

## Two Trillion 811

Chapter 811 Am I Arrogant Enough?

Bai Xiaosheng explicitly stated that he came with a purpose, using a special word—"notification."

This word was intriguing and carried a hint of official business, leaving Chen Jiuzheng unable to discern the routine.

What notification? That Bai Xiaosheng needed to convey?!

Chen Jiuzheng was somewhat baffled.

Even if there was a notification, the department had specific personnel responsible for these matters; there was absolutely no need for an Affairs Officer, especially a newly appointed New-type Affairs Officer, to come to his house to discuss it!

"May I know what you wish to notify me about?" Chen Jiuzheng asked with a smile.

"Mr. Chen, as you know, I've just taken office, and it's such an important position as an Affairs Officer, plus I'm so young and quite inexperienced," Bai Xiaosheng had just mentioned "notification," but now he changed the topic, not bringing it up again. Instead, he asked with a beaming smile and sincere face, "What do you think I should focus on first in my work?"

There was a hint of earnestness in Bai Xiaosheng's expression as he sought advice.

Chen Jiuzheng was taken aback.

Even Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were somewhat startled, exchanging glances.

Bai Xiaosheng had specifically come to seek advice from Chen Jiuzheng?

No demon would believe that!

"How to carry out your duties, Affairs Officer Bai, such a shrewd and capable person as yourself surely has ideas, why do you need my input?" Chen Jiuzheng lazily glanced at Bai Xiaosheng and chuckled.

However, the smile was noticeably cold.

From start to finish, there was a chilling undertone beneath Chen Jiuzheng's smiling demeanor.

Especially his eyes, which faintly concealed a trace of malevolence.

Mu Beichen was ruined, Chen Changqing was fired—if it weren't for Bai Xiaosheng's identity and the uncertainty around Bai Xiaosheng's approach, he wouldn't be pandering like this.

"If he continues to babble here, I'll just send him packing!" Chen Jiuzheng thought to himself.

"I do have some ideas, thus, I specifically came to discuss them with Mr. Jiuzheng!" Bai Xiaosheng looked at Chen Jiuzheng, smiling with his white teeth showing, always giving Chen Jiuzheng the sense of being targeted by a young predator, even sending shivers down his spine.

"Please, speak!"

Chen Jiuzheng's smile became slightly restrained, even appearing somewhat stern as he spoke.

The way Bai Xiaosheng's forceful demeanor pressed upon him, especially in his own home, was very irritating.

Perhaps he shouldn't have shown Bai Xiaosheng a smiling face from the start!

"They say 'a new official lights three fires'! Whether dealing with superiors or subordinates, as a New-type Affairs Officer, every move is watched by countless people! Thus, I want my first fire to be impressive and spectacular! This is necessary to live up to the reputation of a New-type Affairs Officer

and to honor the great importance Mr. Xiahou Qi, President of the Greater China Region Headquarters, has placed on me!"

Bai Xiaosheng, not looking at Chen Jiuzheng but at the floating tea leaves in his cup, chuckled, "But how should this first fire be lit to make a big impact? Look, I am an Affairs Officer, a New-type Affairs Officer at that. Our duty is to monitor and bring to light those who embezzle the company's assets—this is our job, our performance."

At this point, Bai Xiaosheng raised his head, looking at Chen Jiuzheng with a grin, "So, I specifically came to tell you in person!"

"It's also to notify you!"

With a smile in his eyes, yet as sharp as a knife and incredibly chilling, Bai Xiaosheng articulated word by word, "I intend to initiate an investigation against you, Mr. Jiuzheng!"

That statement left Chen Jiuzheng completely stunned.

Even Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked at Bai Xiaosheng incredulously.

What kind of tactic was this?!

Straight into his house, casually chat for a bit, and then, "I'm going to deal with you!"

This, this... Only Bai Xiaosheng would do something like this!

Chen Jiuzheng's eyes bulged, and he stared open-mouthed, speechless as he gazed at Bai Xiaosheng for three seconds, unable to utter a single word. Bai Xiaosheng, smile brimming, sipped his tea and nodded, "The tea's quite nice, pretty expensive, huh? Mr. Chen, what do you think of my approach for this first action upon taking office?"

"Bai Xiaosheng, are you here to pick a fight!"

Chen Jiuzheng regained his senses, his face fierce, and he slammed the table furiously.

Even though he had held a high position for a long time and was deeply composed, he could not tolerate this humiliation.

What now, after bullying so many people from the Chen Family, it was his turn?

And to come to his door to bully him!

How could you do this!

Chen Jiuzheng was incredibly furious, glaring at Bai Xiaosheng, wishing he could slaughter the bastard!

"In one's position, seek its politics. This saying is not bad for me, and the same goes for you, Chen Jiuzheng! Have you sought its politics, or have you not embezzled a lot over these years!" Bai Xiaosheng sneered, "How much from the corporation have you taken, now it's time to give it back!"

"I've checked the data; you've injected capital into many companies for Mu Beichen's company. Those people had no objections; I guess they are your loyalists, right? Following this lead will yield a rich harvest, I believe!"

"Moreover, I've noticed an interesting phenomenon. The only reason Mu Beichen's company needs capital injection is that the company is actually just a shell, which makes things intriguing. A media powerhouse, bought by you guys with a hefty sum, turned out to be just a shell. This is also a clue!"

Bai Xiaosheng's smile was full of meaning, "Besides, I'm very familiar with Zhongjing; the Mou Family, Zhang Family, and many others are my friends. There's a lot of gossip about you among them, not all of which might be groundless. Excellent, here's another clue!"

The more Bai Xiaosheng spoke, the uglier Chen Jiuzheng's face got, turning ashen.

"Mr. Bai! You're here to declare war on me and the Chen Family!"

Chen Jiuzheng roared furiously, his expression menacing, "Don't be too excessive, don't get too arrogant..."

"Someone!" Chen Jiuzheng shouted angrily, and several burly men approached menacingly.

"Calling people? Are you threatening an Affairs Officer?" Bai Xiaosheng's smile turned cold, he sneered, "Lei Ying!"

Behind Bai Xiaosheng, Lei Ying stepped forward with a solemn expression.

Looking at a section of the staircase nearby, deliberately made to look antique with railings ending in wrist-thick steel tubes, incredibly sturdy. Lei Ying kicked it, and with a dull sound, the steel tube bent!

This display left the burly men gaping.

What tremendous force that must have taken!

And to look so nonchalant, indifferent...

If that were to kick someone, it could shatter several bones!

Lei Ying looked down on those men with contempt, like a regal lion.

"I didn't ask you to kick someone else's property," Bai Xiaosheng reproached with a helpless look at Lei Ying, then he stood up and said to Chen Jiuzheng, "I've said what I wanted to say, it's time for me to leave!"

"Chen Jiuzheng, what I control is far beyond your imagination! And some belongs to your brother!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed loudly, "I've notified you this time. Next time, I'm afraid we'll have to meet at the Greater China Region Headquarters!"

"I hope you can still be so spirited then!"

"Let's go!"

Saying this, Bai Xiaosheng left with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying in tow.

Chen Jiuzheng trembled with fury in the background.

Taking a taxi there and back, he stayed in the Chen Family for less than half an hour, quite a rush, but just in time to catch the high-speed train.

"Xiaosheng, aren't you afraid of alerting them by showing your hand!" On the way, Lin Weiwei couldn't help but say.

Bai Xiaosheng's behavior was absurd and arrogant, a blatant act of revenge.

"Well, I am here to stir the waters!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled meaningfully, "How about that, arrogant enough?"

Chapter 812: Don't be fooled by him!

"What did you say?! The man surnamed Bai ran to your house and said this to you!"

Over the phone, Chen Jiutian was unable to contain his shock after hearing Chen Jiuzheng's account.

"That's right, that's exactly what he said!" Chen Jiuzheng replied solemnly, "Judging by his tone, he's coming at us hard this time!"

As soon as Bai Xiaosheng left, Chen Jiuzheng called Chen Jiutian.

That Bai fellow had just assumed his new post and seemed keen to 'set three fires as a new official.'

But this first fire, he intended to ignite at the Chen Family's doorstep!

It was pure bullying!

Even now, thinking about Bai Xiaosheng's tone and demeanor, Chen Jiuzheng couldn't help but feel a surge of anger and blood.

"Fine lad, I'll give you that!" Chen Jiutian seemed to grind his teeth, then his anger turned to laughter, "But, as it happens, we never intended to let him off either! He does see clearly! But coming to our door to provoke? Hmph, that's intentional!"

"It sounds a bit like he's trying to goad us!"

"And a bit as if he's trying to trick you!"

"That Bai, the few leads he mentioned, they are indeed not bad. Unfortunately, those all require time to investigate to obtain evidence! Rest assured, without evidence, the Affairs Department won't touch you! And before he finds any evidence, we will have thoroughly dealt with him!"

Chen Jiutian analyzed with a quiet chill in his voice.

With these words, Chen Jiuzheng too felt somewhat more at ease.

Frankly, Bai Xiaosheng's threats had indeed given him quite a scare.

He had thought that man surnamed Bai really had some evidence.

