

Two Trillion 571

Chapter 571: Wu Shiyi's Mission (1)

"This Wu Shiyi, what a disgusting guy! Just now, it was good that you were there!"

Mo Xin gave Bai Xiaosheng a sweet smile.

In Mo Xin's eyes, Bai Xiaosheng had truly become her hero.

"This guy is like a fly, shoo him away and he'll fly right back, endlessly annoying. Continuing like this really isn't the way!" Bai Xiaosheng frowned, thinking of a way to help Mo Xin get rid of this nuisance.

"Don't be bothered by this anymore, I have a way to deal with him." Mo Xin said with a giggly smile, "Go find his parents and have them discipline him properly!"

Although she would have liked to be saved by Bai Xiaosheng's heroics, Wu Shiyi was indeed a source of irritation for her.

"All right. If you fail, then it's my turn." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, not insisting further.

He also knew that Mo Xin's family background was not simple.

Bai Xiaosheng hailed a taxi, first sending Mo Xin back to her place, then he rushed back to Zhongjing Media.

There was an additional certification meeting tomorrow, which would take up part of the time.

Bai Xiaosheng thought about adjusting tomorrow's schedule to an earlier time.

Back in her hotel, Mo Xin happily closed the door to her room, first reminiscing about Bai Xiaosheng's valiant brilliance, which made her involuntarily start to laugh, her eyes tender and affectionate.

It took a while before she managed to suppress her emotions and picked up her phone.

"It looks like this time, I'll have to trouble that annoying guy again!" Mo Xin made a call with some reluctance.

A moment later, the call connected.

On the other end, an excessively ingratiating voice immediately sounded, "Hello, my good daughter, you've finally decided to call your dad!"

"I need a favor from you." Mo Xin's voice was both cold and firm.

The person on the other end, however, didn't mind her tone and sounded very happy, "You just say it, whatever it is, I'm sure to take care of it!"

"In the association, that Mr. Wu, he has a nephew who has been pestering me, and I really don't like it!" Mo Xin stated bluntly.

"That's a small matter, no problem, my dear daughter..." The person on the other end wanted to chat about something else.

Mo Xin hung up directly, "You're also an annoying person!"

If Bai Xiaosheng knew that Mo Xin had such a fiery temper, he would certainly be surprised.

At this very moment.

After returning to the company, Bai Xiaosheng looked through the progress schedule and called Secretary Zhang Meng.

"My Mr. Bai, can the third stage really be completed tomorrow?" Zhang Meng seriously confirmed over the phone.

Last time, Bai Xiaosheng had given the end of this week as the date, and today he confirmed it to the day.

Honestly, this progress astonished Zhang Meng.

Especially since Bai Xiaosheng had actually applied for several batches of patents abroad, and although they had only passed the preliminary examination, it was enough!

This was a significant bonus!

"No problem!" Bai Xiaosheng affirmed.

"Right now, Mayor Ji is in a meeting, as soon as he's done, I'll report all this to him right away! I believe, in a couple of days at most, we could report to the province! It's possible we have already far surpassed Langbei City! Brother, you've done beautifully this time!" Zhang Meng could not help but express his admiration.

"You flatter me, Secretary Zhang!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a slight smile.

The trip to Tianqing and that conversation with Dai Mingcheng, he did not want to tell Ji Mingyang about.

At least, if everything went smoothly, that conversation would be nothing more than an innocuous joke...

He hoped everything would go smoothly!

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng once again started reviewing the progress schedule, but now for the fourth stage!

A bit later.

In his hotel room, Wu Shiyi looked at a message with confusion.

The information came from Jin Dalu and was brief.

"Tomorrow at ten in the morning, Vice Chairman Feng Shijie has arranged for the new formula certification meeting to reconvene, at the Zhongjing Wanhe Building."

Wu Shiyi furrowed his brows, his expression turning somewhat unpleasant.

"This Feng Shijie, what is he up to! Such short notice, and he's calling for a second certification meeting—what is he scheming!" Wu Shiyi naturally wouldn't call Feng Shijie directly to inquire; even if he did, he probably wouldn't get anything out of him.

After some thought, Wu Shiyi decided to call Jin Dalu directly.

However, after several attempts, he couldn't get through.

"Is Jin Dalu not carrying his phone with him?" Wu Shiyi frowned steadily.

At the moment, he wasn't staying at the Zhongjing Mutian International Building; in fact, he was quite a distance from there. Heading straight over to ask Jin Dalu in person would be incredibly troublesome.

After pondering for a while, Wu Shiyi still ended up calling Feng Shijie, trying to fish for some information.

But the result was peculiar.

He couldn't get through to Feng Shijie's phone either.

Wu Shiyi felt something was off and thought about reaching out to Zhang Feidu or Tang Xiaoqi to probe further.

Just then, his phone began to ring.

When Wu Shiyi saw the number, his expression immediately turned serious, and he hurriedly answered.

"Uncle, why are you calling me personally?" Even though the other party couldn't see him, Wu Shiyi put on a smile.

The Wu Family might be a lineage of bartenders, but they were also involved in various businesses.

Since his great-grandfather's generation, the family had never split up; the whole clan lived together and worked within the same family corporate group.

This uncle of his was the real helmsman of the Wu Family!

Even the other branches had to look to his face.

Normally, someone of Wu Shiyi's status—an insignificant junior—would never qualify to speak with his uncle.

The reason his uncle was calling him now was that he had an "important mission" at hand!

Mo Xin had submitted a new formula for certification to the International Bartender Association and prepared "Encounter" on-site for a few Executive Directors to taste, including his uncle!

After his uncle returned, he regarded this particular drink as having great market potential and wanted to get the formula into their hands!

Usually, Wu Shiyi boasted about his very close relationship with Mo Xin.

Since the formula was from Mo Xin's friend, it would be more convenient for him to handle this matter!

So this time, his uncle assigned him the task.

If he succeeded, Wu Shiyi's status in the Wu Family would rise drastically!

Wu Shiyi came here with a mission, determined to sabotage the certification meeting from the start.

As long as the new formula wasn't adopted by the association, they would have the chance to buy it and claim it as their own!

Then, following some business maneuvering, it was bound to bring in a constant stream of wealth.

At this point, Wu Shiyi had already successfully completed the sabotage task; next was to approach that Mr. Bai, negotiate terms, and secure the formula.

However, it now seemed that Mr. Bai was not easy to deal with!

Wu Shiyi was contemplating how to explain all this to his uncle.

"If it really comes down to it, just use money to stun him into submission, throw five million at him, and everything will be sorted!" Wu Shiyi thought to himself.

In his view, Bai Xiaosheng was just a poor kid—had he ever seen that much money?

"Wu Shiyi, you need to act fast on the formula matter!" said a voice on the other end, carrying a sense of authority.

"Yes, yes," Wu Shiyi replied submissively.

"Also, I forbid you from harassing Miss Mo Xin any further!"

This second statement from Mr. Wu caught Wu Shiyi off guard.

Chapter 572 I Will Never Give Up!_1

"What do you mean by saying these things?" Wu Shiyi asked somewhat hesitantly.

At first, when he knew that he had a connection with Mo Xin, Mr. Wu was very pleased and even specifically called him over to ask about a lot of things in detail.

Back then, Wu Shiyi felt flattered, considering that among his peers in the Wu Family, even with his title as a Senior Bartender Technician, he was practically invisible.

The Wu Family had risen through the ranks of the bartending industry, growing ever more prosperous and powerful. However, this meant the family business was in greater need of management and expansion-minded talents, and someone with his specific technical skills in bartending simply didn't catch Mr. Wu's eye.

The sudden attention made Wu Shiyi quickly realize that it was all thanks to Mo Xin!

What must have caught Mr. Wu's interest was Mo Xin's background!

Wu Shiyi had tried to investigate, but never found anything significant.

Mo Xin, a beautiful bartender, was well-known in the industry, yet no one knew which prominent family she belonged to!

This was, undeniably, a mystery!

However, Wu Shiyi didn't care, for he was in love with this woman—her unknown background could even help him climb higher in life.

That was enough for him!

From then on, Wu Shiyi became a man hopelessly infatuated, relentlessly pursuing Mo Xin.

They say, a good woman fears a persistent man.

Wu Shiyi firmly believed that one day he would win over Mo Xin's heart and gain both a beauty and wealth.

But what he was now confronted with was this!

His uncle, the helmsman of the Wu Family, had explicitly ordered him to stop harassing Mo Xin!

Wasn't this shattering his enduring wish, no, his dream?

In that moment, Wu Shiyi even felt an urge to go mad.

"You don't need to know the reason," his uncle said coldly and decisively, "In any case, stop harassing Mo Xin. I've made myself clear, don't blame me if I don't warn you later! And, if it's this formula that's making you bother her, then my Wu Family would rather do without it!"

Mr. Wu's words shocked Wu Shiyi.

They would even forsake the formula?!

Wu Shiyi couldn't believe these words came from his uncle's mouth—his uncle was a ruthless businessman, always chasing profits, even, at times... dismissing kinship.

