

Two Trillion 581

Chapter 581: Unknowingly Trapped an Army_1

Ji Mingyang's recognition of Bai Xiaosheng had reached a great height.

However, Zhang Meng standing beside him felt it was reasonable. Bai Xiaosheng deserved it.

Listening to the sincerity in Ji Mingyang's tone, when Mayor Su Shu's voice on the phone softened but still maintained a dominant tone, she let out a snort, "Fine, fine, I won't say more about your favorite! But in the end, it's our Tianzheng Media that won. This proves that Tianzheng Media has its merits and strengths. We've already visited your company for an inspection, and if Bai Xiaosheng wishes to learn, I will ask Mu Beichen to teach him some lessons..."

"No need!" Ji Mingyang said coldly, "Keep it to yourselves! We have plenty of experience in Zhongjing, and we welcome you anytime if you'd like to visit again!"

"Stingy." On the other end of the phone, Mayor Su Shu hummed, "Fine, I'll call you back later."

Then the call was abruptly ended.

Ji Mingyang sullenly tossed his phone onto the table.

It wasn't a big deal in itself; he wasn't someone who couldn't handle a loss.

But Mayor Su Shu was just too annoying!

She just had to show off, proving that Bai Xiaosheng was inferior to that Mu Beichen!

"What are you talking about, Sheng being inferior to that Mu Beichen? Hmph! Can Mu Beichen come up with a new model that benefits the city's development?" Ji Mingyang grumbled indignantly.

Zhang Meng, sitting nearby, remained as quiet and centered as a meditating monk.

After lunch, Bai Xiaosheng returned to his office as usual, meticulously organizing his materials, preparing for his report to the provincial authorities the next day.

At that moment, his phone started ringing.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the screen; it was an unfamiliar number.

"Hello?" Bai Xiaosheng answered the phone and held it to his ear.

"Mr. Bai, this is Mu Beichen." The voice on the phone was unhurried.

Mu Beichen?

Bai Xiaosheng's eyebrows raised slightly.

The fact that the other party could get his mobile number wasn't surprising, just as he could have done the same if he wanted.

But there wasn't much between them.

Especially at a time like this...

"It's President Mu; what can I do for you?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, his voice calm.

On the other end, Mu Beichen laughed.

"Mr. Bai, I believe you've already received the news that Tianzheng Media has secured the position of provincial benchmark enterprise," Mu Beichen said, with a hint of pride in his voice.

"Congratulations. Are you calling just to boast, President Mu?" Bai Xiaosheng said evenly. "If so, you've achieved your goal."

"No, no, I didn't call to flaunt this to you, Mr. Bai," President Mu replied cheerfully.

Bai Xiaosheng had spoken well; in fact, Mu Beichen did want to boast!

Why do the villains in movies never give the protagonist a break, always wanting to show off?

Boasting is an expression of the pleasure of conquest.

No matter how smart you are, you can't escape it; it's addictive.

If you can't flaunt a victory in front of your opponent, what's the joy in winning?

Of course, for Mu Beichen, his boasting always came when the opponent was powerless to turn things around, like now!

However, he didn't make this call just for the sake of boasting.

He had other plans!

"Then, President Mu, is there anything else you wish to advise?" Bai Xiaosheng said.

"I wouldn't dare to instruct! Here's the thing, I know that you folks in Zhongjing have set up a Media Industry Alliance, and it's very hot right now. When we submitted our report, even the minister was full of praise for you all!" Mu Beichen said with a smile, "I also know that you, Mr. Bai, are the first president of the Media Industry Alliance!"

"So what?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

"Therefore, I would like to discuss a potential collaboration. If possible, we would also like to join the alliance. You know, we will become the provincial benchmark enterprise in the media industry. We can join your alliance as an ordinary member without demanding any positions, just as an ordinary member. I think the phrase 'provincial benchmark enterprise' alone means you won't be at a loss," Mu Beichen said.

He was very serious about this matter.

He suggested cooperation without talking about demands, and mentioned joining without setting conditions.

His tone was not condescending at all.

It seemed he knew that Bai Xiaosheng had just missed out on becoming a provincial benchmark enterprise and didn't want to rub it in.

"So, what do you want?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed and asked.

"I think this initiative you have is very promising, and I would like to invest long-term," Mu Beichen said, "I wonder, Mr. Bai, how do you feel about this?"

Logically speaking, this matter is good and can be called a win-win.

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and laughed, "Since President Mu has such confidence in us, then I have no objections!"

"Is that a yes from you, Mr. Bai?" Mu Beichen's voice had an added note of pleasure.

"Have you looked into it, President Mu?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly asked.

"Into what?"

"My position as president doesn't hold decision-making power; our affairs need to be voted on by everyone. How about this, President Mu. I am currently busy reporting on this matter, but once I'm done, I will put forward a proposal to the alliance," Bai Xiaosheng said.

From the other end of the phone, Mu Beichen chuckled, "Then I'll have to trouble you, Mr. Bai. Actually, if you planned this alliance all by yourself, why did you distribute the power in the first place?"

Regret could be detected in Mu Beichen's voice.

"Why would I allow others to snore beside my couch!" Mu Beichen quickly added, his low voice resonating with an ambitious tone.

Bai Xiaosheng laughed, his voice light, "President Mu, as I've said, our paths are different, and it's hard for me to explain to you!"

Mu Beichen was silent for a moment, then gave a hearty laugh, "Well, I'll then wait for the good news from Mr. Bai. Goodbye!"

"Goodbye!"

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng looked at his phone in silence.

"This Mu Beichen, even on the day he secured the benchmark spot, couldn't help but show off a little to me? It's as if he truly believes he will be the last one laughing!"

Bai Xiaosheng started to laugh as if he wasn't at all disheartened at having lost the opportunity for the benchmark enterprise title.

"He wants to join the Zhongjing Media Alliance? This guy wouldn't get out of bed without a profit! And he's looking forward to our long-term prospects? Does he really think I'm a three-year-old child..."

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head slightly, chuckled softly, placed his phone aside, and continued to organize his reporting materials in an orderly manner.

After finishing his materials, Bai Xiaosheng walked to the door, locked it, went back to pick up his phone, and dialed a number.

"Hello, this is Bai Xiaosheng," he began, his voice exceedingly polite.

"Bai Xiaosheng?" The person on the other end laughed, "I've also heard the news. I was thinking that you would come to find me. So, shall we have a good talk?"

...

Meanwhile.

Having called Bai Xiaosheng, Mu Beichen still had a smile on his face.

"What a cunning young man, not arrogant in victory nor discouraged in defeat. At such a young age, he's like a little fox!"

Mu Beichen's comment was not an insult but rather a compliment.

Liu Yue, who was beside him, asked, "Did he reject you?"

"No, but he didn't agree either!"

Mu Beichen snorted coldly, a sharp glint in his eyes, "With that guy at the helm of the Zhongjing Media Alliance, taking over the Zhongjing City market won't be so easy! Smart kid, he's unexpectedly outmaneuvered me in this

Chapter 582: Resentment Must Have Cause and Effect_1

Tianzheng Media, over these years, had been constantly expanding its "territory."

One city a year, expanding and advancing.

Wherever they went, they merged with and acquired others.

Their scale grew ever larger, but the company did not become overextended, instead becoming increasingly stable.

There was a reason for this.

Tianzheng Media coveted the long-term perspective, equipped with detailed development plans and strategies.

In the places they went, the mergers and acquisitions, in fact, were all about taking controlling stakes, supporting local large companies, rather than taking over everything. When encountering non-shareholding companies, they would use various means to force them to restructure, and then take a share.

After seizing control of a local market, they would not make any major moves elsewhere within that year but rather digest the new market they'd taken.

Under this strategy of constant expansion and digestion, Tianzheng Media naturally grew larger and more stable.

Next year or the year after, their target would be Zhongjing!

Before Bai Xiaosheng appeared, this would have been a tough battle, a decisive "campaign."

If they could occupy and thoroughly assimilate the Zhongjing market, they wouldn't need to be so "cautious," but rather could be decisive and dominant in the Anjiang media industry!

However, after the appearance of Bai Xiaosheng, in just a couple of months, he had put together a Media Industry Alliance, binding together large and small media companies, institutions, and individuals of Zhongjing onto a single war chariot. With the strong support of the municipal government, he had formed a solid front!

Mu Beichen's Tianzheng Media had long made detailed plans to enter the Zhongjing market, even perfecting them over two years.

Suddenly, the plan turned into a pile of waste paper, seriously impeding Mu Beichen's grand ambitions!

Now, Mu Beichen had a personal grudge against Bai Xiaosheng, and at the same time, the financial backers behind him also harbored deep resentment towards Bai Xiaosheng!

With both public and private grievances, Mu Beichen naturally wanted to crush Bai Xiaosheng.

