

Two Trillion 461

Chapter 461: Full-scale War, Annihilate the Yin Family!_1

Yin Dongfeng's expression was anxious, his steps hurried, and without even knocking, he barged directly into his father Yin Haoran's meditation room.

Yin Haoran was dressed in a long robe, sitting cross-legged on a cushion, calmly threading a string of small-leaf red sandalwood prayer beads through his fingers, silently reciting scriptures.

The ancient bronze incense burner beside him wafted trails of smoke, adding a sense of tranquility to the room.

Yin Haoran had spent an extra hour on his "homework" today, feeling his entire being transported to a more serene state.

Just as he was contentedly reaping the benefits of his practice, Yin Dongfeng burst in!

"What's the matter, to be in such a fluster?" Yin Haoran frowned slightly and chided softly.

When he was contemplating life and refining his spiritual nature, he did not want to be disturbed.

"Dad, something's, something's happened!" Yin Dongfeng's face was deathly pale, completely oblivious to his father's displeasure, his voice even stuttering.

Yin Haoran's eyelids twitched with a hint of surprise.

Yin Dongfeng wasn't an impetuous person but rather composed.

If he acted like this, it must be a serious matter!

"What happened?" Yin Haoran stood up, frowning as he asked.

"You have to see this!" Yin Dongfeng quickly handed over a tablet displaying the news.

Below, there were a hundred thousand comments!

"All the major media outlets have featured it as their headline stories, and all their arrows are pointing at our Haobei International!" Yin Dongfeng said fearfully, "By the time I received the message, it was already late!"

Yin Haoran scrolled through the tablet.

The more he read, the uglier his expression became, with a mix of shock and panic rising within him—any sense of serenity or detachment he had was cast to the winds.

"How could this be! What about our news public relations department, what are they doing!"

Ever since a major public relations crisis two years ago that almost collapsed the entire family business, Yin Haoran had established a news public relations department. Its purpose was to deal with all sorts of negative news about Zhongjing Haoran online, from portal websites to bulletin board forums. As soon as negative information appeared, they would handle it promptly, and over the years, they had been quite effective.

And now, it had failed?!

"They discovered it early this morning, originally thinking it was just a routine news event. They immediately organized staff to begin steering public opinion and contacted media outlets to request the removal of negative information. But for some unknown reason, various versions of articles kept popping up, and the comment volume and heat continued to soar, beyond their control!"

As Yin Dongfeng spoke, he couldn't help but take a sharp breath.

Yin Haoran remained silent, continuing to scroll through without uttering a word.

The issue with Haobei International was not very serious at first, but in the storm of public opinion, it became a target of mass criticism. If this continued, not only would the project be over, but their company would suffer as well!

The most critical issue was if the banking system took notice and downgraded their credit rating, that would be a real crisis!

"Where is the eye of this public opinion storm? Get the news public relations center to check for me immediately. I want to know where the initial articles came from and which outlet has the most comprehensive coverage online!"

As Yin Haoran spoke these words, he frowned, an inkling of an answer beginning to form in his mind.

"It's Zhongjing Media!" Yin Dongfeng said gravely.

"Truly them! It's Bai Xiaosheng!" Yin Haoran inhaled sharply, mixed with shock and anger, "He's actually launched an attack on us!"

...

In the Zhongjing Media, General Manager's office.

Lin Weiwei held a tablet in her hands, checking the information and updates.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng had mobilized the entire New Media Department, under the guise of a live-action test of the department's combat readiness!

The New Media Department was the first department that Bai Xiaosheng personally took charge of upon his arrival at Zhongjing Media. It was considered his closest kin, and now everyone in the department was fiercely loyal and enthusiastic about Bai Xiaosheng.

The New Media Department was also the first to undergo sweeping reforms—the expansion of media channels and the integration of media resources were changing rapidly.

They had long been eager to display their achievements for Bai Xiaosheng to see!

Now is the moment!

Though it couldn't compare with the top-tier mainstream media within the country, it was absolutely unrivaled in Zhongjing, this second-tier city, in its own territory!

Now, this was power!

Bai Xiaosheng had long advocated that no medium should be overlooked, especially not individual social media platforms. He championed the idea of organizing them to form the most extensive media front.

With Shi Yu's insistence, Bai Xiaosheng's proposal was initially realized, and the mighty force of the media front became apparent!

Bai Xiaosheng himself was amazed!

It had to be said, Shi Yu's connections over the years were truly invaluable...

At this moment, Shi Yu stood by the side, equally excited.

"The Yin Family has hired a bunch of internet staff, but we've been suppressing them tightly, giving them no chance to fight back!" Lin Weiwei set down her tablet and smiled, "We've already thrown the Yin Family into complete disarray!"

"It's not enough!" Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, "The war of public opinion is only part of it!"

As they were talking, there was a knock on the office door.

Someone pushed the door open and entered.

"Mr. Bai, it's all been handled!" The person smiled warmly.

However, Lin Weiwei and Shi Yu knew he was the most troublesome of all.

"Good, you've worked hard!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him.

"Old Yao! What did you go to do?!" Shi Yu couldn't help asking.

Of the eleven directors, this one was the most unique.

"What else could I be doing, just carrying out Mr. Bai's orders!" Old Yao chuckled.

Old Yao, Yao Songshi, director of the Zhongjing Media Legal Affairs Department, had the fewest people under him, but each of them was incredibly stellar, responsible for all of the company's legal issues!

But this time, what had he done?

Shi Yu and Lin Weiwei were filled with suspicion.

In their confusion, Yin Dongfeng received a phone call!

It was from another project of the Yin Family.

"What! What did you say!" Yin Dongfeng became agitated as soon as he heard it.

"What's wrong now?!" Yin Haoran asked sternly by the side.

Yin Dongfeng hung up the phone, his expression extremely ugly, "Dad, the project in the west city has been sued by Zhongjing Media! They claim that our promotion used stills from Zhongjing Media's TV shows and pictures of Shang Wanwan for commercial advertising, infringing upon their portrait rights. They're claiming damages of twenty million!"

"Why would that project use them?" Yin Haoran said incredulously.

"It seems that someone from the production team had discrete interactions with them and implied this idea. Seeing that Haobei International was collaborating with them, they took it seriously!" Yin Dongfeng said through gritted teeth, "This is clearly Bai Xiaosheng's doing, playing dirty tricks on us. But now we don't have any evidence, and the copyright infringement is confirmed!"

Yin Haoran's hair bristled, his eyes blazing with hatred.

Bai Xiaosheng was clearly cutting them off from all paths of retreat!

As father and son were in dire straits, Yin Dongfeng's phone rang again, and it kept ringing.

There were issues with media partnerships, marketing channels, and even problems with component procurement!

Zhongjing Media used all of its resource advantages to launch a comprehensive attack on the Yin Family!

This time, even fear swelled within the eyes of Yin Haoran.

Bai Xiaosheng was out to completely destroy the Yin Family!

Chapter 462 - I Seek Peace Through a Battle to the Death (Seeking Subscriptions)_1

Within a single day, the Yin Family faced the crisis of collapse!

All of it stemmed from Bai Xiaosheng's revenge!

It was a sweeping, deadly madness the moment he struck!

Even they themselves had never been so mad!

"This man is way too terrifying, and so ruthless—he wants to destroy my Yin Family completely!" Yin Dongfeng's face was ashen, and his voice trembled.

Yin Haoran was slightly better off; after all, he had weathered many storms over the years. Although his heart was filled with panic, he managed to keep a composed expression.

"This lad is extremely merciless!" Yin Haoran let out a long sigh.

This man was a lunatic; if you crossed him once, he would seek to uproot you completely.

"Dad, what do we do now, do we just wait like this..."

The word "wait to die" was something Yin Dongfeng just couldn't utter.

Firstly, it was too ominous; secondly, it was too heavy a burden to bear!

Was the Yin Family going to end like this...

"Call him!" Yin Haoran said darkly.

Yin Dongfeng did as instructed.

The dial tone buzzed until right before the end, the other party picked up.

Yin Dongfeng recalled how he himself had once treated Bai Xiaosheng the same way and couldn't help but bitterly smile.

It seemed like a turn of the wheel of fortune.

Only the lad with the surname Bai seemed like he had never been on the losing end!

Whenever they thought they were going to win, they would always be overturned by the other party.

And this time, it was even more outrageous; they had not even made a move when the opponent's sword was already at their throats...

Previously, father and son had analyzed that Bai Xiaosheng would not let things go easily, but they had not expected that as soon as the film crew left, Bai Xiaosheng would immediately launch an offensive. The urgency left them without any time to defend...

"Yin Dongfeng, what do you need from me?" On the phone, Bai Xiaosheng spoke calmly.

There was none of the arrogance of crushing his opponent; just this attitude alone made Yin Dongfeng respect him.

"Mr. Bai, you've really gone too far this time! I, Yin Dongfeng, am impressed!" Yin Dongfeng sighed.