And now, for Mo Xin's sake, he was willing to give up the formula?!

Wu Shiyi couldn't help but want to ask why.

"That's it!" On the other end of the phone, his uncle didn't give him a chance to speak and hung up.

The busy tone echoed, leaving Wu Shiyi staring blankly for a long time.

"Uncle... Mo Xin..." Wu Shiyi's hand clenching the phone started to show veins.

Just now, from the sound of his uncle on the phone, his attitude towards him had reverted to the way it was before.

Distant, dismissive!

He, Wu Shiyi, was still the least promising nobody in the family!

"There must be some problem here, did Mo Xin's family give a heads-up?" Wu Shiyi muttered to himself through gritted teeth, "If I give up on Mo Xin, I lose all my chances! No, I absolutely cannot agree this time!"

A touch of madness flashed in Wu Shiyi's eyes.

"I can't let go of Mo Xin, and I must get my hands on that formula!" Wu Shiyi said fiercely.

He looked down at the text message on his phone again, "There's a certification meeting tomorrow... that Bai Xiaosheng, be it Mo Xin or the formula, he's the biggest obstacle, I must utterly crush him! Crush him in public!"

Wu Shiyi's gaze was nearly crazed.

Bai Xiaosheng was completely unaware as he was busy with his own matters.

To him, the certification meeting was just a minor matter. He left the arrangement of the venue to Lin Weiwei and stopped worrying about it.

Until the evening, Wu Shiyi still couldn't get through to Jin Dalu's phone.

"This bastard must have gone gambling again. One hundred thousand yuan is no small sum to him; he'd never miss the appointment!" Knowing Jin Dalu's character, Wu Shiyi wasn't particularly concerned.

The night passed without incident.

The next day, Bai Xiaosheng arrived early at the office, took care of some business with the time he had, and as the meeting time approached, he prepared to head to the adjacent Zhongjing Wanhe Building.

Before leaving, he temporarily handed over his tasks to Lin Weiwei.

"I spoke with Secretary Zhang on the phone yesterday. He said he might come by around noon if he has time, or he might not. If he does show up, let me know, and I'll come back," Bai Xiaosheng instructed Lin Weiwei.

"Fine," Lin Weiwei nodded, but couldn't resist muttering a complaint, "You really are busy. As if you don't have enough to worry about here, you still have the energy to go meet with that Mo Xin for some cocktail recipe certification meeting..."

"I did promise them, after all, and once this formula is certified, it's mine," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Lin Weiwei shrugged her shoulders and said no more.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't bring anyone with him and headed straight for the Zhongjing Wanhe Building. It was right next door, after all, and the walk barely took two minutes.

As he arrived at the entrance, he just happened to see Mo Xin with a mobile phone, seemingly on a call—then his own phone rang.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and walked directly up behind Mo Xin.

Mo Xin heard music and turned to see it was him, immediately brightened up with a sweet smile, "I was just thinking of calling you."

"Let's go," Bai Xiaosheng gestured for her to follow.

Once inside the building, Bai Xiaosheng led the way.

Along the route, countless professional elites, both handsome men and beautiful women, respectfully greeted Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng responded with nods and smiles to each one.

Following behind him, Mo Xin watched Bai Xiaosheng with star-struck eyes.

At this very moment.

In a small conference room of the Zhongjing Wanhe Building.

Many bartenders were already in place and couldn't help looking around and chatting incessantly.

"This place looks much more upscale than where we were yesterday; it may be called a small meeting room, but it's bigger than yesterday's!"

"Yeah, look at those lights, the projection equipment, all obviously high-end. I checked when I arrived; they're all imported!"

"A movable stage, almost an entire wall of full-color LED screens! My goodness, this is an ultra-luxury conference hall!"

"Never mind that, look at the bottled water on our tables, all imported, each bottle costing six yuan at wholesale!"

...

The bartenders were truly dazzled by the splendor of the place.

In fact, Lin Weiwei had originally booked an even more opulent top-tier conference hall, mindful of Bai Xiaosheng's prestige.

When Bai Xiaosheng learned of this, he felt it was inappropriate; using a hall for several thousand people for such a small group would be a pure waste, so he switched to a relatively "simpler" small conference hall.

However, even this place left everyone in awe.

Even Feng Shijie, along with Zhang Feidu, Tang Xiaoqi, and Jin Dalu at his side, felt the same way, especially Jin Dalu. It was only in this conference venue, claimed to be the pinnacle of luxury in Zhongjing, that he genuinely recognized the gap.

This time, they had all arrived early.

Sitting behind Jin Dalu was Jin Dayu.

"Zhongjing Wanhe Building really lives up to its reputation!" Jin Dayu likewise expressed endless admiration.

This disparity was made all the more apparent by comparison!

Chapter 573 What Else Do You Have to Say_1

As everyone was discussing, a staff member entered the small conference hall.

After a series of operations, an image appeared on the screen.

"A cup of 'Encounter' to forget all worries—new cocktail recipe certification meeting!"

The theme was a verse from the Song Dynasty poet Wu Qian's "Washing Silk Sand," "All matters are illusions; only a cup of 'Encounter' is worth cherishing," the visual design was grand and exquisite.

As soon as the image appeared, the room fell silent.

The bartenders looked at each other in bewilderment.

The notification they had received hadn't mentioned any content—was it really a certification meeting?

But wasn't the certification meeting concluded yesterday, leaving everyone disappointed and dissatisfied?

To reopen it now?

As bartenders were taken aback, Feng Shijie personally took the stage with a smile, took the microphone, and addressed the bartenders, "Ladies and Gentlemen, yesterday's meeting was only half-concluded. Today, we'll continue with the second half!"

At these words, the crowd burst into an uproar.

"What's going on, since when do certification meetings happen in two parts?"

"Indeed, unheard of, what does this mean?"

"Don't tell me they're playing us, even the association can't operate like this!"

...

The crowd was somewhat grouchy.

Jin Dalu hurriedly took the stage, took the microphone from Feng Shijie, and then loudly said, "Folks, folks! I have something to say!"

Seeing that the person who had expressed opposition yesterday was about to speak, everyone quieted down.

"Yesterday, the reason I didn't approve was because I felt it was unfair and extremely biased to judge such a fine spirit based on the taste of only a few people! In fact, I am dissatisfied with the system of our association!" Jin Dalu declared loudly, "I believe since everyone is here, we should all taste this drink and let everyone vote!"

The bartenders looked surprised and felt his words made sense, many nodding involuntarily.

"Right, every time we participate, we just sit here watching them taste and debate; why can't we have a try!"

"Yes, since we're here, we should also take part in the review!"

"I think that makes sense!"

"It's reasonable!"

More and more voices joined in.

Jin Dalu continued, "Of course, I, Jin Dalu, am just a Senior Bartender Technician, my words carry little weight. I can't change the system alone, I could only protest with yesterday's attitude. Otherwise, why would I disagree with a drink even those who haven't tasted it consider good? Chairman Feng is wise, holding two certification meetings, yesterday by the old rules of the overall association, today it's everyone's turn to be judges!"

As Jin Dalu spoke, he shouted, "Now, do you support this or not?!"

The eyes of all the bartenders in the room heated up.

Someone took the lead, and everyone started to applaud.

"Support! We want to be judges too!" many even shouted out loud.

Such talent!

Feng Shijie could not help but admire and looked towards Jin Dalu.

Facing the applause, Jin Dalu also wore a radiant smile, greatly relieved in his heart.

I'm even impressed with myself, it turns out I'm this talented! Jin Dalu thought to himself.

Outside the door, staff members entered one after another, pushing in several trolleys with wooden barrels on them.

On the last two trolleys, wine glasses were stacked up like mountains.

Actually, letting everyone taste "Encounter" was Mo Xin's suggestion.

After all, calling for a second certification meeting, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't simply repeat his introduction to everyone.

If repeated, the effect wouldn't be any better.

Therefore, something else had to be added, hence this idea.

The bartenders at the venue watched those things being brought in, their eyes immediately blazing with eagerness.

Yesterday, they had wanted to taste, and now, the opportunity had finally come!

This anticipation fulfilled, everyone was extremely overjoyed.

So much so that when Bai Xiaosheng and Mo Xin entered the room, the burning gaze of everyone followed them, and they couldn't help but burst into applause.

Bai Xiaosheng and Mo Xin were startled and looked at everyone's enthusiasm in confusion.

"It seems that you have everyone's support!" Mo Xin smiled.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly.

They greeted Feng Shijie and others without rushing to their seats.

Bai Xiaosheng whispered a few words to Mo Xin, who nodded in response.

Bai Xiaosheng took the stage and took the microphone from the host.

"Thank you all for attending again today. Bai has nothing to offer but the fine wine, so please, have a taste first!"

After Bai Xiaosheng finished speaking, he nodded towards the staff at the door.

Eight staff members split into two groups, with each group of four responsible for one trolley, serving wine to every bartender as they made their way through the crowd.

