

Two Trillion 2421

Chapter 2421 - Such Conditions

Today, Bai Xiaosheng brought Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to visit a company called Winsmo Group, which ranks among the top five in Xisuli and is well-known throughout Africa.

Previously, Lu Yun, Jia Chengshan, Zhang Qinglin, Dong Tianlu, and nearly half of the Huaxia Business Group members had come to inspect it.

Among them, Tengyun Group, Ziyu Group, and Beifeng Holdings have long had collaborations with Winsmo Group, continuing to this day without interruption.

Bai Xiaosheng's arrival was warmly welcomed by the Winsmo company.

Not just because of Bai Xiaosheng's status as the executive president of the Greater China Region of Zhenbei Group, but also due to the greetings from Huaxia Business Group leaders, Xisuli upper leadership, Lu Yun, Zhang Qinglin, and many other Huaxia partners.

This invisibly multiplied Bai Xiaosheng's significance several times over.

Of course, such an enormous and formidable "support group" was not intentionally arranged by Bai Xiaosheng, but arose because both of his collaboration attempts had not been successful, causing various parties to be concerned and each offered their support without prior agreement.

By the time Bai Xiaosheng found out, he was already in a state of brilliance and radiance.

In response, Bai Xiaosheng felt little more than slight surprise, without any significant emotional fluctuations.

It's said that one must be strong to forge iron. He had the ability for it, so receiving this treatment was quite natural, devoid of any sense of pride or arrogance.

Winsmo Group's chairman, Mr. Vincent, personally led the team to welcome Bai Xiaosheng.

This nearly sixty-year-old African elder, robust and muscular with taut skin, is someone who excels in fitness and maintenance, appearing no less fit than a physically strong middle-aged man.

Upon seeing that Bai Xiaosheng was as young as rumored, with eyes that were deep as the sea and bright as stars, Vincent realized the young man was quite extraordinary.

Both sides exchanged warm greetings, conversing as they walked inside.

After a while, Vincent became even more convinced that Bai Xiaosheng was someone at his level.

The key fact was that Bai Xiaosheng was still so young. Who knows how far he could grow in another twenty years?

Mr. Vincent couldn't help but praise Bai Xiaosheng repeatedly, "They say that Huaxia is vast and abundant, producing talents, and today, meeting Mr. Bai, I truly got a more direct understanding!"

Bai Xiaosheng modestly responded with a few polite words, also giving high praise to Vincent for his vitality and spirit.

The two shared a hearty laugh, marking a good beginning.

Afterwards, guided by Mr. Vincent himself, Bai Xiaosheng began to tour Winsmo Group's headquarters and some of the high-tech production lines adjacent to the campus.

To show sincerity in collaboration, Mr. Vincent was indeed open, allowing Bai Xiaosheng to enjoy the visit thoroughly.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng continuously offered suggestions for areas where both sides could cooperate.

Furthermore, Bai Xiaosheng pulled Vincent aside to whisper, "Mr. Vincent, I've had interactions with the Luo Family in Europe, the Wei Family in North America, the Bai Family, and the Qin Family in South

America. Your resources and technology here are what we need for our businesses; if possible, I'll introduce you."

Hearing this from Bai Xiaosheng left Vincent both surprised and delighted, surprised that this young man from Huaxia had connections with major Chinese families across several continents, delighted that he was willing to make introductions here.

What do businessmen need most? Not money, but connections. Some circles are hard to enter even with money.

Vincent naturally believed what Bai Xiaosheng said.

Before Bai Xiaosheng came here, various parties had made gestures in secret, proving his strength was no joke.

"Then I'll thank you first, Mr. Bai! If you have any requirements here, just let me know!" Vincent said, patting his chest.

Before Bai Xiaosheng could respond, Vincent couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng again, a broad smile spreading across his face, "I wonder if Mr. Bai is married yet. I have six sons and ten daughters."

The topic suddenly shifted to marriage and children, somewhat surprising Bai Xiaosheng.

The key point being, this old Vincent sure was capable, with sixteen children.

"Mr. Vincent, I'm not yet married," Bai Xiaosheng replied straightforwardly.

Bai Xiaosheng had not yet completed the redemption period for Wei Xuelian from the Wei Family, so naturally, he couldn't discuss marriage yet. Both were busy, separated by continents, even if they wanted to marry, it would take years.

Upon hearing this, Vincent lit up with an enthusiastic smile and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Six of my ten daughters are unmarried, not far from Mr. Bai's age... Eight or nine years difference, they're all very beautiful, I can introduce you."

Bai Xiaosheng's smile suddenly froze.

What did this mean, trying to set him up, wanting him as a son-in-law?

Here I am generously discussing collaboration, and you want me to call you dad...

Bai Xiaosheng was simply speechless.

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei also heard this, her beautiful eyes widening in surprise at the old Vincent.

Lei Ying was also taken aback.

"Mr. Vincent, I didn't make myself clear, I do actually have a girlfriend and will get married soon," Bai Xiaosheng politely declined.

Old Vincent didn't give up, smiling as he said, "Actually, our laws here don't mandate monogamy..."

Lin Weiwei's face instantly had black lines.

Lei Ying struggled to suppress laughter.

"No need, really! Let's continue discussing collaboration!" Bai Xiaosheng quickly shifted the topic.

Vincent was astute, noticing Bai Xiaosheng's disinterest in continuing that conversation, promptly withdrawing the offer, yet hints of regret still lingered in his gaze.

Chapter 2422 - Such Terms_2

Next, Vincent took Bai Xiaosheng around various places for about an hour. Feeling a bit tired, he invited Bai Xiaosheng to the meeting room for a short rest.

At that moment, someone came to Vincent's side and whispered a few words.

Bai Xiaosheng was sipping his coffee, and whether intentional or not, he noticed the person whispering to Vincent. After two seconds, his gaze shifted away.

"Mr. Bai, everyone, I apologize, a guest has arrived. Please rest here for a while, and I'll be right back," Vincent said politely to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile.

As Vincent left, he asked two vice presidents to stay and chat with Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

"Weiwei, have you noted down the key points of our discussions on cooperation? You can show them to the vice presidents," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, seeing Lin Weiwei organize her notes.

He spoke in Chinese.

Lin Weiwei initially didn't react, nodded, and handed the notes to the two vice presidents.

As a result, the two of them looked confused.

One of them smiled and, in English, said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Sorry, what did you just say? We don't understand Chinese."

Lin Weiwei also thought that Bai Xiaosheng had spoken casually and didn't realize this.

However, Lei Ying looked at Bai Xiaosheng with some suspicion.

With a smile, Bai Xiaosheng still used Chinese and said to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, "You know I can lip-read a bit. Just now, I saw the person reporting to Mr. Vincent say the new guest is someone from our group."

Lin Weiwei was slightly surprised, but quickly regained her composure.

Lei Ying remained quietly listening.

With a smile, Bai Xiaosheng looked at the two confused vice presidents of Winsmo Group and continued, "The visitor is quite significant; he's the executive president of our group's Africa division!"

Lin Weiwei, and even Lei Ying, were slightly taken aback.

At present, Mr. Vincent's new guest turned out to be the executive president of the Zhenbei Group's Africa division!

That... Mr. Tike!

They were well-versed in the group's high-level personnel list and naturally knew Tike's name.

Bai Xiaosheng had already switched to English, smiling as he "explained" to the two vice presidents of Winsmo Group, "I was just asking if they had recorded the cooperation points we discussed, and after we're back, we'll organize it and send it to your side for confirmation."

With Bai Xiaosheng's "translation," the two vice presidents weren't suspicious and promptly smiled, nodding in agreement with Bai Xiaosheng.

While chatting with them, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flashed slightly.

This time, the coming Mr. Tike.

Was it a coincidence or intentional?

If it's the latter, was it also to spoil the cooperation here?

