

Two Trillion 2471

Chapter 2471 - Brown's Conditions

Mr. Brown made his attitude clear to Bai Xiaosheng and said he would fully support Bai Xiaosheng for the rest of his career. Winning the support of a major regional executive is naturally a great benefit for Bai Xiaosheng.

However, Mr. Brown also has one condition for this support.

"Mr. Brown, please go ahead." Bai Xiaosheng neither agreed nor refused but thought it would be best to listen first to see what kind of conditions Mr. Brown might have.

Mr. Brown did not show any displeasure at Bai Xiaosheng's attitude, saying gently, "What do you think of my son, Mr. Cilio, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng?"

Cilio?

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and asked, "Do you want the truth?"

"The truth!" Mr. Brown responded decisively.

Bai Xiaosheng was even more direct, "Reckless, and dumb!"

As soon as this assessment was made, the driver, who was driving for Mr. Brown, almost lost control of the steering wheel and couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng in the rearview mirror.

To evaluate someone's son in front of their father like this isn't just rude; it's outright insulting.

At the same time, the driver felt indignant.

After all, Mr. Cilio is Mr. Brown's son, and he's quite impressive in certain respects. How could someone say that about him?

It sounded like Mr. Cilio was being portrayed as a foolish brute.

In face of such an evaluation from Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Brown did not show any big reaction, "Oh, is that how you see him, Mr. Bai?"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke unhurriedly, "Based on our investigative materials, the enterprises Mr. Cilio manages lean toward aggressive business strategies, boldly capturing market share, and maximizing short-term profits. He seems eager to showcase his business acumen and fulfill his ambitions. We've learned that Mr. Cilio emphasizes overall control while neglecting detailed management, giving people opportunities to exploit. The enterprises he manages tend to superficially obey him while defying him underneath. Taken together, such short-sightedness can indeed be seen as reckless."

Mr. Brown nodded.

"We've also learned that many of Mr. Cilio's confidants were actually planted by Tike, and many of the constructive strategies at the company level were provided to Cilio by them. Although they sound good, there is always room for covert manipulation. In this sense, Tike has been secretly orchestrating Cilio's affairs. Failing to recognize the right people and being manipulated unknowingly, wouldn't that indeed warrant the label 'dumb'?"

Mr. Brown nodded again.

"Besides, there is also the issue of Cilio's greed. Naturally, while he uses some of his gains for personal enjoyment, he also shares the rest with those around him, attempting to establish an incentive system. Unfortunately, his companions were other people's men, and such attempts at winning hearts proved useless, instead giving others an excuse to exploit more under his name."

Mr. Brown smiled wryly at Bai Xiaosheng's words and sighed, "It's also partly my fault. In recent years, I thought he was capable of handling things independently, so I delegated many matters to him."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Mr. Brown, you know, I actually think you delegated too late, and you were probably too harsh with Mr. Cilio in the past."

Bai Xiaosheng's words made Mr. Brown shift slightly to have a better look at him.

"Why do you think so?"

"From Mr. Cilio's behavior, I detect a sense of urgency—a desire to demonstrate his capabilities and prove to you that he has matured into an outstanding businessman and a competent leader," Bai Xiaosheng said leisurely. "At his age, having such an urgent mindset surely proves you delegated too late. I have a reason to believe that although Cilio held significant positions in the past, all decisions had to be run by you for approval. Such sheltering deeply affected his character."

Mr. Brown remained silent for a long time, then let out a heavy sigh, tacitly acknowledging Bai Xiaosheng's words.

"Oh, you haven't mentioned the conditions for supporting me yet." Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Mr. Brown smiled wryly.

"Now that you've pointed out how unimpressive Cilio is, I hesitate to speak up," Mr. Brown said.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head directly, with a "don't blame me" attitude, and spread his hands, "I never said Mr. Cilio had no redeeming qualities. Truth be told, aside from his shortcomings, I quite admire him."

Hearing this, Mr. Brown looked at Bai Xiaosheng in astonishment.

Just a moment ago, Bai Xiaosheng's "reckless and dumb" evaluation carried no positive tone, and now he suddenly claimed to admire Cilio.

"As I mentioned, Mr. Cilio is still remarkable in terms of overall control. Despite his aggressive actions, he succeeds more than he fails, which shows his extraordinary ability. Unfortunately, this is undermined from below, with many good decisions lacking effective implementation, besides his inability to discern people, compounded by Tike's deliberate manipulation," Bai Xiaosheng explained. "That being the case, if Mr. Cilio is given tasks without involving him in personnel matters, wouldn't it be fine?"

Mr. Brown's expression brightened.

"The condition you mentioned, I guess, is that you want me to help arrange Mr. Cilio's future path, right," Bai Xiaosheng said. "After all, given your poor health and advanced age, I say with all due respect that even if you hold on, you'll need to retire in a few years. By then, if Cilio doesn't have your protection, he'll need a place to establish himself and people to support him. I think the reason you chose to support me is to ask for my help, isn't that correct?"

"So, you figured it out," Mr. Brown did not deny it.

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and said, "Although Mr. Cilio hasn't committed any grave sins, there is indeed misconduct in leveraging his position, and he's currently suspended. I think even if the vice-chairmen consider your favor and don't pursue this matter, they certainly won't allow him to regain a high position, which means there's no path for Mr. Cilio's return to the group, and you know that."

Chapter 2472 - Brown's Terms (2)

"So what else do you require from me regarding Mr. Cilio? It shouldn't be just for the sake of my group's resources."

Bai Xiaosheng said, "As for my resources in Asia, Europe, and America, I think you may not feel completely assured and might find them too distant. It's easier to keep an eye on Cilio here. So, should I assume that your conditions are related to my business plans in Bichi City? After all, it's not something overly discreet."

After Bai Xiaosheng's reasoning, Mr. Brown couldn't help but scrutinize Bai Xiaosheng with a serious expression and exclaimed, "I heard that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng is extraordinarily wise, beyond the ordinary, and now I see it indeed!"

Bai Xiaosheng waved his hand and laughed, "You flatter me. Regarding Mr. Cilio, I'm willing to help. I can even make him one of the main persons in charge of my commercial affairs in Bichi City. However, given his current lack of personnel skills, I think he should only be responsible for directions and strategy-related matters."

Without a doubt, Bai Xiaosheng intended to position Cilio as a "handsome talent," which was a considerable gesture towards Mr. Brown. However, not dealing with personnel affairs meant that the

real power was still controlled by Bai Xiaosheng, and for matters concerning direction and strategy, the final decision would still be made by Bai Xiaosheng.

Once Cilio joined, naturally, Mr. Brown would give maximum support to the business activities in Bichi City.

What a well-calculated plan! Mr. Brown couldn't help but marvel secretly.

Among the younger generation, Bai Xiaosheng was one of the three extraordinarily wise individuals he had ever met.

Bai Xiaosheng, Wen Yan, and the group's deputy executive chairman whom he hadn't seen for a long time!

If there was an opportunity, he would love to see the three of them sit together and engage in a battle of wits.

Of course, these thoughts in Mr. Brown's mind were somewhat jesting.

"Mr. Brown, if you have any more requests, feel free to bring them up. If you're not satisfied with what I just proposed, we can continue to discuss slowly." Bai Xiaosheng spoke kindly with a smile.

