

Two Trillion 2571

Chapter 2571 - Arrogant and Presumptuous Alger (Part 2)

"It's alright, I'm not someone who looks down on others because of their status." Alger flashed a charming smile and insisted on shaking hands with Lin Weiwei.

At this moment, a hand reached out from the side, grasped Alger's hand, and then pulled him around to face the owner.

"Mr. Alger is truly passionate, but my secretary prefers gentlemen who are a bit more reserved." Bai Xiaosheng smiled and spoke to Alger.

In Alger's eyes, there was an immediate flash of displeasure, not only because Bai Xiaosheng interrupted his advance towards the beautiful woman, but also because he felt the words were mocking him.

"I see." Alger chuckled on the surface, without pressuring further.

"Mr. Alger, you arrived a bit late this time, Mr. Asgar had to leave for other matters." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "You see, all the guests are looking at you, I guess they are eager to greet you. Why don't you fulfill their wishes first?"

Bai Xiaosheng wanted Alger to leave early and not be an eyesore here.

Just that the reason for "sending away" was quite sufficient, indeed many guests around were eager to greet Alger.

Alger noticed the implication of sending away in Bai Xiaosheng's words, and felt increasingly displeased.

Bai Xiaosheng, close in age to him, seemed more outstanding, surrounded by three stunning beauties, was taking away his spotlight.

Now, using this kind of "sarcastic" tone to talk to him!

If it weren't for the beauties present and Bai Xiaosheng's special status, he wouldn't tolerate it.

In fact, Alger also came with a purpose, a purpose related to Bai Xiaosheng, meaning he couldn't easily get angry at him.

"Alright, Mr. Bai, you rest here, I'll go greet everyone, so they don't have to wait impatiently. I'll come back to you afterward; I have a good thing to discuss with you." Alger laughed, withdrawing his hand.

"Okay, I'll wait for you." Bai Xiaosheng also laughed.

Alger then showed his charming smile to Lin Weiwei, Yang Yishan, Lisa, and nodded to Yang Xiaoyun before greeting people as he left.

As soon as he walked away, the guests over there couldn't wait any longer, rushing forward to surround him in the midst.

The level of enthusiasm almost surpassed that shown to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Hm, he's quite popular after all." Yang Yishan snorted lightly.

"Just now, he was too self-absorbed." Lin Weiwei also murmured softly.

The two women heard each other's words, glanced at each other, and immediately shifted their gaze, pretending not to hear.

Lisa withdrew her gaze from over there, smiling at Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, it seems just now Mr. Alger had some opinions about you. Be careful, he's not a mere ordinary person."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Miss Lisa is joking, what opinions? Alger and I just met for the first time, how could there be any conflict."

"I think even Alger might be envious of Mr. Sheng's demeanor." Yang Xiaoyun laughed beside them.

"Overpraise, Mr. Yang." Bai Xiaosheng humbly replied with a smile.

Lisa spoke again, "By the way, Mr. Alger mentioned before leaving that he had important matters to discuss with Mr. Bai. Could it be his family wants to cooperate with your business group? That would be a huge business! Even I feel quite envious hearing about it!"

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the "bustling" scene on Alger's side, maintaining a calm expression, "Cooperation depends on mutual willingness, it's not something anyone can decide."

The implication in Bai Xiaosheng's words could only be understood by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, as the business group currently was in no position to take on bigger business deals.

If one pursued big cooperation recklessly, it would only lead to self-destruction and ruination.

The likes of Dong Tianlu and Lu Tiandao naturally wouldn't do such things.

However, in the ears of Yang Xiaoyun and Lisa, Bai Xiaosheng seemed somewhat "arrogant."

The two exchanged glances, but showed no different expressions on their faces.

"Let them chat, we'll continue." Yang Xiaoyun smiled and glanced over at Alger's side, speaking to Bai Xiaosheng.

Getting information from this "local" Yang Xiaoyun about the Oshan business circle was undoubtedly very helpful in selecting, evaluating companies, and adjusting planning.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately nodded, smiling and saying, "Alright."

Temporarily setting aside the little episode brought by Alger's arrival, Bai Xiaosheng, Yang Xiaoyun, and Lisa continued their previous conversation.

Over there, surrounded by crowds and receiving subtle glances from the female guests, Alger peered through the gaps between people and saw Bai Xiaosheng.

Beside Bai Xiaosheng were three stunning beauties, while those surrounding him were all ordinary and unremarkable, which made him feel quite upset!

Just then, a server brought drinks on a tray, inviting Alger to make a selection.

The others also got ready, raising their glasses to toast Alger.

Alger glanced at the wine on the tray and waved the waiter away.

The old butler beside him had already brought over a specially designed cart, displaying a collection of fine wines.

"Everyone, I have quite picky tastes and often bring my own drinks. Now, I invite those present to taste a glass. The exquisite wines are limited, so the rest will have to miss out," Alger said, taking a glass from the old butler and raising it with a smile.

People had long heard that this young master Alger had a fondness for fine wines, always bringing his own to gatherings, making those around him enthusiastic.

"Alger's wine must be the finest on earth, we have to try it!"

"Such an honor, only people like us can enjoy it, others unfortunately won't have the chance!"

"Thank you for your generosity, Mr. Alger!"

The crowd echoed in laughter.

This commotion attracted the attention of many around, as people from afar expressed curiosity and envy in their glances.

Who knows what kind of heavenly nectar was brought by this wine-loving Alger to cause such a stir and receive so much praise...

Before long, half of the party was paying attention.

Bai Xiaosheng and his companions also heard the commotion but didn't know what had happened, instinctively looking over.

Seeing this, Alger did not hesitate and, holding his wine glass, made his way through the crowd towards Bai Xiaosheng and his companions.

The old butler and a group of attendants immediately followed.

Approaching Bai Xiaosheng and the others, Alger smiled and raised his glass, "Everyone, I brought some fine wines and would like to invite you all to have a drink."

The Huaxia Commercial Delegation Leader Bai Xiaosheng indeed had the qualifications.

Just as everyone thought Alger was doing this out of respect for Bai Xiaosheng, Alger specifically looked at the three women and said with a smile, "There are a few bottles of exquisite wine that are particularly suitable for ladies, nourishing and beautifying the skin, enhancing its glow. Even I went through great efforts to acquire them; each bottle exceeds millions in value!"

The price quoted by Alger indeed shocked those around.

"What kind of wine is worth millions! Isn't that too exaggerated!"

"Indeed, oh my, I've drunk so many wines, but never heard of this!"

"In my memory, the most expensive was just over two hundred thousand..."

This currency is USD, and such a price is truly outrageous!

Even Lin Weiwei, Yang Yishan, and Lisa were slightly surprised.

