Teacher 1181

Chapter 1181: The Five Great Prince Groups

The prince group from Great Tang consisted of the main commander Han Cangshui, who was responsible for issuing all decisions for the Five Empires of War Discussions. The secondary commander was Eldest Princess Li Xiu, and she was responsible for miscellaneous things as well as social interaction.

Sun Mo was the third commander, which meant that among all characters in the group, he was ranked third. This title not only didn't sound good, but it also didn't have any actual power.

Other than Li Ziqi, Sun Mo probably couldn't command anyone else.

"Li Yingqi is bullying people too much!"

In the horse carriage, Ying Baiwu was extremely indignant. She felt that the Emperor had slighted her teacher.

"Baiwu, there might be people unworthy of their reputations among 6-stars great teachers. But for great teachers who are 7-stars and above, there are no quacks. Besides, Han Cangshui is an 8-stars and is the one with the title 'Alchemy Martial Sage'!"

Qin Yaoguang advised her senior martial sister to calm down.

"That's right, all of the royals in the Tang Country depend on Han Cangshui's alchemy pills to extend their longevity. No matter how high the standard of our teacher is, the emperor wouldn't dare to use him. If not, how could he still have the face to ask Han Cangshui for alchemy pills in the future?"

Tantai Yutang explained. A group like this was built upon the consideration of various interests. It didn't mean that one could be the group leader just because one was strong.

"What if they lose the war discussion?"

Xianyu Wei was worried.

"Naturally, Han Cangshui will be f***ed!"

Tantai Yutang shrugged.

"But our teacher's fame is so great, he would also be implicated, right?"

Xianyu Wei's expression turned heavy.

"Not only so, but Ziqi might even be thought of as a weakling!" Helian Beifang felt a headache. "Besides, the most depressing thing is that if Han Cangshui lost, it's highly possible for him to shift the blame to our teacher, saying that our teacher has disturbed him, causing him to be unable to have full command. At that time, our teacher wouldn't be able to explain himself no matter what."

"We shouldn't discuss too much about this then."

Xianyu Wei suggested.

"Do you think that will be helpful?"

The sickly invalid chortled. "If Han Cangshui can win, he would say that it is due to his excellent strategies and command. If the situation isn't good, our teacher will definitely give him some suggestions, right? As long as our teacher speaks, Han Cangshui will definitely use this as an excuse, saying our teacher is causing a disturbance that makes the group lose!"

"Sigh, it's a dead-end!"

Lu Zhiruo shook her head and sighed. Because it was the War Discussion, Li Ziqi couldn't refuse to join. If not, her reputation within the Tang Empire would be finished.

"Cough, I actually have a solution!"

Qin Yaoguang smiled in a very cunning manner. When the other martial siblings glanced at her, she lowered her voice. "We can poison Han Cangshui or play some small tricks to make him fall sick for a short period."

"Bad idea!"

Jiang Leng, who had always been silent, spoke out now.

"That's right, this will actually give the initiative to the other party instead!"

The sickly invalid felt that they either shouldn't do anything or if they did something, they had to directly make sure Can Hangshui died.

"We shouldn't be so pessimistic. What if everyone performed outstandingly and won?"

Xianyu Wei changed her mentality. "After all, our eldest martial sister is very impressive!"

"Have you gained an understanding of the other prince groups?"

Qin Yaoguang counter-asked.

The plains-girl shook her head.

"The crown prince of Great Xia, Xia Taikang, is a top graduate of the Skyraise Academy. Although he isn't a great teacher, he is skilled in zither, chess, poems, and paintings, and excels in both literature and martial arts. His brilliance made everyone proclaim him as the most outstanding successor in all of Great Xia's history."

Qin Yaoguang revealed. "Right now, he has started to govern the country. For some minor matters, the Xia Emperor just allowed Xia Taikang to make his own decisions."

"Ah? Isn't the Xia Emperor worried that the crown prince might try to off him too early in advance?"

Helian Beifang was somewhat curious. Usually speaking, the Emperor would regard authority very highly. Unless they were too old or heavily ill, they wouldn't hand a portion of their authority.

"The Xia Emperor's heirs were few in number, and some of them got sick and passed away. In the end, Xia Taikang is the only one who lives on. This is why the Xia Emperor dotes on him very much."

Qin Yaoguang loved collecting various news and gossip the most. "In any case, among the crown princes of all countries in the Central Plains, Xia Taikang is the number one!"

Si~

(So strong?)

Xianyu Wei was shocked.

"In that case, what is the rank of our eldest martial sister?"

Lu Zhiruo asked in a daze.

"Based on beauty, she is in the top three. Based on her talent, ever since she got rejected by Secondary Saint Zhou, she became the butt of jokes in the royal circle. Luckily, our teacher nurtured her, and she became the youngest great teacher in history. Right now, her fame is enough to rank her within the top ten."

Qin Yaoguang heard these from the grapevine.

"After that, it is the Eldest Princess of Qi Country, Jiang Yuzheng. She studied in the Westshore Military School and learned a whole bunch of capabilities. She might be weaker in the zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting aspects, but when it comes to military strategies, she is ranked at the absolute top. The headmaster of the Westshore Military Academy once said that if Jiang Yuzhen continued like this, it's highly possible that she could become a Military God!"

"Military God?"

When the other students heard this, all of them had looks of shock on their faces.

In the history of Great Tang, there was only a person named Li Jing that had the qualifications to be named Military God. And in the overview of history in the entire Nine Provinces, the number of people who were qualified to have the title 'Military God' was less than ten.

"When Jiang Yuzhen was 15 years old, she heard that there was a land nearby that was ruled over by bandits. Hence, she secretly headed there, recruited people to form a small army, and even trained them personally. In the end, she only used a total of seven months to quell all the bandits and even personally executed the three bandit leaders of the largest bandit group.

Qin Yaoguang continued to divulge. "This army was then named the Flying Swallow Army. Right now, they are Jiang Yuzhen's personal army and follow her for punitive expeditions, clearing out all bandits in their country. One could say that the Qi Country is the most peaceful country among all countries in the Nine Provinces."

"So fierce?"

Xianyu Wei gulped down a mouthful of saliva and felt it was very terrifying.

Helian Beifang clenched his fist tightly. If there was a chance to, he really wanted to measure himself against this princess.

"The Qi Crown Prince is still young and he is trash. So, many people said that Jiang Yuzhen might have a very real chance to become the first female emperor in the history of Qi Country."

Qin Yaoguang felt envious. "That's the imperial throne!"

"Does she have a weakness?"

The sickly invalid was very interested in this Jiang Yuzhen.

"Is being a tomboy counted? I heard that she doesn't like luxurious clothes or pearls. She even eats with her soldiers."

Qin Yaoguang chewed the sweet in her mouth. "The Qi Emperor has once chosen many pillars of talents to match with her, but in the end, Jiang Yuzhen crushed all of them to the point where they had to flee."

"Jiang Yuzhen has said that if someone wants to marry her, they have to win against her on the battlefield first!"

"Continue. What about the crown prince of Chu?"

The sickly invalid urged.

"The Crown Prince Xiang Zhao loves women too much. This is especially so for women with slender waists. I heard that he privately likes to apply rouge and makeup powder on his face and is a little too much of a sissy. Naturally, I've not seen it personally!"

Qin Yaoguang laughed. "He should be the character with the least amount of threat."

Xiang Zhao was the Chu Emperor's only son. No matter how lousy or rotten he was, the throne would be passed down to him.

"The Crown Prince of Great Wei, Wei Wu`an, is a great teacher that graduated from the Jixia Learning Palace. He is truly erudite and learned. It's said that he memorized all the books in the Jixia Academy's library when he was eight years old. He was born with both a retentive memory and the halo 'One Heart Two Uses'!"

Qin Yaoguang looked at Li Ziqi. "He can be considered your arch-enemy!"

"From the looks of things, other than Xiang Zhao and that trash Li Xuan, it's impossible to win against any of the others."

Ying Baiwu kneaded her glabella. Her thirst for victory had always been strong, and she looked down the most on trash.

"Bai Wu, please be more respectful to my royal brother!"

Li Ziqi felt helpless as she persuaded her.

In order for them to be able to acclimatize to the environment of Western Jing faster, Li Xiu got the group to speed up and they had only spent half a month before they arrived at Western Jing.

However, an unexpected major character actually welcomed them at the city gate.

Chapter 1182: Princess Flying Swallow, Jiang Yuzhen!

Outside the Yongding Gate of Western Jing, a group of over three hundred soldiers rushed forth in welcome. They were clad in armor that was mainly black-colored, but their arm, shoulder, and rib parts were white. When they rode on their warhorses, they resembled flying swallows flying low in the air.

The person standing in the front was a burly male and he held a flag in his hand. The flag had the word 'and if one looked closely at its shape, it actually looked like the contour of a flying swallow.

The soldiers rushed toward the diplomatic group from the Great Tang with completely no restraint.

The soldiers of Great Tang didn't need to wait for Li Xiu to give them an order. Under the general's shout, they already got into formation to protect the group.

Da! Da! Da!

The sounds of hooves stomping the ground echoed out loud, resembling war drums in the ears of everyone. After that, the sound of a unified clink rang out.

The Flying Swallow Cavalry unsheathed their blades.

"Wow, so cool!"

Qin Yaoguang, who was riding on a warhorse, couldn't help but stand upon the stirrups. She shaded her eyes with her hand on her forehead and stared into the distance.

"What do they mean by this? Are they trying to establish might so we will cower?"

Helian Beifang licked his lips and held his curved blade tightly. He really wanted to counter-rush these people!

The instant the Flying Swallow Army was about to crash against the royal guards of Great Tang, the soldiers suddenly shifted and rode past them on both sides. They were like a sharp knife cutting neatly across a slab of frozen butter.

There was a female general clad in light armor that stayed 30 meters away.

These Flying Swallow Cavalries rushed past the command group and arced a circle before they returned to the side of the female general. Throughout the entire process, they didn't make any other sounds.

"Elite!"

Li Xiu praised silently. However, there was a look of unhappiness on her face. "Is this how the Qi Emperor welcomes guests?"

"My royal father is my royal father. I am me!"

The female general's gaze surveyed Li Xiu before sweeping past her and onto the group. It was as though she was trying to look for someone.

"May I ask if Great Teacher Sun is present? If yes, please come out for a meeting!"

This female general of about 20+ years old didn't speak loudly, but her lucid and elegant voice clearly rang out in the air outside the city.

"Could she be a braindead fan of our teacher?"

Qin Yaoguang was puzzled. Usually speaking, the other party would first request to meet the main commander or the second commander of the group, right?

"It's highly possible!"

Xianyu Wei suddenly recalled the female great teacher named Bai Qing. She wanted nothing more than to stick to her teacher.

Sun Mo tugged his reins and leaped down from his horse.

"I'm Sun Mo!"

Sun Mo clasped his fists while surveying this female general.

There was no need to question. She was definitely the great princess of Qi Country, the general of the Flying Swallow Army. She was none other than Jiang Yuzhen, the person rumored to be on the verge of becoming the Military God.

Sun Mo had arrived in this world for quite a while, and the women he came in contact with all seemed to be the virtuous and gentle types. Even daughters of rich and powerful clans like An Xinhui still had the charm and gentle weakness of females deep in their bones.

Bluntly speaking, they could trigger the protective desire in men.

If one wanted to speak about a strong personality, Ying Baiwu definitely would rank number one. If not, Sun Mo wouldn't have given her the nickname 'iron-headed girl'. In the future, after she grew up, she most probably would resemble this Jiang Yuzhen.

Although she was a female, she had a masculine aura!

Jiang Yuzheng was very tall and clad in flying swallow light armor, with a large red cloak fluttering behind her. This caused her to display a strong heroic aura.

The five features and contours of her face were sharply defined. Her lips were thin and her nose was straight. She could be considered very beautiful, but her phoenix eyes that contained an intense sharpness had stripped away some sense of beauty from her face.

When riding on her warhorse, although she made no movements, she gave the feeling like she was a treasured blade that could be unsheathed at any moment to kill her enemies.

After hearing Sun Mo's reply, Jiang Yuzheng looked over and her eyes brightened!

(Mn, as per what the rumors said. This is a man with unmatched looks!)

Jiang Yuzhen's vision slid down from his face to his chest and landed on the school emblem above it.

"Are you not a 4-stars great teacher?"

Jiang Yuzheng frowned slightly. The emblem on Sun Mo's chest was a 5-stars one.

"About a month plus ago, my teacher went to take the grandmaster spirit runist examination and obtained the 5-stars great teacher qualification in passing."

