using rounding method—rounding principle, the host's final score is eight points, bringing the total career president level score to twenty-eight points, seventy-two points short of the vice-chairman level, please continue to work hard."

Upon receiving this result, Bai Xiaosheng was momentarily stunned and then a bit frustrated.

The difficulty of gaining this score was immense, even fractional points appeared, yet in final calculation, the Red Lotus "generously" used rounding, taking whole numbers, and deducted nearly half a point!

"I ask, are you a cunning merchant! You're deliberately hindering my promotion!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but express his anger at the Red Lotus in his mind.

Complaining to the system was clearly not a wise move.

The Red Lotus didn't respond at all.

After Bai Xiaosheng finished complaining, the Red Lotus suddenly responded, "Please continue to work hard—"

Though the voice should have been devoid of emotion, Bai Xiaosheng sensed a hint of schadenfreude.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng was left speechless.

"I'll endure!" Bai Xiaosheng had no choice but to "swallow his pride".

"Xiaosheng, are you okay?" a cautious voice came from beside him.

Only then did Bai Xiaosheng snap back to reality, seeing Lin Weiwei watching him cautiously.

Lei Ying, too, looked at him questioningly.

"I'm fine, did you get the things back..." Bai Xiaosheng quickly diverted the topic.

Lin Weiwei handed the received materials to Bai Xiaosheng, from which Bai Xiaosheng divided two pages for them, "Let's all take a look and discuss where to go tomorrow..."

...

Before bed, Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying finalized the companies they'd visit the next day.

The night passed without further words.

The next morning, Bai Xiaosheng and the team, led by the "guide" arranged by Hou Yuncheng, visited the selected companies in nearby cities for inspection.

Not until the afternoon did Bai Xiaosheng and the others return to their accommodation.

The day's inspections were tiring, but rewarding. Bai Xiaosheng and his team reached intentions with several companies, pending formal contract signing later.

The three were in good spirits and even found a quaint restaurant near their lodging for a wonderful meal that evening.

On the third morning, while Bai Xiaosheng was organizing the day's itinerary and planning the contract signing with the companies discussed the previous day, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying began receiving a series of phone calls.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng didn't think much of it, peacefully drinking coffee, pondering his concerns.

It wasn't until Lin Weiwei, slightly alarmed and angry, rushed back, with Lei Ying wearing a sullen expression, that they caught his attention.

"What happened?" Bai Xiaosheng promptly put aside his matters and asked.

Lin Weiwei, flustered, exclaimed, "Xiaosheng, there's a problem! Those companies that agreed with us yesterday, they all called today. They've all backed out!"

Chapter 2418 - Call Me Mr. Brown!

Yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng and his team visited four companies, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, and reached cooperation intentions with three of them, which was quite fruitful. They were just waiting to arrange the signing today. The contact information given at those companies was naturally not Bai Xiaosheng's; Lin Weiwei was responsible for two, and Lei Ying was responsible for two.

As a result, unexpectedly early this morning, those potential partners called Lin Weiwei, and the cooperation was terminated.

After listening to Lin Weiwei's report of this bad news, Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lei Ying.

Although Lei Ying had not yet mentioned any issues with the cooperation, his expression was notably the same.

"The two companies I was responsible for also just called, and they have similarly backed out."

As expected, Lei Ying's answer was almost exactly as Bai Xiaosheng had guessed.

"Why?" Bai Xiaosheng asked the two of them.

Their cooperation was clearly mutually favored, suddenly stopping like this wouldn't be without reason.

"I asked, but they didn't say anything." Lin Weiwei replied.

"It's the same on my side; they directly hung up the phone." Lei Ying added.

Hearing them say this, Bai Xiaosheng frowned instantly, "Didn't say anything..."

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng deep in thought, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying whispered to each other.

"This matter happened too suddenly, it feels like someone is interfering..."

"I wonder if the cooperation between other members of the business group and those companies has been affected..."

As they were speaking, they saw Bai Xiaosheng standing up.

"Rather than guessing randomly, we might as well ask someone directly." Bai Xiaosheng said, "I'll go see Director Hou!"

While Bai Xiaosheng was heading out, his expression was uncertain, and he murmured quietly, "I hope it's not related to that person!"

...

When Bai Xiaosheng arrived at Hou Yuncheng's temporary office, the other party was about to leave. Seeing Bai Xiaosheng come to find him, Hou Yuncheng joked with a smile that time is money for Bai Xiaosheng, and running here instead of discussing big business deals could lose him a lot of business opportunities.