Just now, when he called Bai Xiaosheng, suggesting he wanted to join the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance, it was essentially for market access, but Bai Xiaosheng, with his Tai Chi tactics, neither accepted nor refused, delaying the matter.

"This Bai, he's a born troublemaker!" Mu Beichen couldn't help but exclaim.

"You're right! According to our investigations, that's exactly how the magnates and merchants of Zhongjing refer to him!" Liu Yue also sighed with emotion.

"Fortunately, I have suppressed this troublemaker for now! Blunted his edge first," Mu Beichen said with a cold laugh.

This victory had not come easily. Currently, a dozen of the company's employees had been exhausted to the point of hospitalization, and he, Mu Beichen, was also extremely fatigued.

But it was worth it. He had snatched the provincial benchmark enterprise spot from Bai Xiaosheng.

"This is just the beginning. Next, this troublemaker will have reason to cry!" Mu Beichen snorted coldly, his smile tinged with pleasure.

Liu Yue slightly nodded from the side, her squinted eyes also flashing with excitement.

Bai Xiaosheng's office.

Lin Weiwei brought him a cup of coffee, but Bai Xiaosheng sneezed several times in a row.

"Xiaosheng, do you have a cold?" Lin Weiwei asked with concern.

"No," Bai Xiaosheng took a tissue, wiped his nose, and mumbled, "I think someone is cursing me behind my back."

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but chuckle and turned to leave.

Bai Xiaosheng held the fragrant coffee, inhaling the aroma, his face always adorned with a light smile.

He was actually looking forward to tomorrow's report!

"Mu Beichen, your call today, boasting about your victory, was a bit premature. Your proposal for cooperation, seeking to join the alliance as a provincial benchmark enterprise, was also premature!" Bai Xiaosheng muttered.

He shook his head, putting aside those thoughts, and began to silently speculate on tomorrow's report in his mind.

After all, one must be strong to forge iron. The report cannot be taken lightly, especially the final stage of reporting.

What potential problems might arise? What issues might the leaders ask about? What areas remain relatively weak...

All this, Bai Xiaosheng was considering.

He used Red Lotus to simulate the entire process.

Thus, after nearly an hour, Bai Xiaosheng exhaled a long breath and smiled contentedly.

He finally had everything figured out.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up after pondering the issue, stretched his limbs, twisted his neck, and decided to take a walk.

After all, sitting for such long periods of time could lead to peri-arthritis and cervical spondylosis, and he certainly didn't want to end up with a host of ailments.

Upon leaving the office, Bai Xiaosheng strolled aimlessly.

"Mr. Bai."

"Mr. Bai!"

Along the way, both new and senior employees greeted him with smiles, their faces showing reverence.

Some, even openly displayed their admiration.

Their general manager was young and ambitious, pioneering and enterprising, transforming the company and elevating it to a completely new level! He had taken Zhongjing Media to unprecedented heights!

Now, the mention of him by those big enterprises in Zhongjing was always with added respect!

It made everyone at Zhongjing Media walk tall and proud when they were outside.

And all of this had happened in just a few months!

It had to be said, it was a miracle!

In the face of everyone's admiration, Bai Xiaosheng himself felt somewhat indifferent.

He wandered idly, took the elevator down one floor, and meandered aimlessly.

Glancing up, Bai Xiaosheng saw the sign on an office door. At first, he paused, and then a smile with an unclear meaning crept over his lips, and he walked over.

Vice President's Office, Corporate Culture Research Office.

These two unrelated signs, put together, were somewhat comical in themselves!

Bai Xiaosheng knocked on the door.

"Come in."

Inside, Chen Changqing was organizing things and spoke absentmindedly.

Nobody usually came to his office except for his two assistants, Yu Qing and Murong Yan.

At this moment, Chen Changqing was acutely aware of the cold reality of the world, and how relationships could become so indifferent.

Without power, the position of vice-president was just a decoration!

Out there, people would acknowledge his title out of courtesy but with no hint of respect!

It was all Bai Xiaosheng's doing; he had taken everything from him!

This thought had tumbled through Chen Changqing's mind more than once, filled with resentment, but overshadowed by a sense of helplessness. He couldn't compete with that man! Even his Uncle had suffered a loss, hadn't he?

At this point, Chen Changqing felt much more at peace than he did at the beginning.

"What's up?" Chen Changqing didn't even look up as he casually asked.

"Nothing, I just came to chat with you," the visitor said with a laugh, sitting down directly opposite.

Chen Changqing suddenly felt that something was amiss, and the voice made his skin crawl.

Chen Changqing looked up and was startled, "Bai Xia... Mr. Bai!"

Opposite him was, indeed, Bai Xiaosheng.

This man whom he thought it was nearly impossible to see in this place had arrived quietly, without assistants, and both of his assistants were not present either!

Chen Changqing felt a bit flustered and quickly gathered the scattered papers on the desk, swiftly stuffing them into the three-part file rack inside the desk.

"Look at this mess, I've made you see a joke, Mr. Bai!" Chen Changqing said, regaining his composure with a laugh.

Bai Xiaosheng quietly observed Chen Changqing's eyes.

In those eyes, there was a trace of—panic!

Chapter 583: Something's Wrong with Chen Changqing!_1

"What's the matter, Mr. Chen, you're not offering me a cup of tea?"

Faced with Chen Changqing's momentary unease in his gaze, Bai Xiaosheng asked quite naturally, with a smile.

"Oh, of course, of course!" Chen Changqing replied with an embarrassed smile, standing up.

In the face of Bai Xiaosheng, a peer, Chen Changqing felt a deep-seated "wary."

He had witnessed too many of this man's tactics, and after repeated setbacks himself, even his own uncle—Chen Jiuzheng, the industry head of Anjiang Province—suffered consecutive failures, constantly coming up short.

It had even caused him psychological shadows!

Now, with Bai Xiaosheng wanting to drink tea, Chen Changqing headed to his own office desk.

However, within Chen Changqing's expression, there was a faint reluctance, an unnaturalness that he couldn't hide as he glanced at the file rack on the inner side of the desk, hesitating to move.

Bai Xiaosheng seemed not to notice his hesitation, busy with his phone, looking at news, reading messages, and occasionally smiling as if he came across something amusing, entirely unaware of him.

It was only then that Chen Changqing's expression eased a little, moving towards the sofa area.

There was a complete set of tea service.

"The tea I have here is pretty ordinary, I hope Mr. Bai won't mind," said Chen Changqing as he boiled the water, his voice returning to a calm state.

"How could I possibly, Mr. Chen? You're being too modest. The tea you drink is always brought by you, it must be better than what we have at the company," Bai Xiaosheng said from behind.

Chen Changqing glanced back.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes had not left his phone from start to finish.

Chen Changqing turned back around and concentrated on arranging the tea set.

"Mr. Bai, why have you come to see me again in your free time?" Chen Changqing asked without turning around.

"What, Mr. Chen doesn't welcome me?" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Or do you think I'm now too idle, and it would be more normal for me to be so busy that I can't even cover my own rear?"

"Mr. Bai jests. How could I, a nobody in charge of editing corporate culture, dare to comment on whether you are busy?" In Chen Changqing's words, there was a trace of self-deprecation.

"A nobody," Bai Xiaosheng seemed to savor these words, laughing.

Chen Changqing looked back again and saw Bai Xiaosheng still engrossed in his phone.

"Mr. Chen is no 'nobody' at all," Bai Xiaosheng muttered, his meaning unclear.

Chen Changqing offered no reply, watching the flames beneath the kettle.

At last, the water boiled.

Chen Changqing deftly picked up the teapot, used bamboo tongs to take some tea leaves, and placed them inside before pouring in the boiling water.

Just then, Chen Changqing heard a burst of music from behind.

Turning around again, Bai Xiaosheng had already stood up with his phone and smiled regretfully, "Recently, I've had so much going on, and now something has come up again. Looks like I won't be able to enjoy your tea today, Mr. Chen. Let's save it for another time."

Bai Xiaosheng even gave him a regretful smile.

The tea was ready, but the guest was about to leave.

"No problem, Mr. Bai, you're busy," Chen Changqing smiled, feeling a sense of relief.

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a radiant smile, answered the phone, and walked towards the door.

Chen Changqing's gaze flickered, watching as he left, then hastily closed the door, hurried back to his desk, and looked around. Under his chair, he found a page of A4 paper.

Chen Changqing quickly bent down to pick it up.

Thankfully, it was face down!

Turning it over, there was a flurry of what looked like gibberish written on it.

Cursive script!

The writing flowed like dragons and snakes, but to the average person, even if they looked, they wouldn't understand, it was Chen Changqing's security measure. However, Yu Qing and Murong Yan could understand it!

Chen Changqing glanced at the door and stuffed the piece of paper back into the file rack.

At this very moment.