Qin Yaoguang took the initiative to reply, "Greetings to your highness. I'm my teacher's personal student named Qin Yaoguang!"

"In passing? In that case, why don't you go and obtain the 6-stars great teacher's title in passing as well?"

Jiang Yuzhen's lips twitched. She felt that Qin Yaoguang's words were too frivolous. Although she wasn't a great teacher, she had studied in the Westshore Military School. She had seen how hard it was for those great teachers in the school who wanted to obtain the 5-stars title.

Naturally, she didn't deny that Sun Mo was truly very impressive.

"If it wasn't for the Five Empires War Discussion, my teacher would have headed to the Prison of Desperation to participate in the 6-stars great teacher examination!"

Qin Yaoguang chortled. "Your highness, don't gaze at someone through a gap in the door. The hard requirement of registering for the 6-stars exam is that one has to comprehend 18 great teacher halos and have grandmaster-level expertise in two secondary occupations. My teacher has long since achieved all these."

"Yaoguang, don't be impolite."

Sun Mo didn't like disputes. "Your highness, do you need me for something?"

Li Xiu was someone who liked to act only after making a clear plan. Before she could ascertain Jiang Yuzheng's purpose for coming here, she didn't wish to step out.

Han Cangshui naturally hoped that misfortune would befall Sun Mo.

As for the others, other than the crown prince Li Xuan, they had no qualifications to make conversation.

"A woman that's relatively beautiful!"

Li Xuan silently admired Jiang Yuzhen. This woman was definitely someone on the same level as his younger sister Li Ziqi. However, their demeanors were completely different.

(But I like a fiery girl like this!)

After seeing so many gentle-tempered and obedient girls, Li Xuan wanted to have a taste of wilder ones. Moreover, she was the Eldest Princess of Qi, a person with a very noble status. It was worth it to conquer someone like her.

"Dinner tonight at Zhenjiang Inn!"

Jiang Yuzheng spoke.

(Huh?)

Everyone was dumbfounded.

(You came in with such ferocity, could it be that you weren't here to make a show of force?)

(Why did you suddenly want to invite Sun Mo to dinner?)

(The crucial point is that you are none other than the extremely famous Princess Yuzhen from Qi Country. Is it really okay for you to be so casual?)

Sun Mo was also slightly stunned by the other party's unexpected act. His first reaction was that he had just met a person that was hired to lure a customer to a restaurant. There were no solutions to this as in the modern era, he had suffered in the hands of this type of people before when he went on blind dates.

(The more a woman takes the initiative, the more dangerous things are! This beautiful princess is also an opponent in the Five Empires War Discussion. What reason does she have to invite me for a meal? To ask questions?)

Given her identity, the great teachers of the Westshore Military School would undoubtedly answer all her questions for her.

(Cosmetic surgery?)

She was already very pretty. If she live-streamed for a single night, she would be able to get many donations and rewards.

(Could it be that she is suffering from some unspeakable illness and requires my ancient massaging technique to help her?)

"What's your answer?"

Jiang Yuzheng's beautiful brows furrowed and she even grumbled in a low voice, "Indecisive, not like a man at all!"

"Sorry, I'm not free!"

Sun Mo rejected.

The gazes of the soldiers from the Flying Swallow Cavalry immediately turned to one filled with killing intent. They stared at Sun Mo and seemed like they wanted nothing more than to immediately behead him.

Jiang Yuzhen wanted to curse, but the moment her red lips parted, they trembled a little before she changed her mind. "Alright then, maybe my attitude wasn't too good and this caused you to have some misunderstandings. Let me repeat myself. I want to treat you to dinner tonight at the Zhenjiang Inn!"

Now, the whole diplomatic group from the Great Tang was dumbfounded.

"What does this Flying Swallow General want to do? Could it be that she wants to sleep with Great Teacher Sun?"

"Stop joking, she's the eldest princess of Qi Country that even has a chance to become the king!"

"What do you mean? Do you mean that our Great Teacher Sun cannot match up to her?"

The random followers started to whisper to each other.

"Rumors are not to be believed. If you have something to say, just say it here."

Sun Mo didn't want to go for the dinner even more. "Also, I have to make a point clear. The main commander of this diplomatic group is Great Teacher Han, while the Eldest Princess Li is the secondary commander."

Jiang Yuzhen stared at Han Cangshui.

"Your highness!"

Han Cangshui clasped his hands and his smile was like the spring wind. After all, beautiful women would always be treated favorably.

"Has Emperor Tang eaten too much longevity medicine to the point where his brains are damaged? Or, is he too arrogant and feels that any 8-stars great teacher can lead your group to become the champion?"

Jiang Yuzhen coldly snorted.

Han Cangshui's expression immediately turned as gloomy as the moon on a frozen night. He froze. He didn't expect the other party to not give him any face at all.

Ignoring his greeting was one thing, but she even publicly humiliated him.

"Princess Yuzhen, is this how the Qi Country treats its guests?"

'If a teacher is humiliated, the student will die.' Li Xuan naturally had to step out to speak for his teacher.

"Li Xuan. If you weren't the crown prince of Great Tang, you basically wouldn't be qualified to talk to me!"

Jiang Yuzhen glanced at the crown prince before turning her gaze to Li Ziqi. "You are Li Ziqi, right? Seeing once is better than hearing about you a hundred times. Nice to meet you!"

"Eh!"

Li Ziqi felt somewhat awkward. The other party was very polite toward her but was rude to her elder brother, royal father, and the personal teacher of her elder brother. What should she do in this case?

"Eldest martial sister, don't be fooled. She wants to stir up a conflict internally in our group!"

Lu Zhiruo spoke like a wise strategist and had a small look of pride on her face as she warned Li Ziqi.

"…"

Li Ziqi didn't want to reply. This Jiang Yuzhen was someone on the verge of becoming a Military God, how would she use such a crude method?

Also, although this was the first time they met, the little sunny egg felt that Jiang Yuzhen was someone who disdained to use minor tricks. She said all that earlier because she purely looked down on Li Xuan.

"What do you mean?"

Li Xuan was enraged, his face flushing.

"Alright, maybe I've been too abrupt. Great Teacher Sun, you can prepare for the war discussion first. If you have free time and it is convenient for you, you can head to the princess residence to look for me. I'll welcome your arrival any time!"

After Jiang Yuzhen finished speaking, she left on her horse.

Her personal Flying Swallow Cavalry also followed closely behind her.

"What does she mean? Could it be that she has fallen for our teacher?"

Qin Yaoguang's eyes shone with the light of curiosity.

No one had an answer to this.

(Even if she had fallen for him, I will make sure to disrupt all her plans!)

The little sunny egg vowed in her heart that her teacher belonged to her. No one could snatch him away.

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After the diplomatic group entered the city, they headed to the third most luxurious hotel in Western Jing.

It wasn't that Li Xiu couldn't afford the best hotel. Rather, the top two were already fully reserved by the Great Xia's diplomatic group and Great Chu's diplomatic group.

The officials of Qi Country had actually arranged residences for the various diplomatic groups, but no one went there to stay as they were afraid that their conversations and plans might be leaked.

The princes and princesses had to prepare for the war discussion, and the reserve group wasn't allowed to head out as well. However, Sun Mo's students had nothing to do. Other than Li Ziqi, the others went for a tour at the Westshore Military School.

When they arrived, they saw many people gathered outside the school gate.

"The Westshore Military School is so strict. They actually forbade people from touring the place!"

"Well, they established an academy based on military rule. Such a restriction is understandable!"

"Doesn't that mean that I've made a wasted trip here?"

Because of the Five Empires War Discussion, many wealthy merchants and rich people came to Western Jing. And as for the Westshore Military School that was one of the Nine Greats, it naturally became an important scenic spot. In the end, no one could enter.

How disappointing!

"What should we do?"

Helian Beifang was very disappointed. He loved military stuff and wanted to go in to take a look.

"Let me go and speak to them!"

Qin Yaoguang took complete charge and rushed into the gatekeeper's office.

Chapter 1183: Zither, Chess, Calligraphy, and Painting. Skilled in Both Civil and Military Aspects!

"Would there be trouble?"

Lu Zhiruo was a scaredy-cat and didn't want to make trouble for her teacher!

"I'll get her back!"

Jiang Leng also felt the same. But just when he reached the door to the office, Qin Yaoguang was respectfully escorted out by the gatekeeper uncle.

"Let's go!"

Qin Yaoguang called everyone and started to head into the campus. After that, she turned and thanked the uncle.

The tourists gathered outside the school gate were immediately unhappy when they saw that this group of young people could enter. Hence, they started making noise.

"Why can they enter?"

Regardless of the school uniform Qin Yaoguang was wearing or her accent, she didn't seem to be a student of the Westshore Military School.

"They are the personal students of Great Teacher Sun. So they naturally have the qualifications to enter!"

The gatekeeper uncle explained.

"Great Teacher Sun? Who is that?"

Someone didn't know.

"Sun Mo. The God Hands, the great ancestor-level spirit runist, the creator of the Skyward Spirit Rune..."

The uncle revealed a series of Sun Mo's achievements in a single breath. Because he was the gatekeeper of a famous school, he had simply seen too many proud chosens. This was why this uncle could deeply understand how impressive Sun Mo was.

Sun Mo was stronger than those chosens by an entire era!

"She says she's Sun Mo's personal student? I can say the same too!"

Someone was convinced.

Qin Yaoguang turned her head and revealed eight pearlie white teeth as she smiled. She didn't argue and casually swiped her hand to cast a great teacher halo.

Swish~

Golden light flashed.

Everyone immediately felt their mental states feeling refreshed and their minds becoming clearer.

This was Encyclopedic Knowledge!

Hua~

Everyone was in an uproar.

For this great teacher halo, it was very rare for ordinary people to be able to see it, let alone the fact that it was being used by such a young person.

"Helian, why don't you cast something too?"

Qin Yaoguang urged.

"Nope!"

The barbarian youth rejected. He didn't like showing off.

"Che, so inflexible!'

Qin Yaoguang spoke in disdain. After that, she glanced at Lu Zhiruo. "Senior sister, come on and cast one. This is a chance to boost our teacher's fame. We cannot allow our auras to be weakened."

"Mn!"

The papaya girl also didn't like to flaunt, but she knew that the greater her teacher's fame was, the more advantageous it would be for his future. Hence, after she drew in a deep breath, she also cast a great teacher halo.

Complete Focus was activated!

The tourists still didn't know how shocking this scene was, but the gatekeeper uncle and a few students from the Westshore Military School were all dumbfounded after seeing this.

(It can't be, right? How old are these people merely? They have already comprehended a new halo after comprehending the self-taught halo?)

"Are they not Sun Mo's students?"

"My heavens, this Great Teacher Sun truly does live up to his reputation!"

In an instant, Qin Yaoguang and Lu Zhiruo gained a wave of favorable impression points for Sun Mo.

"Do you see it now?"

The gatekeeper uncle swept his gaze at the crowd. "If any of you can cast a great teacher halo, I'll allow you guys to enter too. If not, stop making noise!"

Jiang Leng and Tantai Yutang didn't say anything, but their fists were tightly clenched to display their intentions. Although they weren't interested in becoming a great teacher, they didn't want to lose out in comparison.

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In the crowd, quite a few pairs of eyes were staring at Qin Yaoguang and the others.

"Could these people be Sun Mo's personal students? The girls are so beautiful!"

A young man was playing with a folding fan as his gaze swept past Qin Yaoguang and Xianyu Wei. But ultimately, his eyes landed on the papaya girl.

There were no solutions as she was truly 'too large'.

Besides, her pure and innocent appearance was truly his type. It would be like a painting brush dirtying a piece of clean white paper. The feeling was simply too satisfying.

"Your highness, please speak cautiously!"

The old slave beside him knew Xiang Zhao's temperament and quickly advised him. (It's one thing if you want to play with ordinary girls. But these people are Sun Mo's personal students, it's best not to do anything to them recklessly.)

"Haha, I know what to do!"

Xiang Zhao frowned. "I heard Li Ziqi is very beautiful. I have to meet her this time around. If she is truly not too bad, I can allow her to become my princess consort!"

"Your highness, should we return to make preparations for the Five Empires War Discussion that will happen five days later?"

The old slave persuaded him.

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Five days passed swiftly in the blink of an eye.

The first round was a battle of zither skills!

It would be held in the largest Victory Public Square in Western Jing.

The sky hadn't turned bright yet, but this place was already packed to the brim. However, the centralmost location was guarded by the royal guards. Ordinary people weren't able to enter.

