Life at the Top Chapter 1896 - 1900

Jasper's reply did not put these old,

experienced presidents at ease.

In order to the level where they were now,

they not only had to possess exceptional

intelligence but were also widely-read

critical thinkers.

Thus, they would not blindly believe what

anyone said, not even if it was Jasper.

Instead, they would put whatever they

heard through their thought framework

and try to locate any problems that might

exist.

Soon, someone spotted a problem.

Mr. Reagan from HW Group said, "But in

terms of strength, when you put it on

paper, our side would be the one that

collapses first."

Mr. Reagan gave Jasper an apologetic look

after he said that.

Jasper smiled and gave him an understanding wave.

He had just been stating the facts and was not trying to pick a fight with Jasper.

"In truth, even if Mr. Reagan had not brought this matter up, I would have discussed it as well. After all, I'm sure that this is something everyone is worried about, and it is a perfectly valid and important problem."

Many nodded their heads in agreement when Jasper finished speaking.

"That's right. On paper, we're no match for the United States in terms financial capital. However, that in and of itself is problematic."

Jasper raised a finger and said with conviction, "Both the Somerland officials and the United States officials have not made the necessary preparations for our countries to engage in an economic war. Thus, at the end of the day, this is something that's between private capital and companies."

That was a given.

If the United States decided they wanted to engage in this economic war against Somerland, Jasper would not waste his time talking.

There was no point in fighting a war they had no chance of winning.

Moreover, based on current international situations, the United States would not. engage in an economic war against Somerland that would ultimately also pit the countries against each other.

It was not a problem of whether they would win or not, but rather, it was because it would lead to a complex international situation that affected many other bodies once it started.

The smaller scope made Jasper feel that this matter could still be kept under control.

"Capitalists only have one attribute, and that is they are profit-oriented. Once the capitalists realize their potential losses will be much larger than their earnings, they'll flee. This is something that no one can stop.

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and said, "If you look at Wall Street, you'll see

that there are more than 300 companies on Wall Street alone. However, the question is, how many of those companies are actual brick-and-mortar companies? The answer is zero.

"Wall Street uses capitalist methods to control the real economy into making money for them. It is their greatest advantage, but also their biggest weakness.

"As for what I have to do, I have to cause the Wall Street capitalists to suffer major losses. They'll flee once their losses cross a certain threshold. You can make high earnings quickly by using capitalist methods, but you lose that money even quicker. Thankfully, JW Foundation has. already completed half of that work, and only the other half remains. That is what I will continue to work on.

"In summary, as long as our country manages to tough it out make it through the hardest stage at the start, victory is not impossible."

Many people heaved sighs of relief when they heard what Jasper said, and they felt their racing hearts calm down slightly.

After all this, the economic forum was

drawing to an end.

The result and purpose Jasper had been after had also been achieved.

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At least all the entrepreneurs who attended the forum had reached a consensus Everyone now knew that at this point, they should not be holding personal gains or losses against each other now. If they lost this game, everyone would be done for, and things would not look pretty for them.

If they wanted to remain in this game and continue earning money to maintain a high social standing in the country, they would have to grit their teeth and tough it out.

Without considering anything else, at the very least, these entrepreneurs were all feeling the most interconnected they had ever felt.

Of course, even though the formalities had been taken care of, they still needed to discuss plenty of details.

It would require Jasper and other people

who were at least in charge of leading

companies within the industry to conduct

private discussions. It was a time

consuming and troublesome matter, but

with Jasper's prestige and the

government's backup, it was just a matter

of time and effort. Jasper wanted to get

everything done in the next two days

before the market continued operations

like normal.

Just as Jasper was about to end the economic forum, Wendy hurried over with a solemn expression on her face and gave Jasper a meaningful look from where she stood. Jasper's brows furrowed together slightly. He knew for sure that something huge had happened if Wendy had come over now and requested to talk to him.

However, it remained unknown if it was a good or bad thing.

Jasper handed the microphone to Wayne and signaled for him to continue hosting the economic forum before walking off stage.

After all, in his past life, Wayne's favorite thing to do after making it big was to share his personal opinions and preach

about life to others. Hence, Jasper was not

worried he would mess things up.

When Jasper walked over to Wendy, he did

not even need to ask what was going on

before Wendy spoke in a harried voice.