"Director Hou, I have something to discuss!"

Bai Xiaosheng's slightly serious words immediately made Hou Yuncheng realize that what Bai Xiaosheng was dealing with was no trivial matter.

Hou Yuncheng immediately had his secretary postpone his travel plans and took Bai Xiaosheng back to his office, closing the door to talk.

Bai Xiaosheng told Hou Yuncheng about his situation while also inquiring whether there were any abnormalities in the cooperation of other members of the business group.

"Is that so? I'll have someone ask immediately!" Hou Yuncheng did not hesitate and immediately called in his secretary, instructing him to contact others for inquiries.

After giving the instructions, Hou Yuncheng told Bai Xiaosheng, "Don't worry, let's wait for a while."

Bai Xiaosheng naturally nodded.

It took less than ten minutes before Hou Yuncheng's secretary came to report that there were no anomalies in the cooperation between the three mentioned companies and other members of the business group.

"It seems that I am indeed the target." Bai Xiaosheng was mentally prepared, "I suspect it's Mr. Brown!"

As someone new to this African land, the only friction Bai Xiaosheng had was with Mr. Brown, no one else.

"In that case, I'll immediately discuss with Moribido City, asking them to inquire with those companies. Don't make wild guesses for now." Hou Yuncheng sternly said.

Since Bai Xiaosheng was part of the business group he led out here, he had to protect his interests and couldn't allow anyone to arbitrarily disrupt cooperation!

Hou Yuncheng was a practical man, and he picked up his phone to contact relevant individuals immediately after speaking.

Bai Xiaosheng waited quietly by the side.

Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and the companies could choose not to respond to inquiries, but if Director Hou engaged through the concern of the Moribido City government, they would naturally get an answer.

With Hou Yuncheng's intervention, feedback came quickly.

In less than half an hour, Hou Yuncheng put down his phone and told Bai Xiaosheng, "The response from the Moribido City government is that those companies received more favorable cooperation terms, which led to the termination of cooperation with you. And the ones offering better conditions are not just one company; those that seized the opportunity all belong to one group — Zhenbei Group."

"Sheng, I'm afraid you were right." Hou Yuncheng said in a low voice, "To mobilize so many Zhenbei Group companies to rush out here, it must be the person in charge of your group here, that Mr. Brown!"

Indeed, it was him! Bai Xiaosheng narrowed his eyes slightly.

He had obtained confirmation.

"Regarding this matter, why don't I further negotiate with the Moribido City government?" Hou Yuncheng said solemnly.

Bai Xiaosheng was one of the members of his group, and he needed to protect his interests.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng had previously either won praise for his efforts in Naliya or meticulously crafted a proposal for rare earth enterprise development, both significant contributions.

He couldn't just watch Bai Xiaosheng face trouble without doing anything!

"Director Hou, I think we should leave this matter as it is."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said to Hou Yuncheng, "I am already very grateful that you helped me identify where the problem lies. There's no need to approach the city government over this; it would ultimately be fruitless since the government can't force their enterprises to give up better terms to cooperate with us. Forced cooperation will only lead to a myriad of problems later on, and it may lead to criticism against you!"

Bai Xiaosheng made a reasonable point, and Hou Yuncheng felt a bit stifled.

"Indeed, this isn't something that negotiations can simply solve." Ultimately, Director Hou sighed softly, frowning at Bai Xiaosheng, "But what are you going to do?"

With this question, Bai Xiaosheng instead smiled.

"Our Mr. Brown, once again, has won a round, so I will give him a step. He's gained both face and the inner satisfaction, and that bit of resentment in his heart should dissipate. That's also a good thing; it prevents future grudges from accumulating." Bai Xiaosheng said calmly.

Chapter 2419 - Call Me Mr. Brown! (2)

It's rare for you to see things so openly, Bai Xiaosheng. Hou Yuncheng nodded but couldn't help saying to Bai Xiaosheng, "But what if that Mr. Brown is still angry and there's a next time?"

Given the two recent incidents, that Mr. Brown certainly isn't someone easy to deal with.

No one can guarantee he will stop!

Faced with Hou Yuncheng's concern, Bai Xiaosheng was silent for two seconds, his eyes turning slightly cold, "What you said, I can't say it's impossible. But there's an old saying in Huaxia—"

"Once or twice, but not thrice!"

