

Two Trillion 71

Chapter 71 Lou Shu Reports_1 “You, go to the Promotion Department, and call Supervisor Bai Xiaosheng over!”

Li Mingtong pointed at someone standing at the door of the large conference room.

The person nodded and hurried off to find Bai Xiaosheng.

Even that person had been arranged by Li Mingtong in advance!

Li Mingtong didn’t want Chen Daya’s people to go, lest Bai Xiaosheng be on guard.

My hard work this morning is about to pay off!

Li Mingtong sneered to himself.

He had deliberately occupied Bai Xiaosheng for a full two hours, just for this moment.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng wanted to change his train of thought and cleanse his mind of business, investment, and return on investment, he probably wouldn’t have enough time!

Consider how master calligraphers detest hearing certain terms, especially when they frequently come from someone with a terrible impression.

How could the masters remain amiable!

The show starts now, Bai Xiaosheng, don’t let me down with all this “cultivation” I’ve done for you!

Li Mingtong believed that the upcoming moments would be spectacular!

As long as the fire starts, he could fan the flames and burn Bai Xiaosheng alive!

He watched as every step he had carefully arranged was proceeding smoothly, and Bai Xiaosheng was about to fall into the trap.

The anticipation and eagerness in Li Mingtong's heart had reached its peak.

Since a report on the project was due, Chen Daya couldn't deal with anything else and was hurriedly organizing personnel and adjusting equipment.

This was the large conference room; the equipment was already in place, and the technicians just needed to make some adjustments to be ready.

Master Song Kai and District Chief Wu waited briefly, then saw a young man with an ordinary appearance but an energetic demeanor enter the room.

Master Song Kai couldn't help but take a second look.

This young man was spirited, with a straight back and a firm step.

The self-confidence and liveliness in his eyes surpassed anyone else present.

This was Bai Xiaosheng!

The old master didn't show any reactions, but a hint of mischief was hidden in his eyes.

They'd had their fair share of verbal sparring online.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng had some reservations, but once the conversation flowed, he showed no restraint.

In some areas, even Master Song Kai couldn't out-argue Bai Xiaosheng, and now, he was eager to tease the youngster a bit.

Bai Xiaosheng had been called over in a hurry, thinking it was a meeting attended by all supervisors.

Upon arrival, he saw that the supervisors stood at the doorway, while only a few leaders were inside the conference room.

The most striking figure was the elderly man sitting upright with a serious expression at the center.

Master Song Kai!

This was Bai Xiaosheng's first time seeing him in person.

The renowned master seemed different from what he had imagined.

The "Small Regular Script Calligraphy Collection" on WeChat was a humorous, approachable, and unpretentious old man.

In contrast, the Master Song Kai before him sat with a straight and formal posture, his face devoid of any smiles—a striking difference in image.

Perhaps this was the difference between reality and virtuality.

Bai Xiaosheng reflected.

Li Mingtong saw that Master Song Kai remained indifferent upon Bai Xiaosheng's arrival.

He felt a secret thrill.

It seemed that the amiable and approachable master had a very poor impression of this young man!

At the doorway, Wang, Song, and Yezi also hurried over.

Standing outside, they saw the master's indifferent expression and began to feel uneasy.

The incident with the barrier had already spread, with some even blatantly accusing them—or rather Bai Xiaosheng, of orchestrating it.

This was outright, blatant slander!

Yezi was so outraged she was almost driven to confront them in the conference room if it weren't for Wang and Song holding her back.

"Master Song Kai, District Chief Wu, Mr.

Shang, Mrs.

Wang," Bai Xiaosheng greeted each leader in turn.

Their reactions were varied; some responded in different ways.

The coldest was the master, and the most cordial was District Chief Wu.

However, after the pleasantries, District Chief Wu Qibing posed a question that somewhat sounded challenging.

"Are you the new supervisor of the Project Promotion Department, Bai Xiaosheng?"

Did you order that barrier to be put up?”

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Li Mingtong.

The latter’s eyes carried a hint of pride.

“About the enclosure, Vice Manager Li will explain that to you in a moment.

My main purpose here is to talk to the master and several leaders about our building brochure design draft.”

Bai Xiaosheng appeared very composed, his expression neither servile nor overbearing.

This young man, quite good at holding his composure.

District Chief Wu nodded slightly, feeling a touch of admiration.

His expression softened slightly.

Li Mingtong frowned deeply.

However, the master’s face remained stern, which reassured him.

As long as the master has a poor impression of you, no one else can help you!

Li Mingtong thought to himself.

“Oh, then you, go ahead and tell us.”

Master Song Kai, who had been silent until now, slowly spoke up.

His voice was flat and indifferent.

Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind, strode up to the screen, handed the USB drive to the technician, and gave some instructions.

The technicians projected the building brochure design draft on the large screen.

As soon as the document appeared.

District Chief Wu Qibing, Shang Wenshu, Wang Ye, and everyone else were instantly captivated.

This building brochure's layout and text were clean, simple, and grand!

Far from ordinary!

"Now, let me explain it to everyone."

With ease, Bai Xiaosheng picked up the laser pointer and began to speak confidently, facing the screen.

As his explanation deepened, the employees couldn't help whispering among themselves.

"This building brochure is really well done!"

"Is this really our project's work?"

How can it be of such high quality!"

“Incredible, it makes me want to invest.

It’s so persuasive!”

At the door, the heads of various departments stared intently at the big screen, not even blinking.

This brochure was fantastic; its images and text merged into one, striking straight to the heart!

The department heads suddenly felt that their own project was so high-end!

Some things that were taken for granted now seemed full of talking points to them!

What if they showed this to customers?

It would simply be more effective than rambling on for ages!

The marketing department head was scratching his head.

If this material was printed out, it would definitely greatly enhance their marketing success rate!

Wang, Song, and Yezi, the three in the crowd, received more and more attention from the onlookers, and the surrounding discussions were all praises.

Being in the midst of this, they felt both proud and arrogant.

Their hard work was strongly recognized, and it felt truly great!

Li Mingtong became uneasy.

Bai Xiaosheng's presentation had attracted the great interest of District Chief Wu Qibing, and the praise from the managers and employees at the door was unanimous.

These were not what he wanted to see!

Li Mingtong stole a glance at the master.

Thank goodness!

The master still had a cold expression, showing no interest!

The master's character was known for being upright.

If he liked something, he would not stint his praise, but if he loathed it, he would criticize it mercilessly!

Since the master had shown no sign of appreciation so far.

At the very least, the master was dissatisfied!

Li Mingtong's eyes blazed, his heart filled with fervor as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, his gaze filled with a cold sneer.

No matter how well you present, as long as the master dislikes it, even if everyone else lifts you to the skies, I will make sure you fall!

Li Mingtong, ready to make his move!

Chapter 72 Do you admit the punishment!_1 "Above is the brochure design plan created by our entire marketing department, working together,"

Bai Xiaosheng concluded with that final statement.

He had finished.

The managers and employees at the door, full of eagerness, showed no signs of stopping their discussions and praises; if anything, it only became more intense.

Wang, Song, and Yezi were flushed with triumph, their cheeks tinged red as if they had downed a couple of shots of liquor, basking in the admiration and compliments from those around them.

District Chief Wu Qibing had high praise for Bai Xiaosheng's performance.

The young man was steady in his actions, calm and composed in his mannerisms, clear and articulate in explaining the brochure, and logical in his presentation.

Indeed, a young talent, more than capable of being a manager!

District Chief Wu even couldn't help but say to Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye with a smile, "I didn't expect your project team to be so full of talent!"

It seemed District Chief Wu had a good impression of Bai Xiaosheng!

Shang Wenshu smiled.

"District Chief Wu, you have no idea.

This manager is no ordinary person.

He recently came up with a complete marketing plan that even Mrs.

Wang and I were taken aback by.

This brochure was also developed following his plan, led by him and created by our marketing department!”

Shang Wenshu took the opportunity to elevate Bai Xiaosheng’s image even further.

Li Mingtong had sinister intentions this time, and Shang Wenshu was doing everything possible to help Bai Xiaosheng reverse the decline.

Wang Ye just smiled and didn’t interject.

He seemed to glance at Li Mingtong casually, yet his look was cold.

Wang Ye might have been reluctant to get involved in internal group affairs, and moreover, what Shang Wenshu said was true—all the project managers were witnesses, leaving him no room for rebuttal.

Also, the fact that Li Mingtong dared to go against his words and still showed no restraint meant he needed a lesson!

Regardless of the reasoning, Wang Ye decided to keep silent.

“Oh?

To surprise both you and Wang,”

District Chief Wu Qibing expressed some surprise, then couldn’t help but glance at Bai Xiaosheng, his eyes flickering slightly.

“Mr.

