

Two Trillion 541

Chapter 541 Go ahead and ask!_1

What year is the ink from? Zhou Ping was taken aback, a bit perplexed.

He was a renowned expert in antiques appraisal, looking at paintings for their artistic conception, composition, technique, and identifying the dynasty of the rice paper; scrutinizing poems for content, brushwork, and signature—able to distinguish the masters, techniques, and styles from the Jin to Qing dynasties—his knowledge vast, truly erudite, with plenty of learning under his belt.

However, he had never really studied ink...

"Is there a difference?" Zhou Ping couldn't help but ask.

"You really are an amateur!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed sincerely.

With one sentence, the whole room erupted.

Calling Zhou Ping an amateur? This kid, why does he always attract animosity!

Moreover, isn't all ink black? After a long time, doesn't it all look the same? Could you actually distinguish different inks with the naked eye? Do you think you are an elemental analyzer?

This was just causing trouble without reason!

"I've never heard that appraising paintings requires distinguishing the ink!"

"It's utter nonsense!"

"Kid, do you even know what you're talking about!"

The crowd was in an uproar, even the Li Family's elders were smiling and shaking their heads, and the Bai Family members suddenly felt a bit embarrassed.

Bai Minghang's expression remained unchanged, his gaze fixed on his son.

Bai Xiaosheng sat leisurely on the sofa, never standing up from beginning to end, facing the criticism of the crowd with an unchanged expression.

Although he couldn't do elemental analysis, Red Lotus could. From the reflection of light on the painting, it could analyze the ink's spectrum and compare it with those from different dynasties—searching information was simply a piece of cake.

Bai Xiaosheng, calmly fishing.

"In the Ming Dynasty, there were four great ink masters, Cheng Dayue, Fang Yulu, Luo Xiaohua, and Shao Gezhi. Cheng Dayue, known for his comprehensive mastery and not confined to old methods, paid great attention to the formulation and materials. Xing Dong, one of the four great calligraphers at the end of the Ming Dynasty, praised Cheng's ink as 'firm with brightness, dark with moisture, not gluey when licked by the brush, not blotting on paper.' The ink used in this painting is Cheng's ink."

"That just proves the painting is from the Ming Dynasty!" Zhou Ping was shocked by Bai Xiaosheng's knowledge of ink, and he suddenly sneered.

Bai Xiaosheng was being deliberately obscure, but it seemed that he was adding evidence to Zhou Ping's appraisal.

"Exactly, you just admitted it!" Li Feitian laughed.

"Don't rush, wait until I finish before you get excited," Bai Xiaosheng said unhurriedly, giving Li Feitian a look and smiling.

Li Feitian grunted.

"In the Qing Dynasty, there were four ink masters: Cao Sugong, Wang Jiean, Wang Jinsheng, and Hu Kaiwen. The ink used in the poem is the proud work of Cao Sugong, the Purple Jade Ink," Bai Xiaosheng said.

The painting was made using Ming ink, the poem using Qing ink.

The crowd looked at each other.

"Tianqing also has ink masters; if you don't believe it, you can bring one in to see," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Or send it for a machine test. Since I dare to say this, I'm sure of it!"

Bai Xiaosheng laid it out clearly, unafraid of verification.

The crowd fell silent; with such a statement, they had to believe even if they were skeptical!

"Even if that's the case, what of it? Ming Dynasty paintings being passed down to the Qing Dynasty and later inscribed with poems by someone else, that doesn't prove there's an issue with the painting!" Li Feitian shouted.

"That's right!"

"Exactly!"

The crowd echoed in agreement.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled without saying a word, glancing over at Zhou Ping.

Zhou Ping stared at the painting and suddenly laughed bitterly, shaking his head at Li Feitian.

"This time, I've wronged you; my judgment was off," Zhou Ping suddenly said.

He actually conceded!

Li Feitian looked incredulous, "Mr. Zhou, what kind of talk is that? He hasn't proven there's anything wrong with the painting..."

Li Feitian could not continue his sentence.

Zhou Ping stretched out his hand, pointing at the painting, drawing Li Feitian's gaze, who, after seeing it clearly, was stunned.

The poem overlapped with the painting.

The painting over the poem.

So, the explanation Zhou Ping had given was that inscribing a poem and creating a painting was to make a "themed" landscape painting...

Now, it seemed completely wrong.

"Poetry from the Qing Dynasty, suppressed beneath a Ming Dynasty painting—this artwork becomes valuable as it can even 'travel through time,'" Bai Xiaosheng said with all seriousness.

Bai Fei and Bai Ran snickered, unable to hold back their laughter.

The members of the Li Family present were flabbergasted.

Even several of Bai Xiaosheng's cousins and aunts were at a loss for words, while the Bai Family Members found the whole situation amusing.

Bai Minghang's lips curled up in a smile, feeling greatly relieved.

"In fact, both the painting and the poetry are genuine. It's just that the original pieces were split into two parts. The creator thought it would be more valuable to combine the second set of poem and painting, so they pieced them together, resulting in unnecessary embellishment! However, it's not bad to hang it in the main hall for guests to admire," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"You!"

Li Feitian's face alternated between shades of red and white with anger.

He had never imagined that Bai Xiaosheng's expertise in antiques was so profound and his tactics so cunning, luring them step by step into a public embarrassment!

"Let's disperse, everyone, disperse!"

The Li Family's Great Uncle stepped in at just the right moment, dispersing the crowd and inviting the Bai Family Members to sit in another room.

With Bai Xiaosheng and the others there, who knew what other chaos might ensue in the main hall.

Bai Minghang and the others did not say much and simply walked away.

But in the eyes of the Bai Family Members, there was a hint of satisfaction.

"This Mr. Bai, it seems you have quite the insight into antiques. How about we exchange some thoughts?" Zhou Ping approached with a smile and reached out his hand to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng returned the smile faintly, stood up, shook his hand, and then made a gesture to sit.
"Sure, have a seat!"

This Mr. Zhou, Zhou Ping, had lost face in public but remained calm and composed, willing to sit down and have a chat with the person who had just slighted him.

For that alone, Bai Xiaosheng felt a measure of admiration.

It appeared that among those "second generations," there were indeed some remarkable individuals.

The Li Family's Great Uncle gave Bai Xiaosheng a deep look and left with his people.

Li Feitian glowered, silently shooting a dark look at Bai Xiaosheng, and then turned to leave as well.

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhou Ping sat opposite each other, both wearing smiles on their faces.

"I've been fond of antiques since childhood, exploring and studying them for twenty years. I wonder how long Mr. Bai has been involved with them," said Zhou Ping with a smile.

"Not long," Bai Xiaosheng shrugged.

He thought to himself, if he were to say "just now," he wondered if that would drive Mr. Zhou crazy.

It's not that I'm that strong, it's that you don't have Red Lotus helping you, Bai Xiaosheng joked to himself.

"You're too modest, Mr. Bai. With merely a short involvement, you've become so well-informed? Now I really must see for myself!" Zhou Ping's eyes flashed slightly before he smiled again. "I have a few minor questions here myself that I'd like to consult you about."

"Oh? Then please, ask away," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Zhou Ping's brow furrowed ever so slightly; he was being modest, but this same-aged Mr. Bai was not!

Well then, let's see just how much ink you've got in your belly!

Zhou Ping silently snorted, though the smile remained on his face.

...

Li Feitian went to pay his respects to his grandparents and also visited Li Fengguan.

When he came out, he was stunned to see that a crowd had gathered around where Bai Xiaosheng was sitting.

What was this Mr. Bai up to now!

Li Feitian felt a surge of irritation and strode over hastily.

Li Feiyun and Li Feiyan, along with a group of people, whispered among themselves, pointing and expressing surprise in hushed tones.

It didn't seem like they were arguing with Mr. Bai...

Li Feitian was puzzled and walked over, only to see something utterly astonishing.

Bai Xiaosheng was like a lecturer in the middle of a great lesson, eloquently discussing the methods of identifying porcelain. The younger members of the Li Family listened with rapt attention.

Zhou Ping was even more dramatic, holding his phone and typing into a notepad as he listened.

He seemed to be taking notes!

What on earth!

Li Feitian was dumbfounded.

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Just now, from the moment he left here to go in and greet his grandparents, chat for a bit, and then come out, Li Feitian felt that the whole process hadn't taken more than fifteen minutes.

Yet, looking over here, everything had changed so drastically!

Bai Xiaosheng was giving Zhou Ping a lesson!

Li Feiyun, Li Feiyan, and others had their eyes wide open, listening intently at the side.

What was going on!

Li Feitian felt as if his entire worldview had been turned upside down.

He really wanted to grab someone and ask if they had all gone mad, whether this Bai guy had brainwashed them or not!

Just a moment ago, this Mr. Bai had damaged the face of the Li Family. Even if you couldn't retrieve the situation, there was no need to surrender so completely, rushing to become Mr. Bai's students!

You've all gone mad!

"Feiyun, come here!" Li Feitian grabbed Li Feiyun by the arm and pulled him aside.

Li Feiyan and the others were jolted awake by his shout and felt a bit awkward when they saw it was him.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Li Feitian, a faint smile in his eyes.

However, urged by Zhou Ping, he continued his tireless teaching.

"What exactly is going on? How come you're listening to him, and what's with Mr. Zhou's situation!" Li Feitian asked.

Out of respect for Zhou Ping, he lowered his voice so as not to embarrass him.

Zhou Ping was recognized as a master in appreciating and identifying cultural playthings, famous even in Anjiang! He himself was very confident, even arrogant, about this field. Typically, his exchanges with experts were about learning from each other, but now, he had been reduced to... a primary school student!

This was especially baffling for Li Feitian.

"Tian, you have no idea, this Bai Xiaosheng is incredibly amazing!" Li Feiyun said in a low voice, still full of shock. Although he hadn't changed his views on the Bai Family, he absolutely couldn't underestimate Bai Xiaosheng now.