However, it seemed illogical that Mr. Tike didn't avoid the time and waited until Bai Xiaosheng left before coming.

Thinking about it, a slight chill appeared in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

If Mr. Brown plans to mess up his business this time, he must learn that Bai Xiaosheng is not an easy target to manipulate!

...

At this moment, Mr. Vincent was warmly welcoming Tike's arrival.

However, Vincent was somewhat puzzled in his heart; Tike and he were somewhat acquainted in the business world and had cooperated several times before, although those were neither significant nor minor. But a sudden, unannounced visit was almost unprecedented.

After leading Tike to the reception room and serving coffee, Vincent smiled and said, "Mr. Tike, what brings you here? Why didn't you give a heads-up? I wasn't prepared at all."

Tike had a subtle smile on his round face and said, "Mr. Vincent, you're too polite. I suddenly dropped by and apologize for the disturbance. It's inappropriate to pull you away from your distinguished guests."

Old Vincent was momentarily surprised and intriguingly asked, "You knew I had guests here?"

Tike nodded with a smile, without any concealment.

"That Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, right? Since we're from the same group, how could I not know?"

Old Vincent immediately "understood" and said with a smile, "So you arranged to meet Mr. Bai Xiaosheng here. That's wonderful; I'll take you to meet him now."

Suddenly welcoming two high-profile figures, potentially leading to more significant cooperation.

Old Vincent felt naturally happy inside.

"No rush," Tike raised his hand to stop Old Vincent, half-smiling, "I wasn't really scheduled to meet with that Bai Xiaosheng, nor do I want to meet him."

Old Vincent paused in surprise at these words.

Tike said leisurely, "You are the chairman of a company, and it often happens that people below don't get along or even fight. Even if you know about it, you might turn a blind eye or perhaps even enjoy watching them compete. Am I right?"

Old Vincent frowned at Tike and smiled, "What do you mean by this?"

Tike chuckled, "Well, my current relationship with that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng is just like that."

This situation? What situation?

Old Vincent was momentarily at a loss, then understood.

Tike meant he was also competing against Bai Xiaosheng.

It's strange, even across continents, there are internal conflicts?

Actually, the one truly targeting Bai Xiaosheng is Mr. Brown. Tike is taking the conflict on himself to avoid saying too much.

Old Vincent came to his senses and looked at Tike with deep meaning, half-smiling, "Why are you telling me this then?"

Would someone of Tike's status deliberately go to an external company to tell others about his disputes with colleagues?

Old Vincent was very suspicious of Tike's real intentions.

"You don't need to know the specifics, but I'm here to talk cooperation with you, and to stop your cooperation with that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng," Tike smiled.

This is indeed interesting!

Old Vincent's gaze was curious.

Colleague rivalry is not uncommon, sometimes he even discreetly facilitates it, letting subordinates compete, but it's all for the benefit of the company.

A dispute that prevents others from doing business is no longer a conflict but hatred.

"The cooperation Bai Xiaosheng is offering you, our company can provide as well, without letting you earn a penny less, and perhaps even more," Tike said with profound meaning, "Moreover, we are long-term friends on the same continent. Long-term relationships are better than a few big collaborations, don't you think?"

Tike was clearly out to poach business.

"It's not appropriate..."

Old Vincent's gaze had some depth, regardless of the conflict between those two, he wasn't very interested in what Tike proposed.

First of all, what Bai Xiaosheng provided wasn't just a few big collaborations but involved the face of a group of Huaxia partners like Lu Yun, and even connected him to world-class Chinese families and consortia.

That value couldn't be matched by Tike!

"I think I need to consider it," Old Vincent smiled at Tike, "How about this, you rest here a bit while I go finish the inspection with Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, considering it involves the city government, I can't just let him hastily end the visit, can I?"

Old Vincent neither rejected nor "asked" Tike to leave directly, but responded with a gentle and polite delay.

Tike nodded and smiled, "I rode in a car for a long time, I'll just rest here, no problem. You go accompany Mr. Bai, I'm fine here. But I hope you can eventually agree to my request. Of course, I can't let you not gain some benefit. I'll arrange for a few companies to collaborate privately with you here, we'll take a loss in business so you can profit more, is that feasible?"

Tike's words made Old Vincent pause.

He had never seen anyone so "generous" and "transparent," publicly trading off their own interests to sabotage a colleague.

"Let me think about it," Old Vincent couldn't help but squeeze out a smile.

Tike smiled and made a "please" gesture.

Old Vincent left the meeting room, his gaze somewhat complicated as he walked back.

"Perhaps I should tell that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng," Old Vincent muttered.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng's network of contacts was enviable, and if this matter earned Bai Xiaosheng's gratitude, the return could be significant...

In the meeting room, Tike smiled as he caressed the coffee cup in his hand.

Such upfront and overt transfer of benefits was indeed bold.

He could read Old Vincent's true thoughts.

Tike murmured to himself in a voice only he could hear, "After all, I'm very good at reading people!"

Chapter 2423 - Scheming

Dick was resting in a reception room, while Vincent was en route to Bai Xiaosheng, mulling over his calculations once again. It's impossible to avoid offending either side and still profit; eventually, one side must be sacrificed. One cannot be too greedy—a principle Vincent understood well.

The key was to determine which benefit—Bai Xiaosheng's or Tike's—was weightier? How should he weigh them from a long-term perspective?

After comparing the two, Vincent concluded that it was most advantageous to cooperate with Bai Xiaosheng!

"But in doing so, I'll thoroughly offend Mr. Tike!"

Vincent muttered to himself but thought it wasn't a big deal.

Previously, the Winsmo Group's collaboration with Zhenbei Group's Africa division was neither too significant nor negligible. Even if all business ceased, it wouldn't be a great loss.

Moreover, although the opponent was powerful, within Xisuli, the Winsmo Group didn't fear anyone.

Vincent had this confidence.

"If I refuse Tike and work with Bai Xiaosheng, I'll thoroughly offend Tike... Why not offend him a bit more and earn more favor with Bai Xiaosheng! Even if I sell out Tike, what does it matter? There's been little friendship between us, so it's not a breach of ethics!"

With this thought, Vincent moved quickly and muttered to himself.

Earlier, Tike mentioned he was at odds with Bai Xiaosheng and had come to sabotage him.

Informing Bai Xiaosheng of this news would make Bai Xiaosheng grateful and direct his animosity towards Tike.

At that point, they could engage in their own battle, leaving Tike too preoccupied to hate Vincent.

Vincent thought his calculation was perfect.

"What did Mr. Tike just say...? He wants to privately conduct transactions with several companies for an exchange of interests? If this information were relayed to his opponent within the group—Mr. Bai Xiaosheng—he might never have a chance to seek revenge against me."

Vincent's lips curved into a smile, thinking Mr. Tike was heedlessly candid, exposing such matters to outsiders.

How such a person could become the Executive Director of Zhenbei Group's Africa Division was simply unbelievable.

"Only within a large corporation does one preside over power with such low vigilance. If he were to establish his own company, he'd be devoured, bones and all, without understanding how he fell."

Vincent couldn't resist glancing back towards the reception room where Tike rested, mocking him with a laugh.

Vincent possesses extraordinary vision and intellect in business, but apparently falls short in interpersonal schemes and intrigues. This is understandable, as he's been Winsmo Group's chairman for years, an entity atop the peak, with no one to contend against.

Even external business partners, eager for enduring cooperation, approach him with utmost sincerity.

Thus, Vincent failed to realize that he was the one oversimplifying things.

Engaging in trade by selling out one side to please another was the first time in nearly a decade for Vincent, coupled with the seemingly 'simple' circumstances, he didn't delve deeper.

Having carefully thought things through, Vincent arrived at the reception room where Bai Xiaosheng and his associates were resting. He gently knocked twice before entering.

Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions were engaged in light-hearted conversation with two of Winsmo Group's deputy directors. Hearing the commotion, they looked up.