Shang, we are organizing an investment conference within the district this year.

Could you lend us this talent to improve our plans or act as an advisor?

Consider it a government-business collaboration, what do you say?"

"District Chief Wu, you're too kind.

It's our duty as a business to contribute to the local government, however modest our efforts may be," Shang Wenshu laughed heartily.

The two chatted most agreeably.

Li Mingtong was agitated.

Be it the praise from the employees and managers, or the approval of Bai Xiaosheng by District Chief Wu and Shang Wenshu, all of it unsettled him.

That casual, yet cold glance from Wang Ye made him feel particularly uneasy.

He had to take action against Bai Xiaosheng soon, or it would be a dire loss!

Li Mingtong scratched his head and ears, waiting for an opportunity to speak.

Master Song Kai glanced at District Chief Wu and Shang Wenshu, then cleared his throat.

"When you politicians and businessmen get together, within two seconds you're talking money.

I think, next time I come, I'll have to set a tone—talk less about attracting investment and business finance," he said.

District Chief Wu and Shang Wenshu quickly apologized to the master with a laugh.

On Bai Xiaosheng's end, after finishing, he waited silently until Master Song Kai looked towards him again, and he immediately smiled.

"Master Song, what do you think of this brochure?" Bai Xiaosheng asked politely.

"Not bad, I suppose," the old man nodded reluctantly, "but compared to another one I saw not long ago, it falls short!"

To Li Mingtong's ears, those words were like the sound of heaven's melody!

Li Mingtong's anxiety and worry vanished in an instant, and his spirits lifted.

If the master says it's not good, no one else's approval matters!

"Bai Xiaosheng, this is the brochure you made for the project, huh.

The master, he's not satisfied!"

Li Mingtong stood out and shouted forcefully.

No matter whether it was Master Song Kai, District Chief Wu or those project employees, they all jumped at the sudden shout.

All eyes fell on Li Mingtong.

"You, with such a heavy commercial air, where's the humanity, the human care?"

This is simply, a desecration of the master's art, completely contradictory to the master's design philosophy!"

Li Mingtong, pointing at the projection, criticized Bai Xiaosheng without any courtesy.

His eyes were fiery, his heart burning, his whole being in a state of extreme excitement.

He wanted to severely deal with Bai Xiaosheng!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Li Mingtong, expressionless.

Actually, when he found out that he had to present to the master, he understood.

This was a carefully calculated chess game set up by Li Mingtong!

Previously, Li Mingtong had forcefully insisted that he explain the building's brochure, digging repeatedly for commercial points, emphasizing profitability, return on investment, probably as a groundwork!

To fill his head with concepts of investment, profit, money!

To make him unintentionally mention these terms that the master dislikes when presenting.

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat impressed with Li Mingtong.

This person was calculating and quite vicious.

And bold!

Li Mingtong was using Master Song Kai, District Chief Wu Qibing, Shang Wenshu, Wang Ye—two managers—as chess pieces to check Bai Xiaosheng’s army!

And these so-called chess pieces, each one was a cunning hero!

Bai Xiaosheng asked himself, if it were him, he wouldn’t dare to be so brazen.

This showed that Li Mingtong’s patience with him had truly reached a breaking point.

“Bai Xiaosheng, I’ve given you, given your department so much time, can’t you do your homework!

What is the development concept of our project, the fusion of commerce and humanity, green commerce, cultural commerce, look at your brochure, where is the human care highlighted, tell me!”

Li Mingtong scolded mercilessly.

This was a complete denial in front of all the leaders and the master!

Employees and supervisors at the door were stunned, too scared to even breathe.

But Yezi was angry.

Li Mingtong was reversing black and white in public, talking nonsense, she opened her mouth to retort and was about to rush in.

Wang and Song reacted first, one grabbing her arm, the other covering her mouth, dragging the young woman back.

Quite the feat, a small employee from the marketing department dared to confront the deputy project manager in front of top leadership!

That Bai Xiaosheng, he really “led well”!

“My grandmother, don’t make trouble for Bai now, by doing this, you’re just adding another charge to him!” Wang whispered urgently, persuading her as he and Song dragged her away.

Bai Xiaosheng, unfazed, watched Li Mingtong angrily scolding him, a faint smile always on his lips.

“Laughing, you’re still laughing!” Li Mingtong, fueled by rage, said, “I even gave your department a task list, like a military order!”

“Right, Manager Chen?” Li Mingtong asked Manager Chen Daya, who had been silent beside Shang Wenshu.

Chen Daya was utterly reluctant to get involved, but Li Mingtong was asking him.

Master Song Kai and District Chief Wu Qibing, seemingly without emotion, also subconsciously looked over.

Although Chen Daya cursed Li Mingtong to death in his heart, he had no choice but to nod reluctantly.

“Yes.”

Shang Wenshu glared at him, and Chen Daya felt wronged.

What could I do, the policy is clear in black and white, and those supervisors I have dealt with before are still standing at the door, can I say I don’t know, I’m not clear?

“Good!

You understand now, right?

Policy is policy, and nobody can defy it!” Li Mingtong deliberately raised his voice, his sneers unceasing, “Bai Xiaosheng, do you admit your punishment!

What more do you have to say!”

Chapter 73: Lou Shu, I Have the Second Edition_1 Bai Xiaosheng smiled and shrugged his shoulders, as if, indeed, he had nothing to say.

“I suppose you’ve got nothing to say!”

“Your draft doesn’t appeal to the Master!”

“And you, the Master wouldn’t like you either!”

The ecstasy and excitement in Li Mingtong’s heart were practically bursting at the seams, almost betraying his facade.

A tacky and vulgar barrier had destroyed Bai Xiaosheng’s first impression—utter genius!

Li Mingtong could scarcely resist praising himself.

Even if Bai Xiaosheng was cunning, after all, he was just a greenhorn, yet to grow a full beard—what makes him think he can compete with me!

“You, you’re way out of your league!”

Li Mingtong now felt like he was the ultimate victor!

What he needed to do now was to widen his advantage, dig the pit deeper, and make Bai Xiaosheng fall into it, never to climb out again!

Everything was just too perfect!

“Master Song Kai, District Chief Wu, both esteemed leaders, I’ve been in charge of the project promotion, and Bai Xiaosheng is also directly under me.

His blunder is a responsibility I, Li Mingtong, cannot shirk,”

Li Mingtong thumped his chest, his face full of vexation and regret as he sincerely said to everyone, “Therefore, I will urge the promotion department to come up with a new draft that meets the Master’s expectations in the shortest time.

Moreover, to set an example for the other departments in the project, I propose deducting the promotional department’s quarterly performance bonus as a form of discipline!

Of course, as the leader, I am willing to accept the same punishment!”

Li Mingtong’s earnestness was unmatched.

Imagine, such a willing, responsible leader—how could the top leaders not be moved by him.

As for the minor losses incurred, Li Mingtong could recoup it in a hundred ways in a minute!

Perhaps, I could even gain favor with the Master and District Chief Wu, and with their endorsement, becoming the project manager isn’t out of the question!

Li Mingtong’s thoughts grew more delightful.

“Bai Xiaosheng, as the supervisor, is irresponsible at work, has a negative attitude, and wastes time and manpower.

I suggest severe punishment!”

Li Mingtong thought for a moment and added, “Of course, since he has done some work for the project, I request not to fire him!”

Li Mingtong wasn’t kind-hearted, pleading for Bai Xiaosheng’s cause.

He feared that if Bai Xiaosheng just walked away, what fun would there be left!

Li Mingtong’s endless outpouring, from self-punishment to punishing others, from self-blame to blaming others, was coherent and articulate, almost as if it had been prepared in advance.

District Chief Wu Qibing was initially a little puzzled, but his smile deepened as he listened, his eyes filled with meaningful expression.

The more Shang Wenshu listened, the calmer his demeanor became.

Conversely, Wang Ye’s brows started to frown.

This Li Mingtong, who’s usually so cunning, why does he turn into a complete fool whenever he deals with Bai Xiaosheng?

The performance was too obvious, and he was the only one getting carried away!

Li Mingtong, after his impassioned speech, saw that the leaders hardly reacted.

Only the Master seemed...

As long as the Master approves of me, that's all that matters!

Li Mingtong felt an air of control over everything.

Bai Xiaosheng observed Li Mingtong's performance as if watching a play, almost wanting to applaud him.

Waiting for Li Mingtong to finish, Bai Xiaosheng then spoke calmly and unhurriedly.

"If Vice Manager Li thinks the proposal for the building brochure is too commercially oriented, that's fine..."

Bai Xiaosheng, as if performing a magic trick, produced another USB drive, gesturing for him to see.

"I have a second version of the proposal."

Second version...

proposal?!

Li Mingtong's smile froze on his face.