"Mr. Yin, I am not sure what you are talking about. Oh, right, I still have to thank you for letting our film crew shoot. On the day of the premiere, I'll send you two tickets. Please do me the honor of attending."

Bai Xiaosheng was acting very convincingly!

Yin Dongfeng was at a loss for words.

"Mr. Bai, do you find this amusing?!" Yin Dongfeng was even somewhat angry.

"Not amusing!" Bai Xiaosheng's tone changed on the other end, becoming incredibly chilling, with a bone-penetrating coldness, "But it was you who started this war, so don't blame me for being heartless and ruthless!"

"The incident with Lin Weiwei was a misunderstanding! It was Donglei acting on his own! And, my brother has been ordered by our father to have his legs broken! Isn't that enough!" Yin Dongfeng said angrily with a touch of sorrow.

Yin Donglei's legs were broken?

On the phone, Bai Xiaosheng was also taken aback.

This was unexpected.

The old man of the Yin Family was truly merciless; as the saying goes, even a tiger doesn't eat its cubs...

"The matter with Lin Weiwei, I can consider it a misunderstanding. But were all those previous incidents misunderstandings too?" Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, "I'm very curious as to why the Yin Family thinks they can bully Bai Xiaosheng! Why pick a fight with me!"

These words turned Yin Dongfeng's expression bitter.

Yin Haoran also slightly closed his eyes.

Dammit, if we'd known you were such a madman! We would have rather given up the director position at Zhongjing Media than provoke you!

But now, anything we say is too late.

"Mr. Bai, we underestimated you! We admit defeat! Please, withdraw your hand!" Yin Dongfeng sighed.

On the other end, there was silence for a long while.

Just as Yin Dongfeng was about to speak again, Bai Xiaosheng's voice came through, "It's not enough!"

After this sentence, the busy tone sounded.

Bai Xiaosheng had hung up the phone!

Yin Dongfeng's arm fell limply, as he looked at his father. The call was on speakerphone, and Yin Haoran had clearly heard everything.

This Bai Xiaosheng, he was truly determined to put an end to the Yin Family—without any future!

Yin Dongfeng looked at his father.

Yin Haoran's gaze flickered uncertainly.

"It seems that this time, I must use the connections of my Yin Family to get through this disaster!" Yin Haoran sighed heavily.

Yin Dongfeng was utterly bewildered.

He couldn't think of anyone who could stop Bai Xiaosheng's madness under these circumstances.

However, Yin Haoran seemed quite confident!

Zhongjing Media, General Manager's office.

Lin Weiwei, Shi Yu, and Yao Songshi were looking at Bai Xiaosheng; they had also vaguely heard the conversation between the two parties.

Bai Xiaosheng's words and attitude both had a chilling effect.

Thankfully, Mr. Bai was their Mr. Bai. If they were on the opposing side, it would be terrifying indeed!

"Mr. Bai, this time, are we really going to cut ties with the Yin Family and destroy Zhongjing Haoran?" Shi Yu couldn't help but ask.

As he spoke, he shivered.

This was too ruthless.

Even Yao Songshi, who always had a tough approach, felt somewhat uneasy.

"Weiwei, you are my most trusted assistant. Shi Yu, you and Gao Dazhi, along with Old Yao, are my most trusted directors. Therefore, I am not afraid to tell you three that I am indeed aiming to take down the Yin Family!" Bai Xiaosheng's expression was grim.

The three of them held their breath.

The next second, Bai Xiaosheng himself chuckled.

"Of course, I wouldn't actually do that. There's no deep-seated hatred between us, and one should always leave a way out for others."

Bai Xiaosheng's change was too abrupt.

The three were momentarily brain-frozen, looking at him blankly, not knowing which of his two attitudes was real and which was fake.

"Xiaosheng, you are giving them the most profound lesson, so they will never dare to provoke you again in the future!" Lin Weiwei's eyes lit up as she exclaimed.

Then, she saw Shi Yu and Yao Songshi looking at her and coughed, "Isn't that right, Mr. Bai?"

In the presence of others, she wouldn't have called him Xiaosheng if she hadn't been too excited.

"Exactly!" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Lin Weiwei approvingly and laughed, "To grind down a villain, you need an even bigger villain. To beat them into submission, first you need to frighten them! Let them think twice before they dare to provoke me again, otherwise, they'll have to face endless schemes over and over!"

"I negotiate peace through the threat of war!"

So that was it! They all nodded.

Bai Xiaosheng adopted a lethal posture to intimidate them.

However, this balance was difficult to maintain; knowing when to stop was very important. Stop too early, and the effect wouldn't be reached; stop too late, and things might really become irreparable.

"Just now, it seemed like Yin Dongfeng was convinced," Shi Yu said.

Yao Songshi also nodded in agreement.

"Even if he's convinced, it's useless! The real decision-maker of the Yin Family is Yin Haoran. I believe that when I was on the phone, that old man was right by his side, but from beginning to end, he didn't say a word, he didn't make any threats, nor did he beg for mercy."

Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly, feeling admiration for Yin Haoran, that old fox.

Sure knows how to keep his cool!

Also, such an attitude, according to the Micro-Expression System, signifies that he still has a card up his sleeve.

Not to be underestimated!

Having studied the Micro-Expression System like a textbook, Bai Xiaosheng knew it all too well.

At this moment, his eyes narrowed slightly, "Now, I'm quite curious. I really want to see for myself!"

"What other moves the Yin Family has!"

Chapter 463 Ji Mingyang (Please Subscribe)_1

After finishing the call with Bai Xiaosheng, Yin Haoran fell into deep thought without a word, while Yin Dongfeng had a look of urgency on his face.

"Now is really not the time to be in a daze, oh my dear father, we have to act fast!"

"No matter what action!"

"With each passing second, our Yin family is suffering losses! If we don't take measures soon, it will be too late!"

"By the time Bai Xiaosheng is willing to back off, we'd be almost finished."

"Dad!" Yin Dongfeng called out anxiously.

"Dongfeng, what do you think we should do now?" Yin Haoran looked at his eldest son and asked.

Yin Dongfeng was the future helmsman of the Yin Family, and after his father's century, it was uncertain whether they would encounter such an overturning crisis again. Yin Haoran wanted to hear his thoughts.

"What else can we do? Either attack, defend, or... surrender!" Yin Dongfeng said with difficulty.

"How so?"

"Attack, which means to fight a counterattack against Bai Xiaosheng, sue Zhongjing Media for slander, organize online forces to fight back, and even fabricate some statements about Zhongjing Media deliberately smearing us. And actively contact Chen Changqing for help! But by doing so, we will truly become the pawns, the... cannon fodder!" Yin Dongfeng said with a bitter smile, "And the chance of winning is almost zero, it's just a do-or-die attempt to take a chunk out of him!"

Perhaps, they wouldn't even touch a hair on their opponent...

Yin Dongfeng swallowed hard.

"What about defending?" Yin Haoran asked noncommittally.

"That would mean carrying out a comprehensive crisis PR, cutting losses, and minimizing damage in all aspects. Whatever needs to be compensated should be, whatever needs to be changed should be, make the public satisfied, and not give Bai Xiaosheng more opportunities to expand his victories." Yin Dongfeng smiled bitterly, "However, after all this, the Yin Family will inevitably be heavily impacted. Thinking optimistically, it would be several years of struggle to recover!"

"As for surrendering..." Yin Dongfeng stopped there.

That was easy to understand—it meant complete capitulation, begging for mercy.

Unlike the phone call just now, this time his father had to personally step in and submit to the Bai surname upfront.

To preserve themselves through humiliation, hoping just to be spared by the Bai!

Yin Haoran nodded, uncommitted, and stood up to leave. "Dongfeng, I'm relieved that you can think this through. However, we have another option! You come with me to meet someone!"

They had another option?

Yin Dongfeng was also startled. Since earlier, his father had been saying that there was still someone who could save the Yin Family, someone who could stop Bai Xiaosheng from continuing his madness.

Was there really such a person?

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Zhongjing City Government, Mayor's Office.

Mayor Ji Mingyang was holding a tablet, reviewing the uproarious Haobei International affair on the internet, and observing the focal points of the public debate.

Mayor Ji Mingyang, a middle-aged man with slightly graying hair, sat there with a straight back, exuding vitality.

His expression was serene, showing no sign of emotional fluctuation.

The mayor's secretary, Zhang Meng, stood quietly by the side.

Secretary Zhang, despite the cute-sounding name, was a nearly middle-aged man with an air of an engineering professional.

Secretary Zhang even made a trip to the Zhongjing Media crew's opening ceremony.

Mayor Ji Mingyang liked new things and was adept at utilizing them. In this era, where new media prevailed, he paid special attention to the voices on the internet.

Accordingly, Secretary Zhang did the same.

Once the incident started fermenting, Zhang Meng noticed it and reported to Ji Mingyang.

What Zhang Meng hadn't expected was that just seven or eight hours later, the situation would escalate to this extent!