Seeing Vincent return, everyone rose to their feet.

"Mr. Vincent, you're back so soon," Bai Xiaosheng remarked with a smile, "We're in no rush here and could wait longer. Hope we haven't interrupted your meeting with an important guest."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, having learned from Bai Xiaosheng that the visitor was their group's Africa Division Executive Director, Mr. Tike, immediately focused their gaze on Vincent.

"Just an acquaintance in the business world, nothing I'd call a friend," Vincent chuckled, addressing Bai Xiaosheng, "Besides, you are my most important friend here."

Vincent downplayed his relationship with Tike to prevent Bai Xiaosheng from viewing him as someone ready to betray friends for profit.

Furthermore, he and Tike were merely business acquaintances, which was true enough.

Bai Xiaosheng, hearing Vincent's high regard, replied with a smile, "Honored by your favor, Mr. Vincent, I am truly privileged."

Vincent exchanged a few cordial words, then, in the presence of Bai Xiaosheng and his companions, directed his two deputies to arrange upcoming projects for evaluation and prepare the luncheon.

The two deputies gladly accepted and departed accordingly.

Vincent glanced at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, then smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, I have some matters I'd like to discuss privately with you."

"Certainly."

Ever agreeable, Bai Xiaosheng smiled in response.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying promptly exited the reception room to wait outside.

Once outside, with the door closed, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but glance back, whispering to Lei Ying, "What do you think Mr. Vincent wants to discuss? Could it be related to... Mr. Tike?"

"Perhaps," Lei Ying glanced at the bustling Winsmo Group employees in the corridor, gesturing to Lin Weiwei.

The crowded environment wasn't suitable for extensive discussion; whatever transpired inside, they would eventually discover, sparing them from needless speculation.

Chapter 2424 - Schemes (Part 2)

Lin Weiwei also understood and immediately shut her mouth.

In the meeting room, apart from Bai Xiaosheng, there was no one else but Vincent.

Vincent leaned forward a bit and lowered his voice to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, being so young and talented in your group, don't you get some jealousy, people who don't like it?"

With Bai Xiaosheng's sharp eyes, he immediately understood a bit from Vincent's expression. Without revealing anything, he said, "Our group is full of talent. I'm really nothing special. However, maybe because I am young, some things I do may not align with others' views, it's not surprising to receive some criticism."

Bai Xiaosheng's slightly modest yet a bit slick reply made Vincent think he was reluctant to say it outright.

"Mr. Bai, when you were visiting Africa with the Huaxia Business Group, discussing business here, you must have stolen the spotlight from someone in your group's Africa division, affecting their interests, right?" Vincent further pointed it out.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Vincent with a half-smile, "I don't quite understand what you mean."

Vincent didn't want to beat around the bush and said directly, "To be frank, the guest I just met is the executive president of your Zhenbei Group's Africa division—Mr. Tike!"

"It's him!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in "surprise" upon hearing this.

As Bai Xiaosheng voiced his surprise, he furrowed his eyebrows a bit.

"Indeed it is him!" Vincent saw this as Bai Xiaosheng showing a "wariness, vigilance" towards Tike, which further confirmed his suspicions.

Bai Xiaosheng resumed his usual composure and smiled, "What a coincidence, Mr. Tike also came to visit you, and is also here... to discuss cooperation?"

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng's display of "indifference" made it seem like he was pretending to be magnanimous.

"He has come to snatch your business, Mr. Bai!" Vincent decided to sell Bai Xiaosheng a favor in this matter, seeing his indifferent reaction, he naturally wanted to make the situation seem more serious.

Otherwise, how would Bai Xiaosheng "appreciate" him for this?

"Mr. Vincent, you're exaggerating. Although Mr. Tike and I are from the same group, we belong to different divisions, both here to discuss cooperation with you. Ultimately, whichever side benefits, it's a blessing for the group. As for who comes to an agreement, that depends on what you think. Between him and me, there's no such thing as stealing business." Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

The more Vincent tried to heighten the conflict, the more Bai Xiaosheng tried to downplay it.

Seeing this, Vincent became a bit anxious and simply dropped a bombshell, "Mr. Bai, you still don't know, Mr. Tike came to try and persuade me not to cooperate with you but with him instead! Not only that, he said he could have several companies secretly channel benefits to our company as a price to entice me to agree!"

While speaking, Vincent closely observed Bai Xiaosheng's reaction.

"Oh, such a thing!" Bai Xiaosheng immediately furrowed his brow upon hearing this.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng's reaction was half-true, half-fake, with his mind full of doubt.

The business president of the group's Africa division, Mr. Brown, actually sent his top subordinate to thwart his cooperation talks? This conflict is never-ending! Bai Xiaosheng was also fed up.

Currently, with the business group residing here, there were many eyes watching, and it wasn't difficult for them to track his whereabouts if they wished.

The key question is, how could that Africa division executive president dare to say such things openly to outsiders, just to deal with him?

Does Mr. Brown know about this, or did he actually authorize it?

They openly talked and acted like this, do they act with impunity, or have they already become so bold as to disregard all rules!

The more Bai Xiaosheng thought about it, the colder he felt inside.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng silent and his expression turning grim, Vincent felt a bit of secret joy in his heart.

Only if Bai Xiaosheng felt the seriousness of this matter would he greatly appreciate Vincent's kindness.

"Did Mr. Tike really say this to you!" Bai Xiaosheng came back to his senses and asked Vincent.

"There's no mistake, he's still resting in another meeting room. I haven't agreed or refused. However, I despise such underhanded tactics of undermining colleagues! Vincent spoke with righteousness, his voice resonant, and patting his chest in assurance, "I would never agree to such practices! Besides, I am full of anticipation for our cooperation with Mr. Bai. How could I easily give it up for some petty benefits!"

Vincent also took this opportunity to establish an image with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Vincent's sense of justice is greatly appreciated. Bai Xiaosheng naturally showed affirmation, "Rest assured, I will pay utmost attention to our cooperation, and we can form a strategic alliance."

Bai Xiaosheng's Global Business Alliance plan naturally also needs "allies" in the African business world. With the powerful Winsmo Group of old Vincent eager for cooperation, he must include them in his strategy.

Hearing Bai Xiaosheng's words, old Vincent was overjoyed and immediately said solemnly to Bai Xiaosheng, "I will go back right now and sternly refuse Mr. Tike's request, even if it means breaking off future cooperation with them!"

Old Vincent first informed Bai Xiaosheng of his potential "loss," making Bai Xiaosheng feel even more "guilty" towards him.

But as old Vincent was about to turn and leave, Bai Xiaosheng stopped him.

"Mr. Vincent, there's no need to rush to refuse Mr. Tike. I still need your help." Bai Xiaosheng said.

Surprised, old Vincent turned back to look at Bai Xiaosheng, then smiled and said, "If you need anything, just let me know!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at him, with a hint of different intentions in his smile.

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A quarter of an hour later, old Vincent came out of the room, smiling at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying outside, and then left briskly.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged puzzled looks, and quickly returned to the meeting room.

"What's going on... Xiaosheng, why is Mr. Vincent so... elated?" Lin Weiwei asked in confusion.

Lei Ying also looked bemused.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed lost in thought, and when Lin Weiwei asked, he immediately said, "It's a long story, and it's not convenient to discuss here. However, there's a new development now. Weiwei, Lei Ying, I'll have to trouble you to reconnect with the audit team you worked with last time. There's another big fish waiting for us!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at each other, then at Bai Xiaosheng, and said in unison, "Don't worry, leave it to us!"

In another meeting room, Tike was leisurely walking around, occasionally glancing at the magazines on the shelf, or standing by the floor-to-ceiling window, gazing at the view outside, with a relaxed expression.

He would also occasionally glance at his wristwatch.