"In any case, you don't pay any attention to him, and don't act recklessly; that might just be the trap he's setting for you!" Chen Jiutian cautioned again and again, "Keep doing what you should be doing. Leave dealing with him to us!"

"Understood!" Chen Jiuzheng responded.

In reality, with his status as a provincial industry head, the idea of competing with an Affairs Officer, a New-type Affairs Officer at that, whose partial authority even rivaled that of a Senior Affairs Officer, was a fool's dream!

At the very least, that would require someone of his brother Chen Jiutian or Zheng Honghu's caliber!

Back in the day, Bai Xiaosheng was just a tough nut to crack, tough but not invulnerable. Now, he had become someone he couldn't handle, someone even his older brother had to strategize to deal with!

Thinking about all this, Chen Jiuzheng was full of emotions and overwhelming regret.

If only he had known what would happen today, he would not have spared any cost to keep the man surnamed Bai from rising to power.

But it was too late for regrets now.

Over the phone, Chen Jiutian gave some more advice about other matters, instructing Chen Jiuzheng to keep as low a profile as possible during this period.

At the same time, Chen Jiutian emphasized that Chen Jiuzheng must absolutely not follow Bai Xiaosheng's words and "fix the leaks" one by one.

Doing so now could very well fall into Bai Xiaosheng's trap, giving the opposition the opportunity and leverage.

"Bear this in mind!"

"Alright, I got it!" Chen Jiuzheng agreed.

Had he not had this conversation with his brother, he might have indeed done just that.

After hanging up the phone, Chen Changqing, who had been standing next to Chen Jiuzheng, couldn't help but say, "What does our uncle mean, we just keep on enduring?"

As an eavesdropper, he only heard limited parts of the conversation.

Chen Jiuzheng walked over and looked at Chen Changqing, "Changqing, we all hope you will grow up quickly and take over Beichen. So now, you must first learn one thing—patience!"

"Impatience leads to chaos and ruins grand schemes!"

Chen Jiuzheng patted his shoulder and left.

Elsewhere.

Chen Jiuzheng could never have imagined that just after he had carefully instructed him, his brother Chen Jiutian, who spoke in a calm voice and thought things through meticulously, would hang up the phone and immediately grab the cup beside him, smashing it to pieces!

"Bai Xiaosheng, you're forcing me to make a move against you soon!" Chen Jiutian loosened his tie with two fingers, grinding his teeth as he spoke.

People are always like this, utterly calm when advising others, but when they turn to reflect on themselves, calmness eludes them.

"Changqing, Changluo, Beichen, now it's Jiuzheng's turn, and mine too?"

Chen Jiutian scoffed and muttered to himself, "Your ambition is not small at all! Well, let's see if you can hold out until that day arrives!"

With that, he picked up his mobile phone and quickly dialed a number—Zheng Honghu's private number.

After the call connected, Chen Jiutian relayed to Zheng Honghu, word for word, what Chen Jiuzheng had told him.

"Listen to this! Brother Zheng, this Bai fellow is already bullying his way to my door! Can I still bear it?" Chen Jiutian spoke with vehemence.

"Stay calm, Brother Chen!" Zheng Honghu's voice came through calmly.

"Calm? As if it's not your head he's riding roughshod over!" Chen Jiutian snapped back, "I ask you, if he comes knocking at Zheng Qinghong's door with threats, what would you do! You endure, you stay calm!"

On the other end of the line, there was a brief silence, followed by Zheng Honghu's voice, "Brother Chen, I have given you the plans. To take down Bai Xiaosheng, this New-type Affairs Officer, you have three options: short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans. If you want to achieve your goal in a short time, you'll have to pay a much bigger price... including sacrificing a large part of your own progeny. That's why I have been advising you from the start to take the long-term route, or even the medium-term route."

"With the medium-term plan, just endure for a year, and you can spend half the resources!"

"As for the long-term plan, bear with it for two years, and when he's about to assume his position, you can break him in one fell swoop! The cost might even be less than a third of the short-term plan's expenses!"

"I've laid out the paths for you, now it's your choice!" Zheng Honghu concluded, "The shorter the time frame, the greater the risk for me! Of course, if you insist, I will help you too. However, you heard me, I don't recommend it!"

"I've advised you not just once or twice, and if I go on, you'll think I'm in cahoots with the Bais!" Zheng Honghu sighed and earnestly said, "If you want to move fast, then you must be prepared to sacrifice, and not think about getting a discount on the plan or saving some of your progeny and resources. I tell you, if you don't kill the snake, it bites back, and then you'll be the one crying!"

Zheng Honghu's words made Chen Jiutian momentarily lost for words.

Following Zheng Honghu's plan, he would have to provide Zheng Honghu with more than half of his progeny and secret pawns for him to strategize!

Those were the results of his years of hard work! Even though Zheng Honghu was fully trustworthy, it still pained him greatly!

All these years of hard work, just to take down a Bai Xiaosheng.

Is it worth it or not?!

"Brother Zheng, let me think about it some more," Chen Jiutian softened in the conversation.

"No problem, take as long as you need! But I still suggest that you wait," urged Zheng Honghu earnestly.

"Mm," Chen Jiutian responded with a grunt.

As an ally, Zheng Honghu was indeed very responsible, continuously offering his advice. Chen Jiutian's trust in him was growing, without suspicions of him colluding, but it was the potential loss that pained him.

After hanging up the phone, Chen Jiutian furrowed his brows and murmured to himself, "Although I told Jiuzheng that Bai Xiaosheng is trying to deceive him. But can I really be sure that the kid won't make a move? I must be vigilant!"

Chen Jiutian glanced at his phone and dialed another number.

This user's number was not activated lightly, and even Zheng Honghu didn't know of its existence!

While Chen Jiutian was making arrangements on his end, Bai Xiaosheng had already set off for Linshen with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"Once we arrive today, you both should rest well," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, instructing the two, "Tomorrow, we have quite the drama!"

Chapter 813: Mr. Bai, You're Forcing Me!

Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying arrived at the Greater China Region Headquarters in Linshen that afternoon.

From the exterior plaza, the moment they saw the headquarters building, both Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying felt amazed.

After all, Linshen is a first-tier city, and its level of economic development is far beyond that of Zhongjing, the former provincial capital!

Not to mention that the headquarters building in the Greater China Region is a regional landmark in Linshen.

Majestic, grand.

Summing it up, just two words—wealthy!

Bai Xiaosheng led Lin Weiwei and the others into the building.

The security guard at the door saluted Bai Xiaosheng respectfully, saying in awe, "Affairs Officer Bai."

"You recognize me?" Bai Xiaosheng was startled and exclaimed in surprise.

The guard smiled, pulling out a palm-sized device displaying Bai Xiaosheng's photo.

He pointed at the camera at the entrance.

"Facial recognition system," the guard said with a smile.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded with a smile, pointing to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, "They are my assistants, and I'm taking them upstairs."

"Certainly." The security allowed them through.

Bai Xiaosheng led the two directly to his office upstairs.

Along the way, Lin Weiwei clicked her tongue in admiration, "I didn't expect the headquarters to be so high-tech, even the security uses a facial recognition system!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled. Previously, someone had accompanied him, so he didn't notice, and now he also felt a bit of novelty.

Once they reached the new office, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying looked around inside and out, both extremely satisfied.

"Not bad at all. Inside is the Affairs Officer Bai's office area, and the outside is ours. The computer equipment is all brand-new and from big brands; there are also many high-tech gadgets that are quite interesting," Lin Weiwei said, broadly satisfied, but then added, "It's just that the decorations are too cold, not quite to my liking."

Lei Ying didn't mind, shrugging with a smile.

"The things on your desks, whether the computers or those gadgets, assigned for your use, are now your personal property."

"Moreover, if you need anything, just call logistics directly for replacements or to order something, Weiwei, you choose, and then notify them," Bai Xiaosheng took a booklet and handed it to Lin Weiwei, "These are our responsibilities and rights. Take some time to go through it, especially the benefits and permissions. As an Affairs Officer, we enjoy the treatment of provincial industrial heads! I, as a New-type Affairs Officer, have even more special privileges!"

"Corruption! But I like it!"

Lin Weiwei said with a giggling smile, casually flipping through a couple of pages.

"I was supposed to be assigned business assistants, usually general managers or deputy general managers from subsidiaries, but I found them not attentive enough, so I asked for a special privilege to have you two come over. Though you can't be promoted like them, other treatments remain unchanged, all at a general manager level! We also have rooms here; I'll have them send over the keys to you in a moment!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were even more satisfied, nodding their heads.

Being able to enjoy the treatment of a general manager naturally made them happy.

"Alright, I need to go meet our Greater China Region President now. You guys rest here for a bit," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Lin and Lei nodded, watching as Bai Xiaosheng departed.

Once outside, Bai Xiaosheng headed straight for Xiahou Qi's office.

The President of the Greater China Region has a packed daily schedule, and it could be quite difficult to meet him without scheduling an appointment or a proper greeting in advance.

However, Bai Xiaosheng had no such concerns.

After he went there, he coincidentally ran into Wang Mubei outside the office.