"The voices online are quite intense, aren't they?" Ji Mingyang said with a smile.

"Now, Zhongjing Haoran Real Estate Co., Ltd. has been thrust into the limelight," Zhang Meng replied. "I noticed that all the news articles link back to a formidable company—Zhongjing Media! So, I did some digging. Zhongjing Media, they're not just targeting Haobei International. Just hours ago, they also filed a lawsuit at the court, accusing a project under Zhongjing Haoran of violating the portrait rights of several actors from their annual blockbuster! They're claiming twenty million in compensation!"

Ji Mingyang nodded slightly, lost in thought for a moment, then chuckled lightly, "It seems this is a war led by Zhongjing Media."

"This Zhongjing Media has caused quite a stir, and yet there's nothing inappropriate about it. They have solid evidence, the law on their side, and are completely relying on official channels and legal measures. In just one day, they've driven a large corporation into a corner," Zhang Meng marveled. "Even I admire the new CEO of Zhongjing Media."

"The new CEO? Isn't it Song Changkong?" Ji Mingyang asked, surprised.

He had been busy attending an important provincial meeting on industrial development and, upon returning, had been genuinely busy. He hadn't known that such a significant change had taken place at one of the large enterprises in his city.

"Not anymore, it's been replaced by a young man named Bai Xiaosheng. He looks to be under thirty; I've met him. He seems to be quite the impressive individual!" Zhang Meng seldom praised anyone, but today he had nothing but commendation for Bai Xiaosheng, "I heard that Song Changkong was ousted by him, forcibly replaced."

"Bai Xiaosheng?"

At the mention of this name, Ji Mingyang frowned slightly, "This name sounds familiar. It seems I've heard it somewhere..."

Zhang Meng waited quietly.

"I feel like it's right on the tip of my tongue, but I just can't place it," Ji Mingyang said, chuckling at his own bafflement.

"Should we intervene in this matter?" Zhang Meng inquired. "Even if Zhongjing Media has all the right reasons, it isn't necessary to drive another company to its death. It seems excessive and could be a significant loss for the entire Zhongjing economy."

Before Zhang Meng had finished, Ji Mingyang was already shaking his head with a smile.

"Old Zhang, have you really taken a good look at these online opinions?"

"I have."

"No, you haven't. Or rather, you haven't looked deeply enough or seen through them!" Ji Mingyang sighed. "I noticed that whenever a public opinion seems about to become unmanageable, it mysteriously eases up. If it happened once or twice, I'd consider it a coincidence! But it's happened at least a dozen times. It's clear that someone is intentionally holding back. I think it's this Bai Xiaosheng. He has no intention of completely destroying the other side!"

Really?!

Zhang Meng was astonished.

"Now go check if there is any friction between Zhongjing Media and Zhongjing Haoran. I think it's not that simple. Let me tell you, the offensive you're seeing might only be part of it! This Bai Xiaosheng might also be launching attacks on Zhongjing Haoran in other ways."

Mayor Ji Mingyang had thoroughly analyzed and figured out most of the situation.

Zhang Meng was completely convinced.

"Speaking of which, I did hear that Zhongjing Haoran had given Zhongjing Media some trouble a while back," Zhang Meng recounted what he had heard.

Ji Mingyang nodded slightly and said with a smile, "Then it's clear. This surname Bai's young man is counterattacking, trying to scare the Yin Family."

As they spoke,

the door to the mayor's office was knocked. After permission was granted, a secretary peeked in, "Secretary Zhang, Mayor, a Mr. Yin Haoran is requesting an audience."

Yin Haoran had visited more than once, which is why the secretary reported for him.

"Look at that, the fight has even reached my doorstep," Ji Mingyang laughed heartily. "Alright, Wang, bring him over."

Chapter 464: Bai Xiaosheng, I've long admired you!_1

The secretary led the way.

Yin Haoran, accompanied by Yin Dongfeng, entered the mayor's office, where Ji Mingyang rose to greet them.

Seeing this, Yin Haoran quickened his pace and overflowed with a smile, "Ah, Mayor Ji, Haoran has taken the liberty of coming unannounced. I apologize for the disturbance! I dare not trouble you to come out to meet us again!"

"It's no bother, no bother. After all, we're old acquaintances. Come, come and sit," Ji Mingyang said warmly, inviting them to the sofa area.

Yin Dongfeng was pleasantly surprised by Ji Mingyang's attitude!

He had never expected that his father had such a relationship with the mayor!

To visit the mayor without an appointment and be seen immediately! Moreover, to be personally greeted by the mayor!

One could ask, how many business owners in Zhongjing could enjoy such an honor!

Yin Dongfeng was excited.

No wonder his father was so confident! With the mayor in their corner, how could Bai Xiaosheng turn the world upside down on him!

The clouds in Yin Dongfeng's mind cleared away at once.

"Mr. Yin, we can be considered old friends. While I was the deputy mayor, I frequently attended your project events," Ji Mingyang said with a smile as he offered seats, "In the past, you always welcomed me, now it's my turn to welcome you, which is only fair."

"I would never dare, never dare!" Yin Haoran replied with a laugh.

The group exchanged a few more pleasantries.

"Mr. Yin, you're here this time probably because of Haobei International's matter," Ji Mingyang continued with a smile, "No, it's probably because of your Zhongjing Haoran, I fear Zhongjing Media has launched a full-scale war against you."

"You already know about this!"

Yin Haoran was surprised, then sighed, "This matter has truly blown up too much! Under the leadership of the new General Manager Bai Xiaosheng, Zhongjing Media is trying to bury Zhongjing Haoran! Sure, there is a conflict, but there's no need to cut off all survival routes for the other side, which is rather harsh. We even pleaded with Bai Xiaosheng for mercy, but he was relentless. If this continues, our Zhongjing Haoran will be finished. That's why I've come to you, hoping you could intervene."

Yin Haoran was very shrewd in his approach.

Completely avoiding who's right and who's wrong, not discussing the cause, only focusing on the outcome.

To destroy a company does not go beyond the head, and having a major enterprise go under would certainly be a great loss to Zhongjing.

Zhang Meng gave Yin Haoran a deep look and thought to herself, "He's an old fox too. He must have been quite ruthless to that Bai Xiaosheng in the past; otherwise, why would they attack him so viciously without reason? Perhaps, they asked for it themselves."

That's the way it should be, but reality is complex, and there are many things to consider.

Ji Mingyang nodded.

"Old Zhang, could you please make a call to Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, and ask if he has time? I would like to invite him over for a chat," Mayor Ji turned to his Chief Secretary Zhang Meng.

"I'll get right on it," Zhang Meng nodded and left the office.

Mayor Ji turned to the Yin Family Father and Son with a smile, "Zhongjing Media, Zhongjing Haoran, those are revered enterprises in our Zhongjing. I do hope that you can cooperate more and differ less. I shall assume the role of mediator."

The mayor had agreed!

"That would be a great favor, Mayor Ji!" Yin Haoran said with an even brighter smile.

Yin Dongfeng looked quite excited.

Ji Mingyang nodded with a smile and thought to himself—

Yin Haoran has come to propose peace without complaining or reporting a grievance. It seems that what they did to Zhongjing Media before must have been ruthless enough, yet Zhongjing Media managed to dodge it invisibly! That young man named Bai Xiaosheng... he really has something up his sleeve!

Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng, that name does sound very familiar!

"Alright, you and your son sit tight. I'm going to the restroom," Mayor Ji stood up and left the office.

In the room, only the Yin Family Father and Son were left.

Yin Dongfeng, looking towards the door and lowering his voice, couldn't help but excitedly say to Yin Haoran, "Dad, you're amazing! To still have such a move up your sleeve, this will surely make Bai Xiaosheng fall in line!"

Yin Haoran was full of smiles, clearly enjoying his son's praise.

"Mayor Ji and I share a special bond! Besides, Zhongjing Haoran is also a major enterprise, the mayor won't sit by idly!" Yin Haoran said in a low voice, "That Bai fellow probably thought I would go begging to him! Now with the mayor stepping in, he'll have no choice but to fall in line!"

"But what if he acts one way and feels another, deliberately stalling? What do we do then?" Yin Dongfeng suddenly thought of this possibility.

"I couldn't wish for more!" Yin Haoran stared at the door, his face revealing a sinister smile, "If Bai Xiaosheng dares to play this game, he's signing his own death warrant! Defy Mayor Ji in secret while feigning compliance? Hmph..."

"Exactly!" Yin Dongfeng also laughed.

...

Some noise came from outside, and the Yin Family father and son quickly took their seats.

It turned out to be the secretary bringing in tea.

Both of them received it, politely expressing their gratitude.

After a little while, Ji Mingyang returned.

Close on his heels, Zhang Meng also came back.

"Mayor, Zhongjing Media General Manager Bai Xiaosheng will arrive shortly, in about five minutes," Zhang Meng said.

