

Two Trillion 621

Chapter 621: That Kid, Do Not Provoke!_1

Zhang Tianze and his group arrived at the entrance of the alley but did not go in.

Because the person leading them would not allow it.

The leader was very tall and robust, with a standard square face, clear-cut features, a buzz cut, and hardly any gray hairs, looking quite young.

"Dad, is it here? We're not going in and just waiting here?" Zhang Tianze looked at the man with confusion.

That was his father, the Chairman of Qingbei Group—Zhang Heran.

"Wait!" Zhang Heran said just one word, seemingly not fond of talking.

In fact, he was famously taciturn.

But that single word was like an imperial edict.

Among those accompanying him, including Zhang Tianze, nobody dared to say even half a word more.

A group of people stood at the entrance of the alley, obediently waiting.

This time, they had come to ask for help. However, Zhang Tianze didn't know whom they were seeking help from, because his father hadn't said a single word to him about it.

Previously, Qingbei Group had experienced a series of unpleasant encounters with a major local enterprise. Initially, both parties were evenly matched, and even in a struggle, neither could gain the upper hand over the other. However, unexpectedly, that enterprise was soon acquired by a subsidiary of Zhenbei Group. The former CEO suddenly found a strong backer and began to retaliate in full force.

Although Qingbei Group was formidable, when compared to the resources of the Zhenbei side, it was obviously like using one's arm to stop a chariot.

Watching as various aspects were impacted,

Zhang Heran decided to communicate with Zhenbei Group's high-level executives in Linshen, hoping to stop the fighting.

Of course, the phrases 'keeping the peace' and 'ceasing the battle' were just euphemisms.

In reality, they were there to plead for the fighting to stop.

It was precisely because of this issue that Zhang Tianze, the young Director, deeply realized that their family, despite owning an entire movie city in Linshen, actually faced an insurmountable giant they could not contend with and even had to beg for mercy.

After waiting for a while, Zhang Tianze, unable to contain himself, grumbled, "Are you sure they are here? What if we're waiting for nothing..."

Zhang Heran glanced at his son and pointed to the side with his hand.

Zhang Tianze followed where his father was pointing and saw a black Rolls-Royce Phantom. Its body was longer than any he had seen before; it was a stretched custom version.

Could that be the car of the person they were waiting for?

Zhang Tianze couldn't help but be astonished.

Zhang Heran knew far more than his son; he was looking at the license plates.

Ensuring there was no danger.

As they waited, a familiar figure appeared from the depths of the alley, causing Zhang Tianze who was peering out and looking around to suddenly widen his eyes in surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng!

Seeing that person, seeing that face, Zhang Tianze became as agitated as a fighting cock, his eyes bulging.

This man held his secret, crashed his party, and forced him to down a full glass of strong liquor, leaving him in a drunken stupor for a day.

Furthermore, Chen Xiaoya, that girl, had been running off to the film set all the time lately, even ignoring his own invitations!

What was even more infuriating was that in the last couple of days, the incident of Bai Xiaosheng forcing him to drink had somehow been spread by some bastard. Now, in the circles of Linshen's wealthy youth, he, Zhang Tianze, had become a laughingstock!

Zhang Tianze was furious.

He had wanted to make trouble on the film set, but he was wary of throwing caution to the wind, afraid that Bai Xiaosheng would reveal his secret and concerned that Chen Xiaoya would be unhappy.

Now and then, all he was left with was seething anger.

He had found out that the film set was also part of a company under Zhenbei Group, but that company wasn't located in Linshen.

Bai Xiaosheng, even if he was from Zhenbei, did not make him too wary.

This time, his old man had to submit because there were reasons, their long-standing enemy was formidable, and with the various advantages of leveraging the Zhenbei Group to apply pressure, they could only avoid conflict for the time being.

Of course, this doesn't mean that they have to be scared shitless by anyone from Zhenbei.

Otherwise, how would they continue to get by in the future!

So, deep down, Zhang Tianze didn't fear Bai Xiaosheng's identity at all.

Moreover, the kid was so young, how significant could his position or background be!

That's what Zhang Tianze thought.

Seeing his enemy, Zhang Tianze felt an itching rage in his teeth. But Bai Xiaosheng didn't seem to notice him and was chatting with the person beside him instead.

Due to the angle, Zhang Tianze wasn't able to see clearly what the person next to Bai Xiaosheng looked like.

After glaring at Bai Xiaosheng fiercely, Zhang Tianze turned to his father and said, "Dad, look, it's him, the one who humiliated me by showing up at our door and even caused Xiaoya to drift away from me!"

Zhang Tianze's words made Zhang Heran frown slightly.

Especially when Chen Xiaoya was mentioned, Zhang Heran's gaze became even more piercing, as he had always been contemplating a marriage alliance with the Linshen Chen Family.

No one was allowed to sabotage it!

"You tolerated someone humiliating you at your doorstep? Can't you handle such a small matter! Now you're complaining to me, do you think you're still a child!" Zhang Heran snorted coldly, this time not sparing his words but scolding his son.

Zhang Tianze forced a smile and grievously whispered, "Dad, you don't understand, the kid can fight, and he also... also knows about me and the model, I couldn't let it blow up in front of Xiaoya, so, so I didn't act."

"But now that I see him, I can't let him get away! Lend me your bodyguards, I promise to sort him out, make sure he won't dare step into Linshen again!" Zhang Tianze confidently said, "And, there's no way he's getting another chance to see Xiaoya!"

Zhang Heran's bodyguards, two Chinese-looking brawny men, had served in the foreign legion, experienced as special forces, were top-notch in combat. Taking down someone like Leopard was just a matter of moments.

Therefore, Zhang Tianze was absolutely confident.

Zhang Heran nodded slightly and said only four words, "Not here."

Seeing his father's approval, Zhang Tianze immediately became ecstatic, ready to signal the men to come over, drag the Bai surnamed from the alley, and take him somewhere secluded to deal with, to settle the grudge of being forced to drink that day!

In the alley, Bai Xiaosheng, oblivious to the danger outside, continued chatting with Elder Xia.

An old man and a young man, like friends who transcend age.

Zhang Tianze was about to enter the alley with the bodyguards when Zhang Heran suddenly noticed Elder Xia.

In the span of a few breaths, his expression changed dramatically.

Watching Bai Xiaosheng chatting and laughing with Elder Xia, Zhang Heran's pupils shrank suddenly.

"Stand down!" Zhang Heran urgently whispered, abruptly halting Zhang Tianze and the bodyguards.

The three looked at him in confusion.

Without another word, Zhang Heran took off, "Follow me!"

When Director Zhang spoke, no one dared to object, the two bodyguards quickly followed him, and others followed as well.

Zhang Tianze was stunned for a second, and after receiving a glance from the elder, he got scared and hurriedly followed.

"Dad, what's going on?" Zhang Tianze was bewildered.

Zhang Heran was silent, walking hastily, leading them to another alley to hide, then he alone stood at the entrance of the alley peering out.

This left Zhang Tianze and the others dumbfounded and speechless.

Sometime later, Bai Xiaosheng and Elder Xia came out of the front alley, chatting and laughing.

Having glanced at them, Zhang Heran immediately retracted his head, his gaze complex as he looked at Zhang Tianze.

"Son, this grudge of yours... you might not be able to settle it. That kid is untouchable!"

Chapter 622: The Important Person "Prince" _1

Elder Xia escorted Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei to the entrance of the alleyway.

"You can stop here, we can walk the rest of the way," Bai Xiaosheng said to him with a smile.

"My car is right here. Where do you want to go? I can have someone take you there," Elder Xia still insisted warmly.

"No need, we want to stroll around a bit more before heading to the station," Bai Xiaosheng tactfully declined.

Lin Weiwei also smiled, "Yeah, we prefer walking on our own, it's more comfortable. Uncle, if you drive us, it would feel like you're hurrying us to quickly leave Linshen."

With that, Elder Xia laughed heartily but did not persist.

"Well then, this is where we part. But I feel we will meet again in the not so distant future," Elder Xia said with a smile that hinted at something deeper.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled without saying a word.

Lin Weiwei joked with a smile, "Then next time we meet, Uncle, you'd better have recovered from your illness, and you can't forget my Xiaosheng. You'll have to treat us to a meal!"

"Haha, of course!" Elder Xia laughed heartily.

Afterward, they said their goodbyes.

Bai Xiaosheng led Lin Weiwei back the way they came, passing through the streets and into the alley they had come from.

A few minutes later, when Lin Weiwei looked back, she could no longer see the alley where they had parted, nor the quite amusing Elder Xia.

"What an interesting old man!" Lin Weiwei said with a smile to Bai Xiaosheng, "He seems so ordinary at first glance, nothing special, but he has a sense of humor that makes him likable."

