

Finest 201

Chapter 201 Despicable? Magnanimous?

"Miss Tao, I have made it perfectly clear. After you fainted, the Eldest Miss, fearing your embarrassment upon waking, ordered to have you placed in a certain grove, and then we departed. As for the rest, I'm utterly unaware. Frankly, I haven't seen many people like our Eldest Miss, who is so grievance-bearing yet virtuous. Meeting her, you're very fortunate," Lin Wanrong said.

Upon seeing Tao Wanying's continually changing expression, Lin Wanrong chuckled inwardly. There was a saying, a scoundrel often grinds another scoundrel. Perhaps this young girl was finally understanding the bitterness of being bullied.

When they initially left the valley, they had heard Tao Wanying's sharp scream as she awoke. This was a matter Lin Wanrong had personally arranged, and he was well aware of the complications. Of course, he wouldn't voluntarily disclose this. He feigned surprise and said, "Miss Tao, you repeatedly claim that you were violated. Could something have happened afterward?"

Tao Wanying trembled, tears streaming down her face like rain. If it was as Lin San said and they had abandoned her after placing her down, then who was responsible for the bruises on her body and the blood under her when she woke up? Was it the work of a passing bandit? Her face turned pale, not daring to think any further. If that were the case, she would prefer that it was Lin San who had violated her.

Lin Wanrong had no idea about these strange thoughts running through the young girl's mind. He chuckled, "By the way, Miss Tao, the day we left your brother on the roadside, do you know what happened afterward?"

At this point, Tao Wanying was somewhat inclined to believe his words. Holding back her grief, she said, "After I woke up in the woods, I was terrified and had no idea what had happened. I returned the same way I came and found my brother unconscious by the roadside. Soon after, our family's guards who came to rescue us arrived. They said my brother had been drugged and it would take a day or two for him to regain consciousness. They took him back home, and he's been recuperating since then."

"Hmm," Lin Wanrong grunted. He had given Tao Dongcheng half a bag of knockout drug that day. It was no surprise the boy fell unconscious. With Gao Qiu's unique methods, Tao Dongcheng was ruined for life, which could be considered retribution for his evil deeds.

"Lin San," Tao Wanying started, her voice shaking. "That day, when I woke up in the woods, my clothes were torn, and my body was bruised... I fear I was" Unable to hold back any longer, she cried out, " I fear I was violated."

Tao Wanying was originally obstinate, always favoring those close to her. But the unbearable torment had worn down her fiery temper. This incident could not be known to others and she had been suppressing it. Today, upon encountering Lin, who was aware of the situation, she seemed to forget her past grudges against him and burst into tears.

Tattered clothes? Bruises all over the body? The thing that scared you most must have been those few drops of blood under you, he thought. Sigh, spreading knowledge about physical hygiene is really important.

"Oh, oh, this," Lin Wanrong stifled a laugh and said, "How could that be possible? When we left, there was no one in sight nearby."

He paused for a moment, muttering to himself, "Could it have been a woodcutter gathering firewood nearby? A wild man in the woods? Or perhaps, a passing small snake?"

Tao Wanying could no longer hold back, slowly squatting down and bursting into tearful sobs.

Am I too despicable? Seeing the young girl crying in despair, Lin Wanrong questioned himself, then immediately argued, This girl has tried to kill me numerous times, and I've merely pretended to violate her once. Does that make me despicable? Ah, in this world, none could be more magnanimous and kind-hearted than me.

"Miss Tao, please stop crying for now. I have a few questions to ask you." Lin Wanrong said gently.

Having been through a rollercoaster of emotions, Tao Wanying surprisingly found herself growing fond of this usually irksome servant. Sobbing, she said, "Go ahead."

Lin Wanrong nodded and smiled. "Miss Tao, how did you determine that you were violated? Was it simply because your clothes were torn and you were bruised? Ah, that day, in order to avoid suspicion, our Eldest Miss sent a few maidservants to take care of you. They left you in the woods. As you're aware, your behavior that day was indeed quite atrocious. Our Eldest Miss might not hold it against you, but these maidservants are very loyal. They certainly wouldn't think the same way.

Although they couldn't kill you, they couldn't let you off easily either. It wouldn't be surprising if they pinched you a few times or hit you, causing your clothes to tear and your body to bruise. Doesn't that make sense?"

As Tao Wanying thought about it, she recalled that on that day, she had treated them terribly, so it would be understandable if the maidservants had taken the chance to retaliate. Choking, she said, "It wasn't just that. When I woke up, I found that..."

"What did you find..." Lin Wanrong was inwardly gleeful. This normally wild and headstrong girl was finally showing some docility. He couldn't let this opportunity to tease her pass by, given all the grievances that the Eldest Miss had suffered.

Blushing and bitter, Tao Wanying found no one else to confide in but Lin San. Gritting her teeth, she sobbed, "I found blood...on myself..."

This girl was really naive, Lin Wanrong could no longer contain his laughter. "So, it's as simple as that. What can the blood prove? Could it not be the blood of a random animal? Miss Tao, judging by my extensive experience with countless women on the battlefield, you seem perfectly fine. Your body is natural, without any signs of violation. Are you overthinking this?"

"Lin San, are you telling the truth?" Tao Wanying lifted her head, asking incredulously, "What do you mean 'countless women'? Are you speaking the truth? How could you tell when even I couldn't..."

Her face flushed deeply, and she could not continue. However, the look in her eyes when she gazed at Lin Wanrong was filled with hope. His words had managed to reignite the hope she had thought was forever lost.

I strongly advocate for the establishment of a girls' school, where I can personally teach gynecological knowledge, Lin Wanrong mused to himself. He shook his head and chuckled, "Miss Tao, don't concern yourself with how I can tell. This matter is in fact quite simple. When you get back, find a few older women and have them quietly examine you. Everything will become clear. Why scare yourself here for no reason?"

After Tao Wanying woke up, she had assumed that she had been violated and dared not let any women inspect her. However, after hearing his reasoning, she felt that it made a great deal of sense. She looked at him, her spirits somewhat lifted, and asked earnestly, "Lin San, are you really certain that I haven't been violated?"

Nonsense, wouldn't I know about something that I did myself? Lin Wanrong grinned, "Stop asking. Once you go back and check, you'll know. I assure you, you still have your chastity intact."