"How amazing?" Li Feitian was astonished.

His own brother, who respected no one but himself, seemed to have developed such a high regard for Bai Xiaosheng in just those fifteen minutes.

"You don't know." Li Feiyun swallowed and said, "Mr. Zhou asked him more than a dozen questions, and it only took him a few minutes to answer all of them! Those answers enlightened Mr. Zhou so much that he couldn't stump Bai Xiaosheng any longer, and what Bai Xiaosheng taught, Mr. Zhou had never even heard before, it was incredible!"

"So, what are you all fussing about?" Li Feitian asked with a frown.

Even if Zhou Ping was outshone by Bai Xiaosheng, these Li Family members didn't need to crowd around and make a fuss; they didn't understand appraisals anyway.

"That Bai Xiaosheng said anyone with questions could ask anything, and if they could stump him, it would be considered his loss," Li Feiyun muttered, "So, we all went over to give it a try, and the result was..."

...everyone was subdued?

Li Feitian was upset.

This Bai Xiaosheng was simply too arrogant! Who did he think he was? A know-it-all!

"Any question is fine?"

"Yeah... any question," Li Feiyun said in a low voice.

Li Feitian was so annoyed that he missed the oddities in his brother's tone.

It wasn't that Bai Xiaosheng had arrogantly set up this challenge out of sheer boredom or for no reason. It was just that Zhou Ping couldn't stump Bai Xiaosheng, who was extolled as a renaissance man, and Li Feiyun and Li Feiyan, having heard this, felt unconvinced and also went over to "ask for advice."

To their surprise, Bai Xiaosheng could casually answer all their questions, seeming to know everything.

From ancient knowledge and anecdotes to modern technology and sports, even including makeup and fashion, Bai Xiaosheng could speak with authority on each topic.

Some secretly used their cell phones to search online and, after verifying his answers, were astounded by his knowledge.

He was incredibly strong, truly appearing to be omniscient.

Now that Li Feitian was asking, Li Feiyun was too embarrassed to tell the truth, after all, going to challenge someone and getting your face slapped was really not glorious.

So, he told a lie.

"Fine, fine, fine, if any question goes, then I have quite a few to ask myself!" Li Feitian said through gritted teeth.

Just an insignificant member of the Bai Family he looked down upon was acting so presumptuously in his own house today.

He wanted to beat the younger generation of the entire Li Family, aiming to cast a shadow over them.

Li Feitian would not agree to this!

After all, Li Feitian's pride far surpassed that of his peers.

"Brother, there's one more thing!" Li Feiyun suddenly thought of something and grabbed Li Feitian's arm.

"What is it?" Li Feitian looked at him with suspicion.

"This Bai Xiaosheng is the Deputy General Manager of Zhongjing Media!"

With one sentence from Li Feiyun, Li Feitian's eyes suddenly widened.

Zhongjing Media!

This Bai Xiaosheng, he actually was the Deputy General Manager of Zhongjing Media!

Until now, the Bai Family Members still believed that Bai Xiaosheng was a deputy manager, and that's what they said, so the members of the Li Family naturally had no reason to doubt it.

Li Feitian's Tianfu Wealth Management was also a reporting entity, so he naturally knew about the information of the other dozen "rivals"!

However, Li Feitian's extremely limited information about Zhongjing Media had all come from the Internet; he had no idea that Bai Xiaosheng before him was no longer the deputy manager, but the general manager!

Li Feitian felt a bit shocked.

Wasn't the younger generation of the Bai Family only supposed to have one decent person, Bai Fei, who was the general manager of a small company? Since when did a Bai Xiaosheng emerge as the Deputy General Manager of Zhongjing Media!

Li Feitian's anger subsided significantly, yet his fighting spirit blazed even more fiercely!

"If I beat this Bai Xiaosheng, it's not just beating the Bai Family but also a slap in the face for Zhongjing Media!" The excitement in Li Feitian's eyes grew even stronger.

Tianqing lagged far behind Zhongjing, and their Tianfu Wealth Management was no match for Zhongjing Media...

Mayor Dai Mingcheng had pushed Tianfu Wealth Management as a fallback option to secure a ranking, and he wasn't very enthusiastic about this risk capital enterprise. Now that the slot was almost a sure win, his interest cooled even more, and they rarely communicated, with messages being conveyed through the mayor's secretary, if at all.

Mayor Dai Mingcheng's Secretary, Zhou Yifa, known as the evergreen of the political arena, had a reputation for being cautious, so he spoke less whenever he could.

As a result, Li Feitian had to go roundabout, indirectly extracting information from Zhou Ping.

This was awkward.

Characters like Bai Xiaosheng and Mu Beichen were able to interact and discuss with the mayor, while during the submission period, Li Feitian could only follow the mayor's motorcade, give his report, and then he had to return alone. A few words of encouragement from the mayor from a distance would excite him for quite a while.

For someone as proud and haughty as he was, this embarrassing situation gave rise to almost deranged thoughts in Li Feitian's mind.

Defeat Bai Xiaosheng!

Equals defeating Zhongjing Media!

With this bizarre line of thinking plaguing him, Li Feitian parted the crowd and asked Zhou Ping to move, so he could sit directly across from Bai Xiaosheng.

"So you're Mr. Bai from Zhongjing Media, my apologies for the oversight! I, from Tianqing's Tianfu Wealth Management, would like to have a wager with you. When posing a question, you said no subject is off-limits, so I won't hold back. If I win, it proves that Zhongjing Media isn't all that great!"

Li Feitian's eyes were fiercely fixed on Bai Xiaosheng, filled with a combative spirit.

A gamble with me?

If I lose... what does it have to do with Zhongjing Media?

Is this guy crazy?

Bai Xiaosheng was utterly puzzled, but seeing the excited look on Li Feitian's face, he laughed.

"Okay."

Half an hour later, the room fell silent, all the Li Family Members looked at each other, at a loss for words.

Li Feitian's forehead was covered in sweat beads after posing more than twenty questions, completely failing to stump Bai Xiaosheng.

"Do you have any more questions?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a light chuckle.

It sounded like mockery.

Li Feitian's face turned beet red with effort, and Zhou Ping felt somewhat sorry for him, trying to pull him up, but he was rejected.

"I still have questions!" Li Feitian suddenly exclaimed, intending to go all out and stump Bai Xiaosheng with a special question, even if it meant revealing secrets!

"I'm sorry, but I'm tired today," Bai Xiaosheng abruptly stood up, flatly refusing. "I'm done playing!"

Chapter 543 The Good News Brought by Zhou Ping_1

"Tomorrow is only Uncle's grand birthday, and our early arrival, I believe, will surely find us a place to stay in the vast Li Family," Bai Xiaosheng stood up and asked Lin Feiyun with a smile.

"Yes, of course," Lin Feiyun couldn't help nodding.

Bai Xiaosheng was the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media and had just displayed unparalleled knowledge, even making his cousin Li Feitian unable to best him. Such prowess made Li Feiyun inevitably hold Bai Xiaosheng in awe.

"I'm tired, I want to rest a bit," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, then glanced at Li Feitian again.

"You!" Li Feitian was momentarily at a loss for words.

If the other didn't wish to continue talking, naturally, he couldn't force him.

However, he felt extremely uncomfortable, as if he had lost to Bai Xiaosheng and had not yet regained his dignity.

Zhou Ping looked on with sympathy, very familiar with his friend's feelings, yet unable to help him.

"Just listen to one more question from me, just one, it won't take too much of your time, only three to five minutes, can't you..." Li Feitian was still unwilling to let go.

"Next time, ah!" Bai Xiaosheng's tone was like that of someone comforting a child.

The onlookers couldn't help but roll their eyes.

The door "creaked" open.

Li Fengguan, Li Wenzun, and Yu Qingmei filed out one after another; the three elders had calm expressions, not exactly overjoyed, but their conversation must have been pleasant nonetheless.

"Fengguan, you've had a long journey by car, and you must be tired too, I'll have someone take you to rest," Li Wenzun said kindly, looking up at the many grandchildren and gesturing, "Feiyan, come here, take your aunt to rest."

"Okay," Li Feiyan nodded obediently and walked over.

Bai Xiaosheng, together with Bai Fei and Bai Ran, also followed them.

On the other side, Bai Family members also came over, accompanying the old lady.

Li Feitian watched, seething, as Bai Xiaosheng left with the crowd, his complexion turning from red to ashen.

But soon after, he was pulled aside by Zhou Ping.

"Feitian, your relative here is quite something, knowing so much that even I am ashamed," Zhou Ping began with a sigh.

"Are you purposely trying to annoy me!" Li Feitian snorted.

"Of course not," Zhou Ping smiled, "My dear friend, you're too hot-tempered. As for regaining face, we can make a long-term plan. My visit this time, in fact, comes with good news."

Good news? Li Feitian was taken aback and puzzled.

"My father will come tomorrow to attend Mr. Li's birthday banquet," Zhou Ping spoke evenly.

"You mean, Zhou Yifa, my Uncle Zhou, is coming?!" Li Feitian exclaimed in surprise, and then delight.

Zhou Yifa, his father, was the Mayor's Secretary!

Previously, Li Feitian had personally extended an invitation and even asked his good friend Zhou Ping to inquire. However, the attitude from Zhou Yifa had been noncommittal until then.

Being the Mayor's Secretary, he was busy. Time was one matter, but attending an event also represented a stance, under the scrutiny of many eyes.

Securing his attendance would solidify the Li Family's position even further.

Overjoyed, Li Feitian even forgot the displeasure Bai Xiaosheng had brought.

"Furthermore, my father has pulled in some particularly influential business partners from other prefecture-level cities for you, but whether you can clinch deals with them tomorrow, that's up to your ability," Zhou Yifa emphasized.

Secretary Zhou had also drawn in some business partners?

