

Two Trillion 521

Chapter 521 I Am Bai Xiaosheng_1

The Jiang family is crazy, but Bai Xiaosheng is even crazier!

If relying on wealth and power to bully others is the game, then let's all play and see who's the cruelest!

"Fine, very good!"

Jiang Xinhe laughed out of extreme anger and directly said to the employees behind him, "What are you standing around for, get to it, beat him up! Whoever throws a punch, I'll give five thousand each! This person intends to steal from our company and commit violence, after you beat him up, I'll report it, and I'll consider it a heroic act!"

The employees looked at each other, hesitating.

"Ten thousand!" Jiang Xinhe shouted, upping the offer.

Just for lifting a hand, you get ten thousand, that's no small sum, a greedy glint could be seen flickering in some people's eyes.

"Twenty thousand!" Jiang Xinhe shouted again.

Twenty thousand, just for raising a hand and you'll get twenty thousand, even if one just threw a punch or landed a kick, maybe just go easy and not really hurt anyone.

Some people's gazes began to flicker, and of the nearly a hundred people in the whole company, although most had grievances against Jiang Feifan, there was still one-fifth who were loyal to the Jiang family, hoping to catch the boss's eye, not to mention the hefty sum of money involved!

"Thirty thousand!" Jiang Xinhe shouted.

Raise a hand, and you get thirty thousand!

Finally, the temptation was too much for some, and they started to step forward.

One took the lead, and a large group immediately followed, even women were among them.

There were more than twenty people.

In their eyes shone the luster of money.

Even Jiang Lu, who was behind Bai Xiaosheng, couldn't help but swallow her saliva, slowly making her way over, preparing to take advantage of the chaos to land a punch or a kick on Bai Xiaosheng.

Like that, thirty thousand yuan would be hers!

"See, this is the power of money, with money you can bully others. Didn't you say you'd bully us? Come on, I'm waiting!" Jiang Xinhe said to Bai Xiaosheng with a chilling smile.

"When you can't even move, I'll help you call the police! You came to steal from the company and hurt people! The responsibility is yours! I will hire the best lawyer to have you reflect in prison!" Jiang Xinhe said arrogantly.

It was blatant bullying!

Jiang Xinhe, you're really something!

Being arrogant is one thing, but this is not how you do it!

A small tech company, a private enterprise boss, acting so brazenly!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but let out a scoff and shook his head slightly.

Jiang Xinhe must have thought that he couldn't deal with these twenty-odd people.

That's right, in the eyes of normal people, all he could do was to get hit!

Then let's give it a try!

Today, I will not show mercy!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were piercing.

You Jiang Xinhe, aren't you full of money and influence? After I deal with these people, I'll surely make you experience a real bleed-out. You think you have connections? We'll see who can save you then!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at them as if they were grasshoppers.

Hopping around, let's settle the score in the fall. Can he still be arrogant?!

"Stop, have you all gone mad?" Suddenly a loud shout came.

Luran rushed in front of Bai Xiaosheng, eyes filled with shock and fury, glaring at those closing in on them.

"You, what are you doing?" Luran scolded angrily, "With so many of you, are you trying to kill him?"

"We'll just be gentle, we won't hit hard!"

"Thirty thousand yuan! Luran, step aside, we know what we're doing!"

"Right, who would turn down money!"

...

The twenty-plus men and women all started talking at once.

"You, you!"

Luran, trembling with anger at their words, raised his voice to Jiang Xinhe, "Mr. Jiang, how could you do this, stop them now. If things get out of control, it could lead to loss of life!"

Luran couldn't bear to watch Bai Xiaosheng be beaten up by the crowd.

"Everyone has mentioned restraint, and besides, the law does not punish the masses!" Jiang Xinhe laughed heartily.

His words were meant to remove the last psychological barrier for these people, to reassure them that they could make their move without worry.

The law does not punish the masses.

Only the legally ignorant would make such a claim, one not even the rustic villagers would believe. But under the influence of money, and with someone leading the way, these men and women believed it.

Rather than stopping, they accelerated their steps.

Luran's face suddenly changed, "You've all gone mad, mad!"

Luran's attempts to stop them were futile, and his eyes turned red as well, "You people, do you even have a sense of right and wrong anymore? Have you all gone insane? Fine, come on then! If you want to hit him, you have to step over my body to do so! Bring it on!"

Luran roared, veins on his forehead throbbing visibly.

Luran was no fool, nor an idiot. He knew Jiang Feifan was bullying him, and that Bai Xiaosheng had taken action for his sake.

He was just disappointed. These people before him, for the sake of money, could disregard right and wrong so utterly—it was despicable.

His once-thought decent boss now seemed unbearably ugly and disgusting!

"I'm ashamed right now to be working for this company!" Luran growled through clenched teeth.

The people who stepped forward hesitated upon hearing his words, but then they quickly recovered.

"Luran, do you see clearly now what this place is like, what these people are like? I want to ask you, if there was a better place without so many greedy people, with better treatment, would you be willing to go?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

He was talking about Zhongjing Media.

Back in the day, when he was confronted with slander from Song Changkong and Chen Changqing, countless people stood up for him, spoke up for him. Now, under his leadership, Zhongjing Media had gone through several personnel adjustments, having even more of such upright individuals!

"Is there really such a place?" Luran, seeing those people coming closer, gave a wry smile, "If there is, I'd be willing!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Even with adversity looming before him, having heard those words was enough.

"You said it, no taking it back!" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled.

"You guys, pull him away!" Jiang Xinhe commanded, and immediately some people grabbed Luran.

Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded, and his eyes became as fierce as a war wolf. His entire body tensed up, ready to fight in earnest!

"Stop!"

Suddenly, a harsh shout came through from behind the crowd that was still watching.

Then, a path was forcibly cleared through the throng!

Yes, cleared through!

The onlookers were pushed aside as if by a tank.

A big fellow with a frosty expression strode forward.

Lei Ying!

Behind him followed Lin Weiwei and Feng!

Among those who stepped forward to attack Bai Xiaosheng, two tall men, seeing Lei Ying approaching, attempted to block him.

Lei Ying lashed out with both fists, as fast as lightning, and before anyone could see where the punches landed, the two big men were knocked back, crashing down stiff and straight.

This move left everyone shocked and speechless!

What kind of skill was that!

Lei Ying's gaze swept past the crowd with a lofty air and, seeing Bai Xiaosheng, he smiled and asked, "Mr. Bai, do you need me to take action?"

This inquiring statement made the twenty or so people shiver involuntarily.

"Assistant Lin, how did you get here?" Jiang Xinhe saw Lin Weiwei and couldn't help but exclaim in horror.

They had just met today. Lin Weiwei was the number one assistant to Bai Xiaosheng, the general manager of Zhongjing Media!

"I'm here to pick up our general manager!" Lin Weiwei replied emotionlessly to him, without a trace of a smile.

Our general manager...

Bai Xiaosheng!

Following her gaze, Jiang Xinhe turned to look and was struck as if by lightning.

"That's me." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile at him.

Chapter 522: The Unmatched Dominance, Plague God Bai_1

Jiang Xinhe was completely flabbergasted; the person he had wanted to visit today but wasn't granted an audience with, had actually, of his own accord, come to his doorstep!

What was absurd was that not only did the man come, but he also hit his precious son, and he himself had ordered his staff to beat the visitor up.

Even in a novel, this would be too preposterous!

Moreover, this general manager of Zhongjing Media looked, really young! So young that he was almost unrecognizable!

This grudge, it was settled then!

At this moment, Jiang Xinhe felt a little scared.

The various legends about Bai Xiaosheng were just too many.

The decline of the Yin Family, the imprisonment disaster of the Zhang Family, and now, was it his family's turn...

Fear flickered in Jiang Xinhe's eyes, and he felt his legs go weak.

Lei Ying led the way with Lin Weiwei following behind, Feng tagging along; the three walked past the crowd, and no one dared to stop them.

Just now, the skill Lei Ying demonstrated was too shocking.

Two brawny men were knocked to the ground and passed out in an instant!

It was simply, incredibly mystical.

There were rumors that the general manager of Zhongjing Media had an unparalleled expert as a bodyguard, and it turned out to be true!

With such a precedent before their eyes, who would dare to step forward now!

The ones who wanted to gang up on Bai Xiaosheng earlier were practically plastered against the wall, standing there with eyes full of terror, watching the formidable man walk past with an air of deadly aura.

Eventually, Lei Ying stood by Bai Xiaosheng's side, while Lin Weiwei and Feng approached him with utmost respect.

"Mr. Bai, the Secretary from the city called you. He wants you to prepare the briefing materials for the minister as soon as possible. Your phone has been unreachable, so I contacted Feng to come pick you up," Lin Weiwei said respectfully.