Upon seeing him, Wang Mubei immediately smiled, "Affairs Officer Bai, Elder Xia has been waiting for you."

"Okay, Assistant Wang," Bai Xiaosheng smiled back at him and added, "Elder Xia has my contact information and sometimes asks me to report directly on the progress of my work, so I might come without making an appointment with your older brother. I hope you understand."

Fearing that such a minor issue might bother Wang Mubei, Bai Xiaosheng specially expressed his apologies.

Wang Mubei instantly smiled, extremely satisfied with Bai Xiaosheng's humility, politeness, and attentiveness, "Affairs Officer Bai, you flatter me too much!"

"Oh, right. My two assistants have arrived and are in the office. Should they need to follow any procedures, please take extra care," Bai Xiaosheng continued.

"No worries, leave it to me," Wang Mubei assured wholeheartedly.

Bai Xiaosheng responded with a thankful smile, then knocked on Xiahou Qi's office door. After receiving permission, he pushed the door open and entered.

Watching him enter, Wang Mubei's gaze still held admiration, "This young man is polite and knows the rules! His future is boundless!"

Having said that, he turned to arrange for someone to help Bai Xiaosheng's assistants through the process.

Greater China Region Headquarters.

Bai Xiaosheng and Xiahou Qi talked for quite a while, with Xiahou Qi eventually lamenting, "You act fast and directly, young man!"

"Since I've taken up the position of New-type Affairs Officer, I need to make some noise and achieve some results. It reflects well on you too," Bai Xiaosheng grinned, "Moreover, the tenure for a New-type Affairs Officer is only two years, and time waits for no one. If I don't achieve enough by then, I'd simply have to leave. Furthermore, the sooner I achieve results, the sooner I accumulate merits for promotion, the sooner it proves that your 'New-type Affairs Officer system' is indeed effective."

"Hmph, slick talker, only you can say such things!"

Xiahou Qi gave Bai Xiaosheng a playful look and said smilingly, "Let me tell you the truth, cooperation from the other side is in place too. Visible and hidden moves, a good situation. Your move has perfected a lot of my old plans!"

Bai Xiaosheng grinned.

"However, since the situation is so good, why not make more out of it!" Xiahou Qi chuckled.

Seeing his expression, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but think, "What a sinister feeling."

That evening, a piece of news spread throughout the Greater China Region Headquarters.

The newly appointed New-type Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, following procedure, submitted an investigative application to the Affairs Department Presidential Office, accusing Chen Jiuzheng, the provincial industrial leader of Anjiang Province, of "embezzlement and lining one's own pockets" among other issues!

While submitting the application, Bai Xiaosheng also submitted some "key evidence."

This evidence is temporarily confidential, even the Senior Affairs Officers do not have access to it; it is preserved by the personnel from the Presidential Office.

The Presidential Office is currently verifying the authenticity of the evidence. Once confirmed, they will immediately initiate the project, allowing Bai Xiaosheng to form a team to officially investigate Chen Jiuzheng!

As soon as the news was released, it caused a huge stir!

The New-type Affairs Officer took action, directly targeting a provincial industrial leader!

So fierce and direct!

Instantly, countless eyes turned toward the situation; the ten Senior Affairs Officers and numerous Affairs Officers paid close attention to it.

Chen Jiutian received this message for the first time.

"He really dares to act so swiftly!" Chen Jiutian was stunned into silence, infuriated to the extreme. He immediately swept everything within reach off the table and onto the floor, while furiously bellowing—

"Good for you, Mister Bai, if you really want to draw your sword now, do you think I am afraid of you! Fine fine fine, if you want to die now, I'll grant you your wish!"

#### Chapter 814: Grandiose Display

The next day at the Greater China Region Headquarters, as soon as work began, murmurs and gossip were rife behind the scenes.

"Have you heard? After work yesterday evening, that newly appointed New-type Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng submitted an investigation request to the president's office!"

"Yeah, I heard about it too. Apparently, it targets the industrial leader of Anjiang Province, Chen Jiuzheng!"

"The charges aren't minor—he's accused of abusing power for personal gain, lining his own pockets, excluding dissidents, and setting up a separate faction. I heard that just the amount involved is enough to land Chen Jiuzheng in jail!"

"The evidence is being verified, and it's said to be... quite substantial!"

"I never would have imagined it! This time Chen Jiuzheng is really in big trouble!"

"This Affairs Officer Bai is so ruthless—his first fire since taking office is already blazing furiously. I heard he was promoted from Zhongjing, and since Zhongjing is the former capital of Anjiang, Chen Jiuzheng still lives there—it really facilitates gathering evidence..."

All sorts of discussions unfolded, and many eyes were fixed on Bai Xiaosheng's office.

In the morning, after Bai Xiaosheng arrived at his office, Lin Weiwei first presented him with a cup of latte and said with a smile, "We've got a new coffee machine, and the beans are top-notch too. It's really good, Xiaosheng, try it."

"Sure." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, took the coffee from her, and after tasting it he found it genuinely delightful.

Taking this opportunity, Lin Weiwei reported to Bai Xiaosheng, "Lots of people have been coming this morning. I thought they were looking for you, but they just chatted with me and said things like we'll be friends now that we are at the headquarters and that they'll take good care of me."

Lin Weiwei sneered, "If you ask me, they are all just beating around the bush to gather information."

Bai Xiaosheng gave her a smile, "Who were they? Any handsome guys?"

"All about forty years old, handsome guys?" Lin Weiwei first pursed her lips, then gave Bai Xiaosheng a mischievous smile. "Humph, there were a couple of quite attractive, mature women with lovely faces, though. They were all assistants to Affairs Officers, giving only their last names, no first names—they certainly wouldn't reveal anything."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, smiling as he savored his coffee.

"All these people, could they all be sent by the Chen family to sniff around? That's too many!" Lin Weiwei frowned uncontrollably.

"I'm afraid none of them were!" Bai Xiaosheng set down his cup.

"Weiwei, do you think an Affairs Officer can hold their position for life? No way!"

"Affairs Officers also face assessments. Although failing isn't that serious, if they accomplish nothing over five or six years, the Affairs Department isn't a place for them to retire. Otherwise, if they stayed on forever, what hope of promotion would there be for those assistants? The Affairs Officer group simply couldn't afford it!"

"So, within the Affairs Officers, there are also many factions, and the competition between them is like an undercurrent; everyone is either an ally or an enemy, afraid of being outdone by the others."

Bai Xiaosheng rubbed his chin, grinning, "Especially for a New-type Affairs Officer like me, with greater priority in promotion than others, if I really do achieve some great accomplishment, I might just snatch someone's promotion opportunity."

So that's how it is!

Lin Weiwei nodded, "Then the Chen family by now must have received the news. Aren't they in a rush to scope things out?"

Chen Family?

They probably knew as soon as the news leaked out last night!

Bai Xiaosheng sneered inwardly.

"They will send someone, but certainly not too soon, nor too late, and they will make direct contact with me!" Bai Xiaosheng said.

Just as he said this, the door to the inner room was knocked twice.

"Come in," Bai Xiaosheng called out.

Lei Ying pushed the door open and said to Bai Xiaosheng, "Affairs Officer Bai, there's someone who wants to see you!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Lei Ying was followed by a dissatisfied voice, "I've already said I don't need to be announced when looking for him, yet you still stop me!"

It was a woman's voice, sweet with a hint of seduction.

Upon hearing this voice, Bai Xiaosheng immediately cheered up and even got up to welcome her.

"Lei Ying, she's one of us," Bai Xiaosheng said.

Only then did Lei Ying step aside to let someone pass, and the person who walked in scowled at Lei Ying but gave Bai Xiaosheng a sweet smile, "Affairs Officer Bai!"

Zhao Qianze!

She had also passed the selection process, but had become an assistant to the Affairs Officer, a rank below Bai Xiaosheng.

"So formal, come on, have a seat," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

After all, they were at the headquarters, an office space, so it was proper for Zhao Qianze to address him by his title.

"Weiwei, pour some tea," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Lin Weiwei acknowledged the request, but there was a faint look of vigilance in her eyes when she looked at Zhao Qianze.

This was, after all, the first time since coming to headquarters that a woman of similar age, so beautiful and even with a hint of sexy allure, had visited.

It seemed she was quite close to Bai Xiaosheng, which naturally made Lin Weiwei slightly concerned.

Lei Ying looked at Lin Weiwei's expression, pursed her lips with a smile, and quietly left the room.

The least she was skilled at was dealing with women, even more headache-inducing than writing reports and documents.

When Lin Weiwei went out, only Zhao Qianze and Bai Xiaosheng were left.

Zhao Qianze looked Bai Xiaosheng up and down, her gaze shifting from left to right.

"Have I gotten handsomer?" Bai Xiaosheng shamelessly asked with a smile.

"You were quite handsome to begin with," Zhao Qianze generously lavished praise and then smiled, "I just didn't expect that the next time we met, you would be my superior."

It must be said, a single assessment changed their statuses so drastically.

"You'll have your day too," Bai Xiaosheng replied with a smile, "How is it going, whose assistant have you become now?"