Li Feitian was shocked and overjoyed beyond measure.

"Mr. Zhou, how can I thank you and thank Uncle Zhou!" Li Feitian gleefully said.

"What you need to do is prepare. It's better if you impress those business tycoons tomorrow," Zhou Ping advised with a smile.

Li Feitian hurriedly took Zhou Ping to have tea and rest, then turned to find his grandfather Li Wenzun to share the good news.

The gloom brought by Bai Family Members was swept away.

Elsewhere.

Li Feiyan led Bai Family Members to the across courtyard in the Li Family's three-section compound, where four small courtyards on both sides were all quiet and refined, clean and tidy.

So grand, lavish!

The Bai Family Members couldn't help feeling envious, just looking at the Li Family's mansion, one word came to mind: opulent!

After entering the courtyard, several smiling servants came forward to greet them.

Responsible for day-to-day management, cleaning, gardening, and laundry, there were four in total, two women and two men, all around forty years old, looking very capable.

Li Feiyan gave careful instructions and then turned to Li Fengguan with a sweet smile, "Auntie, please stay in the courtyard for a few days, and feel free to tell them if you need anything."

Although she looked down on the Bai Family, Li Fengguan was her grandfather's sister, and Li Feiyan did not dare to neglect her.

"Okay, thank you, girl," Li Fengguan smiled kindly.

Li Feiyan nodded and smiled at the other elders and, seeing Bai Xiaosheng, she specifically said, "Cousin Sheng, whatever you need, just tell them. If they can't handle it, have them find me!"

Li Feiyan now saw Bai Xiaosheng in a new light.

After all, the Deputy Director of Zhongjing Media, erudite and talented, and exceptionally handsome—if they weren't relatives, Li Feiyan might really have her heart stirred.

"Thank you, Cousin Feiyan," Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Li Feiyan smiled and departed.

The Bai Family Members escorted Li Fengguan to the main house across the courtyard and then wandered around.

Although it was called a cross-courtyard, there was the main house, wing rooms, and rear houses; there were enough rooms for the Bai Family Members to live in. Each room was impeccably clean and tidy, comparable to a star-rated hotel.

Beyond astonishment, the Bai Family Members were also extremely satisfied.

Bai Xiaosheng spent some time chatting with Li Fengguan.

Bai Ran told the old lady how Bai Xiaosheng defeated Li Feitian and Li Feiyun, which shocked Zhou Ping, and Li Fengguan smiled and nodded in approval.

"My grandson has made something of himself!"

Li Fengguan said just that; her gaze filled with affection, there was no admonishment for Bai Xiaosheng to be discreet or patient.

"However, I will be staying here for three or four days. Sheng, if you're in a hurry, you can go back to Zhongjing first. After all, you are a Deputy Director, and you have plenty to do," Li Fengguan said to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Look at what you're saying, what about being a Deputy Director? Aren't I still your grandson? You stay for a few days, and I'll stay here with you," Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

Over the years, he'd been drifting around, with his fair share of ups and downs, without settling down.

Now seeing his grandmother age and his parents grow white-haired.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a bit melancholic.

At this moment, the chance to accompany his family, even here, felt quite good to him.

Li Fengguan looked at her grandson, filled with consolation and immense pride.

With a grandson like him, she too felt proud.

After chatting with his grandmother for a while, seeing that the old lady was getting tired, Bai Xiaosheng and the others stepped out and each went to find their rooms to rest.

Bai Xiaosheng took the time to call Lin Weiwei to inquire about the company's situation; he then informed her that he might not return for three or four days, telling her to contact him anytime there was news.

"Xiaosheng, don't worry. Now that everything is on the right track at work, with our elite assistant team here to help you, there won't be any problems! You just relax and keep the old lady company," Lin Weiwei comforted him on the phone.

With Weiwei there, Bai Xiaosheng truly felt much more at ease.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng looked around the room and couldn't help thinking to himself, "I wonder where in Zhongjing I could find such a villa. One day, I will definitely buy one for my family!"

This type of quadrangle villa, with such a large area of land, would probably cost thirty or forty million in Zhongjing.

Bai Xiaosheng could afford it now, but it still wasn't the time to enjoy such luxuries. Besides, explaining such a large expenditure all at once would be a problem...

He'd think about it later!

Bai Xiaosheng put aside the thought for the time being.

"Today was tumultuous enough; hopefully, Li Feitian and Li Feiyun learned their lesson and won't come looking for trouble again!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

But would they?

Chapter 544 This person, really not much impression_1

Having traveled by car, Bai Xiaosheng was indeed tired.

He lay on the bed, closed his eyes for a brief rest, and had just felt like he had rested for a moment when he heard someone knocking at his door.

Then, Bai Fei's voice came from outside, "Sheng, Uncle Grandfather has prepared a banquet, let's go over."

They had set out at seven in the morning, and after a three-hour journey, they had arrived at over ten o'clock. After a delay and a short rest, it was already noon.

After Bai Fei's call, Bai Xiaosheng felt hungry, too.

Bai Xiaosheng got up and walked out, joining the others to escort Li Fengguan back to the courtyard.

In the three main rooms, four tables were set up, and guests were guided to their seats in order of seniority and age.

Among the guests were Bai Family Members, as well as other relatives and friends who had arrived early.

Each table was accompanied by members of the Li Family.

At Bai Xiaosheng's table, he saw Li Feiyun and Li Feiyan, but he did not see Li Feitian nor Zhou Ping.

Bai Xiaosheng observed the other tables and didn't find those two either.

Could it be that after losing to me, they don't even have the appetite to eat? Bai Xiaosheng thought teasingly but did not pay it any mind.

Without Li Feitian and the others, it was quieter. At the very least, the looks Li Feiyun and Li Feiyan gave him held more fear and respect; they wouldn't create trouble anymore.

Bai Xiaosheng thought of himself as a lover of peace, not fond of constantly fighting with people...

Of course, if others knew this thought,

Even Bai Fei and Bai Ran wouldn't be able to help but roll their eyes.

...

The Li Family's servants were well trained, carrying dish after dish to the tables, arranging them one by one.

Roast duck over an open fire, dragon whisker beef, salt and pepper shrimp, stir-fried snap beans with beef, steamed fish with chopped chili, red wine braised beef, fresh mushrooms with seasonal vegetables, pan-fried fish fillets, black bean chicken, and steamed eggs with soy sauce...

Each dish was exquisite and delicious, rich in color, aroma, and flavor.

It was said that these dishes were prepared by the Li Family's private chefs.

Behind the villa, there was a small farm with a lake. Eggs, meats, fruits, and vegetables—more than eighty percent of them were grown for their own use.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't hold back and tasted them. Indeed, they were incredibly fresh and had an excellent flavor.

At the dining table, Li Feiyun and Li Feiyan, who had been subdued by Bai Xiaosheng earlier, kept toasting to him, motivating the younger generation of the Li Family, creating an extremely harmonious atmosphere.

Bai Fei and Bai Ran, seated to the left and right of Bai Xiaosheng, inwardly sighed, reflecting that if Bai Xiaosheng hadn't been there, they might have actually faced some difficulties and wouldn't have had such a smooth experience or received such treatment.

At this table, Bai Xiaosheng had clearly become the most honored person.

After lunch, the Bai Family Members returned to the crossing yards.

Bai Xiaosheng went back to his room for an afternoon nap, and he slept until three o'clock. When he awoke, he felt an unparalleled comfort and full of vigor as he had never felt before.

Bai Xiaosheng got up and strolled outside, only to discover that many people, including his grandmother Li Fengguan, were not in their rooms. He learned upon asking that they had gone to the farm behind the villa.

Bai Xiaosheng also visited the farm and truly felt the scenery was delightful.

It also reminded him of a dream he once had, to buy an island with someone he liked, to plant peach blossoms for ten miles around, to sit on the hillside, gaze at the sea, with petals dancing in the air around him—just the thought was intoxicating.

It was just that there was still a distance to go before achieving that dream.

"With a little over two years' time, I must reach a sufficient height to bring back Xuelian!" Bai Xiaosheng, inspired by the moment, reaffirmed his goal in his heart.

...

After having fun on the farm, as evening approached, everyone returned to the Li Family's large courtyard.

The dinner banquet was already prepared.

This time, Bai Xiaosheng finally noticed that there was an extra person at his table—Li Feitian.

Looking at Li Feitian, there was a sense of purpose and rejuvenation about him, as though he was brimming with good news.

This made Bai Xiaosheng quite curious.

However, he didn't inquire further.

The dinner banquet was rich, rivaling the midday meal, with even more vegetables, mountain delicacies, and other vegetarian dishes for a more nourishing experience.

During the meal, Li Feitian unexpectedly raised a glass of red wine, wanting to have a drink with Bai Xiaosheng.

This scene left Li Feiyun, Li Feiyan, Bai Fei, and Bai Ran staring in shock.

It was broad daylight when both sides were still fighting, their faces flushed and their eyes anxious. Yet now, Li Feitian was actually taking the initiative to toast. It was truly inconceivable!

Everyone was perplexed.

"There must be some 'good news' he can't wait to show off to me," Bai Xiaosheng guessed secretly.

"Tomorrow, Mr. Zhou Yifa, the First Secretary of our city's mayor, will grace us with his presence," Li Feitian said with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng, announcing to everyone at the table.

Everyone was taken aback.

Suddenly, the Li Family members became excited, even whispering to each other.

"To have the Mayor's top secretary visit in person, impressive!"

"I heard that this secretary is very cautious; he seldom attends private banquets!"

"That must be out of respect for Brother Feitian. After all, his company is applying for a provincial benchmark..."

...

Everyone was excited, almost jumping for joy.

Bai Xiaosheng kept his composure, raised his glass to Li Feitian, and took a sip of wine.

You're really holding steady, but this next piece of news will definitely surprise you!