Ji Mingyang nodded, smiling as he spoke, "I just so happen to have some matters to discuss with him."

Yin Dongfeng didn't find that statement odd, but Yin Haoran felt something strange.

It was as if, even if they hadn't come, Ji Mingyang would have summoned Bai Xiaosheng...

...

After chatting idly with Ji Mingyang and Yin Haoran father and son, a secretary knocked at the door.

"Zhongjing Media General Manager Bai Xiaosheng has arrived," the secretary announced upon entering.

"Please show him in," Ji Mingyang said, a glint of anticipation flashing through his eyes.

Yin Haoran caught a glimpse of it unintentionally, and that strange feeling resurfaced.

How could it be that Mayor Ji's trip to the restroom seemed so odd!

A hint of a smile lingered on the corner of Ji Mingyang's mouth, with a faint sense of anticipation hiding in his eyes.

While he was in the restroom, he had checked the contacts on his phone, and a name suddenly jogged his memory—who Bai Xiaosheng was!

Led by the secretary, Bai Xiaosheng stepped into the mayor's office.

He was also surprised to receive Zhang Meng's call.

The mayor wanted to see him, today? Could it be that the clamor on the internet had alarmed this top official of Zhongjing?

Upon entering the office and seeing the Yin Family father and son seated on the sofa, Bai Xiaosheng immediately understood.

So it was the Yin Family who had sought out the mayor, no wonder Yin Haoran had been able to keep calm and not contact him!

This now became a bit tricky! Bai Xiaosheng felt a sense of wariness.

Seeing the change in Bai Xiaosheng's expression, Yin Dongfeng sat there, utterly triumphant inside.

Bai Xiaosheng, you didn't expect this, did you? Our Yin Family still has such power at our disposal! So arrogant, so proud, you think you're capable, dare you challenge the mayor!

Yin Dongfeng was in a good mood.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai," Mayor Ji rose to greet him, wearing a smile.

"Good day, Mayor Ji," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, neither servile nor overbearing, striding forward with confidence and extending his hand.

His demeanor was very appropriate, positioning himself as a junior rather than a subordinate.

This grace, compared to Yin Dongfeng, was vastly superior; even Yin Haoran was no match!

Mayor Ji looked at him approvingly and shook his hand.

Then he said two words that were severely incongruent with his status!

These words astonished Bai Xiaosheng and shocked the Yin Family father and son.

"Great renown!"

Mayor Ji said with a smile.

Chapter 465 - It Turns Out to Be One of Us _1

What did Mayor Ji Mingyang say to Bai Xiaosheng? "Long-admired"? Yin Dongfeng felt dumbfounded.

Yin Haoran was also taken aback, speechless with surprise.

Even Bai Xiaosheng himself was stunned for a moment, but then he smiled, "Mayor Ji, you're too kind!"

"Very good, very good!" Ji Mingyang's eyes showed approval as he sized up Bai Xiaosheng.

This young man was incredibly steady, neither arrogant nor impetuous, calm and composed. His gaze was profound, exuding confidence, ease, and indifference. Just for this temperament alone, he was stronger than countless successful people!

The more Ji Mingyang looked, the more he liked him.

"Come, Mr. Bai, let's go talk," Mayor Ji even made a gesture of invitation.

The mayor being so humble towards Bai Xiaosheng made even the mayor's secretary, Zhang Meng, look at Bai Xiaosheng with different eyes.

Yin Dongfeng suddenly had a feeling—an ominous feeling!

The mayor's attitude towards Bai Xiaosheng was off, a bit warmer than towards them!

After all, his father had asked for the mayor's intervention, relying on years of accumulated goodwill, to speak on their behalf. How did it seem like his father's influence was less than that of Bai Xiaosheng's...

Yin Dongfeng couldn't help but swallow hard!

Yin Haoran watched incredulously as Bai Xiaosheng took a seat opposite him.

Mayor Ji Mingyang also walked over and sat down in the middle, glancing left and right with a smile.

"Alright, now that both sides are present, I'll play mediator. Let's start with the first matter," Ji Mingyang said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng and the Yin Family father and son looked at Mayor Ji.

They almost guessed what the mayor was going to say.

"Currently, the internet is in an uproar, arguing about a range of issues concerning Haobei International's project quality and details."

Ji Mingyang continued, "Let me first share my view: such debates have their benefits. They can motivate our enterprises to pay more attention to project quality, enhance responsibility, improve satisfaction for buyers and users, and boost the corporate image! Ultimately, it's beneficial for the enterprises! At the same time, it serves as a reminder and enlightenment for our departments—how to better enhance supervision and ensure a stable and orderly market!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang was very serious as he said this.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded silently, quite admiring.

As expected of a mayor! His speech was different, viewing problems from a broader, deeper, and more extensive perspective than ordinary people!

The Yin father and son exchanged awkward smiles, not particularly caring about those issues—they were concerned about Zhongjing Haoran's reputation and interests!

"Of course," Mayor Ji Mingyang shifted the topic towards Bai Xiaosheng, "from an economic perspective of Zhongjing, I do not wish to see a longstanding property enterprise in our city fall like this! Do you understand what I'm saying, Bai Xiaosheng?"

The mayor is speaking up for us!

Yin Dongfeng and Yin Haoran's eyes brightened, filled with anticipation.

Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment before smiling.

"Mayor Ji, to be honest, there are indeed deep conflicts between myself, the Yin Family, Zhongjing Media, and Zhongjing Haoran. These conflicts were not started by me, but rather they drew their swords first. Whether it's for my own sake or for the company's responsibility, I must retaliate!" Bai Xiaosheng declared earnestly.

The father and son's expressions were somewhat unnatural, but they didn't argue.

If they provoked Bai Xiaosheng into bringing up the issue with Yin Donglei, that would be even more embarrassing.

Now, since Mayor Ji Mingyang has intervened to help them settle things, they just need to listen obediently.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was like a madman. Who knew what the consequences of provoking a madman might be!

The Yin father and son had originally hoped Bai Xiaosheng would clash with the mayor, but when the moment came, thinking about Bai Xiaosheng confronting the mayor knowing it could implicate them, they no longer wished for that...

"I won't hide from you that the problems they face are not just these; there are many more. They themselves are riddled with issues, and I have just exposed them all at once! These problems piled together are enough to completely crush Zhongjing Haoran!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words made the Yin father and son shudder involuntarily!

"But now, since you've mentioned it, for the sake of Zhongjing, I agree, and will do my utmost to stop this matter," Bai Xiaosheng said sincerely to Mayor Ji Mingyang.

Bai Xiaosheng neither accused the Yin Family nor discussed demands or conditions; he simply stated his position, quite frankly.

Mayor Ji Mingyang nodded slightly, his eyes showing approval.

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng's third auxiliary system—the Micro Expression Analysis System—was always on, running at high speed, analyzing Mayor Ji Mingyang's facial expressions.

Bai Xiaosheng discovered that the mayor was very much aware of many things!

It was unwise to hide things from someone who knew the score, especially when that someone was the mayor!

So it was better to be straightforward, at the very least to leave a good impression.

Mayor Ji Mingyang was very satisfied with Bai Xiaosheng's attitude, nodded with a smile, and then turned to the Yin Family father and son.

However, when he looked back at them, his smile contained a hint of coolness.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Zhongjing Media, has already shown goodwill. So, shouldn't you also show some gesture?" Mayor Ji Mingyang said with a smile, "In the future, if you still want to cause trouble with Zhongjing Media or Bai Xiaosheng, I will be the first to disapprove!"

Although Mayor Ji was smiling, his voice, calm and steady, carried an overwhelming authority.

Yin Haoran and Yin Dongfeng couldn't help but feel a jolt in their hearts.

The mayor was negotiating with Bai Xiaosheng but warning them!

The father and son duo grinned sheepishly and quickly nodded.

Now, even if Chen Jiuzheng himself agreed to cooperate, they wouldn't dare to have any scheming thoughts against Bai Xiaosheng!

The mayor wouldn't let them off the hook!

The Yin Family had truly lost this time! Yin Haoran deeply sighed.

We shouldn't have provoked Bai Xiaosheng, a veritable calamity!

This Mr. Bai's methods are too ruthless, too fierce!

What's more terrifying is that the mayor treats him differently! Yin Haoran felt a tremor of fear.

"Yes, as long as this turmoil ceases, we will absolutely not have any unpleasantness with Zhongjing Media or Bai Xiaosheng... with Manager Bai," Yin Haoran promised with lowered eyes.

This time, he was truly bowing down.

As for Yin Dongfeng, he dared not object even more!

"Judgment, the other party's words are true!" Red Lotus's voice echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, and Bai Xiaosheng smiled, pulling out his phone to send a message to Lin Weiwei and the others.

Stop everything!

Mayor Ji Mingyang's expression returned to normal, his face full of smiles, "Well, my role as a mediator is successfully accomplished. Mr. Yin, if you and your son have nothing else, I won't keep you any longer."

