

Two Trillion 791

Chapter 791 Countdown_1

The last day of the month was also the final day of the assessment.

In accordance with a prior notice from the Affairs Department, all candidates had submitted their final achievement reports to the Greater China Region Affairs Department before twelve o'clock. Afterward, a kind of "tranquility" seemed to come over everyone at once.

Whether they had been brimming with confidence or filled with anxious trepidation beforehand, at this moment, all feelings reset, and there was an indescribable sense of relief.

It was like those diligent students who had strived hard, and once they handed in their papers, at least for that moment, their minds felt ethereal.

And tomorrow was the moment when the answers would be unveiled.

By then, of course, the nerves and anxiety would return.

The Affairs Department also issued a notice after twelve o'clock, informing everyone that they were to go to Zhongjing as usual the next day, where the final grades would be announced in the amphitheater classroom at Zhongjing Media University.

It was said that the location was chosen by the President of the Greater China Region.

Where it began, there it shall end!

That day, Lin Weiwei received several phone calls, all of which were looking for Bai Xiaosheng.

There were calls from Lin Ke, Feng Li, Zhao Qianze...

Ji Mingyang and Zhang Meng also learned about the assessment and called her.

Everyone was inquiring, asking almost the same questions.

"Bai Xiaosheng's phone is switched off; where is he?"

"Not here? Then where's he gone?"

"Don't know? When will he be back?"

"You don't know that either? Then what do you know?!"

In the end, the callers got nothing for their trouble and were naturally very dissatisfied, questioning Lin Weiwei's professionalism as an assistant.

But Lin Weiwei was not angry at all, her attitude calm and composed, her tone incredibly gentle.

It was not because of any difference in status, but rather the more these calls were made, the more they signified their concern for Bai Xiaosheng.

To Lin Weiwei, those who sincerely cared about Bai Xiaosheng were her own people!

Thus, Lin Weiwei would always patiently say at the end, "Mr. Bai asked everyone to rest assured when he left."

"He will definitely be back before tomorrow!"

These were the words Bai Xiaosheng had said to her.

She took them to heart!

Although she did not know what Bai Xiaosheng was up to, Lin Weiwei was willing to trust him.

As always!

"Even if Xiaosheng fails this time! I am willing to accompany him in rising again from the east," Lin Weiwei could even remain calm about the result of the assessment.

However, Bai Xiaosheng had not called her or sent any messages by late night of that day.

But Lei Ying did call her.

"I have obtained the handwritten testimony of Chen Changhe, and am currently interrogating the second messenger from the Chen Family. With Chen Changhe's testimony, it's not hard to pry open the mouth of the second person, and I have confirmed that Chen Changhe's testimony is essentially accurate!"

This was possibly the best news at the time.

"Thank you for your hard work, Lei Ying, keep it up!" Lin Weiwei said on the phone, "If Xiaosheng really fails tomorrow... then we will use what you have found—"

"To create an earth-shattering impact!"

"I want them to know that tricking Xiaosheng is the biggest mistake they've ever made in their lives!"

Lin Weiwei's voice was fierce.

"Understood!" Lei Ying chuckled lightly, her voice filled with boundless eeriness.

After hanging up the phone, Lin Weiwei sat down in her seat.

She wasn't going home; she intended to sit in the office all night.

Lin Weiwei's expression was as cold and solemn as a statue, like a loyal soldier, a devout believer.

She was waiting for a decree from Bai Xiaosheng!

That night, for those candidates who had already arrived or were still on their way, the one thing they all had in common was insomnia.

It was destined to be a sleepless night!

When the dawn's early light spilled over the campus of Zhongjing University, some solemn-faced successful individuals walked along the tree-lined paths against the morning sun, their steps resonant and determined, as if on a pilgrimage.

At 10 a.m., the final results were to be announced. By 8 a.m., almost all the candidates had gathered in the classroom.

Everyone was silent, the atmosphere somewhat oppressive.

This time, Mu Beichen and Zheng Qinghong were sitting side by side, but there was little communication between them.

About the rankings, they had known all along, and they had also prepared their responses for the interview with the president of the Greater China Region.

For them, it was a battle with preparation.

Zhao Qianze stared fixedly at the door, her eyes somewhat dim.

Bai Xiaosheng had yet to appear.

"Bai, I heard about what happened to you, but such setbacks should not defeat you!" Zhao Qianze murmured to herself.

She believed in Bai Xiaosheng.

At 9 a.m., nine out of ten candidates had arrived. The only one missing was Bai Xiaosheng.

The people in the amphitheater naturally noticed who was missing, and they began whispering to one another.

About Bai Xiaosheng, they had heard some news, more or less.

Failed cooperation, breached contracts, suspected fraud...

Even if they didn't believe it, they couldn't help but sigh in amazement.

Everyone pushes over the wall that's about to fall, especially one who often takes the lead. They were happy to see the joke.

It was also a consequence of interest! After all, eliminating one meant that their chances of moving up increased by one.

Mu Beichen had a cold smile on his face, listening to the criticism around him, which was quite satisfying.

"Ah, Bai Xiaosheng, you've offended the Chen Family. This is your retribution!"

"But, don't think this is the end, your nightmare has just begun!"

"I told you, you couldn't handle it! Because you're not strong enough!"

Zheng Qinghong, however, had a calm expression, neither joyful nor sad, and was indifferent to the absent Bai Xiaosheng.

Perhaps his experience of having a stroke had made him much more detached.

At 9:30 a.m., the door opened, but it was Feng Li who came in.

As the examiner, she was to attend this final "ceremony."

Feng Li scanned the crowd and, not seeing that familiar figure, her eyes couldn't help but show a trace of disappointment.

However, in the end, she said nothing and walked to the front row, picking a seat in the middle to sit down.

Feng Li's arrival made the amphitheater a bit quieter.

A quarter of an hour later, Lin Ke appeared. She, too, first looked around at everyone. Her eyes dimmed, unlike her usual chatty self, and silently walked toward Feng Li.

Seeing Lin Ke like this, everyone became solemn.

"I didn't expect that on the day of the final results announcement, even Officer Lin would be this... quiet!"

"Yes, today holds extraordinary significance. Saying that, my heart is getting tense again."

"Then, just like Officer Lin, let's stay quiet!"

Lin Ke ignored the faint murmurings and sat down beside Feng Li.

Feng Li looked at her.

"Have you been in contact with Mr. Bai?" Lin Ke whispered.

Feng Li silently shook her head.

"But he will come!" said Feng Li.

"I know! Hmph... the guy who never gives us peace of mind!" Lin Ke huffed.

Time ticked away.

As it neared 10 a.m., a group of people entered through the door.

The chief examiner for the final stage, Yang Chengtian, was among them, but he was always following behind someone, matching his steps with theirs.

Seeing the person in the lead, both Lin Ke and Feng Li were startled.

"The one announcing the results at the end is actually him!"

"The Senior Affairs Officer... Li Haofeng!"

Chapter 792 I'm Here!_1

As Yang Chengtian and others entered, the amphitheater classroom fell silent; everyone became solemn and sat up straight.

However, today Yang Chengtian didn't seem to be the main character, it was the man ahead of him who, in the eyes of young girls, resembled a handsome uncle.

Those who didn't recognize him were instantly curious, while those who did had their eyes suddenly shrink!

Li Haofeng, the Great Affairs Officer!

He was the only one promoted to Great Affairs Officer in the past five years, and he did it with his assistant in tow!

His assistant, an individual named Wang Xincheng, also jumped to the position of Affairs Officer.

Rumor had it, it was all thanks to his recommendation!

The President of the Greater China Region trusted him greatly, even entrusting him to attend certain events in his stead on multiple occasions!

In other words, Li Haofeng's presence was equivalent to the President of the Greater China Region himself being there!

To the extent that Yang Chengtian, the examiner, was merely a backdrop!

Mu Beichen and Zheng Qinghong exchanged glances but weren't overly surprised.

After all, the final selection would not only determine the person in charge of a provincial industry but also a New-type Affairs Officer!

On Li Haofeng's chest, there was a device the size of a card, equipped with a lens.

It was similar to a public security, prosecutorial, and judicial law enforcement recorder, but more compact and convenient, with functions including digital video recording, photography, and intercom on top of other features.

Li Haofeng, with this device attached to him and invisible Bluetooth earphones in his ears, was a sight to be noticed.

Behind the scenes, who was watching every move here through that lens, went without saying!

Yang Chengtian exchanged a grin and muttered a few words to Li Haofeng, then climbed up to the podium, announcing to the crowd with a beaming smile, "Everyone, are we all here..."

He glanced around, his smile stiffening a bit.

Nine candidates had arrived out of ten; clearly, it wasn't everyone.

He knew instantly who was missing.

However, Yang Chengtian cleverly skirted around this topic.

"I see that everyone is looking forward to this. Indeed, today is an important day for you, and for the group—it's when we'll welcome the leaders of significant positions, who will help build and develop the prosperity of the corporation in the Greater China Region!"

Yang Chengtian's smile was warm and enthusiastic, even suggesting he was ready to dance for joy, "Our President of the Greater China Region is paying great attention to this, and even sent Mr. Li Haofeng, the Great Affairs Officer, to announce the results!"