Li Feitian looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes gleaming with a variety of colors.

He had dined with Mr. Zhou at noon and met with Zhou Yifa in the afternoon. The latter encouraged him and informed him that he would bring along a group of business friends and shared some information.

Li Feitian made a calming gesture with his hand, and everyone quieted down. He continued, "Tomorrow, not only will Secretary Zhou attend in person, he will also bring several distinguished guests to our family!"

The Li Family members' eyes widened at once.

"They are all prominent entrepreneurs from Lin City, who will discuss cooperation with us!" Li Feitian couldn't hide his excitement in his voice.

All at once, the Li Family members were astounded again.

Even Bai Fei and Bai Ran couldn't help but widen their eyes, their gazes filled with envy.

The Li Family's enterprise was applying for the Tianqing benchmark, and the local city government was indeed giving it strong support!

Although Bai Xiaosheng was the vice president of a leading enterprise in Zhongjing and his enterprise was also applying for the benchmark, his company wasn't his own family's, and the good fortune would not land on his family's head.

With this thought, Bai Fei and Bai Ran couldn't help feeling a bit discouraged.

Seizing the moment, Li Feitian said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "Cousin Sheng, among the distinguished guests coming tomorrow, there will also be figures from Zhongjing!"

"Oh?"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyelids flicked up as he looked towards Li Feitian, he said with a casual smile, "That's quite a coincidence, but I wonder who it might be?"

Li Feitian's smile was smug, and instead of answering right away, he looked around at everyone.

"This figure from Zhongjing, I must say, is the most prestigious among the guests tomorrow. I spoke with Secretary Zhou today, and he said that if he hadn't been friends with the person for many years, and it

hadn't happened that they were passing through Tianqing, it would have been impossible to invite them!"

The entire table couldn't help but gasp in unison, their eyes glued to Li Feitian without even blinking.

Someone couldn't hold back and urged, "Who is it exactly!"

Even Bai Fei and Bai Ran were watching with wide-open eyes, waiting.

Li Feitian relished playing the mysterious host before finally pronouncing a name: Mou Yutian.

Bai Fei and Bai Ran were stunned. Though the name was unfamiliar to others, they knew all too well that Mou Yutian was the helmsman of the Mou Family, the leading clan in Zhongjing—a real tycoon!

He had been known as the number one person in Zhongjing's business community for many years!

The two were so shocked that they were left speechless, their expressions noted with satisfaction by Li Feitian, who secretly took pride in the effect.

Bai Xiaosheng was frozen in place. In Li Feitian's eyes, even he was full of shock.

However, Li Feitian obviously got it wrong...

Bai Xiaosheng was astonished for a different reason.

Mou Yutian, huh, I seem to have really met him before.

Among the twelve enterprises selected by Mayor Ji from Zhongjing, it seems two belonged to him. It should be his enterprise's turn for promotion soon, thought Bai Xiaosheng.

He visited me? I was in a hurry to report to Mayor Ji and didn't meet him...

I really don't have any impression of this person.

Chapter 545 The Most Remote Seat_1

The banquet concluded, and Li Fengguan chatted for a while with her brother Li Wenzun and sister-in-law Yu Qingmei.

Bai Xiaosheng had been waiting all along.

Seizing the opportunity, Li Feitian showed off once again, but Bai Xiaosheng didn't engage in the conversation.

After all, he really wasn't acquainted with that Mou Yutian.

In Li Feitian's view, Bai Xiaosheng must have been stunned by the news, as Mou Yutian was indeed the top figure in Zhongjing's business world!

Even if it was a past title, the Mou Family was the largest family in Zhongjing, and that was beyond doubt!

There might be powerful figures in the city who preferred to remain hidden, but in public, Mou Yutian's status as the top person in Zhongjing was acknowledged by all.

This was prestige; this was value!

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng lost in thought and not speaking, Li Feitian felt his purpose to boast had been achieved, so he left.

He still had to arrange for a few good photographers for tomorrow, to capture shots of both sides shaking hands and drinking.

These were all resources!

Ultimately, Li Feitian did have an extraordinary business mind, knowing how to make use of everything, and adept at utilizing all available resources.

Once he departed, Bai Xiaosheng breathed a sigh of relief, feeling his ears could finally have some peace.

Mou Yutian, huh?

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and shook his head secretly.

He wondered if that man had a son, whether he would run into him, or perhaps have the chance to give him a beating.

As for tomorrow, whether he would meet him or maybe share a drink, he'd leave it to fate.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't too concerned about it.

Once his grandmother, Li Fengguan, came out, Bai Xiaosheng took Bai Fei and Bai Ran to accompany the elderly lady all the way back to their courtyard.

Inside the house.

Li Wenzun was still expressing his amazement.

As one ages, one does become different from before, lacking the combative spirit of younger days, yearning instead for warmth in the heart. Chatting with his younger sister about childhood memories, he felt both warmed and nostalgic.

Yu Qingmei said nothing, pouring herself a cup of hot tea and sipping it quietly.

"Qingmei, you didn't argue with Fengguan this time, which really surprised me. Have you come to terms with it?" Li Wenzun suddenly remembered this and couldn't help but ask curiously.

In their recent conversations, Yu Qingmei hadn't interrupted much or shown much enthusiasm, but she also hadn't argued with Li Fengguan.

This didn't seem like her character, and if she had come to terms with it, Li Wenzun found it hard to believe.

After all, when Li Fengguan arrived today, Yu Qingmei had prevented him from going out to greet her.

"Do you really think I have nothing better to do than argue with her?" Yu Qingmei snorted coldly. "I did it because there were many guests today, and I wanted to save face for you, an old fellow!"

Li Wenzun laughed.

"Besides, our home will be filled with celebration tomorrow!" Yu Qingmei counted on her fingers, unable to contain her excitement. "Your birthday celebration is one joyous event, right. Look at you, old man, you can live many more years, and that's another joyous occurrence! Furthermore, the mayor's secretary visiting our home is also a happy event. This afternoon, I even heard Feitian saying that among the people the mayor's secretary brought, there's the richest man in Zhongjing! Just look, one joyous event after another filling up my heart, why would I want to pick a fight on such a festive day with your sister for no good reason?"

"That's the right attitude. We're a family, after all. With so many years of grudges, now that we're old, why not resolve them?" Li Wenzun said with a smile.

Yu Qingmei glanced at him and scoffed, "Resolve? You make it sound so easy! I'm not as forgiving as you, but if she doesn't provoke me, then I won't provoke her, that's all."

Li Wenzun shook his head with a bitter smile.

It seemed his spouse's temper was unchangeable, but that was okay, let it be.

Li Wenzun didn't notice that as Yu Qingmei spoke these words, a subtle gleam flashed in her eyes.

Her restraint wasn't truly out of generosity.

It was entirely because Feitian had said he would take revenge for the grandmother!

Tomorrow, in front of all the guests, they would make the Bai Family Members utterly lose face!

This was Yu Qingmei's forbearance, as well as her anticipation!

Regarding this matter, Li Wenzun was clearly unaware.

...

The night passed without incident.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng got up and washed as usual.

Breakfast was brought over by the servants.

There were four types of porridge, tofu brain, fried dough sticks, small steamed buns, and several small dishes, all rather lavish and exquisitely prepared.

The Bai Family members sat around and had breakfast together.

Approaching ten o'clock in the morning, guests started to arrive at the Li Family's home in succession.

The main courtyard of the Li Family was bustling with activity, the noise even reaching the across courtyard.

This time, the Li Family set up the banquet outside in the opposite courtyard.

Although it was outdoors, no detail was overlooked; everything from tables, chairs, and benches to plates, bowls, and chopstick rests was meticulously prepared, with staff responsible for ensuring that there were no defects.

It was said that the Li Family didn't plan to make a big to-do this time and that the scale was much smaller than in previous years, with only eighteen tables laid out.

The Bai Family members stayed in the across courtyard, waiting for their seating arrangements.

As noon approached, a servant finally came in to invite Li Fengguan and the Bai Family members to take their seats.

Bai Xiaosheng and others escorted Li Fengguan to the opposite courtyard, and upon entering, they found that the seating had already been arranged.

There were two tables in the main room, with the rest in the courtyard.

Li Fengguan, of course, went inside.

After being shown their places by the servants, the Bai Family members realized that their seating was in the most secluded part of the entire courtyard, tucked away in a corner.

Moreover, the table next to Bai Minghang and others was prepared for the juniors like Bai Xiaosheng.

This was plainly a form of disdain!

The Bai Family's eldest uncle, third uncle, and fourth uncle were all a bit displeased, they couldn't help but look at each other, and even Li Qiuyun frowned.

Bai Minghang sat down quietly, pointed to the head seat, and said to Bai Xiaosheng's eldest uncle, "Big brother, you sit there."

"Minghang, are we really sitting here?" Bai Xiaosheng's eldest uncle couldn't help but ask.

"If you don't want to sit here, you can go and talk to them, find a seat inside," Bai Minghang said with a smile, "Forget it, it's not worth it."

Seeing no other choice, everyone finally sat down.

At the neighboring table, Bai Xiaosheng quietly watched this scene, his brows slightly furrowed, but he soon collected himself and his expression returned to normal.

At their table, aside from him, Bai Fei, and Bai Ran, were seated the least significant among the Li Family's younger generation, as well as the younger members amongst the guests.

Bai Xiaosheng, the deputy head of Zhongjing Media, hadn't received any special treatment; not to mention being inside, he didn't even have a prominent seat outside.

"This is too much!" Bai Ran couldn't help but mutter under her breath in indignation.

"Ran, what are you angry about?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Rank and standing can't be arranged by others. Just wait and see, wherever I, Bai Xiaosheng, sit, that place becomes the seat for honored guests!"

When Bai Xiaosheng said this, he exuded an overwhelmingly assertive aura.

Bai Ran couldn't help but nod in agreement.

