

Two Trillion 781

Chapter 781: Reaching a Consensus!_1

"What is this?" Chen Jiutian's face held a trace of confusion as he reached out to take the document Zheng Honghu had produced.

It was a hardcover folder, with not a single word on either side. Upon opening it, there were just two thin sheets of paper inside, densely covered with text arranged in a clear and pleasing format.

Chen Jiutian had read only a few lines before his brows subtly furrowed.

He saw a familiar name—Zhongjing Media!

Chen Jiutian couldn't help but glance at Zheng Honghu, who offered a slight smile, indicating that he should continue reading.

Chen Jiutian read on.

He skimmed the text, grasping the main points, but the more he read, the more alarming he found it.

The text was marked with timestamps.

The two pages documented a four-day summary of collaborations—Zhongjing Media's partnerships with various companies.

The names of the collaborating companies, their locations, the content of the collaboration, the scale, and the projected benefits.

Just these four days of collaboration were enough to give Chen Jiutian a jolt of shock.

Bai Xiaosheng's Zhongjing Media had achieved such astounding results!

Chen Jiutian had been paying close attention to this competition and had received progress reports from Mu Beichen, so he knew well the pace of Mu Beichen's side.

Comparing the two, Zhongjing Media far outpaced Mu Beichen's company in the same timeframe!

"These?" Chen Jiutian couldn't help but turn to Zheng Honghu and ask in amazement.

"Every generation has its own talents. In our group, besides young geniuses like Mu Beichen, there is also a prodigy like Bai Xiaosheng," Zheng Honghu said cheerfully.

Then, he leisurely poured himself a cup of tea and sipped gently.

"In the past four days, that company called Zhongjing Media has been snagging major deals in Hedong Province! The speed and effectiveness are astonishing, shocking even the regional industry leader of Hedong Province who received the news. That's why, they sent me this briefing," Zheng Honghu said with a smile.

Chen Jiutian's gaze slightly narrowed. "This regional industry leader of Hedong Province seems to have a more than ordinary relationship with you!"

Zheng Honghu chuckled, "Chen Jiuzheng from Anjiang Province is Elder Chen's brother, which is an even more extraordinary relationship!"

Zheng Honghu actually used the relationship between Chen Jiuzheng and Chen Jiutian to draw a parallel to his own connection with the regional industry leader of Hedong Province!

To be able to speak so freely about that kind of relationship...

Chen Jiutian laughed. "It seems, Brother Zheng, you don't consider me an outsider!"

This seemed to be yet another gesture of sincerity.

"We're not outsiders now, so it's better to be open with each other," Zheng Honghu said cheerfully and then added, "Come, let's continue discussing Bai Xiaosheng. I'm very interested in him as well!"

"Oh?" Chen Jiutian looked at Zheng Honghu.

"This Bai Xiaosheng, since he was recommended by Elder Chen, should be one of our own. However, from what I've gathered, he has had several clashes with your younger brother!"

"I originally thought it was all just for show, that Elder Chen would never intentionally set up a powerful adversary for Mu Beichen, the man he supports—unless, you don't really want to support Mu Beichen, and your true preference is for Bai Xiaosheng!"

As Zheng Honghu spoke, he paused for a moment, glancing at Chen Jiutian.

Chen Jiutian frowned.

Of course, he would never support Bai Xiaosheng!

But by now, Bai Xiaosheng had far exceeded his expectations.

Reflecting on the information he had seen, it was startling!

Even Mu Beichen himself would never have imagined that Bai Xiaosheng could reach such a level! The trend of overtaking was clear!

"Chen Changqing, this undercover, must have been hoodwinked; otherwise, it's impossible that he couldn't have collected a shred of information!" Chen Jiutian felt a surge of irritation.

Looking at Zheng Honghu in front of him, a thought struck Chen Jiutian.

This meeting, Zheng Honghu seemed to be showing off his muscles to me.

Even the provincial industrial heads of Hedong Province were his people!

However, as Chen Jiutian watched Zheng Honghu's gently smiling face, he became more vigilant.

"Right now, I can't directly conclude that the provincial industrial head of Hedong Province is Zheng Honghu's man. What if he got the information through other channels? What if he just had a hold on that person's weakness, or it was based on some sentiment that he managed to force the other party to hand over the information?" Chen Jiutian thought to himself.

"What if, Zheng Honghu is just making me think that the provincial industrial head is his man!"

Facing Zheng Honghu, a person of such superior mental calculation, one must be cautious!

After all, he is the Senior Affairs Officer of the Affairs Department!

There's only one Affairs Department throughout the Greater China Region, and in the entire department, there are only ten Senior Affairs Officers.

A person close to being demonic!

In this brief moment, Chen Jiutian's thoughts were racing.

To be an opponent, one must be extremely cautious with Zheng Honghu, even more cautious than cautious!

To be allies, one cannot let down their guard either!

Who knows when, given enough temptation, Zheng Honghu would turn around and sell me out!

"To be honest, before coming here, I thought about whether the friction between Bai Xiaosheng and my younger brother Chen Jiuzheng was just a smokescreen," Zheng Honghu said with a smile, "But from the way Elder Chen looked at the information I brought, it seems you really knew nothing about what the others have done."

Zheng Honghu, with a smile, asked softly, "May I be so bold as to guess, Elder Chen, are you raising a tiger that's become a threat?"

He gave Chen Jiutian that item as a show of sincerity.

And wasn't it also a probe!

These people, in a simple act, the meaning behind it could be double or triple-layered, difficult for ordinary people to fathom.

"Raising a tiger that's become a threat!" Chen Jiutian pondered these words and finally sighed, "You've caught me, Brother Zheng!"

He might as well have admitted it!

"No problem, no problem. Even if it's an unexpectedly dark horse, or a fierce tiger laying low, I will help Brother Chen take care of it!" said Zheng Honghu casually, with an air that suggested he could make Bai Xiaosheng disappear in the blink of an eye!

"As for the position of provincial industrial head that my Chen Family got, I won't let Brother Zheng be at a loss!" Chen Jiutian leaned forward slightly and lowered his voice. "The Affairs Officer by the name of Guo in the Affairs Department, are you aware of him?"

"Guo Xian, quite capable! However, he's slick, greedy, and a womanizer. Listed in the Affairs Department for special observation, but can't be touched due to lack of evidence," said Zheng Honghu.

"No evidence? I have some!" Chen Jiutian laughed.

"What!" Zheng Honghu was taken aback.

"With just that, although it won't be enough to have him dismissed, demotion should be enough. And when he steps down, what happens to his vacant spot?" Chen Jiutian smiled. "Are you interested, Brother Zheng?!"

To Lin Ke, being an Affairs Officer meant having freedom and authority much higher than a provincial industrial head, certainly much better.

But in Chen Jiutian's view, it lacked any real power or benefits, not a first choice. Better to let Zheng Honghu have it, so he can work wholeheartedly for me. As for whether Zheng Honghu can get past the hurdle of the Greater China Region's president – that's not my concern!

"Elder Chen, you're too kind!" Zheng Honghu laughed loudly. "As for Bai and that Guo fellow, we'll work on them together, achieving a win-win situation in the end!"

"Haha, excellent!"

"So, shall we drink to our cooperation?"

"Cheers!"

Zheng Honghu and Chen Jiutian, two individuals who could be considered as cunning as they come, were at this moment all smiles, toasting with tea in place of liquor.

Their cups clinked together!

Unbeknownst to Bai Xiaosheng, he had already become the fish on the chopping board for others!

Chapter 782 - : Bai Xiaosheng, So Strong!_1

In the study, Mu Beichen was discussing the potential collaboration between Chen Jiutian and Zheng Honghu with Chen Jiuzheng.

They were both enthusiastic about the topic.

Just then, Mu Beichen's phone began emitting a series of crisp notification sounds.

Mu Beichen glanced at his phone and saw that the person messaging him was none other than Chen Jiutian!

"A message from Tian?" Mu Beichen was somewhat surprised and looked over at Chen Jiuzheng.

Chen Jiuzheng leaned in, craning his neck to see.

The first messages were several photos, which seemed to be snaps of some documents taken with a phone.

The two found it rather inconvenient to view them.

"There's a computer here, send them to me and we'll look at them on the computer!" Chen Jiuzheng suggested.

"That works!" Mu Beichen nodded in agreement.

After a bit of maneuvering, they were finally able to see the text on the photos clearly on the computer screen.

"Is this... the collaborations Zhongjing Media has secured in Hedong Province over the past few days?!"

Upon seeing the content, Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but feel surprised and looked at Mu Beichen.

"So many collaborations, and on such a grand scale!"

Mu Beichen stared at the screen in disbelief, not even blinking.

As he browsed through them one by one, Mu Beichen grew increasingly shocked.

The information before him was too stunning.

Just these collaborations alone, the projected outcomes, were already comparable to nearly half of the results of his own company!

And this was just what Zhongjing Media achieved in Hedong Province in four days.