The wine had been prepared early in the morning, and Mo Xin had calculated that its taste would remain unchanged for four hours, and even improve after settling for a while.

The fragrance of the wine wafted through the air, echoing throughout the venue.

The bartenders appeared enraptured, everyone eager with anticipation.

Those who received their wine were in no hurry, instead they carefully examined its color and smelled its aroma, lingering for a moment before treasuring each sip, savoring the taste.

Exclamations of amazement rose one after another, growing more intense.

"This wine is so intoxicating!"

"Amazing, absolutely amazing!"

"This flavor makes me want to cry!"

...

The whole room was astir.

Bai Xiaosheng and Mo Xin exchanged a smile.

Soon, every person present had tasted the exquisite wine.

Serving and tasting the wine, the whole process lasted for more than ten minutes, with the atmosphere in the venue buzzing with excitement.

Feng Shijie secretly gestured to the host, who nodded in understanding and took to the stage.

"I believe everyone has tasted the wine, so let's seize the moment and proceed with the vote for certification!" the host said with a smile.

"I approve!"

"I approve!"

"I, too, approve!"

A single phrase spurred countless voices to shout out, barely anyone opposing.

"Raise your hands!" Unable to tally votes in the traditional way, the host had a flash of inspiration and called out loudly.

Then came the raising of hands.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, countless arms shot up. Those who were slow to raise their hands were promptly urged by those around them.

It was nearly unanimous approval.

"Following everyone's opinion, this wine is approved for certification..." The host was about to make the final call.

"Wait a moment!" Suddenly, a thunderous roar sounded.

The door to the small conference room was forcefully pushed open, and a man burst in furiously.

"I haven't arrived, I haven't voted! On what basis do you declare it approved!" the newcomer roared.

Everyone looked over.

Wu Shiyi!

Wu Shiyi was late, but it was deliberate, believing that as one of the five major judges, others would have to wait for him.

It was a good thought, but upon approaching the door, he heard the lively noise inside, and even the host was about to announce the certification's success!

Wu Shiyi was instantly a mix of shock and rage, storming in regardless of anything else.

The host watched helplessly as he charged onto the stage and snatched away the microphone.

"According to the association's regulations, all five major judges must vote. Your vote of approval doesn't count!" Wu Shiyi bellowed.

He managed to stop the certification at the last critical moment, truly wiping sweat from his brow.

It was almost certified! Then the formula could never be bought!

"Everyone approves, so why doesn't it count just because you say so!"

"That's right, does being a judge make you special, can't a Senior Bartender Technician be unreasonable?!"

"Exactly!"

"For sure!"

...

All the bartenders in the venue were angered, pointing at Wu Shiyi and shouting furiously.

Wu Shiyi's face turned green, as he had become the public enemy of the entire venue!

Just because he was late by a mere ten minutes, he was isolated?!

That Bai Xiaosheng, what had he done?!

Why was everyone speaking up for him?

"You want fairness? Fine, I'll give you fairness! Let the five major judges vote then!" Bai Xiaosheng said, looking at Wu Shiyi with a smile.

"Those who approve of 'Encounter', please raise your hands!" Bai Xiaosheng said to Wu Shiyi.

Behind him, Mo Xin, Zhang Feidu, and Tang Xiaoqi consecutively raised their hands.

When it was Jin Dalu's turn, his entire arm shot up, held high.

"Four votes in favor, what more do you have to say!"

Chapter 574 The Difference between Heaven and Earth_1

"This, this is impossible!" Wu Shiyi's eyes widened in disbelief.

With a single sentence from Bai Xiaosheng, the four Senior Bartender Technicians below raised their hands in unison.

Especially Jin Dalu, who raised his hand without hesitation.

Yes, he had not been able to get through to Jin Dalu's phone.

But had the man turned traitor overnight?

And he didn't want the one hundred thousand yuan anymore?!

Wu Shiyi didn't know that Jin Dayu had given his brother two hundred thousand yuan.

Jin Dalu no longer lacked money.

"Now, what else do you have to say?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Wu Shiyi with a smile, his eyes like those watching a jumping clown.

This look made Wu Shiyi feel utterly humiliated!

Just like the way the outstanding members of his own Wu Family looked at him.

The contempt was exactly the same!

Wu Shiyi became furious all of a sudden.

Beside him, the host raised his arm and shouted, "I now declare that all procedures are in accordance with the regulations, 'Encounter' has officially passed the certification and is recorded in the registry!"

While there was no microphone in hand, it didn't matter.

Those with a background in broadcasting could make their voices loud and clear with just their vocal cords.

"Good!"

All the bartenders in the venue stood up in unison, followed by applause that surged like waves and lasted for a long time.

Feng Shijie, Zhang Feidu, Tang Xiaoqi, Jin Dalu, Jin Dayu, and others clapped while simultaneously sending congratulatory looks toward Bai Xiaosheng.

Mo Xin was ecstatic, totally disregarding the others, and threw herself at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at the crowd, nodding in acknowledgment, while also a bit frantically defending himself against Mo Xin's enthusiasm.

On the stage, Wu Shiyi watched all this clearly.

His face was ashen, and he stood there dumbfounded.

The cheers of the crowd caused ringing in his ears.

The applause made his heart beat wildly.

Each person looking at him seemed to be filled with mockery.

He had failed the mission to acquire the new formula!

The phrase kept echoing in Wu Shiyi's brain, along with the disappointed look from his great-uncle.

Before coming here, he had thought of several ways to obstruct this certification. He was confident, feeling that some methods could severely hurt Bai Xiaosheng and make him feel that future certification was hopeless, which would make it easier for him afterward to privately purchase the formula from Mr. Bai!

But now, all of those had become empty shadows.

Watching Mo Xin leap into Bai Xiaosheng's embrace, Wu Shiyi's head roared. He felt humiliated—no formula, no woman?

He could not resign himself to this!

As if possessed, Wu Shiyi grabbed the microphone to his mouth and shouted, "There's a problem with this certification meeting, I'm going to report it to the head office! Mr. Bai, you must have bribed someone with money!"

In such a public place, with such a blatant accusation, once Wu Shiyi sobered up a bit, he found that the whole venue was silent, everyone staring at him in astonishment.

The words were already out, and Wu Shiyi hardened his heart, glaring fiercely at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Wu Shiyi, what are you talking about? This is slander, have you no shame!" Mo Xin's pretty face turned frosty with anger as she shouted.

This reprimand drove Wu Shiyi even crazier, his eyes turning slightly red.

"Mo Xin! It is known to all that I have been pursuing you, but you fell for this man! Tell me, where is he better than me? Huh! I'm taller than him, I'm more handsome than him! I am a member of the Wu Family; I'm wealthier than him, I have a brighter future than him! This pauper just wants to rely on a new formula; can he even afford to support you, what makes him worthy of your affection!"

Wu Shiyi let out angry cries for all to hear.

In his view, Bai Xiaosheng was inferior to him in every way.

Below the stage, Bai Xiaosheng was completely speechless.

This guy had already said these words in front of everyone at the Yutianxiang flagship store, and now he was saying them again in front of even more people.

How badly did he want to show off his background, boast about his wealth, how narcissistic could he be!

Mo Xin was also stunned.

She had absolutely not expected Wu Shiyi to lash out to this extent, blurting out anything, switching from formulas one moment to her the next moment.

Clearly, she was unaware of the massive stimulus Wu Shiyi had just received.

Feng Shijie and others were momentarily stunned, then looked at Wu Shiyi with strange expressions.

Wu Shiyi was unaware of Bai Xiaosheng's identity?

Otherwise, he would have never said those words.

Bai Xiaosheng was inferior to him? That might be the biggest joke right now!

"Damn, such shamelessness!"

Among the bartenders, someone cried out.

All at once, the quiet venue once again erupted.

"This Wu Shiyi, how can he say whatever he wants! Does having a bit of background make him amazing?"

"Exactly, is this what a Senior Bartender Technician's quality is like! It's simply disgraceful!"

"How is he better than that young guy, more handsome? Doesn't he have any sense of self-awareness?"

"Flaunting family background as well, has he no shame!"

...

An outburst of numerous curses erupted instantaneously.

Wu Shiyi, as if he saw nothing, simply didn't care. He stared fiercely at Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze filled only with his romantic rival.

He couldn't obtain the formula, but on the woman's side, he wouldn't admit defeat!

"How about it, Mr. Bai! You have nothing to say, you, an ordinary person, what qualifications do you have to pursue Mo Xin, or are you trying to be a kept man!" Wu Shiyi yelled.

"Immature!" Bai Xiaosheng said indifferently.

The door of the small conference room suddenly opened, and two people walked in from outside. The woman in the lead frowned when she heard Wu Shiyi's words and pointed at one of the staff, "Cut off the sound system."

"Yes." The staff member hurried to do so.

Wu Shiyi was in the midst of shouting when the microphone suddenly went silent, followed by a loud buzzing sound coming from the speakers.

