

## Two Trillion 961

### Chapter 961

Yu Qifeng looked at the incredibly youthful face before him, a kind of fear seeped from the depths of his heart, cold as the netherworld, piercing his heart and lungs.

All his ingenious arrangements had been seen through by someone.

The opposition's countermeasures, he hadn't discerned a single one.

Even now, he had just received the news!

Qifeng Group had been preparing for over half a year, pouring all available liquid capital it could muster into this venture.

Certain victory! Assured success! Zero risk!

That was the confidence of Yu Qifeng himself, as well as that of all the shareholders!

But now, he was being buried in Yunhai by the young man before him.

Forcefully withdrawing, impossible!

Increasing investment, suicidal!

The ruthlessness of this young man lay in the fact that he turned all of Qifeng Group's investments in Yunhai into patients awaiting rescue, then created a maelstrom that devoured everything that came to the rescue.

Yu Qifeng looked at Bai Xiaosheng, staring hard, as if trying to see through this young man, to figure out what kind of extraordinary being he was!

For a full five minutes, Yu Qifeng's gaze did not waver.

Not just him, Song Zhe, Yu Zhongtian, and Song Yao were doing the same.

People like Wei Dashan stared at Bai Xiaosheng too. When they learned that it was this young man who had trapped them in a quagmire from which they could not escape, their eyes were filled with deep respect, and fear.

What a terrifying person he must be, with a mind closer to that of a demon, to have such a fearsome plan!

Beside Bai Xiaosheng, Han Dong and others also looked at him, their gazes filled with awe and pride.

The entire restaurant fell silent.

The waiters looked on oddly, like people frozen in time.

Only one young person was not frozen, casually holding a teacup, sipping slowly and deliberately.

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng spoke up.

"Mr. Yu, I'm grateful that you invited me for a meal. Actually, I also came to talk business, and it's quite a coincidence, I'm here to discuss collaboration with you."

"As long as Qifeng Group gives up fifty-five percent of its shares in Yunhai to the Yunhai Enterprise Federation, we can talk, talk about cooperation. Of course, we will pay a certain sum of money... Just not as much as you initially paid. After all, these stakes are currently in trouble, so the shares should indeed have plummeted."

Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, "Also, there are a few small conditions, some of which are for self-protection. After all, when cooperating with a big player like Qifeng Group, we need to have some safeguards. That's reasonable, right?"

The conditions Bai Xiaosheng listed were very harsh.

In fact, without any additional conditions, Bai Xiaosheng's words in themselves were too provocative.

Song Zhe's face twitched, his obese body, chest heaving, looked as if he was truly angered.

Yu Qifeng's face turned from deathly white to iron blue.

"Mr. Bai Xiaosheng, do you really intend to take it this far?" Yu Qifeng's eyes were intense, his teeth clenched, "I can't accept these terms! They would grievously wound Qifeng Group, possibly taking years to recover!"

Bai Xiaosheng sighed with great regret, put down his cup, and shrugged his shoulders, "Well then, it seems our negotiation today is unsuccessful. I think we should call it quits here."

Having said that, Bai Xiaosheng stood up, signaling to Han Dong and others, "Let's go."

"Wait!" Yu Qifeng suddenly said.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him.

Yu Qifeng's face was sullen, his teeth clenched as he spoke word by word, "Why push things to such extremes! The ways of business are ever-changing, that's what you said! If Qifeng Group is driven into a corner, we might still turn the tables! Then it will be a fight to the death!"

Yu Qifeng's voice was fraught with exhaustion.

Bai Xiaosheng looked steadily at him.

"Who are you trying to scare?" Bai Xiaosheng sneered coldly, "Do you think there will be a chance, Chairman Yu!"

After speaking, Bai Xiaosheng headed straight for the exit, with Han Dong and others already standing and following behind him in sequence, each casting a cold glance at Yu Qifeng and the others as they passed.

After walking out more than a dozen steps, Bai Xiaosheng suddenly turned back, his face adorned with a mischievous smile, and headed straight for Song Zhe.

Before everyone else reacted, Bai Xiaosheng whispered a few words into Song Zhe's ear. The fat man initially resisted, but after listening, he was taken aback, his pupils visibly contracting.

Mr. Bai Xiaosheng patted Song Zhe on the shoulder, gave Yu Qifeng a smiling glance, and then left again.

This scene, let alone Yu Qifeng and his group, even Han Dong and the others watched the whole process in a daze.

It was absolutely impossible for Bai Xiaosheng to know Song Zhe; this was their first meeting, which was beyond doubt.

Moreover, that Song Zhe looked rough, arrogant, and vulgarian.

What could Bai Xiaosheng possibly have to say to him? And to do so in such a secretive manner.

However, in the presence of outsiders, Han Dong and the others restrained their curiosity and asked no questions.

In the restaurant, everyone watched with wide eyes as Bai Xiaosheng led his people away.

"What did he say to you?" Yu Qifeng couldn't help but frown and ask Song Zhe.

Song Zhe's mouth hung open in a daze, and he looked at Yu Qifeng with a complicated expression before finally saying, "Nothing."

After that, no matter how Yu Qifeng asked, he couldn't get to the bottom of it.

"Back to the company!" Yu Qifeng threw down his napkin and stood up hastily to leave without asking any more questions.

Qifeng Group had to quickly respond to the current predicament!

Upon leaving the restaurant and getting into the car, Bai Xiaosheng was immediately bombarded with questions from Lin Ke and the others.

"What on earth did you say to that fat guy?!"

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled and said nothing but one phrase, "The secrets of heaven cannot be revealed!"

However, after he finished, Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Lin Ke and said, "I'm leaving Yunhai the day after tomorrow."

"What!" Lin Ke was shocked.

Han Dong and the others were also taken aback.

"I've reported to Elder Xia, and Elder Xia will send someone to organize work in Yunhai. After that, let alone Qifeng Group, even more powerful companies wanting to deal with us, it will be impossible!" Bai Xiaosheng reassured Han Dong with a smile.

"And furthermore," Bai Xiaosheng said, "Elder Xia mentioned that the old base of Qifeng Group is already being targeted by several companies that have prepared to clean them out!"

"This time, they won't die but will be left disabled!"

"Elder Xia's meaning is—those who dare to strike against my group's enterprises must be taught a severe lesson!"

The words of Bai Xiaosheng excited everyone in the car.

The prestige of the group was not to be challenged!

In the following month, upon returning to headquarters, Yu Qifeng would discover that the plight facing Qifeng Group was even worse than Yunhai's!

Several major enterprises of Zhenbei Group simultaneously exerted pressure and surrounded it.

Long after, once Qifeng Group had dealt with all the troubles, it would become weak and listless.

But that was not even the worst.

The most terrifying thing was that, one month later, on a certain day, Qifeng Group suddenly called an unannounced general meeting of shareholders.

Song Zhe presided over it.

At the meeting, they removed Yu Qifeng as the chairman!

It was only much later, when the news reached Bai Xiaosheng, who had long since left, through Han Dong, that Bai Xiaosheng finally revealed the answer.

What he turned back to say to Song Zhe, that fat guy.

Bai Xiaosheng had told Song Zhe about some of "the little tricks" Yu Qifeng used in stock operations.

"Yu Qifeng intends to use these to drive your Song Family out of the group, be careful."

That was the last sentence Song Zhe heard.

Song Zhe, that fat guy, might be incompetent or foolish.

But just because he's foolish doesn't mean you should think he's easy to deceive.

Thinking of touching his money?

He's sharper than a monkey!

Chapter 962 "Unlock Task" Release

Two days later, Bai Xiaosheng set out on his journey, accompanied by Lin Ke.

"I have followed the situation here for another two days, and it has almost stabilized. I have also given you the follow-up plan. When the new person in charge from the group arrives, you will sit here together with him, and with Elder Xia as backup, this place will be as secure as a fortified wall. The Qifeng Group is nothing to worry about; they won't be able to stir up any trouble." Inside the car, Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile to Lin Ke.

"Ah, I really don't know what the old man is thinking, why he wants to transfer you away," Lin Ke grumbled. "When we are out in the field, we are so free and easy!"

Lin Ke was also reluctant to let him go.

To this, Bai Xiaosheng just smiled.

Affairs Officer and New-type Affairs Officer, could they be the same? The career of a New-type Affairs Officer only lasts two years, and he is destined not to have leisure time.

Elder Xia wanted him, as a New-type Affairs Officer, to become active, not only to cause a stir in one place but to start actions everywhere.

Elder Xia also handed him a list, which did not detail the troubled companies but only listed some potentially problematic regions.

Elder Xia asked him to investigate.

Bai Xiaosheng agreed.

In fact, earlier on the day Yu Qifeng hosted the banquet, Bai Xiaosheng received a score from Red Lotus.

After all, his leadership in the group's business and countering the foreign firms had yielded no small achievement.

Bai Xiaosheng vividly remembered every word spoken by Red Lotus at that time because they would have a great impact on him.

"This time, host Bai Xiaosheng effectively organized all the enterprises in Yunhai for the market defense battle, countered the foreign enterprises' market monopolization, and safeguarded the group's interests. Reward score: ten points."