Bai Xiaosheng strolled towards his own office, expressionless, looking at his phone, which had a picture on it.

The picture was filled with characters resembling gibberish.

The paper Chen Changqing thought he had accidentally dropped was actually snapped by Bai Xiaosheng while Chen was boiling water, taken from the file rack.

Afterward, Bai Xiaosheng simply dropped it onto the floor.

He had intended to catch up with Mr. Chen but Chen's micro-expressions were not quite under control!

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes, trained with the Micro Expression Analysis System, spotted the issue in an instant.

"Yo, what's written here?" Bai Xiaosheng looked at the photo on his phone and laughed, "Pretty cautious, aren't we?"

"Red Lotus, analyze these characters!"

The human brain might not be able to decipher it, but Bai Xiaosheng had a smart brain!

"Analysis reveals that the text belongs to the cursive script category, modeled after Zhang Zhi's running script with some modifications. Analysis complete, would you like to convert to simplified characters?"

"Yes," Bai Xiaosheng said solemnly.

The text was converted into simplified characters, but it was still disconnected and the speech was jumpy and unclear, which could confuse the reader.

"Perform a rational combination, logical filling," Red Lotus offered.

With this, Bai Xiaosheng understood.

"Chen Changqing is investigating the work we allocated to the Media Alliance?" Bai Xiaosheng frowned slightly, "He didn't need to go this far to find out, the details of the gathered content..."

Bai Xiaosheng unobtrusively put away his phone.

He buried this matter in his heart.

Upon returning to his own office, Bai Xiaosheng had barely sat down when Lin Weiwei pushed the door and entered.

"Xiaosheng, you're back. I was looking for you just now, but you weren't here," Lin Weiwei said with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Yes, I went out for a bit," Bai Xiaosheng glanced at her expression and asked with a smile, "Is there something you need?"

Lin Weiwei nodded.

"Our annual blockbuster drama crew just sent news. They want to invite you to visit the set. What do you think..."

Lin Weiwei knew that Bai Xiaosheng had been busy recently, with the fourth stage report coming up tomorrow, but after the report, wouldn't he have time?

Bai Xiaosheng had indeed been quite tired recently, working overtime every day, spending weekends at the company, and visibly becoming worn out.

Lin Weiwei thought, if he could take a break after the busy period, it might be good for Bai Xiaosheng to relax with a set visit, which could also count as a vacation.

"Hmm, I haven't been responsible as the General Manager, I haven't paid attention to the progress over there all this time," Bai Xiaosheng said with a self-deprecating smile.

"Don't say that, Xiaosheng," Lin Weiwei smiled, "But I think, if the business with the provincial-level benchmark enterprise wraps up, you could take the time to unwind."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, not rushing to reply but giving Lin Weiwei a smile.

"Alright, I've got it! I'll get in touch with them later. If I go, I'll take you with me. Who knows, we might even get a cameo and start our journey to stardom," Bai Xiaosheng joked.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but chuckle, "I didn't know you still dreamed of becoming a star. Alright, I've told you about it. I need to get busy with other things."

Lin Weiwei left the room.

Bai Xiaosheng stretched out and couldn't help but smile to himself, "A set visit, huh? The crew should be in the film city of that first-tier city right now. Wouldn't be bad to check it out!"

"But, everything has to wait until after tomorrow!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but chuckle softly, "Tomorrow is going to be a special day!"

Chapter 584: Before the Report_1

Friday finally arrived.

In the early morning, Bai Xiaosheng got up from bed early, stood in front of the glass window, facing the first rays of sunlight, feeling thoroughly relaxed. He looked at the slowly rising sun on the city skyline, his spirits lifted, and he couldn't help but laugh and talk to himself.

"Today is a good day!"

After washing up, he ate something simple.

After arriving at the company, Bai Xiaosheng quietly waited.

At ten in the morning, Lin Weiwei and Song Yiming came to report.

All the work was completed and checked meticulously!

"To be precise, it was finished at four o'clock this morning, and now it has been double-checked and found correct!" Song Yiming, his eyes rimmed with dark circles, said to Bai Xiaosheng with considerable pride.

Standing next to him, Lin Weiwei also had heavy dark circles around her eyes, seemingly having stayed up all night.

"You've worked hard!" Bai Xiaosheng solemnly said to the two of them, "I am giving you the day off today. Go back and rest well."

"Next, leave it to me," Bai Xiaosheng said, his eyes sparkling.

He then took his things and hurried to the city government office.

Ji Mingyang had already been waiting for him in the office.

"You have no idea, today Mr. Ji has cleared all his arrangements, all his social engagements, and kept all his time just for you!" Zhang Meng said with a smile.

This was Ji Mingyang's greatest expectation and support for Bai Xiaosheng.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng full of energy and fighting spirit, not at all looking like someone who had been setback, Zhang Meng was happy too.

"Very good, the spirit is strong! We should have this temperament!" Ji Mingyang also praised with a laugh upon seeing this.

"Leaders, shall we set off then? On the way, I will make my report to you both first," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Ji Mingyang and Zhang Meng nodded their heads.

The drive to the provincial government would take two hours.

On the way, the three of them had a simple lunch.

All along the way, Bai Xiaosheng went through the report content in great detail.

Ji Mingyang nodded frequently, and there was one word written all over Zhang Meng's face—impressed.

To complete the entire fourth phase to this extent in such a short time was indeed astonishing.

Especially the utilization of a city's resources and adopting new working methods were shocking.

"Actually, you haven't lost, Bai Xiaosheng! You are not a bit inferior to Mu Beichen, no, you are even stronger than him!" Zhang Meng gave Bai Xiaosheng full marks in her heart.

Ji Mingyang was extremely satisfied too, and even the initial slight dejection of losing to Mayor Su Shu was completely swept away. He joked with Bai Xiaosheng, "This time, we are just going to perform, to show our achievements to the leadership! Whatever honors there are or aren't from the province, if they don't give them, I'll give them! Later on, I will support you with policies, and the city government will be your platform!"

With these words, Bai Xiaosheng naturally had a beaming smile.

However, what's mine is mine!

I never conceded defeat, so the word 'defeat' has nothing to do with me!

Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself with a bright gaze.

The provincial government office.

Receiving the news that Ji Mingyang and his party had set off and were halfway there, Minister Fan put down the work in his hands and pondered at his desk for a moment.

Secretary Wang Yu just happened to come in to deliver documents when he was called over.

"Wang, go to the Publicity Department and invite Minister Wang over for me. Tell him I'm inviting him for tea, Huangshan Maofeng!" Minister Fan instructed.

"Okay, I'll go right away." Wang Yu nodded quickly, dropped the documents, and hurried off.

Minister Fan stood up and went to his cabinet to fetch a small canister of tea leaves.

He had some top-quality Huangshan Maofeng, which he usually wouldn't even drink himself.

Minister Wang was the quintessential literati, fond of drinking tea and appreciating poetry and paintings.

After getting the tea leaves, Minister Fan went to wait in the sofa area.

Soon, a voice came in from outside the door.

"Old Fan, have you finally decided to bring out your nice tea leaves?" The person hadn't arrived, but his merry voice had already floated in from the door.

Minister Fan smiled.

Minister Wang was a man of calm and gentle temperament, who rarely spoke loudly even in normal conversation.

His reaction at this moment clearly showed his delight.

"Is the tea ready?" Minister Wang walked in with a smile, heading for the sofa area, "Not yet? I'll make it! When it comes to brewing tea, all of you are amateurs. The tea you brew is simply a waste of good leaves."

The two senior leaders had been colleagues for many years and maintained a harmonious relationship.

Wang Yu quietly closed the door for the two leaders.

After a little while, the room was filled with the fragrance of tea.

"For different teas, the amount of leaves you use varies. Also, different teas require slightly different water temperatures. Look, this Huangshan Maofeng of yours is a green tea, a type of unfermented tea, best brewed between 65 and 75 degrees Celsius. Then there's the steeping time; too long makes it bitter, too short makes it weak and tasteless. It's all very precise."

Minister Wang poured Minister Fan a cup of tea with a chuckle and gestured for him to try it, "Here, give it a taste."

Minister Fan nodded with a smile, picked up the cup, took a sip, and nodded again with appreciation.

"Indeed, it's exceptional. You really know your stuff."

Minister Wang smiled, lifted his Cup, and leisurely savored the tea, gazing at the leaves floating and sinking in the Cup, "Old Fan, you didn't ask me over just to have tea, did you? Out with it, what's the matter?"

Minister Fan chuckled and set down his cup.

"It's about Zhongjing, and that enterprise they've applied for—Zhongjing Media. They are coming over for a report shortly," Minister Fan said, "That enterprise has made many innovative and pioneering attempts, beneficial not only for the development of local cities but also providing new directions for our research and control over the entire industry. It's just that this time, the province's selection of benchmark enterprises expressly stipulates that without special circumstances, we do not support repeated industries for benchmarks. This restriction affects them!"