This sound was certainly intentional by the staff member.

All of a sudden, everyone in the venue couldn't help but grin and cover their ears.

The venue fell quiet once again.

The woman who had come in, dressed as an office lady, was noble and elegant, not at all yielding to Mo Xin.

She walked straight up to Bai Xiaosheng, smiled, and respectfully said, "Mr. Bai, have you finished here? Secretary Zhang is looking for you, the mayor wants to see you."

This woman, was naturally Lin Weiwei.

As Lin Weiwei spoke, she couldn't help but give Mo Xin a glance. Mo Xin backed away a little, no longer being touchy-feely.

Following behind Lin Weiwei was Zhang Meng.

"Secretary Zhang!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded as he greeted.

Zhang Meng also nodded in return.

"Excuse me, the mayor is looking for me, this side..." Bai Xiaosheng said smilingly as he looked towards Feng Shijie.

"You're busy; leave this side to me," Feng Shijie said, patting his chest and smiling.

The mayor was looking for Bai Xiaosheng! The secretary personally came to invite him!

Even Feng Shijie couldn't help but feel amazed.

Zhongjing was not a small city. It was well-known nationwide. Such courtesy from a city mayor showed the high regard for Bai Xiaosheng!

Zhang Feidu, Tang Xiaoqi, Jin Dalu, and Jin Dayu's eyes were filled with a bit of awe.

All the bartenders in the audience also heard and were shocked as they looked at Bai Xiaosheng!

Who on earth was this man?!

Wu Shiyi was dumbstruck, his face full of disbelief.

"Everyone, please continue; I have other matters and can't accompany you anymore. At noon, please stay for a meal; it's a small token of my appreciation." Bai Xiaosheng smiled slightly, then gracefully left.

"You, who on earth are you?" Even if Wu Shiyi was foolish, he now knew that Bai Xiaosheng was no ordinary man.

Lin Weiwei walked behind, turning back to give him a cold glance.

She heard Wu Shiyi's dismissive words about Bai Xiaosheng, and now walking at the end, she wanted to tell Wu Shiyi one thing—"Mr. Bai is the general manager of my Zhongjing's leading enterprise—Zhongjing Media! Compared to him, you, you're not even worthy!"

Having said that, Lin Weiwei turned and left.

Wu Shiyi's eyes bulged, feeling a sense of powerlessness, and he suddenly slumped down.

The other party was far stronger than him.

It was like a difference between the clouds and the mud!

Chapter 575: Asking You to Do Something for the Wu Family_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng left the small meeting hall and walked outside; Lin Weiwei, who was delayed for a few minutes, also hurried to catch up.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but look at Lin Weiwei and shook his head with a mixture of irritation and amusement.

Just now, he had also heard Lin Weiwei publicly announce his name; he believed that the bartenders over there would soon become aware of his identity, which might again trigger a wave of exclamations.

Bai Xiaosheng actually didn't care about those things.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng's look, Lin Weiwei couldn't resist sticking her tongue out secretly.

Her Xiaosheng preferred to keep a low profile, but she couldn't, especially not in the face of a jerk who dared to challenge her Xiaosheng on his home turf. In her opinion, her Xiaosheng's status, vision, and achievements could easily trounce that sort of trash by a long shot.

"Mr. Bai, you have quite a diverse set of interests, even organizing a new cocktail recipe certification meeting," Zhang Meng teased.

"Someday, I'll offer Secretary Zhang a taste," Bai Xiaosheng responded with a smile.

Zhang Meng laughed heartily.

The two were about seven or eight years apart in age but shared a similar temperament. When they talked, there were not so many reservations.

"It didn't take up too much time, just about half an hour," Bai Xiaosheng said as he checked the time.

The second certification was merely a formality.

"Mayor Ji reviewed the materials you provided and thought they were good. He has already arranged to report to the provincial leaders tomorrow," Zhang Meng said, laughing, "I just finished my work and am heading back to the municipal government office, passing by here on the way. The mayor said he would pick you up and discuss the content of the report."

"Alright," Bai Xiaosheng nodded and then turned to ask Lin Weiwei, "Is the third phase wrapped up?"

"Up to noon, with guaranteed quality and quantity!" Lin Weiwei replied succinctly.

This efficient style earned Zhang Meng's nodding approval and an extremely appreciative look.

After leaving Zhongjing Wanhe Building, Bai Xiaosheng got into Zhang Meng's car and headed straight for the municipal office.

It wasn't until three o'clock in the afternoon that he returned to the company.

While Bai Xiaosheng was resting in the office, Lin Weiwei got everything ready for tomorrow's report and brought it to him.

With Lin Weiwei around, Bai Xiaosheng could rest easy.

Bai Xiaosheng checked the materials and gave Lin Weiwei a grateful smile.

Lin Weiwei pursed her lips in a smile, seizing the opportunity to report, "The people from the Bartenders Association had lunch at Zhongjing Wanhe Building at noon. I asked the staff there to arrange a high-standard banquet, who dares to skimp when it's a guest of Mr. Bai? Your reputation can't be lost."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Those few important guests, the vice-president with the surname Feng, and several Senior Bartender Technicians expressed their thanks before they left. Jin Dayu from Mutian International Building also expressed his thanks to you. Your close female friend Mo Xin said she was going to the headquarters to handle some paperwork. She knew you were busy recently and asked me to tell you she would come back when she has a chance," Lin Weiwei teased.

Lin Weiwei seemed quite happy that Mo Xin had left.

Mo Xin left?

Bai Xiaosheng looked up and saw Lin Weiwei's mischievous smile. He couldn't help but give a wry smile, "What kind of close female friend? Don't set up relationships for me willy-nilly! We are just friends!"

Lin Weiwei pouted her lips.

"Oh, right. That Wu Shiyi... Miss Mo said she's taken care of it, so you don't need to worry," Lin Weiwei continued on her own, "I actually think that Mr. Wu is quite infatuated with her; it's nearly a done deal, isn't it? Since they're all from the same circle, they can find common ground..."

"Weiwei," Bai Xiaosheng interrupted helplessly.

"Huh?" Lin Weiwei stopped gossiping.

"Go make me a cup of handcrafted coffee, the freshly ground kind, thanks." Bai Xiaosheng said.

This girl could go on and on about this topic; he still had to go through the materials.

"Alright." Lin Weiwei agreed readily and turned to leave.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head with a smile and went back to double-checking the materials needed for the report.

At that moment.

Mo Xin was in the departure hall, still on the phone.

"Old man, you didn't do what I asked you to!" Mo Xin said angrily.

Right now, she was far from gentle, resembling an irritable young girl.

"What's the matter, darling daughter, what has upset you so!" A panicked voice came through the phone, treading very carefully.

"That Wu Shiyi is still pestering me. I said I don't want to see that jerk!" Mo Xin huffed.

There was a brief silence on the phone.

"Really! It seems the Wu Family hasn't listened to me!" The voice carried a hint of chill, "Don't worry, sweet daughter, that boy won't appear before you again!"

These words startled Mo Xin, and she immediately exclaimed, "Hey, don't mess around! I just don't want Wu Shiyi to show up in front of me; I don't want any other problems. The same goes for the Wu Family. I don't like your old ways! Old man, what goes around comes around, you should amass some good karma for yourself and steer clear of bloodshed!"

Mo Xin spoke hurriedly, possibly the most she had ever said at once.

"Alright, alright, when my sweet daughter speaks, I must listen," the voice on the phone chuckled, "Your master didn't teach my daughter in vain, now she's even concerned about her old dad..."

Mo Xin, expressionless, hung up the call.

"Who cares about you!" Mo Xin snorted coldly.

Before sunset, Wu Shiyi arrived in a European city by plane.

His family was there.

About everything that had happened in Zhongjing, he needed to report back as soon as possible. It was the rule.

At the moment, Wu Shiyi was a bit depressed and dispirited, but he still rallied his spirits and headed back first.

"After the report, I will go find Mo Xin. I can't give up, can't let go. As long as I win her over, my life will change!" Wu Shiyi reminded himself.

That Mr. Bai, indeed, was stronger than him, but what of it, the persistent suitor wears down the reluctant belle, as long as he kept close to Mo Xin, one day, he would win her heart!

"My advantage is that I am free, not constrained by work. I have plenty of time to win over Mo Xin!" Wu Shiyi, dragging his suitcase, psyched himself up.

Outside the airport, the Wu Family's car picked him up.

Locally, the Wu Family had bought a manor castle where the whole clan lived.

Once back at the Wu Family's place, Wu Shiyi was taken to see his uncle.

Facing the helmsman of the Wu Family, Wu Shiyi recounted everything, respectfully waiting for instruction.

His uncle nodded without a trace of expression, his tone unusually gentle, "Shiyi, Uncle doesn't blame you for this matter, but Uncle would like to ask you to do something for the family. Are you willing?"

His uncle even politely asked for his opinion.

"You say, I naturally agree. I will give it my all!" Wu Shiyi was moved by his uncle's magnanimity, "May I ask what you would like me to do?"