In front of outsiders, she was Bai Xiaosheng's lead assistant, and every word and action of hers represented Bai Xiaosheng's authority.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

When Feng came to pick them up, he had turned his phone to silent mode, fearing disruptions. It seemed that had caused a delay.

The mayor's top secretary... the minister...

Each casual reference made by Lin Weiwei in her speech made Jiang Xinhe and the others' hearts tremble. Looking at the level of contacts the man had, their own status was far inferior!

Just now, he had boasted arrogantly about how money and connections could be used to bully others; now, how could he compare with this man!

Jiang Xinhe's expression could not have been more bitter.

By his side, Jiang Feifan looked at Bai Xiaosheng in fright, no longer possessing his earlier arrogance, but only fear.

Deep fear.

In Zhongjing, these rich youngsters almost knew each other, sharing the same social circles.

Yin Donglei and Zhang Xuan had provoked Bai Xiaosheng, and now, one had a broken leg, and the other was straightforwardly in prison.

This had etched Bai Xiaosheng's name into the memories of these people so deep that even though his photograph had been circulated, unfortunately, Jiang Feifan hadn't recognized him...

But in his heart, he knew one thing for certain!

The man surnamed Bai was untouchable!

He was like a plague god; if you provoked him, at the very least you'd be jinxed, and at worst, your entire family would suffer the consequences!

He wanted to continue his life of luxury and debauchery and didn't want it to end!

He had recently been more restrained, even coming to his father's company for training, but he never imagined that, on his own turf, he would encounter the plague god Bai.

It truly felt like disaster had struck out of the blue!

Jiang Feifan felt bitterness in his heart and likewise felt his legs grow weak.

"He is the general manager of Zhongjing Media!" Jiang Lu said from behind, her beautiful eyes widening in disbelief as she stared at the back of Bai Xiaosheng.

Recalling everything that had happened, Jiang Lu was filled with regret.

She had already sensed this man's extraordinariness, and she had many chances to approach him during their high-speed train journey, but she didn't cherish those opportunities, nor did she grasp them!

Now, she was filled with such regret that she could have turned green with it!

She also remembered when Bai Xiaosheng had claimed to be Jiang Xinhe's friend, and how she had been full of disbelief and mockery!

Looking back now, Bai Xiaosheng was lowering his own status!

How could I not see this!

Jiang Lu bit her lower lip, really wishing she could slap herself twice to relieve the anger, for she was truly blind!

And that Maybach S-Class.

Seeing Feng arrive, everything clicked for Jiang Lu.

Some ride-sharing car, that was clearly Bai Xiaosheng's personal vehicle!

She should have realized—what luxury car owner would be so compliant to drive them around without making a move on the women, simply driving...

So many flaws!

Why couldn't she see any of it...

Even, she was busy flirting with a mere driver, overlooking the real dragon.

Every time Jiang Lu thought about how she could have become friends with the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, and how she had squandered that chance, she found it even harder to forgive herself...

"Mr. Bai... sir, you really are, the General Manager of... Zhongjing Media?"

Luran was incredulous, his eyes wide with surprise as he stuttered looking at Bai Xiaosheng.

Even he had heard various rumors about Bai Xiaosheng.

But, the image formed by the rumors was that of an arrogant, ruthless man who acted in overpowering and unorthodox ways. Based on the belief that appearance reflects the heart, Luran had always imagined Bai Xiaosheng as someone with a grim face, whose smile could send chills down one's spine.

He never expected to find Bai Xiaosheng so amiable, approachable, and with a serene smile.

This was clearly two different extremes!

He had offered me his seat, and his attitude towards me was nothing but courteous...

He knows how to code, even pointed out my errors...

Recalling all the incidents so far, Luran felt a bit dazed, unable to reconcile these two images of the same person.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him and smiled.

"Yes, I am the General Manager of Zhongjing Media. Luran, I'm asking you now. If Zhongjing Media invited you to join, would you come?"

Everyone present took a sharp intake of breath at Bai Xiaosheng's words.

Many looked at Luran with envy and jealousy.

What kind of luck did this guy have to receive a personal invitation from such a prominent figure!

One must realize, that's Bai Xiaosheng, the General Manager of Zhongjing Media!

A big shot who frequents the city government and mingles with provincial ministers!

And Zhongjing Media is the real leading enterprise amongst Zhongjing companies, currently the head of the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance, with a status so esteemed and benefits comparable to those of big corporations in major cities!

"Oh my god, if only it were me being invited, how wonderful that would be!"

"Say yes, that's Bai Xiaosheng himself inviting you!"

"Zhongjing Media, those benefits, we can't compare at all!"

Many people couldn't help but grind their teeth, whispering through clenched jaws, low murmurs of discussion, and wishing they could accept on behalf of Luran.

A personal invitation from Bai Xiaosheng was itself a great honor, with a promised position at least at a managerial level!

Far superior to what is offered here.

Many were eagerly anticipating.

"I, I..." Luran too was caught off guard by the sudden invitation.

To be fair, he had thought this place wasn't too bad before he witnessed the scene unfold.

But to leave immediately, wouldn't that be inappropriate.

"I will offer you director-level treatment, and establish a Patent Technology Research and Development Department specifically for you," Bai Xiaosheng said.

To set up a department just for one person?!

At Bai Xiaosheng's words, everyone from Ziyu New Science and Technology was astonished!

Chapter 523: Take Your Pick_1

In other companies, a director might not be considered a very high position, but at Zhongjing Media, it absolutely qualifies as a top-level position, and a director at Zhongjing Media is worth several times more than an average deputy director at any regular company!

Everyone gaped at Luran in shock.

Luran gaped at Bai Xiaosheng, speechless.

"I will also provide you with ten R&D staff and two personal assistants to work exclusively with you, how about that!" Bai Xiaosheng continued.

What kind of support was this!

People from Ziyu New Science and Technology swallowed hard all at once, finding it hard to believe.

Lin Weiwei had already opened her notebook and was taking meticulous notes, the epitome of a top corporate senior assistant!

She took every word from Bai Xiaosheng as an order to be executed without question.

Seeing her like this, led by Jiang Xinhe, people couldn't help but be secretly amazed. Bai Xiaosheng wasn't just talking; he was truly giving orders.

"Everything you need, I can approve specially. If you dislike meetings, then you don't have to attend them. If you prefer to work in the afternoon or evening, that can be arranged as well," Bai Xiaosheng said to Luran with a smile.

What kind of terms were these!

This was even better than the treatment given to the deputy general managers of Zhongjing Media!

People present couldn't believe their ears, doubting that such promises could come from the mouth of a company president.

In their fantasies, only certain international top-notch companies offered such exceptionally special treatment!

"This, there's no need, it's too, too special," Luran stammered, unsure of what to say.

"Don't worry about compensation. A base salary of thirty thousand a month, and if you authorize or transfer your patents to the company, I guarantee you the highest profit. Moreover, for every successful

patent application, I will give both you and your team a bonus," Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Lin Weiwei, "Weiwei, check the data and set it according to the highest industry standard."

The room fell deadly silent, with only Bai Xiaosheng's voice heard.

"Understood," Lin Weiwei responded as if Bai Xiaosheng's words were an imperial edict!

People in the room stared at Luran, their eyes filled with envy.

What luck this guy had to be treated with such respect by the Zhongjing Media General Manager, Bai Xiaosheng.

Luran couldn't find the words to speak.

"How about it, come to Zhongjing Media!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled, he smiled as he regarded what he saw as a "human-shaped patent library."

Luran's mouth opened, but he was out of ideas. He even looked involuntarily at Jiang Xinhe.

Having been accustomed to seeking Jiang Xinhe's opinion for a long time, he subconsciously reacted in this moment of uncertainty.

Jiang Xinhe even felt a pinch of jealousy toward him.

To be valued by Bai Xiaosheng like this.

Bai Xiaosheng looked toward Jiang Xinhe, met his gaze, and said calmly, "Mr. Jiang, today's events have been a misunderstanding! We can both pretend it never happened. However, I would like to take Luran with me, may I?"

Bai Xiaosheng asked, his voice cool and clear, each word distinct.

May I.

To Jiang Xinhe, those two options seemed to represent two completely different fates awaiting his decision.

"Agreed! Mr. Bai, if you want to take him then take him, we have no objections!" Jiang Xinhe hadn't even spoken when someone beside him shouted out.

Jiang Feifan!

At that moment, his face was full of deferential respect, as if he had forgotten how Bai Xiaosheng had almost turned him into a swollen mess moments before.

If one were to talk about Jiang Feifan, he was much luckier than Yin Donglei and Zhang Xuan. At the very least, he had two vivid "examples" in front of him, letting him know the consequences of opposing Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him and slightly nodded in appreciation.