"Ordinary?" Bai Xiaosheng said with a meaningful smile, turning his head to glance in that direction.

Even though he couldn't see anyone, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "Weiwei, he is anything but ordinary!"

Hmm?

Lin Weiwei was startled and curiously asked, "What's so extraordinary about him?"

This girl is usually so sharp, but now she seemed a bit silly.

"His dress, speech, and manners, are all out of the ordinary!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Especially when that rock fell and almost hurt him, didn't you see the seven or eight people who stood up on both sides, berating the kids on the wall? Those seven or eight people must have been with him!"

Lin Weiwei was taken aback.

Thinking back, she remembered the tense expressions of those people, and how they dispersed with just a casual word from the old man.

It struck her as unusual.

"Could it be that we helped a very important person?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but say.

Bai Xiaosheng just shrugged, smiling indifferently.

Important person or not, he wasn't really looking for a reward.

Lin Weiwei also laughed.

Her Xiaosheng had never decided whether to save someone based on their status.

Desirelessness is firmness.

Whether Elder Xia is ordinary or extraordinary, it made no difference to them.

As Bai Xiaosheng walked away, she quickly caught up to him, asking, "So, where are we going to have fun now?"

...

Elder Xia watched as Bai Xiaosheng and his companion walked away until they were out of sight, still with a smile on his face.

"Who would have thought, this Bai Xiaosheng, so talented, so interesting!" Elder Xia murmured.

If Lin Weiwei were there, she would have been surprised.

They had never mentioned Bai Xiaosheng's full name to Elder Xia, and she had only called him Xiaosheng.

Yet, Elder Xia knew Bai Xiaosheng's last name was Bai.

"I have reviewed the profiles of thirty candidates, and this young man is particularly special. In just six months, he rose from deputy general manager of a direct subsidiary to general manager, quite impressive!"

"The key is that the appointment came from within the Group, no simple feat!"

"I'm also lucky to have been curious and remembered his appearance, to think I would bump into him here, talk about fate..."

Elder Xia sighed for a while, then muttered in a barely audible voice, "He saved my life, makes me almost want to give him a pass."

"But...it's not right, I should be impartial..."

"Hehe, let's see how far this youngster can go!"

Elder Xia mumbled to himself.

From the alley, a group of men and women emerged, and after coming out, they quietly stood behind the old gentleman.

They were the same people who had been sitting along the roadside eating.

Someone stepped forward, "Mr. Xia, about that wooden board engraved with ou-kai calligraphy, do you think, perhaps we should take it back..."

Elder Xia had a fondness for calligraphy.

This meal was also because of that.

"No need, let the restaurant keep it," Elder Xia smiled lightly, pulling out a sticky note from his pocket, covered in tiny, fine script.

"With this, I have enough!" The old man admired the small characters on it, finding more to like the longer he looked.

"Oh, right, the piece of bluestone he wrote on the ground, dig it out for me, I want to take it with me!" Elder Xia muttered.

He really couldn't bear to leave a single word behind.

"Yes."

The person who had stepped forward immediately retreated to take care of this matter.

"All right, we've eaten, and unexpectedly met an interesting young fellow, and even acquired some excellent calligraphy—it was a trip worthwhile! Let's head back," Elder Xia said, hands behind his back, as he turned to walk towards his vehicle.

That custom extended Rolls-Royce Phantom.

Everyone followed.

"Prince, please wait a moment!"

Just as Elder Xia reached his car, someone nearby called out loudly.

He looked over, puzzled, to see a group of people hastily approaching.

The one leading the group, with a broad smile across his face, was none other than Zhang Heran.

Zhang Heran's Zhang Family were no small name in Linshen.

Xiahou Qi naturally recognized him.

"Oh, it's Mr. Zhang! What brings you here, you came for a meal too?" Xiahou Qi asked with a smile.

Of course not!

The old restaurant in this alley served unparalleled food, but it was not something everyone could appreciate.

Some people preferred dining in lavish environments with a band at their disposal, cutting into a rare piece of meat with a knife and fork, considering that to be more stylish.

"Prince, I already had my meal. This time, I came specifically to see you," Zhang Heran said with an earnest smile, his tone as if he had become a different person entirely, without the usual brevity in his words.

"Is that so." Xiahou Qi nodded, "Then, let's talk in the car."

As he spoke, someone opened the car door, and the old gentleman got in.

Zhang Heran hurried to the side of the car door, personally shielding the car roof with his hand to prevent Xiahou Qi from bumping his head.

Only after Xiahou Qi got into the car and settled down did he follow suit.

The car door closed.

The two extended Rolls-Royce became a soundproof reception room.

The others waited outside, waiting for the conversation to end.

Zhang Tianze watched everything with a curious eye, the car, the accompanying personnel.

Just who was this old man, to make his own father so deferential!

He had never seen his father with such an attitude before!

Of course, Zhang Heran seldom took him to meet people of this stature.

"Also, why did my dad sternly warn me not to trouble someone with the surname Bai, even asking me to steer clear of him in the future. It must be because of this old man, too!" Zhang Tianze thought to himself.

Zhang Tianze was not someone oblivious to the depths and heights of society.

After feeling slightly irritated, he decided to heed his father's advice and avoid provoking that Bai in the future.

After all, he's in Zhongjing! The chances of us meeting are almost as good as none! Zhang Tianze reassured himself internally.

The conversation in the car continued for half an hour, after which Zhang Heran got out, his expression respectful yet smiling.

It seemed the talk went well.

The Zhang Family people stood with their hands at their sides, watching as Xiahou Qi and the others' cars drove away.

"Dad, what's his background exactly?" Zhang Tian pressed forward, asking his father.

Zhang Heran dismissed those around him and spoke to his son in a lowered voice.

"This Mr. Xiahou Qi, everyone has given him a respectful title—'Prince.' He has many identities, but the most crucial one is..." Zhang Heran looked towards the direction where the cars had disappeared, his voice filled with reverence.

"President of Zhenbei Group in the Greater China Region!"

Chapter 623 Unscheduled Training Camp Location_1

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei left the deep alley and wandered around before noticing it was nearly time, so they hailed a cab to the high-speed train station.

Outside the train station, they found the crew's car, and the driver helped them check in their belongings.

Afterward, the two smoothly boarded the high-speed train headed back to Zhongjing.

The train, departing at five in the afternoon, took a six-hour journey, and by eleven at night, the pair arrived in Zhongjing.

Since Lin Weiwei had given advance notice, as soon as they exited the station, Feng and Lei Ying were there to receive them.

They took Bai Xiaosheng to his residence.

Bai Xiaosheng looked through the car window at the night view outside.

Under the night sky, Zhongjing's lights were brilliant, incomparably beautiful.

"I've only been back in Zhongjing for half a year, and in a few months, I'll have to leave again. Maybe by the time I return, even my hometown will be unrecognizable," Bai Xiaosheng felt a pang of emotion.

However much he might reflect, his steps forward would not halt!

Feng and the others took Bai Xiaosheng to the apartment-style hotel he was staying at, without unloading the local products from the car.

Some of these items were meant for colleagues at the company, some were to be sent back to the Bai Family.

Of course, Lin Weiwei would take care of everything, leaving Bai Xiaosheng with no worries.

Bai Xiaosheng returned to his room, took a hot shower, donned a comfortable bathrobe, and then opened his laptop to check his mailbox.

Indeed, there was a document in there!

He had been notified over the phone by the administrative department while in Linshen.

This document was the official notification!

It contained all the information about the personnel selection within the Greater China Region.

Bai Xiaosheng read carefully, calm and composed.

"There's actually a training camp?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh in surprise when he saw this content.

It must be said, the group really knew how to play...

They actually wanted them to return to the classroom to relive the sensation of their student days...

"Perhaps, this is just a formality, a chance for these thirty general managers to meet and interact," Bai Xiaosheng mused, "Well, I should take a good look at how formidable my competitors are when the time comes!"

According to the notice, the training camp's first "class" was set to begin in a week.

However, there was a time for the start of classes, but no location specified.

The notice simply said with four words: "to be announced."

"The location hasn't been determined yet?" Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

This notice was written by the Greater China Region's administrative department. However, it clearly pointed out that all matters regarding this selection were decided by the president of the Greater China Region alone, with the administrative department only offering assistance.

Could it be that the president hadn't yet decided where to hold the classes?

Bai Xiaosheng wondered to himself.

It was a bit absurd; even if a company held any event, the planning case should be prepared in advance in detail, with a clear outline of the time, place, procedure, and segments.

"How could such a big event be unplanned," Bai Xiaosheng shook his head and chuckled, dismissing the thought.

That was the president of the Greater China Region after all, certainly not so unreliable!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but construct the image of that distinguished person in his mind—serious, authoritative, meticulous, imposing...