Biting her lower lip, Tao Wanying's tears flowed freely, "Lin San, thank you. I really wronged you this time. It's rare for you to be so magnanimous, I... I... am eternally grateful" With these words, she turned and briskly walked away, quickly disappearing into the night.

Lin Wanrong looked at the half of the longsword left on the ground and sighed, "This poor girl really is pitiable. I hope this incident has finally changed her temperament."

Tao Wanying's interruption had caused him to arrive late at the Luo residence, and to his surprise, Luo Min wasn't home. Lin Wanrong surmised that it must have been Xu Wei who dragged the old fox away to discuss some matters.

Just as he was about to return disappointed, a woman walked through the door and exclaimed with surprise, "Brother Lin, why are you here?"

Lin Wanrong noticed the pendant hanging on her white collar. The small diamond sparkled under the lamplight. Smiling, he said, "Miss Luo, you truly have a unique aesthetic. The diamond setting on this pendant is exquisite."

Luo Ning shyly responded, "I can't take credit for that, Sister Liu Yue'e from the antique shop in town gave me the idea. Her craftsmanship is truly remarkable."

Lin Wanrong vaguely remembered Liu Yue'e helping the Xiao family in Hangzhou. If she had such excellent skills, could he provide her with diamonds to set on necklaces and earrings to bring to the capital after the New Year? Wouldn't that create a sensation?

Seeing him deep in thought, Luo Ning asked softly, "Brother Lin, what are you thinking about?"

Lin Wanrong replied, "Oh, it's nothing. I initially wanted to discuss some matters with Mr. Luo, but he wasn't at home. It's rather late, why hasn't Miss Luo retired for the night?"

Luo Ning excitedly replied, "Brother Lin, I've been preparing for the poetry contest these past few days. I just received news from the Chief Senior Scholar that this year's contest is not only seeing

eager participation from talents across Jiangsu and Zhejiang, but also a significant number of talents from the north. It's going to be a lively event."

Lin Wanrong had no interest in these academic events, his only concern was his own announcement. Upon hearing this, he merely responded with an uninterested "oh" and said nothing more. Knowing his temperament, Luo Ning covered her mouth and giggled, "Don't worry, Brother Lin. I've prepared all the promotional materials you arranged. I assure you, your thousand taels of silver won't be spent in vain."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, "That's the spirit. Miss Luo truly understands me."

Luo Ning chuckled, then suddenly asked, "Brother Lin, Qiaoqiao mentioned that you'll be going to the capital after the New Year, is that true?"

Lin Wanrong nodded, "Exactly, I'm going to look for someone."

Luo Ning lowered her head and asked, "Brother Lin, is the person you're looking for a woman? Is she beautiful?"

Lin Wanrong thought of Xiao Qingxuan's face, their first meeting by the Xuanwu Lake, the late-night conversations in the quiet courtyard, their rescue from the bandits' den, and the intimate moments in the hidden cave. Although they had been apart for a while, the memories remained vivid. He sighed softly, saying, "She's as beautiful as a heavenly fairy, unparalleled in this world."

Luo Ning bit her lip lightly and asked, "Then, Brother Lin, will you come back?"

Lin Wanrong laughed, "Miss Luo, isn't Qiaoqiao asking you to probe me? Qiaoqiao is my wife-to-be, she is still here, how could I not return?"

Luo Ning let out a soft sigh, "Brother Lin, although the capital is bustling and lively, with a myriad of sights, there are many people here who care for you. You must come back."

Chapter 202 A Suburban Outing (1)

Lin Wanrong noticed an undertone of loneliness in her demeanor and thought to himself that this girl's life wasn't easy. Her standards were so high that it was difficult for her to find a suitable match, and right now, she was undoubtedly in turmoil. He felt sorry for her.

Upon not finding Luo Min, he saw no reason to stay any longer. As Lin Wanrong made his move to leave, Luo Ning walked him to the door and suddenly said, "Brother Lin, are you free tomorrow?"

"Free?" Lin Wanrong was puzzled. If Eldest Miss didn't need him for any tasks the next day, then yes, he would be free.

"Miss Luo, what do you need me for? Could it be that you're inviting me for tea, a drink, or some amusement?" Lin Wanrong joked.

Luo Ning chuckled lightly. "Brother Lin, you always know how to tease me. If I were to invite you for tea, I fear you would refuse again. We've all been so busy preparing for the poetry contest at the literary club recently and it's been tiring. We thought to make use of the sunny day tomorrow to go on an outing. Everyone is eager to meet the mastermind who humbled Shen Banshan that day, so I'm extending an invitation on their behalf."

A suburban outing? Indeed, these literati and literatas had a wide array of activities. It instantly reminded Lin Wanrong of his university life. Interesting, very interesting, he thought, smiling before playfully asking, "Miss Luo, are you trying to get me to sponsor it again?"

Luo Ning shot him a glance, barely holding back her laughter. "Brother Lin, where did that come from? This outing is purely for relaxation, it has nothing to do with money."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, "I apologize, it's a professional habit, just a professional habit."

In a soft voice, Luo Ning asked, "Does this mean you agree, Brother Lin?"

"Well, with free food and drinks, I can't think of a reason to refuse," Lin Wanrong replied with a grin. Dealing with matters of the Xiao family these days had been very bothersome. It would be good to go out and have fun. After all, it was free, so why not enjoy it?

Seeing his acceptance, Luo Ning was delighted. She softly said, "Brother Lin, in that case, I'll wait for you at the entrance of the Xiao residence tomorrow morning. Oh, I forgot to tell you. Our literary club has recently expanded, and even Young Master Guo Wuchang has joined."

What? Even Young Master Guo could join the literary club? This indicated a significant drop in the club's quality. The club seemed to be doing good business - recruiting new members and collecting their fees. Indeed, expansion came with benefits.

Upon returning home, Eldest Miss quickly asked him, "Lin San, are you alright?"

"As long as one has a clear conscience, there's nothing to fear. What could possibly happen to me?" Lin Wanrong smirked.

Eldest Miss shot him a glance, "You call that a clear conscience? Let me tell you, Miss Wanying came to look for you today. She lingered at our door for a while but finally left without coming in. I sent San De (Si De) to find you. You should be careful from now on."

"Eldest Miss, don't you understand? This is all part of a scheme. I'd actually be more worried if she didn't come looking for me," Lin Wanrong smirked again.

