

Two Trillion 861

Chapter 861 Power is Reason!

As Cheng Wei left, the door remained open, and Sun Mingyu naturally heard the voices outside.

Initially, he didn't care, assuming that once his badge of identity shone, the others would surely keep their distance respectfully.

But to his great surprise, they did not.

Despite knowing that he, as an Affairs Officer, was present, they showed no deference whatsoever.

Mere temporary affairs assistants were actually scorning his presence, had they no sense of hierarchy anymore!

Sun Mingyu immediately felt displeased, and, with a shout of anger, he stepped out of the office.

"Mr. Sun!"

"Mr. Sun!"

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng were overjoyed at the arrival of such an important figure and hurriedly greeted him with the utmost respect.

Sun Mingyu nodded indifferently.

"This is Affairs Department Officer Sun Mingyu!" Cheng Wei declared proudly to Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

"Officer Sun!" Lin Weiwei greeted, neither overbearing nor servile.

"Haha, I surely don't deserve such!"

Sun Mingyu glanced at Lin Weiwei vexedly and said sarcastically, "Do you even see me as an Affairs Officer? My badge means nothing to your eyes, huh? Very well then!"

Lin Weiwei remained silent.

"Alright. I'm here now, you can leave. And write a self-criticism report when you get back!"

Sun Mingyu waved dismissively, sending the two away.

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng looked on with faces flushed with excitement, feeling extremely gratified.

Power, this was power!

In front of a true heavyweight, those two, although also from the loftily placed Affairs Department, were like insignificant ants, dismissed at will.

Cheng Wei looked on with a smug smile at Lin Weiwei and her companion.

Behind a formal affairs assistant stood the support of an Affairs Officer—such a gap was like a chasm!

You dare to defy authorities, you must write a self-criticism!

Authority must not be offended!

Su Dazhong could not help but sigh.

He felt sorry for the man and woman, and at the same time, felt a wave of sorrow.

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng, these two lucky fellows, had met a powerful patron!

Under the protection of an Affairs Officer, who could touch them!

"Perhaps leaving this company is the right choice for me. Going to a smaller enterprise would spare me all these troubles. A career? Hah, maybe next life I'll be born into a better situation," Su Dazhong mused with a bitter smile.

Just when Sun Mingyu thought he had managed to dismiss the two, he saw that they hadn't budged, their expressions even more indifferent.

It seemed as though his words had no effect whatsoever!

"You want us to write a self-criticism, fine! But what's the reason?!" Lei Ying asked coldly from behind Lin Weiwei.

"We are here to perform official duties, and you disrupt and obstruct..." Cheng Wei searched for a reason.

"No need for reasons!" Sun Mingyu snorted coldly, "There's only one reason, your status is too low! Is that clear enough?"

What disrespect for authority, what disregard for leadership, it all boiled down to one point: insufficient power, low status!

This was the sole reason.

Everyone was solemn, falling into a collective silence.

Power is the argument!

"Well said!" Suddenly someone called out, even starting to applaud.

Everyone turned to Su Dazhong, who also turned around in surprise, as Bai Xiaosheng approached with a smile, clapping his hands as he walked.

"Officer Sun's reasoning is indeed most sound. I can't help but want to have a discussion with you about it," Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed.

Sun Mingyu frowned, looking at the young man.

He did not recognize Bai Xiaosheng.

During the "trial" of Chen Jiutian, only a large part of the Affairs Officers were present; a small number were on duty or out.

Sun Mingyu was one of them.

"What are you doing?" Cheng Wei said discontentedly, "Do you have a say here?"

As soon as Cheng Wei finished speaking, he felt the light dim beside him and then a large hand landed on his shoulder, pinching painfully as though his bones could break at any moment.

"Ouch, take it easy!" Cheng Wei grimaced in pain.

"Buddy, be polite when you speak," Lei Ying said gently, "In front of this gentleman, you aren't qualified to talk like that!"

Lin Weiwei stepped forward, smiled, and introduced Bai Xiaosheng to everyone, "This gentleman is the Affairs Department's first New-type Affairs Officer—Mr. Bai Xiaosheng."

That sentence struck like a bolt from the blue, startling everyone present.

Su Dazhong's eyes widened in disbelief as he looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

This young man... is an Affairs Department Officer!

And what's more, a New-type Affairs Officer? What is that!

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng's initially smug expressions now contained outright shock.

In the presence of an Affairs Officer, no one would recklessly pretend to be one without knowing the severity of that lie.

It was highly likely to be true!

Which meant that Su Dazhong had an Affairs Officer by his side!

And so young at that!

How could this be possible!

The two were so shocked they didn't know what to say.

But since they were all Officers, of the same rank, they shouldn't be able to do anything to Sun Mingyu... right?

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng couldn't help but glance at Sun Mingyu, only to be stunned once more.

Upon hearing this name, both Sun Mingyu and Cheng Wei's expressions were more than splendid; they looked outright terrified.

Cheng Wei even had a look of sheer fear on his face.

They were all of the same rank, so why these expressions?

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng were utterly baffled.

They had no idea that Bai Xiaosheng, as a New-type Affairs Officer, held a level of authority between that of a regular Affairs Officer and a Senior Affairs Officer, with some powers equivalent to those held by a Senior Affairs Officer!

Meaning, if there were any issues with an Affairs Officer, Bai Xiaosheng could directly hold them accountable!

Sun Mingyu held less power than Bai Xiaosheng.

Moreover, on his very first day in office, Bai Xiaosheng had handled a "major case," taking down two individuals, Chen Jiuzheng and Chen Jiutian.

One responsible for a provincial-level industry, and the other for a regional one!

Even to an Affairs Officer, this was inconceivable! A chilling thought!

Everyone says that these term-limited New-type Affairs Officers are like hyenas, ferociously untamed. Not to be trifled with!

Furthermore, rumors were swirling that Mr. Xiahou Qi, the CEO, highly favored him, and even Li Haofeng and Zheng Honghu were excellent friends with him!

What rank did Sun Mingyu hold among the Affairs Officers?

If the Officers were ranked, he was simply at the bottom tier.

To even compare himself with Bai Xiaosheng!

Bai Xiaosheng approached Sun Mingyu with a smile and said, "Mr. Sun, could we step aside for a word? I just happen to have a few issues I'd like to discuss with you."

"No need!" Sun Mingyu refused outright, decisively, "Affairs Officer Bai is here, and I will comply with everything you say! Whomever you want to investigate, I'll cooperate!"

"Affairs Officer Bai, we've long heard that Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng are problematic! Mr. Sun came here especially to investigate them! That act earlier was just to fool them, to lull them into a false sense of security! Now, it's time to reveal the truth!" Cheng Wei, the old Affairs Assistant, reacted extremely fast.

His attitude performed a full 180-degree turn.

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng were completely dumbfounded.

What kind of background does this Mr. Bai have, to scare those two like grandchildren!

Su Dazhong stared at Bai Xiaosheng in even more disbelief, as though caught in a dream.

In his own home, that young person he had looked down upon was an existence he couldn't hope to match, wielding such authority!

Even his peers were so intimidated by the mention of his name.

So terrifying!

"I see," Bai Xiaosheng said, looking at Sun Mingyu with a smile, "then thank you very much!"

Chapter 862 Swift and Decisive

Bai Xiaosheng originally wanted to have a word with Sun Mingyu and have a good chat.

After all, they were both Affairs Officers. Even though his position as a New-type Affairs Officer had a bit more authority, there was no fundamental difference between them. No one was superior or inferior, at least not drastically so.

However, seeing Sun Mingyu's arrogant demeanor, and even his assistant Cheng Wei carrying such an air of importance,

Bai Xiaosheng felt that when necessary, he had to wave the banner of Sir Xiahou Qi to give Sun Mingyu a good knock on the head.

What he never expected was...

As soon as he revealed his identity, the other party caved immediately, and so thoroughly at that.

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

Clearly, he had yet to accurately assess how much of a stir he had caused in the Department of Affairs and the extent of the upheaval his presence had invoked.

Having escaped the storm early on, he was unaware of what his "legend" within the Department of Affairs had become.

Of course, this was also partly due to Xiahou Qi's deliberate stirring of the waters.

Are the Affairs Officers of the Department of Affairs truly selfless and altruistic?

Not at all!

Xiahou Qi had long realized that the Affairs Officers, who had long enjoyed exclusive powers, had subtly developed a consensus of superiority over the years.

Some even openly claimed that Affairs Officers could oversee those with real power, yet no one oversaw them.

This kind of thinking was dangerous!

Therefore, Xiahou Qi decided to take advantage of the emergence of the New-type Affairs Officer as an opportunity to make a move using Bai Xiaosheng.

Xiahou Qi even hinted at increasing some powers of the New-type Affairs Officer,

such as overseeing their peers and even questioning the Senior Affairs Officers.

Xiahou Qi's intention was akin to throwing a fierce and unconventional catfish like Bai Xiaosheng into the increasingly stagnant Affairs Department, to stir up the still waters!