By this time, most of the guests had arrived.

Shortly after, almost every seat in the courtyard was taken, nearing full capacity.

The banquet was about to begin.

Suddenly, at the entrance of the across courtyard, someone shouted loudly, "Mr. Zhou has arrived, the honored guest is here!"

At this shout, the Li Family members took the lead in standing up, and the seated guests also rose one after another.

Bai Xiaosheng, grand and poised, remained seated without moving, the corner of his mouth lifting into a faint smile.

"Oh? Has the foremost personage of Zhongjing's business world arrived?"

Chapter 546 I'm Afraid He's Panicked (Part 4)_1

Across the courtyard, everyone stood up, gazing towards the entrance, their eyes flickering with anticipation.

The secretary of Tianqing City's mayor, Zhou Yifa, had arrived—that was a big shot!

Those with inside information couldn't help but share the news with the people around them.

This time, Zhou Yifa also brought a host of important figures with him—all wealthy merchants and tycoons from other cities!

"If Secretary Zhou personally accompanies them, could they be nobodies? It seems that the Li Family is really prospering this time!"

Someone remarked with emotion.

"Yeah, if Li Feitian and his Tianfu Wealth Management can secure the title of a provincial flagship enterprise, won't they soar to great heights?"

Others clicked their tongues in agreement.

Within the entire scene, the only ones who remained calmly seated, not standing up, were the Bai Family Members!

Bai Xiaosheng was even more composed, casually pouring himself a cup of tea and peeling sunflower seeds.

The guests at his table and the Li Family Members looked at him with strange glances, yet no one said a word.

Bai Fei and Bai Ran initially stood up unconsciously, but seeing Bai Xiaosheng acting so composed, they sat down again.

At the next table, the members of the Bai Family remained seated as well.

Bai Minghang too sat still like an immovable rock, occupied with sipping his tea.

Father and son were strikingly alike in this respect.

The other Bai Family Members' faces were filled with displeasure, sitting there as if they were making a statement.

After all, the arrangement by the Li Family this time was a bit too much.

In such a setting, the Bai Family elders and juniors were seated at neighboring tables, and all were in the most secluded corner of the room.

The table next to them was even left vacant, prepared for those still busying themselves, the servants with some status...

It was a clear sign of disdain!

With many people in the courtyard, it wasn't too noticeable that some in the farthest corner had not stood up.

No sooner had the shouts outside ceased than a line of figures appeared at the entrance of the banquet hall.

At the head of the group, to the left, was a middle-aged man of respectable height, with short silver hair, yet his face bore a full-fledged vigor, walking with a pace that was both steady and brisk, a sure sign of a competent individual.

To the right was a man also of considerable height, with a broad, heavyset figure, moving with firm and powerful steps.

The eyes of the crowd converged on the man to the left, filled with reverence.

This was Tianqing City's mayor's secretary, Zhou Yifa!

Walking beside him was the foremost figure of Zhongjing City's business community—a frequent feature in the press—Mou Yutian.

Behind them, aside from their entourage, Li Family servants, there were four or five individuals of distinguished demeanor, equally successful businessmen.

Zhou Ping followed closely behind as well.

As they entered the courtyard, a group of people surged out from the hall, led by Li Wenzun, accompanied by Li Feitian, followed by Yu Qingmei, and behind them were his three sons, three daughters-in-law, and other outstanding younger generation members of the Li Family like Li Feiyan.

The Li Family, including the Longevity Star Deity himself, all turned out to welcome the guests.

The scene was indeed grand.

Zhou Yifa and Mou Yutian chatted as they walked, and as they saw Li Wenzun leading his whole smiling family to greet them, Zhou quickened his pace to meet them, his face breaking into a smile.

"Ah, Elder, why have you taken the trouble to come out!" Zhou Yifa took the initiative to extend his hand.

"Secretary Zhou, it is I who have come out too late. To make distinguished guests walk all this way is truly shameful," Li Wenzun laughed heartily as he shook hands with Zhou Yifa.

"Elder, you are too modest! Here, let me introduce a few friends to you," Zhou Yifa said with a beaming smile, pointing to the person next to him, "This gentleman here is the number one figure in Zhongjing's business community, Mr. Mou Yutian!"

The number one figure in Zhongjing's business community!

This was no ordinary title, nor one that just anyone could handle!

Mou Yutian responded to the introduction with a pleased smile, graciously accepting it.

The eyes of everyone in the courtyard converged on this moment, filled with shock.

Many had heard the name and even seen photos of Mou Yutian online.

"For Mr. Mou to visit is an honor for our Li Family!" Li Wenzun's eyes were alight with sparkling radiance as he firmly shook hands with Mou Yutian.

"Mr. Mou, you flatter me too much," laughed Mou Yutian.

"And these few as well..." Zhou Yifa introduced the others one by one.

Though not as prominent as Mou Yutian, they all were influential figures in the business world.

Li Wenzun greeted each one of them and said to everyone with a smile, "We're honored by your presence, please come in, come in!"

Zhou Yifa and his distinguished guests were ushered into the main house.

As Yu Qingmei walked back, she glanced purposefully at the Bai Family Members' area and couldn't help but snicker subtly to herself.

She had previewed the arrangements and was of course aware of them!

Watching the guests enter the room, the entire courtyard's guests began to take their seats amidst excited and hushed discussions.

"Let the banquet begin!"

A servant of the Li Family stood at the entrance of the courtyard and shouted loudly.

The voice was exceptionally crisp and clear.

More than a dozen servants, carrying trays, filed in; a few were exclusively serving the two tables inside the house, while the rest attended to the guests seated in the courtyard.

Lobsters, shark fin, sea cucumber, squab, truffles—it was the height of luxury.

Not long after the banquet started, Li Wenzun's three sons, as well as Li Feitian, came out of the hall. Each was followed by a servant carrying drinks, and according to custom, they began to toast the guests.

After Li Feitian emerged, a smile curled at the corner of his mouth as he made a beeline for the Bai Family's spot.

"Dear uncles and aunts, thank you for traveling far to celebrate my grandfather's birthday. Let me toast to you all," Li Feitian first approached Bai Minghang's table and announced loudly.

Many people looked over and even whispered amongst themselves.

The faces of the Bai Family Members all looked somewhat displeased.

At such an important event, to be treated so casually by sending a junior to them—how dismissive!

At the very least, it should have been someone of the same generation to come toast!

A junior is a junior, no matter their achievements; the hierarchy is simply not the same!

Bai Minghang did not say a word and drained his glass.

Making a scene there would only make the Bai Family seem unrefined, especially since it was the old man's birthday celebration.

Nevertheless, Bai Minghang's expression was quite unpleasant.

This wasn't an offense to one or two individuals; it was disdain towards the entire Bai Family!

"Enjoy your food and drinks, honored guests!"

Li Feitian laughed loudly, emphasizing the words 'honored guests,' laden with mockery.

Then, he disregarded the Bai Family Members' sour expressions and strode straight to the table where Bai Xiaosheng was sitting.

"Cousin Sheng, I've come to toast you!" Li Feitian said cheerfully.

Bai Xiaosheng, without any change in demeanor, raised his glass and took a symbolic sip, extremely perfunctory.

Except for Bai Fei and Bai Ran, the others at the table wore smiles and downed their drinks. To them, having Li Feitian toast them was a great honor.

After toasting, Li Feitian wasn't in a hurry to leave and continued to look at Bai Xiaosheng with a grin.

From this angle, he felt a certain thrill of looking down from above.

Especially today, with important figures from Zhongjing paying a visit!

"I wonder if Cousin Sheng has ever met Mr. Mou?" he asked.

"I haven't," replied Bai Xiaosheng indifferently.

"Really? That's a pity. Haha, Cousin Sheng, you are the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media but haven't had the chance to meet Mr. Mou in Zhongjing? No matter, soon one person from each table will have a chance to go inside and offer a toast. Cousin Sheng, you can have a chat with Mr. Mou then!" Li Feitian said with a big laugh and, proud of himself, strode off.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at him coldly.

"Let me offer a toast to Mou Yutian? I have no issue with that, but I'm afraid it's he who would be nervous!"

Chapter 547: Old Acquaintance from Zhongjing, Sending Regards_1

At the table with Li Wenzun, besides him, Yu Qingmei, and Li Fengguan, there was also Zhou Yifa, Mou Yutian, Zhou Ping, and a spot for Li Feitian, making a total of ten people.

After the VIPs arrived, to show his importance, Li Wenzun made some last-minute adjustments to the seating arrangement.

At this moment, Zhou Yifa and Mou Yutian were brimming with smiles, engaging in a discreet conversation.

Zhou Yifa praised the absent Li Feitian, who had gone out to drink a toast, without reservation, and Mou Yutian nodded repeatedly, much to the delight of the Li Family Members present.

Yu Qingmei was seated next to Li Fengguan.

It was her who had asked for this arrangement, to which Li Wenzun didn't think much of it.

Now, their conversation had taken off.

With a smile, Yu Qingmei leaned in, speaking to Li Fengguan in a hushed voice.

Their conversation was audible only to the two of them; to outsiders, it appeared as though the sisters-in-law were exceptionally affectionate and harmonious.

In fact, Yu Qingmei's words were anything but pleasant!

"Fengguan, do you see? Now these are truly important people! Have you ever seen the like at the Bai Family?" Yu Qingmei said with a hint of show-off in her voice.

"My humble Bai Family, naturally I haven't had the chance to meet such important people."

At this gathering, Li Fengguan didn't want to argue; besides, after many years of cultivating her character, her mindset had greatly improved.

"Just look all around, ah, our family is thriving, it's my old lady's good fortune to have children and grandchildren who are all so successful, each one a prominent businessperson!" Yu Qingmei's smile conveyed even more pride.

"Indeed, you are fortunate."

Li Fengguan responded indifferently, not wishing to say more.