Seeing the ladies' expressions, Alger couldn't help but feel proud.

"Oh? Then it must be worth a taste," Bai Xiaosheng said leisurely, "Let's see what kind of fine wine it is."

Alger came over again to curry favor, frankly, Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit annoyed.

"Mr. Bai, you're from Huaxia, but as far as I know, you Huaxia people claim your liquor is good, yet when tasted..." Alger sneered, shaking his head with apparent disdain, then laughed, "As for the field of wine, I've never heard of any Huaxia brand making the cut."

Tasting wine should be about tasting wine. Alger's words clearly carried malice, outright laughing at Bai Xiaosheng as a Huaxia person who doesn't understand.

In an ordinary situation, it might not matter, but at such an occasion, Bai Xiaosheng's identity represented more than just himself...

The surrounding people began whispering, even Dong Tianlu's group couldn't help frowning, gathering over.

Lin Weiwei immediately frowned, glaring angrily at Alger.

The intention behind Alger's words was actually quite simple: to display himself and suppress the Huaxia person surrounded by beauties.

He has always been arrogant, daring to act on impulse without much consideration for consequences.

Bai Xiaosheng remained composed, smiling as he said, "Alger's wine might be good, but we won't know until we taste it."

With one sentence, Bai Xiaosheng countered back.

Alger's eyes flickered slightly, then he smiled, instructing the old butler beside him, "Serve the wine, let this Mr. Bai try it and see what true exquisite wine is!"

"Mr. Bai, if you find it good, don't be shy. I'll send you a bottle anytime."

"After all, this wine is hard to come by!"

Chapter 2572 - Connoisseur of Wine

Alger's words to Bai Xiaosheng in public were quite impolite, even rude, but there was an underlying reason for his behavior.

Actually, as soon as they met, Alger felt a bit of "rejection" towards Bai Xiaosheng and felt "jealous" seeing him surrounded by the most beautiful women in the room.

But even so, Alger did not intend to embarrass Bai Xiaosheng with his words in front of everyone.

Alger has always expressed himself this way, and coupled with the fact that his wine is indeed extremely difficult to obtain, it's natural for him to brag.

Moreover, he wanted to attract the attention of the guests around, especially those beautiful women.

However, by doing so, Alger's words and actions were sharp and directly targeted at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng is not without a temper, but most of the time he's too lazy to argue with others. This time, however, he genuinely disliked Alger. It may have been due to incompatible vibes, or perhaps he found Alger's demeanor disagreeable. The main point is, in this setting, he couldn't let anyone act arrogantly towards him.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng did not intend to be polite to Alger.

When Alger said he would "serve wine" to Bai Xiaosheng, his old butler hesitated slightly before reaching for a bottle from the second last row.

Alger observed this and a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

That bottle is indeed an excellent wine, costing over two hundred thousand US dollars!

Moreover, it was a market-limited item, the second most expensive of the wines Alger brought this time.

The old butler used a piece of snow-white lambskin to cover it, so as not to let the warmth of his hand affect the wine's temperature.

In fact, the seemingly ordinary cart they pushed up was also a "high-tech" product, able to maintain the wine's constant temperature, unaffected by room temperature.

Next to the old butler, one of Alger's subordinates stepped forward, holding a crystal-clear crystal cup in both hands.

This was also a custom cup, truly an exquisite crystal product, worth tens of thousands for a set. If one breaks, the whole set would be ruined.

The old butler had a solemn expression, his demeanor radiating seriousness. He carefully poured the wine, as if afraid of spilling a drop.

This wine was brought by Alger, a person surpassing royal nobles, and coupled with the old butler's demeanor, the atmosphere instantly influenced those around.

The surrounding guests immediately held their breath and focused, their eyes fixated on the beautiful amber liquid flowing into the crystal-clear cup, gently swirling inside.

The whole venue was enveloped in a mysterious sense of sanctity.

In such a setting, Alger proudly said, "Everyone knows Europe is one of the most renowned origins of wine, with thousands of wineries. Some large wineries hold secret unique formulas and craftsmanship for their wines."

"The wine I brought is also from Europe. However, it wasn't born at an ancient winery, but from a family of winemakers, and it's a wine many owners of large wineries admire."

"This wine is produced every three years, with a total of five hundred bottles. Of them, one hundred are kept sealed for a hundred years, one hundred are exclusively for grand master tasting events, and one hundred are said to be sent to the holders of the original formula. Only the last two hundred bottles are sold to royal families, national heads, and super rich families in over a hundred countries worldwide."

"Listening to this, everyone should know its value, right? Even I only own three bottles, and I have to wait another three years to have the chance to purchase again!"

Alger's words made everyone present gasp, secretly amazed.

This level of fine wine is simply unheard of.

Dong Tianlu, Lu Tiandao, and the others observed this, whispering among themselves.

"I've heard of this rumor, but I'm not fond of wine, so I didn't delve into it."

"I know about this too, but it's impossible to get. I didn't expect to see it here."

Members of the Huaxia Business Group were equally astonished when they heard the leading businessmen say this, and they discussed it among themselves.

Yang Xiaoyun, being the second-in-command of the Yang Family Clan, naturally had heard of this and even knew Yang Family's patriarch had two bottles stored. So she merely blinked her eyes, not surprised.

Gathered around Bai Xiaosheng and Alger, many were eyeing the crystal cup held in Alger's subordinate's hands, gazing longingly at the half-finger width of the exquisite amber wine.

"I didn't expect such an intriguing origin for this wine. It's really refreshing, yet hard to believe!"

"Seeing it this way, it doesn't seem expensive..."

"This is not about the monetary value anymore; it's a reflection of identity and status, something money can't buy!"

"I really want to taste it, even just a sip, to see what makes this wine so good!"

The crowd murmured and praised it.

Alger listened to the voices of the crowd with pride in his smile. This is the power of the heir of a large consortium: he can own three bottles of such rare wine!

Alger looked at Bai Xiaosheng, convinced that the wine would make Bai Xiaosheng feel a new appreciation for his extraordinary nobility!

Even earlier, the reason Alger started by boasting and seemed to "look down" on the other party was to create a "surprising" effect by revealing the weight and aura of this wine.

Imagine, if he gifted such precious wine to Bai Xiaosheng, wouldn't the latter not only forgive past grievances but also be immensely grateful?

Then, "what follows next" would be much easier to discuss.

There was indeed a hint of surprise on Bai Xiaosheng's face, and he even exchanged glances with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying beside him.

They were equally astonished.

Chapter 2573 - Wine Connoisseur (Part 2)

Beside him, Lisa suddenly asked, "Is this ethereal and intoxicating aroma the scent of wine?"