"No need, one should know contentment. I'm already very grateful for Mr. Bai's arrangements." Mr. Brown laughed, "I believe that when Mr. Xiaosheng sees Cilio's ability and growth in the future, he will surely put it to good use."

At this, Bai Xiaosheng nodded immediately, "I guarantee with my integrity that I will surely fully utilize Mr. Cilio's talents!"

Hearing this, Mr. Brown broke into a smile.

A blessing in disguise.

Cilio's present setback was due to past causes and effects, but for him, it might not necessarily be a bad thing.

Mr. Brown could see clearly that Cilio had become completely transformed after leaving the court, as if he had been reborn from the fire. To his surprise, he even apologized and expressed gratitude to him, as if he had realized the depths of the workplace.

It's not too late!

Compared to the lost position, Mr. Brown felt more gratified by Cilio's growth after this shock.

In the days that followed, Mr. Brown decided to polish Cilio well.

Then send him to Bai Xiaosheng for real training.

Mr. Brown believed that in ten or twenty years, his son would definitely achieve great things in the business world, accomplishing far more than himself.

In fact, Mr. Brown was not wrong. Ten years later, Cilio would be among the few standing at the pinnacle of Africa's business circles.

Of course, these are future happenings, so let's not delve into that now.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng had many more conversations with Mr. Brown, including his commercial plans in Bichi City.

Mr. Brown was equally amazed by Bai Xiaosheng's boldness and grand scale, and his resolve to support Bai Xiaosheng became even firmer in his heart—

This young man, if he continues to grow like this, has unlimited potential. Cilio, by following him, will certainly have more opportunities and encounters in life.

Moreover, for Cilio to return to the business world and achieve success in the future, he would undoubtedly rely on Bai Xiaosheng's commercial plans in Bichi City.

Hence, Mr. Brown actively participated and indicated to Bai Xiaosheng which ideas, though ingenious, lacked substantial support, and where he could offer help, allowing projects to be launched immediately.

With Mr. Brown, a local heavyweight, fully participating, Bai Xiaosheng was naturally very pleased.

The two of them chatted all the way until they reached the residence of the business delegation, with a lingering feeling of having more to say.

Mr. Brown specifically left a phone number for Bai Xiaosheng, suggesting that they should have more exchanges and communication in the future. The group enterprises in the Africa region would also actively participate, leading to mutual earnings—a delightful win-win situation.

As they got off the car and said goodbye, Cilio came over, seemingly having something to say to Bai Xiaosheng.

Mr. Brown intentionally stepped aside.

Initially feeling a bit embarrassed, Cilio finally blushed and thanked Bai Xiaosheng.

Given his character, thanking someone face-to-face must have required great courage, indicating that he had undergone a change of heart after this experience.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't say much, merely smiled, and took the initiative to shake Cilio's hand.

In the distance, Mr. Brown was actually listening with his ears pricked, a hint of a smile appearing on his lips.

After that, Bai Xiaosheng bid farewell to Mr. Brown and his son, watching their car leave.

Next, Bai Xiaosheng walked with Hou Yuncheng back to the residence.

"The matter is finally resolved satisfactorily," Hou Yuncheng said with a smile, "I also need to report quickly to the top. According to the schedule, we have to set off again tomorrow. By the way, will your commercial plans in Bichi City be affected, should we stay a few more days here?"

Bai Xiaosheng's business plan, with numerous major merchants, led by Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan, expressing their participation, joined today by Mr. Brown as a strong addition. It's all shaping up to be staggering in scale with promising prospects.

Just this one collaboration, involving enterprises from two continents and two countries, is enough to surpass all previous collaborations, which naturally garners great attention from Hou Yuncheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "The matter is already progressing in an orderly manner, so I don't need to be there in person. I'll follow the group."

Since Bai Xiaosheng had decided as such, Hou Yuncheng didn't say much more and nodded.

Upon returning to the residence, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying came rushing over after hearing the news.

They had previously intended to go together to the trial site, but Bai Xiaosheng arranged for them to stay behind and prepare for the business matters in Bichi City.

Now that there's a result, the two were naturally eager to know the details.

Bai Xiaosheng concisely explained the situation to them.

In fact, before going, Bai Xiaosheng had already shared some of the details with them.

Knowing that Bai Xiaosheng and Mr. Brown set the stage together, their reactions were indeed remarkable.

Even though they knew Bai Xiaosheng would be fine and would win, after hearing the details Bai Xiaosheng provided, they couldn't help but exclaim continuously.

"That Tike is really ruthless, going for a deadly blow!"

"Unfortunately, he didn't anticipate you and Mr. Brown would join forces, and in the end, it backfired on him!"

"Ha, that Tike was so angry with you, Xiaosheng, that he fainted—he deserved it."

"From now on, the group is likely without someone like Tike..."

After discussing this matter, Bai Xiaosheng was just about to ask how the two were progressing on the tasks related to Bichi City when he heard a hurried knock on the door.

Thinking something had happened again, Lin Weiwei quickly went to open the door.

As it turned out, it was Hou Yuncheng's senior secretary who appeared at the door.

The secretary was visibly delighted, and as soon as he saw Bai Xiaosheng, he smiled and said, "Mr. Bai, we have received the latest news. The rare-earth company you previously negotiated with has proactively offered to cooperate with us. Several big companies that didn't come to terms before have also reached out to us. They are from Mr. Brown's side and said they want to cooperate under the best conditions for your sake. The leadership is happy, the higher-ups are satisfied, and Director Hou specifically sent me to share this great news with you!"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile wryly.

Mr. Brown had acted quickly and indeed created an opportunity to enhance his reputation and achievements.

At this moment, a prompt sound suddenly "rang" in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, accompanied by the voice of Red Lotus—

"Scoring, begin!"

Chapter 2473 - After the Incident

The second-phase investigation report Bai Xiaosheng submitted to the group headquarters is actually divided into two parts. The first half was sent to Mr. Tike by Brown, which Cilio saw. The content mostly pertains to previously investigated companies, largely related to Cilio, but to "moderately" provoke Tike, two companies, including Yorko, were added.

The latter half of the company's list consists entirely of newly discovered problematic companies, ninety percent of which are connected to Tike.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng never stopped investigating; up until the day of the trial, Bai Xiaosheng received a batch of strong evidence in the morning.

It can be said that if Tike had seen the second half of the report initially, he would not have been so reckless today. He would have surely found ways to protect himself first.

Before the trial, Bai Xiaosheng personally handed over the second half of the investigation report and the physical evidence to Wen Yan.

Right now, Bai Xiaosheng received another scoring alert from Red Lotus, not without reason, surely Wen Yan has taken action.

Thinking about it, Wen Yan should still be on the road now, acting like a swift wind, not delaying for a moment!

This kind of working style, Bai Xiaosheng likes.

Indeed, as Bai Xiaosheng expected, Red Lotus issued points, all due to the handling of the heads of those problematic companies.

"... In summary, all responsible persons of problematic companies have been handled, official notifications will be issued shortly, cumulative score gain—five points..."

With so many company heads being exposed, only five points were gained, which seems a bit low, but Bai Xiaosheng does not get discouraged because he knows there's still a big fish not yet scored—Tike!

Considering the previous investigation of Cilio and the points given by Red Lotus, Tike's score should be at least as high as if not higher.

"Former African Regional Executive President Tike, disregarding laws, embezzling group assets massively, corrupting senior group managers... jointly reported by headquarters inspector general Wen Yan, deputy Bai Xiaosheng, African Regional Business President Brown, reviewed and approved by the highest group meeting, the facts are clear, the evidence is conclusive. Tike is relieved of all duties and criminal responsibility will be pursued through legal channels."