The Five Empires War Discussion was a contest on zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting. It was to see which empires were the best in both the arts and martial aspects.

In the eyes of ordinary people, what aspects did someone outstanding ought to have? The Five Empires War Discussion was basically a large-scale test for these things.

Since ancient times until now, poems, stories, music, and even hunting were considered leisure interests!

In the eyes of ordinary folks, an outstanding emperor should be one with extremely high attainments in literature and arts. He should be able to scold people without using profanity and was capable of painting and fighting.

In any case, no matter what they encountered, the Emperor ought to be someone who could deal with everything!

The Five Empires War Discussion first tested the standard of a country's skill in zither music, chess skills, calligraphy, and painting. After that, the test would be for the military strategy segment. In any case, it was a very comprehensive test.

The Great Tang's group was the third to arrive. Lu Zhiruo and the other students were here as well because only Sun Mo's personal students had the qualifications to sit here in the audience stand for the diplomatic groups to observe the event.

"Eldest martial sister, that fatty is so loathsome. He keeps staring at you!"

Ying Baiwu divulged.

Li Ziqi followed the gaze of the iron-headed girl and saw that in the audience stand of Chu, a young man wearing gold-colored dragon robes of a crown prince was staring at her with a frivolous expression.

"He is Xiang Zhao!"

Li Ziqi introduced.

"Doesn't that fellow cultivate?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand. As long as cultivators worked hard a little, it was impossible for them to be fat even if they wanted to.

"If I were the only prince, I also wouldn't want to cultivate!"

Tantai Yutang chortled. "In any case, there would be no one who could vie with me for the throne."

"Without a good body, you wouldn't last for too long even if you became an emperor. You wouldn't have the fortune to enjoy your fate."

Qin Yaoguang teased.

Sun Mo glanced over after activating Divine Sight. In the end, he could only see the words 'unknown target'. This caused his brows to furrow.

The system was truly despicable!

Sun Mo had guessed that the system wouldn't benefit him so easily.

15 minutes had passed, but there were no signs of the diplomatic group from Great Xia at all.

"Isn't the airs of that Xia Taikang a little too great? He dares to make so many people wait for him?"

Qin Yaoguang was unhappy.

The main thing was that the sun was too harsh. It wasn't comfortable.

At 9.30, at the exact starting time of the opening event, Xia Kaitang then strode vigorously over while leading his diplomatic group.

Once this crown prince arrived, all the other irrelevant noises in the crowd weakened in intensity immediately.

"Truly tyrannical!"

Lu Zhiruo inhaled a breath of cold air and felt somewhat afraid.

"Look carefully. It's said that he was born with double-pupil eyes!"

Qin Yaoguang spoke.

Double-pupil eyes simply meant that there were two pupils in an eye. Such people were described to be legendary characters that could stir the entire world.

But very soon, they no longer paid attention to him because the Qi Emperor had arrived.

The ordinary folks in the surroundings all knelt and greeted the Emperor.

"Rise!"

The Qi Emperor sat on a high throne. After that, he glanced over at the Great Tang's area.. "Which of you is Sun Mo, Great Teacher Sun?"

Chapter 1184: Zither battle

This sentence from the Qi Emperor caused some of the people from the diplomatic groups of Great Xia, Great Wei, Great Chu, and even Great Tang to turn unsightly.

There were four crown princes present here. No matter what, their statuses should be higher than Sun Mo, right?

Even if their statuses weren't that high in his eyes, there were still the second commander and the main commander of the respective groups.

The composition of these diplomatic groups was roughly the same as Great Tang's. Other than the personal teacher of the Xia Crown Prince not being present, the teachers of the other crown princes were here. Besides, they brought royal relatives similar to Li Xiu who was responsible for social interactions too. So no matter how one looked at the situation, it wouldn't be Sun Mo's turn to be greeted by the Qi Emperor first.

Usually speaking, in such social settings, the sequence of greeting had a rule to it.

Either the stronger countries would be greeted first or those who were more senior in terms of age!

"What is the Qi Emperor doing? Is he trying to play some tricks?"

Helian Beifang frowned.

Given how narrow the heart state of Han Cangshui was, after being disregarded by the Qi Emperor like this, he would surely hate Sun Mo even more.

There were no solutions. He couldn't afford to offend the Qi Emperor and thus could only vent his anger on Sun Mo.

"Given the reputation of the Qi Emperor, he should feel disdain for such tricks. I guess it's purely because he admires our teacher?"

Qin Yaoguang analyzed.

As expected, after Sun Mo rose and bowed, the Qi Emperor involuntarily waved his hands. "Great Teacher Sun, please come over for a chat!"

This was him wanting Sun Mo to sit beside him.

"Your Majesty, the War Discussion is about to begin. So, I better stay here for now."

Sun Mo tactfully declined.

"Ah? Isn't the group leader of your esteemed diplomatic group Great Teacher Han?"

The Qi Emperor's underlying meaning was saying that since Sun Mo didn't have the command authority, why should he stay here?

"It's Great Teacher Han indeed!"

Sun Mo admitted.

The Qi Emperor wanted to continue speaking but was interrupted by Jiang Yuzhen.

"Royal father, the time is up. It's time for the competition!"

"Oh, let's get started then!"

The Qi Emperor didn't use any tricks. He merely coveted Sun Mo's God Hands and wanted Sun Mo to give him a massage that could boost his virility so he could enjoy a hundred beauties every night.

Even an emperor had no way to fight against old age. If he couldn't have a boner, what was the point of having 10,000 beauties in his harem?

Naturally, eating alchemy pills could save his pride. However, all medicine was 30% poison. He couldn't possibly ignore his life just to make love, right?

So, when the Qi Emperor heard how powerful Sun Mo's Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands was, he felt very impatient and wanted to try it.

The war drums sounded. After that, the Qi Emperor started with a speech before the war discussion.

The members of the diplomatic groups didn't really bother listening. All of them were shocked at Jiang Yuzhen's status in the heart of the Qi Emperor.

Usually speaking, as a princess, one would usually tread cautiously around the emperor as they were afraid of making him unhappy and falling out of his favor.

However, this Princess Flying Swallow actually interrupted the Qi Emperor in public. What was even more terrifying was that the Qi Emperor actually listened to her.

It seemed like the rumors weren't wrong. Jiang Yuzhen might really be able to become the next Qi Emperor.

The Qi Emperor wasn't like leaders of the modern world who liked to give long speeches and cause people to want to fall asleep. He merely gave a short speech that directly spoke about the main point and started to introduce the first round.

"A zither battle depends on one's zither skills. It can be split into two parts. The first part is a representative battle. Each group will send out a representative to perform solo. There are no restrictions to the genre of music and points will be awarded by a judge after that!

"For the second part, it's a contest between the prince groups. Every group has to send out at least five members to form an instrumental ensemble to 'fight' the other groups!"

This was something everyone was familiar with. Hence, no one panicked. After the Qi Emperor announced for them to begin drawing the lots, each group began to send a member up onto the stage.

At Great Tang's side, Li Lin was arranged to go up and draw the lots. She was Li Xiu's daughter.

The lot she drew was no. 3, it was neither good nor bad.

Very soon, Xia Taikang carried a guzheng and appeared on the three-foot-tall stage. He sat there calmly and placed the guzheng on his thighs before starting his performance.

Zeng~

When Xia Taikang's index finger strummed the zither strings, the sound of a powerful army instantly rang out in the ears of everyone. Several people were so frightened that they shivered. It felt like during morning on the grassy plains, an army suddenly dashed out from the fog, killing their way out.

Everywhere they passed by, corpses littered the ground!

Xia Taifeng's melody style was like his personality. Courageously advancing forward, rather choosing death than retreat!

"This fellow is impressive!"

Qin Yaoguang was shocked.

Logically speaking, a muscular and sturdy fellow like Xia Taikang clearly belonged to the type of people who spent their time cultivating and learning how to govern the country. No one had expected his zither skills to be at such a high level!

Several people subconsciously hugged their chests. Although they weren't able to hear the intent to war, they could sense it.

But gradually, their nervousness and trepidation turned to a surging hot-bloodedness. They felt like they were a general that was on a punitive expedition, riding proudly across the world before finally reigning supreme under the sky!

When the music stopped, it was unknown why but everyone felt a sense of loss and melancholy in their hearts.

Xia Taikang didn't thank the audience. He held his guzheng with one hand and walked off the stage, exuding an aura of extreme tyranny.

"Great Teacher Han, what do you think?"

Li Xiu asked. Her gaze involuntarily turned to Li Xuan. This little fellow had a look of nervousness and worry on his face now.

"Although he is very proficient in his skills, his innate aura has surpassed his music. This music piece is like telling a story about one's burden. His aura caused the meaning of it to dwindle somewhat."

Han Cangshui smiled. "Don't worry, we can win!"

At this moment on the stage, the Music Sage Li Guinian gave his evaluation. It was exactly the same as what Han Cangshui had said.

This Music Sage was famous for loving music and being inflexible. He was also a man of worldly wisdom. There was nothing more impartial than getting him to be a judge.

Naturally, for the sake of fairness, there were four other famous musicians from the Nine Provinces acting as the secondary judges.

"This Music Sage truly dared to speak. Is he not afraid of offending Xia Taikang?"

Tantai Yutang teasingly spoke.

Although Li Guinian was a Music Sage, this title was the same as a Saint Artist. It means it was a title one could receive after reaching the absolute peak of a certain field.

Bluntly speaking, it depended on one's skill and not on one's character. Moreover, this was a minor path. Hence, these sages and saints didn't have a high status.

For example, for Sun Mo. If he was a little more shameless, he could actually proclaim himself to be a Saint Artist because he had so many famous paintings. After all, he had an advantage in terms of the number of famous paintings he produced.

However, saints of the great teacher world were something the heavens bestowed. If one's thinking didn't reach a certain level, one would never be able to step through this threshold.

The old headmaster failed and became a vegetable because of this.

"That zither of Xia Taikang is quite interesting!"

Sun Mo's lips twitched.

"Teacher, did you have some discoveries?"

Qin Yaoguang immediately moved closer to him and asked in a low voice. "Is cheating permitted in the Five Empires War Discussion?"

Sun Mo didn't answer. Rather, he turned to Li Ziqi and asked the question.

"Cheating that isn't caught, isn't considered cheating!"

Li Ziqi shrugged. "Xia Taikang's zither should be the famous zither named 'Phoenix'. It's said that it is made from a parasol tree where a phoenix once nested. It's said that when one uses this to play music, all other musical notes will pale in comparison to the musical notes produced from it.

"Ah? Relying on a famous zither? Isn't that cheating?"

Lu Zhiruo blinked and felt things were very unfair.

"This can be allowed because it can be considered a type of contest between countries!" Li Ziqi explained.

"Besides, the quality of the musical instruments used by the other diplomatic groups wouldn't be too bad either."

Chapter 1185: Brilliant Cheating Method!

This zither of Xia Taikang didn't improve his skills much when he played a solo. However, it made his music timbre purer and could allow him to perfectly display his zither skills. Other than this, there were no other effects.

But when using it in an instrumental ensemble, it was very impressive. The other music would be suppressed by his zither sounds and he would naturally overwhelm the others. So, this required the other zither players to have a higher skill level than him to mitigate this factor.

"Xia Taikang's personality is very forceful and tyrannical. This zither matches him perfectly!"

Li Xiu sighed.

It isn't going to be easy to win this battle.

The second person that headed up the stage was Xiang Zhao, the Chu Crown Prince. This fatty smiled amiably and clasped his hands to the audience to express his thanks. He didn't exude the noble aura of a crown prince or the aura of an expert zither player. Instead, his demeanor made him look like a home teacher to small kids.

"This fellow is either a retard or he is pretending to be a sheep to eat a tiger!"

Tantai Yutang couldn't see through this fellow.

"People of Chu have always been like this. They live casually and enjoy a fine lifestyle. Unless a calamity that could wipe their empire appears, they wouldn't show the determination and stubbornness in their bones to retaliate!"

Li Ziqi reminded him. "Don't underestimate him. When people of Chu encountered the crucial moment, they definitely wouldn't relax!"

Just like what the little sunny egg said, when Xiang Zhao sat down, a beautiful maid delivered a pipa* to him. After he held that in his hands, his entire demeanor suddenly changed!

Five fingers swept past!

Ding!

A series of melodious musical notes manifested, creating beautiful sounds that entered the ears of everyone. They were like invisible hands that lifted the souls of the listeners and tossed the souls into a dark night filled with murder.

Bamboo forest, a gust of light wind, gentle rain!