At this very moment.

In Linshen, inside a villa.

Xiahou Qi sneezed several times in a row, rubbed his nose, and muttered, "Who's the little bastard cursing me behind my back, hmm, rebound!"

As he spoke, the old man looked at the piece of paper written by Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes shining as he praised it with a tsk tsk.

Not satisfied with just looking, he couldn't resist using his fingers to trace in the air, imitating Bai Xiaosheng's writing.

"This kid really does write a fine hand!"

Xiahou Qi liked it more and more as he watched, "After this selection is over, no matter the result, I have to call him over, along with a few old pals, to take a look at this calligraphy! It's really good!"

Xiahou Qi was talking to himself when suddenly a burst of music sounded.

A servant hurried over with a cell phone, "Master, your phone."

"Hmm."

Xiahou Qi nodded, took the phone, and after connecting, chatted and laughed for a while. As the conversation went on, it seemed to touch upon the process and content of this talent selection.

"In my place, there is no set process, no fixed content. Heh heh, nobody is going to be able to prepare in advance. Just think about it, those regional managers, every single one of them is extremely shrewd, but this time I've left them with no clues! What do you call this, 'an unorthodox move outwits the traditional'?"

Elder Xia chuckled mischievously.

By the end of the conversation, the elder hung up the phone and suddenly frowned, lifting his nose to sniff, "What is that smell, so pungent, so strange!"

"Elder Xia, it's time to take your medicine."

An amiable old lady, accompanied by two servants, walked in; she was Xiahou Qi's wife.

The two attendants each held something: one a wooden basin with foot-soaking water mixed with vinegar and strong liquor, and the other a bowl filled with a rich medicinal decoction.

This was medicine prescribed by Bai Xiaosheng.

Xiahou Qi had brought back the prescription, and it was his wife's responsibility to prepare it for him.

The old lady quite trusted traditional Chinese medicine.

"I kind of don't want to drink it now..." Xiahou Qi muttered.

His kind-eyed wife handed him the bowl with a smile, "Drink!"

Xiahou Qi grimaced, picked up the bowl, and drained it in one gulp, only to let out a scream like a butchered pig, "This is so bitter!"

Right after, he yelled again, "Bai Xiaosheng, you bastard!"

"Endure it," his wife said with a teasing smile.

Then it was time for the foot soak.

This time, Xiahou Qi began to groan in another manner.

"What's wrong now?" his wife exclaimed in alarm.

"It's soothing." This time, Xiahou Qi said with satisfaction.

Bai Xiaosheng in Zhongjing, of course, didn't witness this scene, full of both tears and laughter, and would never have thought, even in his dying moments, that the image of the CEO of the Greater China Region he had constructed bore not the slightest semblance to the reality.

Bai Xiaosheng continued to read the notice, puzzled by the lack of assessment content and procedures, even suspecting that the document was incomplete.

What it contained was only a description of the selection period.

"The assessment will last three months, with one stage per month, employing an elimination system, and the ultimate winner will be... one person! Who will directly be promoted!"

As he read this, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled.

While a one in thirty chance didn't seem low, his competitors were all individuals approved by regional managers, no simple opponents!

One could imagine how fierce the competition would be!

"I can almost smell the gunpowder!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

Afterward, he laughed and said to himself, "And I feel a bit of a rush of blood to the head!"

He was the kind that thrived under pressure, naturally unafraid of a challenge!

Bai Xiaosheng read the notice thoroughly, closed the document, shut down the computer, stood up, poured himself a glass of milk, and began to drink slowly.

The contents were now completely imprinted in his mind, though there wasn't much useful information.

"It seems, to learn more, I'll have to wait a week and join the training camp," Bai Xiaosheng didn't ponder further and returned to his bedroom.

It was getting late, and he was starting to feel tired.

Chapter 624 They Are Actually Brothers!_1

The day after returning to Zhongjing, Bai Xiaosheng went to work as usual.

Now, Zhongjing Media was like a machine running at high speed.

Since Bai Xiaosheng took power, he had vigorously rooted out the old and then steadily advanced reform.

Internally, there were comprehensive talent selection and performance evaluation systems, along with improved incentive policies.

Externally, Zhongjing Media was the leader of the city's media industry, cooperating with all parties for mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

In Tianqing, Zhongjing Media received the greatest level of policy support from Mayor Dai.

In Europe, Zhongjing Media had a strong partner in Kelson, continually expanding into overseas markets.

It could be said that now was the golden age of Zhongjing Media!

At present, the company was running smoothly; managers, directors, and assistant general managers screened issues at three levels, leaving very few that actually required the general manager's approval.

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng spent the entire morning in his office, pondering the future arrangements.

In his view, in three months, he would no longer be the general manager of Zhongjing Media!

Because the one to ultimately emerge victorious in the selection would surely be him!

If he didn't have that confidence, he wouldn't even think about contending for that lofty position of group president!

Zhongjing Media had been infused with Bai Xiaosheng's efforts over the past six months.

He had watched its transformation and rise and hoped that after his departure, Zhongjing Media would continue to thrive and reach new heights!

Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng was planning.

He wanted to leave Zhongjing Media even more stable and secure before he left.

"Eliminate all unstable elements! As much as possible, allow those ambitious and trustworthy directors to hold more power, and it would be best to establish a new regulatory system that could form a balance of power between directors, deputy general managers, and the general manager!" Bai Xiaosheng typed up his plan on the computer.

Right at that moment, his phone rang.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at it and immediately stopped his work.

Because the call was from Mayor Ji Mingyang.

"Hello, Mr. Ji, do you need something?" Bai Xiaosheng asked with a smile.

"What, can't I call you if there's nothing urgent?" Ji Mingyang also laughed on the phone.

"Of course not. I just figured, with your busy schedule as the mayor..." Bai Xiaosheng said with a chuckle.

In fact, Mayor Ji Mingyang had always been very supportive of him.

Their relationship had always been like that of close friends.

"I heard you spent a few days in Linshen having fun. Not bad, combining work and leisure, enjoying life more than I do," Ji Mingyang remarked on the phone.

"You should also take care to rest more, take time to inspect various places," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a laugh.

And so, they chatted back and forth like old friends for about five minutes.

Yet there wasn't much substantial content in their conversation.

Mr. Ji, did you really call just to chat?

Bai Xiaosheng had his doubts but quickly dismissed them from his mind.

"Alright, let's leave it at that for now. I consider this work break a chance to chat with someone and relieve some stress. Now, it's time for me to get back to work," Ji Mingyang said.

It's not easy, especially for leaders like Mr. Ji who have ideals and convictions!

Bai Xiaosheng truly admired tha.

"Mr. Ji, make sure you get enough rest, work is important, but so is your health!" Bai Xiaosheng earnestly said.

"Alright," Ji Mingyang laughed, "and you as well, even though you're young, you shouldn't overwork yourself, make sure to exercise."

After saying that, Ji Mingyang's voice paused.

"Oh, there's one more thing, I meant to tell you," Ji Mingyang said, "When you have time, check out the news about Tianzheng Media online."

News about Tianzheng Media?

Bai Xiaosheng was surprised, wasn't that Mu Beichen's company?

Had something significant happened in the past few days?

To Bai Xiaosheng, it seemed that the only competition between them was for the provincial benchmark enterprise quota.

Beyond that, there were no more intersections.

"Alright, hanging up now," Mayor Ji Mingyang finally said, and then the call ended.

Bai Xiaosheng, somewhat puzzled, set his phone aside and thought for a moment, mentally reaching out to Red Lotus.

"Red Lotus, find me the news about Tianzheng Media from the last two days!"

With Red Lotus, this search tool at his disposal, he didn't need to use a web search on a computer.

"Yes, Master," Red Lotus's voice sounded, by which time the content was already searched and imprinted in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

After receiving the information, a look of surprise appeared on Bai Xiaosheng's face.

The news was truly shocking!

Just the day before yesterday, Tianzheng Media in Langbei City was acquired by a media company under the Zhenbei Group, also becoming a direct subsidiary!

Mu Beichen's position remained unchanged.

That is to say, now Mu Beichen, like him, was the general manager of a directly affiliated subsidiary company of the group.

"I really didn't expect that, after all our bouts, we'd end up as one family!" Bai Xiaosheng felt greatly moved.

However, after his moment of emotion, Bai Xiaosheng furrowed his brow, looking doubtful, "Wait, something about this feels so sudden!"

"Red Lotus, check previous messages!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"Okay," Red Lotus responded.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes narrowed slightly.

From the news he retrieved, there hadn't been a whisper of this before.

Then suddenly, the two parties reached an acquisition agreement.

There was something eerie about this deal!

"With Mu Beichen's 'rather be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in a big pond' nature, he agreed so readily to be acquired? And he kept his position?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't believe it.