Red Lotus's statement made Bai Xiaosheng quite emotional.

Firstly, Wen Yan and old Brown acted swiftly enough.

Secondly, the so-called joint reporting should be Wen Yan giving old Brown some face, naturally also sharing the pressure they both bear.

Mr. Tike, I guess he is still in the hospital now, I don't know if he's awake. If he receives the formal notification upon waking up, will he faint again...

Of course, that's his own fault, no one else to blame.

As Bai Xiaosheng was thinking, Red Lotus's voice sounded, "One regional executive president was investigated, earning score—ten points!"

This crisp announcement made Bai Xiaosheng involuntarily reveal a smile.

Ten points, at this moment, are more valuable to him than a billion!

"This scoring, total points earned is fifteen!"

"Current score is sixty-five at Business President level, thirty-five away from Vice Director level, please continue to work hard!"

Red Lotus ended with a crisp, pleasant voice.

Bai Xiaosheng once thought that upgrading to this point, making the next step to Vice Director level, would be incredibly difficult. Unexpectedly, with one trip to Africa, the scores he gained seemed like riding a rocket to the skies, rapidly reaching two-thirds of this stage's journey, leaving Bai Xiaosheng unable to conceal his joy.

However, the scores Bai Xiaosheng heard from Red Lotus are entirely within his mind, unknown to outsiders.

Moreover, this process is just very brief.

Right now, standing in front of Bai Xiaosheng is Hou Yuncheng's secretary, here to relay good news.

Old Brown's actions not only compensated for his previous refusal to cooperate, alleviating the negative impact and losses for Bai Xiaosheng and Huaxia Business Group, but he has further opened up his companies, preparing to actively meet and engage with the businessmen of the group.

These are all very good news.

The secretary, speaking with cheer, saw Bai Xiaosheng's smile emerge and naturally thought Bai Xiaosheng was happy about this matter, yet completely unaware that Bai Xiaosheng was just "daydreaming," having not listened to a single word of his "insignificant" talk...

Once the secretary finished, Bai Xiaosheng regained his composure and smiled at him, saying, "Alright, I know now. Thank you for going out of your way, I really appreciate it."

"It's my duty, it should be." The secretary replied, smiling brightly.

This time, due to Mr. Brown's change in attitude, the group's rewards cannot be said to be small, those following the delegation are all honored together, direct supervisors receive praise and attention, naturally, they bask in the glory as well, inevitably accumulating more political capital due to the successful outing, naturally happy.

Towards Bai Xiaosheng, who directly facilitated this outcome, naturally looking at him favorably.

Simultaneously, the secretary finds Bai Xiaosheng astonishing, deeply admiring him.

No businessman this young has ever stirred such a storm, overshadowing the likes of Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan.

Earlier, hearing that Bai Xiaosheng was stirring the North and South American business world, it was assumed to be some business legend.

This time, however, they personally experienced Bai Xiaosheng reversing the situation, causing old Brown and such figures to change their attitude.

Behind this, saying there's no hint of legendary undertones, no one would believe it, except that the unknown remains unknown, and those who know simply don't tell. It's precisely because of this "unknowable" that the matter seems like watching flowers through the fog, adding to the legend.

Chapter 2474 - After the Incident (2)

Therefore, the secretary treated Bai Xiaosheng, this young man, more politely than Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan, even with a hint of admiration in his eyes.

Having delivered the message, the secretary didn't stay long and took his leave.

Bai Xiaosheng, accompanied by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, saw him to the door.

After sending off the guest, the three turned around and returned to the room.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but laugh, "Mr. Brown seems to be thanking us for helping him clear his house, even offering reciprocal gifts, it's a bit like returning the favor."

Lei Ying chuckled lightly, "I think it's more of a small welcome gift for Xiaosheng as a partner."

After all, Bai Xiaosheng had mentioned to them that Old Brown seemed to want to entrust his son, Cilio, to him.

Of course, using the term "entrust" isn't quite appropriate...

Overall, it is about placing the bet on Bai Xiaosheng.

In this way, Bai Xiaosheng has gained another steadfast supporter at the group's headquarters, which is certainly a good thing.

"However, I'm still uneasy about Cilio as a person." Lin Weiwei couldn't help but hug her shoulders and mumble, "You all think, this person is poor at corporate management, greedy for success, reckless and autocratic, won't employing him be like a landmine?"

Lei Ying shrugged and looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

When it comes to employing people, it's up to Bai Xiaosheng.

If Bai Xiaosheng is willing, naturally, they have nothing to say.

Facing Lin Weiwei's worries, Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Don't worry, after this incident, learning from mistakes, there won't be a second time."

What Bai Xiaosheng said so definitively made Lin Weiwei want to retort a little, "Xiaosheng, do you really believe that Cilio can learn from his mistakes and not err again?"

"I was talking about Old Brown." Bai Xiaosheng left a sentence and walked towards the sofa.

Lin Weiwei thought blankly, seemingly understanding, she immediately laughed and went to find Bai Xiaosheng, "I get what you mean, you're saying Old Brown will oversee, and won't let him go astray again..."

While these two were having this conversation, beside them, Lei Ying frowned, rubbing his chin, full of contemplation.

Then, he actually mumbled to himself, "Zi Yue said she wants a child, preferably a son, so we can teach him martial arts together. But boys are so hard to raise, look at Old Brown still worrying about his son at such an age... better have a daughter! I should work on Zi Yue's mindset..."

...

Bai Xiaosheng, Wen Yan, and Old Brown jointly reported, and with conclusive evidence, the group's high-level management immediately convened a meeting, and unanimously passed the decision to deal with Tike, the Executive President of the Africa Division.

However, the subsequent meeting lasted an entire day, with no results in the agenda that followed.

The Africa Division suddenly had vacancies for both Executive and Deputy Executive President, which was undoubtedly a significant power gap. Using the excuse that the internal structure of the Africa Division needed restructuring and lacked suitable candidates, someone could be parachuted in to take charge.

Now indeed it is the best time to seize power!

Several Vice Chairmen each had varying thoughts, recommending different candidates, ending in no clear conclusion.

However, as the meeting was concluding, Old Brown submitted an application, stating that his lax governance led to the current unacceptable situation. Old Brown requested to demote himself to Africa Division Executive President while abolishing the Deputy Executive President role.

This move by Old Brown to retreat in order to advance was undoubtedly an attempt to firmly grasp the power of the Africa Division.

If things go as he wishes, whoever becomes the Business President of the Africa Division wouldn't dare instruct him or issue orders.

Additionally, Old Brown's proposal to eliminate the Africa Division Deputy Executive President position drew significant attention.

Actually, the Deputy Executive President position only existed in the Africa Division, its origin rooted in certain "historical" reasons, and also the strong request by Old Brown back in the day.

Eliminating that position carries no institutional barriers, and it even aligns better with the group's management framework.

But everybody is accustomed to it, and willing to see the vacancy as a power space to compete for, making it challenging to agree all of a sudden.

Just when everyone was discussing the document sent by Old Brown, Wen Yan also submitted a proposal.

Wen Yan also proposed to remove the position of the executive president of the Africa region.