"About ten minutes ago, Half-the-Harbor

Langdon, Kennedy Langdon, and Sawyer

Atticus acted as representatives from

Fongroup, Hope Group, and Atticus Group

respectively in achieving a strategic

alliance, cross-sharing up to 15% of

stocks as they pledged to protect each

other's interests.

"Moreover, during their press

conference, they announced three

resolutions that go against the Somer

people.

"Firstly, they're completely backing out o

f Somer's financial market. Then, they're

terminating all collaborations with JW

Company and any companies that work

with JW Company. Lastly, they've decided

to invest 500 billion US Dollars into the United States financial market, using 100 billion US Dollars to settle the United States' debt. The minute the press conference ended, they've already repaid 2 o billion US Dollars' worth of the country's debt.

"As a result, the United States national debt market is quickly regaining its footing and gradually rising. As the stock market is still closed now, we're still unable to observe how it will affect Harbor City's stock market. However, the internal analysis shows that the Harbor City stock market is probably going to see a major drop, and that might bring about serious repercussions."

The crease between Jasper's eyebrows deepened as Wendy spoke.

"Press conference from ten minutes

ago?" Jasper asked.

Wendy nodded and said, "Yes."

"Looks like it was done to spite us."

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and chuckled coolly as he said, "So, they're all just as bad as each other. Fine, it's a good thing they're working together now. I can get rid of them all in one go!"

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Wendy gazed at Jasper worriedly as she

said, "Don't be reckless. I think we should

discuss things with Harbor City before

deciding on how we'll deal with it."

Jasper shook his head and said, "Harbor City has coughed up practically all its resources, so I'm not planning to look for them regarding this matter. They've always given JW Company protection before this. I think it's time JW Company repaid that favor.

"Here's what we'll do. Take our plane back to Nauritius later and gather all the company's resources, especially the ones that have to do with real estate. We'll prepare ourselves to enter Harbor City's stock market at a moment's notice."

Harbor City had a well-developed economy, and it relied heavily on their estate market.

This could be seen from the number of millionaires who had earned their fortune through dabbling in real estate.

Thus, the real estate market would be one's top choice if they wanted to assist their economy.

"Enter Harbor City's stock market? We don't have the financial assets to do that," Wendy said.

Jasper chuckled and replied, "Who said we're going to take over the whole stock market? What we need to do now is buy a

piece of land from the Nauritius government at a suitable time and loudly proclaim our plans for a huge construction project. JW's branding is strong enough to act as a support pillar for many things now. As long as we continue showing our favor towards Harbor City's real estate, their real estate market won't collapse.

"If their real estate market doesn't

collapse, their finances will be fine.

"Moreover, both Fongroup and Hope Group have a stronghold in real estate. They wouldn't dare allow anything to happen to Harbor City's real estate market no matter how much they hate me. If they did do that, nothing much would have happened to me before they went

down first. We have to attack their main industries if we want to attack these three corporations. We can target Fongroup and Hope Group through the real estate market, but as for Sawyer Atticus, I'll

have to think of something I can do to the

rubber market."

Wendy felt much more at ease when she saw how quickly Jasper had come up with a strategy.

"Alright, I'll go and make the preparations now, but..."

Wendy seemed hesitant as she said, "I'm afraid we won't be able to work with Sean with regards to the real estate market."

"What's happened to Sean?" Jasper asked

as he frowned.

His sharp eyes had noticed something odd

in Wendy's expression. Wendy sighed and said, "I demoted Sean."

Jasper was stunned.

To be fair, as managing director of JW Company's real estate group, Sean's position in the hierarchy was only slightly lower than Wendy's, who was the CFO. Moreover, Wendy

was mainly in charge of financial matters and did not need to be in charge of human resources.

Moreover, Jasper had signed an agreement for Wendy to be the president o fJW Company so she could take his place in managing the company while he was busy with the stock market. By right, Jasper had no position in JW Company as o f now.

However, everyone still knew that Jasper was the boss, and Wendy was the co-boss.

The couple had the same amount of

power, and this was just so they could

implement executive orders in a more

systematic, logical, and legal way.

However, Wendy would not have utilized her power in managing human resources unless it were a major emergency where she had no choice. Not to mention, the person she demoted was Sean Tucker, an integral member of the company's group of directors.