At this moment, the door of the meeting room was knocked on, and someone walked in.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Tike!" The visitor said in a cheerful voice, it was old Vincent.

Tike turned from the window, smiled at old Vincent, "Mr. Vincent, you finally came back, I've been waiting for you for a while."

"Apologies, apologies!" old Vincent laughed heartily as he walked over.

Tike, observing old Vincent's expression, asked with a smile, "It seems you've agreed to my proposal."

"Can Mr. Tike tell from my obvious expression?"

Old Vincent feigned surprise, implicitly acknowledging it.

The chubby Tike smiled and said, "Do you know what my major was in college?"

The question seemed random, and old Vincent shrugged.

"Psychology." Tike smiled, "And I also self-studied a course in micro-expression analysis, top of the class."

"I know psychology, but that other... micro-expression thing, what is it?" old Vincent asked with some confusion.

It sounded like a new and curious thing, something he didn't know.

"It's nothing, just a course." Tike smiled nonchalantly, and then steered the conversation back to the main topic, "Mr. Vincent, have you agreed to my proposal, to cooperate with me."

Old Vincent blinked, a slyness in his eyes, and smiled, "Mr. Tike, you'll have to let me know what benefits your chosen companies will provide me. Otherwise, losing such a quality client as Bai Xiaosheng, I wouldn't be very willing."

Tike looked at old Vincent with a smile, and after two seconds, leisurely said—

"Rest assured, what I've promised will surely not disappoint!"

Chapter 2425 - Investigation Begins

Bai Xiaosheng and the others waited in the meeting room for about an hour before Mr. Vincent returned, entering with a face full of smiles, exuding pride and excitement, clearly having made significant gains.

Seeing him like that, Bai Xiaosheng felt a sense of anticipation rise within him.

"Mission accomplished!"

Closing the door, Mr. Vincent was so eager to speak to Bai Xiaosheng that he didn't even pay attention to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

After speaking, he glanced at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, a bit embarrassed for speaking out of turn.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately smiled and said to Mr. Vincent, "Mr. Vincent, these two are my confidants, and I absolutely trust them. You can speak freely in front of them."

Upon hearing Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Vincent beamed once more.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at Mr. Vincent with anticipation; Bai Xiaosheng had informed them about the events earlier.

"What about Mr. Tike, is he still here?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Mr. Vincent immediately replied, "He has already left!"

Mr. Vincent then added, "Following your instructions, I have agreed to Mr. Tike's requests. He left quite happily. He provided me with a list of companies planning to conduct covert transactions with us, all of which are enterprises of the Zhenbei Group in Africa."

Mr. Vincent spoke while taking paper and pen from a nearby table, quickly jotting down the names of five or six companies.

These were the companies Mr. Tike had informed him about.

After all, Mr. Vincent had told Mr. Tike during negotiations that they needed to know the benefits these companies provided and how much profit could be gained before deciding whether to collaborate.

During that time, the two conversed privately, without evidence or outsiders. Apparently, Mr. Tike spoke candidly.

"Take a look." Mr. Vincent handed the paper directly to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Thank you, Mr. Vincent!" Bai Xiaosheng said politely, glancing at the paper before passing it to the two beside him, then spoke to Mr. Vincent, "Tell me what price Mr. Tike offered. I can't let you suffer losses for helping me like this. Besides, we're strategic partners now; we're your allies in Huaxia, and you're ours in Africa! I will even introduce business opportunities with the European, North American, and South American financial families to you!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words made Mr. Vincent feel a warm excitement, nodding repeatedly, and immediately disclosed the price Mr. Tike offered to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng listened attentively, and Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying made sure to remember it.

Upon returning, they quickly contacted external support to investigate those corporate groups.

This time, not only did Bai Xiaosheng avoid having cooperation snatched by Mr. Brown, but he was also set to launch a fierce counter-attack.

Let Mr. Brown see just how much misconduct exists within his managed enterprises and question how he dare confront this side relentlessly; he should rather resign in guilt!

After Mr. Vincent shared what he knew, Bai Xiaosheng and the others felt confident and prepared.

"This matter truly burdens Mr. Vincent; I will report to our group's higher-ups, naturally hiding your involvement to spare you any trouble."

After speaking, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Mr. Vincent, "It's a shameful situation within our group that has embarrassed us before you."

As it is said, family shame should not be publicized. Zhenbei Group is renowned in the global business community, yet to have top figures in two major regions clashing so publicly, even involving third parties in this sordid affair, is indeed regrettable.

Mr. Vincent sighed with emotion, "As a group expands, all sorts of people appear. With people comes struggle, and it's the same on my side."

Mr. Vincent then smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Rest assured, I will keep this matter to myself, not saying a single word. This promise I can certainly keep!"

Successfully bringing Winsmo Group to its current size makes Mr. Vincent's promise credible.

Bai Xiaosheng thanked him with a smile, saying to Mr. Vincent, "We've delayed for quite some time, Mr. Vincent, let's continue viewing the remaining projects you have for us."

Mr. Vincent promptly nodded, standing up, "Alright, let me show you around more."

Before the lunch banquet, Bai Xiaosheng and the others followed Mr. Vincent relentlessly, inspecting all the necessary projects.

During this time, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying took the opportunity to contact investigation personnel they had collaborated with not long ago.

These individuals are highly skilled, each possessing exceptional abilities, and their aid will surely yield great results.

While waiting for Mr. Vincent in the meeting room, Bai Xiaosheng had already contacted Mr. Wen Yan, the head of the group's investigation department.

As always, Mr. Wen Yan supported Bai Xiaosheng.

Nonetheless, Wen Yan offered some advice, reminding Bai Xiaosheng of the weight and connections of the African Division's business president, Mr. Brown, within the group.

Implying that Bai Xiaosheng is shaking a mountain, and if not handled well, could potentially trigger a significant upheaval, making him bear consequences.

Wen Yan took this opportunity to caution Bai Xiaosheng to be mindful of his approach and not rush into things.

Bai Xiaosheng understood Wen Yan's goodwill, assuring he would take extra care.

With Wen Yan's authorization and support, mobilizing personnel became rightful and smooth sailing.

The inspection at Winsmo Group proceeded exceptionally well, with Bai Xiaosheng expressing his willingness to cooperate wherever possible, and even offering to introduce other partners to Mr. Vincent, potentially bringing profits far beyond what Tike directly offered.

Chapter 2426 - Investigation Begins (Part 2)

The latter was naturally overjoyed.

After the inspection ended, Bai Xiaosheng and the other two stayed at the Winsmo Group for a lavish lunch.

Afterwards, the three of them returned to the business group's residence.

However, only Bai Xiaosheng returned directly. On the way, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying got out of the car one after another, as their investigative teams were already in position and even sent cars to pick them up.

What followed would be an unseen but intensively coordinated covert investigation.

None of the corporations that Tike promised to channel benefits to old Vincent could escape.

Bai Xiaosheng dispatched Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying to investigate, while he returned to the residence, where he happened to run into Hou Yuncheng.

The latter showed concern a few times, and Bai Xiaosheng shared some news of the smooth cooperation with him.

Other than that, nothing more was said.

After all, this was "internal affairs," involving internal strife within the group, making it inappropriate to speak of to outsiders.

Upon hearing that everything was going reasonably well, Hou Yuncheng immediately congratulated Bai Xiaosheng.

Meanwhile, while these two were chatting, Mr. Tike was making a report to Mr. Brown.

In fact, this report should have been made hours earlier, but unfortunately, Mr. Brown had a friend visiting, and their conversation lasted several hours, resulting in Tike only being able to report now.

After hearing Tike's report, Mr. Brown couldn't help but let out a few cold laughs.

"That old Vincent is really crafty. The conditions he laid out were quite hefty, and the partners he wants are all big enterprises on our side!"

"I agreed to all of them as per your instructions. Did I agree to too much?" Tike asked, seemingly a bit concerned.