Yang Chengtian's words left those who were unclear about who Li Haofeng was utterly shocked.

They had heard the name, and the implications it carried excited everyone.

"Let's welcome him with applause!" led by Yang Chengtian, clapping vigorously.

Below the stage, the crowd clapped just as hard.

Li Haofeng stepped onto the podium and gestured with a smile for everyone to be quiet.

Yang Chengtian also stepped down and made his way to the row with Feng Li and Lin Ke, taking a seat there.

"My colleagues," began Li Haofeng humbly, "this time, I am here on behalf of Mr. Xia, the President of the Greater China Region, and he, my elders..."

Li Haofeng pointed to the recording device on his chest, "is watching you all!"

Suddenly, everyone's faces brightened, they sat up straight, looking at the small lens and smiling.

In the observation room of the Greater China Region Headquarters, Xiahou Qi sat in his armchair facing the large screen, which showed him every person clearly.

"Hehe, everyone's looking spirited," Xiahou Qi said, laughing as he held his teacup.

One person was missing from these individuals—Bai Xiaosheng.

However, it seemed that the old man didn't mind much.

Li Haofeng scanned the audience and said with a smile, "I see that everyone is eagerly awaiting the final outcome, but before the announcement, I still have something to say."

With the Great Affairs Officer speaking and the "watchful gaze" of the President of the Greater China Region, everyone's attention was fixed in eager silence.

"The day before yesterday, the Affairs Department held an important meeting. During the meeting, the President of the Greater China Region proposed to establish a new type of Affairs Officer position with high authority and strict limitations. Some of this position's powers would even rival those of a Great Affairs Officer. The selection for this role will also be made from among you candidates here today."

Li Haofeng's words instantly excited everyone, causing quite a stir.

"I didn't expect such a surprise this time!"

"To think that there's an extra position!"

"The partial authority of a New-type Affairs Officer could actually rival that of a Senior Affairs Officer, unimaginable!"

Unable to restrain themselves, the crowd burst into discussion, their anticipation for the assessment results reaching a fever pitch.

"Senior Affairs Officer, sir, please hurry up and announce the results of the assessment!" someone even emboldened themselves to urge.

Mu Beichen, and even Zheng Qinghong, their gazes also turned fervent.

Even if it's "almost certain," it's never as assuring as having it in hand!

Not just them, Feng Li, Lin Ke, Yang Chengtian also held their breath in wait, as the position was so important that it was difficult to ignore.

Of course, what Feng Li and Lin Ke were more concerned about was Bai Xiaosheng's ranking.

In the last few days, the President of the Greater China Region had all the information kept secret.

Not to mention them, even Yang Chengtian probably didn't know the final scores!

Everyone in the room had their eyes eagerly fixed to the extreme.

This shared feeling even synchronized their breaths, entering a state of subtle rhythm, making the atmosphere reach its peak.

"Well, it's also time to announce the results!" Li Haofeng said with a smile, "I will first announce the list of those eliminated, then announce the top five, from lowest to highest in order, and finally—"

Li Haofeng pointed to the device on his chest, then to the Bluetooth earpiece in his ear, "On behalf of Mr. Xia, I will ask questions to the first and second placers, deciding, who is more suitable for which duty!"

Everyone nodded in unison, their gazes conveying the same meaning—We all get it, please announce it already!

Li Haofeng glanced around the room, opened his mouth, and in the face of everyone's eager anticipation, he leisurely said, "It seems we don't have everyone here yet!"

Not everyone here?

These words immediately made everyone look around themselves.

"Stop looking, it's that Bai Xiaosheng who hasn't come!" someone shouted.

"At such a time, he dares to be late?"

"I heard his performance was ruined, the rumors are quite bad, maybe he had no face to show up!"

"The hell, do we really have to wait for him?"

The crowd buzzed with noise.

"According to the rules, I need to announce the results in front of the full staff, even one person missing would not do!" Li Haofeng said seriously.

This Senior Affairs Officer was extremely meticulous and adhered strictly to the rules, almost to a fault!

"Bai Xiaosheng, you troublemaker, why aren't you here yet! In the end, you just have to give us one last stomachache, don't you?!" Mu Beichen and Zheng Qinghong, leading the sentiment, looked toward the door, cursing in their hearts.

"Bai Xiaosheng, show up quickly! No matter the result, we're all on your side!" Lin Ke, Feng Li, Zhao Qianze were also hoping.

No matter the standpoint, no matter the grudges. At this moment, Bai Xiaosheng was the person everyone was most hoping to see.

"It's now ten forty-five. If he doesn't arrive by eleven, there's no need to wait any longer, and his qualifications can be canceled!" Li Haofeng spoke slowly.

Before his voice fell, the door to the lecture hall opened, and someone walked in.

Wearied by travel.

Suddenly, everyone's eyes widened as they looked over.

Eyes converging.

At this moment, that person was the focus of everyone's gaze.

Watching this scene, the newcomer paused, then smiled, "Sorry, I was a bit late getting here!"

The person who arrived was none other than Bai Xiaosheng.

"I'm here!" Bai Xiaosheng said to everyone, smiling.

Chapter 793 Why! On what grounds!_1

At the last moment, Bai Xiaosheng appeared. Everyone present simultaneously let out a sigh of relief.

At this moment, the thoughts in everyone's hearts were surprisingly unanimous—

"Finally arrived!"

Bai Xiaosheng's glance swept over the crowd, exchanging smiles with Feng Li, Lin Ke, Zhao Qianze, and others.

When looking towards Li Haofeng on the podium, Bai Xiaosheng was humble and polite, respectfully nodding in acknowledgment.

"You are Bai Xiaosheng, aren't you?!" Li Haofeng's eyes shone brightly, sizing him up, then nodding with a smile, "Very good!"

This "very good," nobody knew whether it was to praise Bai Xiaosheng's timely arrival or for his humble politeness.

However, it was evident that Haofeng Great Affairs Officer held no displeasure for Bai Xiaosheng's lateness.

This caused Mu Beichen and others to feel a deep sense of regret.

"I am Haofeng Great Affairs Officer of the Greater China Region Affairs Department, and to you, this is our first encounter. However, when I was still an Affairs Officer, I dealt with the dispute between you and Song Changkong of Zhongjing Media, so we are also old acquaintances," Li Haofeng said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

This mild manner deepened everyone's impression of the approachable Senior Affairs Officer and made them slightly envious of Bai Xiaosheng for having such an encounter.

"But you are ultimately one of the eliminated!" Mu Beichen thought to himself fiercely.

What he didn't realize was that this too was a form of jealousy.

Faced with Li Haofeng's attitude and words, Bai Xiaosheng calmly smiled without seizing the opportunity to climb the relationship or acting overwhelmed by the favor.

In Li Haofeng's gaze, there was an even greater sense of admiration.

"Please take a seat, we're about to announce the results."

"Yes," Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile, striding towards the back row where Lin Ke and others were seated, and Zhao Qianze was also there.

All eyes followed, watching Bai Xiaosheng take his seat.

This eager attention was perhaps greater than even that for Li Haofeng.

"This guy, always with this nonchalant demeanor, so full of himself. We were so worried about him!" Lin Ke couldn't help but give Bai Xiaosheng a quietly disdainful look, cursing in a lowered voice.

However, her eyes were filled with laughter.

Feng Li pondered silently, her smile serene.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng sit down, Li Haofeng then smiled at everyone, "Now that everyone is here, I will announce the final assessment results!"

"The following is the list of those eliminated—"

Li Haofeng looked solemn. Everyone couldn't help but be on tenterhooks.

"Bai Xiaosheng, your name, will appear in this part of the list," Mu Beichen looked on eagerly, extremely expectant, seemingly more excited than if he had been announced as the first.

Zheng Qinghong beside him was much calmer, but Mu Beichen took no strange notice of this, assuming the guy had some post-stroke side effects, and had become expressionless.

"Wu Suqiu—" Li Haofeng started, pronouncing the first name.

One of those seated dimmed in the eyes, his back suddenly slumping.

The feeling of being eliminated in the final round is indeed very unpleasant.

Mu Beichen glanced at the person, the corners of his mouth slightly upturned with a smile.

He was imagining that person's performance as that of Bai Xiaosheng's.

His anticipation grew even more.

"Wang Dongyu, Li Dawen, Zhang Ran—" Li Haofeng read three names in succession.

The three of them looked pained, despairing.

Mu Beichen was, besides them, the most intense in reaction, looking at each named person, then glancing at Bai Xiaosheng each time a name was called.

His anticipation was heated to the extreme!

Contrary to him, Lin Ke, Feng Li, and others looked very tense, fearing to hear Bai Xiaosheng's name.

Zhao Qianze was worried about herself and also concerned about Bai Xiaosheng, her snowy white teeth biting her lower lip, her pretty face pale.

Bai Xiaosheng was calm, as if he wasn't listening to the verdict of his fate, or as though he had resigned himself to it.

As Li Haofeng crisply pronounced the last name, he actually paused for a moment.

Everyone hung in suspense, eagerly waiting.

Mu Beichen felt a mix of anxiety and impatience, like he was infested with lice or suffering from hemorrhoids, unable to sit still.

"The last person!"