However, he believed that the issue with the Brown father and son was due to Tike's interference. Cilio received deserved punishment but was also 'wronged,' and there was no need to compensate for the 'wronged' part. But Old Brown's righteousness, straightforwardness, and sincerity were evident to all.

Moreover, given that Old Brown's health condition is currently stable, Wen Yan suggested that Old Brown should remain as the president of operations, while also serving as the executive president until a suitable candidate emerges.

These two documents have intensified the division and controversy among the group's top management.

In the end, even the secretary of the old chairman, Situ Yin, was alerted and appeared at the meeting.

Situ Yin emphasized two points.

First, the old chairman had said that Old Brown has contributed to the group, and unless there is a significantly serious fault, everyone should insist he remains, with his position unchanged.

Second, everyone should fulfill their responsibilities, and before completing their own tasks, they should avoid being overly concerned about the appointment and removal rights in other regions. They can wait until Wen Yan and Old Brown arrive for further discussion.

The appearance of Situ Yin effectively ended the meeting.

This high-level headquarters meeting ended just as night fell, and the city lights began to glow. Various vice chairmen and headquarters executives returned home.

Of course, some people gathered together to discuss today's events.

Among them were Vice Chairman Morgan and Caroline.

At one of Vice Chairman Morgan's residences, he hosted Caroline to taste the craftsmanship of his newly hired private chef and "chat casually" along the way.

In the spacious dining room with classic decor, there was an extremely long dining table from the Middle Ages, definitely considered an antique, covered with a snow-white tablecloth, topped with candlesticks and flowers. Vice Chairman Morgan was on one end and Caroline on the other.

Amidst soothing and elegant music, the two enjoyed a tender veal steak.

Caroline loved eating medium-rare steak with its red juice, cutting it with a dining knife, using a fork to bring it to her mouth, opening her white teeth to send the "bloody" steak into her mouth, chewing slightly until it melted.

To the viewer, it was both beautiful and somewhat indescribable.

"Tike is an idiot; he underestimated Old Brown. That old fox makes me heighten my senses and feel full of vigilance. Yet, he still thought about plotting against Old Brown's son and pulling Old Brown down as well. How foolish!" Vice Chairman Morgan shook his head.

"So you feel regretful," Caroline smiled, "for losing such a potential ally."

Vice Chairman Morgan pursed his lips.

"He's not worth lamenting, but better not have us implicated! Today, I specially invited you to know how much contact you had with Tike over there, hope you aren't dragged into the whirlpool." Vice Chairman Morgan glanced at Caroline, then lowered his eyelids, digging out the meat of a baked snail on his plate.

Caroline wasn't in a hurry to answer, first picked up her wine glass, sipped the wine, nodded in intoxicated satisfaction, then put down the cup and said, "Rest assured, ever since Tike started targeting Bai Xiaosheng, I temporarily severed all contact over there, and have prepared contingencies in case something happens, all traces cut off! No one can trace back to me, even if they do, there is no evidence! Because I destroyed it all!"

Although Caroline spoke lightly, anyone who knew her must know her wrap-up was fierce, strict, and absolute, prioritizing her own "safety" above all.

Vice Chairman Morgan stared at Caroline for two seconds, eventually nodding.

Even he felt a little chilled by the ruthlessness behind this woman's delicate appearance.

"Moreover, about the Africa region, we shouldn't intervene, even if we want to, now isn't the time." Vice Chairman Morgan said again.

Caroline nodded in agreement.

"That Bai Xiaosheng, he has really risen to fame this time." Vice Chairman Morgan suddenly said.

Always stoic, only upon hearing this name did Caroline's expression slightly stiffen, her knife and fork pausing.

"This man deserves such fame," Caroline laughed, "Able to team up with Mr. Brown to pull off a beautiful counter-ambush on Tike, I must admit his move was beautiful."

"But the more so, the more he is a threat to us, isn't he." Vice Chairman Morgan said in a deep tone.

"That's why, to deal with someone like him, you absolutely cannot be a step ahead, but ten steps or eight steps ahead." Caroline smiled softly.

Vice Chairman Morgan looked at Caroline with interest, "What have you been busy with recently?"

Caroline shrugged, smiled, "Not much really, except planning to take a trip to Australia!"

Chapter 2475 - Summoned by the Prince

After leaving the country of Lekram, the Huaxia Business Group flew directly to the most important stop of their journey — the Western Chieftain Union.

On the plane, Hou Yuncheng sat next to Bai Xiaosheng and explained, "The Western Chieftain Union we are heading to now is not a single country, but rather a coalition of several chieftains and tribal leaders, similar in nature to the European Union."

Hou Yuncheng added, "Originally, in our planned African trip, the foreign affairs staff designated it as the primary destination, the first stop. Unfortunately, there were some diplomatic conflicts with them, so after consulting the other party, we scheduled it after visiting Lekram."

"Once we finish visiting there, we can return home."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded at these words.

"Don't think that our last stop will be easy; there are over twenty countries there, covering an area that is almost half of Africa. The economic development level of each country in the union varies greatly; the developed regions are comparable to the West, while agricultural countries are rich in natural resources and mineral deposits, making it our most important visit." Hou Yuncheng continued.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded once more.

In fact, all the details Hou Yuncheng mentioned had already been researched by Red Lotus and imprinted in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Bai Xiaosheng knew things far more detailed than what Hou Yuncheng had introduced.

Hou Yuncheng went on to provide more information, but seeing Bai Xiaosheng only nodding, he curiously look at him and said with a smile, "Don't you have anything to ask? Aren't you curious about the people, culture, and geography there? Ask me anything, I've read a lot of materials, and we can have a chat since we've still got a few hours to go and just sitting here is boring."

It was clear that Hou Yuncheng, the business group leader, had done quite a bit of homework before traveling.

At this moment, he seemed eager to showcase his knowledge to Bai Xiaosheng.

This side of Hou Yuncheng was something new and interesting to Bai Xiaosheng, also making him feel closer, not distant.

Bai Xiaosheng, feeling playful, smiled and said, "Director Hou, I used to love reading photography magazines and geography magazines, believe it or not, I know just as much as you do."

Those words were quite "arrogant."

Hou Yuncheng turned slightly, looked at Bai Xiaosheng, and smiled, "Alright then, let me test you. I'll ask and you answer, let's see how much useful knowledge you have."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and made a gesture of "please."

"Then tell me, when was the Western Chieftain Union established, how many secretaries-general have there been, which country is the most economically developed, and which has the richest mineral deposits?"

Hou Yuncheng started Bai Xiaosheng with some "basic" questions.

This couldn't stump Bai Xiaosheng.

When Hou Yuncheng finished speaking, Bai Xiaosheng began to answer calmly, giving all the correct answers in detail, without missing a single point.

"Great, then let me give you something tougher. Hey, if I stump you and you can't answer, you owe me breakfast tomorrow!" Hou Yuncheng smiled as he got more into it.

"Sure, but if I answer everything correctly, shouldn't you treat us then?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

After all, it was a long journey, and since they had time to spare, they might as well play.

"I can afford to treat, including your two companions, Weiwei and Lei Ying, right?" Hou Yuncheng said.

Their voices were loud enough to draw attention from the front and rear rows.

Those seated close to them weren't small figures, either Lu Yun or Jia Chengshan, or Dong Tianlu or Wang Xuantian, all were top-tier businessmen.

Seeing Hou Yuncheng and Bai Xiaosheng "get competitive," and witnessing this amiable side of Director Hou, everyone wanted to see the fun.