This was the "Catfish Effect"!

Bai Xiaosheng was that catfish!

Xiahou Qi had put out the word, but the responsibilities were still being finalized and had not been officially announced.

Of course, no one informed Bai Xiaosheng.

However, Sun Mingyu, who had just come from headquarters, knew about it!

Add to that, rampant rumors said that Bai Xiaosheng, as a New-type Affairs Officer with only a two-year term, would, in order to rise up, relentlessly target "big fish" without fear or favour.

These big fish were the Affairs Officers and Senior Affairs Officer ranks!

Hearing these rumors repeatedly, how could one not be afraid!

Therefore, Sun Mingyu caved instantly in public, not only without feeling embarrassed but also enthusiastically inviting Bai Xiaosheng to sit together and foster a good relationship.

The least he could do was to ensure Bai Xiaosheng didn't target him!

His attitude was almost a reflection of how Chen Qingyun and others treated him.

It was hard to decline such hospitality. Bai Xiaosheng, with a smile on his face, followed Sun Mingyu to the General Manager's office at Liucheng Real Estate.

Sun Mingyu stepped in first and then closed the door behind him. He even shut their assistants out.

Outside the door, Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng were at a loss, completely dumbfounded.

Su Dazhong stood like a wooden sculpture, not knowing what to do.

Cheng Wei, seeing his own leader taking action and wanting to follow suit, approached Lin Weiwei with a full smile, trying to get close.

Having previously looked down upon these temporary affairs assistants, now knowing they were under Bai Xiaosheng, Cheng Wei made no secret of his envy.

Although Bai Xiaosheng was as ferocious as a hyena, seeing everyone as prey, and doomed to be friendless,

following such a leader meant greater dangers but also greater opportunities!

Fortune favors the bold; which affairs assistant wanted to painstakingly climb up step by step in stability, when they were not even Affairs Officers.

Regrettably, there were only two positions available under Bai Xiaosheng, and they had been given to his own confidants. The rest of the affairs assistants could only look on with envy.

Though they were temporary affairs assistants, they had skyrocketed from corporate staff to the top without any assessments, unlike them, who were all general managers ranked at the top of successive assessments.

Who could they complain to about such matters? It all came down to different strokes for different folks!

"You two have also had a tough time, why don't we go to another office, take a break, and have some tea?" Cheng Wei was more than polite, he was downright reverent.

In Cheng Wei's view, perhaps these two individuals had good fortune and might one day become his superiors, which made it absolutely necessary not to antagonize them.

"Thank you, Mr. Cheng, but we still have work to do!"

Lin Weiwei replied with a slight smile, politely declining, and then she headed straight for Su Dazhong.

"Mr. Su, we would like to proceed with the investigation now, can you cooperate with us?"

Su Dazhong paused for two seconds, then hurriedly nodded, "Yes, of course!"

He realized that Bai Xiaosheng was not only an Affairs Officer but also a supremely formidable character within the role.

I always said, Bai Xiaosheng, such a character is nearly demonic; is he an ordinary person? Su Dazhong sighed inwardly.

"Let's go, I'll take you there!" Su Dazhong didn't forget to throw a cold glance at Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng, who were watching him with unease.

Their fear brought him a sense of satisfaction.

At this moment, Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng dared not utter a word, let alone obstruct.

Su Dazhong led Lin Weiwei away.

However, Lei Ying approached Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng with an expressionless face and said, "Find a place, let's have a chat too!"

Chen Qingyun and the others shuddered at the look in Lei Ying's eyes.

It should be said that they had seen all kinds of people; they were adults, not the kind to be intimidated by a single look.

Yet looking into the eyes of this big man, they couldn't help but feel a creeping fear and chill from deep within.

This shouldn't be surprising!

Those who have been on the battlefield and taken lives have a dreadful deterrence in their eyes; once they harbor animosity towards someone, even the slightest bit, it's enough to make one feel like prey!

And the more experienced one is, the more likely one is to perceive the terror and to be frightened by it.

Lei Ying had been itching to take action, and his starting point was the subject of the investigation.

Before coming, Lin Weiwei had designed for him a series of questions and objectives.

Lei Ying was not just a brute who knew nothing but fists and knives; he was clever, so clever that he managed to integrate interrogation techniques learned on the battlefield with investigative methods, a notion so outlandish that even Lin Weiwei found it incredible.

This time, Lei Ying put it into practice.

"Okay, you—you follow me," Chen Qingyun knew he couldn't escape it and managed to force a smile, uglier than crying.

Han Xuancheng also smiled as if he were about to cry.

The two of them led Lei Ying to the adjacent office "for a chat."

"I might as well come along and help you," Cheng Wei seized the opportunity to get closer to Lei Ying.

"No need!" Lei Ying pointed at the doorway, his tone almost commanding, "Just stay here!"

"Ah!" Cheng Wei subconsciously complied, agreeing.

An hour later.

Bai Xiaosheng and Sun Mingyu came out of the office.

Learning that Sir Xiahou Qi had even increased his authority, Bai Xiaosheng was surprised and satisfied.

When they came out, everyone had rushed back.

"The evidence is conclusive, we can report it!" Lin Weiwei said just this to Bai Xiaosheng.

The investigation was over already, the evidence conclusive? It could be reported!

Sun Mingyu saw Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng's faces ashen and noticed Su Dazhong's lively spirit, and was suddenly shocked.

What kind of speed was this in handling affairs!

Bai Xiaosheng was fierce as a wolf, and so were his subordinates!

Utterly terrifying indeed!

"Then we'll be taking our leave, Affairs Officer Sun, we'll meet again!" Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Sun Mingyu.

Sun Mingyu hurriedly responded politely, then watched as Bai Xiaosheng, bringing Su Dazhong and two assistants, left confidently.

He was silent for a long time and after much struggle, he could only utter, "Seeing is truly believing!"

Chapter 863: Score High Again

Bai Xiaosheng and Su Dazhong walked out of Liucheng Real Estate together, with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying following behind, both of them reporting to Bai Xiaosheng their investigations on Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng consecutively.

During Lin Weiwei's evidence collection, Su Dazhong followed her every step. He witnessed with his own eyes how meticulous and clear her thinking was, and how swift and decisive her actions were. He had long held immense admiration for this girl, who was the same age as his daughter!

With such formidable abilities, even being a company CEO would seem undervalued, yet she was only Bai Xiaosheng's assistant!

When it was Lei Ying's turn, Su Dazhong was even more astonished.

This man actually forced Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng to admit to many issues, recorded audio evidence, and obtained signed records.

To make Chen Qingyun and the others "confess" in such a circumstance, and to do it in such a short period of time was simply unbelievable!

Su Dazhong racked his brains but couldn't figure out how Lei Ying managed to do it!

Both of these formidable individuals were willing to submit to Bai Xiaosheng's orders.

Su Dazhong even developed a sense of awe towards Bai Xiaosheng.

Thinking back, he had once considered hiring Bai Xiaosheng for his company, to serve under him, and now Su Dazhong felt extremely embarrassed!

He didn't know if Bai Xiaosheng had noticed his intention at the time.

If he had, that would have been utterly humiliating. Su Dazhong's thoughts were in turmoil.

"Weiwei, report this matter to the Affairs Department later, and also—" Bai Xiaosheng glanced at Su Dazhong, smiling, "add one more thing, say that I nominate Liucheng Real Estate's Engineering and Technical Director Su Dazhong as the next CEO of Liucheng Real Estate!"

What!

With one sentence, Su Dazhong was completely flabbergasted, staring blankly at Bai Xiaosheng.

He had long heard that Affairs Officers wielded astonishing power, able to promote talent unprecedentedly, suggesting to headquarters to utilize them without precedent.

But he never expected to witness it today, and on himself no less!

Su Dazhong was overwhelmed with excitement, his lips quivering, but the words were stuck in his throat, unable to come out.

"Uncle Su, I'm not doing this just because I stayed at your place for a couple of days," Bai Xiaosheng saw Su Dazhong's expression and joked, "I did this because I've actually seen your abilities and your ambition."

"You're worthy!"

"I hope you won't let headquarters down!"

"Don't worry, I absolutely won't let you down!" Su Dazhong took a deep breath, forcing himself to calm down and spoke earnestly.

Bai Xiaosheng was about to say something else, but his phone rang. He took it out and saw that it was Lin Ke calling.

Bai Xiaosheng gave an apologetic smile, stepped aside, and answered.

"Bai Xiaosheng, are you still in Linzhou!" Lin Ke asked right away.

"What, do you want me to bring you something else?" Bai Xiaosheng replied half annoyed, half amused, "Didn't I send you those local products yesterday, just to the address you sent me."

"Who told you to buy local products, do you really think I'm a foodie!" Lin Ke complained over the phone, "I was sincerely trying to offer you an achievement!"

"Oh?" Bai Xiaosheng raised an eyebrow curiously and asked, "What achievement?"