Li Haofeng's gaze swept over everyone and rested deeply on Bai Xiaosheng.

"Bai Xiaosheng, Bai Xiaosheng!" Mu Beichen saw this scene, and his eyes suddenly lit up, like a gambler, chanting Bai Xiaosheng's name in his heart.

"Bai—" Li Haofeng articulated each syllable clearly.

A single word, like the sound of thunder.

Lin Ke, Feng Li, and Zhao Qianze widened their eyes in utter horror, while a surge of ecstasy flooded Mu Beichen's face.

Among the candidates, there were only two with the surname Bai!

Bai Xiaocheng, Bai Xiaosheng!

There's no need to mention Bai Xiaocheng, he's been eliminated, leaving only Bai Xiaosheng.

This 'Bai', is there any need to consider it? Bai Xiaosheng!

"Baili Yu." Li Haofeng announced the name.

The entire classroom fell silent in an instant.

"It's not him!" Mu Beichen exclaimed in disbelief.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually not on the list of those eliminated!

How is this possible, with his performance, he shouldn't have been able to make the top five!

"Could it be that in the past few days, Bai Xiaosheng landed some astonishing deal that allowed him to enter the top five? Or are the bottom five candidates just too useless!" Mu Beichen instantly regretted, "If I had known, I should have made sure that Bai Xiaosheng gained nothing in Hedong!"

A snake that isn't killed will bring calamity! This was the only thought in Mu Beichen's mind!

Little did he know, who the real serpent was, was still up for debate.

"However, even if Bai Xiaosheng does make the top five, so what! With Zheng Honghu, our ally, as the Senior Affairs Officer, Bai Xiaosheng will at best get an assistant position in the Affairs Department... I'll see how he dies!" Mu Beichen's lips curled into a sinister smile that went unnoticed.

"Now, for the top five list! Congratulations to the following five, the third to fifth will become assistants in the Affairs Department!" Li Haofeng said with a smile.

The remaining candidates looked on eagerly, while those who were eliminated stared at them with glinting eyes.

"Fifth place, Wang Wenyu—" Li Haofeng announced.

Everyone clapped in unison to congratulate.

"Fourth place, Zhao Qianze—" Li Haofeng continued.

Applause rose again, and amidst it, Bai Xiaosheng clapped his hands and smiled at Zhao Qianze, saying, "Congratulations!"

Zhao Qianze's smile bloomed like flowers, brimming with joy.

Zheng Qinghong's expression finally changed, revealing a smile.

Mu Beichen was filled with doubt.

Bai Xiaosheng made it into the top five, but could he enter the top three?

"Third place, Zheng Qinghong!"

This announcement stunned Zheng Qinghong. Mu Beichen's eyes narrowed in disbelief as he looked towards Li Haofeng.

Why was Zheng Qinghong in third place! Could it be that Bai Xiaosheng's performance actually surpassed his?!

Mu Beichen was in disbelief, and turning to Zheng Qinghong, he found Zheng Qinghong already speechless and stunned.

Something was not quite right!

Mu Beichen's heart skipped a beat.

"I must let Tian and the others know right away!" Mu Beichen frantically took out his phone to send a message to Chen Jiutian.

The stakes involved were far too serious, enough to shake their alliance with the Zheng family!

He had to notify Chen Jiutian immediately!

Just as he turned on his phone, Mu Beichen heard Li Haofeng's next sentence.

In that moment, he stood dumbfounded, his phone nearly slipping from his hands.

"Second place, Mu Beichen!" Li Haofeng's voice boomed like thunder, utterly shocking him.

He was the second?

Then, the first, isn't it Bai Xiaosheng?!!

Why!

How come!

Chapter 794: Scolding Him Until He's Dumbfounded_1

"First place, Bai Xiaosheng!" Haofeng Great Affairs Officer's voice boomed, resounding throughout the entire tiered classroom.

A single sentence shocked everyone. The crowd gazed at Bai Xiaosheng in disbelief.

He was the first place winner!

No one had expected this!

Including Lin Ke, Feng Li, and Yang Chengtian!

In their hearts there was only one phrase that strikingly united them—this is impossible!

How had Bai Xiaosheng suffered such a heavy blow?

They all wore a look of utter bafflement. As for everyone else, one could easily imagine.

Mu Beichen stood dumbstruck, Zheng Qinghong stared wide-eyed, Zhao Qianze covered their mouth, speechless.

The whole place was in a stunned silence!

Haofeng Great Affairs Officer wore a smile, and he gazed deeply at Bai Xiaosheng.

Just now, his suggestion to wait for Bai Xiaosheng was of course not without reason!

Not everyone absent is worth waiting for, but when the first-place winner is not present, it is absolutely necessary to wait!

And he believed Bai Xiaosheng would arrive before eleven o'clock. As for that harsh talk, it was just for show.

The tiered classroom fell quiet for a moment, then suddenly erupted.

"I really didn't expect, the one who ultimately got first place would be this Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Incredible! I thought it would be Zheng Qinghong, or perhaps Mu Beichen!"

"It is said that this month Bai Xiaosheng encountered a widespread cancellation of contracts, all because of his poor leadership and fondness for grandstanding...It seems that was false!"

"I've said it before! Rumors, cannot be trusted!"

...

Not knowing who spoke first, the crowd exploded into a buzz of heated discussion, even ignoring the presence of Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li.

Mu Beichen's lips quivered, his hands trembled; wanting to send messages through his phone, he repeatedly pressed the wrong keys.

At last, he had to put down his phone and calm his emotions first.

Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li paid no mind to the chaos and raised his hand to lead the applause.

This applause drew everyone's attention, and Yang Chengtian was the first to join in clapping, his face full of smiles as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a congratulatory expression.

Following this, everyone else shut their mouths and joined the applause.

The warm applause was a sign of praise for Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, gesturing a thank you to everyone.

Mu Beichen's lips were pale, and his hands shook a little while clapping.

His gaze could no longer contain his disbelief in the outcome, brimming with enmity towards Bai Xiaosheng.

It was only the remains of his rationality that forced him to stay seated and not question the Senior Affairs Officer in public, demanding evidence for Bai Xiaosheng's first place.

However, he would not give up on making inquiries!

This outcome, he would not accept!

Mu Beichen's expression, captured by the eyes of Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li on stage, caused the latter's brows to knit slightly before he swiftly hid his reaction.

Moments later, Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li stopped clapping and with a gesture of his hands signaled for quiet.

"According to the rules, Bai Xiaosheng, as the first-place winner, you are to make a speech," Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li said with a smile, gesturing for Bai Xiaosheng to proceed.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and confidently left his seat, walking onto the podium.

He first gave Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li a polite smile, then a grin toward the camera on his chest before standing in the spot Haofeng Great Affairs Officer Li had given up, facing the crowd.

"I do have a few words to say," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly, looking at the dozen pairs of eyes below.

Admiration, envy, pleasure... and even hatred!

"I don't know if this counts as a speech, but I just want to say, as I happen to have the opportunity," Bai Xiaosheng said to the crowd with a smile, "Getting here today, standing in this spot, does not mean I'm much stronger than all of you. On the contrary, there is still so much I need to learn from everyone present! This is coming from the bottom of my heart, though it sounds pretty fake when you hear it."

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged his shoulders, adding with a smile, "After finishing the glorious and positive message, let me share something not so presentable, and I hope everyone forgives my rudeness—"

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng took a deep breath and looked in a certain direction.

"As a rival, if you've got the guts, settle it with me fair and square! If you don't have the skills, yet still scheme against others, shame on you for stooping so low! You play dirty, but did you beat me? Huh! Pah, you scoundrel!"

Bai Xiaosheng's face contorted with rage as he cursed vehemently.

Although he didn't call out any names, the person Bai Xiaosheng was clearly looking at was Mu Beichen!

Mu Beichen's eyes bulged like pigeon eggs, staring incredulously at the stage.

Bai Xiaosheng was actually publicly insulting him, and in such an offensive manner!

Was this real or was he dreaming?!

Mu Beichen was already in a state of constant agitation, and now, he was publicly humiliated by Bai Xiaosheng!

He went mad on the spot!

Bai Xiaosheng's tirade also stunned everyone present.

The crowd looked at Mu Beichen with amusement in their eyes.

Feng Li and Zhao Qianze's eyes were wide open, staring blankly at Bai Xiaosheng, as if they couldn't believe that Bai Xiaosheng would scold someone.

Lin Ke stared blankly at Bai Xiaosheng for a moment, then her eyes shone with an unusual fervor, excitement, and even—

Admiration!

Li Haofeng, standing beside Bai Xiaosheng, was in disbelief himself, unable to comprehend what he had just witnessed.

He could understand and accept Bai Xiaosheng speaking grandly and self-righteously.

But suddenly hurling insults was beyond expectation.

"Youthful recklessness!" Li Haofeng thought to himself, but then he added, "Isn't that what being young is all about!"

He didn't find it the least bit disgusting!

Perhaps it was because he had long held an important position and always had to watch his status and words, he had never heard such foul language from anyone around him.

Hearing it now and thinking about past grievances, there was a part of him that felt strangely satisfied!

At the Greater China Region Headquarters, in the Monitoring Room.