...

As Hou Yuncheng and Bai Xiaosheng were talking, that old Mr. Brown was taking a phone call.

The caller was none other than Caroline, the Regional President of North America.

"Mr. Brown, I heard that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng has been hitting walls in your territory, unable to secure even one deal recently. It's quite satisfying, isn't it?" Caroline said with a somewhat gloating tone over the phone.

"Miss Caroline, your information is certainly up-to-date." Mr. Brown said blandly over the phone.

Caroline chuckled softly, "Everyone knows about my friction with Mr. Bai Xiaosheng here in North America. 'Oil and water' wouldn't be too much to say. Naturally, I'm quite concerned about him. Seeing him hit setbacks, I admit it makes me happy. In the future, why don't we join hands and teach this young man from Huaxia who thinks he's on par with us a lesson? Let him know that recklessness leads to no good end, and not to dismiss even us!"

Caroline was evidently seizing the moment of old Brown targeting Bai Xiaosheng, offering an olive branch, looking to form an alliance.

Mr. Brown glanced at the caller ID, letting out a cold smile.

He, being so shrewd, surely understood what this sly woman had in mind.

She merely wanted to take this opportunity to pull him, a neutral party, over to their camp, to weaken the "Eastern" faction within the group.

"The Huaxia kid does need some lessons to realize his own limits." Old Brown immediately replied, "But these old bones of mine are still capable, no need for help. Besides, Caroline, I'm at an age where I might step down in a year or two, or even sooner. I really lack the energy to team up, please understand."

Old Brown deflected like practicing Tai Chi.

On the other end of the phone, Caroline raised an eyebrow.

Old Brown's talk about stepping down soon has been going on for a year and a half. Now he says it'll still be another year or two, she really doesn't know if the old guy has a clear intention of retiring internally.

Despite Caroline's inner sarcasm, her words painted a different picture, "You're still so vigorous, why step down so early? That would be a loss to the group, I personally strongly disagree..."

"Oh really? I thought you all had already chosen my successor and were supporting him to step up early." Mr. Brown half-jokingly, half-seriously interjected, cutting her off.

Caroline sent a "special envoy" to the African region to secretly connect with Executive Vice President Cilio, involving both clandestine and overt collaborations for performances, leaving no clearer intention.

"Come on, Mr. Brown, we..." Hearing Brown's words, Caroline hurriedly tried to explain.

"Alright, Caroline, some matters, as long as we understand them in our hearts, that's enough. Just like this time, our tacit cooperation stopped all issues with those ten enterprises, sparing both you and Cilio from accountability, isn't that great? I only hope that before I step down, neither you nor Vice Chairman Morgan will worry about the successor on my side!"

Old Brown delivered these words neither too hard nor too soft, serving as a reminder.

Caroline on the other end fell silent for a second before laughing, "You're absolutely right, I'll remember that."

Subsequently, their conversation didn't last much longer and soon ended.

At that moment, there was a knock on old Brown's office door.

"Come in." Old Brown set down the phone and said in a deep voice.

Someone entered with a smile, a white corpulent man, the Executive President of Zhenbei Group's African region, Tike.

Old Brown had settled here, and he specially came to accompany him.

"Mr. Brown, I've arranged everything as you instructed. We'll keep track of all Bai Xiaosheng's movements, and any discussions he has in Xisuli, we'll know right away." Tike said to old Brown with a smile.

Though Tike is also an Executive President, to old Brown, he seemed like an eager subordinate.

"Thank you, Tike." Old Brown smiled warmly at Tike, showing friendliness, "I was in a bad mood when I arrived and took it out on you a bit, I hope you don't mind."

"No, no, there were many things I didn't do well." Tike quickly smiled.

Absolute diligence, absolute respect.

Tike was brought to his current position by Old Brown, who knew Tike was capable and had a heart full of gratitude, being absolutely obedient to him, naturally satisfying.

"Alright, regarding Bai Xiaosheng, you just keep an eye on him, report any movement to me." Old Brown said with a friendly smile.

"Are we still continuing to target him?" Tike asked a bit cautiously, "But that Bai Xiaosheng... holds a significant position in the Supervisory Department, if we keep at it, won't it be... won't it be inappropriate..."

Old Brown squinted his eyes slightly, "What, are you scared?"