"You should take a trip to Jinping City, Jinping is right next to Linzhou, just over two hours' drive. There's a group enterprise there, quite a large-scale one; something has come up. Take a look for yourself. I'll send you the details later," Lin Ke said, "I just booked three days at a hot springs resort for a wellness retreat, so I really can't get away."

Bai Xiaosheng, "..."

"Oh, and by the way, Jinping's tea and crisp pears are also quite famous, remember to send some my way."

Bai Xiaosheng, "..."

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng approached Su Dazhong.

"Little Bai... oh, no, Affairs Officer Bai! Come to my place for a meal now!" Su Dazhong invited enthusiastically.

"Forget it, Uncle Su, we can't go. There's somewhere else we need to be," Bai Xiaosheng lifted his phone, smiling, "I've got new work."

Originally supposed to go to Yunhai and enjoy the hot springs, an unexpected delay kept him in Linzhou, and now with a single sentence from Lin Ke, he had been sent off to Jinping, making Bai Xiaosheng feel quite helpless.

"No need for that, I'll be heading out after the meal!" Su Dazhong tried to keep them again.

"No need," Bai Xiaosheng refused once more, smiling, "Since I can't say goodbye to Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue in person, please pass my message for me."

In Bai Xiaosheng's view, this was a good way to leave.

This time, Su Dazhong didn't insist and nodded.

After that, he personally drove Bai Xiaosheng and the others to the high-speed rail station.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng found out that Linzhou was very close to Jinping City. It was a two-hour drive or just half an hour by high-speed rail, and there were many trains available.

Bai Xiaosheng decided to have lunch in Jinping City.

In the car, Lin Weiwei started working on her ultra-slim laptop, sending a brief report to the Affairs Department, along with some evidence.

Meanwhile, at Liucheng Real Estate headquarters, in the general manager's office.

After Bai Xiaosheng and the others had left, Sun Mingyu, who had been sitting in silence and sipping tea, stood up to leave.

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng, who had been sitting quietly by his side not daring to utter a word, finally could not bear it any longer and stepped forward gingerly.

"Affairs Officer Sun, what do you think we should do now?"

"Otherwise, could you help us smooth things over? We, we haven't made such big mistakes, after all!"

They were still trying to save their own fate.

"Whether you two have made a big mistake or not, you know it, they know it, but I don't. So, I cannot help you," Sun Mingyu replied frostily.

He added coldly, "Having Affairs Officer Bai on your case, you're out of options."

"You should resign voluntarily!"

With that, Sun Mingyu left without looking back, taking Cheng Wei along.

Chen Qingyun and Han Xuancheng were completely dumbstruck.

A moment later, Han Xuancheng's phone rang. He answered it in a daze, only to find it was his son, Han Chen.

"Dad, have you taken care of that Su Dazhong yet? And don't forget about that guy with the surname Bai! Oh, and I want to buy a new car, give me the money for it."

Han Xuancheng gaped, mouth wide open like a fish out of water, gasping for air.

The three words 'surname Bai' made his heart skip a beat.

If his son hadn't insisted on taking his claims to the Su Family, maybe he wouldn't have decided to deal so decisively with the Su surname, let alone take down the Bai surname as well.

And now, he, a general manager... was finished!

Dammit!

This phrase rose in Han Xuancheng's mind.

After a long while, he finally spoke, his voice full of emotion as he said one sentence to his son—

"Fuck. Your. Mother!"

Just as Lin Weiwei finished sending the documents to the Affairs Department, Bai Xiaosheng's mind suddenly echoed with the voice of Red Lotus.

"Punished one subsidiary general manager-level individual, evidence conclusive, estimated penalty is dismissal, reward five points; punished one deputy general manager of a subsidiary, evidence conclusive, estimated penalty is dismissal, reward two points; nominated one enterprising elite, reward three points."

"Reward points totalling ten points, any method of acquiring points at the current stage will receive an additional twenty percent bonus, an extra two points!"

"Current total is sixty points for Affairs Officer rank, forty points away from Senior Affairs Officer rank!"

More points, and so many at that!

Bai Xiaosheng could not help but smile.

"It seems my promotion will come even faster than I anticipated!"

Chapter 864: How about you guys go around for two days first?

Su Dazhong drove, dropping Bai Xiaosheng and others off at the station. He watched them enter the station, then stayed there a bit longer.

Reflecting on the past few days, the young man's various actions, and the final reveal of his identity that left everyone in awe, Su Dazhong couldn't help but marvel.

"I really want to go home and tell Xue Fei and Xiaoyu about it, but alas..." Su Dazhong smacked his lips, full of regret.

On the ride, Bai Xiaosheng had spoken to him, asking him to keep his identity a secret, especially from Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue.

"We're all friends, so there shouldn't be anything else mixed in. Consider this a small request from me to Uncle Su," Bai Xiaosheng had said at the time.

"If they heard about Bai Xiaosheng's true identity, they would definitely be stunned!" Su Dazhong wasn't the kind of person who couldn't keep a secret or a promise. Having agreed to Bai Xiaosheng, he naturally wouldn't speak of it.

With that thought, Su Dazhong took his car, and headed straight home.

According to Bai Xiaosheng, it would either be today or tomorrow that the Affairs Department would definitely send a notification. All he had to do was wait patiently at home.

Su Dazhong had no doubt about this.

Despite the fact that his company's dealings with the Affairs Department were all business, requiring a week's time for a reply and a very long processing period, it was because the Affairs Department needed to verify information and prioritize other urgent matters first.

But this time, the initiator was an Affairs Officer! And a particularly formidable one at that!

Su Dazhong believed, this time it would be quick!

Driving along, Su Dazhong's heart surged with excitement and anticipation.

It was unthinkable before, but in the future, he would be the managing director of Liucheng Real Estate— a great future awaited where he could show his mettle.

Su Dazhong could hardly contain himself!

"An old horse revels in his stable; his ambition reaches a thousand miles. A warrior at twilight still harbors a heart unyielding!" With a bright gaze and a distant tone, Su Dazhong expressed his gratitude, "Thank you, Bai Xiaosheng!"

And so, Su Dazhong returned home in high spirits.

As soon as he opened the door, his eyes met Yan Xuefei's, and he immediately burst into a joyous grin, "Xue Fei, quick, cook a few more dishes for lunch and open that bottle of red wine! Let's celebrate properly."

"What's gotten into you that has made you so happy!" Yan Xuefei exclaimed in surprise.

But seeing her husband's face beaming with joy, appearing a decade younger, she deduced.

This must mean the meeting went well, and the report was a success!

Yan Xuefei couldn't help but share in his happiness.

In the living room, Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue, hearing the commotion, ran out and looked at Su Dazhong with surprise.

"Eh, where's Sheng?"

"Where's Bai?"

"Where is Bai Xiaosheng?"

Seeing Su Dazhong come in and close the door behind him, the three women were taken aback and almost simultaneously asked their questions.

After hesitating for two seconds, Su Dazhong finally smiled and said, "His friend came to pick him up, he's already left!"

"Left? Where did he go?!" The two girls asked in unison.

"He should have already left Linzhou, I guess. I dropped them off at the high-speed railway station," Su Dazhong answered.

Watching the two girls' faces fall.

Su Dazhong didn't know what to say.

Su Lingyu muttered softly, "How could he just leave like that, without even saying goodbye!"

"This guy really isn't considerate. Freeloading here and then just leaving without a word, what kind of person does that!" Jiang Yue said resentfully.

"Well, he asked me to tell you something..." Su Dazhong murmured.

The two girls immediately looked at him.

"He said he's grateful to you," Su Dazhong said.

"Still, he didn't have to leave in such a rush," Su Lingyu uttered, her face showing her dejection.

"Jerk! Not at all a friend! Who does he think he is, leaving in such a hurry, as if he's some big company CEO!" Jiang Yue spat angrily.

Su Dazhong remained silent.

But he couldn't help but feel a tinge of amusement at Jiang Yue's words.

"Is Bai Xiaosheng the general manager of some major company, yet so many general managers fear and dread him like a fierce tiger!"

Of course, facing two fuming girls, Su Dazhong didn't dare say another word and quietly slipped away to the study.

"Alright already, really, Bai left, what's with all the strange words you're throwing around?" Yan Xuefei reprimanded with a smile, then took off her apron, ready to go out shopping.

Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue sat sullenly on the sofa, each preoccupied with their own thoughts.

"The hateful part is, he didn't even leave a contact number." Jiang Yue grumbled.

"Same here," Su Lingyu said.

The two were silent again for a while.

"I was planning to take you out in a couple of days to a social gathering, but he ran off," Jiang Yue said sulkily, "Forget it, we'll go by ourselves!"

Su Lingyu, looking distracted, wanted to shake her head.

Jiang Yue pointed at her, "If you dare not go, do you still want to be good sisters or not!"

With that, Su Lingyu could only force a wry smile and swallow back her refusal.

"Bai Xiaosheng, you jerk, don't let me run into you again!" Jiang Yue couldn't help swearing again.

At that very moment.