The whole situation was weird through and through, sparking intense curiosity in him.

Of course, even if Tianzheng Media was acquired, its status as a provincial benchmark enterprise wouldn't change.

Bai Xiaosheng closed his eyes.

Red Lotus didn't just retrieve text; there were also pictures from the day of the signing ceremony.

After closing his eyes, those pictures appeared before his "eyes" like slides in a slideshow.

Suddenly, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes snapped open, a strange gleam appearing in them.

At the signing ceremony, there was a VIP from the group in attendance.

That face, Bai Xiaosheng was not unfamiliar with.

In Tiannan, he had had dealings with him! Even, there were old grudges!

Chen Jiutian!

Back then, on a whim, he had caused a great deal of trouble for the man's son.

In the previous Wang Ye incident, Chen Jiutian's shadow lurked.

Now, it was him again!

Bai Xiaosheng's brow furrowed slightly.

"Red Lotus, search for all news related to Chen Jiutian, the regional head of the Greater China Region, East China District!" Bai Xiaosheng thought.

Red Lotus swiftly carried out the search.

Chen Jiutian was a man of high status, involved in a vast amount of news.

Bai Xiaosheng rapidly sifted through that information in his mind.

An old piece of news that was difficult to find online suddenly appeared in his mind.

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes widened suddenly, he even stood up in disbelief.

The piece of news was an interview from a long time ago, featuring two brothers.

There was also a photo from several years ago!

"Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, they're actually brothers!" Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat shaken as well.

Chapter 625 Bai Xiaosheng's Astonishing Conjecture_1

Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, their names were so strikingly similar.

Once, Bai Xiaosheng had harbored such an association, but it was just for a moment—he had thought it was merely a coincidence.

Looking at it now, where was the coincidence? They were simply brothers.

"No wonder, then!" Bai Xiaosheng murmured to himself as he slowly sat down.

His expression gradually calmed, but in his eyes, there was a new seriousness.

Knowing this relationship, many things, upon reflection, didn't seem so straightforward.

"One is the provincial industrial head, and the other is the regional head. The Chen brothers are no simple characters!" Bai Xiaosheng deeply sighed.

"Chen Jiutian, Chen Changqing, Chen Jiuzheng, I have clashed with them time and again. My ties with their family really are fated!"

Bai Xiaosheng also felt a sense of bemusement.

"However, my arrival at Zhongjing Media was totally by accident, and the rivalry with Changqing was unexpected. As for my conflicts with Chen Jiuzheng, those accumulated over time. Initially, Chen Jiuzheng even considered recruiting me." Bai Xiaosheng touched his chin, his eyes narrowing slightly as he talked to himself, "So now, does Chen Jiutian know about me or not?!"

"Hard to say. It's impossible that, after all this time, he hasn't heard anything. Chen Jiutian! Back in Tiannan, I tricked his son, and later, through Shang Wenshu, I confirmed that he tried to use Wang Ye against me and failed. Would a person like him let things go so easily?"

Bai Xiaosheng picked up the cup of hot tea at hand and sipped it slowly.

His thoughts also became clearer.

"If the brothers happened to talk about me unintentionally, what kind of situation would that be? Honestly, I'm quite looking forward to it!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh.

It remained to be confirmed whether Chen Jiutian was aware of him.

However, when he defeated the alliance of Song Changkong and Chen Changqing and became the general manager, Chen Jiuzheng did show up.

At the time, he even had a meal with Chen Jiuzheng and Wang Xincheng.

Chen Jiuzheng had made a "cooperation proposal," which he had firmly rejected, causing Chen Jiuzheng to lose face in front of Wang Xincheng.

"Speaking of which, it's been quite some time, and despite the loss of face, Chen Jiuzheng has remained silent and inactive? Now, that's truly odd!" Bai Xiaosheng frowned again.

Knowing the relationship between those two brothers,

What was once odd now seemed suspicious!

And that was unlike Chen Jiuzheng's style at all!

"Does it mean I could interpret it as the brothers having already known about me—their old adversary—back then?"

In Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flashed a cold glint, "Then they were not quieting down but were watching me from the shadows, waiting for an opportunity to strike!"

This was possible, and very likely!

"Right! In the recent election for the provincial industrial head, candidates needed recommendations from regional heads. Could it be... that it was Chen Jiutian who recommended me!"

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze hardened.

He had always been curious about how he received a recommendation without knowing anyone at that level.

Now, thinking about it.

He knew someone, and had known for a long time—it was Chen Jiutian!

"After I have caused trouble for two generations of the Chen Family, would he kindly offer me a future?" Bai Xiaosheng put down the cup and rubbed his nose, pondering for a moment before suddenly exclaiming, "No... No! There's a trick here!"

"This selection process, according to the regulations..." Bai Xiaosheng's pupils contracted, "Once I enter the final stage, whether I win or lose, I must leave Zhongjing Media. Once I'm no longer in this direct subsidiary, in any company across the several provinces and cities in East China, I would become a subordinate to the Chen Brothers, at their mercy!"

"So that's it!" Bai Xiaosheng figured it out.

Alone, from a piece of news, he speculated and deduced all the way.

He actually managed to figure out most of Chen Jiutian's plan!

Were Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng to know this, they would surely be astonished.

Was this even human? This was nothing short of a monster!

"However, I am grateful for this opportunity he gave me," Bai Xiaosheng smiled again.

"Do the Chen Brothers see me as an impossible winner? Well, I'm determined to show them that I can win!"

Below his smiling face, Bai Xiaosheng brimmed with fighting spirit.

"Aside from the two of them, there's another person. Now in the company, what kind of presence does Chen Changqing possess?" Bai Xiaosheng thought of him and couldn't help but let out a light chuckle.

"A mole within the Chen Family!"

Bai Xiaosheng remembered how he had inadvertently sat in Chen Changqing's office last time and discovered what Chen Changqing had secretly written in cursive.

At that time, he himself was preparing the final submission for the provincial benchmark enterprise and had the Media Industry Alliance help with the task.

Chen Changqing was collecting that information.

"It seems that the Chen Family members haven't ceased their efforts; on the contrary, they have been always covertly monitoring me. Only... what was Chen Changqing collecting those for?" Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat puzzled.

Those materials should be of no use to them.

During the entire struggle for positions, the Chen Family members seemed not to have interfered.

Could it be because it involved government officials and Mayor Ji Mingyang was overseeing this side, that's why they didn't dare to cause trouble?

Possible.

Having speculated all the way to now, Bai Xiaosheng felt tired and stood up to stretch his body.

"Speaking of which, at the beginning, I was only interested in Mu Beichen and Tianzheng Media, yet, as it turned out, I stumbled upon these 'pleasant surprises'!" Bai Xiaosheng chuckled lightly.

This moment of mockery suddenly sparked an idea in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

He felt as if he had grasped something, but couldn't articulate it yet.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't in a hurry; he calmed his mind and started to reassess from the beginning.

The reason he had been contemplating this whole matter was due to Mr. Ji's casual reminder, perhaps even he noticed this piece of news through his secretary's report.

All his thoughts originated from the acquisition of Tianzheng Media...

"This acquisition is fishy," a thought flashed through Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

In his mind, ideas suddenly broke through like a flood, uncontrollable!

Why would Mu Beichen agree so easily to the acquisition, with his position unchanged!

Why had he always felt that Mu Beichen seemed to know a lot about his side!

The information Chen Changqing collected, who would benefit most from it!

"Mu Beichen is Chen Jiutian's man!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed involuntarily.

As soon as he spoke, he himself was stunned.

However, this could explain—The Chen Family members were not idle; they had been in action all along!

This thought sparked in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, and countless details surged, all confirming that this hypothesis was indeed correct.

Chen Jiuzheng had always shown an intense 'affection' for the media industry's Zhongjing Media, constantly trying to infiltrate it.

Initially, he thought it was because Chen Jiuzheng's industries lacked a decent media enterprise.

But what if there's a different way to think about it!

All along, Chen Jiuzheng had been procuring strong resources for Tianzheng Media, a company that didn't belong to the group but to their family!

With Tianzheng Media and Zhongjing Media combined, in Anjiang they were invincible, and even at the national level, they would be among the rare few!

"If it's true, then under the operation of those brothers, Tianzheng Media must have devoured countless resources from the group!" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but be alarmed.

Of course, all of this was just his speculation.

But Bai Xiaosheng always felt that his guesses were incredibly plausible.

"Tianzheng Media, Tianzheng Media!"

Bai Xiaosheng said with a complex expression, "Should I deconstruct and interpret it as 'Tian, Zheng Media' perhaps!"

Chapter 626: Indeed, He is the Recommended One!_1

Bai Xiaosheng's series of conjectures about Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, Chen Changqing, and Mu Beichen left even himself repeatedly shocked.