He had only given the promotion department three to four days, and a normal brochure would take two weeks of work.

They managed to produce one in such a short time, let alone one so exquisitely perfect!

And now, Bai Xiaosheng was saying, he had another version?!

“This is impossible, you couldn’t possibly have had the time to produce a second edition, I didn’t give you that much time...” Li Mingtong exclaimed, before he immediately realized his slip of the tongue and hastily shut his mouth.

However, in such a public setting, the words were already out.

“What’s going on?” District Chief Wu asked Shang Wenshu, surprised.

Shang Wenshu had a rough idea about the task slip and the wager through Chen Daya.

Thereupon, with a lowered voice, Shang Wenshu gave District Chief Wu Qibing a brief explanation, which left him astounded, and his view of Bai Xiaosheng changed entirely.

This level of work efficiency was beyond the realm of mere talent!

Shock added an extra chill to Wang Ye’s gaze.

So Li Mingtong had deceived him from the start, striking at Bai Xiaosheng behind his back!

The brochure Bai Xiaosheng spoke of had been created in just three to four days, and there were even two versions!

The appearance of the second edition of the brochure caused the several top leaders to become serious and focused.

At the entrance of the meeting room, the three members of the promotion department, who had just consoled Yezi and returned, happened to hear Bai Xiaosheng’s words.

Wang and his colleagues were dumbfounded!

Bai Xiaosheng was staying up late every night, was he not revising the first edition?

Even if he were only correcting the first edition, the timeline was already very tight!

Where did he find the time to make a second edition?

Wang and the others looked at their supervisor, that young, confident face.

In their hearts, the adjectives sprang up, one after another:

Freak!

Monster!

Not human!

...

Little did Bai Xiaosheng know that the first round of cursing him didn't come from enemies, but from his own people...

At the entrance, the careless receptionist from human resources was well aware of the task slip that Li Mingtong had given to the promotion department.

Through her spreading the word, the other managers and employees at the entrance quickly learned the details.

A commercial brochure of such high quality, created in less than four days, and two versions at that!

"My God, how was this done!"

“Even if one person were split into four, it wouldn’t be enough time!”

“Couldn’t it be that he found a dozen people to work on it together!”

...

Not just the employees but also the managers were thunderstruck, their perception of Bai Xiaosheng had changed.

Freak!

Monster!

Not human!

...

Bai Xiaosheng was “scolded” a second time.

An exaggeration of magnitude, a top-tier planner; a supervisor capable of rallying the department’s enthusiasm to unprecedented levels; a person who could complete work with such efficiency in an incredibly short amount of time...

Everyone’s faces were filled with shock, admiration, and disbelief, and even started to talk aloud, no longer mindful of the presence of the master and leaders.

Listening to those words, District Chief Wu Qibing, who had already been viewing Bai Xiaosheng highly, had his already-lit eyes brighten even further.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng as a treasure!

“Mr.

Shang, after this meeting, I have an immodest request.

Could you help me ask if he might be interested in being an advisor for me?

He won’t need to work a regular shift; just attending a meeting once a week will do, with excellent compensation,” said the District Chief Wu.

This time, District Chief Wu was not joking but quite serious.

Shang Wenshu smiled wryly.

He would have liked to help District Chief Wu, but Bai Xiaosheng was a high-level member of the group’s inspection team who would hardly care for just an advisory position.

“Let’s talk about it later, District Chief Wu,” Shang Wenshu replied ambiguously, noting that District Chief Wu’s expression showed some dissatisfaction.

He quickly added, pointing towards Bai Xiaosheng,

“He’s started talking again!”

Chapter 74: Master is Furious_1 Li Mingtong’s face was ashen, his brows tightly furrowed, and his eyes, bloodshot, were fixed unblinkingly on Bai Xiaosheng.

His hands clenched into fists, so tightly that his knuckles turned white.

Anxious, uneasy.

The stake that Li Mingtong had put on this gamble was simply too high, cutting off even his retreat!

It was a case of burning his boats—without success, he would only be left with the option of accepting his fate.

If he lost, it would be a total loss!

At the moment.

Every praise for Bai Xiaosheng was like a steel needle piercing into Li Mingtong's heart.

Each admiring glance towards Bai Xiaosheng was like a sharp knife slicing at Li Mingtong's heart.

Li Mingtong felt like a gambler who had turned red with loss, yet was hoping against hope for a final turnaround, full of anticipation and fear.

The room was overflowing with praise, the leaders' eyes shining, and District Chief Wu Qibing even openly considered poaching talent.

All of this left Li Mingtong feeling somewhat dizzy.

Thank goodness!

The master remained as steady as Mount Tai, unperturbed, as if the surrounding discussions could not affect him at all.

He seemed to have no interest whatsoever in Bai Xiaosheng.

As long as the master doesn't like him, I won't lose, I won't lose!

Li Mingtong gritted his teeth in secret.

Master Song Kai was his last straw, his pillar of mental support!

As long as the pillar doesn't fall, he won't concede defeat!

Bai Xiaosheng had begun his presentation.

"This edition of the brochure highlights not the popular commercial style of Tiannan but warmth and humanistic concern."

Bai Xiaosheng's second edition of the brochure made its debut.

Whether it was the employees at the door, the managers, or leaders like District Chief Wu Qibing, Shang Wenshu, Wang Ye, all fell silent and watched attentively.

This atmosphere made Li Mingtong uncomfortable.

No, I can't let him continue smoothly, I have to say something, interrupt him.

"You..."

Just as Li Mingtong opened his mouth, the three leaders looked at him, their gaze filled with chilliness and displeasure.

Li Mingtong deflated instantly, his throat as if stuffed with cotton, unable to make a sound.

Bai Xiaosheng was completely unaffected by any disturbance; he didn't even glance at Li Mingtong and continued in an even tone.

“Commerce itself is a culture.

In the new era of business, integrating human care into it, and merging with it, can better establish the project’s image.

Nowadays, in first-tier cities, ‘people-oriented’ has become the new business core.

We can create a higher level of pleasure experience, infuse humanization into details, win hearts with quality and service, and let our entire business project acquire the highest level of loyalty and reputation...”

“This is the starting point and the foothold of my edition of the brochure, please have a look...”

Bai Xiaosheng spoke at length.

This edition of the brochure integrated not just his personal philosophy but also the philosophy of Master Song Kai.

While Li Mingtong was sparing no effort in holding a useless meeting, Bai Xiaosheng, with ample time, pondered over and over again.

How to make every word, every image feel more comfortable, more subtly influential, like a spring breeze or a silent drizzle nourishing everything quietly, making the viewer forget that they are looking at a brochure, immersing them in a sentiment until, after closing the book and their eyes, the only thing they can recall is the project’s name—that is the ultimate success.

This edition of the brochure could make investors feel the “heart” put into it, making them believe that this project could become a career, not just about making money.

If the project and retailers could carry this philosophy through, conveying it to the shoppers, it would win emotional identification and ultimately a win-win situation!

For an entire hour, Bai Xiaosheng spoke, and the whole conference room was silent, listening.

From the district chief to the employees, everyone carefully chewed over the uniqueness of this edition of the brochure.

It was comfortable, that's the impression it gave.

Unlike the first edition's flamboyance and enthusiasm, it was more captivating to the heart.

"This is really our project's brochure?"

I want to see it again!"

"Print it out, I need to collect a copy!"

"It's somewhat like light music, and the visuals are beautiful.

I wonder if I can get an electronic version; there are a few pages I'd like to use as a screensaver."

The employees and supervisors started eagerly whispering amongst themselves.

Li Mingtong looked over and saw that even some of his own subordinates were singing its praises.

He glared fiercely at them, and those who saw him quickly shut their mouths, but admiration still shone in their eyes.

Li Mingtong gave a meaningful glance, and two of his staunch subordinates immediately understood.

"However, our project is ultimately a commercial one, and this brochure is too sentimental, right?"

“Yeah, it’s like a book of inspirational quotes.

Can it really help us attract customers?”

“Using it as a screensaver is fine... no, I mean, it’s okay to keep for viewing... but as a brochure...”

These two began to spread dissenting opinions.

However, the overflowing praise around them quickly drowned out their voices.

Wang, Song, and Yezi looked at their supervisor Bai Xiaosheng with faces full of admiration.

This second edition of the brochure left them with nothing to say.

Centered on warmth, it seemed to downplay commercial appeal to the extreme, yet it managed to touch people’s hearts directly.

They were in awe.

District Chief Wu Qibing and Shang Wenshu whispered to each other, their expressions animated and delighted, evidently holding this edition of the brochure in high regard.

Even Wang Ye had a look of approval in his eyes.

He approved of it too!

