

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

Chapter 67: President Kamiyama Comes to Settle the Score!

July 11

Osaka – Umeda Sky Building

Right next to Hyakukin Studio.

The logo that once belonged to Hyakukin had already been removed.

In its place was a brand-new sign:

Morning Star Games

Beside it was another sign, written in Chinese, Japanese, and English:

Morning Star Games – Osaka Temporary Motion Capture Department

"My goodness! Is this the company's newly opened cafeteria?"

"This is incredible! It's so luxurious! I thought it was a hotel restaurant!"

"Exactly! And it's not even cafeteria-style food. Every meal is an individually prepared, beautifully presented dish!"

"It looks delicious!"

"The company actually gives employees annual gym memberships, plus bonuses for perfect attendance at the gym? And they're not forcing people to work out after hours? Is that really true?"

"I wish we could move to Morning Star's headquarters right now!"

During the lunch break, a group of employees who now belonged to Morning Star Games' motion capture department chatted in their work group, openly expressing their envy over the photos shared by employees at headquarters.

When they had first been acquired—aside from a few employees who were close to Eiji and Shinji and had already heard about Morning Star Games' generous treatment of its staff—most of them had been extremely anxious.

After all, for many ordinary workers in Japan, the expectation was that they would spend their entire careers at one company.

Everyone knew Hyakukin Studio wasn't doing well, but none of them had imagined that their motion capture department would actually be sold off.

When they first heard the news, they couldn't eat or sleep.

But now?

They were still suffering.

They suffered because Morning Star Games hadn't acquired them sooner!

If only the company had taken them in when they first collaborated on outsourced projects!

Looking at the various posts shared by Morning Star Games' veteran employees in the group chat, the former Hyakukin motion capture staff could only stare with expressions of pure envy.

Although Morning Star Games had already acquired the motion capture department—their salaries, benefits, and overall compensation had

basically been brought in line with those of Morning Star employees—they still didn't quite feel like full members of the company.

After all, the motion capture department was still based in Osaka.

They would have to wait until development on Detroit was finished before relocating to headquarters.

So while their salaries, meal allowances, housing subsidies, and transportation benefits were the same as those of regular employees—they still couldn't enjoy the headquarters' gym, cafeteria, lounges, or the regular company dinners that Chen Xu organized for the staff every so often.

Comparing the benefits they now enjoyed at Morning Star Games to the treatment they used to receive at Hyakukin Studio—the contrast couldn't have been more obvious.

Even some employees who still worked at Hyakukin Studio would occasionally stop by during their free time to ask about life at Morning Star.

After hearing about it, they too began to admire the company.

So this kind of boss actually exists in the game industry?

A company like this actually exists?

Looking only at salaries and benefits, Morning Star Games was certainly good, but it still wasn't considered top-tier within the industry.

Major companies like Nintendo, which had reputations for treating employees well, still offered better compensation and benefits.

The key difference, however, was that Morning Star Games was nowhere near the same size.

If the company was already treating employees this well now, then once it continued to grow bigger and stronger, would employee benefits and compensation really get any worse?

Quite a few Hyakukin employees whom Xiu Fu had quietly approached before—but who had ultimately chosen to stay—couldn't help secretly regretting their decision.

If only they had known.

If only they had left back then.

They would already be enjoying life at Morning Star now.

And while those people were regretting their choices—

Kamiyama Atsushi, sitting in his office at Hyakukin Studio, was regretting his as well.

"Conspiracy! A conspiracy! This is all part of a conspiracy!"

Thinking about the comments he'd been hearing from employees—whether intentionally or by accident—over the past few days, Kamiyama's face flushed bright red with anger.

Even the hand holding his pen trembled from agitation.

"President, please calm down... calm down," Inaba Hideki hurriedly tried to console him.

"How am I supposed to calm down? The morale is collapsing! The company's morale is falling apart! Do you know what the motion capture department employees are saying now?"

"They're saying, '*We're so happy here we've forgotten all about Hyakukin!*' And now even employees from headquarters are secretly visiting them after work! What are they trying to do?!"

Kamiyama Atsushi slammed his hand on the desk, looking both furious and indignant.