Moreover, Sean was a talent that Dawson himself had sent over from Schuler

Group. In some ways, he was someone with ties to Wendy's family, so why did she demote him?

Seemingly sensing Jasper's confusion, Wendy explained, "There was a company scandal last week.

"It happened in the real estate department. A high-ranking vice president brought a female employee along to meet clients and took advantage of f her drunken state to touch her inappropriately. Thankfully, the female employee struggled hard, so that... didn't happen...

"The female employee lodged a report to the higher-ups at the company, and she also made a complaint to Sean. However, Sean did not want the issue to have an even greater impact than it already had and chose to ignore it. It resulted in the issue gaining even more attention, and rumors began spreading outside."

Jasper was even angrier now than when h e heard how the three companies were working together against him.

"What *sshole vice-president is that? He answers to Sean Tucker, doesn't he?"

Jasper was a smart man. He had long

since gained a thorough understanding of the kind of person Sean was. He was talented, and his morals were

alright as well. His main problem was that

he was prone to covering up mistakes.

Sure enough, that had caused Sean to get

into trouble.

"Yes."

Wendy sighed before she continued saying, "I only learned about this when the police informed me. So, I fired that vice-president, and I got Sean to take a month's leave to self-reflect."

"Wow, it's just been a few months since I stopped paying attention to the company, and we have a rapist now! Thank God no sexual activities were actually carried out. If not, I would be happy to deliver him straight into jail myself!"

,,

Jasper was so angry that he began

laughing.

"Do these b*stards think they're above

the law now just because JW has made it

big?"

Jasper was so angry that he wanted to

grab Sean and slap him across the face.

"This is no longer an issue of business management, nor is it an issue of dividing factions. They'll become criminals if this goes on!"

Furious, Jasper said without hesitation, "Hand that vice-president over to the police, let them deal with him. As for the affected female employee, visit her on my behalf and send my regards. Do your best to satisfy whatever demands she may have.

"As for Sean Tucker, send him to Nauritius to work in the sales department. No one is allowed to give him special treatment unless I say so. Anyone who gives him special treatment can go work a s a sales employee alongside him. If he thinks he's being treated unfairly, he can screw off.

"JW will never allow something like this to happen, be it in the past, the present, or the future. Anyone who does this will be handed over to the police immediately. Also, send a notice out to all the employees at headquarters and also our branch companies from the president's office.

"From today onwards, every employee will have the right to refuse an offer to attend a business meeting with their senior, regardless of position or job scope. If they feel coerced, they can report the employee anonymously. The president will be in charge of processing these reports for the time being, but we'll establish a department dedicated to managing this shortly."

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Jasper had a reason to be angry.

It was not a massive issue no matter how

horrible JW's external environment was

since they could always think of a way to

resolve or avoid the issue.

For about 99% of companies in the world,

their biggest problem was how they could

earn money and get enough revenue to

survive. However, the remaining 1% of

corporations were well-established

enough that the external environments

would not be able to affect them easily.

They had already integrated themselves

into the ecology of one or more industries.

If you took a careful look at these bigwigs,

you would notice that they all set the

One could even say that their companies would never cease to exist as long as the industry remained relevant. This sort of position could be seen in Weresoft for operating systems, VW Group for cars, and Facebook or Terizone for social media platforms. JW had not attained this position yet, but they were already considered your standard bigwig amidst the domestic market. Due to constrictions posed by the country's policies and the speed wherein reform happened, JW was the actual leader among private enterprises. Thus, to Jasper, external troubles were not as lethal to him. It was internal troubles that would sour JW's name and even run them the risk of business failure. This incident itself might not be a big deal, and no one would take action against JW if it happened once or twice. However, these things would be like termites once they began occurring. One or two holes on a large building were nothing. However, if those holes multiplied to become hundreds or even thousands of incidences, they could become interconnected and cause the entire building to collapse.

standards for their respective industries.

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Take the United States' debt crisis as an example.

Jasper knew that this was not his work,

but instead, the United States' economy

had already been in trouble since the

start. It was why it had brought about

such a serious outcome.

Jasper did not want history to repeat itself.

Thus, they needed to nip the problem in

the bud.

Wendy noticed Jasper's anger in his tone

and attitude. She nodded slightly and

said, "Alright, understood. I'll do as you

say immediately."