The increasing consensus made Li Mingtong’s gaze frantic, like a fish out of water, gasping for breath, feeling suffocated, feeling terrible.

Bai Xiaosheng was still speaking, but it was clear he was wrapping up.

This second edition of the brochure aligned too well with Master Song Kai's philosophy.

"Bai Xiaosheng, this shameless thing, actually deliberately catered to the Master!

Despicable!" Li Mingtong trembled.

The better Bai Xiaosheng performed, the more fearful Li Mingtong felt.

"You all, are you just flattering the Master, taking Bai Xiaosheng's side?

What's so good about this rubbish, what's so good!" Li Mingtong's eyes turned red as he internally roared at the people around him.

Li Mingtong looked towards Master Song Kai with some trepidation.

The Master hasn't been bewitched too, has he?

Li Mingtong saw that the always composed Master Song Kai gradually furrowed his brow, especially when looking at the last part, there was a clear emotion on his face.

The Master... is angry!

Li Mingtong was overjoyed, his heart racing!

Master, speak up, oppose Bai Xiaosheng!

Finally, under Li Mingtong's near-prayerful gaze, Master Song Kai raised his hand.

With a slap, it hit the table.

Everyone in the conference room jumped in fright, even District Chief Wu Qibing turned his head in astonishment to look at his teacher.

Master Song Kai, his face full of anger, glared at Bai Xiaosheng.

“You!” Master Song Kai’s gaze was sharp as he pointed directly at Bai Xiaosheng.

Li Mingtong, his entire body tensed with excitement, prepared to kick a man when he was down the moment the Master snapped.

“How dare you not send me the latter part of this!” Master Song Kai bellowed.

Li Mingtong’s mouth hung open, unable to utter a word, his excited eyes frozen, as if struck by lightning!

The Master... what did he say...

Chapter 75: Master, You Have to Listen to Me Too!_1 Master Song Kai finally got angry and scolded someone.

For a fleeting moment, Li Mingtong felt as though his heart could soar through the heavens, but after hearing clearly what the master said, his heart plummeted from the ninth heaven into an abyss.

Completely shattered!

District Chief Wu Qibing, Shang Wenshu, Wang Ye, Chen Daya, and even all the supervisors and numerous employees were stunned in that instant.

The master...

knew Bai Xiaosheng!

The scolding wasn't real; it was the half-serious chastisement of an elder to a younger relative.

Bai Xiaosheng saw Master Song Kai smile, a teasing mischief in his grin.

This old man is playing me...

Such an actor!

Bai Xiaosheng was deeply impressed.

Now, the image of Master Song Kai aligned perfectly with the person from WeChat, "Small Regular Script Calligraphy Collection,"—both an irreverent, somewhat cantankerous old man.

Bai Xiaosheng was caught between laughter and tears.

In fact, the master was not wrong in his scolding.

Indeed, Bai Xiaosheng had forgotten to send him the very last part of the second edition of the building script.

The master had every reason to be angry.

Bai Xiaosheng gave the master an apologetic smile.

"Now you've seen all this, haven't you?"

If you have any opinions or suggestions, let's discuss them face to face, it's so refreshing," Bai Xiaosheng mumbled.

Us two guys!

The crowd fell silent, speechless.

Is that how you talk to a master?

Master Song Kai, what a prestigious figure he is!

Who's your "us two guys?"

This young man's speech is still a bit frivolous; this is public, not private...

District Chief Wu Qibing couldn't help but frown.

"Haha, you're right, my boy!

Chatting face to face, how satisfying!

Typing through a screen, that's simply too troublesome," Master Song Kai laughed heartily without any reservations, even quite pleased.

District Chief Wu Qibing was speechless.

But it had been so many years since he'd seen the old man this happy, like a mischievous old child!

In his memory, he seemed to have only seen it once during his student days.

Nostalgically, District Chief Wu indeed felt a bit of longing.

To make the teacher so cheerful, this young fellow is not bad!

Love for one extends to the associates; District Chief Wu Qibing's view of Bai Xiaosheng had changed.

Shang Wenshu, standing by, saw the transformation in District Chief Wu's expression and couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief, feeling the weight lifting from his heart.

Wang Ye had been watching Bai Xiaosheng intently all along, and today this young man had time and again overturned his expectations.

If only I had taken action sooner to build a closer relationship with this person...

Wang Ye felt a twinge of regret!

At the door, whether they were employees or managers, everyone was silent and shocked.

Manager Bai has such great prestige, to be so casual with the master!

Li Mingtong watched, dumbfounded.

A pang of pain stabbed through his heart.

He went to great lengths, bent on his purpose, even at the risk of defying Vice General Manager Wang Ye's order, going all in.

And this...

this is what he got in return?!

Turns out, I'm the one who was duped!

Li Mingtong's mind was in turmoil, feeling like a jumping jack, no, like a monkey in the zoo, leaping up and down, thinking he was playing everyone when in reality, he was merely adding to their amusement!

His lips trembled uncontrollably.

Amidst anger, frustration, and pain, Li Mingtong experienced ringing in his ears as if all surrounding noises were mocking him!

Master Song Kai glanced at Li Mingtong.

With so many years in politics and business, weathering all sorts of storms, he had seen all types of people.

Li Mingtong's little tricks and schemes were nothing; he simply couldn't be bothered to expose them.

Master Song Kai ignored Li Mingtong and walked over to Bai Xiaosheng with big strides.

"Kid, all those old men before were quite satisfied, including your first version of the business style,"

just one version left in Tiannan, and it's this." Master Song Kai said earnestly, giving a sincere thumbs up.

The business building book, the Master approves too?!

District Chief Wu Qibing's gaze shined even brighter on Bai Xiaosheng, rarely hearing his mentor praise something purely commercial in style.

Rare indeed!

Of course, the first version of the building book was District Chief Wu's personal favorite!

Shang Wenshu's face was flushed with excitement.

In public, the Master even accepted the commercial style with pleasure, which was quite a favor to Bai Xiaosheng!

If Bai Xiaosheng invited the Master to the ribbon-cutting, it might actually become a reality!

Then this project would soar to the sky!

With the performance of this project, Shang Wenshu would defeat all other competitors and march into the corporation!

Shang Wenshu grew more and more excited.

Wang Ye became increasingly shocked.

Master Song Kai, with his reputation, status, and wealth in the country, was sought after even by his powerful connections in the group.

Still, the Master might not bother with them.

And Bai Xiaosheng influenced the Master, even to the extent of changing his preferences!

Unimaginable!

The leaders each harbored their thoughts, shaken to the core.

At the entrance, staff and supervisors were silenced by successive shocks.

Wang, Song, and Yezi, their cheeks flushed with excitement, as if drunk yet brimming with pride, seeing their supervisor so formidable, filled them with pride!

“Just now, I took a walk outside the project for a field inspection.

Some of the ideas you shared with me that I rejected, some were due to my old-fashioned thinking; you were right!” Master Song Kai remarked passionately.

The Master admitted defeat in public?!

This statement made even District Chief Wu Qibing chew over it twice before daring to believe it.

The crowds were already a bit numb from the successive incredibilities, no longer panicking at heart.

“However, you see, some parts of the second version of the building book’s conclusion, I still somewhat disagree!”

Master Song Kai picked up Bai Xiaosheng’s laser pointer and gestured for the technician in charge of the projection to rewind.

The technician, recovering from the shock, fumbled with the mouse, seemingly clumsy.

Everyone looked restlessly at Bai Xiaosheng.

Now, you’ve had plenty of face!

Since the Master disagrees, then you should make some changes to please him.

Happy all around!

Many thought this way.

“These parts have been collectively discussed in our department, and have been changed several times.

I think what our department has decided is the most suitable.

There’s absolutely no need to change it!”

Bai Xiaosheng insisted on his own opinion, refusing to budge an inch.

That’s Master Song Kai; why not just give in a little!

People inwardly groaned.

“Alright, then let’s argue in front of everyone.

Let’s see if your opinion or mine is better!”

Master Song Kai was invigorated.

There, in front of the large screen, the young and the old debated before all.

This scene.

Even District Chief Wu Qibing could not help but straighten up, staring without blinking an eye.

After a long debate, only the voices of the old and the young remained in the room.

Ultimately.

“Kid, you’re tough, you...

won!”

Master Song Kai said fiercely.

Bai Xiaosheng smirked proudly, letting out a low murmur somewhat forgetfully.

“What does it matter if you’re a Master?

You still have to listen to me!”

Chapter 76 Almost a Manager Level!_1 In the main conference room.

From the district chief and CEOs to employees, everyone had become somewhat numb.

The shocks, one after another, had been too frequent.

Now, even the master had conceded to Bai Xiaosheng, so whatever came next wouldn’t surprise them.

Li Mingtong, with an expression that was half crying, half laughing—or was it laughing, half crying?