Countless black-robed death warriors, a fleeing princess with her loyal guards, and the blood flowing from corpses into the mud beneath...

Everyone had long since neglected the music. They were fully immersed in the fleeing scene and their minds were stirred by the princess!

When the curved blade of a death warrior killed all the royal guards and was slashing toward the fair white neck of the princess...

Abruptly!

The music stopped.

Everything belonged to the void!

Everyone came back to their senses.

The huge public square had tens of thousands of people. But at this moment, it was so quiet that one could hear the drop of a pin. In fact, many people were still in a daze and reminiscing about the story they had seen earlier.

"I've made a fool out of myself!"

Xiang Zhao clasped his fist and regained his demeanor as a rich and frivolous prince.

Li Xiu's expression turned unsightly. Just based on his zither skills, Li Xuan wasn't Xiang Zhao's opponent at all. In fact, even Xia Taikang was a shade inferior in comparison. This was because Xiang Zhao's zither skills had clearly entered the hallway of a grandmaster.

"Indeed, the people of Chu know how to play the most!"

Qin Yaoguang sighed ruefully.

In the various countries of the Nine Provinces, if one was to speak of the country that was the most developed in terms of arts and culture, it would be none other than the Chu Country. This was a country where the women were willing to starve for the sake of appearing slim so they could be beautiful.

"I don't know if he plays well or not, but his play is filled with an artistic concept!"

Lu Zhiruo wanted to know what was the ending to that story!

(Did the princess die?)

"Excellent! Excellent!"

Li Guinian closed his eyes and stroked his beard as he attentively savored the melody of this music piece. If it wasn't for the current scene not being suitable to say too much, he would add another sentence in his evaluation.

Crown Prince Xiang Zhao already possessed the demeanor of a grandmaster.

As the saying goes, the title 'Music Sage' still wasn't high enough. They had to care about the thoughts of some major characters.

If Li Guinian was a real saint, let alone giving an evaluation, even if he scolded the ancestors of the emperor, the emperor would still have to thank him.

"Teacher!"

Li Xuan glanced at Han Cangshui with some panic in his eyes. Xiang Zhao's trump cards were very powerful. If they did things according to their original plan, Li Xuan knew he wouldn't be able to get the first place.

"Just do things according to our original plan. Calm down!"

Han Cangshui instructed.

"But..."

Li Xuan stared at Xiang Zhao before turning his gaze toward Great Qi and Great Wei. The two other parties hadn't acted yet. He didn't know what their standards were.

"This is just the first round, why are you so anxious?"

Han Cangshui frowned.

Although he had a solution to allow Li Xuan to erupt with his potential, what should he do for the later rounds of the competition?

"Your disciple understands!"

After bowing, Li Xuan prepared to head up. However, Li Ziqi stopped him.

"Royal brother, how about allowing me to fight in this round?"

The little sunny egg could tell that Li Xuan already had fear in his heart.

"Many thanks for royal sister's worry, but I'm fine!"

Li Xuan naturally wouldn't agree to this.

For the two parties earlier, they were both crown princes. If it came to Great Tang's turn and a princess was sent up instead, what would the audience think? They would definitely feel that the Great Tang Crown Prince was weak.

So, even if he had to lose, he couldn't lose without fighting.

Li Xuan went up the stage.

Although he feigned being composed, his act in the eyes of Li Xiu, the Qi Emperor, and the other major characters was like a clown.

"Your elder bro can't make it!"

Qin Yaoguang bluntly spoke.

Xianyu Wei quickly tugged on Qin Yaoguang's sleeves and passed a sweet to her. (Don't speak anymore.)

Li Xuan's performance started. He was using a famous zither named Scorched Tail. With his lanky fingers, the music he produced sounded like a female dancer dancing to please the gods in a sacrificial ceremony.

Sometimes, the music was carefree!

Sometimes, the music was grandiose.

And sometimes, the music was elegant and reserved.

"Eh? Did he play it wrongly? Why is there a need for him to be so nervous?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand.

She didn't like music but had learned it before. After all, in the Nine Provinces, everyone from major clans would have to learn a little about zither skills, chess, calligraphy, and painting.

Li Ziqi didn't answer. Instead, she looked at Han Cangshui. At this moment, this 8-stars great teacher already had a heavy and ashen expression.

Because Li Xuan didn't listen to him.

"Fool!"

Han Cangshui understood Li Xuan's mentality. As the crown prince, not only must he win, but he must win beautifully. Only then would he be able to score high in the hearts of everyone. So, in this first battle, he wanted to get a bonus. He took the chance when walking up to the stage to consume the alchemy pill Han Cangshui had given him.

"Teacher, what do you think?"

Qin Yaoguang was someone who loved gossip.

Sun Mo shook his head. He didn't feel things were optimistic.

The system was like a scummy girl that cheated the heart of honest guys. It disabled Divine Sight again, causing Sun Mo to be unable to view the stats of all the crown princes or to identify the famous zithers. But the current Sun Mo was not that intern teacher who didn't know anything.

The current Sun Mo could already 'see' many things with his own judgment and experience.

"Your highness's zither skills are very good, but your mind is a little too anxious and nervous."

Li Guinian evaluated, his tone was very ordinary.

Li Xuan's expression dimmed. After thanking Li Guinian, he walked off the stage.

"Hmph!"

Han Cangshui snorted, he was clearly unhappy.

Li Xuan cowered.

The fourth participant, Jiang Yuzhen, the Qi Country's princess!

Because she was a princess of the host country and was famous, once Jiang Yuzhen's name was read out by the ceremonial officer, tsunami-level cheers rang out loudly immediately.

"Jiang Yuzhen's fame in the common world is truly great!"

Li Xuan silently mumbled. From the looks of things now, Jiang Yuzhen had a very high possibility of becoming the next Qi Emperor. If he could marry her, he would undoubtedly become the Great Tang Emperor with no suspense.

Sigh!

Sometimes, he really admired an only child like Xiang Zhao. Even if he didn't work hard and lead a life as a salted fish every day, he would still ultimately become the emperor.

It was completely different for him. Li Xuan didn't even dare to slack for a moment as he was deeply afraid that his younger brothers and sisters might surpass him. This was especially so for Li Ziqi. She gave him the strongest pressure.

Their royal father was very fond of this younger sister of his. Li Xuan had even once assumed that Great Tang would have a female emperor in the future. This thought of his lasted until Li Ziqi was rejected by Secondary Zhou Saint. After that, Li Ziqi got despised by many and she decided to silently leave the royal palace before the situation started to change.

That period was Li Xuan's happiest moment in life.

He had thought that that was it for his sister after having learned that she was still in Jinling and actually took an intern teacher as her personal teacher.

Li Xuan had almost laughed himself to death after learning this information from his spies. But even so, he still decided to err on the side of caution and sent people to investigate Sun Mo's background. After that, he grew completely at ease.

But who could have known that this intern teacher was so overwhelmingly strong? He became the most dazzling new rising superstar of the Nine Provinces in a mere two years.

No, he could no longer be referred to as a new rising star because he was already a 5-stars great teacher and was a great ancestor in the field of spirit runes. He also had the beautiful title 'God Hands'.

"Why is my life so difficult?"

Li Xuan bitterly cursed. How good would it be if he could poison Sun Mo to death?

Sun Mo could sense someone looking at him, so he instinctively turned his head to glance over.

Li Xuan jumped in fright and hurriedly squeezed out a smile.

"Trash!"

Han Cangshui cursed silently after seeing this scene.

Jiang Yuzhen's musical instrument was a konghou. When the strings were strummed, majestic, classic, and grandiose music immediately rang out in the air, resembling the atmosphere of when a king visited his troops.

Gradually, the zither music changed. Everyone could hear the army making a vow and galloping through the battlefield.

Sharing food with the soldiers for 800 miles, listening to music from the northern tribe!

Countless generals and soldiers fought against external enemies on the cold winter night. After that, iron-hooved horses galloped past rivers and rushed the enemy camps.

Jiang Yuzhen's music was like her personality. It sounded war-like, cold, emotionless, mighty, and imposing!

"Your highness's zither skills might be inferior to others, but your emotions are as intense as fiery wine. One would be drunk the moment they drank it."

Li Guinian sighed ruefully. He stretched his hand out and swept aside the wine cups. He directly lifted the wine flask and tilted it, pouring wine into his mouth.

Sadly, there were no wine vats here!

When hearing such music, one naturally had to drink a lot and make themselves drunk.

"Teacher, why is she so unrestrained?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand. From her point of view, based on tyranny, Xia Taikang was number one. Based on music skills, Xiang Zhao was better.

"Music is a voice from the heart. Zhiruo, good music is all about transmitting a story!"

Sun Mo explained.

After hearing this, Li Xiu and Han Cangshui both turned their heads and looked at Sun Mo.

"Teacher Sun, are you also skilled in music?"

Li Xiu understood Sun Mo's words. If one didn't have a certain level of attainment in the field of music, they wouldn't be able to say this. They could only agree with others blindly.

"Still passable!"

Sun Mo mentally mused, 'Sorry, I've just become a grandmaster-level musician, the type where I can create my own BGM.'

The last person was the Great Wei's Crown Prince, Wei Wu`an.

He walked onto the stage, not wearing robes that were embroidered with golden dragons but a great teacher robe instead. This style immediately caused his demeanor to surpass the other crown princes.

After all, the occupation of great teachers was naturally admired and respected by people in the Nine Provinces.

"Che, this is a guy that loves to flaunt. Our eldest martial sister Ziqi didn't choose to do the same and wear a great teacher robe!"

Qin Yaoguang spoke in disdain.

Regardless of whether Wei Wu`an was trying to brag or not, no one else spoke the moment the sound of his guzheng rang out.

The sound of the guzheng contained a type of charm that transcended time and space. It was as though it could bring someone into a dream space that they couldn't distinguish from reality. They were content to simply continue waiting there in the dreamscape.

Sun Mo's brows furrowed. He cast a glance at the audience before finally turning his gaze on his students.

The majority of people were listening. Only Qin Yaoguang was covering her ears with an unhappy look on her face and Lu Zhiruo was frowning.

The papaya girl noticed Sun Mo's gaze. After that, her tiny face creased. "Teacher, why does his music cause people to feel so unbearable?"

Chapter 1186: Famous Zither

Sun Mo didn't answer Lu Zhiruo's question. Rather, he was staring at Qin Yaoguang curiously.

"You can tell the problem of his music from hearing it?"

If this was the case, this meant that this young girl that loved snacking still had some potential that he hadn't discovered.

"I feel his music is very ear-piercing and isn't like a human sound!"

Qin Yaoguang explained.

"Not a human sound?"

Lu Zhiruo didn't understand the meaning of these words.

"The music of this fellow is definitely produced using some secret techniques."

Qin Yaoguang shrugged. "Don't ask me, I don't know either. In any case, it's very unpleasant to listen to!"

Sun Mo turned his head away and no longer looked at Qin Yaoguang. However, he still felt somewhat suspicious in his heart.

At this moment, almost everyone on the scene was immersed in Wei Wu`an's music. Even the Music Saint Li Guinian was no exception.

Lu Zhiruo was uncomfortable and this ought to be due to her instinct. But what about Qin Yaoguang?

Naturally, Sun Mo wasn't affected. This was because he had comprehended the Battlegod Catalog when he was in the Battlegod Canyon. His mental strength had been tempered by the Battlegod Will, so he wouldn't be affected by such mental-type techniques.

Sun Mo thought about it and decided to cast the Battlegod Halo. However, the range only covered his students. After all, if too many people awakened, Wei Wu`an would be able to see through it.

Li Ziqi cast a glance around her before silently pondering. After that, she understood the reason and she couldn't help but furrow her brows.

"Teacher, why is the music so piercing to the ears?"

Xianyu Wei was shocked.

This plains-girl felt that even she could play the zither better than him. How did he dare to show his face up the stage with such skills?

"Hasn't Ziqi already said? Cheating that is not discovered isn't considered cheating!"

Sun Mo chortled.

"Is it a mental-type technique?"

Helian Beifang analyzed.

"It is that zither!"

Li Ziqi got it right with a single sentence. After that, she asked, "Teacher, the Ancient Sage halo should be able to block his music, right?"

"Mn!"

Sun Mo felt very gratified. He didn't use the Ancient Sage halo because he wanted Li Ziqi to discover this for herself.

This proved that Li Ziqi was truly very outstanding.

"That zither was created using an ancient refining method. The weaponsmith sacrificed the parrots living near the coast of the miracle sea and made the zither with them. These parrots could emit a sound to cause their prey to unknowingly sink inside an illusion!"