Jasper sighed before saying gently to

Wendy, "Managing a company has always

been a complicated task, and your

workload becomes even heavier when you

started managing a company as large as J

W. There will always be unexpected

incidents that cause you to lose your

footing temporarily. Thank you for all

you've done."

Wendy smiled and said to Jasper, "My

work is nothing compared to what you do.

Alright, I'll take care of the company's

matters. You focus on settling external

conflicts. I'll wait for you to come home."

Jasper returned to the podium after

Wendy left.

At the time, Wayne was still preaching life

lessons. However, what had changed from

his previous life was that the values he

shared had changed from his own into

JW's values.

No doubt that Wayne had a talent for

public speaking. If not, he would not have

had the ability to keep the eighteen

founders by his side and establish

Abbylon Group when he was so poor he

could not even afford to pay their salaries.

The majority of those present at the

economic forum had been deeply affected

by his speeh and became extremely

excited. Their enemies seemed to be

nothing more than toothless tigers now,

while a bright future was waiting for them

right around the corner.

Jasper did not interrupt him and sat down

instead. He was just about to catch a quick

breather when Mr. McNeal turned to him

and said, "You heard?"

Jasper nodded.

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He knew what Mr. McNeal was referring t

o. There was no way the officials would

not have heard of it if he had already

gotten the news.

Besides , Jasper had noticed Mr. McNeal

answering his phone when he was talking

to Wendy.

"This is very bad."

Mr. McNeal sounded hostile as he said, "A

s opposed to the tangible effects, I think

the symbolic meaning behind it is more

important. This is setting a bad example

for people of Somer descent across the

world."

Jasper lowered his voice and answered,

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But it's not necessarily a bad thing for the

world to get a good look at their faces

now. But what do the higher-ups have to

say about this?"

Mr. McNeal answered, "What else could

they say? The officials aren't allowed to

voice their opinion on this because

entrepreneurs should settle their affairs

themselves. The officials won't interfere

with the market's daily workings. You

know what I mean?"

Jasper nodded understandingly.

"The officials' role here is merely to pass

judgments and set the rules. They can't

get involved themselves, or else they'll

incite panic amidst the entrepreneurs.

Under the premise that the entrepreneurs

themselves do not have a plan, the

officials are unable to get involved. You

require an entrepreneur like me to take

care of them, which is one of the reasons

why people like me exist."

Mr. McNeal smiled as he listened to Jasper

and said, "Don't worry, we won't make

you work for nothing. Haven't they halted

all their investments in the country? Are

you interested in them?"

Jasper's eyes lit up.

The Atticus had made such a low number o

f domestic investments that it was

practically nothing, whereas those

Fongroup invested in had long since been

seized for investigation. Jasper had also

picked out a few of the most desirable

assets for himself. However, Hope Group

was different, as it had several projects

that Jasper was eager to have.

"Hope Group is one of the largest realtors i

n Harbor City, and they're famous even

throughout the entirety of Southeast

Terra. They have several domestic

amounts of revenue, so, naturally, I'm interested."

"But I'm a little strapped for cash over here," Jasper hurriedly added.

Mr. McNeal waved a hand and said, "Let's not talk about this now. We can discuss money when you're not as out of pocket.

We have no reason to worry you'll run

away. What's most important now is that

we take care of the problem at hand now."

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and

said, "They're all from Harbor City. Since

the problem came from Harbor City, then

we should take care of it the Harbor City

way."

"Alright."

Mr. McNeal did not ask for further details.

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He knew that Jasper would not go
overboard and that he would take care of
matters in a way that left most people
satisfied.

Several minutes later, Jasper took over
Wayne's spot again and stood behind the
podium as he said slowly, "Everyone here
has already talked about what should have
been discussed today. Based on my
previous plans, I should be announcing
the end of the economic forum today.

However, I just received some news that I
would like to share with everyone before w
e wrap up."

Then, Jasper watched as the expression in the audience's eyes turned from one of curiosity to one of ferocity as he told them about the three-way collaboration

between Fongroup, Hope Group, and

Atticus Group.

There was no need nor any way of keeping

it a secret. Everyone had their ways of

attaining information, they would have

learned of the press conference once they

left the venue anyway.