Minister Wang also nodded, setting down his cup.

He naturally understood what it meant for Tianzheng Media to have won the media industry benchmark slot.

"Old Fan, when it comes down to it, that rule came from you, the chairman of the audit committee," Minister Wang remarked.

"I didn't consider it thoroughly enough," Minister Fan acknowledged with a nod, "So, I want to discuss with you, the deputy chairman, to see if we can make an exception for them!"

The usually mild-mannered Minister Wang pondered for a moment.

In the end, he shook his head.

"Inappropriate, inappropriate!" Minister Wang said, "Fan, I equally appreciate their enterprise and regret that they weren't selected. But rules are rules, they cannot be adjusted just because someone excels. Otherwise, in the future, there would be endless exceptions and endless problems."

Minister Fan gave a wry smile and sighed, "Indeed."

"However, when there's a chance later, either you or I could visit their enterprise for an inspection and offer them more support," Minister Wang suggested with a smile, "You can convey this sentiment to them, to put them at ease."

"That would be good," Minister Fan agreed with a smile and a nod.

Just then, a knock sounded on the office door.

"Come in," said Minister Fan softly.

Wang Yu entered, giving both ministers a smile before turning to Minister Fan, "Minister Fan..."

"Has Ji Mingyang arrived?" Minister Fan guessed.

"No, it's not Mayor Ji, it's the Mayor of Tianqing, Dai Mingcheng, Mayor Dai!" said Wang Yu.

Chapter 585: Unexpected Turnaround_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Ji Mingyang arrived at the provincial government office and hurried to Minister Fan's office, but at the door, they were stopped by Wang Yu.

"Mayor Ji, you're not here at a good time, over ten minutes late. The minister is currently in a conversation with Tianqing's Mayor Dai," Wang Yu said with a smile, "Otherwise, I could take you guys to the meeting room first."

"Mayor Dai?" Ji Mingyang exclaimed in surprise, "Is he also here to make a report?!"

Wang Yu grinned, stepped a bit closer, and lowered his voice, "Mr. Ji, you must be joking. Do you think everyone is like your Zhongjing, where Mayor Su Shu's Langbei managed to finish the entire reporting process in less than half the allotted time! Only your two cities could achieve such a feat! The others have just passed the second phase, and there are even fewer that have reached the third phase!"

While speaking, even Wang Yu's tone held a hint of admiration, and as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng standing next to Ji Mingyang, he revealed a smile of respect and nodded at him.

Only these two enterprises have managed to bring the entire assessment to such a state, each one being a standout.

There were only two people who could make the minister endlessly praise them, and Bai Xiaosheng here received the most admiration, and by looking at his age, he was a whole ten years younger than Mu Beichen!

Even Wang Yu felt a bit of respect towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Wang Yu, his gaze filled with goodwill.

This secretary to the minister was very easygoing, composed and unruffled, which made him highly likable.

"Not here for a report, huh."

Ji Mingyang smiled self-deprecatingly and shook his head, feeling that he had thought too much.

Not every city has a "monster talent" like Bai Xiaosheng.

Ji Mingyang felt a sense of gratitude.

"All right then, we'll go to the meeting room first," Ji Mingyang nodded, "Mayor Dai has only been inside for ten minutes. I'm afraid it will take a while."

"However, it might not necessarily take that long. Looking at the time now, there's still twenty minutes until the appointment you have with Minister Fan. It shouldn't go overtime," Wang Yu said with a smile.

Ji Mingyang nodded.

Guided by Wang Yu, they headed for the meeting room to wait.

However, they hadn't walked ten meters when the door to the minister's office creaked open.

Dai Mingcheng came out and immediately called out upon seeing Ji Mingyang and the others walking away, "Mr. Ji."

Ji Mingyang stopped and returned with everyone.

Dai Mingcheng approached them.

"You've finished talking with Minister Fan? That was fast!" Ji Mingyang said, somewhat surprised.

Wang Yu had just said Dai Mingcheng had only entered about ten minutes ago.

What kind of work discussion could have been had in such a short time...

"Our discussion was straightforward, didn't need much time," Dai Mingcheng said with a smile, his expression holding an indescribable nuance.

While speaking, he also glanced at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Mayor Dai." Bai Xiaosheng smiled at him.

"Bai Xiaosheng! Last time I was in Tianqing, I wanted to have a good chat. Your suggestions have been studied by us, and we're prepared to implement some of them already!" Dai Mingcheng said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng was both a talisman and a genius, with a nimble mind and a broadened vision. The suggestions he provided for Tianqing were from unique angles and carried constructive significance.

"When did you two have a chat in Tianqing?" Ji Mingyang couldn't help being curious.

"That's a long story. Bai Xiaosheng was visiting an elder in Tianqing not long ago and we happened to meet," Dai Mingcheng explained with a smile.

"How many suggestions did you manage to take from our Sheng here? We'll have to charge you for them!" Ji Mingyang joked.

Everyone laughed.

"What are you all talking about, looking so happy?" Minister Fan walked out of his office, his face beaming with a good mood.

"Minister!"

"Minister Fan!"

Everyone immediately greeted him.

Minister Fan nodded with a smile, glanced at Ji Mingyang, then at Bai Xiaosheng, "Since you are all here, and you all seem to be in good spirits, I won't give you time to rest. Let's have the meeting now; after all, it's about time."

"Okay," Ji Mingyang and the others said with a nod and a smile.

Minister Fan led the way as everyone hastened to the meeting room.

Mayor Dai Mingcheng was from a different department.

Before he left, however, he patted Ji Mingyang on the shoulder heavily and whispered in a low voice, "Ji, go for it!"

Ji Mingyang nodded his head lightly, not taking it too seriously.

This time, the reporting lineup and scale were the largest ever.

Minister Fan, Minister Wang, the two ministers were personally present, and with over a dozen senior committee members gathered, even Ji Mingyang felt a bit nervous.

Then he laughed at himself, "With no spots left, what am I nervous about?"

With that thought, he relaxed.

As for Bai Xiaosheng, it seemed he never got too nervous.

The report meeting went on from one-thirty in the afternoon until three-thirty.

It lasted a full two hours.

During the reporting, Bai Xiaosheng spoke confidently.

Their work was highly innovative and maintained quality and quantity.

When it was revealed that they had completed everything in less than ten days, the leaders in the room were astounded.

Bai Xiaosheng fully rooted himself in the industry, utilizing all its resources to strengthen a company and then reciprocate the collaboration.

This model was refreshing to the audience.

Of course, it also sparked a bit of debate.

Thereafter, nearly every leader posed at least one question.

Bai Xiaosheng answered each one calmly and unflustered.

His composed and deliberate manner made the crowd nod repeatedly in approval.

"This young man is impressive, very calm under pressure!"

"Yes, I remember yesterday, Mu Beichen from Langbei City already surprised us, but he didn't handle the random questions as well as this, with such clear, structured responses!"

"Indeed a rare talent! The company is also excellent!"

The leaders praised him, clicking their tongues in admiration.

Some even remarked that Zhongjing Media had more than earned the right to become a provincial enterprise role model.

"But what a pity! Just yesterday, Tianzheng Media from Langbei City took the media industry's spot..."

"Ah, to have such a great company... it's a shame to miss out by just half a step..."

"Yes, it really is a shame..."

Many even murmured their regrets and disappointment in low voices.

Ji Mingyang was originally okay, but hearing this, he couldn't help but feel a bit upset.

However, Bai Xiaosheng still had a calm expression, answering the last question.

"Alright, let's not discuss this for now. Does anyone else have a question?" asked Minister Fan.

The other leaders were silent. Everyone had run out of questions.

In theory, Zhongjing Media had passed the review, but they could not announce its approval because there were no spots left.

While everyone was silent,

Minister Fan whispered a few words to Minister Wang, who's expression clearly brightened.

"Then, I announce that Zhongjing Media has passed the review and is awarded the title of provincial enterprise role model!" declared Minister Fan loudly.

The statement was authoritative and heavy.

It left the whole room stunned.

Even Ji Mingyang's eyes widened with surprise, looking at the minister, thinking he had misheard.

"I have another announcement to make," Minister Wang said with a smile, "Just now, Mayor Dai Mingcheng of Tianqing came to see Minister Fan, requesting to give up their spot..."

"Minister Fan, approved it!"

Chapter 586 Zhongjing Wins!_1

Tianqing forfeited their qualification? Zhongjing got the spot!

The two ministers' words silenced the entire room.

Everyone looked stunned and shocked, exchanging glances, even including the leaders on the review committee.

Ji Mingyang and Zhang Meng were particularly dumbfounded and disbelief.

In contrast, Bai Xiaosheng appeared calmer.

After the quiet, the room erupted, and everyone began talking all at once.