The mayor began to show them out.

Yin Haoran and Yin Dongfeng quickly took their leave.

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to leave too, but was asked by the mayor to stay.

The father and son were curious, yet didn't dare to linger and left in a dispirited manner.

Mayor Ji Mingyang laughed heartily at Bai Xiaosheng, "Bai Xiaosheng, oh Bai Xiaosheng, my teacher always said you are a dragon among people, and now I finally see it for myself, excellent. I have an important matter to entrust to you!"

Bai Xiaosheng was startled.

Teacher?

"Could it be, you are a student of Master Song Kai?" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in disbelief.

Chapter 466 Entrusted with an Important Task_1

Mayor Ji Mingyang looked at Bai Xiaosheng and smiled with a nod.

He acknowledged it!

So he really is a student of Master Song Kai! Bai Xiaosheng felt it incredible.

Speaking of which, just how many students does Master Song Kai have all over the place! Many of his students are in politics and very successful. Compared to Mayor Ji, that District Chief Wu from Tiannan is nothing!

How did the old architect manage to train a bunch of students in politics and law at a university!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression was odd.

It was like saying a group of advanced math students were once taught by a P.E. teacher...

It's too weird.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's astonished expression, Mayor Ji Mingyang burst into hearty laughter.

"Are you finding it strange right now, how a nationally renowned master of architectural design could have a bunch of students in the political realm?"

Mayor Ji Mingyang said with a smile, "Actually, the teacher was initially a professor in the department of political and legal studies at a national key university, at the height of his popularity, his classes were in hot demand! The first hundred seats even required his personal endorsement! After twenty years of teaching, he had a multitude of disciples! Later, he grew tired of it and had no interest in politics, so he switched his research field. It took him ten years to become the Master Song you all talk about! Perhaps that's just his natural talent! We students have always deeply respected him for the grace he bestowed upon us back then!"

"As time passed, the political and legal studies Master Song, except for us students, is probably known by very few!" Mayor Ji Mingyang sighed.

So that's how it is! No wonder!

Bai Xiaosheng marveled inwardly.

Watching Mayor Ji Mingyang deep in thought, his eyes shining with a hint of longing.

It wasn't hard to imagine Master Song's charisma back in the day.

However, it's striking that after so many years, this group of students still hasn't forgotten their gratitude towards Master Song Kai; besides the grace of the past, it is also likely due to the political and business resources centered around Master Song Kai being overwhelmingly vast...

But to these, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't delve deeper...

Thinking of the Yin Family father and son, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but smile.

When he arrived, he saw that the Yin Family father and son were the mayor's honored guests, and he felt like he would be at a disadvantage.

Now it seems that Mayor Ji Mingyang was likely inclined towards him from the start.

The Yin Family father and son had probably never expected that by seeking this powerful figure, they had already utterly lost...

Now, with Mayor Ji Mingyang acting as a stabilizing pillar, they probably would never, and would also not dare, to stir up any more troubles... The Yin Family is no longer a concern!

However, Bai Xiaosheng then felt something weird again.

Mayor Ji Mingyang of Zhongjing City had heard of him?

Could it be that Master Song Kai has been praising him all over the world?

And he was still in the dark...

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't sure whether to cry or laugh.

But after all, having someone expand his powerful network for him wasn't a bad thing...

"Right, you mentioned earlier that there's something you want... to entrust to me?" Bai Xiaosheng remembered.

That's what Mayor Ji had said, but it was most likely meant as a jest, after all "to entrust" is rather a weighty word. Bai Xiaosheng, unsure of the matter and unable to gauge the proper response, couldn't think of anything more appropriate.

So, he asked.

"Today, even if the Yin Family hadn't asked me to find you, I would have sought you out... no, I should say I was looking for the general manager of Zhongjing Media, but I never expected that you would be the one in that position," Mayor Ji Mingyang mused.

As for how Bai Xiaosheng, in such a short period, moved from Tiannan to Zhongjing City and incredibly succeeded Song Changkong, Mayor Ji Mingyang was somewhat curious but did not ask, as there was no need.

After all, whether it's the enterprises in Tiannan or Zhongjing Media, they all belong to the same large group. Internal transfers are their own business.

However, the fact that this young man, Bai Xiaosheng, could ascend to this position at such a young age clearly demonstrates that his capabilities are no less than those of Song Changkong, perhaps even higher!

Truly a young talent!

Mayor Ji Mingyang looked at Bai Xiaosheng's youthful face and couldn't help but feel emotional.

At his age, what was I doing? Could I have supported a Zhongjing Media, could I have managed, as Bai Xiaosheng did today, to pressure a large enterprise into a desperate situation...

Probably not!

This young man's future really is boundless!

Mayor Ji Mingyang gazed deeply at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes filled with admiration for his talent.

"What do you want Zhongjing Media to do?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"This time, I attended a provincial meeting, and the province asked us thirteen prefecture-level cities to each select an enterprise to compete for the provincial top ten benchmark enterprises," Mayor Ji Mingyang said, looking intently at Bai Xiaosheng. "Zhongjing Media is the leading enterprise in Zhongjing City, without a doubt, so I want you to represent us in the competition!"

This is an excellent opportunity! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"If the competition is successful, not to mention the honor, the province will also provide significant support to these top ten enterprises! Even the city could benefit from it," Mayor Ji Mingyang looked solemnly at Bai Xiaosheng, emphasizing, "That's why I used the word entrust. I hope you can lead Zhongjing Media to bring back this honor, this benchmark for me!"

Bai Xiaosheng saw in Mayor Ji Mingyang's gaze both an eager anticipation and great importance.

This is both an opportunity and a responsibility!

Bai Xiaosheng's expression grew serious. He didn't immediately vow with certainty nor did he speak passionately, but pondered for a few seconds instead.

Mayor Ji Mingyang watched Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes twinkling.

If Master Song Kai's repeated praise had given him an impression of Bai Xiaosheng,

If today's situation with the Yin Family, forced to seek peace, had left him with a very deep impression of Bai Xiaosheng,

Then now, seeing Bai Xiaosheng so composed and steady left the greatest impression on him yet.

This young man, he surely can do it!

Mayor Ji Mingyang, for no particular reason, had this thought from the bottom of his heart.

In recent years, he had seldom judged without basis or reason like this.

Today was an exception!

"Thirteen prefecture-level cities, thirteen enterprises, from different industries, it cannot simply be a ranking based on profit margins, or there would be no competition. Moreover, I think the provincial leaders want to establish benchmarks across multiple fields to drive the advancement of various industries. That means, if there are fewer enterprises from the same industry participating, the difficulty is lower; the more repetition, the higher the difficulty. If there are many media enterprises, then the competition we face, the selection criteria we have to meet, would also be greater, right, Mayor Ji?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

He thinks before battle! This kid, he's talented! Moreover, his analysis is correct!

Mayor Ji Mingyang's eyes sparkled with admiration as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng without disguising his appreciation, clapping and laughing heartily.

"You truly are the talent that the teacher highly extolled, seeing is believing, and today I've witnessed it for myself!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, with you leading Zhongjing Media, I am reassured!"

Chapter 467 Heavyweight Guest_1

Mayor Ji Mingyang was chatting with Bai Xiaosheng, both of them in high spirits.

Secretary Zhang Meng could tell that the mayor was very happy, seemingly hitting it off with Bai Xiaosheng right from the start.

Bai Xiaosheng was also very relaxed, totally at ease.

As they talked, they would burst into laughter from time to time.

This young man really is something! Just by this ability to talk and laugh freely, his future prospects are boundless!

Zhang Meng couldn't help but sigh in admiration, regarding Bai Xiaosheng with even greater esteem.

He had already signaled for tea to be refilled for Mayor Ji and Bai Xiaosheng three times, yet they were still chatting enthusiastically, showing no sign of wanting to stop.

Mayor Ji was breaking down and explaining the provincial criteria for the selection of the top ten benchmark enterprises, along with his own interpretations, to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng asked questions from time to time, prompting new thoughts in Mayor Ji.

Previously, Mayor Ji had intended to just pass the document to the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, Song Changkong, or whoever, to let them figure it out on their own before offering further guidance.

Now, he was directly involved.

Not only did he analyze the document, but he also described potential enterprises from thirteen prefecture-level cities to Bai Xiaosheng, analyzing each one of them.

After eliminating those that weren't competitive and weeding out those that didn't qualify to compete with Zhongjing Media, Mayor Ji highlighted one enterprise.

"Tianzheng Media from Langbei City! This company, I worry about the most, and it's the only one that can pose the strongest competition to your Zhongjing Media! You must pay attention to them!" Mayor Ji said, his own demeanor extremely serious.

This attitude caused Bai Xiaosheng to become solemn as well.

However, hearing about Langbei City, Zhang Meng's expression turned slightly odd.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng didn't notice his reaction.

But Bai Xiaosheng did see a hint of something unusual on Mayor Ji's own face.