Jiang Feifan was instantly flattered, almost nodding and bowing in appreciation.

"Sure, Luran is really underused with us. Since Mr. Bai appreciates him, he will certainly be able to give him a larger space for development," Jiang Xinhe crisply agreed, and then said to Luran, "Luran, this is your chance! What are you waiting for? Thank Mr. Bai quickly!"

Jiang Xinhe had agreed.

The last bit of hesitation in Luran's heart was also resolved.

"Then, I agree," Luran said to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, feeling a wave of relief.

"However..." Luran asked cautiously, "I have a few good colleagues here, who are also my friends, and even more, my assistants. Can I... take them with me...?"

This request seemed a little unreasonable...

Luran didn't know if it was appropriate to ask this.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately nodded, "No problem, I was planning to form a team for you anyway."

He agreed so readily, but the people are ours...

Jiang Xinhe and Jiang Feifan couldn't help but exchange wry smiles.

They had never seen such aggressive poaching, not letting go of the big shots and even wanting to take the small fries. This wasn't just poaching, it was like taking the whole foundation...

Bai Xiaosheng already looked towards Jiang Xinhe, "Mr. Jiang, may I borrow a few more people?"

"Sure, sure!" Jiang Xinhe hurriedly nodded, "Whoever you want, just pick..."

As soon as he said this, Jiang Xinhe felt like he was selling vegetables...

"Since Mr. Jiang is so generous, then I won't hold back. Luran, go ahead, choose anyone you want to bring," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Luran nodded and looked over.

The onlooking crowd immediately had shimmering eyes, desperate and eager as they looked at Luran, almost waving their hands to get his attention.

This was an opportunity to join Zhongjing Media!

And to follow Luran, who was favored by the General Manager of Zhongjing Media—everyone wanted that!

Bai Xiaosheng was confident in letting Luran pick anyone; not for any other reason, but because Luran's straightforward and honest nature meant that those who got along with him surely had good character. Besides, Luran was no fool; he could tell apart the sycophants from the sincere ones.

In less than five minutes, the selection was made.

"As for the paperwork, don't worry. We'll contact your side to make sure everything is handled properly. We'll consider everyone who leaves this month to have perfect attendance," Jiang Xinhe said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and returned the smile, "Thank you. Today's encounter with young Mr. Jiang is also a case of no discord, no concord. I'll remember the kindness you've shown."

"It's only right, it's only right!" Jiang Feifan was thrilled, as if being hit by Mr. Bai was an honor.

"Mr. Bai, shall we leave?" Lin Weiwei urged at the right moment.

"I've taken up enough of your time today. Someday, please come to Zhongjing Media for tea, Mr. Jiang," Bai Xiaosheng said to Jiang Xinhe with a smile.

"Sure, sure!" Jiang Xinhe was also a tad excited.

Ultimately, Jiang Xinhe and Jiang Feifan saw Bai Xiaosheng and his group off.

Bai Xiaosheng took Luran in his car and drove off elegantly, while the others would follow shortly.

Jiang Xinhe and his son watched on.

When the car was out of sight, Jiang Xinhe looked at Jiang Feifan with a smile, even a bit smug, "A blessing in disguise, my boy! Other people's sons get hit by Mr. Bai and bring disaster home! Your beating hasn't gone to waste—you've formed a bond with Mr. Bai and the benefits are endless!"

Jiang Feifan beamed with joy and pride, but the pain in his cheek made him involuntarily grimace and gasp for air, yet he kept smiling, "Yes, yes. The beating I got from Mr. Bai this time—"

"Fantastic!"

Chapter 524: I Don't Believe He Can Be Faster Than Us_1

Bai Xiaosheng took Luran back to Zhongjing Media and immediately had Lin Weiwei make arrangements.

Every promise he made at Ziyu New Science and Technology had to be fulfilled, and he even personally took care of some matters.

He allocated a particular office area to set up a new department— "Patent Technology Research and Development Department," and ordered that all the machines and office supplies needed by the department be what Luran requested and had Lin Weiwei take note, to purchase the best.

Bai Xiaosheng even transferred Song Jiajia over to serve as the assistant of the Patent Department, responsible for all related coordination work.

Additionally, Bai Xiaosheng had the HR department open up new channels for recruiting technical talent, offering high salaries to attract the right candidates for Luran to interview and select.

When Luran saw the hundred-square-meter office space Bai Xiaosheng had set up for him, he was stunned on the spot, as if in a dream.

In just one day, the changes were as different as night and day.

"I'll have Song Jiajia arrange a living assistant for you. Although we don't have a big refrigerator here, we do have an employee cafeteria that can prepare food and drinks for you 24 hours a day," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Thank you, thank you!" Luran was very excited, "I will not let you down!"

This was a sincere promise from an honest and straightforward person!

Bai Xiaosheng patted his shoulder firmly, "Just focus on your patent inventions! I'll have the legal department ready at all times. Every patent you and your team come up with will be applied for, and we'll also submit them to Europe for international patent applications!"

"Great!" Luran was full of enthusiasm.

Once everything was settled, Bai Xiaosheng left with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng checked his phone for messages from Zhang Meng, which urged him to prepare materials for Minister Fan as soon as possible.

In fact, the materials were already available. They were not needed in such detail for the report, so Bai Xiaosheng instructed Lin Weiwei to prepare them.

While speaking, Bai Xiaosheng's stomach suddenly growled.

He, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying all paused.

"I haven't eaten since we left the provincial committee," Bai Xiaosheng remembered, feeling the hunger even more intensely.

"I've noted everything you need, but I think I'll prepare some food for you first to prevent the general manager from getting too hungry. I can't afford that responsibility," Lin Weiwei said with a chuckle.

Lei Ying also couldn't help but smile.

"Okay, people are like iron, but food is like steel; let's eat first," Bai Xiaosheng agreed, laughing as well.

Back in his office, while waiting for Lin Weiwei to bring the food, Bai Xiaosheng took the opportunity to call Kelsonn Kevin.

The call connected quickly.

"Hi, Bai Xiaosheng, what brings you to call me?"

On the other end, Kevin's voice came through, sounding cheerful, as he had been in a good mood lately.

BZ Company had been forced to make concessions and collaborate with them, allowing them to successfully break through in UH Country, and they were developing quite well. How could Kevin not be happy?

"Now, I have a favor to ask of you," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"Tell me, what help do you need?" Kevin was exceedingly forthright.

By now, his admiration and awe for Bai Xiaosheng had grown significantly, and he thought of getting even closer to this capable man.

"Here's the thing, we will soon have a large number of patents that we wish to apply for in Europe. I hope you can help me with the process," Bai Xiaosheng explained.

"Applying for patents, huh? Wait, a large batch? What are you planning to do? I've never heard of applying for patents in batches," Kevin muttered, clearly curious.

"You'll know when the time comes," Bai Xiaosheng said, smiling.

"Alright, alright, as long as you provide the patents, I'll do my utmost to apply for them for you, and I'll maximize my resources to take a special route to shorten the review time," Kevin said.

In China, the patent approval cycle is no less than eighteen months. Abroad, the time frame is also long.

However, Bai Xiaosheng only needed these patents to pass the first stage of review. Once passed, they would be considered an achievement status, sufficient to report to the province.

Kevin's company, Kelson, had deep political connections in Europe. They could handle special cases much faster than the regular process—by a factor of ten to a hundred times.

This was precisely what Bai Xiaosheng was counting on!

Otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered them.

To have patents reach achievement status in the shortest possible time!

This was the third phase of the provincial benchmark enterprise that Bai Xiaosheng had planned, aimed for a rapid application for key projects!

Kevin readily agreed.

Bai Xiaosheng was also very satisfied. After chatting with Kevin for a while, he hung up the phone.

No sooner had the call ended than Lin Weiwei walked in with a food container.

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng smelled the aroma of the food, his thoughts of work disappeared entirely, and he smiled as he got up and walked over.

Lin Weiwei set out the dishes one by one on the small coffee table in the sofa area.

Crispy shrimp balls, stir-fried celery with meat, lamb vermicelli pot, and rice.

Just by looking, Bai Xiaosheng felt his mouth watering. As soon as Lin Weiwei finished setting up, he dove in like a whirlwind. He was truly famished, and the meal tasted exceptionally sweet.

Lin Weiwei sat quietly by his side, watching with a smile, waiting until Bai Xiaosheng had finished eating and drinking before collecting the dishes and bowls.

Not long after, Lin Weiwei finished organizing the electronic files Bai Xiaosheng needed and brought them over to him.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately contacted Zhang Meng and sent them to him.

After receiving them, Zhang Meng also said he would pass them to Minister Fan through Mayor Ji Mingyang as soon as possible.

Another matter was concluded.