Mr. Brown was unconcerned, "Vincent's group is not a small company. For them to forsake cooperation with Bai Xiaosheng's side is already offending Bai Xiaosheng. Of course, Vincent would demand a lot. For those big enterprises he specifically asked for, we will cooperate, but we shouldn't give away too much profit."

Tike respectfully nodded, "I understand, Mr. Brown."

"I have no idea how that old Vincent picked those companies, but he's got quite an eye for it," Mr. Brown muttered.

And why not, since they were all enterprises managed by Cilio, and over the years, those companies have performed outstandingly in the African region.

Beside him, Tike displayed a simple and gentle smile.

"Alright, go about your business," Mr. Brown said, not bothering to look at Tike as he waved him away while reviewing documents.

Tike courteously nodded and peacefully exited.

Outside, Tike encountered Cilio, who was coming over again, with the latter still maintaining an unfriendly demeanor.

However, Tike greeted him warmly and sincerely with a smile, "Mr. Cilio, Mr. Brown was just asking for you, saying that your companies need to cooperate so that we can secure a major partner together."

"What kind of partner requires our cooperation? I can manage it alone." Cilio continued with a half-smiling, unfriendly tone.

Without waiting for Tike to say more, Cilio brushed past him and headed to Mr. Brown's office.

Tike wisely shut his mouth, smiling at Cilio, and turned away quietly.

However, as he turned his back on Cilio, the smile that Tike usually wore gradually faded.

After all, no one is naturally good-natured...

That night.

In his room at the business group's residence, Bai Xiaosheng received the first report from Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

It had only been a few hours, and their actions were incredibly quick.

Of course, this was mainly due to the high efficiency of the headquarters' monitoring department staff.

Moreover, in some of the companies under investigation, there were also headquarter personnel, which made the investigation smoother with inside help.

Even Bai Xiaosheng did not expect that within just half a day of investigation, they would uncover such severe issues.

If a thorough investigation were conducted, who knows what other problems might be found.

"Oh, Mr. Brown, this is the state of the group under your management!" Bai Xiaosheng muttered to himself, his expression turning cold as he furrowed his brow.

Previously, he respected Mr. Brown as a meritorious veteran and held him in high regard, naturally showing courtesy.

But it seems that kindness should no longer be extended!

Perhaps, Mr. Brown himself harbors extremely serious and egregious issues.

If major problems with Mr. Brown were revealed, Bai Xiaosheng's own score might immediately surge to a remarkable level, potentially reaching the vice-chairman level!

Bai Xiaosheng was really fueled with anger and battling spirit by the investigation.

However, once he calmed down a bit, he stepped out onto the balcony, gazing at the night sky and the twinkling stars, his gaze flickering with uncertainty.

Reflecting on the matter, he couldn't shake the feeling that something was amiss.

That night, Bai Xiaosheng fell asleep while pondering these matters.

Over the following two days.

The members of the Huaxia Business Group conducted visits and inspections in various cities and enterprises in Xisuli, each actively participating.

Only Bai Xiaosheng stayed indoors for two days, not stepping out of his residence. When asked, he replied that he was busy preparing for cooperation with the Winsmo Group, leaving no time for anything else.

Fortunately, the Winsmo Group ranked among the top five enterprises in Xisuli and even showed potential to break into the top three this year. Engaging in major collaboration with them was deemed more impactful than dealing with a dozen smaller enterprises, so others understood.

During these two days, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying sent updates on their investigation progress and electronic versions of their reports to Bai Xiaosheng's phone regularly.

It must be noted that Wen Yan provided substantial assistance, and even mobilized nearly one-third of the staff from the department in the African region within these two days, unlocking previously sealed data to provide full support here.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but joke amidst her busy schedule while talking to Bai Xiaosheng, "Xiaosheng, do you think Mr. Wen Yan is so willing to help us—specifically you—because he wants you to take a higher position, reaching a point where you surpass him? Maybe he is tired of his current role and wants you to move up? Maybe your achievements might increase the department's achievements, allowing him to rise even further."

Given Wen Yan's status at the Zhenbei Group headquarters, he was already on par with vice-chairmen, possessing authority over them. If he were to advance further, his only option would be to become the acting chairman.

However, regarding the acting chairman of the group, Bai Xiaosheng surprisingly had never seen the person, and no one had ever mentioned the name. All he knew was the chairman was often traveling and had never appeared in the news. Bai Xiaosheng once inadvertently asked Jiang Kuo or Soruns, and they both said it was at Mr. Situ Yin's behest, who was the old chairman's secretary. They all had promised not to speak about it, not even in private.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't overly curious about such things, so he let it go.

This was undoubtedly the strangest affair Bai Xiaosheng had ever considered.

Returning to the current matter, over the past two days, the findings Bai Xiaosheng had seen were enough to hold accountable the heads of four out of six companies, and as for the remaining two, a direct public investigation could be requested.

Bai Xiaosheng believed that Wen Yan's side also gained this information.

Before and after, in the African region of the group, already over a dozen companies had been found with significant issues.

This was no longer a small matter, and senior accountability was necessary!

Bai Xiaosheng was contemplating whether to communicate with Wen Yan and raise the level of accountability targets.

The African region's Executive President, Mr. Tike, though lacking direct evidence, was culpable for severe oversight.

So was Mr. Brown!

However, mere oversight was insufficient to shake their positions.

While Bai Xiaosheng pondered when to contact Wen Yan for a discussion, he received a report from Lin Weiwei.

The contents of the report were brief but immediately captured Bai Xiaosheng's attention.

The report mentioned that irrespective of the prior problematic enterprises or the recent problematic batch, all were directly under one individual's responsibility.

That individual was the Executive Vice President of the Group's Africa Region - Cilio!

Additionally, the report noted that Cilio's father was none other than Mr. Brown, the Regional Business President of the Group in Africa!

"I was already curious, how does this African region even have an Executive Vice President! This is... a father-son team on the battlefield!"

Upon seeing this, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but squint slightly, "Cilio, huh!"

Chapter 2427 - The Clever Ones

This day, in the morning, Brown and his son Cilio were having breakfast together. The atmosphere at the table was a bit dull, not just because of etiquette; the two ate in silence due to the already intricate father-son relationship, seldom communicating over the years.

Even if they did talk, it often ended on a combative note.

Brown felt his son should learn to be low-key, understand the importance of restrained words and actions, and quietly develop his own strengths.

Cilio, on the other hand, was more ambitious and adventurous, believing that both his father and Tike lacked the boldness expected of leaders.

In the workplace, Cilio's ambitions weren't limited to merely becoming an executive president; he aimed to surpass his father and achieve something greater.

Of course, before surpassing that position, he first had to obtain that position.

This was tied to his father's support for Tike, who would secure that position before him, making Cilio increasingly dissatisfied.

"I've been here for several days, leaving tonight to return to the North American headquarters," Mr. Brown said, setting down his knife and fork and wiping his mouth with a napkin.

Cilio didn't even lift his head, merely uttering an "hmm" as acknowledgment.

Apart from publicly showing obedience the day he welcomed his father, this was his usual demeanor in private.

Mr. Brown frowned, warning, "This time, I've embarrassed Bai Xiaosheng thrice in succession, and he's tolerated it. He's not simple. After I leave, be sure not to clash with him in any way; ideally, avoid any contact altogether. I'm confident in Tike, but with you, I must caution you!"

Cilio raised his brows and placed down his knife and fork, no longer eating. He also picked up the napkin to wipe his mouth.

"Your private matters, be they minor or major, had better be cleaned up thoroughly!"

Mr. Brown observed Cilio's casual demeanor and frowned, warning sternly.

Cilio sneered and looked at his father, "What could possibly be wrong with me? If you mean the collaboration with Caroline in North America, even now, I find it excellent, despite being slightly non-compliant with so-called rules! I and my people took something, but it wasn't much! If the headquarters monitoring department doesn't exaggerate things, how can they prove their worth?"