Indeed, for Tao Wanying, this was a trap within a trap. Initially, she had suspected Lin San of tainting her purity, fiercely seeking to confront him. Yet, as Lin Wanrong unfolded his eloquent argument, he managed to completely clear his name. Wanying, in her confusion, couldn't even figure out who the real offender was, which was nothing short of a tragedy.

This was a part of his sequential attack strategy. If he'd been more ruthless that day, firmly denying any knowledge of future events, given Wanying's confusion, she might have gone insane on the spot, without even knowing who had "sullied" her.

As Lin Wanrong explained the situation, and came to the part about physical hygiene, the Eldest Miss Xiao Yuruo blushed, glaring at him, "How can you just say whatever comes to your mind? You are such a natural rascal."

Lin Wanrong answered earnestly, "I'm simply promoting scientific knowledge. Miss Tao should be thanking me in the future."

The Eldest Miss snorted, "I don't know where you come up with these terrible ideas. Wanying was a good woman until you scared her to this state. Whoever offends you is really seeking their own death."

Proclaiming his innocence loudly, Lin Wanrong said, "Eldest Miss, I did this entirely out of my loyalty to you, without any selfish motives, you must understand me. Besides, I had warned her today, by now, she must have figured out what really happened. What I did was toughen her up, a meritorious deed."

Xiao Yuruo laughed, "I can't argue with you. You turned a bad deed into a good one. You are truly unique in that. What will you do if Wanying discovers everything was your secret manipulation?"

Do what? thought Lin Wanrong. I merely scared her a bit, which compared to her killing habit, is much kinder. Not wanting to continue the discussion, he smiled and said, "Tomorrow, I need to take a leave."

"You've just done a few days of work and you're already thinking of slacking off. You should study well these days. Our Xiao family will be depending on you in the future." The Eldest Miss said gently.

Hearing this, Lin Wanrong broke into a cold sweat. Depend on me? What does she mean? Although I like the Second Miss, I never thought about marrying into her family. She shouldn't rely on me for everything. He chuckled, "These days, the affairs at home and the factory have been less hectic, I also want to get some fresh air. Coincidentally, Young Master Guo's scholarly achievements have skyrocketed recently, and he has been accepted as a member of the Jinling Literary Society. Tomorrow, they have an outing event, and under Young Master Guo's cordial invitation, I reluctantly agreed to accompany him. Therefore, I'm here to ask for your permission."

Considering the Eldest Miss's attitude towards Luo Ning, he couldn't say that he was invited by Luo Ning. Otherwise, it would be as bad as getting mud on his pants, it'd be an issue either way. By putting the blame on Young Master Guo, he was rid of all responsibilities.

"Jinling Literary Society?" The Eldest Miss frowned slightly and asked softly, "Is Miss Luo also going?"

"That... I didn't hear about her going." Lin Wanrong said without blinking, adding in his heart, "And I didn't hear that she's not going either."

"Understood," the Eldest Miss responded with a gentle nod, "Then you should go, but remember to take good care of Cousin Guo, don't let him be bullied by others." The Eldest Miss knew very well what her cousin Guo Wuchang was capable of. His admission to the famous, sophisticated society must have been bought with a hefty donation. Among the scholars of Jinling, he would be nothing

more than a laughingstock. With Lin San by his side, however, he was unlikely to be taken advantage of.

Lin Wanrong replied enthusiastically, "You can rest assured, Eldest Miss. Considering these circumstances, I made time amidst my busy schedule to accompany Young Master Guo. Hah, let's see who dares to bully him - even a dog, er, young master, is under the protection of Eldest Miss, right?"

The Eldest Miss gave him a glance and laughed, "You do love to talk nonsense." She sighed softly, "If only Cousin Guo had half your wit and courage, my mother wouldn't have to worry so much about him."

The following morning, as promised, Luo Ning was waiting outside the mansion gate. It was indeed a sin for a man to have a woman waiting for him on a date.

After washing his face and donning his stylish green outfit and hat, Lin Wanrong confidently strode towards the gate. The green outfit was quite the trend in Jinling, and the servants of the Xiao family wore it with pride. Lin San's reputation resounded across Jinling, and it would be a shame not to strut about in these clothes.

Young Master Guo, for his part, was dressed quite properly in a white robe, gently waving a small fan. A red flower was tucked under the brim of his scholar's hat, making him look every bit the poser of a scholar. Having paid his way into the literary society, he was now showing off his newfound status. Lin Wanrong approached him with a laugh, "Young Master, I'm here."

Guo Wuchang and Lin San had a long-standing relationship. Guo Wuchang, as the senior official, had received numerous benefits from his subordinate. Pulling Lin Wanrong by the sleeve, he said, "Lin San, I just heard from Miss Luo that you also received an invitation. This is great, we can look out for each other."

Lin Wanrong understood the Young Master's intent and nodded, "Indeed, indeed. Today, I will certainly protect the Young Master."

From her palanquin, Luo Ning peered out and said, "Brother Lin, since you're ready, let's get going."

Seeing that the sky was just beginning to brighten, Lin Wanrong was startled, "Miss Luo, is it necessary to go on an outing so early? Let's find a place to have breakfast first."

Luo Ning shook her head with a smile, "We have an appointment with a prominent person today, and as the younger generation, how can we afford to be late? We need to go early and wait for that gentleman."

Prominent person? Lin Wanrong gave Luo Ning a puzzled look. She hadn't mentioned anything about a prominent person yesterday. Damn, as a small fry, the last thing he wanted was to meet some big shot.

Seeing his troubled expression, Luo Ning couldn't help but laugh. She beckoned him over, and when he approached, she took out a box of pastries from her palanquin, "Brother Lin, these are eight treasure cakes I made this morning. Please make do with these."

Inside the box were seven or eight pastries, half of which Luo Ning had already bitten into. Her face turned red as she quickly retrieved the half-eaten pastry and held it in her hand.

Lin Wanrong asked in surprise, "Miss Luo, did you really make these?"

Luo Ning shyly replied, "I lost my mother at a young age and my father has been busy with his work. I've picked up a few skills on the sly, I'm afraid it might not be up to your standards."

Lin Wanrong picked up a pastry and took a bite, remarking with admiration, "Not only do they look good, but they also taste excellent. Miss Luo, I didn't expect that apart from writing poetry, you are also skilled at making pastries. Truly, you can grace the drawing room and rule the kitchen..." He added to himself, And command the bedroom

Recalling their previous conversation about the qualifications of a potential spouse - 'capable in literature and war', Luo Ning understood his joke and blushed, saying softly, "Brother Lin, you're teasing me again."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily, devouring the pastries with great relish. Luo Ning watched him with a smile, then signaled for her palanquin to proceed.