"It's not that quick, I still need to undergo training," Zhao Qianze said, "But because of your action yesterday, I don't know if someone realized I have a good relationship with you, I actually received several invitations. I was even told that I don't need to attend training and could go straight into the job."

Lin Weiwei delivered the tea with a smile, taking in Zhao Qianze's presence before giving Bai Xiaosheng a deep look and then retreated.

Zhao Qianze followed Lin Weiwei with her gaze, her lips curling into a meaningful smile.

She clearly saw that the girl was on guard against her, yet was very clever in not saying too much, even avoided being an eyesore here.

"Indeed, the assistant chosen by Bai is different from the usual ones; it's a pity, though, for an Affairs Officer to have only two permanent assistants. Otherwise, becoming your assistant would have been wonderful!" Zhao Qianze thought to herself.

"Don't accept any of those invitations, none of them are good positions!" Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly, "Later on, I'll have a word with Assistant President Wang Mubei; his suggestion will be the best one!"

Seeing how Bai Xiaosheng was so concerned, Zhao Qianze nodded emphatically, her eyes sparkling with laughter as she looked at him.

The two caught up and chatted, and before they knew it, half an hour had passed.

"I should be going, after all, this is work time, and I can't keep disturbing you," Zhao Qianze said with a smile.

She was about to leave, and Bai Xiaosheng nodded, intending to call Lin Weiwei in to see her out.

With his current status, at these occasions, some actions simply weren't appropriate, and it was best to be cautious.

However, before he could call, Lin Weiwei knocked on the door and entered with permission.

"Affairs Officer Bai, someone is here to see you!" Lin Weiwei's eyes held a trace of oddness.

With such an expression, who could it be? Bai Xiaosheng wondered curiously.

Chapter 815 - I Don't Need Cooperation!

It was not strange to have a new visitor, but what was strange was Lin Weiwei's expression and attitude.

It seemed that the visitor was no ordinary person!

Bai Xiaosheng's thoughts quickly shifted.

Weiwei had just arrived and didn't know anyone, so the reaction must be due to the visitor's identity or position.

The Senior Affairs Officer, being his superior, would have simply called him over to chat if that was the need, and would never come in person.

If it were the assistant to the Senior Affairs Officer, Lin Weiwei would have said so openly; it's impossible that she would report back in such a manner.

The visitor was very likely an Affairs Officer!

And among the Affairs Officers, Lin Ke, Feng Li, Wang Xincheng—Weiwei would have heard these names before and known they were acquaintances who she would mention outright.

Therefore, the visitor was not an acquaintance!

An Affairs Officer who wasn't an acquaintance?

...

A slight smile involuntarily curled upon Bai Xiaosheng's lips.

Lin Weiwei glanced at Zhao Qianze, and didn't avoid her, just lowered her voice slightly and said, "It's an Affairs Officer!"

This confirmed Bai Xiaosheng's guess.

"Let's go, Zhao, I'll see you out and on the way, greet this Affairs Officer!" Bai Xiaosheng said to Zhao Qianze with a smile.

Zhao Qianze also smiled and nodded her head.

The group left the inner room.

Bai Xiaosheng saw the person waiting outside; he was not very tall but was stocky, probably in his forties, with distinct facial features—monolid eyes, triangular eyes, high cheekbones, displaying characteristics often found in UH Country people.

Behind him followed a female assistant with a lithe figure.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng coming out, the man's lips slightly raised in a smile and he stepped forward to greet him.

"Affairs Officer Bai!" The man smiled and extended his hand, "I am Park Benxi, Affairs Officer of Han nationality."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled and shook his hand.

This fellow's command of Chinese was indeed very smooth!

"Officer Park, it's a pleasure to meet you, please come in." Bai Xiaosheng warmly ushered him inside.

Park Benxi smiled and nodded, following Bai Xiaosheng into the house, while Zhao Qianze was escorted out by Lin Weiwei.

"This way, please!" Bai Xiaosheng gestured Park Benxi towards the sofa area.

"Your office is very nice, quite impressive!" Park Benxi said, looking around and continuously offering praise as he walked.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly, not taking the comments seriously.

Lin Weiwei was dissatisfied with the decor and had just submitted her suggestions for changes to logistics; the room hadn't been altered much and was still in its initial state.

This Officer Park was obviously spouting nonsense with narrowed eyes.

After both were seated, Lin Weiwei came in to serve tea, then exited the room and shut the door from the outside.

Park Benxi specifically glanced at the door.

Due to the nature of their work, the decoration of the Affairs Officer's office was very focused on privacy, with excellent soundproofing. Essentially, once the door was closed, even if one hid by the door to listen, nothing could be heard clearly.

Moreover, with "one's own people" handling outside, it was impossible for anyone to eavesdrop.

Bai Xiaosheng saw Park Benxi's demeanor and smiled lightly, "Officer Park, come, try the tea here."

"Certainly." Park Benxi took a sip of the tea and couldn't help but praise, "Excellent tea, excellent tea!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled silently, taking a sip himself.

This tea was just ordinary tea, hardly worthy of being called fine tea. Lin Weiwei's replacement list even included an item for tea.

Park Benxi set down his teacup and initiated some small talk with Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng was in no hurry, leisurely chatting with him.

After more than ten minutes of idle talk, Park Benxi shifted the topic, finally getting to the main point.

"I heard," Park Benxi started, "that Officer Bai has been investigating Chen Jiuzheng from Anjiang Province and even submitted some evidence to headquarters?"

"Correct," Bai Xiaosheng answered with a smile.

"I don't mean to hide it from Officer Bai, but I've been investigating Chen Jiuzheng as well and have also gathered some substantial evidence!" Park Benxi said with a serious expression.

"Oh?" Bai Xiaosheng appeared genuinely surprised, "Officer Park, you too... What a coincidence!"

"Indeed!" Park Benxi slapped his thigh, "I've been on it for two years, even before you became an officer. You can check if you don't believe me, I submitted a report on Chen Jiuzheng's negligence early this year. Unfortunately, due to lack of evidence, the executive office didn't approve the project to investigate at that time."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

However, he was inwardly sneering.

Negligence was such an ambiguous charge, "not treating one's duties with seriousness and responsibility", it provided a lot of room for maneuvering.

Moreover, if the evidence provided by Park Benxi was dismissed even for project approval by the executive office, it indicated that it was essentially irrelevant.

"I'm saying all this, Officer Bai, to make sure you understand..." Park Benxi looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile.

"Not quite clear!" Bai Xiaosheng looked back at Park Benxi with a mocking smile and said, "What do you mean, Officer Park? Are you telling me that this is your case, and I've overstepped my boundaries?"

"No, no, no!" Park Benxi quickly waved his hands, laughing, "Your inquiry request is being studied by the executive office for approval, how could I ask you to withdraw it now. I mean... cooperation!"

"If we work on this together, I have plenty of evidence against Chen Jiuzheng as well. We can share and I will proactively request from the executive office that we split the achievements—thirty-seventy, thirty for me, seventy for you! What do you think?"

As he spoke, Park Benxi grinned, "Officer Bai, we are both officers, we see each other often. Such a small request, you wouldn't refuse it, right? In the future, when I have cases, I'll involve you too. This would accelerate your promotions, why not do it?"

"Hmm! Not bad!" Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"You agree?" Park Benxi looked ecstatic.

Seeing the emotions momentarily revealed by Park Benxi, Bai Xiaosheng decisively turned on the Micro Expression Analysis System."

Until now, Park Benxi had been playing the role of someone greedy for achievements.

But in reality...

Bai Xiaosheng wanted to "listen"!

When the Micro Expression Analysis System was escalated to its highest level, it possessed an intriguing ability.

Bai Xiaosheng jokingly called it "mind reading," which actually involved Red Lotus simulating inner monologues based on emotional expressions.

"Great, he agreed. I need to find out exactly how much he knows!"

"Finally, I can report back to that person!"

The voice of Park Benxi echoed in Bai Xiaosheng's mind, of course, it was the synthesized voice by Red Lotus.

Hearing all this, Bai Xiaosheng looked at Park Benxi and smiled, "Officer Park, this kind of cooperative win-win method, surely it's highly advocated by the affairs department, right?"

Park Benxi was about to speak with a smile when he heard Bai Xiaosheng continue.

"However, the parties in cooperation must be of equal standing. An officer and a senior officer, they are not supposed to cooperate." Bai Xiaosheng's smile faded, and he spoke coldly and arrogantly, "Regrettably, some of my authorities are equivalent to those of a senior officer. You are much inferior to me! Moreover, I've gathered enough evidence on my own, so I don't need external help. Why would I cooperate and share with you?"

Bai Xiaosheng stood up, walked to the door, and opened it, gesturing for Park Benxi to leave but still smiling.

"So, please!"

Chapter 816: Hearing

Bai Xiaosheng issued a direct order to dismiss the guest.

Park Benxi's smile stiffened on his face, his small eyes rounded in disbelief as he stared at Bai Xiaosheng.

One moment he was friendly and mild, the next he flipped his attitude—arrogant and haughty, presenting himself with a superior demeanor, leaving no room for negotiation!