"What happened? Why did Tianqing City forfeit their qualification!"

"Incredible, they were almost guaranteed to get the spot!"

"That company in Tianqing indeed had some issues before, but they were brave enough to reveal themselves and handled everything properly, the province decided not to pursue further, so how could this..."

"I just ran into Dai Mingcheng, the mayor of Tianqing, and I had no idea he was actually here to apply for the forfeiture!"

...

Amid the babble, people mentioned some things that Ji Mingyang didn't know.

The company had a problem? Something actually happened on Dai's side?

Ji Mingyang was equally surprised. He might be the least gossiping among all the mayors.

This was the first he heard of it!

Applying for forfeiture is indeed a right of the prefecture-level cities, and the chair and vice-chair of the review committee have the authority to approve it.

Once approved, it takes immediate effect!

This means that with Tianqing City's exit, the remaining ten prefecture-level city enterprises, as long as they complete the final review, can advance!

This naturally includes Zhongjing Media!

Ji Mingyang felt a burst of unreality; he hadn't harbored any illusions at first.

Yet the spot came to him so unexpectedly!

It arrived so suddenly!

Ji Mingyang felt a fire in his chest that suddenly ignited, burning fiercely. After many years without such excitement, it now burst forth!

He couldn't help wanting to cheer!

Zhang Meng felt the same way, thrilled and excited, her face flushed.

Heaven bless Zhongjing!

Minister Wang extended his hand, lightly tapping the table with his index finger for quiet, then said with a smile, "I believe everyone is surprised; I am just as surprised. It was only right before the meeting that Minister Fan told me this piece of news! And he approved the request just before the meeting began!"

"Do I need to repeat it here? Zhongjing Media, advanced!" Minister Wang repeated, smiling, emphasizing each word.

Across from him, Minister Fan was smiling, looking at Bai Xiaosheng and Ji Mingyang, and started clapping his hands.

Minister Wang followed with applause.

Then everyone, looking pleased, joined in the applause.

Zhongjing Media fully deserved this spot!

All the leaders expressed their congratulations with their applause, expressing their admiration for Bai Xiaosheng's report!

Ji Mingyang's eyes were moist.

He clapped vigorously, sending Bai Xiaosheng a look of congratulations!

With Minister Wang's statement, the matter was beyond doubt.

Upon hearing that, a "ding" resonated in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

The voice of Red Lotus sounded, "Congratulations, Master, task completed with full marks, reward: twenty points!"

"Your current total score is seventy points at the General Manager level, with thirty points remaining to upgrade to the Provincial Industry Head!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, this was the news that made him the most happy!

...

With that, the fourth stage of the Zhongjing Media report came to an official close.

Tianqing City gave up the application qualification, Zhongjing's review was successful, and Zhongjing Media obtained the spot for the provincial benchmark enterprise!

As the meeting dispersed, this astonishing news spread quickly.

Through those who had an interest, it swiftly reached every prefecture-level city!

That very day, in Langbei City, City Hall.

Mayor Su Shu was taking a break from her duties, sipping a cup of mellow Pu-erh tea.

Her female secretary hurried into the office, came up to her, leaned in, and whispered the news into her ear.

Mayor Su Shu was stunned at first, looking at her secretary in disbelief.

"Are you sure?"

"Positive!" the secretary nodded confidently.

Mayor Su Shu waved her hand, and the secretary withdrew. She frowned slightly but then smiled genuinely, a smile from the heart.

"Ji Mingyang, you're really something!"

At Tianzheng Media, in the General Manager's office.

Not long after Mayor Su Shu received the message, she called Mu Beichen.

Upon receiving the call, the usually radiant Mu Beichen suddenly had his smile freeze on his face.

He was shocked and disbelieving.

"Alright, Mayor Su Shu, I understand," Mu Beichen eventually replied, very gentlemanly.

After the call ended, Mu Beichen gently set down the phone, stood up, and walked over to the floor-to-ceiling window.

He looked down at the city beneath him and gazed in the direction of Zhongjing.

After being silent for a long time, Mu Beichen suddenly erupted, kicking over a decorative porcelain vase that was as tall as a man.

The vase fell to the ground, shattering into pieces, the loud noise startling Liu Yue outside the door.

By the time Liu Yue came in, Mu Beichen had regained his expressionless composure and sat back down at his desk.

Liu Yue looked at the porcelain fragments scattered on the floor in astonishment.

"It turns out that even a salted fish can turn over!" Mu Beichen said to Liu Yue with a smile, a smile that sent a chill through Liu Yue, who didn't dare to respond, only listening quietly to Mu Beichen talking to himself.

What Mu Beichen said made Liu Yue astonished.

"Zhongjing Media, Bai Xiaosheng! They, too, have secured a provincial-level benchmark enterprise spot!" Mu Beichen's voice was low as he chuckled, "All of this is because Tianqing City renounced their right! That jinx Bai Xiaosheng, his luck is surprisingly good!"

Bai Xiaosheng, you only win by luck! Mu Beichen thought bitterly.

Many people thought the same.

Even Ji Mingyang had a slight such thought.

Several days after the event concluded, Ji Mingyang received a call from Dai Mingcheng, and the two talked for a long time.

It was then that Ji Mingyang realized that before Bai Xiaosheng reported to the provincial government, he had made a call to Dai Mingcheng.

As for the content, it astonished Ji Mingyang...

Ji Mingyang also learned that during Bai Xiaosheng's visit to Tianqing, he had made certain suggestions to Dai Mingcheng and had conceived a cooperation plan between the two cities.

Although Tianqing was weak, it had its strengths.

Although Zhongjing was strong, it had its needs.

Between cities, besides strong-strong alliances, there was also talk of industrial complementarity, which was mutually beneficial as well.

After hanging up the phone, Ji Mingyang immediately approved the cooperation plan.

Other prefecture-level cities were spreading a saying—Tianqing offers peaches, Zhongjing returns plums.

But the cooperation between these two cities was upright and open, not secretive or one-sided, but a collaborative development.

This even brought great commendation from the provincial government!

Furthermore, with Bai Xiaosheng's help and leadership, Tianqing introduced a policy to attract the Tengyun Group, the European Kelson, and many other large enterprises...

Dai Mingcheng was beaming with joy.

Of course, all these are stories for another time.

Bai Xiaosheng and Zhongjing Media's success enraged Mu Beichen enough to smash a large vase.

And in Zhongjing, someone was furious enough to smash a teacup.

This person was Chen Jiuzheng!

"This little bastard, his luck is really good!" Chen Jiuzheng gritted his teeth in anger, spitting out to the person sitting on the sofa, "And with him staying in Zhongjing Media, a company directly under the group, we cannot touch him even if we want to, this is infuriating!"

On the sofa.

Chen Jiutian looked up with a cold laugh, giving his brother a glance with a sinister smile.

"Then let's make him move!"

Chapter 587 Chen Jiutian's Double Calculation_1

Chen Jiuzheng had always felt that it wasn't that they couldn't deal with Bai Xiaosheng.

At the moment, Bai Xiaosheng was merely a general manager of a directly subordinate subsidiary company—not a very high position!

Even if Bai Xiaosheng had intricate and unclear connections with the Greater China Region's Affairs Department and even involved some Affairs Officers.

But what of it!

He and his older brother, one was responsible for the industrial sector of Anjiang Province, and the other was in charge of the industrial sector of the East China Region. They were on par with the Affairs Officers and even the Senior Affairs Officers in the Greater China Region's Affairs Department, if not more formidable.

After all, they wielded actual power, while those Affairs Officers were merely regulators!

If they decided to resolve matters by foul means, cutting the Gordian knot, and it were discovered afterward, what could be done!

Even if the matter escalated to the President of the Greater China Region, would they really move against them just because of a general manager?

It was merely a matter of cost.

Especially his brother Chen Jiutian, who was busy eliminating potential risks everywhere at that time, had only then considered adopting a gentle strategy against Bai Xiaosheng.

As a result, look, Bai Xiaosheng was nearly jumping to the sky!

This made Chen Jiuzheng extremely frustrated.

At the moment, Chen Jiutian's face wore a smile, a smile that concealed a coldness, also exuding a confident air.

Have Bai Xiaosheng transferred somewhere else!

He spoke with such certainty, he surely had a foolproof plan!

"Tian, what do you mean!" Chen Jiuzheng immediately lit up, sat across from his older brother, and asked.

In fact, he found it very strange when Chen Jiutian arrived suddenly today.

No prior notice, and the man just showed up, even looking travel-weary.

"Right now, there's a perfect opportunity to ensure Mr. Bai is no longer the general manager of Zhongjing Media," Chen Jiutian said with a smile.

Really!

Chen Jiuzheng's eyes shone brightly.

"Do you know where I've come from? The President of the Greater China Region! I flew directly to Zhongjing, and right after landing, I came to find you. A big event is about to take place!"