Cilio argued confidently.

Mr. Brown looked at Cilio with a trace of anger, "Don't you realize your mistake? If you're secretly embezzling, you must have the ability to clean it up thoroughly! This time, I've protected you, but what about next time? What if I step down? I've asked Tike to appoint prudent deputies for the enterprises under your control, just to prevent you and your chosen people from messing around. And yet, you drove away half of the people Tike picked for you for various reasons! Look now, the enterprises in trouble are those without anyone to caution them!"

Mr. Brown grew increasingly agitated as he spoke.

Cilio bristled with impatience as he listened.

"Father, I'm already the executive vice president of the African division, shouldn't I have full authority over basic personnel decisions? Do I still need someone acting as a spy in my managed enterprises? You trust Tike more than your own son! You even want to recommend him to succeed your position; I might as well resign!" Cilio retorted angrily.

"You!" Mr. Brown trembled with anger, pointing at Cilio, wishing he could hurl the plate in front of him.

This ungrateful brat had no idea of his father's good intentions!

His grooming of Tike was to shield Cilio from storms!

Having Tike select personnel to assist in overseeing Cilio's enterprises was also a form of protection!

But all those painstaking efforts were being treated like garbage!

Seeing his father's fiercely punitive stare, Cilio suddenly deflated, remaining silent.

Just then, Mr. Brown's phone on the table lit up, vibrating and buzzing.

It was a call.

Still fuming, Brown glanced at the phone and saw it was from a person at the group's headquarters, someone whose position wasn't as high, but held special status, someone he interacted with often and closely. Brown was catching his breath, not wanting to reveal distress, thus didn't answer, thinking he'd call back shortly.

But as soon as the call ended, another call came in from a different person at headquarters.

Before Brown could answer, another alert came in for a third call.

Not only were these calls multiplying, but a series of short messages were popping up rapidly.

Brown frowned immediately, sensing something unusual.

Without hurrying to check the messages, Brown first picked up a call.

The caller spoke urgently and briefly before hanging up.

Those few words were enough to change Brown's expression dramatically, with shock reflected in his eyes as he stood up abruptly.

Cilio was startled by his father's sudden actions, looking at him confusedly.

Brown's face was somewhat contorted as he set down the phone, gazing at Cilio with a deep, raspy voice, "Something has happened!"

Cilio watched his father in amazement; he had never seen the old man so "out of sorts."

Without needing his father to elaborate, within ten minutes, they received an official notice from the group's monitoring department.

The core points were as follows:

The group's African division's four enterprises were suspected of major illegal operations, severely damaging the group's interests, with conclusive evidence. The responsible parties have been officially sued by the group's legal team.

Chapter 2428 - Clever People (Part 2)

Another two companies are equally suspected, and their leaders have been suspended for further investigation.

All evidence was provided by Bai Xiaosheng, the second in command of the Supervisory Department, confirmed accurate by several vice chairmen. Bai Xiaosheng will also be fully responsible for the subsequent investigation.

Given that all involved and previously problematic companies are directly under the African Division's Executive Vice President, Cilio, he will be suspended for investigation immediately!

The African Division's Business President, Mr. Brown, will return to headquarters immediately to oversee his department's operations...

This notification content is undoubtedly shocking.

Simply put, major issues have again been found in several companies under Cilio's charge, Bai Xiaosheng initiated and is responsible for the investigation, Cilio is suspended, and Mr. Brown has to step aside...

"How could this happen!" Cilio knew all about the decision, his expression filled with panic.

Indeed, he had many issues, at the very least not being a qualified manager, and there were also personal profit motives. Once investigated, it would be a permanent stain, making it difficult to advance within the group.

"It's that Bai Xiaosheng, he actually... here, turned the tables on me!" Mr. Brown's face was ashen, and he slammed the dining table, ignoring the pain in his hand.

Bai Xiaosheng remained silent for two days, and unexpectedly gathered a wealth of evidence, enough to prosecute the leaders of four companies and initiate a public investigation into two more.

What kind of evidence did he actually secure!

"Cilio, what on earth have you done behind the scenes!" Mr. Brown immediately gritted his teeth and shouted at Cilio.

If this issue were minor, there definitely wouldn't be a need for the headquarters to insist on the avoidance process.

"My affairs..." Cilio's voice carried a hint of panic as he took a deep breath, "shouldn't be that severe. Those companies have people from Tike; how could I go overboard with them..."

Then, Cilio gritted his teeth and said, "It's definitely that Bai Xiaosheng, he must be exacting revenge after what happened to him with you! I believe he is using his connections in the headquarters to target our African Division! Remember how he caused chaos in the South American Division and North American Division every time he visited before!"

Mr. Brown squinted his eyes, a hint of coldness in them, "Is that so! If he dares to exaggerate minor issues, even if I have to face him in court at the headquarters, I absolutely cannot allow him to humiliate us like this!"

"Yes, take him to court at the headquarters!" Cilio shouted.

The emotionally indifferent father and son suddenly found common ground in this situation.

"Cilio, given that the problematic companies still have people chosen by Tike, there shouldn't be deep personal ties between you, right?" Mr. Brown, a seasoned merchant through countless storms, quickly calmed down and spoke in a deep voice.

Cilio quickly nodded, "Yes, I don't have those close interactions with them as I had with previous companies. After all, I can't trust Tike's people, and it's inconvenient."

At this point, Cilio was filled with resentment, saying harshly, "Those scoundrels must have colluded privately, using my name to act recklessly! How could they take several times the share when I only allowed them a portion? Scoundrels, daring to deceive me!"

Old Brown had no interest in Cilio's anger. Instead, hearing his words put his mind at ease, and he spoke calmly, "That's good. Their problems are their issues. Being suspended and investigated is just a procedural matter. After all, so many problematic companies fall under your jurisdiction, so the process still needs to be followed. Remember, don't panic! Make every effort to clear your connections with those company leaders!"

"Alright, I will." This time, Cilio was very obedient, responding repeatedly.

Old Brown thought for a moment, pointing at Cilio, "Go and summon Tike. There are matters I want to hold him and his people responsible for, and some responsibilities I want him to share on your behalf."

This could significantly alleviate the troubles weighing on Cilio.

Hearing this, Cilio immediately nodded, sneering, "That Tike has received too much favor from you, it's time he contributed something for us!"

Just as the father and son were discussing, the door to the room was knocked urgently.

Old Brown motioned for Cilio to silence, then raised his voice, "Come in!"

The door opened, and Tike hurried in, his warm, plump face full of anxiety. Seeing Old Brown and Cilio, he immediately exclaimed, "Mr. Brown, Cilio, something has happened! I just received news from headquarters..."

Cilio looked toward his father.

Old Brown wore an amiable expression, "Tike, don't worry, I already know the situation. I'm glad you're here, I actually need to discuss some matters with you..."

Tike immediately stepped forward, speaking earnestly, "Mr. Brown, whatever you need, please feel free to instruct. In this critical moment, I will do my utmost to help us get through this tough time!"

Hearing this, Old Brown was extremely pleased.

Cilio looked at Tike, and his expression turned less disdainful.

This chubby man was indeed quite sensible...

Meanwhile, in America, at the Zhenbei Group headquarters, in Vice Chairman Morgan's office.

Caroline was having coffee with Vice Chairman Morgan.

Behind closed doors, they spoke openly.

"I really didn't expect that Bai Xiaosheng, having just arrived in the African Division for a few days, has already achieved so much. If his achievements continue to grow, he might soon be on equal footing with me." Vice Chairman Morgan said with a half-smile.

Caroline laughed immediately, "What you say, even if he topples Old Brown and turns the African Division upside down, he can't possibly compare his accomplishments with yours."