As the outing was organized by the literary society, the meeting point Luo Ning arranged with the scholars was at the entrance of Jinling Literary Society. When the three of them arrived, about thirty people had already gathered, both men and women.

As soon as the crowd spotted the young man wearing a servant's hat and green cloth shoes following Luo Ning's palanquin, they started whispering amongst themselves. A few of the women who recognized him from a previous encounter joyously waved and called out, "Brother Lin San, Brother Lin San..."

Chapter 203 Suburban Outing (Part 2)

Being famous really made a difference. Everywhere there were enticing temptations like butterflies and bees. Lin Wanrong felt restless in his heart and thought to himself that as he approached, clasping his fists and smiling, "Are you calling for me, ladies? Greetings to all of you. I am Lin San. I have seen all of you, ladies."

For those who didn't know Lin San, upon seeing his unique and distinctive appearance, they also came to know that this must be the popular household servant, Lin San, who had been making waves recently. Apart from his decent looks, they couldn't see any remarkable skills.

A few young ladies who had met Lin San at the literary society before grabbed hold of him and chattered away, "Brother Lin San, we heard that you single-handedly defeated the King of Couplets from the Seven Northern Provinces. You're amazing!"

"Brother San, Brother San, that Before you're old, you're dreaming of being an elder. A novice acting as a scholar. How did you come up with it? How did you feel at that time? Did you feel insulted? Are you standing up for our talented scholars from the Jiangnan region?"

"Brother San, where did you learn your magic tricks? Can you demonstrate them on the spot?"

Lin Wanrong smiled wryly and shook his head. These young girls were quite open-minded when they gathered together, but their looks were a bit unattractive.

As for the other talented scholars, not many of them had attended the banquet that day. They hadn't personally witnessed how Lin San defeated Shen Banshan; they had only heard the rumors. Now, as they looked at this insignificant household servant, they felt a mixture of curiosity, disdain, and jealousy.

Oh, the various forms of human nature, how intriguing they are! Lin Wanrong observed the expressions of the crowd one by one, sighing inwardly. Luo Ning smiled and said, "Brother Lin, how do you feel having so many followers?"

"Well, it seems that I should publish a collection of poems and couplets next time, titled 'Lin San and the Couplets.' It might sell quite well." Lin Wanrong joked.

Luo Ning chuckled and said, "Do you really need to think about that? Someone had already thought of it. The storytellers in teahouses and wine shops have compiled stories about your achievements at the Sunshine and Rain Restaurant in Hangzhou and my grandmother's birthday celebrations. They are currently performing it in teahouses."

Lin Wanrong laughed heartily. It sounded good to have free publicity, but deep down, he really wanted to keep a low profile.

Lin Wanrong pointed at a few talented scholars in the distance who were eyeing him hungrily and asked, "Miss Luo, where are those gentlemen from? They don't seem to be scholars from our Jinling."

Luo Ning nodded and said, "Brother Lin has sharp eyes. The Jinling Poetry Competition is about to commence, and those gentlemen have come from the north. They joined us today for an outing and exchange."

Lin Wanrong exclaimed, "Could they also be members of the Seven Northern Provinces Literary Alliance? Aren't they here to find a place for Shen Banshan?"

Luo Ning nodded, "The Seven Northern Provinces Literary Alliance is open to aspiring scholars who haven't ranked in the imperial examinations. I believe they are part of it as well. Brother Lin, let me tell you, ever since you defeated Shen Banshan, more scholars who wish to participate in the Jinling Poetry Competition have come, including many elites from the north. The rivalry between the north and the south seems inevitable."

"Competition leads to development, which is a good thing," Lin Wanrong said with a smile. Scholars should not be divided by north and south, but organizations like the Seven Northern Provinces Literary Alliance have drawn geographical boundaries and sparked the so-called north-south rivalry.

"But our Jinling Poetry Society, as the host of this poetry competition, cannot afford to lose face," Luo Ning said with a smile. "That's why I wanted to bring you in as the treasure of our society."

Treasure of the society? Ha, can I really earn such a title? Lin Wanrong laughed heartily and said, "Well, then I'll shamelessly be your treasure. I hope I won't disappoint you."

Hearing his nonsensical words, Luo Ning lightly scolded him, her cheeks blushing with shyness. She dared not speak to him any further.

The group, consisting of scholars from the Jinling Literary Society and several talented individuals from the north, marched out of the city with a sizeable entourage. Among them, Lin Wanrong stood out the most, whether it was his attire or his complexion, naturally attracting many gazes. Several young ladies walked by his side, constantly presenting their newly written poems for his guidance. Occasionally, a hint of flirtatiousness could be seen in their expressions.

Lin Wanrong had no such thoughts in mind. He casually tossed the young ladies' notes to Young Master Guo and said with a smile, "The little knowledge I possess was taught by my Young Master. You should seek his guidance instead"

Guo Wuchang picked up the notes and pretended, "This young lady, the phrase 'the spring breeze teases my heart' is not appropriate. It would be better to change it to 'the spring breeze caresses my chest'"

Luo Ning had already alighted from the sedan chair and walked beside Lin Wanrong, smiling as she said, "Brother Lin, in a few days, the young ladies in Jinling City will likely be infatuated with your talent."

Infatuated with what? I'd rather they be infatuated with my strong chest muscles, Lin Wanrong shook his head and said, "Miss Luo, you mentioned that a distinguished figure would be coming today. I wonder how important this person is?" He pondered for a moment. Could it be Xu Wei? That's impossible. The old man is busy suppressing the White Lotus cult and cleaning up the government in Jiangsu. His whereabouts are highly confidential. How could he make a public appearance? Could it be someone else trying to be 'low-key' like me?

Luo Ning smiled and said, "It's my Teacher from the Jinghua Academy in the capital. She is a renowned female scholar in the north and has some fame among the scholars from both the north and the south. For those of us who have studied poetry and literature, she is indeed a distinguished figure."

"A female scholar?" Lin Wanrong was taken aback for a moment. "How old is she? Could it be the female officer who brought the couplet last time?"

Luo Ning shook her head and said, "No, it's not her. The person who came is my Teacher. She is already in her fifties or sixties and specially came from the capital to participate in this Jinling Poetry Competition. She arrived yesterday, so we invited her to join us for the outing today."