"Currently, all methods to obtain points will increase by twenty percent, adding an extra two points!"

"Total points earned: twelve points!"

To tell the truth, Bai Xiaosheng was very, very pleased when he heard this information.

Earning twelve points at once was worth all his efforts.

Unfortunately, Bai Xiaosheng's happiness lasted less than two seconds before Red Lotus's voice continued—

"The total score obtained is estimated to exceed seventy percent of the phase. Now, initiating forced lock!"

Lock?

Bai Xiaosheng was stunned.

"Total score locked at seventy points for the Affairs Officer level, excess points will not be added!"

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbfounded.

Just two points added, and that's it?

This was unprecedented!

"You need to complete an unlock to add more points. Unlock task released!" Red Lotus continued.

A chill ran down Bai Xiaosheng's spine.

By intuition, this unlock task must be very difficult!

However, if there's a way to solve the issue, there's hope.

Bai Xiaosheng braced himself.

One task after another, it wasn't like he had never done them before; actually, they were quite interesting and challenging.

"There are two unlock tasks, Task One and Task Two. You may choose either one to complete the unlock," Red Lotus said.

Bai Xiaosheng was immediately intrigued.

He could choose the task?

"Tell me about them; I'm listening!" Bai Xiaosheng expressed interest.

"Unlock Task One: Spend one point, unlock immediately, total score reduced to sixty-nine points for the Affairs Officer level," Red Lotus said.

Bai Xiaosheng was dumbstruck.

What kind of task is that!

Spend one point and then it's unlocked?

"Unlock Task Two: Fulfill the following conditions to complete the unlock—," Red Lotus continued.

"From today, for one year, you will not gain any points!!"

"Within one year, travel at least four provinces and twelve cities, with a total journey of no less than ten thousand li, and carry out investigations and rectifications of local enterprises."

"After satisfying two conditions, the unlock will be completed!"

This task is not even on the same level as the one above!

Bai Xiaosheng was full of suspicion.

Could there be a trap in this? Bai Xiaosheng thought to himself. Otherwise, how could such an inequitable situation be presented as a choice!

As expected—

Red Lotus continued, "Unlocking with Task One will, in the next phase, cause a fifteen percent reduction in acquiring points through any means!"

"Unlocking with Task One will forcibly add a specific task in the next phase, a task without any reward!"

"Unlocking with Task One will, in the next phase..."

As Red Lotus listed them one by one, Bai Xiaosheng's eyes widened.

Indeed, unlocking with one point was unreliable and a huge trap!

"I choose Task Two!"

Bai Xiaosheng didn't wait for Red Lotus to finish and decisively chose Task Two.

"Ding, Task Two unlock selected!" Red Lotus sounded, then said, "Unlocking with Task Two will..."

Bai Xiaosheng's heart suddenly tightened—had he chosen too hastily?

Could Task Two also have additional conditions?

"Unlocking with Task Two, the next phase will increase the channels for obtaining points, as well as issue reward tasks!" Red Lotus said.

These words finally settled Bai Xiaosheng's hanging heart back to its place.

Since that was the case, why hesitate!

After all, the old man had given him a list that matched Task Two like "chocolate on a rainy day"—a perfect match.

Bai Xiaosheng felt a surge of joy.

With this undisclosed "inside information," Bai Xiaosheng was eager to leave Yunhai and head to other provinces and cities to start his "unlocking journey."

After all, Task Two was not simple; he had to travel through at least four provinces and twelve cities, and encountering troubles like in Yunhai could be very cumbersome.

Bai Xiaosheng made a firm decision; he wouldn't struggle as much as he had in Yunhai.

This time, if he encountered similar situations, he would not hesitate to call for help, determined to use his authority to bring about fierce support from the group.

This was the policy Bai Xiaosheng had set for himself.

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng really didn't mind the length of Task Two.

Time flies swiftly, and the days would pass quickly.

Moreover, Bai Xiaosheng really wanted to meet more people and encounter more situations before the upgrade, to enrich his professional experience and broaden his horizons.

For him, this was all advantage and no disadvantage.

Now, about to start his journey. At the train station, Bai Xiaosheng was surprised to find—

Han Dong and other corporate leaders were all there waiting for him.

Those general managers looked at Bai Xiaosheng with awe and gratitude in their eyes.

Without Bai Xiaosheng, they would have been the ones in dire straits.

At this moment, they were the victors!

At the end-of-year evaluation, just based on this performance, they would all be exceptional.

All this, they owed to Bai Xiaosheng.

"Affairs Officer Bai, have a smooth journey!" everyone rushed to shake his hand and bid him farewell.

"Whenever you come back to Yunhai, you must visit my humble home!" Han Dong didn't say much this time, but his words were full of heartfelt sentiment.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him and smiled, "Sure!"

Just as he was saying goodbye to everyone, suddenly someone walked over and said to Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "So, you're leaving just like that?"

"And you didn't even let me know!" In his words, there seemed to be a tone of reproach.

When Han Dong and the others saw who it was, they were immediately startled—

Mayor Chu Xingyun!

Chapter 963: Mayor Sees Off

Amid the astonishment of everyone present, Bai Xiaosheng turned around and saw Mayor Chu Xingyun behind him.

Mayor Chu Xingyun was smiling at Bai Xiaosheng.

"I didn't expect to meet you here!" Bai Xiaosheng was also somewhat surprised, then he smiled, "I heard that you were inspecting the counties below."

Facing this remark, Mayor Chu Xingyun smiled and said nothing.

"This time, Mayor Chu specifically hurried back to see you off!" Song He spoke from the side, "We've been waiting here for you for over ten minutes."

Song He had always been in contact with Han Dong, and he had obtained concrete information from him regarding many details of Yunhai's "business war."

From beginning to end, Mayor Chu Xingyun had been paying attention.

At Song He's words, everyone at the scene was astonished.

The mayor had specifically rushed back just to see Bai Xiaosheng off?

And they had specifically waited for more than ten minutes!

Han Dong and the others could not help but be amazed.

Unexpectedly, Officer Bai Xiaosheng had managed to shock everyone once again before his departure.

Behind Mayor Chu, there stood a plump middle-aged man with several uniformed personnel likely in charge of the high-speed train station.

The plump middle-aged man, laughing, interjected, "Mayor Chu, why don't you and this guest come to my office for a chat. You can tell us the train number of this gentleman, and if it arrives, I can have someone call you."

He looked at Bai Xiaosheng, showing no surprise or scrutiny due to his youth, only seriousness.

This, too, was a form of cultivation.

"No need." Mayor Chu Xingyun declined, looking at Bai Xiaosheng with a smile, "I know the time of his train; it leaves in less than half an hour. And I, just want to chat with him for a moment."

"Shall we go over there?"

The last sentence was directed at Bai Xiaosheng by Mayor Chu Xingyun, who also pointed to a corner inside the station.

"Okay." Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

The two men, one after the other, walked over there.

The person in charge of the high-speed train station quickly arranged for people to secure the surroundings to prevent any disturbances to Mayor Chu and Bai Xiaosheng.

Han Dong, Lin Ke, and others also watched from a distance.

In their eyes, too, was a look of astonishment.

It was their first time seeing the mayor personally come to the station to see someone off.

This kind of honor was truly not something just anyone could achieve!

In the eyes of Han Minghao and others, there was an added fervor.

This peer had brought them too many shocks, and his status as an "idol" in their hearts was nearly unshakeable!

Elsewhere.

Mayor Chu Xingyun and Bai Xiaosheng started chatting.

"These days, you have really stirred up our Yunhai business community. Hmm, fortunately, both sides restrained themselves and were rational enough not to cause major market fluctuations. Otherwise, I wouldn't be here to see you off, but to hold you accountable," joked Mayor Chu Xingyun.

Actually, Mayor Chu Xingyun had obtained all the details through Song He from Han Dong.

Bai Xiaosheng's leading of his enterprise to defeat the Qifeng Group had also surprised him.

Bai Xiaosheng, this young man, not only had a broad vision and ideas but could also command actual business battles and keep within the lines, which was truly a great talent!

Skilled in both literature and martial arts!

Mayor Chu Xingyun had some admiration for him.

"About this matter, we actually have to thank you, Mayor Chu!" said Bai Xiaosheng earnestly.

More things, actually need not be said, as everyone understands them well.

Without Mayor Chu's reassurance, their victory would not only have been uncertain, but they would have been stopped from the beginning.

"No, I think I should thank you!" Mayor Chu humorously said, "Although one Qifeng Group has left, there are two large enterprises from Zhenbei Group coming to Yunhai, and they have made contact with Song He. The strength of these two enterprises is on par with Qifeng Group! Their investment is also very substantial!"

Mayor Chu Xingyun, with profound meaning, smiled and asked, "Does this count as your seniors' thanks to Yunhai for not intervening this time?"

Bai Xiaosheng was startled.

He had no idea there was such a situation.