Sun Mo explained.

Wei Wu`an's zither skills were ordinary. He solely depended on his musical instrument to win.

"Aren't this type of parrots very rare?"

Lu Zhiruo was curious.

"They are extremely rare and because they live in the deep sea region, unless one is very lucky, they won't be able to catch one. But now, they might have already become extinct."

Sun Mo surveyed Wei Wu`an's guzheng*. Compared to a musical instrument, it was more like a killing weapon. If this was in the hands of a music sage, the power would be even greater.

Not long later, Wei Wu`an's performance ended and everyone burst into thunderous applause.

"Excellent, excellent. My dear prince, I wonder what is the name of this music piece?"

Li Guinian shamelessly asked.

Si~

The sound of everyone inhaling a breath of cold air could be heard because the underlying meaning of Li Guinian's sentence was that he himself wanted to learn it.

"This is a music piece I learned from an ancient book. It's unworthy of a mention."

Wei Wu`an smiled.

Li Guinian had a regretful look on his face. Since Wei Wu`an put it this way, it meant that he didn't want to teach him.

"The first part of this battle has ended. The crown princes, please take a break and make your preparations. 15 minutes later, the second part will commence and it will be a battle between your respective instrumental ensembles!"

As the ceremonial officer announced, a huge commotion rang out from the crowd.

The ordinary folks began engaging in discussion, the peddlers started hawking their wares, and the fellows from various gambling dens started to draw people in to bet.

The great casinos had stopped accepting bets. But these smaller gambling dens wanted to take the chance to earn more.

The ordinary folks felt that they could rely on the performances of the crown princes in the first round to continue betting. In truth, no matter if they won or lost, they would be losing money. It was because 80% to 90% of these gambling tens were opened by swindlers. They would just take the money and run.

No one in the Great Xia's diplomatic group spoke. This was because Xia Taikang was responsible for everything, so they could just listen to orders. As for training? There was no need to do so. With the presence of 'Phoenix', they would win for sure.

In Chu's diplomatic group area, Xiang Zhao was eating snacks. If it wasn't for the fact that he was stopped by his followers, he would have gone to the Great Tang's resting area.

"Make wise use of my time to revise? There's no need for that. Other than Jiang Yuzhen being a little troublesome, the others are newbies."

Xiang Zhao was very confident in himself.

(If you speak about ruling a country and planning for the economy, I might not be able to do it. But if you speak about playing, no one understands that more than me!)

In her tent, Jiang Yuzhen was seated down on the mat. Her expression was solemn as she sharpened her long sword. However, her mind was solely thinking about Sun Mo. She wondered how his performance would be.

If this continued, Great Tang would lose for sure.

Just as Jiang Yuzhen had expected, the current atmosphere in the Great Tang's tent was very heavy.

"Teacher, can you think of a solution?"

Li Xuan pleaded.

Li Xuan's mentality collapsed after he had heard Jiang Yuzhen and Wei Wu`an's zither skills.

(No matter what medicine I eat, I can't win against them!)

"What idea can I have? Since his skill is inferior, he can only concede and do his best to prepare for the next round!"

Han Cangshui's face was black. (I've told you not to eat the alchemy pill, but you refused to listen and hurt your body for nothing. Not only that, but you even failed to win.)

Li Xuan felt very helpless. He glanced at Sun Mo wanting to ask if he had any solutions. However, he knew that his personal teacher had a very bad relationship with Sun Mo. Hence, he didn't dare to speak.

"Teacher Sun, what do you think?"

Li Xiu spoke. She didn't want to lose.

"We can still win, but if we want to win beautifully, we have to pay out something more."

Sun Mo smiled. He then lowered his head and whispered something to Li Ziqi.

"Hmph, stop bragging. Among the four competitors, our crown prince only has a chance to win against Xia Taikang. He is inferior when compared to the others."

Han Cangshui coldly snorted.

He was also very unhappy. As Li Xuan's personal teacher, he would also lose face if the crown prince lost.

(Should I use the alchemy pills and increase the dosage? Forget it, what should I do if he dies from an overdose?)

Han Cangshui thought of his own plans and was prepared to wait for a little longer.

"Even if you can't, it doesn't mean that my teacher cannot!"

Qin Yaoguang spoke.

"That's right!"

Xianyu Wei helped. But when Han Cangshui glared over, she immediately hid behind Qin Yaoguang.

"Truly having no respect for their elders. Sun Mo, is this how you teach disciples?"

Han Cangshui berated in anger.

"Is this the time to fight about such a thing? Win first before we speak about anything else!"

Sun Mo didn't care about winning or losing, but since the little sunny egg wanted to win, he would help her.

When Li Xuan heard this, his eyes brightened. "Great Teacher Sun, what should I do?"

"Just do your best and leave the rest for Ziqi to handle."

Sun Mo hesitated but still decided to advise him. "As for those pills, it's best to eat them less frequently as they are not good for the body."

Swish~

Li Xuan's face immediately turned red from anger as he felt he had been slighted by Sun Mo. Secondly, it was because his secret had been exposed.

"Great Teacher Sun, from your words, does it mean that you have no regard for me, the crown prince?"

(Since you don't want to help me, I won't be polite anymore either.)

Chapter 1187: Skill Overwhelming Everyone

When Li Xuan said this, the atmosphere turned extremely tense.

Sun Mo didn't reply. Ying Baiwu, Jiang Leng, and Helian Beifang immediately stood up and stared at him in rage.

"Li Xuan, apologize!"

Ying Baiwu roared.

Jiang Leng and Helian Beifang didn't say anything, but their hands were already holding their weapons tightly. They were like ferocious beasts that were prepared to hunt prey at any moment.

The killing intent they exuded caused Li Xuan to involuntarily feel his heart shuddering.

RUMBLE~

The guards outside immediately rushed in upon hearing the commotion.

However, Sun Mo's students showed no fear at all.

"Royal brother, what crazy words are you speaking?"

Li Ziqi berated before hurriedly apologizing to Sun Mo. "Teacher, he has been spoiled all his life and is too prideful. Please forgive him this time?"

These words caused Li Xuan to feel even angrier and more embarrassed. He roared at the little sunny egg, "Who do you think you are? I don't need you to meddle in my matters!"

Li Ziqi still wanted to persuade her brother, but she was stopped by Sun Mo.

"Having no regard for you, the crown prince, in my eyes?"

Sun Mo's lips curled. "Hehe, you are mistaken. I've never even looked straight at you before. Other than your bloodline, do you have any other aspects that are worthy of my admiration?"

"You dare to show disrespect to the royal clan of Great Tang?"

Li Xuan's face flushed red, resembling the color of a pig's liver.

This sentence was simply too over-the-top.

The thing Li Xuan was proudest about was his bloodline. As the crown prince, in name, he was the second most prestigious person in the entire Tang Empire.

"Digging a hole for me?"

Sun Mo felt disdain. "I dare to say this even in front of Princess Li Xiu. It isn't terrifying if a person is mediocre. What's terrifying is that he cannot recognize the fact that he is mediocre. Yes, that's right. I'm talking about you. As the crown prince, you are actually dragging the entire Great Tang down!"

"Teacher Sun, that's enough. Do you treat me as non-existent?"

Han Cangshui spoke, wanting to protect his student's pride.

"Teacher Han, the alchemy pill you concocted might be magical, but such an item can only treat the symptom and not the root. Could it be that you want Li Xuan to depend on your pills forever?"

Sun Mo mocked.

"What nonsense are you talking about?"

The light in Li Xuan's eyes flickered as he secretly snuck a glance at Li Xiu. If his aunt was to know that his results were all dependent on him consuming the medicine, things would surely be dire.

"Aunt, don't listen to him..."

"Shut up!"

Li Xiu scolded. "Apologize to Great Teacher Sun!"

"Ah?"

Li Xuan was unhappy. (Which faction are you from? I'm your nephew!)

"Apologize!"

Li Xiu scold her nephew again.

Who was Sun Mo?

God Hands, a spirit runist great ancestor, the youngest 5-stars great teacher in history. Any of these titles contained a weight heavy enough that no crown prince could afford to disrespect and slight it.

One could say that Sun Mo was the brightest star in Great Tang. (If you act like this, you might truly drive him away.)

If Sun Mo decided to migrate or not teach people of Great Tang anymore, this would be an immense loss to Great Tang.

Li Xuan gritted his teeth and felt extremely reluctant. But even so, he didn't dare to disobey Li Xiu's order. He could only lower his head. "Great Teacher Sun, I..."

"There's no need to apologize!"

Sun Mo rejected. "As the emperor, it's okay if one doesn't have extraordinary capabilities. It's okay if their charisma isn't great enough to convince everyone. They can even lead an arrogant, dissolute, and sinful life, feasting on meat and wine daily. However, they cannot have bad judgment. As the emperor, the most basic requirement is to know how to select suitable people for suitable missions. If not, your country should simply wait to be annihilated!"

Bzz!

A great teacher halo was unleashed. Priceless Advice had activated.

Li Xuan's body trembled, as he felt a sense of enlightenment.

"Look at you. You can't even tell how your opponents are cheating. Also, you are incredibly stubborn and even refused to listen to the instructions of your esteemed personal teacher. Someone like you is precisely the image of an emperor that would destroy his own country!"

Sun Mo was very angry the moment he thought of how the common people would suffer when a fool wanted to control a country.

Li Xuan's mind was in chaos. He wanted to rebut but couldn't find any words for a time.

"Your highness, quickly apologize!"

Li Xiu berated and her tone already became very severe. "Great Teacher Sun is educating you and this is your fortune. Don't forget your gratitude and morals!"

Since Priceless Advice had activated, it meant that Sun Mo had no other motives and was purely speaking to wake Li Xuan up. Just this debt of gratitude alone was enough for Li Xuan to bow to him.

"Great Teacher Sun, I was in the wrong earlier and have offended you!"

Li Xuan was still unwilling.

Li Lin stood in the crowd and looked at the golden light radiating from Sun Mo, which made him seem like an immortal. She felt her heart being stirred as her eyes glowed.

"I wonder if he would accept me as his student?"

Li Lin felt worried.

The sound of the bugle-horn rang out, reminding everyone that the second part of the zither battle was about to start.

"Great Teacher Sun, what should we do?"

Li Xiu was worried.

"Just relax!"

Sun Mo looked at Li Ziqi. "Do your best, but remember not to over-stretch your limits. You have to be especially careful of Wei Wu`an and Jiang Yuzhen!"

Sun Mo naturally didn't care who would win or lose.

In any case, he wasn't the group leader!

Actually, Sun Mo wanted to help Li Xuan on account of Li Ziqi. However, Li Xuan's attitude made him give up.

"Don't eat the medicine anymore, just give up directly!"

Han Cangshui saw the pleading gaze in Li Xuan's eyes and directly commanded him to give up.

"I understand!"

Li Xuan's expression turned dim.

Han Cangshui then glanced at Ying Baiwu and the others. A hint of envy flashed in his eyes.

For Sun Mo, they actually didn't mind going against the crown prince of an empire. Truly tyrannical!

Han Cangshui's society experience was simply too much. This was why he could tell that these students weren't putting up an act. They truly didn't mind using their lives to guard Sun Mo's prestige.

—

The five prince groups all went up the stage.

Their ensembles consisted of different musical instruments. Only by doing so would performing together like this not seem monotonous.

"The competition begins now!"

The ceremonial officer waved a little flag. Xia Taikang instantly took action and strummed the strings of his instrument.

Zeng!

The expressions of the other participants suddenly changed because they felt that the musical instruments in their hands, especially so for stringed instruments like guzhengs and pipas, actually started strumming by themselves.

"As expected of the famous zither 'Phoenix'!"

Xiang Zhao praised greatly, after that, he also strummed the strings of his pipa!

Ding! Ding! Ding!

The musical notes were like pearls landing on a jade plate. The clinking sound actually suppressed 'Phoenix'!

Li Guinian stroked his beard. Just solely based on musical skills, Xiang Zhao was undoubtedly the strongest.

Jiang Yuzhen liked to be aggressive when fighting wars. This was the same in the war discussion. Hence, the sounds of a king's voice shouting commands to his army immediately echoed out as the army that 'manifested' from her music joined the chaotic battle.

Wei Wu`an crossed his arms before his chest and listened. He wasn't in a hurry to play music.

"Let us begin!"

Li Xuan urged. After he drew in a deep breath, he started playing. It was just that his tune was completely engulfed and swallowed up by the waters of the chaotic battle that was already raging. His music couldn't cause a ripple at all.