In the rest of the time, Zhongjing Media couldn't have accomplished nothing, could it?

At the thought of this, a chill ran through Mu Beichen, and his spine turned cold.

He had always been complacent, confident that with vast resources and his own strategic planning, he could seal victory from thousands of miles away and even Zheng Qinghong would be crushed by him in a moment.

Bai Xiaosheng? The man didn't even register on his radar.

But now, Bai Xiaosheng, who was beneath his notice, had quietly amassed such formidable achievements!

"How is this possible, how... did he do it!"

Mu Beichen was alarmed, his fists clenched so tight that his nails dug into his flesh.

How could Bai Xiaosheng, whom he considered a failure, be so powerful!

A glimpse of the leopard, if Zhongjing Media's current total achievements were laid out, wouldn't they crush him, Mu Beichen!

"Ridiculous that I was so unaware, still complacent until the last moment of revelation, not knowing... I would become a laughingstock on the spot!"

The mere thought made Mu Beichen's cheeks burn hot.

Looking back, both he and Zheng Qinghong had always been too proud, too self-confident.

Being unexpectedly confronted with this reality, it's not hard to understand why he found it so hard to bear.

Mu Beichen felt somewhat dizzy looking at the information.

Thinking back, aside from the initial times when Bai Xiaosheng seemed to have lost to him, in training camp his scores were often above his own, and laughably, he had always thought that Bai Xiaosheng only won by luck, by some trick!

There's no such thing as sheer luck! How could such luck happen over and over again!

Realizing this, Mu Beichen couldn't help but catch his breath.

It turns out that I've always been too arrogant to face reality! Mu Beichen admitted to himself in silence.

"Tian just sent another message," Chen Jiuzheng suddenly pointed at the screen.

Mu Beichen looked a bit dazed, blinked, and then looked at him, "What... did Tian say?"

While he was uttering those words, Mu Beichen's mind was racing, thinking of how to turn the situation around.

But there was no way.

After various mental calculations, Mu Beichen suddenly felt a sense of powerlessness and despair. There was no way he could achieve that in the time remaining.

Unless he could muster double the resources he had before, unless he could triple the manpower!

Only then might it be possible!

But is it possible? The affairs department won't allow it!

"Bai Xiaosheng, am I really not his equal?" Mu Beichen was startled by the thought that suddenly leaped into his mind, growing wildly like frenzied weeds and instantly occupying his heart.

"I am not Bai Xiaosheng's equal!" Once this thought took shape, it was terrifying!

So much so that Mu Beichen looked absent-minded, and Chen Jiuzheng called out to him several times in vain.

"Don't worry, Beichen," said Chen Jiuzheng, "Tian has reached a cooperation with Zheng Honghu. Zheng Honghu said he would help us curb Bai Xiaosheng! But what a waste Changqing is—such a failure. He didn't provide any news, and we were almost capsized in the ditch without even knowing what Bai Xiaosheng had accomplished!"

Saying this, Chen Jiuzheng clenched his right fist and struck it fiercely against his left palm, his expression filled with irritation.

The noise startled Mu Beichen.

The speaker was unintentional, but the listener was intentional.

Words like "waste" and "failure" also deeply wounded Mu Beichen's heart.

Chen Jiuzheng, seeing Mu Beichen's befuddled state, with his face covered in an ashen pallor, was also taken aback. "What's wrong with you?"

A wry smile appeared on Mu Beichen's face.

"My Chen Family, I, Mu Beichen, to deal with a Bai Xiaosheng... actually have to rely on an outsider's help."

These words were filled with unspeakable bitterness.

Mu Beichen closed his eyes, his face showing complete despair and lethargy.

Today, Bai Xiaosheng had stunned the Chen Family with his strength and deeply humiliated Mu Beichen, unbeknownst to himself.

...

Things were going smoothly for Bai Xiaosheng, with happy news arriving frequently over the past few days.

Out of the planned thirty companies, fifteen or sixteen had already formed partnerships, and Bai Xiaosheng was very pleased.

This was much better than he had anticipated!

"With one more week to go like this, we will have two-thirds of the companies in partnership with us by the end of the month!" Lin Weiwei said joyfully. "Actually, all thirty companies are in negotiation, and

the talks are going very well. It's just that time is limited. If we could extend it by a month, I even think we could secure them all!"

Facing Lin Weiwei's confidence, Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"According to my calculation, we have already surpassed Mu Beichen! And we still have one week left! As long as we hold steady, we are almost there!" Thinking of this, Bai Xiaosheng was also extremely happy.

Finally, it was time for a promotion!

"Xiaosheng, you always say you can calculate the results from Mu Beichen's side. Are you so sure of it? How do you calculate it?" Lin Weiwei asked curiously.

"Trade secret," Bai Xiaosheng said with a mysterious smile to her.

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but pout and glare at him.

Bai Xiaosheng was also relying on Red Lotus to collect all the news information from Mu Beichen's side and then extract and assess from various sources to make his calculations.

He didn't tell Lin Weiwei not because he didn't trust her, but because it was too fantastical.

If he told her, he feared she wouldn't believe it.

To avoid unnecessary trouble, Bai Xiaosheng put on an air of profundity and covered it up.

Fortunately, Lin Weiwei was not overly curious and didn't press further.

"At the moment, our biggest partnerships are in Hedong Province. We absolutely cannot slack off there. Weiwei, I'm counting on you to push for those letters of intent to be quickly turned into formal contracts," Bai Xiaosheng instructed Lin Weiwei.

Currently, Lin Weiwei was exclusively working for him on these matters, responsible for liaising with the business department.

"Understood!" Lin Weiwei nodded, took the matter seriously, noted it down, and then said with a smile, "This time, it feels like we won very easily! Xiaosheng, all thanks to your extraordinary wits!"

Lin Weiwei showed admiration for Bai Xiaosheng.

Simple?

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes twinkled slightly, and he smiled faintly.

Up to this point, everything was indeed going very smoothly. However, this didn't mean he hadn't prepared for a crisis!

After all, his opponents were more cunning than the last.

"I also have a final move, but... I hope I won't need to use it," Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

But for some reason, he had been feeling an unusual sensation these past few days.

It seemed as though something was about to happen!

"Hopefully, I'm just overthinking it!" Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Chapter 783

Hedong Province, Gaolong City.

Inside a moving business car, six people were seated, laughing and chatting.

These six individuals were Chen Shen, the Business Director of Zhongjing Media, a Business Manager, and four Business Elites.

They were en route to the leading company of Gaolong City, Wanyun Group, to sign a formal contract.

This was the only deal that required such a large team to finally secure.

At the moment, they had just finished discussing all the details of the contract signing, and everyone was brimming with enthusiasm.

"Today's deal is the biggest one we've signed in Hedong Province! After we sign it, I'll apply for an extra bonus for you all, and I'll treat you to a meal, eat whatever you want!"

With a grand gesture, Chen Shen exuded an air of generous confidence.

After this opening remark, the car's cabin once again erupted in noise.

"Great! Mr. Chen is treating us, it's a rare opportunity. Guys, we can't be shy!"

"Is there a limit? If there's no cap, we're really not going to hold back."

"A seafood buffet, or even a French meal wouldn't be bad! I just happen to know a Michelin restaurant in Gaolong!"

"You guys are too much! Wait for Mr. Chen to tell us he didn't bring his wallet, and we'll end up at a food stall."

Laughter broke out among them.

"Securing this big deal, I'm up for the French meal too!" Chen Shen laughed heartily.

To Chen Shen, this deal was worth several ordinary ones. A big celebration was in order!

While they were chatting, the car slowed down and entered a park.

This park was the headquarters of Wanyun Group. It was very large, with more than a dozen stand-alone office buildings showing the group's considerable strength.

The people in the car quickly composed themselves, getting ready for the upcoming contract signing.

However, despite the festive occasion, joy was still evident on everyone's faces.

They parked and got out of the car.

Chen Shen led them into one of the stand-alone buildings, where they were taken to an office to wait.

And wait they did, for three whole hours!

Not a single high-level executive from Wanyun Group was seen.

Their anticipation grew so intense it was almost palpable.

Chen Shen and the Business Manager exchanged uneasy glances, their eyes conveying a sense of foreboding.

Just as they stood up to find someone to inquire about the situation, the door to the office opened, and in walked a portly middle-aged man, followed by a male and a female assistant.

At last!

This middle-aged man was a Vice President of Wanyun Group.

Chen Shen hurried to greet him.

With a half-smile, the middle-aged man said to Chen Shen, "Ah, I'm sorry, Mr. Chen, for making you wait so long."

Despite his apology, his smile seemed completely indifferent.

Chen Shen and his team were used to this, not to mention waiting another three hours would be fine too.

After all, it was such a significant deal.

This kind of waiting, in their eyes and those of the clients, was part and parcel of the process.

"It is our duty to wait." Chen Shen smiled and asked, "Mr. Zhou, when do we sign the contract?"

So far, the two parties had only signed a letter of intent.