Chen Jiuzheng waited for his brother to continue.

Chen Jiutian, however, said no more, glancing around.

This was his younger brother's home, and the living room was deserted.

Still, Chen Jiutian remained cautious, "Let's go to your study to talk!"

"Alright." Chen Jiuzheng stood up, but he didn't hurry off, instead raising his voice to call out, "Butler Chen!"

"Here!" A figure immediately appeared from outside the living room, trotting in.

That was a spirited middle-aged man with a slightly balding head, dressed in a suit, named Chen, but with a European face. In fact, he was European, yet his Chinese was remarkably good, as he had been given a Chinese name by Chen Jiuzheng—Chen Xinshi.

British butlers are renowned worldwide, and Chen Xinshi stood respectfully in front of Chen Jiuzheng, "Sir, what can I do for you."

"The eldest master and I need to discuss something important. Don't let anyone near the study, anyone!" Chen Jiuzheng said solemnly.

"Understood, sir!" Butler Chen nodded solemnly.

Chen Jiutian was very pleased with Chen Jiuzheng's arrangement and walked toward Chen Jiuzheng's study.

Chen Jiuzheng followed behind.

Once they entered the study and closed the door, the two brothers sat face to face in the sofa area inside, very close to each other.

It was then that Chen Jiutian said, "This time, the President of the Greater China Region called a meeting with regional heads like myself."

A meeting, what kind of meeting? Did it need to be discussed so secretly?! Chen Jiuzheng was puzzled.

"There is no secret about the meeting itself. But I have a plan, and it is crucial for our Chen Family. We must seize this opportunity to profit from it!" Chen Jiutian lowered his voice, speaking gravely.

His eyes shone bright as torches!

To see his elder brother wear such an expression!

His brother was surely aiming for something significant! Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but be moved as well.

"Besides, the content of this meeting, if used correctly, could even make that bastard Bai Xiaosheng shift his position. It would be killing two birds with one stone! Once he no longer holds the post of General Manager of Zhongjing Media, we can solve him completely for a much smaller price," Chen Jiutian said with a sinister smile, showing his snow-white teeth.

He had thought of this on the way there and had already deduced all the details.

"What exactly is this meeting about?" Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but ask impatiently.

"This year, the corporate executives tried out a new talent selection and reservation system. Do you remember they made a selection not long ago? They chose from amongst the general managers of the subsidiaries for potential candidates, transferring them to compete for positions as regional industrial heads," Chen Jiutian explained.

Chen Jiuzheng was aware of this.

Song Changkong was deeply resentful, as he hadn't been chosen while his deputy was.

"It's a case of being the sole winner in a fierce competition. Succeed, and you leap over the dragon's gate to become a regional industrial head. Fail, and there are two possibilities: either a lateral move to another subsidiary as the deputy or general manager, or you attend refresher courses as a reserve talent or go to the Affairs Division," Chen Jiutian said, "And now, another round of selection is coming. However, this time it's different, as recommendations come from those at our level, with each of us having two nominations!"

"So you're saying, within the Greater China Region, there will be over thirty people recommended this time?" Chen Jiuzheng said.

He knew the corporation had seven major divisions in the country, and the Greater China Region didn't just cover the mainland.

"Your intention is to recommend Bai Xiaosheng, isn't it?!" Chen Jiuzheng understood.

If Bai Xiaosheng failed, he would be moved to another company.

After all, if all of Anjiang Province's industries were in his hands, a lateral move would mean bringing Bai Xiaosheng into our fold, wouldn't it!

"It's not that simple!" Chen Jiutian snorted coldly, "This second round of selections is different from the first; it's not just about being chosen and then transferred. It involves an evaluation at the current post. However, those who make it to the final round will have to step down from their posts regardless of the outcome. So we must ensure Bai Xiaosheng gets selected but also prevent him from becoming the final winner, for that position is reserved for our own Chen Family!"

"You want our family member to become the final winner of this second selection wave!" Chen Jiuzheng exclaimed, raising his voice in shock.

He immediately quieted down after he startled himself!

Chen Jiutian nodded slightly.

The final victor is only one. That person will become the new regional industrial head or a Senior Affairs Officer!

"Isn't the corporation afraid of regional heads promoting their own people?" Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but ask.

While this would mean the Chen Family would gain a regional industrial head, extending their territory, the corporation wouldn't be easily fooled.

"Do you think an 'open book exam' is simple? The recommenders will also be extremely cautious, not daring to overstep the mark. The corporation will surely conduct a stringent investigation!" Chen Jiutian chuckled, "But thankfully, over ten years ago, our Chen Family laid the groundwork. Not everyone in the Chen Family has the surname Chen! They won't be able to find out!"

"Are you suggesting that we let 'that enterprise' of ours, that person, participate?" Chen Jiuzheng's expression changed, "But, that company isn't in the corporate system!"

That was stating the obvious. Over the years, the brothers had exhausted their wits, investing personnel, resources, and money to support it in secret, plotting a future for their own family; of course, it wouldn't be within the corporate system.

That was the culmination of their brotherly efforts over more than a decade!

And the person at the helm of that company was a true maverick!

Chapter 588 Deciding to Visit the Set_1

"Isn't this playing it a bit too big!" Chen Jiuzheng swallowed hard as he listened to his older brother's plan.

He felt a sense of trepidation.

"If we want the Chen Family to climb to the next level, we have to be bold and brave enough to gamble! If we succeed, our future will be infinitely bright, unshakeable for a century, maybe even reaching the level of Lu Yun from the Tengyun Group!" Chen Jiutian's eyes shone brightly.

He was a highly ambitious man.

"Even if we fail, so what? Who knows he's related to the Chen Family? Will he tell, or will you or I?" Chen Jiutian said with a smile.

Of course, that person wouldn't tell!

Even though he didn't carry the Chen surname, he was truly of Chen Family blood and would not betray his own.

Chen Jiuzheng nodded his head.

Still, Chen Jiuzheng felt some difficulty, "To get him into the corporate system, to be recommended by you without raising suspicions, that won't be easy. The real issue is how to bring him in. He already has a renowned reputation and is the helmsman of a major local enterprise. Just casually 'poaching' him, wouldn't the group be suspicious?"

Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but worry.

"Who said we are going to 'poach' someone over." Chen Jiutian chuckled, "I'm going to buy the whole company!"

This statement startled Chen Jiuzheng.

"Brother, have you lost your mind! That's our own company!" Chen Jiuzheng exclaimed.

Wasn't this bet too big?

Ten years of hard work, extreme caution, the resources and money siphoned from the group, now to be returned to the group!

"What are you getting all worked up for!" Chen Jiutian frowned and chastised his brother.

His own younger brother was already responsible for the provincial industry, yet he still couldn't remain composed.

"I said I'd buy the company, but only the empty shell of the parent company. Its operations have already expanded; we can shed those. But we can't make it look too obvious, as someone might notice. We still have to sacrifice some benefits. As long as it's managed well, there won't be a problem. We are experts at this kind of thing, and that person is an even greater expert!" Chen Jiutian beamed, "You can rest assured when he's handling it!"

Only then did Chen Jiuzheng heave a sigh of relief and smiled, "So that's the plan, good, very good!"

The two brothers talked for a long time.

Over the following days, Chen Jiutian stayed at Chen Jiuzheng's house, fleshing out the plan in detail.

The Chen Brothers planned to recommend Bai Xiaosheng to elevate his standing.

Meanwhile, Bai Xiaosheng himself was completely unaware.

In fact, he had also been busy these past few days.

Busy!

The news of Zhongjing Media successfully becoming a provincial benchmark enterprise spread like wildfire across the various leagues in Zhongjing City these past two days.

Bai Xiaosheng's visitors were endless these past few days.

Heads of major enterprises and family patriarchs congratulated him one after another.

Even so, Ji Mingyang thought he wasn't busy enough and ostentatiously organized a Media Alliance listing ceremony, extending his congratulations to Bai Xiaosheng in front of everyone.

Seeing the mayor taking such a stance, the wealthy and powerful in Zhongjing held Bai Xiaosheng in even greater esteem.

Now, Bai Xiaosheng had invitations and banquets morning, noon, and night.

After days like this, he too was exasperated.

Finally, one day, Bai Xiaosheng called Lin Weiwei over.

"Weiwei, contact the film crew for me, book the tickets for tomorrow, we're going to visit the set!"

Bai Xiaosheng had decided to "hide away for a couple of days"!

"Ah, am I going too?" Lin Weiwei was startled, then she jumped for joy, "Great, I'll get on it right away!"

Watching the girl's bustling figure as she hurried away, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but rub his nose.

Why do I feel so guilty as a leader, just going to visit the set and relax for two days? Look how happy it makes this girl.

Now that a major event has been resolved and, more importantly, the points are in hand, Bai Xiaosheng feels relaxed from head to toe.