On the high-speed train, Bai Xiaosheng sneezed several times in succession, attracting stares from people around him.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a little embarrassed.

Lin Weiwei passed him a tissue with a smile, teasing, "Xiaosheng, is someone talking about you? It wouldn't be those two girls from Linzhou, right?"

Lin Weiwei had close contact with Bai Xiaosheng and also knew about Su Lingyu and Jiang Yue.

Bai Xiaosheng shrugged his shoulders and smiled frankly, "I didn't even leave them my contact information."

"You spent day and night together, what do you need contact information for?" Lin Weiwei continued to jest.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at her helplessly.

Lei Ying, silent until now, suddenly interjected, "Or else, after I get off the train, I could go back and get their contact information for you?"

This guy is learning bad habits too!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but glare at him.

Lei Ying chuckled, his white teeth flashing a smile.

Chatting all the way, they soon arrived at their destination.

The three got off the train, and it was almost two o'clock; they were so hungry their stomachs were growling.

"Come on, I'll treat you to a good meal!" Bai Xiaosheng declared grandly with a wave of his hand.

It was also a celebration, for those points he had earned that were not worth mentioning to others. With this momentum, he could quickly rise to the rank of Senior Affairs Officer. Of course, this was an idealized thought.

The trio found a large restaurant and headed straight there.

On the way, Bai Xiaosheng received another phone call.

It was from Lin Ke.

"I'm really sorry, Bai Xiaosheng, my assistant's computer got a virus, and the data was damaged. You know, could you wait for another couple of days? Just two more days, I promise!" Lin Ke said somewhat sheepishly.

Bai Xiaosheng was speechless.

"You can stroll around and buy some souvenirs or something, consider it a vacation," Lin Ke "kindly" mumbled.

"Oh, I really appreciate it!" Bai Xiaosheng said annoyed.

"Don't mention it, that's all then." Lin Ke quickly hung up the phone.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at his phone, huffing out a heavy breath.

"What's wrong, Xiaosheng?" Lin Weiwei asked curiously.

"Nothing! Let's eat!" Bai Xiaosheng, with a face full of gloom, took big strides towards the restaurant.

Stepping onto the restaurant stairs and glancing at the restaurant's facade, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but admire—

This place really is impressive!

Chapter 865: Respecting Elders is a Virtue

Bai Xiaosheng, accompanied by Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, entered the grand restaurant.

The interior was lavishly decorated, impeccably clean and tidy, with a predominantly Chinese style augmented by modern elements.

The fusion of the two styles didn't feel out of place at all; instead, it created a harmonious beauty.

As soon as they entered, two beautiful women in ancient costumes approached them.

The two beauties gracefully moved forward, their dresses fluttering like those of celestial beings, their skin as white as snow, their smiles blooming like flowers.

They indeed radiated a touch of ethereal charm!

Not to exaggerate, but they were comparable to stars!

Bai Xiaosheng noticed that their smiles were incredibly "standardized," showing exactly eight teeth each.

The perfect Asian smile.

This certainly was the result of training; just from these two smiles alone, he knew that this place wouldn't come cheap!

However, Bai Xiaosheng truly didn't care, having retrieved his wallet from Lin Weiwei with a gold card inside containing a hundred million!

With that money, what restaurant couldn't he afford!

Of course, as Bai Xiaosheng requested, Red Lotus had given the card a special "treatment."

The account statement only showed two hundred thousand, with the remainder transferred into fixed deposits, not to be shown on ATMs or POS machines.

As for how Red Lotus managed this or how the group coordinated with the bank system, Bai Xiaosheng didn't bother to inquire.

In addition, the card had an embedded chip; Red Lotus could pinpoint its location at any time and lock or freeze the account.

If there was a large expenditure, Red Lotus would actively consult Bai Xiaosheng, and only with his approval could the transaction proceed.

As for the purpose of this hundred million, Bai Xiaosheng hadn't yet decided, both with Ron and in Zhengdong Province, the current cash flow was plentiful, and there was no need for money. Therefore, Bai Xiaosheng planned to think it over before deciding how to use it.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng also wanted to experience what it was like to travel "with a hundred million on hand"!

No matter how he spent it, he felt confident!

"Welcome to 'Song Time'!"

The two spectacular beauties comparable to stars, hands folded in front of them, slightly leaning forward as a sign of respect.

The restaurant, called Song Time, had a rather unique name.

"You're not closing for lunch, are you?" Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but ask.

Most restaurants would close at around two in the afternoon, and only after entering did Bai Xiaosheng think of this, suddenly feeling a bit worried.

"No problem at all, we can serve as late as three o'clock."

"However, after two o'clock, we do charge an additional service fee."

The two ethereal women replied with smiles, one sentence each.

Even fairy-like creatures have to eat, so charging a service fee seemed reasonable.

"No problem," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "It's not too crowded at this time, please find me a private room."

"Certainly!" replied the welcoming fairy.

"Please follow me," someone called from a distance, another woman, also wearing a standard smile, but she appeared to be older and was dressed quite distinctively.

This must be the manager, Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself.

Under the manager's lead, Bai Xiaosheng and his party headed upstairs.

Along the way, the manager took the opportunity to promote, "Is this your first visit? Our restaurant, called Song Time, specializes in unique cuisine."

"You see, our country's culinary culture experienced a qualitative leap during the Song dynasty, thanks to the contribution of literati and artists, who perfectly integrated gastronomy with aesthetics."

"Song sister fish chowder, melon plate laughing in the red chamber, cloud elite noodles, Dongpo pork, crab orange brew, and washed hands crab—all these exquisite delights originated from that period."

"Our Song Time has hired national-level chefs, who have put a lot of thought into reproducing these Song dynasty delights. Our signature dishes are unheard of elsewhere, so you must give them a try!"

After the manager's pitch, Bai Xiaosheng was filled with anticipation to try it out.

"Are all those in the restaurant business so impressive?" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly said with a laugh.

The manager was taken aback.

"Miss, with your eloquence, being a mere manager is a waste. In the wrong occupation, you'd be a master of pyramid schemes, but in the right one, you'd be an orator," Bai Xiaosheng teased, "Very persuasive!"

The floor supervisor chuckled, "For what you said, I'll send a fruit platter to your table later."

Such a light gesture of sending a fruit platter.

However, even if every guest was to receive it as a certainty, being told so still made one feel cheerful.

Even Lin Weiwei, who was following behind, couldn't help but impress.

When it comes to eloquence, it truly belongs to the service industry—full of talents!

Chatting along the way, the supervisor led Bai Xiaosheng and his group into a private room, enthusiastically helping them choose dishes.

Just as they were ordering, the door to the private room opened.

Another supervisor entered, still saying, "Here we are, please come in!"

Hearing the commotion, Bai Xiaosheng looked up in surprise.

A group of people walked in from outside, also looking at them, and stopped, startled.

The room fell silent for two seconds.

This is a private room, isn't it? How come... are we about to share the table...?

The two supervisors exchanged a shocked glance.

"Zhang, what's... what's going on here!" The later supervisor quickly approached, lowering his voice to ask.

"What's the matter with you, there are already people here, and you're still bringing in customers?"

"They had reserved this place bright and early!"

"Wasn't it canceled?"

"Canceled? They called to say they would be a bit late!"

The situation was incredibly simple, and anyone present would understand it immediately.

However, the face of the supervisor who led Bai Xiaosheng and his group turned sour in an instant.

If the guests made a fuss about this, it wouldn't be a small matter!

Bai Xiaosheng was watching the newcomers.

The leader was an elderly man with half-white hair, neatly combed back and meticulously groomed, wearing black-framed glasses, with a calm expression.

A business-style black wool jacket made him look sprightly.

Next to the elderly man stood a young man about thirty years old, with piercing eyes and a bright, exceptionally penetrating gaze.

Following them were two men and a woman, all with distinguished appearances and extraordinary auras. At a glance, one could tell they were not ordinary people.

Bai Xiaosheng sized them up, and they were sizing up Bai Xiaosheng as well.

"Look, this..."

The supervisors, quite embarrassed, looked at the leaders of both parties, cautiously inquiring.

"Since they're already seated and have ordered, we can change to another private room as well," the elder suggested to the waitstaff with a gentle smile.

"Please, elder sir, this room was your reservation. If anyone should change, it should be us!" Bai Xiaosheng stood up with a smile.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying stood up along with him.

"It's not a bother," the old man assured with a smile.

"Respecting the elderly is a virtue that shouldn't be neglected," Bai Xiaosheng smiled and led Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying out.

The elderly man didn't insist and stepped aside.

The young man with piercing eyes and impressive presence gave a slight smile of half-thanks and half-appreciation, nodding as Bai Xiaosheng passed by.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded back in recognition.

The supervisors sighed in relief.

The one who had brought Bai Xiaosheng and his group up hurried to help them find another private room.

The old man's gaze followed Bai Xiaosheng, nodding slightly, "This young fellow is no ordinary person!"

"Young and mannered, understanding when to advance or retreat, knowing respect and concession—there is no greater goodness," praised the young man with piercing eyes, gesturing to the elder, "Please, Teacher!"