Lin Wanrong nodded. Another person from Jinghua Academy. This Jinghua Academy is probably equivalent to the Peking University of this era. Even an ordinary old woman who comes out of it dares to call herself a scholar, regarded as a distinguished figure in the eyes of Luo Ning and the others. Truly unfathomable. If there's an opportunity, I could send Second Miss there for further education.

As the group chatted, they arrived outside the city. Although it was early winter, the scenery was still filled with lush green mountains and clear waters, with vast fields stretching as far as the eye could see. In the misty fog, several early-rising farmers were diligently tilling the land with their plows and hoes, exuding an air of tranquility.

Lin Wanrong took a deep breath of the fresh morning air. Going out early in the morning, the air felt so refreshing.

The group stopped in front of a pavilion, and in the distance, two figures slowly approached. Leading the way was a woman in a white flower-patterned robe, around fifty or sixty years old. Her temples were gray, and her expression was stern, with a cold and disdainful gaze that seemed to find fault with everyone.

Luo Ning hurriedly lifted her long skirt and ran over, respectfully bowing. "Ning'er pays respects to Teacher."

This is Luo Ning's teacher? She looks like Mijue Shitai (A character from Jin Yong's novel "The Heaven Sword and Dragon Saber.") I guess she's not a kind person. Lin Wanrong thought. The scholars quickly stepped forward to pay their respects, saying, "Students pay respects to Teacher Mei, the renowned scholar."

Looking at the respectful appearance of the scholars, this renowned scholar Mei seemed to be quite a prominent figure. Lin Wanrong pulled Guo Wuchang, who was next to him, and asked, "Young Master, do you know this renowned scholar Mei?"

"Well, I don't move around in the capital, so I'm not familiar," Guo Wuchang said shamelessly.

But a young lady who was following closely behind Lin San said, "Brother San, this Teacher Mei Yanqiu is a famous scholar in the capital. Many renowned talents have come from her tutelage. Even many high-ranking officials in the capital are eager to become her disciples."

Lin Wanrong nodded. So this Mei Yanqiu even accepted disciples from high-ranking officials. Then why was she wearing such an unfriendly expression, as if he owed her money?

Mei Yanqiu helped Luo Ning up and said, "Good, good, Ning'er, you've become even more beautiful after being away for a few years." Luo Ning shyly responded, blushing on her face.

Mei Yanqiu nodded and said to Luo Ning, "Ning'er, after you left the capital, I accepted a new disciple. You should come and meet him." She nodded towards the person behind her and smiled, "Come out and meet Ning'er."

A person walked out from behind Mei Yanqiu and greeted Luo Ning, saying, "I am Zhao Kangning. Greetings, Miss Luo."

Luo Ning was taken aback, never expecting that this young prince would appear here and inexplicably become her teacher's disciple.

Mei Yanqiu said, "The young prince is kind-hearted, knowledgeable, and outstanding in his studies. I accepted him as a disciple in the capital. You should all get closer to him in the future."

The talented men and women of the Jinling Poetry Society were shocked when they saw this handsome and elegant Young Prince Ning, who was renowned throughout the world. The young ladies who were previously surrounding Lin San quickly flocked to the young prince. Compared to the household servant Lin San, the young prince's identity was clearly more like that of a golden son-in-law.

The lively scene around Lin San just a moment ago suddenly became empty. Lin Wanrong sighed, thinking to himself, damn it, the prince's faction indeed has its charm. Even if it's a piece of dog shit, if it's associated with the royal family, it becomes fragrant.

Guo Wuchang complained indignantly, "What's so great about the young prince? He's not as handsome as me, and his talents can't even compare to Lin San's. Isn't it just because he has a good father?"

Luo Ning stood in front of her teacher, not knowing what to do either staying nor leaving. On the other hand, Zhao Kangning conducted himself politely, charmingly engaging in conversation, which caused the surrounding talented men and women to cheer.

Damn it, he's just fooling around. I need some rest. Lin Wanrong found a spot, plopped down with Young Master Guo, and lay down to take a rest. Both of them were feeling frustrated.

Time passed, and suddenly a warm round of applause erupted. Lin Wanrong opened his eyes and saw many talented men and women surrounding Zhao Kangning and Mei Yanqiu.

Zhao Kangning smiled and said, "Since my colleagues appreciate it, I'll show my modesty." After a brief pause, he looked towards a group of people approaching in the distance, and with a slight smile, he said, "For my couplet, 'A ewe leading two lambs.'"

Lin Wanrong followed his gaze and immediately felt his anger rise.

Chapter 204 Desire to Kill

It turned out to be a peasant woman who had risen early. A large water bowl was hanging around her neck, a hoe trailing behind her, and she was leading young children to work in the fields early in the morning. One child was three or four years old, the other had just learned to walk. The three of them staggered along the field path. Zhao Kangning's remark about "A ewe leading two lambs" was meant to mock this peasant woman and her children.

Mei Yanqiu chuckled and said, "Young Prince has a unique interest, drawing lessons from these lowly people."

Lin Wanrong, who had been led around by his parents in his early years in a similar way, found this scene rather familiar. When he heard Mei Yanqiu's words, his eyes flared up. He grumbled under his breath, moved to the woman's side, and said, "Sister, let me help you."

Seeing the crowd mocking her, the peasant woman was terrified. She shook her head repeatedly, "No, spare me, sir..." She hurriedly left with her children after saying these words. The hoe scraped the ground, the water jug clanged, and the two small children, frightened, fell to the ground. They began to cry loudly, and the woman too was scared into crying out loud, daring not to raise her head.

Zhao Kangning, Mei Yanqiu, and a group of literati watched the mother and children with amusement, laughing out loud. Luo Ning frowned slightly and sighed helplessly.

Lin Wanrong gritted his teeth, his fists tightly clenched, his face as black as coal. Guo Wuchang came over and pulled him aside, "Lin San, are you alright?"

Lin Wanrong quietly said, "I'm fine, Young Master, it's just... I kind of want to kill someone."

Young Master Guo was startled, hastily pulling him away, "Lin San, watch your words. If someone heard that, would you still want to live?"

Though usually inept, Young Master Guo was surprisingly understanding at this moment. Lin Wanrong sighed slightly without speaking.

Luo Ning saw his unusual demeanor and rushed over, asking with concern, "Brother Lin, are you alright?"