That document clearly stated: "This letter of intent does not have legal binding," "The rights and obligations of both parties shall be determined by the formal contract," hence, it did not have the legal force of a contract.

"Sign the contract?" Mr. Zhou looked at Chen Shen with a smile tinged with regret, "I'm really sorry, Mr. Chen, for having you come all this way for nothing. After a three-hour meeting, the corporation has decided not to sign the contract with you."

"What!" Chen Shen exclaimed in shock.

"Not signing the contract?"

"What's going on, everything was fine in our previous conversations!"

"You even told us to come over to sign the contract!"

"If you're not signing, there must be a reason!"

The people Chen Shen brought with him were instantly in an uproar.

Mr. Zhou's eyelids flickered with a hint of disdain as he glanced over them.

"Enough, all of you be quiet!" Chen Shen immediately stopped them.

These veterans were not ones to be so disrespectful, but the disappointment following their immense joy was simply too much to contain.

Of course, what they had said wasn't excessively offensive.

"Mr. Zhou, if there's something unsatisfactory about the terms, no worries, we can discuss it," Chen Shen said.

"Unsatisfactory aspects? None!" Mr. Zhou's smile sank, and his expression grew even colder.

This shift in mood gave Chen Shen an extremely bad feeling.

"It's just that our group feels that we cannot work with your company. As for the reason, I'm sorry, but I can't tell you! And please don't try again, because we have already handed over the relevant advertising agency to another media organization."

Mr. Zhou seemed unwilling to waste more words with Chen Shen or to let them persist in their inquiries, and laid it out bluntly.

Chen Shen's eyes were filled with disbelief.

His colleagues were once again in an uproar.

"What, you signed with another company?!"

"Didn't we have a good talk before this?"

"Why sign with someone else!"

"Was this also decided within those three hours? Impossible!"

This time, Chen Shen had no time to stop them. His mind was also a bit chaotic.

How could such a big collaboration be so hastily called off!

How could such a large corporation be so unreliable in their word!

There was certainly something going on!

"Mr. Zhou, may I know which media company you've signed the contract with?" Chen Shen asked urgently as he saw Mr. Zhou about to leave.

Seeing Chen Shen's determination and the unfriendly looks from the people he brought, Mr. Zhou paused for a moment before saying, "We've signed a contract with Tianzheng Media from Anjiang!"

Tianzheng Media!

Hearing this name, Chen Shen's eyes suddenly narrowed.

...

After leaving Wanyun Group with his colleagues, Chen Shen immediately called Bai Xiaosheng, but there was no answer on the other end.

Bai Xiaosheng must be in a meeting.

Chen Shen then called Lin Weiwei.

"What did you say?" Lin Weiwei was shocked when she heard what happened over the phone, "Did they really sign with Tianzheng Media?"

"Yes, they did!" Chen Shen affirmed.

If Mr. Zhou were making it up, he could have easily invented a nonexistent name.

"I understand, I'll report to Mr. Bai immediately!" Lin Weiwei said quickly over the phone, her voice tinged with anxiety.

Chen Shen could even feel that Lin Weiwei's reaction was more intense than the situation itself warranted.

In fact, he only knew of Tianzheng Media, but not what it truly signified!

Lin Weiwei on the other end of the phone hung up and rushed to the conference room.

In her view, there was not a moment to lose; even if she had to barge in, she had to inform Bai Xiaosheng!

So sudden, so strange, this was no coincidence!

...

After hanging up the phone, Chen Shen was still pondering the issue when his cellphone began to ring again.

What happened next was like a nightmare for Chen Shen!

Within a quarter of an hour, he received several phone calls!

They were all from their salespeople!

In Hedong Province, several large deals had changed!

Halted, voided!

By the end of the calls, Chen Shen couldn't help but look terrified and muttered to himself—

"Something big is going to happen!"

Chapter 784 Crisis Like Mountain Collapse_1

Lin Weiwei hurried forward, nearly jogging in her high heels, making a beeline for the conference room floor.

On the way, she answered two more phone calls from business managers working with Chen Shen.

The reason it wasn't Chen Shen on the line was that he was too busy taking calls; his phone was constantly occupied, leaving reports to be delivered by others.

"There's been trouble!"

Lin Weiwei bit her lower lip, her gaze filled with urgency.

According to the latest information, several major corporations in Hedong Province had gone back on their word! Multiple large orders were now void!

Among these, there were instances of contract breaches!

For them to breach their agreements meant at most they would pay some compensatory damages, which hardly mattered to them, but for Zhongjing Media, for Bai Xiaosheng, the significance was entirely different!

"There must be sabotage involved; there's no way these companies would choose this moment to collectively cause trouble without a premeditated plan. This is certainly Mu Beichen's doing!" Lin Weiwei quickened her pace, her expression anxious.

In the phone calls, the name Tianzheng Group was repeatedly mentioned.

The evidence was clear and pointed directly at Mu Beichen.

Lin Weiwei was both shocked and angered, cursing as she walked, "This shameless Mu Beichen, unable to compete with Xiaosheng in terms of real strength, of course resorts to underhanded tactics!"

"But how did he manage to..." This was something Lin Weiwei couldn't figure out.

So many major corporations were acting almost "on command," could Mu Beichen really have that much influence, no, should it be said that the Chen Family had that much power?

Lin Weiwei was utterly puzzled.

With her doubts, she rushed to the outside of the third conference room, knocked, and then pushed the door open without waiting for a reply.

The conference room fell silent.

Everyone looked at Lin Weiwei in astonishment, and Bai Xiaosheng was also surprised.

"Mr. Bai, I have some urgent matters that need your attention!" Lin Weiwei suppressed her emotions and spoke to Bai Xiaosheng in all seriousness.

"Director Chen, please take over the meeting!" Bai Xiaosheng, without asking any questions, decisively got up and strode toward Lin Weiwei.

Back then, Lin Weiwei had been willing to defy everything for him, publicly confronting Song Changkong and Chen Changqing. He trusted Lin Weiwei and even confided many secrets to her.

Lin Weiwei was also measured in her actions; she would never barge into a meeting room if not for a situation of utmost urgency.

"Let's go to my office!" Bai Xiaosheng said only this to Lin Weiwei.

...

After leaving the conference room, the two hurried toward Bai Xiaosheng's office.

On the way, Lin Weiwei urgently briefed Bai Xiaosheng on the situation.

During this time, she received several more phone calls, all from business managers called upon by Chen Shen.

One after another, partnerships were terminated!

Lin Weiwei felt waves of heartache.

The more Bai Xiaosheng listened, the graver his expression became, and his brows furrowed even tighter.

His steps were heavy; with each one, it seemed as if he carried an immense weight.

Yet, he remained silent throughout.

But Lin Weiwei noticed that Bai Xiaosheng's fists were tightly clenched, veins bulging on the back of his hands.

"Xiaosheng!" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but voice her concern.

"I'm fine." Bai Xiaosheng gave her a smile, though his voice was somewhat hoarse, and his smile carried a hint of heaviness.

Bai Xiaosheng was human too; he too had emotions. While he wasn't as burdened by empty fame as Zheng Qinghong or Mu Beichen, the ups and downs of elation and distress still brought feelings of anger and agitation, which he found a bit hard to suppress.

"Xiaosheng!"

Lin Weiwei suddenly slowed her steps, locking eyes with him.

Bai Xiaosheng's attention was captured by her gaze.

He could see in Lin Weiwei's eyes a deep sincerity and trust.

"Don't rush, okay? You have a way to deal with this." Lin Weiwei spoke softly.

That look, those words, that trust, were like a dose of tranquilizer.

Bai Xiaosheng gazed for a few breaths and felt much calmer.

"Okay!" Bai Xiaosheng flashed her a smile.

That smile relieved much of the tension!

"My goal is the position of President of Zhenbei Group! The problem at hand might not even be worth mentioning in the future! I cannot fear these obstacles!" Bai Xiaosheng silently reminded himself, feeling even more serene.

"Weiwei, tell me in detail, what's happening?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

His voice was steady and forceful, clearly exuding calm.

His steps became brisk, as if ready to charge at the difficulties ahead!

"Okay!" Lin Weiwei, seeing Bai Xiaosheng like this, immediately smiled sweetly and hurried to keep up.

This version of Bai Xiaosheng—the one she knew and trusted—stood by his side, unafraid of the biggest storms.

By the time they reached his office, Bai Xiaosheng had learned everything Lin Weiwei knew.

During this, Lin Weiwei's phone rang again.

"Let me have it." Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, taking Lin Weiwei's phone.

"This is Bai Xiaosheng. Don't rush, tell me about the situation there in detail," Bai Xiaosheng said.

...

At this moment, Chen Shen had a maddening feeling as calls kept coming in nonstop.

Their collaboration in Hedong Province was like a leaky old wooden boat, presenting problems everywhere that were alarming.

"A call from Mr. Bai." The business manager handed over the phone.