His face was pale, devoid of any hint of color, his lips quivering continuously, his body trembling too.

He wasn’t standing on his own anymore but leaning against the table behind him, as if he could collapse at any moment.

But no one paid him any attention.

All eyes were drawn to Bai Xiaosheng.

The master, the district chief, and both CEOs were all gathered around Bai Xiaosheng.

“Ah, is it already this late?

No wonder my stomach’s been growling.”

Master Song Kai looked at the time and joked.

Indeed, it was already noon, time for lunch.

“Master, it’s our honor that you could take time out of your busy schedule to guide our project!

We’ve already prepared a banquet.

Please bless us with your presence!” Shang Wenshu eagerly said to Bai Xiaosheng.

“Bai, you’ll accompany him.”

Vice General Manager Wang Ye also chimed in with a smile, “That’s right, Master.

If you feel like you haven’t had enough discussion, you can continue over the meal!”

Their enthusiasm was unmistakable.

However, Master Song Kai shook his head slightly, seemingly uninterested.

“The teacher is used to frugality and has his own preferences and dietary restrictions.

The grand feast you’re setting up might not be to his taste,” District Chief Wu Qibing said smilingly to Master Song Kai.

“There’s a unique restaurant nearby that you’ve visited before.

I remember you really liked it.

I’ve specially reserved a spot there for this occasion!”

Master Song Kai paused to reflect, then his face lit up with realization, “Oh, it’s that place.”

“Since the master is visiting our project, District Chief, you can’t just swoop in like this,” Shang Wenshu firmly opposed.

“Don’t worry, Master, Deputy General Manager Wang Ye and I chose the dishes ourselves.

I believe we have some taste!”

Wang Ye strongly urged.

District Chief Wu immediately started arguing with them.

In the end, Master Song Kai clapped his hands several times, and the three of them finally stopped.

“Today, I’m not eating here at your project!” Master Song Kai said definitively to Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye.

As they were about to say something, Master Song Kai waved them off and turned to District Chief Wu Qibing.

“Today, I won’t be accepting a meal from you, my student, either!”

District Chief Wu Qibing, who thought he had the situation under control, had his smile freeze on his face.

Master Song Kai wouldn’t eat here or there.

Could he be planning to eat at home?

That would be unacceptable!

“Teacher...”

“Master...”

All three started to object but were stopped by a gesture from Master Song Kai.

“Today, I’m the host!”

This statement left all three momentarily dumbstruck.

Master Song Kai turned to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, “I was listening to you talk about the building book, and throughout your speech, it was all about how hard your department has worked.

In less than four days, to reach that level of quality with the building book is impressive.

They must be exhausted.

So today, I would like to treat your team to a meal, is that okay?"

The master...

is treating the Promotion Department to a meal!

The employees and managers, who thought they had become numb, were suddenly abuzz.

Envy, jealousy, admiration.

Countless gazes fell on Wang, Song, and Yezi, making them the center of attention.

The three of them were shocked.

Happiness had come so suddenly and was so unbelievable that it felt like a dream!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at them and smiled.

Indeed, they had been very tired these past few days.

Now that the report had been a resounding success, it was time for a proper celebration.

Then let's savor a meal from the Master!

"I have no objections," Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "and I think they don't have any either!"

Of course, no objections!

To be acknowledged by such a renowned figure like Master Song Kai and even treated to a meal—this was something to boast about for a lifetime!

Even Wang was excitedly rubbing his hands together.

District Chief Wu Qibing laughed and said to Master Song Kai, “Then the three of us will keep you company and mooch off a meal from you, that’s okay, right?”

Even the mighty District Chief was starting to mooch meals.

Everyone burst into hearty laughter.

“Bai Xiaosheng!”

Suddenly, a harsh shout exploded beside their ears!

Like a trapped animal fighting for its life!

The harmony of the large conference room was shattered by the sudden outburst, startling everyone.

People turned to look.

They saw Li Mingtong staring fixedly at Bai Xiaosheng, eyes bloodshot, face twisted, his features almost contorted out of place.

Master Song Kai frowned.

This project deputy manager, having no clear reason for his grievance with Bai Xiaosheng, had been relentlessly trying to harm him from the start.

The Master did not like it!

Now, what exactly did he intend to do!

Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye's expressions changed.

The Master had a favorable impression of the project thanks to Bai Xiaosheng, and should they come to think that the project team was full of internal strife and sabotage, that wouldn't be good at all!

Even Vice General Manager Wang Ye couldn't shoulder that responsibility!

"Li Mingtong, what's gotten into you!

Get out of here!" Wang Ye barked.

Li Mingtong gave Wang Ye a wooden look.

Then, his eyes rolled back, and his body fell straight backwards, tumbling heavily to the ground.

He passed out.

The scene turned chaotic.

District Chief Wu Qibing also frowned deeply.

"Take him to the hospital." At a wave from Shang Wenshu, two employees rushed over and clumsily carried Li Mingtong out.

“Master, District Chief, our project deputy manager has always been in poor health, with low blood sugar and occasional fainting spells.

It’s nothing serious, nobody should be alarmed,” Shang Wenshu explained with a smile on his face.

“That’s right, I’m aware of this too!” Wang Ye assured, thumping his chest.

This ridiculously false excuse was taken seriously by everyone as if it were gospel truth.

Master Song Kai still wore a smile.

“Then let’s hurry and go eat.

My blood sugar is low too.”

The entire conference room seemed to breathe a sigh of relief.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at the direction in which Li Mingtong had been carried away, feeling somewhat disappointed.

He’d been ready to strike back, but his opponent had preemptively “escaped.”

“Alright, let’s go eat first,” Bai Xiaosheng beckoned to Wang and the others.

The trio ran over excitedly.

The group, surrounding the Master, got ready to set out for lunch.

The voice of Red Lotus suddenly echoed in Bai Xiaosheng’s mind.

“Involving a subsidiary of the group, critical project, presenting the building brochure to an important figure for the project’s future—Master Song Kai.

The presentation was successful, and scoring is now underway!”

“First edition of the building brochure, approval received, five points added, current total score eighty-three, seventeen points away from promotion to managerial level!”

“Second edition of the building brochure, highly approved, seven points added, current total score ninety, ten points away from promotion to managerial level!”

“Employee-level promotion progress at 90%, new task issued: Invite Master Song Kai to the project opening ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Success will grant ten points, promotion to managerial level, and unlock of the second system assistant!”

The barrage of prompts left Bai Xiaosheng a bit overwhelmed.

But the final task lit up his eyes.

Managerial level, was it finally coming?

Chapter 77 Persuading Master Song_1 Master Song Kai had arranged a banquet, and the venue chosen was the one selected by District Chief Wu Qibing.

The saying goes, “One never tires of fine food, nor of delicate dishes.”

Master Song Kai was a gourmet, yet he also detested extravagance.

The place chosen by District Chief Wu was familiar to Master Song Kai.

The owner of the restaurant was also a culinary pursuer, an unconventional man with integrity who would not curry favor with the wealthy by offering strange and rare delicacies.

For this reason alone, the master greatly appreciated it.

The location was near the project site, a ten-minute drive to the entrance of a small alley.

After walking a few hundred meters, the view suddenly opened up before everyone's eyes.

With the ground paved with blue bricks, bamboo shading the path, and a traditional Chinese stone archway, one could glimpse the bamboo garden and the clear stream inside.

The environment was quiet and refined, refreshing the mind and delighting the spirit.

"Blue rocks, clear water, green bamboo; a harmony of three greens: Sanqing Garden," Master Song Kai personally explained to the guests.

Indeed, it was excellent!

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, and those behind him, Wang, Song, and Yezi, also praised incessantly.

This time, the Promotions Department was unparalleled in glory, leaving the whole project in envy as they rode in the leaders' cars to the banquet, accompanied by District Chief Wu Qibing, General Manager Shang Wenshu, and Vice General Manager Wang Ye.

Even Chen Daya didn't qualify.

And all this had been facilitated solely by Bai Xiaosheng!

Reflecting back on their first encounter, the trio of Lao Wang became deeply contemplative as they looked at Bai Xiaosheng's back.

Upon entering Sanqing Garden, the staff immediately greeted them and led them on a stroll through the garden, introducing the unique small landscapes along the way.

Appreciating the scenery before dining served to refine the mood, as it also allowed the kitchen to prepare the dishes, ensuring no one would be waiting for food.

Inside the garden, it wasn't just their group; other guests were also present, yet there wasn't any noise or disturbance—it was peacefully pleasant.

Even Master Song Kai wasn't in a hurry to discuss with Bai, but walked ahead with his hands behind him, enjoying the views along the way.

Sometimes, dining is about the state of mind, and Bai Xiaosheng's was quite good at the moment.