Moreover, the more he thought about it, the more likely it seemed!

"Even if there are some discrepancies in the facts, I'm afraid they won't be much different!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply.

If that was the case, his "loss" in the final round of competition for the provincial benchmark enterprise wasn't unjustified at all!

Mu Beichen was already a tough character, and with Chen Changqing as an insider, they knew everything that was going on here.

They knew the enemy and knew themselves, while poor me was still in the dark.

Luckily, my conversation with Mayor Dai Mingcheng left me some moves to play!

"After today, I won't be completely ignorant about you guys!" Bai Xiaosheng rejoiced, smiling.

Chen Jiutian probably couldn't have imagined that Bai Xiaosheng had such a keen and surprising train of thought, going beyond the ordinary to deduce to such an extent!

"However, there's still one thing that's very strange! If Tianzheng Media, truly supported in secret by the Chen Family and heeding Chen Jiutian, why would it be acquired and integrated into the group's system then?" Bai Xiaosheng frowned and muttered, "Could it be that among the people Chen Jiutian recommended, besides me, there is also Mu Beichen!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes sparkled.

"This would be an excellent confirmation! If Mu Beichen is also in the training class, then that proves my guess is true!"

"Then this time, they want not only to push me out of Zhongjing Media but also to ensure Mu Beichen emerges as the ultimate winner!"

Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath, shocked at the Chen Family's plan.

Then, he snorted, "They sure are confident in Mu Beichen, huh? They really think he's sure to win in the end? Unfortunately for them, I'm still here!"

This time, the Chen Family might be disappointed!

"If that's the case, the Chen Family is ruthless enough, willing to sacrifice a company they've operated in the dark for a long time for a shot at a new future," Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

But something felt off to him; would the Chen Brothers be foolish enough not to leave themselves an out?

"Could it be, the company that got acquired is just a shell?" Suddenly, an idea struck Bai Xiaosheng.

He had seen the news reports mentioning the asset value of Tianzheng Media.

It was only equivalent to forty percent of Zhongjing Media's!

Could Tianzheng Media really be that weak?

Bai Xiaosheng's gaze narrowed.

"Red Lotus, search for news about Tianzheng Media over the past ten years for me!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"Certainly, Master!" Red Lotus responded.

A series of news articles appeared in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, all about Tianzheng Media's expansion.

Watching Anjiang Media's territory almost entirely fall into Tianzheng Media's hands surprised Bai Xiaosheng.

From the data, it seemed Tianzheng Media might have already surpassed Zhongjing Media, even rivalling the Zhongjing Media Industry Alliance!

"However, the latest news on the day before the acquisition showed that Tianzheng Media had an investment failure, suffering a huge loss?"

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but snort, "Nonsense! Would Mu Beichen tolerate such negative news appearing and being stirred up? Bear in mind, he is the one controlling the narrative!"

"It seems the Chen Brothers have played a clever strategy!" Bai Xiaosheng's expression darkened.

Everything, although just his speculation, was utterly without evidence.

But what they did was shocking to the eye.

A provincial industry leader and a regional leader, if they conspired to seek personal gain through power, imagine the amount of assets they could divert from the conglomerate—it's like having two giant rats!

"With Wang Ye's incident, I had the feeling that Chen Jiutian must have embezzled quite a bit, but it seems I've underestimated him! With such giant rats in my group, how can it remain unscathed!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were fierce, "It's just that I haven't got my hands on concrete evidence yet! But once I do, Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, you will have to cough up every last cent you stole from me!"

Bai Xiaosheng saw himself as the future president and naturally wouldn't tolerate any dirt in his eyes!

All his suspicions, Bai Xiaosheng kept deep within his heart, waiting for confirmation, waiting for the right moment.

"Before, I was in the light and you were in the dark, but as of today, the roles are reversed," Bai Xiaosheng snorted coldly.

After considering everything, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt an impulse and, driven by it, picked up his cellphone.

He decided to give Mu Beichen a call.

As the dial tone was about to cut to voicemail, the call connected.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Mr. Bai, you're looking for me?" Mu Beichen's voice was measured as he asked.

"Yes, President Mu, I heard that your company has been acquired by our group? From now on, we'll be family, so I wanted to say hello," Bai Xiaosheng said with a chuckle.

On the other end of the line, Mu Beichen's voice didn't show any ripples, no anger or discouragement, just a calm tone, "You're quite well-informed, Mr. Bai."

His demeanor was neither hot nor cold, as if being taken over wasn't something to be embarrassed about.

In the past, Bai Xiaosheng might have been surprised and puzzled.

But after some deduction, he had come to a judgment and naturally wasn't curious.

"Well-informed? Don't make me laugh, President Mu! Both of us are in media, and it's our job to keep up with industry news," Bai Xiaosheng laughed, then continued, "By the way, today I received a notice from the group, saying something about general managers of subsidiaries being eligible for some kind of selection process. Now that you're also a general manager, have you received it? In my notice, it mentioned some kind of training program, but it didn't specify a location. Does yours mention it?"

Bai Xiaosheng's tone carried a hint of confusion, as if he was genuinely asking.

After speaking, Bai Xiaosheng continued, "You know I'm quite new to the general manager position and I don't know anyone at that level in the entire group. Oh, that's not true, I know one person, and that's you."

Bai Xiaosheng's voice sounded normal, but his eyes flashed with a sharp glint.

This talk was as if he wasn't aware that the selection process required recommendations from regional managers!

In fact, had it not been for his trip to Linshen and his encounter with Wang Xincheng, Bai Xiaosheng "should" genuinely have been unaware.

Because that information wasn't included in the notice.

On Chen Jiutian's side, it would never occur to them that Bai Xiaosheng had gotten hold of these details.

Of course, they also wouldn't suspect that Bai Xiaosheng could uncover that hard-to-find old news online in such short order and analyze the truth after meticulously untangling each strand.

Ultimately, without Red Lotus's help, Bai Xiaosheng could never have done it.

Everything would have just been suspicion without verification.

"Bai Xiaosheng shouldn't know," this thought would linger in the minds of the Chen Family members and Mu Beichen, like a leaf occluding their view, making Bai Xiaosheng's inquiry seem consistent and self-explanatory, removing any discrepancies.

On the other end of the line, Mu Beichen's voice paused slightly, then returned to its usual calm, "I didn't know either!"

"Oh, forget it then," Bai Xiaosheng said with a hint of helplessness in his voice.

After hanging up the phone, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were sharp, and a cold smile played on his lips.

"Sure enough, you're one of the recommended ones!"

Chapter 627: Mu Beichen destined to win?!_1

Bai Xiaosheng's call to Mu Beichen confirmed his speculation.

As expected, Mu Beichen was indeed Chen Jiutian's man! It also confirmed his series of speculations!

Actually, even without making this call, on the day the training camp started, Bai Xiaosheng would have been able to know the answer.

And the Chen brothers, including Mu Beichen, would never have imagined that Bai Xiaosheng had another source of information in Wang Xincheng, let alone Bai Xiaosheng's ability to instantly acquire those hard-to-find old news, materials, and data from the internet.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng had already deduced almost the entire truth!

"However, knowing all this only allows me to be more wary of them, to pay more attention to their actions. Before I have evidence, I can't touch them. Moreover, these won't help me to win this selection."

Bai Xiaosheng murmured, his gaze also carrying a bit of gravity, "After all, my opponents are those recommended by the regional managers!"

Those, undoubtedly, must be strong contenders, not easy to deal with!

At this moment.

In Tianzheng Media, inside Mu Beichen's office.

In the sofa area, Mu Beichen is sitting opposite someone.

That person opposite him was the messenger.

"It was Bai Xiaosheng who called? Did he inquire about the training camp?" the messenger asked curiously.

Mu Beichen nodded his head.

"Do you automatically imply that you're also in the training camp by this? Won't this cause any problems?" the messenger couldn't help expressing some concern.

This Bai Xiaosheng is cunning and elusive, truly not someone who gives peace of mind.

But Mu Beichen only scoffed disdainfully.

"What, just because Bai Xiaosheng won against Mr. Jiuzheng twice, he is so feared by you all? You really think he's omniscient and omnipotent?"

Defeating Bai Xiaosheng once filled Mu Beichen with boundless confidence, making him feel that Bai Xiaosheng was no big deal.

It was merely fate, not human calculation, that allowed Bai Xiaosheng to luckily win and secure the provincial benchmark enterprise spot for Zhongjing Media.

Mu Beichen attributed it to divine favor, and he certainly wouldn't expect that Bai Xiaosheng's success was not due to fate but because of several conversations with Dai Mingcheng.

Those were Bai Xiaosheng's contingencies.

Of course, given Mu Beichen's arrogance, even if he knew, he would never admit it.