It seemed that Sir Xiahou Qi was not only aiming to teach Qifeng Group a lesson, but he also sent businesses to consolidate this market and, additionally, to greatly court the favor of the Yunhai City Government Office.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, "When corporations are eyeing the Yunhai market, it proves the city is developing well! Businesses make money and also propel city development, that's a win-win!"

"Well said! Only a win-win is a true win!" Mayor Chu Xingyun laughed heartily.

These two were chatting and laughing, enjoying their conversation.

On the other side, the crowd watched with astonishment.

In the station, there were many passing travelers.

One person, in a hurry, was followed by an assistant who, pulling a suitcase, almost had to jog to keep up.

This person, without meaning to, saw that many people were gathered there. At first, he didn't care, until he saw Han Dong and others.

He suddenly froze, his gaze sweeping over, and he jumped when he saw Song He.

"Yunhai's Mayor Chu's chief secretary, Song He!"

The person stopped in his tracks, surprised.

This was none other than Wei Dashan from Qifeng Group.

Though Yu Qifeng, Song Zhe, and others had returned to the headquarters two days earlier to mobilize resources to handle trouble, they couldn't just abandon Yunhai.

Therefore, Wei Dashan stayed behind.

However, he had heard that the headquarters faced even bigger troubles in the past two days.

Wei Dashan made a call to Yu Qifeng asking to be recalled.

Right now, he saw this scene!

"Mr. Wei, why aren't you leaving?" Wei Dashan's assistant, unable to help himself, asked.

Wei Dashan made a silencing gesture and stealthily looked in that direction.

Seeing that Han Dong and the general managers, especially Song He, were all looking in one direction, Wei Dashan also looked over.

He saw two people.

Wei Dashan's eyes immediately went wide, and he stared in disbelief, continuously rubbing his eyes.

Eventually, he saw clearly.

"That is Bai Xiaosheng, and the person beside him is..."

"Mayor Chu Xingyun!"

Wei Dashan, incredulous, watched the two of them, observing how they talked and laughed like friends.

Wei Dashan swallowed hard and quietly, with his assistant, slipped away.

This scene, he had to report to Yu Qifeng and urgently recommend—

Here in Yunhai, it's still better to "seek peace" with the Yunhai Enterprise Federation, the terms Bai Xiaosheng proposed initially, agree to them!

This was the only chance!

Unfortunately, Wei Dashan would not have imagined that his advice would not be taken by Yu Qifeng.

The decision Yu Qifeng ultimately made was even more drastic; he transferred all investments in Yunhai to Zhenbei Group as a means to "seek peace"!

By that time, Yu Qifeng realized Bai Xiaosheng's true identity and instantly regretted it to the point his guts turned green.

Afterward, Yu Zhongtian's days were incredibly hard.

His father took out all his frustrations on him.

After all, it was Yu Zhongtian who had provoked Bai Xiaosheng first.

This led to, long after, Yu Zhongtian feeling chest tightness, shortness of breath, and heart palpitations whenever he mentioned the name Bai Xiaosheng...

In the station.

Mayor Chu Xingyun, reluctant to part, glanced at the time and extended his hand to Bai Xiaosheng, "It's getting late, I won't keep you any longer, have a smooth journey! When you have time, come back for a visit!"

Touched by Mayor Chu's sincerity, Bai Xiaosheng was also moved and shook his hand, "I will!"

Finally, Bai Xiaosheng left with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

A year's journey, thus began.

Chapter 964: 1 Year Later

A year later.

Linshen City.

In the office of the President of Zhenbei Group, Greater China Region, Xiahou Qi was smiling as he read a report, with Li Haofeng sitting across from him.

Li Haofeng had grown a faint beard, giving him an elegant yet solid presence.

Over the year, he had achieved remarkable success, becoming one of the outstanding Senior Affairs Officers.

"Ah, you young people are indeed full of energy," Xiahou Qi, tired from reading the report, put it down, took a sip of water, and smiled at Li Haofeng, "Among the Senior Affairs Officers, you have progressed the fastest. But in terms of improvement, even you can't compare to the two young men in this report!"

Xiahou Qi was referring to Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu.

Li Haofeng, having also read the report, simply smiled.

"Yes! Every generation produces remarkable talents! The new waves of the Yangtze River push the old ones ahead! Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Yu, these two Affairs Officers, even make me feel somewhat embarrassed. When I was an Affairs Officer, it wasn't this extreme!"

Xiahou Qi chuckled and nodded, as if talking to himself, repeating the content of the report, "Lin Yu, within a year, traversed four provinces and eighteen cities in the north, investigating more than thirty general managers of subsidiaries, even causing two provincial industry heads to issue public apologies! Incredible!"

"As for Bai Xiaosheng..."

A sincere and relieved smile appeared on Xiahou Qi's face, "Even more extreme! More so than Lin Yu!"

"Traveling through five provinces and seventeen cities, discovered nearly thirty general managers of subsidiaries! He got nearly ten people ousted from their jobs! The penalties Lin Yu imposed involved writing self-criticism essays or forfeiting bonuses, but Bai Xiaosheng's approach was harsher, including suspending a provincial industry head from duty. If there had been sufficient evidence, he would even dare to make a move against Senior Affairs Officers!"

Xiahou Qi became excited as he spoke about Bai Xiaosheng.

"It's almost become a rule, my affairs department gets stirred up by him once a month! Those Affairs Officers turn pale at the mention of him. The key thing is, he not only targets companies but also Affairs Officers themselves. Due to his investigations, three Affairs Officers have been suspended or demoted, earning him the nickname 'Devil Bai'. Those who replaced them called him 'Good Man Bai'. Isn't that interesting!"

Li Haofeng also overflowed with a smile.

"You initially appointed Bai Xiaosheng as the New-type Affairs Officer, hoping he would stir things up, and now he's doing exceedingly well. Lin Yu is also remarkable, even more so than last year," said Li Haofeng, "It's just unfortunate that Bai Xiaosheng emerged, stealing his thunder."

"Both are excellent, the future of my affairs department, seeds of the Senior Affairs Officers!" Xiahou Qi said contentedly.

Li Haofeng nodded along.

"By the way, where is Bai Xiaosheng now?" Xiahou Qi asked, "I know about Lin Yu, but Bai Xiaosheng's whereabouts are too erratic. By the time his reports arrive, he's already left the relevant city. The boy is slipperier than an eel."

Li Haofeng chuckled, "Who knows? If he appeared in Linshen, I wouldn't be surprised."

"But he should be coming back, having been away for so long."

"Yes!" Xiahou Qi nodded, "Indeed, it's time for him to return!"

At that moment, at the Linshen high-speed train station.

Three people walked out of the station together.

Leading them was a young man with black hair and black eyes, whose face bore an added air of maturity and intelligence, with wisdom gleaming within his smiling eyes.

Following him, a man and a woman, who also appeared more refined than a year ago.

"Xiaosheng, where are we heading now? Back to headquarters?" the accompanying beauty asked the young man ahead.

These three were Bai Xiaosheng, Lin Weiwei, and Lei Ying.

Over the past year, they had achieved remarkable success.

Bai Xiaosheng was part of the Affairs Officers duo, alongside Lin Yu, but discussions about Bai Xiaosheng were filled with more apprehension.

Due to his authority, Bai Xiaosheng not only regulated companies but also investigated Affairs Officers uncompromisingly, even daring to confront the shadows of the Senior Affairs Officers and regional heads behind them.

This led many to curse him behind his back as "Devil Bai."

This was one of the nicer names, "stubborn mule," "mad dog," and other such insulting nicknames hinted at a certain despair when he set his sights on someone.

But Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind; anyway, everyone who cursed him ended up terribly dealt with by him.

The experiences of the past year had seen Bai Xiaosheng grow beyond comparison.

Actually, if you really think about it, saying it's been a year, there are still a few days left, he kind of came back early.

"Right now, it's only a matter of days until my score unlocks. Once it does, I can officially aim for the Senior Affairs Officer level!" Excited after his trials and ready to see his rainbow, Bai Xiaosheng stepped onto the soil of Linshen with great spirits.

"No, Weiwei, let's not go to headquarters yet. Let's visit our own company first!" Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He was referring to the company where Ron took the lead, but he himself was actually the boss.

Over the past year, that company really took off, shooting up the domestic industry rankings.

This was thanks to Ron's efforts and the support from the Tengyun Lu Family, as well as collaborations with Kelson Ariel and the Kevin Siblings in Europe. Even the big guy from Zhengdong Province was strongly supporting them. It was hard not to succeed.

According to Ron's report, they had expanded the office area and were eagerly inviting the boss to inspect it again.

This was the opportunity.

"Ron's place, right? I wonder if he still has a soft spot for spicy crayfish," Lin Weiwei recalled the chubby foreigner and couldn't help but laugh.

Lei Ying shrugged his shoulders; he often interacted with Ron over video calls alongside Bai Xiaosheng.

"I actually think his biggest improvement is in his Chinese. He speaks it quite fluently now. It seems he found a teacher from the northeast... Ah, their company's foreigners all speak with that regional accent."

Lin Weiwei looked at him oddly, "You must not know, he didn't find a teacher, he actually married a woman from there."

"Ah?" Lei Ying was surprised.