Bai Xiaosheng's reaction was so outrageous that Park Benxi, momentarily, felt completely at a loss!

"Officer Bai, what do you mean by this!" Park Benxi could not help but stutter.

"Exactly what it sounds like!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I will not cooperate with anyone on this matter!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words were crisp and decisive, determined not to show any mercy or leave any space for backtracking.

Park Benxi's expression turned extremely ugly as he stood up and opened his mouth.

"I don't need to think it over anymore!" Bai Xiaosheng answered for him.

Park Benxi's gaze darkened, and he walked out without saying a word.

Just as he was about to stride through the door, Bai Xiaosheng said, "Officer Park."

Park Benxi paused and looked over suspiciously, his eyes still faintly holding a sliver of hope, hoping Bai Xiaosheng would change his mind.

"Officer! Reaching this level wasn't easy, cherish and keep it in mind!"

Bai Xiaosheng gave him a meaningful smile and made a gesture inviting him to leave.

Park Benxi's face fell yet again, cast a harsh glance at Bai Xiaosheng, and left with big strides.

Outside, Park Benxi's assistant hurried to catch up.

Lin Weiwei glanced at them and quickly approached Bai Xiaosheng.

"Xiaosheng, did the talks collapse?"

"Inevitably!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and turned back.

Lin Weiwei followed him inside and said, "I just received a message from the office of the President of the Greater China Region, a hearing is to be held in thirty minutes."

A hearing?

Bai Xiaosheng pursed his lips and smiled, it was just a procedural formality.

Zhenbei Group divided its industrial territories by continent, and the Greater China Region was considered as one unified block. Each regional sector governed and settled accounts independently, and the highest leaders in each region were referred to as "President," which implied immense power.

That is to say, in the Greater China Region, Mr. Xiahou Qi had the final say in all affairs.

With Elder Xia as his supporter, there was nothing he couldn't overcome.

This was merely a formality, and also used for "fishing".

"However, it might still provide some excitement at the time!"

Thinking of Park Benxi from just now, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but laugh.

In a moment, there might be a verbal battle waiting for him.

"When it comes to verbal fights, I've never lost!" Bai Xiaosheng said this with absolute confidence, even arrogance.

Thirty minutes later.

A person from Wang Mubei came to notify Bai Xiaosheng, and he went to the meeting room with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

This type of hearing was naturally different from those in the judicial system, and it was also Bai Xiaosheng's first time to attend one.

However, he had already heard from Lin Ke that the hearing was held without the presence of the person being investigated, starting by presenting evidence to assess the situation.

At the level of Chen Jiuzheng, in charge of the provincial industrial sector, the hearing required the attendance of at least thirty Affairs Officers and at least five Senior Affairs Officers to vote.

Such meetings were also highly confidential, normally not let the investigated party know the contents.

Of course, for this particular occasion, they were eager for Chen Jiuzheng to hear some rumors and take action.

"I gave Mr. Xiahou Qi's office only one-third of the evidence concerning Chen Jiuzheng. This degree will make those people think 'there is still room to maneuver,' and I look forward to their performance!" Bai Xiaosheng walked, chuckling silently to himself.

Once in the conference room, Bai Xiaosheng followed the directions and took his designated seat.

As the person who had called for the investigation, his seat was naturally secluded from others.

Others gradually took their seats, and today's affairs officers and assistants totaled up to two hundred people.

"After all, the one being investigated this time is a provincial industrial leader!" Bai Xiaosheng understood this completely.

Such a "big fish" was rarely seen, and once it appeared, it was bound to attract significant attention.

Once Chen Jiuzheng was demoted or dismissed, his position would be filled by affairs assistants and affairs officers.

Of course, relatively speaking, affairs officers filled the position less often.

Before the meeting began, six senior affairs officers arrived and took their seats one by one, with Zheng Honghu notably among them.

Shortly afterward, Mr. Xiahou Qi, the president for the Greater China Region, also arrived.

As soon as he got there, the originally noisy conference room quieted down considerably.

Once everyone was in place, Xiahou Qi glanced around, looked at Bai Xiaosheng, and then told Wang Mubei, "Let's begin!"

Wang Mubei, the president's assistant for the Greater China Region, often played the role of host at significant events, and today was no exception.

Seeing Wang Mubei's composure and his well-pronounced, broadcaster-like delivery, Bai Xiaosheng sincerely admired him. Wang Mubei was truly deserving as Xiahou Qi's assistant, knowledgeable and skilled, his talents still largely hidden.

Such a character, if put forward, would surely be a prodigy in one or more fields!

Wang Mubei was responsible for the entire presentation.

All the evidence was displayed via projection.

"Three large companies, two small companies, all facing unusual losses, fund misallocations, and many other issues at the same period—these are financial comparative data that affairs officers can access from the affairs department system, insider testimony, and more..." Wang Mubei narrated effortlessly.

All of the evidence presented was cleverly done—it made the issue seem significant, yet salvageable to some, which was precisely the point!

Forty minutes later, Wang Mubei had finished his presentation and stepped aside, looking toward Xiahou Qi.

Xiahou Qi surveyed the crowd and asked calmly, "Everyone has seen the issues clearly now. The president's office has graded them 'B+ grade.' What do you think? Any issues, too light or too harsh?"

Different grades required different actions.

The crowd discussed boisterously and then, under Wang Mubei's guidance, voted, with eighty percent agreeing that the grading was appropriate.

Then, a few more items were discussed, all quite mundane.

Bai Xiaosheng stared at Zheng Honghu among the senior affairs officers, but he remained silent the whole time, seeming to have no comment or perhaps waiting.

"The discussion has about covered it. If no one else has anything to say, let's let Officer Bai Xiaosheng take charge of this matter and begin the public investigation of Chen Jiuzheng!" Xiahou Qi attempted to rise from his chair and leave.

"Elder Xia, I have something to say!" someone suddenly called out loudly.

The room fell silent, and all eyes turned in that direction.

Bai Xiaosheng saw Park Benxi stand up.

"Oh, what do you want to say?" Xiahou Qi sat back down and asked with a smile.

"I have no objections to the grading, but..." Park Benxi looked at Bai Xiaosheng and said, "Officer Bai has just been promoted and has just taken office, not yet familiar with many procedures, while I have been following this case since the beginning of the year. May I suggest we investigate together? Of course, I would be assisting him!"

Park Benxi volunteered comprehensively, and his suggestion sounded reasonable and well-put, emphasizing his early involvement and highlighting his eagerness for performance.

Upon hearing these words, Zheng Honghu's gaze flickered slightly.

"From the beginning, I suspected there was a Chen Family insider among the affairs officers, and it looks like it's him!"

"Chen still can't make up his mind, doesn't want to lose too many benefits, throws out a person with the surname Park..."

"Bad move!"

Chapter 817: Zheng Honghu is a Good Ally

"Oh, the words of Affairs Officer Park seem to make a lot of sense," Xiahou Qi said with an expressionless nod, looking around at everyone, "Does anyone second that?"

The crowd exchanged glances and began murmuring to each other.

"Park Benxi seems very proactive this time."

"Indeed, he called for an investigation into Chen Jiuzheng at the beginning of the year, but regrettably there was insufficient evidence. Now that the achievement is slipping away, how could he not be anxious?"

"However, what he said does make sense. Affairs Officer Bai has just been promoted and is probably still unclear about the standard operating procedures. I'm afraid he might not grasp the nuances of every situation."

"Yes, for a provincial industry head, it should be investigated jointly by another Affairs Officer."

After some discussion, there were quite a few in agreement with Park Benxi.

Park Benxi looked around and suddenly felt elated, and when he looked at Bai Xiaosheng, there was a hint of mockery in the depths of his eyes.

Bai Xiaosheng, you disagree, don't you? See? Everyone else is supportive.

Once Elder Xia nods, what can you do if you don't agree!

"What do you all think?" Xiahou Qi asked the Senior Affairs Officers.

"This matter possesses first-hand evidence obtained by Officer Bai Xiaosheng, who should undoubtedly take the lead. However, Park Benxi's words are also valid; some aspects of the process will need guidance. I think if Affairs Officer Park volunteers, we should allow it!" Zheng Honghu was the first to speak.

Two Senior Affairs Officers nodded repeatedly; it looked like they supported him.

Park Benxi looked at Zheng Honghu, eyes brimming with joy.

Actually, he was not willing to get involved so directly.

Park Benxi was collaborating with Chen Jiutian because of money, and it wasn't worth risking anything for it.

After all, even though he had no hope of a promotion, he still had many years left to serve as an Affairs Officer.

Who knew if muddying the waters might jeopardize his future?

But only after Chen Jiutian's combination of carrots and sticks, offering benefits along with threats, did he reluctantly step forward.

Moreover, Chen Jiutian had said that Zheng Honghu would be on his side.

Now it seemed that Chen Jiutian's words were true, and Zheng Honghu was indeed publicly supporting him!

Excellent! After the meeting, I must inform Mr. Chen and ask him to ensure that Zheng Honghu can protect me if any issues arise! Park Benxi thought to himself.