"Being a bit careful can't be wrong," the messenger said.

"He's no god!" Mu Beichen snorted coldly, his eyes full of disdain, "In my view, he's at most a fairly decent opponent! Don't forget, I've beaten him! It's just that he got lucky for a moment when Tianqing City withdrew, and that's how he got the provincial benchmark enterprise spot. He is just one of my defeated underlings!"

This tone was brimming with confidence.

Yet it was indeed the truth!

The messenger nodded and laughed, "Indeed, you really dominated him last time, leaving him with no power to fight back!"

This matter had excited Chen Jiuzheng for quite some time, feeling extremely gratified.

"When it comes down to it, that Bai Xiaosheng is just a young man in his twenties. In my eyes, he has always been pretending to be mature, while in reality, he's still unstable at heart. No matter how clever and cunning he is, his experience is there for all to see. How many years has he been in the workforce, and how long has he been in a high position? He's never been worth fearing!"

Mu Beichen said with a cold laugh, "It was just that Mr. Jiuzheng was momentarily careless, allowing him to take advantage. In my case, that's absolutely impossible!"

In his words, Mu Beichen implied he was stronger than Chen Jiuzheng.

The messenger knew that Mu Beichen was also a member of the Chen Family and naturally wouldn't be displeased. Instead, he smiled and said, "Compared to you, he is far inferior!"

Mu Beichen smiled in satisfaction and nodded.

At this moment.

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

Chen Jiuzheng spoke in the same vein as Chen Jiutian.

"Beichen is truly the born nemesis of that bastard surnamed Bai, just like Yang Jian completely overpowering Sun Wukong!" exclaimed Chen Jiuzheng excitedly to his elder brother, also feeling a tinge of regret, "What a pity! In the competition for the provincial-level benchmark enterprise, he had Bai utterly defeated, but fate didn't side with us, and with Tianqing City's withdrawal, that's beyond human control."

Chen Jiutian also smiled and nodded.

"I trust Beichen's prowess. He can definitely suppress Bai Xiaosheng. Moreover, I had the messenger tell him. In the selection process, he should let loose and do his utmost to oppress this guy named Bai."

To let Mu Beichen suppress Bai Xiaosheng during the selection?

Chen Jiuzheng was taken aback and said, "But by doing so, could it create a bad impression on the higher-ups? After all, both men were recommended by you, Tian. If they start fighting in front of others, wouldn't that become a joke?"

Chen Jiuzheng was somewhat worried.

The other regional directors might even mock their elder brother—what kind of people did he recommend, to have our own fighting among themselves?

"What I want is exactly that effect!" A sly smile appeared on Chen Jiutian's face.

"How so?" asked Chen Jiuzheng, puzzled.

"Think about it. The higher-ups ask us to recommend talents, but they're also afraid that we'd promote our own confidants, so they will definitely investigate covertly and overtly. Do you think they would feel at ease if two candidates recommended by the same regional director were chummy and working together closely?"

Chen Jiutian sneered, answering his own question, "Of course not! I wouldn't be comfortable with it either! Human nature is selfish, especially in matters affecting one's future and life. The more they support each other, the more problematic it is, and that can only prove one thing—that these two are in cahoots, fighting to push one person to the top counts as a win."

"The higher-ups will surely scrutinize even more sternly!" Chen Jiutian stated with conviction.

It made sense. Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but nod, looking at his elder brother with admiration.

Indeed, it was no surprise he could become a regional director; he saw things from a completely different perspective.

"Therefore, I'll do the opposite! Let Beichen suppress Bai Xiaosheng, but be careful to ensure he doesn't appear too greedy for fame and fortune or unscrupulous," Chen Jiutian said with a smile. "On this point, I believe Beichen can grasp the proper degree. He has never once disappointed me!"

Mu Beichen was, after all, personally mentored by his elder brother, regarded as a disciple, and even showed signs of surpassing the master.

Bai Xiaosheng was no match for him!

Thinking of this, Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but feel elated.

"Yes! Aside from you, elder brother, Beichen is one in a thousand, no, one in ten thousand in both intelligence and tactics, as well as in disposition and methods! Even I admit my inferiority!"

Chen Jiuzheng's comment was not entirely out of modesty.

Chen Jiutian nodded slightly.

For the Chen faction, it was a foregone conclusion that Mu Beichen would defeat Bai Xiaosheng.

And from among the thirty candidates, they believed Mu Beichen had a seventy or eighty percent chance of winning.

As long as they provided assistance at the opportune time, the ultimate victor would no doubt be Mu Beichen!

The Chen brothers exchanged a knowing laugh.

Tianzheng Media.

While speaking with the messenger, Mu Beichen's cellphone suddenly rang.

He picked it up, glanced at it, and suddenly uttered an "Eh", a look of surprise crossing his face.

This piqued the messenger's curiosity.

At the same moment Mu Beichen received the message, Bai Xiaosheng also received the same piece of information.

It also made Bai Xiaosheng exclaim in surprise.

The message was from the Greater China Region's corporate affairs department.

Announcing the location for the upcoming training camp—

Zhongjing!

Chapter 628 Officer Feng Li_1

Bai Xiaosheng held his phone, staring at the message from the Greater China Region Affairs Department for quite some time.

The training camp for this Greater China Region talent selection was in Zhongjing?

It was simply inconceivable!

Bai Xiaosheng read the message over and over again.

Anjiang Province, Zhongjing City, Zhongjing University, Science and Education Building Room 203.

Location, confirmed without error!

Zhongjing University was the premier institution in Anjiang Province, a national key university. It ranked within the top twenty of all universities in the country and was a place renowned for producing notable alumni. Admittedly, it had its merits.

But the members of this training camp would be general managers selected from the entire Greater China Region.

This geographical scope included not just the mainland, but also several neighboring countries.

Thus seen, the training camp was also of international level.

Bai Xiaosheng had previously thought that the training camp might take place in a first-tier city within the country, or perhaps even abroad.

Zhongjing, however, seemed quite unlikely.

Yet contrary to expectations, the training camp was going to be held here...

"The only one who could make such a decision must be the President of the Greater China Region!" Bai Xiaosheng sighed, "I thought it was unreliable not to have a fixed location, but now that there is one, it feels... even more unreliable!"

In the message, a response was required, so Bai Xiaosheng replied with two characters, "Received".

"Forget it, there are advantages to holding it in Zhongjing, I'm close anyway," Bai Xiaosheng muttered.

Thinking this way, he actually felt quite pleased.

He stopped thinking about this matter and even stopped dwelling on the Chen Brothers and Mu Beichen.

Bai Xiaosheng focused his mind and continued to consider how to make Zhongjing Media more stable before his departure.

In his view, that was what he should be pondering over right now.

Meanwhile, in Linshen.

In the headquarters of the Affairs Department of the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region, within an office.

Wang Xincheng stood respectfully, hands by his side.

Sitting behind the desk in front of him was an old man, Xiahou Qi.

Within the workplace, Xiahou Qi was no longer the approachable and somewhat dismissive person Bai Xiaosheng had met. His expression was calm, but every move he made radiated supreme authority.

Standing before him, one could not help but hold their breath and concentrate, not daring to make a sound.

After all, within the entire Greater China Region, industries of the group and decisions on personnel appointments and dismissals were determined by his word. Even appointments and removals of regional heads only added an extra step of reporting.

This is what peak power looks like!

The lofty figures seen by those below, such as provincial industry heads and regional leaders, had their futures and fates at his disposal!

To have reached such a position was tantamount to being a high-ranking official.

Even the group's inspection teams would not dare to investigate lightly.

Of course, those who sat at such heights wouldn't act impulsively or appoint and dismiss major positions at will.

Wang Xincheng was able to stand before Xiahou Qi because he had just been promoted to an Affairs Officer!

And Officer Li had, unsurprisingly, become a Senior Affairs Officer.

The information Wang Xincheng revealed to Bai Xiaosheng, which at the time he claimed to have heard, would not have been accessible if it weren't for his coming Affairs Officer's status!

Now, as a newly appointed Affairs Officer, he naturally had to work directly under the President of the Greater China Region.

Whether his position was secure or not would be judged by the President.

Thus, even the usually calm and steady Wang Xincheng felt a bit jittery and like he was treading on thin ice.

Xiahou Qi was reviewing a document when Wang Xincheng quietly waited beside him.

Only when Xiahou Qi put down the document and looked at him, calmly asking, "Did you send the location to the candidates?"

"Yes, all have been sent out, and each has been individually confirmed," Wang Xincheng affirmed.

To satisfy the leadership with one's work, one had to ensure meticulousness without fail.

Wang Xincheng was naturally a veteran in this regard.

Xiahou Qi nodded, "Book a ticket for everyone, it shows your department's care."