"And now, that foreigner is totally under his wife's thumb."

"Ah!"

Every video call, Lei Ying hadn't paid much attention and was unaware of these details.

"Let's go, this time let's see for ourselves just how fluent that big guy's Chinese is," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

The three of them hailed a taxi by the roadside and headed straight for the company.

The ride was smooth, and the driver was chatty.

While chatting, suddenly a dog darted out in front of the taxi on the service lane.

"Damn!" The driver was startled and swerved the steering wheel to dodge, then a "bang" was heard, and the car shook with the impact.

The car was scratched!

The driver's eyes widened, and he stuck his head out the window, taking just one glance, his face instantly turned pale, "Bentley!"

"How do you drive!" A person from that car came down furiously and stormed over, yelling.

The taxi driver was nearly in tears.

Bai Xiaosheng looked outside and instantly found it funny, patting the driver on the shoulder.

"Don't worry, bro. Leave it to me!"

He knew this person!

An old acquaintance, ah!

Chapter 965: It's Okay to Speak

The Bentley driver was a young man, dressed in a suit and leather shoes which were clearly not cheap. He didn't seem like a full-time chauffeur.

He took a couple of steps toward the taxi, roared angrily, and then turned back, inspecting the front of his car with a face full of gloom.

The front of the car was scraped, and the headlights were broken.

How was he supposed to pick up anyone now!

"Get out! Can't you f\*cking drive!"

The Bentley-driving young man bellowed furiously and hastily fished out a cellphone, dialing a number in a rush.

"Dad! I can't make it, the car's been scratched. Send someone else to pick them up..."

"Yes, yes, I know, but it's not my fault this time!"

The young man quickly explained what happened and seemingly ended the call, sinking into some despair.

Sensing that someone was getting out of the taxi, the young man immediately glared angrily over.

It wasn't just one person getting out of the taxi but four.

The young man first glared at the taxi driver with eyes full of hatred!

The taxi driver was close to crying.

He really couldn't afford to pay for damages to a Bentley!

"Mr. Zhang, long time no see!"

One of the people getting out from the back seat of the taxi called out to the young man with a smile on his face.

The Bentley-driving young man was taken aback and looked at the person addressing him.

A peer, somewhat familiar...

The one who greeted him was naturally Bai Xiaosheng. Seeing the other party didn't seem to recognize him, he smiled and mentioned a name as a reminder, "What, aren't you with Chen Xiaoya?"

With the mention of Chen Xiaoya, the Bentley-driving young man was startled, frowned slightly, appraised Bai Xiaosheng from head to toe, and then his eyes brightened.

"It's you!"

He remembered!

"Mr. Zhang Tianze, you really do forget your friends!" Bai Xiaosheng laughed.

The person driving the Bentley was indeed Zhang Tianze.

Back then, the two had had a conflict.

Zhang Tianze was pressuring Shang Wanwan to drink, so Bai Xiaosheng forced a full glass on Zhang Tianze.

That drunk feeling afterwards is still fresh in Zhang Tianze's memory.

Afterward, Zhang Tianze, and his father Zhang Heran had personally seen Bai Xiaosheng chatting and laughing with Xiahou Qi.

From that moment on, Zhang Tianze came to respect Bai Xiaosheng, not daring to provoke him.

Although Chen Xiaoya found Bai Xiaosheng a bit annoying, she also said that Zhang Tianze wasn't a bad person at his core, and indeed had some redeeming qualities.

Bai Xiaosheng's impression of Zhang Tianze wasn't too unfavorable.

After all, there had been friction, but they had settled the score on the spot.

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't one to hold grudges.

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng greeting Zhang Tianze like an old acquaintance, the taxi driver's eyes sparked with hope.

He might have to exhaust his wealth to pay for damages to the Bentley, but if he could pay less, that was a lifeline.

Therefore, the taxi driver watched the two men eagerly.

After his initial shock, Zhang Tianze suddenly had a strange glint in his eyes, as if a ray of hope had passed through them.

Bai Xiaosheng was somewhat surprised by this.

Why was this Mr. Zhang looking at him with such an expression?

Zhang Tianze rushed over, stacking a smile on his face and using respectful titles, "Mr. Bai, I didn't expect to run into you here!"

"Indeed, it must be fate."

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, pointing to the scratch, "Mr. Zhang, don't be too hard on this taxi brother. Since I was riding in his car, I should bear part of the responsibility."

Bai Xiaosheng then reassured the taxi driver, "Don't worry, I'll cover the costs outside of insurance."

Bai Xiaosheng wasn't short of money, and having experienced hardship himself, he understood what an accident like this could mean to someone from the lower tiers of society - it could ruin a family.

Since he was able to help, naturally, he wouldn't stand by and do nothing.

If those managers he had tormented knew about this scene, they would surely be dumbfounded.

"Devil Bai," he actually has such a kind side!

But why not towards them!

The Affairs Officer Bai Xiaosheng, who is decisively ruthless and stone-hearted, never showed any mercy!

Seeing Bai Xiaosheng speak like that, the taxi driver, a man in his forties, was genuinely touched and kept bowing to Bai Xiaosheng in gratitude.

"Uncle, you don't have to do this, my Xiaosheng doesn't like such things," Lin Weiwei said with a smile.

Lei Ying also nodded with a smile.

"Hey, look at what you're saying! For your face, what need is there for compensation!" Zhang Tianze was very straightforward, shouting to the taxi driver from afar, "That uncle, you can go! Be more careful when driving in the future, look how dangerous this was!"

Let him just go?

The taxi driver was speechless.

Filing an insurance claim would also have a big impact on him.

And now, just to leave?

No need for compensation?

That Bentley's repairs would cost hundreds of thousands, and they're just letting it go?

The taxi driver incredulously looked at Zhang Tianze, then looked at Bai Xiaosheng with immense respect!

He did indeed pick up a big shot today!

So young, yet with just a word, a problem involving hundreds of thousands was resolved!

"That uncle, you should go," Bai Xiaosheng wasn't polite and said with a smile to the taxi driver.

"Ah, ah!" the taxi driver bowed to the two of them and proceeded to get into his car.

"Wait a moment," Zhang Tianze suddenly spoke.

The taxi driver got a scare, thinking he was going to go back on his word.

"How much will it cost to fix your car? I'll pay for it," Zhang Tianze said.

The taxi driver was stunned.

In the end, who hit whom...

"No need, no need, thank you, thank you!" the taxi driver said effusively, quickly got into the car, and drove away in a hurry.

This car accident was satisfactorily resolved.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled at Zhang Tianze, "Well, Mr. Zhang, how much will it cost to fix your car? I'll pay."

"You're hitting me in the face! No need, no need!"

Zhang Tianze hurriedly waved his hands, his face overflowing with a smile, "Where do you need to go? I'll drive you!"

Refusing compensation, and even offering a ride.

In the end, Bai Xiaosheng couldn't win against Zhang Tianze and had to get into the car with Lin Weiwei and the others, informing him of their destination.

On the road, Zhang Tianze chatted warmly with Bai Xiaosheng while driving.

However, Bai Xiaosheng always felt that Zhang Tianze's enthusiasm was covering for something else.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying noticed it too.

Their experiences over the past year had greatly helped them progress.

"Mr. Zhang, do you always drive yourself without a chauffeur when you go out?" Bai Xiaosheng found an opportunity to ask with a smile.

A year ago, if Zhang Tian went out, he would at least bring an attendant.

And if he were in Linshen, he'd need to be escorted front and back to display his status.

But now, he was actually traveling alone and even driving himself.

This aroused Bai Xiaosheng's curiosity.

"Actually, to tell you the truth, I was going to pick up a guest. That person has a high status and doesn't like being surrounded by lots of people, so I played the role of the driver. It just so happened that we scraped the car on the way, so I had my dad send someone else to pick them up," Zhang Tianze explained.

So that's how it was! Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

But, what kind of guest would require Mr. Zhang to personally pick them up?

That person's status must be extraordinary!

Bai Xiaosheng noticed that Zhang Tianze occasionally looked at him through the rearview mirror, seemingly wanting to say something.

"Mr. Zhang, if you have something to say, feel free!"

Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile, taking the initiative.

Chapter 966: The Zhang Family Deep in the Vortex

Today, Zhang Tianze treated Bai Xiaosheng with much respect, and Bai Xiaosheng was also in a good mood. Coupled with the cause of Chen Xiaoya, Bai Xiaosheng let Zhang Tianze speak his mind without any reservations.

"This..." Zhang Tianze still hesitated, but after a glance at Bai Xiaosheng, he steeled his heart, "Then I'll speak!"

Bai Xiaosheng nodded.

"Actually, I was hoping to ask for your help," Zhang Tianze said.

Fearing that Bai Xiaosheng might misunderstand something, he quickly added, "Of course, I wouldn't make things difficult for you!"

Bai Xiaosheng and Lin Weiwei, who was beside him, exchanged a surprised glance, and the co-driver Lei Ying also curiously looked at Zhang Tianze.

No wonder he was so polite—it turned out he needed a favor!

"Let's hear it," Bai Xiaosheng said without agreeing or refusing, his tone gentle.