Bai Xiaosheng let out a sigh of relief.

Just then, a notification tone suddenly rang in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

"Patent research staff Luran has successfully joined the company, adding five talent points, with the accompanying team adding two points, for a total of seven points gained."

"Current total score is forty-two points at the Deputy General Manager level, with fifty-eight points remaining to upgrade to the Provincial Industrial Leader!"

The voice of Red Lotus made Bai Xiaosheng's body and mind feel thoroughly invigorated!

Lin Weiwei entered once again, bringing him a cup of warm red tea before she left.

Bai Xiaosheng indulged in the comfort of holding the tea cup, nestled in his seat for a rest.

He was indeed exhausted from the day's work.

Sipping his tea, Bai Xiaosheng silently sorted through the things he needed to do next in his mind.

First and foremost was to continue focusing on the operation of the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance. Not only should there be no slackening, but even more effort was needed. He had assigned Song Yiming to keep an eye on this, with Lin Weiwei assisting—and this was not just for the application for a provincial benchmark but also greatly beneficial to the development of Zhongjing Media!

Bai Xiaosheng was not short on ambition.

He felt that since he had become the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, he needed to make a statement during his tenure, turning Zhongjing Media into a well-known enterprise in Anjiang Province!

After all, this was also for my own labor.

Moreover, the better the enterprise performs, the more points I can add, and Red Lotus definitely won't let me down!

Bai Xiaosheng mused to himself.

In addition, in the third phase of the application for provincial benchmark enterprise status, Zhongjing Media had other urgent tasks to push forward, and he could not let up.

At the same time, if the patent acceptance went through, Bai Xiaosheng also planned to choose some to test at Zhongjing Media, to improve work efficiency and outcomes, which would allow Red Lotus to add extra points to his score.

Looking at it this way.

The future development looked very promising indeed.

Bai Xiaosheng felt more and more at ease in his heart.

However...

Bai Xiaosheng thought of Mu Beichen's face and that look in his eyes again and couldn't help but frown slightly.

Would that Mu Beichen really be so easily outdone by him?

For some reason, Bai Xiaosheng always had a nagging sense of caution in his heart.

Two hours later.

Mu Beichen was on a call with Mayor Su Shu, a proud and confident expression on his face.

"Mayor Su, you can rest assured, there is absolutely no problem. This time, I won't split the third and fourth phases. I'll submit them together. I don't believe Zhongjing will be faster than us!"

Chapter 525: All in One, Grant Them Their Wish!_1

Mu Beichen finished his phone call with Mayor Su Shu, set down his mobile phone, leaned back into the broad chairback, his face expressionless, his gaze distant.

He was thinking about some issues.

Mu Beichen's office was unimaginably large, occupying half of the floor!

The decor inside his office was exquisite, and those who knew the details were aware that this office was not only spacious but also luxurious.

It could be said that in this room, everything from a tiny screw to a pen was from the best brand, the most expensive kind.

Originally, no fewer than fifteen top design teams from both domestic and international circles were involved in the design and construction, carefully calculating everything from the orientation of yin and yang to the placement of utensils.

Mu Beichen, the man himself, was actually skilled in strategizing and liked to calculate!

After planning and calculating came the action.

Whenever he made his move, it was like a sword from the skies, overwhelmingly authoritative, striking at weaknesses, ensuring victory with a single strike, never missing his mark.

Mu Beichen was a very calm, steady, and overbearing opponent, dominating Langbei for ten years, revered alone in the business world.

Knock, knock, knock.

Someone gently knocked on the office door.

Mu Beichen came out of his reverie and said in a deep voice, "Come in!"

The office door was pushed open, and a slender man holding several sheets of paper walked in. He appeared to be in his thirties, a smile playing around his eyes, which were naturally squinted, resembling mere curved lines.

He was Mu Beichen's assistant—Liu Yue.

"President Mu, Tongshi Tiancheng has started to counterattack," Liu Yue said, handing over the documents to Mu Beichen.

Mu Beichen took them, glanced at them, and let out a faint cold chuckle.

In Anjiang Province, in the media market, his Tianzheng Media stood supreme in Langbei, occupying the major market share in seven out of thirteen prefecture-level cities.

The remaining five markets were also in the process of being overtaken.

This Tongshi Tiancheng was situated in the eighth prefecture-level city and considered the local media elite.

Now, facing the entry of Tianzheng Media, they couldn't restrain themselves any longer, and had taken action.

It was simply courting death. Did they think their local major company could stand against them?

Tianzheng Media, once they set their position, were already fully prepared behind the scenes by the time they openly entered the local market.

The previous prefecture-level cities weren't without their media enterprises; some even formed small alliances with full civic and political resources, attempting to stop them!

In the end, which one survived!

Did this Tongshi Tiancheng really think they could create any waves?

"A dying struggle," Liu Yue assessed in just four words.

In front of Mu Beichen, only those who were extremely trusted and capable could speak so freely.

Everyone else had to be utterly respectful, bowing their heads to listen.

"Then let's begin," Mu Beichen said with just one sentence.

Tongshi Tiancheng had been under their analysis for a whole year, preparations made for an entire year, and a targeted assassination operation was already at the ready.

Over the years, Tianzheng Media could be said to have acquired companies and occupied markets at the rate of one city per year, unstoppable by anyone.

"However, the latest news is that this Tongshi Tiancheng has played an unexpected card. They formed an alliance with a media company from Lin City, establishing an inter-city coalition to stop us," Liu Yue reported without moving, smiling.

The previous targets had all formed local frontlines, but this Tongshi Tiancheng proved to be a breakthrough and innovative.

"Oh, they're quite capable!", Mu Beichen flipped to the back of the document, his face showing a trace of amusement.

As if he had found pleasure in something that was previously dull.

Speaking of this Tongshi Tiancheng, actually, they were not weak at all!

It was even one of the top enterprises locally, and had it not been for the media declaration list, which included Zhongjing City's Zhongjing Media and Langbei City's Tianzheng Media, they might have even been nominated!

Knowing they couldn't compete with Zhongjing or Langbei, the local city government instead supported other enterprises.

In the eyes of Mu Beichen and Liu Yue, however, such large enterprises were like meat on a chopping board!

For now, the prey was still fighting like trapped beasts, and it was somewhat surprising to see them seeking help across cities.

"The information you have in your hands, the latter part, is the company that is in alliance with Tongshi Tiancheng. The analysis report on them is also our target for next year or the year after!" Liu Yue said.

Mu Beichen flipped through the pages.

Within Anjiang, the only enterprise with a large analysis team was Mu Beichen's!

Bai Xiaosheng's Ron Team, not based in Anjiang, focused their research on a global scale.

The secretarial department of Mu Beichen was different; this team had been cultivating for ten years, solely focusing on research within the thirteen cities of Anjiang Province. They studied not just the market, but also treated all media enterprises as targets, repeatedly analyzing various plans and even infiltrating them with "insiders"!

Mu Beichen had been planning ten years ago to establish a powerful media enterprise that swept across the province.

In another ten years, his goal was to be national!

After that, it would be international!

From this, it could be seen that Mu Beichen was an extremely ambitious man!

"Right now, we are in the process of applying to become the provincial benchmark enterprise, which is equally critical for us! During this period, should we slow down a bit?" Liu Yue said, "Of course, I don't agree with this opinion. What I'm saying is the view of the secretarial department!"

"Since when do they get to have an opinion?" Mu Beichen said with a cold snort, not even lifting his head, "Let them do their analysis; the decision-making power is mine!"

Liu Yue's eyes brightened with Mu Beichen's authoritative manner, and she couldn't help but nod in agreement.

Mu Beichen's decisiveness and dominance, his powerful aura, had an immense personal charm.

"So, what do we do now?" Liu Yue asked.

Mu Beichen tossed the file in his hand aside, his expression cold and disdainful.

"If they're coming together to seek death, then let's grant them their wish," Mu Beichen said.

He said it so casually.

Liu Yue's eyes couldn't help but shine with excitement, "You mean..."

The answer, Liu Yue already knew in her heart.

"We have the analysis, the contingency plans; do I need to teach you how to proceed?"

"Regarding these two companies, they've united, so let's strike at both. Devour Tongshi Tiancheng for me and crush the other!"

Mu Beichen's voice was commanding and brooked no argument, "Calculate how much the secretarial department estimates we need to invest and double it!"

"Double it? I'm afraid even all of our company's liquid assets combined might not be enough!" Liu Yue said, "If we use a bit less..."

Mu Beichen looked up sharply, his gaze piercing her.

"Since when do I need your advice on how to operate!"

Mu Beichen's voice was cold as ice, sharp as a knife.

"Understood," Liu Yue said, bowing her head.

The office door was suddenly pushed open, and without any warning, a person dressed in peculiar attire strode in.