Lin Wanrong replied indifferently, "I'm fine, Miss Luo. You'd better go back."

Over there, Mei Yanqiu called out, "Ning'er, come here, I have something to say to you."

Teacher's orders were paramount. Luo Ning looked anxious, whispering, "Brother Lin, I originally thought only my Teacher was coming, I didn't expect that Young Prince would come too, I didn't mean to hide this from you."

Lin Wanrong nodded, "I know, it's not your fault. Go on." Luo Ning glanced at him one more time before turning away.

When Luo Ning returned, Mei Yanqiu took her hand and said with a smile, "Ning'er, can you answer the couplet that Kangning just recited?"

Luo Ning, worried about Lin Wanrong, had no mood for answering riddles. She hesitated before responding, "Teacher, I can't answer it."

The other scholars and ladies who had come with her were also lost in thought, but no one answered. Zhao Kangning turned his gaze to Lin Wanrong and smiled, "Lin San, your couplet exchange with Mr. Shen Banshan the other day was quite interesting, why not give it a try?"

Lin Wanrong replied expressionlessly, "Sorry, I'm not interested."

"How dare you! Who are you to speak to the Young Prince in such a manner?" Mei Yanqiu, Luo Ning's Teacher, raised her eyebrows in anger and exclaimed.

Lin Wanrong smirked dismissively, "And who are you, to speak to me like this? If it weren't for Luo Ning's sake, I wouldn't give you the time of day."

"You, you..." Mei Yanqiu was so angry she couldn't find the words to retort. Luo Ning looked anxiously at Lin Wanrong, trying to send him a silent message. Zhao Kangning then interjected, "Teacher, please calm down. This man is Lin San, a servant of the Xiao family who defeated Shen Banshan the other day."

Suppressing her rage, Mei Yanqiu said, "What skills could a mere servant possess? That Shen Banshan must be very pathetic."

"Yes, Mr. Shen indeed lacks skills. He can only come up with clever verses, unlike Teacher Mei, who has many rich and influential disciples, and enjoys high esteem. I admire that," Lin Wanrong said flatly. The sarcasm in his voice was obvious to all.

Regardless of Mei Yanqiu's abilities, judging by the rich and noble students she taught and her derisive remarks toward the common people today, her character was questionable at best. Her disciples, who were from privileged backgrounds, were likely just after a degree to embellish their resumes.

Seeing Lin San and Teacher Mei confront each other, some people were worried, some were cheering, and most were just watching the spectacle. Luo Ning was caught in the middle, finding it difficult to take sides.

In the capital, Mei Yanqiu was highly respected. She had never been teased like this and was so angry that she turned pale. "I won't waste words with a lowly person like you. If you're capable, answer Kangning's verse," she snapped.

Lin Wanrong chuckled, "I fear that this lowly person may dare to respond, but the high and mighty may not dare to listen."

Zhao Kangning snorted, "Ridiculous. There's no verse my Teacher would fear. Lin San, my verse is 'A ewe leading two lambs', try to answer it."

Arrogant bastard! Lin Wanrong retorted coldly, "A meaningless and unphilosophical verse, it's not hard to match. Listen well, I match it with 'two pigs share one trough'."

The expressions on Zhao Kangning and Mei Yanqiu's faces changed instantly. This was a naked insult to both of them, especially to Zhao Kangning, a royal prince, who was being compared to a pig. He could hardly swallow this insult. Zhao Kangning blurted, "How dare you, Lin San! You insult the royal family"

"Young prince, how have I insulted the royal family?" Lin Wanrong retorted coldly.

Zhao Kangning was rendered speechless. He couldn't say that Lin San had insulted him by calling him a pig, yet everyone understood the meaning behind the verse. Mei Yanqiu shouted, "Lin San, stop the sophistry! We all witnessed you insult the young prince and the royal family today, that's a capital offense!"

Infuriated and indignant, Lin Wanrong gave a desolate laugh, "Insulting the royal family? What a big accusation, Teacher Mei, you are really capable. It's a pity you're biased. From what I see, someone is making malicious allegations, insulting our founding emperor and the foundation of our great nation."

Mei Yanqiu asked, "Lin San, what do you mean by that?"

Lin Wanrong snorted, "A ewe leading two lambs! What a concept, a ewe leading two lambs! That peasant woman, laboring hard with her child from dawn to dusk, sustains herself by the sweat of her own brow. How is she beneath you? If you were not born into a good family, you wouldn't even match up to half of her."

"You, you" Mei Yanqiu, upon hearing his offensive words, nearly fainted from anger. Luo Ning hurriedly supported her while giving Lin Wanrong a desperate look for help.

"A nation's foundation lies in agriculture, its people its root. The common folk are the bedrock of our great Hua Dynasty. What right do you have to scorn them? Teacher Mei, with your great scholarly background, you hail from the imperial city, a place of prosperity and glory. Perhaps your lineage has remained there for generations. To your eyes, everyone else must seem ignorant and lowly. Fine, very good, you are proud and noble. But I am utterly baffled. When your ancestors, eight or eighteen generations ago, emerged from the crevices of rocks, were they residing in cities then? Don't spew such nonsense! They, like our ancestors, were all common farmers, the 'lowly' ones in your eyes. Who was it that started categorizing people as city dwellers and country folk, noble and humble, creating this absurd hierarchy?"

Furious, Lin Wanrong kicked hard at a stone before him, splitting it in two with a resounding crash. Everyone present was intimidated by his intensity and kept their silence. Despite his coarse language, there was undeniable clarity in his words that left even Mei Yanqiu and Zhao Kangning without a retort. "When you ridicule and deride them, you are ridiculing your own ancestors and forgetting your roots. The founding emperor of our great Hua Dynasty was a farmer himself, who took pride in tilling the fields and earning his keep. If you insult the common folk, aren't you insulting the founding Emperor, our dynasty, and our heritage? Young Prince, you may hold the status of a royal descendant, but your disrespect towards your forebears and the sage emperor is beyond belief. You are certainly bolder than I."

Upon hearing Lin Wanrong's pointed rebuke of the Young Prince, everyone fell silent. The story of the founding Emperor of the Hua Dynasty, who rose from a cattle-herding boy to a great monarch, was known to all and seen as a role model. Now, the young prince's disdain for the peasants was equivalent to disrespecting his own ancestors, an argument none could deny. Despite Lin San's foul language, his arguments were irrefutable. It was no wonder that Shen Banshan was defeated by him; there was no injustice in it.