Thinking about it, he has been in Zhongjing for almost half a year.

In these six months, many things have happened, he has met many people, and he has risen from the position of deputy general manager to that of general manager.

Yesterday, Red Lotus added another five points to his score.

His current score is seventy-five points at the general manager level, twenty-five points away from being promoted to the provincial industry head. Just one fourth more points, and he'll reach the next level.

"If points are added at this rate, ideally, it would take no more than two or three months to level up!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed inwardly, "But it probably won't be that simple!"

The five points that Red Lotus gave him yesterday actually came from four different systems and the patent achievements from Europe. After all the calculations, that's all the points he got!

Since yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng has been feeling that something was not quite right.

According to the usual upgrading practice, at this stage, the points would typically be cut in half, or even reduced to a third.

And shouldn't a new task be released at this stage as well?

"Red Lotus, where's my upgrade task?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but murmur.

"Master, please be patient." The voice of Red Lotus, sweet and pleasant, "The task is being generated..."

So this thing also generates in real-time.

Bai Xiaosheng recalled the previous upgrade processes; they were always triggered by some significant events.

"Do I have to stir up some trouble myself to provoke a reaction?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but scratch his face.

There's no use in just thinking about it, so Bai Xiaosheng simply decides not to dwell on it anymore.

Lin Weiwei moves quickly and upon returning, her face is full of glee.

"All set! We have tickets for the high-speed rail tomorrow morning at ten, business class. It will take six hours in total," Lin Weiwei reports to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Good." Bai Xiaosheng smiles.

Linshen City, a first-tier city.

Bai Xiaosheng had long heard of it, and now that he is about to go there, he's somewhat anticipant.

Aside from personal items, Weiwei will handle everything else for the trip, so he needn't worry.

As for work-related matters, Bai Xiaosheng called over Song Yiming, Song Jiajia, and Lei Ying to make arrangements.

Seeing their slightly resentful little eyes, Bai Xiaosheng quickly promises that the next trip to visit the set will be their turn.

Only then do they cheer up.

Being a leader is exhausting, Bai Xiaosheng inwardly sighs.

Just as Bai Xiaosheng plans to visit the set and take a vacation, in Langbei City, Mu Beichen of Tianzheng Media can't afford to rest at all.

Because a messenger has arrived.

The two hold a conversation behind closed doors, the content of which is unknown to outsiders.

After the messenger leaves, Liu Yue comes to see Mu Beichen and brings him a document.

"President Mu, the secretariat asked me to deliver this. According to what you said, Bai Xiaosheng will definitely refuse our entry into the Zhongjing Media Alliance, so we can't attack Zhongjing through that avenue. The secretariat has developed a few plans for our consideration. Let's see where we can make a breakthrough! Once the direction is clear, they will rush out a detailed plan as soon as possible!" Liu Yue says.

If they can take over the Zhongjing market, Tianzheng Media will be able to gallop through Anjiang and vie for an even larger market.

Mu Beichen looks calmly at the document on the desk and picks it up without expression.

Without even looking, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, Mu Beichen tears the document into pieces right in front of her.

Liu Yue is dumbfounded.

"No need," Mu Beichen says with a faint smile, "We don't need it anymore!"

Chapter 589: Encounter with a Foodie_1

Zhongjing City high-speed train station.

Although the station wasn't as brand-new as the one in Lin City's Tianhe City, it looked more solid and had a very special architectural design.

When Bai Xiaosheng first arrived at the outer square, he even took a moment to admire it, and from the details of the square, he sensed something familiar.

After checking, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh wryly.

This was, after all, designed by Master Song Kai five years ago!

Speaking of Master Song Kai, Bai Xiaosheng still kept in close contact with the old master.

Sometimes, they even discussed architecture on WeChat.

"Thinking about it, it's been half a year since I saw that old man. I must visit him in Tiannan when I get the chance," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

In reality, Master Song Kai just had a house in Tiannan; it wasn't guaranteed he'd actually be in that city. The old man was still flying around everywhere, energetically keeping busy—not for money, but for a hobby, a pursuit.

Bai Xiaosheng admired this very much.

For this trip, Bai Xiaosheng only brought a super small suitcase, packing some clothes, underwear, and toiletries.

For a man, it's best to carry as little as possible when traveling, ideally with empty hands for ease of movement.

However, since he would be staying for a few days, Bai Xiaosheng had to make some preparations.

Seeing Lin Weiwei, Bai Xiaosheng felt that what he brought was almost the same as bringing nothing. Her large suitcase could fit three of his, and besides, she also had a uniquely designed carry-on and a handbag.

"My goodness, what's all this you've brought?" Bai Xiaosheng walked over to help and asked casually.

"Not much," Lin Weiwei grumbled. "The trip is only for a few days, so I packed light as well."

As she said this, she gave Bai Xiaosheng a brilliant smile.

Packing light...

Bai Xiaosheng found himself speechless.

They say that a woman's journey equates to moving house.

Apparently, it's true...

The two smoothly went through the station, the security check, and boarded the train, entering the business class carriage.

The high-speed train's business class cabin was spacious, with only eight rows of seats, three in each row.

The windows were large and clean, offering an expansive view.

The seats were like sofas, and some passengers stretched them into sleeper seats to rest on, looking very comfortable.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng noticed that passengers who knew each other in adjacent rows could even adjust their seats to face each other.

"Looks like it's a new type of carriage," Bai Xiaosheng noted.

After they entered, someone glanced at them with a detached scrutiny in their eyes.

Those seated were all successful business figures, many of whom were still working on their laptops or phones on the train.

To these people, a young man like Bai Xiaosheng didn't seem like any important boss. A salaried worker wouldn't choose to sit in such a business cabin, and since he was traveling with a beautiful woman who seemed quite submissive, that would put him in the category of a prodigal son.

Some looked at them with a faint disdain in their eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind the gaze of others and found his seat smoothly, sitting down.

Lin Weiwei was beside him.

In the two seats in front of them, there sat a young couple, about their age.

The girl had delicate features and very fair skin, dressed in simple yet clearly expensive clothing. Just her latest-model phone in her hand was worth over eight thousand, and the shoulder bag she was carrying was Chanel's newest. At a glance, she was obviously wealthy.

The girl was busy taking various selfies.

The man beside her was strikingly handsome and had an air of sophistication; the clothes he was wearing were also expensive designer brands.

At the moment, a pair of smiling eyes were fixed on the girl, filled with a look of admiration.

Bai Xiaosheng noticed them.

The reason was simple, their row and the one next to his each had a single seat, and in them, a man and a woman sat behind one another. Those two kept their eyes on the fashionable and affluent couple constantly, making sure whether they had any needs.

Attendants?

Bai Xiaosheng figured it out, the man and woman beside them were the attendants for the two seated in front of them.

Look at that, the real second-generation rich folks, Bai Xiaosheng reflected.

"Xiaosheng, I'm going to get some hot water," Lin Weiwei said as she got up.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, and Lin Weiwei stood up with her large cup and left.

In the row in front, the couple was conversing.

"Xiaoya, what's so good about Zhongjing? It's just a small place. It can't even compare to our Linshen, and there's nothing interesting here. Why not, after we get back, I take you to my family's villa in the Maldives?" the man in the front row said, laughing.

There wasn't a hint of showing off in his words, as the girl's family was not less wealthy than his.

"No way!" The girl switched positions to take a selfie, decisively refusing, and huffed, "Zhang Tianze, do you need to dictate where Chen Xiaoya goes to play? I just like Zhongjing, I like the delicacies here. Does the Maldives have the pastries from Zhongjing Baiwei Residence, the sauce meat from Qingfeng Residence, or the candied fruits and nuts from Fuyun Number! I don't like lobsters and seafood; I like these!"

Turns out this lady was a foodie.

Bai Xiaosheng overheard this and immediately couldn't help but chuckle.

"Okay, okay, Xiaoya, as long as you're happy," the man named Zhang Tianze said with a smile, amiably coaxing her.

"Speaking of which, I'm hungry again! But all those snacks we bought were sent back to Linshen by your people in advance! And I want to eat them now!" Chen Xiaoya said, somewhat displeased. "It's all your fault, whetting my appetite."

Zhang Tianze was startled for a moment and couldn't help but laugh and cry.

Now, where could he get those snacks for her at this moment?

"But, since we didn't bring any... Xiaoya, can you wait a bit? It's only a few hours until we reach Linshen..." Zhang Tianze stammered, trying to persuade her.

"I don't think I can hold on," Chen Xiaoya muttered.

"How about I have someone buy them now? There should be some in the station store," Zhang Tianze said, coaxing her as he pointed to the opposite side of the aisle where a man was sitting in another single seat, "He Yitao, go down now and buy those snacks for Miss Chen!"