Mu Beichen glanced at the newcomer and stood up. He spoke to Liu Yue in a lowered voice, "Leave."

"Yes," Liu Yue promptly responded and left.

As she passed by the person who came in, Liu Yue, following usual practice, neither greeted nor looked directly.

Just now, she had been worried about not having enough funds.

But now, the person bringing the money had arrived!

Chapter 526 Bai Xiaosheng, No Chance of Winning_1

The person who entered Mu Beichen's office had his hands in his pockets, wearing a hoodie that obscured his brows and eyes.

Printed on the back of the hoodie was a string of English letters: messenger.

In Chinese, it meant: Messenger.

Only a very few people, including Liu Yue, knew that this was a person from "the patron".

Tianzheng Media, after all, was just a media company, not an excessively profitable industry, yet it had a nearly constant influx of legitimate funds, ensuring a solid and robust financial chain.

This was all due to the patron's investments.

With a continuous, legitimate flow of funds for breaking up large sums, bridge financing, and even venture capital, Tianzheng Media grew increasingly powerful and even took over the markets of seven prefecture-level cities within a few years under Mu Beichen's leadership!

As for who the patron was and why the patron's representative always wore such strange attire?

Liu Yue and the others wouldn't rashly pry.

The Messenger carried a special pass issued by Mu Beichen. Inside Tianzheng Media, from security guards to receptionists and secretaries, all gave way, allowing direct access to Mu Beichen's office without even the need to knock, just pushing the door and entering.

"You sure picked the right time to come this month," Mu Beichen said with a smile.

The Messenger visited once a month, each time on a tour.

It wasn't always the same person as the Messenger.

In this information age, most things could be settled over the phone or via the internet, but some matters weren't convenient to discuss and needed to be delivered by a person.

Some issues also required a person to handle them.

"Is it a problem with money?" the Messenger asked politely.

Even though he was sent by the patron, it was Mu Beichen who was highly valued.

This Messenger had met Mu Beichen several times and was well aware of his temperament and character; he held him in great reverence and did not dare to act rashly.

Mu Beichen didn't rush to answer but nodded towards the sofa area.

The two walked over one after the other and sat down.

"I need the liquid assets on Tianzheng Media's books to double, to deal with the minor problems brought about by Tongshi Tiancheng," Mu Beichen explained his troubles and prepared solutions to the Messenger, while leisurely playing with the purple clay tea set on the table.

It was indeed surprising that Mu Beichen, such a domineering person, had a fondness for Kung Fu Tea.

"A minor problem... Only President Mu could talk about it with such dominance!" The Messenger couldn't help but comment as he watched the charcoal in the small red clay stove flicker.

To speak of funds amounting to billions in such an understated way was unparalleled!

"Convey my message exactly as it is. If that gentleman doesn't agree, I will speak to him myself," Mu Beichen said calmly.

The Messenger nodded slightly.

"I heard that you tied with Bai Xiaosheng this time?" the Messenger suddenly asked.

He was referring to the provincial enterprise recognition, the second-stage application.

The name Bai Xiaosheng was clearly not unfamiliar to the Messenger; it seemed to come up frequently.

The patron was highly concerned about the competition for the provincial enterprise recognition slot, and particularly interested in Bai Xiaosheng himself!

"Not quite a tie, I lost," Mu Beichen said with a light smile.

It wasn't that he couldn't afford to lose.

It was no big deal; next time he'd just have to take it back with profit.

"I was careless! Bai Xiaosheng played a beautiful hand this time. Our people inside their company weren't clear about the situation, so the news didn't come through," Mu Beichen said, pouring boiling water over a teacup as he spoke. "However, I've already made it clear to our man in Zhongjing Media that he cannot make this kind of mistake again, or else he'll have to bear the consequences all by himself!"

Mu Beichen's voice was cold, even emitting a faint chill.

Under the cover of a hood, the messenger couldn't help but swallow nervously.

Even after several meetings, Mu Beichen always emanated an extremely terrifying aura.

"This guy, he's like a cunning and ferocious beast. Handy to use but always makes one want to stay on guard," the messenger thought to himself.

"This time, it wasn't bad; the news from there came quickly," Mu Beichen said, smiling as if pleased. "Bai Xiaosheng has established a 'Patent Technology Research and Development Department' with a director named Luran. I've looked into him. He comes from a small company called 'Ziyu New Science and Technology,' a holder of top-tier technical qualifications. He has made significant contributions to media technology. According to records, his own portfolio of patents is comparable to that of two teams..."

These were not details you could find online!

"You've already conducted such thorough investigations?" the messenger exclaimed, taken aback, before coughing and adding, "I mean, we also received the same information on our end, but it's only been two hours!"

Mu Beichen looked up at the messenger and let out a snort of disdain.

"My secretariat consists of thirty people. I pay each one a base salary of twenty thousand a month, not including expenses. In a prefecture-level city like Langbei, do you know what a monthly salary of twenty thousand means? It's equivalent to the pay of a vice president in a small company. Why do they deserve so much from me? Why should our esteemed gentleman allow me to pay them so much?"

The messenger fell silent.

Mu Beichen's brain trust was indeed terrifying!

Years of operation, focusing on just one province, meant each person represented a massive channel of information.

Still, to gather such clear information in less than two hours, which couldn't be found online, was terrifying.

It was enough to give someone the chills.

"Bai Xiaosheng hiring this person is simply to utilize his patents for the third phase of the province-level benchmark enterprise patent evaluations. Combined with their close relationship with Kelson in Europe, I think he intends to apply for international patents through them. Bai Xiaosheng is quick and agile in action, adept at using speed to overcome slowness," Mu Beichen analyzed.

Bai Xiaosheng, if present, would have been shocked.

He was indeed planning to use brilliance to shield mediocrity once again, to be the first to apply!

What's more.

When Zhongjing Media established their new department, there was no public notice, no announcement; even within Zhongjing Media, only a small part of the upper management was aware.

For something even their own people weren't clear on, outsiders were even less likely to know, let alone someone like Mu Beichen in faraway Langbei City.

It was nearly an impossible feat!

And so, Bai Xiaosheng had also been a bit careless.

"If there hadn't been someone keeping watch over there, Bai Xiaosheng might have succeeded this time," Mu Beichen lamented involuntarily. "This guy is really something, able to find such a rare talent! In this world, no fortress is impregnable, and only speed cannot be defended against. One misstep against him, and one could fail!"

Mu Beichen truly admired Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze shining with the light of having met his match.

"But this time, he won't have the chance!" Mu Beichen said with a chilling smile.

He and his team were now regarding Bai Xiaosheng as "prey," even beginning to lay the groundwork!

Bai Xiaosheng knew nothing about him, while he had Bai Xiaosheng figured out completely!

The messenger couldn't help but swallow, imagining himself in Bai Xiaosheng's shoes, feeling utterly terrified at the thought that not even Bai Xiaosheng could anticipate this himself.

An opponent occupying all advantages, resources, and information was lying in wait for him.

No chance of victory!

The messenger thought to himself, Bai Xiaosheng stood no chance of winning!

Chapter 527 Initial Results_1

Business is like a battlefield, it ultimately boils down to resources!

Both parties may be evenly matched, but when one side has unlimited resources, money, people, and information at its disposal,

how can the other side win?

There is no chance at all!

The messenger thought it over and over and believed this to be true.

Mu Beichen also believed that victory would ultimately be his! However, he did not show even the slightest hint of underestimating the enemy.

Even when a lion fights a rabbit, it still uses all its strength!

Underestimating the opponent is often the beginning of failure!

Mu Beichen would never commit such an incredibly basic, incredibly foolish mistake.

Mu Beichen discussed some other matters with the messenger and entrusted him with some messages to convey to the investors.

As they spoke, the Kung Fu Tea in his hand was ready, and he was pouring it into a Yixing clay cup.

Mu Beichen poured only one cup for himself.

There were those who were worthy of drinking the Kung Fu Tea he brewed by hand, but obviously, this did not include the messenger before him.

Even though, the messenger was a man of the investors.

The messenger had the self-awareness to know his place.

Watching as Mu Beichen savored the aroma and tasted the tea,

the messenger stood up, "Regarding the finances and other important affairs, I will speak to that gentleman!"

"No need to see you out," said Mu Beichen with a nod, not bothering to rise from his seat, merely watching as the messenger left and the office door closed.

Then, sipping the cup of tea took him ten minutes.

Sip by sip, he swallowed gently.

With a mouth full of refreshing aftertaste and his body and mind soothed, Mu Beichen smiled at the teacup and softly said, "The right time, the right place, the right people – all are in my hands. Your every move is within my control. Bai Xiaosheng, let's see how you lose!"