Zhao Kangning was covered in cold sweat. Lin San had a sharp tongue and a quick mind. If he accused him of disrespecting the royal lineage, Lin San would retort by accusing him of disrespecting the founding Emperor. It was a losing game no matter how it was played. All he could do was to swallow the insult and the embarrassment.

The northern scholars, enraged by Lin San's audacity, not only had he insulted the Young Prince but also the universally respected renowned scholar Mei, one of them stepped forward and said, "Brother Lin has quite the sharp tongue, daring to be so presumptuous even in front of Teacher Mei. Though I am not as talented, I have a couplet to offer - a mantis blocking a chariot, a tiger relying on a river, how can an ordinary man speak of bravery?"

To which Lin Wanrong, glaring angrily, retorted, "An ant travels along a locust tree, a bug shakes a tree, the fool falsely claims to be heroic."

Upon meeting Lin Wanrong's gaze and sensing his superior wit and charisma, the scholar fell silent, no longer daring to speak. Lin Wanrong grunted and said, "Since this gentleman here respects Teacher Mei so much, I have a couplet for him. The first line is, 'The Cockscomb has yet to bloom'"

The scholar, showing some quick wit, instantly responded, "Mr. Dog tail grass (Note: F*ck Teacher)" As the words left his mouth, he realized his mistake. Ah, wasn't this essentially an insult to Teacher Mei?

The crowd burst into laughter, recognizing that the poor scholar had fallen into Lin Wanrong's clever trap. Lin Wanrong cupped his fist in a salute, grinning mischievously, "Brother, your insight is admirable. I'm impressed."

Mei Yanqiu was both infuriated and embarrassed. As a renowned scholar admired by many, she couldn't bear being ridiculed by Lin Wanrong. She flicked her sleeve and said, "Two apes cut wood in the mountains, this monkey can also answer"

"A horse stuck in the mud, how can this beast move its hoof?" Lin Wanrong responded without hesitation. The scholars were stunned. He was the first person who dared to insult Teacher Mei in public. This Lin San had something of a rogue in him, but given his wit and learning, he could insult anyone and get away with it.

Seeing the renowned scholar Teacher Mei, fluctuating between flushes of red and white, Lin Wanrong felt a great satisfaction in his heart. He had enjoyed the exchange immensely, giving and receiving insults in stride. Let this arrogant woman look down on everything; if he didn't put her in her place, she might believe she was the most superior person in the world.

With a cold smile, Lin Wanrong said, "Among all the learned in the world, the one I respect the most is Master Xu Wei. His character, temperament, and scholarship are all impeccable. As for you, the renowned scholar Teacher Mei, pardon my frankness, even if you were to continue your studies for another hundred years, you would not match up to a tenth of Mr. Xu. As for the term 'renowned scholar', perhaps you shouldn't claim it at all."

He sighed, appearing exhausted, and said to Guo Wuchang, "Young Master, this is not where we belong. Let's go home."

Chapter 205 Once I Could Pee Ten Feet Against the Wind

Lin Wanrong heaved a quiet sigh within his heart. This deeply entrenched hierarchical mindset that had existed for millennia - could he single-handedly shatter it? Though he possessed great strength, he had no direction to apply it, or perhaps he was simply too lazy to do so. Facing these privileged, scholarly men and women, what could he say? Should he discuss with them about natural rights and equality for all beings? Ridiculous! Those who tread different paths cannot make plans together. He was fundamentally different from them. Moreover, even if he were to promote the idea of equality for all beings, would anyone in this era believe it? Would anyone accept it?

The more Lin Wanrong thought about it, the more helpless he felt. He eventually shook his head and laughed bitterly. Forget it. He wasn't trying to save mankind nor guide the course of history. How could he manage these things? That was enough. Whatever these scholarly men and women chose to do was their business. He didn't have the time to play games with them.

He arrived and left as he pleased, too lazy to bid anyone farewell. With Guo Wuchang in tow, he prepared to leave. His standing in Guo Wuchang's heart was akin to a deity. Seeing Lin San's gesture, Guo Wuchang didn't ask any questions and promptly followed him.

"Brother Lin" Luo Ning, ignoring her teacher's presence, hurried to catch up with him, her eyes welling with tears. "Brother Lin, I'm sorry, it's all my fault"

"Miss Luo," Lin Wanrong said with an air of righteousness, "I've told you, it's not your fault. I just couldn't stand certain things. Alas, I can't help it. I was born to be upright."

Luo Ning didn't laugh at his joke as she usually would. Instead, tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Brother Lin, I know you are kind and don't blame me. But it all started because of me. If I hadn't insisted on bringing you here, none of this would've happened"

Lin Wanrong replied with a melancholy smile. "No, it's my own fault. Perhaps I don't belong with you all."

His words crushed Luo Ning's heart, and her tears flowed more freely. "Brother Lin, I know you look down on me. I'm all talk and no action, just a sham scholar. Aside from causing trouble, I can't do anything else."

"Miss Luo," Lin Wanrong said thoughtfully, "you mustn't belittle yourself. Everyone has dreams; it's just that the ways we pursue them are different. At least you have dreams. I, on the other hand, have lost even the right to dream."

Tears welled up in Luo Ning's eyes as she looked at him. "Brother Lin, I don't understand what you're saying."

Lin Wanrong shook his head with a smile. "You don't need to understand. Ah, I'm really tired today, and a little hurt. Miss Luo, let's hug. A pure one, just for comfort."

Luo Ning was startled, her heart pounding. This Brother Lin had quite a unique way of thinking. She had no idea how his mind worked.

After teasing Luo Ning a bit, Lin Wanrong, for some reason, felt stifled. Today's bitterness and indignation were too much. As he recalled his past life, he sighed gently. "Once, I could pee ten feet against the wind. Now, even with the wind, I dampen my shoes. Such is life"

He suddenly came out with such a brusque, nonsensical remark that everyone was startled. They had no clue what he meant by his words. Looking at his demeanor, it was one of utter desolation and dejection. Nobody could understand it. Luo Ning saw it all and felt that the distance between them had inexplicably widened further.

"Brother Lin," Luo Ning gently held his sleeve, "The words you speak, though rough, always make me feel that they are, compared to the poetry we write, the truly profound and refined."