Vice Chairman Morgan was just joking and laughed it off. Although Bai Xiaosheng was indeed excellent, reaching what he said would take decades.

"I also didn't expect Bai Xiaosheng would actually dare to act against Old Brown and his son. That old thing concedes to me too." Vice Chairman Morgan sneered, "I thought Bai was just another enemy, but I didn't expect this storm to escalate so much. If Cilio falls, could it mean the structure in the African Division will change as well?"

Caroline laughed, "Indeed. Even if Old Brown doesn't want to step down, his health won't hold for many more years. Without Cilio, he will have to support Tike to hold power."

"A change in structure could be an opportunity for us, reducing a middle force and adding one of our supporters. In this give and take, Lu Cheng'an and Li Yunyuan will have their hands full!" Vice Chairman Morgan couldn't help but feel a bit excited.

Caroline agreed with this.

"It's a pity, Old Brown is quite a formidable character, but his son falls far short." Caroline murmured, "However, it's always dangerous when someone not very smart thinks they are intelligent. Of course, the truly clever, like Bai Xiaosheng and Old Brown, aren't always wise, aren't always insightful. The smart tricked by their own intelligence!"

Old Morgan laughed heartily, raising his cup, "Come, to the clever ones!"

Caroline also smiled and raised her cup.

At the same time.

Bai Xiaosheng was having breakfast while listening to Lin Weiwei's report, and Lei Ying had not yet returned.

"The official notification from headquarters has been issued. I bet Old Brown and Mr. Cilio must be looking extremely grim. Serves them right for their malpractices and for daring to provoke you, Xiaosheng!" Lin Weiwei seemed quite pleased with their misfortune.

Bai Xiaosheng ate while responding, "This time, we owe it to Mr. Wen Yan's prompt actions. He quickly found several vice chairmen and spoke with Mr. Situ Yin, otherwise Old Brown might not have been affected. However, even so, Mr. Wen Yan mentioned that people still felt the need to preserve some dignity for Old Brown."

"Why should they? His son ended up like that! I don't believe he knew nothing and was completely uninvolved; he should also be investigated!" Lin Weiwei objected.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile.

Things are not that simple.

But once Cilio's issues are confirmed, he'll lose his position, and Old Brown will be urged to retire.

This outcome is acceptable.

As they were talking, they suddenly sensed someone approaching quickly, prompting Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei to look up, seeing a shadow looming.

The newcomer was Lei Ying.

Lei Ying "slapped" a pile of papers on the table and excitedly said, "Look what I found!"

"What is it?" Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei curiously picked them up to check.

Lei Ying grabbed Bai Xiaosheng's unfinished breakfast and began eating, speaking while munching, "I found clues from the second-in-command of the company I was investigating. Following the trail, we can expose all of Cilio's malpractices over the years. Investigating this will definitely be his downfall!"

Chapter 2429 - Movements from All Sides

The new clue that Lei Ying brought back was indeed surprising. According to him, it came from the vice president of a company currently under investigation, providing evidence of that vice president and several others secretly plotting for personal gain.

But it was precisely these secret dealings between the second-in-command of the companies that remarkably connected to unveil more, even more worthwhile clues to investigate, unearthing things they hadn't previously uncovered, or perhaps things covered up by the companies' top leaders.

The most unexpected part is that these findings also revealed secrets at a higher level, pointing directly to the next level up in these companies, meaning the sword is aimed at the Executive Vice President of the Group's African Division—Cilio!

Lin Weiwei flipped through those documents, her eyes practically sparkling with delight.

"Xiaosheng, this is really like someone delivering a pillow to you right when you're drowsy. If we keep investigating this line, Cilio won't be able to escape this time! Even his father, Mr. Brown, the President of the African Division, won't be able to save him from punishment like last time!"

While stuffing his mouth with Bai Xiaosheng's breakfast, Lei Ying excitedly said, "I've already arranged for people to follow up on some of it. This time, we need to act quickly so they have no time to react. In the world of martial arts, there's nothing unbreakable, with speed being invincible!"

Lin Weiwei nodded repeatedly at Lei Ying's words, looking as if she agreed wholeheartedly, almost wanting to clap high-five with Lei Ying in celebration.

Bai Xiaosheng remained very composed, smiling while listening to the two, his eyes still roving over the pages of clues.

"Xiaosheng, why do you look...not too happy," Lin Weiwei noticed Bai Xiaosheng's expression, and couldn't help but mutter.

"He's ultimately someone in a high position, doesn't show exuberance in appearance, that's how it should be," Lei Ying joked with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng kept a calm look, shook his head, and murmured, "With so many vice presidents and executives in the group engaging in shady dealings, uncovering this is a good thing, but feeling really happy about it... How can one be happy. After all, we still have to stay on this big ship of the group for the long haul. Seeing rat holes and ant nests everywhere, and holes all over, it's not just disgusting, but also infuriating."

With Bai Xiaosheng saying this, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged glances and quieted down a bit.

"Alright, I'm just saying. Anyway, whatever happens, we've made great progress this time! Let's not dwell on the unhappy stuff!" Bai Xiaosheng set the materials down on the table and said to the two with a smile, "Come, let's eat first! After the meal, we'll sit down and plan well. Next, let's hurry with the investigation, just as Lei Ying said, act fast and catch them off guard!"

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded immediately.

While they were eating, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "We've been staying here in Xisuli with the business group for quite some time. I think we'll likely head out in the next couple of days. I have to leave with the group, and for the investigations, I can't help much, so I'll have to trouble you two to do the running around."

Lin Weiwei immediately laughed, "Xiaosheng, no need to be so formal with us, it's our duty. Besides, it's not like the two of us are fighting alone this time, having to do everything ourselves. Look, we have supervision department staff everywhere, coordinating inside and out, with at least a hundred people including external associates. It's not hard or exhausting! Plus, you know, through this operation, we really learned a lot."

"Indeed," Lei Ying added, "don't worry, we'll handle this beautifully and give you a satisfying answer."

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He naturally believed that these two would not let him down.

After breakfast, they chatted a bit more, and then Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying got up together to leave, to investigate new clues and new directions.

Bai Xiaosheng sat quietly by himself for a while, pondering for over ten minutes, then took out his phone and chatted with someone through a messaging app for a while, before getting up to leave.

When Bai Xiaosheng left, his steps were steady, neither rushed nor slow.

In terms of investigation, speed is indeed imperative.

But the waiting process for the investigation cannot be hurried; one must remain calm and steady.

By noon, Hou Yuncheng's secretary notified Bai Xiaosheng that the business group would move to the next country by the evening.

During these days, the other members of the business group had reportedly made substantial gains.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng's side also had significant gains, as he had formed a strategic partnership with the Winsmo Group, incorporating them into his Global Business Alliance, which was an enormous achievement.

As he was having lunch, Wen Yan called Bai Xiaosheng to inquire about the current work progress and understand some situations.

Actually, Wen Yan might not be wholly unaware of the happenings here, as after all, those supervision staff ultimately take orders from him, but he still needed to technically 'hear' things from Bai Xiaosheng, which indeed involved the subtle art of dealing with people.

Bai Xiaosheng had a lengthy conversation with Wen Yan over the phone.

Some situations and Bai Xiaosheng's plans, coming from Bai Xiaosheng's mouth, indeed left Wen Yan surprised.

"I had always been worried, Xiaosheng, that you're too eager to excel, wanting to seize this chance to shine brightly, but I didn't expect you to be so meticulous and steady. Now I'm relieved! Go ahead with your plans, and if you need any support, just let me know!" Wen Yan said candidly over the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng naturally expressed his gratitude.

From Wen Yan, Bai Xiaosheng also learned that Mr. Brown was on his flight back to headquarters, expected to arrive at Ganande's headquarters by evening.

This time, the situation was serious, with multiple vice-chairmen at headquarters simultaneously signing and issuing the notice, Mr. Brown did not delay and returned promptly.