Zhang Tianze had come to ask for help, and it had to be for a reason, which he wanted to know.

"I know you are on speaking terms with Mr. Xiahou Qi, president of the Zhenbei Group Greater China Region," Zhang Tianze said without further hesitance.

"Oh?" Bai Xiaosheng's eyes showed surprise.

How did Zhang Tianze know about that?

Could it be that Zhang Tianze knew his true identity?

Even Chen Xiaoya didn't know that.

Besides, if he did know that he was the Affairs Officer, he should have reacted differently in his address, calling him "Affairs Officer Bai."

Zhang Tianze, looking at Bai Xiaosheng through the rearview mirror and noticing the suspicion in his eyes, quickly explained, "Actually, a year ago, when we went to an alley known for its time-honored culinary establishments to find Mr. Xiahou Qi, we saw you laughing and talking with Elder Xia. That's how we realized you were someone extraordinary!"

A year ago, an old alley?

As Zhang Tianze recounted this, Bai Xiaosheng recalled the incident and suddenly realized.

Wasn't that the first time he met Elder Xiahou Qi?

Bai Xiaosheng understood, it must have been that scene that led Zhang Tianze to assume something.

"You are seeking my help because I can communicate with Elder Xia, so what do you want me to do?"  
Bai Xiaosheng became interested.

With the conversation having reached this point, Zhang Tianze no longer beat around the bush and said frankly—

"Although I don't know your background, or whether you're part of the Zhenbei Group, the fact that you can speak directly with Elder Xia is something we can't match. If we want to meet Elder Xia, we can only loiter and hope for a chance, which may not succeed even one in ten times. Moreover, Elder Xia might not have the time, or be willing to listen to us."

"If we go to the Zhenbei Group headquarters, someone will receive us, but whether the feedback we get can reach the intended ears, or whether it will be distorted, is all unclear," Zhang Tianze said, his words growing more peculiar.

Was he looking for someone who could convey a message to Elder Xia?

No wonder he had let off the taxi driver just because of a single sentence from him.

Bai Xiaosheng looked at him intently.

So, this guy had forced a favor upon him!

Do the children of the business path learn this fast?

Bai Xiaosheng was struck with this thought.

"So what is it that you need to say directly to Elder Xia?" Bai Xiaosheng asked.

Zhang Tianze sighed, "Our Zhang Family's Qingbei Group has a film and television city in Linshen, which you know about."

Bai Xiaosheng nodded; he obviously knew.

If he hadn't been there to film, he wouldn't have had the conflict with Zhang Tianze in the first place.

"Now, that film and television city is also about to be cashed out," Zhang Tianze said with a wry smile.

"Because we're short of money!"

"You know the city of Linshen, it's not only a first-tier city but also a municipality directly under the central government, an independent region bordering two provinces."

"One of them is Hexi Province."

"A few months ago, our Zhang Family expanded our market into Hexi Province, dealing with real estate and several types of industries."

"At that time, my father had health issues and was recuperating in Europe. He might not have been up-to-date with some situations."

"We clashed head-on with the local market competitors, but it wasn't until after a massive investment of funds that we realized our competitors bore the mark of Zhenbei Group. It turned out they had been acquired months ago and had become part of Zhenbei Group's industries!"

"In the end, the provincial industry leader in Hexi organized many strong companies to lay siege to us!"

"If we retreated, we would be ruined! If we didn't, it would be a gold mine!"

"So we were desperately maintaining our position while trying to negotiate with the executives of Zhenbei Group, wishing to put an end to this conflict!"

Zhang Tianze let out a heavy sigh, said with difficulty, "I admit, when we first entered the market, we were arrogant and overbearing, and we offended some businesses and the provincial industry leader. Therefore, he refused to negotiate peace with us."

"But this time, we really want to stop this business war!" Zhang Tianze said, "Even if we were completely in the wrong, we still have some self-awareness. If we had known from the start that the company belonged to Zhenbei Group, we would never have gone head-to-head with them!"

Bai Xiaosheng understood and nodded subtly without making a sound.

This was quite interesting!

It was very similar to what happened a year ago in Yunhai when Qifeng Group aggressively entered and got beaten black and blue by them.

Right now, the Zhang Family was receiving the same "treatment" as Qifeng Group.

However, Bai Xiaosheng simply defeated Qifeng Group completely, that was all.

Mr. Xiahou Qi's "business retaliation" against Qifeng Group was also temporary, just to teach them a lesson. He definitely wouldn't go out of his way to completely annihilate them.

From what Zhang Tianze was suggesting, the provincial industry leader in Hexi was ruthless, creating a whirlpool to drag down the Zhang Family's Qingbei Group completely.

But Bai Xiaosheng didn't immediately sympathize with the Zhang Family.

After all, this was only one side of the story as told by Zhang Tianze.

Without fully understanding the situation, Bai Xiaosheng made no judgment.

Over the past year, Bai Xiaosheng had also experienced a lot and knew that one should never blindly trust one side of the story.

"I will look into this matter. If things are indeed as you describe, I will help you report it," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Thank you!" Zhang Tianze's expression brightened.

"Don't be hasty in thanking me," Bai Xiaosheng continued, "You might be aware of our Group's organizational structure. The provincial industry leader in Hexi has direct authority. Even Elder Xia wouldn't rashly order him to stop this business battle, especially if he feels that the competition still holds hostility... You understand what I'm saying?"

Zhang Tianze forced a smile but still said, "Regardless of how this matter turns out, I thank you!"

Zhang Tianze was indeed rare; he knew how to talk and how to be a person.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

He remembered well the domineering arrogance of Zhang Tianze from before, thinking he was the best in the world.

Since he had promised to look into the matter, he couldn't go back on his word.

"Weiwei, help me make a note of this," Bai Xiaosheng said to Lin Weiwei by his side.

Lin Weiwei nodded, took out her phone, and made a serious note.

Zhang Tianze saw this scene through the rear-view mirror and also held a glimmer of hope.

"Oh, right. Who were you originally going to pick up?"

Bai Xiaosheng suddenly remembered the issue and became curious.

"Who have you found to mediate this business battle?"

Who could have the

Chapter 967: Zhang Tianze's Cunning Plan

When Bai Xiaosheng inquired about the "mediator" that Zhang Tianze was going to meet, Zhang Tianze didn't hide anything.

"It's a friend of my dad's from the business world. I've only met him once. He's a middle-aged man in his fifties," Zhang Tianze spoke with a tone and expression that seemed to hold a certain reverence for the man, "I heard he is an Affairs Officer at Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters!"

Zhang Tianze placed heavy emphasis on the words "Affairs Officer."

Bai Xiaosheng's mind stirred, but he wasn't overly surprised.

After all, Linshen is where the headquarters is based, and the hundreds of Affairs Officers would definitely appear more frequently in this city than anywhere else.

He just didn't know whether he was acquainted with this one or not.

Upon reflection, among the Affairs Officers Bai Xiaosheng knew, only Wang Xincheng, who used to be an assistant to the Haofeng Great Affairs Officer and is now an Affairs Officer himself, seemed to fit the age described by Zhang Tianze.

Could it be him? Bai Xiaosheng wondered to himself.

"Zhenbei Group's organizational structure is truly impressive. They have industrial leaders in charge of enterprises within a province, as well as supervisory Affairs Officers. I heard these Affairs Officers are quite something—they can even oversee the industrial leaders!" Zhang Tianze said, speaking of his own accord.

Zhang Tianze's eyes lit up when he mentioned the Affairs Officer.

While their Zhang family's Group was not small, it was nothing more than a mere leaf boat in the eyes of those provincial industrial leaders. If they wanted to deal with the Zhang family, not just one enterprise would do. They would come with ten or even more, attacking from all sides with various companies.

Let alone the Qingbei Group, even larger groups would struggle to contend!

With the Affairs Officer being on the same level as the provincial industrial leaders and having the authority to inspect peers, it was an incredibly powerful position!

"Since the Zhang family could find an Affairs Officer to help mediate, why are you still seeking help from us?" Lin Weiwei asked, curious.

Zhang Tianze chuckled, "It just so happened to work out this way. Besides, I have a bit of a history with Mr. Bai. If Mr. Bai could lend a hand, wouldn't this matter be even more secure?"

Bai Xiaosheng just smiled at Zhang Tianze's reasoning.

The corners of Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying's mouths also curled slightly upward.

They hadn't been honing their skills for nothing over the past year; they had grown adept at reading people's intentions.

In the past year, they had dealt with 'old foxes.' Compared with them, Zhang Tianze seemed rather naive.

The little schemes Zhang Tianze harbored in his heart, while seeking Bai Xiaosheng's help, could not have been clearer.

In Zhang Tianze's eyes, Bai Xiaosheng was someone who could speak with the head honcho of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region, Mr. Xiahou Qi.

If Bai Xiaosheng got involved, the benefits to his Zhang family were obvious!

Just a year ago, Zhang Tianze's Zhang Heran could brazenly "block" Xiahou Qi, begging for an audience, but this year he hadn't succeeded once and was also in a "fiery opposition" with Zhenbei Group. The Zhang family was already treading on thin ice.