Having submitted a report, Red Lotus had added points for him twice in a row, earning twelve points just like that, which was even more than what he would have gotten from working overtime in the evening.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a wave of satisfaction.

The final task for the staff level had been released, Unlike the last task which required a range of scores, this time it was a fixed number of points—ten.

If he received them, he would reach the managerial level.

The task.

To persuade the master to attend the ribbon-cutting event, perhaps?

Bai Xiaosheng felt it wouldn't be easy; he had asked Red Lotus to check and found that since turning forty, Master Song Kai had never attended any such events, not even when his students invited him!

This indicated that the old gentleman disliked commercialized affairs.

How was he to complete the task?

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but worry.

As he pondered,

suddenly, someone tugged at his sleeve.

Turning, Bai saw Shang Wenshu covertly signaling him with his eyes to slow down.

Shang Wenshu had something to tell him?

A thought struck Bai Xiaosheng; he too slowed his pace.

Wang Ye chatted with District Chief Wu Qibing in low voices as they walked side by side, clearly enjoying the conversation.

"Xiao Bai, you've known Master Song Kai for a long time?" Shang Wenshu glanced at them and asked Bai Xiaosheng in a low voice.

A misunderstanding.

But Bai didn't feel like explaining and just nodded vaguely.

“Then could you invite the master to cut the ribbon on the opening day?” Shang Wenshu’s expression was somewhat urgent, his eyes filled with immense anticipation.

Invite the master to cut the ribbon?

Bai Xiaosheng was startled; was this what Shang Wenshu wanted to talk to him about?

Bai Xiaosheng bitterly smiled in his heart; he was currently troubled by this matter!

Seeing the slight frown on Bai Xiaosheng’s brow, Shang Wenshu thought he was having difficulties, and hurriedly said, “This matter, consider it me asking a favor of you!

You must try, whether you succeed or not, I owe you a huge favor and will never forget it!”

There was even a pleading look on Shang Wenshu’s face as he began to address Bai Xiaosheng as a brother.

It was hard to believe that an executive who had held a high position for a long time, and who was full of Confucian elegance, could show such a side.

Beyond feeling moved, Bai Xiaosheng pondered for a moment.

Shang Wenshu watched him intently, fearing he would shake his head.

The opportunity at hand was rare, whether the master would agree to attend the ribbon-cutting, whether Teles Square would soar to great heights, whether he, Shang Wenshu, could enter the group, all depended on Bai Xiaosheng!

One could say his future was completely in the hands of this young man before him!

Shang Wenshu’s mind raced, thinking about how to first persuade Bai Xiaosheng!

Money, power, beauty—Shang Wenshu had thought about them all but didn't dare to bring them up.

What kind of person was Bai Xiaosheng?

With a position extraordinary in the group inspection team, a wrong move would backfire and bring about loss without gain!

Shang Wenshu, this cautious and astute character, actually felt somewhat powerless, itching to have Bai Xiaosheng set his own terms!

He would agree to anything!

Bai Xiaosheng looked at Shang Wenshu and finally nodded.

He accepted the favor!

Shang Wenshu's heart settled, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with immense gratitude!

He noted the favor!

"But persuading the master...

is not easy," Bai Xiaosheng struggled with this issue.

"Don't worry, I have studied the master," Shang Wenshu somewhat impatiently confided to Bai Xiaosheng.

"I know the master has not attended any ribbon-cuttings in recent years, but there are always exceptions, especially when he is in a good mood today.

I have a script here that you might want to refer to!”

Shang Wenshu had even prepared his speech, and Bai Xiaosheng was a bit impressed by him.

Truly cunning and calculating!

Shang Wenshu whispered to Bai Xiaosheng for a while.

Bai Xiaosheng’s expression gradually brightened.

The script from Shang Wenshu was nothing short of brilliant linguistic artistry.

It made flexible use of the Thirty-Six Stratagems, indirect probes, a gradual buildup, circuitous layout, and even each probing statement was capable of advancing or retreating with finesse.

Bai Xiaosheng felt he couldn’t match the meticulousness of the language.

Armed with this script, Bai Xiaosheng was full of confidence!

Immediately, Bai Xiaosheng committed it to memory, repeatedly mulling it over in his mind, refining it again and again to make it his own, aiming for it to come out naturally and flawlessly when he spoke later.

Shang Wenshu and Bai Xiaosheng’s conversation was actually quite brief.

Afterwards, the two did not communicate further and quickened their steps because Master Song Kai had already walked towards the buildings.

Sanqing Garden, the elegant private room.

The dishes, one after another, were served, all pleasing in color, scent, and taste.

Bai Xiaosheng had seen photos of the dishes from Michelin-starred restaurants and felt that they couldn't compare to these!

The master was very easygoing at the dining table, talking and laughing, even sharing a couple of drinks of huangjiu with everyone.

The hosts and guests were enjoying themselves, an atmosphere of peace and harmony all around.

On the one hand, Bai Xiaosheng was in his heart, incessantly turning over the words Shang Wenshu had taught him, while on the other, he was looking for an opportunity.

There was only one chance, to fail meant complete failure!

There would be no second opportunity to speak up!

Bai Xiaosheng was extremely cautious.

Shang Wenshu was even more anxious than he was.

Just as both were secretly fretting, Master Song Kai suddenly put down his wine cup with a thud.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I think I should take half the credit for this edition of the building, I even helped out for half a day.

I want to use it as teaching material to instruct other projects!"

Master Song Kai seemed afraid that Bai Xiaosheng would disagree and hurriedly added another sentence.

“If you agree to that, then as a favor to you, when this project opens and it’s time for the ribbon-cutting, I’ll come, how about that?”

Chapter 78 This is the Manager Level!_1 Master Song Kai’s statement astonished everyone present.

Even District Chief Wu Qibing was a bit dumbfounded.

He knew his teacher hadn’t participated in any business events for nearly two decades—even the mayor had trouble inviting him, as the old man would always find various excuses to decline.

And now, he was actually volunteering to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony?

It was simply unbelievable!

District Chief Wu Qibing’s gaze towards Bai Xiaosheng changed; even as his student, he felt a hint of envy, jealousy, and resentment towards the young man.

Shang Wenshu had just taken a sip of his drink and almost spouted it out.

He held it in his mouth, forgetting to swallow.

The master, of his own accord, volunteered to cut the ribbon?!

Was it really that simple?

Shang Wenshu had racked his brains to prepare a complete set of interlocking arguments, appealing to emotions and reasoning, and even called in favors to ask Bai Xiaosheng to intervene.

And now, before those plans could be put into practice, were they rendered useless?

Of course, Shang Wenshu knew that the master's words were extremely important—

“I will come for your sake!”

The key was still Bai Xiaosheng—another person might not have had such influence!

Shang Wenshu took his time to swallow the wine in his mouth, pondering over those simple words!

He looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a peculiar brilliance in his eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng refreshed his understanding time and time again.

Was this the young talent within the corporation?

To possess such tremendous energy!

Shang Wenshu's desire for the corporation reached an unprecedented height.

He felt that only there would his life achieve greater accomplishments!

Wang Ye's eyes were full of shock and awe as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

Being able to move the master without even asking was the power of Bai Xiaosheng!

It seemed that once this event was over, he must report the situation to that person in the corporation and quickly devise a strategy, specifically targeting Bai Xiaosheng.

The three leaders were shocked, yet managed to maintain their composure.

Wang, Song, and Yezi, the three of them, were already dumbstruck.

After the shock, their eyes gleamed with utter fervor.

After all, it was Master Song Kai, a rumored figure who never took part in commercial activities—a pillar of the architectural design community!

This time, he had changed his ways because of their manager.

It was simply unimaginable!

When everyone's gaze converged on Bai Xiaosheng, he too was a bit bewildered.

But soon, Bai Xiaosheng felt thrilled.

The moment Master Song Kai agreed, Red Lotus's voice came through.

The continuous prompts were almost too much for Bai Xiaosheng to handle.

"Task completed, reward of ten points earned, current total points one hundred.

Congratulations on the successful promotion, current level—Manager!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, your current position is that of a corporate manager, with a funding access of five million unlocked and an overdraft limit of five million!"

"Manager level auxiliary function activated—language conversion.

Enter the six official United Nations languages, with an additional five thousand languages available in the system's library!"

At the manager level, there were two types of funds available: direct access and overdraft—which seemed to require a reason and approval from Red Lotus.

In Bai Xiaosheng's mind, a huge list of languages suddenly appeared, including names of various indigenous languages unbeknownst to many.

"Why is the manager level's assistance language-related?" Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat surprised.

It sounded, somehow, not as powerful as the initial search engine function.

"Manager level belongs to the management layer.

The higher the position, the greater the chances of dealing with international clients.