Li Guinian shook his head and truly couldn't bear to watch. This young fellow wasn't just a level weaker compared to the other participants. His skill level was simply profaning this competition.

Li Xuan also discovered this problem, feeling awkward and embarrassed. He truly didn't want to follow his teacher's order and wanted to eat another alchemy pill. However, he was worried that he couldn't win despite doing so. If that was the case, he would have wasted another chance.

Although this type of alchemy pill could elevate one's potential, there were side effects too. Hence, one must not eat too much of it.

"Oh no!"

The more Li Xuan panicked, the more mistakes he made. The tempo turned chaotic.

"It's over, he lost even before fighting!"

Li Lin was depressed. If she knew this would be the case, she wouldn't have come up to embarrass herself.

Li Ziqi frowned. This situation was truly dire.

At this moment, three streams of music rang out, suppressing each other mutually.

Xia Taikang and Jiang Yuzhen's styles were similar, and they were like ferocious horses and war chariots, wanting to crush everything before them directly with brute force. However, Xiang Zhao's music style was like the spring rain, nourishing everything silently.

And at this moment, Wei Wu`an acted.

Zheng!

His music rang out and everyone felt their hearts shuddering as though a gigantic rock had been tossed in the lake of their hearts, causing multiple ripples to form.

Everyone no longer spoke as they were fully immersed in this battle of music.

It hadn't even been a minute and Li Xuan was the first to stop.

Bang!

Li Xuan punched his guzheng before leaving in a fury.

The other three in his group had astonishment on their faces, feeling embarrassed. Li Lin then hastened her steps and wanted to quickly leave the stage. Such a performance was truly too embarrassing.

She originally wanted to use this chance to display her skills and boost her fame. But who could have expected that Li Xuan was so weak!

Li Lin walked a few steps away but discovered Li Ziqi didn't move. Hence, she called out to her.

"Ziqi, leave quickly!"

Right now, the longer they stayed on the stage, the more embarrassing it would be for them.

However, the little sunny egg didn't move. Instead, her hands were placed on the strings of her zither. After focusing her mind, she activated a great teacher halo.

Bzz∼

A resplendent light shone from the little sunny egg and illuminated the stage.

•••

"Xia Taikang isn't a worry for me. As for Xiang Zhao, his technique is useless against me. The troublesome one is Wu Wei`an. How should I break the spell cast by his ancient zither?!"

Jiang Yuzhen was analyzing the battle situation, but at this moment, a princess from the Great Tang's prince group that had lost suddenly stood out.

...

"Sigh, competing with these people in a battle of zither is truly disparaging my skills!"

Xiang Zhao found this extremely boring because even if these people won, they didn't win by relying on their zither skills. But at this moment, a light so bright flashed and it almost blinded him.

•••

"Hmph, if I use my full strength, all of you will have to die!"

Xia Taikang felt contempt. But an instant later, his brows furrowed as he looked at Li Ziqi.

•••

"A bunch of salted fishes!"

Wu Wei`an confidently continued playing. All of a sudden, his heart trembled as he turned and looked at Li Ziqi.

•••

"It's Lingering Sound!"

Lu Zhiruo cheered. "Our eldest martial sister is going to unleash her impressiveness!"

As the Lingering Sound took effect, Li Ziqi started to play a music piece and the intense musical notes immediately flowed from her fingertips.

Li Guinian's expression changed. This music piece was one he had never heard before!

The others who knew music were also stunned.

This was because the music piece Li Ziqi was playing was simply too bizarre.

"Is this music piece something you taught her?" Li Xiu glanced at Sun Mo. "Might I enquire what is the name of it?"

"Despair!"

Sun Mo uttered the word. He didn't expect that the little sunny egg would use an EDM music piece to break the situation. However, this type of music, which could cause people to involuntarily shake their legs when they heard it, was the most suitable to 'replace the position of the host'.

Because the power of influence from this type of music was extremely intense.

Even people who didn't understand music would involuntarily shake their legs to the beat.

"H...huh?"

Li Xiu didn't understand.

Although the other four played very well, at this moment, they were all suppressed by Li Ziqi.

Li Xuan, who had just walked off the stage, turned his head in astonishment upon hearing this. He then saw his younger sister fighting against the four other prince groups despite being alone. His countenance immediately turned unsightly.

(If she won, where can I put my face? No! That's impossible, how can she?

Chapter 1188: Seven Solos, The Demeanor of A Music Sage!

The extremely groovy EDM 'Despair', under the reinforcement of Lingering Sound, spread through the entire public square.

Everyone, including ordinary folks who didn't understand music, was so stunned that they were dumbfounded. They had no way to describe their feelings.

Using EDM was Li Ziqi's method to break the situation.

Not speaking of the ancient era where humans were mostly illiterate, and music was something only the rich could learn. Even in the modern era, many people also wouldn't be able to understand classical music. They would at most only listen to the generalized songs.

In the Nine Provinces, all music pieces belonged to the type such as 'Water Flows from Tall Mountains', and 'Fish Singing Late At Night'.

In the modern era, only a minority would go and listen to it, and they also wouldn't understand it. However, for EDM, there was no need to understand it. The listeners just needed to vibe and get high.

"What's your leg doing?"

"I don't know, it automatically started trembling."

"Mine too, I basically can't control myself."

The ordinary folks had never come in contact with such music before. Now that they heard it, they only felt like grooving to the beat and swaying their bodies.

This was the charm of EDM. They could bring the listeners into a special atmosphere.

"When did our eldest martial sister comprehend Lingering Sound?"

Lu Zhiruo felt very envious.

"Roughly half a year ago, she comprehended it while in the Black-White Game!"

Actually, this great teacher halo was quite general. As long as a great teacher gave enough lessons and the effects were good enough, they would eventually comprehend this.

Its effect was to allow the great teacher's voice to automatically increase in volume when they activated the halo. At the same time, there would also be a pleasant-sounding rhythm to make listeners unknowingly immerse themselves in the words of the speaker and they wouldn't be distracted.

To students who lacked a long attention span, this halo was simply a magical skill.

Right now on the stage, the four opponents felt like a formidable enemy had appeared. This was especially so for Jiang Yuzhen. She took the initiative to attack.

Her music immediately turned decisive and was like a thousand steeds galloping past the field, wanting to tear apart everything.

All her opponents immediately felt uncomfortable. They felt like their bodies were trampled on by the cavalry's warhorses, and they felt so unbearable to the point where they wanted to cough blood.

"I'm not playing anymore. It's time to end this boring game!"

Wei Wu`an ferociously stroked his zither string.

This ancient zither, which was made with an ancient taboo weapon refinement technique and the sacrifice of many rare parrots, immediately unleashed its strongest prowess.

An illusion sprang up in everyone's mind.

Xia Taikang, Xiang Zhao, and Jiang Yuzhen were fine, but the other members of their groups were influenced.

"Troublesome!"

Jiang Yuzhen frowned and just when she was pondering about how to break the illusionscape, Li Ziqi who was beside her suddenly erupted forth with a platinum light from her body.

Bzz!

The radius of the halo wasn't large, just roughly about 50 meters. However, people in this zone felt their spirits stirring and they were no longer affected by Wei Wu`an's music. Besides, the most important thing was that Wei Wu`an's ancient zither was also suppressed.

This instrument was made from innocent lives and consisted of mental-type attacks. Now that the illusion effect was cleared, Wei Wu`an's music actually sounded extremely jarring and ear-piercing.

"What nonsense is this? Why is it so unpleasant-sounding?"

"I understand. The secret is in that ancient zither!"

"What music piece is she playing?"

Everyone was curious.

"Aiya, what great teacher halo is this?"

The Qi Emperor was curious and asked his grand tutor.

"It's an Ancient Sage halo!"

The grand tutor stroked his beard and explained. "After comprehending this halo, one will receive the protection of the ancient sages and they will be immune to all mental-type attacking techniques. The Wei Crown Prince's zither skill is something elevated by his zither. Now that his zither has been suppressed, he has returned back to his original state."

"Ah? This halo is something one could only obtain after gaining the approval from the ancient sages in the Ancient Sage Building, right?"

1

The Qi Emperor was shocked.

"Yes!"

The grand tutor nodded and stared at Li Ziqi. He was very envious of Sun Mo's good luck. Being able to get such a talented disciple was truly fortunate. But after that, he suddenly felt like laughing at Secondary Saint Zhou's blind eyes.

"How old is she merely?"

The Qi Emperor was dumbfounded.

"Last year, she broke the record of becoming the youngest 1-star great teacher in history. Oh right, her personal teacher Sun Mo has also comprehended the Ancient Sage halo!"

The grand tutor introduced.

"This emperor knows about this!"

The Qi Emperor had read Sun Mo's info in detail before. After all, he coveted Sun Mo's God Hands!

Once the ancient zither was suppressed, Wei Wu`an became completely useless. He secretly glared at Li Ziqi before leaving.

"..."

Jiang Yuzhen was speechless. (My most troublesome opponent actually got finished off so quickly? In that case, doesn't that mean that I can become number one now?)

Li Ziqi's 'Despair' played halfway. When she saw that the other three were completely not disturbed, she immediately changed to another piece. It was necessary to use some battle tactics now!

Hence, a desolate, magnificent, and atmospheric music piece flowed forth from the little sunny egg's fingers.

"What music piece is this?"

Li Xiu asked in shock.

From this music piece, she could hear boundless sorrow. It was an unending song of mourning accompanied by roars of reluctance. This was a thousand years of wandering homelessly, a thousand years of struggling and fighting, but a dream of freedom could never be destroyed by war or death!

There seemed to be a group of people wanting to barge out of a place, breaking through all shackles to arrive at the shores of dreams, heading to a beautiful home that belonged to them!

"The Exodus Song!"

Sun Mo casually answered as he used his heart to listen. This classic piano piece being played by a guzheng truly had a different taste to it.

The little sunny egg had once wanted to kill herself because she was abandoned. This was why she could understand the true essence of this music piece and fully displayed the fiery emotions.

"…"

Li Xiu was speechless. (What sort of names are these?)

As a royal princess, Li Xiu was also proficient in zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting. (Why have I not heard such a groovy music piece before?)

Yes, Li Xiu didn't feel that this music piece was nice to listen to. But she felt that it was extremely groovy. How to put it better? She felt that if this music was played on the battlefield, all the soldiers would feel their morale surging!

"Yo, this princess has some capabilities!"

Xiang Zhao was shocked and couldn't help but listen attentively. He truly admired this music piece very much.

Jiang Yuzhen and Xia Taikang didn't know how to admire it. However, they instinctively knew that they had met a formidable opponent. Hence, they went all out and their music immediately became even more intense, like thunderbolts wanting to split everything apart!

And right now, Li Ziqi changed her music piece again!

The musical notes stirred and became spirited and carefree. It was like a girl who had just experienced love for the first time and was dancing wildly in celebration!

Many of the people revealed intoxicated expressions. After that, they started humming this music piece.

"Teacher Sun, what's this?"

Li Xiu was shocked again.

It was unknown why, but she loved this song very much. When she heard it, she suddenly felt that she had returned to the days of her youth.

"Despacito!"

1

Sun Mo's pronunciation was pretty accurate, but Li Xiu had a dumbfounded look on her face.

"What is this? Can't you give it a nicer name?"

Li Xiu felt that this music piece had been sullied by its name.

As Sun Mo listened and surveyed the situation of the other three opponents, he saw that Xia Taikang wasn't affected, while Xiang Zhao was shaking his head and felt a little intoxicated. As for Jiang Yuzhen, she was repeatedly glancing at Li Ziqi.

Sun Mo laughed.

This popular Latin-style song was the top hit back in his world. One could very well imagine its charm.

For some foreign songs, even if one couldn't understand their lyrics, just the melody alone was enough to cause one to feel immersed.

"It's nice!"

Xiang Zhao wanted to multi-task and record the melody, but Li Ziqi suddenly changed to another music piece.

This time around, it finally turned into a gentle-sounding music piece.

Calming! Elegant! Melancholic!

The tune was like a clear spring that baptized one's heart and mind, leaving behind the fragrance of orchid that perpetuated the atmosphere for a long time before dissipating.

"This melody is so beautiful. What is its name?"

Li Xiu was somewhat intoxicated. She had decided that if Sun Mo said another unknown name, she would bash his head.

"With An Orchid!"

Sun Mo loved this music piece very much. When he was vexed, he would always choose to listen to it.

At this moment, everyone in this gigantic public square was quietly listening. In fact, they actually felt like grumbling. The other contestants were disrupting the admirable music piece Li Ziqi was playing.

"It tastes truly delicious!"