"Give it to me!" Chen Shen grabbed the phone, "Mr. Bai, I..."

"Don't panic! Take your time and speak!"

Chen Shen initially felt completely flustered, not knowing where to begin, but after hearing Bai Xiaosheng's steady tone, he seemed to find an anchor.

Chen Shen took a deep breath, steadied his mind, and organized his thoughts before beginning, "Mr. Bai, so far, I have received seven calls, from..."

...

"Brother Chen, currently, Zhongjing Media's collaborations in Hedong Province have already ceased with seven partners. Among them, two major partnerships have switched to working with Tianzheng Media. With this development, I believe, Mr. Bai is no longer a concern!"

At this time, Zheng Honghu was at home, having a conversation with Chen Jiutian.

"Thanks a lot, Brother Zheng!" Chen Jiutian said with a laugh.

"There's no need to thank me, Brother Chen," Zheng Honghu laughed over the phone, "Today, I wasn't in the operations department. But I've received news that the evidence regarding Mr. Guo has arrived. The operations department is taking it very seriously! Mr. Xia, the President of the Greater China Region, has also been alerted! Your side has been fast-moving too!"

"How's your younger brother's health..."

"He's recovering very well, thanks to the doctor and medicine you sent, Brother Chen."

"That's good, that's good—it's not holding him back!"

"Indeed, hahaha!"

Both men let out liberating laughter.

The news of Bai Xiaosheng's setback also reached Mu Beichen, communicated by Chen Jiuzheng via call.

"Beichen, you can rest easy this time. Mr. Bai's two major partnerships have fallen into your hands! This time, you're undeniably the top achiever! The position of regional industrial head is rightfully yours!" Chen Jiuzheng's voice carried pleasure.

"Hmm." Mu Beichen's voice did not express excitement.

His gaze likewise held no joy of victory.

"Bai Xiaosheng, I admit, you are strong, truly strong!"

"But what does being strong matter! This is not a world where one can prevail through individual strength alone; in the end, you've been defeated by reality!" Mu Beichen's eyes were cold.

Chapter 785 Faint Hope_1

"Beichen, cheer up!"

Chen Jiuzheng could tell from Mu Beichen's tone over the phone that his mood was somewhat downcast, and immediately tried to console him, "You often say 'One who aims to accomplish great things does not stick to trivial matters.' History has always determined the victor and the vanquished. Only by winning can one be deemed king; in defeat, one is nothing!"

"Now is your time to win, to become the king. The one who faces utter defeat is Bai Xiaosheng. What you need to do now is enjoy the fruits of victory. Why get hung up on the process of obtaining it?"

Chen Jiuzheng understood Mu Beichen well, knowing his competitive nature, still begrudging not being able to crush Bai Xiaosheng with his own power.

"Brother Zheng, you don't need to persuade me anymore; I understand all that!" Mu Beichen forced himself to sound energized as he laughed over the phone.

To prevent Chen Jiuzheng from continuing to nag, Mu Beichen spoke first, "Let's not talk about that. Through this incident, I've come to realize. Zheng Qinghong's brother actually has such influence; he can motivate a provincial industry leader to take the risk of being held accountable and investigated by the Affairs Office, to help us ambush Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Even I am quite surprised," said Chen Jiuzheng. "The leader of the provincial industry in Hedong Province, I don't know if he's repaying a kindness or if he's under Zheng Honghu's thumb, but he's so obedient... I think it's the latter! Nowadays, those who know to repay kindness have their limits and wouldn't dare to act so recklessly."

"Right," Mu Beichen highly approved of Chen Jiuzheng's judgment.

Afterward, Mu Beichen asked with some curiosity, "With such tactics at Zheng Honghu's disposal, why didn't he help his brother back then? With such maneuvering, it seems we wouldn't stand a chance against Zheng Qinghong!"

Chen Jiuzheng chuckled over the phone, "Brother, by your logic, I could have helped you, too. How could you forget! The province where Zheng Qinghong's enterprise is located and Hedong Province are in the same geographic region. Even if Zheng Honghu wanted to help that way, he couldn't; don't forget the rules of your evaluation! Performance within the same region doesn't count!"

"True enough," Mu Beichen was taken aback and then laughed at himself.

Stung by Bai Xiaosheng's move, his mind wasn't quite working right.

He had actually forgotten about that.

"Zheng Honghu holds a trump card yet ends up inadvertently benefiting us!" Mu Beichen sighed.

"Haha, indeed!" Chen Jiuzheng laughed heartily, then added, "However, we also didn't let him lose out; to exchange for that trump card, we threw out one of our own—a Guo-surnamed Affairs Officer! Of course, whether Zheng Honghu has the ability to help his brother secure the vacancy, that's not our concern! Whether he succeeds or fails, he can't blame us!"

"Hmm!" Mu Beichen emitted a nasal sound, not without a hint of a sneer.

As they spoke, Mu Beichen's thoughts still involuntarily returned to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Brother Zheng mentioned a lot; victor and vanquished, there's no such thing as absolute fairness! Success or failure relies entirely on strength! Connections, tactics, they are all part of strength!"

Mu Beichen consoled himself with these thoughts, which made him feel much better, "Bai Xiaosheng, now you must be overwhelmed! Actually, you should have been prepared for this; in this contest, your defeat was inevitable because—"

"You lack the strength!"

At this moment.

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

Bai Xiaosheng sat at his desk, hands stacked together, placed under his nose, his gaze fixed on a spot, deep in thought.

He had been pondering over the situation for already twenty minutes.

Too little time, far too little time.

Including today, there was less than a week left.

They had suffered heavy losses, and on Mu Beichen's side, they had taken two big orders, greatly increasing their power.

In this wax and wane, the disparity was huge!

The door to Bai Xiaosheng's office emitted a faint sound.

Lin Weiwei tiptoed in, her heart aching at the sight of Bai Xiaosheng in such a state.

Just then, Bai Xiaosheng had spoken with Chen Shen, rapidly issuing several directives.

"Chen Shen, our current losses are all in Hedong; nearly two-thirds of enterprises in Hedong have halted cooperation with us. The remaining third dares not breach the contract entirely, because our group has a supervisory body, and if they go too far, it will definitely intervene!"

"I need you to compile statistics on those enterprises that have yet to default. Assign the salespeople who were initially responsible for signing the agreements to keep an eye on them. If there's any change, notify me immediately!"

"I'm drafting a new list of enterprises right away, but they are in other provinces. Don't ask for the reasons. Except for the salespeople who are staying behind, everyone else should go there! Lower our partnership terms, increase the concession ratio, and rush to sign agreements!"

"In addition, have the salespeople from the other two provinces on standby. I will also send them a list of alternative enterprises!"

"And..."

Bai Xiaosheng was methodical, issuing his orders with crystal-clear precision.

Staying put, redeployment, expansion, he meticulously strategized, deeply impressing Lin Weiwei who stood by.

This was the relentless, never-say-die Bai Xiaosheng!

At that moment, Bai Xiaosheng shone brilliantly, dazzling Lin Weiwei.

After arranging everything, Bai Xiaosheng spent a quarter of an hour at his desk drafting a new batch of names, which he then wrote on paper and handed to Lin Weiwei.

"Weiwei, send these out to them. Also, have our company's administrative and logistics arrange for 24-hour duty to meet all their needs! Give your full support to the front line!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

Complain to the Affairs Office? There was simply no time for such a nonsensical lawsuit! For now, it was best to focus on strategizing!

"Got it!" Lin Weiwei replied with a single word and hurried off to make the arrangements.

However, when she returned, she found Bai Xiaosheng in deep contemplation.

Seeing this, Lin Weiwei's heart clenched once more.

Under dire circumstances, Bai Xiaosheng's decisive actions indeed reached an extreme.

Yet, Lin Weiwei still felt it wasn't enough!

Hope was dim!

The most fatal issue, which couldn't be avoided, was—the lack of time!

"If we had just half a month more, no, even just ten more days, the outcome might still be uncertain!"

"Sadly, we have less than a week now!"

Lin Weiwei had been pondering this problem on her way back, and now, seeing Bai Xiaosheng, she couldn't help but bite her lip.

But before Bai Xiaosheng looked up, Lin Weiwei's face once again regained its brimming confidence.

"Xiaosheng, following your instructions, I've made the arrangements! With your plan in place, I believe we will soon see results and quickly catch up again. Victory will be ours, and Mu Beichen and his schemes won't stand a chance!" Lin Weiwei said with an encouraging smile.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her calmly.

For a full three seconds, Lin Weiwei felt so awkward under his gaze that she forced a smile and said, "Xiaosheng, why, why are you looking at me like that?"

She even stuttered a bit as she spoke.

Lin Weiwei was secretly vexed.

"Silly girl, stop comforting me," Bai Xiaosheng sighed deeply, stood up, walked towards the office's floor-to-ceiling windows, and looked down at the city outside.

The city lay at his feet, the bustle right before his eyes.

Seeming within reach, yet unattainable.