Xiahou Qi was holding a cup, leaning forward and staring at the big screen, first in astonishment, then bursting into hearty laughter.

"Haha, this cheeky brat is cussing someone out!"

After laughing, Xiahou Qi muttered, "This I'm not going to meddle with, it's your personal feud ..."

He turned a blind eye to it and let it pass.

After his rant, Bai Xiaosheng regained his composure, wore a faint smile, and resumed a facade of a courteous gentleman. It seemed as if the person who had just been scolding wasn't him, as if he was uninvolved.

This contrast made people wonder if they had just experienced an illusion ...

"Alright, you can go down now," Li Haofeng said to Bai Xiaosheng with a mix of a smile and a sigh.

He didn't even scold him!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled politely and gracefully left the stage, very much the gentleman.

Mu Beichen below the stage was shaking like one with epilepsy, his body trembling, and heaving groans from his throat, feeling as if he couldn't catch his breath.

The shock and astonishment had been too sudden, and he didn't manage to retort in time.

Now ... there was no point in cursing anymore!

Whispers started to spread around.

"Is Bai Xiaosheng scolding Mu Beichen?!"

"I think so, his gaze was fixed on Mu Beichen!"

"What on earth did Mu Beichen do to deserve being cursed out like this on such an important occasion?"

"Heh, I heard several companies broke contracts with Mr. Bai and defected to Mu Beichen, and you still don't get it?"

"So that's what happened, no wonder!"

"Such conduct really is despicable, the key point is—he still didn't win, haha!"

The murmurings around him filled Mu Beichen with embarrassment, humiliation, and rage.

Mu Beichen almost had a heart attack!

Chapter 795 "I Want Evidence!"_1

"Bai Xiaosheng! Bai, Xiaosheng!"

Facing the scorn and mockery surging from all around, Mu Beichen's complexion turned as dark as liver, his eyes slightly bulging, his expression twisted with ferocity. His hands, clenched into fists with too much force, showed prominent blue veins.

He was seething with such rage that he felt like grinding his teeth into steel, his breathing rapid, and he even experienced a suffocating feeling as if he were running out of oxygen.

Yet he had no way to refute, because what Bai Xiaosheng had berated... was the truth!

Mu Beichen was originally conflicted about the way he had won, and had even felt dejected, until he was advised by Chen Jiuzheng.

But momentary forgetfulness did not mean that he truly no longer cared about it.

On the contrary, he had suppressed it in his heart where it grew wildly like rampant weeds.

Bai Xiaosheng's public humiliation caught Mu Beichen off guard, his mental defenses were not yet in place, when he felt as if a dagger had been thrust into his heart. Moreover, the news that "Bai Xiaosheng is number one" announced just now by Li Haofeng was too shocking. His balance was lost, and his reactive ability, thinking ability, and capacity for forbearance were all completely out of control.

At present, his reaction had already "verified" the accuracy of Bai Xiaosheng's words to the onlookers.

"Mu Beichen, as per the rules, it's your turn to speak," Li Haofeng said as he looked at Mu Beichen, capturing every nuance of his expression, his voice indifferent.

Using tactics, Li Haofeng understood. Even if they were a bit despicable, he could still accept them.

But having the courage to stand by one's actions! That was the demeanor a person in power should possess!

Mu Beichen, agitated by just a few words to such a degree, even descending into utter confusion.

How foolish!

Greater China Region Headquarters, Supervisory Office.

Mr. Xiahou Qi idly blew away the tea leaves floating in his cup, staring at the screen, seeing Mu Beichen's reaction, a hint of disappointment unfailingly appeared in his eyes.

In his view, Mu Beichen had always performed well, and he had valued him highly. Even if he was supported by the Chen Family, the old man believed he could attract him to his side with benefits, but unexpectedly, he was provoked to such a state by Bai Xiaosheng.

"What a pity," Mr. Xiahou Qi muttered to himself, then glanced at Bai Xiaosheng on the screen and smiled, "Clever boy, using his young age to his advantage, intentionally 'speaking without restraint,' risking a scolding, just to make his opponent look so embarrassed! Not bad at all!"

After a moment's thought, Mr. Xiahou Qi laughed again, "The most interesting thing is that based on his past behavior, always steady and appropriate, he could, he dared to take such a slanted approach in public! Not shy about using even the coarsest of methods!"

"I thought I had already esteemed him highly enough, yet it seems I still underestimated him!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, well done!"

In the amphitheater, under Li Haofeng's scrutiny and amidst the pointing and murmuring of the crowd, Mu Beichen suddenly shouted, "Great Affairs Officer Li Haofeng, I want to know, why is Bai Xiaosheng number one! What achievements does he have that could surpass me, surpass Zheng Qinghong? I want to see the evidence!"

Mu Beichen's shout startled everyone.

The crowd looked at each other and then turned their gaze to Li Haofeng, curious about how he would react.

Zheng Qinghong, sitting beside Mu Beichen, watched him with a cold eye.

Perhaps a lingering effect of a stroke, Zheng Qinghong still had a slight facial paralysis, emotionless, with only a hint of disappointment and pity in his eyes.

Asking for evidence in public? Do you think the Affairs Department is run by senile people?

Mu Beichen's blunder, how foolish, he seemed to have completely lost his composure!

"Oh? Are you questioning the accuracy of this result?!" Li Haofeng asked with a smile.

Yet his gaze was piercing.

To Li Haofeng, this was not just doubting the outcome, but questioning the fairness of the President of the Greater China Region, questioning the integrity of the Affairs Department.

Li Haofeng, already somewhat contemptuous of Mu Beichen's performance, now felt even more anger.

Just as Li Haofeng was about to assert his authority, he heard a steady voice coming through the Bluetooth earpiece, "Haofeng, give him the evidence!"

This was the voice of the President of the Greater China Region, Mr. Xiahou Qi!

Li Haofeng's expression became solemn as he replied softly, "Alright."

After speaking, Li Haofeng looked toward Mu Beichen.

Mu Beichen's eyes were red with blood vessels, but he gazed back defiantly, without any sign of retreat, showing a trace of bravery.

"On the 30th, the day before yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng reached cooperation agreements with six companies from three locations in Shangyun Province, covering advertising collaboration, merchant recruitment, public relations, and film and related content. These companies include Qianyu Real Estate, Wanhua Jinhui, and Sifeng Film Industry..." Li Haofeng listed Bai Xiaosheng's achievements without referring to any documents, speaking fluently from memory.

Having a photographic memory was one of Li Haofeng's abilities.

After all, to sit in the position of a Great Affairs Officer and to be specially favored by the President of the Greater China Region Headquarters, one must possess extraordinary talents.

As Li Haofeng spoke, the audience beneath the stage let out quiet gasps of amazement.

"I know Qianyu Real Estate; it's one of the top fifty real estate companies in the country!"

"Wanhua Jinhui is in Shangyun too? I remember that!"

"Sifeng Film Industry, they are the ones who financed a movie that grossed over two billion recently!"

...

You must know, the audience present was from all over the country, and even from abroad, and they had heard of the companies that cooperated with Bai Xiaosheng, which shows the strength of these corporate groups is extraordinary!

Mu Beichen couldn't help but widen his eyes in shock.

"On the 31st, which was yesterday, Bai Xiaosheng reached cooperation agreements with four companies from two locations in Shangyun Province. These businesses include Hongyun Fund, Dayue Sheng Jewelry..." Li Haofeng's voice was clear, each word crisp, yet they pierced into Mu Beichen's heart like needles.

None of these were small enterprises!

Bai Xiaosheng had signed major deals with ten corporate groups in just two days?!

How could that be possible! There was a problem behind this!

Who was the provincial industry head of Shangyun Province?

Mu Beichen tried hard to remember.

Out of the thirty-four provinces in the country, there were only thirty-four provincial industry heads. In the past, he could recite such information effortlessly, but now, he needed to think hard for quite some time.

Shang Wenshu!

That's right, the industry head for Shangyun Province was a newcomer—Shang Wenshu!

Mu Beichen remembered.

To have all the key businesses in a province cooperate with Zhongjing Media, unless it is with the full support of the provincial industry head!

However, influencing a provincial industry head is incredibly difficult!

Getting help from the industry head of Hedong Province already requires a Great Affairs Officer to step in.

So, who was behind Shangyun's Shang Wenshu!

Did Bai Xiaosheng have someone backing him?!

Mu Beichen tried to think, but felt dizzy and swollen-headed, unable to come up with anything.

"So, how about it, Mu Beichen, are you satisfied?" Li Haofeng spoke up.

Mu Beichen was nudged by someone beside him, and he finally snapped back to reality. When he looked at Li Haofeng, he was still somewhat confused.

"There must be a problem here, Bai Xiaosheng... These cooperations, they're not normal!" Mu Beichen exclaimed.

This was just what he was thinking, he blurted it out subconsciously.

Next to him, Zheng Qinghong couldn't help but give him a cold glance and shook his head slightly.

Mu Beichen's current state really wasn't suitable for speaking; every word he said seemed to be a problem.

"Enough!" Li Haofeng's gaze was icy, sending chills down Mu Beichen's spine, "You've disappointed me greatly, Mu Beichen!"

With those words, Mu Beichen's eyes filled with panic and he stumbled.

He realized that he should not have spoken like that!