A true friend indeed, Lin Wanrong thought, feeling deeply touched. This woman could see his crudeness as something refined. "Don't idolize individuals, I detest such practice," he said with a chuckle. "Offering some real gold and silver would be more practical." His mood shifted quickly; he was quick to feel and quick to forget. His melancholy disappeared in a blink of an eye.

Seeing Lin San's coarse language and unruly behavior, Mei Yanqiu couldn't hold back any longer. She snapped, "Lin San, do you think you can just leave like that? Do you believe that speaking a few couplets makes you invincible? You insult me, and you insult the entire scholarly world. If you dare to set foot in the capital, you will surely find it impossible to move forward."

"Insulting you is insulting the entire scholarly world? You represent all of scholarly knowledge?" Lin Wanrong responded with disdain, "Teacher Mei, you overestimate yourself."

Seeing the scholars around him staring at him, Lin Wanrong said scornfully, "To represent the entire scholarly world, you need to have the ability to represent all the knowledge in the world. I've known Mr. Wenchang for a long time, and even he, as a first-class scholar, doesn't dare to claim to represent all scholars. Teacher Mei, you may talk big, but your knowledge is far from sufficient."

People at Jinling Literary Society had all heard about the Sunshine and Rain Restaurant incident in Hangzhou and knew that Lin San was indeed acquainted with Xu Wenchang. His words were most likely true. Xu Wenchang was a figure of great repute, an exemplar for scholars throughout the country, and an idol in the hearts of all scholars. Mei Yanqiu, though also a reputed scholar, was simply not in the same league as Xu Wenchang.

Seeing Mei Yanqiu turn pale, Lin Wanrong sneered, "If you don't believe me, I'll come up with a couplet today. If Teacher Mei can come up with a matching response, I'll admit defeat. I will personally go to Teacher Mei to apologize."

Young Master Guo chimed in appropriately, "And what if Teacher Mei can't come up with a response?"

Lin Wanrong laughed, "If Teacher Mei can't respond, my request is simple. I'd ask her to personally plow a few acres of good fields, acting as an old ox, to see how us 'inferior' people in her eyes labor to make a living. If she can't answer in three years, then I'd ask her to stop disgracing the term 'renowned scholar'."

His words were wildly arrogant, but nobody doubted him. After several rounds of confrontation, everyone understood that Lin San indeed had some talent. His previous triumph over Shen Banshan was certainly genuine. He had always been the one responding to couplets, but today, he was the one coming up with the couplet. Needless to say, it was going to be extremely difficult.

Mei Yanqiu knew she had met her match today. In front of so many students, she could not back down. Gritting her teeth, she said, "In that case, I await your enlightenment."

Luo Ning had just exchanged a few words with Lin Wanrong, her heart was already filled with trepidation. Seeing the situation between her mentor and Lin Wanrong become more tense, she was scared. In a hurry, she stood between the two and said, "Brother Lin, you come up with the couplet, and I'll respond on behalf of my teacher. If I can't respond, I'll go down and plow the fields on her behalf."

Although Lin Wanrong appreciated her understanding just now, he wouldn't compromise on principles. He laughed out loud and said, "Miss Luo, you misunderstand. Asking your teacher to plow is not to harm or humiliate her. It's to let her experience the life of us ordinary folks. Honestly, it's actually a way of honoring her. If she behaves as haughty as usual, she wouldn't even be fit to carry shoes for the woman in the fields."

Before Luo Ning could respond, Lin Wanrong sighed, "Miss Luo, everyone has a point they can't tolerate being trespassed, and I'm no exception. Your respect for your teacher is one thing, but her character is another. Please don't say more."

Mei Yanqiu also had some backbone and called out, "Ning'er, come back, don't beg him."

Luo Ning was the one having the hardest time among everyone present. She didn't want her teacher to lose and go plow the fields, nor did she want Brother Lin to lose and apologize. She found it incredibly hard to make a decision between the two.

Lin Wanrong said loudly, "Today, when Teacher Mei created a couplet, she didn't use any palindrome technique, and I will do the same. Whether it's fair or not, everyone will know after seeing it."

With no further words, he took a pencil from his bosom, swiftly wrote a few characters on a piece of white paper, and handed it over. Everyone looked at it and saw the unrestrained words, "Chickens and dogs cross the frosty bridge, all the way are plum blossoms and bamboo leaves."

Luo Ning took one look and furrowed her brow. It was a metaphorical couplet. Both the plum blossoms and bamboo leaves as well as the paw prints of chickens and dogs on the frost were scenery. It wasn't some sort of palindromic genius, but it was intricate enough to be difficult to match. However, as Lin Wanrong had said, the couplet was fair and did not intentionally make it difficult for Mei Yanqiu.

Seeing Lin San's skill so effortlessly displayed, and considering his earlier performance, everyone was immediately clear about the situation. They feared Teacher Mei was going to lose this round.

Mei Yanqiu stared at the upper couplet for a long time, her face alternating between red and white. This metaphorical couplet, even if Xu Wei were present, he might not be able to match it, let alone her. She bit her lip in silence, her face a picture of gloom.

Everyone, looking at her expression, knew the result without needing to say it. Naturally, it was Teacher Mei who lost. After this whole commotion, no one in Jinling dared to discuss couplets in front of Lin San again.

Young Master Guo stealthily tugged at Lin San's clothes and looked at him with admiring eyes, "Lin San, where did you learn this couplet skill? Can you teach me?"

Lin Wanrong gave a faint smile, took a sigh, and said, "Young Master Guo wants to learn? Of course, you can. Starting from tomorrow morning, read 800 volumes of the classics, history, philosophers, and collections every day. In ten years, you can succeed."

Young Master Guo stuck out his tongue and murmured, "That's so difficult. Luckily my family has Lin San, so we don't need ten years."

Mei Yanqiu suddenly exclaimed, "Lin San, I can't respond to your couplet. Did you copy it from an unmatched masterpiece? Asking me to come up with a response instantly is truly unjust."

Lin Wanrong laughed coldly, "If you claim it's an unmatched masterpiece, then naturally no one can answer it now, can they?"

Seeing his sharp gaze, Mei Yanqiu felt some fear in her heart, but she forced herself to reply, "Naturally, no one can."

Lin Wanrong laughed out loud and with swift strokes of his pen, wrote, "Swallows and orioles penetrate the embroidered curtain, half a window of jade scissors and a golden shuttle."

He gave a cold smile and said, "Teacher Mei, this unmatched masterpiece you mentioned, I have answered. What do you say to that?"