"Between you and me, it's like Zhuge facing Zhou Yu; a showdown of life and death is inevitable. It's not up to you, nor is it up to me!"

"Not only do I wish it so, but others also do. We can't resist it!"

"In the end, we are but pawns in the game, only, it just so happens that I get to checkmate you!"

As Mu Beichen murmured to himself, he refilled his cup with more tea.

He held the tea as if it were a glass of wine, and drank as if he were toasting a celebration.

...

In the blink of an eye, an entire week had passed.

Monday.

In the general manager's office of Zhongjing Media, Bai Xiaosheng was all smiles.

Lin Weiwei also had a smile on her face as she held a stack of documents and reported to him.

"We've submitted ten patents, large and small, to Kelson in Europe, primarily based on Luran's technical reserves. His team worked overtime to refine and optimize them, and now they are at a stage where they can be practically implemented," Lin Weiwei said.

"The patents have been sent, and Kelson's receiving staff, under Mr. Kevin's orders, are fully engaged in the work," Weiwei continued.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded repeatedly.

"Normally, patent approval takes about a year and a half, and some may take even longer," Lin Weiwei said.

That was indeed the case domestically, otherwise, Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't have sent them to Kelson.

Kelson possessed vast political resources, and due to the various policies of the large and small countries in Europe, entrusting them to maneuver through some unconventional channels, it would be very easy to enter the first review. Once past the first review, it would signify recognition, and these could be considered as achievements to be included in the third-phase report.

As for when it would ultimately pass, there was no need to worry.

"The Luran team is still working overtime to perfect the second batch of patents," Lin Weiwei continued, "Following your instructions, Xiaosheng, some of the most mature patents, we plan to test run them this week! In addition, according to the plan, other contents that need approval in the third phase will also be preliminarily completed within this week."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile.

The progress was immensely fast, even exceeding his expectations.

It could be said that by the end of this new week, the content they were submitting for the third-phase review would be almost out! All that was needed was further refinement and detail.

"We mustn't rush the process, nor should we seek speed for the sake of speed! We still have to do our work thoroughly and steadfastly!" Bai Xiaosheng cautioned Lin Weiwei with a calm and focused demeanor, "Weiwei, regarding the content of the second-phase review, even though we have passed, we must continue to deepen and complete the work solidly! Once we secure the provincial benchmark enterprise slot, there will be many eyes watching, and we cannot afford any slip-ups. To forge iron, one needs to be strong oneself!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words were very reasonable, and Lin Weiwei could not help but nod seriously in admiration.

"I will take care of it, don't worry about those aspects! In a moment, I'll go and check on them again!" said Lin Weiwei as she put down her things, ready to leave.

"You also need to take care of yourself, don't overwork yourself, and find more assistants!" Seeing that Lin Weiwei was about to go out, Bai Xiaosheng added one more thing.

Lin Weiwei gave him a beaming smile and left the room.

Once outside, a touch of crimson blush crept onto Lin Weiwei's cheeks, indescribably charming.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the documents on the desk, thought for a moment, and then made a call to Ji Mingyang.

Over the phone, Bai Xiaosheng went over the situation once more.

"My goodness, how did you guys do it so quickly!" Ji Mingyang was also somewhat shocked on the other end of the line. There weren't many things that could shock this mayor!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel a bit proud.

"However, Xiaosheng, I still hope you don't rush things!" After his initial shock, Ji Mingyang couldn't help but offer a warning.

Being too eager for quick success could backfire, even leading to hidden dangers.

"Mr. Ji, rest assured. I have already given my instructions, and moreover, I am consolidating the content that has been reviewed in the second phase!" Bai Xiaosheng informed Ji Mingyang of his methods.

"Good, good! You're doing the right thing!" Ji Mingyang's voice carried an immense approval and relief.

Bai Xiaosheng's actions aligned deeply with his thinking.

After speaking with Ji Mingyang on the phone, no sooner had Bai Xiaosheng hung up than the phone rang again.

After picking up, a loud voice came through the other end, "Bai Xiaosheng, this is Kevin. Once those patents of yours pass, you have to let us use them first, and moreover, at a friendly price!"

Kevin's excited voice made Bai Xiaosheng chuckle.

It seemed that he had also seen those patents and the tremendous benefits they promised.

"No problem, as long as you handle things quickly, I'd even give them to you for free. By the way, we don't have to pay for the patent application, right..."

Bai Xiaosheng and Kevin talked on the phone for about half an hour.

In the end, both sides seemed to be very happy with the arrangement, or to use Bai Xiaosheng's words, it was a win-win situation...

After ending the call, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but let out a long sigh of relief.

He had been so busy the entire morning that his phone was hot from all the calls.

Balancing work and rest, I'll take some time to relax now.

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself, opened a news website, and began browsing for news, looking for some gossip to entertain himself.

After scrolling for a while.

Bai Xiaosheng found a high-profile story, and it had just happened in Anjiang Province.

Curious, Bai Xiaosheng looked at the summary content—

"Tongshi Tiancheng is facing a credit crisis and debt crisis, which has led to the breaking of its capital chain. Tianzheng Media has invested and holds forty percent of its shares, potentially becoming the largest shareholder!"

Chapter 528: Formidable Opponent_1

Mu Beichen's Tianzheng Media had acquired a significant number of shares in another municipal media enterprise—Tongshi Tiancheng, becoming its largest shareholder.

This piece of news is rather interesting.

Holding a slightly hot cup of red tea in his hand, Bai Xiaosheng held his breath, concentrating deeply as he read through the article meticulously.

Mergers and expansions are common in any industry and are nothing special.

However, when one of the main characters in the affair is Mu Beichen, Bai Xiaosheng becomes interested.

"This Tongshi Tiancheng isn't just any third-rate company; they are a legitimate private enterprise, even a joint-stock one!" Bai Xiaosheng murmured to himself.

With the help of Red Lotus, Bai Xiaosheng quickly learned about Tongshi Tiancheng's situation.

Being a joint-stock company proved that this private enterprise was quite sizable and that the owner wasn't conservative in his thinking, showing he wasn't a simple character!

Yet he was still defeated by Mu Beichen!

The key was... the time Mu Beichen took to defeat the opponent...

"A week ago, there was news indicating that Tongshi Tiancheng had formed a strategic alliance with another municipal media company. Some commentary suggested that this was to confront Tianzheng Media's entry into the market and to stop them from seizing market share. A week later, Tongshi Tiancheng was finished, and the other company also seemed to have been heavily hit."

"It only took... a week's time!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but take in a sharp breath.

Even he felt it was a bit exaggerated!

Of course, what Bai Xiaosheng didn't know was that Mu Beichen had been laying the groundwork for this for a long time and was well prepared for everything.

To win was simply the final phase!

Actually, Bai Xiaosheng's every thought would be met with Red Lotus providing him with countless related news articles and data.

But whether it is online news or information, it is all posted by people.

Many of the secretive aspects of the matter would not be so quickly revealed.

Naturally, Bai Xiaosheng would be unable to find them.

However, Bai Xiaosheng still smelled something unusual.

Mu Beichen's actions, seemingly domineering, crushingly overpowering his enemies, but in today's society, one couldn't act unbridled just with money or connections.

Underneath the domineering behavior, there might be cunning stratagems hidden as well!

Bai Xiaosheng felt somewhat chilled in his heart; he sensed that in some respects, they were very much alike!

It was just that each had different focus areas!

This Mu Beichen, in terms of intellect and methods, could be considered the strongest he'd encountered so far!

Bai Xiaosheng even had some bad feelings about this.

Although he did not know that Mu Beichen had a secretary department that had been deeply rooted for ten years, spreading a network of eyes and connections throughout Anjiang.

The backers behind Mu Beichen were wealthy and powerful, with a terrifying amount of rolling funds.

The opponent had even placed a watchful eye right beside him, exposing all his actions to Mu Beichen's scrutiny. It was as if two great masters were playing chess, and the opponent already knew his hand.

Bai Xiaosheng was still unaware of this, but he sensed danger just by intuition.

"Forget it, random thoughts are useless; when the real confrontation comes, I'll have to deal with it as it happens!"

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, stopping himself from pondering blindly.

"At this point in time, Mu Beichen didn't have to make such a big move, affecting the progress of the provincial-level benchmark enterprise's application and his own energies... after all, the third phase has nothing to do with scale, expansion and so on, but there is in the fourth phase. Wait, does this mean..." Bai Xiaosheng's brows furrowed.

"Mu Beichen will continue to apply for the third and fourth phases consecutively, the kind without interruption!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes suddenly lit up.

Just from one piece of news, he could deduce to such an extent; if Mu Beichen knew, he would definitely be even more astonished and... excited about Bai Xiaosheng!