If Bai Xiaosheng could lend a hand, then the Zhang family would be talking directly to Xiahou Qi, which was akin to having "direct access to a higher power." Solving the conflict with the provincial industrial leader would then be a piece of cake!

The Zhang family would also use this as an opportunity to thank Bai Xiaosheng, strengthen ties, and consider him part of their network.

If Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help, this interaction would still mark a connection. With Bai Xiaosheng's ability to converse with Xiahou Qi, it would still be very beneficial.

Bai Xiaosheng sighed inwardly.

People are always growing.

This Zhang Tianze has virtually entered the elementary level of the Art of Cunning.

"Mr. Bai, do you know any Affairs Officers?" Zhang Tianze asked with a smile, as if making casual conversation. "Perhaps, it's someone you know too."

This guy was beating around the bush to probe Bai Xiaosheng's true identity, trying to indirectly learn more about him.

Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Zhang Tianze's supposedly secret calculations were as transparent as glass in their eyes.

"Go ahead and tell me; maybe I really do know him," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

He too was somewhat curious about the identity of that Affairs Officer.

"The Affairs Officer's surname is Zhao, named Zhao Beiqing!" said Zhang Tianze, his tone reverential.

Zhao Beiqing?

Bai Xiaosheng thought for a moment and shook his head, "I don't know him."

The Affairs Department had hundreds of officers, how could he possibly know each one of them.

"I won't hide it from you, I really am an employee of the Zhenbei Group, and I work at headquarters, too. But being an Affairs Officer, that's a very high-ranking existence, and they are always busy. I've been on a business trip, so I haven't met all of them," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying exchanged glances, a knowing smile playing on their lips.

Those who knew Bai Xiaosheng's identity were naturally aware that he was poking fun.

Currently, on the strength of Bai Xiaosheng's "fierce reputation," Affairs Officers would feel palpitations at the sight of him.

In front of Bai Xiaosheng, how could they ever live up to the title of a "very high-ranking existence."

However, what Bai Xiaosheng said was also true.

He had always been working outside, and hadn't met many Affairs Officers.

Among the Affairs Officers, there were actually some young faces.

After a year apart, by the time Bai Xiaosheng returned, those who had only met him once probably wouldn't even remember what he looked like.

Bai Xiaosheng had even bet with Lin Weiwei that once they arrived at headquarters, if they just stood in front of those people, save for familiar faces like Feng Li and Wang Xincheng, none of the others would recognize them if they didn't introduce themselves.

In fact, Bai Xiaosheng really had considered—

Not revealing their identities at first, and just mingling with the Affairs Officers and assistants, to hear what those people said about him...

This plan was simply devilish.

"Is that so." After hearing what Bai Xiaosheng had said, Zhang Tianze's eyes showed a hint of disappointment.

For someone like Zhang Tianze, who was outside the system, knowing an Affairs Officer was a symbol of status.

Bai Xiaosheng might be able to converse with Mr. Xiahou Qi, but that didn't mean his status was particularly high.

For instance, the chairman of a large corporation would not only speak to the company's deputy managers but also kindly interact with valued managers or employees. But that didn't mean those managers or employees held particularly high status.

Bai Xiaosheng saw the slight dejection in Zhang Tianze's expression, but he just smiled and said nothing.

Afterward, the car grew somewhat silent.

However, Zhang Tianze quickly adjusted his emotions, smiling again, "The place you gentlemen are going to isn't the headquarters, though."

"I'm going to see a friend," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile.

"The place you are going to..." Zhang Tianze thought for a moment, then exclaimed, "There's a new up-and-coming big company there, which has been reported on extensively by the foreign media. They renamed it a few months ago, and even city government leaders visited—what was it called..."

"Zunbai Zhisheng'!"

Zhang Tianze couldn't stop praising, "Their general manager is quite remarkable. It's said that he was very famous in Europe, his name is Ron!"

At the mention of the name Ron, Bai Xiaosheng and the others were taken aback.

Huh? The company changed its name?

That Ron, the big guy, never mentioned it—could it be he wanted to surprise them?

And...

Called 'Zunbai Zhisheng'?

What kind of name was that!

Bai Xiaosheng drew a deep breath.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying were momentarily stunned, but they quickly grasped the significance of the name and couldn't help but chuckle.

Ron was really "thoughtful"!

"I heard that Mr. Ron is just an employee, too," Zhang Tianze continued driving, oblivious to the trio's peculiar expressions as he mused aloud.

"You gentlemen might not be aware of how formidable that company is!"

"The young director of Lu Yun Group has visited! Even the chairman of a multinational company has been there!"

"There's even a rumor that Mr. Xiahou Qi, the president of Zhenbei Group's Greater China Region Headquarters, has visited!"

"Tsk, tsk, it's incredible to think who could be behind them as the owner!"

Chapter 968: Reunion with Ron

"Okay, it's just up ahead, find a spot to park and we're good," Bai Xiaosheng directed Zhang Tianze as they neared the destination.

It was the plaza outside the building where Ron and his colleagues were located.

"Sure," Zhang Tianze agreed, glancing outside the window when he suddenly exclaimed in surprise, "Yo, it's actually here! The 'Zunbai Zhisheng' company is in this building too!"

What a coincidence!

"Don't tell me your friend works at that company!" Zhang Tianze's mind raced as he couldn't help but ask.

It wasn't out of the realm of possibility!

Bai Xiaosheng smiled, his words tinged with deeper meaning, "Well, the last time I saw him, he was with a different company, not at some 'Zunbai Zhisheng'."

"Oh, I see," Zhang Tianze felt somewhat disappointed at the response.

The Bentley came to a stop.

Bai Xiaosheng and his two companions got out of the car, and Zhang Tianze followed suit.

"Thank you for taking the trouble to bring us back. I've noted what you said, and once I return to the company, I will look into it and report back as soon as possible," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Thank you so much!" Zhang Tianze expressed his gratitude.

At Bai Xiaosheng's gesture, Lin Weiwei handed over an email address to Zhang Tianze.

"This is our work email, you can contact us if necessary."

Giving only an email, without other contact information, was appropriate since the two parties were not close.

Zhang Tianze understood and accepted it with both hands.

Zhang Tianze wanted to say more to Bai Xiaosheng when his gaze unintentionally swept to the side, and he suddenly froze, his eyes widening.

There, at the entrance of the building, a group of people hurried out.

Mostly foreigners, with a sizable number of Chinese as well. They dressed sharply in suits, exuding a strong business vibe.

The man at the forefront made Zhang Tianze's pupils constrict, and he blurted out involuntarily, "Mr. Ron!"

In Linshen's business world, Ron was currently a well-known figure!

Right now, Mr. Ron was standing there with the group, apparently waiting for someone!

For whom could Mr. Ron be waiting downstairs to welcome personally!

Zhang Tianze couldn't believe it and looked around.

Was it the mayor or... Mister Xiahou Qi coming!

In Linshen, only a handful of people warranted such a welcome from Ron!

The thought of Xiahou Qi ignited a fervent spark in Zhang Tianze's eyes.

If he could meet Xiahou Qi here, it would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Zhang Tianze felt his heart pounding, sweat beading in his palms.

If it really was Xiahou Qi...

Should he go over?

Of course, he should!

But could he, with his status, even speak to them?

He had to speak, opportunity or not!

This was a rare chance!

Zhang Tianze couldn't help but breathe heavily, stepping forward intending to walk over there.

He had only taken a few steps when he suddenly noticed Mr. Ron answering a phone call and then...

Mr. Ron actually led the group back into the building.

Zhang Tianze was stunned.

What happened? Did the guest cancel?

The anxious and excited Zhang Tianze was hugely disappointed.

Watching as Mr. Ron and his party disappeared into the building's entrance, Zhang Tianze suddenly slapped his thigh, filled with regret.

"Even just going over to greet Mr. Ron would've been good!"

After all, his father, Zhang Heran, was keen to establish a relationship with Mr. Ron.

"There goes the opportunity!" Zhang Tianze sighed bitterly.

At that moment, Zhang Tianze remembered Bai Xiaosheng and the others.

In his excitement, he had completely neglected them...

That was not proper at all!

Feeling annoyed with himself, Zhang Tianze quickly plastered on a smile and turned around.

But when he looked for Bai Xiaosheng and his party again, he was shocked to find that they had already left...

Zhang Tianze stretched his neck, looked all around for a good while, but finding nothing, had no choice but to leave dejectedly.

"I hope Bai doesn't hold a grudge against me, how did I lose my composure just now..."

Zhang Tianze regretfully got in the car, started it, and drove away.

Meanwhile.

Ron brought people back to the building and stopped in the lobby, where he signalled one person to stay and told the others to leave.

Those people looked puzzled.

Mr. Ron said he was bringing them to meet an important figure, but then after receiving a phone call, that was it?

Many of the newcomers were baffled, but they couldn't say anything against Ron's orders.

The person Ron had asked to stay was his secretary—Miranda, who had met Bai Xiaosheng before.