Chapter 866: The Two Most Outstanding Individuals

Bai Xiaosheng and his group moved to a different private room, and the manager expressed boundless gratitude towards Bai Xiaosheng, even offering additional complimentary items.

After all, if Bai Xiaosheng and his company had really made a scene, it would have been no small matter.

She would have to take responsibility!

"No big deal. Miss, please hurry with the dishes, we're all hungry," Bai Xiaosheng said to her with a smile.

"Okay, I'll personally hurry the kitchen for you!" the manager responded with a smile and hurried off.

Lin Weiwei poured tea for everyone, handing it to each person.

"Xiaosheng, the people we just saw seemed very extraordinary, especially commanding in presence. Particularly that older man, despite his gentle demeanor and seemingly casual glance, he always gave me the feeling that he could see right through me, truly impressive!" Lin Weiwei couldn't help but say.

"That elder, along with that man with sword-like eyebrows and piercing eyes, both had an aura of decisiveness!" Lei Ying couldn't help but explain, "Of course, it's different from the kind of murderous aura we acquired on the battlefield. Theirs probably comes from holding high positions, able to arbitrarily determine people's fates, which cultivates such an aura!"

Lin Weiwei couldn't help but glance at Lei Ying, not quite understanding the latter part of his statement.

Bai Xiaosheng chuckled, "Their status is exceptional, but they are not from the political sphere, since the consumption here is not low, which would be against the rules. Naturally, many people secretly break these rules. But given that elder's temperament, if he were in politics, he would never overstep. Moreover, at his age, his desires and appetites are much more important to him than a political career."

"Thus, they must be from the business sector!" Bai Xiaosheng said, "I understand what Lei Ying meant! Once people enter business, they acquire an additional 'life'—a career!"

"These two, they have the power to arbitrarily deprive others of their professional careers!"

Bai Xiaosheng's intuition was even sharper than Lin Weiwei's and Lei Ying's.

After all, Bai Xiaosheng's observational skills were honed by a system.

Very sharp-eyed indeed!

"Don't understand?" Bai Xiaosheng saw Lin Weiwei looking at him and smiled, "Just like our Affairs Officers, don't we also take away people's futures, capable of ending their careers?"

"Both are nearly the same!"

After saying that, Bai Xiaosheng added, "But to cultivate such an aura requires qualitative nurture and quantitative accumulation. To describe it using the transformation of an ancient famous general, it's like—"

"A single success built on the bones of many!"

"Those who ended others' careers must certainly be numerous!"

While curious and astonished, their meeting was just a fleeting encounter with no intersections, so Bai Xiaosheng also preferred not to speak ill of others.

The same went for Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

The group was just briefly curious and casually discussed it for a moment.

Later on, they changed the subject and talked about other things.

At this very moment.

At the Greater China Region Headquarters, in the President's office.

Xiahou Qi was chatting with Li Haofeng, with a report laid out on the desk before him.

"Bai Xiaosheng is indeed decisive and swift in action, it's only been a few days, yet he has already unearthed two parasites in Linzhou," Xiahou Qi remarked with a laugh.

"Affairs Officer Bai is young and promising, I believe he will achieve great things in the next two years!" Li Haofeng said with a smile.

"Speaking of young and promising, actually, Haofeng, you are really the winner in life. Among the Senior Affairs Officers, you must be the youngest one," Xiahou Qi said, "The oldest should be Shen Peishen, he must be..."

Xiahou Qi calculated before continuing, "He must be fifty-eight!"

"Sir Shen is still active on the front lines, which makes us juniors feel somewhat ashamed," Li Haofeng laughed, "You are my teacher. And in a sense, Sir Shen could also be considered a mentor to me."

"You're right to say that," Xiahou Qi laughed, "Sir Shen is currently taking his students on a trip down south, and with this big incident involving Chen Jiutian, the old fellow must be annoyed he wasn't there. Perhaps, he even regrets that it wasn't one of his own students who made the headlines."

Li Haofeng smiled, seemingly recalling someone, and said, "Lin Yu was Sir Shen's student back in his university days! He was personally recruited by him!"

"Speaking of recent Affairs Officers, the two most prominent ones would naturally be Bai Xiaosheng, and the other should definitely be Lin Yu!"

"Lin Yu, he holds multiple records for being number one!"

"Excluding the exceptional Bai Xiaosheng, he is the fastest to have risen from Assistant Affairs Officer to Affairs Officer!"

"For five consecutive years, among the Affairs Officers, he delivered the strongest performance!"

"The files of the pests caught by him would probably stack up to a foot high!"

It was evident that Li Haofeng sincerely admired him while he praised.

"Enough now," Xiahou Qi stopped Li Haofeng from continuing, laughing, "I'm not senile yet, I remember these things clearly! You, Li Haofeng have never praised someone so much before!"

Li Haofeng smiled, "Praising the strong is only natural!"

He then added, "Besides, I haven't just praised him, I have also praised Bai Xiaosheng!"

"Bai Xiaosheng is astute and agile, with a comprehensive vision, good at insight into situations, and seizing opportunities. And there's more..."

Li Haofeng also had endless praises for Bai Xiaosheng.

These two were the only Affairs Officers whom he held in such high regard.

"Stop, Haofeng! If we continue, it will just get boring!" Xiahou Qi said with a laugh, preventing him from continuing.

Then, he mulled over the two names, "Lin Yu, Bai Xiaosheng!"

"With each generation comes new talents!" Xiahou Qi exclaimed, "The young generation rises, each more outstanding than the last. Us old ones are gradually stepping off the stage."

Xiahou Qi's voice carried a hint of melancholy.

"Sir Xia!" Li Haofeng couldn't help but speak.

Xiahou Qi raised his hand to stop him, continuing, "Three to five years! At most five years, and I should also leave this position."

Xiahou Qi gently patted his desk, sighing, "I'm getting old! I never used to feel inadequate, thought I could work until my death, but now every night past one o'clock, I feel an indescribable exhaustion! No longer a young man."

Xiahou Qi's words unexpectedly conveyed some sadness.

Li Haofeng opened his mouth, but didn't know how to console him.

The twilight years of heroes are inevitable.

He too would face such a day!

"Alright, enough of that. We've strayed off topic," Xiahou Qi self-mockingly laughed, picking up Bai Xiaosheng's report and handing it to Li Haofeng, "Send out the decisions for the processed cases, dismiss those who need to be dismissed, promote those who should be promoted. Also, make sure this matter gets publicized in the Affairs Department."

"This report includes something about Sun Mingyu, issue a notice for an oral reprimand!" Xiahou Qi said, "Perhaps it's none of his business, but who asked him to be at the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong people. We can only use him as a negative example now, unlucky for him!"

"This slippery eel, Bai Xiaosheng, really stirs up the waters!"

Xiahou Qi intended to use this incident to further "establish authority" for Bai Xiaosheng.

Li Haofeng nodded his head, taking the report.

"I'll get it done as soon as possible!"

Xiahou Qi, Li Haofeng, Senior Affairs Officer Shen Peishen, Affairs Officer Lin Yu, and Bai Xiaosheng talked for a long while, not knowing that at that moment, Shen Peishen, Lin Yu were actually dining with Bai Xiaosheng in the same restaurant!

The parties were already interconnected!

Chapter 867 I Want to Meet Bai Xiaosheng!

In the private room that Bai Xiaosheng and the others vacated, the extraordinary elder seated there was none other than Shen Peishen, revered by the young faction among the Senior Affairs Officers as "The Mentor"!

This Senior Affairs Officer, the oldest in tenure and highest in prestige, had remained a legend even to this day.

The records he had set were pursued competitively by both Senior and Junior Affairs Officers!

Bai Xiaosheng felt that Su Dazhong, at his age, still possessed the fierce and relentless will of a young person, striving forward regardless of everything, which was indeed commendable.

That was because Bai Xiaosheng had not met Shen Peishen.

Shen Peishen, nearly sixty, was still active in the workplace and harbored great ambitions.

Compared to him, Su Dazhong was like a minor wizard before a grand sorcerer!

The young man with sword-like eyebrows and tiger-like eyes accompanying Shen Peishen was his most beloved student—Lin Yu.

During this trip to the south, Lin Yu had stayed by Shen Peishen's side throughout.

Praised by Xiahou Qi and Li Haofeng, Lin Yu was even more favored by Shen Peishen, who saw him as his successor. Lin Yu also felt a paternal affection for his teacher, Shen Peishen.

Lin Yu came from a modest background, and during his college years, Shen Peishen took care of him often.

Lin Yu attributed his present achievements to talent and capability by some, but he believed that besides talent and capability, the hardships he endured also far exceeded those of ordinary people.

Moreover, more importantly, there was Shen Peishen's consistent support!

Lin Yu saw his success as the result of "one part talent, two parts persistence, and seven parts support from a powerful benefactor!"

The powerful benefactor was Shen Peishen.

Thus, Lin Yu regarded Shen Peishen as akin to a second set of parents.