His uncle smiled, "For the Wu Family, I'd like you to spend the second half of your life in a wheelchair!"

Wu Shiyi was stunned.

His uncle, cold as ice, clapped his hands lightly, and two burly men entered the room.

"Drag him out, break his legs!" His uncle huffed, "A thing with no memory, nearly brought disaster to the Wu Family!"

Chapter 576 Bai Xiaosheng's Guess_1

Thursday morning.

Bai Xiaosheng rode in Mayor Ji Mingyang's car, hurrying to the provincial capital to present the third phase of the report.

As the provincial benchmark enterprise certification neared its conclusion, with the situation looking very favourable, both Bai Xiaosheng and Ji Mingyang were in good spirits.

Along the way, they meticulously reviewed the report content again, simulating topics that the leadership might be interested in, ensuring they were well-prepared and confident.

Now, aiming to outperform Mayor Su Shu's Langbei City, Mayor Ji Mingyang still appeared very happy.

After arriving at the provincial capital, it was time for their appointment, and Minister Fan immediately organized a review committee to listen to the report.

This time, since it didn't involve assessing the leaders of benchmark enterprises and there were no "surprise" tasks, Mayor Ji Mingyang attended the meeting as well.

For this report, Bai Xiaosheng was well-prepared, and since all their work had met and exceeded the standards set by the province, the highlight—"foreign patent application"—particularly impressed the leaders present.

"Excellent! The focus of this session is really good," the minister commended. "You timely and proactively applied for foreign patents in industries with good market prospects abroad and meeting the application criteria. This will greatly help in opening up international markets in the future. In this regard, Zhongjing Media has set a fine example!"

Minister Fan gave full recognition right away.

The old leaders acknowledged with appreciation, and the other leaders also voiced their praise.

"Bai Xiaosheng, this time, you've awed me again," Minister Fan said, pointing at Bai Xiaosheng and addressing those beside him, "Such a young, bold, and capable entrepreneur is indeed rare to see!"

The leaders nearby nodded in agreement.

"The big moves you made in the last phase, pushing city-level businesses to the national stage and turning Zhongjing into a city with multiple 'calling cards,' show a spirit of exploration and effectiveness! I plan to organize a push to promote this in other cities," Minister Fan said with a broad smile, lavishing praise on Bai Xiaosheng. "With more entrepreneurs like you in Anjiang Province, how can we not develop rapidly! Now, I'm really looking forward to more from you and your Zhongjing Media!"

Bai Xiaosheng humbly smiled, feeling that he hadn't done anything special.

However, all the leaders present, including Ji Mingyang, nodded in agreement, and they were all privately amazed: Minister Fan had never praised anyone so openly before—this was probably the first time! It was clear how much he appreciated and valued Bai Xiaosheng!

Mayor Ji Mingyang's eyes shone brightly.

With Minister Fan planning to promote the Zhongjing model, this was essentially the province promoting Zhongjing's reputation. This was very beneficial for their local economic development and current work progress!

The more Ji Mingyang thought about it, the more excited he became, almost wishing he could high-five Bai Xiaosheng to celebrate.

"Mr. Ji seems unable to contain himself," Minister Fan chuckled looking at Ji Mingyang. "This time, Zhongjing has made a great start, and the province can't just use your model for nothing. So, those applications you made a while back, the province has looked into them—all are approved!"

This announcement had already been determined, but Minister Fan was just declaring it at this occasion.

Ji Mingyang opened his eyes wide in disbelief, overwhelmed with ecstatic gratitude, "Minister Fan, you mean the province approved all of them? This... This is incredible! Thank you for the leaders' support!"

For Zhongjing, this was indeed a matter of great joy!

"If you want to thank someone, thank Bai Xiaosheng," Minister Fan joked. "I can't take the credit; it wasn't my doing."

Minister Fan's words sparked a round of laughter.

Ji Mingyang truly looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a lot of gratitude in his eyes.

This made Bai Xiaosheng feel somewhat embarrassed.

"All right, the report for this phase is perfectly passed, and you can move on to the next and final stage," Minister Fan stood up. "As for me, I have another meeting, so I won't keep you any longer today, Mr. Ji."

Minister Fan announced the meeting adjourned.

Ji Mingyang went to greet a few leaders again, and it wasn't until eleven o'clock that he finally met up with Zhang Meng and Bai Xiaosheng.

This time, Ji Mingyang was pleased, and he specifically invited Bai Xiaosheng and Zhang Meng to a quaint little restaurant.

The three of them found a quiet corner, ordered four dishes and one soup, along with two bottles of beer.

"Zhang Meng, since you're driving, you shouldn't drink. Just watch us drink," Ji Mingyang said with a smile.

Zhang Meng smiled.

After that, Ji Mingyang personally filled Bai Xiaosheng's glass.

"How can this be, Mr. Ji... Uncle Ji, you're being too polite!" Watching the mayor pour him wine, Bai Xiaosheng hastily showed modesty.

The place wasn't crowded at that moment, but for convenience, Bai Xiaosheng changed his address.

Ji Mingyang grinned, quite approving of the appellation.

"You are Zhongjing's great hero, you deserve it!" Ji Mingyang assured him with absolute certainty.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and did not decline any further.

The three of them drank and ate in harmony.

When they had almost finished eating and drinking, Ji Mingyang said to Bai Xiaosheng, "When I left the provincial government, I visited a few old colleagues and gathered some news. Langbei City not only hasn't submitted their third-phase report, they haven't even set a reporting date! What do you make of this, Sheng?"

Bai Xiaosheng put down his chopsticks, thought earnestly for a while, and then said, "Actually, since you've never mentioned any news about Langbei City, I've been thinking about this issue! Why is Mu Beichen so slow this time? He overtook us the first time, we caught up with them the second time. According to my gut feeling about this person, the third time, he will definitely try every possible way to surpass us again. But as you just confirmed, there has been no movement at all from them! That's abnormal!"

"Maybe they're just slow this time," Zhang Meng said unconcernedly.

"That kind of thinking is too optimistic," Ji Mingyang shook his head. "I don't know about Mu Beichen, but I know what kind of person Su Shu is. She's very competitive and definitely would not lose to us repeatedly."

"So there's a problem!" Bai Xiaosheng said seriously. "At first, I thought Mu Beichen was speeding up, constantly submitting reports, proposing the next progress report on the day of each report. But now it seems, I guessed wrong! He might be using a method, even faster than that!"

"What is it?" Ji Mingyang and Zhang Meng couldn't help but look at Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help furrowing his brows and said with a wry smile, "They might rush to finish all the work at once and report everything together! Treating phases three and four as a single phase!"

At that statement, Ji Mingyang and Zhang Meng couldn't help but widen their eyes.

It was a distinct possibility!

"How shall we respond?" Zhang Meng couldn't help but ask.

"We battle it out. We also need to speed up, for the final sprint!" Bai Xiaosheng voiced gravely.

With mere conjecture, Bai Xiaosheng had guessed Mu Beichen's strategy. If Mu Beichen knew, he would surely admire it.

But in the end, all strategies are inconsequential, speed is paramount!

In fact, as soon as the Bai Xiaosheng's side finished their report, Mayor Su Shu received the news and passed it on to Mu Beichen.

"Don't worry! Next Friday, I'll submit the report with you. This time, we will definitely be ahead of them and claim the benchmark enterprise indicator!"

Mu Beichen was brimming with confidence over the phone.

Chapter 577: Isn't That Too Exaggerated?_1

On the way back to Zhongjing, Bai Xiaosheng and Ji Mingyang were both somewhat silent, each preoccupied with their own thoughts.

Zhang Meng also realized the potential seriousness of the situation and couldn't help but start worrying as well.

After working so hard for so long, and just when they were about to wrap things up, they might be beaten to the punch; it was indeed difficult to swallow.

Zhang Meng glanced at Bai Xiaosheng through the rear-view mirror.

This young general manager was already outstanding enough!

At present, what Bai Xiaosheng had done not only far surpassed his peers but even the well-known big businessmen in Zhongjing might find it hard to match him. Having come this far, he truly deserved to be hailed as the top figure in Zhongjing's business community!

If they ended up losing, it could only be attributed to the times and fate; the competition was simply too strong!

In fact, for Zhongjing, in the competition for the provincial benchmark enterprise spots, they had discovered a new direction for urban development and received affirmation from the provincial officials, along with a lot of support, all tangible benefits!

And that was enough!

For Bai Xiaosheng's Zhongjing Media, they had solidified their leading position among Zhongjing enterprises and become the undisputed leader in the Zhongjing media industry, earning recognition from the minister; it was absolutely worthwhile!

"Even if we lose, we've still made enough!" Zhang Meng thought to himself.

However, seeing Bai Xiaosheng deep in thought and contemplating strategies, Zhang Meng felt even greater respect for his perseverance.

Zhang Meng had no idea that Bai Xiaosheng was actually on a mission, looking to avoid losing for the sake of the twenty points.