"Didn't the boss say he would come? Could it be that he changed his plans at the last minute?" Miranda asked curiously.

She had quite an impressive memory of her own boss.

"Don't ask, you'll know soon enough," Ron muttered.

At this moment, he spoke Chinese with the people in the company, and his fluency was getting better and better.

"Ron, long time no see."

Behind Ron, a voice suddenly rang out.

That voice teased, "Haven't seen you in a year, and the company's name has changed too! Zunbai Zhisheng, what an idea you've come up with!"

When Ron heard this voice, he turned around, overjoyed.

Bai Xiaosheng was smiling at him, with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying following by his side.

"It's been a while, BOSS!"

Ron immediately gave Bai Xiaosheng a big bear hug.

"Hello, boss!" Miranda also gave Bai Xiaosheng a sweet smile.

Bai Xiaosheng returned the smile, "Hello there, Miranda."

"You still remember me!" The girl was equally elated.

Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying couldn't help but smile and greeted them as well.

"Just now, I wanted to have everyone meet you outside. Why did you come and still send them away?" Ron was a bit perplexed.

"Times have changed, and so has my identity; I need to keep a low profile," Bai Xiaosheng said with a smile. "Let's go, we'll find a place to talk."

In another building, in a business-type coffee shop, Bai Xiaosheng and his group found a nice spot to sit down.

"Boss, since your departure, it's been over a year," Ron couldn't help feeling proud as he started to report, "Our company has undergone huge changes this past year!"

"Including renaming BXS Business Consulting Advisor Limited Company to 'Zunbai Zhisheng'?" Bai Xiaosheng teased.

To those unaware, this name might provoke deep thought, but to Bai Xiaosheng and the others, it was simply this rugged man's sycophantic flattery to the boss.

"Don't you think it sounds quite trendy? Oh, using the word trendy isn't good, makes it seem like we're blindly worshipping foreign things, right?"

Ron, a Caucasian, speaking with a Northeastern Chinese accent, was comically earnest as he spoke.

"Anyway, it's in line with domestic trends and is also catchy," Ron laughed. "But that's not the point. The key is the good cooperation we've developed over the past year with Tengyun, Kelson, and other companies..."

Ron was eager to report to Bai Xiaosheng.

He was already a very good team leader, and since becoming the general manager, his leadership skills had become increasingly evident, especially under the care of people like Lu Qingfeng and Kevin, leading the company to thrive.

Ron reported a profit figure from the previous year that even surprised Bai Xiaosheng.

"Your money, I've put it into an account for you. Of course, if the company needs an investment, I will take it out to use. You don't mind, right?" said Ron.

Of course, Bai Xiaosheng didn't mind.

After drinking a cup of coffee, Bai Xiaosheng listened carefully to Ron's report and exchanged thoughts with him.

Two hours unwittingly passed by.

"Alright, I just came to check in this time; we should be going now," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

"You're leaving already? Let's have lunch together!" Ron hurriedly said.

"Next time; there's more to do," Bai Xiaosheng smiled.

Ron couldn't keep them from leaving, and could only reluctantly let them go.

Before leaving, Bai Xiaosheng specifically instructed, "Keep the connection between me and this company a secret for now!"

Ron agreed to this request.

After parting with Ron, Bai Xiaosheng left with Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying.

On the way, Lin Weiwei's phone rang.

She glanced at it and suddenly smiled, "I didn't expect Zhang Tian to use the email I gave him so quickly!"

"Xiaosheng, come take a look at this message!"

Chapter 969 We Are Friends!

Lin Weiwei handed her cell phone to Bai Xiaosheng.

Upon seeing it, Bai noticed a newly received email that was opened on the screen, sent by Zhang Tianze.

The content comprised just a few sentences—

"Mr. Sheng, I just received this news myself—"

"This Friday, at eleven in the morning, at our company's Qingbei Building, my father has invited Mr. Zhao Beiqing, your group's Affairs Officer, to mediate for both parties."

"Mr. Lu Zhixin, the provincial industrial leader from Hexi Province, will also be there."

"There will be several other business elites from nearby provinces who aren't part of Zhenbei Group attending as well."

"I would like to invite you as well, if you have the time."

Was this an invitation from Zhang Tianze?

Interesting!

Bai Xiaosheng couldn't help but read it once again, a slight smile curling his lips, before handing the phone to Lei Ying.

Lei Ying laughed after reading it, "It's probably not news he just received; he only just sent it to us. This Director Zhang must have struggled before sending it!"

"This mediation should be very private, very confidential, yet he told us the exact time, place, and attendees," Lin Weiwei said. "It seems pretty sincere indeed! However, I think it's also a bit of a reminder for us that time is pressing and we should decide quickly if we want to help."

Having acquired some experience, Lin Weiwei and Lei Ying had their unique perspectives on such matters.

Bai Xiaosheng nodded, his smile meaningful, "There's more interesting news, I believe! You noticed, didn't you?"

"Such mediation would normally involve just the three parties; however, they actually invited outsiders, these 'notables'. Doesn't that seem a bit like introducing a fourth party?" Lin Weiwei remarked, "Is it necessary? And, it's unusual!"

"Indeed! If the Affairs Officer Zhao Beiqing and the provincial industry leader Lu Zhixin don't know in advance, would the Zhang Family dare let these people appear at the event? Wouldn't that cause a scandal right then and there?" Lei Ying said. "If Zhao Beiqing and Lu Zhixin do know in advance..."

"Then they must have agreed!"

"Also, pay attention to the tone of the email; Zhang Tianze stated it as a fact, which means that this matter is already decided! Those two must know," Lin Weiwei emphasized.

"Now that is interesting!" Lei Ying mused, stroking his chin.

Listening to their well-reasoned talk, Bai Xiaosheng also laughed.

"Internal people mediating with internal issues, but inviting outsiders to watch? What are they trying to do? With so many people, it doesn't seem like just mediation; it's more like a conference... or perhaps a witness, a transaction?!" Bai Xiaosheng said. "Also, considering Zhang Tianze ran into us by chance, and impulsively pleaded with us, does his father know about this invitation, or is it..."

"Zhang Tianze's own decision!"

Bai Xiaosheng's eyes flickered with increased interest in the matter.

"How should we reply to him?" Lin Weiwei took the phone, asking Bai Xiaosheng.

"Tell him, if we're free, we will attend," Bai Xiaosheng said.

"Just like that?" Lin Weiwei was taken aback.

"Just like that," Bai Xiaosheng confirmed.

Meanwhile, Zhang Tianze was holding his phone, waiting for a response from Bai Xiaosheng.

He was now in a lounge outside his father, Zhang Heran's office.

Mr. Zhao Beiqing was quietly brought in there, the door closed as he discussed matters with Tianze's father.

There were no third parties in the room.

Zhang Tianze's father, Zhang Heran, was unaware of the request for Bai Xiaosheng's assistance or the invitation for him to attend the mediation.

Zhang Tianze had yet to mention it.

The phone beeped with a notification, and Zhang Tianze quickly checked it.

Seeing the reply from Bai Xiaosheng's side, he was momentarily stunned.

"Available to attend? So, are they coming or not?"

Zhang Tianze frowned, muttering to himself.

"Phew! Well, I won't mention it to my dad for now. We'll see how it goes on the day; after all, other outsiders will be there too. It should be okay to just usher them in," Zhang Tianze thought to himself.

He truly wanted to share his father's worries and help alleviate the Zhang Family's difficulties.

In the office, Zhang Heran was humble as he conversed with Mr. Zhao Beiqing.

Mr. Zhao Beiqing had a very approachable appearance and a sincere smile.

"Mr. Zhao Beiqing, the list you provided, the people on it each control a major company with significant strength. However, they are not enterprises from your group. Might their involvement be inappropriate?" Zhang Heran cautiously asked.

Mr. Zhao Beiqing smiled, "You needn't worry about that; those are all friends."

"As for this matter, although the officer from Hexi and I are employed by the same group, since I can mediate privately for you, and he has accepted, it's not an official business. What's the harm in inviting a few friends?"

"Besides, for important matters, we can discuss them behind closed doors, just the three of us."

Zhang Heran nodded.

At this point, having to rely on others, naturally, he would listen to whatever they said.

"Besides, you also showed that list to Mr. Lu Zhixin. He, too, crossed off some names and approved of the remainder, what else are you worried about?" Mr. Zhao Beiqing said.

"Indeed." Zhang Heran smiled.

"However, Mr. Zhang," Mr. Zhao Beiqing elaborated leisurely, "me coming here to mediate, we can consider it making friends, and the same goes for my dealings with Lu Zhixin. But when it comes to business matters, is kinship alone enough?"

Mr. Zhao Beiqing's words were loaded!

Zhang Heran's eyes narrowed, then he smiled.

"Yes, yes, the benefits for you and for Mr. Lu Zhixin, I won't forget. I will deliver them afterward, and I will handle this matter thoroughly to avoid leaving any troubles for you both."

Zhang Heran believed he was being very cooperative.

In this world, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Having been in business for twenty years, Zhang Heran's experience was not for nothing.

He understood this principle!