Although it was fleeting, Bai Xiaosheng still caught it.

After all, with his observational skills honed by system assistance, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were sharper than most.

"Mayor Ji's expression, it seems not just out of concern for this enterprise; it seems when mentioning the mayor of Langbei City, there was something in his expression..." Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"I have to tell you about this Tianzheng Media, they..." Mayor Ji regained his composure, about to continue speaking.

The office door was then knocked on.

Taken aback by the interruption, Mayor Ji's face showed a trace of displeasure.

Zhang Meng immediately frowned and looked over.

He had given explicit instructions not to disturb for any reason. Those who came to refill water could enter without knocking, but they had to be extremely quiet so as not to disturb the mayor's conversation.

Everything had been fine until now; how could someone suddenly disregard the rules!

The office door was pushed open, and a junior secretary poked her head inside, her face showing an inexplicable meaning.

"Mayor, Secretary Zhang, there's a visitor."

"Wang, what's the matter with you? Didn't you see the mayor is talking? Have the guests wait in the meeting room!" Secretary Zhang scolded with furrowed brows.

Wang looked distressed, unusually not responding right away.

"Who is it?" Mayor Ji felt something was wrong and asked.

"It's me! Why, Mayor Ji, aren't you welcoming me?"

Before Secretary Wang could respond, a voice came from behind him. Female, quite domineering.

Wang wore a pained expression, whispering, "Mayor, Secretary Zhang, I couldn't stop her..."

While he was speaking, Wang was pushed aside, and a woman walked in from behind him.

About forty years old, with short hair, her skin was well-maintained, glowing with vitality, her demeanor striking, and amidst her mature and self-assured smile, her eyes half-smiling as they watched Ji Mingyang.

Bai Xiaosheng cast a suspicious glance at her and then noticed that Ji Mingyang's expression changed significantly, even revealing a hint of timidity.

Ji Mingyang stood up, his expression returning to normal.

Bai Xiaosheng followed suit and rose as well.

"I didn't expect you could come, hehe, welcome, welcome." Ji Mingyang led Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng over.

Who is this, and why is Mayor Ji behaving so unnaturally?

Bai Xiaosheng was curious.

At the same time, he noticed that behind the lady, besides a very young female secretary, there was also a man.

That man also looked to be around forty. His demeanor was calm, his face adorned with an effortless smile, as if smiling was a natural state for him. His smile was gentle, his gaze soft, the whole person exuding a gentlemanly aura. However, Bai Xiaosheng felt, without rhyme or reason, a sharpness from him.

It seemed as though the man was an unsheathed sword, with edge concealed and sharpness gathered!

Bai Xiaosheng almost instantly sensed something unusual about the man!

Perhaps this was the sixth sense.

The man also seemed to notice Bai Xiaosheng and smiled warmly at him.

But Bai Xiaosheng faintly felt a sharp edge in the other's gaze!

This was definitely not an illusion, nor was it fanciful thinking!

"Mr. Bai, come, let me introduce you." Ji Mingyang, with his expression back to normal and smiling, introduced the lady to Bai Xiaosheng, "This is the Mayor of Langbei City, Su Shu! Su Shu, this is the General Manager of our city's leading enterprise, Zhongjing Media's Bai Xiaosheng!"

It was actually the Mayor of Langbei City, and a female mayor at that! Bai Xiaosheng was surprised.

However, he couldn't help but feel suspicious. Why did it seem that Mayor Ji Mingyang was somewhat fearful of Mayor Su Shu...

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and took the initiative to extend his hand, "Mayor Su, hello!"

"Hello." Su Shu extended her hand gracefully, lightly grasping Bai Xiaosheng's, yet her eyes were assessing him with quite a bit of curiosity.

"Zhongjing Media, I know this company, the leading enterprise of Zhongjing City. Wasn't the General Manager Song Changkong? I have even met him. What happened, when did they replace him, and with someone so... young and promising?" Su Shu said with a smile, expressing surprise.

Though the female mayor's demeanor didn't show anything unusual, at least not visible to others, Bai Xiaosheng—through his system training, focused on nuances—detected from the corner of her eyes and brows.

Mayor Su Shu had a hint of pleasure.

Why is she so pleased that the General Manager isn't Song Changkong?

Bai Xiaosheng then remembered the "opponent" Ji Mingyang had reminded him earlier to beware of—Tianzheng Media from Langbei City.

This Mayor Su Shu was the Mayor of Langbei City!

The two were the biggest competitors!

It seemed she felt that without Song Changkong, their chances of winning were even greater!

So, I am being underestimated, huh!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said to Mayor Su, "Mr. Song Changkong had to leave due to certain matters, and I was just fortunate enough to become the General Manager. It's quite embarrassing! My abilities are still inadequate! Here I am, benefiting from Mayor Ji's guidance."

Ji Mingyang couldn't help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng.

This kid, he could certainly play the part!

Even though he had pushed out Song Changkong, he made out as if he had risen to his position by luck, was he trying to lull Su Shu into a false sense of security?

Ji Mingyang smiled without speaking and suddenly noticed the person following Su Shu.

"And who is this?" asked Ji Mingyang.

"Oh, him?" Su Shu smiled, creating a gap and pointing to the man behind her, "The General Manager of Tianzheng Media—Mu Beichen!"

Chapter 468 Can or Cannot..._1

General Manager of Tianzheng Media in Langbei City, Mu Beichen!

Bai Xiaosheng heard this name and was immediately startled.

He had promised Ji Mingyang that he would lead Zhongjing Media to seize a spot among the top ten benchmark enterprises in the province.

Just now, Ji Mingyang had also analyzed it with him for a long time.

Tianzheng Media would be the strongest competitor for his Zhongjing Media, and this Mu Beichen would also be his greatest adversary!

He had just been mulling over this, and now, the person showed up right before him?!

Bai Xiaosheng found it a bit unbelievable.

Ji Mingyang was also taken aback; he had not expected Su Shu to bring Mu Beichen with her.

"Mayor Ji, hello!" Mu Beichen greeted with a slight smile, extending his hand with extraordinary grace.

"Hello." Ji Mingyang smiled back and shook his hand, taking a brief moment to assess him. He found Mu Beichen extremely reserved, with a concealed sharpness that made him hard to see through at a glance.

Bai Xiaosheng might have met his match this time!

Ji Mingyang inwardly exclaimed with astonishment.

However, fortunately, Bai Xiaosheng was also concealing his capabilities, believing that the other side couldn't see through him either.

Was this a situation where both were evenly matched, with neither surpassing the other?

"Mayor Su, you come over with a big company CEO without a heads up, catching me off guard. That's a bit sneaky!"

Ji Mingyang joked half-seriously, "Come, have a seat. Old Zhang, go have Wang bring a cup of Blue Mountain over; Mayor Su likes that. President Mu, what would you like to drink?"

"Tea will be fine, thank you," Mu Beichen replied with a smile.

Zhang Meng nodded and went off to see to it.

The group moved towards the sofas.

Mu Beichen's gaze once again fixed on Bai Xiaosheng, who just happened to look over, meeting his stare for a full two seconds.

Mu Beichen smiled.

That smile gave Bai Xiaosheng a very uncomfortable feeling, one that he had never experienced before!

Ever since joining the corporation, Bai Xiaosheng had faced many opponents and even more important figures, many of whom were extraordinarily cunning and sly.

But he had never felt this way every time!

If this feeling had to be described, it was as though he had been seen through, yet he didn't know the other person's true colors.

"President Mu, have we met before?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, extending his hand.

"No," Mu Beichen replied with a smile, extending his hand to shake Bai Xiaosheng's, "but I've long admired you!"

Long admired.

Sometimes this is just a polite phrase, spoken casually, also used for flattery.

However, there was nothing casual in Mu Beichen's eyes; he meant those two words very seriously.

Mu Beichen knew himself!

With Bai Xiaosheng's present discerning gaze, he confirmed there was no danger in an instant!

Combining this with Bai Xiaosheng's earlier feeling, he suddenly became alert!

Within one day, two people had used the word "long admired" for Bai Xiaosheng.

Mayor Ji Mingyang knew Bai Xiaosheng through his teacher, Master Song Kai, understanding Bai Xiaosheng's character and achievements; only after corroborating the two did he know him quite well. Saying "long admired" might be an exaggeration, but it was a genuine understanding.

So on what basis did this Mu Beichen say such a thing?

Had he looked over his profile?

Bai Xiaosheng had only been the General Manager of Zhongjing Media for a few days, and not even the local business owners dared to say they understood him; information spread online was near nonexistent!

So how did this person come to know about him?

Bai Xiaosheng kept his expression unchanged, but he became wary of this person.

The two men shook hands and exchanged pleasantries, all in the blink of an eye.

What Bai Xiaosheng was thinking, no one else could possibly know.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't ask Red Lotus to investigate Mu Beichen, as analyzing a person is a meticulous task, not suited for the present.