But it was too late!

Chapter 796: This Person, Ruined!_1

Shangyun Province, the office of the provincial industry head, Shang Wenshu.

At this moment, Shang Wenshu stood with his back turned, facing a floor-to-ceiling window, staring intently in one direction.

It was the direction of Zhongjing!

Shang Wenshu knew about the selection and was aware of the time; they were announcing the results there.

Something significant was probably happening!

"Mr. Shang, are you still worried?" Shang Wenshu's assistant, who was also his confidant, stood behind him, cautiously observing his expression as he spoke.

Shang Wenshu turned back to look at him, his face betraying no emotion.

"Actually, in my humble opinion, you really didn't need to go to such lengths to help that Mr. Bai!" the assistant said cautiously, "You've said he's an old friend, a benefactor, and even your lucky star. But, in the end, this is the workplace, where too much personal emotion can spoil things. And even with the example of Hedong Province, getting involved hastily in the Affairs Department selection is too risky. Who knows if the Affairs Department will settle scores afterward? It will then be trouble for us..."

"Do you think I'm worried about that?" Shang Wenshu said with a faint smile, interrupting his assistant.

"Isn't it?" the assistant asked, puzzled.

Shang Wenshu looked at him, this young man was very clever, exceedingly talented.

But in the end, he fell far short when compared with that prodigy!

Bai Xiaosheng!

Shang Wenshu mulled over these three words, his heart filled with astonishment.

No matter how formidable his background was, his personal abilities were also extraordinary.

Since their parting in Tiannan, it had been less than a year, and Bai Xiaosheng was already competing for the position of provincial industry head!

Inconceivable!

Moreover, Shang Wenshu had a premonition that Bai Xiaosheng would succeed!

"Only a few months have passed, seven or eight, and he has already come this far... Bai Xiaosheng, just how monstrous are you!" Shang Wenshu marveled inwardly.

Upon seeing the assistant's questioning gaze, Shang Wenshu smiled, "Regarding this matter, you really don't need to worry, the Affairs Department will absolutely not settle scores with me afterward! Because they support what I've done!"

"Oh?" the assistant looked at Shang Wenshu in surprise.

"Let me explain," Shang Wenshu continued, "I reported our first batch of collaborative achievements to the Affairs Department promptly, as a sort of test. Although Bai Xiaosheng has done me favors, and I am grateful to him, willing to exert myself in return, I also needed to gauge the Affairs Department's attitude!"

"Do you know that my regular reports usually receive a response within about six hours, after going through the necessary procedures?"

"But this time, my report received a response in less than an hour. And prominently on the document was marked 'first-class special approval'!"

"Do you know who has the power to use such a phrase?"

After saying this, Shang Wenshu gave his assistant a meaningful look, full of implications for him to ponder, and then fell silent.

"This..." the assistant was left wide-eyed and speechless.

It seemed, then, that Shang Wenshu was not recklessly or irrationally helping a benefactor, but was instead forging a tremendous good fortune.

"This favor, I must help with!" the assistant couldn't help saying.

Shang Wenshu glanced at him, offering a faint smile.

In Shang Wenshu's mind, however, he silently reflected, "The one with such authority is not an Affairs Officer, not a Senior Affairs Officer, but the President of the Greater China Region Headquarters!"

"Moreover, they could have done without stamping these words on it. By doing so, they were telling me that the President himself is paying attention and moreover, he supports it!"

"Bai Xiaosheng, who exactly are you to command such reverence!" Shang Wenshu couldn't help but be filled with awe.

Greater China Region Headquarters, Supervision Office.

Xiahou Qi, holding a tea cup, looked indifferently at the screen that showed Mu Beichen, with a look of disappointment written all over his face.

"How can this Mu Beichen be so flustered and panicked, what a failure!"

"And those words, can you publicly criticize Bai Xiaosheng like that? Hmph! Your methods are even more despicable, I must admit!"

"To think he is nearly a decade older than Bai Xiaosheng, with far more experience in the workplace, yet he doesn't have Bai Xiaosheng's resilience, let alone his intelligence. He has truly lived in vain!"

"Is he really worth snatching from the Chen Family!"

Xiahou Qi shook his head, sipped his hot tea, then smiled and muttered to himself, "I've let Lin Ke and Feng Li be troubled for so long, I can't tell them that I would actually let Bai Xiaosheng leave the game for no reason! I'm not that senile yet!"

"Originally, I had other ways in mind to help Bai Xiaosheng! But unexpectedly, he turned out to be an old acquaintance of Shang Wenshu from Shangyun, the very one I personally appointed. Frankly speaking... this person is not someone who would act rashly and recklessly. Yet this time, for the sake of Bai Xiaosheng, he was willing to take such action, and he understood my 'hint' as well – good, good, he is also a promising candidate!"

Xiahou Qi couldn't stop praising Shang Wenshu!

After a long time, Shang Wenshu would be promoted, earning the trust of the President of the Greater China Region.

Shang Wenshu would attribute everything to his good relationship with Bai Xiaosheng.

Strictly speaking... it wasn't entirely wrong.

Of course, all this would happen much later.

At this moment, in the lecture hall of Zhongjing University.

After Mu Beichen finished questioning Bai Xiaosheng, he saw Li Haofeng's eyes filled with obvious scorn, and he heard the sounds of mockery around him.

"This Mu Beichen is really something else, his own affairs are still unclear, yet he has the nerve to criticize others!"

"Hey, the pot calling the kettle black, he doesn't look at his own behavior!"

"Such a person, with that kind of conduct, really isn't fit to hold a significant position!"

...

The cacophony of discussions flew into Mu Beichen's ears, making him furious and panicked, lost and utterly confused.

Mu Beichen looked around only to find cutting and mocking gazes, as sharp as knives and arrows.

Mu Beichen's body swayed, and he plopped down, his gaze vacant.

Zheng Qinghong didn't even bother to look at him, her expression calm with no hint of disturbance.

Mr. Bai glanced at Mu Beichen.

"With such a blow, from today on, he will fear me, dread me, fear me to his very bones!" Mr. Bai thought to himself, "Mu Beichen is no longer my match!"

On the platform, Li Haofeng's gaze was cold. He slightly lowered his head and spoke softly into the device pinned to his chest.

In the Greater China Region Headquarters, Supervision Office, Xiahou Qi, sitting in front of the screen, heard Li Haofeng's voice.

"Elder Xia, regarding this Mu Beichen, I suggest revoking his qualifications for becoming a provincial industry leader or a New-type Affairs Officer. Because, from any aspect, this person may have skills but lacks the right temperament, cannot achieve great things, and doesn't meet the standards!"

This was Li Haofeng's assessment of Mu Beichen, and for a Senior Affairs Officer to be so definitive and report it to the President of the Greater China Region Headquarters indicated just how disappointed he was with Mu Beichen.

Xiahou Qi stared at the screen, scrutinizing Mu Beichen for a while. He pondered for a moment, leisurely sipping his tea, before finally responding with a single word—

"Good!"

Chapter 797 This is the final stage!_1

"Everyone, please be quiet!" bellowed Haofeng Great Affairs Officer, his voice booming.

The noisy tiered classroom quickly fell silent.

Haofeng was a Senior Affairs Officer, with the device on his chest and behind the camera, there was even the president of the Greater China Region!

Who would dare to be disrespectful!

"Now, I am here to announce a decision!"

Haofeng swept his gaze over everyone and slowly said, "Bai Xiaosheng, Zheng Qinghong, the two of you will now accompany me to the adjacent classroom. There, you will be subject to a video inquiry by the president of the Greater China Region. Through this special 'interview' process, it will be determined who is more suitable for which position!"

Haofeng's words left everyone in the room stunned.

Mu Beichen was especially shocked as he looked up.

"Haofeng Great Affairs Officer, you must be mistaken!" Zheng Qinghong, who had always been somewhat expressionless, now showed a change in his complexion.

He couldn't help saying, "In this assessment, the first place went to Bai Xiaosheng, and the second place to Mu Beichen, while I... came in only third! Shouldn't they be the ones undergoing interviews and job assignments..."

Zheng Qinghong's words made the others nod in agreement.

It was quite improper for a Senior Affairs Officer to make a public mistake.

However, naturally, no one dared to have any objections, let alone criticize.

"I am the one who ranked second, and I should be involved in the job assignment!" Although Mu Beichen's gaze was somewhat stiff and straight, he also murmured.

Haofeng glanced at Mu Beichen and gave Zheng Qinghong a gentle smile, "I am not mistaken, it is indeed you!"

With that, Haofeng surveyed the astonished crowd and explained, "Did you think that the assessment presided over by Affairs Officer Yang Chengtian was the final round?"

"No, that was not the case!" affirmed Haofeng, "Because the final phase is happening right now, and I am the last examiner!"

Haofeng's words shocked everyone, yet also seemed logical to them.

An Affairs Officer is equivalent to a regional industrial head in rank but not quite in actual power.

Why should an Affairs Officer act as an examiner to select a regional industrial head?

That really wouldn't be quite logical!

Only with the involvement of a Senior Affairs Officer and the president of the Greater China Region in the selection would it seem logical to everyone!