Bai Xiaosheng's speculation that Mu Beichen would apply for both phases consecutively, in reality, was strikingly similar to Mu Beichen's plan to apply for them simultaneously!

"It seems I need to work against the clock!"

Bai Xiaosheng paused with his teacup in hand, no longer in the mood to relax as he prepared to dive back into work.

At that moment, his phone on the table suddenly rang.

To his surprise, it was a call from Mayor Ji Mingyang's secretary, Zhang Meng.

"Hello, Secretary Zhang?" Bai Xiaosheng answered the call.

"Mr. Bai, are you busy right now? If you have time, could you come to City Hall?"

Zhang Meng and Bai Xiaosheng had known each other for quite some time. Through their interactions, they had come to understand that when it came to business, they would get straight to the point, skipping unnecessary pleasantries.

"I'm free! What's it about, Secretary Zhang?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, quite curious.

"Here's the thing, Mayor Dai Mingcheng of Tianqing City is passing through Zhongjing. He and Mayor Ji are old friends, so he's stopping by. He's heard about you and would love to meet you," Zhang Meng explained.

Mayor Ji's friend, another city-level mayor from Anjiang, wanted to see him?

Bai Xiaosheng really couldn't refuse.

"Okay, I'll be right over," Bai Xiaosheng said.

His promptness naturally pleased Zhang Meng.

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng stood up.

He had originally planned to catch up on the news and relax, but the news about Mu Beichen had prompted a stream of thought. Far from relaxing, he had exhausted countless brain cells.

Now, a trip to City Hall might be a nice distraction.

Bai Xiaosheng used the landline to inform Feng to prepare the car and, after quickly getting ready, he descended the stairs.

Downstairs, the car was ready.

Bai Xiaosheng got in and was whisked smoothly straight to City Hall.

After alighting from the car, Bai Xiaosheng walked in alone.

In the City Hall lobby, the secretary met him with great enthusiasm as soon as he saw him.

Bai Xiaosheng was almost a regular visitor here, a distinguished guest of Mayor Ji Mingyang.

Led by the secretary, Bai Xiaosheng made his way to the outside of Mayor Ji Mingyang's office. After the secretary knocked and received permission, he opened the door for Bai Xiaosheng and then silently withdrew.

"Sheng, you're here. My old friend has been looking forward to meeting you very much!" Mayor Ji Mingyang laughed heartily upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng enter.

"Mayor Ji," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

In the seating area across from Mayor Ji Mingyang, there sat a man of average height and build, with unremarkable features but unusually bright eyes that inspected Bai Xiaosheng with a scrutinizing look.

"Mayor Dai, hello!" Bai Xiaosheng greeted with a smile, quickening his steps.

Mayor Dai Mingcheng of Tianqing City stood up smilingly to greet him, extending a hand, "Mr. Bai, I've heard so much about you! We were just talking about you, and my old friend here has been singing your praises!"

"That's Mayor Ji being too kind," Bai Xiaosheng said with a laugh.

Mayor Dai nodded inwardly, full of admiration.

So young, yet neither arrogant nor subservient, responding appropriately with a remarkable demeanor!

The three of them sat down in the seating area and soon were chatting and laughing together.

After about an hour or so, a melody suddenly rang out.

It was Bai Xiaosheng's phone!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled apologetically, intending to hang up the phone, but when he saw the number calling, he was taken aback.

This was a call he really had to take!

Chapter 529: The Situation is Very Grim_1

"I'm terribly sorry, Leaders, I need to step out to take a call!" Bai Xiaosheng apologized to the mayors, Ji Mingyang and Dai Mingcheng.

"Go ahead, you take it," Ji Mingyang said with an easy wave of his hand.

Bai Xiaosheng flashed an apologetic smile again, rose from his seat, and left the mayor's office.

Dai Mingcheng watched him leave, then turned to Ji Mingyang with a smile, "Ji, this isn't like you. I remember back in the day, if a subordinate's phone rang during a meeting, you'd usually fly off the handle! What's with the change? Not a single harsh word for your treasured protege from Zhongjing?"

Dai Mingcheng said this more in a teasing and bantering tone. He certainly wouldn't make a big deal out of such a trifle, especially since he had grown very fond of the young man after talking with him.

Sharp-witted, broad-minded, and calm.

It had been many years since he'd encountered such an outstanding young man!

With a sense of admiration, Dai Mingcheng couldn't help feeling a bit jealous.

How come Ji Mingyang managed to have such capable people under him, and he did not!

"What you're talking about is ancient history! My temper is now famously good, I'm known as the easygoing mayor. Besides, he's not one of my subordinates." Ji Mingyang laughed heartily.

Then, Ji Mingyang explained on behalf of Bai Xiaosheng, "The kid must've really had an emergency; otherwise, given his nature, he'd normally just hang up. He knows what's appropriate!"

These words were filled with Ji Mingyang's trust and tolerance towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"Alright, alright, I'll stop picking on your precious protege!" Dai Mingcheng laughed heartily.

"By the way, Dai, that company from your city that applied for the provincial-level benchmark – what industry is it in?" Ji Mingyang asked.

Zhongjing and Tianqing were worlds apart and the companies they had put forward were in different industries, so they were not in competition.

"The insurance industry," Dai Mingcheng answered.

"The insurance industry!" Ji Mingyang smacked his lips. "I mean, Dai, it's not that I have anything against the industry, but you usually favor manufacturing or high-tech enterprises. How come you're nominating an insurance company this time?"

While Ji Mingyang had no bias against the insurance industry, he also had no intention to foster it in Zhongjing; he just let it develop naturally.

"What's wrong with the insurance industry? You're a mayor now, don't discriminate." Dai Mingcheng said earnestly.

However, he immediately followed with a wry smile, "It's because there were no industry overlaps when applying, and the competitive pressure is less..."

"You've gotten sly!" Ji Mingyang laughed loudly.

Seeing his expression, Dai Mingcheng instantly felt miffed, "Ji, how can Tianqing compare with your Zhongjing! You were the former provincial capital, and Anjiang is an economic center of the future.

During our best GDP years, we ranked fifth out of thirteen cities! The pressure is enormous, I tell you! You might as well give me Bai Xiaosheng, so I could foster a media company to compete with you."

Ji Mingyang laughed heartily, "I truly meant no offense!"

"I can see your molars from here!"

The two, with a friendship spanning nearly a decade, would tease and banter like old friends when no one else was around.

"This time around, I noticed during the review process that both your Zhongjing and Su Shu's Langbei City have led the others astray! It's got all the other cities wanting to curse!" Dai Mingcheng huffed.

"How so?" Ji Mingyang was curious.

"Your two companies, competing for the slots, were chasing each other like mad. Tell me, how long was the time originally scheduled by the province for the first two phases? But you guys, you shortened it to five weeks! All the speed and passion are taken by you! If other cities drag their feet, where will they put their faces? Now, every city has turned it into a race! Even we've been affected by you; I really hate you for it..." Dai Mingcheng was full of complaints.

Ji Mingyang could only shrug helplessly.

He couldn't help it; Su Shu was the one who moved so quickly. If they were slow, it would be a guaranteed loss.

After Dai Mingcheng vented his frustrations, his expression turned serious as he looked at Ji Mingyang, "Ji, I heard some news while I was at the province."

"News? What kind of news?"

Dai Mingcheng looked at the door to make sure Bai Xiaosheng hadn't returned yet before saying to Ji Mingyang, "I'll tell you, but don't mention it to your protege just yet, to avoid adding unnecessary stress for him."

"Oh?" Ji Mingyang furrowed his brow slightly.

"Among the thirteen cities, two have already had their companies eliminated, leaving only eleven contenders. The official notice will come out soon!" Dai Mingcheng spoke in a hushed tone.

What! Ji Mingyang was inwardly shocked.

He hadn't been paying much attention to these details, always waiting for the province's notification.

Moreover, to have two companies fall behind so early in the second phase? How could that be!

Unless there were major issues with those companies, such as underreporting, exaggerating, or other reasons that prompted the province to decisively remove them from the running.

With a solemn expression, Dai Mingcheng continued, "The remaining eleven municipal enterprises have all passed the second review. Among them, besides Zhongjing Media and Langbei City's Tianzheng Media, there are no longer any repeat industries! Do you know what this means?"

Ji Mingyang's brow tightened, and he let out a light sigh, "It means that including yours, those nine enterprises will surely be selected once they pass the final approval, whereas our two media companies must vie for victory. One will succeed; the other will be left out in the cold."

The purpose of the province's benchmark enterprise is to set an example in all industries!

Thus, even if those companies don't perform as well in terms of profits and taxation as Zhongjing Media and Tianzheng Media, they'll still make the cut!

Whereas the two media companies will face off in competition.

First come, first served; the latter will have no choice but to face disappointment.

Ji Mingyang's frown deepened.