With her prompting, everyone raised their noses and took a sniff.

"Indeed, there's a celestial aura; it's the scent of wine!" Yang Xiaoyun couldn't help but say.

Instantly, the people around became excited, discussing with fervor as they were influenced by the wine's aroma.

Alger took the wine from his subordinate and smiled as he handed it to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, please taste."

Bai Xiaosheng casually reached out and took the cup of wine from Alger's hand.

The people around watched intently, seemingly afraid that Bai Xiaosheng might drop the cup or spill the wine, which would be a dreadful waste!

Such a precious wine, Bai Xiaosheng didn't hesitate at all and treated it as if it were an ordinary glass of red wine, bringing it to his lips.

He drank it all in one gulp!

...

Seeing this, the people couldn't help but feel a sense of regret for Bai Xiaosheng's "cow drinking."

Alger also frowned, thinking Bai Xiaosheng truly didn't know how to appreciate wine.

"The wine is good, but Mr. Alger, you don't need to give it to me," Bai Xiaosheng said with a calm smile, handing back the cup, "I already have this wine, more than just one bottle."

Bai Xiaosheng's words immediately silenced the entire room, followed by a burst of astonished voices.

Even Yang Xiaoyun and his daughter, Dong Tianlu, and others looked at Bai Xiaosheng in surprise.

Alger was particularly stunned, unable to believe what he had heard, given that their entire family was eligible to buy only seven bottles, and he, being the only son, had three bottles in his possession.

Given Bai Xiaosheng's identity, excluding his position as the leader of the Huaxia Commercial Delegation, he was just a regional president of Zhenbei Group.

How could he procure, not just one, but more than one bottle?

Alger simply didn't believe it.

"Mr. Bai, are you certain you have this wine?" Alger even raised his cup in frustration and frowned as he asked.

He saw Yang Yishan and Lisa, two beauties, looking at Bai Xiaosheng in amazement, seemingly convinced by this "lie," which made him very uncomfortable.

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged and pointed at the wine bottle wrapped in lambskin in the old butler's hand, casually saying, "Encounter Winery Group from Europe, last year's edition, Encounter 1834, am I right?"

Bai Xiaosheng's remark left Alger in a daze, and he looked towards Bai Xiaosheng with an incredulous gaze.

Bai Xiaosheng not only knew what the wine was but was also aware of its special numbering?!

The people present, initially skeptical, saw Alger's stunned reaction and immediately believed him.

Everyone looked at Bai Xiaosheng in amazement.

Alger had previously boasted about the wine's preciousness, thus elevating Bai Xiaosheng's prestige significantly in the eyes of the crowd.

Yang Xiaoyun, aware of Bai Xiaosheng's status in the Wei Family, wasn't surprised, thinking it was wine acquired by the Wei Family and then passed on to Bai Xiaosheng.

Yang Yishan and Lisa indeed looked at Bai Xiaosheng with radiant and admiring eyes.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but exchange amused glances.

Alger today had truly fallen into the trap; bragging about Bai Xiaosheng's own company's wine to him—it was like showing off swordsmanship in front of Guanyu.

Firstly, the wine's name was given by Bai Xiaosheng, and the number wasn't the year but a combination of numbers 1314 and 520 resulting in 1834.

Foreigners obviously don't understand the wonderful homophonic meanings of Huaxia language. It's fine; just explain it to them, they'll appreciate it because they love romance anyway.

Secondly, regarding the wine, the production wasn't as low as claimed; Bai Xiaosheng had Mo Xin and others reduce the quantity to target the high-end market. But it wasn't as extreme as Alger stated, that only two hundred bottles were supplied—those were just marketing tactics to justify its high price...

Price was secondary; the key was to build its reputation. Wealthy people care less about cost and more about symbolic significance...

However, Alger was correct about one thing; this wine, with a hundred bottles exclusively supplied to the original recipe owner, Bai Xiaosheng...

Bai Xiaosheng had to rent a wine cellar at his residence because of this, where wines revered by Alger still had seventy or eighty bottles... it's just that with a staff of only three, they can't drink much...

Alger originally intended to showcase his prestige in this aspect, but unexpectedly, it redirected everyone's attention to Bai Xiaosheng.

Witnessing this scene, Alger felt rather frustrated.

"Since Mr. Bai has this wine, I can't be stingy and will have to offer my treasured collection, although I have less than a bottle of this wine."

Alger handed the empty crystal cup to a servant and signaled to the old butler.

The old butler immediately had a solemn expression, placing the wine back in its original position and twisting the secret compartment beneath the cart, revealing a hidden nook, cushioned with soft padding, with a bottle inside.

The care taken in preserving it far exceeded that of jewelry and antique collectibles.

Though the value of such items in the eyes of people like Alger may be equivalent to "dirt."

The old butler "cradled" the wine, moving delicately as if holding a newborn baby instead of a bottle.

Once he slightly straightened up, a servant promptly held a tray underneath to catch it, protecting it.

Such treatment was ten times more cautious than for a single bottle.

Everyone watching felt a burning curiosity, waiting for Alger's introduction.

But this time, Alger remained silent, refusing to speak.

Could it be that my earlier introduction revealed too much, allowing Bai Xiaosheng to guess what wine I was referring to? If he knew enough about the insider details, this speculation is indeed possible!

Chapter 2574 - Wine Connoisseur (Part 3)

If that's really the case, everyone present has been deceived by him. He claimed he had that kind of wine, and not just one bottle. We have to believe him since we can't make him produce proof!

This time, I'll simply say nothing and watch what else he can say!

Alger was thinking this in his mind.

The old butler was extremely attentive, working with another servant, pouring a small amount of wine into a brand new crystal cup.

Then, the old butler immediately sealed the bottle and returned it to the compartment in the trolley, his actions seamless, as if fearing any mishap.

Finally, through the old butler's hands, that scant bit of wine was handed to Alger.

Alger pushed the wine cup towards Bai Xiaosheng, smiling, "Mr. Bai, I think you are an expert. Why don't you taste it and see how it is!"

Alger's voice was brimming with confidence.

The crowd was full of curiosity, yet heard no explanation from Alger, and immediately started whispering and exchanging thoughts.

"Why doesn't Mr. Alger describe this wine?"

"Looking at the old butler's demeanor, it's clear this must be ten times better than the bottle before."

"I'm sure there'll be an explanation after the tasting..."

Everyone was anticipating it, even Yang Xiaoyun.

This time, Alger didn't give more introductions, and even Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked curious, as did Yang Yishan and Lisa.

Bai Xiaosheng politely accepted the cup from Alger's hand, poured it into his mouth, and silently savored the taste.