"Yes," Wang Xincheng nodded again.

The location was set in Zhongjing City; he found it quite puzzling, but he understood the principle of not asking questions that shouldn't be asked.

"We also have a candidate in Zhongjing," Xiahou Qi said.

His tone was calm, as if merely stating a fact, and even Wang Xincheng couldn't tell if it was a question.

"Yes, a person named Bai Xiaosheng," Wang Xincheng replied.

Xiahou Qi smiled slightly, "Then also send him a ticket."

Ah?

Wang Xincheng was stunned.

In the same city, what kind of ticket should he buy for Bai Xiaosheng?

And was it even necessary?

"Then send him a bus ticket," Xiahou Qi said with a slight smile, then waved his hand, "Go on."

Wang Xincheng quickly nodded and left.

"They say the old man loves to joke, and it's true! Sending a bus ticket? He really has a sense of humor!" Wang Xincheng muttered to himself.

It was unheard of to buy bus tickets in advance; were they even usable...

And then, a bus ticket costing three to five yuan, sent express from the Affairs Department, would cost twenty to thirty yuan in shipping fees...

"Not send it? What if the old man gets upset, wouldn't I be unlucky because of this little money!" Wang Xincheng made up his mind—send it!

Two days later, Bai Xiaosheng would receive an exquisitely packaged, express international parcel sent by the Affairs Department in the office.

It wasn't thick and looked like a document.

Bai Xiaosheng would tear it open with a serious expression, stunned to find inside two bus tickets—total value four yuan!

It even came with a card stating that these tickets were the round-trip tickets the department had booked for him.

Bai Xiaosheng would continue to stare at them dumbfounded for a long while, swearing, "Have the people in the Affairs Department gone mad, or are they joking with me?!"

Of course, that would be a story for later.

After exiting the old man's office, Wang Xincheng returned to his own department.

On the way, he met a beautiful woman walking towards him.

With short hair, a slender figure, fair skin, she looked like a woman in her thirties.

The sharp heels of her shoes clicked on the floor at a steady pace.

"Officer Feng," Wang Xincheng saw her and hurriedly advanced with a smile to greet her.

This woman was Feng Li, a female Affairs Officer.

"Officer Wang," Feng Li nodded with a smile, "Just coming from the president's office?"

"Yes, I am rushing to spread warmth to the candidates," Wang Xincheng mentioned the ticket purchase.

Feng Li couldn't help but chuckle, "He still has his sense of humor!"

"By the way, I heard you're one of the lecturers for this training camp? I'm not sure when you're heading to Zhongjing, but I'm in charge of booking tickets, so I can take care of it for you," Wang Xincheng said with a smile.

Although she was a woman, she became an Affairs Officer before him.

Wang Xincheng was somewhat trying to curry favor.

"Sure, I'll go the day before then," Feng Li replied sweetly, gladly accepting Wang Xincheng's offer.

Wang Xincheng nodded and chatted with Feng Li for a bit more.

Taking advantage of the scarce foot traffic, Wang couldn't resist lowering his voice, "Officer Feng, if you run into a young man named Bai Xiaosheng at the camp, please take good care of him."

Upon his words, Feng Li, who had always been smiling like a blooming flower, suddenly had a shadow fall over her face as she looked at him with a half-smile.

"Oh? Officer Wang, are you asking me to go easy on him? Just who is this Bai Xiaosheng to you?!"

Seeing the expression on Feng Li's face, Wang Xincheng's heart sank.

Damn, I might have said the wrong thing!

Chapter 629: If Your Surname is Bai, Don't Fall Into My Hands!_1

"Look at what you're saying, with such an important matter, how could I dare to ask you to let things slide!"

Wang Xincheng hastily waved his hands and with a smile explained to Feng Li, "This Bai Xiaosheng, I really only met him once by chance, so we can hardly say we have a relationship. It's just because of his exceptional ability that Officer Li appreciates him so much, and has mentioned him a few times. I thought to myself, he is a talent. So I just casually said something. If there's anything inappropriate, then please, just pretend I never said it."

Underneath his smile, Wang Xincheng felt annoyed.

Just now, he had really been momentarily possessed by folly to have suggested that Feng Li should take special care of Bai Xiaosheng.

In fact, one couldn't entirely blame Wang Xincheng for an impromptu statement made carelessly.

There was a reason behind it.

Wang Xincheng's promotion to Affairs Officer had benefited greatly from the strong support of Senior Affairs Officer Li.

He had always wanted to repay the favor and please his former leader.

This would be absolutely beneficial for his future without any downside.

However, repaying Officer Li directly would be too conspicuous, with countless pairs of eyes watching, both openly and secretly.

That's why Wang Xincheng thought of Bai Xiaosheng.

In his view, Bai Xiaosheng had some kind of intricate relationship with Officer Li. What kind of relationship it was, he didn't care.

In any case, Bai Xiaosheng was a channel for him to reciprocate!

Since he couldn't repay Officer Li directly, he would take extra care of Bai Xiaosheng.

In this way, the leader would certainly feel his painstaking efforts and sincerity!

A few days earlier, it was with this thought that Wang Xincheng had met with Bai Xiaosheng, had a heartfelt conversation. He even went so far as to share many insider details with Bai Xiaosheng. Of course, within this, there was also the intent of betting on Bai Xiaosheng, planting a "good cause" in the hope of reaping a "good result."

These were just the reasons that Wang Xincheng had intended to verbalize.

And the reason he dared to speak was another story—

Feng Li, that woman, was too deceptive. She always seemed to be on good terms with Officer Li, laughing and chatting amiably.

Logically, as a newly appointed Affairs Officer, she would at most nod in passing, but she was able to stop and make conversation for a bit, even on equal footing. In Wang Xincheng's eyes, wasn't this out of respect for Officer Li's face?

This made Wang Xincheng misinterpret the situation, thinking of her as "one of us"!

Wang Xincheng felt she would consider Officer Li's face, and even if she listened, she wouldn't go so far as to turn against him.

How much she really cared did not actually matter—after all, it was a gesture meant for the leader to see.

With this mindset, Wang Xincheng dared to make the request.

But what he had absolutely not expected was for Feng Li to suddenly change her demeanor, her beautiful eyes turning sharp, like two blades, instilling immediate fear in him.

This woman was definitely not as friendly as she seemed!

Frightened, Wang Xincheng immediately exonerated himself and brought up Officer Li for self-protection.

"So that's how it is. It looks like I misunderstood," Feng Li said with another sweet smile, the cutting edge from before completely gone, even making Wang Xincheng feel like he had been hallucinating.

However, this feeling now was the real illusion.

"You're in a rush to meet the president, so I won't keep you any longer, I also need to get back to work," Wang Xincheng hurriedly said with a smile to Feng Li, "You're going to Zhongjing one day in advance, alright, I've got it noted. I'll send your ticket over later. See you around!"

"Goodbye," Feng Li smiled.

Wang Xincheng left in a hurry, his expression turning somewhat ugly as soon as his back was to Feng Li.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I truly had the best intentions. If this causes you trouble, then I'm sorry," Wang Xincheng muttered to himself.

Feng Li watched Wang Xincheng's retreating figure, her light smile hiding an ambiguous meaning in her gaze.

Then, she proceeded toward Xiahou Qi's office.

She knocked and entered.

As soon as Xiahou Qi looked up and saw her, his face lit up with a smile, "Little Li is here."

"Yes, as the instructor of this training camp, I've come to report to you," Feng Li said with a sweet smile.

In Xiahou Qi's eyes, Feng Li was among the earlier batch to become an Affairs Officer, and she was someone he acknowledged.

She was gifted and kind, seemingly versatile, but in fact, she was the most upright one, unshakable by anyone.

For this reason, Xiahou Qi trusted her and assigned her as the training instructor.

"You're opening the session this time, but don't feel too much pressure," Xiahou Qi said with a laugh.

"Yes," Feng Li responded with a smile and a nod, walked over, and then said, "I also have to thank you."

"Thank me?" Xiahou Qi was taken aback, somewhat puzzled.

"Have you forgotten? I did my doctorate in Economics and Management at Zhongjing University, and my supervisor is now the Dean of the Economics and Management Department there. This time, besides working, I even got to revisit my old haunts and see my teacher, all thanks to you," Feng Li said cheerfully.

"Oh? Is that so?" Xiahou Qi laughed heartily, "That's great, that's great, you should indeed meet with your teacher, he is a learned and talented figure!"

Xiahou Qi knew who Feng Li was referring to.

After the laughter, Feng Li couldn't help but ask Xiahou Qi out of curiosity, "This time, why did you decide to hold the training camp in Zhongjing? I thought you were going to hold it in Linshen."

This was something that Feng Li could not comprehend.