Just like the current situation—turning the tide of the battle and the possibility of winning.

"Unreachable!" Bai Xiaosheng murmured to himself.

Chapter 786 I'm Out for a Few Days!_1

For three consecutive days, members of Zhongjing Media's business department were traveling between provinces and cities, busy with new negotiations.

Initially, when the big order was canceled, everyone was angry and despondent.

Bai Xiaosheng thought of a solution and specifically made time to hold a video conference.

During the meeting, Bai Xiaosheng first soothed everyone, and then he announced a new measure—

For the subsequent deals that were successfully negotiated, double commission would be given!

It was both a compensation and an encouragement. This move instantly boosted everyone's morale, making them more eager to sign big contracts!

In these three days, everyone was giving it their all.

However, striking deals sometimes really couldn't be rushed.

The previous success in Hedong Province also came after a certain period of preparation, with detailed strategies in place.

How could they expect to achieve success again in such a short period?

And now, there were only three days left until the end of the month, which also marked the end of their assessment period.

"Everyone is actively negotiating, and I believe that results will show in a few days," said Lin Weiwei to Bai Xiaosheng, her words cautious.

In truth, according to all feedback, it would take at least a week to see any results.

By that time, Bai Xiaosheng... would have already lost!

With the current results, let alone winning first place, even making the top five was very doubtful.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded slightly, deep in thought and silent.

He knew the situation best.

In the last three days, he became noticeably quieter, spoke less, and often fell into contemplation.

During these days, some rumors also began to circulate quietly within the company.

After all, there were so many people in the business department, and it was hard to keep mouths shut.

Furthermore, the administrative and logistics staff responsible for transportation and accommodation certainly knew the situation.

"Our cooperation was unilaterally terminated by others!"

"Not just one or two orders, but several big ones!"

"What's going on, what happened!"

"Unclear, but Mr. Bai has looked haggard these past three days!"

"Plus, I've heard some serious news, there are insiders..."

The entire company was pervaded by an unusual atmosphere.

Under Bai Xiaosheng's leadership, Zhongjing Media had been on a winning streak. Who would have thought they would be hit so hard one day?

Actually, it wasn't just within Zhongjing Media where people were gossiping.

In these three days, various channels in Zhongjing were also spreading rumors, all negative news about Zhongjing Media.

There were rumors that Zhongjing Media engaged in deceit and fraud in collaborations outside the province, were caught, and had their partnerships terminated, claiming all this was related to Bai Xiaosheng.

There were also rumors that the provincial government was considering revoking Zhongjing Media's provincial landmark honor title and investigating Bai Xiaosheng.

In short, all sorts of negative rumors were swirling everywhere.

Ninety percent of them were entirely baseless, and ten percent were malicious distortions.

Amidst the anger, these rumors also got the people of Zhongjing Media involved in the discussions.

They even reached the ears of the business staff through the company, affecting their work.

Lin Weiwei did not dare bother Bai Xiaosheng with these trifles.

In her view, Bai Xiaosheng was troubled enough already, and bringing these up later made no difference.

"Weiwei, do you have anything else to tell me?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly spoke up.

Lin Weiwei opened her mouth, feeling conflicted. The rumors outside were something she should not be concerned about.

However, at this moment, they had truly started to impact the company and even the business outside.

"Xiaosheng, have you heard about it as well?" Lin Weiwei asked.

Upon this question, Bai Xiaosheng nodded. "Actually, before you came, Secretary Zhang Meng of the Mayor's office called me and mentioned those negative comments about Zhongjing Media. Those

rumors have spread far and wide, and some are even more vile than what you've heard, but the words are all equally absurd."

"Even Secretary Zhang has heard about it!" Lin Weiwei was somewhat incredulous.

The situation seemed to exceed her expectations. Does that mean Mayor Ji Mingyang is also aware of these rumors?

"You don't need to worry about the Mayor and Secretary Zhang. They trust me, and they will appease the Media Alliance to eliminate some of the negative voices," Bai Xiaosheng said with a faint smile, standing up. "However, I did not expect this move. The Chen Family has really hit me when I'm down, using tactics without scruples... nicely done!"

Bai Xiaosheng still had the mind to commend those shameless individuals.

Lin Weiwei cursed angrily, "They are shameless! Lacking the ability to win, they resort to crooked ways and despicable measures!"

At Lin Weiwei's anger, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled, walked past her, and headed towards the door.

"This is a result-oriented era, most people don't look at the process, and besides, your curses won't reach their ears."

"Xiaosheng, where are you going?" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but ask.

"I'm stepping out for a bit, I'll be back in no more than three days!" Bai Xiaosheng said without looking back, "Weiwei, I'm counting on you to hold down the fort at home!"

His words conveyed immense trust.

Lin Weiwei wanted to ask more, but upon hearing his words, she swallowed her other questions and quietly responded, "Okay!"

While Bai Xiaosheng was talking to Lin Weiwei, in the deputy general manager's office of Zhongjing Media, there was also a heated discussion about the same issue.

The door was locked from the inside.

In fact, there was no need, because Chen Changqing's office was rarely visited. He was probably the most wretched deputy general manager in the history of Zhongjing Media.

And towards the person responsible for his situation—Bai Xiaosheng—Chen Changqing had never ceased to harbor hatred.

But at first, he still wanted to fight Bai Xiaosheng.

As time went by, Bai Xiaosheng vanquished one strong opponent after another, and even Chen Jiuzheng found himself at wit's end and had to resort to scheming against Bai Xiaosheng. At that point, Chen Changqing's hatred for Bai Xiaosheng actually diminished.

Because he realized that they were no longer on the same level; there was no comparison.

Nevertheless, Chen Changqing didn't mind watching Bai Xiaosheng's misfortune and, under a stable situation, didn't mind kicking him while he was down.

At this moment, his two assistants, Yu Qing and Murong Yan, were also reporting to him.

"Yesterday, we spread the word through some channels, inside and outside the company. Now, even more people know that Bai Xiaosheng is overambitious and unscrupulously makes his own people falsify achievements."

"Even if not many believe it now, but as they talk, the more they talk, the more believable a lie becomes, and everyone will start to believe it!"

"I've also specifically leaked this information to the business side. I heard that several people are getting flustered, affecting their work."

"Mr. Jiuzheng has just sent the latest news, two more enterprises have started to back out, canceling their partnerships! Now, Mr. Bai's situation is even more difficult."

The two eagerly reported.

Chen Changqing was overjoyed, his eyes gleaming.

"At this rate, in three days, Mr. Bai's performance review will likely be at the very bottom!" Chen Changqing knew more than his two assistants and was clearly aware of the performance evaluation that Bai Xiaosheng was facing. The more he had once envied, resented, and hated Bai Xiaosheng, the happier he was now.

"Bai Xiaosheng, ah, Bai Xiaosheng! I wonder what you're feeling right now, whether you're desperate or at loss. I, for one, am delighted!"

"Three days left, and even if you have the power to turn the world upside down, the reincarnation of Sun Wukong, I doubt you can remedy this situation!"

Chen Changqing was more than happy; he wanted to sing and dance in celebration.

While Bai Xiaosheng was facing the greatest predicament ever, a dead end, another storm was brewing in the Affairs Office of the Greater China Region. An official surnamed Guo, implicated in multiple crimes, had been handed over to the police.

The subsequent discussion was starting to cause a stir, with Zheng Honghu and Chen Jiutian secretly leading it.

Chapter 787: New-type Affairs Officer_1

Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters, in the first meeting room, was in the midst of a high-level meeting.

The chairperson, Xiahou Qi, and the attendees were all the Senior Affairs Officers and Affairs Officers not stationed elsewhere.

The only item on the agenda was the handling of a certain Affairs Officer surnamed Guo and the matter of his succession.

Although the Affairs Officer surnamed Guo had been turned over to the police, there was still some time before he would be convicted and sentenced.

During this time, the work he was involved with and his position could not remain vacant; someone needed to take over.

"The case of Guo Xian has already reached a conclusion, with irrefutable evidence, so there's no need for further discussion. Let's talk now about the issue of the new Affairs Officer,"

Xiahou Qi said as he looked around at everyone.

An Affairs Officer is equivalent to a provincial industry head. They don't have an actual jurisdiction or direct control over a large number of enterprises, but they do have supervisory authority over the provincial industry heads and those below, as well as the right to directly intervene in the specific affairs of any enterprise. During this intervention, even the provincial industry heads have to step back.

If a provincial industry head has an issue with the Affairs Officer's actions, they can only report it to the Affairs Department, and allow a Senior Affairs Officer or the President of the Greater China Region to make a ruling.

Besides performing their duties in the Affairs Department and accepting assigned tasks, Affairs Officers also have at least four months of free inspection time each year, unrestricted within the Greater China Region!

Of course, they must also submit a "performance" report after their inspection ends, to serve as part of their job evaluation.

In Lin Ke's eyes, being an Affairs Officer was a free and fair profession, the best one could have.