"Teacher, this is your favorite Shaoxing Huangjiu, which I specially had someone buy. It's good for your health, please have a taste," Lin Yu poured wine for Shen Peishen.

"Good," Shen Peishen smiled, lifted his cup to drink, and nodded slightly, "Not bad!"

Over fine wine and good food, the two chatted.

The two men and one woman, three assistants, also accompanied them at the side.

After discussing some trivial matters, Shen Peishen placed his cup down and looked at Lin Yu.

"Lin Yu, did you hear about the major incident at the headquarters a few days ago? What's your view on this?"

The regional director Chen Jiutian and the Anjiang Province industrial leader Chen Jiuzheng, both fell from power.

At the same time, a large number of company general managers and deputy general managers were dismissed.

Some were astonished, some were fearful, yet others eyed those vacuums of power.

Shen Peishen wanted to hear Lin Yu's opinion.

"Yes, teacher, I have been contemplating this issue. The emergence of New-type Affairs Officers will shake many of the current balances. A single person's strength may be insignificant, but just like a fulcrum, given the right conditions, it could move the entire earth. Elder Xia is likely to use the New-type Affairs Officers as a fulcrum," Lin Yu said.

The assistants put down their chopsticks and stared at Lin Yu in surprise.

They thought Lin Yu would regret not being the one to nab the Chen Brothers, or perhaps comment on those vacated important positions.

But unexpectedly, Lin Yu went off on a tangent discussing the New-type Affairs Officers!

It seemed... off-topic.

Shen Peishen noticed their expressions, laughed heartily at Lin Yu, "Lin Yu, you really don't play by conventional rules! We all thought you would talk about the Chen Brothers, about those vacated spheres of power. Look at your response; unexpected, it has taken them by surprise!"

The three assistants immediately gave an embarrassed smile.

Lin Yu glanced at them and also smiled, "I can also share my thoughts."

"Teacher, first of all, this entire matter must have been orchestrated by Elder Xia. I've heard that even Great Official Zheng Honghu played along in a fine act. Such striking force is bound to keep many people awake at night, making them rein in their corrupt intentions, or become even more cautious. For us Affairs Officers, the job's difficulty will increase significantly in the future!"

"Secondly, under such intensive scrutiny from the top, those who covet power vacuums are really asking for trouble! They are blatantly walking into a trap! If they aren't foolish, then they must be blinded by the lure of power. I believe they have already been blacklisted. The next ones to be dealt with will be them!"

"Lastly, in my opinion, it's pointless to fuss over things that have already happened and are set in stone. Because no matter how shocking those events were, once they become the past, they are no longer important."

"What we need to look at, to pay attention to, is the future! That is the emergence of the New-type Affairs Officers!"

"What it signifies, what it represents, what kind of impact it will produce, how we should choose our stance and direction amidst these changes, that's what we need to consider!"

Lin Yu spoke calmly, expressing his thoughts.

The three assistants looked at Lin Yu with immense admiration, their eyes full of respect.

Indeed, he was credited as the strongest among the young generation of Affairs Officers. His perspective was extraordinary!

"Not bad, your thoughts on these matters are very good, very good!"

Shen Peishen was also extremely pleased, nodding with a smile, "Lin Yu, you already have the vision of a Senior Affairs Officer. Given time, you will certainly become an outstanding Senior Affairs Officer!"

Faced with such praise, Lin Yu also smiled.

After all, being recognized by someone he respected was truly a delightful thing.

"The New-type Affairs Officer is a brilliant move by Elder Xia, and he intends to use this point to revitalize the entire stale waters." Shen Peishen chuckled, "Even, some Affairs Officers might be sacrificed to strengthen this piece."

Only Shen Peishen dared to address Xiahou Qi as Elder Xia in public.

Because he had the seniority, he had the entitlement!

"Then, if in the future, I encounter that New-type Affairs Officer and we disagree in our work, should I step back a bit?" Lin Yu asked with a hint of seeking advice.

If his teacher said it was necessary, then he would adjust his mindset.

Shen Peishen looked at his student and laughed, "Why ask me? You already have the answer!"

Experience indeed comes with age.

Shen Peishen's insight was so keen, he could instantly understand people's hearts.

Lin Yu also laughed.

"I've heard that this New-type Affairs Officer is very young, talented, and competent. In dealing with Chen Jiutian and Chen Jiuzheng, he left a significant mark, earning applause!"

"Then I naturally want to compete with this New-type Affairs Officer!" Lin Yu's eyes blazed.

Shen Peishen nodded, somewhat proudly, "Not only are you my student, but you are also one of the most outstanding entities among the Affairs Officers! His value is not less than that New-type Affairs Officer! Elder Xia would certainly not extinguish one outstanding figure to strengthen another. Those Affairs Officers that were sacrificed are just some useless cannon fodder!"

Shen Peishen continued, "Elder Xia is really getting on in years! Compared to him, I could be considered a young man!"

"But despite his age, Elder Xia managed a move that even I, as young as I am, admire! Very good, this is very good!"

"The wise plant trees under which the future generations rest!" Shen Peishen mused, "If one day I could go further, take Elder Xia's position, I would certainly make bold moves, committing actions that could go down in records!"

"You will, Teacher, I believe in you!" Lin Yu said earnestly.

Shen Peishen laughed heartily, "Everyone here is our own, I trust all of you. It was just a joke, Lin Yu, you took it seriously."

Lin Yu smiled a little, then said, "I'm not thinking as far into the future as Teacher. However, I'm very interested in meeting that New-type Affairs Officer right now!"

"I believe his name is Bai Xiaosheng!"

Chapter 868: Meeting Again

While waiting for the dishes, Bai Xiaosheng shared with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying the call he had received from Lin Ke.

"Our target for this trip to JinPing is Yunfeng Business Management. It is a subsidiary of our group, a business management consulting firm that deals with commercial real estate and covers planning, merchant recruitment, operations, management, and even diagnostic consulting services," Bai Xiaosheng said, "Their general manager, named Zhang Kai, is only forty-two years old, quite young indeed."

At this, Lin Weiwei burst into laughter.

"What is it?" Bai Xiaosheng curiously looked at her and asked.

"Xiaosheng, you are not even thirty yet and already a New-type Affairs Officer, yet you're calling a forty-plus-year-old general manager young. That's pretty hilarious," Lin Weiwei laughed, "Sorry, I couldn't hold it in!"

Lei Ying also smiled. Indeed!

Just now, Bai Xiaosheng really did seem quite old-fashioned.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, shrugged, and continued, "This Yunfeng Business Management, before Zhang Kai took over, was a subsidiary with booming performance and ranked high within the group's internal strength ratings. But since Zhang Kai took charge ..."

"Did they start to experience significant losses or poor management?" asked Lin Weiwei.

"If the issues were that obvious, we wouldn't be needed; the Group's Affairs Department would have handled it themselves," Bai Xiaosheng shook his head, "Since Zhang Kai took charge, the annual performance has been good, although not comparable to the best periods!"

Since the management is fine, why then the investigation?

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying appeared puzzled.

"Accounting issues!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed, "Normally, every six months, the subsidiaries submit a semi-annual report for audit by the Affairs Department. This time, the Affairs Assistant, who was responsible for checking the accounts of Yunfeng Business Management, is Lin Ke's person!"

"Just looking at the company's accounts, everything seems very standard with no issues, but the Affairs Assistant accidentally noticed that for the three months of April, May, and June, all cases of terminated

partnerships, along with the reasons and frequency, were identical to old reports from the same period two years ago!"

"So, Lin Ke suspects accounting fraud!"

"Zhang Kai, as the general manager, is suspected of falsifying accounts and embezzling company assets!"

"Of course, what I mentioned is just one of the suspicions. Lin Ke has more information, more evidence. Unfortunately, there's been a problem, and reorganizing it will take at least two days," Bai Xiaosheng said, "So, we have to wait here."

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded.

"Then let's wait, we can have fun for a couple of days," Lin Weiwei smiled, "Officer Lin really treats you well, Xiaosheng, handing you such a clear-cut case. With our abilities, it's very easy to spot the other party's issues. It seems like Officer Lin is just giving you performance points for free!"

Bai Xiaosheng smiled. He indeed was thankful to Lin Ke for giving him this opportunity, which would undoubtedly earn him more points.

As they were chatting, there was a gentle knock on the door; then, a waiter with a tray came in to serve the dishes.

The three stopped their conversation and began to eat.

After all, it was past two o'clock, and everyone was extremely hungry.

Fortunately, the dishes were served quickly and continuously, and they were really tasty as well.

The trio praised the food continuously and feasted heartily.

Soon, the table was in a mess.

Last, the supervisor came over, bringing a dish of beef soup and a large fruit platter.

"Our manager heard about this and specifically wants to thank you, serving you an additional West Lake beef soup!" the supervisor said with a smile.

"Please thank your manager for me," Bai Xiaosheng responded with a smile.