Everyone present quietly waited.

A moment later, Bai Xiaosheng handed the cup back to Alger, then leaned in to whisper something.

Alger's expression changed instantly, unbelievably looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him and leaned in to say more. Just like that, they started a secret conversation in front of everyone, causing others to perk up their ears but unable to hear that mosquito-like whisper.

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng stepped back, smiling without speaking.

Alger's expression quickly returned to normal. He handed the crystal cup to the old butler and applauded publicly, saying with a smile, "Mr. Bai truly is a wine connoisseur, a pleasure to meet, haha. Let's conclude our wine tasting here!"

The crowd was utterly bewildered, having no idea what had transpired.

Having finished speaking, Alger nodded politely to Bai Xiaosheng, "Allow me to excuse myself for a moment!"

With that, Alger unexpectedly hurriedly left with his subordinates.

The crowd was even more perplexed, not understanding what had happened.

But with Alger's departure, the scene dispersed. Bai Xiaosheng smiled at everyone, nodded to Yang Xiaoyun, and strolled to the distant sofa area with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

Seeing this, the crowd could only disperse in confusion, but each harboring suspicions, soon turning the incident into conversational topics, being eagerly discussed.

The unknown, the mysterious, is always the most intriguing.

Even Dong Tianlu and Lu Tiandao were interested in speculating what Bai Xiaosheng had said to Alger.

Trailing closely behind Bai Xiaosheng was Lin Weiwei, who seemed to have the privileged closeness. She could no longer restrain herself, taking a half-step forward to ask Bai Xiaosheng quietly, "Xiaosheng, what exactly did you say to him?"

With no one around, Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind responding to Lin Weiwei, smiling and replying in a mosquito-like whisper.

"I told him, the wine is fake."

Chapter 2575 - This Won't Do, That Won't Work Either!

Lin Weiwei whispered a few words to Bai Xiaosheng and managed to stop Alger from boasting, temporarily leaving the scene, filled with great curiosity.

Not only her, but even Lei Ying standing beside was curious.

But hearing what Bai Xiaosheng said, the two of them were taken aback, exchanged glances, and were somewhat incredulous.

Bai Xiaosheng said he told Alger that the wine was fake. Then, Alger just believed him and left?

Isn't that a bit too simple?

Alger looked like someone who loves fine wine, who has drunk a lot, wouldn't he be an expert, and unable to tell if the wine is real or not?

Alger was so confident in his wine, how could a single sentence from Bai Xiaosheng shake him?

Bai Xiaosheng's "reveal" didn't help; rather, it sparked more questions in Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying's hearts.

However, at the moment, Bai Xiaosheng was not convenient to say more, so Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had to suppress their curiosity.

Eventually, the three of them arrived at a corner of the banquet hall, where there was a sofa area for guests to rest. The three found a place with fewer people, sat down, and soon a waiter came by to deliver drinks, then quietly left, no longer disturbing them.

"Xiaosheng, did Alger just believe you that easily?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but lower her voice, asking.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled upon hearing this, took a sip of wine, and said, "He's an expert, so I used expert terminology to let him know I am also an expert. I could even taste the origin and craftsmanship, my skills surpassing his. As long as he was shocked by me, at least he would have doubts about what I said.

Then, I would tell him where the wine had issues, without getting too detailed, just a hint, and he would doubt even more."

"And then, just like that?" Lin Weiwei found it hard to believe and exchanged a glance with Lei Ying, saying, "But he could have publicly refuted you."

Bai Xiaosheng laughed immediately upon hearing this, "You have to consider the psychology of the other party. Would he publicly refute what I said at the scene, to gamble that his wine really had no issues? If he won and the wine was good, wouldn't that be expected, and I wouldn't lose anything. But if he lost, and what he cherished turned out to be a fake, wouldn't he lose face? Such a proud person, flaunting a fake wine at such a high-end party, wouldn't that be utterly humiliating, perhaps never to be welcomed in high society again? So, he can't afford to lose."

With Bai Xiaosheng saying this, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying understood why Alger stopped the tasting and left hurriedly.

Probably to urgently verify the authenticity of that wine.

"Was that last bottle of wine also from our 'Encounter' winery?" Lin Weiwei suddenly thought of this question and quickly asked.

"I did notice, the silhouette of that bottle was classical, even the cork was unusual," Lei Ying said, "It probably wasn't."

Bai Xiaosheng immediately smiled and said, "Not from our 'Encounter' winery, but it's a century-old strong distilled wine, and actually quite nice in taste."

Hearing this, Lin Weiwei was stunned.

"Nice taste? Didn't you say it was fake?"

Bai Xiaosheng used "fake wine" to scare Alger away; how could he still say it tasted nice?

"The wine is nice, but indeed it is fake." Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Initially, I was just curious why two kinds of old wines were mixed together. Then I thought, the most likely purpose was to confuse the taste for imitation. So, I asked him about the age of the wine; didn't you see that he also replied to me? He said it was one hundred and ten years old, but actually, those two wines were no more than fifty or sixty years old."

With Red Lotus, the super intelligence for analysis and appraisal, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't go wrong.

However, what Bai Xiaosheng said seemed more and more mystical.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but look at each other in astonishment, then turned their gaze to Bai Xiaosheng.

"You could taste all that, what is your tongue made of?"

"Does that still count as fake wine?"

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged with a smile, glanced outside the hall, and said, "I suppose Mr. Alger is now eagerly having the wine appraised and tested. A proud person like him wouldn't tolerate even a slight fake."

Lin Weiwei pouted, "I can't understand, if it's good wine and has old age, why not just drink it, whether it's original or not."

"You'll never know, for someone obsessed, they can't tolerate even a grain of sand." Lei Ying clicked his tongue.

The topic ended here as the three sipped their wine.

However, before long, this relatively quieter corner became lively due to Bai Xiaosheng.

People seeking him were either guests present or members of commercial groups.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had to give up their seats to those people, allowing them to sit and chat with Bai Xiaosheng.

Before long, Alger also returned with people from outside the hall.

"You don't need to stay here; go back now, keep watch on the testing yourself, find several more professionals, I want the results as soon as possible. Also, get someone to find the guy who sold me the wine, and question him about the wine's authenticity." Alger instructed his old butler in a low voice while walking, "I don't want to lose face over such a matter!"

The old butler quickly nodded and left in a hurry.

Alger stood at the entrance of the hall, took a long breath to calm himself, scanned the area, and located Bai Xiaosheng's position.

However, he didn't go over, instead adjusted his mood and expression, and walked in another direction.

The lively scene earlier drew a crowd, but many important figures did not care to join the bustle.