Due to the limitations of the search engine, it may create communication barriers; hence, the manager level activates the auxiliary function—language translation," Red Lotus clarified for Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng understood; he merely had to think, and the thousands of language names would scroll through his mind, very convenient.

To think, there were so many languages in the world.

Bai Xiaosheng, amid his amazement, suddenly paused in thought.

What is this...?

Beast language?!

Listed last on the language list, there actually appeared this branch.

Out of curiosity, Bai Xiaosheng selected it, and within the branch, there emerged further subdivisions such as canines, felines, birds, and the like.

How can there be, a category that isn't even human language!

Bai Xiaosheng was truly a bit stupefied.

Could this really work, to converse with animals?

If he talked to cats and dogs, wouldn't it just be meows and barks?

If others saw this, wouldn't they think he's a complete madman!

"Hey, how about it, kid, you don't agree with my proposition?" Master Song Kai noticed Bai Xiaosheng's glazed look and waved his hand in front of him, asking.

Agree!

Shang Wenshu almost answered for Bai Xiaosheng.

If it weren't for the fear of interrupting the master and displeasing him, that's exactly what he would have done!

Bai Xiaosheng, what are you daydreaming about!

Shang Wenshu was looking eagerly, feeling anxious inside.

“Oh!” Bai Xiaosheng was startled out of his thoughts by the master, blinked, looked at the master’s questioning face, and remembered.

“Sure, we welcome it immensely!” Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, “This building’s books already contain many of the master’s innovations; naturally, you should be counted in.”

“Haha, good!” The master laughed heartily.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

This time, it was truly enjoyable for both host and guest.

Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye, completely unexpectedly, got the master’s promise to attend the project inauguration; they were naturally delighted and raised their glasses to toast.

Then, their phones rang almost simultaneously, less than a second apart.

Both looked apologetically at the master, excused themselves, and stood up to answer their calls.

When they returned, Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye looked at Bai Xiaosheng with extremely odd expressions.

This change also made Master Song Kai very curious.

“What’s happened, what’s the matter?” Master Song Kai put down his glass and asked.

District Chief Wu Qibing and Wang were also full of curiosity.

Shang Wenshu glanced at everyone, smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, and said, "Bai, from today, you're no longer the supervisor."

Not the supervisor, could it be a demotion?

Master Song Kai frowned slightly, seeming a bit displeased.

"You're now a manager, on the same level as Chen Zhongshi!" Shang Wenshu said meaningfully, giving Bai Xiaosheng a look.

The phone call just now was actually an appointment from the corporation!

For a mere subsidiary's manager position, the corporate HR department actually made a special call to inform!

"Haha, so it's a promotion!"

That's really a cause for celebration.

You'll have to drink a couple more glasses later!" Master Song Kai laughed heartily, patting Bai Xiaosheng's shoulder.

Wang and the others let out a breath, their faces also filled with surprise.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled placidly; he knew the news earlier than anyone present.

It seems, as long as one reaches a certain level, the corporation will inform my company and forcibly promote me, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

"But this way, wouldn't that mean you have three managers on your project?" District Chief Wu Qibing asked with a smile.

Wang Ye, who had been silent all along, shook his head, and added, “That won’t be the case.”

“Oh, why not?” District Chief Wu asked curiously.

“The call I just received.” Wang Ye looked like a mix of emotions, speaking with an unusual expression.

“Li Mingtong, has gone mad.”

Chapter 79 The Infamous_1 A deputy project manager went mad during a project reporting meeting?

The attendees, including Master Song Kai, looked at each other in dismay, speechless.

Li Mingtong racked his brains, exhausted his wisdom, gambled his future, and desperately dug a huge pit for Bai Xiaosheng but, despite all his calculations, he did not anticipate that Bai Xiaosheng and the master were old acquaintances.

A farce, an exercise in futility.

In the end, it was he himself who was buried in the pit!

At the instant of an easy success, experiencing that ecstatic moment, realizing oneself to be the biggest fool—the harsh “truth”—would send anyone’s emotions soaring and crashing, leading to madness.

Moreover, Li Mingtong had long been driven a bit abnormal by Bai Xiaosheng’s actions.

Madness, it seemed, was inevitable.

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly felt a bit of sympathy for him—actually, there was no need for it to come to this!

At this point, Bai Xiaosheng would not bother with the past grievances; after all, the man had gone mad.

Settling accounts with a madman was pointless.

Though Master Song Kai and District Chief Wu Qibing did not know the deeper details, being highly cultured individuals, they naturally did not concern themselves with personal secrets or gossip—they didn't even ask.

This certainly saved a lot of hassle.

The dinner party was drawing to a close.

Master Song Kai and District Chief Wu Qibing had other matters to attend to in the afternoon, so they bid Bai Xiaosheng and the others farewell.

Both the master and the district chief showed great favor to Bai Xiaosheng before leaving and even verbally agreed to meet up during their free time.

To the onlookers, this was a tremendous honor!

Even Shang Wenshu and Wang Ye were green with envy.

After all, in their eyes, these were precious political and business resources!

They saw off the leaders.

Bai Xiaosheng and Old Wang rode back to the project site in the cars of the two bosses.

At the entrance of the project marketing center, Vice General Manager Wang Ye dropped off the people in his car, greeted everyone, and then hurriedly left.

For him, there were many things to report to “that person” in the group, which were critically important!

Upon returning to the project, Bai Xiaosheng and the others learned that the news of Li Mingtong’s madness had already spread wildly; there were discussions everywhere.

Even the cleaning men and women were whispering to each other.

“Did you hear?

Vice Manager Li Mingtong went mad!”

“How is that possible?

Who told you that?

He was fine this morning, right?”

“Wu from the investment department personally took him to the hospital, I heard he’s been transferred—to a mental hospital!”

“Tsk, he was doing fine, how did he just go mad?”

“I saw him when he fainted, that look on his face was horrifying, and he was screaming Bai Xiaosheng’s name...”

“Bai Xiaosheng...”

Bai Xiaosheng had no idea that after this incident,

he had effortlessly shed the “one of” from his status as one of the most untouchable figures in the entire project and become the sole one!

He outshone Chen Daya!

As soon as Shang Wenshu arrived at the project, he immediately called Chen Daya over.

Soon after, the head of the HR and administration department was also summoned.

Before long, the news of Bai Xiaosheng’s promotion to manager spread throughout the project!

Suddenly, the whole project was abuzz!

A figure unprecedented and unlikely to be emulated, Bai Xiaosheng—who in just two weeks got promoted twice, first ousting the supervisor and then driving the deputy project manager mad to become the project manager—became a living legend!

Manager Bai Xiaosheng instantly attained a mythic status!

To everyone, Li Mingtong’s incident was now merely juicy gossip for conversation.

They shook their heads in wonder, satisfying their cravings for stories.

Yet, it was Bai Xiaosheng who mattered, as he was the one related to their own vested interests!

Especially Li Mingtong’s faction, they are simply in a state of extreme mental tension!

The new official has lit three fires, and Bai Xiaosheng has indeed sparked a nest of workaholics in the promotion department.

Who knows if they will also get burned!

This is the ruthless person who almost drove Li Mingtong crazy; anyone who dares to slack off is just asking for trouble, practically begging to be sent to a mental hospital to keep the former leader company!

Over time,

Bai Xiaosheng's formal appointment hasn't even been sent from the head office yet, but his personal authority has already reached a certain peak.

Now, if he says a word, it's probably a hundred times more effective than Chen Daya!

The news that came out wasn't that Bai Xiaosheng's rank was a vice manager, but a proper manager, on equal footing with Chen Daya.

About this, Chen Daya asked Shang Wenshu who they should listen to.

Shang Wenshu told him very clearly, "If the two of you aren't in a dispute, then discuss and decide together.

But once any disagreement arises, follow what Bai Xiaosheng says!"

Same rank, different fate, ah!

However, regarding this, Chen Daya had no objections.

For one, he had seen Bai Xiaosheng's capabilities, and secondly, he was also a little bit afraid...

About Li Mingtong.

He was, after all, the project's senior management personnel, a veteran employee.

Shang Wenshu instructed Chen Daya to make arrangements; they were to form a consolation group tomorrow to visit the sick and also bring along some money as a small gesture from the company.

This wasn't just Shang Wenshu's intention; after Vice General Manager Wang Ye left, he also called and made the same instruction about this matter.

As for this traitor, Vice General Manager Wang Ye could be said to have done all that duty demanded.

The members who were to visit the sick were originally planned to be the entire leadership team.

Bai Xiaosheng was a bit conflicted.

Logically, as a former subordinate and new manager, he should go to visit, but Bai Xiaosheng prided himself on not being so magnanimous, nor did he want to be hypocritical.