The motion capture department's office was only one floor away from headquarters.

After the department had been sold off, Kamiyama often ran into his former subordinates during his daily commute.

Back then, he had seen nothing but confusion, bewilderment, and pain on their faces.

Those expressions had pierced his heart.

To him, they seemed to be silently asking:

Why did you abandon us for money?

But what choice had he had?

He couldn't help it.

He had to keep Hyakukin Studio alive.

He felt guilty.

He suffered.

He couldn't eat.

He couldn't sleep.

Then, a few days later, he noticed something had changed.

The confusion, bewilderment, and pain had disappeared.

Instead, their faces were filled with amazement and delight.

Some of them even looked at him with... gratitude?

At the time, he hadn't thought much of it.

But another week passed, and something began to feel wrong.

Employees at headquarters kept talking about the motion capture department.

And they always did it behind his back.

Some even went to visit their former colleagues after work.

At first, Kamiyama thought it was only natural.

He was the company president. Employees naturally kept some distance from him.

He had once been an ordinary employee himself, so he understood.

As for visiting former coworkers in the motion capture department, that wasn't a big deal either.

After all, they had all worked together.

But then, a resignation letter landed on his desk.

Only then did he realize something was seriously wrong.

This operation...

It felt strangely familiar.

After investigating, he finally discovered the truth.

After learning about Morning Star Games' outstanding compensation and benefits, some of his own employees could no longer resist the temptation.

They were voluntarily resigning to join Morning Star.

That completely shattered Kamiyama Atsushi's composure.

If it had been like before—when Yamagami Eiji, Aonuma Shinji, and the others had been secretly poached after Morning Star spent considerable effort recruiting them—that would have been one thing.

But now?

Morning Star didn't even need to recruit anyone anymore.

His own employees were walking over of their own accord.

Who could possibly endure that?

"At this rate, I might as well just sell the entire Hyakukin to them!" Kamiyama exclaimed angrily, though there was nothing he could do.

"Should we... maybe improve employee benefits as well?" Inaba suggested helplessly.

What else could they do?

Morning Star Games simply offered better pay, better benefits, and, from the looks of it, a brighter future than Hyakukin Studio.

Both Yamagami's team and the recently acquired motion capture department appeared to be thriving there.

People often say:

You don't want your friends to suffer.

But you also don't want to see them driving luxury cars while you're struggling.

Now everyone was watching their former coworkers join a company with better treatment and better prospects.

How could their hearts not waver?

If not for Japan's traditional lifetime employment mindset—and the fact that Morning Star was a foreign company—there would probably have been far more than just a single resignation letter sitting on his desk.

"Improve benefits? Then wouldn't selling the motion capture department have been for nothing?" Kamiyama snapped after hearing Inaba's suggestion.

Why had they sold it in the first place?

Because labor costs were too high!

If they sold the department and then immediately increased employee benefits afterward, wouldn't that be completely self-defeating?

Their finances wouldn't improve in the slightest.

They'd have lost an entire motion capture department for nothing.

That would be a catastrophic loss.

Kamiyama sighed helplessly.

At the same time, he couldn't help grumbling inwardly about Chen Xu.

*Your company isn't even the size of the industry giants, yet you're insisting on offering big-company benefits.*

*Why are you making things so competitive?*

*The ones who are supposed to be competing are the employees! Why is the boss himself joining the race?*

"Then... should we forbid employees from contacting them?" Inaba asked, completely out of ideas.

To be honest, even he was a little tempted by Morning Star Games' benefits.

"It's fine. I have a plan."

Kamiyama snorted coldly.

"Watch me go hold them accountable."

He picked up his phone and found Chen Xu's number.

About ten seconds later, the call connected.

"President Kamiyama? Is there something you need?" Chen Xu's voice came from the other end.

Kamiyama didn't answer immediately.

After a few seconds of silence, he finally spoke.

"President Chen... please have mercy on us! We're really having an incredibly difficult time! Hyakukin truly doesn't have many talented people left!"

Inaba Hideki: ???

Watching Atsushi speak in the most humble, pleading tone imaginable, his face full of sorrow—

Hideki fell completely silent.

Wait... President...

This is what you meant by "holding them accountable"?!