Chapter 2576 - Nothing Works, No Matter What! (Part 2)

Those people all had unusually powerful backgrounds, many of them ranked among the top ten enterprises in the business world of the West African Chieftain Union.

Alger was going over to greet those uncles and elders, and talk a bit of business while he was at it.

Of course, all of this was just "preparatory work". Once everything was in place, Alger planned to go look for Bai Xiaosheng again.

His real goal was to reach a cooperation agreement with the Huaxia Business Group.

Their group-to-group cooperation with the Karan business community had already come to Alger's attention.

For someone as conceited as he was, he also wanted to pull off something big, to show the people in his family.

With that goal in mind, Alger had been holding back quite a lot when facing Bai Xiaosheng.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng was not yet aware that Alger had such intentions.

As the reception went on, Bai Xiaosheng, the central figure of the event, was extremely busy, barely taking a break, chatting with seven or eight waves of people.

Many figures from Oshan's business community showed great enthusiasm and high expectations toward the Huaxia Business Group, all thinking about launching major collaborations.

Even though Bai Xiaosheng knew full well that, with only "half" of the business group's people on his side, it would be hard to take on any more big deals, he still communicated with those people very carefully.

Bai Xiaosheng had it all planned out.

Some high-quality cooperation opportunities could be used as bridges and connections, handed over to Lu Yun, Jia Chengshan and the other "half" of the group. As for the rest, if the local businessmen were willing, he could have his own private company absorb them—of course, outwardly it would still be "helping out a friend".

Besides that, he could also funnel business to the Wei Family, and even to the Luo Family in Europe, the Qin Family in South America, and the Bai Family in North America; they could all help digest it.

As long as some local businessmen weren't specifically targeting the Asian market, everything was open to discussion.

While Bai Xiaosheng was busy on his side, Alger was not idle either, seeking out seven or eight heavyweight figures one after another.

Given Alger's status and background, those people all gave him some face.

Alger reaped a bountiful harvest and felt immensely satisfied that his business plan could gain such broad acceptance and recognition.

Soon, Alger wrapped up his talks and, seeing a gap open up around Bai Xiaosheng, strode over.

Coincidentally, Yang Xiaoyun was also bringing Yang Yishan over from another direction to find Bai Xiaosheng.

The two parties arrived in front of Bai Xiaosheng almost at the same time; Alger and Yang Xiaoyun couldn't help exchanging a surprised look.

"Mr. Yang, are you also here to discuss something important with Mr. Bai? Why don't you go first?" Alger said with a polite smile.

But since he put it that way, how could Yang Xiaoyun deny him this bit of face.

"I don't really have anything pressing. If you do, Mr. Alger, go ahead and talk. I'll take the chance to rest a bit." Yang Xiaoyun chuckled, moved to the side, found a seat and sat down. He tapped his leg and muttered to himself, "Once you get to a certain age, your legs and feet tire so easily."

Yang Yishan cast a glance at Alger, then went over to sit with his father.

Seeing this scene, Alger smiled faintly and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Mr. Bai, I have something to discuss with you. Why don't we step aside and talk slowly?"

Alger raised his hand and pointed to a corner of the sofa area by the window, where there was a table in a rather secluded spot.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded. "Since you have something to discuss, Mr. Alger, that's fine."

Alger smiled, then lightly waved his fingers in that direction. His men immediately went over and took seats in a ring around that table, using their presence as a human screen to carve out a private space for conversation.

Alger made an inviting gesture toward Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying. "You two stay here and chat with Mr. Yang and Miss Yang for a bit."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded at once and did as he said.

Alger's gaze lingered on Lin Weiwei for a moment.

"After you, Mr. Alger." Bai Xiaosheng cut him off and made an inviting gesture as well.

Only then did the two of them head over together.

The movements on their side naturally drew the attention of the other guests present.

By a bar counter, Miss Lisa was holding a glass of red wine in one hand, gently swirling it to set the crimson liquid rolling, while her other hand supported the elbow of the hand with the glass.

Her eyes were fixed on Bai Xiaosheng and Alger, full of subtle, meaningful intent.

...

Bai Xiaosheng and Alger sat facing each other at a small table.

"Mr. Alger, are you here to talk business with me?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

"But of course." Alger flashed his white teeth and said with a grin, "And it's big business!"

"I'd love to hear the details." Bai Xiaosheng nodded at once.

If he could secure a major cooperation with the family behind Alger, the returns would be astonishing.

However, Bai Xiaosheng didn't quite believe that for a truly heavyweight deal, the other side would send only Alger alone to negotiate with him.

And in any case, a reception like this was not an ideal setting.

Alger looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, unable to hide his eagerness. "Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I've heard about your cooperation model with the Karan business community. Frankly speaking, I admire that approach very much, and I'd like to cooperate with you in the same way. Before this conversation with you, I went to seven or eight major players and discussed a lot of deals. If you're willing, I promise you'll be in for a huge surprise!"

When Alger said this, he was practically brimming with confidence.

"So, what you're saying is that this cooperation you're proposing with me is something you personally prepared, Mr. Alger, and not your family?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help asking.

From Alger's words, this was clearly his own operation.

That was something Bai Xiaosheng hadn't expected.

He hadn't expected Alger to be this ambitious.

"That's right. As long as we cooperate well, my family will definitely stand with you in the future."

Alger seized the moment, using that as bait.

"Then I'd like to hear your plan." Bai Xiaosheng's interest in the matter cooled significantly, but for the sake of decorum he still decided to listen to what Alger had to say first.

Chapter 2577 - This Won't Work, That Won't Work Either! (3)

Alger saw Bai Xiaosheng had some "interest" and immediately felt invigorated.

"There are many types of cooperation we can engage in!" Alger said eagerly, "For example, some shipping business. You know I'm currently helping the family manage some industries, in which certain by-products are born. If processed locally, it requires a lot of money, but if exported, just send them anywhere, just don't bring them back. That can save a lot of money! Moreover, I've spoken with many entrepreneurs who can help absorb this trouble together. This only requires your help with reception in Asia."

"Foreign garbage."

Bai Xiaosheng frowned, immediately exposing the true nature of Alger's so-called "by-products."

"If that's the case, I'm sorry, our Huaxia regulations don't allow it!"

Bai Xiaosheng spoke very bluntly and directly.

"There's no need to send it to you specifically; isn't your business spread across Asia... There must be a port available for this." Alger said quickly.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't hesitate, shook his head directly, "If you want, I can send our 'by-products' over there, but they won't be sent back. There's no negotiation on this matter!"

Bai Xiaosheng's straightforward rejection made Alger's expression a bit unpleasant.

"But I've already discussed with many people at the party." Alger forced a smile, "Mr. Bai, is there really no room for negotiation at all?!"