"Mayor, Sheng, I think you're both taking this too seriously! Even if Tianzheng Media from Langbei City presents their report alongside us in the end, they might not necessarily surpass us!" Zhang Meng reassured, "Besides, a mere provincial benchmark enterprise title is just an empty honor, even if we don't get it, there's no need to dwell on it too much! And Mr. Ji, Xiaosheng is really good enough."

It was only Zhang Meng, after all these years with Ji Mingyang, who dared to speak openly about potential defeat.

In fact, he couldn't help but preemptively console Bai Xiaosheng.

"Hmm." Ji Mingyang nodded absent-mindedly, then suddenly came to his senses and smiled, "Zhang Meng, you're giving me a heads-up for Bai Xiaosheng in advance. Haven't you been with me long enough to know me? In all matters, it's best to fight for the top, but we should accept our standing based on capability. Losing is nothing to be ashamed of. I'm not bothered by this; I'm thinking about how to implement the policies approved by the province today!"

That was indeed the case.

"I was overthinking it." Zhang Meng smiled apologetically.

"However, you reminded me, Xiaosheng, regarding the empty honor of a provincial benchmark enterprise, you really don't need to dwell on it, you..." Ji Mingyang looked towards Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mr. Ji!"

Before he could finish his sentence, Bai Xiaosheng interrupted him.

Bai Xiaosheng, who seemed to have not heard their earlier discussion, excitedly said, "Regarding the content of the fourth phase, I've been thinking, if we change our approach, it actually becomes simpler than before. If we proceed with the new approach and methods, perhaps we could finish it in ten days or half a month!"

It turned out Bai Xiaosheng wasn't fixated on winning or losing at all, but rather fully focused on planning the next phase of the work.

"That quickly!" Ji Mingyang was surprised at the completion time.

Zhang Meng was equally astonished.

For the fourth stage to be shortened to ten days or half a month, wasn't that a bit too exaggerated!

"I've been thinking about a problem," Bai Xiaosheng said spiritedly, "In the fourth stage, a lot of the work isn't core and doesn't involve secrets; instead of us doing it all by ourselves, why not seek 'outside help'? We have the media power of an entire city at our disposal! Why not use such a vast resource! We can treat certain tasks specially, getting the entire Media Alliance to help out!"

"Can we really do that?" Zhang Meng couldn't help but ask, wide-eyed.

"Our original approach was like building a house, doing everything personally, but now, we have people, we have resources. We can completely express our ideas and our materials with the help of external forces; this shouldn't be considered breaking the rules!" Bai Xiaosheng said, "A benchmark enterprise should be rooted in the industry and serve as a model. But at the same time, we can also use industry resources to prevent reinventing the wheel and avoid being insular!"

"I support your idea; let's give it a try!" Ji Mingyang immediately decided.

Seeing the two seated behind him so enthused, Zhang Meng couldn't help but laugh.

The issues he was worried about seemed to be non-issues.

These two individuals were no ordinary characters!

Zhang Meng was completely reassured and drove his car with peace of mind.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng and Ji Mingyang refined the idea further, with Ji Mingyang providing feedback. They aimed to ensure cooperation within the scope of leadership approval.

After arriving in Zhongjing, at Ji Mingyang's request, Zhang Meng first took Bai Xiaosheng to Zhongjing Media.

"Go ahead and do it. Don't worry about winning or losing, I support you!"

As Bai Xiaosheng was about to get out of the car, Ji Mingyang said.

The leader was truly giving his full support!

"Don't worry, Mr. Ji, victory will be ours!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, and got out of the car.

Watching Mr. Ji's car drive away, Bai Xiaosheng hurried into the company building, rushing back to his office.

"You're back, Xiaosheng," Lin Weiwei was in the office and immediately smiled when she saw him.

"Weiwei, go call Song Yiming! This time, we're going to do something big!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't contain his excitement.

Seeing his slightly excited expression, Lin Weiwei quickly nodded and hurried off to find Song Yiming.

A moment later, the two arrived in Bai Xiaosheng's office.

"Weiwei, Song, see what this is!" Bai Xiaosheng handed them a piece of paper.

In the time that Lin Weiwei was out, he quickly jotted down his ideas on paper.

Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming took it with a puzzled look and their eyes widened the moment they read it.

Bai Xiaosheng's idea was astonishing — he considered the Media Alliance as an outer branch of Zhongjing Media, stripping away some intricate but non-critical aspects of the fourth stage to have them completed by the Alliance, while Zhongjing Media would be responsible for assembly.

"My God, you mean treating the fourth stage as building a car, letting others help produce parts and we just assemble them here while also handling the software part?!" Song Yiming couldn't help saying.

"That's a great analogy; that's exactly what I mean!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

"This way, the time we need will be greatly reduced!" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but exclaim.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and nodded, his gaze far-reaching.

"Mu Beichen wants to compete with us on speed this time. I assumed he would be far ahead, but we can't lose!" Bai Xiaosheng said gravely.

Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming exchanged glances and nodded.

"Alright, I'll immediately organize an analysis of the work that can be stripped away!"

"I'll get the relevant departments in the company prepared; we really need to work overtime on this one!"

The two were also brimming with a fighting spirit.

Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming hurried off, each to see to their tasks.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng sat down, lost in thought.

"To deal with someone like Mu Beichen, one method isn't enough... I wonder how long it will take for our actions here to reach Beichen and what he'll do about it!"

The next day, Friday.

Sitting in his own office, looking over the Phase Four review content of Tianzheng Media, Mu Beichen frowned slightly.

The initial work was completed, but there were indeed significant issues.

Especially for him, such standards were unacceptable.

Just then, his mobile phone rang with a notification.

Mu Beichen glanced at the sender and, frowning slightly, opened the message.

Upon reading the content, his eyes widened in shock, "Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chapter 578: Only then are you worthy to be my opponent_1

Mu Beichen received a message from a "messenger."

There was major activity from Bai Xiaosheng's side!

Part of this information read, "Zhongjing Media has requested today that various organizations within the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance help with some work, which seems to relate to the content of the fourth phase review! The specific details will be delivered as quickly as possible!"

"Bai Xiaosheng! What the hell are you up to?" Mu Beichen couldn't help but frown.

By instinct, he immediately became cautious, and sent a message to the "messenger":

"Quickly let the insider at Zhongjing Media find out the situation! Report back to me with every detail!"

The Bai family was never one to play by the rules!

More difficult to deal with than the average person!

Mu Beichen valued this opponent very much.

"But this time, I want to see what kind of waves you can stir up!" Having sent the message, Mu Beichen smiled grimly, muttering to himself, "Meeting you is truly meeting my match, but with my people by your side, no matter how much you jump around, you won't be able to escape from the palm of my hand!"

Mu Beichen waited patiently, but by evening, the "messenger" had not contacted him again, let alone sent news from that side.

Mu Beichen urged several times in succession.

Finally, after ten o'clock at night, the "messenger" sent a message: "For the specific content, see email!"

Opening his inbox, Mu Beichen indeed saw an email with a document attached.

After downloading the document and opening it, Mu Beichen immediately frowned.

This document was too messy, with no meticulous formatting and even a few typos visible at a glance.

In normal times, Mu Beichen would be thunderously furious.

But now, he patiently aligned the text and started reading while correcting the typos.

The more he read the content, the more Mu Beichen frowned.

The haphazardly thrown together document was unprocessed, but it also maximally preserved a great deal of detail.

Looking at the tasks distributed by Zhongjing Media to the various media organizations, with its mixture of details and summaries, Mu Beichen sensed a thread and couldn't help but slow down, reading and pondering at the same time.

Afterwards, Mu Beichen extracted each piece of content and placed it into another document.

Just like that, he patiently worked for an hour, without drinking a drop of water or visiting the restroom even once.

In the end, facing the document he had organized.

Mu Beichen slapped the table.

"This Bai Xiaosheng!" Mu Beichen shouted.

He had figured it out.

Bai Xiaosheng was clearly delegating the less important content of the fourth phase, breaking it up and giving it to the Media Alliance to handle!

Was this a violation?

No, strictly speaking, it was making full use of relevant resources to carry out work. Even if it was reported to higher-ups, the leaders wouldn't consider it a violation! Instead, they would think that they were closely connected with the industry, fully utilizing industry resources, and not working in isolation. This was clearly an innovative way of working and would likely receive commendation!

"You really have something, coming up with such a method! You are indeed impressive!" Mu Beichen sighed with admiration, pushed away the mouse, and stood up to stretch his limbs.

"This is good, this, matches up to being my opponent, Mu Beichen! Like this, beating you will truly be satisfying!" A glint of brilliance appeared in Mu Beichen's eyes!

He then made a call to Liu Yue.

"Liu Yue, convene the secretariat, everyone back to the company. In a moment, I'll send you a document; you'll understand as soon as you see it. Have the secretariat analyze for me the fastest time Zhongjing Media needs to complete the fourth phase work!" Mu Beichen said over the phone, "Also, starting tomorrow, have every department in the company work overtime at least until 10 pm, with no weekends off, and have them refine all the content three times quickly!"