In the eyes of Chen Jiutian, however, the Affairs Officer didn't have nearly as much "perks" as the provincial industry heads and was still under the governance of regulations—an option lacking appeal.

For Zheng Honghu, the position of Affairs Officer wasn't too bad, for one, his brother Zheng Qinghong had no chance at becoming a provincial industry head, so he had to settle for the next best thing. Secondly, even though he was in a precarious position himself, he hadn't fallen from power and could still assist Zheng Qinghong.

In short, everyone had a different view of the Affairs Officer.

The one consensus was that it was indeed an extremely important position.

As Xiahou Qi said this, the atmosphere among the people below became fervent.

Weren't their Affairs Officer assistants just waiting for this opportunity?

If they could get one of their own people into this position, they would naturally gain another important connection!

It would be greatly beneficial for the future!

"In my opinion, we should follow past practices and promote one from the existing Affairs Officer assistants!"

"Exactly, there are established rules for this, propose a few candidates, and everyone casts a vote. It's simple!"

"Agreed! Everyone is here now, so we might as well proceed with the selection!"

Such opinions were expressed enthusiastically, but they all came from Affairs Officers.

The Senior Affairs Officers hadn't said a word.

Since the President of the Greater China Region had made a public mention instead of just following the old tradition, it's likely that he had new ideas in mind and was not inclined to adhere to the old ways.

Among the Affairs Officers, Feng Li and Lin Ke sat together, both seemingly preoccupied and silent.

They had both heard about Bai Xiaosheng's situation and had immediately called and sent messages as soon as they heard.

They had also relayed their concerns to Xiahou Qi, but the old man had just chuckled, brushing them off with, "Don't interfere."

Bai Xiaosheng's replies to them were all along the lines of "It's fine, don't worry," which left them both concerned and frustrated. To make matters worse, they couldn't get in touch with Bai Xiaosheng at the moment.

Both were restless and had no interest in meddling with the matter at hand.

"President Xia, aren't we in the middle of selecting provincial industry heads? I think that for the new Affairs Officer, why not choose from among them?" suggested Zheng Honghu.

Everyone looked at him.

Ever since Zheng Honghu had been repeatedly criticized and warned in public by Xiahou Qi, he had been cautious with his words, always striving to be fair and impartial.

However, with his own brother Zheng Qinghong among those being considered for selection, his suggestion this time seemed somewhat self-serving.

"I agree with the Great Official Zheng Honghu's opinion!" another person from the Senior Affairs Officers' seats spoke up.

This man was about forty years old, looking quite young and somewhat handsome.

His eyes were deep, his expression determined, and when he spoke, his eyes and brows conveyed a sense of righteousness.

Haofeng Great Affairs Officer!

He was the very same Li-surnamed Affairs Officer who had handled the "opinion dispute" between Bai Xiaosheng, Song Changkong, and Chen Changqing, and he was also the immediate superior of Wang Xincheng.

He too was a newly promoted Senior Affairs Officer, and with that, his subordinates had all become Affairs Officers—a testament to how highly Xiahou Qi regarded him.

This time, he openly supported Zheng Honghu without any reservations, favorable toward the proposal.

The crowd observed as Xiahou Qi smiled without negating.

"I support this proposal!"

"I agree!"

"Seconded!"

Several Senior Affairs Officers followed suit, their voices encouraging a group of Affairs Officers to echo the sentiment.

Xiahou Qi looked around the room, waiting for the noise to subside before he smiled and said, "Very well, it seems everyone finds this method agreeable, and I too think it's good, well proposed, Honghu."

The praise for Zheng Honghu was strictly for the merit of the proposal, not indicative of a change in his personal stance towards Zheng Honghu.

This, of course, was clear to everyone.

"President Xia, since you agree, I wonder whether this Affairs Officer should be ranked first or second," Zheng Honghu said with a smile. "Based on the authority of the positions, an Affairs Officer is ranked below a provincial industry leader, which would indicate second, but considering the supervisory power, it's just the reverse."

This matter had to be clarified! Whether it was first or second, he could go to the Chen Family and find a way.

Xiahou Qi gave him a smile filled with intention, then turned his gaze to the audience below.

All eyes were fixed, evidently very interested in the question at hand.

"This Affairs Officer, in my view, is extremely important!" Xiahou Qi began slowly. "And this time, since we've tried a new selection method, I also wish to grant it some distinction!"

"This new Affairs Officer will not be responsible for assigned tasks, nor for rotational duties; his role will be solely to oversee and travel. He will also have priority in promotion, meaning he has precedence over ordinary Affairs Officers!" These words from Xiahou Qi startled everyone in the room.

Then there was an uproar.

"Why does the new Affairs Officer have such privileges!"

"These rights are far greater than ours!"

"The Office of Affairs exists for fairness; how is this fair!"

Even the Senior Affairs Officers were visibly moved.

This new Affairs Officer's position sounded a bit too good!

"Silence," Xiahou Qi called for calm as the room descended into chaos, clearing his throat.

The room fell instantly quiet.

The dignity of the President of the Greater China Region Headquarters commanded such respect that even Senior Affairs Officers bowed their heads, and the Affairs Officers dared not oppose directly.

"This is the new special Affairs Officer's privilege, and you have not yet heard the full story; there are limits!" Xiahou Qi looked around solemnly, his smile holding a tinge of coldness. "This new Affairs Officer will only have a tenure of two years, after which he must leave office by compulsion!"

"For this selection, those with outstanding performance will have to be personally interviewed by me!"

This statement, like a thunderclap, silenced everyone instantly.

This new Affairs Officer's tenure sounded a bit too harsh!

Chapter 788: This Old Fox!_1

"This is, up to now, the New-type Affairs Officer I've envisioned! Among the Affairs Officers present, does anyone want to give it a try?" Mr. Xiahou Qi looked around, smiling as he asked.

None!

The rights and benefits of the New-type Affairs Officer are astonishing indeed, but once the term limit is added, it becomes an utter disaster! When the time comes, if one cannot be promoted, they have to leave—who would enjoy such a situation?

The Affairs Officers in attendance, although promotions required waiting, opportunities, and endurance...

At the very least, they had no worries about what came after.

"The setup for the New-type Affairs Officer is still not perfect, lacking many detailed regulations. Whether a limited career post needs more authority, I haven't completely decided yet," Mr. Xiahou Qi admitted to the Senior Affairs Officers with a smile, "If you have any good ideas, you can talk to me, and we can discuss them separately."

The Senior Affairs Officers nodded in agreement.

Zheng Honghu's expression was calm, but the hand hidden under the table was clenched tight.

The situation had developed beyond his ability to speculate and control.

Although according to his original plans, he had already limited the selection to the current candidates, Mr. Xiahou Qi's sudden introduction of this New-type Affairs Officer position had caught him off guard!

This so-called New-type Affairs Officer position, whose scope of authority had not been clearly defined or shaped, was indistinguishable from the responsibility level of the provincial industrial heads!

So, between these two positions, which one was for the first place, and which one was for the second?

There was no way to guess!

Moreover, Mr. Xiahou Qi was going to conduct personal interviews!

Doesn't that add even more uncertainty, as if Mr. Xiahou Qi will determine who is more suitable for what position?

"After the meeting ends, I must explain the situation to Chen Jiutian and think it through properly! I need to see what tendencies Mu Beichen and Qinghong should show during the interview with Mr. Xiahou Qi, so that they can secure the positions they are satisfied with!"

"However, no matter which position it is, it's a win for Qinghong. The only concern is whether the Chen Family will be dissatisfied..."

In times of many affairs, Zheng Honghu naturally did not want to stir up trouble.

The meeting continued for another hour before finally concluding.

Of course, the latter part of the meeting had deviated from the topic, as Mr. Xiahou Qi took the opportunity to listen to a briefing on recent work from the Affairs Department.

After the meeting, Zheng Honghu left in a hurry. Returning to his own office, he closed the door immediately and dialed Chen Jiutian's number, thoroughly informing him of the meeting's contents.

In fact, Zheng Honghu believed there might be Chen Jiutian's insiders among those Affairs Officers.

Because obviously, Chen Jiutian's tone and attitude at the beginning of the phone call were off. Although he tried to suppress it, what kind of person was Zheng Honghu? He could tell right away—Chen Jiutian had already received the news beforehand!

"The situation has evolved beyond our predictions, but in reality, we should have anticipated it. What kind of person is Mr. Xiahou Qi? How could he allow us to fully understand his intentions!" Zheng Honghu sighed, "Brother Chen, now you tell me, would you prefer Mu Beichen as the first or to switch with Qinghong?"

If the person in the first place took the New-type Affairs Officer role, they would be digging their own grave.

Therefore, Zheng Honghu directly threw the choice back to Chen Jiutian.

That implied, pick whoever you want, but if it's wrong, don't blame me!