"Next, my questions will be difficult, if you can't answer, don't blame me for being impolite." Hou Yuncheng paused, then smiled and asked, "Sheng, let me ask you: Last year, the trade volume between China and the Western Chieftain Union reached a historic high, what was the exact figure? Which industries in China had a surplus? What products, raw materials do we need?"

Hou Yuncheng's questions were not like the previous ones about culture and geography; they related to economic trade and included specific timestamps.

"Director Hou, isn't this a bit demanding?"

"You're just trying to make Mr. Bai treat us, aren't you?"

"I could answer part of this, but to know it all, you'd need a professional; it's really hard."

The nearby businessmen chimed in jokingly.

"How about it?" Hou Yuncheng smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, with a look of "you might as well give up."

Bai Xiaosheng, calm and collected, smiled and said, "According to data from the General Administration of Customs, just within the first eight months of last year, the trade volume between Huaxia and the Western Chieftain Union reached 1.5 trillion, growing by 5.1%..."

Bai Xiaosheng began speaking confidently, leaving those around him astonished.

The details were specific and the figures were solid. Was it true?

At the moment, on the plane, everyone found it hard to use their phone to check online, so they looked to Hou Yuncheng.

Hou Yuncheng remained unmoved, pondered for a moment, and asked Bai Xiaosheng, "What would you like for breakfast tomorrow?"

The group paused for a moment, then erupted in laughter.

Many looked at Bai Xiaosheng and gave a thumbs-up.

"Let me test you on some customs, taboos, and cultural aspects of various countries, do you dare to accept the challenge?" Hou Yuncheng said with a smile.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng made a "please ask" gesture.

Hou Yuncheng's question was again correctly answered by Bai Xiaosheng, earning widespread applause.

Chapter 2476 - Invitation from the Prince_2

Bai Xiaosheng, being a young person, had a youthful temperament. On a whim, he started telling the people around him about the "historical anecdotes" and "etiquettes and customs" of various countries, some of which even Hou Yuncheng didn't know and had to ask him for more information.

This was because Hou Yuncheng was broad-minded, straightforward, and had a good relationship with Bai Xiaosheng. Otherwise, having a leader "humbly seek guidance" in public like this is not something worth mentioning.

"You're impressive, Sheng, Mr. Bai. The way you have a handle on all the different situations over there puts me at ease."

Finally, Hou Yuncheng said to Bai Xiaosheng with a cheerful smile.

When these words reached Bai Xiaosheng's ears, he immediately became aware of the subtlety within them.

"What do you mean by putting your mind at ease? What does that mean?" Bai Xiaosheng asked curiously.

Hou Yuncheng stopped hiding it and smiled, saying, "Here's the thing: according to the schedule and due to a series of factors, after the business group reaches the destination, us government personnel will no longer follow the inspections. You big businessmen will split into two teams and travel by different routes."

This news was somewhat surprising to Bai Xiaosheng, but not particularly shocking, as they had split into groups for inspections before.

Hou Yuncheng continued, "The business group will split into two teams, with Mr. Lu Yun appointed as the leader for one of the teams and Mr. Jia Chengshan as the deputy leader."

Bai Xiaosheng instinctively looked ahead; Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan were sitting in front of him.

Those two even turned around and gave Bai Xiaosheng a smile.

"These two business moguls with top-notch reputations in one team? That doesn't seem right. Who's going to lead the other team?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Seeing Hou Yuncheng, Lu Yun, and Jia Chengshan looking at him with knowing smiles, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly realized and was taken aback.

"Isn't it me, right?"

"You guessed right, it's you!" Hou Yuncheng confirmed without a shadow of a doubt, patting Bai Xiaosheng on the shoulder with pleasure. "It was Mr. Lu Yun and Mr. Jia Chengshan who jointly recommended you. Initially, I was worried that you weren't familiar with the situation there, thinking I'd chat more with you on the way, but after hearing you speak just now, I'm relieved. You know more than I do!"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt a bit flustered. His recent "show-off" was simply falling into the "trap" that Hou Yuncheng had designed.

The other people all smiled as they looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Even if hearing this news for the first time was somewhat surprising, many people felt Bai Xiaosheng truly deserved it.

People like Dong Tianlu, Wang Xuantian, Lu Tiandao, and Zhang Qinglin, who have all dealt with Bai Xiaosheng considerably, deeply understood his intelligence, ability, and skills and knew he was wholly worthy of the position.

"Will I appear too young?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask.

After all, leading half of Huaxia's big businessmen ought to at least make people feel that the leader is stable and poised wherever they go.

Bai Xiaosheng's age truly seemed a bit "tender."

"I think you can do it." Hou Yuncheng gazed at Bai Xiaosheng, speaking earnestly.

"I also have faith in you, Mr. Bai," said Dong Tianlu, sitting nearby, with a gentle smile.

"Mr. Bai, don't be humble; you can do it."

"Your reputation has spread far and wide now, so much that when mentioned, the other side might rush to say 'I've long admired you.' Who dares doubt you?"

"Anyone who doubts you, we won't agree either."

Following that, others also voiced their opinions one after another.

Since Hou Yuncheng had pushed him to the forefront, Bai Xiaosheng was quite straightforward, nodding directly, "Well... alright then. After all, it's just a title. Pushing it back and forth would actually be hypocritical of me."

This straightforwardness pleased Hou Yuncheng.

"Director Hou, who is our team's deputy leader?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"You can choose for yourself." Hou Yuncheng laughed, kicking the ball back to Bai Xiaosheng.

This isn't right! That was the look in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

"Mr. Jia was selected by Mr. Lu, with his own agreement." Hou Yuncheng explained.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lu Yun and Jia Chengshan.

These two old comrades raised their teacups in front of Bai Xiaosheng, lightly clinking them together, looking very much like a "perfect match."

Since they became partners, their friendship had rapidly grown...

"As for the small matter of the deputy leader, think about it later. For now, I'll tell you about this trip, and you should take careful note." As Hou Yuncheng spoke, he pulled out a document he had prepared earlier.

Everything was ready. Bai Xiaosheng was impressed.

However, since he agreed, he must do a good job as the leader. Anyway, it's not such a big deal.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng and Hou Yuncheng immersed themselves in discussing the matter, even continuing during lunch.

As the plane's broadcast announced their imminent landing, Bai Xiaosheng and Hou Yuncheng had mostly finished their conversation.

Their plane arrived at the first country, the Aisha Emirate, at two in the afternoon.

Waiting to welcome them at the airport were envoys and ministers of economy, trade, and foreign affairs from over twenty countries.

Bai Xiaosheng and his group received the warmest and most grandiose welcome they had ever experienced upon stepping onto the African continent. After all, this was an alliance of over twenty countries.

Various regionally distinctive welcome ceremonies showcased the hosts' enthusiasm to the fullest.

Finally, after getting through all the formalities, Bai Xiaosheng felt that apart from smiling, he couldn't make any other expression.

Then, the business group was escorted to their accommodations.

In the evening, the Aisha Chieftain hosted a banquet for the business group.

It was also at the banquet that Hou Yuncheng formally introduced Bai Xiaosheng and Lu Yun, the two new leaders of the business group, to various parties.

Lu Yun was already a well-known big businessman from the East, not needing further elaboration.

Recently, Bai Xiaosheng had made headlines in several African countries and was somewhat famous too.