"My task was to assess you without your knowledge. Regrettably, Mr. Mu Beichen, you do not meet the criteria!" said Haofeng coldly as he glanced at Mu Beichen.

"Mr. Zheng Qinghong, your calm and composed nature has made a deep impression on me. You may proceed to the interview with the president of the Greater China Region. However, if you fail to satisfy the president, I will invite someone else in your place," Haofeng added.

With that understanding, everyone nodded to themselves.

Zheng Qinghong's eyes instantly brightened.

This unexpected joy left him wildly overjoyed.

Mu Beichen's face turned ashen, looking at Haofeng in horror, he slumped into his seat, his mouth agape, yet unable to utter a word. The last glimmer of hope in his eyes turned to despair!

Haofeng made his way toward the door.

Zheng Qinghong cast a glance at Bai Xiaosheng, stood up, and followed.

Bai Xiaosheng was about to follow when Lin Ke grabbed him.

"When answering later, don't be nervous... uh, it seems like you don't get nervous. Right, you don't need to deliberately focus on your manner of speaking; it would come off as unnatural. Just act as you normally would; the old man actually likes your type!" Lin Ke cautioned in a low, urgent voice.

"Yeah, the old man is actually quite approachable. When you answer his questions, don't try to find the standard answers, just elaborate on your own opinions," Feng Li also hurriedly advised.

"Try not to ramble, and be concise. Of course, if the president asks further, remember to provide a detailed response!" Even Yang Chengtian joined in the frenzy, adding his piece.

Zhao Qianze, having no experience to impart, just clenched his fist and nodded determinedly at Bai Xiaosheng, "Good luck!"

Even before the interview, Bai Xiaosheng had already received guidance from three Affairs Officers and a beauty's blessing.

Truly, no one could match that!

Amidst the envy of others, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at these few people, "Thank you, don't worry."

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng left.

As he exited the stairwell classroom, he saw Zheng Qinghong standing in front of the door of the adjacent classroom, looking back at him.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaosheng emerge, the previously stiff-looking expression on Zheng Qinghong's face revealed a slight smile.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at him, but his eyes betrayed a hint of surprise.

Initially, Bai Xiaosheng had thought that Zheng Qinghong had suffered a stroke and had facial paralysis, but seeing his natural smile, it was indistinguishable from that of a normal person.

"You first?" Zheng Qinghong gestured to Bai Xiaosheng, speaking evenly.

"It's all the same," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile.

This was just like Bai Xiaosheng; if possible, he preferred to be on good terms with others.

Zheng Qinghong, despite being somewhat arrogant and having many flaws, had not resorted to any despicable means in this competition.

Admittedly, it might have been because his brother was in a delicate situation and couldn't help. But at the very least, facing circumstances without external support, he had fought on the frontlines, bare-chested. Although he had merely failed in a momentary strategy, he fought resiliently to the end.

As an opponent, Zheng Qinghong was indeed qualified, deserving of the two points of respect from Bai Xiaosheng.

However, looking at Zheng Qinghong's supposed "stroke," Bai Xiaosheng was quite doubtful.

Collapse from overwork, perhaps that was true, but whether it was a stroke or not, that remained to be discovered.

Even if it was, it was probably not as serious as the rumors suggested!

Zheng Qinghong's expressionless face seemed not the result of an illness.

Bai Xiaosheng gave Zheng Qinghong a meaningful glance.

"Zheng Qinghong!" a voice called from inside the classroom.

"It seems there's an order to follow," Zheng Qinghong said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "I'll go first then."

Bai Xiaosheng made a welcoming gesture.

Zheng Qinghong pushed the door open and entered.

Bai Xiaosheng waited outside, and after about a quarter of an hour, Zheng Qinghong emerged, his face unable to hide a look of joy.

"Congratulations," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile as he greeted him.

"Thank you," Zheng Qinghong replied with a smile.

Their exchange was brief and to the point, yet polite and refined.

In the business battlefield and workplace alike, when it was time for confrontation, no one would show mercy, fighting with all their might.

Yet without conflicts of interest, without disputes, they could still engage in lighthearted conversation.

This was the demeanor of someone destined for great achievements.

As for Zheng Honghu, who had aided the Chen Family in trapping him, it was driven by personal interests. Bai Xiaosheng would seek revenge on Zheng Honghu if necessary, but would not vent his anger on Zheng Qinghong if he couldn't get even with Zheng Honghu. That would be the behavior of the weak.

"Bai Xiaosheng!" The classroom called out again.

Bai Xiaosheng passed by Zheng Qinghong, side by side, and pushed the door to enter.

Once inside, Bai Xiaosheng discovered that in the large classroom, just a long table sat on the podium, but only with three people seated. Li Haofeng was in the center, with two assistants on either side.

In front of them was a chair.

"Sit!" Li Haofeng's voice was gentle as he gestured to Bai Xiaosheng, who smiled at him and glanced at the equipment on Li Haofeng's chest.

This time, the "interview" was overseen by none other than the CEO of the Greater China Region!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but feel somewhat solemn.

The forthcoming Q&A session could well be another arduous test!

As Bai Xiaosheng sat down, he prepared himself for what was to come.

Chapter 798: Promotion! Upgrade! _1

Undergoing an interview with the President of the Greater China Region was the final, deciding factor on whether I would become a provincial industrial leader or a New-type Affairs Officer!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't quite understand his own feelings.

He felt both nervous and not nervous at the same time.

This was probably a contradiction, yet life was full of such absurd contradictions.

Bai Xiaosheng waited for the President of the Greater China Region to pose a question.

The outcome, however, was surprising.

Li Haofeng began speaking, asking only about Bai Xiaosheng's past experiences and going into great detail about some specifics.

It was as if they were making casual conversation.

Bai Xiaosheng thought this was just a way to start off, to make him lower his guard, but unexpectedly, they chatted for twenty minutes about nothing but these things.

Once they finished, Li Haofeng didn't pose any sort of question.

He was speaking on behalf of the President of the Greater China Region, did this mean the President also had no questions?

While Bai Xiaosheng was puzzled, Li Haofeng's tone remained amiable as he began, "Let me explain to you the differences between the position of a provincial industrial leader and a New-type Affairs Officer."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"A provincial industrial leader has the power to oversee the industry of an entire province, as you know, nothing special to mention. To some, it appears to be an opportunity with 'more perks' and 'more to gain'!"

Li Haofeng joked before continuing, "A New-type Affairs Officer is a role proposed by the President of the Greater China Region, with authority surpassing that of an average Affairs Officer and, in some respects, on par with a Senior Affairs Officer. However, it comes with restrictions that are difficult for a general Affairs Officer to accept! The term is two years, and you must step down when it ends. Of course, the chances for promotion are higher than for a regular Affairs Officer, and moreover..."

"The New-type Affairs Officer, that's good!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

Li Haofeng paused, unable to help but laugh. "Is that your honest opinion?"

He hadn't yet elaborated on what made the New-type Affairs Officer position advantageous, and Bai Xiaosheng already found it appealing?

And judging by Bai Xiaosheng's reaction, it was genuine.

Previously, including Zheng Qinghong, nearly everyone thought the New-type Affairs Officer position was attractive, but they all chose the provincial industrial leader!

Because, in comparison, they found the provincial industrial leader more appealing.

"Can I choose my position? I want to pick this one," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Of course, he thought the New-type Affairs Officer was better!

High freedom, high authority. As for the term limit, he didn't care. In his opinion, if he couldn't earn another promotion within two years, that would be a failure!

The New-type Affairs Officer offered more opportunities and a priority in promotions!

He believed that Red Lotus would also render a higher score judgment!

As Bai Xiaosheng thought about this, Red Lotus's voice immediately resounded in his mind, "Promotion task achieved, the reward will be settled after the position allocation. If you choose the New-type Affairs Officer, the scores accumulated during the entire phase will receive an additional 20% increase!"

New-type Affairs Officer!

Upon hearing Red Lotus's addition, a surge of enthusiasm ignited in Bai Xiaosheng's heart.

In Li Haofeng's eyes, there was nothing but amusement.

It was the first time someone so readily chose not the tangible power or benefits, but the challenge of the New-type Affairs Officer!

And it was a young man!

"Great capacity entails grandeur, a lack of desire equates to steadfastness!" Li Haofeng exclaimed with admiration, then said, "You may go back now."

You may go back now?

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat astonished.

That's it... it's over?

Following Li Haofeng's gesture, Bai Xiaosheng stood up, left the classroom, and returned to the previous lecture hall.

Upon entering, he noticed everyone's gaze on him, all inquiring.

Bai Xiaosheng went back to his seat.

"How is it?!" Lin Ke asked eagerly.

Feng Li, Zhao Qianze, and others also stared at him intently.

Without giving an answer, Bai Xiaosheng just shrugged his shoulders when he heard a cough from behind.

Li Haofeng returned with his people, and Lin Ke and the others had to shut their mouths.

The room instantly fell silent.

Li Haofeng stepped onto the platform, glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and Zheng Qinghong, and smiled, "The interview is over, and now I'll announce the results on behalf of the President of the Greater China Region!"

At those words, everyone became solemn.

"During this evaluation, Zheng Qinghong performed exceptionally, and although there were some problems, he was still qualified. The corporation has decided to appoint him as the Provincial Industrial Leader! However, he must undergo a one-year training, and upon passing, he can take office!"