"And look at you, which one of your sons is successful? As for the grandchildren you bring, the most distinguished is that Bai Xiaosheng, right... the Vice General Manager at Zhongjing Media, tsk tsk, sounds somewhat significant, but he probably doesn't even qualify to share a drink at the same table as Mr. Mou! Ah, what a case of 'to each their own fate'!" Yu Qingmei's voice grew more arrogant as she spoke.

She had been holding back all these years and wanted to thoroughly humiliate Li Fengguan once and for all, preferably with Li Fengguan listening obediently!

This was such a splendid opportunity!

She didn't believe that Li Fengguan would dare to make a scene over a few casual remarks said here.

Li Fengguan's face turned slightly pale, and even the old lady began to get a bit angry, but ultimately she held herself back.

Yu Qingmei was about to continue when Li Fengguan, as if accidentally, raised her elbow, tipping the teacup over, causing the boiling water to spill.

Yu Qingmei cried out in pain, prompting everyone seated to look over.

"Look at me, I'm just not very capable in my old age. Oh, sister-in-law, I hope you didn't get scalded." Li Fengguan hurriedly handed Yu Qingmei some tissue.

You did that on purpose!

Yu Qingmei couldn't say anything in public, fuming internally. But soon afterward, she sneered to herself.

Having to resort to such beneath-contempt methods is nothing but the incompetence of your Bai Family offspring!

This little dramatic scene lasted but a moment.

Everyone just laughed it off, not taking it to heart.

Zhou Yifa simply glanced over, as he was busy talking with Mou Yutian.

"Mr. Mou, your family business has really grown immensely over the years. When I met you two years ago, you were just one of the top five families in Zhongjing, and now you've taken the lead. Impressive, Zhou admires you! If I had known better, I would have joined you in business." Zhou Yifa expressed a mixture of sincerity and jest.

"Secretary Zhou, you're too good at making jokes. You're a perennial fixture in the political landscape, naturally cut out for politics. What's so good about being a businessman, it's too risky," Mou Yutian replied with a modest smile.

"Look at you talking, 'too risky' is just a matter of scale. For a brother like you, with over a dozen enterprises in the family, that's as solid as a rock! In Zhongjing, it's probably like your foot trembling could shake the ground three times," Zhou Yifa laughed heartily.

Mou Yutian shook his head, a faint look of reverence appearing in his eyes.

"You can't say that. There are always people better than oneself, and there's always a higher sky above us. The more I experience, the more I realize this! You, my friend, may not know, but in Zhongjing there's a truly powerful individual! Just their sneeze can make others shudder. Anyone who disobeys, be it the Yin Family or the Zhang Family, will meet a pitiful end... Ah, I forgot, you might not be familiar with these two families," Mou Yutian said with a smile.

"What kind of person could be so formidable?" Zhou Yifa said incredulously, "Under Mayor Ji Mingyang's administration, such an existence would be allowed? Mr. Mou, you're not pulling my leg, are you?"

"Haha, then just take it as if I were telling you a joke," Mou Yutian laughed heartily, preferring not to discuss that person further.

In the Zhongjing circles, enough had been said already.

Now everyone had come to a consensus: when encountering that person, it was best to steer clear to avoid embarrassment.

Mou Yutian's gaze flickered as he thought to himself: My two companies should have been promoted by the Media Alliance by now, so I definitely can't afford any conflict with that individual! Fortunately, this isn't Zhongjing, it's Tianqing, and it's impossible to run into a Bai here! I don't see any guests with the surname Bai among these VIPs!

Mr. Mou Yutian let out a sigh of relief.

Never mind anything else, if there were a Bai present now, he would be nervous for half a day.

Seeing Mr. Mou Yutian's expression, Zhou Yifa knew what he said was not entirely false, but he did not pursue the matter further.

Shortly after.

Li Feitian returned and, after taking his seat, paid the utmost compliments to Zhou Yifa and Mr. Mou Yutian, raising his cup in a toast.

Yu Qingmei watched her grandson mingling with the important figures, clinking cups and exchanging drinks, and was all the more delighted, continuing to boast in front of Li Fengguan.

Li Fengguan couldn't be bothered to compete with her.

Nevertheless, the Bai Family truly was incomparable.

Li Fengguan felt a faint sense of guilt, as if he hadn't fulfilled his educational responsibilities, rendering the Bai Family mediocre.

In the courtyard.

A representative from each table came forward, ready to head up to the house for a toast. After all, the elderly prefer quietness, and with distinguished guests present, it wasn't appropriate to be noisy.

At Bai Xiaosheng's table, the others were unwilling, so Bai Xiaosheng patted Bai Fei on the shoulder and said with a smile, "Then, Brother Bai Fei, it looks like you'll have to take on the task."

"Me?" Bai Fei was startled and then gave a wry smile.

Sheng had indeed assigned him a difficult task.

"Like this..." Bai Xiaosheng whispered a few instructions in his ear.

Bai Fei's expression suddenly changed, his gaze flickering, looking at him.

"Can this, this really work?" Bai Fei asked, uncertain.

"No problem!" Bai Xiaosheng flashed a smile at him and patted his shoulder.

The Li Family members had their share of the limelight today, now it was the Bai Family's turn!

"Alright, if you say it's fine, then it's fine!" Bai Fei steeled his heart.

The toasting began, with representatives from each table entering the inner room in succession.

Their time inside was very brief, after all, the purpose was only to offer a toast and say a few auspicious words—it didn't take much time.

When it was their turn, Bai Fei quickly stepped ahead of Bai Minghang and the others at his table and entered the inner room.

...

The group at Li Wenzun's table, all wore smiles, watching every person who came in.

When Bai Fei entered, he didn't draw any special attention.

"Bai Fei of the Bai Family, wishes Uncle Grandfather an abundance of fortune as vast as the Eastern seas and a longevity surpassing the Southern mountains!" Bai Fei announced loudly, draining the cup of wine in one gulp.

Li Wenzun nodded slightly, his face full of smiles, symbolically sipping a little.

A Bai?

The crowd did not notice, but Mr. Mou Yutian's complexion subtly shifted.

By now, he was exceedingly cautious of anyone with that surname.

But fortunately, this is Tianqing!

No sooner had Mr. Mou Yutian calmed himself a little than he saw Bai Fei smiling at him.

Instead of leaving immediately after the toast as was customary, Bai Fei turned towards Mr. Mou Yutian.

The crowd was taken aback.

Even Li Feitian's brows slightly furrowed.

Could it be that the Bai Family members were planning something?

"Mr. Mou, a former acquaintance from Zhongjing in the courtyard has asked me to extend their greetings to you," Bai Fei suddenly said.

An old acquaintance from Zhongjing?

Mr. Mou Yutian almost subconsciously asked, "Who might that be?"

"Bai Xiaosheng!"

Bai Fei's voice rang out, resoundingly clear.

Chapter 548: The Bai Family's True Dragon, Stunning All Directions_1

When Bai Fei said this, he himself had no confidence. He didn't even dare to believe that Bai Xiaosheng really knew this Mr. Mou or if it was just a passing acquaintance.

He had no assurance whether Mr. Mou would give face or if he would deny knowing him in front of everyone.

If that happened, the Bai Family's face would be completely lost.

"Sheng is doing his best to fight for face for the Bai Family. It doesn't matter anymore. Just let it be," Bai Fei clenched his teeth, forcing himself to stand tall and confront the gazes of everyone present.

As these words came out, the expressions around the table varied.

Everyone was first taken aback.

Then, Yu Qingmei, in disbelief, muttered under her breath, "Showing off to win favor, fabricating relationships!"

In her opinion, the younger generation of the Bai Family was being too clever for their own good, trying to rub shoulders for face here. It was possible that Bai Xiaosheng had only met Mou Yutian once and was now attempting to take advantage of the relationship, potentially taking advantage of the Li Family.

Li Wenzun also frowned; he thought the same.

As for Li Feitian, his brows were furrowed too. In his view, the Bai Family was here to cause trouble.

Zhou Yifa couldn't help but look towards Mou Yutian, who stood there seemingly unable to recall who Bai Xiaosheng was.

"Since you know each other, why don't you come over and offer a toast?" Zhou Yifa said with a smile.

"Bai Fei, you may step down," Li Fengguan sighed lightly and waved her hand.

The young man, not willing to concede, wanted to fight for face in public; she could understand that. However, if he became too obsessed with such matters, he would stray off course and lose even more face.

Yet Sheng, after all, meant well, wanting to take a stand for the Bai Family, but...

Li Fengguan couldn't help but shake her head.

Just as everyone thought the situation looked bleak, and even Bai Fei couldn't hold on anymore, Mou Yutian suddenly stood up, and in his haste, he knocked over a wine glass. The red wine, worth tens of thousands per bottle, splashed out, a few drops landing on his pants, and he didn't even have time to wipe it off.

This commotion startled Zhou Yifa beside him.

Everyone present was taken aback, staring at him astonished.

"Who did you say!" Mou Yutian shouted, almost hoarse with exhaustion, completely different from his previous calm and unhurried demeanor.

Bai Fei shivered in fright.

He was a bit dumbfounded. Why was this big shot showing such an expression, even raising his voice?

Not just him; everyone present, including Li Wenzun and Zhou Yifa, were startled.

"Bai Xiaosheng," Bai Fei swallowed nervously, forcing his voice to remain steady as he repeated.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai is here!"

Mou Yutian's expression completely changed. As he moved back, his chair scraped against the floor loudly, particularly grating.

Everyone watched as Mou Yutian's face filled with smiles.

Everyone, was stunned.

This Mr. Mou's reaction to hearing Bai Xiaosheng's name, how could it be like this!

"Quick, lead the way!" Mou Yutian, ignoring the looks from others, urged Bai Fei impatiently.

