

You Were Told to Lose Money By Making Games, and You Actually Did It?

Chapter 53: Change Can't Wait!

Why had they gained weight?

Xiao Dao and Xiu Fu exchanged aggrieved looks.

*Why had they gotten fat?*

*Brother Xu... don't you know the answer yourself?*

Ever since joining Morning Star Games under Chen Xu, every lunch and dinner consisted of dishes like beef-and-cheese baked rice, seafood pasta, and other rich meals.

Then every afternoon, there were assorted desserts.

In most companies, the free snacks were things like soda crackers or traditional pastries.

But at Morning Star Games, there was milk tea, coffee, fruit tea, along with durian mille-feuille cakes, Black Forest cake, and all kinds of other desserts.

Sometimes the afternoon snacks would be replaced with egg tarts, red bean pies, and similar treats.

On top of that, the refrigerator in the lounge was always stocked with soft drinks, chocolate, and various other snacks.

And if that weren't enough, every week there was a small team dinner.

Every two weeks there was a large company gathering.

It was always either hot pot or an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Nobody drank alcohol during these meals.

They only had cola, fruit juice, and other soft drinks.

Meanwhile, their jobs mostly involved sitting in front of computers all day.

How could they *not* gain weight?

As for Xiu Fu... Although he had spent over a month on a business trip to Osaka. in order to recruit Shinji and the others, he'd spent many evenings after work entertaining them at local izakayas.

So naturally, he'd put on weight as well.

In fact, it wasn't just the two of them.

Practically everyone in the company had gained weight.

Even several of the female employees.

"...Come to think of it..."

"I've gained weight too, haven't I?"

Chen Xu subconsciously touched his stomach.

Back in college, he hadn't exercised much either.

He'd always been rather lazy.

But back then, he certainly hadn't been eating this well.

Besides, he hadn't owned a car.

Although he'd occasionally taken the subway or bus, most of the time he'd simply walked wherever he needed to go.

Ever since obtaining the system, buying the company, and beginning his grand mission of milking the system, he'd never skimped on food.

Especially since he had quite a sweet tooth and loved cakes.

And whenever he went out, he usually drove his little BYD.

Under those circumstances, how could he *not* get fatter?

Nor was he the only one.

There were certainly a handful of employees who exercised regularly and managed to stay in shape, but they were clearly the minority.

"...This counts as a workplace injury."

Chen Xu's expression suddenly became serious.

"Brother Xu... this counts as a workplace injury?"

"Yeah."

"You've only put on a little weight."

"And honestly, it's because we couldn't control ourselves."

Xiao Dao and Xiu Fu were speechless.

The company's benefits had been so generous that employees got fat, and somehow that counted as a workplace injury?

But if it really *was* a workplace injury, wouldn't the company have to cancel all these amazing benefits so nobody gained weight anymore?

Thinking about all the exquisite desserts they enjoyed every afternoon, the two of them immediately decided they could happily live with this particular "workplace injury."

"If this doesn't count as a workplace injury, then what does?"

"Just look at yourselves."

"Then look at me!"

"In just a few months, we've all gained at least ten or twenty pounds, haven't we?!"

Chen Xu pulled out his phone and opened the group photo taken when everyone had first joined the company.

Because they all saw one another every day, nobody had really noticed the gradual changes.

But comparing the old photo with the present...

The difference was immediately obvious.

Every single person had become noticeably rounder.

"If this keeps up..."

"How can that possibly be okay?"

Chen Xu shook his head.

Even setting health concerns aside, their appearance alone would become a serious problem.

Imagine that one day Morning Star Games became famous enough to receive media interviews and attend industry conferences.

Employees from other companies would all be skinny workaholics with dark circles under their eyes and receding hairlines.

Meanwhile, Morning Star Games would show up with a team of cheerful, rosy-faced, well-fed people who all weighed over two hundred pounds.

Just imagining the scene was terrifying.

This absolutely could not be allowed to happen.

Change couldn't wait.

"Notify everyone."

"This afternoon we'll hold a meeting with Gong Qi, Ying Gao, and the others."

"We have to establish some rules about this."

Chen Xu looked at Xiao Dao and Xiu Fu with unquestionable determination.

. . .

After Xiao Dao and Xiu Fu left the office, Chen Xu opened the system interface and glanced at it.

【Loss Conversion System】

【System Fund: 100,000,000 yuan】

【Second Settlement Period: 140 days remaining (*countdown begins the day the System Fund is first used*)】

【Current Revenue Pool: 167,088,976 yuan】

【Current Available Leverage Funds: 50,126,692.8 yuan】

【Personal Funds: 2,078,581.4 yuan】

Over the past few days, Sekiro's reputation overseas has completely exploded.

Its sales had also experienced another significant surge.

The Revenue Pool has now grown to 167 million yuan.

However, what interested Chen Xu more was the Leverage Funds feature.

Although he could eventually increase the leverage all the way to 100 million yuan, he had no intention of doing that.

It wasn't because using more leverage would lower the final loss conversion ratio.

After all, although the ratio would decrease, the total amount of capital available would increase as well, so the actual impact wasn't that significant.

The real reason was something he'd learned while developing Sekiro.

Spending money properly—and spending it transparently—wasn't nearly as easy as it sounded.

Anyone could spend money.

The important part was making sure you didn't become everyone else's cash cow or easy mark.

It was just like investing in movies.

A film could gross several hundred million yuan at the box office.

Then the producers would perform one accounting trick after another, and by the time the profits reached the investors, a movie that should have made a fortune somehow ended up officially recording a loss.

Or take another example.

Something that could have been completed for one million yuan somehow ended up costing ten million.

Wouldn't that just make you an idiot?

Just like when Sekiro's combat system had been outsourced to Hyakukin Studio.

If he hadn't deliberately increased the budget and also hired Attorney Komon along with Osaka Bank as legal and financial guarantors, Chen Xu didn't believe for a second that Atsushi would have worked so conscientiously.

After all, that bald guy was the kind of ruthless businessman who had managed to squeeze money out of Microsoft.

Future game development would also require outsourcing plenty of work.

Although Morning Star Games had already built strong working relationships with several outsourcing studios thanks to Sekiro, one or two partners simply weren't enough.

Those outsourcing companies weren't working exclusively for Morning Star Games.

There would inevitably be times when they lacked manpower or scheduling capacity.

In terms of overall company size, Morning Star Games still couldn't really be considered a major game developer.

But with the system backing him, the budget for every single game he made would definitely rank above average.

Under those circumstances, maintaining close partnerships with two or three reliable outsourcing companies was absolutely necessary.

Spend money? Certainly.

But never be a fool.

One step at a time.

First, he needed to learn how to spend money wisely.

After all, there was plenty of time ahead.

Sooner or later, the system's money would all become his money anyway.

For now, though, his top priority was improving the company's employee benefits.

After all, he'd only just squeezed nearly six million yuan out of the system, and already two-thirds of it was gone.

With the money he had left, forget about buying a Bentley, it wasn't even enough for a well-equipped Porsche Panamera.

So in the short term, he would have to enjoy a few more company perks himself.

Besides, the employees' performance had genuinely made him happy.

The benefits they deserved had to be maxed out.

When it came to the fame brought by the game, he knew perfectly well that he was merely a copy-paster, copying and pasting someone else's masterpiece.

Of course he was happy.

But not *that* happy.

The loyalty and respect shown by his employees, however...

That was completely different.

The emotional satisfaction it brought him was far greater.

Especially since improving employee benefits would also help him squeeze even more money out of the system.

That emotional payoff was simply...

One plus one was greater than two.