Zheng Qinghong's expression brightened with joy.

Everyone congratulated him with their gazes, and the applause was fervent.

This was indeed a well-deserved honor, as Zheng Qinghong had been the most popular candidate from the start. The position of Provincial Industrial Leader was ultimately his.

Upon hearing this, Lin Ke's eyes gleamed, and he couldn't help but nudge Feng Li.

If Zheng Qinghong took the position of Provincial Industrial Leader, then wouldn't Bai Xiaosheng...

"Bai Xiaosheng's performance was particularly outstanding! He also adheres to principles, acts astutely, and isn't bound by old rules. The Greater China Region has decided to appoint him as a New-type Affairs Officer!"

"He will take office immediately!"

As he said this, Li Haofeng smiled at Bai Xiaosheng, raised his hand, and started clapping first, "Congratulations to you!"

The Senior Affairs Officer taking the lead in clapping was an enormous honor!

The crowd immediately followed, clapping vigorously, their gazes toward Bai Xiaosheng filled with admiration, respect, and a touch of awe!

No need for a trial position, he was taking office immediately!

Although announced by the Senior Affairs Officer, this was the result after the interview by the President of the Greater China Region!

This meant that this young man was highly regarded by the President of the Greater China Region!

And from today on, a super Affairs Officer with some of the Senior Affairs Officer's authorities was born!

Lin Ke was even more thrilled, practically clapping his hands red.

In the eyes of Feng Li and the rest, sincere blessings shone, filled with genuine happiness!

Only Mu Beichen looked desolate, sitting there dumbstruck, as if he had aged ten years.

However, nobody sympathized with him, and in fact, nobody even looked at him.

"With that, the entire assessment has come to a successful conclusion!" Li Haofeng declared loudly.

Amidst his smile and applause, a barrage of notifications echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind.

"Task completed flawlessly! Upgraded to Provincial Industrial Leader level, actual position: New-type Affairs Officer! Due to the special nature of the job definition, any points obtained through any method at this stage will be increased by twenty percent!"

"Funds acquired—one billion, with an additional one billion in discretionary funds for group-related affairs!"

"System's third aid: Micro Expression Analysis System upgraded to the highest level, with analysis speed doubled and accuracy doubled..."

"As the Affairs Officer promotion path has been adopted, the next stage will be Senior Affairs Officer level. Your current score is zero points at the Affairs Officer level, with one hundred points needed to advance to Senior Affairs Officer level."

...

Given the unusual circumstances, Bai Xiaosheng had no time to listen to all the prompts and had to wait for another time to finish.

Li Haofeng told Bai Xiaosheng and Zheng Qinghong when to report to the Affairs Department at the Greater China Region Headquarters and then left with his people.

Bai Xiaosheng also left, surrounded by a crowd.

Mu Beichen, too, was taken away by someone.

It was believed that today's results would spread throughout the upper echelons of the Greater China Region in the shortest time and would undoubtedly stir up a whirlwind!

Chapter 799: Chaos in the Chen Family_1

Zhongjing, Moon Lake Villa District, Chen Jiuzheng's home.

Chen Jiuzheng cradled a piece of Ru Kiln white porcelain in his hands, carefully feeling it and examining it as though it were his precious jewel.

He had acquired it for a "friendly price" from an old friend, worth millions.

"What a find!" Chen Jiuzheng exclaimed in admiration, playing with it while even donning snow-white gloves.

His phone rang, but Chen Jiuzheng was unwilling to put down the porcelain, gesturing to a servant to answer and put it on speaker nearby.

"Jiuzheng!" A somewhat deep and husky voice came from Chen Jiuzheng's phone, the tone suppressed.

Upon a glance, Chen Jiuzheng realized it was his older brother calling, and immediately asked in surprise, "Brother, what's wrong with your voice?"

It sounded as if he might be suffering from an inflamed throat? Chen Jiuzheng thought.

At the moment, the Chen Family was at the height of its power, about to have one more provincial industrial leader, and had also established "deep friendship" with a Senior Affairs Officer.

Chen Jiuzheng hadn't considered anything wrong could happen, and given his obsession with the porcelain, he casually asked.

From the other end of the phone, the voice said, "The results of Beichen's assessment are out! Second place!"

"Second place?!" Chen Jiuzheng was startled, and quickly asked, "But we agreed with Zheng Honghu on first place, what happened? Could our estimate have been wrong, giving Zheng Qinghong too much support? That can't be, after all the calculations, Zheng Qinghong shouldn't have been able to beat Beichen."

"Zheng Qinghong came in third!" Chen Jiutian's voice was hoarse.

Chen Jiuzheng was stunned and said in disbelief, "Then who came in first!"

There was a brief silence on the other end, followed by what seemed to be a voice grating its teeth, "Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Bai Xiaosheng first? That's impossible!" Chen Jiuzheng, holding the porcelain, stood up abruptly, his face filled with disbelief, "His major partnerships were almost entirely canceled, how could he still come out on top!"

On the phone, Chen Jiutian exhaled heavily, "The specific reasons... we are still investigating!"

"If Beichen is second, then aren't we gaining an Affairs Officer, while that Bai becomes the provincial industrial leader?!" Chen Jiuzheng said in a panic.

Interests above all!

In Chen Jiuzheng's eyes, this even outweighed his hatred for Bai Xiaosheng.

"What Bai Xiaosheng got was the position of a New-type Affairs Officer!" Chen Jiutian said.

Chen Jiuzheng was stunned, but he also breathed a sigh of relief, "Alright, at least Beichen is still the provincial industrial leader!"

Fortunately, their Chen Family had preserved their most core interest.

"That provincial industrial head... it has fallen into Zheng Qinghong's hands!" said Chen Jiutian harshly over the phone.

Chen Jiuzheng was dumbfounded, "How is that possible, you must be mistaken, Brother! Zheng Qinghong is third, right? How could he receive that position!"

"What about Beichen then, what has Beichen got?!" Chen Jiuzheng quickly asked.

"Beichen is out of the running!" said Chen Jiutian, with great difficulty in his voice.

The piece of Ru Kiln white porcelain worth millions slid from Chen Jiuzheng's hand and shattered on the floor, splinters scattering.

"This, how can this be possible!" Chen Jiuzheng grabbed his phone and yelled.

Too erratic!

The situation was far too erratic!

He thought Mu Beichen would be first but turned out he was second.

He thought Bai Xiaosheng would be out of the running but turned out Bai Xiaosheng was first.

He thought Zheng Qinghong would be third, not getting any position, but he ended up with what the first-place was supposed to get—provincial industrial leader!

He thought Mu Beichen would get the Affairs Officer position but his second-place got him nothing! Just two ice-cold words—eliminated!

Chen Jiuzheng was on the verge of exploding, his mind in disarray.

Why hadn't they foreseen the certain aspects of the situation, why had everything been so unexpected?

"What on earth happened?! Beichen, where is he?!" Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but shout.

"It's about time to head back! I heard he was provoked, you... take care of him, ask for details!" Chen Jiutian said fiercely, "And I, I'm going to find Zheng Honghu, to get some inside information from him!"

"This time, our Chen Family has lost! However, we haven't reached the end of our rope; there may still be opportunities in the future! And that Bai Xiaosheng, now that he's become an Affairs Officer, it's not

like we don't have ways to deal with him! As long as Zheng Honghu is willing to support us, everything will be manageable!" Chen Jiutian said with venom.

At his age, he had been through too many storms, seen too many rises and falls.

Thus, although he was extremely disappointed in this matter, he wasn't driven to despair.

"Alright, I got it!"

Chen Jiuzheng had just finished speaking when he heard a servant outside shouting, "Mr. Mu Beichen is back!"

"Beichen is back; I'll go see him. Brother, you also hurry and make contact with Zheng Honghu, we can't be too disheartened! The Chen Family is large and resilient, we can withstand this!" Chen Jiuzheng was also inspired by Chen Jiutian's previous words, regaining his confidence.

"Mm!" Chen Jiutian responded.

With the phone call ended, Chen Jiuzheng hurriedly headed outside.

"Beichen is proud by nature, he was apprehensive just a few days ago, and now, he's faced with such a blow. He finished second, yet hasn't received any position..." Chen Jiuzheng walked briskly, his mind racing, "I must console him, persuade him that success and failure are but temporary. As long as the heart isn't dead, we can take back everything!"

Chen Jiuzheng stepped out the door.

A moment later, there was an outraged roar, "Beichen... what happened to you?!"

Chen Jiuzheng couldn't believe Mu Beichen when he saw him.

The man who was once proud, ambitious, shrewd, and astute, was now brought in sitting in a wheelchair, his face shrouded in a pall of ashen defeat, an image of decay that left onlookers speechless.

How had he come to this?! Chen Jiuzheng was shocked into silence.

How could a successful man in his forties be utterly broken overnight?

Chen Jiuzheng attempted to offer comfort, to find some consoling words.

Mu Beichen remained blankly staring, dazed, without a flicker of change in his eyes.

Ruined!

Chen Jiuzheng felt both helpless and heartbroken.

After all, he was his own brother, and it hadn't been his wish to see him end up like this.