When Zhang Tianze spoke to Chen Xiaoya, his tone was incredibly gentle, coaxing without the slightest hint of defiance. However, when talking to his attendant, it was a cold and emotionless order.

"Yes, young master!" The man named He Yitao immediately bounced to his feet, ready to act.

However, the train started moving.

He Yitao's face turned bitter, and he looked helplessly at his young master. Zhang Tianze was also startled, then chuckled apologetically, stammering to Chen Xiaoya, "Xiaoya, you see..."

Chen Xiaoya, like a spoiled child, snorted and turned her face away, ignoring Zhang Tianze.

Zhang Tianze had no choice but to smile wryly.

"Miss, I still have some hawthorn candy..." Chen Xiaoya's attendant said timidly from the single seat in their row.

It wasn't that all the local products were sent back. In fact, she had always kept a portion for her mistress. However, from the evening before to now, the mistress had eaten all of them, including the hawthorn candy, with only a little left.

Speaking of their mistress, she really was favored by the gods, obviously a little gourmet, yet no matter how much she ate, she never gained weight...

...

While those people talked, Bai Xiaosheng overheard a few of their words, then took out his phone and started to look at it.

Lin Weiwei returned, gave Bai Xiaosheng a sweet smile, handed him a cup of tea, then neatly arranged the small table, and took out a dainty box from her purse, "Xiaosheng, are you hungry? Have some pastries. They are some very famous snacks from Zhongjing."

Lin Weiwei said this as she opened the lid, took a whiff, and smiled, "Mmm! So fragrant!"

Chapter 590: I Have Enough Money, But I'm Not Selling_1

This time when he left home, Bai Xiaosheng saw that Lin Weiwei not only brought a 29-inch large suitcase and a handbag but also carried a uniquely shaped small case.

Bai Xiaosheng had always thought it contained some personal belongings.

It was only when Lin Weiwei opened it that he was shocked to discover.

This was a food container!

Inside, neatly arranged, were four huge transparent meal boxes.

Now, as Lin Weiwei opened each box and laid them out on the small table, Bai Xiaosheng was dumbfounded.

He had visited Zhongjing twice, once following Yang Qian'er and another with Mo Xin.

Enjoying the scenery and exploring famous attractions naturally involved these snacks and delicacies.

Especially during the trip with Mo Xin, Bai Xiaosheng, using the guide provided by Red Lotus, had become quite the expert, and now with a glance, he could identify them all without mistake—Baiwei Residence's pastries, Qingfeng Residence's preserved meats, Fuyun Number's dried fruits and candied snacks, and the street food from Sifeng Street!

All of them!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but marvel.

Lin Weiwei had nearly gathered all of "Zhongjing's Four Great Delicacies," and judging by the variety within, they were all the specialty of each house!

"Impressive!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but give Lin Weiwei a thumbs up.

Receiving Bai Xiaosheng's praise, Lin Weiwei also felt delightfully pleased.

Their actions, along with the wafting aroma, immediately caught the attention of Zhang Tianze and Chen Xiaoya ahead of them.

Zhang Tianze was first captivated by Lin Weiwei.

Lin Weiwei's beauty stood out among women, though it wasn't breath-taking.

However, she possessed a kind of unique classical charm, gentle and pleasant, especially when she smiled, that warm and buttery sensation, striking wave after wave, proving irresistible.

Her figure, a bit more and she would seem plump, a bit less and she would seem thin, was just right.

Such a beauty, also sharpened by the corporate world, carried a sense of confidence and poise, adding to her allure.

The fact that Chen Changqing was attracted to Lin Weiwei and directly approached Bai Xiaosheng for an introduction was not without reason.

Zhang Tianze, a man of vast experiences, was hooked at first sight and found it difficult to shift his gaze momentarily.

However, the gentleness and smiles were reserved solely for the man beside her—the black-haired, black-eyed guy who appeared plain and unremarkable at first glance—making Zhang Tianze feel a bit envious.

"Wow, wow! So many snacks!" Chen Xiaoya couldn't help but her eyes light up.

Her exclamation brought Zhang Tianze back to reality; he quickly averted his gaze from Lin Weiwei, afraid that Chen Xiaoya would notice.

Though beauty was tempting, he was pursuing Chen Xiaoya for her background.

Moreover, purely in terms of looks, Chen Xiaoya was not inferior to Lin Weiwei, perhaps even surpassing her slightly. It was only in terms of temperament that there was a significant difference.

"Xiaoya, would you like some?" Zhang Tianze asked softly with a smile.

It was time for him to shine!

"Mm," Chen Xiaoya immediately nodded.

Despite being a pampered rich girl and often acting like a proud princess, she was nonetheless a girl with deep family upbringing and manners, trying not to appear too forward and coyly glanced at Zhang Tianze.

Upon seeing this, Zhang Tianze felt his blood surge and promptly stood up, making his way to where Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were.

"Would you two mind sparing some of your food for me?"

Considering Lin Weiwei's presence, Zhang Tianze's demeanor was polite and exceedingly gentlemanly.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were just about to begin eating when suddenly, this man appeared out of nowhere, "asking for food"?

What situation is this, begging in business class...

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei were stunned.

However, looking at this impeccably dressed, humble, and polite man before them, he didn't seem to be that kind of person.

It was just some food, and anyway, they couldn't finish it all.

Bai Xiaosheng immediately smiled and gestured for her to help herself, "Don't be shy, take a few pieces and go."

Lin Weiwei also curiously widened her eyes, watching Zhang Tianze.

Like looking at a beggar...

Zhang Tianze blinked, then seemed somewhat speechless.

There must have been a problem with how I expressed myself! Take your sister's few pieces and walk away, what do you take me for!

Zhang Tianze saw a few business people nearby glancing over, he hurriedly waved his hand, "No, no!"

He took out his wallet, casually took out a thousand, and handed it to Bai Xiaosheng, "I'm buying! I want all of these, here's a thousand!"

All these snacks probably didn't even add up to three hundred, he figured a thousand should cover it all.

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback.

Buy? All of it?

How could that be possible, they hadn't even touched it, this was Lin Weiwei's kind gesture!

Besides, did he, Bai Xiaosheng, look like he was short of money?

"Not for sale." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, still quite polite, and pushed the other person's hand back.

Zhang Tianze thought the seller found the offer too low, he didn't waste words, he took out all the money from his wallet in one go, briefly looked at it and said, "I have about three thousand here, which is more than enough to buy ten times as much, that should do it, right?"

As Zhang Tianze's voice rose, the surrounding people looked up at him.

"Three thousand just to buy those snacks, rich people, I tell you."

"This deal is decent, kid, just accept it, you'll make a profit!"

"Heh, if only I'd known, I would've brought some snacks on board too, and could have even earned back my ticket money."

Some people couldn't help but joke about it.

"I'm sorry, sir, my snacks are not for sale, but if you'd like to eat, please feel free to take some," Lin Weiwei said as she looked at the money, her expression slightly frowned and her voice somewhat displeased.

Zhang Tianze looked at Bai Xiaosheng, who replied with just two words, "Not selling."

Chen Xiaoya glared at him resentfully and anxiously, her eyes clearly scornful, as if she thought he couldn't even handle this matter properly.

With money, I don't believe I can't buy things!

Zhang Tianze, somewhat annoyed, said, "Just tell me how much money you want, name your price. Ten thousand, twenty thousand, I'll give you fifty thousand, will that be enough?"

At his words, there was a buzz in the business class cabin.

Fifty thousand, just to get something to eat?

The people sitting behind even stood up to see what kind of extravagant and foolish person he was, and they wanted to see the man who refused to budge, to see what sort of person could make him offer such a price.

"The money is enough," Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

Zhang Tianze was delighted and was about to take some.

"But, I'm not selling!" Bai Xiaosheng was just as insistent, coldly refusing.

All of a sudden, Zhang Tianze stood there stunned. The people in the business class cabin let out a collective gasp, their gaze converging on Bai Xiaosheng.

Fifty thousand and still not selling a bite to eat?

Zhang Tianze watched as so many people looked over, unable to accomplish his task, and immediately felt like he was slapped in the face. He glared at Bai Xiaosheng before returning to his seat.

Chen Xiaoya gave him a resentful and dismissive glance, completely ignoring his innocent expression.

"Xiaosheng, come and have a piece of Qingfeng Residence's soy beef," Lin Weiwei said as she saw Zhang Tianze leave, disinterested in his episode, giggling as she picked up a piece of shiny, sauce-laden beef with her two slender, pale fingers to feed Bai Xiaosheng.

Seeing the domineering and severe girl by his side and the gentle, charming girl by the other man's side, Zhang Tianze almost felt like spewing fire from his eyes.

"Girl, stop right there, you're eating it wrong this time. That's not how you eat this meat!" Bai Xiaosheng quickly waved his hands.

Not this way? Lin Weiwei was startled.

Then how should it be eaten?