Tike quickly waved it off, "No, no, it's as you say, no matter if it's the head of the Supervisory Department himself coming, what of it! I'm just afraid it might bring some trouble for you!"

Old Brown, seeing Tike somewhat anxious, laughed, knowing he meant well.

"Alright, I have my own discretion, you just go about your work." Old Brown said, his gaze far and deep, "That Bai thinks he can run wild in my territory, my anger won't be so easily appeased; he'll be shown fully!"

Mr. Tike opened his mouth to say something more, but seeing old Brown unwilling to listen anymore, he promptly closed his mouth and respectfully withdrew.

As he exited and reached the door, Tike encountered Cilio, his deputy, a stern-looking black man.

"Mr. Cilio, you've come." Tike greeted with a smile.

"Hmm." Cilio grunted, barely acknowledging Tike, and reached out to knock on the door.

Tike embarrassedly smiled and turned away, but after walking a few steps, he looked back, giving Cilio a meaningful glance before finally turning quickly away.

Having been permitted to enter, Cilio walked into Mr. Brown's office.

"You're here." Mr. Brown looked at Cilio, his expression shadowed with coldness, unlike his kind disposition with Tike.

"What's going on, how did you get entangled with Caroline, that woman is trouble! She sold you out and you didn't even know!" Mr. Brown frowned.

Cilio hung his head, muttering, "If it weren't for that Bai stirring things up, no one would have known."

"Idiot!" Old Brown angrily snapped, "You don't reflect at all! Do you know how much effort I expended to squash this matter! You just want the performance, want to climb up?"

Cilio, seemingly provoked, retorted loudly, "With Tike, he doesn't deserve to be the Regional President of Africa? I would never accept him being above me!"

"That position is not yours to take!" Old Brown got furious as Cilio dared to confront him when no one else was around.

In the shouting, with no bystanders, Cilio decidedly let loose, angrily saying, "I don't understand how you think, actually supporting that adopted son, Tike the pig to rise above, I'm your real son, my father!"

Old Brown's gaze was sharp, "Bastard, don't call me father in the workplace! Call me Mr. Brown!"

Chapter 2420 - Tike Takes Action

Brown's hostility toward Bai Xiaosheng stems not only from Bai Xiaosheng almost ruining his perfect retirement plans but also from nearly dragging Cilio—his own son—into a big mess, almost causing Cilio to end up in jail. This is something Brown cannot tolerate.

Furthermore, Brown's painstakingly cultivated Africa division, built over many years, was suddenly disgraced, becoming the subject of others' amusement, which made him feel humiliated and hard to accept.

Because of these, Brown harbors great anger and hostility toward Bai Xiaosheng.

And it's not something that can be dispelled by "teaching" Bai Xiaosheng a lesson once or twice.

However, Brown knows he can only let Bai Xiaosheng suffer a few losses to vent his anger. His neutral position at the group headquarters must not change, otherwise, there would be no benefit.

This is also why Brown firmly refused the olive branch extended by Caroline and others.

Brown considered it clearly; he would eventually retire. If he gets entangled with any faction disputing with the group, his successor might easily be used as a tool without his influence, making it hard for the hard-earned peaceful environment in the Africa division to be maintained, and everything earned could turn into nothing.

Cilio shouted in Brown's office, questioning why Brown chose Tike instead of himself as the successor for the position, full of unwillingness.

Brown listened to Cilio's discontent with a gloomy face.

How could Cilio understand the painstaking efforts of his father!

Tike is moderate and without sharpness, resembling a steady old good person, lacking sharpness or strong opinions, not handling many things in the best way, but in the most stable manner.

Such a person would excellently hold the "middle" position, continue Brown's consistent policy, and be grateful for Brown's cultivation. Coupled with the relationship of being a godson, the interests of Brown's family would be stable.

Once Tike becomes the President of the Africa Division, and liaises at the headquarters, Cilio could naturally take over and become the CEO of the Group's Africa Division, then become a person with real authority, wouldn't that be leisurely and carefree? When someday, Cilio's temperament becomes steady, and Tike almost retires, wouldn't this be the best outcome.

It could also let the world know that Brown promotes capable people without favoritism, earning praise for his character.

This beneficial plan serving several purposes made Brown feel it is virtually perfect.

Unfortunately, Cilio is destined not to be the patient type, being too aggressive, too impulsive!

"There are some things I can't conveniently tell you here now. You'll naturally understand later. Right now, don't complain to me!" Brown pointed at Cilio and said angrily.