"The manager said once is happenstance, twice is familiarity; next time, you're not just a customer but also a friend," the supervisor smiled, "Our place isn't just for banquets; we also host various parties and gatherings, so if you ever need, consider us."

"Sure," Bai Xiaosheng nodded and smiled.

This place really knows how to do business.

After delivering the items, the supervisor left.

As they chatted and enjoyed the soup and fruit, feeling full and content, Bai Xiaosheng and his companions got up to go downstairs and prepare to pay the bill and leave.

As they were just leaving the private room, a group of people came out from the room next door — it was Shen Peishen, Lin Yu, and their company.

"Old sir, have you finished your meal too?" Bai Xiaosheng greeted with a smile, "Please, after you!"

Shen Peishen looked at Bai Xiaosheng, slightly smiled, and said, "Young man, since you have given up the room for us and now giving way again, I would feel bad. How about this, let's go together; meeting is fate, why not have a chat?"

Bai Xiaosheng was taken aback, then nodded and smiled, "Sure!"

"Please," Shen Peishen said.

Lin Yu smiled and made way for Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng walked over and walked alongside Shen Peishen.

However, Lin Yu noticed that Bai Xiaosheng always kept half a step behind and didn't truly walk alongside him.

"Showing respect to your senior, well done!" Lin Yu quietly nodded in approval of Bai Xiaosheng's action.

"Old sir, are you from JinPing?"

"It's my first time here. How about you, young friend?"

"It's also my first time."

Bai Xiaosheng and Shen Peishen chatted as they walked.

"Brother, what should I call you?" Lin Yu asked.

"Ah!" Shen Peishen smiled and stopped him, "Why need to recognize each other when meeting? To chat without barriers even as strangers has its own charm. Let's not ruin it!"

Lin Yu smiled and nodded.

Bai Xiaosheng also smiled.

The group walked downstairs, and Shen Peishen started talking to Bai Xiaosheng about the dishes served at the restaurant.

Initially they talked about the look, smell, and taste of the dishes, but as the conversation progressed, Shen Peishen discovered that Bai Xiaosheng knew a lot about the stories behind each dish and about historical figures, which piqued his interest, leading them to discuss history.

"It's rare to meet such a knowledgeable young man!" Shen Peishen couldn't praise Bai Xiaosheng enough.

"Old sir, you truly possess profound knowledge, which is admirable!" Bai Xiaosheng also sincerely expressed his admiration.

Bai Xiaosheng knew that it was only with the help of Red Lotus that he could readily recall so many historical details.

But this elder truly had substantial knowledge!

The elder and the junior praised and admired each other.

As they talked, they reached the ground floor.

Paying was not something they needed to worry about. From Shen Peishen's side, a male assistant stepped out of the group and hurried to the counter, and from Bai Xiaosheng's side, it was Lin Weiwei.

All Bai Xiaosheng and the others needed to do was to keep talking and walk outside.

At this time, the lobby should normally have been almost empty of customers.

But near the entrance, at a table by the aisle, there sat a man drinking alcohol.

He looked very upset, as if he had been up all night; dark, heavy circles under his eyes, and a worried expression on his face.

In front of him were three dishes that had been touched and had gone somewhat cold.

On the table, there was also a briefcase. On the briefcase lay a stack of printed papers, the corners of which bore numerous handwritten corrections.

The waitstaff simply watched the man from a distance, not approaching to hasten him.

Having nearly finished his drink, the man gathered his belongings, staggered to his feet, and headed outside.

Perhaps not steady on his feet, he swayed and stumbled sideways.

Bai Xiaosheng and Shen Peishen just happened to be walking by.

Shen Peishen, engrossed in talking to Bai Xiaosheng, didn't notice the man about to bump into him!

The man was tall and big-bodied, looking like he was no lightweight; a collision like that could cause even a young person to stumble, let alone an old man.

Furthermore, Shen Peishen must not be bumped into.

"Teacher, be careful!"

Lin Yu, who was following behind, noticed and exclaimed with a change of expression.

Shen Peishen had been recuperating, and his body had injuries that couldn't withstand such a collision!

Chapter 869

When the drunk collided towards Shen Peishen, Bai Xiaosheng noticed it as well. He reached out and pulled the elderly man's arm, slowing his steps, then stepped forward himself, supporting the drunk's back with one hand and gently pushing him forward.

"Be careful," Bai Xiaosheng casually said.

"Oh?" The drunk steadied himself, not forgetting to turn his head and nod, saying, "Thank you."

Then, he continued walking.

It was obvious that he had just lost his balance temporarily and was not very drunk.

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head with a smile, but when he turned to look back at the elder, he paused, surprised.

Shen Peishen's face had turned pale, one hand pressed against his waist, his expression pained.

Bai Xiaosheng remembered that he hadn't used much force when he had pulled the elderly man, so he wondered how he had ended up looking like this.

Actually, Shen Peishen himself had gotten a fright and had twisted something.

"Sir, are you all right?" Lin Yu hurried over, wanting to support Shen Peishen but afraid to touch him.

"What happened to you?!" Bai Xiaosheng exclaimed in surprise.

Actually, he had noticed that the elder had been walking quite slowly, his body visibly stiff.

"It's nothing, it's nothing! Just an old problem!" Shen Peishen's face was deathly pale, and fine beads of sweat appeared on his forehead, but he still forced a smile.

However, it was clear he couldn't move any further.

Lin Yu and the others were very anxious but seemed to have no idea what to do.

"Quick, call an ambulance!" Lin Yu urgently instructed.

"No, Sir Shen can't lie down!" Shen Peishen's male assistant said hurriedly.

Lin Yu was at a loss but then saw Bai Xiaosheng place his hand on Shen Peishen's waist, which startled and frightened her, "You!"

"Don't talk!" Bai Xiaosheng commanded in a low voice, then with his other hand, he supported a spot on Shen Peishen's back and said gently, "Sir, relax here, don't strain. Yes, relax more..."

Shen Peishen was also in unbearable pain, but Bai Xiaosheng's calm words seemed to give him something to hold onto, and he subconsciously followed Bai Xiaosheng's instructions.

"Hold on!" Bai Xiaosheng suddenly shouted loudly.

Before Shen Peishen could react, Bai Xiaosheng, with a strange posture, twisted the elderly man's body sharply.

Everyone held their breath and focused, and the series of clear sounds of bones moving was especially frightening.

"What are you doing!" Lin Yu's eyes widened in anger as she stepped forward.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, stepped back, and pointed at Shen Peishen.

"Ah—"

Under Lin Yu's scrutiny, Shen Peishen let out a long moan, which, unlike a cry of pain, seemed to convey a sense of relief.

Lin Yu was momentarily stunned.

"Elder, please move a little, give it a try," Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said.

Shen Peishen did as told and looked incredulous immediately.

"Doesn't it feel much fresher?" Bai Xiaosheng smiled and said, "Your condition, I'm afraid you've seen a western doctor, but not a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner. Or perhaps you did see one, but traction and bone-setting weren't right. Actually, for this type of neurological bone disease, the right approach can show quick results."

Bai Xiaosheng spoke casually.

Shen Peishen moved his waist around, and although it still felt somewhat painful, he could move it now, and he looked at Bai Xiaosheng as if he were a hermit with out worldly skills, extremely grateful, "Young friend, thank you so much!"

Lin Yu was also extremely surprised and stared for a long while.

Then, she looked at Bai Xiaosheng with gratitude, "Brother, I was reckless just now, I am truly sorry! And thank you!"

"It's just a small effort, not worth mentioning," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"You are truly noble and righteous," Shen Peishen praised as he walked alongside Bai Xiaosheng.

At this moment, Lin Weiwei, who was responsible for settling the bill, and another assistant, hurried back as well.

The group then left the restaurant.

Shen Peishen had a warm conversation with Bai Xiaosheng and planned to leave contact information for future thanks.

"Hey, what is that person doing?" Suddenly, someone exclaimed from amongst the assistants.

Everyone instinctively looked up and saw sheets of paper floating in the air, and a person running crazily back and forth chasing after them, seemingly about to run onto a street crowded with traffic.

"It's that drunkard!"

"I saw him holding a stack of documents; he must have let go without noticing, and they flew away!"

"Chasing them like that is too dangerous!"

An alarmed cry rose from the crowd.

"Pull him back!" Bai Xiaosheng and Shen Peishen shouted simultaneously.

The assistants immediately ran over, but ultimately it was Lei Ying who, like picking up a little chick, brought the guy back.

"Let me go! My documents! I need to get them back!" The burly man struggled all the way, shouting loudly.

His eyes held not only drunkenness but also full of terror, as if those documents were his life and fortune.

Bai Xiaosheng, Shen Peishen, and Lin Yu walked over.

"Your documents went into the traffic, you running onto the street is seeking death, and you're bringing misfortune to those drivers as well! Documents are important, but is life not important?" Bai Xiaosheng asked, frowning.

The man sat down on the ground and looked up at Bai Xiaosheng before bursting into tears, pounding the ground and saying, "Without those documents, I'd be finished when I go back. What do I need my life for!"