In his eyes, was Bai Xiaosheng someone to be trifled with? It had long been a consensus in Zhongjing's circles that it was best to be as proactive as possible in showing goodwill towards him. Especially during this period, his own company was about to be recommended by the Media Alliance!

Mou Yutian was eager to extend his goodwill.

Being called the foremost businessman of Zhongjing, that was an empty title!

The foremost duty of a businessman is to recognize the times, build good relationships, and expand one's network!

"Oh, right, right!" Bai Fei's brain had short-circuited, he could only nod in agreement, hurriedly leading the way.

Mou Yutian took two steps forward before stopping suddenly, rushing back to grab Zhou Yifa's wine glass, "Brother Zhou, lend me this. I'm off to toast a VIP!"

To toast a VIP! Wasn't he a VIP himself?

This Li Family, what other VIP could there be? And why would a VIP be in the courtyard?!

Zhou Yifa was completely befuddled, but he reacted quickly, snatching Li Feitian's wine glass and hurriedly following.

As they moved, everyone at the table stirred, along with another table of VIPs.

The crowd, not understanding the situation, followed suit.

In the courtyard, the guests were dining and chatting happily.

Suddenly someone exclaimed, "Old Master Li has come out!"

All eyes turned simultaneously to look.

Was Old Master Li Wenzun coming over to toast personally?

Everyone smiled broadly, ready to rise to their feet, but then they noticed something amiss.

In front of Li Wenzun, the prominent businessman Mou Yutian hurriedly followed a young man, with the mayor's secretary Zhou Yifa right behind him. Zhou Yifa was followed by Li Wenzun, and trailing behind Li, to everyone's amazement, were all the distinguished guests—they were heading toward the most secluded corner of the room.

What were they doing?

Everyone was bewildered, their gazes trailing after them.

Bai Fei quickly ran to Bai Xiaosheng's side and stood behind him.

The people nearby also noticed Mou Yutian and the others approaching, and they were all taken aback. They couldn't help but stand up, Bai Family members at that table included.

In the entire room, only Bai Xiaosheng remained seated, composed as ever.

Mou Yutian spotted him at first glance.

By now, Bai Xiaosheng's photo had circulated among the wealthy families of Zhongjing.

Mou Yutian had met him once before and had a profound impression!

"Mr. Bai, I didn't expect to find you here, haha, let me toast to you," Mou Yutian laughed heartily.

The room fell silent.

All eyes incredulously turned to Bai Xiaosheng, observing his serene composure, his tranquil self-assurance.

Who was he? How could he command such respect!

The members of the Li Family were completely dumbfounded.

From Li Wenzun down to Li Feiyun, they were all agape!

Why would Zhongjing's wealthiest man treat this junior member of the Bai Family with such deference!

The Bai Family members were equally shocked, even Bai Minghang was stunned.

When had his son become so imposing!

Under the gaze of all present, Bai Xiaosheng smiled, stood up, and lightly clinked his glass with Mou Yutian's, "It's too much trouble for Mr. Mou to offer a toast. I am truly not worthy."

"You're too modest! To share a drink with you—the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, the Chairman of Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance—is my honor!" Mou Yutian declared loudly and laughed heartily.

Zhongjing Media General Manager!

Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance Chairman!

These titles resounded like a mighty bell, stunning the listeners.

Zhou Yifa's eyes instantly widened in disbelief.

Soon after, the secretary of the municipal committee stepped forward with a big smile and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Then Zhou would also like to toast Mr. Bai!"

Even the mayor's secretary was personally offering a toast.

The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Li Wenzun's face turned pale as he couldn't help but shudder when he glanced at the Bai Family's table, angrily glaring at Li Feitian.

Li Feitian looked bitterly shocked, in disbelief.

Unexpectedly, the Bai Family had produced a real dragon.

Once it soared into the clouds, it astonished all directions!

Yu Qingmei's face turned as white as paper as she struggled with disbelief, yet she had to believe.

Li Fengguan's smile was carefree, as though years of smouldering frustrations had been cleared in a single day.

She cast a glance at the shell-shocked Yu Qingmei, smiled faintly, and began to speak. In her voice, an endless sense of pride could be heard.

"Children and grandchildren have their own fortune; not every one of them has to stand out. Having just one person in my family is enough, worth more than your entire clan. Do you see, sister-in-law? That is my grandson!"

Chapter 549: Conclusion of the Birthday Banquet_1

With a loud shout from Mou Yutian, Bai Xiaosheng's identity was finally exposed, shocking the entire room.

Not only the Li Family members were shocked, but Bai Family members were greatly surprised as well!

Bai Xiaosheng had always been treated as the deputy general manager of Zhongjing Media, and he himself was quiet about it, not declaring it openly.

Unexpectedly, he was actually the general manager of Zhongjing Media! And the chairman of the Zhongjing Media Alliance!

So young, yet with such accomplishments, he even made the secretary to the Mayor of Tianqing City personally come out to offer a toast!

The young people in the room looked at Bai Xiaosheng with eager eyes, filled with reverence and adoration.

It is believed that after today, Bai Xiaosheng will become a role model for many.

"No wonder he said that wherever he is, is the VIP seat!" Bai Ran looked at Bai Xiaosheng and was wholeheartedly convinced.

Bai Fei stood behind Bai Xiaosheng, her back straight, her face beaming with pride.

The uncles of the Bai Family were shocked and speechless, then one by one their cheeks flushed, their faces filled with pride.

Today, the Bai Family members were held in the highest regard by the whole room!

After the surprise, Bai Minghang and Li Qiuyun felt content; with their son achieving so much, they were naturally extremely delighted.

The Li Family, led by Li Wenzun, had complicated looks in their eyes.

Li Feitian stood there stunned, silent for a long time.

Zhou Yifa and his son kept their silence, their eyes glittering as they looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

The distinguished guests who had come with Zhou Yifa looked at Bai Xiaosheng with eyes filled with respect. They had heard various tales about Bai Xiaosheng through different channels and naturally would not underestimate him due to his age.

"I didn't expect to meet Mr. Mou here, our meeting must be fate. We should catch up when we have the chance," Bai Xiaosheng said as he put down his glass and sat down.

"There's no need to wait for another opportunity, let's drink now," Mou Yutian replied with a smile brimming on his face, unceremoniously pulling up a chair next to Bai Xiaosheng and sitting down.

Such a good opportunity to get on good terms with Mr. Bai – he couldn't miss it!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and did not refuse.

"Even though he is the general manager of Zhongjing Media, given Mr. Mou's status, there's no need to be wary. Why does he seem somewhat ingratiating?" Li Feitian couldn't help but pull his friend Zhou Ping and ask.

Zhou Ping gave a bitter smile and responded in an extremely low voice, "How would I know!"

After all, they were not in Zhongjing and had no idea of Bai Xiaosheng's "battle record" there – terrifying victories over the Yin Family, crushing the Zhang Family, skillfully scheming grand strategies to curry the Mayor's favor!

Moreover, two key enterprises of the Mou Family were currently being pushed onto the path of becoming local benchmarks in Zhongjing, reliant on Zhongjing Media.

Such a figure as Bai Xiaosheng, Mou Yutian of course wanted to build relations in full force, not daring to offend him in the slightest.

The whispered discussion of Li Feitian and Zhou Ping reached Zhou Yifa's ears. He glanced at them with a displeased expression, and the two of them hurriedly shut their mouths.

Zhou Yifa put on a smile and stepped forward, "I also want to share a small drink with Mr. Bai, if that's alright."

The Secretary to the Mayor also took the initiative to join!

The crowd secretly swallowed hard.

"Please," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Zhou Yifa pulled over a chair and sat down next to Mou Yutian.

"Secretary Zhou, Mr. Mou, if you two wish to drink and chat, why do it here? Let's go inside," Li Feitian came over and said with a smile, and then looked at Bai Xiaosheng and added, "Cousin Bai, please come inside to take a seat as well!"

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, did not look at Li Feitian, looked around the yard, and then up at the sky, "Outside is nice, it's spacious out here!"

Mou Yutian glanced around and couldn't help but frown.

This table was too remote, practically in a corner!

He couldn't understand what the Li Family was thinking, underestimating someone with shallow vision, to actually arrange a seat for Bai Xiaosheng here!

Now, it served them right that Bai Xiaosheng wasn't giving them the courtesy!

"That's right, the environment here is great!" Mou Yutian's voice deepened as he echoed in agreement.

"If the two of you are so refined, then naturally I will keep you company," Zhou Yifa said with a laugh.

Li Feitian's smile froze; he was completely left hanging.

Li Wenzun was inclined to go over, but with all eyes on him, his older face just couldn't take it.

"Feitian, get Secretary Zhou, Mr. Mou, and Sheng a different banquet table. Everyone... carry on, eat well, drink well!" Li Wenzun said with a chuckle, then returned indoors.

Staying any longer would only mean more embarrassment.

Li Fengguan smiled and followed Li Wenzun back inside.

Yu Qingmei appeared somewhat distraught and also went back.

Li Feitian, his smile bitter, had no choice but to pretend he didn't care, bustling about to have the banquet table changed.

The banquet continued, but people's glances fell on the most secluded corner, watching the table for three with much awe in their eyes.

The most secluded corner of the courtyard truly became the most prestigious spot.

Bai Xiaosheng, Mou Yutian, and Zhou Yifa were having a lively conversation, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Eventually, Li Feitian, thick-skinned, sat down with them, trying his best to maintain a pleasant demeanor.

Li Feiyan and Li Feiyun watched from a distance, feeling awkward for their cousin brother.

The celebration took a different turn with this interlude, throwing off the entire rhythm, and even seemed to wrap up somewhat abruptly in the end.

After the meal, Mou Yutian seemed reluctant to leave, but citing his schedule, had to go, warmly inviting Bai Xiaosheng to visit his home in Zhongjing.

Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

Mou Yutian was visibly overjoyed.