Mu Beichen was truly excited.

"Understood, President Mu," Liu Yue replied on the phone.

As an assistant, along with the highly paid secretarial department, this was the moment they came into play.

Hard work was never shunned!

Mu Beichen sent an email to Liu Yue, then hung up the phone and went back to sleep.

His personal schedule was never disrupted.

The next day, early in the morning.

While having breakfast, Mu Beichen received a reply from Liu Yue.

"The detailed analysis report is in your inbox. The secretarial department's analysis shows that Zhongjing Media will complete all the work by next Friday at the latest!"

"Next Friday?" Mu Beichen picked up a snow-white towel and wiped his mouth.

Since the secretarial department dared to give him a deadline, they had run the numbers multiple times and had adopted Mu Beichen's consistently held belief of "maximizing crisis management." Completing the work by Friday must represent Zhongjing Media's ultimate speed.

"Very well, I shall go to report on Thursday! Just in time to get one over on Bai Xiaosheng!" Mu Beichen sneered.

After breakfast, Mu Beichen rushed to the company.

Though it was the weekend, the whole company was working as usual, sprinting at full force!

Just like Tianzheng Media, Bai Xiaosheng was also organizing overtime for the relevant departments.

At that moment, he was discussing with Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming.

"Recently, we may have to work continuously. For the departments working overtime, instruct the company cafeteria to provide special meals. Good food is essential for good work." Bai Xiaosheng also specifically entrusts Lin Weiwei.

"That's a minor issue. There's no need for you to worry about it," Lin Weiwei said with a smile, "With the strict implementation of the reward measures, overtime pays double and comes with a subsidy. Departments not doing overtime are envious. Moreover, the new system awards bonuses based on efficiency. Everyone is now fully motivated to work!"

"Thanks to your new system, I've never seen everyone so concerned, so eager, and so proactive," Song Yiming also remarked feelingly on the side.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"Oh, by the way! Those large and small media companies, organizations, and individuals are also very enthusiastic. After all, we're not letting them help for free; we're offering some exchange and cooperation. Now they are almost eager to come and 'find work' with us." Song Yiming continued, making a joke.

"Good, Weiwei, Lao Song, enlist several more people to strictly scrutinize the results that are sent in. We can't afford any slip-ups!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but urge.

"Okay!"

"Just put your mind at ease. We guarantee there won't be any problems!"

The two replied and left one after another.

"This battle is about to begin, and I can smell the gunpowder," Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but reflect when he was left alone in the office.

At this very moment.

In the Moon Lake villa area of Zhongjing, at Chen Jiuzheng's home.

Chen Changqing thoroughly reported the recent developments to Chen Jiuzheng.

Chen Jiuzheng's lips curved into a cold smile.

They might seem inactive, but in reality, they had never thought of letting the Bai surname off the hook.

"Uncle, I don't know what tricks Bai Xiaosheng is up to, but he's making quite the movements. Which side do you think will win this time?" Chen Changqing couldn't help but ask.

Bai Xiaosheng had left a deep shadow in his heart; he couldn't even conceive what winning against Bai Xiaosheng would look like.

"Changqing, you're asking the wrong question," Chen Jiuzheng replied slowly, with a chilling smile. "You should ask, how miserably Bai Xiaosheng is going to lose!"

Chapter 579: The First in Langbei City?! _1

Time flew, and several days passed.

Bai Xiaosheng and Mu Beichen, both sides were working intensively, putting forth their full effort in their work.

In the blink of an eye, it was Thursday again.

In the morning, Bai Xiaosheng had a meeting with Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming to catch up on the work progress of all parties involved.

Once he got an update, Bai Xiaosheng was shocked by the progress—it was much faster than he had anticipated!

Tomorrow morning, this Friday, the fourth phase could be completed in its entirety, and with both quality and quantity assured!

"This pace is a bit exaggerated!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be amazed.

"At first, we couldn't believe it either, but after seeing it so many times, we got used to it. It's like having the personnel and resources of several Zhongjing Media companies at work. The whole city is helping; when you think of it that way, it's easier to accept!" laughed Song Yiming.

"This time, we will definitely win!" Lin Weiwei said with immense excitement.

Bai Xiaosheng also felt full of confidence.

The three of them chatted for a while before Song Yiming and Lin Weiwei left.

Bai Xiaosheng made a phone call to Zhang Meng.

Over the phone, he conveyed the work progress of Zhongjing Media truthfully and suggested that Mayor Ji Mingyang apply for the reporting session tomorrow afternoon.

"How did you manage to be so fast!" Zhang Meng's first reaction was disbelief.

Although Bai had mentioned before that the timeline would be shortened to ten days or half a month, now, not even ten days have gone by, and they have finished the entire fourth phase? It was simply incredible!

"Sheng, are you sure? Is it ready to be reported on?!" Even Zhang Meng stuttered to confirm.

Finishing and being ready to report are two different things.

"I'm sure!" said Bai Xiaosheng earnestly.

On the other end of the phone, Zhang Meng clearly fell silent for a moment, obviously out of astonishment.

"Okay, I'll go right now to report to Mayor Ji!" Before hanging up, Zhang Meng sincerely said to Bai Xiaosheng, "I'm really a bit in awe of you!"

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng also let out a sigh of relief and looked at his phone with a wry smile.

"Actually, I'm kind of in awe of myself, too."

Zhongjing, City Hall.

After hanging up the phone, Zhang Meng hurriedly and excitedly headed straight for Mayor Ji Mingyang's office.

This was huge good news, meaning they could become the first prefecture-level city to earn the title of provincial flagship enterprise!

Zhongjing was first economically; naturally, they should be first in honors as well!

Zhang Meng had been working with Mayor Ji for so long and had developed a bit of a competitive spirit.

Approaching noon, Mayor Ji Mingyang had just dealt with a heap of tasks. As he stood up to stretch, he heard two knocks on the door. He had barely said "Come in" when the office door was pushed open.

Zhang Meng walked in with a face full of joy.

"Old Zhang, what's up? You look so happy?" Mayor Ji Mingyang asked with a curious smile.

"Mr. Ji, it's great news!" Zhang Meng couldn't help but smile from ear to ear as he walked over to report everything Bai Xiaosheng had said to Mayor Ji Mingyang.

Mayor Ji Mingyang had been in his position for so many years, having seen all kinds of storms and had always been calm and composed, not easily flustered by success or failure.

But when he heard that Bai Xiaosheng had completed the work for the four-phase review, which was originally scheduled to take ten days to half a month, in just these few days, and that they could report to the province tomorrow,

he was a bit stunned.

"So quickly! Are you sure? Is it ready to be reported on?!" Mayor Ji Mingyang couldn't help but ask again.

Zhang Meng smiled wryly.

"My Mayor, I've said the same thing, verbatim." Zhang Meng nodded emphatically, "Definitely!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang laughed heartily, "I will call Minister Fan right now!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang was truly elated, and he acted immediately, first making a call to Minister Fan's secretary.

The call went unanswered by the time it finished ringing.

"No answer, could it be that they're in a meeting with the minister?" Mayor Ji Mingyang wondered aloud.

"I think that's very likely. Just wait a bit. I believe that he will call you back," Zhang Meng said with a smile.

"Right, right, good things come to those who wait. Look at me, getting so excited I can't even be patient," Mayor Ji Mingyang chuckled at himself. "Zhang Meng, let's chat about our city's 'small

benchmark enterprises.' At the moment, they're really bringing significant benefits to Zhongjing! Now that I think about it, we really should thank Bai Xiaosheng!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang chatted with great interest with Zhang Meng for a while.

With lunchtime approaching, Mayor Ji Mingyang's phone suddenly rang.

"Ah, there's the call," Mayor Ji Mingyang said, smiling as he answered the phone and brought it to his ear. "This is Ji Mingyang. Secretary Wang, is the minister available?"

"Mr. Mayor, please hold on a moment while I transfer the call to Minister Fan," the voice on the other end replied.

Directly to Minister Fan? Mayor Ji Mingyang was taken aback. It was usually after hearing the matter that they would report.

It seemed that Minister Fan was right there and had time to talk.

"Ji Mingyang, were you looking for me?" It was indeed Minister Fan's voice.

Mayor Ji Mingyang smiled and said, "Minister Fan, there's something I want to discuss with you. This, our city's enterprise—Zhongjing Media—can proceed to the fourth stage of reporting to the province tomorrow!"

In Mayor Ji Mingyang's voice, there was an unmistakable sense of pride.

"Oh! You've completed the fourth stage as well, and you're reporting to the province?!" Minister Fan seemed genuinely surprised.

"That we have!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang beamed, then suddenly caught the nuance in his words and paused, "What do you mean by 'also,' Minister Fan?"

There was a brief silence on the other end.