The various officials didn't mind Bai Xiaosheng's age.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng represented the Huaxia Business Group! That alone carried enough weight!

The welcome banquet kept them busy for most of the night.

Back in his room, Bai Xiaosheng was nearly too exhausted to stand. He struggled to wash up briefly before falling into a deep sleep.

Early the next morning, someone sent by Hou Yuncheng woke Bai Xiaosheng up.

As one of the two team leaders of the business group, Bai Xiaosheng had to continue participating in some diplomatic activities.

Thus began another busy day.

Bai Xiaosheng quietly lamented, regretting his agreement to Hou Yuncheng's request and accepting this task.

However, there was no turning back once the bowstring was pulled.

Outwardly, Bai Xiaosheng didn't show any complaints or grievances and diligently followed along with the activities.

The affairs were numerous, and the actual inspection would commence in a day or two. Yet, Bai Xiaosheng was already mentally prepared for these.

Unexpectedly, that afternoon, someone came looking for Bai Xiaosheng and brought an invitation.

The visitor was, in fact, Hou Yuncheng's secretary, delivering it in person.

Upon receiving the invitation, Bai Xiaosheng, with Red Lotus translating the text in his mind, was taken aback when he realized its content.

It was an invitation from the Prince of Aisha, requesting his presence at an evening banquet.

"I don't know your Prince, so why is he inviting me?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't hide his curiosity and asked the invitation bearer with a smile.

Apparently, several Princes were indeed present at the previous night's banquet, but with so many people there, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't had the opportunity to meet them.

He had no idea how they could have singled him out.

Was it because he was one of the business group leaders? Did Mr. Lu Yun also receive an invitation?

Bai Xiaosheng was eager to ask more.

The visitor treated Bai Xiaosheng with great respect, saying, "I don't know about that. The Prince said you rarely come here and should be treated as the best of friends. The Prince also mentioned that since it's a gathering of friends tonight, you should feel free to dress comfortably and not worry too much about etiquette."

The visitor's words made Hou Yuncheng's secretary look at Bai Xiaosheng with admiration and respect, as if wanting to give him an approving nod.

Bai Xiaosheng being able to call a Prince his friend was truly remarkable!

Hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng was even more puzzled, but he suddenly had an epiphany, a person's name popping into his mind.

Could it be him!

Chapter 2477 - Royal Night Banquet

Bai Xiaosheng received an invitation from a Prince, whose words were exceedingly friendly and had a familiar tone.

Upon reflection, Bai Xiaosheng really remembered someone who might be connected to this.

It was the black brother he met back home—Chen Feiqiu.

That young black man, about the same age as him, was studying abroad in Huaxia, spoke fluent Mandarin, and was highly proficient in idioms and colloquial expressions. If you only heard his voice and didn't see him, you would most likely mistake him for a Huaxia person.

Could it be him?

Bai Xiaosheng remembered that Chen Feiqiu once said he was the son of a Chieftain, but Bai Xiaosheng didn't pay much attention at the time.

He also mentioned inviting him to his home, but Bai Xiaosheng only laughed it off, thinking it was unlikely to happen.

Unexpectedly, it all became true.

He turned out to be a Prince of the Aisha Emirate?

This was too dramatic...

The person delivering the invitation was still in front of him, Bai Xiaosheng calmed himself and smiled at him, saying, "Please convey to Prince His Highness that I will attend the banquet on time."

The man immediately bowed and respectfully said, "Alright. Since the message is delivered, I will report back to His Highness."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and smiled, "Then, let me see you off."

These four words immediately caused the person to seem fearful, waving his hand repeatedly and refused in a tone that allowed no negotiation, "No, I cannot bear such honor. You are a friend of Prince His Highness! Such an esteemed identity!"

Seeing that the person had no room for negotiation, Bai Xiaosheng could only let it go.

Hou Yuncheng's secretary was beside them and seeing this, hurriedly smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, "Let me escort this guest. After all, I brought him over."

"I'll leave it to you then." Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

The envoy once again bowed to Bai Xiaosheng before turning away.

Hou Yuncheng's secretary followed behind, escorting him all the way.

Bai Xiaosheng watched the two of them leave.

Once they left, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying approached to take a look at the invitation card in Bai Xiaosheng's hand.

"Oh, this page inside doesn't look like it's gold-plated, it seems like real gold leaf! Just feel it, it's so heavy! This is indeed luxurious!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed.

Lei Ying looked at it and returned it to Bai Xiaosheng, asking, "From your reaction earlier, did you figure out who that Prince is?"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him and suddenly laughed, "Don't you have any thoughts?"

Lei Ying didn't deny it but rather smiled.

"Who is it? Do you guys really know a Prince? Why don't I know!" Lin Weiwei exclaimed, seeing the two with a knowing expression.

"Who says you don't know, you've met him too." Bai Xiaosheng laughed and immediately pointed out the name they guessed, "Chen, Fei, Qiu!"

Lin Weiwei froze for a moment, "Chen Feiqiu..."

Then, she remembered and started pointing in the air with her index finger, "I remember now, it's him... He really is the son of a Chieftain?"

"Oh, but wait. The son of a Chieftain, is he a Prince?" Lin Weiwei frowned and suspiciously said, "I might not be good at history, but I feel like there's an issue with this title."

Beside her, Lei Ying shrugged and said, "He said he was the son of a Chieftain, who says his father has to be the current Grand Chieftain, couldn't he be a former one?"

"But the relationship between the titles of Chieftain and King here, I still haven't figured it out." Lin Weiwei continued.

"Respect other people's traditions, if you don't understand, don't ask." Lei Ying said seriously.

Lin Weiwei looked at him suspiciously, "You say that, are you knowledgeable, or are you just not clear either, giving me the runaround."

Lei Ying suddenly became evasive.

Actually, he was also unsure and couldn't clearly explain...

"Alright, alright, stop arguing about this. As for whether he's an acquaintance, we only know Chen Feiqiu, who might be a Prince. We'll naturally meet tonight and confirm it, so don't dwell on it further." Bai Xiaosheng hurriedly said, "You'd better study the etiquette of the Aisha Emirate if you have time. They naturally have unique customs, and even though it's a private banquet, it's better not to be disrespectful as foreigners. Who knows if the dinner will follow more traditional rites or be more Westernized. You should check some information, organize it, and we should all learn from it. Respecting others is respecting ourselves."

Once Bai Xiaosheng said that, it made sense, and Lin Weiwei finally relented.

Assigning tasks to them is better than listening to arguments, Bai Xiaosheng could also find some peace.

Just as he finished speaking, there was another knock at the door.

Lin Weiwei went to open the door and surprising enough, it was Hou Yuncheng himself.

"Director Hou!"

When Bai Xiaosheng saw Hou Yuncheng, he quickly got up and welcomed him.

Hou Yuncheng nodded to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, who greeted him, and then spoke to Bai Xiaosheng, "Have you just received an invitation from Prince His Highness? I have a couple of words to tell you."

Bai Xiaosheng quickly ushered Hou Yuncheng inside and asked Lin Weiwei to serve tea.

"No need to trouble, I'll just stay for two minutes, it won't take more than a few words, no need for tea." Hou Yuncheng smiled and spoke straightforwardly to Bai Xiaosheng without avoiding Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, "I want to emphasize the importance of the invitation you received."

"The Aisha Emirate has always been a good friend of Huaxia and a friendly nation. The total trade volume between the two countries increases year by year."