Seeing Mou Yutian leaving, Zhou Yifa also took his leave, with Zhou Ping accompanying him, and the distinguished guests Zhou Yifa had brought also departed.

Suddenly, everyone was gone, and any potential cooperation with the Li Family was blown.

The Li Family, unable to persuade them to stay, could only see them off.

On the other side, Li Fengguan also bid farewell to her brother, preparing to leave the next day.

Li Wenzun made efforts to retain her, but did not insist; Yu Qingmei seemed somewhat dispirited and silent the whole time.

Once the banquet dispersed, Bai Family Members returned to their own residence.

The Li Family Members, on the other hand, were busy cleaning up, with many still immersed in the shock the Bai Family Members had brought them that day.

Li Feitian felt the same.

The person he had always looked down upon had publicly crushed him, which was quite hard to swallow!

Especially after learning from his grandfather that Bai Xiaosheng and his party would be leaving the next day.

Li Feitian found this particularly unacceptable.

"I haven't given you the last question of our bet; how can you leave! Since you're the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, I want to beat you even more!" Li Feitian gritted his teeth in secret, his eyes boiling with fighting spirit.

That night, Li Feitian appeared in the Bai Family's courtyard, looking for Bai Xiaosheng.

His attitude was exceedingly enthusiastic, as he warmly invited Bai Xiaosheng, "Cousin Bai, if you are leaving tomorrow afternoon, why don't you come to Tianfu Wealth Management in the morning? I know you are learned and talented, and there are some things I need to discuss with you, particularly about our new product launch. If you think it's good, our two companies might even collaborate!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked into Li Feitian's eyes and suddenly smiled.

Through the Micro Expression Analysis System, Bai Xiaosheng clearly saw Li Feitian's true intent.

It was less that Li Feitian wanted him to visit to seek cooperation, and more that he was unwilling to accept the loss from yesterday's bet, hoping to win back what he lost before Bai Xiaosheng left!

He's certainly persistent!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled immediately and nodded, "Alright then, I'll come over in the morning to check out your new products."

And also, to make you lose conclusively!

Chapter 550 You guys are in big trouble!_1

The third day dawned with the Bai Family Members beginning to pack their belongings.

In the afternoon, they would return to Zhongjing.

This three-day trip to Tianqing had come to a temporary close.

At the birthday celebration yesterday, the Bai Family Members earned significant face, making the Li Family's attitude towards them, if not completely reversed, at least respectful enough to avoid any slight in their glances.

This change was wholly brought about by Bai Xiaosheng himself.

And early in the morning, Bai Xiaosheng was taken away by Li Feitian.

Reportedly, he had been invited to inspect Tianfu Wealth Management.

At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng indeed found himself in the headquarters of Tianfu Wealth Management—the most luxurious office building in the center of Tianqing City. The entire five floors belonged to Tianfu Wealth Management, and these floors were also the property of the Li Family.

With today's property prices, this place could truly be described as gold by the inch. Tianfu Wealth Management could definitely be considered wealthy and powerful.

However, in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, it wasn't all that impressive.

After all, Zhongjing Media owned two landmark buildings in the best location in Zhongjing!

Compared to that, Tianfu Wealth Management certainly seemed less substantial.

During his inspection, Bai Xiaosheng was not only accompanied by Li Feitian but also by Zhou Ping.

Zhou Ping's attitude towards Bai Xiaosheng was now extremely respectful.

The reason for this wasn't just that yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng had a pleasant conversation with Mou Yutian at the Li Family's event, but also because after Zhou Yifa returned home, he apparently gained a deep understanding of Bai Xiaosheng through some channel. He solemnly warned him with just one sentence—Bai Xiaosheng must not be offended!

Remember this!

Zhou Yifa's earnest caution made Zhou Ping realize that Bai Xiaosheng was no simple character! Perhaps there was an even more formidable background behind him!

At this moment, Li Feitian personally led the way in front, introducing as they went, with Zhou Ping by his side for company, and Bai Xiaosheng walking in the center, as the three of them inspected each department.

The employees of Tianfu Wealth Management were all astonished at the scene, with countless gazes following them.

Everyone was curious about Bai Xiaosheng, who occupied the center position, a young man who could have Mr. Li as a guide and Mr. Zhou as an escort.

Numerous professional-dressed beauties cast lingering looks, their gazes roaming over Bai Xiaosheng.

So outstanding, so young, with an effortless aura of transcendence in his every move, he was definitely a top-tier catch!

Unfortunately, Bai Xiaosheng's gaze did not linger on them, which couldn't help but be a disappointment.

After the tour, Bai Xiaosheng remained indifferent; there truly wasn't much that had caught his interest, although he did receive quite a few admiring looks.

On the final floor, Li Feitian led the two men into his own office.

His office was quite impressive and extravagantly decorated.

Bai Xiaosheng looked around and couldn't help but nod his head.

It indeed could compete with Lin Beichen's director's office.

And their tastes seemed to be quite similar; Bai Xiaosheng even felt a sense of familiarity.

"Come, come, Cousin Sheng, Mr. Zhou, please have a seat over here!" Li Feitian said with a beaming smile, directing both of them to the sofa area.

Li Feitian's beautiful, shapely female secretary served the three of them a cup of tea, smiled sweetly, and walked out with her straight legs, making sure to close the door behind her.

Ensuring they would not be disturbed, Li Feitian then turned to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "Cousin Sheng, you've seen how things are around here. Although we aren't as strong as your Zhongjing Media, in the insurance industry, here in Anjiang, we are still quite prominent. Mayor Dai recommended us for the provincial benchmark enterprise, which shows recognition for our strength!"

Li Feitian was a bit proud.

The reason Mayor Dai Mingcheng was justified, it was the competition pressure, after all...

Bai Xiaosheng found this amusing internally, but externally he remained expressionless, nodding with a smile, not wishing to shatter Li Feitian's pleasant misunderstanding.

Li Feitian boasted a couple more sentences.

Zhou Ping, seeing Bai Xiaosheng's lukewarm response, felt too embarrassed to chime in and couldn't help but inwardly grimace.

Mr. Li, there's no need to show off in front of the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, just get straight to the point!

Actually, Zhou Ping was somewhat curious.

Li Feitian hadn't clued him in; had he not told him what the purpose of this visit was?

Was it simply to have Bai Xiaosheng inspect, hoping to promote cooperation between the two companies?

Considering what Zhou Ping knew about Li Feitian, he always felt there was more to it than met the eye.

Sure enough.

As Li Feitian spoke, his tone shifted, and he laughed, "Let's not rush the matter of cooperation. Sheng can consider it slowly after returning. The day before yesterday, at our house, Cousin Sheng displayed such a profound knowledge of all things ancient and modern that it was truly the only time I've ever seen anything like it. Even Mr. Zhou was full of admiration, right?"

Li Feitian glanced at Zhou Ping.

"Right!" Zhou Ping was taken aback but then nodded earnestly.

Truth be told, Bai Xiaosheng had truly dazzled him at that time, and even now, he admired him sincerely.

But for Li Feitian to say this... would he really acknowledge Bai Xiaosheng's superiority?

Zhou Ping didn't believe it; he knew his friend's character well.

Proud and arrogant.

The Bai Family had always been looked down upon by Li Feitian, and Bai Xiaosheng had caused him to lose face in public. Even if Bai Xiaosheng was the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, without any likely prospects for cooperation, Li Feitian wouldn't seek to ingratiate himself with the other party.

So, these words must be setting a trap!

Indeed, Li Feitian continued, "I remember I asked a number of questions related to actuarial analysis, which is my own field of expertise. Cousin Sheng can also be considered a professional in this area, which left me thoroughly impressed! But then I couldn't accept it, as after all, I am not only the chairman of Tianfu Wealth Management but also the Chief Actuary!"

Li Feitian's words surprised Bai Xiaosheng.

An actuary mainly deals with calculating insurance premiums, reserving for claims, dividends, insurance coverage, pension funds, annuities, etc., typically employed by insurance companies.

In professional terms, they're specialists who analyze risks and quantify their financial impact.

This is a highly specialized profession!

A Chief Actuary is even more a talent with both professional and managerial skills.

With the financial resources of the Li Family, hiring a group of top actuaries and selecting the best among them to be the Chief Actuary would not be difficult; there was no need to save on this expense!

Li Feitian being the Chief Actuary likely reflected immense confidence in his own abilities.

"Applying for the status of a provincial benchmark enterprise, Cousin Sheng, as the General Manager of Zhongjing Media, must be very clear about the criteria for each phase. There's no need for me to elaborate. To satisfy the audit, we rushed an innovative product to market on a small scale recently. Some feedback suggests there might be issues with our product during sales, which I personally find absurd. Perhaps Cousin Sheng could take a look and analyze whether there is indeed a problem."

Li Feitian revealed his neat, white teeth in a smile, "If you find a problem, then I am convinced. If there is no problem, Cousin Sheng, wouldn't you bet something for fun and have your Zhongjing Media purchase some?"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyebrows rose.

A bet, another bet.

So Li Feitian had been brooding over their last encounter, especially after learning he was the General Manager of Zhongjing Media; he was intent on winning this time.

"Is that convenient? If so, show me the data and information," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He accepted the bet.

Even if there wasn't a problem, no actuarial analysis is flawless in this world. With Red Lotus's help, he would eventually find a loophole.

Li Feitian had already prepared the materials and handed them to Bai Xiaosheng.

Without a word, Bai Xiaosheng took them and perused them carefully.

After just one pass, his brows had twisted into knots.

"What is it, Cousin Sheng? Can't figure it out, or don't understand it?" Li Feitian asked with a light chuckle.

Bai Xiaosheng had a complicated expression. After going through the information again, he finally looked up at Li Feitian.

"Has this product already been launched on the market?"

Bai Xiaosheng let out a sigh and said earnestly, "Then you've got a big problem!"