Li Guinian closed his eyes and his head swayed. His fingers involuntarily rapped a beat on the table. It was like he was looking at a world filled with orchids.

In this place, there was no fighting for power or benefits, no mania or vanity, there were only orchidscented flowers after the rain.

There were no scars in the sky, but there were over hundreds of birds flying past. Time remained unmoving, but there were tears flowering!

A thousand lakes and a thousand rivers, a cloudless sky. Li Ziqi's music returned desolation and tranquility to the world, cleansing the muddied spirit of everyone listening.

Xiang Zhao glanced at the pipa in his hands. If he wasn't in a competition, he truly didn't want to play anymore. He just wanted to quietly admire Li Ziqi's music.

With an Orchid, the 'fragrance' of this music piece nullified the desire to win in the hearts of Xia Taikang and Jiang Yuzhen. It caused their music and tempo to slow down.

Li Ziqi had forgotten that she was in a competition as she was completely immersed in the world of her music. Sometimes, music could truly cause people to place everything down.

When this music piece was played halfway, she glanced at the sky. A cicada flapped its transparent wing and flew through the air, and she subconsciously stopped the song.

In an instant, everyone seemed to see golden waves of wheat flying amidst the cries of cicadas, the gentle meandering spring waters, the sunflowers lifting their heads to the sun, the fishermen holding their rods, and the silhouettes of children running around in the wilderness.

Smiles appeared on the lips of countless people. It felt like they had returned to their childhood, a period where they had no restraints or worries!

"What music piece is this again?"

Before Li Xiu could continue asking, Lu Zhiruo took the initiative to answer it because she was very fond of it.

"Summer!"

This song was filled with qualities that delighted children and could baptize the heart and mind.

Sun Mo noticed that Xiang Zhao had given up. The desire for victory in Jiang Yuzhen's eyes had also faded by quite a bit.

"If she works a little harder, our eldest martial sister can definitely win!"

Ying Baiwu clenched her fists, wanting to shout out, but she was also worried she might disturb Li Ziqi.

"Should I give up?"

Jiang Yuzhen was conflicted. Even if she won, it wouldn't be honorable. After all, her zither skill was actually a cultivation technique. But at this very moment, Xia Taikang erupted forth.

He didn't want to lose!

He only wanted to win and smash all his opponents into pieces. Hence, he began to play a music piece that sounded like the explosive thunder blasting the fields. His last struggle was here!

Chapter 1189: Great Teacher Halo, Loudest Silence!

The Dao that Xia Taikang was pursuing was one of iron-bloodedness.

(Either I win or I die.)

In his philosophy, there were only two choices. Hence, his music was like his personality, courageously advancing forward like a rainbow that spanned across the sky, ruthlessly entering the ears of the audience.

At this moment, many people felt a splitting headache.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

His zither sound seemed to transform into heavily-armed soldiers that tore apart the smoke and blood of the battlefield, entering the minds of everyone. They then started to transform into demons and monsters that ran rampant through the world. Those who saw them chose to flee immediately.

Some felt chills in their heart, some felt cowardice. Some even wanted to submit.

Li Guinian's expression changed as he stared at Xia Taikang's guzheng!

(There's a problem with this guzheng!)

"Oh no, Li Ziqi is going to lose!"

Xiang Zhao's hands subconsciously wanted to strum his pipa to aid the little sunny egg. But almost immediately, he recalled that this was a competition and decided to remain neutral.

Ding!

Jiang Yuzheng's zither music was now in chaos.

For the same melody style that was one of decisive killing, the Flying Swallow Princess couldn't defeat Xia Taikang.

"Victory has been decided!"

Many great teachers silently judged. Although Li Ziqi's zither skills were good, her style wasn't clear yet. Xia Taikang was different. He clearly displayed his demeanor for everyone to see.

"Teacher!"

Lu Zhiruo was worried and grabbed hold of Sun Mo's shirt.

The current Li Xuan stared at his royal sister while feeling extremely complicated in his heart. He wanted her to win for the sake of Great Tang's glory, but he also wanted her to lose because this victory wasn't earned by him!

On the stage, Li Ziqi had long since forgotten everything else. She was completely immersed in the beautiful music, enjoying the world she created.

But at this moment, Xia Taikang's tyrannical music was like the charge of a war chariot, tearing apart her music notes in a crude manner.

The little sunny egg's beautiful brows frowned as she changed to yet another music piece!

Ding!

The smooth flowing music sprang from her fingers, levitating into the clouds and transforming into the Great Sage Equal to the Heavens, slaying all demons and devils!

It was the Immortal Music Above Cloud Palace!

When she first heard this music piece, Li Ziqi was deeply entranced. She felt that only it could perfectly encapsulate everything the Monkey King stood for, perfectly representing their journey to the West to obtain the Buddhist scriptures.

Now, even if demons, ghosts, and monsters rushed over, they would all be slain!

Li Ziqi cast a glance at Xia Taikang before closing her eyes again. Her fair and dainty fingers slowly played the melodious and impassioned tune.

At the climax, Li Ziqi recalled the memories from the Soul Imprint her teacher had used on her. That female singer's expression and emotions when she sang this song caused Li Ziqi to involuntarily start singing to it as well.

Ah...

"This..."

Li Guinian stood up due to shock.

Usually speaking, it was difficult to create a melody and it was even harder to fill in the lyrics. Only when both matched perfectly would the song have the qualifications to be known as a divine music piece. The majority of the time, the music piece would feel unfinished.

Either the melody wasn't good enough or the lyrics weren't good enough. It was truly lacking and regretful.

The song Li Ziqi was playing was extremely good in both aspects. Logically speaking, the 'Ah, ah, ah~' part of the song was usually very hard to perform with the appropriate emotions, and many people would surely fail. However, when Li Ziqi sang that, she immediately elevated this song to a higher level.

An ethereal, magical, and magnificent atmosphere manifested.

Li Guinian instinctively thought of the [Journey to the West] he had read before. This music piece was a perfect match for it.

"Damn, I want to win!"

Xia Taikang's countenance turned malevolent. He knew that if he activated the ancient zither once more, things might very well be exposed. However, his intense desire for victory didn't permit him to lose.

"Damn, erupt for me. Unleash all your strength!"

Xia Taikang roared mentally. After that, the zither strings moved automatically.

Zeng! Zeng! Zeng!

The zither music rang out like angry waves, slamming toward Li Ziqi. In fact, visible waves actually appeared in the air. This could already be considered a mental-type attack.

Boom!

The first series of waves slammed into Li Ziqi and caused her to tremble as her face lost color. She then coughed up a mouthful of blood from the impact.

"Eldest martial sister!"

Lu Zhiruo and Xianyu Wei were both very nervous because Li Ziqi was tottering and seemed on the verge of collapse. But at this moment, the little sunny egg's potential erupted forth.

These waves were like a spark from a flint striking a pile of tinder. They ignited her inspiration.

Boom!

Li Ziqi's mind suddenly trembled violently. Her years of life flowed before her eyes and were like a series of musical notes that gathered and formed into a music tune. After that, with a 'ding' sound, it suddenly erupted forth.

Swish~

A halo with a platinum glow sprang forth from Li Ziqi's body.

Pak!

Xia Taikang's zither strings broke.

Swish~

Li Guinian who had just sat down stood up from shock again. His wrinkled face was filled with astonishment, shock, and intense puzzlement.

This...

(Could this be Loudest Silence? How is it possible a young girl in her teens like her could comprehend this?)

Several high star-ranking great teachers were stunned too. This young girl actually comprehended a great teacher halo in the midst of a zither battle?

And it was actually the extremely rare Loudest Silence!

As the saying goes, the largest object has no shape, while the loudest sound is silence. At the highest level of music, it was silence winning against sounds!

Great teachers usually wouldn't be able to comprehend this halo because although everyone loved music, it was just a hobby. They wouldn't treat it as their main profession.

Although music sages didn't have that high of a status, one still required several decades of effort as well as innate talent before they could comprehend this.

Yet, Li Ziqi actually comprehended it now. This also meant that she had extraordinary talent in the field of music.

The ordinary audience didn't care about these. They only knew that Li Ziqi had won. Those who betted on the victory of the Great Tang's prince group immediately cheered wildly.

On the stage, only Li Ziqi remained.

"Oh yay, we won!"

Lu Zhiruo leaped happily. After that, she high-fived the plains-girl.

"I...is this Loudest Silence?"

Li Xiu asked in shock.

As this halo illuminated forth, the zither music of her niece became even nicer and caused people to feel the impulse to sink into intoxication, not wanting it to end forever.

"Mn!"

Sun Mo wasn't surprised. This was because when he was teaching Li Ziqi about music, he had seen her talent.

No one had such an excellent sense of music other than her.

If Li Ziqi was in the modern era, her fame would definitely make her famous throughout the whole world.

"I...isn't this halo the symbol of a music sage?"

Prince Consort Qi was curious.

"Distinctionless Education is also the symbol of saints!"

Sun Mo chortled.

When Han Cangshui heard this, he couldn't help but glance at Sun Mo. (What do you mean by this? Li Ziqi has comprehended Distinctionless Education? No. That shouldn't be the case! This halo needs one's thinking to reach a certain level and many secondary sages couldn't even achieve this.)

If a great teacher wanted to comprehend a great teacher halo, they had to have a matching mental state and inspiration. This was something that couldn't be faked. It was useless even if one said that they had 'comprehended' it. Only by being able to activate that halo could you prove that you had truly comprehended it.

Xia Taikang's zither strings had broken apart and Li Ziqi had obtained the victory. Just when she wanted to conclude her play, a sense of mischief rose in her heart and her ten fingers strummed her zither strings swiftly.

Bzz! Bzz! Bzz!

The zither strings trembled, resembling wild bees flying in the air. The sounds easily scared children, and some women even subconsciously covered their heads as they were afraid of being stung by bees.

"This is..."

The audience was shocked. Li Ziqi's hand speed was too quick and the spectators could only see the shadows of her fingers flashing. In the end, the zither strings actually ignited into flames with a loud boom.

Li Ziqi then stood up and bowed to convey her thanks to the audience below.

"We won!"

The little sunny egg panted and her expression was calm. However, the little her in her heart already started cheering.

(My teacher is number one in the world!)

Without Sun Mo's guidance, Li Ziqi would find it impossible to win in this zither battle.

On the stage, the famous zither burned. Below the stage, all the audience was dumbstruck.

The atmosphere in the extremely large public square was silent for a few minutes before thunderous applause began to ring and continued without end.

"The music pieces played by this princess from Great Tang are truly awesome!"

"What is her name?"

"Li Ziqi. She's also a great teacher!"

The audience started discussing and started to make Li Ziqi's name known to everyone.

In the past, music was a high-class and elegant art that common people couldn't understand, and they wouldn't even have a chance to admire it. But today, they understood it.

Alright, maybe they didn't understand it, but they finally tasted the charm of music. At the very least, when those musical notes rang out, their emotions fluttered involuntarily with them.

Li Guinian stood up and started to applaud!

Meanwhile, Li Xuan's expression was extremely complicated. He felt some regret now. Back then, if he had accepted Sun Mo's training, he would have been the one in the limelight today.

"Your highness Ziqi, congratulations!"

Xiang Zhao congratulated her.

The zither battle consisted of the combined results of the two rounds. Although Li Xuan had performed not very well in the first round, Li Ziqi's performance in the second round was simply too shocking.

Not only did she play very well, but the new music pieces she had played would also bring a great impact to the music world of the Nine Provinces.

Oh right, she had even comprehended Loudest Silence. None other than her deserved the first place!

"Congratulations!"

Jiang Yuzhen was very well-mannered. She had conceded before needing the judge to evaluate.

"Hmph!"

Xia Taikang coldly snorted. He turned and walked down the stage. Even someone as tyrannical as him wouldn't be unreasonable after losing a competition.

"Thanks, but the final result can only be known after the judge has spoken!"

Li Ziqi was modest.

"For this round, everyone can bear witness. Li Ziqi is undoubtedly the victor!"

Li Guinian spoke, "But I'm very curious where did you learn all these music pieces from?"

"I naturally learned them from my teacher!"

Li Ziqi's tone was as it should be by right.

"Eh?!"

Li Guinian started. He changed his way of asking. "I naturally know that you must have learned them from a music teacher. What is your music teacher's name?"

"I only have one personal teacher!"

Li Ziqi explained.

"What?" Li Guinian was completely dumbstruck. "You mean Sun Mo?"

"Yup!"