As a father, there's always a sense of authority, unlike a mother who might painstakingly explain.

"Yes, you're the BOSS, both here and at home!" Cilio replied stiffly, with a set face and neck stiffened.

Then, Cilio turned, and left with a flick of his sleeves.

Cilio, having served several years as Executive Vice President of the Africa Division, naturally possessed dignity, pride, and temper.

Seeing his father treating him like a child, he naturally was unwilling to stay longer.

Brown shouted several times "Stop," but couldn't stop Cilio's steps, ending up panting with rage, feeling the fire of anger rising in his heart.

After more than ten minutes, Brown's mood still hadn't recovered.

Just then, a knock on the door sounded.

"Come in!" Brown shouted deeply, with a somewhat unfriendly tone.

The office door was pushed open, and Tike cautiously poked his head in with a smiling face, "Mr. Brown."

Seeing it was him, Brown's expression slightly cleared, "Tike, what's the matter?"

"Our people have sent news that Bai Xiaosheng is visiting a major enterprise this morning," Tike said, "That enterprise ranks among the top in Xisuli's home country. Bai Xiaosheng is going only to that one place this morning, presumably with quite an intention to collaborate. What do you think..."

Brown had long instructed to keep an eye on Bai Xiaosheng, and Tike loyally executed these orders.

Still seething, Brown sneered upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng's name, "That Bai Xiaosheng is indeed gutsy, even after twice suffering losses, he insists on negotiating cooperation without calling me to beg for reconciliation. Well, I have to admire that a bit!"

Tike smiled silently, waiting for instructions.

"Okay, then have someone snatch his business away again," Brown snorted, "If he accepts this setback again, then I'll let him off."

Brown felt intercepting Bai Xiaosheng three times would be enough to vent his anger.

Tike did not refuse but hesitated slightly, "The enterprise Bai Xiaosheng is going to is quite significant. Sending people may not result in easy negotiations as before. How about I go personally?"

After thinking for a while, Brown nodded, "Then you go."

Tike nodded in acceptance, acknowledging as he withdrew.

Outside the door, Tike straightened his posture, glanced at the office door, his eyes flashed slightly, then he turned and left.

In the office, Brown was planning his upcoming schedule; he couldn't stay here forever.

On the other side, Bai Xiaosheng and his team were already in the car arranged by Hou Yuncheng, heading to the enterprise they would inspect today.

It was an internationally renowned comprehensive company, quite significant.

In the car, Lin Weiwei couldn't help talking to Bai Xiaosheng, "Sheng, we are just going to negotiate with the enterprise as if nothing happened?"

Lin Weiwei felt somewhat aggrieved.

Bai Xiaosheng looked relaxed, even smiling at her, "Otherwise, what should we do, go visit Mr. Brown and have a nice debate?"

"Even if we go, we may not get to see him," Lei Ying interjected, then looked at Bai Xiaosheng, "But seriously, won't you give him a call and try to make peace?"

Lei Ying, once not so even-tempered, always responded to fists with fists, cultivated restraint over the years working with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Make peace? Then did we do something wrong, or did we misunderstand someone?" Bai Xiaosheng retorted.

Lei Ying shrugged.

"Previously, I showed ample respect, giving face to the senior members of the group. I believe I've done that twice," Bai Xiaosheng said, "This time, I don't need to bother with him, just negotiate our business directly. If this time, Mr. Brown still wants to meddle, it would be—going too far."

Bai Xiaosheng declared coldly, "I have a temper too!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged smiles, nodding firmly.

Bai Xiaosheng had endured enough!

In fact, they felt uncomfortable for a while, thinking about taking measures, just worrying Bai Xiaosheng would disagree.

Now, they couldn't help but be raring to go, feeling a slight anticipation—

Hoping Brown would make a move again, so they could justly resolve their grievances!

"Alright, now, don't think about all that, let's take this time to go over things and see how to negotiate satisfactory cooperation with that enterprise."

Bai Xiaosheng rallied them to discuss in the car.

Meanwhile, Tike was also on his way to the enterprise Bai Xiaosheng and his team were heading to.

Inside this car, the usually jovial and plump Tike, wore a rare seriousness, eyes shining bright as stars.

This particular sharpness in Tike's eyes was something Cilio had never seen.

"I might have the chance this time to meet the renowned Mr. Bai Xiaosheng indeed!"