"In the Western Chieftain Union, the Aisha Emirate's strength can probably rank within the top five and it holds significant influence."

"I have learned that this Prince His Highness holds great regard from his country's Chieftain and forming good relations with him is undoubtedly a good thing. However, it is merely your personal opportunity, the trade delegation won't require you to do anything."

Chapter 2478 - Royal Night Banquet (Part 2)

"This prince is kind and has made many connections. Although I don't know how you met him or your relationship with him, getting closer can't hurt. I've also heard that at the banquet you're attending tonight, there will be many extraordinary young people, including Crown Princes from various countries and heirs of some super merchants. In short, it's also a great opportunity to expand your network..."

...

During these few minutes, Hou Yuncheng didn't leave Bai Xiaosheng any chance to speak, pouring out all the information he had to convey.

Within it, was his deep concern for Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was naturally very grateful, attentively remembering all the details.

Hou Yuncheng said he would stay for two minutes, but actually stayed for five minutes, talking the entire time before finally standing up with a smile, "Alright, I've said what I need to. I have other matters to attend to, so I'll take my leave."

Bai Xiaosheng quickly got up, made a polite gesture for him to stay a bit longer, and then saw Hou Yuncheng off.

After Hou Yuncheng left, Bai Xiaosheng returned to the room.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were huddled together, exchanging views.

"Hearing what Director Hou said, that Prince is not an ordinary person, and this banquet is no ordinary gathering, we must prepare well."

"Indeed, we can't afford to be negligent."

"But, how come I feel listening to Director Hou, that Prince doesn't seem like the Chen Feiqiu we know..."

"Yes, I also feel there's a huge difference in their image... It can't be him! We must have been mistaken before! That's definitely it!"

Bai Xiaosheng crossed his arms, looked around left and right, amusingly and helplessly observing the two.

When Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying finished chatting, they also noticed Bai Xiaosheng's expression.

"Aren't you two going to quickly do your homework and prepare?" Bai Xiaosheng said.

The two immediately turned around, one went to find a notebook, the other went to find a phone.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head helplessly, furrowed his brows, looked into the void, and muttered, "Could it really not be Chen Feiqiu, and we guessed wrong..."

...

From afternoon till evening, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were busy gathering information on court etiquette, dining culture, and local customs, compiling all sorts of precautions, whether useful or not, and printing them out. They gave a copy to Bai Xiaosheng, and each kept a copy to study thoroughly.

By evening, when it was about time, even before Bai Xiaosheng and the others could set off, Hou Yuncheng's secretary came again, bringing along the same person who delivered the invitation during the day, saying the Prince had sent a car to pick up Bai Xiaosheng and his group.

While saying this, Hou Yuncheng's secretary looked at this young man, Bai Xiaosheng, almost with a hint of reverence.

It is said that although the banquet guests are numerous, the Prince himself sending a car to pick someone up was rare.

Bai Xiaosheng was one of them.

On a small scale, this was a personal honor for Bai Xiaosheng, something to admire; on a larger scale, for someone from the Huaxia Business Group to receive such treatment, it was impressive!

Seeing the respectful demeanor of the envoy coming to pick them up indeed made one feel honored.

Bai Xiaosheng exchanged polite words with the person sent to pick them up and then walked out with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The car was parked outside.

Upon going out, Bai Xiaosheng immediately saw the car sent to pick him up, a custom-designed vehicle, solid, stable, and dignified looking, even bulletproof, truly a car built with real gold and silver.

In front and behind this car, there were escort vehicles as well.

Bai Xiaosheng got into this car, while Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying got into the car behind.

The vehicles started and headed towards the destination.

Sitting in this car, the cabin isolated all external noise, with only elegant classical music flowing, a true feast for the ears.

The envoy sent to pick up Bai Xiaosheng offered him top-quality cigars and red wine, which Bai Xiaosheng politely declined.

Seeing the envoy a bit uneasy, thinking he might not have served well, Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said, "Why don't you tell me about the distinguished guests attending tonight's banquet so I can see if there's anyone I know."

With this from Bai Xiaosheng, the envoy immediately perked up and smiled, "Then let me tell you about it!"

During the ride, the envoy talked all the way.

He mentioned many names, none of which Bai Xiaosheng had heard before.

Even the Prince's name, which was on the invitation, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't heard of.

This wasn't surprising; even if it was Chen Feiqiu, in such settings, he would certainly use his real name.

Bai Xiaosheng had checked news photos and information but found nothing; it was said that the Prince disliked being photographed in public.

On the way, apart from knowing that the banquet would be attended by extraordinary figures, Bai Xiaosheng didn't gain any useful information.

Of course, it might be that this envoy knew what could be said and what couldn't, and Bai Xiaosheng couldn't ask repeatedly.

Thus, they soon arrived at the destination.

It was not a suburban courtyard or a royal palace but a hotel in the city center.

People only know five-star hotels as synonyms for comfort and luxury, but they don't know there are even higher star ratings in this world.

Currently, Bai Xiaosheng and his group were going to an eight-star hotel, a landmark of the Aisha Emirate.

The hotel stood over three hundred meters tall, combining cutting-edge technology and materials to the utmost, and just seeing it from the outside, the sense of shock could leave one speechless.

It is said that the most expensive suite cost tens of thousands of US Dollars per night.

After Bai Xiaosheng got out of the car, led by the envoy, he entered this previously unvisited hotel, and even someone like Bai Xiaosheng, who had seen countless luxurious places in modern times, couldn't help but be amazed by the interior decor.

Chapter 2479 - Royal Night Banquet (Part 3)

This place is truly one of earthly opulence.

Walking inside, they took the VIP elevator, speeding upward, Bai Xiaosheng was still pondering.

That prince, is he really Chen Feiqiu? If he is, everything can be explained, as they were already mentally prepared for a reunion.

But what if he's not? What is the purpose of wanting to meet him, and how should he face it then?

These are all questions that require some thought.

The time spent ascending in the elevator was enough for Bai Xiaosheng to contemplate these questions.

Soon, the elevator arrived. Accompanied by a ding sound, the door opened, and the messenger hurriedly ran ahead to lead the way.

Outside, the place was already bustling.

Exiting the elevator led to a hall full of elevators, more than a dozen VIP elevators, and the hall was spacious, yet now seemed "filled" with people.

Scions of noble families naturally had entourages, and when they saw familiar or even friendly faces, they would loudly greet each other with smiles.

With all these people, the scene naturally became lively.

In contrast, only four people exited from Bai Xiaosheng's elevator, which seemed pitifully few.

However, the appearance of the messenger who received Bai Xiaosheng attracted quite a bit of attention.

Some of the noble youths even greeted that person and smiled actively at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng responded cordially.

Initially assuming the messenger was merely a regular staff member, Bai Xiaosheng and his party noticed the messenger now carried a rather unusual air.

Bai Xiaosheng followed the messenger, walking inside, attracting attention and some discreet pointing.

Many speculated about Bai Xiaosheng's identity, pondering why he hadn't been seen before.

Subjected to whispers and immense attention was inevitable, Bai Xiaosheng had to face it calmly.

Passing through corridors adorned with intricate carvings and paintings, he entered a hall as gorgeous as a palace, where the messenger suddenly brightened up, looking at a figure, and hurriedly said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I didn't expect the prince to have already arrived!"

Bai Xiaosheng followed the messenger's gaze, locking onto a figure engaged in conversation, and paused, "Is that the prince? There's no crowd around him."