"None!" Bai Xiaosheng's expression slightly darkened.

"Okay, let's pretend I didn't mention that." Alger paused for a moment, then smiled, "I have another major business proposition!"

Bai Xiaosheng gestured for him to continue.

"The medical field, one of my family's main businesses! It's the most profitable industry nowadays! Everyone gets sick and needs medication; the more serious the illness, the more expensive the drug!"

Alger eagerly explained to Bai Xiaosheng, "As long as you can help me find extensive trial users in Huaxia and obtain effective data, I can let you be the agent over there. We can set the drug prices very high, and I will guarantee you a very satisfying share ratio, and once established, my family will provide many new drugs! Just now, I have even reached a consensus with two pharmaceutical tycoons, and they agree! Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, I don't know who within your business group can cooperate in this area, so I'm only negotiating with you; you can distribute the business and earn even more!"

Alger's intention was understood by Bai Xiaosheng, but he didn't want this cooperation.

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath, looked earnestly at Alger, "Mr. Alger, I won't do this either!"

It's laughable; Bai Xiaosheng also owns a pharmaceutical company and would never engage in such "unethical" practices—how could he agree!

"This won't work either!" Alger frowned, then forcefully smoothed out his expression, forcing a smile, "I have other businesses!"

Alger went on to mention three or four businesses.

It could be said that the industries were good, the businesses were promising, but Alger's perspective on these businesses was misguided.

Bai Xiaosheng rejected them all.

Actually, the latter two were proper businesses, but Bai Xiaosheng's side was "saturated."

This time, it was Alger who refused.

"I mean, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, what do you mean by this!"

In business, where he was "invincible," Alger had never encountered such a "Waterloo." Many deals he thought were sure bets and had mentioned beforehand to others that the Huaxia Business Group would agree; if he had to tell those people it wasn't settled, where would he put his face!

Finally, Alger couldn't hold back; he slammed the table, glared angrily at Bai Xiaosheng.

"The relevant businesses I mentioned, clearly you have cooperated in Karan, why is it not possible now with me! Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, do you not want to cooperate with me! Do you look down on me!"

Alger was truly angry.

Chapter 2578 - Parting on Bad Terms

Bai Xiaosheng completely rejected Alger's proposal for cooperation, not agreeing to any of it, which made Alger suddenly burst with anger.

What did this Bai Xiaosheng want?

Did he want to shut the door of cooperation on him?

With Alger's background and status, he came here proactively, with a friendly face, had even set the stage with business friends in advance, yet he was entirely rejected? What was this!

If this got out, would Alger still want to mingle in Oshan! He would probably become a laughingstock in the Chieftain Union business community of West Africa!

He would also be secretly laughed at by his contemporaries in the family!

All these were intolerable to Alger.

His dignity was his soft spot!

"Mr. Alger, I hope you can calm down and control your emotions. If you truly want to cooperate with us, please be patient. I've taken note of the resources you mentioned. After going back, I'll consult with the people in the business group to see in which areas we can collaborate with you," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Saying this, however, sounded like an insult to Alger!

Was this meant to pity him—Alger, the sole heir of the fourth most powerful enterprise among the top ten enterprises of the West African Chieftain Union, richer than a nation!

"Hehe." Alger looked at Bai Xiaosheng, who was the same age, laughing out of extreme anger.

The laughter was as unpleasant as it could be.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, are you pitying me?" Alger said gloomily.

Bai Xiaosheng could naturally see that his proud peer was so furious that he couldn't be contained.

This super wealthy young master's resilience seemed incredibly fragile?

Bai Xiaosheng found it unbelievable.

Could it be that in Alger's business career so far, he had always succeeded without encountering any setbacks? Had he never failed in business? Had no negotiations ever fallen through?

Bai Xiaosheng guessed right.

Among those who dealt with Alger as partners or business opponents, who truly dared to earn from him, or make him lose money? All were eager to offer benefits, hoping to connect with his family.

Even if not, they wouldn't easily provoke him.

Alger was indeed invincible.

All of his dozens of titles were given by various business organizations to have him appear at their meetings, thereby increasing their own renown.

If it could win the Alger family's financial support, all the better...

Alger, who always succeeded in sailing smoothly in the business world, hit the dam that was Bai Xiaosheng today.

Those businesses harmful to Huaxia were resolutely refused by Bai Xiaosheng.

Those business ventures that were already saturated and deemed unworthy to recommend to allies were politely declined by Bai Xiaosheng.

This back and forth left Alger entirely denied by Bai Xiaosheng.

Even Bai Xiaosheng's words about consulting with the people in the business group upon return, to see if any cooperation could be found, were merely polite words to avoid hurting his face.

But in Alger's eyes, these words were pitying him.

It was like dismissing a beggar!

This was more unbearable than being slapped in public!

Noticing Alger's "fragility," Bai Xiaosheng naturally wanted to make up for his straightforward attitude earlier, "Mr. Alger, I didn't mean to target you, it's just that those cooperation proposals you mentioned are not suitable for us."

Bai Xiaosheng explained politely.

Alger directly raised a hand to motion "stop," then stood up, and coldly looked at Bai Xiaosheng, "No need to say anymore, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng."

At this point, Alger wouldn't listen to any words at all.

"I wish you, in the coming days, have a pleasant time in Oshan!"

Alger's expression slightly twisted, leaving such a remark before turning away, giving Bai Xiaosheng no chance to say another word.

Bai Xiaosheng watched Alger leave with his people and could only sigh.

He didn't expect this peer, burdened with dozens of halos, to have such a fragile mentality. However, upon reflection, it was not hard to understand.

For someone to receive so many accolades at such a young age, without maintaining humility and low profile, it inherently implied arrogance, flamboyance, and a mysterious narcissism.

However, the remark Alger left behind when leaving was clearly threatening.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng did not care.

Firstly, their business group needs were currently saturated, so there was no fear of lack of cooperation, the unperturbed make them strong.

Secondly, Bai Xiaosheng was never a troublemaker, but he also never feared trouble.

If Alger really wanted to take action as a result, then bring it on, and even if his family acted, Bai Xiaosheng would not even frown.

...

Alger left angrily, not hiding his emotions, and this scene fell into the eyes of some keen observers.

These people immediately started whispering, secretly guessing what kind of conflict Alger had with the leader of the Huaxia Commercial Delegation, and what the conflict was about.

This scene could spark numerous speculations and generate endless topics...

From a distance, Miss Lisa glanced over at Alger's side before carrying a glass of wine alone towards the doorway.

Alger naturally also saw the many eyes sneaking glances at him, his expression growing uglier, he headed straight for the hall's exit with his people.