Li's wife and brother-in-law were still in detention because of the "effort" he "put in."

To go would be bad, not to go would also be bad.

Bai Xiaosheng asked Chen Daya for advice, and Chen Daya immediately, on behalf of Li Mingtong, firmly declined!

If Bai Xiaosheng went, it would only turn Li Mingtong from mad to utterly insane!

"Forget it.

I think, Manager Bai, you've also been quite tired these days with the promotion department, so why not take a day off tomorrow?

Rest well and merge it with the weekend," Chen Daya suggested.

Now that the two of them were on the same level, and Bai Xiaosheng's word carried even more weight than his, Chen Daya had no way to order him.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded and agreed to this arrangement.

The promotion department once again took a holiday amidst the envious gazes of the entire project.

Returning to his own home, Bai Xiaosheng dove straight into bed.

To say he wasn't tired these days would be a lie; he really wanted to have a good long sleep.

That night, Bai Xiaosheng went to bed early, slept until daybreak, only to be woken the next day by Wei Xuelian knocking at the door, delivering breakfast.

"Hey, you taking the bet about washing clothes?" Bai Xiaosheng took the breakfast with love from the beauty, looking at Wei Xuelian full of hopeful anticipation.

Wei Xuelian gave him a glance and lightly parted her red lips to give him one word, "Scram!"

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled awkwardly and had no other option but to drop the subject.

That entire Friday, Bai Xiaosheng stayed cooped up at home, not stepping a foot outside—with films to watch, games to play, and naps to take.

It wasn't until the evening that he received a phone call that disturbed the peace of his private little world.

The caller was from Zhengdong Province.

“You at home?”

Come out, let’s drink!”

That was the first sentence.

After a moment of silence, Zheng Pangzi spoke the second sentence.

“There’s a class reunion this weekend.

You’re coming with me.

It’s time to settle an old score with He Yanbing!”

Chapter 80: Heaven Does Not Hide The Wicked, What Does It Have To Do With Me!_1 Wooden House BBQ.

Bai Xiaosheng confirmed the sign outside before stepping in, and quickly found Zhengdong Province waiting there.

Zheng Pangzi, seeing Bai Xiaosheng’s arrival, hurriedly urged the waiter to serve the dishes.

Peanuts, edamame, smashed cucumbers, and piles of meat skewers, gristle, pig’s trotters, and small kidneys.

Zhengdong Province also ordered a bucket—over ten liters—of beer.

They chatted while devouring skewers and gulping down beer.

Talking about the past days of university, they downed beer after beer.

Soon, they were both drunk.

“What do you think of He Yanbing, with his saintly appearance but a heart of a beast!

The former president of the student council, just a low-life!” Zheng Pangzi slammed the table as he cursed vociferously.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded vigorously.

Thinking of He Yanbing, the hatred in his heart had not subsided over all these years!

The first time he met He Yanbing.

He was a tall and handsome man with a height of 1.8 meters, graceful and seemingly gentle.

His behavior was much more mature than his peers, and his voice had a magnetic quality.

His personal abilities were strong, especially his calligraphy, which was exceptional and stunning to everyone.

In short, upon first meeting, this man was so outstanding it was astonishing.

Back then, He Yanbing was the president of the student council, and Bai Xiaosheng joined later as one of the four vice-presidents.

After He Yanbing took charge of the student council, everything was well organized, earning the favor of the young female counselor and driving all the women in the department crazy.

However, Bai Xiaosheng quickly realized that He Yanbing was truly scum, utter scum!

“All that glitters is not gold,” would be an understatement to describe him!

This man had a messy private life, involved with numerous women.

Once, Bai Xiaosheng even accidentally witnessed a passionate moment between him and a woman in the equipment room.

Of course, how others lived their lives was their own business, and outsiders had no right to interfere.

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't care less.

Until one day, Zheng Pangzi came to him, furious.

The girl Zheng Pangzi had a crush on had been seduced and abandoned by He Yanbing, and she was pregnant!

At that time, Zheng Pangzi was entirely a naïve fatty, driven mad upon hearing the news, so enraged he wanted to kill He Yanbing.

It was Bai Xiaosheng who, at all costs, stopped him!

After all, what had started in chaos had at one point been consensual.

Zheng Pangzi, an outsider, what right did he have to intervene and make a fuss, calling for violence?

Moreover, if the matter blew up, imagine how that girl would live!

Nevertheless, Bai Xiaosheng decided to help him, even if their opponent was the incomparably prominent He Yanbing.

After all, Pangzi was his best friend!

At the time, Bai Xiaosheng happened to discover that the funds managed by the student council had a significant deficit, suspected of being embezzled.

Bai Xiaosheng investigated covertly, and the suspect pointed directly to He Yanbing!

With his intelligence, Bai Xiaosheng soon obtained evidence and, together with Zheng Pangzi, they arranged to meet He Yanbing in the secluded corner of the campus woods.

In front of the evidence, He Yanbing was scared to death, weeping and wailing, and knelt down to them.

All his supposed refinement and dignity turned into nothing.

In his weeping, He Yanbing claimed he had only temporarily borrowed the money because his family had undergone a calamity and urgently needed it to save a life.

He Yanbing also repeatedly assured that he would definitely repay the money and begged Bai Xiaosheng not to publicize it.

“Back then, we were so fucking innocent!” Zhengdong Province laughed loudly.

Bai Xiaosheng also laughed, “I actually believed all that bullshit.

Pangzi, you even told people to take responsibility for that junior sister!”

“We were just two big fucking idiots!” Tears came out as Zheng Pangzi laughed.

At the time, they made He Yanbing sign a guarantee letter, assuring the return of funds, and also promising to take responsibility for that junior sister.

Afterward, they released He Yanbing and truly didn't publicize the matter.

A week later.

Their nightmare began.

First, Bai Xiaosheng, the vice-chairman, was accused of embezzling public funds.

Then, on the same day, as Zhengdong Province was helping a girl who sprained her ankle back to the dormitory, the moment he stepped inside, the girl tore her own clothes and screamed out loud about molestation.

Instantly, someone rushed in, caught Zhengdong Province, and claimed to have witnessed him acting indecently!

On that day, both incidents were personally led by He Yanbing with three other vice-chairmen in their "arrest."

When Bai Xiaosheng and his group were brought in front of the female counselor, they had already been beaten black and blue, finding it hard to even speak in their defense.

However, Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province still did not submit, nor did they show any fear.

They had evidence!

He Yanbing was the one embezzling public funds and behaving indecently, they were innocent!

They hoped the counselor would uphold justice, so the two took out the saved guarantee letter, but in the blink of an eye, it turned into a “plan.”

A detailed plan accusing them of framing and blackmailing He Yanbing, drafted by Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province!

“Even the counselor was in on it, we didn’t lose unfairly, not at all!

Don’t you think?” Zheng Pangzi asked Bai Xiaosheng with a drunken smile.

“Not at all!”

Bai Xiaosheng clinked glasses with him, downed a glass of beer in one gulp, and then filled up again.

“Heaven won’t shelter scoundrels, I heard that last year the counselor was expelled by the school authorities.

That’s at least a bit of interest the heavens collected for us,” Zhengdong Province murmured.

At the time, the female counselor reported the incident to the school authorities and claimed to have begged for mercy on behalf of Bai Xiaosheng and Zhengdong Province.

Ridiculous!

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng received a major punishment of being put on probation until graduation, never obtaining his diploma, while Zhengdong Province also received a severe punishment.

After all, they were defeated by He Yanbing, utterly and completely.

“Fuck, if I wasn’t afraid of getting you expelled with me back then, I really wanted to turn that idiot into a real idiot.

You don't know I had even prepared a brick," Zhengdong Province said with laughter, but tears were freely streaming down his face.

What humiliation they experienced during that time.

They were pointed at by the whole school—both he and Bai Xiaosheng, like lost dogs.

Zhengdong Province picked up his stein and drained it in one go.

"I felt the same, I wanted to kill him so many times!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed, shaking his head, "How many nights did I howl in the little woods like a dying wolf."

Those unforgettable years of university, the unforgettable pain, memories that could never be erased!

Over the years, having experienced many things, they matured and grew.

Those things, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't and dared not forget.

"I'm thinking, one day, I must take back what's ours—our dignity!

Because it was always ours, we shouldn't bear this humiliation!" Zhengdong Province said vehemently.

Bai Xiaosheng took another full drink and wiped his mouth with his sleeve.

"The interest collected by heaven, that's heaven's business.

It doesn't conceal evil, what's that to me!" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes were drunk but showed a fierce light, "And me, I will collect my interest.

No!

I'll take it back with interest, all of it!"

"Class reunion, going?"

"Going!"

The two brothers fiercely clinked their glasses, and drank up once more!