On the other end of the phone, Chen Jiutian fell silent for a moment before speaking, "I've analyzed it, and I believe that even if the New-type Affairs Officer is indeed extraordinary, its nature is ultimately supervisory. Its importance should still be secondary to that of the provincial industrial heads!"

"Additionally, as you said, our President of the Greater China Region is highly cunning, and no one can clearly grasp his strategy. How can you be certain that your belief in the New Affairs Officer being above the provincial industrial head isn't him sowing seeds of confusion!"

Chen Jiutian had his own opinion.

"You make sense!" Zheng Honghu couldn't help but admit.

"The ranking will remain as initially planned, Beichen as the first, Qinghong the second! Moreover, as you said, we need to think this through properly, to see how they should respond during the interview, to favor a particular position more!"

"Right!" Zheng Honghu said, "Then I ask Brother Chen to make arrangements. I will follow your lead on this."

This time, Zheng Honghu assumed an extremely low posture.

In this way, no matter what the final result was, Chen Jiutian shouldn't blame him.

As for whether Mr. Xiahou Qi would allocate the two major positions to someone outside of the top one or two, Zheng Honghu didn't entertain such thoughts.

If that were the case, what would be the point of the assessment, the scores? It would become a laughingstock.

"Our Greater China Region CEO may seem to disregard rules, but in fact, he is precisely the person who abides by them the most. When it comes to issues of principle, he is even more cautious than usual," Zheng Honghu thought to himself.

Thinking like this, these two major positions truly belong to no one but the Chen Family and Zheng Family!

After the phone call with Chen Jiutian ended, Zheng Honghu called his younger brother, Zheng Qinghong.

Currently, Zheng Qinghong was almost fully recovered and was in the process of recuperation.

In fact, Zheng Qinghong's performance wasn't poor at all. Although he couldn't compete for the top two, he was more than capable of making it into the top five.

Although Chen Jiutian was only responsible for the East China region, he had chess pieces placed in other regions as well, able to bring in some cooperation to help Zheng Honghu. This was still achievable.

Zheng Honghu first inquired about his brother's recovery and felt very relieved. Then he informed Zheng Qinghong about some of the arrangements he had made with Chen Jiutian.

Having suffered a stroke, Zheng Qinghong seemed to have become a different person, calm and composed, and even more readily accepting than Mu Beichen, without any resistance.

...

On the other side, Chen Jiutian hurriedly contacted Mu Beichen to inform him of the situation and to discuss how to prepare for the interview and performance.

In short, these people were all busy.

The CEO of the Greater China Region, Mr. Xiahou Qi, also had no time to rest.

From today onwards, he held all the information about the candidates' assessments firmly in his hands, entrusting it to his close confidants.

The outsiders were completely in the dark, even the final stage examiner Yang Chengtian didn't know the specifics.

...

There were two days left until the end of the assessments.

In a small, secluded, dilapidated motel in a small town on the outskirts of Zhongjing.

In one of the rooms, there was a chair placed directly in the center, and sitting on the chair was a young man, nervously holding a cup of hot water.

His appearance, originally quite handsome, was now distorted by fear.

A burly man walked in leisurely strides back and forth in front of him.

The young man followed him with a gaze filled with terror, not daring to stray in the slightest.

"Don't be afraid, you don't have to be scared," the burly man said as he saw the young man's demeanor, smiling as he reassured him. "Look, I haven't tied you up, haven't bound you, even less have I hit you. I even personally made you a cup of tea. We just need to talk about some private matters. Do you really need to be this nervous?"

This burly man was Lei Ying.

The young man was a "messenger" from the Chen Family—Chen Changhe.

Hearing Lei Ying speak to him, Chen Changhe forced a smile that looked uglier than crying, the fear in his eyes not diminishing in the least.

Yes, Lei Ying hadn't tied him up, beaten him, or threatened him in any way.

But what Lei Ying had done was a hundred times more terrifying than all of those actions!

Chapter 789 Lei Ying's Tactics_1

Adhere to the bottom line, don't touch the red line. This was the standard Bai Xiaosheng had set for Lei Ying.

Lei Ying implemented it resolutely.

For him, achieving his goal without using fists or intimidation was equally possible.

Years of mercenary life had taught him many terrifying methods that ordinary people couldn't even imagine!

When following Chen Changhe yielded no results, Lei Ying ran out of patience and changed his approach.

Here, it is also necessary to mention the job of being a "messenger" for the Chen Family.

There were only two or three members in total, all of whom were the most direct and closest relatives of the Chen Family. They would only be summoned when there was a task. Otherwise, they weren't required to work, weren't required to go to a job, and were even ordered to stay away from the workplace, becoming complete outsiders!

This arrangement had its own reasons according to Chen Jiutian.

As for Chen Changhe, not having to do anything on a regular basis and still being able to easily get his hands on a lot of money was a dream come true.

Besides passing on messages, indulging in food, drinks, and pleasure was his daily routine, his comfortable life.

Chen Changhe had no fixed abode and lingered from one club to another, indulging in eating, drinking, prostitution, and gambling, as someone would always foot the bill.

However, this happiness turned into a nightmare ten days ago.

Chen Changhe remembered that day vividly.

He had been at a sauna club and, after a thoroughly satisfying battle, fell into a deep sleep until dawn.

Yet, when he woke up again, he smelled a musty dampness in his nose and, on opening his eyes, saw a yellowing ceiling.

Chen Changhe sat up in shock, found himself neatly dressed, and was in a cheap room with ragged furnishings all around.

Opposite the bed was a chair.

On the chair sat a burly and solid man with a somewhat fierce face.

He was smiling at him.

"You're awake, thirsty? Here, have a drink of water," said the big man with an incredibly gentle smile, "I want to have a talk with you."

Chen Changhe cried out abruptly and jumped up, pleading in fear, stating that any amount of money would do, just hoping the man would let him go.

"I just want to talk to you about something. You're too excited. How about we talk another day?" the big man said with a smile.

Chen Changhe, filled with fear and desperate to escape, nodded frantically.

The big man smiled and gestured for him to leave.

Chen Changhe ran for his life.

When he returned with people to take revenge, naturally, the man was gone, and nothing was found.

After that, the nightmare began.

No matter where Chen Changhe stayed the night before, the next day, he would inevitably wake up in a nearby, seemingly old and dirty inn, would always see that burly man, and would always be asked with a smile, "Do you feel like talking today?"

No matter where he ran, no matter how many brothers he called to accompany him, the outcome was always the same.

Unbeknownst to gods and ghosts, he would be taken to a "convenient" place.

The horror of having one's life and death in someone else's hands was worse than any torture.

Just yesterday, Chen Changhe even hid in another villa of Chen Jiuzheng's in Zhongjing, with six or seven bodyguards guarding the outside.

The villa's security system was extremely comprehensive, with a dozen German Shepherds, plus various infrared sensing alarm systems.

Yet, it was still happening!

Is this person human or a ghost?

Chen Changhe could no longer be certain. He was mentally exhausted and even afraid of sleeping. Yesterday, he forced himself to stay awake until dawn, only to doze off briefly, and then he ended up here again.

Even if he told someone about this, he guessed no one would believe him, and Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, even Mu Beichen from the Chen Family, all contacted him through single-threaded communication.

"How about it, today, do you feel like talking?"

Lei Ying looked at him with a smile and said gently, "If not, it's okay, you can go."

Chen Changhe felt numb as he tried to get up.

"But tomorrow, things might not be as gentle!" Lei Ying's gaze turned cold, "Maybe you'll wake up choking in water, or perhaps in a room swarming with snakes and rats. Of course, rest assured, I guarantee your safety, I won't even let you suffer a scratch. This will go on for a few days and if you still don't want to talk, more interesting methods await you. Believe me, in ways you can't possibly imagine... But you'll miss the present, considering it heaven!"

Chen Changhe's expression twitched.

"You may go now," Lei Ying said with a smile.

"What do you really want from me?!" Chen Changhe fell back down in despair.

He had already collapsed.

"I want to ask you some questions," Lei Ying said.

"Ask, I'll tell you everything!" Chen Changhe was even more eager.

He was willing to divulge any secret, just not to continue this terrifying ordeal.

Lei Ying looked at Chen Changhe, his eyes tinged with a hint of regret.

One look, and Chen Changhe feared him as if he were the devil.

"After I ask, you'll sign a statement, and you mustn't tell anyone about this. Otherwise, I'll immediately let you experience those new methods!" Lei Ying threatened.

Chen Changhe nodded frantically.

Lei Ying smiled warmly.

But beneath his gaze, there lurked a hint of irritation.

In fact, letting Chen Changhe go was simply to reinforce the threat.

This time, he wouldn't let Chen Changhe leave.

If Chen Changhe didn't confess today, Lei Ying was even prepared to use force—waterboarding, electric shocks, battle tactics that left no marks but were hellish—nothing was off limits.

A man like Chen Changhe couldn't last ten minutes.

Lei Ying's impatience stemmed from the news Lin Weiwei relayed yesterday that Bai Xiaosheng had encountered unprecedented difficulties!