He could not stay here for another moment.

He couldn't afford this loss of face!

"Mr. Alger."

On his way out, Alger naturally encountered some people; some who hadn't paid attention to what happened there, seeing Alger, immediately greeted him warmly.

Chapter 2579 - Parting on Bad Terms (2)

However, Alger only fluttered his eyelids slightly as if he'd already said hello, without the slightest desire to speak, and walked straight past with his people.

The ones who greeted him were left standing there, dumbfounded and confused, not knowing what was going on.

There were quite a few people like that; by the time Alger reached the doorway, he'd already run into three such groups.

Not a single one got even half a word in response from Alger.

But just as Alger reached the entrance of the banquet hall, a group of people happened to walk in from outside.

Their bearing and demeanor were completely different from business people; the aura they carried made it easy to see at a glance—these were all political figures.

The one at the head of that group was a very energetic-looking middle-aged man.

He was slightly balding, but didn't look old at all; his cheeks were sharply contoured, with a hooked nose and eyes like lightning, a face that clearly didn't smile easily.

When Alger saw this man, he froze for a moment. Not only did he drop the icy façade, he even forced out a smile and stepped forward to greet him.

"Mr. Wagg!"

When Mr. Wagg saw Alger, the originally somewhat cold face also showed a faint smile. "Alger, you came to this reception too."

"Are you leaving now?"

Seeing Alger looking like he was on his way out, Mr. Wagg asked another question.

"Yes, I've already finished talking business with someone and was just about to go." Alger glanced back in the direction of Bai Xiaosheng, then turned around with a slightly cold look in his eyes. "I've already 'finished' talking with that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng."

Alger's double-edged words, together with his expression, all fell into Mr. Wagg's eyes.

The latter didn't react much, only nodded. "I'm also about to go and have a talk with that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng."

On hearing that, Alger immediately said, "You're going to talk to him too..."

Then Alger's expression shifted into a cold sneer. "That man is very arrogant, you know!"

"I hope you'll have better luck than I did."

"Head on back, and give my regards." Mr. Wagg didn't respond to the jab, only answered like that.

Alger nodded at once, stepped aside, and let him pass.

The people following behind Alger all put on even more respectful expressions and stood to the side.

This Mr. Wagg was the number two of Oshan's Commerce Department, a genuine heavyweight in the political arena. Of course, he had another identity—

Alger's own maternal uncle!

With that kind of status, how could Alger's subordinates dare show anything but respect.

"Mr. Wagg!" "Mr. Wagg!"

As Mr. Wagg walked by with his entourage, Alger's men called out one after another in low voices, each filled with deference.

All along the way, Mr. Wagg nodded slightly in return, counting it as a greeting back.

Only after Mr. Wagg had gone past did Alger call his own people to leave the banquet hall and head straight for the elevator.

But as they came around a corner, Alger suddenly noticed that not far ahead, a beautiful woman was leaning gracefully against the wall, a slender white jade hand holding a crystal glass as she sipped her wine at leisure.

When Alger saw clearly who it was, he was stunned for a moment and went straight toward her.

His subordinates were about to follow when Alger raised his hand slightly; they all stopped at once and didn't go over to disturb him.

Alger walked right up to the beauty and smiled. "Miss Lisa, why aren't you in the banquet hall and instead drinking over here?"

The beauty was Lisa, who had originally been in the hall.

Lisa looked at Alger with a smile in her eyes and countered, "Mr. Alger, you're leaving this soon? Why not stay a bit longer."

If she hadn't asked, it would've been fine; but once she did, Alger clearly looked irritated and snorted coldly, "Stay? Another minute here and I feel stifled!"

Lisa laughed lightly at that and said lazily, "I seem to have seen you go over to chat with that Mr. Bai Xiaosheng just now. Talking cooperation? Didn't go well?"

That was really pressing right on the sore spot.

Alger let out a muffled "hmpf." "Didn't go well is putting it mildly. The head of the Huaxia Business Group really throws his weight around!"

Lisa took a sip from her glass and smiled. "Mr. Alger doesn't seem happy. I'll keep you company for a chat—there's a lounge over there, and it's nice and quiet. By the way, do you still have any wine..."

Lisa raised her empty glass. "I don't have a single drop left."

Alger gave this Western beauty a once-over, then smiled. "I brought plenty of fine wine. Miss Lisa can drink to her heart's content!"

The two of them walked toward the lounge one after the other. Alger also gestured to the people behind him, telling them to follow and bring the wine along.

As Lisa walked ahead, she said slowly, "Mr. Alger, you're letting an outsider get you so upset? This is your home turf. People can say that Bai Xiaosheng of the Huaxia Business Group has an unusual status and can't be touched by just anyone, but for you, don't you have all sorts of resources to make him and his people suffer, even to the point where they have to come begging you for mercy in the end."

When Alger heard Lisa say that, he turned to look at her right away. "What do you mean by that? Miss Lisa, do you have a way...to help me vent my anger?"

Lisa glanced back over her shoulder with a captivating smile. "If Mr. Alger wants to hear it, I'll explain it properly in a bit. And I guarantee this matter will never implicate you, nor will it implicate your family. You'll be able to toy with that Bai Xiaosheng and his Huaxia Business Group in the palm of your hand!"

Alger's eyes instantly lit up. He strode up to Lisa and laughed. "You Westerners have always been masters of intrigue. I'll have to ask Miss Lisa for good instruction later!"

"Instruction is no problem," Lisa's eyes glinted. "As long as Mr. Alger is willing to part with some of your fine wine!"

"Fine wine for a fair lady—why would I be stingy!" Alger laughed loudly.

As they spoke, the two had already reached the lounge. Alger personally opened the door and invited Lisa in first, then glanced back in the direction of the banquet hall, his eyes flickering as if saying—

Bai Xiaosheng, just you wait!

While Alger was meeting Lisa, Mr. Wagg was leading his people around the banquet hall, greeting the guests.

In the face of this number-two figure from Oshan's Commerce Department, the business tycoons present all showed unprecedented enthusiasm.

Mr. Wagg also wore a smile and greeted them one by one.

When it came to Huaxia businessmen like Dong Tianlu and Lu Tiandao, his smile grew even warmer and his tone gentler.

But all the meetings were just brief pleasantries; the direction Mr. Wagg was heading with his people was toward Bai Xiaosheng's side.

Sitting in the corner, Bai Xiaosheng only noticed Mr. Wagg when they were already quite close.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had noticed earlier that some big shot seemed to have arrived and had gone ahead to "scout" the situation; now they hurried back and whispered in Bai Xiaosheng's ear.

Bai Xiaosheng also learned of Mr. Wagg's identity and immediately stood up with a smile to go meet him.