To see such a big man cry so miserably in public, although it seemed he was drunkenly irrational, the reason was utterly absurd.

It was just some lost documents; just print another set, what was the big deal?

The crowd exchanged glances.

Under the crowd's questioning, the man cried and yelled intermittently, venting his emotions with the help of alcohol.

"You don't understand, that document had many handwritten changes, I needed to reenter them into the computer. The changes, I absolutely cannot remember them!"

"Start over? That's not possible, there's no time left!"

"I can't explain this to my boss, I'm a vice president, so what? His general manager position ensures he dominates over me!"

"That person, he's a bastard, no, he's a demon!"

"I work like a horse, I take the blame, and still, I'm not treated as a human!"

"This time it was also an order, I was en route to book a venue for a wine event, I only drank a little, how did this happen!"

"Resign? Do you have a mortgage, do you have a car loan?! If I resign, how will I live!"

The nearly middle-aged man seemed to have endless sorrow and misery, crying and making a scene intermittently.

The people exchanged helpless looks.

If left alone, he might really dash into the traffic.

"How about, we give you a tip to help you dodge this bullet," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"You, are you serious?" The man, reeking of alcohol, looked at Bai Xiaosheng.

"Then tell me, this time our company is being investigated by the higher-ups... without that document, how can we get through this. Well, you, tell me!" the man asked.

This statement carried a significant amount of information.

It seemed that his company intended to deceive the higher-ups during the inspection.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu couldn't help but furrow their brows.

"I say, don't you want to stop living this kind of life! This is a good opportunity to report to the investigators!" Lin Yu said sternly.

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment but shook his head, "Reporting is not the best strategy."

Hearing this, Lin Yu couldn't help but look at Bai Xiaosheng.

Unexpectedly, a disagreement arose between them so quickly.

Chapter 870: A Good Retreat to Advance!

In advising the drunkard on how to handle troublesome issues, Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu had differing opinions.

"Whether for the organization or for oneself, reporting to a higher authority is the only way to thoroughly solve the problem. On the organizational level, as employees, we must be responsible for the company. It's morally wrong to ignore problems within the company or to remain silent when witnessing superiors embezzling assets. On a personal level, even if he gets through this crisis, what then? He will continue to face endless problems. To report, though risky, may serve the cause of justice and long-term interests—it's worth a try!" Lin Yu stood by his opinion.

"Skipping hierarchical levels to report issues is a taboo in the workplace! Even if he wins, his career may be impacted, perhaps even finished!" Bai Xiaosheng said, "Moreover, considering the time constraints, it's too hasty, with no preparation, and there's no way to investigate the personnel coming from higher up. We don't know whether the visitors are genuinely interested in investigating the problems or if they're just going through the motions. Worse still, they might even be corrupt themselves!"

Lin Yu pondered for a moment, then continued, "You're right. However, I didn't suggest he confront them directly. I proposed two approaches: reaching out to the visitors and making an anonymous report to the top management. That way, even if the visitors are problematic, the top management will urge them to rectify their attitudes."

Bai Xiaosheng shook his head.

"That's overly idealistic! Given the time constraints, whether the top management can receive the report in time, pay sufficient attention, and prompt action—all these are uncertain! And time is exactly what he's lacking right now!"

"Fine, let's not talk about reporting!" said Lin Yu with a frown. "In your opinion, how can he first safely get through this ordeal? Rearranging the documents is out of the question; there isn't enough time. Without seeing the final result, his superior will regard any method as an excuse and make him take full responsibility, shouldering all the blame!"

"Tell me, would that not make things worse?"

Driven by his emotions, Lin Yu became somewhat aggressive.

"This is akin to a crisis PR situation, only the subject isn't a company, but an individual," said Bai Xiaosheng, unhurriedly.

"How can he get through the difficult time?"

"First and foremost, we have to understand that the real difficulty does not lie in the substance itself, but in the person—his superior!"

"What if we advise him to communicate with his boss, to make him aware that covering up issues could lead to bigger problems, and encourage him to take responsibility proactively, to retreat as a way to advance by voluntarily claiming the issue—what would happen then?"

"His superior wouldn't be foolish enough to just push all the problems onto a subordinate. Responsibility is something that leaders can't simply shove off completely!"

"So, under his suggestion, his superior would surely shift perspectives. Of course, we'd need to plan carefully, determining exactly what to say and how to take the blame, while simultaneously persuading his superior to see him as one of their own."

"This way, he and his superior are in the same boat. The 'enemy' they directly face is the same, and once this common understanding is formed, his superior might actually help him instead!"

"I'm simplifying, but this approach requires us to do a lot in guiding the other party's thinking. We can't attempt to retreat as a way to advance and end up being truly doomed."

"Ultimately, this is a strategy that places us in a must-win situation!"

Bai Xiaosheng laid out his thoughts.

"Retreat as a way to advance, eh? This is your plan?!" Lin Yu asked, frowning.

"Get past this hurdle first, then plan for the rest," Bai Xiaosheng stated earnestly.

The drunkard sat on the ground, looking up in a daze, first at Bai Xiaosheng, then at Lin Yu, back at Lin Yu, and again at Bai Xiaosheng. He thought everything they said made sense, he just didn't know whom to listen to.

Lin Yu's assistant nodded frequently in agreement with Lin Yu's words.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying nodded frequently in agreement with what Bai Xiaosheng said.

Each sided firmly with their own leader.

Shen Peishen listened attentively to both arguments, and couldn't help but look approvingly at Bai Xiaosheng with a hint of admiration in his gaze.

The two were in the midst of a heated discussion when, suddenly, they saw the drunkard yawn hugely and collapse onto the ground, promptly starting to snore loudly.

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu were taken aback.

What was happening?

They hadn't even come to a consensus on what to suggest when the person in question fell asleep...

Fell asleep...

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu exchanged a helpless glance and, as if by agreement, laughed.

"Sorry about that, I got a bit carried away just now." Bai Xiaosheng laughed, "Actually, I wanted him to protect himself first, and then naturally, we'd have to rely on your method to completely escape the predicament. Our ultimate pursuit is justice and long-term benefits!"

Lin Yu also smiled, "Me too, I got a bit excited! Actually, your approach isn't wrong, it's very... astute!"

Between the two of them, they actually started to commend each other.

"You two are quite amusing, one moment you almost start arguing, and now you're complimenting each other. Alright, now, there's no need for either of you to offer ideas, and you don't have disagreements either." Shen Peishen laughed heartily, pointing at the person on the ground, "This guy can't just sleep here! The restaurant staff seem to recognize him, and he did say he was here to discuss a partnership. Let the restaurant staff take him inside."

Lin Yu nodded, gestured to two assistants, and had them help the person up and take him back to the restaurant, "Song Time".

During this time, Lin Yu pulled Bai Xiaosheng over, smiled at him, and said, "People say I'm a bit eccentric, and sometimes I can be impulsive. One moment I might argue with you fiercely, and the next I might be toasting with you. I hope you don't mind!"

"Not at all." Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"You helped my teacher just now, and I'm really grateful for that. Take this, I don't like owing others." Lin Yu took out a card and handed it to Bai Xiaosheng.

Bai Xiaosheng glanced at it but did not take it.

"I didn't mean anything by it..." Lin Yu hurriedly said.

"I've said it was just a simple favor, not worth mentioning. I won't accept the money, and please don't worry about it." Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "I know you didn't mean anything, but this makes it even less meaningful."

"And someone like you, if there's a conflict, such small favors won't bind you. Living life as it comes is also a way to go." Bai Xiaosheng joked with a smile.

Lin Yu looked at Bai Xiaosheng and nodded with a smile.

"Since that is the case, I won't insist." Lin Yu put the card away.

The two chatted for a bit.

Bai Xiaosheng's phone suddenly rang.

"Excuse me, I need to take a call." Bai Xiaosheng stepped aside, and the caller was Lin Ke.

"Hello, Bai Xiaosheng, you're in JinPing now, right, you haven't booked a hotel yet? Head to a hotel called Junyu, I've booked a room for you there. Yes, go now. I've got an investigator in JinPing who knows some information, but he's leaving today on a train two hours from now. He'll share some information with you before he leaves." Lin Ke said.

"Okay." Bai Xiaosheng replied.

"Sorry, sir, we've got an urgent matter. We've got to go!"

After hanging up, Bai Xiaosheng greeted Shen Peishen and Lin Yu, then called Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying, and they hurriedly left.

Shen Peishen and Lin Yu watched them go.

"Quite an interesting young man!" Shen Peishen remarked to Lin Yu by his side, "Did you keep his contact information? What's that young man's name?"

"I didn't!" Lin Yu exclaimed in surprise.

"Then what were you talking to him about just now?" Shen Peishen asked curiously.

"Just a casual conversation... Maybe I should chase after him now?!" Lin Yu said.

"Forget it." Shen Peishen stopped him, looking in the direction where Bai Xiaosheng and the others were heading, and said, "We'll meet again if it's meant to be."