Chapter 2430 - Movements from All Sides (2)

It was somewhat unexpected, but upon reflection, it wasn't surprising.

Mr. Brown defying orders to not return proved futile and might cost those vice chairmen their reputation. In such a case, the situation would be even less favorable for him and his son.

Besides, returning allows him to maneuver freely.

Being such a clever man, Mr. Brown naturally wouldn't make such a rookie mistake.

It is believed that when Mr. Brown returns, he will surely leverage his connections within the group's high ranks to mediate. By then, a few vice chairmen might even be persuaded to switch their support to him.

There are too many significant changes here; relying solely on thoughts and guesses won't do. It's better to take it step by step and react accordingly.

Wen Yan also reminded that currently, it is unclear who is manipulating public opinion at headquarters, but the discussions regarding this matter are buzzing loudly with negative impacts. Regardless of the outcome, Cilio's reputation will inevitably suffer, making any future promotions within the group unlikely.

After speaking with Wen Yan, Bai Xiaosheng remained silent for a while, fiddled with his phone for a bit.

Throughout the afternoon, Bai Xiaosheng had nothing to do, it was even considered "tranquil."

For one thing, there was nothing happening with the group, and on the other hand, there was no work-related matters, as well as no news from Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Aside from playing with his phone and chatting with acquaintances, Bai Xiaosheng took a sufficient afternoon nap, quietly read for a while, enjoying the rare leisure.

Although Bai Xiaosheng was at ease, across the ocean, Caroline was continuing discussions with Vice Chairman Morgan regarding the fate and future of the group's African region.

Bai Xiaosheng was deemed to have "started a head" in the African region, successfully entangling Brown and his son into the whirlpool, yet Caroline and Vice Chairman Morgan were not idle, their forces were clandestinely fanning the flames.

Mr. Brown, the President of African region operations, was always in poor health with intentions of retiring early, even if he tries to withstand the upheaval, he won't last long. Once his son Cilio's issues are confirmed, the group's headquarters highest meeting will not permit him to remain in that position.

Mr. Brown stepping down is only a matter of time.

Executive Vice President Cilio of the African region is the core of this turmoil; once he is removed from the high ranks, a power vacuum between the father-son duo might arise in the group's African division.

At that time, whoever ascends, whether "Eastward" or "Westward," will affect the group's long-standing "balance" at headquarters.

Lu Cheng'an and Li Yunyuan are definitely keeping a close eye, probably scheming to intervene.

And in this matter, it's evident that Caroline and Vice Chairman Morgan played a superior game from the start, subtly steering things.

Behind closed doors, the two discussed the matter without reservation, as this was a frank dialogue between two "steadfast allies" —

"Rather than aiding old Mr. Brown and Vice President Cilio to overcome difficulties, a blessing in disguise, I feel that adding fuel to the fire better serves our interests and suits my palate."

Caroline remarked while swirling the cup in her hand, sipping the Vice Chairman Morgan's wine worth tens of thousands of US Dollars, smiling.

Vice Chairman Morgan also responded with a relaxed smile, but he cautioned, "Make sure no one notices our involvement in this matter. Whatever needs to be done, instruct your people to execute subtly. If Bai Xiaosheng and his team don't catch on, prod them again, bit by bit, patiently, ensure we aren't dragged into this! Mr. Brown, though a cornered beast, still has two sharp old teeth!"

"Rest assured, I've arranged everything." Caroline smiled brightly, her teeth neat and white.

Vice Chairman Morgan chuckled self-deprecatingly, "It's unexpected that in investigating the Brown father-son duo, we would inadvertently 'collaborate' with Bai Xiaosheng's team. Truly unexpected, and old Mr. Brown would never have anticipated this either. Alas, it's the natural selection decision."

Caroline nodded in agreement with a smile.

Moving forward, when Bai Xiaosheng's team conducts investigations, they will discreetly provide some covert driving force and support, speeding things up on that end.

Even if old Mr. Brown returns to headquarters, trying to resolve this matter amicably, they would feign compliance yet secretly sabotage.

Ultimately, old Mr. Brown and Cilio must be removed.

Afterward, Vice Chairman Morgan and Caroline had a pleasant chat, imagining the "future" of the group's African region without old Mr. Brown and Cilio.

The pair enjoyed their drink with laughter.

...

In the evening, the Huaxia Business Group hosted a farewell banquet for them in Moribido City, officially setting off to the next country, region.

Due to the short distance, the group traveled by business bus, escorted by a convoy arranged by Xisuli, and would arrive at the next destination in four hours.

Sitting in the car, Bai Xiaosheng closed his eyes to rest, though his mind was occupied with investigations concerning those enterprises within the group.

The investigation ultimately pointed to Cilio, essentially declaring open war against old Mr. Brown, the President of African region operations.

Whether Bai Xiaosheng intentionally did this or not, it would be interpreted by some with malicious intent to generate animosity towards him.

During a daytime conversation with Wen Yan, Bai Xiaosheng already learned that headquarters is currently bustling with commotion; many are deliberately extolling his "bravery," fearless of power, daring to openly challenge Mr. Brown.

Of course, there are also those spreading negative comments, accusing Bai Xiaosheng of seeking fame, entirely finding trouble with the Brown father-son duo for more achievements, even meticulously listing Bai Xiaosheng's endeavors to stir up the group's South America and North America regions, all for his own fame and status, so on.

Regarding these, Bai Xiaosheng was indifferent.

He could even guess who is scheming behind the scenes.

This not only provokes old Mr. Brown's animosity towards Bai Xiaosheng but also encourages Bai Xiaosheng to investigate more aggressively while ensuring he doesn't receive too much positive reputation.

Needless to say, those spreading rumors clandestinely are certainly conflicted.

Thinking about this, Bai Xiaosheng chuckled quietly, shaking his head slightly.

Thinking too much inevitably makes the mind a bit dizzy and swollen, so after pondering for a while, Bai Xiaosheng decided not to think about it anymore, leaning against the seat to take a nap.

...

Just as Bai Xiaosheng and his group set off, a flight landed at Ganande International Airport.

With eyes closed resting in his seat, Mr. Brown suddenly opened his eyes, bright with energy.

Glancing at the lights outside the cabin window of Ganande, old Mr. Brown couldn't help but mutter to himself, "Back! This grand stage intertwines light and shadow, enemies may not be in the dark, and friends may not be in the open! Cilio, this ordeal might not necessarily be bad for you! You becoming the regional President at headquarters? Far from it! Far from it indeed!"

Upon disembarking, leaving the airport, dozens of people came to greet old Mr. Brown.

Friends, colleagues, departmental subordinates, everyone wore a face of concern, exchanging pleasantries and warmth.

Old Mr. Brown responded politely to each with a smile, but internally saw clearly—among these people, who were genuine and who were deceitful was uncertain.

Those showing concern might be eager for his early downfall.

Once the greetings were over, old Mr. Brown joined the group heading to the designated banquet venue.

In the car, old Mr. Brown showed no smile, speaking coldly to his secretary, "I gave you a list, are those people attending tonight's event?"

With his son undergoing investigation, as a father, he couldn't possibly have a cheerful mood to attend a party, yet old Mr. Brown had to proceed with such activities.

First, to network, and secondly, to show outsiders—the old man is calm and unafraid of investigation!

Old Mr. Brown's secretary hurriedly presented a piece of paper, with a list of names, some underlined in pencil.

"The guests without a check mark said they have matters tonight and cannot attend, expressing apologies to you." The secretary said cautiously, seemingly afraid of reprimand.

Old Mr. Brown silently reviewed the names on the list, roughly a third didn't show up, but the remainder still honored his reputation.

"These people truly are self-preserving. Those who attended, who knows how many out there wouldn't, dare to offer help to me!"

Old Mr. Brown chuckled to himself, "I'm not even a bit surprised!"