The messenger looked at Bai Xiaosheng oddly, "Aren't you the prince's friend, knowing that he doesn't like entourages? Even during parties, he dislikes being in the center, so our guests wait for others to finish talking with the prince before approaching."

Upon hearing this, Bai Xiaosheng did notice, even though people weren't approaching, their attention was focused on that person.

Seeing from behind, Bai Xiaosheng noted the prince's height, skin tone, seemed to be Chen Feiqiu.

Could it really be him!

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but exchange glances, sharing the same thought.

"I'll go greet the prince." Bai Xiaosheng said, stepping towards that direction.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying wanted to follow but were stopped by the messenger.

"In this hall, given our identities, one cannot enter without being summoned." The messenger said politely.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had to relent.

"Come with me, I'll take you to a place to rest." The messenger said again.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying glanced at Bai Xiaosheng's back before leaving with the messenger.

After all, when in Rome, one must abide by the rules.

Bai Xiaosheng entered the hall and quickly approached the prince. Observers frowned slightly.

According to etiquette, Bai Xiaosheng's action was a bit rude, as the person chatting with the prince hadn't finished.

Though eager to verify the other's identity, Bai Xiaosheng slowed his steps when nearing, doing his best not to disturb the conversation.

When he got close enough, the prince had just concluded the conversation and was about to turn around.

"Prince!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

In this setting, shouting "Chen Feiqiu" was obviously inappropriate.

The other party did not respond immediately but first turned around.

Seeing the true face of the person, Bai Xiaosheng was stupefied.

It was a man with a dignified appearance, older than him, and more importantly, he was not Chen Feiqiu!

"Who are you?" The man asked Bai Xiaosheng with suspicion.

Bai Xiaosheng opened his mouth, wanting desperately to ask, you invited me here, don't you know who I am?

"Bai Xiaosheng, you're here!"

At this moment, a voice full of surprise came from the side.

Bai Xiaosheng turned his head and was stunned.

Chen Feiqiu? He really was there!

But he wasn't the prince!

Chapter 2480 - Chen Feiqiu Again

Chen Feiqiu was very happy to see Bai Xiaosheng, and quickly walked over. Back then, Bai Xiaosheng had saved his life, and the two got along well; they had great conversations.

Facing Chen Feiqiu, Bai Xiaosheng also showed a smile akin to that of an old friend.

"Bai, meeting again! Back then, I said I'd invite you to Africa as a guest, you said you'd come if you had the chance! Look, here's the chance now."

Chen Feiqiu was naturally a bit carefree, and in such a setting, he greeted Bai Xiaosheng just like that.

This immediately attracted a lot of attention from those around.

Bai Xiaosheng found this quite inappropriate, but could only face it with a smile, at most adding a wink as a hint.

"Why are you winking at me... Oh, don't worry, among us fluent in Huaxia language, few at this event will understand. Who here has passed level 8 of Huaxia language?" Chen Feiqiu noticed Bai Xiaosheng's concern and said with a grin.

Indeed, level 8 in Huaxia language, in world language grading, would probably be hell level...

However, the focus right now wasn't whether others could understand it.

Rather, Bai Xiaosheng had just greeted the Prince, and Chen Feiqiu interrupted. Was this appropriate?

Even if the Prince had a good temperament and high cultivation, he might not get angry in public when mistaken for someone else, but seeing this, wouldn't he feel unpleasant?

Why, when the right person appears, is the Prince neglected? Guards, send him out!

Scenes from historical dramas kept popping into Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

This mess could easily turn into a conflict and affect international friendship...

While Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Chen Feiqiu, he quickly turned to look at the Prince.

No need for Bai Xiaosheng to especially seek him out; the Prince had already walked over.

When the Prince got closer, Bai Xiaosheng could see more clearly, perhaps due to his skin color or well-maintained condition, the vigorous Prince was at least ten years older than Bai Xiaosheng, and even as he walked, he exuded an extraordinary aura.

As a royal, his every move was full of etiquette.

The positioning of his hands, the amplitude of his arms' swings, the order in which his feet touched the ground, every step had clear regulations, making his presence indeed remarkable.

The Prince was tall, well-proportioned and solid, with a sense of majesty. On his face, his smile was neither rigid nor artificial, it was sincere, and his eyes shone with brilliance.

The Prince's full name was long, but in media reports, he was often referred to as Prince Hadu.

When Bai Xiaosheng and Prince Hadu made eye contact, Bai Xiaosheng bowed courteously.

This was also an essential etiquette, as Huaxia is a country full of manners, naturally, one must not lose propriety.

"No need for that, formalities don't fit my private banquet. Here, we're all equal friends, no need to restrain." Prince Hadu waved his hand with a sincere smile.

"Yes, we're all friends here, no need to be so formal." Chen Feiqiu chimed in cheerfully from behind.

Bai Xiaosheng originally wanted to exchange polite words with the Prince, but hearing Chen Feiqiu say so, he began to sweat a bit.

The Prince's easy-going nature is due to his high personal cultivation, but as a guest, you shouldn't truly lack restraint.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly gave Prince Hadu an apologetic smile and discreetly nudged Chen Feiqiu.

Chen Feiqiu, still unchanged in his casual manner, even smiled at Prince Hadu, saying, "Your Highness, look at all the guests here waiting to talk to you. We haven't seen each other for a long time, let's just go to the side, have a drink, chat for a moment, and not take up your time."

Chen Feiqiu actually wanted to send the Prince away!

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat headache-inducing.

Many people want to chat with the Prince and even queue up for it; yet he didn't want to stay even a little longer, quite impressive.

Not only did Bai Xiaosheng think this, but others also stared at Chen Feiqiu in shock, pointing and discussing.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't need Red Lotus to help gather those comments; they were probably similar to his own thoughts.

Prince Hadu slightly smiled and nodded to Chen Feiqiu, elegantly saying, "Alright, you are welcome to enjoy yourselves."

"Great!" Chen Feiqiu replied with a smile, pulling Bai Xiaosheng away from everyone's sight.

Prince Hadu observed and merely smiled.

Chen Feiqiu pulled Bai Xiaosheng to a sofa area in the hall's corner, filled with gentlemen and ladies holding glasses socializing, while there were few people here, surprisingly peaceful.

As the two just sat down, a server approached with a silver tray carrying various drinks.

Bai Xiaosheng and Chen Feiqiu each picked a glass, and after confirming no other needs, the server swiftly stepped away without further disturbance.

"It's been a long time since we've met! Hey, where are Weiwei and Lei Ying?" Chen Feiqiu couldn't help but look around.

"They're here too, just didn't make it in; probably taken to rest elsewhere." Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

Chen Feiqiu slapped his thigh, "They're here, how can we not meet, I'll find someone to bring them in. They said everyone is equal friends here, how can there be distinctions?"

Bai Xiaosheng quickly held Chen Feiqiu down, about to rise, "Better not! We're guests of the Prince, naturally adhering to rules and avoiding overstepping. You want to meet them, later we'll find a place outside to eat and chat, won't that be more pleasant."

Chen Feiqiu thought about it, then sat back down, clapping and laughing, "Yes, I happen to know there's a barbecue stall nearby where you can try roasted camel. Of course, compared to Huaxia's barbecue skewers, the taste is far behind; I wonder if it's the seasoning? Next time in Huaxia, I should sneak some, no, buy some."