"That...", Xiahou Qi chuckled, "Girl, would it be too much if I said it was a spur-of-the-moment decision?"

Feng Li rolled her eyes inwardly at this remark.

My CEO, we've seen you do even more outrageous things...

The elder and the younger chatted for a while longer.

Feng Li could consider her report completed.

"Alright, you can go now, I still have a pile of work to deal with," Xiahou Qi said with a smile, picking up a document and making notations with his pen.

"Okay," Feng Li nodded, and then she added another question, "Is there anything else you want to remind me of? This time, is there anyone who caught your eye who needs special attention?"

Xiahou Qi's pen paused on the paper, then he replied with a smile, "No."

"Then I'm leaving," Feng Li said.

Xiahou Qi nodded slightly, and Feng Li exited, closing the door behind her.

Hearing the door close, Xiahou Qi lifted his gaze to the door, his expression playful and lips curling into a smile.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I'm not giving you any advantages, so no problem there, right!"

"You've impressed me more than once, kid; this time, I'm waiting to hear your news!"

After laughing, Xiahou Qi lowered his head and continued making annotations.

Outside the door, Feng Li left.

"This time, the boss didn't ask to look out for anyone, which means I don't need to give face to any of these candidates!" Feng Li's smile was one of contentment, filled with a delightful sense of being able to do as she pleased.

She then recalled the matter Wang Xincheng had mentioned before.

"So, Mr. Wang wants me to take care of someone named Bai Xiaosheng? And he used Officer Li to pressure me."

Feng Li felt a twinge of annoyance inside, and she let out a cold snort.

"Cronyism doesn't work with me. Humph, I really want to see what kind of person this Bai Xiaosheng, that he wants me to take care of, really is?"

Walking in her high heels, Feng Li left with rhythmic and elegant footsteps.

"I hope that guy named Bai behaves himself; don't let him fall into my hands. Humph, or else I'll show him!"

Chapter 630: The Great Battle, Locking Power in a Cage_1

Bai Xiaosheng was completely unaware that, thanks to Wang Xincheng's "kind heart," he had been noted down by the beautiful instructor even before the training class had started. Sticking to the rules had its risks; even a slight carelessness could lead to "disaster."

As for the training class, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't given it much thought.

Thinking was useless anyway, as many circumstances were still unknown.

During this time, Bai Xiaosheng was determined to ensure the foundation of Zhongjing Media was stable.

For several days in a row.

Zhongjing Media had been frequently adjusting, with personnel changes and system modifications.

Moreover, under the initiative of Bai Xiaosheng, a brand-new Supervisory Council was established.

Twelve directors became the first-term affair supervisors, vested with the authority to vote against certain decisions made by the general managers and deputy general managers, and to organize a company-wide meeting for middle and senior management to reconsider decisions.

This new institution was what truly astounded everyone.

Where would you find a leader who not only actively delegated power but also allowed others to supervise themselves?

Only Mr. Bai could do such a thing!

"Although I am optimistic about the policies Mr. Bai has released, this one is really..."

"Yes, no one is a sage; everyone has emotions. Even Mr. Bai is no different. If we really use this power, won't it make him angry?"

"It's a good move, but it should be taken slowly. Such supervisory powers should be used with great caution, great caution!"

The opinions were divided, and ninety percent of people held a skeptical attitude.

When this news was passed on to Chen Changqing by an assistant, he just sneered on the spot.

"This Bai Xiaosheng has run out of tricks! Such a thing succeeding? That would be odd!"

Chen Changqing waited to see the joke unfold.

Regarding these matters, Bai Xiaosheng had already prepared himself psychologically.

When Lin Weiwei came to report, he just listened with a smile.

Lin Weiwei knew in her heart that Bai Xiaosheng was doing this so that Zhongjing Media could go further after his departure.

She understood Bai Xiaosheng's painstaking efforts, so she admired him even more.

"Are Shi Yu and the others ready?" Bai Xiaosheng asked after listening to the report.

Lin Weiwei nodded with a smile, "Ready, shall we start?"

"Start!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

That day, Bai Xiaosheng released a new system.

This system, unusually, was to be implemented directly without trial.

This was completely contrary to Zhongjing Media's management methods for implementing new systems.

However, Bai Xiaosheng seemed determined to enforce it.

Inside the company, everyone was astonished, yet no one objected.

Yet, directors close to Bai Xiaosheng, such as Shi Yu, actually formed a group to protest in the general manager's office, and opposed it in Bai Xiaosheng's presence.

Their reasons were well-founded, and their words sincere.

They even employed the supervisory power that had been implemented ahead of time, calling a full meeting of managers and higher-level company executives.

At the meeting, Shi Yu and others made well-reasoned arguments, leading the vote against Bai Xiaosheng's new system proposal.

What exactly happened at the meeting, the employees didn't know.

They only received the final news—Mr. Bai had lost.

The new system that was to be released was withdrawn!

Suddenly, the company's staff layer was boiling.

Chen Changqing was not invited, did not attend, but when he heard the news afterward, he was both shocked and angry.

"Bai Xiaosheng, could you make this play any faker!"

Anyone with half a brain could see that this was surely a scheme Bai Xiaosheng and Shi Yu had plotted together.

But it didn't matter.

Bai Xiaosheng was merely constructing a "scenario play" to demonstrate to the employees—an object lesson—that the Supervisorial Oversight Council had the power to check the general and deputy general managers and to reject resolutions!

After completing the "performance," Bai Xiaosheng opportunistically called a general meeting, affirmed the actions of Shi Yu and others, and reiterated the duties of the Supervisory Council.

This time, at the meeting, mid- and senior-level managers led the cheer with raised arms.

Bai Xiaosheng was extremely pleased.

However, to really bring the Supervisory Council's authority into effect, he would have to stage a few more plays in the future, and have Chen Changqing play the "unlucky guy" several times.

The ancients said, "Three men make a tiger."

It doesn't matter if it's fake.

Do it a few more times, and like psychological suggestion, everyone would start to believe it, even be convinced of it.

After dealing with this matter at the company, Bai Xiaosheng finally realized how time flies, it had passed so quickly. Tomorrow was the last day, and the day after tomorrow would be the first day of the training camp.

He believed that candidates from various places, even from other countries, had already arrived in Zhongjing.

But with so many hotels in Zhongjing, trying to find a few of them was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Even if he found them, it would be of no use.

Bai Xiaosheng wouldn't waste his time and energy on such matters.

After a busy day, Bai Xiaosheng knew it was time to call it a day and go home. Only then did he have time to think about the training camp.

"Among those people, the one closest to Zhongjing is probably Mu Beichen. I don't know which day the operations department booked his ticket for, but such a trivial thing as a ticket is hardly worth his notice; he'll come whenever he feels like it. This time, we're still opponents! Even, enemies!"

A sharp glint appeared in Bai Xiaosheng's eyes.

"Speaking of which, with so many provinces and cities in East China, the two people Chen Jiutian recommended are both from Anjiang. If the general managers from the other provinces and cities knew, they might secretly send their regards to Chen Jiutian's clan elders."

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled and shook his head, stood up to heat himself a cup of milk, and sipped gently.

"Tomorrow, I can make a trip to Zhongjing University first to 'scout the place' since there's nothing else to do at the company now."

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng finished his warm milk, flung his sleeve, and went to bed.

At this moment, in a villa at Moon Lake in Zhongjing, Chen Jiuzheng's home.

Mu Beichen was sitting and chatting with Chen Jiuzheng, all smiles.

It was just ten o'clock, early by their standards.

Mu Beichen, taking his mother's surname and considered of the same generation as Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng, was just younger than the two. As a child, he was their little follower.

In his early years, Mu Beichen was greatly nurtured by Chen Jiutian, having always run Tianzheng Media.

Chen Jiutian and his brothers had immense trust in him.

"Beichen, I thought you wouldn't arrive until tomorrow. Since you're here now, you should stay here!" Chen Jiuzheng said with a smile.

Mu Beichen laughed.

"There's no need, Brother Zheng. To avoid suspicion, I won't come back again until the selection is over. I don't want to give anyone a reason to discover me," Mu Beichen said.

He was quite careful in concealing his whereabouts this time, not wanting to be found out by the inspection teams of the group.

"You always think things through. Let's do it your way, then!" Chen Jiuzheng nodded and replied with a smile.

"Oh, did you receive the list I sent over the other day? Big brother went through a lot of effort to get it. Though it only has a dozen or so names, they are all candidates participating this time!" Chen Jiuzheng said, hoping it would be of help.

Mu Beichen nodded with a smile.

"It's a tremendous help! I know some of these people, at least I've met them once. I will quickly get a grasp of their characters and get on their good side. Then, to deal with Bai Xiaosheng, we'll start by isolating him!"

A cold smirk appeared on Mu Beichen's face.