On the other side, Su Shu had already taken her seat quite rudely and scoffed at Ji Mingyang, "My dear Mayor Ji, you're so busy with official duties, and I have plenty of matters myself. I wouldn't come all the way to see you out of boredom! I came with Beichen to the province to submit application materials."

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze shifted over there.

It seemed that Mayor Su Shu and Mayor Ji were old acquaintances, and their relationship in the past was anything but ordinary.

Observing Su Shu's behavior, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but let his guard down around Mu Beichen and felt a surge of curiosity within.

"What application materials did you guys submit!" Ji Mingyang exclaimed in surprise.

Su Shu chuckled lightly, "With that expression, you can't possibly be unable to guess."

"Could it be you're requesting the Review Committee to conduct an enterprise evaluation on Tianzheng Media!" Ji Mingyang blurted out, somewhat astonished.

A thought flickered in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

Just now, Ji Mingyang had thoroughly explained to him the provincial guidelines about the selection and review criteria for the top ten flagship star enterprises.

There were twenty-four criteria requiring four preliminary evaluations, and they'd still have two more chances. If they didn't pass in all six preliminary evaluations, they would lose their qualification.

After the preliminary review came the meticulous horizontal comparisons and re-evaluations; the whole process was incredibly detailed.

The entire evaluation period lasted six months!

After all, an enterprise becoming a provincial flagship star project also represented the province's reputation; carelessness was not an option!

Ji Mingyang said that enterprises participating would certainly be extremely cautious. Without full confidence, they wouldn't initiate the first submission for evaluation.

After all, the first submission represented the first impression. If the Review Committee was dissatisfied, it might affect subsequent chances!

Tianzheng Media had already taken the first step?

How long has it been since the provincial document was issued!

Although Mayor Ji Mingyang was delayed by other affairs and had just arrived in Zhongjing, Langbei City had already finished submitting their review application and were heading back home!

Such a disparity; not noticeable until compared, then startling upon comparison.

And such confidence they had!

"You're moving so quickly!" Even someone as composed as Ji Mingyang couldn't hide his astonishment, his face showing disbelief.

Su Shu beamed with pride, "We're quick, naturally because we're confident! Mayor Ji is also discussing with Mr. Bai, aren't you? So, have you reached any conclusions yet?"

Mu Beichen also gave Bai Xiaosheng a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng kept his composure.

"Mayor Su, our two cities' enterprises are now in competition. It's not quite appropriate for you to inquire about these matters," Ji Mingyang said with a smile.

Su Shu immediately pouted.

The relationship between these two was extraordinary.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't refrain from calling out to Red Lotus in his mind, "Red Lotus, search for the relationship between Ji Mingyang and Su Shu!"

"Yes, master." Red Lotus's voice was crisp, "Searching commencing..."

A moment later.

"Search concluded. The following content is for reference only: Ji Mingyang and Su Shu were classmates at the same law school, suspected of having a mutual fondness for each other, Ji Mingyang married by his father's wishes, his wife died of brain cancer three years ago, Su Shu remains unmarried..."

"Alright, that's enough!" Bai Xiaosheng stopped Red Lotus.

Now he understood; the relationship between these two was indeed complex!

They didn't end up together in the past, and now there were a thousand obstacles between them.

Mayor Su must be nearing menopause by now...

I need to be careful! Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Just as this thought crossed his mind, Su Shu had already turned to him with a smile.

"Mr. Bai, while passing by, we'd like to visit Zhongjing Media. I wonder if that would be possible?" Su Shu asked with a smile.

What?!

Struck with a sense of bitterness, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but look towards Ji Mingyang, his eyes clearly conveying the message: You're the mayor, you decide!

Is it possible, or not?

Chapter 469: Two Mayors Come for an Inspection_1

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng look his way, Ji Mingyang couldn't help but scratch his head, appearing somewhat troubled as he said to Su Shu, "This, it's not quite appropriate, is it?"

Su Shu raised an eyebrow.

"Ji Mingyang, why are you being so stingy, are you really afraid that we'll steal some of your secrets?" Su Shu scoffed, "If there's any corporate secret, could you possibly display it in plain sight?"

Her words put Ji Mingyang in an awkward spot.

"Then, Mr. Bai, what do you think..." Ji Mingyang turned the question back to Bai Xiaosheng.

Mayor Su Shu also looked over.

Great, the ball's back in my court!

Bai Xiaosheng felt helpless.

It seemed Mayor Ji couldn't stand firm against Mayor Su. So what could he do? Refuse?

In the end, who knows how many people might take offense...

Bai Xiaosheng hurriedly smiled, "Since Mayor Su and President Mu have this idea and are willing to honor us with their presence, we at Zhongjing Media are naturally flattered. The company has achieved a little success thanks to the efforts of the previous general managers, and I'm just reaping the benefits. If there's anything lacking, please don't hesitate to criticize and correct us."

Bai Xiaosheng's response was slippery as an eel.

Those who didn't know him would naturally think it made sense to attribute the success of the company to previous managers, which would lower their guard against him personally.

That's good; the plan was to lull them into a false sense of security!

Ji Mingyang nodded silently to himself.

"So, when shall we visit?" Ji Mingyang asked.

"Let's do it now. I still have to return today. What, did you want me to stay here for a couple of days?" Su Shu chuckled lightly.

Ji Mingyang immediately laughed it off, "Today's good, today's good, today... the weather's nice!"

Bai Xiaosheng struggled to keep from laughing.

Mayor Ji Mingyang was truly in a "suppressed" state.

As they chatted, the coffee and tea were brought in.

Zhang Meng apologized with a smile to Su Shu, saying, "Sorry to keep you waiting, Mayor Su. I had someone go out to buy this since we only have instant coffee in our office, which really isn't presentable."

"It's the thought that counts," Su Shu smiled back.

Everyone sipped their coffee and tea while chatting for a while longer.

Bai Xiaosheng excused himself to Ji Mingyang, saying he would make a phone call to arrange things.

Ji Mingyang agreed.

After leaving the mayor's office, Bai Xiaosheng found a secluded spot before taking out his cell phone to call Lin Weiwei directly.

"Weiwei, drop everything you're doing right now and get the company ready..." Bai Xiaosheng looked around cautiously, lowering his voice as he gave a series of instructions.

After giving the instructions, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a hurry to return.

It was only a few minutes' journey from the city government to Zhongjing Media. If he went back now, Mayor Su Shu and the others were likely to set off immediately, leaving Lin Weiwei with hardly any time to prepare.

So, he needed to stall for time.

After waiting for about ten minutes, Bai Xiaosheng got a call. He recognized the number - it was Ji Mingyang's secretary, Zhang Meng's!

Seems they couldn't wait any longer!

"Okay, Secretary Zhang, I'll be right back!" Bai Xiaosheng said over the phone.

By the time Bai Xiaosheng hurried back, Ji Mingyang, Su Shu, Mu Beichen, and others were just coming out of the office, ready to leave.

"Mr. Bai, that phone call of yours sure was long. Did you call back to hide all the good stuff?" Su Shu teased.

"You're joking," Bai Xiaosheng grinned, "This is something to be proud of; how could I possibly keep it to myself?"

Mayor Ji Mingyang gave him a meaningful look.

From his understanding, Bai Xiaosheng was very likely, no, definitely would do just that.

The kid, looking all sincere at the moment, spoke earnestly, yet he was also a little slippery!

Mayor Ji chuckled to himself.

Being much older than Bai Xiaosheng and having the connection of Master Song Kai, they weren't strangers. Even though Bai Xiaosheng was the General Manager, Mayor Ji couldn't help but regard him as a junior in his heart.

Mu Beichen had a faint smile on his face, seemingly unconcerned whether Bai Xiaosheng was actually hiding his talents or not.

"Let's go." With a call from Mayor Ji Mingyang, the group set off.

Zhongjing Media was just a few minutes' drive from the city government; the road was busy, but far from congested.

The convoy from the city hall arrived smoothly at Zhongjing Media.

Lin Weiwei, Song Yiming, ten directors, and the deputy director Chen Changqing, who hadn't appeared in a while, were already waiting at the entrance.

Behind them stood a group of elite managers.

The scene was warm and solemn.

As the leaders stepped out of their cars, a swarm of reporters surrounded them, holding cameras and carrying camcorders, filming all the way.

In the company's entrance hall, a big red banner had been hung.

"Warmly welcome the two mayors for their visit and guidance!"

"Welcome the inspection from Tianzheng Media, a renowned enterprise in Langbei!"

When Bai Xiaosheng had told Lin Weiwei to understate her talents, he had also reminded her of this.

What a great publicity opportunity!

Free promotion that came knocking at his door, how could he miss it!

"Mr. Bai, you really have a way; you're using us for your publicity!" Even Mayor Ji Mingyang couldn't help but think to himself.

"I'm creating momentum for our Zhongjing Media and also need to use benchmark companies. Since Mayor Su came to us, how could I miss out?" Bai Xiaosheng said in a lowered voice.