With a Senior Affairs Officer speaking up and providing cover, should anything go awry with this matter, at least he would have an additional layer of indemnity!

As Park Benxi secretly planned, he felt exhilarated to have an ally like Chen Jiutian.

"My opinion is exactly the opposite of the Great Official Zheng Honghu's!" someone suddenly said.

Park Benxi immediately looked over.

Haofeng Great Affairs Officer had spoken.

"In my view, Officer Bai Xiaosheng is capable of handling this matter. What he needs is just some assistance. One Affairs Officer plus a group of aides should suffice," he said.

"One-on-one supervision precisely reflects an Affairs Officer's oversight of a provincial industry head!"

Haofeng Great Affairs Officer earnestly continued, "Deploying an additional Affairs Officer would simply hinder the process. Everything would need to be discussed, disagreements would have to be settled in the president's office through litigation to determine who's right, which is nothing but a waste of resources and time! Moreover, Affairs Officers are not helpless infants; needing another officer of the same level to help with every task is ridiculous. The rule in the regulations about 'two or more Affairs Officers' has its constraints and shouldn't be generalized."

Haofeng Great Affairs Officer's forceful argument had the crowd nodding along.

"That's a good point, I agree with Haofeng Great Affairs Officer!"

"I concur."

Likewise, two Senior Affairs Officers agreed.

With six Senior Affairs Officers present, it was now a three-to-three tie, creating an even split at the scene.

Affairs Officers and assistants at the venue were buzzing with discussions, with support for both sides.

Xiahou Qi coughed to quieten the room.

"What you've all said makes sense," Xiahou Qi said, looking at Zheng Honghu and Li Haofeng, then turning to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "Officer Bai Xiaosheng, you're the man of the hour. How can you remain silent? Come on, let's hear what you have to say."

As Xiahou Qi spoke up, all eyes in the room fixated on Bai Xiaosheng.

However, Bai Xiaosheng wasn't the least bit flustered. He smiled and stood up.

"I have reviewed the regulations. Involving Provincial Industry Leaders or Affairs Officers, under certain limitations such as 'special cases of severity with insufficient evidence', indeed it requires a team of at least two Affairs Officers or above to join to ensure there are no delays and to maintain fairness," Bai Xiaosheng said.

At Bai Xiaosheng's words, Park Benxi's eyes flickered subtly.

Insufficient evidence? Isn't the current evidence inadequate?

He had a reason to get involved!

"However, in my view, such a regulation is based on two points to be effective," Bai Xiaosheng said calmly.

"Oh?" Xiahou Qi looked at him with interest, "Let's hear it!"

Everyone looked at Bai Xiaosheng with curiosity.

"First, the evidence is not comprehensive, or not sufficient enough, as it is now. Second, the subject of the investigation holds a high rank, and the investigator is of equal rank, making it insufficient if it's just one person," explained Bai Xiaosheng.

The people in the room nodded frequently, showing approval for Bai Xiaosheng's statement.

Among the Great Affairs Officers, Li Haofeng and others nodded slightly, but Zheng Honghu furrowed his brows and interjected, "So what?"

Zheng Honghu's tone and attitude seemed somewhat dissatisfied.

Park Benxi noticed this and thought to himself, "By saying all this, Bai Xiaosheng is disrespecting Zheng Honghu's authority! How can Zheng Honghu not resent this? This scene is quite interesting. I have to tell Mr. Chen about this!"

Park Benxi was looking forward to the conflict.

"So?" Bai Xiaosheng gave Zheng Honghu an indifferent smile, "The problem of insufficient evidence, I will resolve now!"

As he spoke, Bai Xiaosheng raised a USB drive and announced, "The evidence here is twice what was just broadcasted! Its severity is enough to have Chen Jiuzheng dismissed and taken away by the public prosecution authorities!"

With that statement, the whole room fell silent!

Disbelief sprang in the eyes of Zheng Honghu and Park Benxi.

Wang Mubei hurried over to take the USB drive and began checking the contents on the projector.

Everyone in the room followed suit, watching the evidence. As experts in the field, they showed shock in their eyes.

The evidence was exceedingly detailed and solid!

"Furthermore, I also have something concerning Mr. Chen Jiutian, the elder brother of Chen Jiuzheng!" Bai Xiaosheng followed up with a sentence like a thunderclap, completely stunning everyone present.

Park Benxi's eyes bulged like pigeon eggs, full of disbelief.

Bai Xiaosheng had actually mentioned Chen Jiutian's name on the spot, claiming he was involved!

Such things couldn't be said carelessly!

After all, Chen Jiutian was a Regional Head.

His weight was that of a Great Affairs Officer!

Bai Xiaosheng paid no heed to anyone else and continued, "If Affairs Officer Park Benxi wishes to be involved, and the Great Official Zheng Honghu agrees, besides the evidence, it might be because he thinks that me, being of the same rank, investigating another of the same rank, appears to be too weak..."

"Well, you don't need to worry about that, Great Official Zheng Honghu, because as a New-type Affairs Officer, I have certain powers that are no different from yours!"

"I have the qualifications and the authority to investigate on my own!"

Bai Xiaosheng was pointing directly at Zheng Honghu with his words.

Being so outspoken and arrogant in public was undoubtedly a challenge to the Great Affairs Officer!

The room was speechless.

Park Benxi saw Zheng Honghu's complexion change and thought in awe, "This madman Bai, how dare he challenge Zheng Honghu on the spot!"

"This way, Zheng Honghu will certainly bear a grudge against surname Bai and will undoubtedly collaborate fully with Mr. Chen!"

"I must tell Mr. Chen about this!"

#### Chapter 818: At All Costs

A perfectly good hearing, in the end, had turned into a debating arena between Bai Xiaosheng and Zheng Honghu.

A New-type Affairs Officer, a Senior Affairs Officer. One arguing, the other questioning.

They exchanged rapid-fire arguments, their words sharp as swords.

Bai Xiaosheng was incisive, Zheng Honghu unabashedly stood his ground.

The other Senior Affairs Officers either frowned or pondered deeply.

However, including Li Haofeng, no one else interjected any longer; they all quietly watched and listened.

This debate unexpectedly educated the audience a great deal about the rights and responsibilities of a New-type Affairs Officer, deepening everyone's impression.

Many people whispered among themselves in low voices.

"So the New-type Affairs Officer actually has this power!"

"Yes, this right was originally only held by Senior Affairs Officers!"

"That's nothing, listen to this—this point is even more hardcore!"

"Exactly, with this point, we Affairs Officers can't compare with them at all!"

"The New-type Affairs Officer also traded long-term stability for a significant amount of authority!"

Within those murmurs of amazement, there were also mixed opinions about Bai Xiaosheng.

More than eighty percent of the comments, though restrained, still unanimously gave Bai Xiaosheng two nicknames—"Madman" and "Lunatic"!

After today, Bai Xiaosheng was destined to become notorious within the Affairs Department.

Especially since he dared to confront a Senior Affairs Officer right in front of the President of the Greater China Region.

In the entire Affairs Department, who else could?

Everyone secretly took note of that young face.

"Bai Xiaosheng, this man is fearless, with a sharp tongue; he doesn't spare anyone when he's right! From now on, it's best not to provoke him lightly! This man is a madman!" Many silently warned themselves.

Park Benxi quietly turned on his phone and secretly recorded the most intense moment of the argument to show Chen Jiutian.

"Enough, no more talking!"

Finally, Xiahou Qi spoke up, putting an end to the half-hour-long "farce."

Only then did Bai Xiaosheng and Zheng Honghu stop.

"What you both said makes a lot of sense," Xiahou Qi pronounced loudly.

It seemed he was trying to smooth things over, but Xiahou Qi was never one to smooth things over, so many listened intently to what he would say next.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you will take the lead on this matter. I authorize you to use more than twenty assistant officers to help! The Affairs Department's personnel database has information on each assistant officer, easily accessible, and you can pick those who specialize in the fields you need," Xiahou Qi declared.

The ability to freely select staff from the entire Affairs Department, more than twenty people—this too was a privilege reserved for Senior Affairs Officers!

Xiahou Qi was clearly supporting Bai Xiaosheng!

Many were secretly taken aback.

Zheng Honghu's expression turned somewhat ugly.

"This Bai fellow is a newly appointed New-type Affairs Officer, and the New-type Affairs Officer was the old man's creation, how could he not support him?"

"Zheng Honghu has been knocked around a bit lately. This time... perhaps the old man did it on purpose!"

Park Benxi noted this, thinking to himself, "But Zheng Honghu's look, unwilling! Angry at this Mr. Bai! With anger, it will be easier to handle!"

As Park Benxi was pondering, he heard Xiahou Qi say, "This matter is settled then, meeting adjourned!"

The hearing finally came to an end.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Bai Xiaosheng hurriedly left; he still had many tasks to handle.

Park Benxi also left with the first wave of the crowd; he needed to inform Chen Jiutian of everything as soon as possible!

At that moment, Chen Jiutian was in Linshen, his "real home" was here.

When Park Benxi's call came in, Chen Jiutian was waiting, so he picked up immediately.