Thus, instead of leaving them to worry

and make wild guesses, Jasper decided to

lay everything out in the open.

"Harbor City does not need these rotten

apples, and the people of Somer descent do not need traitors like them either. We can't sit back and await their execution if they've declared war on us. Let's treat them as practice for what we'll be doing when the stock market reopens in two days. We need to get rid of these traitors!"

Life at the Top Chapter 1900

On the night the economic forum ended, Wendy took the private airplane and led J W Company's executive team straight to Harbor City..

JW Company's trip was an official activity, so they informed the officials at Harbor City before setting out.

Thus, two directors from the finance and business planning division accompanied the deputy chief executive to welcome them personally.

Harbor City was a special administrative region. The deputy chief director here had a higher position on the hierarchy than the grand magistrates of top provinces..

This also meant they were being treated

with the utmost respect.

Having said that, Wendy was the current president and chief financial officer of JW Company, so she deserved to receive this special treatment.

At this moment, the press conference hosted by Joe, Sawyer, and Kennedy in the United States had just ended. At the same time, the economic forum hosted by Jasper in Somerland had just finished as well. It was an odd time.

All this news had washed over Harbor City's business circle like a hailstorm, and new versions of gossip popped up all over the place. Wendy's visit on behalf of JW Company now was dissected by countless people and converted into countless different theories.

However, no matter which person you got your gossip from, the core message did not change. There was no doubt JW Company was here because they wanted to do something about the press conference the three families hosted.

Everyone gazed intently at Harbor City's government buildings, awaiting the outcome of Wendy's meeting with the Harbor City government.

Harbor City's government officials did

not make everyone wait for too long.

Seen, another press conference was

bested where the Harbor City government

and JW Company announced the

outcomes of their meeting to the public.

"Firstly, I would like to extend a warm

welcome to the reporters who came. My

name is Zachariah Quigley, and I am the

director of the Department of Business

Planning, I'm here today as a

representative of the Harbor City

government in making a statement to the

public."

Zachariah, who wore glasses, gazed at the

crowd of reporters beneath him and

smiled before holding the document he

held up in his hands and read, "After a

friendly discussion between the Harbor

City government and JW Company, the

government and JW Company have

arrived at an agreement that is in

accordance with the law and official

policies.

"Firstly, the Harbor City government will

provide tax incentives to JW Company.

The details are as follows: the

corporation's income tax will be reduced b

y 70% for the first three years, and 40% for the next five years, and they will also get a 20% reduction on their business taxes.

"Secondly, the Harbor City will sell the following pieces of land to JW Company: Sharp Promenade, which is located in the Nine Dragon Area of Harbor City, as well a s Lot C13 and Lot A55 on the west end of Victoria Harbor. Since these two pieces of land belong to the Harbor City

government, the transaction will not need to go through an auctioning process. The Harbor City government will transfer them into JW Company's accounts right away. All proceeds will be used in improving Harbor City's infrastructure.

"Thirdly, the Harbor City government will now focus on checking the reasonableness of all commercial activities in Harbor City, and anyone caught breaking the rules will face serious consequences.

"Fourthly, the Harbor City government will be lifting all former restrictions imposed on several imported and exported products. The first batch of products that will have restrictions lifted

includes rubber, rubber-made products, and all raw materials needed for rubber processing. These aforementioned products will have their import restrictions fully lifted."

The contents of the agreement seemed fine, except for the second and third articles.

The meaning behind the second one was clear. The Harbor City government was selling land that had belonged to the Harbor City government to JW Company. It might seem like an illogical thing to do, but there was nothing much worth discussing.

Usually, land that was sold using legal methods had to go through an auction because the land did not belong to the government. According to the constitution, the land belonged to the state, and thus, meant it belonged to the country's people.

The government was just a representative who took care of the land on behalf of the country's people. Since it belonged to the state, it could not be sold as one wished, and instead had to go through an auction to be sold to whoever bid the highest. It was a fair-and-square process.

However, if the land belonged to the government, they would then be one of the parties signing the contract. There was no difference in how companies were treated compared to individuals, and it was perfectly alright for them to sell their land privately.

These two pieces of land were the most precious pieces of land in Harbor City, which itself had a scarce supply of land. Therefore, many people had tried countless ways to obtain that land for themselves, but had always failed.