For this welcome to the Huaxia Business Group, Oshan Chieftaincy had put up quite a grand show. Even Asgar, son of the Great Chieftain, had made a personal appearance, but the number one and number two of the national Commerce Department were absent.

Bai Xiaosheng had specifically looked into it. This month the Oshan Commerce Department, according to routine, had to report to the government, with a pile of planning reports. He believed they were busy with that.

Although Oshan's political situation was stable, in recent years its Commerce Department had never satisfied the public. Two consecutive administrations had been impeached and forced to resign en masse during their terms. So this term was under tremendous pressure; otherwise, they wouldn't possibly have missed such an important external event as the welcoming ceremony.

But Bai Xiaosheng also believed that the number one and number two of Oshan's Commerce Department would definitely show up to meet him and would even behave very proactively.

The reason was simple: they would definitely hope the Huaxia Business Group could bring them huge results, delivering inspiring news from the national level down to the departmental level.

It was just a pity that, for now, Bai Xiaosheng and his group's cooperation scale was limited.

Still, Bai Xiaosheng had already decided that if the Oshan Commerce Department was willing, he would do his best to build connections for them.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng and Mr. Wagg finally came face to face.

The two of them greeted each other with smiles; before they even spoke, their hands were already clasped together.

"Hello, Mr. Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Hello, Mr. Wagg!"

The warmth on both sides was like that of old friends.

Chapter 2580 - Another Negotiation Falls Apart

Bai Xiaosheng and Mr. Wagg entered a small lounge inside the gala hall, while Lin Weiwei, Lei Ying, and Mr. Wagg's entourage waited outside the door to avoid interrupting their conversation.

"I apologize, Mr. Bai, due to work-related reasons, we couldn't attend the welcome ceremony during the day." Mr. Wagg first smiled and apologized to Bai Xiaosheng, "The Minister also cannot come at this time because he needs to report to the highest council in our country, so he entrusted me to express his utmost apologies and warmest welcome to you and the Huaxia Business Group."

Bai Xiaosheng previously learned about Oshan's structure, which differs from the Aisha Emirate and Karan Chieftaincy; it consists of six chieftains forming the highest council, from which the President and Vice President are selected to manage the state. The Ministry of Commerce member assembly must report to the highest council annually, and if they don't satisfy the council, they face the threat of stepping down.

Their Minister likely wanted to come but simply didn't have the time, which is understandable.

"Mr. Wagg, you and the Minister are too kind." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's accommodating and amiable demeanor, Mr. Wagg smiled and raised his glass to him.

Bai Xiaosheng reciprocated the gesture, and both took a sip of wine.

"Huaxia people are friendly and tolerant, seeing is believing." Mr. Wagg said with a smile, "Though our Ministry of Commerce was somewhat negligent due to being entangled in matters, we certainly won't disappoint our Huaxia friends. Look——"

As Mr. Wagg spoke, he took out his briefcase, flipped through a stack of paper documents, and handed them to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "This is a commercial cooperation framework jointly drafted by the Minister and me, involving twenty industries and forty enterprises. If you're willing, we'll assist you in negotiating with those enterprises, ensuring the most favorable conditions for your business group, thereby facilitating this grand collaboration between both parties!"

Mr. Wagg's typically stern expression had maintained a smile from earlier until now.

When he spoke these words, he seemed somewhat excited.

However, Bai Xiaosheng remained calm and courteous, glancing through the documents first.

Mr. Wagg sipped his wine while discreetly observing Bai Xiaosheng.

In his heart, he couldn't help but feel amazed.

He had heard that the Huaxia Commercial Delegation Leader was a young businessman with relatively unknown fame, and it turns out he truly is impressive. He can remain composed, despite facing such a substantial cooperation, exhibiting remarkable calmness.

Remarkable!

While Mr. Wagg was inwardly praising him, Bai Xiaosheng was reviewing the commercial cooperation framework, increasingly understanding the situation.

It seemed Wagg's department was bundling a lot of cooperation in one go, hoping to seize the opportunity to unload it on him.

The discounts involved were indeed substantial, overall appearing beneficial to his side.

However, if he were to sign, it would also bring significant achievements to their department, allowing them to survive the reporting crisis.

In theory, it could be considered "win-win."

But in Bai Xiaosheng's view, only about one-third of the content would suit his side.

Being the delegation leader, he had witnessed numerous partnerships along the way, knowing which industries Dong Tianlu and Lu Tiandao paid more attention to and where they hoped to sign agreements, also knowing how much "appetite" they had left.

Clearly, what Mr. Wagg offered was "bloated" and "complicated," though seemingly suitable in terms of discounts, yet not appropriate.

Considering the needs of the business group members, perhaps only one-third of the framework would be useful...

The reason Bai Xiaosheng patiently reviewed one by one was to ponder how he might tactfully express his side's needs and reject unsuitable cooperation later.

Bai Xiaosheng looked over the documents for twenty minutes, and Mr. Wagg patiently waited for twenty minutes, checking the time twice during the interval.

Mr. Wagg's visit was bearing the Minister's earnest hope and also concerned his own job, naturally eager to achieve a pleasing result.

After obtaining a positive result, he needed to set off immediately to strive to include today's achievements in tomorrow's report.

At that moment, they were racing against time, driven by a strong survival instinct.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng still reading leisurely, Mr. Wagg couldn't hold back and asked with a smile, "Mr. Bai, what do you think of this document?"

Bai Xiaosheng finally raised his head and looked at the other party, smiling and saying, "It's pretty good."

This response seemed too "plain" to Mr. Wagg, lacking the sense of surprise and excitement.

Clearly dissatisfied.

"Actually, regarding discounts, especially policy aspects, there's room for negotiation, ensuring your satisfaction. After all, Huaxia is our most friendly nation, you are our most esteemed guests, and cooperating with you is something our department eagerly looks forward to." Mr. Wagg said repeatedly, "Regarding the entire cooperation, if you find the scale too large, in the first phase, we can sign ninety percent, even eighty percent."

Faced with Mr. Wagg's enthusiasm, Bai Xiaosheng could only say with a smile, "We'll seriously consider this cooperation framework soon, but you know, actually, I, like any businessman in the group, am equal, so I need to discuss with them..."

These words immediately made Mr. Wagg a bit anxious.

Discuss further?

If they took more days to discuss, perhaps his department might undergo a complete change, eventually benefiting only the next group.

Mr. Wagg wished Bai Xiaosheng would sign immediately.

"Mr. Bai, I've heard about your deeds in Karan, I know you can fully decide on your business group's matters, you have the prestige and ability." Mr. Wagg even flattered Bai Xiaosheng.