"The hearing's over? How did it go?" Chen Jiutian asked urgently.

Hearings weren't conducted without cause; once initiated, they signified that the office of the President for the Greater China Region acknowledged and valued the evidence.

Chen Jiutian was eager to know how severe the situation had become.

Chen Jiuzheng's side might have to forsake a large number of people and interests, and thinking about that made Chen Jiutian's heart ache uncontrollably.

"Things don't look good, Mr. Chen!" Park Benxi's voice was anxious, "During the hearing, Bai Xiaosheng presented a great deal of evidence, Mr. Jiuzheng's position might be in danger! Even, there is a risk of dismissal!"

"That serious!" Chen Jiutian blurted out.

It was worse than he had anticipated!

"Not only that, Mr. Bai also publicly claimed that he has some evidence against you..." Park Benxi added.

"He said that!" Chen Jiutian's voice tightened.

In such a setting, one couldn't afford to speak recklessly!

Bai Xiaosheng must indeed have some evidence, and it was not a small threat!

Chen Jiutian suddenly felt a wave of heat.

"About those evidences against you, he didn't present them... or perhaps, they've already been handed over to the president's office." Park Benxi said.

Chen Jiutian took a heavy breath.

Chen Jiuzheng was finished, and although he was pained, he needed to prioritize his own safety first. If he too were implicated, Chen Jiuzheng would really be in danger.

Mr. Bai, you calamity, must not be left unchecked for even a moment!

Chen Jiutian grimly resolved, then asked, "Has the investigation on Jiuzheng's side started?"

"Yes, Mr. Bai is fully in charge! I suggested on the spot that I participate in the investigation with him, but was denied!" Park Benxi said somberly.

Even so, Park Benxi felt incredibly relieved inside.

His professional instincts warned him that this was a dangerous whirlpool; getting involved could be extremely perilous!

Chen Jiutian remained silent.

Park Benxi continued, "Mr. Bai is very arrogant! Zheng Honghu stood up for me and gave him a good scolding right there!"

"In front of Xiahou Qi?!" Chen Jiutian couldn't help but exclaim in astonishment.

"Not just in front of Xiahou Qi. There were also five other Senior Affairs Officers, several dozen Affairs Officers, and over a hundred affairs assistants!" Park Benxi said, "I'll send you a video later! Zheng Honghu was almost driven mad by it. This time, he went all out to help me... to help us! Unfortunately, in the end, Xiahou Qi still adopted Bai Xiaosheng's suggestions."

Hearing about Zheng Honghu's performance eased Chen Jiutian's feelings somewhat.

"Actually, I made this call to give you a heads-up," Park Benxi continued, "First, Mr. Bai is too dangerous and must be dealt with as soon as possible. Second, Mr. Zheng Honghu is a very reliable ally! Third, please prioritize the overall situation; when necessary... drastic measures must be taken!"

Park Benxi's words left Chen Jiutian in silence.

With Chen Jiuzheng's situation as it was, facing investigation by the affairs department, they must not show any resistance nor attempt any hasty fixes, otherwise the situation could worsen further.

As for Bai Xiaosheng...

Chen Jiutian's mind was in chaos, he couldn't help feeling irritated.

"Alright, I understand! Thanks, we'll talk later!"

Chen Jiutian hurriedly ended the call and slowly sat down on the chair beside him.

After a while, Chen Jiutian seemed to have made a decision, his eyes flashing coldly, "To turn the tables, we need to counteract Mr. Bai's influence! If there's an issue with the investigator, the affairs department must conduct a self-review first, which will buy us some time!"

Chen Jiutian abruptly stood up and grabbed his phone.

"This time, I need to tell Zheng Honghu to implement that short-term plan!"

"At all costs, take down Bai Xiaosheng!" Chen Jiutian roared.

#### Chapter 819 Chen Jiutian's Determination

Chen Jiutian was about to call Zheng Honghu, but before he could dial out, Zheng Honghu's phone call came in.

"I have something urgent to discuss with you, let's meet at our usual spot!" Zheng Honghu spoke hurriedly, getting straight to the point with his opening sentence.

"Alright! I'll be right there!" Chen Jiutian didn't waste any words and immediately agreed.

Soon, the call was disconnected, and only the beeping sound was heard.

Looking at his phone, Chen Jiutian's anxious mood was slightly soothed.

After all, he still had a powerful ally on his side!

"Zheng Honghu is probably worried that if I get taken down, it would drag him down with me!" Chen Jiutian scoffed, talking to himself, "This is perfect! Moreover, he was publicly humiliated by someone with the surname Bai, losing face completely, he must harbor resentment towards Bai! The enemy of my enemy is my friend! A common enemy will make him willing to put in effort!"

After muttering to himself, Chen Jiutian got up and walked to a half-man-height, sturdy safe.

He didn't open it; instead, he felt around the side of the safe and triggered some mechanism.

The robust safe, as if mounted on rollers, was effortlessly pushed open by him.

Behind this safe was another, much smaller safe, and it was embedded in the wall.

Chen Jiutian bent down and quickly unlocked it.

The hidden safe required his password, fingerprint, iris, and voiceprint to open.

Utmost security!

After opening the safe, Chen Jiutian carefully took out a stack of documents.

In his eyes, these paper items were more valuable than gold!

Chen Jiutian sifted through them and only returned a small portion, looking at the thick stack in his arms, he couldn't help but feel distressed.

These documents were the information of his trusted contacts all over, as well as hidden accounts and resource lists of various subsidiaries.

"So many years of hard work, the very foundation of my standing!" Chen Jiutian touched them and couldn't help but speak tremulously to himself.

Now, he had to give these to Zheng Honghu, for Zheng Honghu to strategize and make Bai Xiaosheng fall from grace!

Currently, with his mind in turmoil, Chen Jiutian could not think of any good strategies himself and could only let Zheng Honghu take charge!

Both were compelled by circumstances, all forced by Bai Xiaosheng! Otherwise, he wouldn't find himself in such a situation!

Chen Jiutian looked at these items, his eyes cold, these were to be used to bury that disaster!

He placed the documents into his bag, reset the safe, and hurried straight to the previously agreed-upon Michelin three-star restaurant.

It was the same private room as before.

By the time Chen Jiutian arrived at the private room, Zheng Honghu was already there, his face vaguely displaying anger.

"Brother Chen, you finally made it!" Zheng Honghu exclaimed as soon as he saw him, getting up, "Do you know..."

"I already know!" Chen Jiutian interrupted Zheng Honghu.

Zheng Honghu paused, then scoffed coldly, "It must have been Park Benxi who told you, right? He really is your man!"

From the beginning to the end, Zheng Honghu had suspected that Chen Jiutian had his people in the affairs department, but Chen Jiutian had never told him.

Of course, Zheng Honghu had never asked either, because even if he had, he wouldn't get an answer.

On the contrary, Park Benxi knew that Zheng Honghu was "allied" with Chen Jiutian, and Chen Jiutian had even told him that should the need arise, Zheng Honghu would surely offer his help.

Without this "ally's" confidence, how could Park Benxi possibly volunteer publicly?

Unfortunately, Park Benxi didn't know that Chen Jiutian had also deceived him; Chen Jiutian had never told Zheng Honghu to coordinate.

Had Park Benxi genuinely needed Zheng Honghu's help and Zheng Honghu hadn't spoken up, Chen Jiutian naturally would have various evasive excuses afterward.

Once Park Benxi exposed any trace, given Zheng Honghu's cunning, he would inevitably guess Park Benxi's identity. When that time came, he would probably cooperate accordingly.

In any case, Chen Jiutian had never fully revealed his cards to either side!

This was the true cunning of an old fox, always keeping something back from everyone!

This time, if it weren't for being driven into a "dead end" by Bai Xiaosheng, seeing his brother doomed, and himself about to be thrown onto the fire, Chen Jiutian would never have agreed to Zheng Honghu's short-term plan.

Now, since Zheng Honghu had asked.

Chen Jiutian merely smiled noncommittally, "I knew I couldn't hide it from Brother Zheng! But right now, discussing that is meaningless. Let's talk about how to deal with Bai Xiaosheng instead. I want to use one of the three strategies you mentioned before— the short-term one, using resources to defeat Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chen Jiutian was being ferocious, but Zheng Honghu just sneered.

"What's wrong?" Chen Jiutian frowned.

"Chen Jiutian, cooperation should be based on honesty! If you keep things from even me, how can I help you!" Zheng Honghu couldn't contain his anger, "How can I know you won't trick me next! You'd better find someone else! I'm done with this!"

Saying that, Zheng Honghu was about to leave.

"Brother Zheng! Don't be impulsive!"

Chen Jiutian quickly stopped him. Despite being the one in dire straits, he had to suppress his irritation to persuade Zheng Honghu, "I know, it's my fault, I shouldn't have!"

"But this shouldn't affect our relationship, right?"

"Look, I brought all the information! Every bit of it is genuine! All these are my lifeline, involving my entire fortune and life!"

"I'm entrusting them to you, I trust you!"

Chen Jiutian was being heartfelt and sincere.

Zheng Honghu then stopped and looked at him skeptically, "Is that true or false?"