"Bai Xiaosheng! It's Bai Xiaosheng, isn't it!" Chen Jiuzheng gritted his teeth with a grating sound.

Hearing that name, Mu Beichen's face finally showed a change, filled with anger, resentment, panic, and fear, as he gripped the armrests of his wheelchair tightly.

"I understand now, I will avenge you!" Unable to bear the sight, Chen Jiuzheng called over the servants, "Take Beichen away, take good care of him, and summon the best psychologist!"

After seeing to Mu Beichen's needs, two hours had passed.

Chen Jiuzheng then phoned Chen Jiutian.

"Jiuzheng, speak quickly, I have a meeting with Zheng Honghu soon, and it's lucky this time that I was in Linshen, rather than on duty at the Department of Affairs. Mr. Zheng seems reluctant this time; he doesn't want to meet me. Hmph! This guy has gained benefits and now he wants to sever ties with us, as if it's that easy! I've had someone look into his relationship with the head of Hedong Province; he has liabilities that we can leverage..."

"Brother!"

Chen Jiuzheng cried out in grief, interrupting Chen Jiutian.

"What's wrong?!" Chen Jiutian immediately sensed something amiss!

"Beichen, he's... ruined!" Chen Jiuzheng's voice was filled with sorrow.

One of the three lions of the Chen Family, now broken.

Chapter 800: You Still Want to Stay Out of It?!

In a Michelin three-star restaurant, inside a private room.

Chen Jiutian sprung up from his seat, his expression a mix of shock and rage, his hand grasping the phone slightly trembling.

He had heard the news from Chen Jiuzheng, more precisely, it was disastrous news!

From Chen Jiuzheng's description, Mu Beichen, the pride of the Chen family, was completely ruined!

"How could it be so severe!" Chen Jiutian still refused to believe, "It was just a minor failure!"

After all, Mu Beichen had always been described as a "remarkable person" from a young age.

Dominating the workplace and sweeping through business battles without ever facing defeat!

Chen Jiutian saw that Mu Beichen carefully thought things through in any situation, able to control the overall situation and delve into the details, in many aspects, even surpassing himself!

Could it really be that heaven envies the talented, and good steel easily breaks?

Chen Jiuzheng gave a bitter smile, and on the phone, he spoke of the severe mental burdens that Mu Beichen carried and then added, "He must have been subjected to some strong trauma, and the source of the trauma, I guess—it's Bai Xiaosheng!"

Bai Xiaosheng, this person who should have been out, unexpectedly came out first!

Just how much had happened that they didn't know about!

Chen Jiuzheng racked his brains but still couldn't understand.

"Bai Xiaosheng!"

Uttering this name again, Chen Jiutian felt his eyes nearly splitting, his eyeballs all bloodshot.

This calamity!

First, he almost disfigured his son, then he trapped a Wang Ye, and also caused him to exhaust himself cleaning up the mess, sacrificing many interests.

He set up traps for Chen Changqing at Zhongjing Media.

He went to Chen Jiuzheng's house and set up traps for Chen Changluo.

Now, he had brought catastrophe upon Mu Beichen to such an extent!

"Does he really intend to wreak havoc on my Chen Family? I'll kill him!" Chen Jiutian roared in a low voice, so angry he violently coughed, almost coughing up blood.

If Bai Xiaosheng heard this roar, he would surely feel "wronged".

If they hadn't kept picking on him, how could any of these subsequent events have occurred? It could only be said that the Chen family members "brought it upon themselves".

Of course, Chen Jiutian would never think so.

"Today, what exactly happened there, we are all unclear! However, Zheng Qinghong is there, he knows! Brother, you can inquire through Zheng Honghu." Chen Jiuzheng suggested, and then sighed, "But... what's the point, Beichen is already like this!"

With things as they are, instead of asking for details, it's better to think about what to do next!

"This debt, with the surname Bai! I have noted it down for you! Even though you are an Affairs Officer now, I will make you pay back a hundredfold!" Chen Jiutian bellowed.

"Exactly!" Chen Jiuzheng likewise spoke harshly.

"Alright, I won't talk anymore. Jiuzheng, you go now, find the best doctor for Beichen, get him treated, get him recuperating! I'll wait for Zheng Honghu here, when he arrives, I have plans! After this busy stretch, I'll go see Beichen!" Chen Jiutian no longer wanted to hear about these matters, he needed to calm his mind.

Soon, he would be matching wits with Zheng Honghu.

After hanging up the phone, Chen Jiutian sat down, but the more he thought, the more annoyed he became.

About forty minutes later, the door of the private room opened, and Zheng Honghu walked in with a smile on his face.

That smile, it was truly very gleeful!

Seeing this, Chen Jiutian felt his anger rising.

"Sorry, sorry, Elder Chen, you see, I've been too caught up with things on my end and arrived late." Zheng Honghu laughed sheepishly.

Forty minutes late?!

"I think, Brother Zheng does not want to meet with me anymore! After all, your brother has now achieved his goals completely. Why stir up an issue unnecessarily!" Chen Jiutian scoffed coldly.

"Elder Chen, you jest, here I am." Zheng Honghu said with a chuckle, sitting opposite Chen Jiutian, "Today with you, Elder Chen, let's just talk about delicious food and nothing else, shall we?"

"No!"

Chen Jiutian angrily shouted, slamming the table, "Zheng Honghu, what, you take the biggest benefits for yourself, and you think you can just brush it off and deny everything?!"

Chen Jiutian had originally wanted to keep his cool and speak calmly, yet he still couldn't let go of Mu Beichen's issue, and seeing Zheng Honghu's demeanor infuriated him even more.

In fact, he had come here with no intention to just chat.

"Brother Chen, if you talk like that, there's no fun in it!" Zheng Honghu was no pushover; his face darkened, and his tone grew colder. He poured himself a cup of tea, neither smiling nor frowning as he sipped and stared at him, "So what do you want?"

"Since at the beginning, it was you who came to me seeking an alliance, cooperation, then let's see it through!" Chen Jiutian said gravely.

"But this cooperation has already ended, and the selection has finished. As for the matter with Mu Beichen, I regret it too, but it was the decision of the president of the Greater China Region, I couldn't do anything," Zheng Honghu said with a smile, spreading his hands, his face showing helplessness.

"The selection is over, but that doesn't mean our cooperation is over! The brat named Bai has cheated my Chen Family too much. I need you to join me to strike him down while his foundation is unstable, take his life!" Chen Jiutian stated fiercely.

Zheng Honghu lifted his eyelids, glanced at him, and shook his head with a smile, "In this troublesome time, I'd rather avoid more trouble than seek it. This matter does me no good, I cannot comply! After this meal, it's better we go our separate ways!"

Zheng Honghu flatly refused.

His attitude was clear, he no longer wanted to join Chen Jiutian's games.

"Since it's like that, fine! I won't stop you! However, during this evaluation, the provincial leader of Hedong Province has been embezzling, and if that is reported, your situation might not be good, right?" Chen Jiutian smirked coldly.

Zheng Honghu's smile vanished completely, and with a cold face, he looked at Chen Jiutian, "Are you going to be so ruthless?"

"You forced my hand!" Chen Jiutian glared at him.

"Don't forget, when those major contracts in Hedong Province defaulted, who collaborated with you afterward? It was with your Mu Beichen! If there are issues with the provincial industry leader of Hedong Province, it's your problem, Chen Jiutian! What does this have to do with me!" Zheng Honghu sneered viciously, "Indeed, Qinghong also has many major contracts helped by your people in various provinces, and I know all these men too! Don't push me to a desperate fight!"

Chen Jiutian's expression darkened.

"Moreover, if the net breaks, it doesn't necessarily mean the fish is safe!" Zheng Honghu said with a triumphant smile, "I'm not eating anymore, see you!"

Saying that, Zheng Honghu stood up and walked towards the door.

"The provincial industry leader of Hedong Province hasn't embezzled with impunity these past years, you have evidence of his shortfall, so you can manipulate and blackmail him."

Zheng Honghu had just reached the door, his hand on the doorknob, when he heard Chen Jiutian behind him say,

He couldn't help but frown, turning back emotionlessly to look at Chen Jiutian.

Chen Jiutian smiled, continuing, "These years, you've also benefited from him. But all transactions were done in parts, in a hidden manner. You believe he wouldn't dare expose you, even if discovered once or twice, or even ten times, it wouldn't matter much for your position, at most a little investigation or a demotion! While for his misdeeds, the evidence is solid; he would go to jail!"

Chen Jiutian spoke out loud, "But you underestimated him after all. He has kept enough evidence against you, enough to lose everything and even go to jail! Not to mention your current precarious position, even the president of the Greater China Region wants to act against you! Would the old man miss this opportunity!"

Zheng Honghu narrowed his eyes slightly.

"These pieces of evidence, just by chance, I've obtained a copy. The provincial industry leader of Hedong Province, of course, fears a mutual destruction and dares not make a move, but I'm not afraid!" Chen Jiutian said grimly, slowly enunciating each word:

"The fish is you, the net is him, if you both end up destroying each other—"

"I'll be watching the show!"

"Brother Zheng, you really want to stay out of it, it might not be so easy!"

"Brother Zheng, don't force me!"