...

Meanwhile, in a corner outside, Bai Xiaosheng was on the phone.

The call was from his father, Bai Minghang.

"Sheng, come home tonight. Tomorrow, go with your grandmother to visit your uncle. It's your uncle's eighty-eighth birthday, and your grandmother wants to see him," Bai Minghang said on the phone.

"Both elders are getting on in years; opportunities to meet in the future may become scarce."

Bai Minghang's sigh of emotion stirred a wave of mild melancholy in Bai Xiaosheng.

His grandmother, Li Fengguan, had toiled for most of her life and rarely asked anything of the younger generation. Spending time with her and making her happy was heartwarming, far surpassing any material gift.

After listening to Bai Minghang, Bai Xiaosheng had made up his mind.

"Alright, I'll do as you say! I'll also prepare some gifts. I'll head back tonight. Have you arranged the transportation? I can use the company's car," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"No need, I've already found a car. It's best to keep business and private matters separate to avoid gossip," Bai Minghang replied over the phone.

"Okay then. By the way, where does my uncle live again?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Tianqing City."

Chapter 530 Mayor Dai is Convinced!_1

Bai Xiaosheng answered and returned, and Bai Minghang was very relieved.

In today's society, many young people use work as an excuse to shirk their duties, neglecting their family members!

Bai Minghang doesn't like that.

Nowadays, he rarely asks his son about his achievements in his career. In his opinion, happiness and good health is a blessing. Constantly talking about high salaries and high positions is just a burden for the children and completely unnecessary.

Bai Minghang felt this way and said as much to his wife, and Li Qiuyun, Bai Xiaosheng's mother, agreed with her husband in this regard.

Therefore, the couple knew very little about Bai Xiaosheng's achievements.

Even less than Bai Fei and Bai Ran!

When Bai Fei and Bai Ran came back to see Li Fengguan, they talked about Bai Xiaosheng with such enthusiasm and admiration that they almost saw their cousin as an idol!

Only then did Bai Family Members become aware that Bai Xiaosheng had become the deputy general manager of Zhongjing City's leading enterprise—Zhongjing Media!

Bai Xiaosheng had returned to Zhongjing not long ago and had sought employment under the guidance of Yang Qian'er at Zhongjing Media. In four months, he had become the deputy general manager at Zhongjing Media!

What an astonishing speed of promotion!

Beyond their shock, the Bai Family Members began to see Bai Minghang and his wife differently, with their words full of praise and envy.

Bai Minghang and his wife were also very proud.

Unfortunately, the Bai Family Members, including Bai Fei and Bai Ran, didn't realize that their information was outdated.

Bai Xiaosheng was no longer the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media, but the real general manager!

He was also the chairman of the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance!

This pace of promotion was not just unprecedented in Zhongjing, but also in Anjiang Province!

Upon learning that Bai Xiaosheng had become the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media, the old lady Li Fengguan issued a strict command to the family—not to seek Bai Xiaosheng's help for favors!

In the eyes of the old lady, Bai Xiaosheng's success was a result of his own efforts; while the family did not provide support, they were absolutely not to drag him down!

So no Bai Family Member went to Bai Xiaosheng to seek a position.

"You don't need to worry about anything. Just come back, and we'll have a full family dinner at your grandmother's house tonight," Bai Minghang said with a chuckle.

"Sure, no problem," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, agreeing readily.

After finishing the call with his father, Bai Xiaosheng re-entered Ji Mingyang's office.

Outside Ji Mingyang's office, Bai Xiaosheng felt reflective.

Unexpectedly, the place they were going to visit tomorrow turned out to be Tianqing City and Dai Mingcheng, the Mayor of Tianqing, was sitting right there in the room.

This was quite a coincidence.

After entering, Bai Xiaosheng apologized again.

The three of them chatted for a while, and Bai Xiaosheng suddenly noticed that Ji Mingyang's demeanor became slightly peculiar when talking with Dai Mingcheng, as if they both had something on their minds.

What had these two mayors been discussing while I was out?

Bai Xiaosheng was curious but did not ask.

It was not his place to inquire.

"Sheng, how are the preparations for the third phase of your reporting going?" Ji Mingyang asked, changing the topic.

Bai Xiaosheng had reported some progress over the phone, including the developments in applying for patents abroad, which were quite promising and had made him very happy at the time.

But the total call time hadn't been more than a few minutes, so Ji Mingyang wasn't fully informed. Now, after having learned from Dai Mingcheng about the gravity of the situation, he naturally wanted to understand more in detail.

"Would you like to hear it now?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile, glancing at Dai Mingcheng.

"It's all right, Dai is an old friend of mine! Trustworthy!" Ji Mingyang said, but he still added, "No need to repeat what you've already told me."

"Still don't trust me, eh?" Dai Mingcheng laughed heartily, showing no sign of displeasure.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Although he hadn't known Mayor Dai for long, relying on the observation skills honed by the Micro Expression Analysis System, Bai Xiaosheng was certain that he was undoubtedly an upright and proper person.

Moreover, Mr. Ji is only willing to become friends with trustworthy individuals."

Even if we take a huge step back, let's assume for a moment that Dai Mingcheng has ulterior motives, what Zhongjing risks losing is just a provincial enterprise benchmarking position. Painful as it is, such a loss is bearable.

Conversely, if Dai Mingcheng offends Ji Mingyang for such a position, provoking the mayor of Anjiang Province's future economic center, that would be a true loss far too great to justify!

After all, considering Ji Mingyang's achievements, his promotion to the Provincial Party Standing Committee is almost without doubt.

Bai Xiaosheng inadvertently came to know about these matters through Red Lotus and online sources.

"Okay, then I will report back to both mayors," Bai Xiaosheng stated calmly.

According to Bai Xiaosheng, the project's third phase is progressing extremely rapidly, and could be preliminarily completed within the week.

At the same time, the first batch of patents will pass primary examination within ten days! Such is the power of Kelson Corporation in Europe!

"Which means, in ten days, we would be able to apply for the third stage!" Bai Xiaosheng continued, "Focusing on the achievements in patent development and application for the report, I believe it will gain the provincial leaders' approval! However, I think it's best to extend the timeline to two weeks, to ensure that we complete other aspects more securely and meticulously!"

"After the second stage, you can, in such a short time, complete the work of the third stage and even apply for a batch of patents abroad?!" Dai Mingcheng looked at Bai Xiaosheng incredulously, even his voice changing.

Difference is always a matter of comparison!

He had just returned from the province today, managing to finish the second-stage application amidst the rush, and he thought he wasn't slow!

But across from him, the third stage was already more than halfway done.

One week to wrap up, two weeks to perfect!

The enterprise in Tianqing couldn't catch up even if riding a rocket!

In Dai Mingcheng's eyes, Bai Xiaosheng had suddenly become something like a demon!

This young man was moving way too fast!

Dai Mingcheng sighed deeply, conceding defeat.

Ji Mingyang's expression softened and he nodded slightly. He had been overly anxious before, hoping that Bai Xiaosheng would accelerate the pace. But now it seemed that Bai Xiaosheng's progress was much, much faster than he had expected!

Moreover, they were using the "comprehensive and steady, focus on breakthroughs" method similar to the second stage!

This was good!

"Once your patents are approved, the city can provide funding to promote them first within the Media Industry Alliance!" Ji Mingyang said with a smile.

It was, indeed, hitting two birds with one stone!

"But Mr. Ji, I came today to discuss the fourth stage with you," Bai Xiaosheng added.

What, they're already considering the fourth stage?!

Dai Mingcheng was stunned to the point of disbelief.

Even Ji Mingyang wasn't without surprise, staring at Bai Xiaosheng. He was thinking of asking Bai Xiaosheng to speed up, but now it seemed that if he didn't hold him back a bit, Bai Xiaosheng might just leave the planet...

"Isn't that too fast?" Even Ji Mingyang couldn't help but ask.

"Actually, there's something I would like to discuss with you," Bai Xiaosheng said.

He talked about the news he saw today and his speculations concerning Tianzheng Media.

Ji Mingyang and Dai Mingcheng were both taken aback.

Tianzheng Media was moving frighteningly fast too.

They're all demons, way beyond our reach! Dai Mingcheng felt a bitter taste in his heart.

The discussion on this topic went on for a while, and then the three of them talked about other aspects, even exploring cooperation between the two cities. Many of Bai Xiaosheng's views even impressed Dai Mingcheng.

The conversation went on for two hours.

Finally, when the secretary came to remind him, Dai Mingcheng still felt the discussion was incomplete.

It was time for him to leave.

Before departing, Dai Mingcheng shook hands firmly with Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes full of admiration and sincerity, "Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, I hope you can visit Tianqing when you have time! When that time comes, allow me to play the host!"