Mayor Ji Mingyang laughed heartily, quite appreciative of the move.

After greeting the mayor's party, the directors and managers discreetly withdrew, leaving only Lin Weiwei, Song Yiming, and Chen Changqing to accompany them.

In front of the two mayors, Lin Weiwei wasn't the slightest bit intimidated. She spoke very appropriately, looked cute and clever, and knew how to say the right things, quickly endearing herself to Mayor Su Shu.

In fact, she went straight to asking Lin Weiwei to lead the way and give the explanations.

Lin Weiwei led the leaders through several key departments, examining the work environment, observing the work status, and introducing the achievements of those departments.

There was a lot of talk, but in reality, it was the same old routine seen in many large companies, nothing that hurt or tickled.

In such leadership inspections, it's more about encouraging and spurring on the company than delving into anything too specific or in-depth.

Mayor Su Shu nodded frequently as she watched.

She was just looking for a basic impression, to get a feel for Zhongjing Media. She knew that probing any deeper would involve corporate secrets, something neither the companies would agree to nor would Mayor Ji Mingyang allow.

Throughout, Bai Xiaosheng kept an eye on Mu Beichen's expression. The latter was neither warm nor cold, always nodding slightly as if in appreciation, but actually showing no real interest.

Right now, with the two mayors being led around by Lin Weiwei and her group, Bai Xiaosheng found an opportunity, smilingly asking Mu Beichen, "President Mu, you don't seem very interested. It looks like our Zhongjing Media isn't quite impressive to you. I wonder if you have any advice."

Mu Beichen glanced at the two mayors in the distance and smiled faintly, "Mr. Bai, you exaggerate. Advice is far from what I might offer. However, compared to observing these ordinary aspects, what interests me more is the battle you've had with Zhongjing Haoran in the past few days!"

"That battle showed me much more interesting things than what I've seen here today!" Mu Beichen smiled enigmatically.

Chapter 470: The Way of the King, The Way of the Hegemon, The Way of Trickery_1

Bai Xiaosheng wore a smile as he looked at Mu Beichen.

"President Mu and Mayor Su are on a business trip yet still pay attention to our little storm in Lin City? Such dedication!"

Even for the head of a media company, that was quite keen! Or perhaps, he had been closely monitoring the dynamics here all along!

"A little storm? Hardly! A well-known city-level real estate enterprise nearly got wiped out; it seems to me that Mr. Bai considers this a minor incident. I've learned something new," Mu Beichen chuckled.

While he spoke, his expression even held a hint of admiration.

"Perhaps President Mu is unaware that the matter has already concluded. The online turmoil has ceased, no one died, and no one perished. The losses may not even be as significant as you anticipated.

Can the decade-long journey of a business be smooth sailing all the way?" Bai Xiaosheng's expression remained calm.

"Mr. Bai, have you shown mercy?" Mu Beichen sighed, seemingly with regret.

However, he soon laughed.

"Since just now, Mr. Bai wanted my opinion, I shall share my thoughts on this matter. If I'm wrong or offend in any way, I hope you'll forgive me," Mu Beichen said with a light and casual smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly.

"I have been observing this affair from beginning to end. Within a single day, Zhongjing Haoran, a company with a minor reputation in the province, suddenly became the rat crossing the street that everyone shouts down. The project suffered immense unseen losses, and even if the company survives, it might take years to recover!

In fact, both you and I know that there's nothing wrong with the project's quality—at worst, it's a lack of detail, and strictly speaking, the defects don't overshadow the merits. Even if it got exposed online, it should have been just a minor negative news story. If Zhongjing Haoran handled their crisis PR well, this would have been just a minor crisis event.

Yet interestingly, before the wall even fell, people were already eager to push it down!

Traditional media, social media, various platforms all voiced their opinions in a classic coordinated attack.

What's most fascinating is that in this battle, there are both offenses and defenses, and those who spoke up for Zhongjing Haoran might not necessarily be their own people. They themselves are probably bewildered, not knowing where their allies come from.

There was arguing and wrangling, a deadlock between attack and defense.

The final result was that public opinion formed into a tide! But I also noticed that whenever it seemed uncontrollable and on the verge of erupting, there would always be a guiding force to diffuse the volatile emotions! Impressive! It's like battling without breaking, pressuring step by step yet not forcing the opponent into a cornered fight!"

Admiration was evident in Mu Beichen's expression.

Bai Xiaosheng remained noncommittal and continued to listen.

"If such a public opinion war is fought so beautifully, then should I assume that the person with such ability, in other aspects we can't see, is also attacking Zhongjing Haoran, and perhaps the battles there are even fiercer!" Mu Beichen said meaningfully.

A serious look appeared in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

He hadn't underestimated Mu Beichen, but he didn't overestimate him either; yet he did not expect this man's thoughts to be so meticulously terrifying!

If he were an opponent, he would be an exceedingly frightening one!

"It's just that, Mr. Bai has already drawn the bow and unsheathed the sword, yet retracts it without drawing blood. I find it a pity," Mu Beichen expressed some regret.

"What would President Mu have done?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Zhongjing will have no more Yin Family," Mu Beichen lowered his voice and spoke six delicate yet chilling words.

A boundless coldness.

Bai Xiaosheng gazed at him, his smiling eyes yet cold as ice, believing that he could do it.

Perhaps, there once was another "Yin Family" in Langbei City that got removed in a conflict with Tianzheng Media.

"It seems our paths are different," Bai Xiaosheng sighed.

Mu Beichen laughed.

"What are you two CEOs whispering about over there?" a voice suddenly asked.

Mayor Su Shu looked over with a smile tinged with curiosity.

"Nothing much, Mayor Su, I was just discussing the philosophy of corporate management with Mr. Bai, and gained quite some insights," Mu Beichen said with a smile.

"Yes, we've both come to understand each other better," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

Ji Mingyang looked at the two men, his eyes carrying a profound meaning.

"Mr. Bai, your employees show remarkable enthusiasm," Mu Beichen said with a smile, communicating with Bai Xiaosheng in a normal tone. "I heard your company has many rewarding measures in place, but too many rewards and too few punishments create an imbalance in incentives, which is a deficiency."

"People need more encouragement, employees need motivation. We do have punitive measures in place, but the focus is on reminders, not punishment. Perhaps President Mu is more adept at punishing," Bai Xiaosheng rebutted calmly.

"Perhaps you follow the way of the king, and I follow the way of the overlord. The king's way and the overlord's way will inevitably clash one day, and I'm very much looking forward to it," Mu Beichen said with a laugh.

"I'm looking forward to it as well," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

The way of the king, the way of the overlord?

I'm sorry, I follow the way of the trickster.

Righteous or wicked, both righteous and wicked. In the extreme, more overbearing than you! Bai Xiaosheng silently thought to himself.

The conversation quickly came to an end.

As busy people, Mayors Ji Mingyang and Su Shu only toured Zhongjing Media briefly. After an hour, without any meetings or issuing any directives, they left.

Bai Xiaosheng stopped at the entrance of Zhongjing Media.

It was Ji Mingyang's idea.

"Mr. Bai, you still need to prepare more. Right now, others have already moved ahead of us, so we must also accelerate our progress," Ji Mingyang said with a suggestive and earnest smile.

"Of course," Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Mayor Su Shu and Mu Beichen simply nodded lightly and smiled in farewell to Bai Xiaosheng.

As he watched the motorcade leave, Bai Xiaosheng reflected on his conversation with Mu Beichen, a sense of heaviness lingering in his heart.

"I wonder if I'll ever come to blows over a dispute with this man... He is not easy to deal with!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed to himself.

As he thought this through,

the crisp and pleasant voice of Red Lotus suddenly echoed in his mind.

"Manager-level mission triggered, lead Zhongjing Media to become one of the top ten benchmark star enterprises in the province, for a score of twenty points!"

"Your current total score is twenty-five points at the manager level. You are seventy-five points away from the next level—Provincial Industrial Head."

A mission, is it?

The light of ambition shone in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

Another twenty-point mission!

"Whether it's for the company or for the points, I'm going to secure this spot!"

Bai Xiaosheng stared in the direction the motorcade had departed, his mouth curling into a resolute smile, "No matter if you, Mu Beichen, become my rival in the future or not. I'll charge ahead unabated. If you think to suppress my king's way with your overlord's prowess, I'll let you taste the flavor of the trickster's path!"

Bai Xiaosheng turned around and strode back into the company, his steps firm and resolute.

He was set on studying the provincial benchmark enterprise recognition methods once more—leaving no stone unturned!

Meanwhile, Mayor Su Shu's car didn't head for the city hall; along the way, she parted ways with Ji Mingyang.

In the car, Mu Beichen wore a faint smile, deep in thought, still reminiscing about his encounter with Bai Xiaosheng.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you're a formidable guy, but unfortunately, you're bound to lose against me! Because you have no idea what I possess!" Mu Beichen chuckled darkly.