"Truer than true! These are the things I've painstakingly managed over the years, but I also have a large sum of money overseas. If you help me through this crisis, I'll give you half of that money!"

Chen Jiutian was also a schemer who knew well that threatening with leverage was not as good as offering benefits.

"Really!" Zheng Honghu was moved.

"I still want to survive in the corporation, earn back what I've spent! Would I dare to deceive you on this? Am I crazy?!" Chen Jiutian said earnestly.

Both sides had leverage over each other, enough to ruin them, and now they had interests connecting them.

That's why Chen Jiutian could trust Zheng Honghu.

"Alright, it's a deal!"

"It's a deal!"

The two parties immediately struck an agreement.

"Now, let's take a look at what you've brought, and figure out how to deal with Bai Xiaosheng!" Zheng Honghu was eager for battle, and Chen Jiutian felt relieved seeing his reaction.

Just as the two were meeting.

Bai Xiaosheng had already boarded a plane flying to Zhongjing and would arrive in a few hours.

He was in charge of this investigation and had to notify the person under investigation in person at the first opportunity.

This was a strict policy!

Accompanying Bai Xiaosheng were not only Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying but also three administrative assistants.

The other dozen or so administrative assistants had been assigned by Bai Xiaosheng to head to various subsidiaries in Anjiang to secure evidence and immediately substantiate any hidden, transferred, or falsified records.

"Chen Jiuzheng, after such a long battle, we finally see the end. And next, it's your turn—" Bai Xiaosheng's mouth curled into a cold smirk, "Chen Jiutian!"

Chapter 820: Blitzkrieg

Dusk, Moon Lake Villa area in Zhongjing, Mr. Jiuzheng's house.

Mr. Jiuzheng sat on the sofa, his face somewhat pale, with clenched fists resting on his thighs, and his eyes coldly staring at the person opposite him—Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him with a smiling expression.

As soon as they disembarked from the plane, they rushed over here. At this moment, Mr. Jiuzheng probably hadn't had dinner yet.

Next to Bai Xiaosheng, the stenographer, the videographer, and an interrogative Affairs Assistant were all in place.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying observed from afar.

On the other side of the living room, Chen Changqing and Mu Beichen watched from a distance.

Pallor covered both of their faces.

"I didn't expect we'd meet again so soon," Bai Xiaosheng seemed quite emotional, smilingly said to Mr. Jiuzheng, "I told you I would start with you, and I kept my word! I'm reliable, right?"

Mr. Jiuzheng's face twitched, but he remained silent.

Just before Bai Xiaosheng had arrived,

Chen Jiutian had already called him, giving him certain instructions.

But he hadn't expected that Mr. Bai would arrive so quickly!

His brother specifically instructed him not to make any moves or destroy any evidence, as that would be harmful and futile. He even advised him not to resist Mr. Bai, otherwise, he would fall into a bigger pit.

The only thing he was to do was to stall Bai Xiaosheng!

What his older brother meant by this, Mr. Jiuzheng didn't understand, but he knew that stalling Bai Xiaosheng for a few days might change the situation!

Cooperate, while at the same time delay! That was Mr. Jiuzheng's mindset.

"Ask whatever you want! I'll answer truthfully. Just spare me the nonsense," Mr. Jiuzheng, staring at Bai Xiaosheng, spoke in a low, somewhat hoarse voice.

"Okay, good attitude. Did Mr. Chen give you a call?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "Very smart! Actually, this inquiry is just a formality. Even if you stubbornly deny everything, it doesn't matter since I've sent people to investigate all the subsidiaries."

Mr. Jiuzheng looked at Bai Xiaosheng with a cold expression, "I told you, no nonsense!"

Bai Xiaosheng gave a faint smile and glanced at an Affairs Assistant beside him, "You take over."

Some are experts in their fields. This was an Affairs Assistant, even more proficient in questioning and setting verbal traps.

"Of course," the Affairs Assistant, respectfully nodding at Bai Xiaosheng, then turned to Mr. Jiuzheng, "Well, Mr. Chen, shall we begin?"

Mr. Jiuzheng nodded slightly.

His attitude could be said to be utterly cooperative.

However, as time passed, the Affairs Assistant frowned.

Mr. Jiuzheng answered each question "in detail."

A single matter could be discussed for an hour!

Delaying time!

Onlookers couldn't help but frown.

Bai Xiaosheng, however, was brimming with a smile, seemingly not caring at all.

Nearly two hours passed, and Mr. Jiuzheng had only answered two and a half questions.

If they waited for all answers, it would take at least a few days!

"May I have a cigarette?" Mr. Jiuzheng suddenly asked.

The Affairs Assistant stopped and looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

At this moment, everything was decided by Bai Xiaosheng. If he didn't agree, then Mr. Jiuzheng couldn't even smoke a cigarette!

As the Affairs Assistant sought Bai Xiaosheng's approval, a hint of discomfort flickered in Mr. Jiuzheng's eyes.

Recalling the past, when Bai Xiaosheng was still a vice-general manager, although he couldn't touch him, Mr. Jiuzheng didn't regard him highly.

Yet, he watched Bai Xiaosheng rise step by step from a vice-general to where he stood today.

An Affairs Officer, on the same level as himself, was now investigating him!

And all this had happened in less than ten months!

"Go ahead and smoke, I agree," Bai Xiaosheng said to him with a casual smile.

The affairs assistant slid the cigarettes across the desk.

Chen Jiuzheng glanced at them, pushed the cigarettes away, and his expression turned somewhat desolate, "Never mind, I don't feel like smoking anymore."

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him, nodded slightly, and then stood up, "Alright, it's time for us to leave!"

"Leave?" Chen Jiuzheng was startled and looked at Bai Xiaosheng in astonishment, "Where to?"

After he asked, Chen Jiuzheng suddenly realized, "You are returning to headquarters? Now!"

It was already dark!

And he had been dawdling for so long just to delay Bai Xiaosheng here for a few days!

But why did Bai Xiaosheng need to rush back overnight?

Normal people wouldn't be in such a hurry!

"It seems, Mr. Chen does not want me to return so soon!" Bai Xiaosheng said, looking into Chen Jiuzheng's eyes with a hint of a smile at the corner of his mouth.

His gaze was sharply piercing, as if seeing right through to someone's soul.

It sent a chill down Chen Jiuzheng's spine.

This Bai Xiaosheng was far more cunning than his age would suggest!

Chen Jiuzheng's face remained stern, and he shook his head, "Not at all!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked into his eyes and pronounced each word distinctly, "I came here to go through the motions as per the regulations, and I have stayed here for two hours!"

"An hour ago, I glanced at my phone. And ten minutes ago, I looked at it again."

"Of course, that was just a minor gesture, and you wouldn't care."

"However, I can tell you that I was checking messages! The affairs assistant I sent out had already reached your direct subsidiaries and started an investigation!"

"You didn't cover up the loopholes, which was smart of you! But you really should have told your people not to cooperate so willingly, at the very least, they could have dragged their feet!"

"Unfortunately, faced with the evidence, very few have ever dealt with such direct inquiries! Hearing that you were under investigation, they got quite scared, and now, they are really cooperating!"

"Now, the investigations elsewhere have all concluded!"

"Here, it doesn't matter!"

"I need to fly back to Linshen to deal with another big issue!"

Bai Xiaosheng said earnestly, "I invite you to join me, so you can still present your defense at the headquarters."

"However, even if you don't come, it doesn't matter. All evidence has been secured, and we are all heading back. If you don't defend yourself, we will submit the evidence to the public, prosecution, and legal authorities. At that time, the law will make a judgment on you!"

Bai Xiaosheng's words were like a hammer, forcefully breaking down Chen Jiuzheng's psychological defenses.

It filled Chen Jiuzheng's eyes with fear.

He thought he was buying time with Bai Xiaosheng, but in reality, Bai Xiaosheng was using the time to keep an eye on him, preventing him from having the chance to call his subordinates. Then, employing a blitzkrieg strategy, fast overcomes slow!

As for what big issue Bai Xiaosheng mentioned about going back to Linshen to handle.

Chen Jiuzheng couldn't guess, and Bai Xiaosheng was unlikely to divulge.

"There's a plane ticket for you. If I were you, I'd follow along. I believe Mr. Chen Jiutian is also in Linshen; you could see him if you go. Otherwise, the next time you see each other might be separated by prison bars!"

Bai Xiaosheng raised his hand, signaling his people, "Let's go!"

Returning overnight!

"Wait!" Chen Jiuzheng suddenly shouted.

Bai Xiaosheng paused and glanced at him.

"I, I'll go with you!" Chen Jiuzheng's face was weary and looked utterly dejected.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled faintly, and as he turned around, his gaze landed on Chen Changqing and Mu Beichen in the distance.

The two looked at him with eyes full of terror, speechless.

Bai Xiaosheng merely glanced at them before striding ahead, but his voice floated back, "Then, Mr. Chen will have to put up with us, and eat airplane food!"

Moreover, I need to get a good sleep on the plane, for there is another battle tomorrow!

The sharpness in Bai Xiaosheng's gaze was unmistakable!