Mr. Zhao Beiqing agreeing to mediate, and Lu Zhixin accepting this private mediation, was all for the sake of one word: profit!

Zhang Heran had already prepared a villa and many shares in a foreign company to give to these two men, hoping to appease them while also forging a new connection.

Though these concessions pained him, they were preferable to letting the Zhang Family's fortunes and lives be consumed by the endless vortex that Lu Zhixin created.

"Benefits? What benefits!" Mr. Zhao Beiqing immediately frowned, his voice harsh yet cold, "Mr. Zhang, let me make it clear. If you offer money or profits to me and Lu Zhixin, the nature of this matter will change! I must not make a mistake, I would withdraw immediately from this matter!"

Mr. Zhao Beiqing, hearing Zhang Heran say such, suddenly turned hostile!

Zhang Heran, caught off guard, was momentarily stunned.

This Mr. Zhao Beiqing, does he not seek benefits in his dealings?

Zhang Heran did not believe that in his life, he would encounter such a saint!

But since Mr. Zhao Beiqing had spoken thus, he at least had to appear to believe him.

Zhang Heran hurriedly apologized, "Yes, yes, this matter was indeed my oversight. You are an Affairs Officer of the Zhenbei Group, naturally fair and honest, unlike us common folk who constantly talk about money and profits!"

Zhang Heran repeatedly apologized, and Mr. Zhao Beiqing's expression finally softened a bit.

"As for me, I have no other hobbies; I just enjoy making friends."

"Look at me, already over fifty and nearing retirement, not striving for any further career advancement, nor willing to slave away for money."

"I came to help you because you are my friend, and the friends from those companies I've brought are here so we can all become friends. Don't misunderstand my intentions."

Mr. Zhao Beiqing was genuinely displaying selflessness.

Zhang Heran responded while being internally shocked and suspicious.

The openly demanding of items and benefits he could handle, but such 'selflessness' was truly frightening!

Zhang Heran felt uneasy!

"However, I do have a matter I would like to discuss with you, Mr. Zhang!"

Mr. Zhao Beiqing's tone shifted, his speech gentle and smiling.

Chapter 970: The Cruel "Friendship

Zhang Heran never believed that there were any true "saints" in the world of business!

For a friend?

In the realm of business, friends are those of equal status, where I can help you, and you can help me!

Plainly speaking, it's all about mutual benefit!

Even if the two parties had been friends for over a decade, it's normal for them to struggle against each other for a "benefit."

And that's just the way it should be.

As the old ancestors said, "Everyone acts for benefit's sake, and all hustle and bustle is for the sake of profit."

Zhao Beiqing claimed he wasn't aiming for career advancement, nor benefits, and that he met by mere coincidence just to help him and help the Zhang Family.

In Zhang Heran's view, that was complete nonsense!

At the moment, Zhao Beiqing shifted the conversation and suggested they discuss "a matter."

Zhang Heran's thoughts sharpened.

He feared what was coming next was the real intent of Mr. Zhao Beiqing, the Affairs Officer.

"You are too kind!" Zhang Heran said indifferently, with a smile on his face, "Please, just say whatever you wish! We're friends after all, I like straightforwardness, there's nothing we can't talk about!"

"Our Zhang Family, now facing such a big trouble, our funds are tied up, and our business partners have also distanced themselves. Honored as I am by your esteem of befriending me, I naturally have to align with your wishes!"

"As long as the current capabilities of our Zhang Family aren't worse than now, I, Zhang Heran, will do my utmost to serve you—this good friend!"

Zhang Heran, who had been navigating the career field for fifteen to twenty years, wasn't just boasting with his eloquence. His words sounded sincere, but he also transmitted some messages to Zhao Beiqing.

And Zhang Heran believed Mr. Zhao Beiqing would surely understand them!

The initial words from Zhang Heran were to discourage Zhao Beiqing from beating around the bush and to just state his demands!

The middle part informed him of the Zhang Family's current situation, hinting Zhao Beiqing not to ask too much. Since they were friends, there was a long-term consideration.

The last part was to tell Zhao Beiqing that any requests were welcome, but they couldn't make the situation of the Zhang Family worse than now. Otherwise, his mediation would be meaningless.

Zhao Beiqing's smile grew wider, and he looked deeply at Zhang Heran.

Conversing with a clever person was indeed effortless.

"Since that's the case, I'll just speak frankly," Zhao Beiqing said with a smile.

"Although I'm an Affairs Officer, Lu Zhixin in Hexi Province is the head of regional industry. We are peers, with no supervisory relationship between us."

"Even though I have a supervisory role, there is a prerequisite for its exercise—that he has violated the rules! Only then can I supervise."

"But in this matter, Mr. Zhang, you know it too, it was your group that took action against our enterprise first. Mr. Lu Zhixin's countermeasures were completely legitimate; even Mr. Xiahou Qi, the CEO of Greater China Region, would have nothing to argue."

"Why would I, Zhao Beiqing, have the clout to make him back down just by saying a word?"

"Furthermore, to intervene in the affairs of a regional industry head, wouldn't that be overstepping?"

This statement was true.

Zhang Heran couldn't help but nod.

"Aren't you wondering why I wanted to bring a fourth-party unrelated enterprise into this?" Zhao Beiqing said. "I can tell you, I'm counting on them to get things done!"

Zhang Heran was taken aback, looking puzzledly at Zhao Beiqing.

"These companies are the real weights. If those people are willing to cooperate with Hexi Province's group enterprise, it will be a boon for the group, a support for the work of Lu Zhixin. Seeing their face, Lu Zhixin will naturally appreciate your good intentions in facilitating this connection, and won't pursue the Zhang Family relentlessly. The two parties will shake hands and make peace."

"Lu Zhixin will gain achievements, have an explanation for the group. Your Zhang Family, too, will avoid being dragged to death in business warfare. Isn't this a win-win for everyone!"

Zhao Beiqing explained to Zhang Heran how he operated.

Zhang Heran suddenly realized.

However, while the method was clear, Zhao Beiqing's role was not insignificant. Without him, the regional industry head Lu Zhixin wouldn't even have come.

This was a scenario that couldn't be arranged without Zhao Beiqing.

"I owe you for this, I, Zhang Heran, understand!" Zhang Heran expressed his gratitude. "Then what you wanted to tell me is actually..."

Zhao Beiqing had yet to continue, merely clarifying the nuances involved first.

Upon being asked by Zhang Heran, Zhao Beiqing smiled and finally said, "I told you, it's all for friends."

"You, Mr. Zhang, are my friend!"

"Those companies that came are also my friends!"

"I, Zhao Beiqing, do not need any compensation, for friendship, for the sake of 'righteousness,' I am willing to make this trip!"

"But those companies might not be willing to exert themselves so much for Mr. Zhang! After all, everyone is not familiar enough to help without mentioning compensation. It's just not possible."

Zhao Beiqing spoke earnestly, finally hitting the main point!

Zhang Heran's mind suddenly realized the situation.

Zhao Beiqing might not accept any benefits from him directly, but he could certainly take them from those companies!

This was the first time he had dealt with him, so he wasn't confident!

Zhang Heran was somewhat impressed.

In this way, even if he wanted to keep any evidence, thinking of guarding against Zhao Beiqing in the future, that would not be possible!

"I, Zhang Heran, having been in the business world for twenty years, am still naive compared to these old and cunning types..." Zhang Heran couldn't help but lament.

"I understand your reasoning, but I don't know, what do those friends want?" Zhang Heran asked.

Zhao Beiqing smiled, "Zhang Family's Qingbei Group is nationally renowned. This time, it was truly eye-opening, to see it withstand competition from our group and ten other companies in the province, enduring unfalteringly, is admirable."

Zhang Heran gave a bitter smile.

Zhang Family's reserves were greatly depleted in this prolonged contest.

Zhang Heran currently just hoped that Qingbei Group would survive, before considering anything else.

Zhao Beiqing continued, "Qingbei Group has a film and television city in Linshen, which is also nationally renowned. This film and television city accounts for about forty percent of your group's assets."

Zhang Heran's pupils shrank upon hearing this.

"Those corporate friends are eyeing that film and television city of yours, thinking about a joint venture to take it over. Of course, the price will not let your brother suffer too much loss. This matter is worth considering!" Zhao Beiqing smiled. "Swap part of the assets to pull Zhang Family through the crisis and also cash out a considerable sum for a comeback. Hmm, sounds like a good deal!"

So, their target was the Zhang Family's most vital asset—the Qingbei Film and Television City!

Zhang Heran's throat went dry, his expression extremely unnatural, "Mr. Zhao, that film and television city..."

"Its significance, it constitutes more than half of Zhang Family Group's assets! It is the foundation of my Zhang Family!"

"If it gets sold off! My Zhang Family won't recover for a decade!"

Zhang Heran was utterly reluctant.

"Is that so?"

Zhao Beiqing looked troubled, pondered for a moment, then stood up expressionlessly, "Since it is difficult for Mr. Zhang. Then I won't force the issue. However, if that's the case, if those friends aren't happy and won't help, I'm helpless!"

"This trouble, you'll have to resolve it within your own family!"