Lei Ying owed Bai Xiaosheng a debt of gratitude, treating him like a benefactor, a brother, a part of his family.

Therefore, his anxiety had reached the brink of eruption.

The terror that once haunted the battlefield was on the verge of awakening again.

Luckily, Chen Changhe knew what was good for him; otherwise, what awaited him would have been a hundred times worse than what Lei Ying had described.

Inside the decrepit hotel room, Chen Changhe spent three whole hours writing down the Chen Family's most core secrets.

The secrets of Chen Jiutian, Chen Jiuzheng, and Mu Beichen.

That's how people are—either they don't say a word, or once they've spilled enough secrets, they develop an all-or-nothing mindset, wanting to let everything else out as well.

Lei Ying looked at the stack of testimonies, visibly moved.

This Chen Family was something else.

"Parasites!" Lei Ying couldn't help exclaiming, repeating an insult once used by Bai Xiaosheng.

With the evidence secured, Lei Ying had Chen Changhe sign and stamp with his seal, adding an extra line at the end: "This is my voluntary statement, made without any threat from anyone, due only to my guilt towards the corporation and scorn for the Chen Brothers' actions."

The half-hearted sentence was the most "formal" language Lei Ying could think of.

With a painful expression, Chen Changhe signed his name and pressed his fingerprint.

This document, should it come before Chen Jiutian and the others, would spell doom for him all the same.

That man was right; once the Chen Family fell and the ringleaders were caught, a small fry like him likely wouldn't matter.

"I have to find a way to get some money. Who knows, there might be no money to be had in the future!" Even at such a time, this was what Chen Changhe was contemplating.

Who knows what the Chen Brothers would think if they learned of this...

While Lei Ying was busy helping Bai Xiaosheng, someone in the affairs department was also busy!

Equally devoted, making one last effort, to help Bai Xiaosheng!

Chapter 790: It's Just That They Are Mad at Her_1

"Old man, are you really not going to do something about this!" Lin Ke shouted at Xiahou Qi across the office, her eyes blazing.

What she referred to was naturally the issue of Bai Xiaosheng's side facing abnormal and widespread contract breaches.

This matter caused a stir in Zhongjing, and as soon as she heard the rumors, she sought out Bai Xiaosheng immediately, but when she couldn't get in touch, she directly found Lin Weiwei's contact information, who was Bai Xiaosheng's assistant, and asked in detail.

Lin Weiwei had heard of Lin Ke and even wanted to get to know her.

In Weiwei's heart, Lin Ke was someone who admired Bai Xiaosheng and was a trustworthy Affairs Officer!

And so, Lin Weiwei spilled the beans without holding back.

Upon hearing this, Lin Ke was furious and had sought out Xiahou Qi about the matter several times, only to be rebuffed each time.

Lin Ke knew that Feng Li also held Bai Xiaosheng in high regard, so she told Feng Li everything, hoping to have an ally. But even when they attacked the problem together, Xiahou Qi dismissed them with Tai Chi moves.

Seeing that the assessment was ending tomorrow and the rankings would be announced the day after, sealing the deal.

Lin Ke, throwing caution to the wind, went to make a ruckus with Xiahou Qi once more.

After all, someone was sabotaging things, and Bai Xiaosheng was suffering a significant loss; she would not allow such a thing to happen.

Even if she didn't immediately seek out the saboteur, she had to fight for justice in the results for Bai Xiaosheng.

It was fortunate that the office of the President of the Greater China Region was soundproofed exceptionally well; otherwise, an Affairs Officer, no matter how special their relationship with the President of the Greater China Region might be, this was way out of line and would have caused an uproar if it spread outside.

"You girl, have you no respect for your elders? We're still in the company here!" Xiahou Qi, utterly annoyed, scolded as he glared and huffed.

"Please call me Officer Lin Ke!" Lin Ke rebuked angrily, "You said it yourself, this is the company, and you keep calling me 'girl' this and 'girl' that! What kind of address is that? You don't even follow procedures yourself!"

She retorted and left Xiahou Qi speechless on the spot.

"Will you ever let me have peace? You've been making a scene here for over an hour now. I have a lot of work too. What will people think if someone else comes in? It's all because I've spoiled you!"

In the last ten years, Xiahou Qi had never argued with anyone and now he was no match for the sharp-tongued young girl.

The old man suddenly asserted his authority, "Keep it up, and see if I don't suspend you..."

"As an Affairs Officer, I cannot sit idly by when I discover a problem. If the President of the Greater China Region does not uphold justice, then what is the purpose of the Affairs Department? Huh! Are Affairs Officers and Senior Affairs Officers just for show, should we just disband them all! And this New-type Affairs Officer, what's the use of them? Huh!"

Lin Ke's voice grew louder with each word, almost like a little girl about to jump up and slam the desk.

Xiahou Qi's face turned the color of liver, "!! You!"

The old man was so angry he was gasping for breath.

Some things he couldn't say, at least not right now.

And coincidentally, this stubborn girl wanted a result now.

"I'm ordering you now, to immediately return to your post, or else, I'll strip you of your position, Officer Lin Ke!" The elder was about to grab the phone.

Lin Ke slammed the desk with a "smack".

Just when Xiahou Qi thought she would be defiant to the end.

Lin Ke roared, "Fine, I'll go," and she stomped her foot and stormed out.

"Just you wait, I'll be back." Lin Ke left a line that one often hears in cartoons and made her exit.

Xiahou Qi was left dumbfounded, torn between anger and amusement as he watched Lin Ke leave.

Finally, Lin Ke was gone, and Xiahou Qi took a deep breath, sat down, still feeling a bit breathless, tried to look at some documents but couldn't focus and tossed them aside in frustration.

"Calm down, keep your cool! Lin Ke is still young, with an overly strong sense of justice. I must understand, understand!"

Xiahou Qi muttered to himself, trying to soothe his own temper, and after half an hour, he finally felt at peace and ready to work again.

Xiahou Qi picked up a document, and then, the door sounded.

The old man looked at the door in alarm, only to breathe a sigh of relief when he saw Feng Li push the door open.

It was not Lin Ke, after all!

However, he immediately became alert again.

It wasn't Lin Ke, but Feng Li wasn't much better off, Feng Li had also come to him a few times, likewise for Bai Xiaosheng...

"Bai Xiaosheng, you rascal, what charm you have. Lin Ke takes a liking, and so does Feng Li, aren't they completely different characters? You really are something!" Xiahou Qi started to feel somewhat impressed.

In his view, Bai Xiaosheng had met with three examiners who were Affairs Officers, and two had been willing to speak out for him; his charm was unmatched.

"Officer Feng Li, whatever you want to say, if it's about Bai Xiaosheng again, don't bother! Lin Ke just left," Xiahou Qi cut in before Feng Li, blocking her.

"No, I came to discuss something else with you," said Feng Li.

That's more like it. Xiahou Qi's expression softened.

But no sooner had Feng Li sat down and talked for less than five minutes, than the topic quietly shifted to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Bai Xiaosheng." The elder pressed his temples, muttering, "Maybe I should just remove his name to save myself the trouble."

"Elder Xia, wouldn't that be going against the teachings you've imparted to us..."

Lin Ke was obstinate and unreasonable, while Feng Li was much more civilized, but behind those civilized words...

Xiahou Qi had one term come to mind, "dotard!"

Insulting people without using foul language, Feng Li was an expert.

"Alright, alright, I promise you, I'll consider it seriously and guarantee to find a solution on the day the results are announced, happy now?" Against her, Xiahou Qi softened.

Threats were useless on Feng Li.

"Good, I won't disturb you any longer!" Feng Li left politely.

Finally, she was gone! Xiahou Qi suddenly felt his breathing ease.

He eagerly watched Feng Li leave and once again resumed his efforts to stay calm and composed.

But it seemed like a day without a chance to do decent work.

"Luckily, the examination ends tomorrow, and the day after, the results will be announced! I won't have to suffer this way anymore..." the elder muttered, before inadvertently adding, "Should I go into hiding... Who knows if they will come again!"

He was genuinely scared.

Hearing a "definite" response from Feng Li upon exiting Xiahou Qi's office, she was ready to go find Lin Ke and let her know the situation, only to turn around and see Zheng Honghu.

"Great Official Zheng Honghu," Feng Li greeted politely, her demeanor neither cold nor warm.

"Officer Feng Li," Zheng Honghu smiled at her, then headed straight for Xiahou Qi's office.

What did he want with Elder Xia? Feng Li wondered briefly but did not dwell on it.

After all, it was just being called in for a scolding.

Feng Li left directly.

Zheng Honghu, getting ready to enter, couldn't help but glance at Feng Li's departing figure, a smile with an indiscernible meaning in his eyes.

Upon entering Xiahou Qi's office and closing the door, Zheng Honghu saw Xiahou Qi.

"Your complexion..." Zheng Honghu was startled.

"It's all because of them," Xiahou Qi huffed, then smiled at him, "How did it go?"