"Mayor Ji Mingyang, I won't keep you in the dark. Just earlier, I heard a report from Tianzheng Group in Langbei City. They submitted their third and fourth stages together and have... already passed the review!" Minister Fan spoke with what seemed to be a hint of regret.

Langbei City had already passed the review!

Mayor Ji Mingyang's smile froze on his face, and he stood there in shock.

That meant...

"Their Tianzheng Media has secured the first provincial benchmark enterprise spot," Minister Fan stated candidly.

Mayor Ji Mingyang was completely dumbfounded.

Zhang Meng, who faintly heard the contents of the call, was also stunned.

"Mayor Ji Mingyang, are you listening? I hope that you take this selection seriously. A title doesn't represent everything. You in Zhongjing, and Zhongjing Media, must not overemphasize a superficial reputation, leading to a loss of focus on what truly matters! I still expect to hear the report tomorrow; there can be no slackening off!"

Minister Fan was offering consolation as well as a warning.

"Yes, Minister Fan, I understand. I will... handle it well!" Mayor Ji Mingyang responded.

"Do some ideological work with Bai Xiaosheng. Young people tend to be ambitious," Minister Fan specifically advised.

After the call ended, Mayor Ji Mingyang was somewhat silent.

"Mayor..." Zhang Meng couldn't help but express concern at his side.

Zhang Meng was very reluctant to accept this reality, but he had no choice but to do so.

And he believed that Mayor Ji Mingyang must be feeling even worse inside.

"This time, it seems... we've just missed the provincial benchmark enterprise honor!"

Mayor Ji Mingyang sighed deeply, "Let Bai Xiaosheng know."

"Yes," said Zhang Meng, his voice tinged with difficulty.

"Forget it, I'll do it myself!" Mayor Ji Mingyang thought it over and then stopped Zhang Meng.

Bai Xiaosheng, this time, it really isn't because you weren't good enough! Mayor Ji Mingyang felt a twinge in his heart.

Chapter 580 You can't mock Bai Xiaosheng!_1

The time was noon.

Bai Xiaosheng was in a good mood, and invited Song Yiming and Lin Weiwei to have lunch with him at the employee cafeteria.

The employee cafeteria had "private rooms" as well, which were small rooms for four, each with a glass door. It was nice to close the door, eat, and talk inside.

Bai Xiaosheng was sitting inside. His large plate contained crispy roast duck, sweet and sour pork slices, stir-fried vegetables, fried mushrooms, a steamed bun, a freshly baked flatbread, and a bowl of seaweed egg drop soup. It all looked quite sumptuous. When in a good mood, one naturally has a better appetite.

Song Yiming's plate was equally rich, with tender fried pork loin, Mei Cai Kou Rou, mixed stir-fry, and jellyfish salad with vinegar.

Lin Weiwei's meal was much simpler, consisting solely of green vegetables and vegetarian dishes, without any staple food. She wasn't a vegetarian, but today was her dieting day.

Looking at the food, Bai Xiaosheng was eager to eat, but he had hardly taken a few bites when his phone rang.

"Who is this?" Bai Xiaosheng put down his chopsticks reluctantly and took out his phone to look.

Seeing the name, Bai Xiaosheng was startled, "Mr. Ji?"

This was Ji Mingyang's private number, not accessible to the average person.

Bai Xiaosheng quickly answered the phone and put it to his ear, "Mr. Ji, you wanted to see me?"

"Sheng, what are you up to?" Ji Mingyang's tone was gentle.

"Eating." Bai Xiaosheng said, somewhat puzzled.

What else could he be doing at this time?

"Mr. Ji, have you eaten yet? If not, come join us. The food is pretty good at our cafeteria!" Bai Xiaosheng joked with the mayor, chattering away.

Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming couldn't help but admire him.

Just look, only their Mr. Bai could talk to the mayor like this.

"Sheng!" Ji Mingyang's voice paused, and in that pause, a hint of heaviness could be discerned, "I have something to tell you."

Bai Xiaosheng sensed something was amiss, and his smile faded away.

"What's happened, Mr. Ji?"

Watching Bai Xiaosheng's change of expression and hearing his words, Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming exchanged glances and also put down their chopsticks.

It seemed like something serious had happened!

"Tianzheng Media from Langbei City reported to the provincial authorities an hour ago and has... passed," Ji Mingyang said gravely.

Bai Xiaosheng was slightly taken aback, then his expression became somber.

On the phone, Ji Mingyang continued, "The minister has confirmed that they are the first to acquire the provincial benchmark enterprise spot, and that's set in stone. As for us... we..."

Ji Mingyang hesitated, uncertain how best to convey the message.

Zhongjing Media was just a step behind in timing, that was all.

But in terms of outcome, it was a matter of heaven and earth.

Enterprises from other municipalities might be slower in the review process, but that didn't matter. They didn't face the issue of duplication or homogenization, and if they passed the assessment, they would secure a spot! The authorities wanted to establish benchmarks in various industries.

Zhongjing Media was different. Even if it was superior to most other enterprises, so what? Among the ten provincial benchmark enterprise spots, the one belonging to the media industry had already been snatched away by Tianzheng Media!

There was no spot left for Zhongjing Media!

And Zhongjing Media could only watch helplessly as other, sometimes inferior, enterprises surpassed it and claimed the spots and honors.

Ji Mingyang was also upset.

"Sheng, the minister's message is that we shouldn't overvalue these superficial honors but should focus on doing our own work, which is the correct path. I hope you won't be too upset," Ji Mingyang sighed, "Keep the briefing for tomorrow as scheduled, I hope that you... can adjust your mood."

Having said that, Ji Mingyang quietly waited for Bai Xiaosheng's response.

Anger, grievance, shouting, and yelling.

Ji Mingyang had prepared himself for the onslaught of negative emotions.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng was still a young man, and no matter what his reaction would be, Ji Mingyang understood and was ready to accommodate him.

"Mr. Ji, I'm aware," Bai Xiaosheng finally spoke up.

His voice, as always, was calm and even devoid of any ripples.

"We will be ready and face tomorrow's report with all our might," Bai Xiaosheng said.

There was no sense of grievance, no protestations, just his usual equanimity.

This tranquility made Ji Mingyang want to cheer him on.

"One may lose a battle but not lose their poise. Bai Xiaosheng, well done!" Ji Mingyang exclaimed.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng saw Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming gazing intently at him and immediately smiled.

"It's nothing, let's eat!" Bai Xiaosheng said just four words and then, without another word, buried his head in his food, wolfing it down.

What was this minor setback anyway!

He, Bai Xiaosheng, had been framed in college, had suffered far more grievances in Tiannan!

What was this slight defeat!

Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming exchanged a hesitant look. They hadn't heard what Ji Mingyang said, nor could they gather any information from Bai Xiaosheng's words, but they knew—something was amiss!

Of course, since Bai Xiaosheng didn't speak of it, they didn't ask.

While eating, Bai Xiaosheng seemed a bit distracted, his gaze flickering but not showing a trace of dejection.

The worst-case scenario had not been something he hadn't considered!

At this moment.

Zhongjing, city hall.

Ji Mingyang sat in his chair, silent.

Zhang Meng sighed softly at his side. On the drive back the day the third-phase report was completed, he had still been thinking about what to do in case of failure, not expecting it to really happen.

Though he had seemed open-minded then, now that it had come to a head, even he felt a twinge of frustration.

After working so hard for so long, and with success seemingly within reach, they had stumbled at the last hurdle.

"Mayor, please take it easy. It's come to this now, and just like you said to Bai Xiaosheng, one may lose a battle but not lose their poise," Zhang Meng hardly knew how to offer consolation.

Ji Mingyang sighed, "I'm fine. It's not about me, I just think it's unfair for Bai Xiaosheng..."

He was speaking when his phone rang.

"Su Shu?" Ji Mingyang picked up the phone and immediately frowned, "What does she want by calling now?"

Out of courtesy, Ji Mingyang answered nonetheless.

"Ji, how are you feeling now?" Mayor Su Shu laughed over the phone.

"I feel fine, Su Shu. You seem to be in a good mood as well! Congratulations!" Ji Mingyang snorted coldly.

"Oh, thank you," Mayor Su Shu giggled over the phone. "I can imagine your expression just from the sound of your voice! You know, Ji Mingyang, how often have you lost to me? One or two times wouldn't make much difference to you!"

"Did you call just to mock me?" Ji Mingyang snorted again.

"It's more of a sympathizing visit... Plus, I just wanted to check on your mood!" Su Shu laughed, "Ji, I have to tell you, losing is no shame for you. That Mu Beichen of mine is ten years older than your Bai Xiaosheng! In experience, competence, and capability, he is far beyond him. Tell me, how could you win? The key is, you chose the wrong person!"

Ji Mingyang remained silent, and after a long moment, he spoke seriously into the phone.

"Su Shu, you can mock me, that's fine! But mocking Bai Xiaosheng, that's not okay! Don't think that just because Mu Beichen has luckily won once, he is stronger than Bai Xiaosheng. You'll never understand the kind of miracles a person like Bai Xiaosheng can create!"