Li Ziqi smiled sweetly. Honestly speaking, back when her teacher had said that he wanted to tutor her in zither, she didn't believe it either. However, the truth had proven that her teacher was capable enough to do something like this.

"Isn't he a great ancestor-level spirit runist?"

Li Guinian asked in shock.

"It is alright to be proficient in both subjects, right?"

Li Ziqi teasingly spoke.

"No, from your ability, I can see that your music teacher is a grandmaster-level musician. But isn't Sun Mo a great ancestor-level spirit runist?"

Although Li Guinian's words weren't that clear, everyone understood what he was saying.

Sun Mo was so young but actually had so many achievements? Wasn't this too much of an exaggeration?

(You have to give an explanation, right?)

Chapter 1190: First Win!

"My teacher is a genius!"

Li Ziqi lifted her fair chin and felt extremely proud.

Si~

The little sunny egg's words caused countless great teachers that were present to be stunned. They subconsciously glanced at the audience seats of the Great Tang.

Once again, Sun Mo had refreshed everyone's understanding of himself.

After all, Sun Mo had never publicly come out and displayed his musical skills.

"Just this?"

Li Guinian felt that Li Ziqi was being perfunctory with him. Hence, his tone was filled with unhappiness. "I've started learning music since I was young and trained bitterly for 16 years before I became a grandmaster. After that, I trained for another 30 years to become a Music Sage. This speed is already considered very fast."

Li Ziqi shrugged. (What can I do if you don't believe me?)

Li Guinian still wanted to say something, but he was interrupted by the Qi Emperor.

"What are the titles of the music pieces that you played?"

The Qi Emperor was curious.

From the mentality of an emperor, the position of a Music Sage was truly insufficient.

Li Guinian fell silent and sat down.

He felt unwilling to accept this. After all, his achievements were something that he worked almost his whole life to obtain. Yet, Sun Mo didn't care for them?

For the vast majority of people, if their zither skills were high enough, they would surely think of a way to display it.

"Despair!"

"The Exodus Song!"

"Despacito!"

"With an Orchid!"

"Summer!"

"Immortal Music Above Cloud Palace!"

"Flight of the Bumblebee!"

Li Ziqi reported the names of the music pieces.

"Eh? Why are there seven?"

The Qi Emperor didn't understand. "You clearly only played six earlier, right?"

"Your majesty, the final music piece that was like the cries of bees might only last for a few tens of breaths, but it is also considered a music piece!"

The grand tutor interjected.

"Ah? It can be considered a music piece despite it being so short?"

The Qi Emperor was startled.

"Your majesty. The music piece isn't short. Rather, I played it too fast!"

Li Ziqi smiled and explained to everyone. "Its name is the Flight of the Bumblebee. It is used to train one's hand speed!"

Actually, it was simply to flaunt one's skill!

If she didn't have the reinforcement effect from Loudest Silence, she wouldn't be able to play it so quickly.

"A very excellent music piece but it 'exhausts' the zither too quickly!"

The queen teased and stared at the burning guzheng. "It's a pity for this famous zither!"

"Queen, you are wrong. On the contrary, that zither has become the ultimate zither of today and has entered the hallway of history. You must know that this is a joyous situation where someone comprehended 'Loudest Silence'!"

The grand tutor chortled. "The Five Empires War Discussion has been held so many times, but most of them had been forgotten by everyone. However, for the war discussion this year, just that single round is enough to leave some marks in history. The name of our Qi Country will also gain light from this glory."

Why?

Because music pieces would be passed down through generations. As long as someone in the future listened to them, they would know the origins of these seven music pieces, and they would eventually become classics.

"That's right, even that broken zither has gained glory."

Li Guinian sighed ruefully.

"Oh right, although these music pieces are nice to listen to, why do they sound so strange?"

The Qi Emperor's lips curled. "Who created them?"

"My esteemed teacher!" Li Ziqi reported.

Everyone turned to look at Sun Mo again.

"As expected of God Hands, I didn't expect his musical talent to be so high!"

The Qi Emperor praised.

"Your majesty, you are mistaken. I obtained these music pieces from the ruins of darkness!"

In this world, although no one would know if he proclaimed these musics as his, Sun Mo still felt uncomfortable to do such a thing.

(Sigh! My integrity value is, as expected, very high.)

"Great Teacher Sun, there's no need to be so modest. Your brilliant disciple performed all these musical pieces so outstandingly. Most probably, you have also grasped their essence or you wouldn't be able to nurture such a genius."

The Qi Emperor praised. "Men, grant the rewards!"

"Your majesty, I still have something I want to say!"

Li Ziqi hesitated for a while but still decided to speak.

"Say it!"

The Qi Emperor was very kind.

"Elder Sister Yuzhen's music is full of killing intent and decisiveness, advancing forward courageously, possessing the heroism of men. Elder Brother Xiang Zhao has reached the grandmaster level. If it wasn't for me lending the effect of Lingering Sound, Loudest Silence, and these famous melodies, I would be inferior to them."

Li Ziqi smiled in a sweet-tempered manner.

"Younger sister Ziqi, there's no need for you to be so modest."

Xiang Zhao rubbed his nose. It actually felt pretty awesome to be praised by a beautiful female great teacher.

"For his highness Wei Wu`an, he used some tricks for the sake of obtaining victory. However, he didn't do anything against reason and nature, so it was understandable. But as for Xia Taikang, your methods are simply too shameless and despicable."

In the end, Li Ziqi rebuked Xia Taikang with a stern tone.

Everyone's gossipy hearts instantly stirred.

(What? There's an accident?)

One must know that Li Ziqi's current tone was relatively impolite.

"Ziqi, enough!"

Li Xiu hurriedly stopped her. They had won, so there was no need for any extra trouble. After all, the Xia Country was the strongest country in the Nine Provinces, and Xia Taikang was destined to become its next emperor. It was best not to offend him.

"Aunt, I'm a great teacher and my teacher often taught me that one must be upright as a human. When encountering unjust manners, we have to stand and question them. If not, how can we act as model teachers to our students and others?"

Li Ziqi pursed her lips.

"What is she doing?"

Some great teachers asked. They didn't mind things being more chaotic since they were just spectators.

"Xia Taikang, you used an ancient blood sacrifice forbidden technique and refined the soul of a grandmaster musician into the ancient zither. Isn't this a little too inhumane of you?"

After Li Ziqi finished speaking, a huge commotion rang out.

Many people felt their fine hairs standing. They stared at 'Phoenix' and once they thought of how a human had been forcibly refined into it, they felt their scalps turning numb. In this festering hot summer, they actually felt their bodies turning cold.

(Isn't this a little too cruel?)

"No wonder I felt that there was something wrong with the zither!"

Li Guinian was enlightened.

The Qi Emperor frowned. "Taikang, do you have anything to say?"

"When someone gave me this ancient zither, the soul of a Music Sage was already branded in it. What has this got to do with me?"

Xia Taikang explained.

Si~

Upon hearing this, everyone was stunned.

Indeed, there was a soul. And it was the soul of a Music Sage?

However, suspicions on Xia Taikang were also washed clean.

The audience asked themselves honestly. If they had such a treasure, they would also choose to use it.

"Wait a minute, doesn't that mean that Ziqi won against a Music Sage?"

The queen was dumbstruck.

"You can't see things like that. The music produced by the soul of a Music Sage after being refined into a zither would be somewhat inferior compared to when the Music Sage was still alive!"

The grand tutor analyzed. He was a secondary saint and naturally had enough experience to determine this.

"That's still impressive!"

The queen praised.

—

"Your words can only swindle those ignorant people!"

Li Ziqi spoke in contempt. The Phoenix Zither was something very famous. How could nobody know that there was the soul of a Music Sage within it?

"Ziqi, enough. Return!"

Sun Mo spoke.

Such a thing couldn't be made clear easily. Moreover, there was no one administering justice because nobody wanted to offend the future emperor of a country.

"Yes, teacher!"

Li Ziqi obeyed the order. After taking a few steps, she glanced at Xia Taikang again. "I will say some final words. Music is something that makes this world more beautiful, allowing this world to be filled with warmth. This is something my teacher said. So, please savor it carefully and don't walk down the wrong path."

Bzz∼

Priceless Advice activated.

Golden light flowed forth from Li Ziqi, forming motes of light that danced in the air, causing her to look like a celestial maiden.

Xia Taikang's fists suddenly clenched tightly as a pair of eyes glared ferociously at Li Ziqi.

(She actually dares to lecture me? I want her to die no matter what!)

"Tyrannical, she not only has won, but she's also providing guidance to her opponent. She's truly one of the most outstanding royals here!"

Xiang Zhao felt envious. He suddenly wanted to become a great teacher.

Sadly, this occupation depended on talent. One had to comprehend the self-taught halo, or they wouldn't have a chance to become a great teacher forever.

"The first round of the War Discussion, the zither battle, has ended. The second round will start tomorrow morning!"

After the ceremonial officer announced the ending, the audience began to disperse.

...

"Your highness!"

An old slave immediately stepped forward in welcome upon seeing Xiang Zhao returning.

"Luckily, I didn't cheat or I would have lost the round as well as my character!"

Xiang Zhao sighed. He had prepared a trump card that was a type of illusion incense. By using that in addition to his zither skill, he would be able to cause the listeners to unknowingly immerse themselves in his music.

"Yeah, that Sun Mo's vision is truly too strong!"

The old slave was sighing as well. He didn't believe Li Ziqi could have such a perception. It must be because Sun Mo had told her.

Why wasn't it Han Cangshui?

If it was him, he definitely wouldn't let Li Ziqi become the center of all attention. If not, how would Li Xuan still have any face left?

"Teacher, I've won!"

Li Ziqi returned to the audience stand and immediately ran toward Sun Mo like a little student waiting to be praised.

"Well done!"

Sun Mo rubbed her head.

"Jiang Yuzhen's music piece is actually a type of cultivation technique. Luckily, she took the initiative to give up or she would be very hard to deal with."

Han Cangshui evaluated, not wanting others to feel that he was useless.

"My eldest martial sister knows Loudest Silence. No matter what cultivation technique Jiang Yuzhen is using, my eldest martial sister can crush them all!"

Lu Zhiruo bragged.

"That's right!"

Xianyu Wei spoke in agreement as she nodded.

"We only won one round. Everyone, don't be careless!"

Li Xiu reminded them. "We should try and win the chess battle tomorrow!"

Everyone was preparing to return to the hotel, but the Qi Emperor took the initiative to come over.

"Teacher Sun, this emperor has prepared a lunch banquet. Please give me some face and attend it."

The Qi Emperor issued an invitation.

Han Cangshui's lips convulsed.

In theory, his star rank was higher, but the Qi Emperor actually spoke to Sun Mo first. Didn't that mean that his clout and prestige weren't high enough?

"Many thanks for your Majesty's doting care!"

Sun Mo actually didn't want to go. But he truly wasn't able to push aside invitations from such a major character.

"Princess Li Xiu, Great Teacher Han, Prince Consort Qi. If you guys are not busy, why don't you come along as well?"

The Qi Emperor invited them.

"I won't be going as I have to prepare for the chess battle tomorrow!"

Han Cangshui merely thought about replying like that in his heart. In the end, he smiled and agreed to the Qi Emperor.

Everyone in the Great Tang's diplomatic group followed Sun Mo and enjoyed a good and sumptuous lunch.

But after lunch, the Qi Emperor and queen immediately left with Sun Mo.

"Is something the matter?"

Xianyu Wei was worried.

"Heh. Isn't this clear? The Qi Emperor wants our teacher to use his God Hands to help him!"

Qin Yaoguang's lips curled.

•••

In the Yangning Palace, the Qi Emperor had already stripped himself bare and was lying on a bed.

"Great Teacher Sun, how are things?"

The Qi Emperor felt trepidation in his heart.

"There are no major illnesses but plenty of minor ones. This is especially so for sexual-nourishing medicine, you should eat less of them!"

Sun Mo advised.

When the Qi Emperor heard this, he immediately turned red.

"This Emperor is the sovereign of this land. If I can't even do something like that, would there still be any meaning to my life?"

The Qi Emperor was unhappy. After he finished speaking, he felt that his tone was incorrect. Hence, he hurriedly explained, "Great Teacher Sun, this Emperor isn't targeting you deliberately. It's just that I'm angry my body isn't up to the task. Do you have any solution that can resolve it? This Emperor will surely reward you heavily if you succeed!"

"It's curable!"

How could Sun Mo give up the chance of gaining favorable impression points? In any case, there was nothing one round of his massage couldn't solve. If there was, he would just give the target a second round of massage!

The Ancient Massaging Technique was simply so impressive!